The Young Leaders Program (YLP) is a USAID-funded, four-year initiative implemented by Counterpart International. The GOAL of YLP is to support active, civically-engaged and socially conscious youth in Tajikistan and to provide them with the tools and experience to take ownership of their future and contribute to the development of their country. This goal is supported by two OBJECTIVES: (1) to increase youth involvement in promoting positive change in their communities; and (2) to improve the quality of youth services provided through government, donors and civil society organizations (CSOs). YLP is targeting young people ages of 13-17 (both boys and girls) in three regions of Zarafshan Valley, Rasht Valley and Badakhshan. The program began in April 2011 and will end in April 2015.

YLP works in coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan, the State Committee on Youth, Tourism and Sports and other governmental institutions, international and local CSOs operating in the target areas on youth issues. Areas of collaboration include working with local government officials, school administrators, parents, local CSOs to provide youth trainings and civic education instruction; working with communities to provide meeting space and access to facilities; and working with international organizations to access grant funding and additional technical assistance.

Program activities are aimed at developing youth civic education, tolerance, respect for neighbors and peers, communication skills, leadership and other initiatives through the following activities: provision and facilitation of out-of-school learning activities (both theoretical and practical), services, athletic and cultural activities for young people, conducting summer camps and sport events during non-school hours and holidays. Youth action grants component of the program provide young people with resources to replicate and expand upon activities and skills learned through after school programs, exchanges and camps. These supported youth initiatives include organization of environmental campaigns, hygiene practices and health issues, support to local orphanage house, development of volunteerism, etc. Youth conferences, summer camps, creating youth charter at the national level - all the activities of the program aim to bring together young people from different regions of the country and present their ideas to decision makers at the government level and learn to advocate for their ideas and initiatives. Working with civil society organizations at the local level, cooperation and partnership with local government, community leaders and schools to improve youth development programs, is aimed at creating and strengthening local capacity.