

The Global Citizen

Group Members

Amal El Haddadi, Morocco, Soliya's Connect Program, 2021

Hasan Saeed Ibrahim, Iraq, IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge, 2020

Emily Thomason, United States, IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge, 2021

Project: A Virtual Exchange for Undergraduate Students

The Global Citizen Project is a four-week, cross-cultural exchange program focused on intercultural communication, leadership, needs-identification skills, and project design.

Community Needs

This program targets participants aged 18-25 from Iraq, Morocco, and the U.S. who have an interest in community engagement but little or no exposure to other cultures. This project brings a cross-cultural experience to young people who otherwise might not have access to collaboration and interaction with people who are different from them.

Outcomes

- Engaged 15 participants
- Developed content in collaboration with experts
- Facilitated eight synchronous sessions
- Helped participants identify and address a need in another community

“One prominent theme of our implementation process was patience. Understanding that connecting communities, targeting the appropriate demographic of participants, and tailoring the curriculum based on their needs required time and patience, was essential to our success.”



Learn more here:



Virtual Scholars

Group Members

Cassandra Pantel, United States, IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge, 2018

Nouha Ziade, Kuwait, William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan's Business & Culture: A Virtual Practicum, 2020

Project: A Virtual Exchange for High School Students

Virtual Scholars is a virtual exchange program for high school students in Kuwait and the U.S. It provides an opportunity for participants to learn about different cultures, express their ideas, and develop global competencies.

Community Needs

At Washington High School in Iowa, U.S., many students come from low-to-middle income families and have limited travel experience. In Kuwait, many students study abroad after graduation, so they need skills to adapt in a new environment. This program helps students meet new people and learn about new cultures, sparking their interest in and comfort with travel and exchange experiences.

Outcomes

- Engaged 20 high school students over three synchronous sessions
- Exposed participants to different cultures, perspectives, and ideas
- Challenged participants to work collaboratively on a project and present to a group
- Introduced participants to virtual exchange and its role in their education and future

“It was so neat to watch these high schoolers go from being shy and unfamiliar with each other, to laughing and enjoying their time together. Seeing them actually retain information that we had discussed the week before was wonderful.”



Learn more here:



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Repurposed by Hand

Group Members

Maryam Alfakhrey, Iraq, IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge, 2021

Mohamed Hassan, Egypt, William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan's M2GATE, 2018

Lily Payton, United States, The African Middle East Leadership Project's Global Allyship, 2020

Project: A Climate Initiative for University Students

Repurposed by Hand is a project aimed at changing university students' attitudes about waste. Participants in Egypt, Iraq, and the U.S. gain a deeper knowledge of climate action and tangible, feasible, and creative ways to reuse waste.

Community Needs

This project addresses three core needs: education on the importance of individual climate action and new ways of thinking about sustainability, exposure to peers from different cultures, and the opportunity to build the skills, knowledge, and confidence to take action against climate change.

Outcomes

- Empowered 10 participants to consider their impact as individuals
- Supported participants to create six different art projects made out of waste and present during a virtual art fair
- Facilitated in-person gatherings in Egypt and Iraq for participants to collaborate on art projects
- Engaged participants in a community Facebook group to exchange ideas about culture and climate action

“Strong collaboration is the biggest takeaway. Each of us brought a different skillset and perspective to the work. With all of our minds working as one, we created something that is resonant to so many.”



Learn more here:



Community Service Project

International Creatives Kickstart

Group Members

Abdelkhalik Aljuneidi, Palestinian Territories, World Learning's NextGen Coders Network, 2020

Whitney Brooks, United States, William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan's Business & Culture: A Virtual Practicum, 2021

Adem Oumeddour, Algeria, World Learning's The Experiment Digital, 2020

Project: Professional Development for Young Creatives

International Creatives Kickstart is a four-week professional development opportunity that connects 15 young creatives with experts who offer tailored advice and career tips.

Community Needs

There are many talented creatives in Algeria, the Palestinian Territories, and the U.S., but they often lack professional development opportunities in the creative fields. Through synchronous meetings and expert-led presentations, this project aims to fill the opportunity gap by providing soft skills training and career tips.

Outcomes

- Engaged 15 participants
- Increased participant familiarity with hiring processes for tech and design roles
- Included four guest speakers from the tech and design fields
- Facilitated a workspace on Slack to support mentorship between participants and speakers

“We learned that inspiration is the key to getting people to open up. When we first started our sessions, some [participants] were more reserved and hesitant to speak about their career goals, but after the speaker shared where he wanted to be and why he thought that our goals should intimidate us just a little, participants eagerly shared their overarching aspirations.”



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Fight AIDS - Act Up

Group Members

Ariel Gravino, United States, Engineering World Health's Virtual Engineering Innovation & Cultural Exchange, 2021

Mennatullah Mustafa, Egypt, Citizen Diplomacy International of Philadelphia's How to Succeed as an Innovator, 2020

Project: A Public Health Awareness Campaign

Fight AIDS - Act Up is a project that spreads awareness about HIV/AIDS to young people in Egypt and the U.S. by sharing video resources on social media.

Community Needs

In both Egypt and the U.S., there is a lack of awareness on HIV/AIDS. Through video content, this project aims to decrease stigma while inviting further discussion through prompts presented at the end of each video.

Outcomes

- Created an Instagram account as a repository for resource sharing and open dialogue
- Posted three videos with information about HIV/AIDS, including statistical data about Egypt and the U.S.
- Shared other resources for audience members to circulate in their networks and communities
- Reached 214 accounts and received 275 impressions

“We learned that there are so many factors we need to account for when planning a virtual exchange. These factors can be in your favor or they can be barriers to implementation that you need to continuously tackle as a group.”



Learn more here:

