



## **LP4Y update on March 23, 2020**

Dear LP4Y Alliance teams, relatives and friends,

As you know, daily activities, training sessions & MEIs, have been suspended in the Centers - since the beginning of the week and until further notice - and containment measures have been adopted by all Catalysts.

However, our action has not ceased; on the contrary, it is being organized and is intensifying!

While the Youth have been instructed to return home, **this does not mean that we are no longer accompanying them.** When conditions allow, they come to the Center once a week, in small groups, to receive their allowances and discuss their progress with their coach. The doors of the Center remain open to them if necessary. In this way the Catalysts continue to provide them with the financial and moral support which they now need more than ever.

The current situation, unprecedented and uncertain, is worrying for us all. This anxiety is intensifying, especially in view of airport closures. It therefore seems important to remember why the Catalysts are remaining in the field:

- Firstly, according to the instructions from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and conveyed by the sending organizations: Volunteers are asked not to leave their mission sites;
- In addition, by leaving the contained environment of the Centers and heading for international airports, the Catalysts would actually increase their chances of exposure to the virus. Furthermore, we should not forget that the situation in France – home to most of our Catalysts - has continued to deteriorate in recent days;
- Finally, our mission here is more important than ever. What would happen if the LP4Y teams were sent home? That would mean the end of our activities in the field, and thus the end of support for all the LP4Y Youth. Instead, it is precisely at this moment that they most need our support. Not only in terms of their allowances but also being listened to, accompanied, guided. Only in this way can they be useful to their community!

The fact is that all Catalysts in the field have a safe place to stay, and work that is meaningful to them and the people they support.

The fact is also that the LP4Y Catalysts have been most inspiring in their reactions and have adapted with agility.

Every morning there is a coordination meeting to ensure each country remains aligned. Directives are given and immediately applied by the Catalyst teams in each Center. In less than a week, this "crisis" organization has allowed us to put the following in place:

1. containment and cessation of programs in ALL countries
2. a monitoring chart for ALL LP4Y Youth - those following Professional Training for Entrepreneurs, children of the Little Angels Academy, Entrepreneurs and STARS - listing their contact details as well as health, family and economic information. In a word, their needs.
3. weekly reports with the latest information & key figures (data scrupulously verified!) concerning the development of the situation in each of the countries in which LP4Y operates, as well as an awareness campaign with Catalysts and LP4Y Youth in order to prevent disinformation and "fake news".
4. the creation of 3 workshops for Catalysts, Youth & STARS together:
  - **LP4Y Digital:** development of the e-learning platform set up by LP4Y and enrichment of educational content to allow the Youth to continue their training remotely.
  - **LP4Y in Emergency:** enabling Young & STARS to be actors in the management of this crisis, by collaborating with local and international emergency organizations who will need help to intervene effectively within the communities where we are based.
  - **LP4Y Stories:** creation of an internal Newsletter allowing Catalysts, Youth & STARS to stay in touch. Information point on the situation in the Centers and where the Youth live; Portraits, Testimonies, Photos & Videos will be shared every week on a private page of the website, creating links, highlighting positive experiences, sharing information and content and above all giving priority to the Youth; essential actions in these difficult times. We will make sure that we share the best, most meaningful stories with you, relaying them on social networks.

Those of you in Europe and the United States, currently the center of this unprecedented crisis, are living in confinement during this uncertain period. So do not hesitate to share with those in the field the latest news from Paris, Lille, Lyon, Côte d'Azur, Brussels, Luxembourg, London and New York.

More than ever we must continue creating connections, and we will get through this crisis.

**TOGETHER WE CAN**

John