



One Page Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Review

Global Nomads Group [GNG], with sub-grantee AMIDEAST Jordan, completed activities on the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs grant to implement *Global Connections and Exchange: Youth TechCamps [TechCamps]*, a twelve-month science, technology, engineering, arts and math [STEAM] virtual exchange program, whose centerpiece was an in-person technology camp in Amman, Jordan. This program connected high school students in the United States and Jordan to investigate local and global climate change issues and develop sustainable solutions harnessed by creativity, and powered by technology.

The overall goal of *TechCamps* was for U.S. and Jordanian students to collaborate and create projects that utilized technology and sustainable design to address environmental challenges in their local and global communities. Over the program period, *TechCamps* engaged youth through physical and virtual exchange activities, anchored by a project-based curriculum, which fostered digital literacy, civic engagement, technology skills, and mutual understanding among participants. Through the intensive, in-person 8-day technology camp and a yearlong virtual exchange and bookended in-person activities, the program was able to transform students' knowledge, skills and behavior. The program was able to achieve the specific outcomes of:

- Empowering participants to design and pilot technology solutions to environmental challenges in their communities, while broadening their knowledge of digital skills and resources. Students gained a well-rounded knowledge of the science and politics of climate change, and are able to actively engage in conversations on climate change;
- Developing 21st Century skills, intercultural communication, and mutual understanding amongst participants through cross-cultural collaboration, which helped the participating youth gain leadership and critical thinking skills to lead positive change in their communities;
- Creating a platform for students with common interests of applied technology and environmental sustainability, to meet and empower themselves to pursue related higher education and careers. Through this, students used technology to investigate, research, and develop innovative and sustainable projects addressing climate change challenges.

Specific activities and outputs which made the above outcomes possible include: five youth workshops, seven virtual videoconferences, and a week-long in-person *TechCamp* bringing together thirty-six youth from New Orleans, LA, US and Amman, Jordan. Through the workshops and camps, youth participates created eight tech proposals of which four received funding and were built out.

Monitoring and Evaluation for the program was carried out by Global Nomads Group in collaboration with MIT's Saxelab Social Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory. Evaluation showed the program successfully created a culture of empathy between and among participating students in addition to increasing their environmental science and technology knowledge through the scope of design thinking.