

## Expanding access to debate education

IDEA has raised funds and provided resources and opportunities for people around the world to learn and engage in debate. We have supported debate networks, clubs and programs in schools, providing training and resources for debate staff, teachers and coaches, and organised tournaments, conferences and events.

This policy defines areas of our impact, and informs our community, donors and supporters on what is it that we are trying to achieve with the funding secured by IDEA.

**OUR CONTINUED VISION IS TO ENSURE THAT AT LEAST 80% OF ANNUALLY SECURED FUNDS CONTINUE TO FLOW TOWARDS DIRECT ACTIVITIES EXPANDING ACCESS TO DEBATE EDUCATION AND LIFE-LONG SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.**

Funds secured by IDEA are used for an overarching goal of expanding access to debate education that is developed through several impact areas defined in this document, followed by a list of impact indicators describing them.

## Impact areas of idea fundraising efforts

**IMPROVED DEBATE SKILLS:** IDEA invests in developing high-quality resources, training programs, and materials to help debaters improve their skills and knowledge. IDEA's resources are designed to support both novice and experienced debaters and provide a variety of formats to ensure accessibility to as many learners as possible. IDEA offers online courses, debate manuals, and teaching guides, among other materials, which are available to educators and debaters around the world.

By investing in these resources and programs, IDEA is able to support the development of high-quality soft skills among its beneficiaries. This can have a significant impact on the lives of those involved. For example, debaters who receive training and support from IDEA network members develop soft skills that support their educational and professional attainment or may use their skills to become more engaged and effective leaders in their communities.

**INCREASED GLOBAL DIALOGUE:** By promoting debate as a tool for communication and critical thinking, IDEA helps to foster greater understanding and cooperation across borders and

cultures. This involves organizing international debate exchanges, bringing together debaters from diverse backgrounds, and facilitating discussions on important issues.

IDEA's international debate exchanges provide a platform for young people from around the world to engage in meaningful dialogue, exchange ideas, and learn from each other. These exchanges also create opportunities for debaters to experience different cultures and perspectives, which can lead to greater understanding and cooperation across borders.

In addition to international debate exchanges, IDEA also organizes and sponsors various tournaments, conferences, and workshops that bring together debaters, educators, and policymakers from diverse backgrounds to discuss and debate important issues facing society. Events we organise create opportunities for people to engage in constructive dialogue, learn from different perspectives, and develop their critical thinking and communication skills.

**ADVOCACY FOR DEBATE EDUCATION:** Through its fundraising efforts, IDEA has been able to raise awareness and advocate for the importance of debate education. This includes working with policymakers, educators, and the public to promote the benefits of debate and ensure it is accessible to all. IDEA also engages with educators to promote the benefits of debate education and provide training and resources to help them incorporate debate into their teaching practices. Improvements in critical thinking skills, communication skills, and student learning engagement are some of the key benefits used to support our advocacy efforts. In addition, IDEA works with the public to raise awareness about the benefits of debate education and the importance of making it accessible to all. This can involve media outreach, public events, and other communication efforts to spread the word about the positive impact of debate education on individuals and society.

**PROMOTION OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP:** IDEA encourages and promotes active citizenship by empowering individuals to participate in their communities, engage in public discourse, and take action on important issues. Debating provides a platform for people to develop their voices and learn how to advocate for their beliefs.

IDEA networks' programs and initiatives promote active citizenship by providing opportunities for individuals to engage in public discourse, learn about issues affecting their communities and the world, and take action on important issues. By learning how to debate, individuals can develop their critical thinking skills, learn how to research and analyse information, and develop their ability to articulate their thoughts and opinions, increasing their democratic capacity and resilience to misinformation and manipulation.

IDEA networks' events and programs provide opportunities for individuals to engage in public debates and deliberations on important issues. This helps to create a more informed and engaged citizenry, as individuals learn about different perspectives and ideas, and develop the skills needed to engage in constructive dialogue and debate.

**INCLUSIVENESS:** IDEA is committed to creating an inclusive and diverse community of debaters and supporters. This involves working to ensure that their programs and resources are accessible to all, regardless of background or ability. IDEA also actively promotes diversity and inclusion in its tournaments and events by creating safe and welcoming spaces for all participants.

IDEA's commitment to inclusiveness is reflected in their efforts to reach and engage with low-income youth and young people with fewer opportunities to engage in debate education. This can involve providing financial support or scholarships to enable their participation in IDEA programs and events, and providing targeted outreach to communities that may face barriers to participation.

IDEA also promotes diversity and inclusion in its tournaments and events by creating safe and welcoming spaces for all participants. This can include providing accommodation for participants with disabilities, ensuring gender equity in participation and leadership, and promoting respectful and inclusive discourse among all participants.

## Impact indicators

### 1. Increased access to debate education:

- Number of schools, clubs, and programs supported by IDEA network
- Number of teachers and coaches trained by IDEA network
- Number of young people participating in IDEA-supported debate programs
- Geographic reach of IDEA programs and initiatives (e.g. number of countries or regions served)

### 2. Improved debate skills:

- Number of online courses, debate manuals, and teaching guides created by IDEA
- Number of educators and debaters accessing IDEA's resources and training programs
- Performance outcomes of debaters trained by IDEA network (skill development evaluation)
- Self-evaluation reports by participants of debate activities

### 3. Increased global dialogue:

- Number of international debate exchanges organised by IDEA
- Number of participants from diverse backgrounds and regions in IDEA-sponsored events
- Social media engagement and website traffic related to IDEA's global dialogue initiatives

### 4. Advocacy for debate education:

- Number of policymakers, educators, and members of the public engaged in IDEA network's advocacy efforts
- Changes in public policy or funding related to debate education as a result of IDEA's advocacy.
- Media coverage and social media engagement related to IDEA's advocacy efforts.

### 5. Promotion of active citizenship:

- Number of individuals participating in IDEA's active citizenship initiatives
- Success stories and case studies related to the impact of IDEA's active citizenship initiatives.
- Changes in behavior or engagement related to community or public issues as a result of IDEA network's programs.

### 6. Inclusiveness:

- Demographic data related to IDEA's participants and supporters (e.g. age, gender, race/ethnicity, ability status)

- Feedback from participants and supporters on their experiences with inclusiveness in IDEA programs and events
- Changes in demographic representation or inclusion-related practices within IDEA as a result of their commitment to inclusiveness.

Additional success indicators:

- Number of users accessing IDEA's online resources and platforms
- Increase in website traffic and social media engagement related to IDEA's initiatives
- Adoption rates and impact of new technology or platforms introduced by IDEA to improve access and engagement.
- Number of volunteers engaged by IDEA network
- Hours of service contributed by volunteers to IDEA network's programs and initiatives
- Impact of volunteer service on IDEA network's ability to achieve its mission and goals