

Module 4 Worksheet:

Mapping My Leadership Journey



Introduction: Congratulations on reaching Module 4 of the Young Rural Developers Toolkit. In this module, we delve deep into understanding your unique leadership journey and crafting a roadmap for your growth as a rural youth leader. Leadership is not a one-size-fits-all concept. It's about recognizing your strengths, values, and aspirations and aligning them with the needs of your community.

Worksheet: Mapping My Leadership Journey

Section 1: Self-Reflection

1.1 Personal Values and Motivation: As a future rural leader, it's essential to begin your journey by understanding your personal values and the motivation that drives you to make a difference in your rural community. Reflect on the principles and beliefs that guide your actions and consider how these values can be a driving force for positive change in your rural area.

Take a moment to list the values that are most important to you. These values will not only shape your leadership style but also serve as a source of motivation for the work you'll undertake in your rural community.

Some examples to inspire	Tell us about your own values
Empathy: Understanding and empathizing with the unique needs and concerns of your fellow rural community members, embracing the tight-knit nature of rural life.	
Sustainability: Committing to environmentally responsible practices that respect the rural landscape and ensure a thriving rural environment for future generations.	
Collaboration: Valuing teamwork and partnerships, essential for achieving shared rural goals and fostering a sense of rural community unity.	
Equality: Promoting fairness and equal opportunities for all rural community members, recognizing the importance of inclusivity in rural areas.	
Creativity: Encouraging innovative solutions that address rural challenges and harness the resourcefulness that characterizes rural life.	

1.2 Strengths and Weaknesses:

As you embark on your rural leadership adventure, it's important to recognize your strengths and areas where you can improve. Effective leadership is built on self-awareness, and understanding your strengths and weaknesses will help you better serve your rural community. This exercise will help identify the strengths that come naturally to you, as these will be valuable assets in your leadership role.

Some strength examples to inspire	Describe your own strengths
Communication: Your ability to convey rural challenges or solution ideas and information clearly and persuasively, ensuring that rural community members understand and support rural initiatives.	
Problem Solving: Your talent for finding practical, resourceful solutions to complex rural issues.	
Empathy: Your capacity to deeply connect with fellow rural community members and understand their unique rural perspectives and challenges.	

Simultaneously, acknowledge areas where you may have weaknesses and consider how you can develop these skills over time. As you embark on your rural leadership adventure, it's important to recognize areas for growth that are particularly relevant to rural leadership. Effective rural leadership is built on self-awareness, and understanding these areas for improvement will help you better serve your rural community. Identify the rural-specific areas where you may need to develop your skills and consider how you can address these challenges as you progress in your rural leadership role.

Some weakness examples to consider	Describe your own weaknesses
Public Speaking: Enhancing your ability to communicate ideas effectively in rural settings, such as community meetings and local gatherings, where rural communication may have unique nuances.	
Time Management: Improving your time management skills to effectively juggle the multiple responsibilities and commitments that come with leadership in rural communities.	
Delegation: While delegation is essential for effective leadership in any setting, it can be particularly challenging for young leaders in rural areas, where tight-knit communities often rely on established relationships and traditional hierarchies, young leaders may encounter unique obstacles when attempting to delegate tasks.	

What action(s) can you take to address these weaknesses?

E.g. Seek out additional training or find a mentor.

Section 2: Goal Setting

2.1 Short-Term Goals: Define three short-term leadership goals you want to achieve in the next six months. These should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).

Example short term goal 1	Example short term goal 2	Example short term goal 3
<p>Organise a community cleanup event by June 2025.</p> <p>SMART: Specific: The goal is to organise a community cleanup event in your rural area to improve the local environment and foster community engagement. The event will focus on removing litter and waste from public spaces, enhancing the cleanliness and visual appeal of the rural community.</p> <p>Measurable: To measure the success of this goal, here are some ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of Waste Removed: Define a target for the amount of litter and waste to be collected during the cleanup event. For example, aim to remove at least 500 kilograms of waste. • Participation Rate: Measure the number of community members and volunteers who actively participate in the event. For 	<p>Develop and lead a youth-driven climate volunteering initiative by August 2025</p> <p>SMART: Specific: The goal is to create and lead a climate volunteering initiative that actively engages young people in addressing environmental and climate-related challenges in your rural community.</p> <p>Measurable: To measure the success of this goal, consider these metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Participation: Aim to recruit and involve a specific number of young volunteers, such as 20 individuals, in the climate initiative. • Environmental Impact: Define specific objectives related to the environmental impact of the initiative. For example, set a target to plant 500 trees, clean up a specific area, or reduce carbon emissions by a certain percentage. 	<p>Attend at least two local government meetings by October 2025 to actively engage in civic processes and advocate for rural development.</p> <p>SMART: Specific: The goal specifies attending a minimum of two local government meetings, which is a clear and specific action to engage in civic processes.</p> <p>Measurable: To measure the success of this goal, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Meetings Attended: Attend at least two local government meetings as the primary metric to track. • Active Engagement: Set a secondary metric to gauge active participation, such as asking questions, proposing ideas, or making suggestions during the meetings. <p>Achievable: Ensure that you have the time and</p>

<p>example, set a goal to have at least 20 community members involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanliness Improvement: Assess the cleanliness of targeted areas before and after the cleanup event, take photos and get the community involved by using a rating scale. <p>Achievable: Consider the available resources, such as volunteers, cleanup equipment, and funding. Are these resources sufficient to support the event's goals? Collaborate with local organisations, schools, and businesses to gather support and resources.</p> <p>Relevant: The cleanup event is highly relevant to your rural community as it addresses a specific need for cleaner public spaces. It aligns with your values and the community's desire for a cleaner and more attractive environment.</p> <p>Time-Bound: Set a clear timeframe for the event: Event Date: The community cleanup event will take place on June 15, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This specific date and time provide a clear deadline for achieving the goal.</p>	<p>Achievable: Ensure that you have the necessary resources, such as support from local organisations, volunteers, and a clear plan for the initiative's activities. Collaborate with youth groups, schools, and environmental organisations to make the initiative achievable.</p> <p>Relevant: The climate volunteering initiative is highly relevant to young people and aligns with their concerns about climate change and environmental sustainability. It empowers them to take direct action and make a meaningful impact.</p> <p>Time-Bound: Initiative Launch: The youth-driven climate volunteering initiative will be launched on August 1, 2025, and run for 6 months.</p>	<p>resources to attend these meetings. Check the schedules of local government meetings in advance to align with your availability. Share with the organisers why you wish to attend.</p> <p>Relevant: Attending local government meetings is relevant as it allows you to actively participate in civic processes and advocate for rural development, which aligns with your commitment to shaping your rural community's future.</p> <p>Time-Bound: Set a specific deadline for achieving this objective, e.g., attend at least two local government meetings by October 1, 2025.</p>
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Now set out your own SMART goals...

Your short-term goal 1	Your short-term goal 2	Your short-term goal 3

2.2 Long-Term Vision: Envision your leadership role in the community five years from now. What impact do you want to make? How do you see yourself contributing to rural development?

Example of long-term vision	Describe your own long-term vision
<p>Five years from now, I see myself as a prominent youth leader in our rural community, deeply committed to fostering sustainable environmental practices and contributing significantly to rural development. My vision is to create a more resilient and eco-conscious community where the well-being of both people and the environment is prioritised.</p> <p>Some of the ways I will achieve this vision’s impact include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Green Spaces: One of my primary contributions to rural development will be the creation and maintenance of community green spaces. These spaces will serve as urban forests, community gardens, and wildlife habitats. They will provide a sanctuary for nature and a place for community members to connect with the environment. • Environmental Education: I will actively promote environmental education within our community. This will include organising workshops, seminars, and outreach programs aimed at raising awareness about sustainability, conservation, and the importance of protecting our local ecosystems. By educating community members, we will empower them to make informed choices that benefit the environment. • Renewable Energy Initiatives: I envision championing renewable energy initiatives in our rural area. We will work together to harness local natural resources, such as solar and wind energy, to reduce our carbon footprint and ensure a sustainable energy future. These initiatives will not only benefit the environment but also create jobs and economic opportunities for our community. • Waste Reduction and Recycling: To address waste management and reduce landfill waste, I plan to establish community-wide recycling 	

<p>programs and initiatives that promote waste reduction and responsible disposal. By implementing recycling infrastructure and educating residents on sustainable waste practices, we will significantly decrease our environmental impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-Tourism Development: Leveraging our region's natural beauty and unique environmental features, I will lead efforts to develop eco-tourism in our rural area. This will not only boost our local economy but also showcase our commitment to preserving our natural heritage. Eco-tourism will create opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs, further contributing to rural development. 	
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Section 3: Vision Board- Shaping My Rural Leadership Journey

Creating a Vision Board is a fantastic exercise to help young people to visualize their rural leadership adventure/journey and goals. You have two options:-

3.1 Old School Vison Boards

Materials Needed:

- Poster board or large sheet of paper
- Magazines, newspapers, or printed images
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or coloured pencils
- Stickers

Instructions:

- Take some time to reflect on your values, strengths, weaknesses, short-term goals, and long-term goals.
- Collect and review magazines, newspapers, or printed images related to leadership, rural, community, environment, and personal growth. Also use online resources.
- Cut out images, words, or phrases that resonate with your vision as a young rural leader. Be creative and choose visuals that inspire you.
- Arrange and glue these images, words, and phrases on the poster board to create a collage that represents your overall vision.
- Once the vision board is complete, share it with others, or online, explaining the significance of the chosen images and how they relate to their values, goals, and rural development aspirations.

3.2 Let's go digital.

There are several digital tools and apps available to help you create a vision board. Here are eight popular options:

- **Pinterest:** [Pinterest](#) is a widely used platform for creating digital vision boards. You can create boards for specific themes or goals and then pin images, articles, and ideas from the web to your boards. It's easy to organise and share your vision boards with others.
- **Canva:** [Canva](#) is a versatile graphic design tool that offers templates for creating digital vision boards. You can upload your own images or use Canva's extensive library of visuals to design a customised board. Canva is user-friendly and allows for creative customisation.
- **Miro:** [Miro](#) is a collaborative online whiteboard platform that can be used for digital vision boarding. It offers a wide range of templates and allows for the creation of visual boards with images, text, and sticky notes. You can invite others to collaborate on the board, making it great for group projects.
- **Trello:** While [Trello](#) is primarily a project management tool, it can also be used for digital vision boards. Create boards for your goals, and use cards to attach images, notes, and checklists to represent your vision. Trello's organization and task management features can help you track progress.
- **Adobe Spark:** [Adobe Spark](#) offers a user-friendly platform for creating digital vision boards. You can combine images, text, and icons to design visually appealing boards. It's suitable for those who want a polished and professional look.
- **Google Slides or PowerPoint:** You can use presentation software like [Google Slides](#) or [Microsoft PowerPoint](#) to create digital vision boards. Each slide can represent a different aspect of your vision, and you can add images, text, and even animations.
- **MindMeister:** [MindMeister](#) is a mind mapping tool that can be adapted for digital vision boards. Create a mind map with branches representing different goals and attach images and descriptions to each branch.
- **Vision Board Apps:** There are mobile apps specifically designed for creating digital vision boards. Some popular options include [Hay House Vision Board](#) and [Subliminal Vision Boards](#)