

Youth2030 Action Guide for United Nations Country Teams

November 2021

YOUTH
2030



A thank you note from the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Youth2030, the United Nations' first-ever systemwide youth strategy, was launched in 2018 with the ambitious aim of scaling up global, regional and national actions with and for youth to fulfil the vision of a world in which the positive contributions of young people are recognized, their rights protected and their potential fulfilled. As the UN Secretary-General's recently launched "Our Common Agenda" report reiterates, we are at an inflection point in history, and to achieve a breakthrough to a better, more sustainable and peaceful future it is critical that young people's voices are heard.

In this spirit, I am delighted to present the Youth2030 Action Guide for United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), a tool developed to support UNCTs to implement Youth2030 at country-level. As a central component of the Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs, the Action Guide outlines major global commitments and sets out key areas for UNCT joint action on youth. It outlines entry points for programming and provides an overview of how the coordination, capacities and culture in UNCTs can be transformed to deliver more effective results with and for youth around the world.

The Implementation Package, which consists of this Action Guide, as well as a mapping of multi-stakeholder initiatives and an online toolkit, has been jointly conceptualized and developed by members of the Joint Working Group, the technical leadership group of Youth2030, as a complement to the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. I offer my sincere appreciation to the members of the Joint Working Group for their contributions to this important and timely work. I am also grateful for the inputs provided by UN entities and youth networks during the series of consultations that took place in 2020.

I would like to also extend my special thanks to the UN Resident Coordinators in the four Youth2030 Fast-Track Countries that participated in the field validation exercises for the Implementation Package – Allegra Baiocchi (Costa Rica), Babatunde Ahonsi (Sierra Leone), Catherine Sozi (Ethiopia), and Charles Abani (Ghana) – and their teams for hosting and coordinating these consultations. Thanks go also to Mohamed Bangura, Minister of Youth Affairs in Sierra Leone, for supporting the consultation in Sierra Leone.

Finally, I want to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude for the strategic guidance and steadfast support of the High-Level Steering Committee of Youth2030, without which this Implementation Package would not have been possible.

With the aid of products such as this Action Guide, I look forward to seeing UNCTs accelerate their efforts to implement Youth2030, positioning young people as equal partners on our journey towards achieving the world we all want.

Jayathma Wickramanayake
United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth



Acronyms and abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CCA	Common Country Analysis
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
GCED	Global Citizenship Education
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLPF	United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
HLSC	Youth2030 High-Level Steering Committee
HRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
HRE	Human Rights Education
IASC	Interagency Standing Committee
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JWG	Youth2030 Joint Working Group
JWP	Joint Work Plan
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and/or Questioning, and Asexual and/or Ally
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MFF	Multi-year Funding Framework
MGCY	Major Group for Children and Youth
MHPSS	Mental Health & Psychosocial Support
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSGEY	Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organization
YAB	Youth Advisory Board
YAC	Youth Advisory Council
Youth2030	United Nations system-wide Youth Strategy
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security
YSB	Youth Sounding Board

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1.

Introduction and context

1.1

Introduction

Youth2030, the United Nations' system-wide Youth Strategy, was launched in 2018 by the Secretary-General and outlines how the United Nations can achieve impact for youth through joint action, working both for and with young people. The strategy sets out three broad objectives:

- ◆ Address the ***needs, build the agency, and advance the rights*** of young people.
- ◆ Ensure their ***engagement and participation*** in the ***implementation, review, and follow-up*** of the 2030 Agenda and other relevant global agendas and frameworks.
- ◆ Ensure the United Nations' work on youth issues is pursued in a ***coordinated, coherent, and holistic manner with youth***.

The Secretary-General's report on "Our Common Agenda" launched on 10 September 2021 looks ahead to the next 25 years and outlines his vision for the future of global cooperation and reinvigorating inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism. The report includes concrete proposals on how the United Nations and the international system can be better positioned to address the needs of youth today and protect the interests of future generations. We are at an inflection point in history and successful implementation of Youth2030 is a critical imperative to realize the vision outlined in "Our Common Agenda."

The implementation of Youth2030 benefits from the strategic guidance of a High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC), chaired by the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, with diverse United Nations representation at the Assistant Secretary-General level, as well as representatives of global youth networks and constituencies. The Youth2030 Secretariat, established in the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), supports the HLSC and the overall coordination of the implementation of Youth2030. The HLSC is supported by a technical leadership team, the Joint Working Group (JWG), consisting of focal points from various United Nations entities and youth networks.

Youth2030 is now into the third year of implementation and has gained good momentum. The JWG and its Task Teams are advancing various knowledge products, tools and analytical reports to support implementation of the strategy.

A set of two Youth2030 scorecards, one each for United Nations entities and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) have been advanced, i.) in line with the principles of meaningful youth engagement, ii.) drawing from several documents (policy, programme, operational) and performance measurement tools¹ in the United Nations system, and iii.) gaining insights from reported data on four youth indicators from 130 UNCTs (UNCT mini-baseline 2019).²

Launched in November 2020, the Youth2030 Scorecard for UNCTs,* a performance measurement and accountability tool for UNCTs, has been institutionalized for routine, annual reporting in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group's Information Management System (UNSDG IMS); the data from the first reporting in 2020 provides the baseline for Youth2030 implementation in the UNCTs. Development of a similar scorecard for United Nations entities is in progress. The scorecard and the Information Management System for the annual reporting by entities will be available in the second half of 2021. In addition to this, a public-facing dashboard for visualization of Youth2030 performance across the system and across time is being advanced.

Through the joint efforts of the JWG members, five Youth2030 indicators aligned to the UNCT Scorecard have been included in the final Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) Monitoring Framework 2021-2024, published in July 2021. The 2020 QCPR, which covers the period 2021-2024, urges Member States and the United Nations development system to explore and promote concrete new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Complementing the UNCT Scorecard, the JWG and several Task Teams have developed a Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs consisting of an online toolkit, a mapping of multi-stakeholder initiatives, as well as the Youth2030 Action Guide for UNCTs.** Several of the ten Fast-Track Countries³, envisioned as leaders in the rollout of the strategy, have also contributed to the development of these products, by validating the guidance and tools to ensure they are both relevant and useful.

1.2

About the Action Guide

Purpose

The Action Guide has been developed to support UNCTs to jointly plan and deliver on the United Nations' system-wide Youth Strategy. The Action Guide, while originally published in a PDF version, will subsequently be made available as an online tool that will be updated continuously, and will additionally be reviewed at the end of 2024/the start of 2025.

Development process

The Action Guide is a central component of the Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs. Throughout of 2020 and 2021, the Youth2030 Secretariat coordinated the development of the Action Guide. Contributions to the Action Guide were provided by a range of United Nations entities, as well as youth organizations and young people themselves. Direct inputs could be provided during a series of consultations with these partners, and further direction was given by a Task Team drawn from the members of the Joint Working Group.

* In the present report, the title of the Youth2030 Scorecard for UNCTs has been shortened to UNCT Scorecard.

** In the present report, the title of the Youth2030 Action Guide for UNCTs has been shortened to Action Guide.

In addition to this, the document was validated through consultations with stakeholders in four Fast-Track Countries – Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone.

Target audience

The target audience for the Action Guide include:

	Teams	Intent
1.	Leadership Team – Resident Coordinators, Representatives	Ensuring leadership, transformative shifts, and strategic coordination on youth issues in UNCTs
2.	Programme Management Teams in UNCTs	Joint programme leadership on key Priority areas
3.	Results Groups on youth/ Task Forces/ Task Teams on youth	Joint programme planning, implementation, review, and reporting
4.	Business Operations Strategy Teams	Ensuring key organisational shifts are translated in operational arrangements and action
5.	Government ministries and agencies working on public policies impacting young people	Unpacking the content of the United Nations Youth Strategy and identifying opportunities for enhanced collaboration and partnerships
6.	Youth organizations, movements, and networks engaging with UNCTs	Unpacking the content of the United Nations Youth Strategy and identifying opportunities for enhanced collaboration and partnerships

What is the Action Guide? What is it not?

Drawing from the strategic focus of the five (5) priority programme areas and the four (4) foundational areas outlined in Youth2030, the Action Guide:

1. Sets out the key areas for joint action on youth by UNCTs (programming, advocacy, etc.).
2. Outlines major global commitments and entry points for programming, (as outlined by the United Nations entities as well as youth).
3. Summarises the principles of meaningful youth engagement and how UNCTs can deliver the mandate *with* youth.
4. Provides an overview of how the coordination, capacities and culture in the United Nations can be augmented/transformed to best deliver on its commitments to young people.

While the Action Guide outlines several areas of action, it is **NOT** a thematic or detailed programming guidance. UNCTs are referred to specific technical and programming guidance documents in various areas.

1.3

The connection to

Cooperation Frameworks

This Action Guide provides crucial operational guidance to help UNCTs to implement the United Nations Youth Strategy within the central programming instrument for planning and implementation – the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) or “Cooperation Framework.” Several countries have started this transition already (11 countries for 2020 implementation, 31 countries for 2021 implementation, and 31 for 2022 implementation), with the remaining countries expected to have a Cooperation Framework in place latest by 2024. In its second section, the Action Guide goes beyond the context provided in this introduction and offers concrete advice on how to align the operationalisation of the United Nations Youth Strategy with the key steps in the Cooperation Framework Cycle shown below.



Key steps in the Cooperation Framework Cycle. Source: UN Development Coordination Office.

As UNCTs move through the steps of the Cooperation Framework Cycle, the Action Guide can be used as a handy, actionable reference tool to help ensure that these processes are aligned with the United Nations Youth Strategy.

Starting from the **Roadmap**, UNCTs should

- ◆ Articulate the planned meaningful engagement of youth in the design process, as part of the overall engagement with key stakeholders and United Nations entities in the Cooperation Framework Roadmap.
- ◆ As part of the validation of the Cooperation Framework Roadmap timelines and process with key stakeholders, ensure that planned consultations include youth representatives. UNCTs could also consider the option of organizing a youth-specific consultation, signalling its commitment to meaningful engagement with youth in the UNSDCF design process.

Next, as part of the **Common Country Analysis (CCA)** phase,

UNCTs should

- ◆ Ensure that the shared vision, methodology and work plans for the CCA includes mapping expertise and resources required for the “beginning cycle” CCA and annual updates to undertake the youth gendered situational analysis, as well as any youth specific analysis that may be undertaken through the implementation of the Cooperation Framework (or equivalent).
- ◆ Ensure that the composition of the interagency team established to serve as “penholders,” include representatives from the interagency mechanism on youth (as appropriate). In the absence of such a mechanism at the country level, expertise can be drawn from within the UNCT. In instances where there is no youth specific capacity at the country level, UNCTs are encouraged to draw on the technical expertise available at the regional and global level (if needed to complement in-country expertise).
- ◆ Develop a gendered youth situational analysis utilising age and vulnerability disaggregated data. To address data gaps, the UNCT should consider additional quantitative and qualitative approaches for the gathering of data on youth.
- ◆ In applying the multidimensional risk analysis, include an analysis of how emerging and future risks on the country development trajectory will have an impact on youth. As each dimension is assessed, its potential scope and impact on youth should be analysed.

During the **Cooperation Framework design** phase, UNCTs should

- ◆ Ensure they plan specific steps to collaboratively develop results for youth in line with the Cooperation Framework timeline that has been agreed for the country.
- ◆ Identify catalytic development solutions for young people and ensure a youth lens is applied during the development of a theory of change for the new Cooperation Framework.
- ◆ Develop priority outcomes for young people, which will feed into the results framework for the country and its new Cooperation Framework.

During the development of the **Funding Framework**, UNCTs should

- ◆ Ensure that the results-based budgeting approach of the Multi-year Funding Framework (MFF) covers the youth outputs integrated in the Cooperation Framework.
- ◆ Contribute to the development of MFF resource mobilization targets for the youth results contained in the Cooperation Framework at output level.
- ◆ Ensure that the 15 percent of total costs dedicated to gender equality programming has a youth lens, and that funding is dedicated to youth gender equality.
- ◆ Monitor joint work plans implementation from a budgetary perspective and compile semi-annual financial updates that track funding gaps and funding use.

Finally, during the development and implementation of joint work plans, UNCTs should

- ◆ Ensure that their Results Group for Youth (or thematic group/task team/equivalent on youth, as applicable) agrees on a timeline for their contributions to joint work plans and complete joint work plans and budgets accordingly.
- ◆ Ensure that each entity's contributions to joint work plans are aligned to the theory of change and contribute to the results for youth in the Cooperation Framework.
- ◆ Ensure that each entity's contributions are mapped, identify gaps and overlaps, strengthen complementarity, and harness synergies across the five thematic Priority areas of Youth2030.
- ◆ Establish a monitoring, evaluation and learning plan (MEL) including feedback loops with young people, youth networks/organisations and other key stakeholders.
- ◆ Undertake an annual performance review on youth through their Results Group for Youth (or thematic group/task team/equivalent on youth, as applicable) and contribute to the overall joint annual performance review.
- ◆ Contribute to the United Nations country results report, capturing the full footprint of United Nations development results for young people in the country.
- ◆ Develop youth-friendly summaries of their joint work plans on youth and their youth results report, translating institutional language into youth-friendly language.

By following these steps, adapted to the country's context, UNCTs will have a solid foundation for implementing Youth2030, firmly embedded in the structures and processes of the UNSDCF.



¹ UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW) and UN's Disability Inclusion Strategy Scorecards.

² UNCT mini baseline indicators: Availability of Youth situational analysis in Common Country Analysis, Results for youth in Cooperation Frameworks, Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) for inputs into UN work, typology of YAB (Joint or entity-specific).

³ The ten (10) fast track countries are Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Jordan, Morocco, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Uzbekistan.

2.

UNCT actions on and with youth

This section of the Action Guide covers the operational dimensions of implementing Youth2030 at country level. The section follows the logic and sequence of the [Youth2030 Scorecard for United Nations Country Teams \(UNCTs\)](#), which UNCTs are using for reporting on their progress against a set of 20 key performance indicators (KPIs). These KPIs are listed on the following page.

The 20 operational pieces in this section share a common structure. Each contains the overall objective, followed by recommended actions. Next are the details of the KPI that measures the specific objective, followed by a link to a key resource, which is most commonly the corresponding section of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Policy Guidance developed by the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO). Each section concludes with the self-reported 2020 baseline data of the 130 functional UNCTs, as seen in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021⁴.

2.1 Ensure youth focus in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

- 2.1.1 Common Country Analysis contains a Youth Situational Analysis
- 2.1.2 Results for Youth in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
- 2.1.3 Joint Work Plans and Business Operation Strategies cover the Youth2030 Priority areas
 - (a) Joint Work Plan includes activities covering the Youth2030 Priority areas
 - (b) Business Operation Strategy includes activities covering the Youth2030 Priority areas
- 2.1.4 Funding for youth results in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
- 2.1.5 Transparency of youth results in UN Country Teams

2.2 Strengthen leadership, culture, architecture, and capacities for youth

- 2.2.1 Leadership and culture in UNCTs for meaningful youth engagement
 - (a) Youth engagement respects all principles of meaningful youth engagement
 - (b) Meaningful youth engagement covers different categories of youth groups
 - (c) Meaningful youth engagement covers all relevant UNCT processes
 - (d) Meaningful youth engagement covers all areas of UNCT support to Government
 - (e) Meaningful youth engagement in UNCT-led projects and campaigns
- 2.2.2 Youth coordination architecture in UN Country Teams
- 2.2.3 Capacities for Youth2030 implementation in UN Country Teams
- 2.2.4 Youth workforce in UN Country Teams
- 2.2.5 Fair and quality internships in UN Country Teams

2.3 Organise support of UN Country Teams to Governments on youth

- 2.3.1 Leave No Youth Behind: Assessment and action
- 2.3.2 Policy alignment to Sustainable Development Goals and coherence for youth development
 - (a) Policy alignment to SDGs for youth development
 - (b) Policy coherence for youth development
- 2.3.3 Public finance for youth development
- 2.3.4 Disaggregated data on youth for decision making
- 2.3.5 Youth engagement in design, monitoring, and review of in-country programmes
- 2.3.6 In-country youth coordination mechanisms

2.4 Reinforce UNCT action on youth-led solutions, knowledge exchange, communication, advocacy

- 2.4.1 Investments in youth-led solutions
- 2.4.2 UNCTs, youth and knowledge exchange
- 2.4.3 UNCTs, youth, communication and advocacy

2.5 Accelerate action on youth, COVID response and recovery

- 2.5.1 UNCTs, COVID response and recovery plan, youth

⁴ [The Youth2030 Progress Report 2021](#), the first report on the implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy, was launched on 7 April 2021 and includes data and highlights from 130 UN Country Teams and 33 UN entities on their work for and with youth and provides insights on the areas of strength and the areas that need attention. The report is supplemented by a data compendium, the [UN Snapshot Series](#).

2.1

Ensure youth focus in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

KEY MESSAGES

What does Youth2030 say?

The United Nations as a Knowledge and Innovation Pioneer:

- ◆ “The UN will strengthen knowledge production and management systems; become a credible source of expertise on youth development and engagement; and facilitate evidence-based global awareness on the realities and needs of the world’s young people.”

Why is this area of action relevant?

- ◆ The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is the central planning instrument at the country level which responds to national priorities, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also requires broad stakeholder engagement and participation, including with youth.
- ◆ The UNSDCF will always affect young people in the country, whether through intentional aims or unintentional effects. It should be backed by relevant and current data that reflects the lived realities of young people in all their diversity.

Where can I find good examples?

- ◆ 11 countries have transitioned from the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to UNSDCF for 2020 implementation:
 - ◆ Angola, Colombia, Cuba, Congo (Republic of), Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Paraguay, and Sierra Leone.
- ◆ 31 countries and territories have transitioned from UNDAF to UNSDCF for 2021 implementation:
 - ◆ Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Eswatini, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Kosovo**, Madagascar, Malaysia, Panama, Republic of North Macedonia, South Africa, Serbia, Somalia, Syria, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uruguay, and Uzbekistan.

** All references to Kosovo in the present report shall be understood in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

2.1.1

Common Country Analysis contains a Youth Situational Analysis

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that the Common Country Analysis (CCA) includes a gendered youth situational analysis.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the shared vision, methodology and work plans for the CCA contains references to young people, including references to age-disaggregated data.
- ◆ UNCTs discuss with the inter-agency team leading the CCA process how the realities of young people and the impact of youth policies and programmes will be captured.
- ◆ UNCTs request youth expertise from across the United Nations system as part of the system-wide CCA support sourcing, if needed, to complement in-country expertise.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the CCA multidimensional risk analysis contains a gendered youth dimension, including a specific youth result group to enrich the CCA evidence base.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the draft CCA report covers young people, youth policies and youth programmes, with a gendered lens, both in the assessment and the analysis parts.
- ◆ UNCTs integrate feedback from the regional peer support group regarding the situation of young people as the final step of the CCA development.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 1 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has five criteria (1-3 criteria met = moving forward, 4-5 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ Youth situational analysis included in CCAs of UNCTs and contains
 - ◆ Disaggregated data and evidence on young people including vulnerable groups
 - ◆ National legal and policy frameworks, strategies, and programmes for youth
 - ◆ Gaps in youth policies and programme coverage, quality and equity
 - ◆ Causal analysis/bottleneck analysis of gaps included in the situational analysis
 - ◆ Gender lens incorporated across the analysis

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Common Country Assessment (UNSDG) ↗**
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

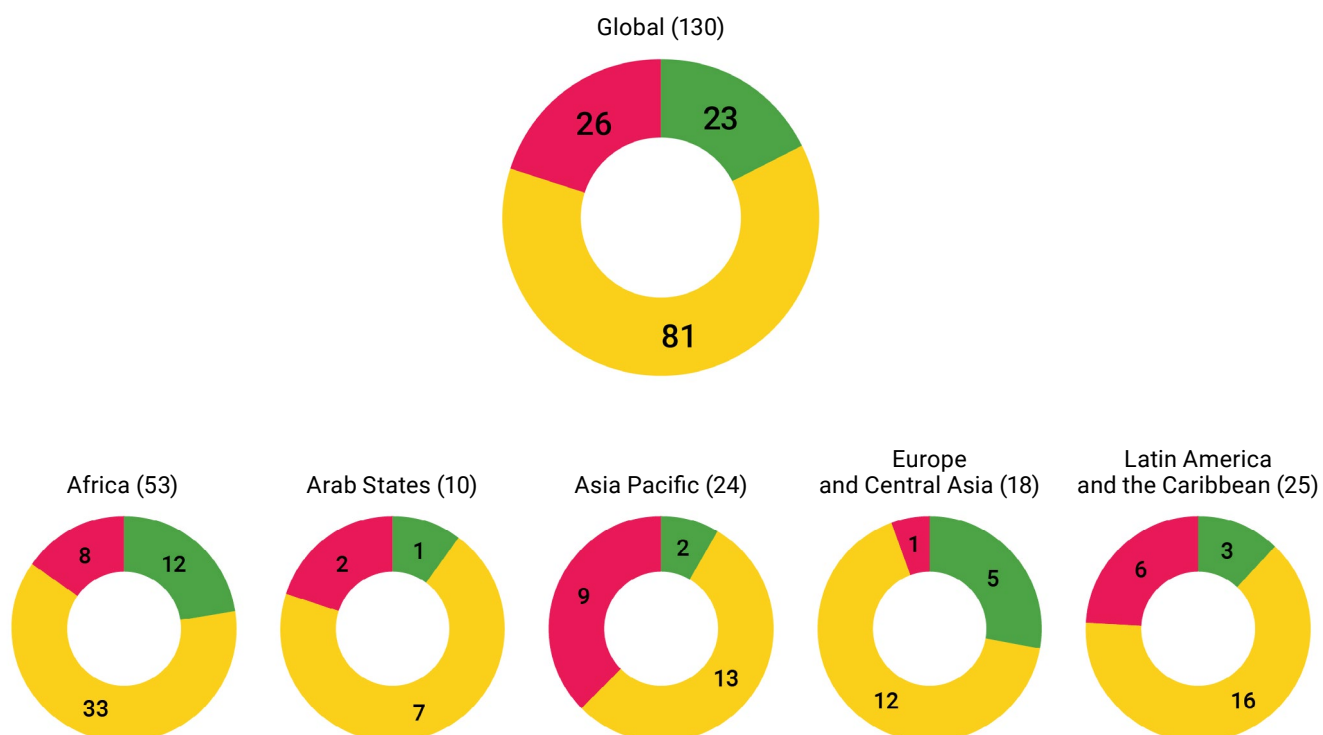
80 per cent of CCA (104 of 130) of UNCTs include a youth situational analysis; 20 per cent meet all or most quality criteria⁶.

⁶ Percentages highlighted throughout this chapter have been rounded for ease of reading.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Youth situational analyses in Common Country Analyses (CCAs)

2020 reporting



2.1.2

Results for Youth in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) include results for youth.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs ensure they plan specific steps to collaboratively develop results for youth in line with the Cooperation Framework timeline that has been agreed for the country.
- ◆ UNCTs develop a youth-specific roadmap for the development of results for youth that aligns with the overall roadmap for the new Cooperation Framework.
- ◆ UNCTs identify catalytic development solutions for young people, and identify youth-specific aspects of the overall catalytic development solutions under discussion.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that a youth lens is applied during the development of a theory of change for the new Cooperation Framework.
- ◆ UNCTs develop priority outcomes for young people, which they will feed into the results framework for the country and its new Cooperation Framework.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 2 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has two criteria (1 of 2 criteria met = moving forward, 2 of 2 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ UNSDCF (or equivalent document) contains youth-specific results
 - ◆ at output level
 - ◆ at outcome level

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Cooperation Framework Design (UNSDG)** ↗
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG)** ↗

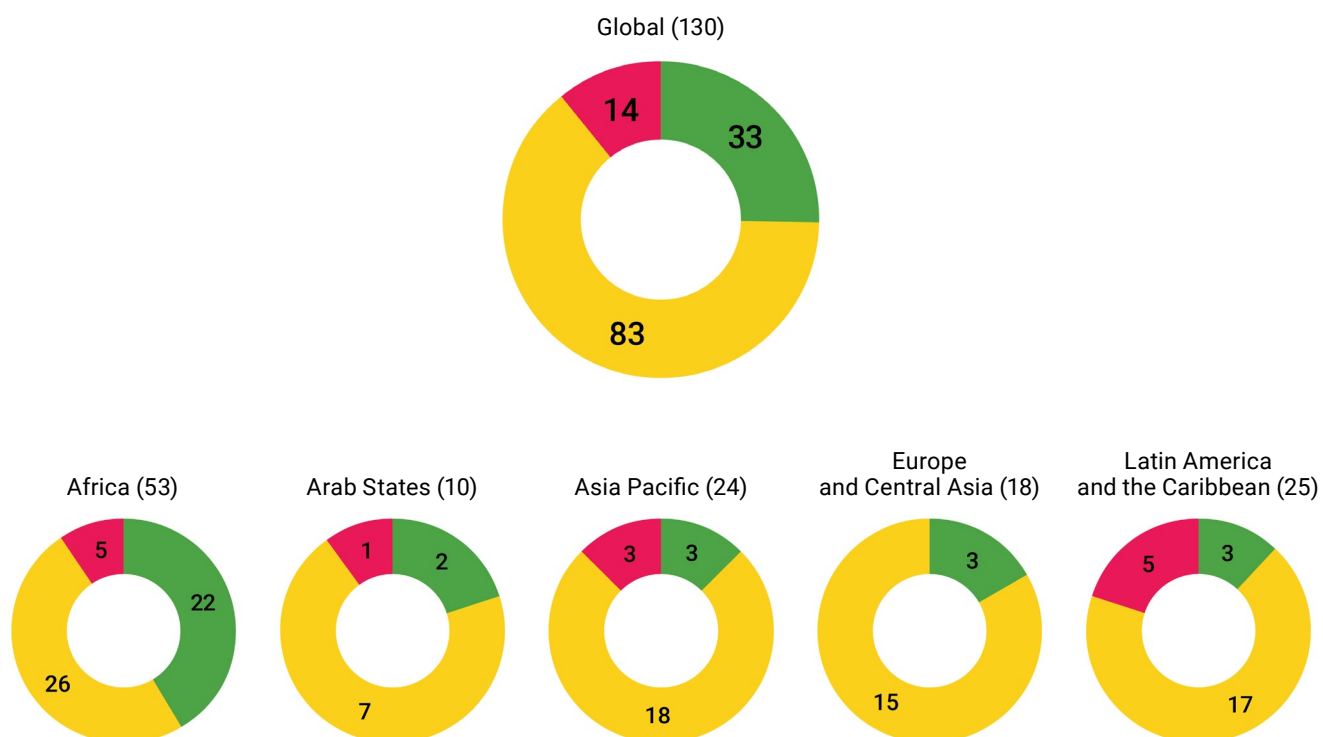
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

90 per cent of the UNCTs (116 of 130) include results for youth in UNSDCFs (or equivalent document); 25 per cent have results at both output and outcome levels.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Results for youth in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs)

2020 reporting



2.1.3 (a)

Joint Work Plans include activities covering the Youth2030 Priority areas

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that their Joint Work Plans (JWP) cover the five thematic Priority areas of Youth2030.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs ensure that their Results Group for Youth (or thematic group/ task team/equivalent on youth, as applicable) agrees on a timeline for their contributions to joint work plans and complete joint work plans and budgets accordingly
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that each entity's contributions to joint work plans are aligned to the theory of change and contribute to the results for youth in the Cooperation Framework
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that each entity's contributions are mapped, identify gaps and overlaps, strengthen complementarity, and harness synergies to cover all five thematic Priority areas of Youth2030

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 3.1 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has five criteria (1-3 criteria met = moving forward, 4-5 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ JWP (or equivalent document) covers Priority areas of Youth2030
 - ◆ Engagement, participation and advocacy
 - ◆ Informed and healthy foundations
 - ◆ Economic empowerment through decent work
 - ◆ Youth and human rights
 - ◆ Peace and resilience building

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Prepare and endorse joint workplans (UNSDG) ↗**
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**

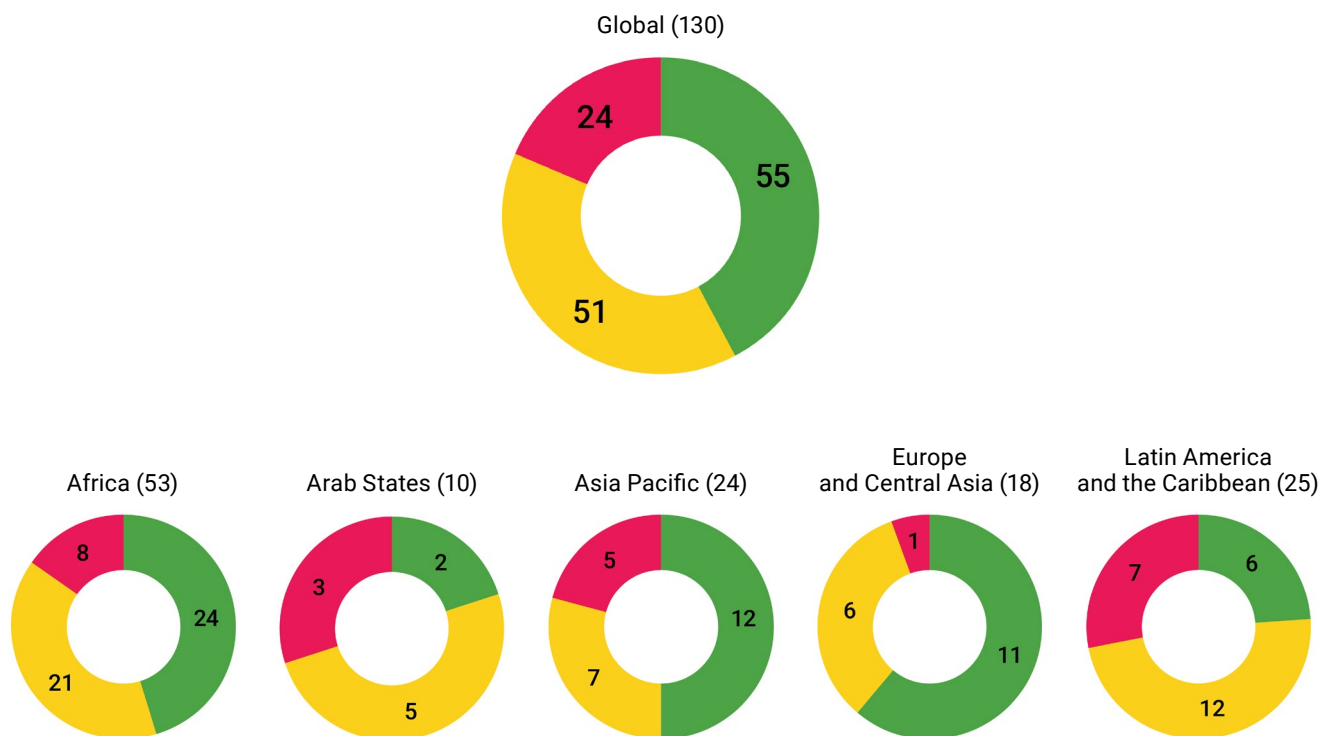
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

80 per cent of JWPs (106 of 130) include Youth2030 programmatic Priority areas/activities; 40 per cent cover all or most Priority areas.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Youth2030 in Joint Work Plan (JWP) of UNCTs

2020 reporting



2.1.3 (b)

Business Operations

Strategy includes activities covering the Youth2030

Priority areas

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) covers the relevant priorities of Youth2030.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs ensure that a youth focal point is part of the specialized working group for the Common Human Resources Services, one of the six BOS common service lines.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the stocktake includes a youth lens and covers the youthfulness of the UNCT workforce and the role of fair and quality internships.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the opportunity analysis includes a youth lens and covers the potential of strengthening the youth workforce and providing fair and quality internships.
- ◆ UNCTs consider the possibility of adding a new common service for increasing the age distribution of the UNCT workforce and/or the provision of fair and quality internships.
- ◆ UNCTs include key performance indicators that cover the youthfulness of the workforce as well as fair and quality internships in their BOS Results Framework.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 3.2 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has two criteria (1 of 2 criteria met = moving forward, 2 of 2 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ BOS (or equivalent document) implementation plan includes Youth 2030 activities
 - ◆ Strengthening the youth workforce across the UN system
 - ◆ Provide fair and quality internships across the UN system

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**

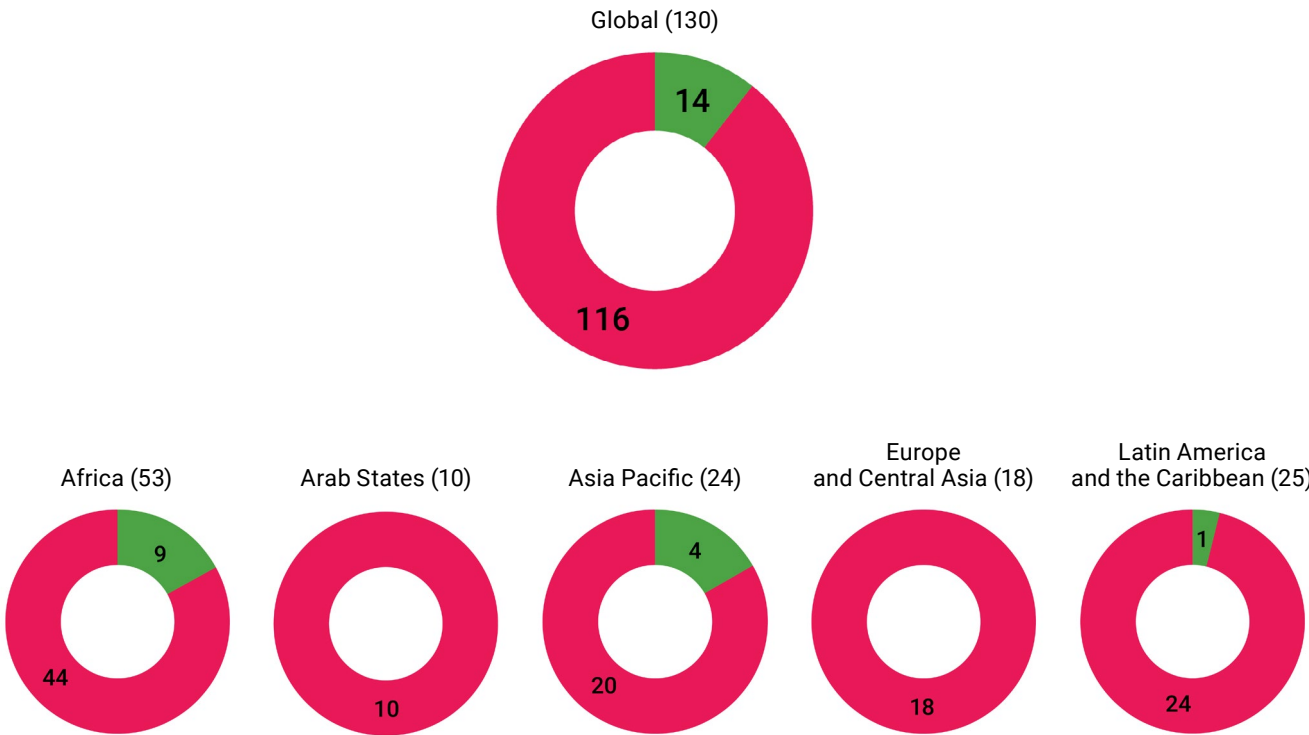
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

10 per cent (14 of 130) of Business Operations Strategy implementation plans include activities in Youth2030 Priority areas.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Youth2030 in Business Operations Strategy (BOS) implementation plan of UNCTs

2020 reporting



2.1.4

Funding for youth results in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that the results for youth contained in their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) are funded and that the funding is used.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the results-based budgeting approach of the Multi-year Funding Framework (MFF) covers the youth outputs integrated in the Cooperation Framework.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the 15 percent of total costs dedicated to gender equality programming has a youth lens, and that funding is dedicated to youth gender equality.
- ◆ UNCTs formulate an Annual Funding Framework for their joint work plan on youth issues, covering outcomes and outputs as well as operational and communication costs.
- ◆ UNCTs monitor joint work plan implementation from a budgetary perspective and compile semi-annual financial updates that track funding gaps and funding use.
- ◆ UNCTs contribute to the development of MFF resource mobilization targets for the youth results contained in the Cooperation Framework at output level.
- ◆ UNCTs develop a joint resource mobilization strategy on youth policy and youth programming that will feed into the country's joint resource mobilization strategy.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

These are KPIs 4.1 and 4.2 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ KPI 4: Funding available for joint programming for youth in the year
 - ◆ KPI 4.1 Proportion of planned budget that is funded towards the achievement of results for youth
 - ◆ 50-80% of planned budget is funded = moving forward
 - ◆ >80% of planned budget is funded = at milestone
 - ◆ KPI 4.2 Proportion of available funding that is utilised towards the achievement of results for youth
 - ◆ 50-80% of available funding utilised = moving forward
 - ◆ >80% of available funding utilised = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Funding the Cooperation Framework (UNSDG) ↗**
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**

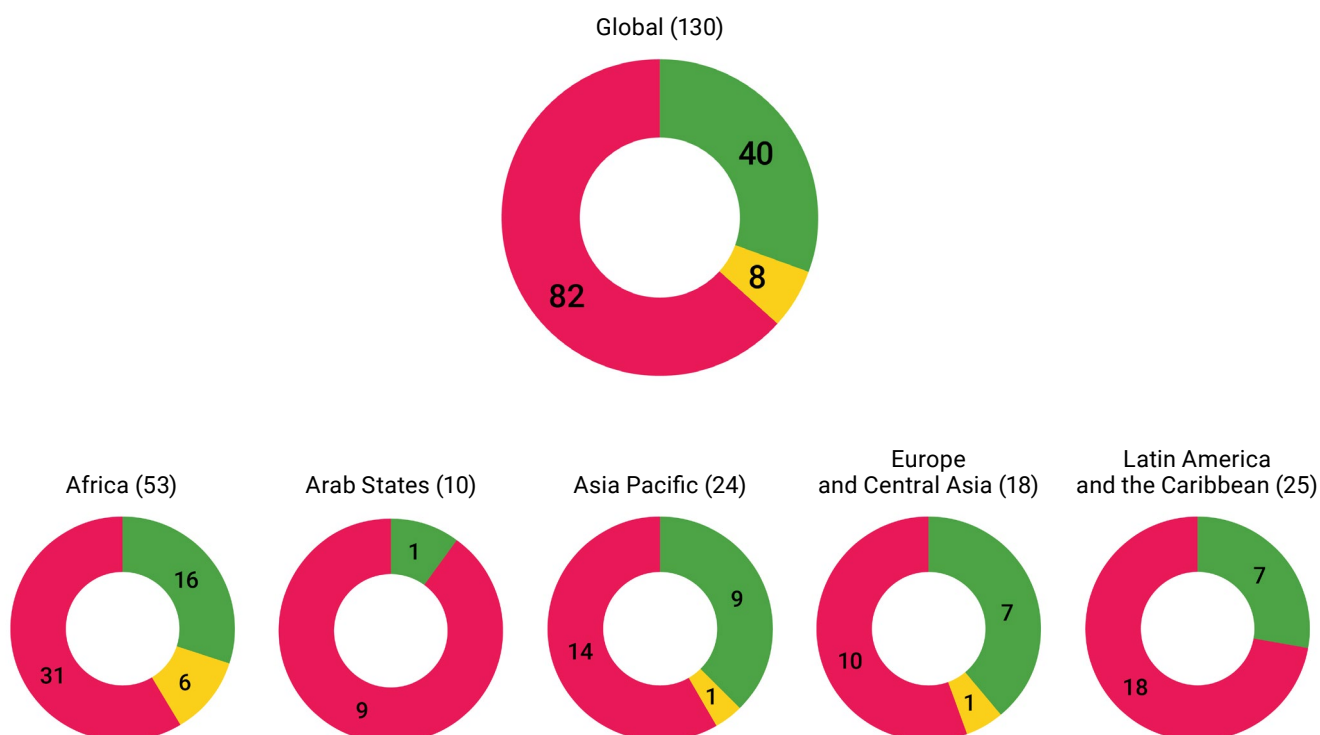
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

55 per cent of UNCTs (73 of 130) have no information on funding (planned, available or utilized) on youth.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Funding for youth results in UNSDCFs (Planned vs Available)

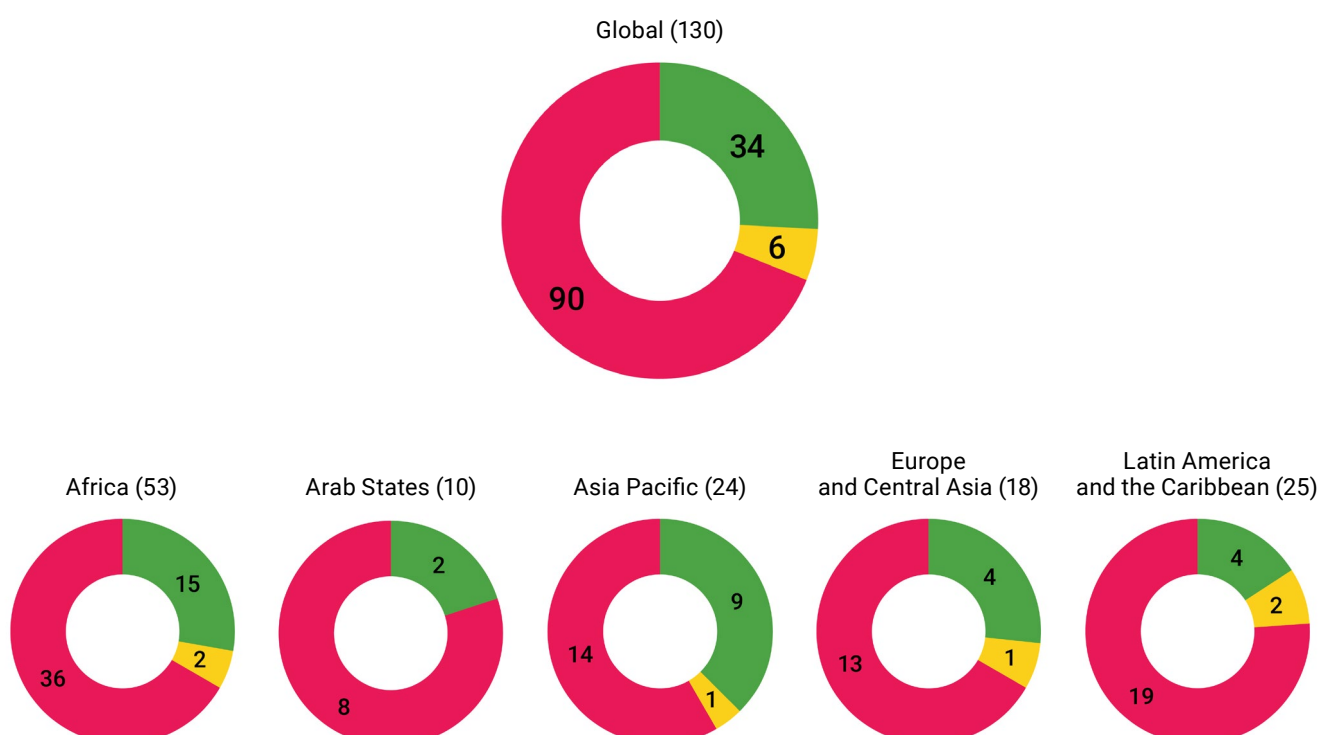
2020 reporting



Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Funding for youth results in UNSDCFs (Available vs Utilized)

2020 reporting



2.1.5

Transparency of youth results in UN Country Teams

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that country reports on joint programming for youth are available publicly.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs publish their joint work plan on youth so that it is easily accessible internally for all youth focal points, staff, and interns.
- ◆ UNCTs develop a youth-friendly version of their joint work plan on youth and publish it so that it is easily accessible for young people and youth networks/organisations.
- ◆ UNCTs establish a monitoring, evaluation and learning plan (MEL) including feedback loops with young people, youth networks/organisations and other key stakeholders.
- ◆ UNCTs undertake an annual performance review on youth through their Results Group for youth, and contribute to the overall joint annual performance review.
- ◆ UNCTs contribute to the United Nations country results report, capturing the full footprint of United Nations development results for young people in the country.
- ◆ UNCTs develop a youth-friendly version of the youth results report and publish it so that it is easily accessible for young people and youth networks/organisations.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 5 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ Report on joint programming on youth is available
 - ◆ internally = moving forward
 - ◆ publicly = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation, Monitoring, Learning (UNSDG) ↗**
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**

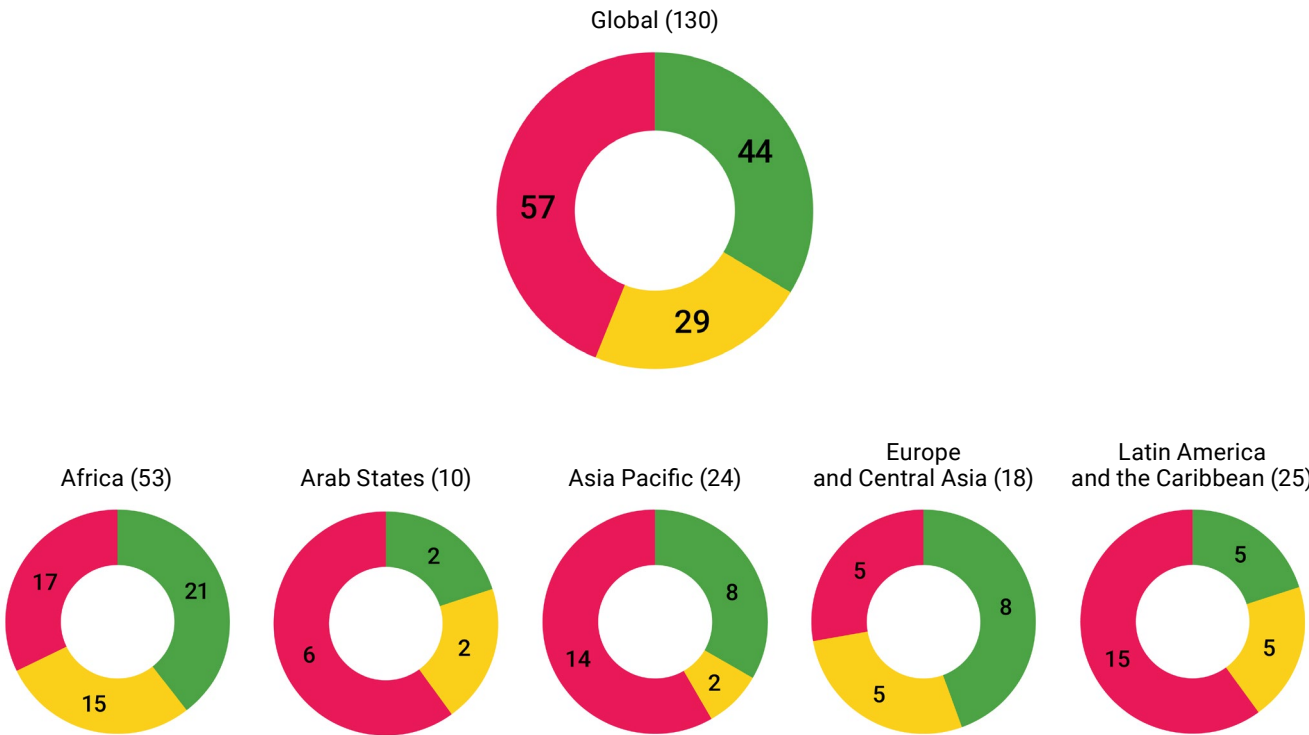
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

35 per cent of UNCT (44 of 130) reports on youth are available publicly.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Transparency of youth results in UNCTs

2020 reporting



2.2

Strengthen leadership, culture, architecture, and capacities for youth

KEY MESSAGES

What does Youth2030 say?

The United Nations as a Leadership Example:

- ◆ “The UN will support youth leadership across the organization and build staff awareness and capacity on youth-related issues.”

Why is this area of action relevant?

- ◆ System-wide coordination on youth at country level is a key step towards mainstreaming structures and support mechanisms.
- ◆ Mechanisms that provide channels for input and feedback from young people on United Nations work and vice versa are essential to fostering meaningful youth engagement.

Where can I find good examples?

The top-performing UNCTs with the maximum number of “at milestone” indicators for the 2020 reporting period are:

- ◆ Africa (4): Cameroon, Gambia, Mali, and South Africa
- ◆ Asia Pacific (2): India and Thailand
- ◆ Europe and Central Asia (1): Uzbekistan

2.2.1

Leadership and culture in UNCTs for meaningful youth engagement

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that leadership and organizational culture in UNCTs fully support meaningful youth engagement, empowerment, and development.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs develop and institutionalise mechanisms, structures, protocols and guidances for meaningful youth engagement, and ensure that the diversity of young people and their realities is reflected, respected, and involved in such mechanisms and structures.
- ◆ UNCTs develop an official commitment to meaningful youth engagement, recognizing the agency of youth and describing:
 - ◆ The principles of meaningful youth engagement.
 - ◆ How each principle will be operationalised by the UNCT (reservation, selection, appointment, onboarding, funding, safety, and protection, etc.), including who, when and how youth will be engaged.
 - ◆ Dedicated and safe spaces for young people to input/feedback into UNCT work (UNCT management team structures, Youth Advisory Boards (YAB), Youth Sounding Boards (YSB), Youth Advisory Councils (YAC), or other equivalents.
 - ◆ Spaces for young people to design youth-led interventions.
 - ◆ Clear Terms of References for youth groups for the engagement and co-shaping of UN work.
- ◆ UNCTs work towards ensuring that the principles of meaningful youth engagement are fully respected, namely:
 - ◆ **Institutionally mandated:** UNCT official statement/guidance on commitment to meaningful youth engagement available, recognizing the agency of youth
 - ◆ **Rights-based and safe:** a policy on rights of young people who are engaged, and their protection is available
 - ◆ **Designated:** Reserved seats for gender-balanced youth representation in UNCT management team available and/or UNCT-mandated YABs or YSBs that feed into UNCT management structures
 - ◆ **Resourced:** Ear-marked, pooled funding available to support youth participation in UNCT meetings, YAB, YSB, or other UN programmatic initiatives.
 - ◆ **Transparent, accessible, and voluntary:** Selection and appointment of youth networks to represent young people in UNCT activities is based on an open call or a request for Expressions of Interest, is available in local languages and accessible to marginalized youth, including young people with disabilities.
 - ◆ **Informative:** a structured onboarding and/or briefing of selected youth groups is conducted, with clearly set expectations and outcomes of engagement. The roles, processes, and content should be described, as well as the youth representatives' right to discontinue at any stage of the process (safety precautions).

♦ **Reciprocal accountability:**

♦ Accountability of youth to UNCT: Documentation (audio/video/written) on how the youth representatives in YAB, YSB, and/or other UNCT activities consulted with wider youth constituencies, including young women's groups, throughout the engagement period.

♦ Accountability of UNCT to youth: Feedback provided to youth on how their inputs are used, interpreted, and have influenced outcomes.

♦ **Diversity and inclusion:** Ensure inclusiveness, pay attention to gender balance and engage youth who are traditionally underserved.

♦ **Youth as partners:** Support young people's leadership by facilitating opportunities for decision-making in all stages of programs and initiatives. This includes working with adolescent and youth-led organisations as a core partner, creating and/or supporting projects, establishing an advisory group of young people with a clear structure for influencing the direction of the organisation or initiative, and reserving spaces for young people on planning and decision-making groups. It also includes ensuring that these roles are clearly defined, and young people are adequately supported in every way to ensure that they can influence decisions.

What are key reference documents?

- ♦ **Common Minimum Standards for Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNSDG) ↗**
- ♦ **Principles and Barriers for Meaningful Youth Engagement (MGCY) ↗**
- ♦ **Meaningfully Engaging with Youth - Guidance and Training for UN Staff (UNESCO & IANYD) ↗**
- ♦ **Global Consensus Statement on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement ↗**

2.2.1 (a)

Youth engagement respects all principles of meaningful youth engagement

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 6.1 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has eight criteria (2-6 criteria met = moving forward, 7-8 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ Principles of meaningful youth engagement respected*
 - ◆ Institutionally mandated
 - ◆ Rights-based and safe
 - ◆ Designated
 - ◆ Resourced
 - ◆ Transparent, accessible, and voluntary
 - ◆ Informative
 - ◆ Reciprocal accountability
 - ◆ Accountability of youth to UNCT
 - ◆ Accountability of UNCT to youth

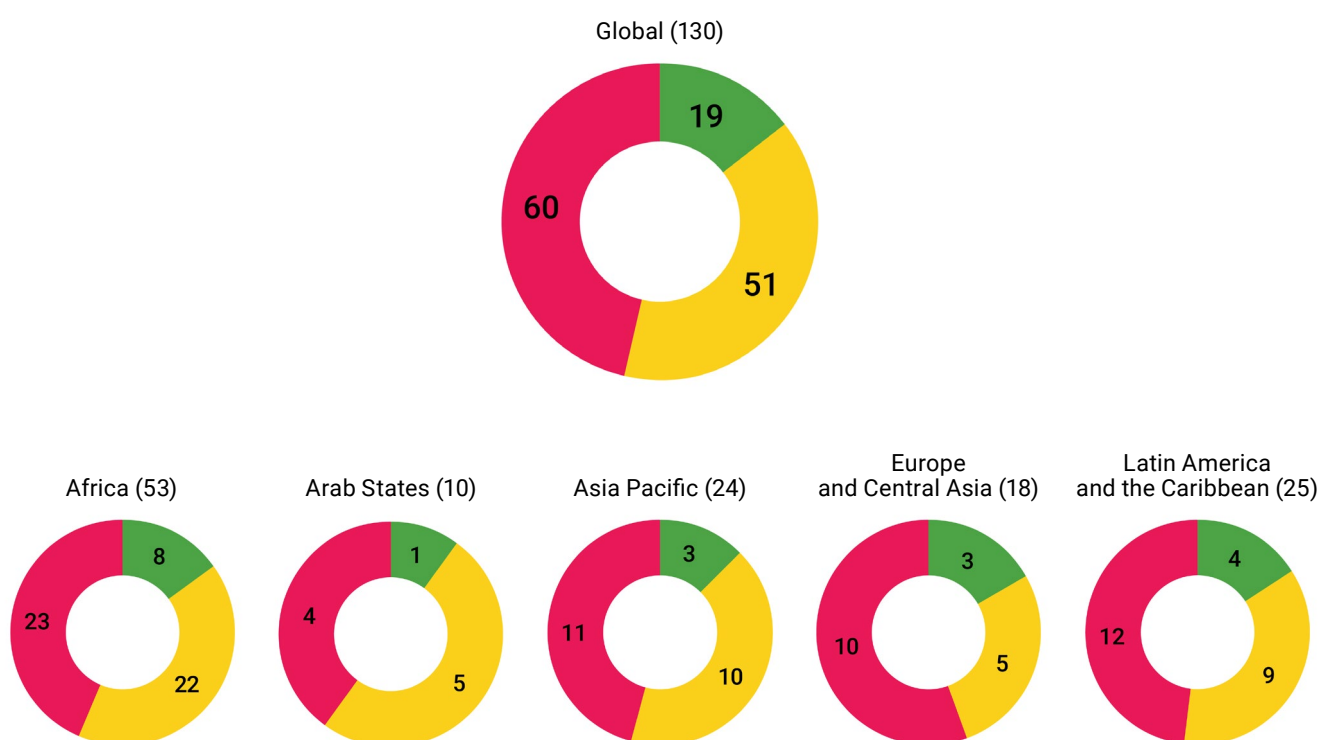
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting in 2020 reflected in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

15 per cent of UNCTs (19 out of 130) have established policies and processes that meet all (or most) criteria for meaningful youth engagement; 40 per cent have some policies and processes in place; and 45 per cent have none (or one) in place.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Meaningful youth engagement - UNCT policies and processes

2020 reporting



* For more information on principles of meaningful youth engagement refer to the Youth2030 Scorecard for UN Country Teams.

2.2.1 (b)

Meaningful youth engagement covers different categories of youth groups

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 6.2 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has four criteria (1-2 criteria met = moving forward, 3-4 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ Different categories of young people and youth groups involved
 - ◆ Youth within the UN
 - ◆ Wide engagement of youth (through various platforms, both online and face-to-face)
 - ◆ Gender-balanced young leaders, influencers, entrepreneurs, academics & advocates
 - ◆ Networks of youth (formal, non-formal)

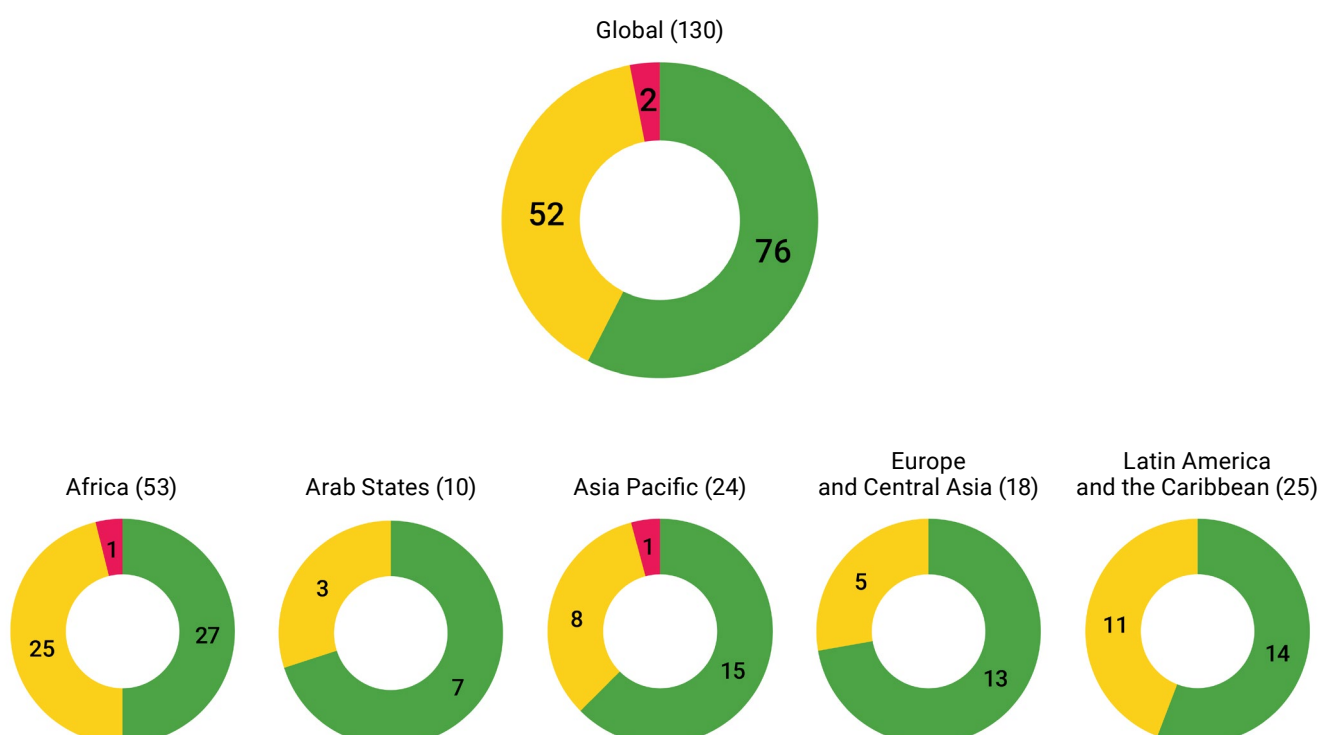
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

60 per cent of UNCTs (76 out of 130) engaged with 3 or 4 categories of youth (groups); 40 per cent engaged with 1 or 2 categories.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Meaningful youth engagement - Categories of youth groups engaged

2020 reporting



2.2.1 (c)

Meaningful youth engagement covers all relevant UNCT processes

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 6.3 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has four criteria (1-2 criteria met = moving forward, 3-4 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ Meaningful youth engagement in relevant UNCT processes
 - ◆ Common Country Analysis
 - ◆ UNSDCF design and implementation
 - ◆ UNSDCF monitoring, review, and reporting
 - ◆ UNSDCF evaluation

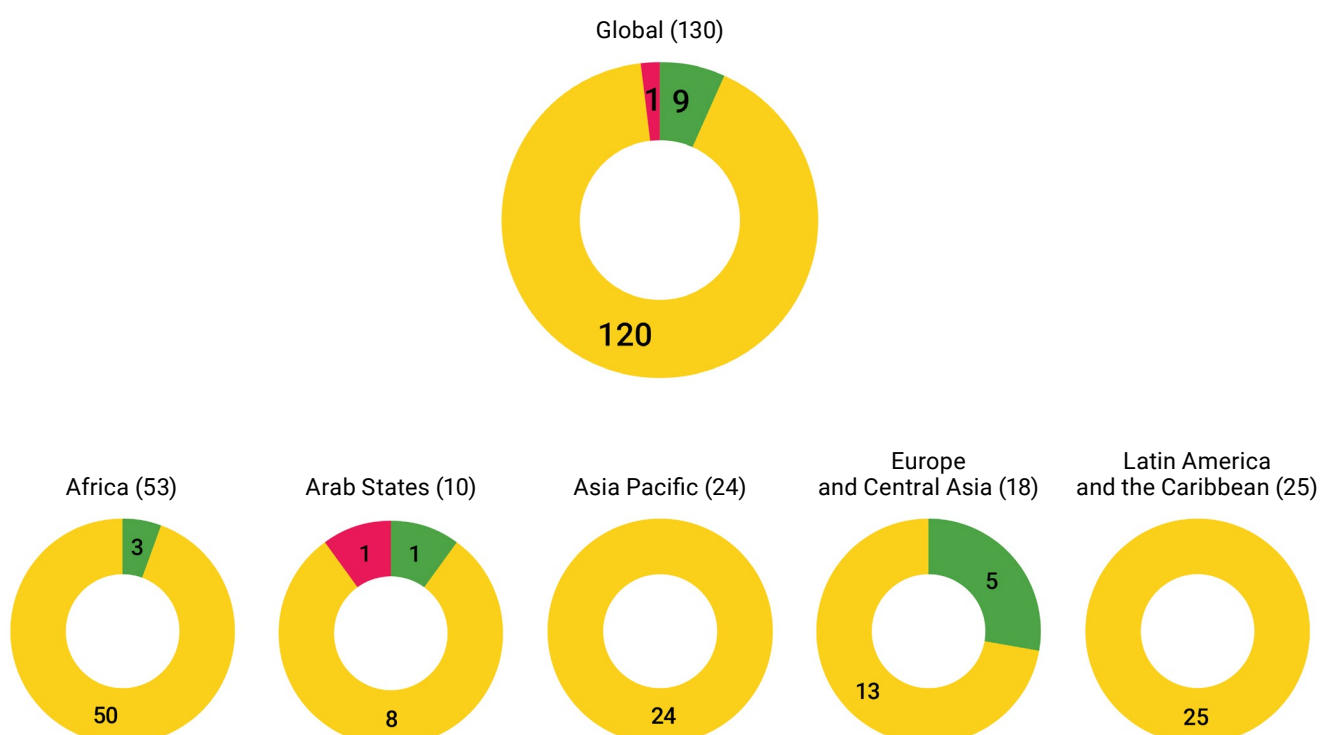
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

60 per cent of UNCTs design and implement their UNSDCFs in consultation with youth, although just 8 per cent engage youth in the evaluation of their UNSDCFs.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Meaningful youth engagement in UNSDCF processes of UNCTs

2020 reporting



2.2.1 (d)

Meaningful youth engagement covers all areas of UNCT support to Government

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 6.4 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has six criteria (2-4 criteria met = moving forward, 5-6 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ Meaningful youth engagement in areas of UNCT support to Government
 - ◆ Analysis and advocacy on alignment of national youth policies to the SDGs and policy coherence
 - ◆ Analysis and advocacy on public finance for youth development
 - ◆ Analysis and advocacy on gender and age-disaggregated data availability/quality
 - ◆ Assessment and advocacy to "Leave No One Behind"
 - ◆ Piloting models of youth-led design, monitoring, and review of sectoral programmes
 - ◆ Engagement in strengthening institutional youth coordination structures and mechanisms

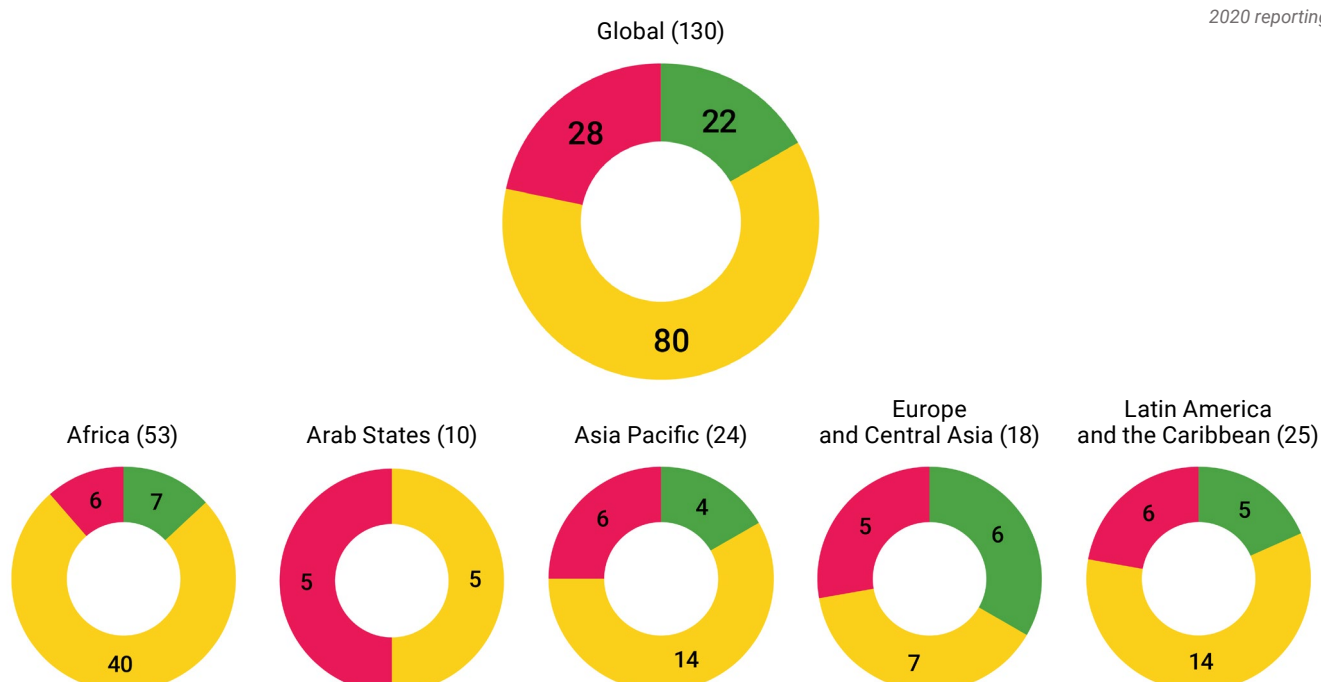
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting in 2020 reflected in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

- ◆ In UNCT support to Governments on the "Youth and SDGs" agenda, support for youth was higher than with youth, for example:
 - ◆ 90 per cent* of UNCTs supported policy alignment for youth development; 80 per cent of these UNCTs supported policy alignment with youth.
 - ◆ 80 per cent* of UNCTs supported public finance for youth development; only 25 per cent of these UNCTs supported financing for youth development with youth.

Number of UNCTs ● "at milestone" ● "moving forward" and ● "getting ready" for the KPI is shown below:

Meaningful youth engagement in UNCT support to Governments on SDGs

2020 reporting



* Includes UNCTs that support at least 1 area/sector/criteria.

2.2.1 (e)

Meaningful youth engagement in UNCT-led projects and campaigns

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 6.5 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has three criteria (1-2 criteria met = moving forward, all 3 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ Meaningful youth engagement in UNCT-led projects and campaigns
 - ◆ Investments for youth-led solutions
 - ◆ Knowledge Exchange on youth
 - ◆ Joint UN Communication and Advocacy initiatives and campaigns on youth

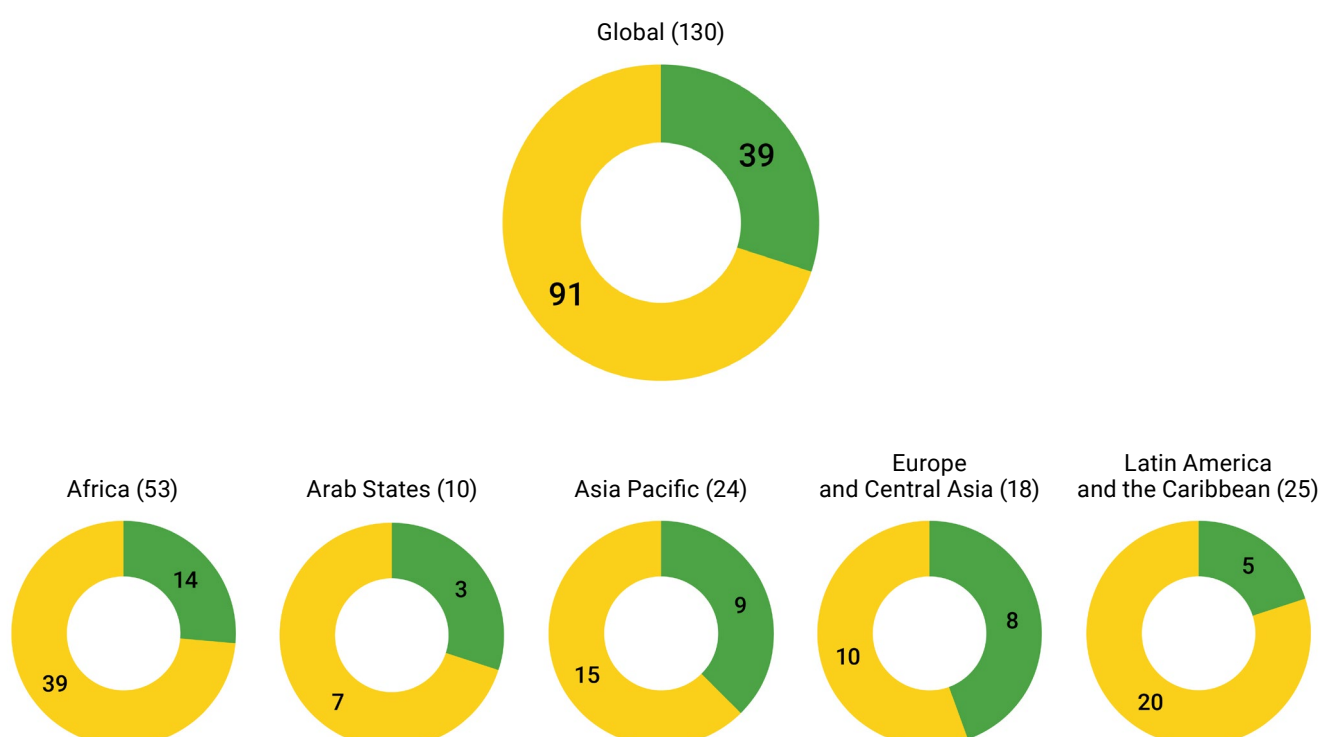
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

- ◆ 80 per cent of UNCTs supported investments in youth-led solutions; 65 per cent of those UNCTs supported investments with youth.
- ◆ 30 per cent of UNCTs included youth issues in their knowledge exchange plans; 80 per cent of those plans were done with youth.
- ◆ 60 per cent of UNCTs included youth issues in their joint communication and advocacy plans.
 - ◆ 90 per cent of those UNCTs activated campaigns with youth.
 - ◆ 40 per cent of the UNCTs that incorporated youth issues in their communication and advocacy plans included considerations on accessibility of youth with disabilities.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Meaningful youth engagement in UNCT-led projects and campaigns

2020 reporting



2.2.2

Youth coordination architecture in UN Country Teams

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that there is a coordination mechanism in place for coherent, joint youth programming at country level.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs establish a Results Group for youth – or a thematic group/task team equivalent – with terms of reference that are based on the country template.
- ◆ UNCTs organise regular team meetings, including retreats, for their Results Group on youth (or thematic group/task team/equivalent) that allow for teambuilding and the development of shared understandings.
- ◆ UNCTs seek to establish a youth focal point for the coordination of the youth dimensions of the joint programmes as well as the Results Group for youth.
- ◆ UNCTs establish a technical advisory group on youth to advise other Results Groups on youth-specific aspects of their work and enhance cross-sectoral programming.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 7 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ A coordination structure and/or mechanism is in place
 - ◆ Youth focal point(s) coordinate(s) youth programme in the UNCT (part-time or full-time) = moving forward
 - ◆ Results group/thematic group/task team/equivalent on youth is in place to coordinate joint programming = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation, Monitoring, Learning (UNSDG) ↗**
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**

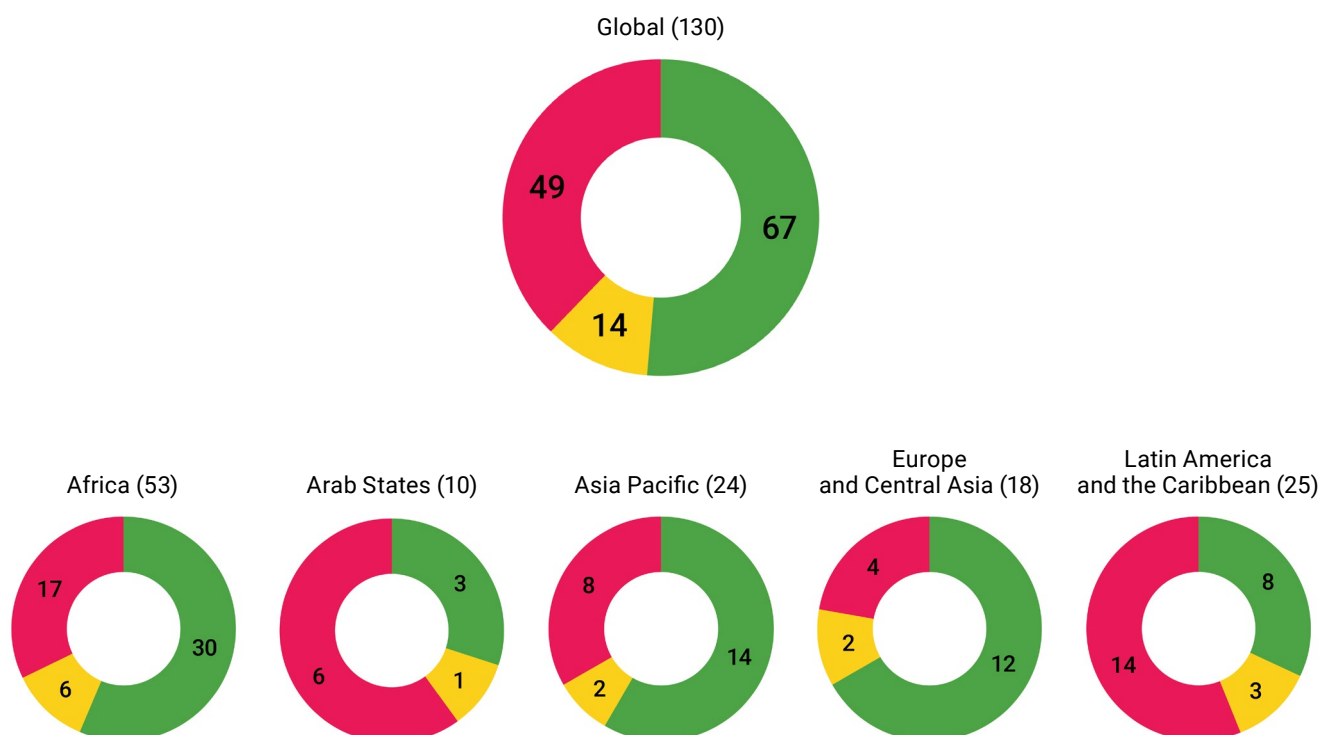
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the [Youth2030 Progress Report 2021](#))

50 per cent of UNCTs (67 of 130) have a Results Group/thematic group/task team/equivalent in place to coordinate joint action on youth.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Youth coordination architecture in UNCTs

2020 reporting



2.2.3

Capacities for Youth2030 implementation in UN Country Teams

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that adequate capacities are developed for Youth2030 implementation at country level.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs organise briefing sessions, workshops, and trainings on Youth2030 for staff, including specifically for the youth workforce and young interns to raise awareness on their role and potential in the implementation of Youth2030.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 8 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ UNCT staff is sensitized on Youth2030
 - ◆ 20-80% staff sensitized = moving forward
 - ◆ >80% staff sensitized = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ [UNSDCF Companion Package: UNCT Team Configuration \(UNSDG\)](#) ↗
- ◆ [UNSDCF Guidance \(UNSDG\)](#) ↗

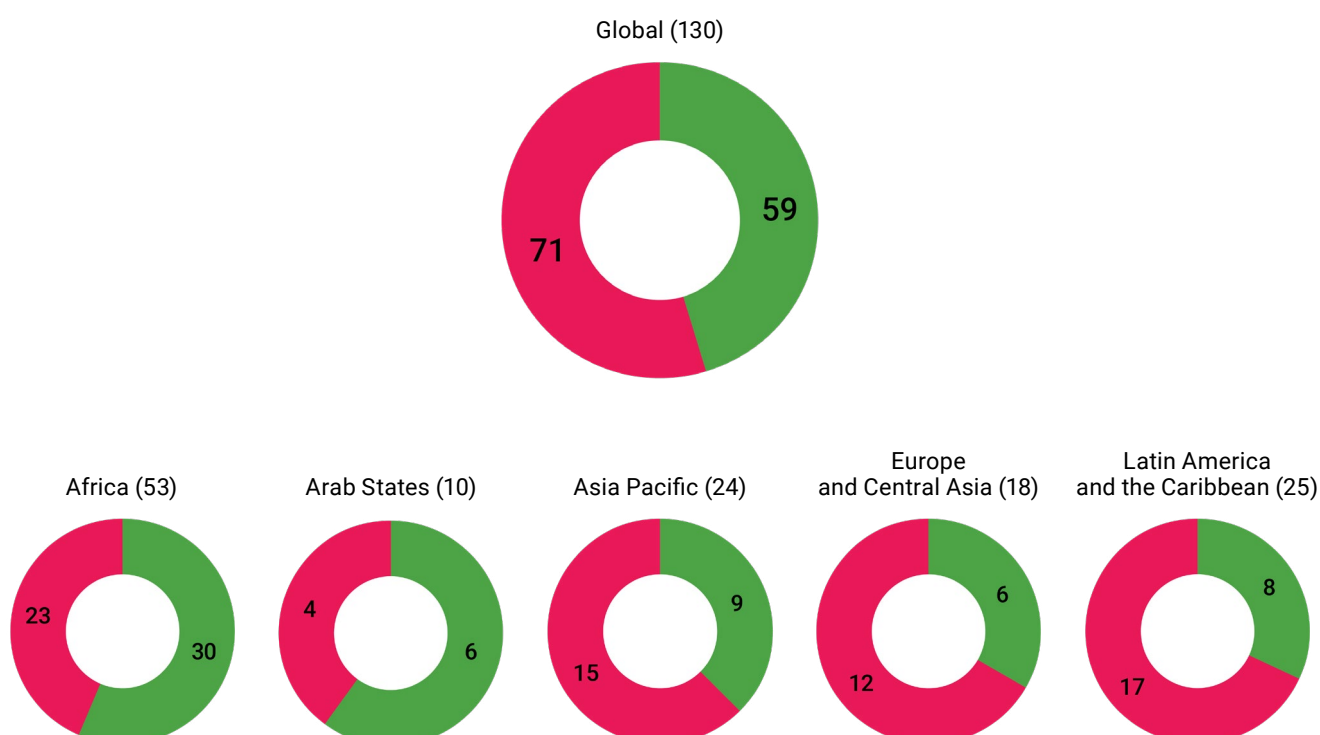
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

45 per cent of UNCTs (59 of 130) have adequate capacities for Youth2030 implementation.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Capacities for Youth2030 implementation in UNCTs

2020 reporting



2.2.4

Youth workforce in UN Country Teams

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) introduce measures in their Business Operations Strategy (BOS) “common service line for HR management” to increase the share of the youth workforce (≤35 years) at country level.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs ensure that a youth focal point is part of the specialized working group for the Common Human Resources Services, one of the six BOS common service lines.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the stocktake includes a youth lens and covers the youthfulness of the UNCT workforce.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the opportunity analysis includes a youth lens and covers the potential of strengthening the youth workforce.
- ◆ UNCTs consider the possibility of adding a new common service for increasing the age distribution of the UNCT workforce and the share of youth workforce.
- ◆ UNCTs include key performance indicators that cover the youthfulness of the workforce in their BOS Results Framework.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 9 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has four criteria (1-2 criteria met = moving forward, 3-4 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ UNCTs have introduced innovations on youth workforce in the BOS common service line for HR management
 - ◆ BOS stocktake includes data on youth workforce (#/proportion; age, gender disaggregated) and gaps in acquisition, retention and management of young talent
 - ◆ BOS opportunity analysis includes innovations for increasing youth workforce
 - ◆ BOS planning framework includes KPIs on youth workforce
 - ◆ BOS annual reporting reflects achievement against KPIs on youth workforce

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**

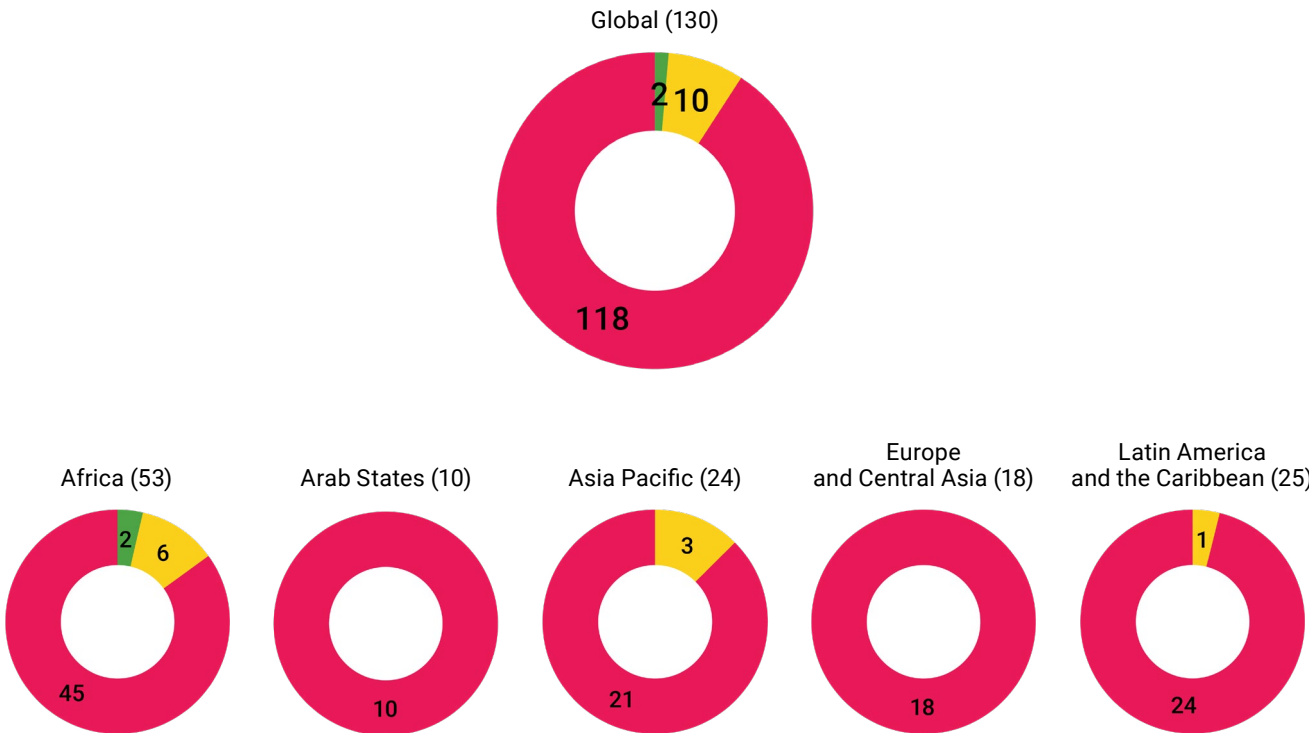
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the [Youth2030 Progress Report 2021](#))

10 per cent of UNCTs (12 of 130) have included actions or introduced innovations on the youth workforce in their BOS plans to increase the share of the youth workforce. (under age 35).

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Youth workforce in UNCTs

2020 reporting



2.2.5

Fair and quality internships in UN Country Teams

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) introduce measures in their Business Operations Strategy (BOS) “common service line for HR management” to expand opportunities and improve fairness and quality of internships.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs ensure that a youth focal point is part of the specialized working group for the Common Human Resources Services, one of the six BOS common service lines.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the stocktake includes a youth lens and covers the role of fair and quality internships.
- ◆ UNCTs ensure that the opportunity analysis includes a youth lens and covers the potential of providing fair and quality internships.
- ◆ UNCTs consider the possibility of adding a new common service for increasing the provision of fair and quality internships.
- ◆ UNCTs include key performance indicators that cover the fairness and quality of internships in their BOS Results Framework.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 10 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has four criteria (1-2 criteria met = moving forward, 3-4 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ UNCTs have introduced Innovations on internships in the ‘BOS-Common service line for HR Management’
 - ◆ BOS stocktake includes data on fairness and quality of internships (#/proportion; age, gender disaggregated) and gaps in opportunities/ fairness and quality of internships in the UNCT
 - ◆ BOS opportunity analysis includes innovations for fair and quality internships
 - ◆ BOS planning framework includes KPIs on internships
 - ◆ BOS annual reporting reflects achievement against KPIs on internships

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**
- ◆ **Administrative instruction on internships (UN Secretariat & UN Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, 2020) ↗**
- ◆ **Review of internship programmes in the United Nations System (JIU, 2018) ↗**

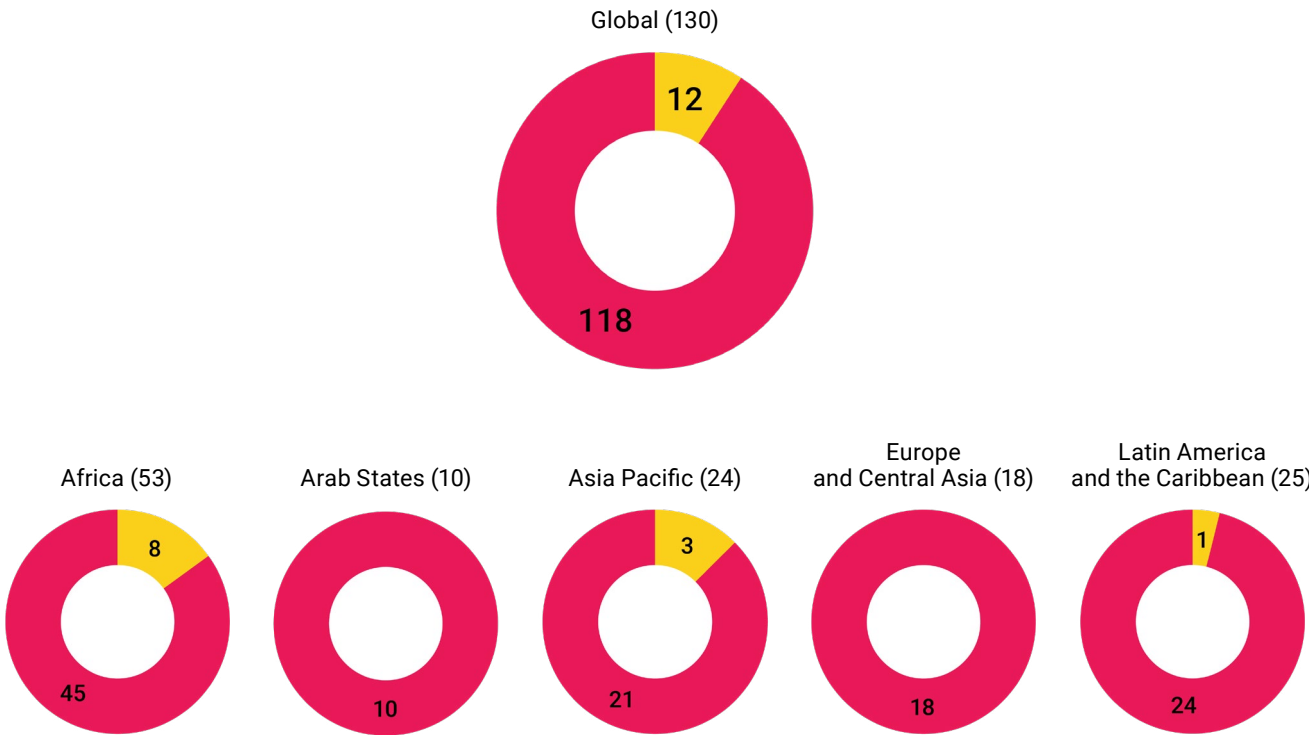
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

10 per cent of UNCTs (12 of 130) have included actions or introduced innovations in internships to improve fairness and quality.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Fair and quality internships in UNCTs

2020 reporting



2.3

Organise support of UN Country Teams to Governments on youth

KEY MESSAGES

What does Youth2030 say?

The United Nations as a Solution Catalyst:

- ◆ “The UN will advocate for governments to transform the way in which they engage young people nationally and locally, and apply the principles of meaningful and sustainable youth participation.”

Why is this area of action relevant?

- ◆ Incorporating meaningful and sustainable youth participation across all entities of the United Nations and work relating to all United Nations pillars is a crucial step that should be expanded to governmental partners in each country.
- ◆ Reviewing, improving, and widening existing modalities for cooperation, dialogue and partnerships with youth-led organizations, networks and movements at national level, as well as young people outside of organizations, is a core ambition of the United Nations Youth Strategy, with a view to ensure concerted efforts to engage those representing most marginalized young people.

Where can I find good examples?

The top-performing UNCTs with the maximum number of “at milestone” indicators are:

- ◆ Asia-Pacific (1): India
- ◆ Europe and Central Asia (2): Kosovo**, North Macedonia

What is the baseline? UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021

- ◆ 95 per cent of UNCTs (123 of 130) supported Government efforts for the “Youth and SDGs” agenda in at least one area.
- ◆ 50 per cent of UNCTs (64 of 130) supported Government efforts in all seven areas.
- ◆ Top areas supported:
 - ◆ Policy alignment (90%). *
 - ◆ Disaggregated data (90%). *
 - ◆ Mainstreaming youth engagement in the design, monitoring and review of in-country programmes (85%). *
- ◆ Top sectors supported: ◆ Education (95%). ◆ Employment/labour (85%). ◆ Health (85%).

** All references to Kosovo in the present report shall be understood in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

* Includes UNCTs that support at least 1 area/sector/criteria

2.3.1

Leave No Youth Behind: Assessment and action

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) strengthen the capacity of governments to design and deliver data-driven Leave No One Behind (LNOB) strategies for youth in national sectoral plans.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs provide technical assistance to governments to assess and strengthen LNOB strategies and actions with an intersectional focus on youth and include the needed technical assistance in their Joint Work Plans.

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 11 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has five criteria (upto 3 criteria met = moving forward, 4-5 criteria met = at milestone).

The criteria are:

- ◆ An LNOB assessment has been conducted, with youth and intersectionality issues included, covering the below:
 - ◆ Advocacy campaigns on LNOB for creating an enabling environment
 - ◆ Capacity development of national institutions to design data-driven, LNOB strategies for youth in national sectoral plans
 - ◆ Technical support for development of innovative ways of tracking, visualizing, and sharing gender disaggregated information
 - ◆ Capacity development of national institutions to integrate LNOB in SDG follow-up and review processes, including national SDG Reports and Voluntary National Reports to the HLPF
 - ◆ Capacity development of youth networks for advocacy and action on LNOB

What are key reference documents?

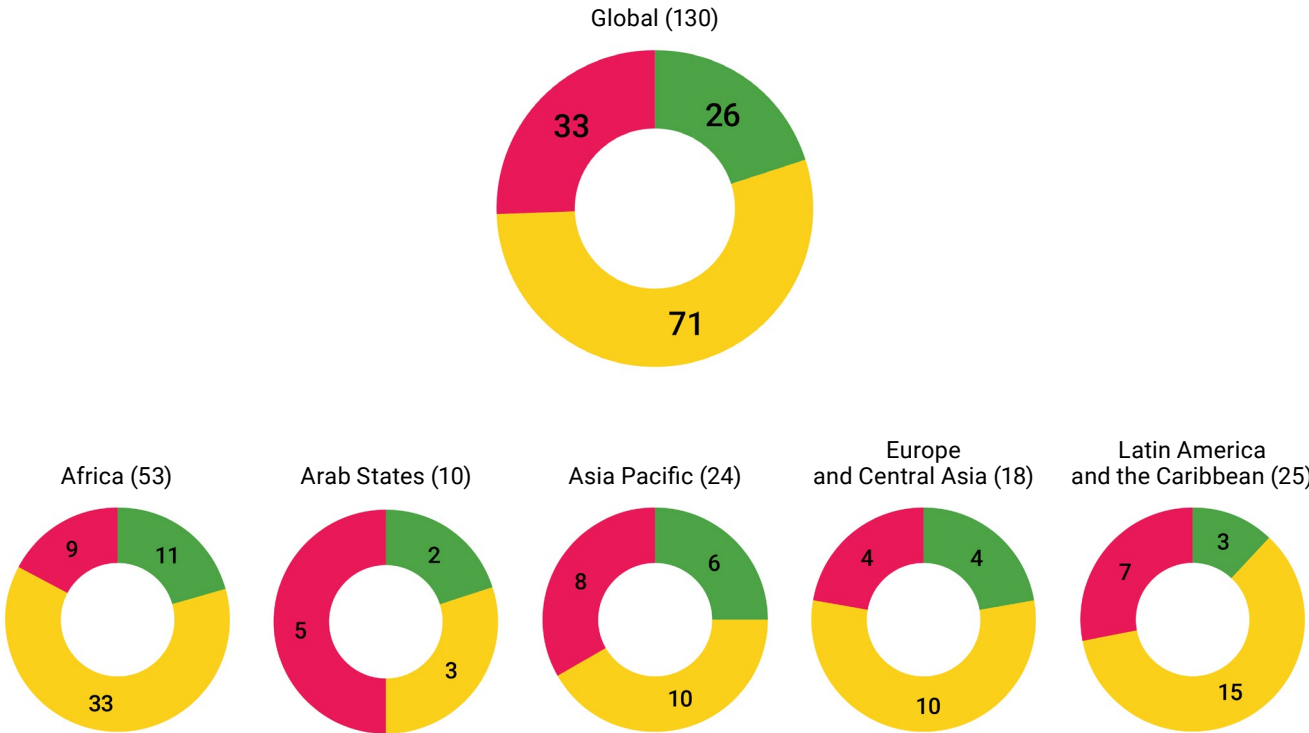
- ◆ **Leaving No One Behind: A UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams (UNSDG)** ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Leave No Youth Behind (LNOB): Assessment and action

2020 reporting



2.3.2

Policy alignment to Sustainable Development Goals and coherence for youth development

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country
Teams (UNCTs) strengthen
the capacity of governments
to enhance alignment and
coherence of governmental
youth-related policies for
sustainable development

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs support each ministry and agency with youth-related sectorial policies to conduct a policy analysis and produce a policy brief on SDG alignment and include the needed technical assistance in their Joint Work Plans
- ◆ UNCTs support the Government to conduct a cross-sectoral policy analysis of youth-related policies and produce an analysis on cross-sectoral policy coherence and include the needed technical assistance in their Joint Work Plans

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

These are KPIs 12.1 and 12.2 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ Proportion of youth-relevant sectors/ministries which have UNCT-supported policy analysis reports/briefs on SDG alignment
 - ◆ 20-80% of sectors/ministries = moving forward
 - ◆ >80% of sectors/ministries = at milestone
- ◆ UNCT strengthens capacity of the Government for enhancing policy coherence analysis across youth-relevant sectors
 - ◆ Policy coherence analysis ongoing = moving forward
 - ◆ Policy coherence analysis completed = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

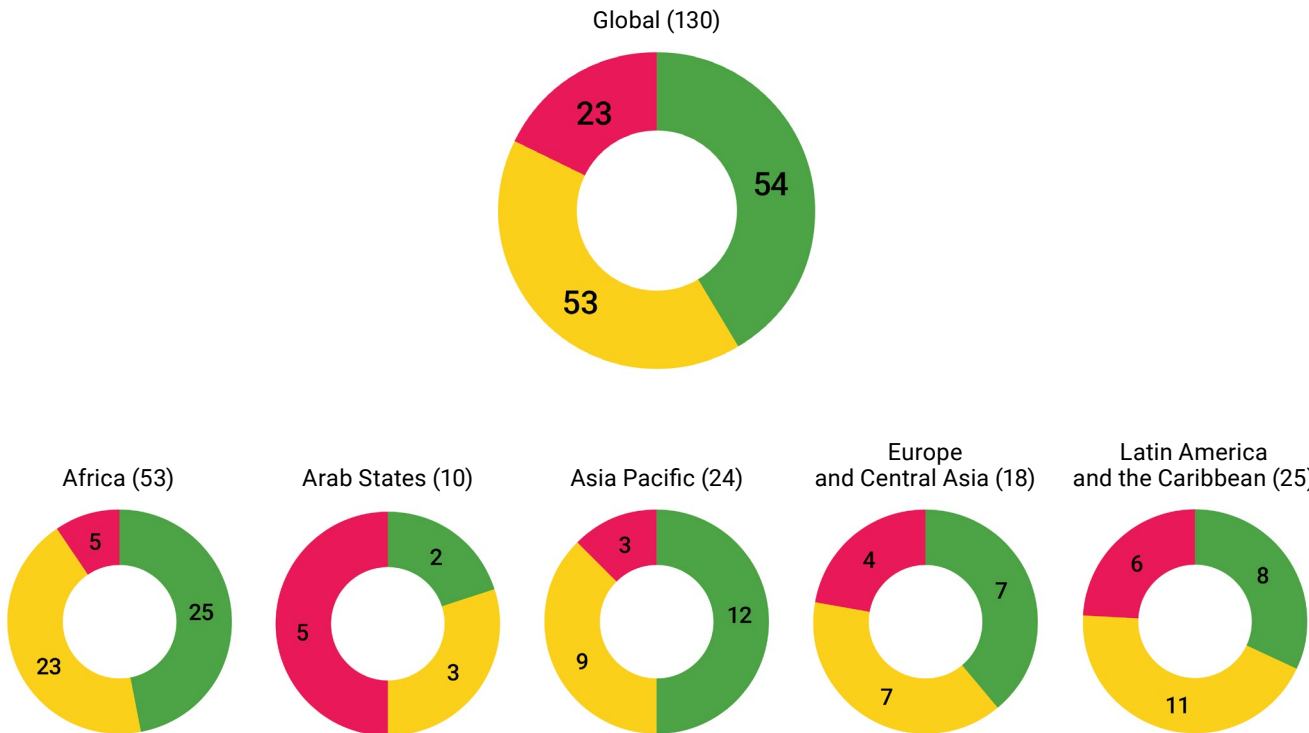
- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation (UNSDG)** ↗
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG)** ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Policy alignment to SDGs for youth development

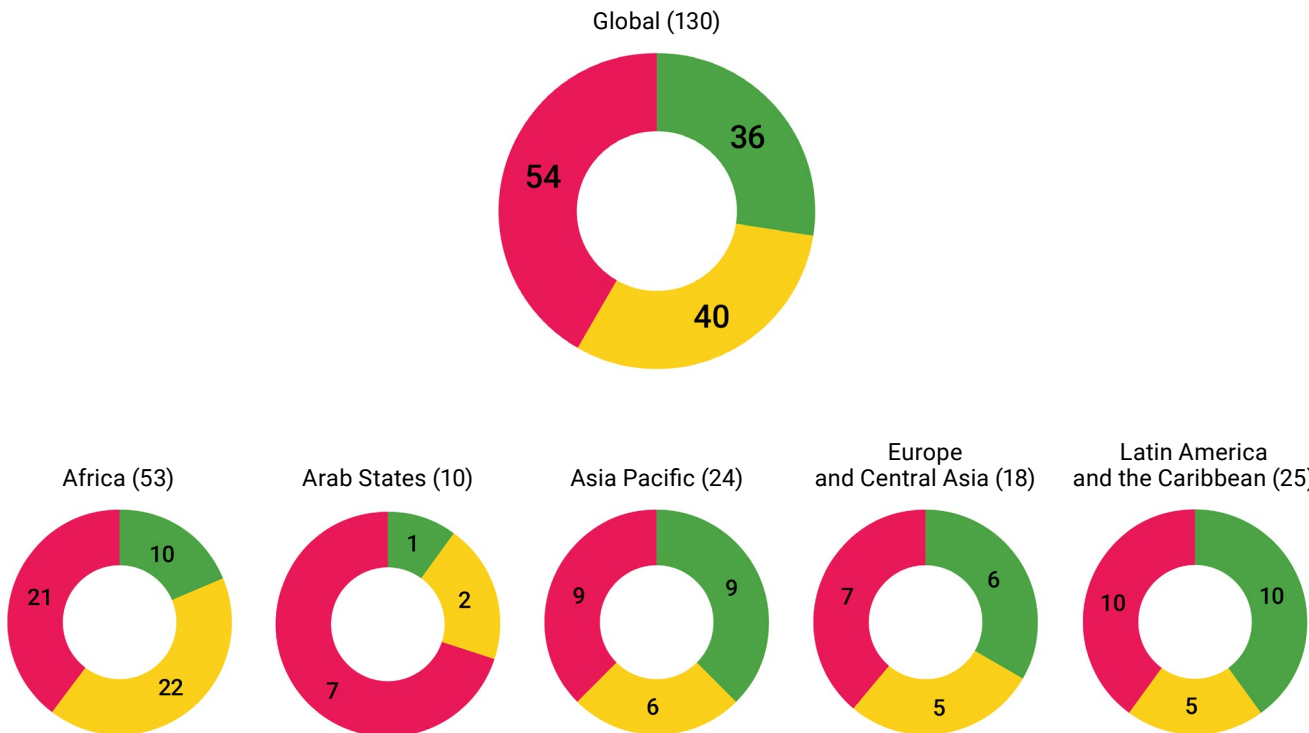
2020 reporting



Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Policy coherence for youth development

2020 reporting



2.3.3

Public finance for youth development

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) strengthen the capacity of governments to improve public financing of sectors relevant to youth

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs support each ministry and agency with youth-related sectorial policies to conduct a public finance analysis and produce an analytical report/brief on the youth-related sectorial policies, the public financing realities and needs to fund these policies, and include the needed technical assistance in their Joint Work Plans

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 13 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ Proportion of youth-relevant sectors/ministries which have UNCT-supported analytical reports/briefs on public financing for youth
 - ◆ 20-80% of sectors/ministries = moving forward
 - ◆ >80% of sectors/ministries = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

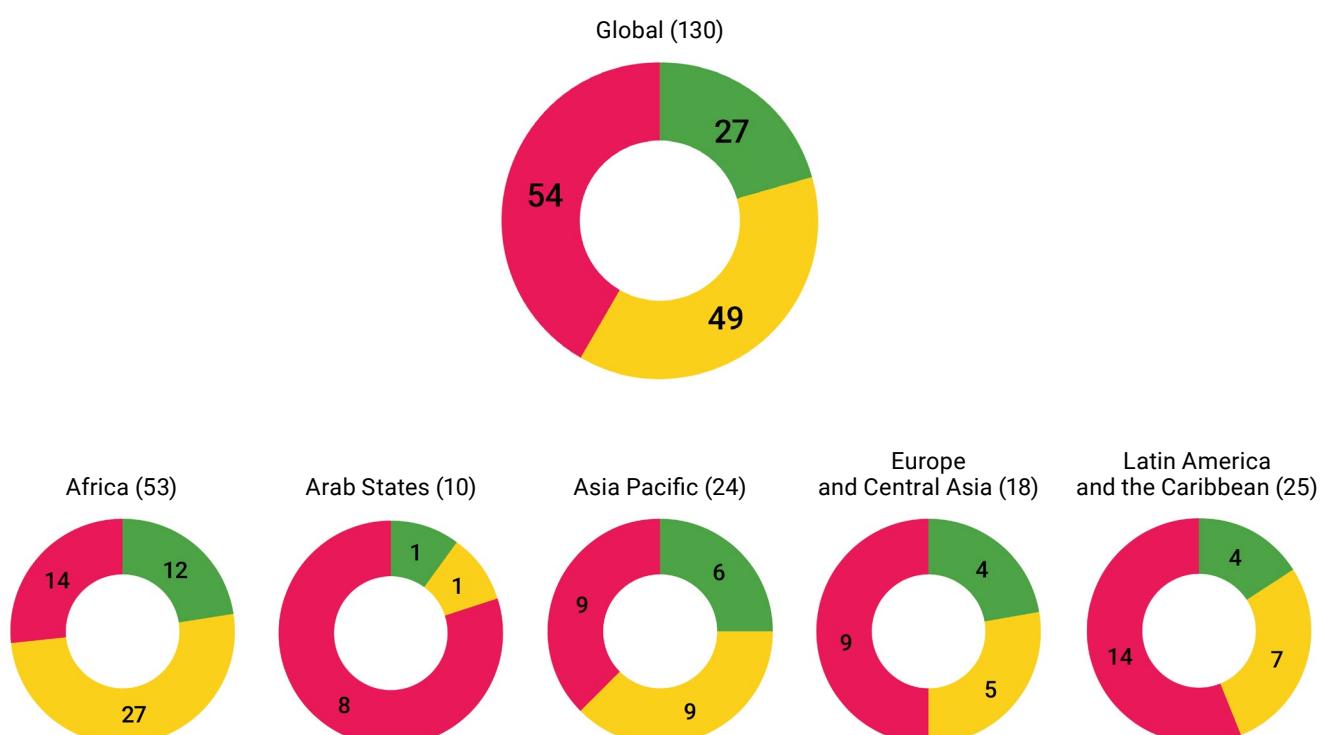
- ◆ [UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation \(UNSDG\)](#) ↗
- ◆ [UNSDCF Guidance \(UNSDG\)](#) ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the [Youth2030 Progress Report 2021](#))

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Public finance for youth development

2020 reporting



2.3.4

Disaggregated data on youth for decision making

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) strengthen the capacity of governments to increase availability of youth-relevant, high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data in sectors relevant to youth

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs support each ministry and agency with youth-related sectorial policies to conduct a gap analysis and produce a report on the availability and quality of disaggregated data on youth (disaggregated by age, gender, income, geographic location, ethnicity, disability, migratory status, refugees, conflict-affected, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts) and include the needed technical assistance in their Joint Work Plans

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 14 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ Proportion of youth-relevant sectors/ministries which have UNCT-supported gap reports on the availability and quality of disaggregated data* on youth
 - ◆ 20-80% of sectors/ministries = moving forward
 - ◆ >80% of sectors/ministries = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

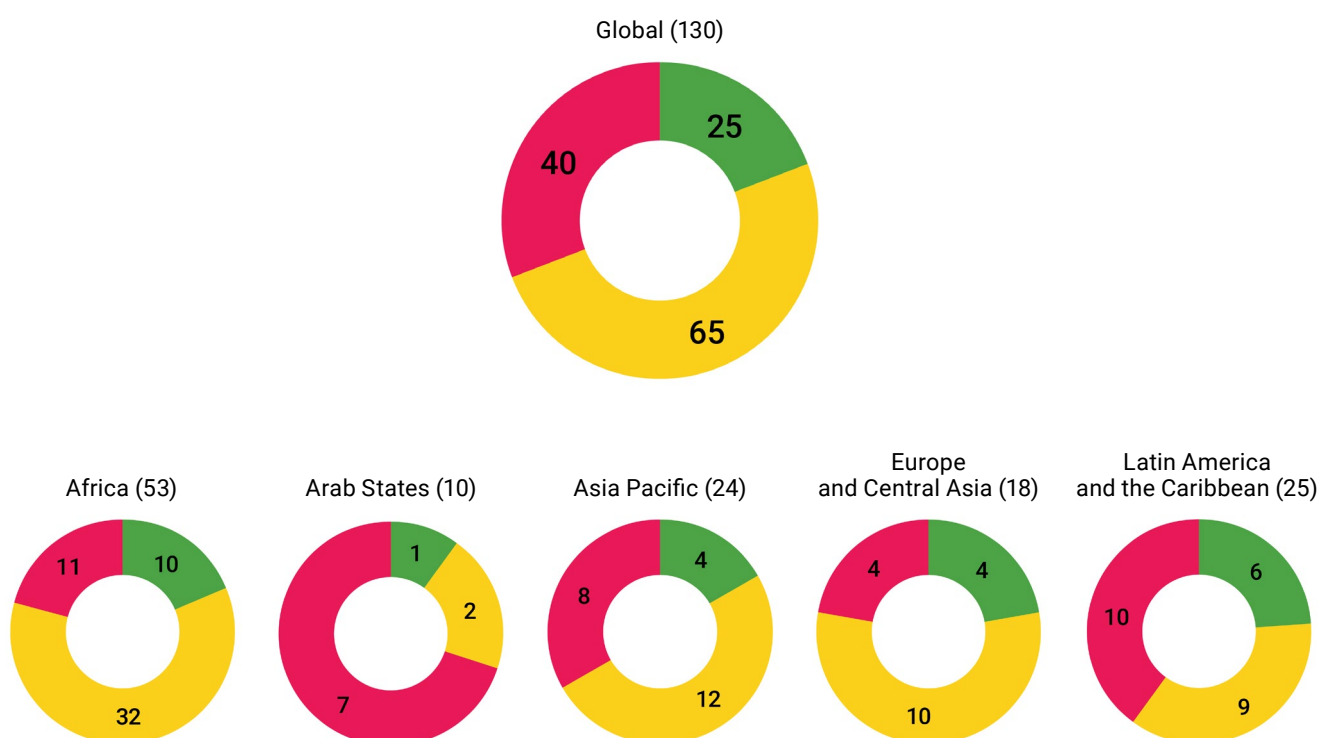
- ◆ [UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation \(UNSDG\)](#) ↗
- ◆ [UNSDCF Guidance \(UNSDG\)](#) ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the [Youth2030 Progress Report 2021](#))

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Disaggregated data on youth for decision-making

2020 reporting



* disaggregated by age, gender, income, geographic location, ethnicity, disability, migratory status, Refugees, conflict-affected, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

2.3.5

Youth engagement in design, monitoring, and review of in-country programmes

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) strengthen the capacity of governments to mainstream youth engagement in design, monitoring, review, implementation and follow up of sectoral programmes

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs support the government to mainstream meaningful youth engagement in design, monitoring, review and follow up of youth programmes and include the needed technical assistance in their Joint Work Plans, including resources to ensure that the diversity of young people and their realities is reflected, respected and involved in such engagement

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 15 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ Proportion of youth-relevant sectors/ministries which have UNCT-supported models of meaningful youth engagement in design, monitoring and review of sectoral programmes
 - ◆ 20-80% of sectors/ministries = moving forward
 - ◆ >80% of sectors/ministries = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

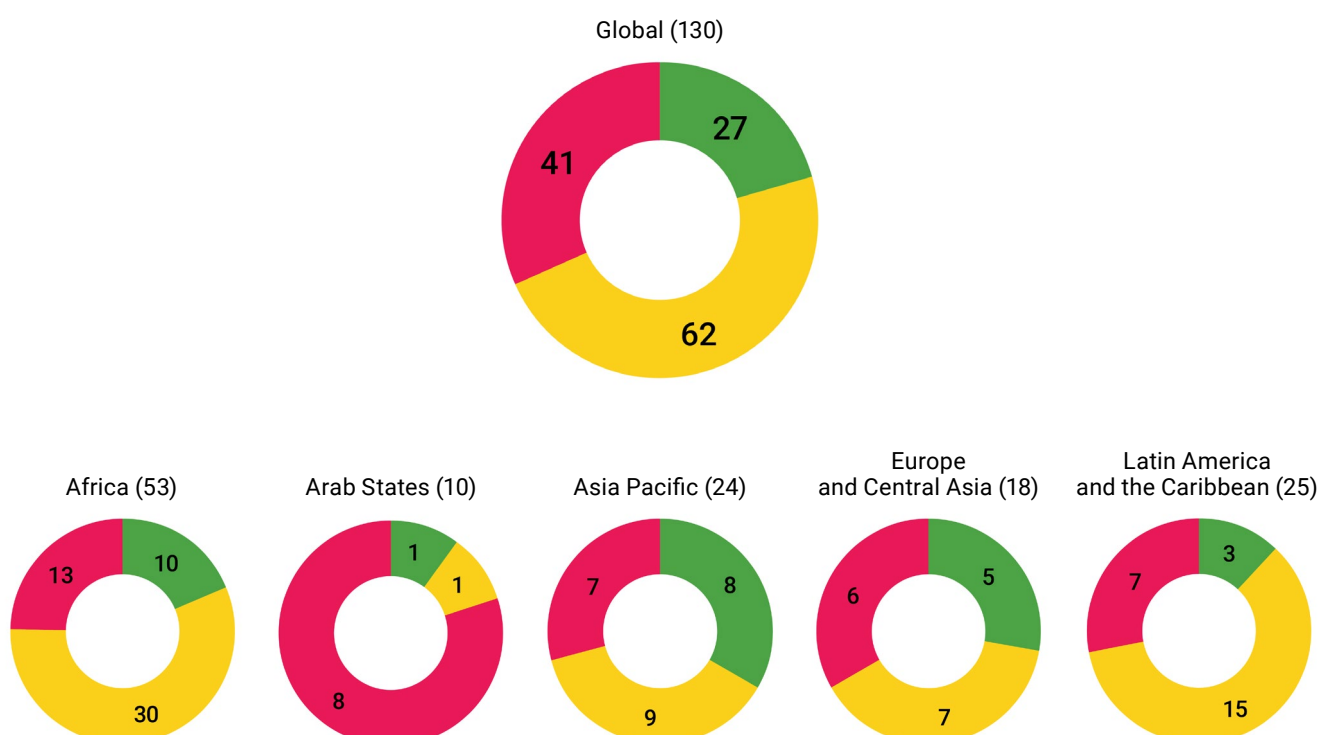
- ◆ [UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation \(UNSDG\)](#) ↗
- ◆ [UNSDCF Guidance \(UNSDG\)](#) ↗
- ◆ [Principles and Barriers for Meaningful Youth Engagement \(MGCY\)](#) ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the [Youth2030 Progress Report 2021](#))

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Youth in design, monitoring, and review of in-country programmes

2020 reporting



2.3.6

In-country youth coordination mechanisms

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) strengthen the capacity of in-country institutional structures/mechanisms for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination of youth programmes

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs support national coordination structures and institutions for coordination of youth programmes and include the needed technical assistance in their Joint Work Plans, including advocacy and capacity building, and covering the establishment of new and the strengthening of existing governance structures and processes as well as multi-sectoral processes such as Voluntary National Reviews and reporting on human rights conventions

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 16 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has five criteria (upto 3 criteria met = moving forward, 4-5 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ UNCT supports in-country institutional structures/mechanisms for coordination of youth programmes
 - ◆ High-level political engagement and advocacy for establishing/strengthening in-country coordination institutions/mechanisms for youth
 - ◆ Technical assistance for establishing/strengthening governance structures and processes (e.g. working groups/task teams) for coordination across different sectors and stakeholders
 - ◆ Capacity building of human resources for multi-sectoral planning, budgeting, coordination
 - ◆ Technical assistance for developing/updating national multi-sectoral road map for youth
 - ◆ Technical assistance for establishing/strengthening periodic annual multi-sectoral reporting on results and/or for Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

What are key reference documents?

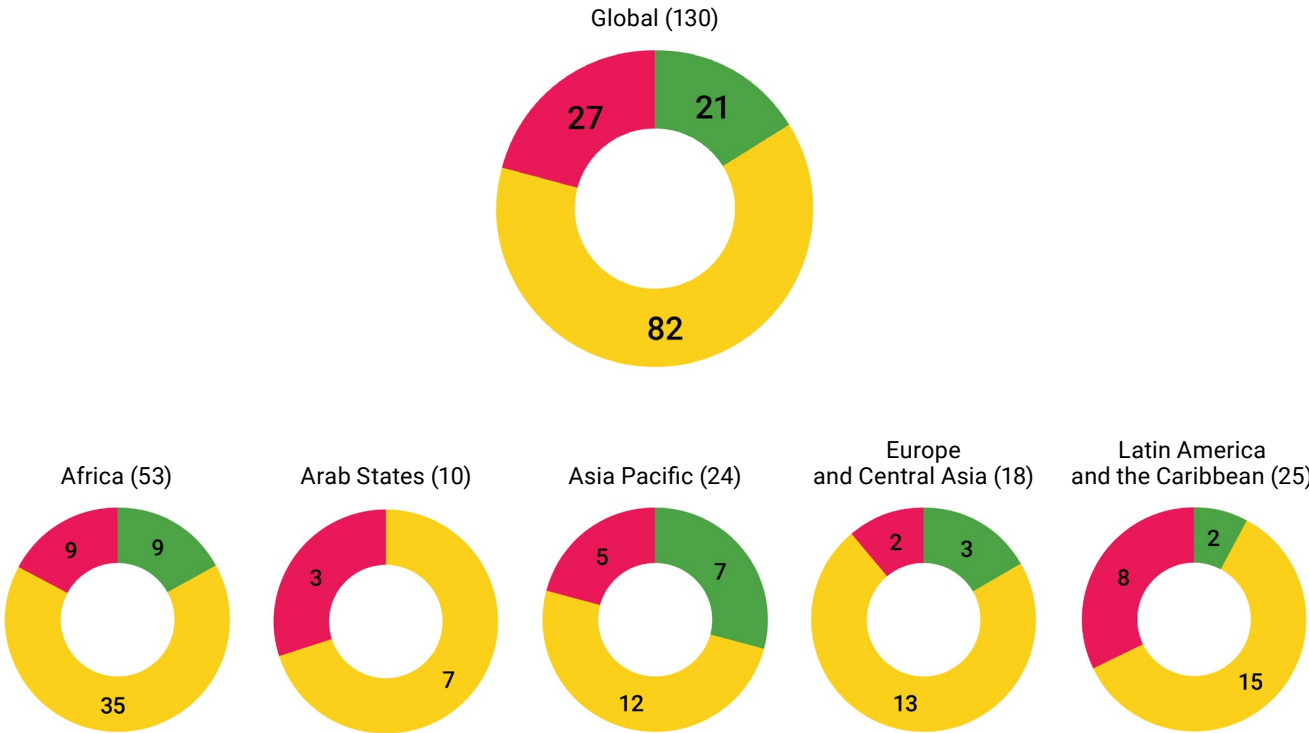
- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation (UNSDG)** ↗
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG)** ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

In-country youth coordination mechanisms

2020 reporting



2.4

Reinforce UNCT action on youth-led solutions, knowledge exchange, communication, advocacy

KEY MESSAGES

What does Youth2030 say?

The United Nations as an Investment Catalyst and Knowledge Pioneer:

- ◆ “The UN will accelerate resource mobilization efforts and facilitate partnership solutions to advance the implementation of the UN Youth Strategy and strengthen the funding base and mechanisms for youth-focused programming and youth-led actions at all levels.”

Why is this area of action relevant?

- ◆ Developing initiatives that explore different models of shared responsibility and actions between the UN and young people is a key component of the United Nations Youth Strategy.
- ◆ Partnering with young people who nationally or locally advocate for the values of the United Nations is another key focus of the United Nations Youth Strategy, seeking to amplify and reinforce their voices and increase the reach and impact of the youth movements they are building.

Where can I find good examples?

The top-performing UNCTs with the maximum number of “at milestone” indicators are:

- ◆ Asia-Pacific (2): India, Pakistan
- ◆ Europe and Central Asia (1): North Macedonia

2.4.1

Investments in youth-led solutions

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) support investments in youth-led solutions (incubation and scaling), through convening multi-stakeholder partnerships for sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs establish multi-stakeholder investment platforms for identifying, incubating and scaling up youth-led initiatives and innovations in Youth2030 Priority areas

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 17 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has five criteria (1-3 criteria met = moving forward, 4-5 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ Investments in youth-led solutions are supported by the UNCT through
 - ◆ A list of issues that need solutions in Youth2030 Priority areas
 - ◆ A shortlist of solutions proposed by youth to address above issues (youth-designed testable hypotheses)
 - ◆ Resources (human, financial) and partnerships for incubating and/or scaling youth-led solutions
 - ◆ A system of matching youth-led solutions with expertise and funding (e.g. marketplaces, labs, youth spaces)
 - ◆ Youth-led solutions incubated and/or scaled

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Funding (UNSDG) ↗**
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG) ↗**
- ◆ **Generation Unlimited, an example of a multi-stakeholder initiative covering investments in youth-led solutions ↗**

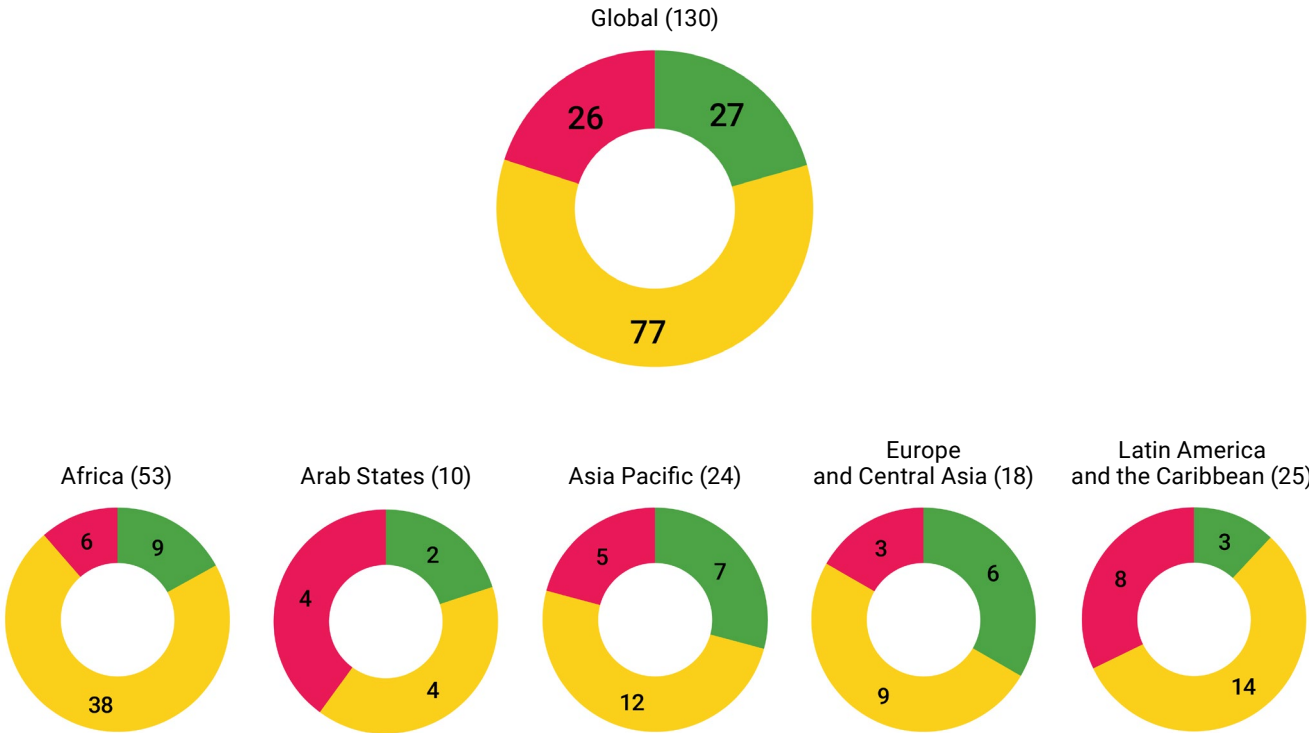
What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

80 per cent of UNCTs supported investments in youth-led solutions;
65 per cent of these UNCTs supported investments with youth.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

Investments in youth-led solutions

2020 reporting



2.4.2

UNCTs, youth and knowledge exchange

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that knowledge exchange plan(s) of UNCTs include youth components (North-South, South-South, and Triangular Cooperation, in-country exchange plans).

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs support targeted capacity building of national stakeholders for youth programmes through North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation and other in-country knowledge exchange mechanisms

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 18 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. The criteria are:

- ◆ Knowledge exchange plan is available in UNCT and
 - ◆ integrates youth components and programmes = moving forward
 - ◆ integrates funding for knowledge exchange on youth = at milestone

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation, Monitoring and Learning (UNSDG)** ↗
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG)** ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

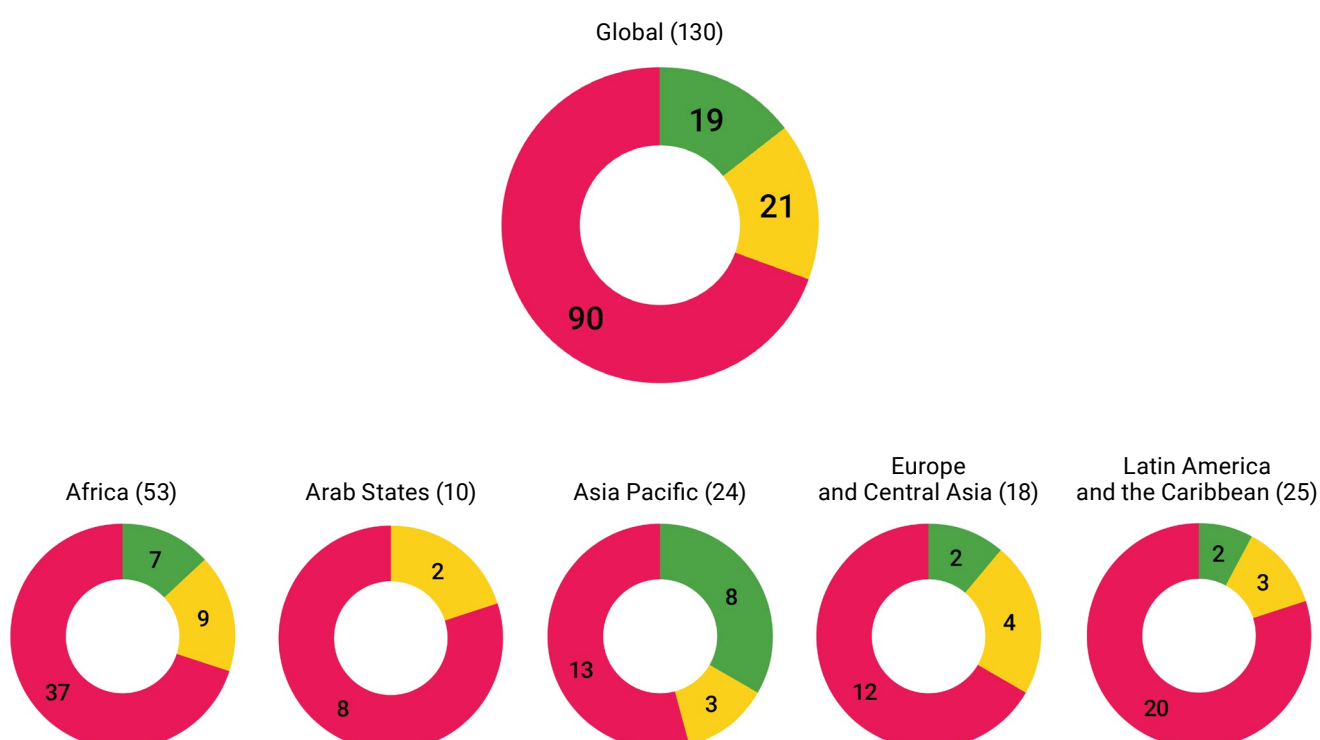
30 per cent of UNCTs included youth in knowledge exchange plans ;

80 per cent of knowledge exchange in these UNCTs were done with youth.

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

UNCTs, youth and Knowledge Exchange

2020 reporting



2.4.3

UNCTs, youth, communication and advocacy

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that joint communication and advocacy strategies of UNCTs include youth components.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs Integrate youth issues in communications and advocacy strategy/ plans and activate communication campaigns in Youth2030 Priority areas

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 19 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has two criteria (1 of 2 criteria met = moving forward, 2 of 2 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ Joint Communication and Advocacy strategy of UNCT includes youth components, with
 - ◆ Accessibility of young people with disabilities taken into consideration
 - ◆ Campaigns activated in Youth2030 Priority areas

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **UNSDCF Companion Package: Implementation, Monitoring and Learning (UNSDG)** ↗
- ◆ **UNSDCF Guidance (UNSDG)** ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the [Youth2030 Progress Report 2021](#))

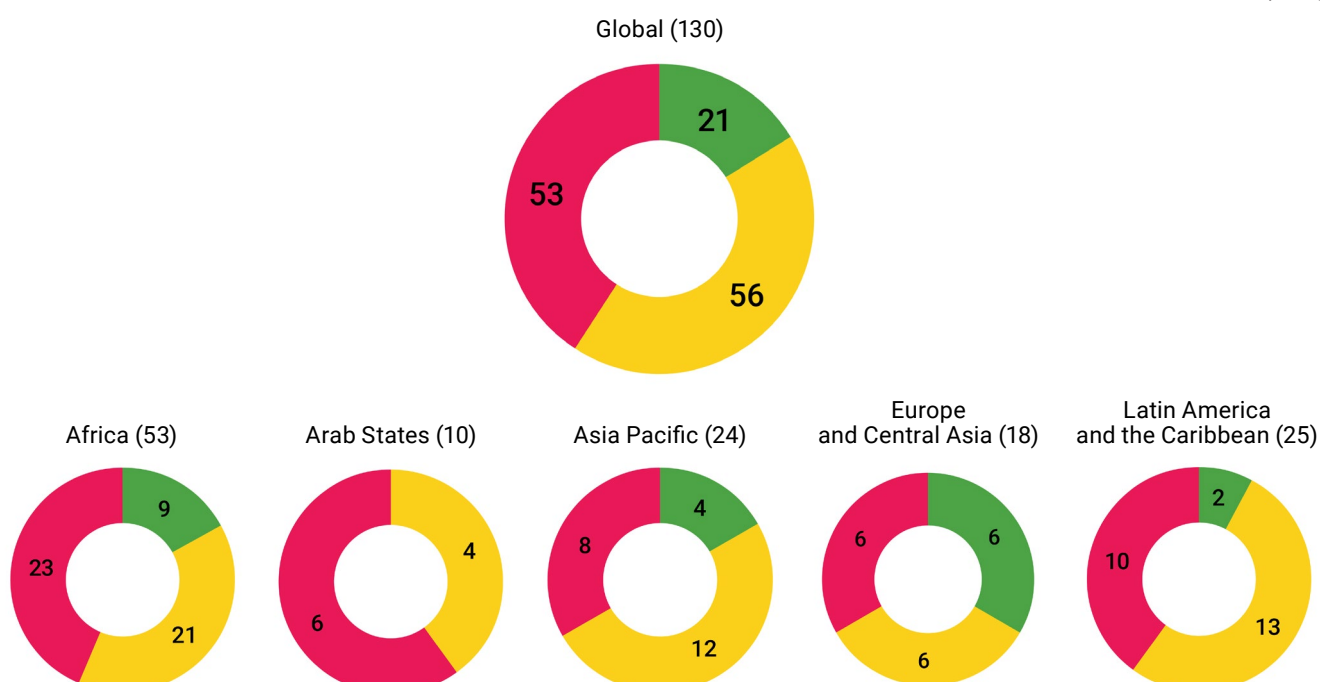
60 per cent of UNCTs (77 of 130) included youth in their joint communication and advocacy plans.

- ◆ 40 per cent of these plans included considerations on accessibility for youth with disabilities.
- ◆ 90 per cent of these UNCTs carried out their campaigns with youth

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

UNCTs, youth, Communication and Advocacy

2020 reporting



2.5

Accelerate action on youth, COVID response and recovery

KEY MESSAGES

What does the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021 say?

In the report, António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, states that:

“Across the world today, young people are disproportionately affected by multifaceted crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, protracted conflicts, gender discrimination, racial injustice and entrenched inequalities.

In 2020 alone, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 168 million students lost access to almost all in-person learning, one in four young people were out of work, and the mental health of hundreds of millions of children and young people risked deterioration. Young women were particularly affected by the increased burden of care work, lost economic opportunities and were at greater risks of violence.”

Why is this area of action relevant?

“The numerous challenges that young people face – including mental health issues, sexual and reproductive health and rights, poor educational outcomes and high rates of unemployment, the climate change, migration and humanitarian crises, poverty, gender inequality and global conflicts – have all been compounded in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.”

Youth2030 Progress Report 2021

Where can I find good examples?

The top performing United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) that supported youth and COVID-19 in all ten areas listed in the KPI 20 in the UNCT Scorecard are:

- ◆ Africa (12): Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Togo
- ◆ Arab States (1): Jordan
- ◆ Asia-Pacific (5): Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic
- ◆ Europe and Central Asia (6): Albania, Kosovo**, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
- ◆ Latin America and the Caribbean (2): Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago

** All references to Kosovo in the present report shall be understood in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

2.5.1

UNCTs, COVID response and recovery plan, youth

What is the objective of this area of action?

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) ensure that COVID socio-economic response and recovery plans of UNCTs include a focus on youth.

What are possible actions in this area?

- ◆ UNCTs Integrate youth issues in COVID socio-economic response and recovery plans and ensure that these are integrated into Joint Work Plans and Cooperation Frameworks

What are the key indicators for this area of action?

This is KPI 20 in the Youth2030 UNCT Scorecard. It has ten criteria (3-7 criteria met = moving forward, 8-10 criteria met = at milestone). The criteria are:

- ◆ COVID socio-economic response and recovery plan of UNCT includes a focus on youth, with
 - ◆ UNCT Joint Work Plan/sub-plan on youth updated for COVID response and recovery
 - ◆ UNCT support to Governments on LNOB on youth, includes COVID response and recovery component
 - ◆ UNCT policy support to Governments for sectors relevant to youth includes COVID response and recovery component for youth
 - ◆ UNCT support to Governments for public financing of sectors relevant to youth includes COVID response and recovery component
 - ◆ UNCT support to Governments on data availability (age, gender disaggregated) and quality includes data on youth and COVID
 - ◆ UNCT support to Governments on mainstreaming youth engagement in design, monitoring, review and follow-up includes COVID response and recovery component
 - ◆ UNCT collaborates and engages with various stakeholders to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and/or financial resources for investments in youth-led solutions for COVID response and recovery
 - ◆ UNCT supported Knowledge Exchange includes youth and COVID response and recovery
 - ◆ UNCT joint Communication and Advocacy strategy updated to include youth issues in COVID response and recovery
 - ◆ UNCT leadership and organizational culture fully supports meaningful youth engagement, empowerment and development for COVID response and recovery

What are key reference documents?

- ◆ **A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 (UN)** ↗
- ◆ **Folding Socio-Economic Response Plans into Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDG)** ↗

What is the baseline? (UNCT reporting for 2020, as presented in the Youth2030 Progress Report 2021)

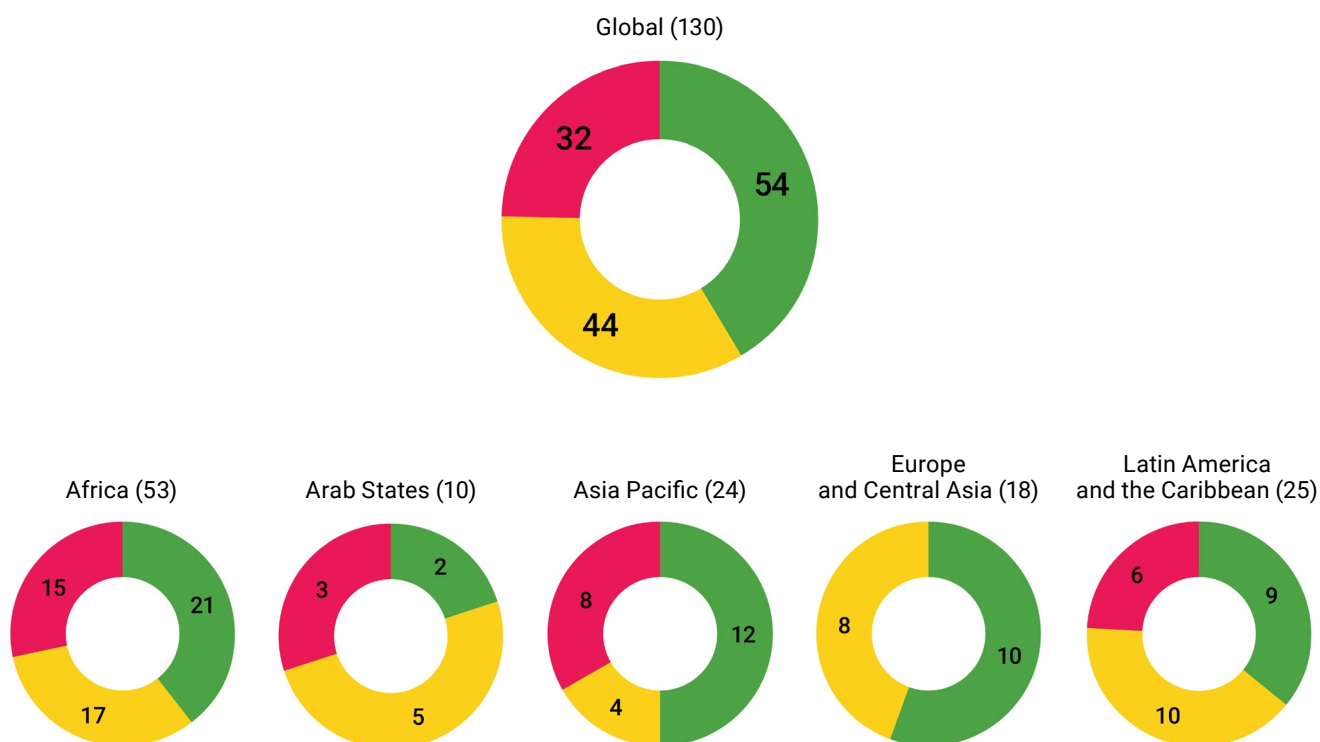
- ◆ 80 per cent of UNCTs (103 of 130) included youth in their COVID-19 response in at least one area of action;

- ◆ Top areas of support:
 - ◆ Policy support (95%).
 - ◆ “Leave No Youth Behind” (95%).
 - ◆ Data availability and quality (75%).
 - ◆ Investment in youth-led responses during the COVID-19 crisis (75%).

Number of UNCTs ● “at milestone” ● “moving forward” and ● “getting ready” for the KPI is shown below:

UN Country Teams (UNCTs) COVID response and recovery plan, youth

2020 reporting



3.

Key global commitments and entry points for programming

This section of the Action Guide recommends key priorities, actions and entry points for programming, and contains targeted resources for action, for and with youth. Key global commitments have been included to provide contextual framing for the thematic areas. While this section does not provide detailed thematic or programming guidance, it highlights programmatic entry points so that United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and other partners can deliver on Youth2030 implementation at country-level. It is a forward-looking resource with emergent and innovative ideas.

This section is oriented around the thematic Priority areas of Youth2030. As such, it is situated within established action areas for and with youth, existing reference and guidance materials and examples of successful and meaningful country-level action. It supports UNCTs and other youth practitioners to scale up action in areas relevant for youth today and looking ahead to 2030.

A common structure underpins 18 thematic pieces. Each thematic area contains a summary of what Youth2030 says on the theme and an overview of key global commitments, including United Nations resolutions, global principles and agenda-setting documents. Next come key priorities for short and medium-term action, in part informed by consultations with United Nations entities and youth. Each piece includes examples of multi-stakeholder initiatives for and with youth, other key suggested entry points for programming, as well as key guidance resources. Lastly, an overview of relevant SDG targets for youth can be found in the annex.

Preparations for the Action Guide included a large consultative process on key themes with 24 United Nations entities and a number of youth networks. 23 consultations occurred over three months to collect direct inputs for recommendations for key areas of action in country-level programming, and cross-cutting issues for youth. Additionally, the consultations informed the selection of key entry points for programming and key resources for action.

- Priority area 1 – Engagement, participation and advocacy
- Priority area 2 - Healthy and informed foundations
- Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work
- Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights
- Priority area 5 – Peace and resilience building

Priority area 1 – Engagement, participation and advocacy

THEMATIC AREA – AMPLIFY YOUTH VOICES

What does Youth2030 say?

To increase the sustainable and meaningful engagement and participation of youth in Youth2030 implementation, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Mainstream* partnerships with youth-led organizations through formal and informal channels
- ♦ *Ensure* meaningful and systematic youth participation in decision-making processes
- ♦ *Expand* modalities for engagement with youth, especially marginalized and hard-to-reach youth
- ♦ *Amplify* the voices of youth, for example through large-scale media outreach and technology

Priority areas

Engagement,
participation
and advocacy

Informed
and healthy
foundations

Economic
empowerment
through decent work

Youth and
human
rights

Peace and
resilience-
building

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (Portuguese Government, Portuguese National Youth Council and UN-system partners, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Principles and Barriers for Meaningful Youth Engagement (MGCY, 2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ Guiding Principles for Supporting Youth People as Critical Agents of Change in the 2030 Agenda (Restless Development, IANYD and UNDP, 2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ Global Consensus Statement on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement (2018) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Integrate youth leadership and participation, and direct partnership with youth-led organizations, into all stages of programming (from initial design to implementation, monitoring, and feedback)
- ♦ Support the formal participation of youth in Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes and other opportunities for direct programming input and influence
- ♦ Ensure rights-based and meaningful participation, in full recognition of the diversity and heterogeneity of youth
- ♦ Diversified and rights-based participation with particular attention to underrepresented groups and principles of universality and equity
- ♦ Create safe, inclusive and culturally aware physical and digital spaces for engagement or engage in such spaces where they already exist

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Generation17 (UNDP and Samsung, founded 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (founded 2009) [↗](#)
- ♦ United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (founded 2005) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Programme Guidance for the Second Decade: Programming with and for Adolescents (UNICEF, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ Believe in Better: Working Paper on Young People's Inclusion in National Follow Up, Review and Accountability Processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Restless development, OSGEY, MGCY & ActionAid, 2020) [↗](#)

Priority area 1 – Engagement, participation, advocacy

THEMATIC AREA – STRENGTHEN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT MECHANISMS

What does the Youth Strategy say?

To accomplish the objectives of Youth2030 at country level, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ Assist with the establishment and strengthening of youth engagement and participation mechanisms, building out from lessons learned
- ♦ Advocate for governments to set local and national youth participation standards based in meaningful and sustainable methods
- ♦ Strengthen capacities to showcase youth contributions to sustainable development in global fora

Priority areas

**Engagement,
participation
and advocacy**

**Informed
and healthy
foundations**

**Economic
empowerment
through decent work**

**Youth and
human
rights**

**Peace and
resilience-
building**

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Enhancing the Inclusiveness of National Voluntary Reviews: Bridging the Intergenerational Gap (ECOSOC, 2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ 'Critical Agents of Change' in the 2030 Agenda: Youth-Inclusive Governance Indicators for National-Level Monitoring (Plan International, Restless Development, UNDP, Children's Environments Research Group and the Centre for Children's Rights Queen's University Belfast, 2016) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Support governments and other youth stakeholders to create youth co-leadership structures and work towards inclusive national youth-led representation
- ♦ Prioritize and commit adequate resources, funding and training for meaningful youth engagement and participation and youth leadership development
- ♦ Prepare and capacitate youth for participation in global fora including HLPF and ECOSOC
- ♦ Mainstream the perspectives of marginalized youth groups into all youth leadership and participation programming
- ♦ Increase visibility of the United Nations at country level towards civil society and harder-to-reach youth

- ♦ Focus sustainable, flexible and long-term funding and resourcing towards grassroots and less visible youth-led organizations

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Youth Voices #ForNature (founded 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network (YoU-CAN) (founded 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ 16 x 16 Initiative (founded 2019) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ What is a 'Good Practice'? A framework to analyse the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda (UNDP & UN DESA) [↗](#)
- ♦ Meaningfully Engaging with Youth: Guidance and Training for UN Staff (UNESCO & IANYD, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Empowering Youth Across the OECD: A Youthful Summary of the Stocktaking Report (OECD, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ New and Innovative Forms of Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes (CoE, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (section on youth and civil society) (TAP Network & the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies) [↗](#)

Priority area 2 - Informed and healthy foundations

THEMATIC AREA – QUALITY EDUCATION (INCLUDING NON-FORMAL EDUCATION)

What does Youth2030 say?

In order to ensure the universal right to quality education, including non-formal education, for children, adolescents, and youth, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Engage* with Member States and partners to advocate for, develop and deliver quality education which is inclusive, learner-centred, based on a lifelong learning approach and integrative of sustainable development, human rights, global citizenship and other forms of education and learning
- ♦ *Promote* education policy frameworks that are supportive of the above, as well as non-formal education, and that acknowledge the importance of non-formal education, in particular for the development of knowledge, skills and competencies for workforce preparedness

Priority areas

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Peace and
resilience-
building

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Rio Declaration on Non-Formal Education (2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ The Right to Education: Follow-Up to Human Rights Council Resolution 8/4 (HRC, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Global Education Meeting: Brussels Declaration (UNESCO, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for Education 2030 (UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, World Bank Group & ILO, 2016) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Holistic and rights-based quality education prioritizing access, equity and inclusion, gender equality, quality learning outcomes and lifelong learning
- ♦ Quality education should encompass formal, non-formal and informal environments and curriculums
- ♦ Quality education should prepare youth for decent work and healthy lifestyles, through education for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, and skills development
- ♦ Integration of quality education with skills development (social skills, teamwork, leadership, critical thinking, and digital skills)
- ♦ Digital inclusion and accessibility, especially in the context of COVID-19
- ♦ Young women and girls in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Global Education Coalition (founded 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ SDG4 - Education 2030 High-Level Steering Committee (founded 2016) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Education: from Disruption to Recovery (UNESCO, 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Educating for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future (UNESCO, 2020) [↗](#)

Priority area 2 - Informed and healthy foundations

THEMATIC AREA – UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

What does Youth2030 say?

The healthy foundation from which young people can achieve begins with the provision of accessible and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), including health services and encompassing health environments. Thus, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Strengthen* national health systems to provide UHC that is youth-responsive and youth-inclusive
- ♦ *Address* the social determinants of youth's health and wellbeing in approaches to supporting UHC

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Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Resolution on Global Health and Foreign Policy: An Inclusive Approach to Strengthening Health Systems (UNGA, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UNGA, 2019) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ UHC encompassing both primary and preventative healthcare
- ♦ Holistic understanding of health and wellbeing inclusive of psychosocial support
- ♦ The inclusion of health education and school health in UHC programming
- ♦ Provision of inclusive and accessible healthcare services to reach marginalized and vulnerable youth
- ♦ Focus on environment-related health issues and the connection between health and wellbeing and climate change
- ♦ COVID-19 recovery in the context of UHC and education for youth

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Youth-centred digital health interventions framework (WHO, HRP, UNESCO, UNICEF & UNFPA, 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Making every school a health-promoting school' initiative (WHO & UNESCO, 2018) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Technical and Programmatic Guidance on out-of-school Comprehensive Sexuality Education (UNFPA, 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!): A Manual to Facilitate the Process of Developing National Adolescent Health Strategies and Plans (WHO, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Engaging Young People for Health and Sustainable Development: Strategic Opportunities for the World Health Organization and Partners (WHO, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (UNFPA, 2018) [↗](#)

Priority area 2 – Informed and healthy foundations

THEMATIC AREA – MENTAL HEALTH

What does Youth2030 say?

In order to support the healthy development of youth, mental health services must be considered within the broader provision of UHC. Thus, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ Ensure mental health services for youth that are accessible, youth-friendly and youth-responsive within national healthcare systems

Priority areas

Engagement,
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Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Resolution on Global Health and Foreign Policy: An Inclusive Approach to Strengthening Health Systems (UNGA, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UNGA, 2019) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Inclusion of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in UHC for youth
- ♦ Implementation of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral strategies for mental health for youth
- ♦ Improve access to quality and inclusive mental health services for youth, especially those in vulnerable situations
- ♦ Focus on mental health and wellbeing of youth during and post-COVID-19

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Joint Programme on Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing and Development of Children and Adolescents (2020-2030) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Implementation and Adaptation of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Activities for Children, Adolescents, and Families (UNICEF, 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Responding to the Mental Health and Psychosocial Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Families (UNICEF, 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Mental Health and Psychosocial Technical Note (UNICEF, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Handbook on Youth Participation in Drug Prevention Work (UNODC, 2020) [↗](#)

Priority area 2 - Informed and healthy foundations

THEMATIC AREA – SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) INCLUDING HIV/AIDS

What does Youth2030 say?

In order to create an enabling environment for sexual and reproductive health and the guarantee of these rights, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Expand* access to youth-friendly, rights-based and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and education
- ♦ *Ensure* quality and sustainability through the utilization of established advocacy and outreach channels and capacity building frameworks

Priority areas

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building

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Nairobi Commitments on ICPD25 (2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ UN Political Declaration on Ending AIDS (UNGA, 2016) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ A comprehensive, rights-based and lifelong approach to SRHR embedded within national systems
- ♦ Inclusion of SRHR in quality education curriculums and utilization of technologies to reach hard-to-reach youth
- ♦ Focus on young women and girls' access to contraception, safe abortion, menstruation hygiene, bodily autonomy and other SRHR
- ♦ Renewed investment in the SRHR of young men and boys emphasizing resources and responsibilities
- ♦ Increased attention to prevention, education, medical coverage and treatment of HIV/AIDS in youth, and empowerment of most vulnerable groups, especially young women and girls
- ♦ Combat discrimination and intersecting obstacles to SRHR experienced by young women and girls, LGBTQIA+ youth, differently-abled youth and other marginalized groups
- ♦ Support youth engagement in community-led prevention, service delivery and monitoring of HIV/AIDS

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Education Plus Initiative (UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, 2021-2025) [↗](#)
- ♦ Global HIV Prevention Coalition (UNAIDS & partners, 2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (1999) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ My Body, My Life, My World (UNFPA, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Adolescents and Young Key Populations Toolkit (2018) [↗](#)

Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work

THEMATIC AREA – EMPLOYABILITY

What does the Youth Strategy say?

In order to best prepare young people for entry into the labour market, and better their chances of gaining productive employment, the UN is tasked with the following:

- ♦ Support Member States and partners to strengthen skills development systems with a view to ensuring the connection with the labour demand, including through the promotion of work-based learning

- ♦ Advocate for the consideration of youth employment in economic improvement programming, with the objective to ease the school-to-work transition and reduce the youth NEET rate

Priority areas

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Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Resolution on Youth and the Right to Work (HRC, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ A Call for Action on the Youth Employment Crisis (ILO, 2012) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Support and protect youth during the school-to-work transition, including through job searching assistance, job-matching systems, and skills development programmes that are aligned with each other as well as additional complementary services for young people
- ♦ Create expanded (paid) internships, traineeships and quality apprenticeship opportunities
- ♦ Include education for decent work and holistic life-long learning approach into education systems, including systems for the recognition of prior formal, non-formal and informal learning
- ♦ Ensure skills training for new and emerging economies (green, digital)
- ♦ Skills development for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including through access to digital quality education and skills for employability
- ♦ Education, skills training and development for sustainability

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ MoU on Skills Development (ILO & UNICEF, 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Generation Unlimited (founded 2018) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Chapter 3 (ILO, 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Technical Note: Transitions from School to Work (UNICEF, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Unpacking School to Work Transition: Data and Evidence Synthesis (UNICEF, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Quality Apprenticeships (Thematic Plan) (Decent Jobs for Youth, 2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ School to Work Transition Surveys (ILO) [↗](#)

Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work

THEMATIC AREA – ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

What does Youth2030 say?

To facilitate an enabling environment for young people to access productive employment and decent work, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Engage* with youth and other partners to create employment ecosystems (in wage and self-employment) with youth-friendly economic and labour market policies, targeted public and private investment, and access to social protection
- ♦ *Advocate* for youth access to integrated services and productive resources, in both urban and rural areas, including land, finance, new technologies and innovation
- ♦ *Build* country-level capacities to transition to green and sustainable economies and create more and better employment opportunities for youth therein
- ♦ *Advocate* for employment policies and strategies that foster both the quantity and the quality of jobs

Priority areas

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Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work (ILO, 2019) ↗
- ♦ Resolution on Youth and the Right to Work (HRC, 2018) ↗
- ♦ Strategy for the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth (2015) ↗
- ♦ A Call for Action on the Youth Employment Crisis (ILO, 2012) ↗

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Promoting pro-employment macroeconomic policies and fiscal incentives, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 recovery, that support stronger aggregate demand and increase productive investment that improves capacity for job creation and access to finance
- ♦ Social protection to ensure equal access for all young people to economic opportunity, especially in crisis periods such as the COVID-19 pandemic
- ♦ Creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment to facilitate transitions from the informal to the formal economy
- ♦ Labour market policies that go beyond enabling, to activating policy environments, including demand-side interventions and other specific youth employment interventions to allow young people to integrate into or stay connected to labour markets
- ♦ Economic policies to address both quality and quantity of jobs for youth and consider sustainable development and climate change
- ♦ Gender-sensitive policy and programme design, implementation and monitoring to reduce existing gender inequalities and to empower young women in the labour market.
- ♦ Promote and protect the labour rights of young workers

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth (2016) ↗
- ♦ Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE) (2014) ↗

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Youth Foresight Knowledge Facility (Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth & Generation Unlimited, 2021) ↗
- ♦ Volunteer Work and its Links to the Labour Market Experiences of Young People (ILO & UNV, 2020) ↗
- ♦ The Future of Work and Youth (European Youth Forum, 2019) ↗
- ♦ Realization of the right to work: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ↗
- ♦ Promoting the Inclusion of Young People through Social Protection (UN DESA, 2018) ↗

Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work

THEMATIC AREA – ENTREPRENEURSHIP/SELF-EMPLOYMENT

What does Youth2030 say?

In order for young people to be active entrepreneurial agents in their own, as well as their communities', economic empowerment, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ Engage with Member States, partners and young people to foster employment ecosystems which enable, through policy and other economic and social mechanisms, increased possibilities for sustainable entrepreneurship and self-employment
- ♦ Ensure equal access of all youth, including both urban and rural youth, to productive assets and other resources such as land and technology
- ♦ Boost opportunities for young people to become entrepreneurs in emerging sectors, such as the digital, green or orange economies
- ♦ Equip young people with the requisite skills to succeed in self-employment, from entrepreneurial to managerial and digital skills

Priority areas

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Youth and
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building

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ World Youth Report: Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda (UN DESA, 2020) ↗
- ♦ A Call for Action on the Youth Employment Crisis (ILO, 2012) ↗

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Promoting an enabling policy and regulatory environment for young entrepreneurs, cooperatives and young people in the social and solidarity economy
- ♦ Design and implement youth entrepreneurship programmes in partnership with the private sector and youth and other actors

- ♦ Promote entrepreneurship as a pathway from the informal to the formal economy, for both urban and rural youth, especially for young women and vulnerable youth
- ♦ Embed entrepreneurship curricula into quality education systems and ensure access to information on entrepreneurship for youth
- ♦ Protect and promote youth entrepreneurs and youth in self-employment, especially as part of the COVID-19 recovery process
- ♦ Facilitating access to markets, networks, knowledge and skills for young entrepreneurs and youth in self-employment
- ♦ Facilitating access to finance by increasing the availability of financial services targeted at young people, boosting innovation in financial mechanisms for youth, and by equipping young entrepreneurs with financial capabilities

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Opportunities for Youth in Africa: Accelerating Jobs Creation in Agriculture and Agribusiness (2020-2024) ↗
- ♦ IDEA Programme – Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship for All (founded 2019) ↗
- ♦ Youth Co:Lab (founded 2017) ↗
- ♦ Youth Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Group and Forum (founded 2016) ↗

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Youth Entrepreneurship: Concepts and Evidence (UNICEF, 2019) ↗
- ♦ Implementing Youth Entrepreneurship Support Programmes: A Handbook for Practitioners (YBI, 2018) ↗

Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work

THEMATIC AREA – NEW ECONOMIES

What does Youth2030 say?

In order for young people to be best able to participate in and contribute to a more just, sustainable economies, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Accelerate* transitions to green, innovative and emerging economies through engagement with Member States and partners on climate action and economic strategy
- ♦ *Grow* capacities of green, digital, circular and other new sustainable economic sectors to actively engage with youth and prepare them for decent jobs in wage and self-employment

Priority areas

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Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Green Jobs for Youth: Boosting Green Jobs for Young People, Greening the Economy (2017) ↗

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Stimulate job creation for youth in green, digital, and other emerging new economies
- ♦ Ensure that education and skills training prepare youth for employment in new and sustainable economies
- ♦ Sustainable economic development plans considering the position of youth in green and other emerging economies
- ♦ Ensure job alignment with principles of decent work and sustainability
- ♦ Foster the potential for young entrepreneurs to create new green enterprises
- ♦ Focus on green development and decent jobs for youth in rural and agricultural economies

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Friends for SDGs – UN75 and the Future We Want: Online Contest for SDGs projects (founded 2021) ↗
- ♦ Youth Sustainable Energy Hub (founded 2020) ↗
- ♦ Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth (founded 2016) ↗
- ♦ Equals Global Partnership (founded 2016) ↗

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Escaping the Growth and Jobs Treadmill: A New Policy Agenda for Post-Coronavirus Europe (European Youth Forum, 2020) ↗
- ♦ Digital Skills Toolkit (ITU, 2018) ↗
- ♦ Youth and Agriculture: Key Challenges and Concrete Solutions (FAO, 2014) ↗

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

What does Youth2030 say?

So that youth are active participants in public affairs and their rights to do so are protected, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Promote* the access of youth to participation in both formal and grass-roots civic processes and civic space
- ♦ *Foster* civic awareness, including awareness about the intersectional challenges and barriers that young people face when exercising their rights, and participation, volunteerism and cultures of peace and non-violence through education and direct engagement

Priority areas

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foundations

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rights**

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building

Key global commitments include:

- ◆ Step up! A joint commitment by Heads of United Nations Entities (2021) [↗](#)
- ◆ Joint statement of United Nations entities on the right to healthy environment (2021) [↗](#)
- ◆ The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights (2020) [↗](#)
- ◆ Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action (2019) [↗](#)
- ◆ Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary-General (2021) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ◆ Inclusion of education for civic engagement into quality education programming accompanied by educator training and capacity-building
- ◆ Provision of accessible and safe civic and public spaces
- ◆ Protection of civil society actors
- ◆ Partnerships for meaningful and inclusive civic participation and engagement and social entrepreneurship
- ◆ Digital spaces and technologies for civic participation and engagement
- ◆ Accessible communication from the United Nations to youth on principles and opportunities for civic participation and engagement
- ◆ Increased visibility of United Nations country-level work on civic engagement and participation towards youth
- ◆ Political and financial support for young people and youth organizations to enhance meaningful participation of youth in decision-making processes and allow them to co-decide on the development, implementation and evaluation of policies

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ◆ Youth Compact Champions Programme (2020-2021) [↗](#)
- ◆ Global Youth Mobilization for Generation Disrupted (2020) [↗](#)
- ◆ United Nations Hub for Human Rights and Digital Technology (2021) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ◆ United Nations Guidance Note: Protection and Promotion of Civic Space (2020) [↗](#)
- ◆ United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech (2020) [↗](#)
- ◆ United Nations Guidance Note on Addressing and Countering COVID-19 related Hate Speech (2020). [↗](#)
- ◆ Engaged and Heard! Guidelines on Adolescent Participation and Civic Engagement (UNICEF, 2020) [↗](#)
- ◆ A global youth movement #ForYouthRights: challenges and next steps (European Youth Forum, ICMYO, and OHCHR, 2020) [↗](#)
- ◆ Policy Document on Quality Youth Participation and Representation in Institutions (European Youth Forum, 2020) [↗](#)

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – YOUTH-INCLUSIVE POLITICAL PROCESSES

What does Youth2030 say?

So that the human rights of youth are best ensured, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Utilize* capacities to construct youth-inclusive political processes, such as elections, constitution-making, political parties and parliaments
- ♦ *Protect* the access of youth to the above political processes

Priority areas

Engagement,
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and advocacy

Informed
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foundations

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rights**

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resilience-
building

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Resolution on Equal participation in Political and Public Affairs (HRC, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ Outcome Document of the General Debate on Rejuvenating Democracy, Giving Voice to Youth (IPU, 2016) [↗](#)
- ♦ Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary-General (2021) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Increased efforts for inclusion in formal political processes at the national level, including for co-decision making on policies
- ♦ Pursue political inclusion to improve democratic governance, rule of law, social inclusion and economic development for youth
- ♦ Address obstacles, legal and otherwise, to full participation especially of marginalized and disenfranchised groups
- ♦ Increase the transparency and accountability of political processes and make related information and resources freely available to youth
- ♦ Elevate the voices of youth in political processes and increase direct representation of youth by youth as well as youth in political leadership roles

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ IYC4PEACE International Youth Centre Malaysia (2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ UNCTAD Youth Network/Youth Action Hubs Initiative (2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ UNCCD Global Youth Initiative for Combating Desertification [↗](#)
- ♦ Dialogue for the Future (2019) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Guidelines on the Effective Implementation of the Right to Participate in Public Affairs (OHCHR, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ Youth Political Participation Programming Guide (NDI, 2018) [↗](#)
- ♦ Youth Participation in Electoral Processes – Handbook for Electoral Management Bodies (2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ Enhancing Youth Political Participation Throughout the Electoral Cycle (UNDP, 2015) [↗](#)

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – EDUCATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

What does Youth2030 say?

In order to foster civic awareness and participation, volunteerism and a culture of non-violence for young people, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ Increase the promotion of sustainable development, human rights and global citizenship education and training, without discrimination, for all youth regardless of status or context

Priority areas

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Key global commitments include:

- ♦ UNGA Resolution on Education for Sustainable Development in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESD for 2030) (2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ UNGA Resolution on Education for Democracy (2015) [↗](#)
- ♦ UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Integrate ESD, HRE and GCED in quality education curriculums and programming in formal and non-formal settings, including themes of climate action and rights of future generations
- ♦ Engage with and empower youth at the community level to harness local knowledge and create opportunities for innovation in sustainable development through education
- ♦ Prioritize objectives of individual, societal and digital transformation in ESD, HRE and GCED
- ♦ Focus on reaching youth in vulnerable situations and recognizing them as leaders and beneficiaries of education to prevent violent extremism and other human rights violations
- ♦ Promote inclusivity and lifelong learning approaches in ESD, HRE and GCED programming with a focus on young women and girls and differently-abled youth

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Education for Sustainable Development (founded 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ World Programme for Human Rights Education (founded 2005) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Framework for the Implementation of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Beyond 2019 (UNESCO, 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ Plan of Action for the fourth phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (HRC, 2019) [↗](#)

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

What does Youth2030 say?

In order to protect and promote young people's human rights, including economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Prioritize* advocacy, policies and programs to safeguard the human rights of youth
- ♦ *Focus* on protecting youth experiencing intersectional discrimination and vulnerabilities
- ♦ *Mainstream* promotion and protection into national human rights mechanisms, treaties and other procedures

Priority areas

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and advocacy

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Peace and
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building

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ HRC Resolution on Youth and human rights (2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ UNGA Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1999) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Protect young people and young activists, including peacebuilders and human rights and environmental defenders
- ♦ Focus on the rights of marginalized youth, including undocumented, indigenous, migrant, refugee, LGBTQIA+ and differently-abled youth, as well as youth in conflict with the law, etc.
- ♦ Combat age-based discrimination against youth, especially legal discrimination in migration proceedings and for the undocumented or youth with irregular status, and for access to goods and services and social protection
- ♦ Partnerships across sectors and directly with youth and youth-led organizations
- ♦ Prioritize the following rights: future generations and climate justice, access to justice and rule of law, labour rights, gender equality, access to free and impartial information, privacy and freedom of choice

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Spotlight Initiative (2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ Youth4Peace Global Knowledge Portal (2016) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Guide to International Labour Standards and Rights at Work Concerning Young People (ILO, 2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ UN Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Coordinators & UN Country Teams (2015) [↗](#)
- ♦ Human Rights - A Basic Handbook for UN Staff (OHCHR & UN Staff College, 2015) [↗](#)

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – INTERSECTIONALITY AND YOUTH IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS

What does Youth2030 say?

In order to ensure that no young people are left behind in the pursuit of human rights-based sustainable development, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Strengthen* efforts to protect and promote the human rights of the most vulnerable youth
- ♦ *Recognize* and address the intersecting forms of discrimination, marginalization and violence experienced by vulnerable youth

Priority areas

Engagement,
participation
and advocacy

Informed
and healthy
foundations

Economic
empowerment
through decent work

**Youth and
human
rights**

Peace and
resilience-
building

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (2019) ↗
- ♦ Global Compact on Refugees (2018) ↗
- ♦ UN System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity (2018) ↗

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Inclusion of differently-abled youth and consideration of specific needs of differently-abled youth in country-level work
- ♦ Focus on the needs of migrant, refugee and displaced youth, especially young women and girls, in crisis situations and meaningfully engage with local community youth networks
- ♦ Protect the human rights of undocumented youth, youth in conflict with the law and youth experiencing violence
- ♦ Mainstream the human rights of vulnerable and marginalized youth across programming for achieving Youth2030 goals
- ♦ Integrate an intersectional approach to youth programming

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Migration Youth Forum (2021) ↗
- ♦ Generation Equality Forum (founded 2020) ↗

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development (IOM, 2020) ↗
- ♦ Leaving No One Behind: A UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams (UNSDG, 2019) ↗
- ♦ Youth in Action for Gender Equality: Agency! Leadership! Activism! – Implementation Guide (UN Women, 2019) ↗
- ♦ Guidance Note on Disability Inclusive Development (UNDP, 2018) ↗

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – PARTICIPATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS/PROCESSES

What does Youth2030 say?

By leveraging capacities and networks, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Promote* and protect the rights of youth to participate in all manner of political and public affairs, especially human rights mechanisms and processes
- ♦ *Mainstream* the rights of young people into human rights mechanisms and processes at all levels

Priority areas

Engagement,
participation
and advocacy

Informed
and healthy
foundations

Economic
empowerment
through decent work

**Youth and
human
rights**

Peace and
resilience-
building

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights (2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ HRC Resolution on Youth and human rights (2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ HRC Resolution on Equal participation in Political and Public Affairs (2018) [↗](#)

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Enhance participation of and partnerships with youth in national human rights processes, institutions and mechanisms, as well as UN human rights mechanisms
- ♦ Ensure a full spectrum of participation in development, implementation, evaluation and monitoring
- ♦ Give particular attention to concerns and the specific situation of youth at country level, including demographic considerations and protection of young people active in civic space
- ♦ Inform about human rights processes/mechanisms and negotiate the inclusion of young people with governments

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Preventive Diplomacy Academy (founded 2019) [↗](#)
- ♦ U-INSPIRE Alliance (founded 2019) [↗](#)

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Practical Guidance: Maximizing the use of the Universal Periodic Review at Country Level (OHCHR, 2020) [↗](#)
- ♦ Training Package on Reporting to the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies (OHCHR, 2017) [↗](#)
- ♦ E-learning tool on the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms (OHCHR) [↗](#)
- ♦ Global Report on Protecting Youth in Civic Space (OSGEY & the Protection Working Group of the Global Coalition on YPS, 2021) [↗](#)
- ♦ Safeguarding Civic Space for Young People in Europe (European Youth Forum, 2020) [↗](#)

Priority area 5 – Peace and resilience building

THEMATIC AREA – YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

What does Youth2030 say?

There are a number of priorities that are essential to best support the unique position of young people to act as active contributors in peace, security and resilience-building. Thus, the United Nations is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Promote* the meaningful participation and recognize the leadership potential of young people in peace, violence prevention and disaster risk reduction processes as well as the capacities of youth-led organizations to increase impact and sustainability.
- ♦ *Protect* the ability of young people to gather in safe environments and reinforce opportunities for young people to create their own narratives against violence, extremism and radicalization in local contexts.
- ♦ *Facilitate* democratic fora, partnerships, joint initiatives and other platforms to expand inclusive and impactful dialogue between youth-led organizations, national governments and United Nations entities.

Priority areas				
Engagement, participation and advocacy	Informed and healthy foundations	Economic empowerment through decent work	Youth and human rights	Peace and resilience-building

Key global commitments

- ♦ [UNSC Resolution 2535 \(2020\)](#) ↗
- ♦ [UNSC Resolution 2419 \(2018\)](#) ↗
- ♦ [ILO Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience \(2017\)](#) ↗
- ♦ [UNSC Resolution 2250 \(2015\)](#) ↗

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Implement the 5 pillars of action from resolution 2250: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration
- ♦ Consider environmental protection as a cross-cutting issue across these five pillars
- ♦ Mainstream the role of young women and men in formal and informal peace processes and agreements and initiatives at local, national, regional and global levels
- ♦ Establish multi-stakeholder, broad-based coalitions on YPS at national and regional levels, and develop local, national and regional YPS roadmaps
- ♦ Focus on broader development issues and strengthening enabling environments for long-term action,

prevention and durable solutions

- ♦ Youth-led partnerships for bottom-up approaches
- ♦ Capacity-building for young people for disaster risk reduction

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (founded 2012) ↗

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Youth, Peace and Security Programming Handbook (2021) ↗
- ♦ PBF Guidance Note on Youth and Peacebuilding (2019) ↗
- ♦ The missing peace: independent progress study on youth and peace and security (United Nations, 2018) ↗
- ♦ Guiding Principles for Young People Participation in Peacebuilding (IANYD, 2016) ↗

Priority area 5 – Peace and resilience building

THEMATIC AREA – HUMANITARIAN ACTION

What does Youth2030 say?

So that young people are best positioned as catalysts for action in humanitarian settings, the UN is tasked with the following:

- ♦ *Provide* integrated support and protection to young people in humanitarian settings, particularly young women and girls
- ♦ *Protect* and strengthen the engagement of young people at all stages of humanitarian action, including through capacity-building

Priority areas

Engagement,
participation
and advocacy

Informed
and healthy
foundations

Economic
empowerment
through decent work

Youth and
human
rights

**Peace and
resilience-
building**

Key global commitments include:

- ♦ Igniting Hope: Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action (2018) ↗
- ♦ World Humanitarian Summit: Agenda for Humanity (2016) ↗

Key priorities for action are:

- ♦ Engage with youth and youth-led organizations as first responders, volunteers and active participants in humanitarian crisis situations and not only as beneficiaries and victims
- ♦ Protect the rights and autonomy of youth, especially migrants and other vulnerable groups, in humanitarian situations and strengthen local support systems and community networks
- ♦ Prioritize the consideration of the impacts of climate change on humanitarian action to better protect future generations

- ♦ Integrate a humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus approach whereby stakeholders collectively address humanitarian challenges alongside youth and youth-led organizations
- ♦ Research on the impacts of humanitarian crises on youth and development
- ♦ Youth participation in implementation and monitoring of humanitarian action

Key entry points for programming include:

Key interagency/multi-stakeholder initiatives –

- ♦ Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action (founded 2016) ↗

Key resources for action:

- ♦ Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises (IASC, 2021) ↗
- ♦ Engaging with Men and Masculinities in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (OECD, 2019) ↗
- ♦ The Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action (IASC, 2018) ↗

Appendix A

List of contributors

The development of the Youth2030 Implementation Package for United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), of which this Action Guide is a core component, would not have been possible without the technical expertise, assistance, and inputs of the Task Team members listed below. Thanks also go to all those who participated in the technical field validation exercises in four Youth2030 Fast-Track Countries – Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone – for their valuable contributions.

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- Mapping of multi-stakeholder initiatives Task Team members
- Toolkit Task Team members
- Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs – Field validation in Costa Rica
- Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs – Field validation in Ethiopia
- Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs – Field validation in Ghana
- Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs – Field validation in Sierra Leone

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Youth
network

Youth
network



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Youth
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Youth2030 Implementation Package for UNCTs – Field validation in Sierra Leone

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Appendix B

Relevant SDG targets

- Priority area 1 – Engagement, participation and advocacy
- Priority area 2 – Healthy and informed foundations
- Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work
- Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights
- Priority area 5 – Peace and resilience building

Priority area 1 – Engagement, participation and advocacy

THEMATIC AREA – AMPLIFY YOUTH VOICES

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

The participation of and engagement with young people as key partners is essential for the achievement of all SDGs, and in particular:

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- ♦ **Target 16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- ♦ **Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- ♦ **Target 16.B** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

- ♦ **Target 17.9** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
- ♦ **Target 17.14** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- ♦ **Target 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Priority area 1 – Engagement, participation, advocacy

THEMATIC AREA – STRENGTHEN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT MECHANISMS

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

The participation of and engagement with young people as key partners is essential for the achievement of all SDGs, and in particular:

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- ♦ **Target 16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- ♦ **Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- ♦ **Target 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Priority area 2 – Healthy and informed foundations

THEMATIC AREA – QUALITY EDUCATION (INCLUDING NON-FORMAL EDUCATION)

Key Sustainable Development Goals and Targets:

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (all targets relevant, but especially)

- ♦ **Target 4.1** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- ♦ **Target 4.3** By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- ♦ **Target 4.4** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- ♦ **Target 4.5** By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- ♦ **Target 4.6** By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- ♦ **Target 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- ♦ **Target 8.6** By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- ♦ **Target 13.3** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Priority area 2 – Healthy and informed foundations

THEMATIC AREA – UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- ♦ **Target 3.8** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Priority area 2 – Healthy and informed foundations

THEMATIC AREA – MENTAL HEALTH

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

[Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages](#)

- ♦ **Target 3.4** By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- ♦ **Target 3.5** Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

Priority area 2 – Healthy and informed foundations

THEMATIC AREA – SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) INCLUDING HIV/AIDS

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

[Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages](#)

- ♦ **Target 3.3** By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable disease
- ♦ **Target 3.7** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

[Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#)

- ♦ **Target 5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work

THEMATIC AREA – EMPLOYABILITY

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

[Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all](#)

- ♦ **Target 4.4** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

[Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all](#)

- ♦ **Target 8.5** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

- ♦ **Target 8.6** By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- ♦ **Target 8.B** By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work

THEMATIC AREA – ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- ♦ **Target 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- ♦ **Target 8.8** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- ♦ **Target 9.5** Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Priority area 3 – Economic empowerment through decent work

THEMATIC AREA – ENTREPRENEURSHIP/SELF-EMPLOYMENT

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- ♦ **Target 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services
- ♦ **Target 8.5** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Priority area 3 – Economic employment through decent work

THEMATIC AREA – NEW ECONOMIES

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- ♦ **Target 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- ♦ **Target 7.2** By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- ♦ **Target 8.4** Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- ♦ **Target 12.1** Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- ♦ **Target 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- ♦ **Target 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – YOUTH-INCLUSIVE POLITICAL PROCESSES

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

[Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels](#)

- ♦ **Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- ♦ **Target 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – EDUCATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

[Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all](#)

- ♦ **Target 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

The Sustainable Development Agenda is firmly grounded in international human rights standards, and the UN human rights-based approach runs throughout. Human rights, including gender, political, economic, social and development rights, appear throughout the 17 goals and related targets and indicators. Selected Goals and Targets are outlined below.

[Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels](#)

- ♦ **Target 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

- ♦ **Target 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- ♦ **Target 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- ♦ **Target 5.5** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- ♦ **Target 8.7** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

- ♦ **Target 10.7** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- ♦ **Target 11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – INTERSECTIONALITY AND YOUTH IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

- ♦ **Target 10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- ♦ **Target 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- ♦ **Target 10.7** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Priority area 4 – Youth and human rights

THEMATIC AREA – PARTICIPATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS/PROCESSES

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- ♦ **Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- ♦ **Target 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Priority area 5 – Peace and resilience building

THEMATIC AREA – YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- ♦ **Target 16.1** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- ♦ **Target 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- ♦ **Target 16.3** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- ♦ **Target 16.4** By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- ♦ **Target 16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- ♦ **Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- ♦ **Target 16.a** Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Priority area 5 – Peace and resilience building

THEMATIC AREA – HUMANITARIAN ACTION

KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- ♦ **Target 1.5** By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- ♦ **Target 2.1** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- ♦ **Target 2.2** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- ♦ **Target 3.3** By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- ♦ **Target 3.D** Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- ♦ **Target 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- ♦ **Target 11.5** By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- ♦ **Target 13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- ♦ **Target 16.1** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere





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