

United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth

Overall Goals

Employment and Entrepreneurship: Ensure greater opportunities for youth to secure decent work and income over the life-cycle, contributing to a virtuous circle of poverty reduction, sustainable development and social inclusion

Protection of rights and civic engagement: Ensure the inherent rights of youth are recognized and upheld to enable young people's engagement in all aspects of their development

Political Inclusion: Ensure the progressive, substantive inclusion of young people in political and decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels

Education, including comprehensive sexuality education: Ensure that young people, on an inclusive, equitable and universal basis, are actively learning in formal or non-formal education systems, and are receiving quality education on sexual and reproductive health

Health: Ensure that young people, on an inclusive, equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Commitment	Measures	Lead / Supporting Entities	Indicators under consideration¹
EMPLOYMENT			
1. Enhance national capacity to develop gender-sensitive strategies for decent work for youth	1.1. Global and regional partnerships for decent work for youth established across the UN System to place employment of young people in both rural and urban areas at the centre of the development agenda	Lead: ILO Supporting: DESA, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNRWA, UNV	1.1.1. Number of UN entities adopting a framework of joint cooperation on decent work for youth (DESA with IANYD) 1.1.2. Number of partnership agreements for regional cooperation on decent work for youth established among UN entities (DESA with Regional Commissions and IANYD)
	1.2. Multi-pronged youth employment strategies implemented through gender-sensitive national policies and time-bound action plans	Lead: ILO Supporting: ECA, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNV, UN Women, UNWTO, YEN	1.2.1. Number of new or revised national development frameworks and employment policies that assign priority to youth employment (ILO) 1.2.2. Number of countries implementing new or revised gender-sensitive strategies or national action plans on youth employment (ILO, UNESCO)
	1.3. Young people and their organizations engaged in the development of national youth employment strategies	Lead: ILO Supporting: FAO, IFAD, OSGEY, UN-HABITAT, UNV, YEN	1.3.1. Number of national youth employment strategies developed or revised with the participation of young representatives of employers' organizations, trade unions and youth organizations (ILO, YEN)

¹ Every effort will be made to disaggregate the indicators by sex. The entity responsible for monitoring an indicator is mentioned in brackets behind the indicator. If several entities have agreed to contribute to monitoring an indicator, the entity listed first will coordinate the monitoring process for this indicator. Indicators are not validated until they have been tested.

2. Support the improvement and enforcement of rights at work for youth and implement employment and skills development programmes to ease the transition of disadvantaged youth to decent work²	2.1. Mechanisms for monitoring and sharing information on rights at work for youth strengthened	Lead: ILO Supporting: FAO, IFAD, OHCHR, OSGEY, UN-HABITAT	2.1.1. Number of countries that are collecting and sharing age-disaggregated information on workers' rights (ILO) 2.1.2. Number of national institutions that include rights at work for young people in new education and training programmes (ILO) 2.1.3. Number of additional national campaigns on decent work for youth (ILO)
	2.2. Strategies implemented to increase employability and ease the transitions to decent work for disadvantaged youth	Lead: ILO, UNESCO Supporting: OSGEY, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, IFAD	2.2.1. Number of countries which have increased outreach of employment services and programmes to disadvantaged young people living in rural areas and urban slum settlements (ILO, IFAD, UN-HABITAT) 2.2.2. Number of UN country programmes focusing on increasing access to and quality of skills development for disadvantaged youth (IFAD, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT)
	2.3. Countries assisted in developing comprehensive and evidence-based employment and livelihoods programmes targeting disadvantaged youth	Lead: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UN-HABITAT Supporting: ECA, IFAD, OSGEY, UNDP, UNIDO, UN Women	2.3.1. Number of countries supported by the UN system in developing comprehensive and evidence-based employment and livelihoods programmes targeting disadvantaged youth (UNDP)
ENTREPRENEURSHIP			
3. Support institutional reforms for an enabling environment conducive to youth entrepreneurship, including access to markets, finance and other resources	3.1. Capacity of institutions to support young entrepreneurs strengthened	Lead: UNDP Supporting: IFAD, ILO, OSGEY, UN-HABITAT, UNCDF, UNESCO, UNIDO, WIPO	3.1.1. Number of new or revised national programmes to foster institutions that support youth entrepreneurship development, including group-based and youth-led enterprises (UNDP, UNIDO) 3.1.2. Number of UN system-supported capacity development programmes implemented to support youth entrepreneurship (UNDP)

² The terms “disadvantaged”, “marginalized” and “vulnerable” are used throughout the System-wide Action Plan on Youth. These are loose terms encompassing many different individuals and groups and precise definitions vary by UN entity.

	3.2. Increased financial inclusion of youth living in rural and urban areas	Lead: UNCDF, UN-HABITAT Supporting: IFAD, ILO, OSGEY, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UN Women, WIPO	3.2.1. Number of financial institutions scaling up financial services for young people (UNCDF) 3.2.2. Number of additional countries that adopted and implemented a national strategy on financial literacy (UNCDF)
	3.3. Increased access to assets and services by young entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas	Lead: UNIDO, IFAD Supporting: ILO, FAO, OSGEY, UN-HABITAT, UN Women, WIPO	3.3.1. Number of countries implementing new or revised inclusive mechanisms improving access to services, land, markets and information for young people living in: (i) rural areas and (ii) urban areas (FAO, IFAD, UN-HABITAT) 3.3.2. Number of business development services that provide assistance to young entrepreneurs supported by the UN system (UNIDO, IFAD)
4. Strengthen mechanisms for promoting youth entrepreneurship, in particular for young women	4.1. Methodology and tools to promote youth entrepreneurship, particularly for young women, used by UN entities	Lead: ILO Supporting: IFAD, OSGEY, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNV, UN Women, WIPO, YEN	4.1.1. Number of new inter-agency capacity development programmes on youth entrepreneurship implemented in different countries (ILO, IFAD) 4.1.2. Number of UN system entities using methodology and common tools on youth entrepreneurship, including through inter-agency capacity development programmes on youth entrepreneurship for young women (ILO)
	4.2. Innovative approaches to entrepreneurship expanded, with a view to increasing job opportunities for young women and men	Lead: YEN Supporting: IFAD, ILO, ITU, OSGEY, UNCDF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WIPO	4.2.1. Number of additional countries in which youth entrepreneurship programmes have been implemented with the support of the UN system through innovative approaches or in emerging sectors, such as the ICT sector, as well as the green and social economy (YEN, UNIDO)

	4.3. Information on entrepreneurial opportunities for young people made available through in-person and online services	Lead: UN-HABITAT, UNIDO Supporting: ITU, OSGEY, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, WIPO, YEN	4.3.1. Number of additional hubs promoting youth entrepreneurship established (UN-HABITAT) 4.3.2. Number of organizations providing online youth entrepreneurship services with the support of the UN system (YEN)
PROTECTION OF RIGHTS			
5. Countries supported to take action towards safeguarding and promoting the human rights of youth	5.1. Implementation of existing Human Rights instruments to strengthen the rights of youth increased	Lead: OHCHR, UN-HABITAT Supporting: DESA, OSGEY, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women	5.1.1. Number of countries with additional and/or updated national human rights instruments and national protection mechanisms or institutions protecting the rights of youth above age 18, including the right to be free from violence, disaggregated by region (UN-HABITAT) 5.1.2. Number of additional or updated regional and/or global mechanisms protecting the rights of adolescents and the rights of youth (UN-HABITAT)
	5.2. Potential gaps in existing human rights instruments applicable to youth identified	Lead: OHCHR, UN-HABITAT Supporting: DESA, OSGEY, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO	5.2.1. Number of technical discussions on the status of the current framework of the rights of youth (OHCHR)
	5.3. Access to information on, for and by young people on rights improved	Lead: UN-HABITAT Supporting: DESA, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, OSGEY, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women	5.3.1. Number of countries in which UN system-led initiatives have improved access to information for young people on rights (UN-HABITAT)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

6. Young people's effective inclusive civic engagement at local, national, regional and global levels promoted	6.1. Capacities of young people-led organizations and networks enhanced to support civic engagement and participation of young people	<p>Lead: FAO, UN-HABITAT, UNV</p> <p>Supporting: DESA, OSGEY, PBSO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWTO</p>	<p>6.1.1. Number of new UN system partnerships with young people-led organizations and networks implemented at the global, regional and national levels to increase their capacity in civic engagement and participation (UNESCO)</p> <p>6.1.2. Strengthen structures and mechanisms to institutionalize inclusive participation of young people in the UN system (UN-HABITAT)</p> <p>6.1.3. Number of countries implementing the UN Youth Volunteer Programme (UNV)</p> <p>6.1.4. Number of additional countries integrating young people's volunteerism in their newly developed or updated national youth policies (UNV)</p>
	6.2. Capacities of stakeholders (e.g. policy makers, academia, civil society organizations, media and private sector) strengthened to establish inclusive policies and mechanisms that support civic engagement of young people	<p>Lead: UNESCO, UN-HABITAT</p> <p>Supporting: CBD, DESA, FAO, ITU, OHCHR, OSGEY, PBSO, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV</p>	<p>6.2.1. Number of additional countries with a mechanism for engaging broad participation of young people through inclusive technology (UN-HABITAT, UNICEF)</p> <p>6.2.2. Number of additional countries where multi-stakeholder initiatives are developed to establish inclusive policies and mechanisms enabling civic engagement of young people, including in transition and peacebuilding contexts (UNESCO)</p>
	6.3. Internal capacity enhanced of the UN system to provide policy and technical support on the inclusive civic engagement of young people	<p>Lead: UNESCO, UN-HABITAT</p> <p>Supporting: DESA, FAO,</p>	<p>6.3.1. Number of additional countries provided with UN system policy or technical guidance in public policy and programme development to enable inclusive youth civic engagement (UNESCO)</p> <p>6.3.2. Number of UN-led programmes that promote inclusive youth civic engagement at all levels, including in the fields of peacebuilding and</p>

		OSGEY, PBSO, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC	violence and crime prevention, climate change and disaster risk reduction (UNODC)
POLITICAL INCLUSION			
7. Young people's participation in inclusive political processes and democratic practices supported	7.1. Enabling environment promoted for young people's participation in electoral and parliamentary processes, public administration and local governance including in peacebuilding environments at local, subnational and national levels	Lead: UNDP, UNESCO Supporting: OSGEY, PBSO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UN Women	7.1.1. Number of additional countries with updated or new legal frameworks to enable young people's political participation (UNESCO) 7.1.2. Number of additional countries in which young people are supported to meaningfully participate in political processes, including in peacebuilding environments (UNDP)
	7.2. Young people's leadership skills and capacities promoted to participate actively in democratic practices, including in local, national and global processes,	Lead: UNDP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, Supporting: ITU, OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UN Women	7.2.1. Number of additional countries that integrate democratic participation and civic engagement skill building into learning curricula (UNESCO) 7.2.2. Number of additional UN-supported initiatives to enhance young people's leadership skills and capacities (UNDP)
	7.3. Young women's participation and presence in political office and decision-making at local, national, regional and global levels promoted	Lead: UNDP, UN Women, UN-HABITAT, Supporting: OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA	7.3.1. Number of additional countries with UN-supported programmes and policies promoting young women's representation in local, subnational and national public decision-making bodies (UN Women) 7.3.2. Percentage of young women in public office participating in UN-supported political leadership capacity development programmes (UNDP) 7.3.3. Number and percentage of countries where the UN system supports civil society organizations and/or networks to engage men and boys in promoting gender equality (UNFPA, UN Women)

8. Young people's inclusion in decision making and in all levels of development processes supported	8.1. Young people and young people-led organizations effectively participate in United Nations governance and decision-making processes	Lead: DESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat Supporting: CBD, DPI, OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women	8.1.1. Number of additional countries including youth representatives in national delegations to the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies to the United Nations system (DESA) 8.1.2. Number of young people and their organizations participating in the development of the Post-2015 agenda (UNDP) 8.1.3. Number of UN system initiatives to enable participation of young people in UN governance and decision-making (UNESCO, UN-HABITAT) 8.1.4. Number of young people participating in international fora and/or conferences organized by the UN system, as well as other capacity-building opportunities such as Model UN programmes (DPI)
	8.2. Young people and young people-led organizations are able to participate in all stages of achieving durable solutions for humanitarian and peacebuilding initiatives	Lead: PBSO, UNFPA Supporting: OSGEY, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women	8.2.1. Number of countries going through peacebuilding processes, supported by the UN system, that have institutional mechanisms to partner with young people in policy dialogue and programming (PBSO, UNFPA)
EDUCATION			
9. Strengthen the capacity of countries to develop high quality inclusive education, learning and training policies and programmes for young people	9.1. Initiatives implement to enhance national education policies, programmes and curricula in formal and non-formal education with the aim of improving the quality and relevance of the content, technologies, and teaching and learning processes	Lead: UNESCO, UNICEF Supporting: FAO, OSGEY, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UN Women	9.1.1. Number of additional countries who develop national gender-sensitive quality formal and non-formal education policies and programmes (UNESCO, UNICEF, UNGEI, FAO) 9.1.2. Number of additional countries who reform their curricula framework and develop teacher education (UNESCO, UNICEF) 9.1.3. Number of countries with increased proportion of young women and men transitioning into secondary education and improved retention (UNESCO)

			<p>9.1.4. Number of additional countries that integrated education for sustainable development³ into formal and non-formal educational policies, development plans and programmes (UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF)</p> <p>9.1.5. Number of additional countries that integrated peacebuilding and/or violence prevention into educational policies, development plans and programmes (UNESCO, UNICEF)</p>
	<p>9.2. Measures undertaken to support the implementation of inclusive, age-appropriate, and gender sensitive educational and learning opportunities focused on marginalized populations of young people</p>	<p>Lead: UNFPA, UNICEF</p> <p>Supporting: OSGEY, UNESCO, WHO</p>	<p>9.2.1. Number of additional countries with national partnerships and coalitions supporting girls' education and gender equality in education (UNESCO, UNICEF, UNGEI)</p> <p>9.2.2. Number of countries implementing quality education programmes to reach marginalized young people, including adolescent girls (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNGEI)</p>
	<p>9.3. Initiatives linking education and training with the world of work and enabling workplace learning supported as an element of education and training systems</p>	<p>Lead: ILO, UNESCO, UNEP</p> <p>Supporting: OSGEY, UNIDO, UNV</p>	<p>9.3.1. Number of additional countries developing or implementing policies for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) with the technical support of Un Agencies (UNESCO, ILO)</p> <p>9.3.2 Number of additional countries that have created an enabling environment for workplace learning (ILO)</p>

³ Education for Sustainable Development means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning. These include climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption, amongst others. It also requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development. Education for Sustainable Development consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way. It allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future.

<p>10. Influencing the global agenda in inclusive, gender sensitive and quality education for young people</p>	<p>10.1. Measures and mechanisms established for dissemination of good practices and knowledge sharing to inform education and training policies and programmes for young people</p>	<p>Lead: UNESCO Supporting: FAO, ILO, OSGEY, UNICEF</p>	<p>10.1.1. Number of additional countries collecting regular and standardized data to capture the educational attainment of the most disadvantaged young people, disaggregated by age and sex (UNESCO, UNICEF)</p> <p>10.1.2. Number of users of online databases on technical vocational education and training policies and good practices (UNESCO, ILO)</p>
<p>COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION</p>			
<p>11. Support efforts to provide young people with evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education</p>	<p>11.1. Gaps addressed in the model of delivery, content, quality and coverage of gender-sensitive and age-appropriate sexuality education curricula for in and out of school young people, with particular attention to marginalized and key populations⁴ of young people using the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education as a benchmark</p>	<p>Lead: UNESCO, UNFPA Supporting: OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO</p>	<p>11.1.1. Number of countries with comprehensive sexuality education curricula (in and out of school) aligned with international standards as a result of curricula assessment, advocacy, and training of Ministry of Education staff and partners (UNFPA)</p>
	<p>11.2. Capacities improved of relevant stakeholders to implement Comprehensive Sexuality Education for young people both in and out of school using the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality</p>	<p>Lead: UNESCO, UNFPA Supporting: FAO, OSGEY, UNAIDS,</p>	<p>11.2.1. Number of countries that are scaling up comprehensive sexuality education good practice models as a result of UN knowledge management support, south-south exchange, and technical support (UNFPA)</p> <p>11.2.2. Number of additional countries implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education programmes (UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA)</p>

⁴ Key populations, or key populations at higher risk, are groups of people who are more likely to be exposed to HIV or to transmit it and whose engagement is critical to a successful HIV response. In all countries, key populations include people living with HIV. In most settings, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs and sex workers and their clients are at higher risk of exposure to HIV than other groups. However, each country should define the specific populations that are key to their epidemic and response based on the epidemiological and social context.

	Education	UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO	
	11.3. Advocacy undertaken for national investment in evidence-informed age and gender-appropriate policies that promote access to quality and effective sexual and reproductive health information	Lead: UNESCO, UNFPA Supporting: FAO, OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO	11.3.1. Number of countries with policies that promote access to comprehensive Sexuality Education for young people in and out of school including the marginalized and key populations of young people (UNFPA)
HEALTH			
12. Countries supported to develop and enforce gender-sensitive laws and policies that promote and protect the health of all young people	12.1. Gender-sensitive laws and policies that fulfill the rights of all young people to autonomous decision making in matters of health, with special attention to sexual and reproductive health revised or established	Lead: UNFPA, WHO Supporting: OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women	12.1.1. Number of additional countries with provisions in national laws or regulations allowing adolescents including those with disabilities to informed consent to obtain medical interventions and access to sexual and reproductive health and/or HIV services (e.g. HIV counseling and testing, contraceptives, safe abortion where legal) (WHO)
	12.2. Gender-sensitive laws and multi-sectoral public policies to protect all young people from risk factors for negative health outcomes developed and/or enforced	Lead: UNFPA, WHO Supporting: DESA, ILO, OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women	12.2.1. Number of additional countries that developed and/or enforced laws and regulations to protect young people from the main causes of disease burden and their leading risk factors (WHO) 12.2.2. Number of additional countries that have national development plans and poverty reduction strategies addressing the health of young people (WHO, UNFPA) 12.2.3. Number of new or revised national action plans, policies and strategies on gender-based violence that include specific provisions and measures for young people (WHO)
	12.3. All young people have opportunities to engage as advocates	Lead: UNFPA	12.3.1. Number of additional countries that have institutional mechanisms to partner with young people in policy dialogue and programming on health

	for their right to health	Supporting: OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, WIPO	(UNFPA)
13. Countries' efforts supported to improve the capacity of health systems⁵ to universal coverage of gender-sensitive and age-appropriate health services to young people	13.1. Age and sex specific information on epidemiology, health-related behaviours, social determinants, access to and use of services is collected, analyzed, disseminated and used	Lead: UNICEF, WHO Supporting: DESA, OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNHCR	13.1.1. Number of additional countries that undertake a situation analysis including surveys (such as DHS, MICS, HBSC, GSHS, YRBS ⁶) that examines the epidemiological situation, health behaviours, social determinants and programmes on young people's health at least once in 5 years (WHO, UNICEF) 13.1.2. Number of additional countries that have available sex- and age-disaggregated data through administrative statistical systems relevant to health (DESA)
	13.2. The capacity of the health sector and other sectors' workforce to address the health concerns of all young people has been improved	Lead: UNFPA, WHO Supporting: OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC	13.2.1. Number of additional countries that have the health of young people as part of human resource development plans in the health sector (WHO) 13.2.2 Number of additional countries that are implementing interventions and policies for the prevention of drug use, the treatment, care and rehabilitation of drug dependence, and the prevention of the health and social consequences of drug use, including HIV/AIDS among young people (UNODC) 13.2.3. Number of additional countries in capacity development for the provision of essential sexual and reproductive health services to young people (UNFPA)
	13.3. Young people-friendly primary care services demand has been increased	Lead: UNFPA, WHO	13.3.1. Number of additional countries that have national standards for the delivery of health services to young people, including those addressing demand creation (WHO)

⁵ A health system includes all the activities whose primary purpose is to promote, restore or maintain health. In this definition, community actions and services – if their primary purpose is health – are part of health systems. Beyond the boundaries of this definition are those activities whose primary purpose is something other than health (education, for example) even if these activities have a secondary, health-enhancing benefit.

⁶ Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Health Behaviors of School Age Children Survey, Global School Health Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Survey

		<p>Supporting: OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNICEF</p>	<p>13.3.2. Number of additional countries that have put into place mental health promotion and prevention programmes, including suicide prevention for young people (WHO)</p> <p>13.3.3. Number of additional countries that have introduced HPV vaccination and reported increased coverage of the target population (WHO)</p> <p>13.3.4. Increased use of HIV services, harm reduction services and sexual and reproductive health services among young people (UNICEF, WHO)</p> <p>13.3.5. Number of additional countries that have put in place comprehensive specialized services for young people subject to or at risk of violence, including gender-based violence (WHO)</p> <p>13.3.6. Number of additional countries supported to design and implement comprehensive sexual and reproductive health programmes to reach marginalized adolescent girls (UNFPA)</p>
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