

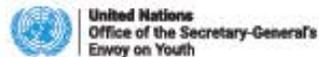
YOUTH2030

WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



What works to amplify the rights and voices of youth in peace and resilience building?

Lessons from the meta-synthesis of United Nations
evaluations to advance the United Nations Youth Strategy



Interagency meta-synthesis of lessons learned

Evaluative exercise across the UN system:

- Increase United Nations system coherence
- Fosters more strategic and effective inter-agency coordination and collaboration
- Advances the work of the United Nations on youth issues in a coordinated, coherent and holistic manner

Meta-synthesis of past evaluations:

- Leverage existing evidence and knowledge base
- Identifies shared lessons learned across agencies

Co-chair agencies:

- UNFPA and UNICEF

Reference group members:

- Evaluation and technical specialists
- United Nations entities and youth-led groups/networks: EvalYouth, IOM, OSGEY, DPPA/PBSO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOY, and YOUNGO

External consultants:

- Technical and evaluation experts

Purpose, objectives and scope

Purpose

- To generate evidenced-based learning on what works, what does not work in the past implementation of Priority 5 on peace and resilience building of Youth 2030

Objectives

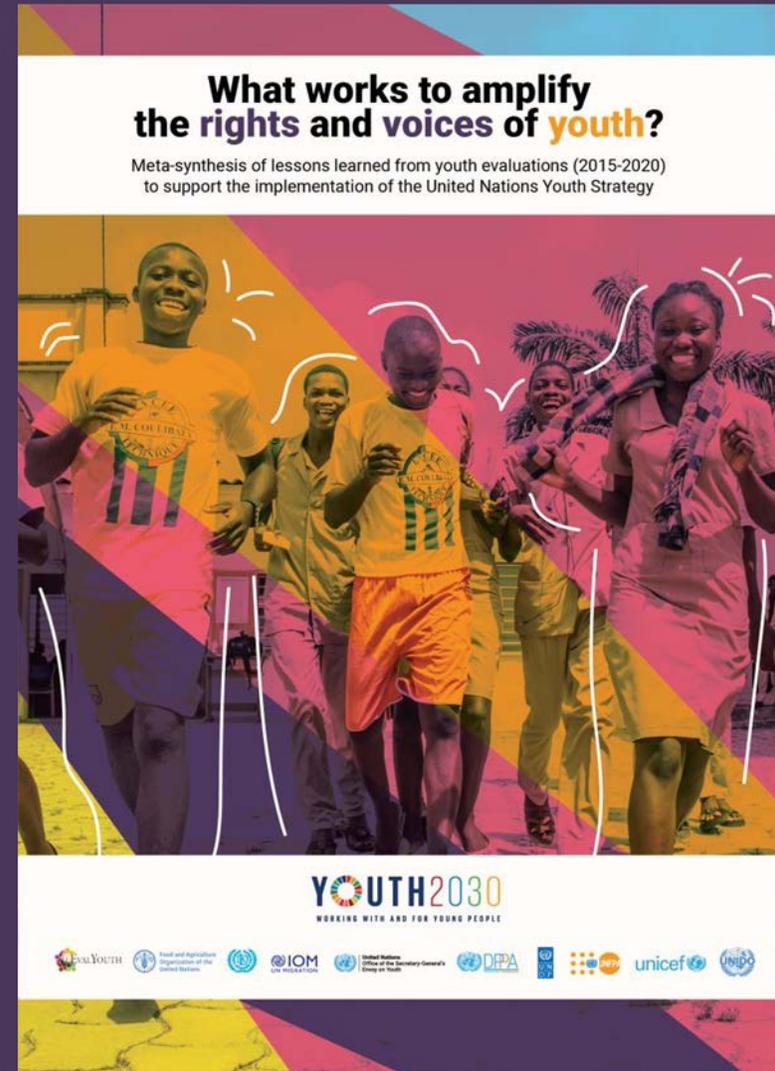
- To inform future implementation of Priority 5 of Youth 2030
- To contribute to existing knowledge on advancing the engagement, participation and advocacy of youth as well as youth and human rights
- To contribute to increasing United Nations coherence, lesson learning, and accountability

Scope

- Covers 2015 to 2020 (*accounting for progress made since the adoption of SDGs)

This meta-synthesis is the second exercise in a series of meta-syntheses focused on capturing lessons learned on the implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy

Access the first exercise ['What works to amplify the rights and voices of youth?'](#) focused on youth participation and youth and human rights



Methodology

Participatory and consultative approach

Reference group accompanied the exercise engaging in key points throughout the exercise

Evaluation selection

Inclusion and exclusion criteria used to identify evaluation reports to be reviewed

Synthesis questions

Questions used as a guiding framework for data extraction and analysis

Data extraction and synthesis

Emerging themes were extracted by thematic area. Then higher-level analysis conducted to synthesize lessons learned.

Methodology

Review of **121** evaluation reports
under **3** thematic areas
from **23** United Nations entities



Lessons Learned



Meaningfully engaging youth as leaders

1. Meaningfully engaging youth as leaders and creating an enabling environment for youth leadership in decision-making processes is critical for transformative change.

Enhancing inclusion through targeted adaptations

2. Interventions seeking to enhance the inclusion of diverse groups of young people were more successful when they adapted their activities to the different profiles of youth and the local context.

Utilizing interactive and experiential methodologies

3. Interactive and experiential methodologies offer effective, inclusive ways to build the capacity of youth in peacebuilding competencies.

Improving intergenerational trust and solidarity

4. Enhancing interaction between youth and duty bearers to improve intergenerational trust and solidarity can lead to catalytic and transformational effects in youth interventions.

Strategic and well-defined partnerships

5. Strategic and well-defined partnerships across civil society, governments and the private sector reap significant benefits for youth projects in terms of effectiveness, reach and inclusivity.

Lessons Learned | 1. Meaningfully engaging youth as leaders

Meaningfully engaging youth as leaders and creating an enabling environment for youth leadership in decision-making processes is critical for transformative change



Illustrative example: *IOM-UNDP South Sudan Final Evaluation of the 'Beyond Bentiu Protection of Civilian Site Youth Reintegration Strategy' project*

The evaluation noted:

- the intervention formed and strengthened platforms for youth leadership (e.g. peace committees, unity forums) that transformed the role of young people from observers to “champions of peace”
- activities allowed young people the capacity, opportunity and space to influence decision-making at a higher level in conflict and peace dynamics
- this approach built the “human, social, physical and financial capital of young people” and enhanced the social cohesion

Lessons Learned | 2. Enhancing inclusion through targeted adaptations

Interventions seeking to enhance the inclusion of diverse groups of young people were more successful when they adapted their activities to the different profiles of youth and the local context

Illustrative example: *UNDP mid-term evaluation of UNDP's Youth Empowerment Programme in Pakistan*

The evaluation noted:

- the intervention integrated activities that purposely and exclusively targeted female youth, as well as transgender youth
- activities included a focus on activities that are in line with their interests; promotion of activities using multiple channels; provision of transport to training venues; and use of technological solutions
- the targeted efforts helped to enhance the inclusion of these specific groups



Lessons Learned | 3. Utilizing interactive and experiential methodologies

Interactive and experiential methodologies offer effective, inclusive ways to build the capacity of youth in peacebuilding competencies



Illustrative example: *UNICEF Evaluation on Engaging Adolescents across Borders in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan for Sustainable Peace and Development*

The evaluation noted:

- the intervention incorporated creative arts as a communication for development approach to increase understanding and empathy across border communities
- activities included a joint photography contest, radio programming on tolerance, and short films, a digital platform for children, and television lessons to raise peacebuilding awareness
- this approach built trust and understanding of the adolescents' peacebuilding efforts among parents, caregivers and other community members.
- it also helped secure greater support for adolescents to participate in cross-border activities

Lessons Learned | 4. Improving intergenerational trust and solidarity

Enhancing interaction between youth and duty bearers to improve intergenerational trust and solidarity can lead to catalytic and transformational effects in youth interventions

Illustrative example: *UNFPA and UN-HABITAT end term evaluation: Youth political empowerment: enabling Somali young women and men to meaningfully engage in governance, peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts*

The evaluation noted:

- the intervention included training on leadership and intergenerational dialogue leading to increased confidence of youth to take up political activities and work with government authorities
- activities improved the government authorities' perceptions of youth, leading to more opportunities for youth participation
- this included the establishment of District Youth Councils as well as governance experts and youth fellows in the Ministries of Youth and Sports, creating permanent mechanisms for youth participation in local and national government



Lessons Learned | 5. Strategic and well-defined partnerships

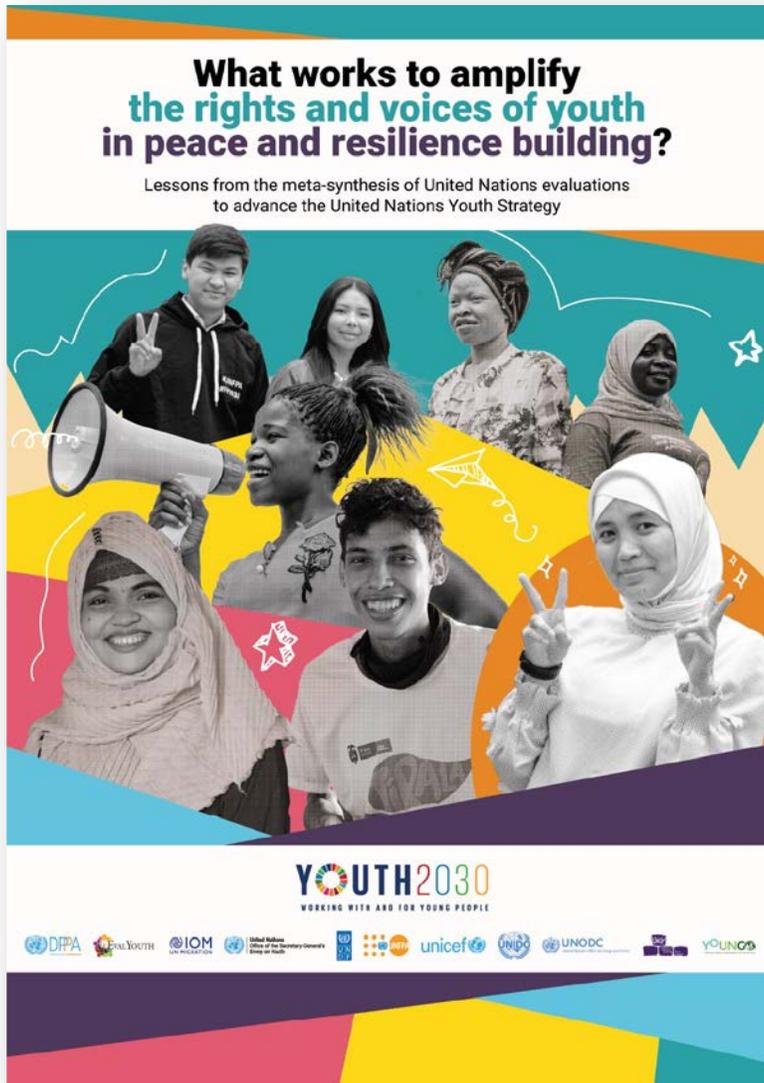
Strategic and well-defined partnerships across civil society, governments and the private sector reap significant benefits for youth projects in terms of effectiveness, reach and inclusivity

Illustrative example: *UNODC Independent project evaluation of the “Expressive Youth”: citizenship, access to justice and culture of peace in Brazil*

The evaluation noted:

- the intervention partnered with a diverse range of government actors including the federal district government, the civil and uniformed police of the federal district, the Public Security Council and the Office of the Attorney General
- it also facilitated collaborative actions that were promoted with the National Secretariat of Youth through youth dialogues
- such partnerships were reported as a driving factor of success and provided a foundation upon which further youth engagement with the government could be built





#Eval4Youth

The meta-synthesis is available at unfpa.org/evaluation

Access the materials

- Report
- Brief (EN, FR, SP)
- Brief video summarizing the lessons

For further details, please contact cadondon@unfpa.org and taritomi@unicef.org

 [@unfpa_eval](https://twitter.com/unfpa_eval)

 [UNFPA Evaluation Office](https://www.youtube.com/UNFPA-Evaluation-Office)