

MODULE 4: Providing youth with the right competences and skills to reach the SDGs

Youth Workers 4 Global Goals

CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH



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Introduction

One of the Key aspects in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is certainly to provide youth with the right competences and skills to reach them.

In this module we will have the opportunity to explore a little more about Youth, SDGs and the activities as well as initiatives in order to reach the SDGs in a way that no one is left behind and we can all improve and walk towards a more sustainable future together as a whole.

During the definition of the SDGs, it was clear from the beginning that a special focus needed to be placed in the youngest generation and in education. It is therefore with this in mind that several propositions and ideas were born. This progression and evolution of the thinking in this area has been always a dynamic environment in which new actors and discussions bring new ways of dealing with this process.

These modules are also in part a fruit of these decisions and will of the international community in providing young workers and professionals with the tools and competencies to make an impact and develop new ideas toward the achievement of the SDGs. The idea, indeed, is to allow local people to empower themselves and become actors of change in their communities.

Youth and the SDGs

Today, there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10-24—they are the largest generation of youth in history. Close to 90 per cent of them live in developing countries. Their numbers are expected to grow—between 2015 and 2030 alone, about 1.9 billion young people are projected to turn 15 years old. Connected to each other like never, young people want to and already contribute to the resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress and inspiring political change. They are also agents of change, mobilizing to advance the Sustainable Development Goals to improve the lives of people and the health of the planet.

Provided with the necessary skills and opportunities needed to reach their potential, young people can be a driving force for supporting development and contributing to peace and security. Youth-led organizations need to be encouraged and empowered to participate in translating the 2030 Agenda into local, national and regional policy. They play a significant role in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Agenda as well as in holding governments accountable. With political commitment and adequate resources, young people have the potential to make the most effective transformation of the world into a better place for all.



The UN and Youth

Building on its global convening role, the United Nations is particularly put to go about as a wellspring of security and backing for youngsters, and a stage through which their needs can be tended to, their voice can be intensified, and their commitment can be progressed.

The UN completely grasps youngsters' decent variety in the entirety of its structures. Along these lines, the UN utilizes and advocates for techniques and approaches intelligent of this decent variety to ensure every single youngster can arrive at their full commitment, strengthening and advancement. The UN perceives youngsters as rights-holders, and advances and encourages straightforwardness, responsibility, and responsiveness from governments, worldwide associations and others toward youngsters.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake was named United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in June 2017. As a worldwide backer for youth, she attempts to guarantee the cooperation of youngsters in issues that issue to them, giving them a voice at the UN and around the globe. Advocating the SDGs, she additionally brings crafted by the UN closer to youngsters around the globe.

The Young Leaders for the SDGs

In September 2016, the debut class of 17 Young Leaders was declared. Originating from various foundations, divisions and areas, Young Leaders are chosen dependent on their endeavors to end destitution, battle environmental change and lessen disparities.

They work with the Envoy on Youth to connect with youngsters in the SDG, advocate for their accomplishment and add to a cerebrum trust supporting the UN's promotion endeavors to assemble youngsters. Another class of Young Leaders will be reported in September 2018, during the UN General Assembly.

Roles for youth and the SDGs

1. **Critical thinkers:** Some portion of being youthful includes understanding individual encounters and posing inquiries about your general surroundings.



Youth have the ability to recognize and challenge existing force structures and obstructions to change, and to uncover inconsistencies and predispositions

2. **Change-makers:** Youngsters likewise have the ability to act and prepare others. Youth activism is on the ascent the world over, supported by more extensive availability and access to social media-based life.
3. **Innovators:** In addition to bringing fresh perspectives, young people often have direct knowledge of and insights into issues that are not accessible to adults. Youth best comprehend the issues they confront and can offer new thoughts and elective arrangements.
4. **Communicators:** Outside the international development sector, few people are aware that world leaders have come to a historic, far-reaching agreement to improve the lives of people and the planet by 2030. Young people can be partners in communicating the development agenda to their peers and communities at the local level, as well as across countries and regions.
5. **Leaders:** When young people are empowered with the knowledge of their rights and equipped with leadership skills, they can drive change in their communities and countries. Youth-led organizations and networks, in particular, should be supported and strengthened, because they contribute to the development of civic leadership skills among young people, especially marginalized youth.





Youth for SDGs - Promoting youth involvement for the SDGs worldwide

Youth for SDGs Action Network is the on-line forum for youth around the globe to share their SDG commitments with the world.

Future Rangers Program

The Future Rangers Program is addressing a problem expressed by anti-poaching rangers, lack of youth connection to wildlife. With this program being piloted in one of the highest poaching areas in the world, we aim to address the poaching crisis by helping to provide opportunities for passion, leadership training, and employment in local youth communities bordering the protected areas, as lack of employment opportunities is one of the main drivers for poaching.

Young African Leaders Initiative - Rlc Ea

Africa's large youth population presents a complex problem that requires strategic investments in education, health, energy, skills, economic reforms and good governance. At a time when sub-Saharan Africa is going through significant changes in economic, social and political, technological and environmental frontiers, some youth across Africa are being left out.

Youth Initiative for Empowering Leadership and Development (YIELD)

Contributing towards harnessing youth's potential as active citizen for peace and development in Delhi, YIELD (Youth Initiative for empowering leadership and development) sets agenda for empowerment of marginalized youth from different slum clusters of Delhi with objectives to encourage active citizenship

Youth for Global Goals

Youth 4 Global Goals (Youth4GG) is an initiative that aims to activate young people to contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also referred to as the Global Goals and Agenda 2030. Activating youth will happen in three stages: Awareness, Understanding and Action.



YSA (Youth Service America)

Founded in 1986, Youth Service America® supports a global culture of engaged children and youth committed to a lifetime of meaningful service, learning, and leadership. With half the world's population under age 25, our mission is to help all young people find their voice, take action, and make an impact on vital community issues.

The YSA program model:

- Activates through campaigns like Global Youth Service Day and Semester of Service.
- Funds with YSA Grants.
- Trains with resources and trainings offered in the YSA Learning Center.
- Recognizes through awards, storytelling, and visibility campaigns.

Through Youth Service America's programs, youth lead community change through:

- Awareness (educating others to change behaviors),
- Service (using their passion, creativity, and idealism to solve problems through volunteerism),
- Advocacy (to change policies and laws),
- Philanthropy (generating and donating financial and in-kind support).

What We Do



Activate	Fund	Train
<p><i>Large-scale activation campaigns – engaging 3.2 million young people over the last 10 years – including Global Youth Service Day, 9/11 Day of Service, MLK Day of Service, and Service Vote.</i></p>	<p><i>YSA Grants – totaling over \$5.8 million dollars over the last 10 years – are awarded to youth, K-12 schools, youth development organizations, and community-based organizations for youth-led service projects</i></p>	<p><i>A wide variety of free resources and trainings available in the YSA Knowledge Center help youth and their adult mentors plan high-quality, high-impact service and service-learning projects</i></p>

Objective of the UN Youth Strategy

The Strategy aims to facilitate increased impact and expanded global, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the world, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global agendas and frameworks.





Strengthening the foundations for a UN that delivers with and for young people

Young people’s empowerment, development and engagement is an end in itself, just as a way to assemble a superior world. The UN remembers it can't accomplish its strategic banding together with youngsters and guaranteeing they are heard as well as comprehended, connected as well as enabled, and supporting as well as driving worldwide endeavors and procedures. Youngsters should be undeniable accomplices in the United Nations work to construct a superior world for all, as they are the two recipients and partners. Through its Youth Strategy, the UN tries to turn into a Leadership Example, Knowledge and Innovation Pioneer, an Investment and Solution Catalyst, and an Accountability Leader, by merging toward duties and deliberately chose activities offering life to each of these. These cross-cutting framework wide activities and intercessions, recorded underneath, will bolster the general limit of the UN to progress and convey on the five key need zones sketched out in the ensuing segment of this system.

A Leadership Example:	
<p><i>The UN will support youth leadership across the organization and build staff awareness and capacity on youth-related issues.</i></p>	<p>Mainstreaming structures: Ensure a Youth Focal Point function in each UN country team and mission, to support the system-wide country level coordination on youth.</p>
	<p>Youth engagement platforms: Consider putting in place mechanisms, such as e.g. youth advisory boards, within each relevant UN entity, to provide a channel for input and feedback from young people on UN work. This should be done in ways that reflect the diversity of young people and their organizations</p>
	<p>Dialogue opportunities: Establish regular online and offline engagements between young people and UN Senior managers, including the Secretary-General.</p>
	<p>Capacity building: Provide orientation briefing on youth issues to Resident</p>



	Coordinators, UN Entity representatives, and other senior management positions.
	Roster of experts: Combine existing rosters of experts on youth issues and expand it to become more diverse
	Strengthening internship programs: Engage with relevant decision-making bodies and identify innovative solutions with a view of establishing minimum quality standards across the UN for internship programs and advance efforts to ensure adequate compensation of interns and widening of the intern pool
	Talent management: Expand and replicate in UN entities successful human resource modalities for attracting young talent, such as the Young Professional Program, Management Reassignment Program, fellowship programs and UN youth volunteers. Promote across the UN system mobility and support career development of young staff.

A Knowledge and Innovation Pioneer:	
<p><i>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</i></p>	Data tool: Set forth comprehensive data tool for monitoring global, regional and national progress in young people's development using SDG, WPAY, and other indicators
	Online knowledge platform: Develop a system-wide repository with easy access to all youth-related knowledge and programs across the UN



	<p>UN Youth Academy: Organize a recurring UN Youth Academy bringing together the UN System and diverse stakeholders to discuss youth realities, trends and prospects while sharing knowledge and experiences</p>
	<p>Analysis: Establish a streamlined approach to country-level youth situation analysis and youth-specific indicators as part of the UNDAF/UNSF/Common Country Assessments and national development frameworks, and explore regional and global youth reporting that connects these national youth situation analyses</p>
	<p>Common research agenda: Identify subjects of common interest and new joint and forward-looking research</p>
	<p>Youth Innovation Labs: Drawing on accurate diagnostics, convene multi-stakeholders working group at the country-level to reflect on innovative solutions to existing challenges</p>
	<p>Youth-led innovation: Provide targeted and enabling support to youth-led organizations and initiatives to pilot new models and interventions</p>
	<p>Polling: Undertake polling initiatives among young people at global, regional, national and local levels to gather their perspectives and inform the UN's work and dedicated processes</p>



An Investment and Solution Catalyst	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>A Global Youth Investment and Partnership Platform: Create an online umbrella platform to attract and direct investment in youth-related programming</p>
	<p>A common resource mobilization strategy: Formulate a common, innovative and coordinated resource mobilization strategy with a specific focus on mainstreaming youth across existing funding mechanisms and identifying funding solutions for under-financed areas</p>
	<p>Results-based communications: Adopt a system-wide results-based communications approach for donors to clearly see the impact of their investments</p>
	<p>Youth participation funding: Identify ways to ensure dedicated funding for youth participation in all relevant UN entities and at all levels.</p>
	<p>Joint Programs: Mobilize greater resources at the country level by strengthening and expanding UN joint programs on youth</p>

An Accountability Leader	
<p><i>The UN will seek to ensure UN entities successfully address youth issues through their programming; effectively and meaningfully engage young people in</i></p>	<p>Guidelines: Prepare general guidelines for all UN entities to respect the principles of responsive youth development and meaningful youth engagement.</p>



<p><i>their work; and track budget allocations and expenditures</i></p>	<p>Markers: Employ a youth marker system to track progress and ensure UN programming contributes to youth empowerment and intergenerational equity.</p>
	<p>Commitments: Encourage youth-related commitments and goals by senior UN management as part of their annual compacts</p>
	<p>Evaluation: Develop a system-wide approach to impartial impact evaluation of the UN's youth programming</p>
	<p>Review: Conduct an annual review of implementation of the Youth Strategy</p>
	<p>Transparency: Make public information on the implementation of the Youth Strategy</p>



Priority Areas of the UN Youth Strategy



The UN is committed to strengthening its capacity to meet new demands and deliver more effective results with and for young people, in line with ongoing UN Reforms. In this regard, the UN will build on existing and future initiatives at system level and intensify its efforts in the following interconnected priority areas

FIRST PRIORITY: Engagement, Participation and Advocacy - Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world

SECOND PRIORITY: Informed and Healthy Foundations - Support young people's greater access to quality education and health services

THIRD PRIORITY: Economic Empowerment through Decent Work - Support young people's greater access to decent work and productive employment

FOURTH PRIORITY: Youth and Human Rights – Protect and promote the rights of young people and support their civic and political engagement

FIFTH PRIORITY: Peace and Resilience Building – Support young people as catalysts for Peace and Security & Humanitarian Action



FIRST PRIORITY: Engagement, Participation and Advocacy - Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world



The UN will:

Mainstream: Incorporate across all entities of the UN and work relating to all UN pillars, the need to meaningfully and sustainably engage

Expand: Review, improve and widen existing UN modalities for cooperation, dialogue and partnerships with youth-led organizations, networks and movements

Assist: Provide guidance and technical support to UN entities for the establishment or strengthening of youth engagement mechanisms

Engage: Advocate for expanded and meaningful youth participation in intergovernmental forums at the global and regional levels

Set standards: 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

Connect: Enhance how the UN reaches out, communicates with, listens to and responds to young people

Strengthen: Reinforce and expand the UN's capacities and resources to identify, value and showcase contributions of diverse young people



Amplify: Partner with young people who globally, nationally or locally advocate for the values of the UN to amplify and reinforce their voices and increase the reach and impact of global youth movements they are building

SECOND PRIORITY: Informed and Healthy Foundations - Support young people's greater access to quality education and health services



The UN will:

Advocate for quality education: Engage Member States and other partners to ensure universal access to quality education

Promote non-formal education: Support and advance youth policy frameworks

Ensure accessible and youth-responsive health services and healthy environments: Incorporate an approach that is inclusive of young people in the UN's support to strengthening national health systems

Support youth-friendly mental health services: Ensure accessibility of youth-friendly mental health services, within the greater context of universal health coverage

Support sexual and reproductive health and rights: Leverage the UN's advocacy and programmatic capacities to expand young people's access to youth-friendly and rights-based sexual and reproductive health services



THIRD PRIORITY: Economic Empowerment through Decent Work - Support young people's greater access to decent work and productive employment



The UN will:

Uphold global commitment: Renew and strengthen efforts toward decent work for young people by focusing on evidence-based, scalable and innovative solutions and alliances

Advocate for a balanced approach: Engage Member States and other partners to advocate for a balanced approach to stimulate the youth labor demand and prompt improvements in skills development systems

Guide and support: Support Member States and other partners in their efforts to create youth-enabling employment and self-employment ecosystems and to develop and operationalize strategies

Promote access to services and productive assets: Ensure access of young people to integrated and adequate services as well as productive resources, such as land, finance, digital and other technology related resources

Foster a just transition to a low-carbon and green economy: Engage Member States and other partners to accelerate the transition towards green and climate friendly economies through mitigation and adaptation strategies that improve energy efficiency and limit greenhouse gas emissions



FOURTH PRIORITY: Youth and Human Rights – Protect and promote the rights of young people and support their civic and political engagement



The UN will:

Protect and promote young people’s human rights: Prioritize advocacy, policy development and programming to safeguard the human rights of young people

Raise awareness about the specific situation of young people’s rights: Promote a deeper understanding of the youth-specific barriers and challenges young people face in accessing their human rights

Mainstream human rights: Promote the mainstreaming of all rights of young people into the work of treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms

Promote participation in political and public affairs: Leverage the capacity of the UN to promote young people’s right to participate in public affairs

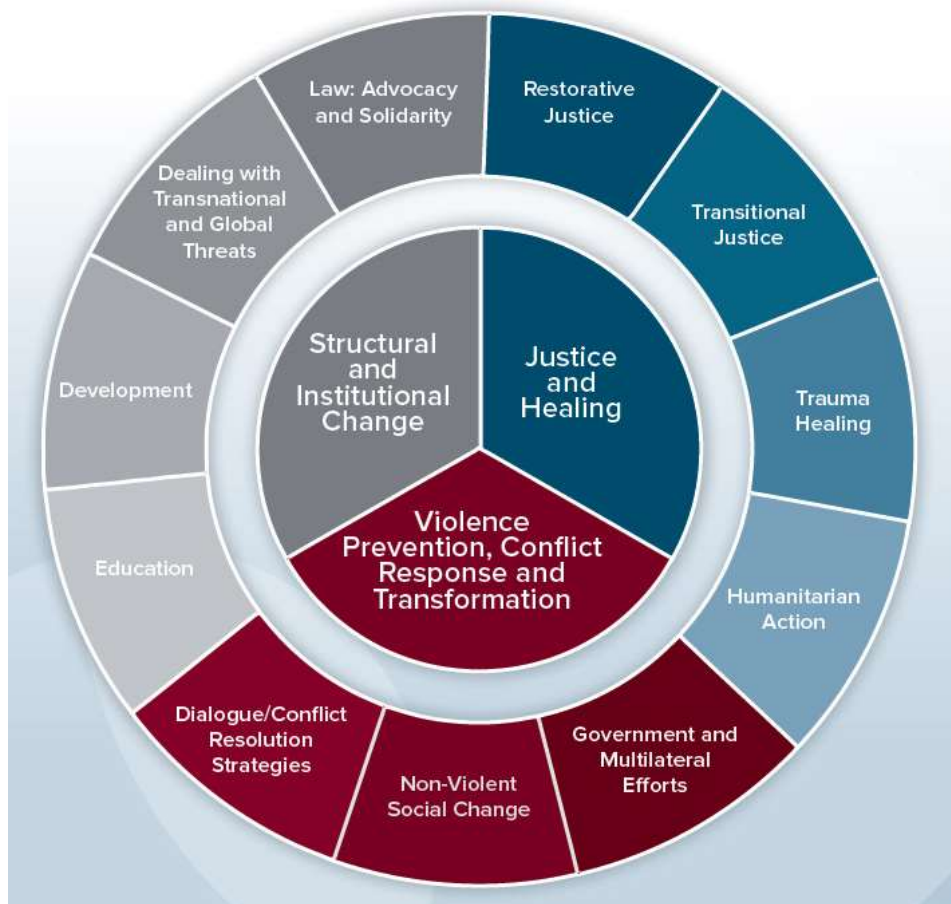
Develop capacity and human rights education: Increase UN’s efforts to promote human rights education and training for youth



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FIFTH PRIORITY: Peace and Resilience Building – Support young people as catalysts for Peace and Security & Humanitarian Action



The UN will:

Promote an enabling environment: Recognize young people’s important and positive contribution to peace and security, prevention of violence, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and climate action

Promote youth participation in formal peace processes: Encourage and facilitate the meaningful participation of young people in all phases of formal peace and peacebuilding processes

Promote safe public spaces: Ensure young people have physical areas to gather to live, learn and work

Convene and buttress partnerships: Strengthen local, national, regional and global partnerships and collaboration, including between youth-led organizations and governments



Foster continuous dialogue: Establish and support inclusive, representative, democratic and structured dialogue and consultation platforms for young people's contribution to peace, security, humanitarian and climate actions

Reinforce capacity: Reinforce the capacity of youth-led organizations involved in peace, security, humanitarian and climate action to increase the impact of their work and their organizational sustainability

Expand opportunities: Create spaces for young people to contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace through participation in intercultural and interreligious dialogue to prevent conflict

Protect and support youth in humanitarian settings: Ensure integrated support for young people in humanitarian settings with a focus on their protection

Coordination, Governance and Operationalization



The responsibility for UN Youth Strategy is similarly shared by all individuals from the UN framework at the worldwide, provincial and national levels. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth will be the open substance of the UN Youth Strategy and will lead worldwide promotion endeavors and its High-Level Steering Committee on the side of its fruitful usage.

COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE: The governance of the UN Youth Strategy will be rooted in existing global, regional and national mechanisms and reinforced by a High-



Level Steering Committee. A successful implementation of the UN Youth Strategy will directly depend on effective and efficient collaboration between UN entities as well as ingenious synergies among the priorities and actions outlined in the Strategy and its Action Plan. The implementation of the UN Youth Strategy will benefit from the strategic guidance of a High-Level Steering Committee composed of:

- a) *The Secretary General's Envoy on Youth*
- b) *The IANYD co-chairs*
- c) *a select number of biennially rotating UN Entities (one or two per priority area whose work is central to the Strategy (at ASG level))*
- d) *2 biennially rotating representatives of a global youth-led platform/organization*

OPERATIONALIZATION: So as to guarantee productive trade of data and thoughts between the nation level and the High-level Steering Committee, Regional Interagency coordination components on youth will be routinely connected by the Global IANYD to contribute input. It is normal that Regional IANYDs will intently work together with UN Country Teams on the Strategy's usage and audit.

Conclusion

In this module you had the opportunity to find out more about the programs, initiatives and some key ideas that are driving international organizations to explore new ways to reach the SDGs and give youth the tools and competencies to do so.

It is very important that you keep learning about them, this will give you even more strength to initiate your own path to make an impact in helping reach the SDGs. It is crucial to keep updated about new ideas, partnering with other young leaders, professionals and people involved in the Goals you want to tackle knowing all the possible helps and existing platforms in order to have a create result and really make the difference.

You can find more information in the next modules and complete your formation as in the Module n°5 you will see Technology and Innovation applied to the SDGs.