UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM—WIDE
ACTION PLAN ON
YOUTH

Goals & Outcomes

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.

EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

1.2. Multi-pronged youth employment strategies implemented through gender-sensitive national policies and time-bound action plans

1.3. Young people and their organizations engaged in the development of national youth employment strategies

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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 WORK[1]

2.1. Mechanisms for monitoring and sharing information on rights at work for youth strengthened

2.2. Strategies implemented to increase employability and ease the transitions to decent work for disadvantaged youth

2.3. Countries assisted in developing comprehensive and evidence-based employment and livelihoods programmes targeting disadvantaged youth

[1] 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.

EMPLOYMENT AND 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

3.2. Increased financial inclusion of youth living in rural and urban areas

3.3. Increased access to assets and services by young entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas

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

4.2. Innovative approaches to entrepreneurship expanded, with a view to increasing job opportunities for young women and men

4.3. Information on entrepreneurial opportunities for young people made available through in-person and online services

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PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

5. SUPPORT COUNTRIES 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

5.2. Potential gaps in existing human rights instruments applicable to youth identified

5.3. Access to information on, for and by young people on rights improved

6. PROMOTE YOUNG PEOPLE'S EFFECTIVE INCLUSIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

6.1. Capacities of young people-led organizations and networks enhanced to support civic engagement and participation of young people

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

6.3. Internal capacity enhanced of the UN system to provide policy and technical support on the inclusive civic engagement of young people

POLITICAL INCLUSION

7. SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN INCLUSIVE POLITICAL PROCESSES AND DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES

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

7.2. Young people's leadership skills and capacities promoted to participate actively in democratic practices, including in local, national and global processes

7.3. Young women's participation and presence in political office and decision-making at local, national, regional and global levels promoted

8. SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE'S INCLUSION IN DECISION MAKING AND IN ALL LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

8.1. Young people and young people-led organizations are supported to participate in United Nations governance and decision-making processes

8.2. Young people and young people-led organizations are supported so as to be able to participate in all stages of achieving durable solutions for peacebuilding initiatives

EDUCATION, INCLUDING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY 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 implemented 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

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

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

10. INFLUENCE THE GLOBAL AGENDA IN INCLUSIVE, GENDER SENSITIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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

EDUCATION, INCLUDING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

11. SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROVIDE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EVIDENCE-BASED COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

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 populations[2] of young people using the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education as a benchmark

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 Education

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

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[2] 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.

HEALTH

12. SUPPORT COUNTRIES 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

12.2 All young people have opportunities to engage as advocates for their right to health

12.3. Gender-sensitive laws and multi-sectorial public policies to protect all young people from risk factors for negative health outcomes developed and/or enforced

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13. SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY OF HEALTH SYSTEMS[3] 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

13.2. The capacity of the health sector and other sectors' workforce to address the health concerns of all young people has been improved

13.3. Young people-friendly primary care services demand has been increased

[3] 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.