

**Regional Framework
of Joint Strategic Actions
for Young People**

2016 – 2017

**in the Arab States
and Middle East
and North Africa Region**

United Nations Inter-Agency
Technical Task Team
on Young People (UN IATTTYP)

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Colophon



United Nations Interagency Technical Task Team on Young People



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List of acronyms

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| 3RP | Regional Refugee Resilience and Response Plan | ToT | Training of Trainers |
| AIDS | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome | TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| CSE | Comprehensive Sexuality Education | UN ESCWA | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia |
| eMTCT | Ending Mother to Child Transmission | UNAIDS | The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| DJ4Y | Decent Jobs for Youth | UNDG | United Nations Development Group |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| CBOs | Community Based Organizations | UNESCO | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| CD | Communicable Diseases | UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| EIIP | Employment Intensive Investment Programmes | UNHABITAT | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |
| EMIS | Education Management Information System | UNHCR | United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees |
| EU | European Union | UN IATTTYP | United Nations Interagency Technical Task Team on Young People |
| FBOs | Faith Based Organizations | UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| GCED | Global Citizenship Education | UNRWA | United Nations Relief and Works Agency |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product | UNV | United Nations Volunteers |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus | UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology | VTC | Vocational Training Center |
| IDPs | Internally Displaced Persons | WBL | Work Based Learning |
| IDUs | Injecting Drug Users | WHO | World Health Organization |
| ILO | International Labour Organization | YFHS | Youth Friendly Health Services |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology | Youth-SWAP | United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Youth |
| IT | Information Technology | Y-Peer | Youth Peer Education Network |
| KPI | Key Performance Indicators | | |
| LAS | League of Arab States | | |
| LGBTI | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/ Trans-sexual, and Inter-sexed | | |
| NEET | Not in Education, Employment or Training | | |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goals | | |
| MENA | Middle East and North Africa | | |
| MSM | Males having Sex with Males | | |
| MSMEs | Micro Small and Medium Enterprises | | |
| NCD | Non Communicable Diseases | | |
| NHIS | National Health Information System | | |
| OOSCI | Out of School Children Initiative | | |
| PAPFAM | Pan Arab Project for Family Health | | |
| PPP | Public Private Partnership | | |
| PWDs | Persons with Disabilities | | |
| QAF | Quality Assurance Framework | | |
| RDT | Regional Directors Team | | |
| r/IATTTYP | Regional Interagency Task Team on Young People | | |
| RPL | Recognize Prior Learning | | |
| RSSP | Relief and Social Services Programme (UN RWA) | | |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals | | |
| STIs | Sexual Transmitted Infections | | |

Acknowledgments



Introduction and Background

This Regional Framework of Joint Strategic Actions for Young People in the Arab States and MENA Region has been developed at the crucial time, when global development partners are collectively renewing their commitments to development, peace, respect for the human rights principles and the rule of law through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the Sustainable Development Goals at its core.

The post-2015 development agenda brings a renewed challenge to the United Nations development system:

- to ensure a United Nations that is 'fit for purpose';
- to further provide policy and programme support;
- and to remain relevant in an aid environment where Member States have access to an increasing number of development cooperation alternatives.

For the Arab States and Middle East and North Africa (MENA), this comes at a time when the entire region is still under the rippling effects of the so-called 'Arab Spring', with the added challenges resulting from insecurities and armed conflicts and their humanitarian consequences.

Within this broader context, the members of the Regional United Nations Development Group (r/UNDG) Inter-Agency Technical Task Team on Young People (IATTTYP) have

agreed to rethink their current working mechanisms and develop a framework that can further facilitate the delivery of a common agenda, addressing the urgent needs of all young people in the region in the post-2015 era. An extensive consultative process at the regional and country levels led to the development of this framework, which was endorsed by the r/UNDG in 2016. A list of the participating agencies and individuals is attached in annex I and a full description of the process and methodology is included in annex II.

This *Regional Framework of Joint Strategic Actions for Young People* is not a comprehensive list of joint activities that will be implemented in the years 2016-2017. It is, rather, a collectively agreed compilation of key strategic priorities and actions responding to the needs of young people. These priorities will bring United Nations agencies together at the regional and country levels to generate greater impact in realizing the rights of young people in the Arab States/MENA region.

Situation Analysis

Over the past decades, literature on the situation in the Arab States or MENA region has always started with a statement on the volatility of the region due to its geopolitical context. This has never been as true as it is now.

The region is still feeling the effects of the aftermath of the 'Arab Spring', with an increasing number of countries in conflict or affected by conflicts in neighbouring countries. As the Syrian crisis enters its fifth year, almost half of the Syrian population has been forced to leave their homes, 4 million people have fled to neighbouring countries and more recently, to European countries. Some 7.6 million Syrians are internally displaced, with an estimated 2.8 million living in accessible areas and 4.8 million living in hard-to-reach areas. The number of those fleeing is expected to reach 4.3 million by the end of December 2015 (13 per cent of them aged 12-17 years). The crisis has had an unprecedented impact on both the Syrian Arab Republic and on neighbouring countries receiving Syrian refugees; Jordan and Lebanon now have the highest per capita ratios of refugees worldwide.¹

In neighbouring Iraq, as of June 2015 there were just under 4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 288,000 refugees.² Providing basic social services remains a daily challenge, affecting more than one sector. For example, a cholera outbreak in September 2015 led to delays in the start of the school year.³

The conflict in Yemen started in September 2014 and intensified in March 2015. Some 80 per cent of the population require protection and assistance, including 2.3 million people who have been internally displaced. Some 170,000 Yemenis, refugees and third country nationals fled from Yemen to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia,

Sudan and some Gulf countries.⁴ The conflict has had a devastating effect on basic services in Yemen. More than 3,500 schools were closed and an estimated 1.6 million children did not have access to schools even before March 2015. Since then, an additional 1.8 million children are no longer able to attend school. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 600 of the country's 4,000 health facilities have stopped functioning.⁵

All this comes at a time when the Arab States are at a demographic turning point. Most of the countries in the region are reaching the peak of the 'youth bulge', the largest cohort of young people in their history.

Some 29 per cent of the population in the Arab States is in the age group 10-24 years.⁶ This can translate into serious challenges or opportunities, depending on the investments made in this cohort of young people. Especially crucial is investing in the young women who face tremendous inequities that result in disparities in education, protection, employment and political/public participation.

For countries with a young population, the immediate challenge is to generate the skills and economic opportunities that bring hope of employment, security and rising living standards. Thus, investment in young people in the region is essential to turn the 'youth bulge' into a demographic dividend.

¹ UNHCR, Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2015-2016, 2015.

² UNHCR 2015 Country Operation Profile, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e486426.html>

³ UNICEF Press Brief, 6 November 2015, Concern over Iraq cholera outbreak prompts accelerated response.

⁴ Yemen Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan January to December 2016, December 2015.

⁵ UNHCR, Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2015-2016, 2015. OCHA Yemen updates, crisis overview, December 2015.

⁶ UNHCR, Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2015-2016, 2015. UNFPA, State of the World Population Report 2014, page 115.

All countries in the region fair poorly in their Global Gender Gap Index and Gender Inequality Index; the former is at its 'best' in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (117 and 119 respectively) and at its worst in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen (143 and 145 respectively).⁷

One of the most pressing issues facing young people is high unemployment rates. The Arab States/ MENA region has the highest youth unemployment rate in the world, having reached 28.2 per cent in the Middle East and 30.5 per cent in North Africa in 2014, with considerable variations between countries. While youth unemployment rates are decreasing over time in other regions, they continue to deteriorate in the Arab States/MENA region.⁸ The key factors hindering young people's economic insertion are multiple and interconnected: a fast-growing youth population; low quality of education that is unable to provide the skills on demand in the labour market (skills mismatch); structural labour market challenges where the public sector – traditionally the largest employer of the region – is unable to cope with the large demand for jobs; job-generation by the private sector that remains relatively limited; low enterprise creation; and inequality of opportunities, which makes gaining access to the job market more difficult for the most marginalized.

The situation is even bleaker for young women, whose unemployment rates reach 41.7 per cent compared to 22.8 per cent among young men. Variations among and within countries are also very noticeable; in 2013, for example, youth unemployment was 19 per cent in Morocco, 30 per cent in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, 40 per cent in State of Palestine and 42 per cent in Tunisia. 'Zooming in' within the same countries will show similar great disparities, which are always much more profound for women.⁹

Given the political situation and instabilities in the region, such rates are expected at best to stabilize in the coming years.¹⁰ Youth labour force participation rates also vary significantly across the region, ranging from 19.9 per cent in Saudi Arabia to 29.9 per cent in Lebanon, 34 per cent in Egypt and 53.9 per cent in the United Arab Emirates.

The rate of youth Neither in Employment nor in Education or Training (NEET) has received increased attention and focus after its inclusion in the Sustainable Development

⁷ World Economic Forum, The Global Gender Gap Report, 2015.

⁸ ILO, Global Employment trends 2014, Scaling Up Investment in Decent Jobs for Youth, 2015, page 18.

⁹ ILO, Global Employment Trends 2014, Risk of Jobless Recovery, Geneva, 2014, page p62. Calculated as un-weighted country averages for the Arab MENA region as per ILO definition.

¹⁰ Ibid. Calculated as un-weighted country averages for the Arab MENA region as per ILO definition.

Key Issues for Young People in Arab States and the MENA Region

- More than 10 countries are in conflict or are neighbours to countries in conflict and thus are affected by their situation.
- Gender Index: An urgent need to invest in young women who have an alarmingly low rate of participation in the labour market, the political sphere and in public life in general.
- Youth unemployment is the highest in the world, at 28.2 per cent in the Middle East and 30.5 percent in North Africa; 41.7 per cent for young women, 22.8 per cent among young men.
- Young people who are out of school, at risk of dropping out or who have dropped out of school are a serious concern.
- In nine countries affected by conflict, more than 13 million children are not attending school.
- Increased concern about early marriage. The highest rates of early/child marriage in the region are found in Yemen (48 per cent), Somalia (45 per cent) and Sudan (38 per cent).
- Limited opportunities for civic engagement. Arab youth participate more in protests and demonstrations, and less in civic groups and in electoral voting.
- In 2010, 29 per cent of Arab youth participated in demonstrations compared to 15 per cent globally, while 19 per cent of youth participated in civic groups (15 per cent females, 25 per cent males).
- In the Eastern Mediterranean region (as defined by WHO), one in five deaths among adolescent males in low- and middle-income countries is due to war or conflict, and the leading cause of mortality among adolescent girls is related to maternal health.

Goal indicators.¹¹ The indicator aims to address a broad array of vulnerabilities among youth, touching on issues of unemployment, early school leaving and labour market discouragement. Emerging examples from countries like Iraq, Jordan and State of Palestine are alarming; 39 per cent of Iraqi youth, 28 per cent of Jordanian youth and 31 per cent of Palestinian youth are neither in employment, education or training, with much higher rates for females, e.g., greater than 60 per cent in Iraq.¹²

Challenges in finding or maintaining employment and other economic and social factors have led to a delayed transition of youth into adulthood - increased 'waithood' - with delays in marriage and family formation resulting from the high costs associated with this transition.¹³ Fifty per cent of men aged 25-29 years are not married due to a number of factors, but most importantly the extremely high cost of marriage, including especially access to affordable housing, and the economic challenges faced by so many young men in the region.

Given the economic and security challenges, youth are keen to migrate from the region. Overall migration and the desire to migrate have grown dramatically in the Arab States. The number of youth migrants (15-24 years) doubled between 1990 and 2013, with 63 per cent of them being men.¹⁴

Youth literacy rates remain high, with an average rate of 90 per cent in 2012, but with gender disparities (93 per cent for males compared to 87 per cent for females).¹⁵ The region has witnessed increased school enrolment rates especially in primary education (89 per cent in 2012) and to a lesser extent in secondary education (65 per cent in 2012), which is still below the world average of 66 per cent. The sharpest downturn has been in the Syrian Arab Republic, where as a result of the conflict, enrolment rates declined from 69 per cent in 2012 to 44 per cent in 2013,¹⁶ and with the continuation of the crisis, enrolment rates are likely to have declined further in 2015.

Young people who are out of school, at risk of dropping out or who have dropped out of school are an issue of concern in the region. In half of the countries in the region, at least 1 in 10 children drops out before the last grade of secondary level.¹⁷ Boys are at greater risk of dropping out and girls are at greater risk of not enrolling in secondary education. Factors accounting for this include child labour, socioeconomic vulnerabilities and harmful gender-based practices such as early marriage, which may often be linked to trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence and further exploitation of young brides.

The conflict in the region had a devastating effect on school attendance. In nine countries in conflict or affected by conflict,¹⁸ more than 13 million children are not attending school. In the Syrian Arab Republic, for example, one in four schools can no longer be used, 2 million students are out of school and almost 450,000 are at risk of dropping out. In Yemen, 1.8 million students are without education due to the conflict, in addition to the 1.6 million who were already out of school before the conflict started.¹⁹ Those who are lucky to attend school often do so in overcrowded schools, face bullying or must study from a different curriculum while their families struggle to cover even the sometimes minimal costs related to their education.²⁰

In the MENA region, there are high levels of violence committed in various forms against young people as well as alarming levels of violence between peers. Yemen has the worst level of violence against children, scoring highest across several indicators worldwide.²¹ The state of mental health is also an issue of concern in the region in the face of numerous long-standing armed conflicts and wars. Studies have shown that exposure to traumatic events can result in mental, behavioural and emotional problems for this cohort. One study found the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder among children and adolescents to be between 23 and 70 per cent in the State of Palestine and between 10 and 30 per cent in Iraq.²²

¹¹ ILO, Global Employment Trends, 2015.

¹² ILO Regional Office for Arab States and Understanding Children's Work Programme (UCW), The Twin Challenge of Child Labour and Youth Employment in the Arab States, An Overview, Beirut, July 2014.

¹³ UNICEF, Brief Situation Update of Adolescents and Youth in the MENA Region, Draft, September 2015.

¹⁴ ESCWA, Social development bulletin on migration and youth, 2013.

¹⁵ UNESCO, UIS Adult and Youth Literacy Rate September 2014: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/fs29-adult-youth-literacy-2014-en.pdf>

¹⁶ UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, Adolescent Development and Participation, draft report, 2015.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Yemen and State of Palestine.

¹⁹ UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, Education Under Fire, 2015.

²⁰ UNICEF, 'Under Siege: The Devastating Impact on Children of Three Years of Conflict in Syria', March 2014.

²¹ UNICEF (2014b).

²² Dmitry L (2012).

Like any other aspect of life, young people's sexual and reproductive behaviour in the Arab States/MENA region is shaped by economic, social and cultural contexts, including the powerful force of religion and tradition, which set gender roles and define taboos.

Marriage defines adulthood in the region, and sexual and intimate relations occur within and are legitimized by marriage. As young people delay marriage, traditional customs of managing youth sexuality, values and norms are changing and under pressure, but with different consequences for young women and young men.

As in the rest of the world, marriage patterns are changing throughout the Arab States, where marriage and family formation are significant milestones for young people in their transition to adulthood. A generation ago, marriage was both early and universal; 63 per cent of young men in their mid-to-late 20s were married. Today nearly 50 per cent of men between the ages of 25 and 29 are unmarried. Changing marriage patterns reflect economic exclusion and the inability of young men and women to achieve the financial stability to start families, as well as policy shifts such as the increase in the legal age of marriage; social shifts such as the expansion of education; and ideological shifts such as a change in norms regarding early marriage. The psychological and social consequences are very serious in a region where social status is critical and adulthood is defined by economic independence (for young men) and marriage (for both sexes).²³

Conversely, although early marriage is on the decline in the Arab world, the number of young teenagers who are married is still significant; one in seven girls is married before reaching the age of 18 years. Countries where this is an issue include Yemen (48 per cent),²⁴ Somalia (45 per cent),²⁵ Sudan (38 per cent)²⁶ and to some extent Egypt, among Palestinians living in Gaza and now among Syrian girls affected by the crisis. Early marriage makes adolescent girls vulnerable to early pregnancy and childbirth complications, spousal violence, and a cycle of poverty, low education and poor health. Improving access to education and vocational training, reducing the socioeconomic vulnerability of families,

provision of life skills and vocational training are critical, as is access to multisectoral services including case management, psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health and access to justice and safety.

According to a WHO report on adolescent health,²⁷ in 2012, the leading causes of death for adolescents globally were: road traffic injuries; HIV/AIDS; self-harm; lower respiratory infections; and interpersonal violence. In the Eastern Mediterranean region, one in every five deaths among adolescent males in low and middle-income countries is due to war or conflict, and the leading cause of mortality among adolescent girls is maternal health-related causes.

Despite the fact that young people, particularly young men, increasingly see sexuality as an important aspect of their lives, access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, including HIV prevention, remains limited. This puts young people in this region at great risk of unwanted pregnancies, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and other problems related to sexual and reproductive health. Attention to young people's health education in general, and sexual and reproductive health education in particular, is inadequate and nearly absent in some instances in the formal education sector. This is reflected by a low level of knowledge about and the low use of contraception, including condoms. Limited research available in the region suggests that a significant proportion of young people are having sex outside of marriage, without the knowledge or means to protect themselves from the potential consequences. The incidence of premarital sex is increasing, the age is decreasing, and young people are ill-informed or misinformed about STIs, contraceptive methods and reproductive health. The average age of first sexual intercourse for youth in Tunisia is 17.4 years for females and 16.4 years for males, and in Morocco 16.5 years for males and 17.8 years for females.²⁸

Tailored reproductive health services for young people are scarce. Although the prevalence of HIV among young people in the region remains low (0.1 per cent in 2014), the number of new infections has risen by

approximately 50 per cent since 2001, representing the most rapid increase in the world.²⁹

Young women bear the brunt of the socially determined harmful practice of female genital mutilation/cutting in some Arab countries. The prevalence rate is staggeringly high in Somalia (98 per cent), Djibouti (93 per cent), Egypt (91 per cent) and Sudan (88 per cent).³⁰

Compared to youth in the rest of the world, Arab youth participate more in protests and demonstrations and less in civic groups and in electoral voting. For example, in 2010, 29 per cent of Arab youth participated in demonstrations compared to 15 per cent globally, while 19 per cent of youth participated in civic groups (15 per cent females, 25 per cent males).³¹ Recent studies have shown that participation in civic engagement groups positively affects young people's participation and increases their non-violent engagement in political life, and *may provide them with skills and experience*

*that supports their employment and entry into the labour market.*³¹ Despite the limited involvement of young people of both sexes (more so for females) in civic life, there have been a number of promising initiatives, especially in conflict countries, where young people were actively engaged in supporting their communities.

The recently adopted Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security and the Doha Youth Declaration on Shaping the Humanitarian Agenda provide a road map to building on the positive potential of young people, both females and males, in promoting peace and security.

Not surprisingly, digital media play an important role in young people's access to news, but television is still an important source of information. Sixty per cent of youth get their news from the television and 40 per cent from online news sources, compared to the 25 per cent who get their news from social media.³³

²³ UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, 'Young People in the Arab States, Changing the World for the Better, Strategic Framework for Programming for Young People'.

²⁴ Yemen National Demographic and Health Survey 2013, percentage of women aged 25-49 married by age 18.

²⁵ UNFPA Somalia Child Marriage Profile, percentage of women aged 20-24 married by age 18.

²⁶ Sudan Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 2014, percentage of women 20-49 married by age 18.

²⁷ WHO, Adolescent Health, report by the secretariat, April 2015.

²⁸ UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, 'Young People in the Arab States, Changing the World for the Better, Strategic Framework for Programming for Young People'.

²⁹ UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, Adolescent Development and Participation, draft report, 2015.

³⁰ UNICEF, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, A statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change, July 2003.

³¹ UNDP, Expanding youth opportunities in the Region. Research Paper series, Jad Chaaban, 2013.

³² Mercy Corps, Civic Engagement of youth in the Middle East and North Africa, An analysis of key drivers and outcomes, 2012.

³³ ASDAA Burson-Marsteller, The Arab Youth Survey 2015, United Arab Emirates, 2015.

Strategic Framework: Definition, Purpose and Benefits

The goal of this Regional Framework of Joint Strategic Actions for Young People is to fulfill the rights of young people in the Arab States and MENA region in the most effective way, and to contribute to young people's health, skills development, employment, protection, participation and civic engagement.

The overall objective and purpose is to ensure that United Nations agencies develop a common two-year framework for young people (10-24 years) in the Arab States and MENA region in 2016-2017 that will contribute to fulfilling their human rights and enable them to develop their capacities – physical, psychological, spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive and cultural – within a safe and supportive environment.

The participating agencies have agreed to follow the United Nations age definition of young people as the age group 10-24 years, further subdivided into two age groups, adolescents (10-19 years) and youth (20-24 years). However, it is also important to note that depending on the context, the framework allows for flexibility to ensure that United Nations-supported programming is responsive to the varying needs of young people in different country contexts. When this is the case, special effort will be made to highlight the different age grouping used, especially in monitoring and data reporting.

To address the gaps and challenges faced in monitoring indicators related to young people, the IATTTYP has agreed that indicators related to young people that are produced and used would, at a minimum, be sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive and cover the age categories 10-14 years, 15-19 years and 20-24 years, and any additional age categories as needed for the specific context or agency needs.

To build on lessons learned from experiences working with young people in the development of this framework, a documentation of good practices was commissioned

by UNICEF on behalf of the IATTTYP. The documentation identified key lessons learned and recommendations, highlighting the critical need to:³⁴

1. Improve the quality and monitoring of United Nations-supported programmes, given that the 'Analysis of Good Practices' showed that 81 per cent of the shortlisted practices were non-United Nations projects;
2. Support the scale-up of good practices;
3. Approach young people from an assets-based perspective, convinced of their promise and focusing on their strengths;
4. Ensure that skills-building and experiential learning form a key component of any intervention;
5. Encourage and emphasize that the intervention is conducted with participatory engagement of the 'community';
6. Require that the programme responds to the needs and priorities of youth, both females and males. Almost all good practices were built on solid identified needs;
7. Support flexible programming. The ability to be flexible and adapt programming to context, all the while having key components, was a critical element of success;

³⁴ UNICEF, Good Practices in Adolescent and Youth Programming, 2015.

8. Plan for sustainability from the start. Most of the programmes identified as good practices had diverse funding bases and institutionalized their activities into existing governmental or community structures. The programmes grew into this through experiences and intent;
9. Improve the evidence. This is critical and has to be accomplished by building capacity around monitoring and evaluation, committing to strengthening routine monitoring and integrating outcome evaluations in the planning of programmes.

This marks a paradigm shift in the focus of the framework, moving away from an approach of programming to avoid risks in a problematic stage in life to a positive view of young people's capacities, enhancing protective factors and enabling healthy and supportive environments within the family, education and work facilities, the community and at higher levels, while ensuring the meaningful, systematic participation of young people themselves in every step of the process.

Given that this is the first framework to be developed for working with young people in the post-2015 development era, it is also hoped that it will demonstrate a renewed commitment by the IATTTYP to global and regional sustainable development, and to ensuring a United Nations system that is 'fit for purpose', focusing on the areas where the Organization was requested to intensify its work, including through:

1. Aligning a full range of bodies and partners with the Sustainable Development Goals;
2. Advocacy at global, regional and national levels, and convening coordinating partners around the Goals;
3. Supporting programme implementation and monitoring;
4. Providing normative and technical advisory functions and support;
5. Supporting countries in humanitarian affected situations.³⁵

³⁵ Report on Phase 1 of the Economic and Social Council dialogue available at <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/qcpr>

For the purpose of this framework, 'key young people' or 'key young populations' will be understood to refer to young people who are living in conflict areas, refugees, IDPs, out of school, orphans, have disabilities or have legal status issues. Special attention will also be given to young people who are: living with HIV; injecting drugs; in conflict with the law; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual or Inter-sexed (LGBTI); and affected by commercial sexual exploitation. Where realizing the rights of other key young people is intended, they will be specifically added.

It is worth noting that different United Nations agencies have slightly different geographic coverage in terms of regional definitions, and while most agencies converge on the Arab States, MENA and Gulf countries, certain differences exist that merit attention, especially in the calculation of regional data and indicators. The table in annex III shows the different geographic coverage of United Nations regional agencies and entities.

Strategic Framework: Outline and Priority Areas

This framework has been developed under the guidance of a number of key global and regional frameworks and strategic documents, including the Regional Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP), Humanitarian Youth Call for Action, the 'No Lost Generation' Initiative, the Amman Declaration adopted by the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security and most importantly the Sustainable Development Goals.

Although there is no specific goal on young people within the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, these goals and targets all affect young people as an important segment of the world's population and the implicit focus on young people within the goals and targets cannot be ignored.

This is especially true for the goals on *poverty (Goal 1)*, *health (Goal 3)*, *education (Goal 4)*, *gender equality (Goal 5)*, *economic growth and decent work (Goal 8)*, *reducing inequalities (Goal 10)* and *promoting peaceful*

and inclusive societies (Goal 16). These goals also refer to all age groups, focus on life-cycle approaches and specify that women and girls cannot be highlighted enough.

The table below highlights the goals, targets, and preliminary indicators that mention or are related directly to young people. However, as stated above, this should not imply that other goals and targets are blind to this age group. This framework contributes to the achievement of all goals and targets mentioned below.

Table 1 Young People in the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators

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

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2050 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five 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

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.

Proposed Indicator 1: HIV incidence per 100 susceptible person years (adults, key populations, children, adolescents).

3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

Proposed Indicator 2: Coverage of interventions for the prevention of substance abuse interventions among people under 25.

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.

Proposed Indicator 1: Adolescent birth rate (10-14 years, 15-19 years).

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

4.1 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage of children who achieve minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics at end of: (i) primary; (ii) lower secondary.

Proposed Indicator 2: Completion rate (primary, lower secondary, upper secondary).

By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

4.3 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Enrolment ratios by level and type of education (Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and tertiary).

By 2030, increase by [x]³⁶ per cent the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Proposed Indicator 2: Percentage of youth/adults who are computer and information literate.

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.

4.5 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Parity indices (female/male, urban/rural, bottom/top wealth quintile) for all indicators on this list that can be disaggregated.

By 2030, ensure that all youth and at least [x] per cent of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

4.6 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage of youth/adults proficient in literacy and numeracy skills.

Proposed Indicator 2: Youth/adult literacy rate.

³⁶ At the time of writing, certain indicators were not yet finalized and endorsed.

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.

4.7 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage of 15-year old students showing proficiency in knowledge of environmental science and geo-science. **Proposed Indicator 2:** Percentage of 13-year old students endorsing values and attitudes promoting equality, trust and participation in governance.

By 2030, increase by [x]³⁷ per cent the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.

4.c **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage of trained teachers by level of education according to national standards.

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

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.1 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Whether or not legal frameworks discriminate against women and girls, as identified by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. **Proposed Indicator 2:** Whether or not inheritance rights discriminate against women and girls.

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.

5.2 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15-49) subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months. **Proposed Indicator 2:** Proportion of women and girls (aged 15-49) subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15.

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

5.3 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 18 (i.e., child marriage). **Proposed Indicator 2:** Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age group (for relevant countries only).

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 of Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

5.6 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage of women and girls who make decisions about their own sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights by age, location, income, disability and other characteristics relevant to each country. **Proposed Indicator 2:** Existence of laws and regulations that guarantee all women and adolescents informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights regardless of marital status.

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

5.c Indicator to be finalized.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

6.2

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

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.

8.5 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Employment to working-age population (15 years and above) ratio by gender and age group, and people with disabilities. **Proposed Indicator 2:** Unemployment rate by gender and age group.

By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

8.6 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage of youth (15-24 years) not in education, employment or training. **Proposed Indicator 2:** Youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate.

Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour and, by 2025, end child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

8.7 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, per sex and age group (disaggregated by the worst forms of child labour).

By 2030, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

8.b

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

12.8 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Number of countries reporting inclusion of sustainable development and lifestyles topics in formal education curricula.

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

Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.3 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula.

Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

13.b **Proposed Indicator 1:** Number of least developed countries that are receiving specialized support for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities.

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

End abuse, exploitations, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

16.2 **Proposed Indicator 1:** Percentage of young adults aged 18-24 years who have experienced violence by age 18, by type (physical, psychological and/or sexual).

³⁷ At the time of writing, certain SDG indicators were not yet finalized and endorsed.

United Nations agencies are supporting a number of priority areas for young people, and annex IV provides a summary of the work of all regional entities involved in the development of this framework.

In line with the 'good practices' recommendation to scale up United Nations and NGO supported good practices of relevance to the Arab States and MENA region, a number of projects and initiatives can be scaled up or can be a convening project to which all agencies can contribute and provide support.³⁸

Responding to the specific needs of adolescents and young People in the MENA region, the regional framework focuses on four areas/priorities that the regional team is committed to:³⁹

Area 1

Employment and entrepreneurship

- Promoting a positive business environment to enhance job-rich growth for young men and women;
- Enhancing the quality and market relevance of male and female youth skills [skills development];
- Facilitating inclusive and decent work for disadvantaged young women/men, persons with a disability, migrants, refugees, IDPs, school dropouts and others;
- Enhancing the economic empowerment of young men and women in emergency response and recovery.

Area 2

Civic engagement, participation and inclusion

- Creating an enabling environment for the development and implementation of inclusive and responsive youth policies including supporting regional mechanisms for youth engagement;
- Creating an enabling environment and promoting and ensuring the active involvement of young people, females and males equally, in resilience and peacebuilding.

³⁸ IATTTYP, Good Practices Documentation, 2015.

³⁹ Point to note: Priority areas and related actions are the commitment of the IATTTYP at regional level and country levels, and are likely to differ based on the context in each country.

Workplans

The working groups developed these workplans in two phases: first; proposed overarching outputs or initiatives were identified in data and research, policy and advocacy, capacity-building and services, and put in one table. Second; priority and flagship outputs were identified from these overarching outputs and initiatives and grouped in another table.

Given that this framework covers a two-year period, it was agreed that very strict criteria will be used to identify the final priority and flagship outputs that the regional team was committed to achieving in 2016-2017. All other areas were kept as part of the initially identified overarching outputs. Annex II provides further information on the preparation process.

Accordingly, each thematic working group developed two tables: a table of proposed overarching outputs (see annex V); and the priorities were further refined to a table of flagship and priority outputs and results for the period 2016-2017. The IATTTYP team will be accountable for achieving these flagship and priority outputs.

It is important to stress that this framework is for the IATTTYP, and the grouping and chairperson arrangements were made at the regional level for the development of the framework and will not necessarily be reflected at the country level. Country-level specificities may lead to different governance structures.

Based on detailed discussions and consultations, the following are the key priorities that were identified as the key priorities that the MENA/Arab States region to which United Nations agencies are jointly committed in the next two years.

Area 3

Health and well-being

- Addressing adolescent and youth health, including sexual and reproductive health, towards universal health coverage;
- Strengthening public school systems to respond to the mental health needs of adolescents and youth;
- Provision of health services for adolescents and youth, including those exposed to gender-based violence.

Area 4

Education

- Creating a regional knowledge platform for hosting reports, studies, tools related to monitoring and evaluation of education systems;
- Policy dialogue, technical advice and service provision to increase access to formal and non-formal education opportunities for young women, refugee, internally displaced and disadvantaged youth in host communities;
- Advocacy for flexibility and diverse learning pathways for youth employability;
- Establishing a regional conceptual framework for life-skills education and a regional conceptual framework for comprehensive sexuality education, leading to national frameworks.

The two cross cutting areas which will be embedded within the four strategic priorities are:

- Emergency and humanitarian response and resilience;
- Gender equity.

The tables included in the section below on workplans specify in further detail the key actions proposed under each of these four thematic areas.

Key priorities: **Thematic area 1. Employment and entrepreneurship**

Key result by end-2017:

A youth-focused employability framework that is contextualized to the realities of the MENA/Arab States region and builds on a strong research and advocacy base, is developed, finalized and jointly piloted in 1-2 countries in the region.

Flagship intervention: Development of the Employability Framework (MENA/Arab States context) and joint United Nations Implementation of the actions below in 1-2 countries (Jordan/Egypt) (ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women, and WHO)

| Key regional priorities/ programme activities | Participating agencies | Milestones/key activities | Indicators |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 Work-based learning | ILO UNDP UN-Habitat UNRWA UN Women | → Publication of joint policy briefs on lessons learned in work-based learning | → Joint policy briefs developed and disseminated ⁴⁰ |
| 2 Capacity-building for youth advocates, workers and employers organizations to promote inclusive, decent and safe workplaces | ILO UNAIDS UNDP UNESCO UNFPA UN-Habitat UNICEF UNRWA UN Women WHO | → Design of an integrated training package that combines aspects of gender, work inclusiveness, occupational safety and health and its piloting in targeted countries | → Integrated training package developed and shared → Pilot implementation pre/post tests demonstrate impact in terms of improved knowledge of work quality, gender and PWD inclusiveness, and safety improvements |
| 3 Strengthening existing knowledge base at sector level on skills demand and on youth vulnerability/reservations | ILO IOM UNDP UNESCO UNFPA UN Habitat UNHCR UNICEF UN Women | → Development of and advocacy using country adolescent and youth factsheets including employment indicators → Conduct joint research in at least one country to influence programming and policy decisions, capitalizing on the idea of the importance of getting youth into the labour market in relation to utilizing demographic dividend and conflict prevention → Conduct research on good practices for economic empowerment and decent work interventions in emergency countries → Mapping of legal, socioeconomic and other barriers that are hindering youth (including refugee youth) from accessing their right to work and advocacy to address those barriers → Conduct research to influence advocacy on promoting positive business environments to enhance job-rich growth for young men and women | → Research papers on job creation potential and labour market segmentation results disseminated → Good practices on skills demand and addressing youth vulnerability/ reservations documented and disseminated |
| 4 Capacity-building of youth groups for improved readiness for entrepreneurship | ILO UNDP UNESCO UN-Habitat UNICEF UNRWA UN Women | → Prepare one policy brief for improved business environment for entrepreneurship of young men and women → Capacity-building of youth groups on improved access to finance in at least one country | → Policy brief on improving the business environment for young men and women → Youth-specific business start-up and financial literacy curricula developed and disseminated → Financial and non-financial business development services including mentoring developed and made available to targeted youth |

Key priorities: **Thematic area 2. Civic engagement, participation and inclusion**

Key result by end-2017:

- Updated regional standards and guidelines on youth policy and strategy development and implementation are endorsed and launched.
- A strengthened network of youth is active at the regional level, and in select countries is advocating for a positive perception and role for youth in civic engagement and peacebuilding.

Flagship intervention: Youth policies standards at regional level with a focus on civic engagement and mechanisms for youth engagement at regional level (ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women, and WHO)

| Key regional priorities/ programme activities | Participating agencies | Milestones/key activities | Indicators |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1 Consolidate the existing work completed on youth policies and strategies across all areas relevant as a resource document, and where needed formulate regional standards and guidelines, with a particular focus on civic engagement and peacebuilding | ESCWA ILO UNAIDS UNDP UNESCO UNFPA UN-Habitat UNHCR UNICEF UN Women | → Conduct mapping and review of existing youth strategies/ policies and mechanisms for youth inclusion, looking at the barriers, gaps, weaknesses and overall youth inclusion in the formulation process across all Arab countries (giving special attention to civic engagement in crisis context) → Support and strengthen existing youth participation mechanisms at regional level and for select countries at national level → Collect and consolidate materials to support youth policies and strategies including reports, good practices and experiences across regions from NGOs, United Nations agencies and others | → Regional Youth Policies/strategies standards and guidance booklet finalized → Youth policy experts' roster finalized ⁴¹ → Knowledge-sharing platform launched → Youth participation mechanisms supported at regional level and in selected countries |
| 2 Policy dialogue and advocacy for regional standards on youth policies ⁴² | ESCWA ILO UNAIDS UNDP UNESCO UNFPA UN-Habitat UNHCR UNICEF UNRWA UN Women | → Development of, and advocacy using, country adolescent and youth fact sheets including civic engagement indicators → Produce joint advocacy campaign in partnership with media | → Advocacy fact sheets on youth policies produced → Regional conference with regional and national stakeholders organized and ending with commitment and follow-up → Advocacy campaign launched |
| Empowering youth as peacebuilders while protecting the safety and security of young people in all settings | | | |
| 1 Strengthen the network of existing youth peacebuilders in the Arab region and engage media, regional and national partners to collaborate on changing negative perception of youth while highlighting the ongoing work of youth as agents of change and contributors to the Sustainable Development Goals and resilience | UNDP UNESCO UNFPA UN-Habitat UNHCR UNICEF UNRWA UN Women | → Collect information about: (a) the current perception of youth; and (b) positive impacts by youth as agents of change → Document good and existing practices on the role of young people in peacebuilding → Produce report on the perception of youth in the peace and security, to include mapping with analysis using available data, looking at youth and resilience, agents of positive change and an analysis on statements and declaration made by youth in Arab/MENA region. This report will also incorporate the guidelines and good practices → Support development of guidelines on effective youth engagement and leadership in supporting communities affected by war and insecurity → Support workshop with youth peacebuilders outlining challenges and opportunities to inform policy and support and buy-in for youth peacebuilders network → Support development of advocacy strategy and campaign with young people, media, government, civil society and other stakeholders to shed light on the positive role of youth in their societies in peacebuilding, resilience development and overall social stability and cohesion | → r/UNDG advocacy campaign on youth as peacebuilders launched with a number of media interviews conducted at the regional and national levels ⁴³ → Number of members in the youth Peacebuilders Network → Number of initiatives supported by the network |

Key priorities: **Thematic area 3. Health and well-being**

Key result by end-2017:

- A core service package for adolescent and youth health for the region is finalized and aligned with the global package
- A regional monitoring and evaluation tool for the adolescent health component of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health is available and used by countries to monitor their implementation of the Global Strategy
- and Country-level capacity in four countries in the region (Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Tunisia) on adolescent health competencies built for operationalizing the adolescent health services

Flagship intervention: Addressing adolescent and youth health, including sexual and reproductive health, towards universal health coverage (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO)

| Key regional priorities/ programme activities | Participating agencies | Milestones/key activities | Indicators |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1 Strengthen adolescent and youth health, including sexual and reproductive health, towards universal health coverage by: providing preventive and curative health care services including sexual and reproductive health (including, HIV and STIs), mental health, nutrition, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, of violence and injuries, and of drug and substance abuse; tobacco control; and promoting physical activities and healthy lifestyles | UNAIDS UNDP UNFPA UNICEF UNRWA UN Women WHO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Development of country adolescent and youth fact sheets with youth health indicators (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO) → Hosting a regional consultation with priority countries to accelerate the adolescent component of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health with a focus on monitoring systems (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO) → Provide technical support to selected countries in building health care providers' competencies in adolescent health (UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO) → Organize a desk review and harmonize the available service package to ensure alignment with the latest global services core package (Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Tunisia) (UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO) → Develop regional guidance on the use of social media and other mainstream media outlets in the outreach and campaigning activities (UNAIDS, UNDP, UN Women, WHO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Number of the fact sheets developed → Regional meeting conducted → Regional monitoring and evaluation tool developed → Number of health providers trained at primary health care level → Service packages are reviewed and aligned with global standards for four countries → Regional guidance booklet developed |

40 The outcome expected is that targeted youth have enhanced employment status (i.e., employed in quality jobs).

41 Including youth researchers.

42 Including inclusion of disaster risk reduction (participation opportunities, inclusion, changing the mindset at regional level with regional actors).

43 Advocacy will include messages on legal and policy reform to protect all young people, refugees and those in contact or in conflict with the law.

Key priorities: **Thematic area 4. Education**

Key result by end-2017:

- Regional conceptual frameworks are developed and endorsed, ready to lead into national conceptual frameworks in: (a) life-skills education; and (b) comprehensive sexuality education
- An inter-agency knowledge management platform on inclusive equitable education with key resources, best practices and indicators, including in humanitarian context, is available

Flagship intervention: Developing regional skills development frameworks to improve quality and relevance of education (ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women, and WHO)

| Key regional priorities/ programme activities | Participating agencies | Milestones/key activities | Indicators |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 Support regional inter-agency advocacy and policy dialogue, capacity development and knowledge management on inclusive and equitable education in the region including humanitarian context | ILO UNAIDS UNESCO UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF UNRWA UN Women WHO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Generate evidence on effective programme activities/good practices to reach young people including provision of psychosocial support through formal and non-formal educational settings → Development of, and advocacy using, country adolescent and youth fact sheets including education indicators → Support development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for Education 2030 (Youth) Agenda Sustainable Development Goal 4 → Support technical advice and capacity development in monitoring using key performance indicators including embracing the Minimum Standards of Education in Emergencies (INEE Standards) → Advocate and integrate into existing systems age- and sex-disaggregated data corresponding to the age groups related to education → Documentation and dissemination of effective programme activities/good practices to reach young people including provision of psychosocial support through formal and non-formal educational settings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Recognition of prior learning system in place in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey → Youth-friendly (age-sensitive) booklets, tools and guide-books produced → Piloting apprenticeship programme in selected occupations in order to draw lessons learnt for replication → At least two TVET systems are using key performance indicators to provide evidence for decision-making → Number of fact sheets produced → Regional education 2030 monitoring and evaluation framework developed → Number of training and capacity development activities → Number of documents in the repository that have been produced and shared → Existence of data that are disaggregated by age, gender, disability and diversity |
| 2 Support establishment of a regional conceptual framework for life-skills education, leading to national frameworks | ILO UNAIDS UNESCO UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF UNRWA UN Women WHO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Introduce methodologies to measure the impact of life-skills education (including cognitive and analytical skills, personal empowerment skills, employability skills and citizenship skills and including skills taught on reproductive health, HIV, and conflict resolution) on learning outcomes → Development of a conceptual and programmatic framework on life skills-based education → Develop manuals and training-of-trainers workshops on life skills for young women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Number of fact sheets, policy briefs produced → A conceptual and programmatic framework on life skills based- education developed on the basis of consultations with MENA countries and used as guidance for programming |
| 3 Support development of a regional conceptual framework for comprehensive sexuality education leading to national frameworks | ILO UNAIDS UNESCO UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF UN Women WHO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Develop arguments to generate support for comprehensive sexuality education in the region | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Regional expert consultation on comprehensive sexuality education in the region conducted → Policy brief on comprehensive sexuality education in the context of the Arab States developed |

Levels/Models of Engagement, Coordination and Monitoring Mechanisms

In his synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda, the United Nations Secretary-General states that “a United Nations system that is ‘fit for purpose’ to deliver on the post-2015 agenda is one that is relevant, innovative, agile, inclusive, coordinated and results-oriented. It provides specialized advice when requested, and is equally adept at ensuring an integrated approach, working across disciplines with relevant skill sets to better support Member States in addressing complex multi-sectoral challenges. It forges effective partnerships to leverage external partners’ expertise, capacities and resources. Such a system requires shared goals, visionary and committed leadership, and a global, highly-skilled and adaptable international civil service. And it must reach the highest standards of accountability, transparency and impact.”⁴⁴

This framework of strategic actions aims to instill this vision and ensure that United Nations agencies working on young people’s issues in the Arab States/MENA region are making a robust start to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals in the region, based on their collective comparative advantage.

The IATTTYP will be responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of this framework, in close coordination with the youth teams at the country office level and youth participation forums/advisory groups.

Annual plans will be developed based on this framework and shared with country offices and other regional groups.

Monthly conference calls and quarterly meetings will be continued to monitor and report on progress of the regional framework. Periodic updates (biannual) will be provided to the r/UNDG by the co-chairs on behalf of the IATTTYP.

Unified data and indicators sheets will be reviewed and updated to provide indicators for monitoring both the situation of young people and progress in the implementation of this framework.

Where outputs or activities include support to regional consultations, forums or meetings, the United Nations agencies will play a strong role as a convener and facilitator of partnerships at the regional and country levels, where the United Nations will play more of a leveraging than an implementing role.

This will be the guiding mode of operation of the United Nations agencies working with young people, especially in relation to strengthening South-South cooperation within the region and through North-South and triangular partnerships and networks. Partnership in the region will build on existing initiatives and networks.

Regional United Nations agency partnerships will be further strengthened with all stakeholders including:

- Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth;
- Young people, through regional and national youth advisory groups and other existing forums;
- National and international networks/forums of non-governmental and community-based organizations (NGOs/CBOs) that provide young people with equal opportunities to be active and engaged partners;
- Special attention will be given to strengthening partnerships with young people in monitoring their situation in the region through real-time data and strengthening their roles as active partners in the data revolution beyond 2015;
- Regional and national organizations working with young people, including the League of Arab States, ministries and councils of planning, labour, education, health, interior, civil societies and youth in addition to agencies involving volunteers;

- Regional and national workers’ and employers’ representatives, employment centres;
- Private sector;
- Regional and international and national NGOs/CBOs established in the region, especially those working with young people;
- Mayors’ offices, local authorities, law enforcement agencies, human solidarity groups and faith-based organizations;
- Statistical entities including the Pan Arab Project for Family Health, universities and academia, especially in monitoring the situation of young people, normative programmes and measurement and documentation of successes;
- Other bilateral and multilateral donors especially the World Bank, United States Agency for International Development, European Union and emerging regional Arab donors and development partners.

⁴⁴ The Road to Dignity by 2030, Ending Poverty, Transforming all lives, and Protecting the Planet (A/69/700), paragraph 152.

Potential Challenges in Implementing the Strategy

The region has always been characterized, and recently more so, by its geopolitical volatility and instability. Any further escalations and insecurities are likely to hamper the implementation of the priority areas identified in this framework.

Lack of resources, whether financial or human, are likely to also present another challenge to the implementation of the framework.

Working with and for young people requires a truly multisectoral and integrated approach. However, there is a potential challenge that despite all efforts made, individual agency mandates will still prevail and overshadow a culture and spirit of joint work.

The implementation of this framework may also face the challenge of varying levels of engagement from different agencies, due to human resources constraints, personality constraints or staff turnover, which would delay and hinder the achievement of the framework's anticipated results.

Proposed risk mitigation measures include advocacy and building capacities and readiness among United Nations staff on the importance of increased focus on youth programming in all contexts, including in conflict situations. Lobbying for commitments at the highest level in the region to support the mobilization of human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of the framework, and building on the renewed guidelines for the United Nations agencies to work as one for the post-2015 agenda.

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Annex I

List of Participating Individuals and Agencies

Working Group: **Employment and Entrepreneurship**

Chair: Patrick Daru/ ILO

| Name | Agency | Name | Agency |
|---------------------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| Seiko Sugita | UNESCO | Nada Sweidan | UNDP |
| Veera Mendonca | UNICEF | Ibrahim Hejoj | UNRWA |
| Linda Haddad | UNDP | Brooke Winterburn | UNRWA |
| Mohammad Naciri | UN Women | Suad Nabhan | UNFPA |
| Raidan Al Saqqaf | UN ESCWA | Luay Shabaneh | UNFPA |
| Aleksander Bodiroza | UNFPA | Laila Baker | UNRWA |
| Amanda Melville | UNHCR | Jo Berg | UN Habitat |
| Stephanie Laryea | UNV | Katja Schaefer | UN Habitat |
| Lyewon Jung | UNDP | Emad Karim | UN Women |
| Ali Feissadeha | UNAIDS | Sharizad Sulieman | UNESCO |
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Working Group: **Civic Engagement, Participation and Inclusion**

Chair: Linda Haddad/ UNDP

| Name | Agency | Name | Agency |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|------------|
| Liv Elin Indreiten | UNICEF | Tatiana Skaf | UNESCO |
| Rupa Bhadra | UNAIDS | Katja Schaefer | UN Habitat |
| Kawtar Zerouali | UNDP | Jo Berg | UN Habitat |
| Seiko Sugita | UNESCO | Amanda Melville | UNHCR |
| Ziad Yaish | UNFPA | Maryse Guimond | UN Women |
| Raidan Al Saqqaf | UN ESCWA | Valentina Volpe | UNFPA |
| Hala Sakr | WHO | Mazen Omar | UNRWA |

Working Group: **Health and Wellbeing**

Chair: Jamela Al Raiby/WHO

| Name | Agency | Name | Agency |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Rupa Bhadra | UNAIDS | Leila Joudane | UNFPA |
| Seiko Sugita | UNESCO | Ndeye fatou Ndiaye | UNICEF |
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| Katja Schaefer | UN Habitat | Mollie Fair | UNFPA |
| Alfatih Abdelraheem | UNDP | | |

Working Group: **Education**

Chair: Seiko Sugita/ UNESCO

| Name | Agency | Name | Agency |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|--------|
| Patrick Daru | ILO | Vick Ikobwa | UNHCR |
| Amita Vohra | UNESCO | Salim Shehadeh | UNRWA |
| Emad Karim | UN Women | Kawtar Zerouali | UNDP |
| Jamela Alraiby | WHO | Asma Kurdahi | UNFPA |
| Katja Schaefer | UN Habitat | Ahmad Malah | UNFPA |
| Jo Berg | UN Habitat | Dina Craissati | UNICEF |
| Bassam Shawa | UNRWA | Nilse Ryman | UNRWA |
| Eltayeb Elamin | UNAIDS | | |

Steering/Reading Group

CO-Chairs: Aleksander Bodiroza/ UNFPA, Veera Mendonca/ UNICEF

| Name | Agency | Name | Agency |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Seiko Sugita | UNESCO | Kyle Defreitas | UNRWA |
| Shaza Jondi | ILO | Raidan Al Saqqaf | UN ESCWA |
| Rupa Bhadra | UNAIDS | Linda Haddad | UNDP |
| Katja Schaefer | UN Habitat | Jo Berg | UN Habitat |
| Emad Karim | UN Women | Jamela Alraiby | WHO |
| Tayyar Sukru Cansizoglu | UNHCR | Emad Karim | UN Women |
| Nihal Said | UNOCHA | Muna Idris | Consultant |

Annex II

Process and Methodology

In its annual workplan for the Arab States and the MENA region, the IATTTYP¹ agreed on the need to develop a Framework of Joint Strategic Actions for the years 2016-2017. The framework would highlight priority actions that would be implemented jointly, respond to the urgent needs for young people in our region and demonstrate the added value of action by the IATTTYP.

This work would build on the outcomes and lessons learned from the implementation of the previous r/UNDG strategy on young people in the Arab States/MENA region (2011-2013). The process was led by UNFPA and UNICEF as co-chairs of the IATTTYP and on behalf of the Regional Directors' Team.

To kick start the process, a review meeting for the IATTTYP was held in Amman in May 2015, where representatives from a number of United Nations agencies, at the regional and country levels, agreed on the importance of developing a concise, practical, and responsive framework of strategic actions that would provide a platform for collaborative regional work in key priority areas for the region.

The participants also discussed the findings of a documentation of good practices commissioned by UNICEF on behalf of the IATTTYP, which provided lessons learned and insights and identified good practices in programming for adolescents and young people.

Building on the lessons learned in the implementation of previous regional frameworks, the situation of young people in the region and the need to focus the IATTTYP regional priorities, the participants in the review meeting identified four key areas for the strategic framework to focus on and agreed on a timeline and process to develop the framework.

This was further elaborated in a follow-up workshop/retreat held in Lebanon in August 2015. Representatives of regional and country offices of 13 United Nations agencies participated in the retreat, where they agreed upon and endorsed the four thematic areas and formed corresponding working groups to support further development of actions in each thematic area. To facilitate a participatory process for the development of actions within each thematic area, the team identified agencies to chair each thematic area and ensured that all member agencies were represented in each of the four working groups. In addition, a steering committee was formed, co-chaired by UNICEF and UNFPA, with representation of all member agencies. The purpose was to provide quality control to the process and the final product, and facilitate and coordinate the overall development of the regional framework. The steering group, on average, had a bi-monthly conference call.

The four thematic areas identified for development of in-depth priority actions are:

1. Employment and entrepreneurship (Chair: ILO);
2. Civic engagement, participation and inclusion (Chair: UNDP);
3. Health and well-being (Chair: WHO);
4. Education (Chair: UNESCO).

¹ Members of the IATTTYP are ESCWA, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNV, UN Women, UNRWA, WHO

The two overarching and cross-cutting areas to be reflected across all thematic areas were:

1. Emergency and humanitarian response and resilience;
2. Gender equity.

Within each of the four thematic and two overarching areas, the working groups identified key joint priorities that should be addressed in the two-year framework and discussed gaps that need to be addressed.

Following the retreat, it was agreed that the four working groups would continue virtually. The groups were further supplemented to ensure agency technical representation in all the working groups.

To ensure country-level participation and involvement and that the framework responds to their priorities and needs, the first draft of the framework was shared with a number of the country office working groups on youth through their United Nations country teams (UNCTs).

Offices in the following countries were consulted for feedback and input: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and State of Palestine. The countries were selected based on the following criteria: geographic representation (the Maghreb, Mashreq, Gulf countries); Mashreq; countries in emergency or chronic emergency situations; and, where feasible, countries with functioning youth task teams at the UNCT level and an interest in participating in the consultative process.

The country offices were provided with a template to provide feedback. They were requested to indicate if they perceived any glaring omissions in the framework,

to identify the most relevant programme activities from their perspectives, and point out the key outputs/activities they were interested to pilot with the regional team. Almost all teams provided very constructive feedback to the regional team.

At a review meeting held in Cairo on 4-5 November 2015, the IATTTYP reviewed the comments received from the country offices, and further discussed the draft framework. The discussions in the Cairo meeting focused on further prioritizing and finalizing the regional framework.

Given past experience on implementing the regional priority actions and the need to clearly define the comparative value of the joint action, the team agreed on the following criteria to help decide the key priority actions within the overall identified priorities.

1. Realistic
 - Financial and technical resources were available;
 - It was within the control of the team (able to address the risks and assumptions);
2. Joint action
 - Three or more United Nations agencies were ready to contribute technically and/or financially.

According to the above criteria, a very critical number of accountable priority actions were identified in each thematic area. The team agreed that all the priorities and milestones would be kept in the overall thematic area matrix (annex V) to reflect the process and the full spectrum of priorities identified.

Annex III

Geographic Coverage by Regional Offices

| | UNICEF | UNFPA | UNDP | UNV | UN - Habitat | ESCWA | UNESCO | UN-Women | WHO | UNAIDS | UNRWA | UNHCR | OCHA | ILO |
|--|--------|-------|------|-----|--------------|-------|--------|----------|-----|--------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| Afghanistan | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Algeria | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Bahrain | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Djibouti | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Egypt | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | ✓ | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Iraq | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Jordan | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Kuwait | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lebanon | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Libya | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Mauritania | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Morocco | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Oman | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pakistan | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Qatar | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Saudi Arabia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Somalia | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| State of Palestine | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Sudan | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Syrian Arab Republic | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Tunisia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| United Arab Emirates | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Western Sahara <small>non-self-governing territory</small> | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Yemen | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |

Annex IV

Key Strategic Priorities of Participating United Nations Agencies

Fourteen United Nations agencies took part in the development of this framework, working towards a common agenda for young people in the period 2016-2017. It is worth noting that different agencies have slightly different geographic coverage in terms of regional definitions, and while most United Nations agencies converge on the Arab States, MENA and the Gulf countries, certain differences merit attention, especially in the calculation of regional data and indicators. The table in annex III shows the different regional geographic coverage of different United Nations agencies and entities.

The tables below briefly highlight regional coverage and priority areas for each United Nations agency with the aim of giving a 'bird's eye view' for identification of further

synergies and areas of cooperation. References to each agency's main guiding documents and website are also provided.

ESCWA

Employment

Civic engagement

Health

Education

Data and policy/advocacy support

- Development and advocacy for the use of technical material/toolkit in Arabic engaging policymakers on developing youth policies guided by World Programme of Action on Youth
- Production of technical reports on the availability and gaps of data and indicators
- Research and policy advocacy linking youth bulge and the demographic dividend to Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 agenda
- Publication of reports and policy briefs on key priority areas including youth policy responses, youth exclusion, impact of youth participation on social cohesion, youth migration, And demographic dividend

Other Priority Areas

Links to further materials/websites

<http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/otherdetails.asp?id=1637>
<http://css.escwa.org.lb/SDD/docs/YouthIndicatorsReport.pdf>
<http://css.escwa.org.lb/SDD/2159/CSD9-ReportIYPSC-E.pdf>
<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/pubaction.asp?PubID=1197>
<http://www.escwa.un.org/information/pubaction.asp?PubID=1422>

Comments

- Focus countries: Iraq, Tunisia, Yemen, State of Palestine,
- Plans for increased focus on youth in emergencies
- Six-year action plan

ILO

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|---|------------------|--------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Technical support for the evaluation of employment policies → Technical assistance for the design, implementation and evaluation of employment policies → Technical assistance on skill development/apprenticeship → Provision of entrepreneurship education and business start-up training including mentoring → Technical assistance to improve the quality of jobs for youth → Local economic development, sustainable livelihoods, and employment intensive work in emergency settings/fragile States → Cooperatives development (with a specific focus on women's cooperatives) | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support to school-to-work transition surveys → Technical assistance on skills development → Entrepreneurship training and mentoring → Technical assistance to improve the quality of jobs for youth |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support to labour force surveys, establishments surveys, school-to-work transition surveys, child labour surveys for evidence-informed advocacy | | | |
| Other priority areas | | | |
| | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| <p> http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_185950.pdf http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_249800.pdf http://www.ilo.org/ipeinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=26977 http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_213452.pdf </p> | | | |

UNAIDS

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|---|--|--|-----------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Create space for young people to meaningfully participate at international, regional and country levels with various stakeholders including donor, government and civil society partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Technical support to country-level consultations to develop road maps and implement "All in" initiatives → Technical capacity- and skills-building for implementation of "All in" initiatives → Building capacity to provide cutting edge service to reach 90-90-90 targets and other public health issues by 2020 | |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Technical assistance to country offices to conduct national-level assessment on HIV prevention among adolescents → Youth-friendly tools and materials are created for evidence-based advocacy and programming → Developing effective political advocacy for social change with focus on legal and policy reform | | | |
| Other priority areas | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → New technology and social media used effectively to share information, mobilize, advocate and increase coordination to scale up HIV prevention, testing and treatment among young people, particularly from key populations | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| <p> http://allintoendadolescentaids.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ALL-IN-Launch-Document.pdf http://allintoendadolescentaids.org http://www.unaidsmena.org/sitefiles/reportlang_files/en/pic_40.pdf http://www.unaidsmena.org/sitefiles/reportlang_files/en/pic_47.pdf http://www.unaidsmena.org/sitefiles/reportlang_files/en/pic_50.pdf http://www.unaidsmena.org/sitefiles/reportlang_files/en/pic_53.pdf http://www.unaidsmena.org/sitefiles/reportlang_files/en/pic_55.pdf http://www.unaidsmena.org/sitefiles/reportlang_files/en/pic_42.pdf http://www.unaidsmena.org/sitefiles/reportlang_files/en/pic_44.pdf http://www.unaidsmena.org/sitefiles/reportlang_files/en/pic_43.pdf </p> | | | |

Comments

- Focus countries: Djibouti, Iran, Morocco, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates
- As part of the overall global strategy currently updated for 2016-2021
- Regional priorities
 - Political mobilization and advocacy
 - Testing and treatment
 - Human rights and gender
 - Fast-track cities initiative
 - eMTCT
 - Prevention

UNDP

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|---|--|--------|-----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Increased economic empowerment, building productive capacity of youth and an enabling environment for enhanced youth employment, employability and entrepreneurship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Increased civic engagement and participation, promoting effective participation and engagement in platforms that support sustainable development solutions to poverty, inequities and exclusion → Facilitate innovative youth projects responding to development challenges | | |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Arab Human Development Report on youth launched in October 2015 → Support the development of national youth policies | | | |
| Other priority Areas | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Strengthened youth engagement in resilience in disaster response and resilience building in crisis or post conflict | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| <p> http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic percent20Governance/Youth/UNDP_Youth-Strategy-2014-17_Web.pdf http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/youthstrategy.html http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/library/huma_development/voices-of-change-undp-in-the-arab-states-2011-2015/ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/results/fast_facts/fast-facts--youth-and-climate-change/ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/results/fast_facts/Fast-Facts-youth-civic-engagement-and-participation/ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/results/fast_facts/fast-facts--youth-and-climate-change http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/results/fast_facts/fast-facts--economic-empowerment-of-youth </p> | | | |

Comments

- First Global youth strategy 2014-2017 informs the regional youth programmes
- Three pillars: increased economic empowerment, enhanced civic engagement and participation and strengthened engagement in resilience
- Focus on youth 15-24 years but may extend to 30-35 years depending on national context

UNESCO

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Develop capacities of youth in monitoring the implementation of youth policies related to employment → Technical assistance and capacity development to provide secondary and higher education, including TVET in conflict situations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Dynamic mapping of youth organizations and support of operational networks → Develop capacities of youth in monitoring the implementation of youth policies related to employment → Support youth and media → Support youth policy processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Capacity development of teachers in dealing with school-related gender violence and awareness on HIV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Technical assistance and capacity development to provide secondary and higher education, including TVET in conflict situations |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support development of national youth policies | | | |
| Other priority areas | | | |
| | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| <p> http://en.unesco.org/netmedyouth http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/areas-of-action/social-and-human-sciences/net-med-project/ http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Beirut/pdf/YCE percent20_EN.pdf http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002271/227150e.pdf http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/youth/ </p> | | | |

Comments

- Focus countries: Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, State of Palestine.
- Guided by the global Operational Strategy for Youth with three pillars: national youth policy support, school-to-work transition, youth social innovation and civic engagement.
- Networks of Mediterranean Youth, youth leadership and intercultural dialogue as forums for joint work.

UNFPA

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|---|--|--|---|
| → Advocate for employment with a special focus on young women, vulnerable groups and policies preventing sexual harassment | → Promote youth leadership and participation | → Build capacity for sexual and reproductive health service delivery (including HIV prevention, treatment and care) and with special focus on vulnerable youth | → Promote comprehensive sexuality education within framework of Y-PEER (Youth Peer Education Network), edutainment and others |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| → Support national surveys, assessments, innovative online analytics in all areas in both normal and humanitarian settings for advocacy and policy support and programme development | | | |
| → Support the efforts of other United Nations partners in utilizing data on the demographic dividend and youth bulge | | | |
| → Support the development of evidence-informed policymaking curriculum | | | |
| → Support the development of youth policies | | | |
| Other priority areas | | | |
| → Support bold initiatives to reach the marginalized and disadvantaged, especially girls, including through toolkits on the role of youth in emergencies | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| http://www.unfpa.org/resources/unfpa-strategy-adolescents-and-youth | | | |
| http://arabstates.unfpa.org/public/pid/13020 | | | |
| http://www.unfpa.org/publications/hiv-and-young-people-who-inject-drugs | | | |
| http://www.unfpa.org/publications/hiv-and-young-men-who-have-sex-men | | | |
| http://www.unfpa.org/publications/hiv-and-young-people-who-sell-sex | | | |
| http://www.unfpa.org/publications/hiv-and-young-transgender-people | | | |
| http://www.unfpa.org/publications/evaluation-comprehensive-sexuality-education-programmes | | | |
| http://www.unfpa.org/publications/unfpa-operational-guidance-comprehensive-sexuality-education | | | |

Comments

- Global strategy focuses on evidence informed advocacy, promotion of comprehensive sexuality education, provision of sexual and reproductive health services, supportive bold and innovative programme activities and promoting youth participation and leadership
- Regional strategy focuses on employability, civic participation, and youth sexual and reproductive health

UN-Habitat

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|--|---|--------|-----------|
| → Youth employment, training, and entrepreneurship: harnessing job creation, youth employment, youth skills building, promoting youth entrepreneurship, especially among women | → Working with youth and institutionalizing youth participatory approaches, civic engagement, and partnerships to address areas of concern identified by young people | | |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| → Gearing up to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), youth issues are integrated within different issue papers under discussion | | | |
| → Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Development will be launched in 2016, mainstreams cross-cutting and youth issues in particular. Youth focus is on youth employment, contribution to the development process, access to land and security of tenure | | | |
| → Youth social and spatial inclusion: special focus on young women, support creation and management of youth-friendly public spaces, adequate housing, transportation and connectivity | | | |
| Other priority areas | | | |
| → Addressing impact of conflict on urbanization, bridging the gap between humanitarian and development responses, focusing on promoting youth culture of non-violence, tolerance and peacebuilding, inclusive governance and decision-making | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| http://www.unhabitat.org | | | |
| http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/youth/ | | | |
| http://unhabitat.org/books/ict-urban-governance-and-youth/ | | | |
| http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3393 | | | |
| http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3517 | | | |
| http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3489 | | | |

Comments

- Five key priorities
 - Youth as development partners
 - Employment, training and entrepreneurship
 - Engagement and inclusive governance
 - Social and spatial inclusion
 - Resilience, reconstruction and post conflict

UNHCR

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Promoting employability (e.g., vocational training programmes) → Apprenticeship programmes → Cash assistance for vulnerable families → Advocacy for access to livelihood opportunities for refugees → Graduation approaches for refugee youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Mainstreaming engagement of youth into community-based protection, e.g., youth volunteers → Youth programmes, e.g., recreational /sports programmes for youth → Implementing life- skills programmes, e.g., civic engagement, communication, conflict management → Advocating for the inclusion of refugee youth into broader youth initiatives (e.g., Global Youth Forum) → Supporting innovative country-level, youth-led initiatives to ensure participation of youth at risk including youth with disabilities and LGBTI → Providing international protection to refugee youth through access to territory, registration documentation and protection from refoulement → Child protection for refugee adolescent youth through strengthening national child protection services, provision of specialized child protection services and strengthening community-based child protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Provision of health services to adolescents and youth, including sexual and reproductive health services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Scaling up of access to secondary and tertiary education and increased opportunities for accredited alternative education and training that addresses specific needs and capacities of adolescents and youth. These could include non-formal education and specialized programmes such as accelerated education, life-skills training and vocational training |

Data and policy/advocacy support

- Policy advocacy and capacity-building to ensure youth protection from deportation, refoulement
- Establishment of programmes for youth at risk (recruited, in conflict with the law, etc.) through youth mentoring and peer-to-peer approaches
- Policy/advocacy and support to innovative initiatives to build cohesion between refugees and host communities
- Advocacy for policy changes from Governments hosting refugees as well as greater investment in programmes adapted to the needs of refugee adolescents and youth

Other priority areas

Links to further materials/websites

<http://www.unhcr.org>
<http://data.unhcr.org>
<http://www.unhcr.org/513f37bb9.pdf>

Comments

- Increased focus on youth since 2013
- Flagship: Youth Fund Initiative
- Holistic community-based protection approach

UNICEF

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Advocacy and partnership-building in support of opportunities for adolescents and youth. This includes nurturing adolescent girls and boys as innovators and entrepreneurs → Direct livelihoods support for youth: appropriate programmes (in close partnership with the private sector and (local) governments) that could include cash-for-work, innovation labs, etc. → Strengthening the knowledge base on employment in order to identify avenues and opportunities for possible expanded programme activities in support of young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Empower youth to lead change and peace building in their communities → Establish mechanisms of networking for adolescents and youth → Adolescents and youth are engaged as partners in evidence-generation, programming, and advocacy to amplify their voices, improve programming and protect their rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Build capacities of adolescents and their families to protect them from violence and abuse → Build legislative and coordination capacities of national systems to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse → Support national systems to provide access to protective services prevent and respond to violence exploitation and abuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Scaling up equitable access to education with a focus on both formal and non-formal education - Improving the quality and relevance of education → Reduce number of out-of-school children and adolescents → Increase and mainstream life-skills and citizenship education in formal and non-formal education → Strengthening national education systems on knowledge generation and policy development related to post-basic education and school-to-work transition |

Data and policy/advocacy support

- Strengthen knowledge generation and monitoring for advocacy and policy development related to youth
- Strengthen national education systems on knowledge generation and policy development related to post-basic education and school-to-work transition

Other priority areas

- Increase capacity of national legislative systems to respond and prevent violence and abuse
- Increase capacity of adolescents and families to protect themselves and eliminate harmful behaviours
- Build capacity of national systems to provide access to protection

Links to further materials/websites

http://www.unicef.org/strategicplan/files/UNICEF_Strategic_Plan_2014-2017_e-version.pdf
http://www.unicef.org/strategicplan/files/2013-21-UNICEF_Strategic_Plan-ODS-English.pdf
<http://www.oosci-mena.org/>
<http://www.unicef.org/adolescence>
http://www.unicef.org/media/files/PFC2012_A_report_card_on_adolescents.pdf
http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/files/ME_toolkit_booklet_4-2014.pdf
http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/files/Take_Us_Seriously.pdf
[http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/files/adolescent_conflict\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/files/adolescent_conflict(1).pdf)

UNOCHA

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|---|------------------|--------|-----------|
| Data and policy/advocacy Support | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Advocacy using the World Humanitarian Summit Arabic social media platforms and among the Summit's MENA youth community comprising youth volunteers and affected youth → Research and policy research linking youth engagement in humanitarian action with the WHS → Publication of reports and policy briefs on key priority areas including effect of conflicts on youth, impact of youth engagement in humanitarian action on humanitarian response, and youth displacement | | | |
| Other Priority Areas | | | |
| → Gender, Communication With Communities | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| Twitter: @WHSummitAR Facebook: القيمة العالمية للعمل الإنساني | | | |

Comments

- OCHA is willing to provide institutional oversight on the cross-cutting issues related to humanitarian action given its leading role in coordinating emergency humanitarian response. Additionally
- OCHA has various initiatives to integrate gender into the humanitarian system (i.e., the Inter-Agency Standing Committee GenCap programme)

UNRWA

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Provide TVET through eight centres in five countries → Provide career guidance and placement services → Build capacity of TVET instructors, develop continuously adaptive curricula, focus on ICT, improve placement and career guidance, making TVET more inclusive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Provide financial assistance and technical capacities of CBOs, NGOs, youth clubs to provide services to youth to raise their awareness and engagement and leadership → Direct provision of services through centres in five locations → Support youth parliaments and other forums to promote leadership and civic engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Through 138 centres, provide health services to youth through family health team approach. Including promoting healthy behaviours, screening and counseling for domestic violence, and treatment of diabetics and hypertension among youth → Support to school health programmes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Development of training curricula → Provide access to quality education through schools, vocational training and teacher training centres |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| Other priority areas | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| http://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-school-parliaments-good-practices-booklet http://www.unrwa.org/resources/strategy-policy/school-health-strategy http://www.unrwa.org/resources/strategy-policy/unrwa-ten-youth-commitments http://www.unrwa.org/resources/strategy-policy/unrwa-teacher-policy http://www.unrwa.org/resources/strategy-policy/inclusive-education-policy-brief http://www.unrwa.org/resources/strategy-policy/technical-and-vocational-education-training-programme | | | |

Comments

- Focus countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, State of Palestine (West Bank and Gaza)
- Youth empowerment among three priorities for UNRWA medium-term strategic plan 2016-2021. Further emphasized in the UNRWA 10 commitments for youth
- Piloting a holistic approach to healthy life for youth including basic education, health, life skills, TVET, entrepreneurship training, career counseling, job placement and youth-led community development

UNV

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|--|--|--------|-----------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Volunteerism for development by advocating for volunteerism, encouraging the integration of volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers→ Promote the integration of volunteering into the objectives and activities of partners such as governments and development organizations, to facilitate national ownership of development processes | | |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Support research and knowledge on youth and volunteerism→ Advocacy and technical support for developing youth volunteering strategies→ Supporting and promoting campaigns on volunteerism and the role of youth | | | |
| Other priority areas | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Volunteerism for peace and development | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| <p>http://www.unv.org/youth http://www.unv.org/en/about-us/strategy.html http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_file.cfm?doc_id=17317 http://www.unv.org/en/news-resources/resources/fact-sheets/doc/fact-sheet-on-unv.html http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2012/Resources/English_UNV_Arab_Youth_Overview_Fact_Sheet_2012.pdf http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2014/corporate/UNV_Youth_Volunteering_Strategy_web.pdf http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/photodb/Youth/Misc_Thumbnails/UNV_YVP_SuccessStories_FINAL_web.pdf http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2013/corporate/UNV_Youth_Volunteering_Strategy-FINAL_23Aug_web.pdf</p> | | | |

Comments

- Focus countries: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen

UN Women

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|--|---|--------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Economic Empowerment and income generation for young women | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Building capacity for political participation and strengthening young women's leadership including through strengthening partnership with universities to introduce courses on youth participation and gender equality→ Build capacity of young women and men as advocates for gender equality | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Building capacity to establish and implement initiatives to strengthen the engagement and benefit of young women in ICT |
| Data and policy/advocacy support | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Support generation of research and knowledge on youth and gender equality→ Policy advocacy for promotion of women's rights and youth-centric policies, norms and procedures→ Advocacy and technical support for engendering youth policies and developing gender equality strategies→ Supporting and promoting advocacy campaigns to promote gender and role of youth | | | |
| Other priority areas | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Ending violence against women | | | |
| Links to further materials/websites | | | |
| <p>http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/7/ap-designing-projects-to-end-violence-against-women http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2014/6/within-our-reach http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/executive_percent20board/2015/2nd_percent20regular_percent20session/presentation_percent20youth_percent20and_percent20gender_percent20equality.pdf?v=1 http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/executive_percent20board/2015/2nd_percent20regular_percent20session/un-women_percent20youth_percent20strategy_percent20background.pdf?v=1&d=20150824T143044</p> | | | |

Comments

- Focus countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, State of Palestine
- Global Strategy on Youth and Gender Equality focuses on three pillars
 1. Strengthening young women's leadership
 2. Economic empowerment and income generation for young women
 3. Ending violence against women
- UN Women regional youth strategy being finalized in line with global strategy
- At country level, most projects focus on capacity-building for political participation, policy advocacy and promotion of women's rights
- Also focus on education/ICT and violence against women.

WHO

| Employment | Civic engagement | Health | Education |
|--|------------------|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Working with other sectors, e.g., education and employment→ Contributing in environments that are physically and emotionally safe and supportive for young people→ Apply occupational health and safety at work places | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Scaling up health services, both preventative and curative, that are accessible and that meet the physical and mental health needs of all adolescents and youth, within the context of universal health coverage-→ Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing adolescent and youth health including mental health and violence→ Building an adolescent-competent workforce | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Strengthen contributions from the education, media and other sectors to improve adolescent health→ Promoting healthy lifestyles including physical activity, health diet and safer sex and reproductive health, preventing HIV, use of tobacco, alcohol and other psychoactive substances |

Data and policy/advocacy support

- Development and implementation of policies and programmes that enable adolescents to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and well-being and maximize their potential, and that lay the foundations for a positive transition to adulthood
- Specific data needed. Adequate sex- and age-specific data to plan and monitor programme activities
- Development and advocacy for use of a multimedia interactive online report
- Use of the regional situation analysis tool (SARA) and set of core health indicators to collect, analyse and use data on adolescent health to support and inform policymaking

Other priority areas

- Focus on the broader context and common determinants that underlie the key health problems, positive development and health-related behaviours of adolescents and youth
- These common determinants include personal characteristics, such as age, gender, knowledge and skills, peers, parents, providers, protective and supportive environments and political decisions

Links to further materials/websites

<http://www.who.int/life-course/partners/global-strategy/en/>
<http://apps.who.int/adolescent/second-decade/section1/page3/health-sector-priorities.html>
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/183151/1/WHO_FWC_MCA_15.05_eng.pdf
http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/core_competencies/en/
http://www.who.int/child_adolescent_health/documents/adolescent/en/
http://www.who.int/entity/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/adolescence/health_services/en/index.html
http://www.who.int/entity/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/adolescence/mental_health/en/index.html
http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/global-standards-adolescent-care/en/
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/183151/1/WHO_FWC_MCA_15.05_eng.pdf?ua=1
http://www.who.int/entity/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/community-capacity-h4plus/en/index.html
http://www.who.int/entity/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/core_competencies/en/index.html
http://www.who.int/entity/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/hiv-testing-counselling/en/index.html
http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA65/A65_13-en.pdf
http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA64/A64_25-en.pdf

Comments

- Towards universal health coverage for adolescents 10-19 aged years
- Focus on the broader context and common determinants that underlie health issues.
- Update of the regional framework on adolescents developed in 2006 based on updated Global Strategy on Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health and on the Global Comprehensive Adolescent Framework
- Partnership with all stakeholders is essential
- Proposed framework focuses on five domains: health services; healthy nutrition; enabling environment; healthy lifestyles; safer sexual debut.

Annex V

Tables of Overarching Priorities

Thematic Area 1. Employment and entrepreneurship

Overarching priority

Promoting positive business environments to enhance job-rich growth for young men and women

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support sector surveys and value chain analysis (with examples of international good practices for similar sectors and possible twinning initiatives) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Access to finance and market, employability, conducive regulatory frameworks for the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises and employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support innovative solutions to overcome specific sectors' bottlenecks → Design and provide specific business development services including mentoring → Facilitate access to finance for youth including post conflict and in emergencies → Support building the capacities for youth on sustainability issues, develop and/or harmonize regulations and laws on environmental management, work on balanced development and management of natural resources and environmental services, and grow markets for sustainable products and services that benefit youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support mentoring, enterprise incubators and promotion of social enterprises, business development, green jobs and women's entrepreneurship |

Overarching priority

Enhancing quality and market relevance of skills of male and female youth [skills development] with special attention to refugees

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support establishment surveys of public/private sectors to identify and anticipate skills gaps/ needs, including for women → Support non-formal sector analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support national accreditation framework for training providers (quality assurance framework) → Launch of global norms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Improve skills assessment, and TVET testing and certification → Design and implementation of a training package to improve readiness of youth groups to get involved in livelihood programme activities in at least one emergency country → Introduce unified work and life-skills modular training package in selected countries after review of existing packages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support work-based learning (including in non-traditional sectors e.g., for women) → In partnership with the private sector, joint on-the-job training activities in at least two countries – including for internships /upgrading informal apprenticeships /design of national apprenticeship system → Support business/ entrepreneurship skills → Expanding and mainstreaming partnerships between private sector companies and universities & schools |

Overarching priority

Facilitating/accompanying the transition of young women and men to decent and productive work [school-to-work transition]

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support vulnerability and gender analysis of labour market segments for improved targeting → Generate evidence on successful youth employment initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Advocate for changes in perception of youth towards labour market (traditional/ non-traditional sectors, wage and prestige reservations) → Support selected countries in review of curricula to adapt them more to the economic environment and labour markets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support public/private partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support employment service centres, either at national level or as part of post-conflict programme activities |

Overarching priority:

Promoting inclusive and decent work for especially for key groups of youth (women/men/PWDs/migrants/refugees/IDPs/school dropouts)

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support research and data collection on wages and work conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support mechanisms to promote right to work and rights at work (migrant, refugees, young women, PWDs, detainees) → Align with the High-Level Committee on Programmes Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and use this as a platform to promote and advocate for policies related to inclusive and decent work for vulnerable youth → Pay special attention to youth with disabilities, deprived of family environment (in institution, in streets) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support participatory gender audits, Gender Seal, Women's Empowerment Principles, occupational safety and health → Support capacity-building of youth groups and trade unions on youth rights at work (with a focus on informal economy) → Support capacity-building on prevention and response to child labour → Support finalization of the joint United Nations youth advocates, workers' and employers' organizations → Support pilot training and implementation in a targeted country for companies/ businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Promote inclusion of key youth groups and adapt the offer of services |

Overarching priority:

Enhancing economic empowerment of young men and women in emergency/crisis response and recovery.

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|--|-----------------|---|----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Document good practices from previous emergencies on youth involvement and response/recovery | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support youth readiness to participate to reconstruction → Support Employment Intensive Investment Programme: improving graduation mechanisms through an integrated approach → Improve United Nations integrated responses to complex long-term emergencies | |

Thematic area 2. Civic engagement, participation and inclusion

Overarching priority

Civic engagement

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Develop active participation of adolescents and youth in sectors that concern them → Within youth policy research, pay special attention to civic engagement of vulnerable young people in the region → Conduct mapping of existing mechanisms for youth inclusion with development of national youth strategies and policies and creating a platform for hosting reports and other youth-related documents → Conduct mapping of the legal/ constitutional mechanisms in favour of the participation of youth in political processes and dialogue → Identify mechanisms and platforms to engage, and legal and regulatory frameworks for women, youth and excluded groups to function in the public sphere and contribute to critical development and crisis issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support policy support to promote frameworks and dialogue processes engaged for effective and transparent engagement of civil society in national and local development → Advocate for youth participation in the development and implementation of youth policies, including those on education → Advocate for changes in related attitudes, values and mindsets promoted in curricula | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Create a roster of youth policy experts and build capacities of youth experts on national youth policies → Offer citizenship and human rights education as an essential tool for civic engagement → Reinforce social cohesion through volunteers and voluntary work; development of volunteerism in local-level service delivery; specific aspects of South-South and triangular cooperation based on exchanges of skilled people to close critical gaps → Develop capacities of youth and NGOs and CSOs working with youth in the social sector in promoting and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals as well as their advocacy and social mobilization capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Facilitate students' active projects at school and in university |

Overarching priority

Peacebuilding and protecting the safety and security of young people in all settings

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|---|---|--|----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Collect available data and research on the perception of youth in peace and security, especially refugees, and on statements and declaration made by youth in the Arab States/MENA region, assessing what the data tell us to help guide programme activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support innovative participatory initiatives aimed at changing negative perceptions of youth and highlight the ongoing work of youth as agents of change, especially focusing on involving youth in current and future peace processes → Work with young people, media, government, civil society and other stakeholders to shed light on the positive role of youth in their societies when it comes to peace and security → Advocate for legal and policy reform to protect all young people, refugees and those in contact or in conflict with the law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support capacity-building and sensitizing of national partners, media, youth and other stakeholders on the role of youth in peacebuilding, development and overall social cohesion; the protection of rights during disasters, conflict and fragile environments → Build capacities of social protection systems and social welfare and justice sectors to provide young people with protection and youth-friendly services and safe spaces → Team up with NGOs working with and for youth and private sector to develop a regional platform to connect peace-builders and share information | |

Thematic area 3. Health and well-being

Overarching priority

Addressing adolescent and youth health, including sexual and reproductive health, towards universal health coverage by: providing preventive and curative health care services including: SRH (including, HIV and STIs), mental health, nutrition (mal-nutrition and obesity), CD and NCD, prevention of violence and injuries, tobacco control, prevention of drug and substance abuse, prevention of non-communicable diseases, and promoting physical activities and healthy life styles

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Integrate adolescent and youth health, including reproductive health indicators, in national health information systems (in four country offices/Member States) → Support programme review to build on existing health best practices → Support the collection of gender-disaggregated data on tobacco use, AIDS and STIs among adolescents and youth → Support special studies to assess the prevalence of drug and substance abuse → Develop analytical research on reproductive health for young people in selected countries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Develop issue briefs on specific topics such as road traffic injuries, drug and substance abuse and tobacco use → Produce position papers on reproductive health for young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Build the capacities of other youth-related sectors such as ministries of youth and education on health promotion programme activities for youth → Build the capacity of health service providers on guidelines and protocols of youth-friendly health services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support country offices/ Member States in introducing core packages of adolescent health services including combination prevention/ testing counseling at different levels of health systems (four country offices/Member States) → Support health promotion and education on adolescent and youth health issues including sexual and reproductive health using mobile health/m-health, focusing on youth gathering points for outreach activities such as youth and sports clubs → Fast track the HIV/AIDS response for adolescents and youth |

Overarching priority

Strengthening the public school system to respond to mental health needs of adolescents and youth

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support embedding operational research in the capacity-building initiative for public school teachers on early recognition and management of common emotional and behavioural problems among students and imparting life-skills education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Translate teachers' capacity-building package on early recognition and management of common emotional and behavioural problems into Arabic → Finalize the life-skills education package for social and emotional learning among adolescents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Enhance the capacities of public school teachers on early recognition and management of common emotional and behavioural problems (four country offices/Member States) → Enhance the capacities of teachers, parents and adolescents to adopt skills for social and emotional learning through a whole-school approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Provide integrated services for management of common emotional and behavioural problems among students → Provide adolescents and youth with a set of life skills that help them in addressing social and emotional challenges |

Overarching priority

Provision of health services for adolescent and young girls exposed to gender-based violence, including in emergency settings

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Develop advocacy documents on gender-based violence in emergency settings → Translate available tools and guidelines on gender-based violence into Arabic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support capacity-building for health care and social support providers on gender-based violence prevention and response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Provide health services for adolescent and young girls exposed to gender-based violence including in emergency settings |

Thematic area 4. Education

Overarching priority

National education systems strengthened to provide equitable, quality education and lifelong learning opportunities

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Improve evidence- informed policy planning, monitoring and evaluation through strengthened tools and mechanisms such as education management information systems → Identify and share best practices on the development and application of certification frameworks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Advocate for the development and review of comprehensive national policy frameworks to include teacher gender equality issues → Support advocacy and awareness-raising of policymakers on certification frameworks for labour market recognition and to expand second chances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Institutionalize capacity development on policy, planning and sector coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support effective delivery of capacity development on policy, planning and sector coordination |

Overarching priority

Increased access to formal and non-formal education opportunities through multiple pathways, particularly in humanitarian contexts

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Improve availability and use of sex-, age-, disability- and diversity-disaggregated data and thematic studies on adolescents at risk, including refugees and IDPs → Develop a regional clearing house on higher education to match supply and demand on higher education → Generate good practices on increasing access to education including provision of psychosocial support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support policy dialogue and advocacy to identify and remove barriers that limit access of young people to learning → Advocate for flexibility and diverse learning pathways | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support training of education personnel and leaders in both formal and non-formal settings, and of policymakers and special task forces → Support upgrading of non-formal and informal learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support programming to improve the access of out-of-school children and youth (including IDPs/refugees) to education |

Overarching priority

Education quality and lifelong learning improved in formal and non-formal education

- TVET and skills for employability strengthened
- Education for global citizenship and sustainable development promoted.

| Data and research | Policy/advocacy | Capacity development | Services |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Generate evidence of linkages between learning and youth employability; learning outcome impacting citizenship, health and reproductive health, HIV, comprehensive sexuality education, mental health, education for sustainable development, peaceful conflict resolution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Advocate for integration of life skills (including career guidance and human rights) in all curricula (including lower and upper secondary, TVET and entrepreneurship education) → Rebrand TVET to make it more attractive to youth → Support advocacy for designing national frameworks for life-skills education → Support advocacy for the introduction of comprehensive sexuality education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support strengthening of TVET institutions, training of teachers → Support strengthening of institutions to provide participatory and quality learning environments → Support teacher training based on participatory and innovative curriculum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Expand models to learning in extracurricular and informal learning → Provide exemplary curricular models and textbooks |



