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 IATTYP)
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List of acronyms

3RP  Regional Refugee Resilience and Response Plan
AIDS  Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CSE  Comprehensive Sexuality Education
eMTCT  Ending Mother to Child Transmission
DJ4Y  Decent Jobs for Youth
DRR  Disaster Risk Reduction
CBOs  Community Based Organizations
CD  Communicable Diseases
EIP  Employment Intensive Investment Programmes
EMIS  Education Management Information System
EU  European Union
FBOs  Faith Based Organizations
GCED  Global Citizenship Education
GDP  Gross Domestic Product
HIV  Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT  Information and Communication Technology
IDPs  Internally Displaced Persons
IDUs  Injecting Drug Users
ILO  International Labour Organization
ICT  Information and Communication Technology
IT  Information Technology
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
MENAs  Middle East and North Africa
MSM  Males having Sex with Males
MSMEs  Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
NCDs  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
PWSds  Persons with Disabilities
QAF  Quality Assurance Framework
RDT  Regional Directors Team
RITTY  Regional Interagency Technical Task Team on Young People
RPL  Recognize Prior Learning
RSPSP  Relief and Social Services Programme (UN RWA)
SDGs  Sustainable Development Goals
STIs  Sexual Transmitted Infections
ToT  Training of Trainers
TVET  Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN ESCWA  United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNAIDS  The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO  United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA  United Nations Population Fund
UNHabitat  United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR  United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees
UN IATTTYP  United Nations Interagency Technical Task Team on Young People
UNICEF  United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA  United Nations Relief and Works Agency
UNV  United Nations Volunteers
UN Women  United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VTC  Vocational Training Center
WBL  Work Based Learning
WHO  World Health Organization
YFHIS  Youth Friendly Health Services
Youth-SWAP  United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Youth
Y-Peer  Youth Peer Education Network

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 feeling the effects of the aftermath 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 (I/ATTYP) 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.

In neighbouring Iraq, as of June 2015 there were just under 4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 288,000 refugees. 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.

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. The conflict has had a devastating effect on basic services in Yemen. More than 2,500 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.

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. 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.

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 2015, December 2015.
All countries in the region face poor in their Global Gender Gap Index and Gender Inequality Index, the former is at its best in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (17 and 119 respectively) and at its worst in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen (143 and 145 respectively).1

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.4 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 11.9 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.5

Given the political situation and instabilities in the region, such rates are expected to be stable in the coming years.6 Youth labour force participation rates also vary significantly across the region, ranging from 19.9 per cent in Saudi Arabia to 29.8 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

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

- More than 10 countries are at 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 per cent 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, 28 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: The indicator aims to address a broad array of challenges and priorities 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.9

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.10 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.11

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).12 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 2013,13 and with the continuation of the crisis, enrolment rates are likely to have declined further in 2015.

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.14 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.15

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. Boys are at greater risk of dropping out and 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 bride.

The conflict in the region had a devastating effect on school attendance. In nine countries in conflict or affected by conflict, 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, 18 million students are without education due to the conflict, in addition to the 16 million who were already out of school before the conflict started.16 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.17

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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 independence (for young men) and marriage and social consequences are very serious in a region in norms regarding early marriage. The psychological 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).

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), Somalia (45 per cent),24 Sudan (38 per cent)24 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, 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; in Morocco 16.5 years for males and 17.8 years for females.

Tapped 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.25 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).26

Compared to youth in the rest of the world, Arab youth participate more in civic groups, and in Morocco and Jordan, 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).27 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.26 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.28

References:
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.
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.
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:

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.
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 systemic 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.

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.

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

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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Young People in the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 2</strong></td>
<td>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 3</strong></td>
<td>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</td>
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<td>3.3</td>
<td>By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 1:</td>
<td>HIV incidence per 100 susceptible person years (adults, key populations, children, adolescents).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 4</strong></td>
<td>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 1:</td>
<td>Percentage of children who achieve minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics at end of (i) primary; (ii) lower secondary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 2:</td>
<td>Completion rate (primary, lower secondary, upper secondary).</td>
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<td>4.2</td>
<td>By 2030, increase by [x]% per cent the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 1:</td>
<td>Percentage of youth/adults who are computer and information literate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 2:</td>
<td>Youth/adult literacy rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 1:</td>
<td>Enrolment rates by level and type of education (Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and tertiary).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>By 2030, increase by [x]% per cent the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 1:</td>
<td>Percentage of youth/adults who are computer and information literate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 1:</td>
<td>Parity indices (female/male, urban/rural, bottom/top wealth quintile for all indicators on this list that can be disaggregated).</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>By 2030, ensure that all youth and at least [x]% per cent of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 1:</td>
<td>Percentage of youth/adults proficient in literacy and numeracy skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Indicator 2:</td>
<td>Youth/adult literacy rate.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*At the time of writing, certain indicators were not yet finalised and endorsed.*
By 2030, ensure that all teachers 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 cultures’ contribution to sustainable development.

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]% the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.

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.

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

Propose all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Proposed Indicator 1: Percentage of inhabited human settlements with access to improved sanitation services
Proposed Indicator 2: Percentage of the population using improved sanitation facilities

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

By 2030, ensure sustainable access to energy for all.

Proposed Indicator 1: Percentage of the population with access to electricity
Proposed Indicator 2: Percentage of the population consuming energy from renewable sources

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.

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

By 2030, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

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

End all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, including violence against girls and young women.

Proposed Indicator 1: Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting
Proposed Indicator 2: Whether or not inheritance rights discriminate against women and girls

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)

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

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)

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)

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

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

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

By 2030, take effective measures to combat climate change and its impacts.

Proposed Indicator 1: Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
Proposed Indicator 2: 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 and local and marginalized communities

Goal 10: Build inclusive and effective institutions at all levels

End all forms of violence against and torture of children.

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

End all forms of violence against and torture of children.

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

**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.

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.
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key regional priorities/programme activities</th>
<th>Participating agencies</th>
<th>Milestones/key activities</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Work-based learning</td>
<td>ILO, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNRWA, UN Women</td>
<td>Publication of joint policy briefs on lessons learned in work-based learning</td>
<td>Joint policy briefs developed and disseminated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Capacity-building for youth</td>
<td>ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women</td>
<td>Design of an integrated training package that combises aspects of gender, work inclusiveness, occupational safety and health and its piloting in targeted countries</td>
<td>Integrated training package developed and shared</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3 Strengthening existing knowledge base at 
  national level on skills demand and on youth vulnerabilities/reservations | ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women | Development of and advocacy using country-advisory on youth policies and standards at regional level with a focus on civic engagement and mechanisms for youth engagement and leadership in supporting community cohesion and resilience | Research papers on job creation potential and labour market segmentation results disseminated |
| 4 Capacity-building of youth groups on improved readiness for entrepreneurship | ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women | Prepare one policy brief for improved business environment for entrepreneurship of young men and women | Policy brief on improving the business environment for young men and women |

Empowering youth as peacebuilders while protecting the safety and security of young people in all settings

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)

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</table>
| 1 Consolidate the existing work 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, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women | Conduct and review of existing youth strategies and guidelines for youth inclusion, including looking at the barriers, gaps, weaknesses and overall youth inclusion in the formulation processes across all Arab countries (giving special attention to civic engagement in crisis contexts) | Regional youth policies/strategies and guidelines toolkit finalized |
| 2 Policy dialogue and advocacy for regional standards on youth policies | ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women | Development of and advocacy using country adolescent and youth factsheets including civic engagement indicators | Advocacy fact sheets on youth policies produced |

Support workshop with youth peacebuilders outlining challenges and opportunities to inform policy and support and lobby 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

Number of initiatives supported

Number of members in the number of youth Peacebuilders Network

Number of initiatives supported by the network

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)

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  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, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women | Conduct and review of existing youth strategies and guidelines for youth inclusion, including looking at the barriers, gaps, weaknesses and overall youth inclusion in the formulation processes across all Arab countries (giving special attention to civic engagement in crisis contexts) | Regional youth policies/strategies and guidelines toolkit finalized |
| 2 Policy dialogue and advocacy for regional standards on youth policies | ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women | Development of and advocacy using country adolescent and youth factsheets including civic engagement indicators | Advocacy fact sheets on youth policies produced |

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Number of initiatives supported

Number of members in the number of youth Peacebuilders Network

Number of initiatives supported by the network

Key priorities: Thematic area 3. 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)

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  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, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women | Conduct and review of existing youth strategies and guidelines for youth inclusion, including looking at the barriers, gaps, weaknesses and overall youth inclusion in the formulation processes across all Arab countries (giving special attention to civic engagement in crisis contexts) | Regional youth policies/strategies and guidelines toolkit finalized |
| 2 Policy dialogue and advocacy for regional standards on youth policies | ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women | Development of and advocacy using country adolescent and youth factsheets including civic engagement indicators | Advocacy fact sheets on youth policies produced |

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Number of initiatives supported

Number of members in the number of youth Peacebuilders Network

Number of initiatives supported by the network
### Thematic area 3. Health and well-being

**Key priorities:**

- 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
- 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)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Milestones/key activities</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Strengthens adolescent and youth health, including sexual and reproductive health, towards universal health coverage by: preventing and curing health services including sexual and reproductive health; mental health; nutrition; prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, violence and injuries, and of drug and substance abuse; tobacco control, and promoting physical activities and healthy lifestyles</td>
<td>UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women</td>
<td>Development of country adolescent and youth fact sheets with youth health indicators (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO)</td>
<td>Number of the fact sheets developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Regional meeting conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Providing technical support to selected countries in building health care providers’ competences in adolescent health (UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO)</td>
<td>Regional monitoring and evaluation tool developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Organizing a data review and harmonizing the available service package to ensure alignment with the latest global services core package (Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Tunisia) (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO)</td>
<td>Number of health providers trained at primary health care level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Developing national and regional guidance on the use of social media and other mainstream media outlets in the outreach and campaigning activities (UNAIDS, UNDP, UN Women, WHO)</td>
<td>Service packages are reviewed and aligned with global standards for four countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Regional guidance booklet developed</td>
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</table>

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.

### Thematic area 4. Education

**Key priorities:**

- 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)

<table>
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<th>Participating agencies</th>
<th>Milestones/key activities</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women</td>
<td>Generate evidence on effective programme activities/good practices to reach young people including provision of psychosocial support through formal and non-formal educational settings</td>
<td>Recognition of prior learning system in place in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Support development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for Education 2030 (Youth) Agenda Sustainable Development Goal 4</td>
<td>Youth-friendly (age-sensitive) booklets, tools and guidebooks produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Support technical advice and capacity development in monitoring using key performance indicators including the Minimum Standards of Education in Emergencies (INEE Standards)</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Support development of a conceptual and programmatic framework on life skills-based education leading to national frameworks</td>
<td>Regional expert consultation on life skills-based education developed on the basis of consultation with MENA countries and used as guidance for programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recognition of prior learning system in place in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Support establishment of a regional conceptual framework for life-skills education, leading to national frameworks</td>
<td>ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women</td>
<td>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 in life skills education (including cognitive and analytical skills, personal empowerment skills, employability skills and citizenship skills) on learning outcomes</td>
<td>Number of facts sheets, policy briefs produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Development of a conceptual and programmatic framework on life skills-based education</td>
<td>A conceptual and programmatic framework on life skills-based education developed on the basis of consultation with MENA countries and used as guidance for programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional expert consultation on life skills-based education developed on the basis of consultation with MENA countries and used as guidance for programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Support development of a regional conceptual framework for comprehensive sexuality education leading to national frameworks</td>
<td>ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women</td>
<td>Develop guidelines to generate support for comprehensive sexuality education in the region</td>
<td>Development of a conceptual and programmatic framework on life skills-based education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Policy brief on comprehensive sexuality education in the context of the Arab States developed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.”

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

Levels/Models of Engagement, Coordination and Monitoring

Mechanisms

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
Municipal 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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- Impact of ICT on Arab youth Employment, Education and Social Change. 2013. ESCWA
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Annexes
# Annex I
## List of Participating Individuals and Agencies

### Working Group: Employment and Entrepreneurship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seiko Sugita</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Nada Sweidan</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veera Mendonciao</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Ibrahim Hejjo</td>
<td>UNRWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Haddad</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Brooke Winterburn</td>
<td>UNRWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammad Naciri</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>Suad Nabhan</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raidan Al Saqqaf</td>
<td>UN ESCWA</td>
<td>Luay Shalbaneh</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aleksander Bodiroza</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>Laia Baker</td>
<td>UNRWA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Melville</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Jo Berg</td>
<td>UN Habitat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Laryea</td>
<td>UN</td>
<td>Katja Schaefer</td>
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<td>Lyewon Jung</td>
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### Steering/Reading Group

**CO-Chairs: Aleksander Bodiroza/ UNFPA, Veera Mendonciao/ UNICEF**

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Annex II

Process and Methodology

In its annual workplan for the Arab States and the MENA region, the IATTTYP 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/review 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).

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.
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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 an 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

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

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<td>Provision of entrepreneur training and business start-up training including mentoring</td>
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<td>Local economic development, sustainable livelihoods, and employment intensive work in emergency settings/fragile States</td>
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**Data and policy/advocacy support**

- Support to labour force surveys, establishments surveys, school-to-work transition surveys, child labour surveys for evidence-informed advocacy

**Other priority areas**

- 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**


**UNAIDS**

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<td>Youth friendly tools and materials are created for evidence-based advocacy and programming</td>
<td>Developing effective political advocacy for social change with focus on legal and policy reform</td>
<td>Developing effective political advocacy for social change with focus on legal and policy reform</td>
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<td>Building capacity to provide cutting edge service to reach 90-90-90 targets and other public health issues by 2020</td>
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**Data and policy/advocacy support**

- Technical assistance to country offices to conduct national level assessment on HIV prevention among adolescents
- Developing effective political advocacy for social change with focus on legal and policy reform

**Other priority areas**

- 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**

- [http://allintoendadolescentaids.org](http://allintoendadolescentaids.org)

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Civic engagement</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased economic empowerment, building productive capacity of youth and an enabling environment for enhanced youth employment, employability and entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Increased civic engagement and participation, promoting effective participation and engagement in platforms that support sustainable development solutions to poverty, inequalities and exclusion</td>
<td>Facilitate innovative youth projects responding to development challenges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data and policy/advocacy support**
- Arab Human Development Report on youth launched in October 2015
- Support the development of national youth policies

**Other priority areas**
- Strengthened youth engagement in resilience in disaster response and resilience building in crisis or post conflict

**Links to further materials/websites**

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop capacities of youth in monitoring the implementation of youth policies related to employment</td>
<td>Dynamic mapping of youth organizations and support of operational networks</td>
<td>Capacity development of teachers in dealing with school-related gender violence and awareness on HIV</td>
<td>Technical assistance and capacity development to provide secondary and higher education, including TVET in conflict situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance and capacity development to provide secondary and higher education, including TVET in conflict situations</td>
<td>Support youth and media</td>
<td>Support youth policy processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data and policy/advocacy support**
- Support development of national youth policies

**Other priority areas**
- 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.

**Links to further materials/websites**
- [http://en.unesco.org/netmedyouth](http://en.unesco.org/netmedyouth)

**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.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for employment with a special focus on young women, vulnerable groups and policies preventing sexual harassment.</td>
<td>Promote youth leadership and participation.</td>
<td>Build capacity for sexual and reproductive health service delivery (including HIV prevention, treatment and care) and with special focus on vulnerable youth.</td>
<td>Promote comprehensive sexuality education within framework of Y-PEER (Youth Peer Education Network), education and others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**


**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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth employment, training, and entrepreneurship: harnessing job creation, youth employment, youth skills building, promoting youth entrepreneurship, especially among women.</td>
<td>Working with youth and institutionalizing youth participatory approaches, civic engagement, and partnerships to address areas of concern identified by young people.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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://www.unhabitat.org)
- [http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/youth/](http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/youth/)

**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**
- 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

**Civic engagement**
- 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

**Health**
- Provision of health services to adolescents and youth, including sexual and reproductive health services
- 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

**Education**

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**UNICEF**

**Employment**
- 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

**Civic engagement**
- 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
- 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

**Health**
- 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 present and respond to violence exploitation and abuse
- Build capacities of national legislative systems to respond and prevent violence and abuse
- Increase capacity of adolescents and families to protect themselves and eliminate harmful behaviours

**Education**

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**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**

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

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<tr>
<td><strong>Data and policy/advocacy Support</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Advocacy using the World Humanitarian Summit Arabic social media platforms and among the Summit’s MENA youth community comprising youth volunteers and affected youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Research and policy research linking youth engagement in humanitarian action with the WHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ 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</td>
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</table>

**Other Priority Areas**

- Gender, Communication With Communities

**Links to further materials/websites**

Twitter: @WHSummitAR
Facebook: 

**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**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provide TVET through eight centres in five countries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Provide financial assistance and technical capacities of CBOs, NGOs, youth clubs to provide services to youth to raise their awareness and engagement and leadership</strong></td>
<td><strong>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 diabetes and hypertension among youth</strong></td>
<td><strong>Development of training curricula</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provide career guidance and placement services</strong></td>
<td><strong>Direct provision of services through centres in five locations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Support youth parliaments and other forums to promote leadership and civic engagement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Provide access to quality education through schools, vocational training and teacher training centres</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Build capacity of TVET instructors, develop continuously adaptive curricula, focus on ICT, improve placement and career guidance, making TVET more inclusive</strong></td>
<td><strong>Support youth parliaments and other forums to promote leadership and civic engagement</strong></td>
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<tr>
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</table>

**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/reports/unrwa-school-parliaments-good-practices-booklet)

**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

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteering for development by advocating for volunteerism, encouraging the integration of volunteerism into development programming and mobilizing volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Data and policy/advocacy support**

- 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**

- Volunteerism for peace and development

**Links to further materials/websites**

- [http://www.unv.org/youth](http://www.unv.org/youth)

**Comments**

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

### UN Women

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Empowerment and income generation for young women</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
<td>Building capacity to establish and implement initiatives to strengthen the engagement and benefit of young women in ICT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Build capacity of young women and men as advocates for gender equality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data and policy/advocacy support**

- 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**

- Ending violence against women

**Links to further materials/websites**


**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.
### Employment
- 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 worksites

### Civic engagement
- 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

### Health
- 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

### Education
- 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.

### 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://apps.who.int/es/bitstream/10665/181151/1/WHO_FWC_MCA_15.05_eng.pdf
## 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to finance and market</td>
<td>Support to overcome specific sector's bottlenecks</td>
<td>Design and provide specific business development services including mentoring</td>
<td>Support mentoring, enterprise incubators and promotion of social enterprises, business development, green jobs and women’s entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and anticipate skills gaps/needs</td>
<td>Support surveys and value chain analysis</td>
<td>Design and provide specific business development services including mentoring</td>
<td>Support mentoring, enterprise incubators and promotion of social enterprises, business development, green jobs and women’s entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and harmonize regulations and policies</td>
<td>Support non-formal sector analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop and harmonize regulations and policies</td>
<td>Support national accreditation framework for training providers</td>
<td>Improve skills assessment, and TVET testing and certification</td>
<td>Support work-based learning (including in non-traditional sectors e.g., for women)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate access to finance for youth in emergencies</td>
<td>Support national accreditation framework for training providers</td>
<td>Design and implementation of a training package to improve readiness of youth groups to get involved in livelihood programmes in at least one emergency country</td>
<td>In partnership with the private sector, support youth in the job training activities in at least two countries – including for internships and apprenticeships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support vulnerable and gender analysis of labour market segments for improved targeting</td>
<td>Design and provide specific business development services including mentoring</td>
<td>Introduce unified work and life skills modular training package in selected countries after review of existing packages</td>
<td>Support business/entrepreneurship skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generate evidence on successful youth employment initiatives</td>
<td>Support vulnerability and gender analysis of labour market segments for improved targeting</td>
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<td>Expanding and mainstreaming partnerships between private sector companies and universities</td>
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**Overarching priority**

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

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<tr>
<td>Support establishment surveys of public/private sectors to identify and anticipate skills gaps/needs, including for women</td>
<td>Support national accreditation framework for training providers (quality assurance framework)</td>
<td>Improve skills assessment, and TVET testing and certification</td>
<td>Support work-based learning (including in non-traditional sectors e.g., for women)</td>
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<td>Support non-formal sector analysis</td>
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<td>Support sector surveys and value chain analysis</td>
<td>Support national accreditation framework for training providers</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>In partnership with the private sector, support youth in the job training activities in at least two countries – including for internships and apprenticeships</td>
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<td>Support innovative solutions to overcome specific sectors’ bottlenecks</td>
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**Overarching priority**

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

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<tr>
<td>Support vulnerability and gender analysis of labour market segments for improved targeting</td>
<td>Advocate for changes in perception of youth towards labour market (traditional/ non-traditional sectors, wage and prestige reservations)</td>
<td>Support public/private partnerships</td>
<td>Support employment service centres, either at national level or as part of post-conflict programme activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generate evidence on successful youth employment initiatives</td>
<td>Support vulnerability and gender analysis of labour market segments for improved targeting</td>
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**Overarching priority**

Facilitating/accompanying the transition of young women and men to decent and productive work [school-to-work transition]
**Overarching priority:**
Promoting inclusive and decent work for especially for key groups of youth (women/men/PWDs/migrants/refugees/IDPs/school dropouts)

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<tr>
<td>Support research and data collection on wages and working conditions</td>
<td>Support participatory gender audits, Gender Seal, Women’s Empowerment Principles, occupational safety and health</td>
<td>Support capacity building of youth groups and trade unions on youth rights at work (with a focus on informal economy)</td>
<td>Promote inclusion of key youth groups and adapt the offer of services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Support capacity building on prevention and response to child labour</td>
<td>Support finalization of the joint United Nations youth advocates, workers’ and employers’ organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay special attention to youth with disabilities, deprived of family environment (in institution, in streets)</td>
<td>Support pilot training and implementation in a targeted country for companies/businesses</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Overarching priority:**
Enhancing economic empowerment of young men and women in emergency/crisis response and recovery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data and research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document good practices from previous emergencies on youth involvement and response/recovery</td>
<td>Support youth readiness to participate to reconstruction</td>
<td>Support Employment Intensive Investment Programme: improving graduation mechanisms through an integrated approach</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Improve United Nations integrated responses to complex long-term emergencies</td>
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**Thematic area 2: Civic engagement, participation and inclusion**

**Overarching priority:**
Civic engagement

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop active participation of adolescents and youth in sectors that concern them</td>
<td>Support policy support to promote frameworks and dialogue processes engaged for effective and transparent engagement of civil society in national and local development</td>
<td>Create a roster of youth policy experts and build capacities of youth experts on national youth policies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within youth policy research, pay special attention to civic engagement of vulnerable young people in the region</td>
<td>Advocate for youth participation in the development and implementation of youth policies, including those on education</td>
<td>Offer citizenship and human rights education as an essential tool for civic engagement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Advocate for changes in related attitudes, values and mindsets promoted in curricula</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct mapping of the legal/constitutional mechanisms in favour of the participation of youth in political processes and dialogue</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>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</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improve United Nations intergovernmental mechanisms to complex long-term emergencies</td>
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<td>Facilitate students’ active projects at school and in university</td>
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</table>
Overarching priority
Peacebuilding and protecting the safety and security of young people in all settings

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<tr>
<td>Collect available data and research on the perception of youth in peace and security, especially refugees, and on statements and declarations made by youth in the Arab States/NENA region, assessing what the data tell us to help guide programme activities.</td>
<td>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 reaching youth in current and future peace processes.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Advocacy for legal and policy reform to protect all young people, refugees and those in contact or in conflict with the law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the collection of gender-disaggregated data on (tobacco use, AIDS and STIs) among adolescents and youth.</td>
<td>Support the collection of gender-disaggregated data on reproductive health for young people.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Advocate for legal and policy reform to protect all young people, refugees and those in contact or in conflict with the law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop issue briefs on specific topics such as road traffic injuries, drug and substance abuse and tobacco use.</td>
<td>Develop issue briefs on reproductive health for young people.</td>
<td>Build the capacity of health service providers on guidelines and protocols of youth-friendly health services.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Develop position papers on reproductive health for young people.</td>
<td>Support the collection of gender-disaggregated data on (tobacco use, AIDS and STIs) among adolescents and youth.</td>
<td>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).</td>
<td>Support the collection of gender-disaggregated data on (tobacco use, AIDS and STIs) among adolescents and youth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide special studies to assess the prevalence of drug and substance abuse.</td>
<td>Develop issue briefs on specific topics such as road traffic injuries, drug and substance abuse and tobacco use.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Develop advocacy documents on gender-based violence prevention and response.</td>
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Overarching priority
Health and well-being
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.

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<td>Develop issue briefs on specific topics such as road traffic injuries, drug and substance abuse and tobacco use.</td>
<td>Develop position papers on reproductive health for young people.</td>
<td>Build the capacities of other youth-related sectors such as ministries of youth and education on health promotion programme activities for youth.</td>
<td>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).</td>
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<td>Develop analytic/research on reproductive health for young people in selected countries.</td>
<td>Develop position papers on reproductive health for young people.</td>
<td>Support the collection of gender-disaggregated data on (tobacco use, AIDS and STIs) among adolescents and youth.</td>
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Overarching priority
Strengthening the public school system to respond to mental health needs of adolescents and youth.

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

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## Thematic area 4: Education

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

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<tr>
<td>Improve evidence-informed policy planning, monitoring and evaluation through strengthened evidence-informed systems</td>
<td>Advocate for the development and review of comprehensive national policy frameworks to include teacher gender equality issues</td>
<td>Institutionalise capacity development on policy, planning and sector coordination</td>
<td>Support effective delivery of capacity development on policy, planning and sector coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify and share best practices on the development and application of certification frameworks</td>
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### Overarching priority
Increased access to formal and non-formal education opportunities through multiple pathways, particularly in humanitarian contexts

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<tr>
<td>Improve availability and use of sex, age, disability- and diversity-disaggregated data and thematic studies on adolescents at risk, including refugees and IDPs</td>
<td>Support policy dialogue and advocacy to identify and remove barriers that limit access of young people to learning</td>
<td>Support training of education personnel and leaders in both formal and non-formal settings, and of policymakers and special task forces</td>
<td>Support programming to improve the access of out-of-school children and youth (including IDPs/refugees) to education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a regional clearing house on higher education to match supply and demand on higher education</td>
<td>Advocate for flexibility and diverse learning pathways</td>
<td>Support upgrading of non-formal and informal learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generate good practices on increasing access to education including provision of psycho-social support</td>
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### 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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Advocate for integration of life skills (including career guidance and human rights) in all curricula (including lower and upper secondary, TVET and entrepreneurship education)</td>
<td>Support strengthening of TVET institutions, training of teachers</td>
<td>Expand models to learning in extracurricular and informal learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for design of national frameworks for life-skills education</td>
<td>Support strengthening of institutions to provide participatory and quality learning environments</td>
<td>Provide exemplary curricular models and textbooks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebrand TVET to make it more attractive to youth</td>
<td>Support teacher training based on participatory and innovative curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support advocacy for the introduction of comprehensive sexuality education</td>
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