

UNDP'S WORK ON, FOR AND WITH YOUTH IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)



The [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) works to address the unique and complex needs of young people and achieve the 2030 Agenda in more than **100 countries** and territories, including [46 Least Developed Countries \(LDCs\)](#). We work with civil society partners, including youth organizations and networks, other United Nations entities and development partners to advance youth empowerment for sustainable development and peace.

UNDP takes a multidimensional and human rights-based approach to youth empowerment that aligns with, and aims to boost the implementation of:

- The [UN Youth Strategy: Youth2030](#)
- The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, 2419 and 2535 on [Youth, Peace and Security](#)
- [Doha Programme of Action](#) for the LDCs
- The [Paris Agreement](#)

Achieving the SDGs requires strong partnerships between young people and all stakeholders so that the challenges faced by youth are addressed, their contributions recognized and they are included in decision-making processes at all levels. UNDP promotes active participation of youth, including the most marginalized and vulnerable in all spheres of society.



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Key facts

- There are 1.8 billion young people in the world, the largest generation in history
- 90% of them live in developing countries, where they make up 60%-70% of the population
- UNDP supports youth empowerment in all five regions: Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and the Arab States, with projects in all 46 LDCs

UNDP supports the capacity development of young people and youth-led organizations through:

- Technical, policy & programmatic support
- Inclusive partnerships, coalitions & networks
- Advocacy, outreach research & data
- Capacity development
- Mainstreaming youth issues in development planning and inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination.

UNDP in action

UNDP has a broad and inclusive network to draw on at global, regional, and country levels, and youth flagship initiatives supporting youth leadership and role as SDG accelerators. Examples of UNDP's work include the following:

Global level

The [Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace](#) (Youth-GPS, 2016-2023), has supported more than **60 countries** in all five regions and has implemented flagship global initiatives, such as #Generation17, co-created with Samsung and young leaders from **Bangladesh, Mali and Rwanda**, among other countries, and UNDP #16x16 initiative supporting the role young people play in building peaceful, just and inclusive societies (with young leaders from **Malawi, Togo, Solomon Islands and Nepal**).

The [Climate Promise](#) is the largest offer on NDC support through which UNDP has assisted over **120 countries and territories** with revising and enhancing their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Around 60% of Climate Promise countries consulted youth groups during their NDC revision processes, resulting in specific policy measures and actions, such as in **Liberia, Zimbabwe, Sudan and Bhutan**.

[UNDP Accelerator Labs](#) are surfacing and scaling-up solutions with local communities - many of whom are women and young people - towards achieving the SDGs. To date, the network has identified some 3,000 grassroots solutions, leveraging new resources such as geospatial data and collective intelligence. The Labs have already supported several LDCs towards achieving SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation): **Myanmar, Uganda and the Lao People's Democratic Republic**.

The [GEF Small Grants Programme](#) has provided financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment, with a strong focus on empowering and improving the skills of women, Indigenous Peoples, youth (**265 organizations**), and persons with disabilities in 112 countries, including **40 LDCs** (e.g. in **Haiti, Djibouti** etc.).

Regional level

[Youth Co:Lab](#), an initiative by UNDP and the Citi Foundation, has supported youth-led social enterprises in **28 countries and territories in Asia and the Pacific**, including in **Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Kiribati and Solomon Islands**.

The [YouthConnekt](#) initiative is a platform that seeks to empower young people through enhancing their knowledge, experiences and skills while investing in their ideas, innovations and initiatives in more than **30 countries in Africa**, among which **19 LDCs** (including **Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe** etc.).

The [Youth Leadership Programme](#) (YLP) provides training and capacity-building for youth through workshops, innovation camps, hackathons and other activities in the **Arab States**, including in **Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen**.

Country level

In **Madagascar**, UNDP recently developed a guidebook to support the mobilization and engagement of young citizens against corruption in the context of its Democratic Governance support programme.

A UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and UNDP project funded by the PBF in **South Sudan** addresses the high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), which hinders women's participation in the peace process and undermines progress towards sustainable peace.

in **Mali**, under the leadership of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNDP implemented, jointly with IOM, and with the support of the EU and Denmark, the initiative of peace running trail called "Grand Trail de la Jeunesse pour la paix" (2021), to increase the participation of young women and men in the transition and reconciliation process.

In **Haiti**, UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women supported the access to justice, legal and judicial aid service for vulnerable groups, women and youth, through the establishment of the national legal assistance system and the strengthening of civil society organizations.

For more information

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