

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



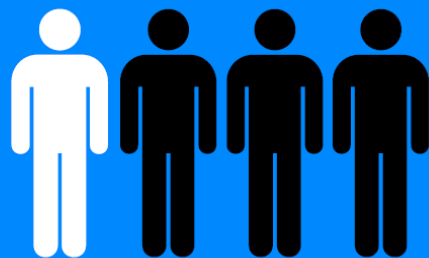
Empowered lives.
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Youth engagement, crisis response and resilience

Marginalized youth who lack economic livelihoods and employment opportunities are vulnerable target groups. Economic hardship coupled with lack of opportunities to meaningfully participate in the society puts youth at risk of long-term social exclusion which compromises countries' social cohesion and can lead to political instability. Over the years, inequality has served as the basis for grievance and lack of economic alternatives exacerbate rising inequities and inequalities for the poor and vulnerable, in particular youth and women. Two key issues in resilience are recovery from conflict-induced crises, and stronger ability to prepare for and deal with the consequences of natural disasters.

In crisis and post-conflict settings, young people have demonstrated the potential to build bridges across communities, working together, helping to manage conflict and promote peace. Marginalized youth who lack economic livelihoods and employment opportunities are vulnerable target groups.

Extreme weather is endangering lives and livelihoods with climate change being a rising threat to development and the stability of countries and economies. Every aspect of sustainable development is undermined by disasters, whether social, economic or environmental. Disasters expose inequities and keep the poorest poor.



In developing countries where 90 per cent of the global youth population lives, stable, quality employment is especially lacking. One in four young persons does not bring home wages over poverty line (1.25\$ a day level). Source: ILO

MATTERS OF FACT

- **More than 600 million youth live in fragile and conflict-affected countries and territories.**
- **In 2012, UNDP spent US\$ 79 million on Conflict prevention around the world.**
- **In 2012, UNDP spent US\$ 198 Million around the globe to increase resilience to natural hazards; Source: UNDP, Preventing Crisis Enabling Recovery Report 2012**
- **Low income and lower-middle income countries have accounted for only 33% of disasters, but 81% of all deaths.**

UNDP's approach

UNDP supports strengthened youth engagement in disaster preparedness, crisis response and resilience building in crisis and/or conflict contexts. Young men and women are playing an active role in rebuilding the social fabric of societies. After a crisis, youth are often involved in innovative approaches in adopting environment-friendly practices. Young women increasingly contribute as managers of natural resources which contributes to resilience building. Youth groups are an important entry point to reduce the environmental impact of recovery efforts, including awareness raising in broader communities and engagement in environmentally sustainable livelihoods initiatives, strengthening environmental and economic resilience as well as sustainable use of natural resources for income generation and livelihoods recovery.

Strengthened resilience building

UNDP advocates for youth engagement in early recovery and a return to sustainable development in post-conflict and post-disaster settings.

The strategic entry points for mobilizing and empowering youth, particularly in post-crisis and natural disasters context are:

- Support livelihood stabilization of young men and women as early as possible in crisis-affected settings as an important building block for resilience and to support social cohesion. Entry points include emergency employment and entrepreneurship.
- Provide youth-at-risk of (re) joining armed or criminal groups with alternative/diversified livelihoods opportunities for conflict prevention. Engaging youth in recovery efforts to support reintegration efforts.
- Mobilize youth in disaster preparedness, education and post-disaster efforts, focusing on emergency employment creation, community infrastructure rehabilitation and local governance, particularly in environmentally vulnerable locations.
- Engage young women as managers of natural resources in rural economies and supporting adaptation and mitigation actions and enhancing effective participation of youth in climate change policy decision making processes.
- Mobilize youth to engage in peace-building and lead peaceful transitions. Encourage the use of new technologies to mobilize communities. Strengthening capacities of youth for peace building.
- Support youth and youth organization to play a pivotal role in helping re-establish relationships, including a renewed social contract between the state and its cities addressing the root cause of violence, exclusion and conflict.
- Analyze and support gender sensitive resilience and violence reduction strategies.

UNDP in action

Yemen: The Government of Yemen has adopted the 3x6 approach to bring innovation to youth employment based on savings. The approach was adopted in the country's Youth Employment Action Plan, endorsed by the Council of Ministers and Friends of Yemen in September 2013.

Mauritius: Children and youth are essential participants in projects funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by UNDP. School children in Mauritius cultivated indigenous/endemic medicinal plants at the Britannia Government School. Students, parents, teachers and local residents converted land into a greenhouse and a conservation area. Revenues generated by selling the seeds and plants were used to maintain and further expand the conservation area.

Sudan: In 2013, UNDP in collaboration with WFP, implemented *Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur* project in partnership with the Universities of El Fasher, Nyala and Zalingei with 126 Youth volunteers and 13 senior volunteers who were trained on business development and deployed in 47 communities in 5 Darfur States. As a result, 1,872 community members were trained on volunteerism, gender and community mobilization by youth volunteers. Collaboration was established with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) Nyala through Food for Training scheme for four Internally Displaced Persons camps in Nyala; 11 PDCs were established and made operational; the councils have intervened and peacefully resolved 70% of the cases; 3 community initiatives jointly managing water resources were initiated; and 3 joint education and health initiatives were initiated.

Jordan: In 2013, UNDP launched the Host Community Support Programme in responding to the influx of Syrian Refugees with a focus on women and youth. The beneficiaries benefited from job placement and small and medium enterprise (SME) development support. Trainings on employability skills, life skills and civic engagement principles, and job placement with UNDP's support during their three months internship period. Beneficiaries were provided SME development support with training, start-up grants, mentoring and coaching service.

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