What works to amplify the rights and voices of youth in peace and resilience building?

Lessons from the meta-synthesis of United Nations evaluations to advance the United Nations Youth Strategy

Brief | Read the full report at unfpa.org/evaluation

Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy was launched in 2018 as a system-wide strategy which provides an umbrella framework to guide the entire United Nations in its efforts with and for young people. This meta-synthesis of evaluation reports generates learning on what works and what does not work with regards to United Nations youth programming in the last five years on Priority 5 of the United Nations Youth Strategy on peace and resilience building.

The meta-synthesis utilized qualitative data collection methods for a systematic review and analysis. Data was extracted and then synthesized to surface lessons learned that emerged from the sample of evaluations.

Review of 121 evaluation reports under 3 thematic areas from 23 United Nations entities

This meta-synthesis is the second exercise in a series of meta-syntheses focused on capturing lessons learned on the implementation of the UN Youth Strategy. Access the first exercise ‘What works to amplify the rights and voices of youth?’ focused on youth participation and youth and human rights.

Lessons learned

1. Meaningfully engaging youth as leaders and creating an enabling environment for youth leadership in decision-making processes is critical for transformative change.

2. Interventions seeking to enhance the inclusion of diverse groups of young people were more successful when they adapted their activities to the different profiles of youth and the local context.

3. Interactive and experiential methodologies offer effective, inclusive ways to build the capacity of youth in peacebuilding competencies.

4. Enhancing interaction between youth and duty bearers to improve intergenerational trust and solidarity can lead to catalytic and transformational effects in youth interventions.

5. Strategic and well-defined partnerships across civil society, governments and the private sector reap significant benefits for youth projects in terms of effectiveness, reach and inclusivity.