



YOUTH:

A PROGRAMMATIC OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Youth¹ and young people are essential to accomplish UNODC's mandates of enhancing the rule of law and improving human security, including justice and health priorities. More specifically, UNODC has the mandate to support Member States in youth crime prevention efforts and ensuring that youth and children are better served and protected by justice systems.

The following paper presents a brief overview of UNODC's programmatic work that views youth as both beneficiaries and actors. This is not an exhaustive report but only highlights certain key initiatives. UNODC's main efforts regarding youth and child programming can be broken down into seven main areas: 1) Initiatives under the Doha Declaration; 2) Drugs and Health – The Youth Initiative; 3) Ending Violence Against Children; 4) Cybercrime; 5) Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants; 6) Regional Initiatives; and, 7) Inter-Agency Mechanisms. The report will explain each of these initiatives by providing a brief overview along with ongoing activities as well as important events for 2020.

DOHA DECLARATION

In its efforts to support implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC launched the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness in 2016². Two of the Global Programme's components are dedicated to youth: Youth Crime Prevention through Sports and the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative. These two components have impacted over 760,000 youth worldwide and developed over 150 educational tools and resources aimed at young people, including university modules, training guides, a Resource Guide on Model United Nations conferences and a series of non-electronic games.

Doha Declaration Global Programme Activities



¹ There is no single agreed upon definition of the term youth. According to UNSCR 2250, "youth" describes individuals between the ages of 18 and 29. In some cases, youth can also be used to describe persons between the ages of 15-24 for specific reporting standards (DESA). The term "children" or "child" is used for boys and girls under the age of 18 as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The systems, including institutions and practitioners, applicable to ensure child protection are fundamentally distinct from those that ensure the protection of the rights of adults, including young adults or "youth", who themselves, as primary or secondary duty bearers, may have obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the respect, protection and fulfilment of child rights. Throughout this report, the term youth and young people are used interchangeably to describe the broad range of individuals between the ages of 15-29 whereas the term children will be used only for programmatic work for those under the age of 18.

² www.unodc.org/dohadeclaration



The Global Youth Crime Prevention initiative builds on the power of Sports as a tool for strengthening resilience of at-risk youth. This component developed the “Line Up Live Up” programme, a sport-based life skills training programme for young people aged 13-18. UNODC also actively engages other UN entities to strengthen the role of youth in making societies more resilient to crime and violence and related problems. This includes cooperation with UN-Habitat around One Stop Youth Centres in Kenya, cooperation with UNDESA and UNESCO around the use of sport and skills training for youth. UNODC has also joined forces with the civil society sector, sports organizations and local government institutions to enhance the resilience of vulnerable and at-risk youth to become community leaders and SDG 16 advocates.

The youth crime prevention through sports component regularly undertakes the following activities:

- Sports-based life skills training activities for young people;
- Sports festivals and other awareness-raising events at the national and local levels, organized in partnership with Member State partners, civil society organizations and sports federations;
- Capacity-building and refurbishment of sports centres, schools and other sports-related community structures to reach out to young people through sports and create safe spaces for meaningful engagement and positive interaction;
- Enhance the capacity of civil society organizations, through the provision of grants, to reach out to vulnerable young people through sports-based programmes and other community interventions to help them build resilience to violence and crime;
- Online sessions and activities in order to continue engaging young people in the era of COVID-19;
- Development of technical tools and guidance on the effective use of sport for the prevention of youth crime and violence, including preventing violent extremism.

Upcoming activities:

- A series of national and regional online workshops are planned on youth crime prevention in the COVID era, acknowledging that children, youth and families are very much impacted by economic and social impacts of the pandemic.



Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative

The E4J initiative has been developed to create and disseminate education materials on UNODC mandated areas of crime prevention and criminal justice across the primary, secondary and tertiary education levels. Overall, E4J's objective is to empower youth to become socially responsible global citizens with a sound moral and ethical compass who are prepared to tackle the world's challenges related to the rule of law. The E4J initiative regularly engages in the following types of activities:



- Training of teachers and academics to educate children and youth on rule of law issues;
- Debates, conferences and mobilization events to stimulate young people's involvement with rule of law issues and SDG 16;

- Conferences and development opportunities for young academics at the tertiary level, including firsthand experience in working with the United Nations and strengthening important skills;
- Contests and competitions to stimulate young people’s creative development of solutions for rule of law challenges;
- Advocacy and engagement with policymakers on the empowerment of children and youth to promote the rule of law.

Upcoming activities:

- August 2020: Launch of the *Justice Accelerators* programme, under the E4J initiative: an innovative programme for upper secondary students (aged 16-18) that brings together education on the rule of law, technology and entrepreneurship to develop technological solutions to rule of law challenges in their communities.
- Engagement with youth at the University of Applied Science of Peru and University of Qatar to translate E4J modules and develop advocacy campaigns on promoting the rule of law.



DRUGS & HEALTH

Youth Forum

Since 2012, the Office has supported a Youth Initiative with two components that actively engage youth in substance use prevention activities. The annual Youth Forum is held each year on the fringes of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Youth are nominated by Member States to participate in a series of activities designed to increase their knowledge of evidence-based drug use prevention, provide opportunities for them to practice skills related to leadership and prevention, as well as create a Youth Statement to be read during the Plenary Session of the CND. In 2020, a publication was launched at CND called, “UNODC Handbook on Youth Participation in Drug Prevention Work”.



Note: The countries with youth representation at the UNODC Youth Forum between the years of 2012 to present.

Other on-going global health initiatives where children and youth are beneficiaries

- UNODC-WHO's *Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care* and UNODC's *Programme on Prevention of illicit drug use and treatment of drug use disorders for children/adolescents* are global programmes that have served the needs of children and adolescents for the past 10 years. These programmes focus on science-based, patient-centered, human rights-based approaches that support the healthy development of children and youth.
- In 2011, UNODC's Children Project was piloted to support children, adolescents and families in Afghanistan. Through this continuing project, over 5,000 children, adolescents and women participate in outreach, out-patient, residential and recovery substance use services every three months. UNODC has expanded the project and currently serves children and youth in Latin America and the Central Asian region as well.
- UNODC, in collaboration with WHO, with leading family therapy organizations and experts, and regional/national mental health experts from over 20 countries, developed the *Treatnet Family Training Package* to support adolescents and families affected by drug use in resource limited settings. It aims at scalable drug treatment intervention for adolescents, building on core elements among evidence-based family therapies and other behavioral treatment models. The training package was piloted in 3 Asian regions (Central, South and Southeast Asia) and completed its feasibility study in Indonesia in 2019, while another feasibility study is ongoing in Vietnam. It is going to be scaled up in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Serbia and other countries in 2020-21 through online training modules.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The UNODC Global Programme to End Violence Against Children (END VAC) is a programme launched in 2015, which focuses on providing support to requesting Member States to ensure that children alleged to have, accused of having or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crime, are treated in a manner that observes their rights and respects their dignity in accordance with applicable international law, in particular according to the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant United Nations standards and norms. The UNODC Global Programme to END VAC regularly:

- Conducts comprehensive assessments of national legal, policy, institutional, and operational frameworks, including Technical Assistance Needs Assessments (TANAs) aimed at assessing the existing capacities and training needs.
- Provides Legal Advisory Services to align national legal, regulatory and policy frameworks with international law, in particular with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant UN international standards and norms such as the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.
- Develops and delivers Capacity Building Programmes aimed to improve the knowledge and skills of institutions and actors in charge of preventing and responding to violence against children
- Supports the development of and strengthens Coordination Mechanisms for preventing and responding to violence against children.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN

UNODC
END VAC



- Promotes and creates platforms and mechanisms to foster community involvement and Child Participation in decision making processes aimed to prevent and respond to violence against children.

Upcoming Activities

- During the COVID-19 outbreak and, in light of the travel restrictions imposed, the Global Programme to END VAC (GLOZ43) has been developing online tools related to the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups. In 2020, five comprehensive online training modules based on the UNODC training package on *Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups* are currently being developed and will allow UNODC to improve capacities of institutions and key actors of the justice, security, social welfare, education, health, education, and child protection systems at the national level from requesting Member States from all over the world during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Based on the Technical Assistance Needs Assessments conducted in Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Maldives in 2019 and 2020, a range of legal advisory services in the area of justice for children as well as in the area of children affected by terrorism, particularly those affected by the Foreign Terrorist Fighter (FTF) phenomenon, will be provided to national counterparts as per their request.

CYBERCRIME

UNODC – under its Global Programme on Cybercrime and the cybercrime prevention component of the E4J initiative - has been equipping the youth and educators with the knowledge and tools to raise their awareness of online risks and understanding of the key issues related to cybercrime. Additionally, the Global Programme on Cybercrime is working with Member States to enhance their capacities to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cybercrime affecting the youth by providing specialized tools and training to identify and investigate different types of cybercrime that particularly affect young people, such as child sexual abuse, image-based sexual abuse and trafficking in persons. Regular activities of this program include:

- Awareness raising
- Reporting of online child sexual abuse material
- Cybercrime prevention and incident response strategies at schools
- Development of educational materials for children, youth and educators.
- Training of education authorities, educators and school IT specialists.

Upcoming Activities

- *How to measure your behavior on the Internet?:* Together with ICMEC, Facebook, and the Institute of Child (OAS), UNODC will launch the campaign for caregivers, children, and adolescents. The campaign will be uploaded to the Facebook prevention portal and will be spread through the social network in all Latin American countries. It will be translated into English (for the Caribbean), and Portuguese as well as Spanish.
- *Sharenting responsibly:* This is a campaign for parents and caregivers, advising them not to share or post images of their kids. It will be launched in Honduras in cooperation with NGO Pantallas Amigas.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

The Office – under its Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons and its Global Programme against Smuggling of Migrants – engages with youth, youth organizations and educators to spread knowledge about these crimes through technology and by designing tools to assist authorities in investigating and prosecuting criminals as well as protecting victims. Regular activities of these programmes include:

- Partnerships with universities and students for collection and analysis of global jurisprudence;
- Partnerships with universities, students, IT experts and tech firms to promote technology-based solutions for addressing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Upcoming activities

- Launch new academic year of collaboration with Queen Mary University London where students support UNODC as contributions of case-law and analysis.

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL AND COUNTRY OFFICE INITIATIVES

Bolivia: Transparency Youth Networks and Public Procurement Training

In 2010, UNODC's Country Office in Bolivia started the "Youth Network for Transparency" initiative in 10 municipalities in order to promote anti-corruption practices and a culture of integrity. The initiative has since expanded to over 60 municipalities and has provided training to over 9,000 children and youth. For instance, in 2020, UNODC trained 153 young people in public procurement and participation in municipal management. The Youth Networks for Transparency are carried out within the framework of the Institutional Transparency and Citizen Participation for Municipal Governance Project, implemented by UNODC, the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency with support of the Swedish Embassy.

Given the COVID-19 context, the networks' members were limited in their actions to promote transparency, which is why the Project has formed a "Consultation Group" that aims to generate messages to prevent corruption with the support of young people's voices. This group includes 35 youth from 15 project municipalities that meet weekly to plan anti-corruption activities. Thus far during the pandemic, these young people have already made short videos on transparency issues, supported the dissemination of network activities and have conducted webinars and training on values of honesty, respect and integration.

Brazil: Youth Ambassadors Programme

UNODC in Brazil, in partnership with Caixa Seguradora Institute and the Secretariat of Human Rights and Citizenship of São Paulo city to promote social inclusion and build capacity and resilience of at-risk and vulnerable youth to enhance their leadership and advocacy skills to promote the 2030 Agenda in national and international spheres.

From 2016 to 2019, the initiative selected and trained 100 young men and women from vulnerable and at-risk backgrounds in the country, including transgender persons, indigenous citizens, Afro descendants, persons with disabilities, youth released from prison and persons living with HIV. In 2020, 25 new youngsters from the city of São Paulo will be trained. Youth Ambassadors also took place in important international conferences, representing Brazilian youth. In 2019, four participants attended the ECOSOC Youth Forum and organized two side-events.

Kenya: Designing Dreams Initiative

The Regional Office for Eastern Africa of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC ROEA) under its Regional Programme for 2016-2021, "Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa" undertook an initiative on rehabilitation and reintegration of young women deprived of liberty in Kenyan institutions. This was based on a needs-assessment carried out in 2018 by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice pillar of Kenya's rehabilitation homes, borstal institutes and prisons, which highlighted reintegration challenges.

To address this needs-assessment, UNODC ROEA delivered sewing machines and materials to the Kirigiti and Dagoretti rehabilitation schools in Nairobi to launch a pilot project based on fashion design.

This birthed the *Designing Dreams Initiative*, a fashion design and entrepreneurship project which aims to provide girls with vocational, life-skills and entrepreneurship training in order to promote their effective and sustainable reintegration after their release. This initiative was implemented with the support of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (Department of Children Services), the Government of Canada, the Government of Spain, Thribune – a Spanish NGO, as well as four Kenyan Fashion Designers and Miss Universe Kenya.

Kenya: Building Capacity of Young African Parliamentarians to Combat Corruption

UNODC ROEA is working with young parliamentarians and senators, under 35 years of age from all over the African continent, to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to combat corruption. This is done through a number of activities including: the review and situational analysis of the current anti-corruption laws and policies; the development of anti-corruption interventions and strategies that will ensure the laws are upheld through transparency and accountability; and the promotion of civic and public participation as one of the foundational principles of democracy through dialogue, debate and analysis as well as implementation of anti-corruption policies and strategies. The goal of this project is to develop an action framework to highlight the roles of these young actors as legislators and policy makers in the fight against corruption, especially regarding the spillovers stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and the health crisis in Africa. By building their capacities, UNODC seeks to further collaborations and partnerships with government bodies, civil society organizations as well as international organizations.

Myanmar: Youth Integrity Camps

UNODC in Myanmar, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Education and the Anti-Corruption Commission, has been promoting a culture of integrity and ethics among the younger generation. It supports the organization of Youth Integrity Camps for University students, which aims to raise awareness on corruption, increase youth's involvement in the anti-corruption struggle and promote ethos of leadership and integrity. UNODC remains in continuous dialogue with the youth attending the camp in 2020 to promote steady engagement of the youth and to support them in addressing the challenges faced. To ensure sustainability of this initiative a selected group of 2019 youth will be part of the organization of the next youth integrity camp scheduled for the end of 2020.

Furthermore, since 2018 UNODC has supported the review of the primary, secondary and tertiary level curriculum, which now integrate practical tools for teachers to train on the value of integrity, ethics and respect. Each of the 40,000 schools in the country have been equipped through UNODC assistance with set of teaching manuals on integrity and ethics. An estimated number of 1 million young people were reached through this initiative.

INTER-AGENCY MECHANISMS

The Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit (SPIA) plays a coordinating role in inter-agency work backstopping a number of youth related mechanisms and initiatives. The Unit participates in regular meetings with the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD)³ and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS)⁴. Additionally, SPIA is in charge UNODC's Youth Focal Points Group, which is comprised of key programmatic actors, from headquarters and the field, that enable youth programming and empower youth. In 2020-2021, UNODC is the co-chair for IANYD, providing additional assistance to assist youth development across the UN system and youth-based civil society organizations.



³ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/what-we-do/un-inter-agency-network-on-youth-development.html>

⁴ https://www.youth4peace.info/About_GCYPs