The Missing Peace
Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security

YouthPower Learning
Youth in Peace and Security
Community of Practice

May 3, 2018

Advancing solutions to transform the lives of young people
YouthPower Learning
Advancing solutions to improve young lives

• **YouthPower Learning** advances solutions through integrated research and development programs to improve the capacity of youth-led and youth-serving institutions.

• By engaging youth, their families, communities, and governments in innovative programs, we build young people’s skills, assets, and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the enabling environment; and transform systems.

What is Positive Youth Development (PYD)?

PYD programs recognize youth’s inherent rights and result in youth who have **assets**, the ability to leverage those assets (**agency**), and the ability to **contribute** to positive change for themselves and their communities, surrounded by an **enabling environment** that supports them.

http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development
How can we partner together?

• Connecting with other YouthPower activities

• Sharing Resources, Events, Information, and What Works: Learning Hub YouthPower.org

• Identifying What Works

• Measuring PYD: Indicators

• Contributing to the PYD Learning Agenda

• Engaging with the Communities of Practice:
  • Youth in Peace and Security
  • Gender and PYD
  • Youth Engagement
  • Cross-Sectoral Skills for Youth
Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security

Webinar hosted by YouthPower Learning, on 3 May 2018

Presentation by Cécile Mazzacurati (PBSO/UNFPA) and Noëlla Richard (UNDP)
Mandate and structure

- **SCR 2250 (2015):** *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels, and further requests the Secretary-General to make the results of this study available to the Security Council and all Member States of the United Nations.

- **Independent study,** led by experts appointed by the Secretary-General
Lead Author

Graeme Simpson is a global specialist on peacebuilding, conflict and violence, with more than 25 years of experience working in national and international civil society organizations and in partnership with governments, multilateral agencies and national partner organizations. He is an “expert-practitioner” on human rights and rule of law, peacebuilding strategies and reconciliation and reconstruction in conflict-affected and fragile societies.
Steering Committee
Final documents

• **Security Council version** of Study YPS (short version): discussed in an Open debate of the Security Council on **April 23rd**.

• **Interactive version** available on-line before the summer.

• **Full version** of Study YPS will be released before the UN General Assembly.
Youth consulted through the research process

281 focus group discussions in 44 countries

7 regional and 5 national consultations

+ 5 on-line consultations

Research also included 27 country-focused studies and 19 thematic submissions from partners

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Youth Consulted</td>
<td>4230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Females</td>
<td>2070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Males</td>
<td>2159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Countries included</td>
<td>153</td>
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Tackling stereotypes and policy myths

• 408 million youth (aged 15-29) live in settings affected by armed conflict or organized violence in 2016 (1/4 youth)

• YPS directly connected to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human rights, Women, Peace and Security and sustaining peace agenda.

• Widespread stereotypes associate young people with violence, demonizing all young men. The vast majority of young people are not involved, or in danger of participating, in violence.

• 3 main areas of misconceptions:
  o bulging youth populations present an increased risk of violence
  o young migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced people are potential threats to host societies and a drain on social services
  o many young men and women would be tempted to join violent extremist groups.

• These myths have triggered a “policy panic”. Hard-fisted law enforcement and security approaches are counter-productive, and they are further alienating young people
#Youth4Peace

- Contributions of young people to peace and security takes many different forms – from local youth-led organizations working at the local level, with volunteers and very low budgets, to established organizations working in partnership with their Governments, other stakeholders and international institutions.

- Young people work for peace at all different phases of peace conflict cycles, from prevention to humanitarian support to post-conflict truth and reconciliation processes.

- Engage with different types of violence, including violent extremism, political conflict, organized criminal violence, sexual and gender-based violence, etc.

- Many organizations doing important work with or for young people, are not necessarily youth led. Youth leadership is found in diverse institutions and organizations.

- The way young people contribute to peace is also through peaceful protest, cultural expression and online mobilization. Throughout history of young women and men at the forefront of political and social change. These movements faced State violence in response.
Addressing the “violence of exclusion”

- Young people’s participation in peace processes: limited for formal processes, more diverse in informal processes. Very important to involve diverse groups of young people, well-connected to other young people on the ground and operating within civil society.

- For political participation to be meaningful, young women and men need to be broadly represented and consulted in all arenas, without being subjected to cooptation, manipulation or control by political parties.

- Economic wellbeing and livelihoods are key issues in relation to peace and security for youth. Little reliable evidence of correlation between youth unemployment and violent conflict. Research suggests that violent conflict is more likely explained by experiences of horizontal inequality, injustice and identity-based factors.

- Education: core peace and security concern for young people. Educational institutions are sites where young people (as “beneficiaries”) and State or non-state actors (as “providers”), get to interact. Young people have ambitious hopes for education as being potentially transformative in building peace. Importance of value-based education for peace.

- Gender: tendency for youth programming in peace and security to de facto prioritize young men. Essential to recognize and support young women’s peacebuilding.

- Dealing with injustice and human rights: young people are victimized and traumatized by conflict. They also face violations of their fundamental rights. Important to also see young people as actors of the protection realm.
From a demographic dividend to a peace dividend

• Young people have critical contributions to make at local, national, regional and global levels.

• Young people’s work on peace and security bridges the silos of development, human rights, humanitarian and peace and security. If the right investments in youth are in place, and their peacebuilding work is recognized and nurtured, societies may reap a peace dividend.

• Need for a seismic shift and bold reorientation from Governments and the multilateral system, for which UNSCR 2250 planted the seeds:
  o Shifting from reactive and remedial security responses to a comprehensive violence prevention approach that addresses the violence of exclusion as the best means to sustain peace;
  o Prioritizing the support of the positive resilience of most youth, rather than exclusively reacting to the risk represented by just a few;
  o Committing to sincere partnerships based on trust that specifically engage with organizations led by and focused on youth.
Recommendations (1)

1. Invest in young people’s capacities, agency and leadership by:

   • Providing greater and flexible funding for young people, their initiatives and their organizations;

   • Prioritizing building organizational capacities and networks of young people, building on the diversity of youth and their creative approaches towards sustaining peace; and

   • Including young people in the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes related to Youth, Peace and Security.
Recommendations (2)

2. Transform the systems that reinforce exclusion to address the structural barriers limiting youth participation in peace and security by:

- Supporting young people’s political participation, in the form of quotas, inclusion in peace processes and a lower age of eligibility;

- Protecting young people and upholding their rights, and involving young people in security sector reforms and human rights mechanisms and procedures;

- Prioritizing young people’s meaningful, broader economic inclusion, beyond just jobs, and ensuring employment programmes reach the most marginalized youth;

- Capitalizing on the role of education as a tool for peace, and protecting educational institutions from violence.
Recommendations (3)

3. Establish **partnerships and collaborative action**, where youth are viewed as equal and essential partners for peace at the national, regional and global levels by:

- Forming YPS coalitions that consult and actively include young people to define indicators and national objectives for the implementation of SCR2250.

- Supporting qualitative and quantitative research and data collection on YPS.

- Reforming UN mechanisms to include channels of youth participation, dialogue and accountability, including youth advisory boards at the country, regional and headquarter levels, and periodic and standard briefings from youth to the Security Council, and an annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on UN-wide efforts to implement UNSCR 2250.
Open Debate at the Security Council
Next steps

- Possible resolution on YPS
- UN Youth Strategy, youth at the heart of all UN pillars
- Improve support to policies and programmes
- Coalitions, partnerships and funding channels
- Support and implement regional/national YPS roadmaps
- Advocacy, data, research
- Knowledge management
Key references

- Youth4Peace.info
- “The missing peace – independent progress study on youth, peace and security” (short version, 2017)
- Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding: An inter-agency Practice Note (2015)
- UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (2015)
- Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding (2015)
- UNDP Youth-GPS (2016)
Welcome to Youth4Peace
Supporting young people’s participation in peacebuilding
What does the Youth4Peace Knowledge Portal Offer?

🌟 Global forum of knowledge providing tools & resources to support efforts to enhance youth participation in peacebuilding

🌟 Common platform for generating knowledge, sharing information & coordinating advocacy efforts

🌟 Partnership strengthening & building between young peacebuilders, practitioners, policy makers & academics
THANK YOU

www.youth4peace.info

For more information, please contact:
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THANK YOU!

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#Youth4Peace  #Youth2030  #NextGenUNDP

www.undp.org/youth
www.youth4peace.info

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Q&A
What can you do next?

• Contribute to the Twitter stream and spread the message of #PositiveYouthDevelopment.
• Join a YouthPower Community of Practice.
• Visit the YouthPower Learning Hub at www.YouthPower.org and use the resources, best practices, and knowledge shared.
• Send us materials to post, or register on the Learning Hub and share your own reports, studies and other resources on the Learning Hub, write a blog, announce a PYD event.
Grants Under Contract

• Ten grants have been awarded to:
  • assess, evaluate, document and disseminate innovative work in **positive youth development (PYD)** and cross-sectoral youth programming.
  • advance the evidence base for **gender-transformative positive youth development**.
  • advance the evidence base for **youth civic engagement in effective peacebuilding** or in countering / prevention of violent extremism.

• **Forthcoming:** Young Women Transform Prize
  
  www.youthpower.org/2018-prize
Thank you!

Thank you for participating in this YouthPower Learning event hosted by the Youth in Peace & Security CoP. The recording of today’s event will be shared with all registrants.

Please visit www.YouthPower.org for more.