







## Youth2030: Progress Report 2025

*Youth2030: Progress Report 2025* is the fifth report on the status of implementation of Youth2030, the [UN Youth Strategy](#). The report sheds light on the efforts made by the UN system at various levels to fulfill its commitments with and for youth. It provides a comprehensive overview of the progress made and the collaborative efforts of the UN to support Governments and youth networks on their path to sustainable development. It underscores the continued commitment of the UN system to leaving no youth behind.



## Sustainable Development Goals

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN summit, came into force. At the midpoint to 2030, the SDGs are off-track. Over the next six years, Member States, the UN system and young people worldwide must mobilize efforts to achieve these universal Goals to end all forms of poverty, fight inequality, and tackle climate change while ensuring No One is Left Behind.



## FOREWORD

Youth2030 – the United Nations Youth Strategy – is grounded in a simple but powerful vision: a world where the rights of every young person are upheld, their potential realized and their leadership embraced – all in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This Progress Report tells a compelling story. It reflects the efforts of 50 United Nations entities and 132 United Nations country teams. It shows how far we have come – from global policy shifts to grass-roots impact. But it also makes clear that we must move faster, go further and do more to meet the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

Momentum is building. The creation of the United Nations Youth Office in 2022. The adoption of the Pact for the Future in 2024. The upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security. These are not just milestones – they are mandates for action.

As we enter Phase 2 of Youth2030, we do so with renewed urgency and six strategic priorities to guide us – priorities that will accelerate implementation, drive systemic change and ensure that young people are not just participants, but partners, at every step.

I thank the United Nations Youth Office, its leadership and the entire United Nations family for their dedication. Above all, I thank young people – whose courage, creativity and conviction are reshaping our world.

Young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow – they are leaders today. Our success depends on their full and meaningful inclusion and participation.

Let us keep working with and for young people to build a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. Let us deliver on the promise of Youth2030 – together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'António Guterres', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

# Executive Summary

*This fifth edition of the Youth2030 Progress Report provides an overview of the implementation of the UN Youth Strategy across the United Nations system. It comes at a pivotal moment – amid growing opportunities to strengthen meaningful youth engagement in policymaking and decision-making, including within the UN, and against the backdrop of multiple global crises that disproportionately affect young people and have placed the Sustainable Development Goals off track.*

**Youth2030, the UN system-wide Youth Strategy** launched in 2018, aims to transform the UN's engagement with and for young people at all levels. This report presents self-reported data from 50 UN entities and 132 UN Country Teams (UNCTs), measured against key performance indicators outlined in the Youth2030 Scorecards. Performance for the year 2024 is assessed using a standard red-yellow-green rating scale\* and compared to baselines set in 2021 for UN entities and 2020 for UNCTs.

**Youth2030 implementation is gaining traction, although progress remains uneven.** Since its launch, the strategy has steadily gained momentum across the UN system, with measurable improvements among both UN entities and country teams. UN entities increased their green scores from 45% in 2021 to 56% in 2024, while UNCTs improved from 25% in 2020 to 43% in 2024. Despite these gains, the system-wide milestone of achieving 80% or higher green scores on relevant key performance indicators by 2024 was not met.

Among the 50 UN entities reporting, **11** achieved the 2024 milestone, with green scores of 80% or higher. These include **UNDP, UNFPA, the UN Youth Office, UN Women, UNESCO, OHCHR, FAO, UNAIDS, UN-Habitat, ILO** and **WHO**. Similarly, **six UNCTs** also reached this benchmark – **Costa Rica, Iraq, Liberia, Tanzania, Thailand and Zambia**. **Europe and Central Asia** emerged as the top performing region under the UN Development Coordination Office, with an average green score of 52% among UNCTs.

Significant improvements were observed in several UN entities and country teams. The UN entities that had most improved between 2021 and 2024 were **ITU, IOM, UNCTAD, DPO, ITC** and **UNAIDS**. At the country level, **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Honduras, Indonesia, Myanmar** and **Timor-Leste** showed the greatest progress from their 2020 baselines.

The UN system continues to advance global commitments on youth across five key areas: (a) supporting governments in policymaking; (b) establishing youth-focused programmes, projects and partnerships; (c) advocating for youth issues and leading public communication efforts; (d) generating and sharing data and evidence on youth, and setting standards for youth-related work; and (e) building stakeholder capacity and promoting knowledge exchange on youth.

**UN efforts to strengthen inclusive national youth policies are advancing.** Support to national governments in shaping **youth policies** has remained strong, with the assistance of 90% of UNCTs. There is a growing emphasis on promoting inclusion and ensuring **no one is left behind** in the policies, as reflected in a rise from 75% in 2020 to nearly all UNCTs (98%) supporting this area in 2024. Support to governments for **cross-sectoral coordination** has also gained traction, with 86% of UNCTs supporting such efforts in 2024, up from 79% in 2020. However, support for building capacities in public financing and generating disaggregated youth data has declined.

---

\*  At milestone    Moving forward    Getting ready

For the fifth consecutive year, **education, health and employment/labour** remained the **top three sectors** where UNCTs supported youth-related efforts. Education received support from 85% of UNCTs, while over 70% supported health and employment/labour – sectors traditionally seen as closely aligned with youth needs. In contrast, sectors such as **technology, innovation, culture, tourism, urban development, environment and finance** received support from only **half or less than half of the UNCTs**, highlighting clear opportunities for broader and more diversified engagement.

**Youth-focused programmes and initiatives are expanding but require greater scale.** Across UN entities and UNCTs, momentum is building around **joint programmes and multi-stakeholder initiatives with a focus on youth**. Between 2021 and 2024, support from UN entities increased from 65% to 95%. Direct funding to youth-led organizations also rose, and in 2024 over 85% of UNCTs invested in youth-led solutions. Despite this progress, scaling up of these efforts needs to advance.

Over 90% of UN entities supported **advocacy efforts** involving youth at key global and regional events, forums, summits and international observances. **Communication campaigns with the general public** also saw a notable rise, with the percentage of UN entities initiating such efforts increasing from 75% in 2021 to almost 90% in 2024. This area marked the most significant improvement among UNCTs between 2020 and 2024. Nearly 90% of UNCTs included youth in joint communication and advocacy initiatives in 2024 – increasing from 60% in 2020. These efforts increasingly included improved accessibility, particularly for youth with disabilities.

**Data and evidence remain a core strength of the UN system's work on youth.** Between 2021 and 2024, the percentage of UN entities releasing new data products on youth rose from 60% to above 70%. Of these, more than 85% included insights on youth at risk of being left behind, helping to improve understanding of marginalized groups – an effort further supported by new guidance published in 2024. There is also a rising trend in collaborative youth-focused evaluations, with the percentage of completed evaluations increasing from 45% in 2021 to more than 65% in 2024. While interest in using big data to generate youth insights is increasing, such innovative approaches are still limited across the system.

**Building the capacity** of both duty bearers and rights holders, alongside promoting **knowledge exchange** on youth issues, continues to be strong area of performance. This work has steadily advanced across the system through the expansion of publicly accessible e-learning courses, the development of joint knowledge platforms and active knowledge-sharing initiatives led by nearly 80% of UN entities. At the country level, UNCTs have made notable strides. In 2024, nearly two thirds included youth issues in their knowledge exchange plans – double the number in 2020. There is also increasing attention being paid to ensuring that these activities receive adequate funding so as to enhance their impact.

**Youth are increasingly prioritized in UN strategic planning.** Both UN entities and UNCTs continue to demonstrate strong performance in this area. In 2024, over 90% of UNCTs integrated youth priorities into their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. Notably, youth engagement in shaping the Cooperation Frameworks has grown significantly, rising from a mere 7% in 2021 to 57% in 2024. While many UN entities and UNCTs allocate resources to youth-related initiatives, there remains a critical need for more robust tracking and transparency around planned funding, allocations and expenditures at all levels.

**Inter-agency coordination on youth is improving, especially at the country level.** Across the UN system, most UN entities and UNCTs actively participate in **inter-agency coordination mechanisms** to ensure coherence in youth-related work. Notably, the establishment of such mechanisms at the country level has increased, with more than 80% of UNCTs reporting their presence in 2024, up from around 60% in 2020.

**Representation of youth in the UN workforce and internships needs to be improved.** While an increasing number of UN entities are using data to inform their efforts – from around 70% in 2021 to nearly 90% in 2024 – youth under the age of 35 continue to be under-represented in the UN system. Efforts are under way to make internships more equitable and of higher quality, but systemic barriers persist. At the country level, UNCTs are taking more coordinated action. However, progress remains limited: in 2024, under 30% of UNCTs reported meaningful gains, which nevertheless marks an increase from 10% in 2020.

**Youth engagement is deepening across the UN system, though critical gaps remain.** Between 2021 and 2024, youth participation improved significantly among both UN entities and UNCTs, reflecting stronger efforts to involve young people in planning, programming, advocacy and government support.

In 2024, just over half of UN entities had dedicated youth engagement mechanisms – a figure that has held steady since 2021. More than half involved youth in shaping their strategic plans, and senior leadership dialogues remained the most common form of engagement with youth. Outreach to diverse youth groups also remained strong, with engagement in grassroots youth networks and networks of young women consistently high at around 80%. Additionally, 60% of entities engaged with indigenous youth, and about half engaged with youth in conflict-affected areas, migrant youth and youth with disabilities.

At the country level, the percentage of UNCTs with dedicated youth engagement mechanisms doubled – from 20% in 2020 to 40% in 2024. As noted earlier, youth participation in shaping Cooperation Frameworks rose sharply, from 7% in 2020 to 57% in 2024. UNCTs also expanded their reach to more diverse youth. In 2024, engagement with girls and young women remained strong at nearly 85%. There were major gains in reaching marginalized groups: engagement with youth with disabilities rose from 44% to 79%, with indigenous youth from 18% to 32%, and with migrant youth from 37% to 54%.

Continued efforts are needed to ensure that no young person is left behind and that all engagement is safe, and meaningful.

**Youth2030 is guided by intergenerational leadership groups.** The **High-level Steering Committee** continues to provide strategic direction, bringing together **UN leaders** and **youth networks** to drive system-wide transformation. Technical leadership from the **Joint Working Group**, along with targeted contributions from time-bound, issue-specific **Task Teams** – again composed of technical leads<sup>1</sup> from the UN and youth – has also played a key role. With the establishment of the **UN Youth Office**, the secretariat function is now carried out by the **UN System Coordination and Accountability Section** within the new office.

**December 2024 marked the conclusion of Youth2030's first implementation phase**, as outlined in the Scorecards developed in 2020–2021. Building on the progress made – and recognizing the gaps that remain – [Youth2030 Phase 2 \(2025–2030\)](#) was launched earlier in 2025 to accelerate action and align youth priorities with the final stretch of the 2030 Agenda.

Informed by the annual reported data and the First Interim Review of the strategy, Phase 2 addresses persistent challenges and aims to drive systemic change. Anchored in six strategic priorities and supported by a robust Results Framework, it reaffirms the UN's commitment to placing youth at the heart of realizing inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies.

---

<sup>1</sup> A technical lead is a professional who oversees a team of technical personnel, often leading software development or software engineering teams and troubleshooting technical issues relating to software development.

## List of abbreviations

DPO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	UN Trade and Development (formerly United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization





**United  
Nations**

United Nations Youth Office  
801 1st Avenue - New York, NY 10017

July 2025

For further information: [youth2030@un.org](mailto:youth2030@un.org)