

Factsheet

Youth Empowerment



Division for Peace



We work globally

YOUTH2030
WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Working towards the full implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and the UN Youth2030 Strategy



Projects designed to strengthen the important and positive roles of young persons in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security



Thematic Areas

- Youth, Peace and Security agenda.
- Social and business entrepreneurship.
- Youth leadership.
- Youth-led advocacy.
- Conflict resolution and mediation.
- Youth-led reconciliation.
- Gender and diversity inclusion.



Our Services

- Training and facilitation.
- Coaching and mentoring.
- Training of Trainers (ToT).
- eLearning.
- Master degrees and postgraduates.
- Learning support materials.



Our Mission

We contribute to a more peaceful, inclusive and just world by closing the capacity gap standing in the way of the full realization of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda as well as the UN Youth2030 strategy.



The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – a specialized training agency of the United Nations – supports the (re-) establishment of peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16) by enabling individuals and organizations to contribute meaningfully to sustainable peace.

With over 60 years of experience in capacity building, we provide customized, creative and results-based learning solutions, carefully crafted for countries and communities emerging from conflict and facing specific development needs. At the core of our success is our specific methodology that allows for the creation of powerful and inspiring spaces, products and services (online and face-to-face) for high-quality learning and collaboration.

Our training programmes have mentoring and coaching as their key ingredients and promote participation, dialogue, local ownership and multiplication of knowledge for sustainable impact and behavioural change.

In line with the priorities of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda as well as the UN Youth Strategy, Youth2030, UNITAR supports young people and youth counterparts by developing capacities of individuals, organisations and institutions to contribute meaningfully to sustaining peace at all levels.



Our Objectives

Youth-Leadership

UNITAR recognizes the unique capacity of young people to lead transformative action for the achievement of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. We therefore support organizations, networks and individuals in elevating capacities for youth leadership at all levels.

Youth agency and changemaking

Changemaking stems from the small and big ideas, questions, and actions of individuals. We therefore aim to create programmes that support individuals to draw from their own strengths, while recognizing their agency, and inspiring peaceful change.

Intergenerational approaches

UNITAR works with youth allies and youth counterparts in creating safe and enabling environments for youth-driven and youth-focused action for inclusive, peaceful and just societies, while fostering intergenerational exchange and learning.



Flagship Projects

Strengthening youth-led conflict transformation and reconciliation

Some examples of UNITAR's work in this area include last year's support to the Social Cohesion Consortium in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to design and implement a process that allowed members of the Consortium to efficiently capture youth-sensitive project successes, with recommendations for future programming. Similarly, UNITAR continues to support the Colombian peace process, across the themes of reintegration of children and youth, youth-led conflict transformation and community-based reconciliation. To support young women in their leadership journeys in the wider peace and security field, UNITAR is running a global "She Leads for Peace" summer school programme as part of the Women's Leadership for Peace programme. Across the African continent, UNITAR supports a range of mandated youth networks with the aim to enhance youth leadership at different levels, including the Office of the African Union Chairperson's Youth Envoy, YouLead Africa, and the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation. Programming uses methodologies that are needs-based and transformative, and while being youth-led and youth-focused also includes intergenerational approaches to enable youth leadership.

Transformative Leadership Programming

Recognising the importance of women in leadership roles at all levels for the promotion of stable and lasting peace, UNITAR offers targeted transformative leadership programmes that respond directly to the unique challenges faced by women in the peace and security space. Specifically, the Women's Leadership for Peace programme provides women with a set of experiences, knowledge, and skills to take up leadership roles and/or increase their leadership potential by stepping into their power and defining what authentic leadership looks like within their respective context. Designed to be tailored to the specific needs of audiences, UNITAR implements the programme for different cohorts of women at different levels and different capacities. In 2023, participants included members of the Senior Women Talent Pipeline, Ukrainian diplomats, and students from the Kroc Institute and Albright Institute.

Paving the way for young social and business entrepreneurs

The diverse youth demographics of today represent the largest and most active segments of the global population. Yet, many young persons grow up in poverty and lack adequate support to realise their aspirations and to contribute to flourishing social and employment sectors. Often too, these dynamics of exclusion intersect with existing conflict dynamics. By providing dedicated programming with trusted partners, such as through the E-Mobility for Kenya project, UNITAR helps improve equitable access to the labour market while supporting young persons to establish important strategies to contribute to sustainable growth, help advance youth friendly attitudes to entrepreneurship, and to prevent latent conflict at many levels.



"This course has truly been a transformative experience, shaping my perspective and approach to global challenges. I am immensely grateful for everyone's dedication and expertise in nurturing future leaders for a more harmonious world. As I move forward, I am excited to apply these newfound skills and insights to contribute meaningfully to the cause of peace and diplomacy."
- She Leads for Peace summer school participant

Interested in UNITAR support to your youth-empowerment programming?

Contact us at:
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