



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Results Report



The United Nations Institute for
Training and Research

2023

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Letter from the Executive Director	3
Introduction	5
UN 2.0 and UNITAR	6
Our Primary Output	7
Partnerships	12
Certification	13
Highlights in Training	14
Peace	15
People	21
Planet	25
Prosperity	30
Multilateral Diplomacy	35
Satellite Analysis and Applied Research	41
Accelerating the 2030 Agenda	45
Non-communicable Diseases, Digital Health and Capacity Building	48
Highlights in Research and Other Services	50
Peace	51
People	53
Planet	54
Satellite Analysis and Applied Research	57
Accelerating the 2030 Agenda	58
Non-communicable Diseases, Digital Health and Capacity Building	59
Financial Information	60

Letter From the Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the UNITAR 2023 Results Report, a testament to the remarkable endeavours and achievements of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) over the past year. In a world facing multifaceted challenges, UNITAR continues to play a pivotal role in advancing global cooperation, fostering sustainable development, and building the capacities of individuals and institutions worldwide.

As we navigate through an era marked by unprecedented shifts and complexities, the importance of effective training and research cannot be overstated. UNITAR's commitment to empowering stakeholders with knowledge, skills and tools to address pressing global issues remains unwavering. From contributing meaningfully to sustainable peace and promoting people's well-being, to enhancing environmental sustainability and efforts towards inclusive and sustainable economic growth, UNITAR's initiatives resonate across borders and impact countless lives.

The year 2023 presented its own set of unique trials, including climate change induced emergencies, social inequalities and geopolitical tensions. In the face of such challenges, UNITAR adapted swiftly, demonstrating resilience, innovation and agility in its approach. Through a diverse range of programmes, partnerships and projects, UNITAR continued to deliver tangible results, fostering positive change and driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This report serves as a comprehensive overview of UNITAR's activities and results throughout 2023. It highlights the organization's achievements across various thematic areas, regions and target groups, showcasing the transformative power of education, training, research and other services in advancing global development objectives. 2023 marked yet another milestone year for UNITAR, as a staggering 544,785 individuals worldwide benefited from our training services, with 74 per cent actively engaging in activities with specific learning outcomes.

Embracing our commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, we are proud to have maintained a favourable female-to-male gender ratio of beneficiaries for the fourth time in our history. In addition to our trained beneficiaries, UNITAR continued to deliver other critical services, including providing over 634 maps and related products to partners in various United Nations (UN) agencies and more than 60 countries through the United Nations Satellite Centre. Our Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme contributed to valuable research publications, furthering knowledge dissemination on e-waste.

I commend the dedication and tireless efforts of the UNITAR teams, as well as the support and collaboration of our donors, partners and beneficiaries worldwide. Collaborating with numerous stakeholders, 74 per cent of our events and 89 per cent of our beneficiaries were the result of partnership-based programming.

Together, we have achieved significant milestones, yet our journey towards a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous future remains ongoing. As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, let us also reaffirm our collective mission to build a better world for present and future generations. In 2023, Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools were used and experimented with all around the world. While AI has its unique strengths and limitations, UNITAR strongly believes in the capacity of humans to think outside the box, be creative, use emotional intelligence and ethical judgement. That is why, at UNITAR, we, on the one hand, wholeheartedly embrace new technologies when used carefully and with ethical considerations in mind and, on the other hand, emphasize the importance of further strengthening the capacity of humans, which is irreplaceable. These important aspects are portrayed on this year's cover of our annual report.

I trust that the insights and findings presented in this report will inform and inspire efforts to accelerate progress towards our shared goals. All of us need to rethink, refocus and recharge and we do so through UN 2.0, a vision of a modernized UN system with cutting-edge skills and forward-thinking culture for stronger results, better Member State support and greater SDG impact. Going forward, we focus on this vision with a powerful fusion of data, innovation, digital, foresight and behavioural science expertise to develop the individual, institutional and organizational capacities of countries and other United Nations stakeholders through high-quality learning solutions and related

knowledge products and services to enhance decision-making and to support country-level action for overcoming global challenges. May it serve as a catalyst for renewed collaboration and action as we strive to leave no one behind in our pursuit of a more just and inclusive world.



Nikhil Seth

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
UNITAR Executive Director



Introduction

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations, with a mission to develop the individual, institutional and organizational capacity of countries and other United Nations stakeholders through high-quality learning solutions and related knowledge products and services to enhance global decision-making and to support country-level action for overcoming global challenges.

Guided by the UNITAR Statute, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international agreements of 2015, the 2022-2025 strategic framework structures the Institute's objectives, programming and activities under the peace, people, planet and prosperity pillars of the 2030 Agenda, in addition to cross-cutting programme pillars on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, multilateral diplomacy and optimizing the use of technologies for evidence-based decision-making. This report summarizes the Institute's major results and other achievements in 2023.



UN 2.0 and UNITAR

UN 2.0 encapsulates the Secretary-General’s vision of a modern United Nations system, rejuvenated by a forward-thinking culture and empowered by cutting-edge skills fit for the twenty-first century. Leveraging our diversity, the United Nations is striving towards this vision with a powerful fusion of data, innovation, digital, foresight and behavioural science expertise – a dynamic combination that we call the “quintet of change”.

At UNITAR, we embrace the Secretary-General’s vision and move towards adjusting our own internal processes and skill sets to transform towards a more agile, diverse, responsive and impactful Institute that delivers for all, particularly reaching the furthest behind first.



Behavioural Science

Nurturing behavioural science is about fostering our knowledge of how people act and make decisions – to create better choices that work with, not against, the grain of human nature.



Data

Building modern data expertise is about improving how we collect, handle, govern and use data from more diverse sources for better insights and action.



Digital

Developing digital expertise means shifting to digitally enabled solutions that improve connectivity, service delivery, collaboration and decision-making.



Strategic Foresight

Instilling strategic foresight means learning structured methods to navigate change, imagine better futures and make better decisions today.



Innovation

Cultivating our innovation capacity is about learning to quickly generate, test and scale up novel ideas that create sustainable benefits for people and planet.

Trained Beneficiaries

Our Primary Output

CHART 1

Overall beneficiaries

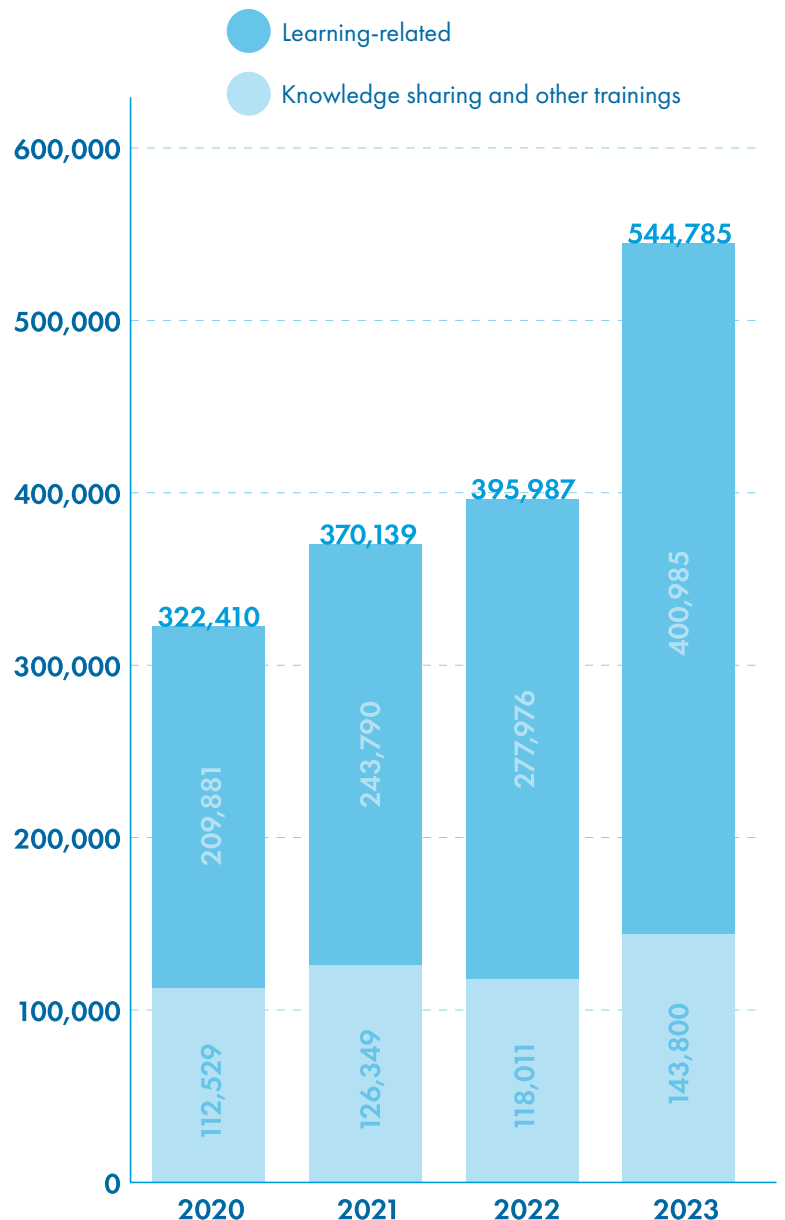
We provided learning, training and knowledge-sharing services to 544,785 individuals in 2023, representing a 38 per cent increase from 2022 figures of 395,987.¹

Our global network of affiliated International Training Centres for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) delivered 18 per cent of the beneficiaries and 58 per cent were delivered with the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn).

74 per cent of our overall beneficiaries were associated with events having specific learning outcomes. This category of learning-related beneficiaries increased by 44 per cent, from 277,976 in 2022 to 400,985² in 2023.

The proportion of participants from broader knowledge-sharing and other events, such as conferences, public lectures and meetings, represents around one-third of UNITAR's beneficiaries (26 per cent).

544,785
Individuals reached



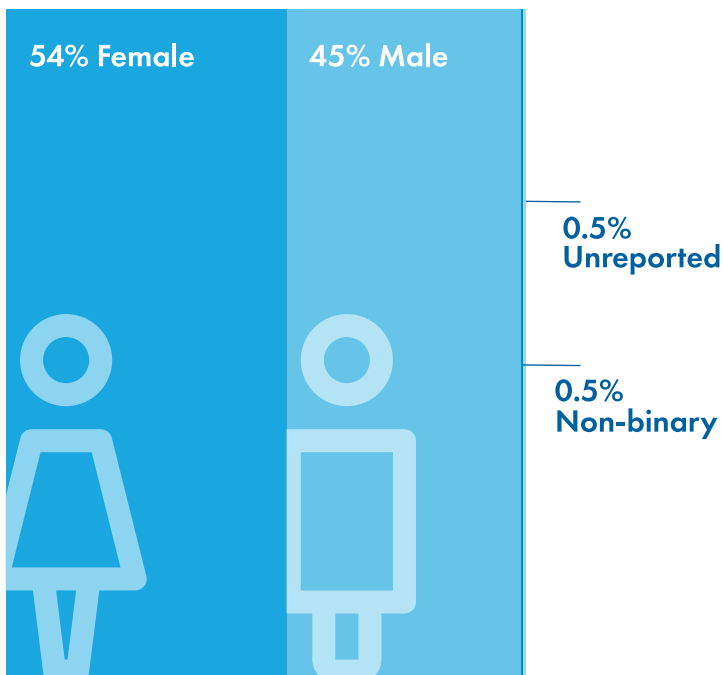


CHART 2

Learning-related beneficiaries by gender

The overall male to female gender ratio of beneficiaries from learning-related events for 2023 was 45 to 54 (including counting peacekeeping training beneficiaries), with “non-binary” and “unreported” accounting for 1 per cent.

CHART 3

Beneficiaries by strategic objective (SO)/pillar

Eighty-seven per cent of beneficiaries were associated with programming related to the advancement of environmental sustainability and green development, people and social inclusion, and peaceful, just and inclusive societies.³

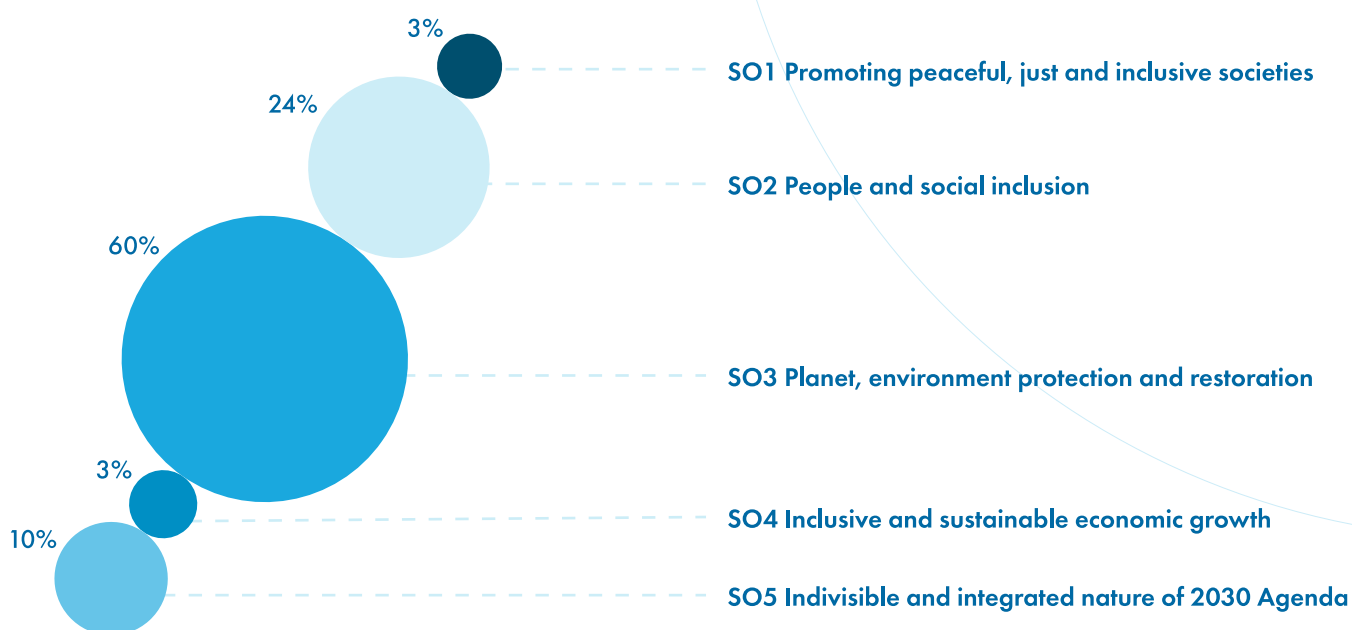


CHART 4

Learning-related beneficiaries by country status

Seventy-nine per cent of learning-related beneficiaries came from developing countries. Of these, 15 per cent are from countries in special situations, comprised of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

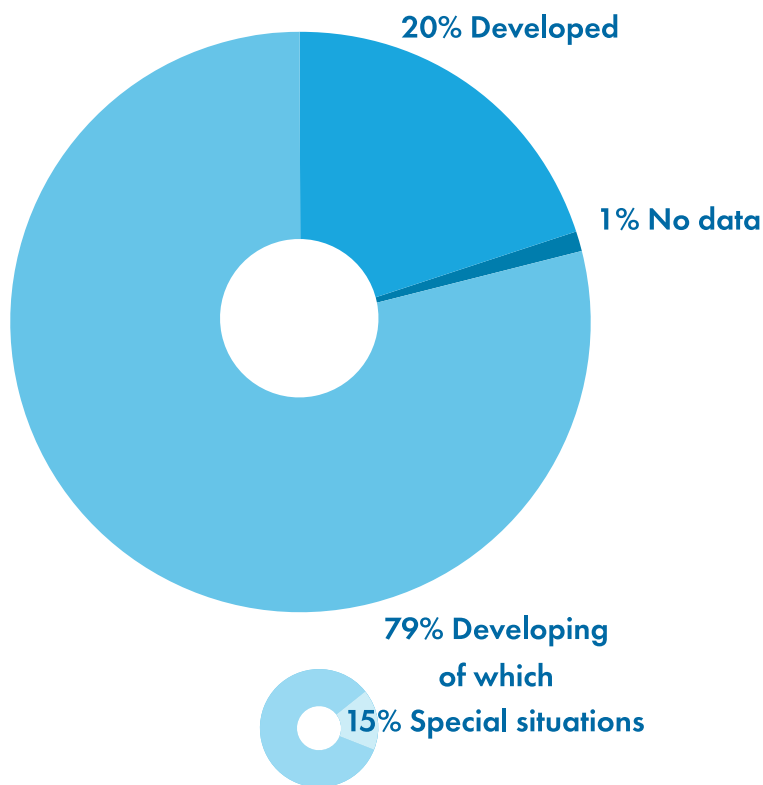


CHART 5

Learning-related beneficiaries by region

With the following regional breakdowns: Asia and Pacific (33.2 per cent), Latin America and Caribbean (19.4 per cent), Africa (19.3 per cent), Europe (12.6 per cent), the Middle East (11.3 per cent) and North America (4.2 per cent).⁴

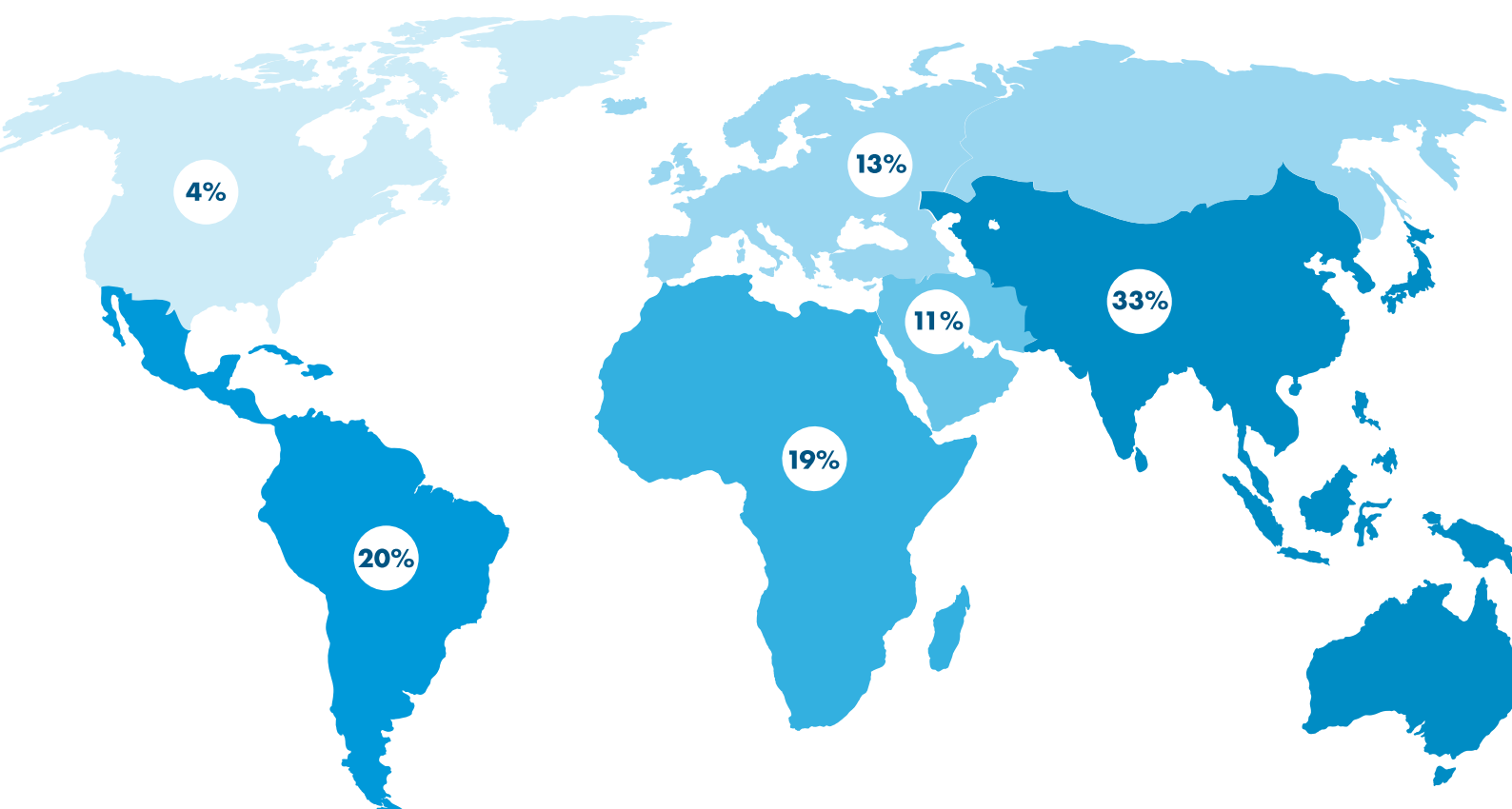


CHART 6

Percentage and location of face-to-face events

UNITAR's overall beneficiaries were produced through the delivery of 1,473 events, equivalent to some 355,994 event days over the calendar year.⁵ Fifty-one per cent of events took place through face-to-face or blended residential training activities, the majority of which took place in the field.

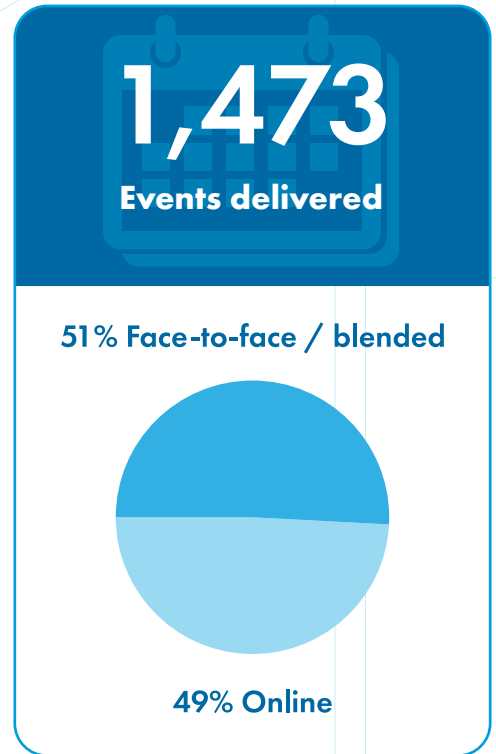
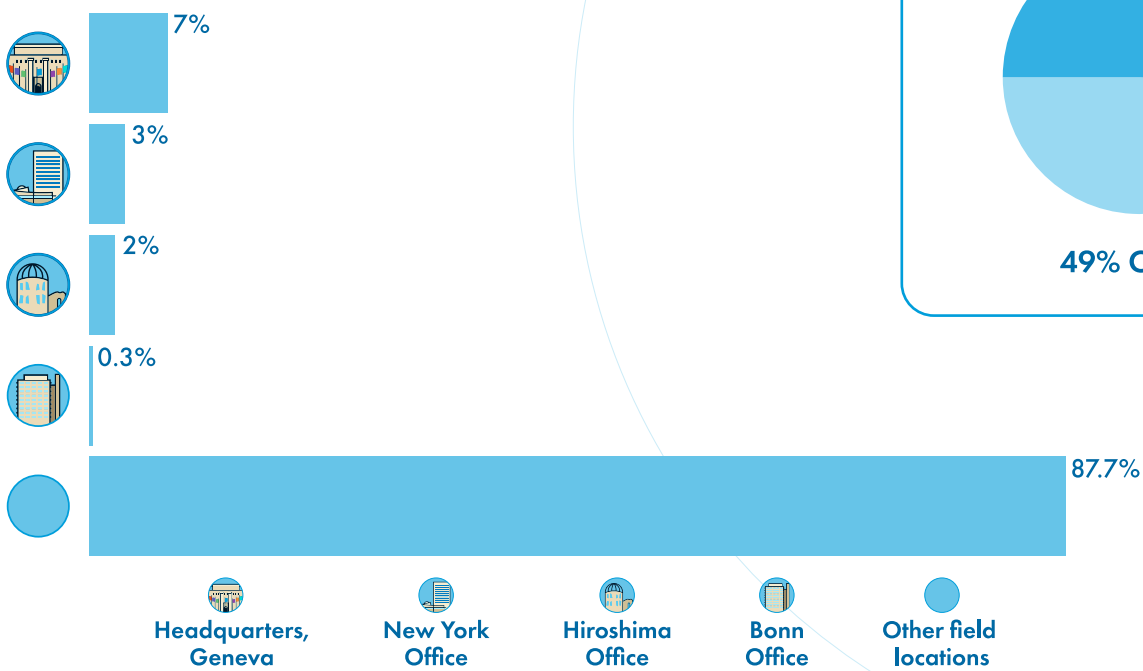


CHART 7

Learning-related beneficiaries by affiliation

UNITAR serves a wide spectrum of constituencies, with 57 per cent of its learning-related beneficiaries coming from non-state sectors, including NGOs, academia and businesses; 11 per cent from governments, including national, state and local; 5 per cent from the United Nations and other international and regional organizations; and 27 per cent from other sectors.

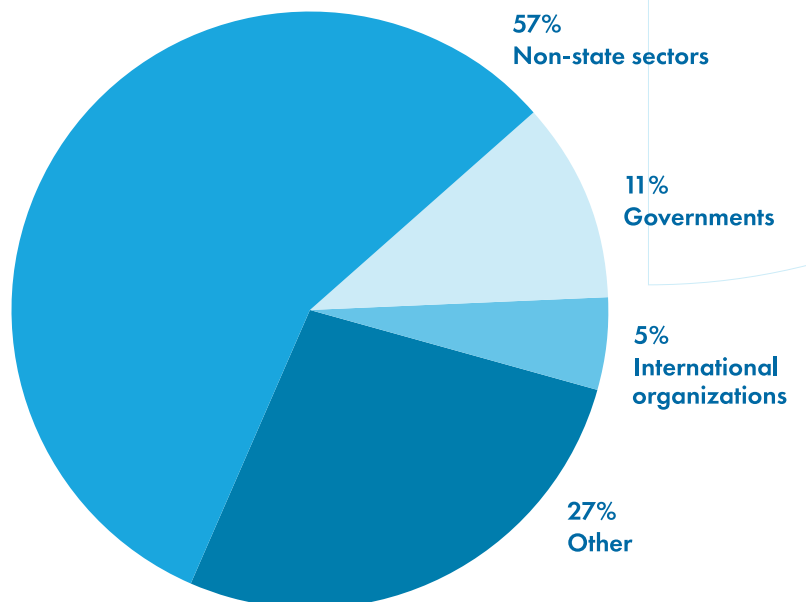
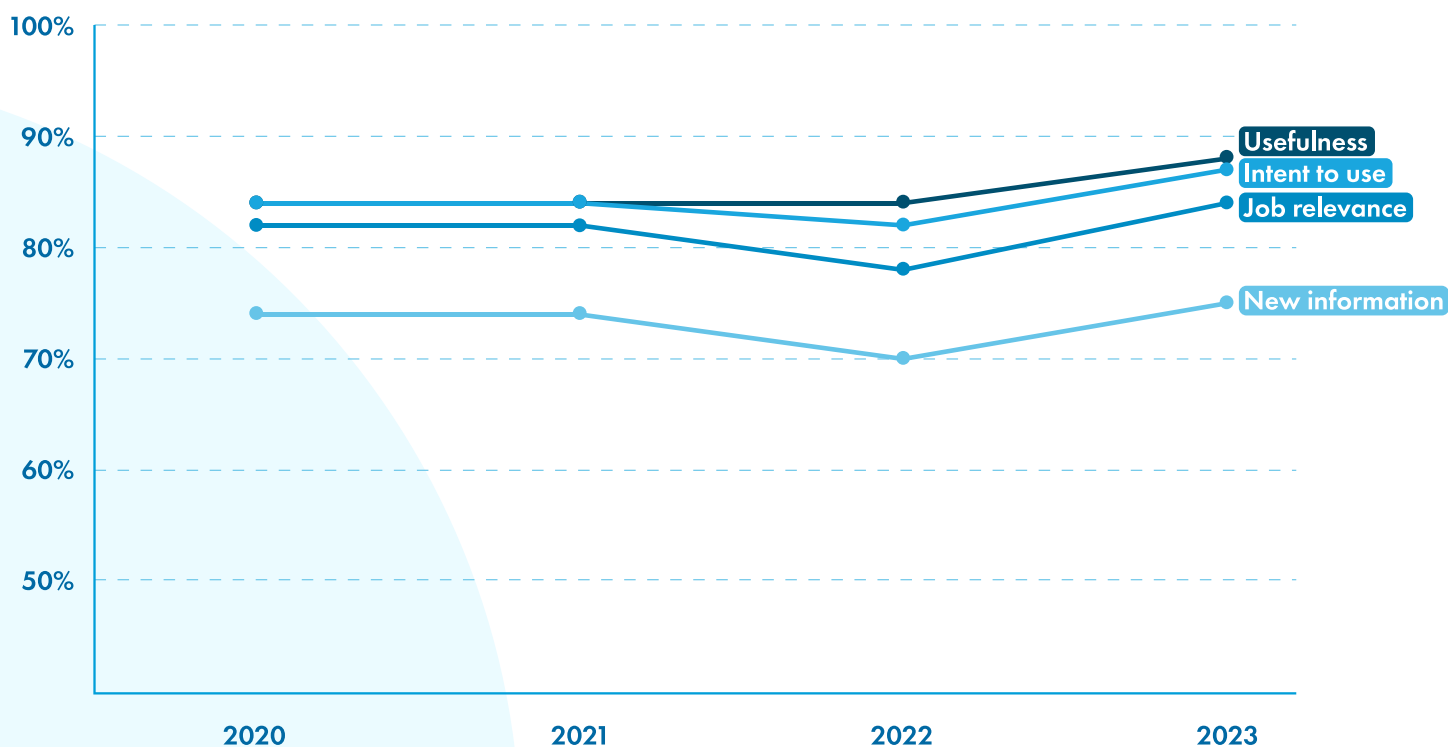


CHART 8

Beneficiary response to learning services

Feedback from learners remains stable and positive, with 84 per cent of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that training was job relevant, 75 per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing that information was new, 87 per cent confirming their intention to use the information and 88 per cent confirming that the training was overall useful.⁶ The Institute monitors feedback parameters regularly as part of its activity and project monitoring, with values remaining relatively constant over the past four years, with an increase in all four values in 2023.



In addition to measuring the achievement of learning objectives and beneficiary reaction to training, the Institute regularly tracks the transfer and application of acquired knowledge and skills through periodic post-training questionnaires. In 2023, 80 per cent of respondents⁷ confirmed having been able to transfer or apply knowledge and skills acquired from the event they attended.

Disaggregating by gender, application is higher amongst male participants compared to female participants. Non-binary identified participants⁸ showed the highest application rate (90 per cent). Frequency of application of knowledge and skills is also higher for men than for women, with 82 per cent of this group reporting more frequent application than women (79 per cent).

Non-binary participants reported a more frequent application (88 per cent).

Attribution of application of knowledge or skills directly to the UNITAR course was lower for women compared to men and the overall sample. Fifty-five per cent of respondents confirming application of knowledge and skills attribute at least 50 per cent of the application of knowledge to the UNITAR training. Confidence to apply the knowledge and skills was lower for both women and non-binary participants compared to men. The rate for women was also lower than the average for the overall sample. Eighty-eight per cent of all respondents feel fairly confident or completely confident to apply knowledge and skills.

Partnerships - A Key Pillar to Programming

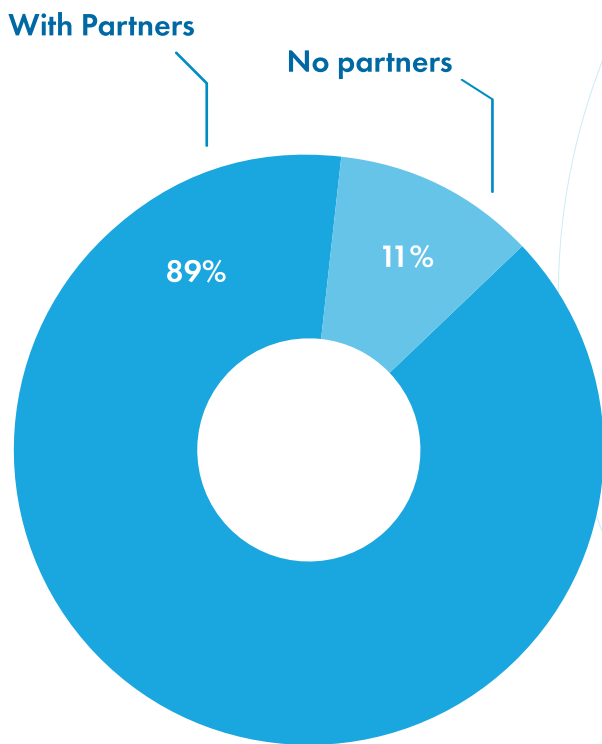


CHART 9

Events implemented through partnership

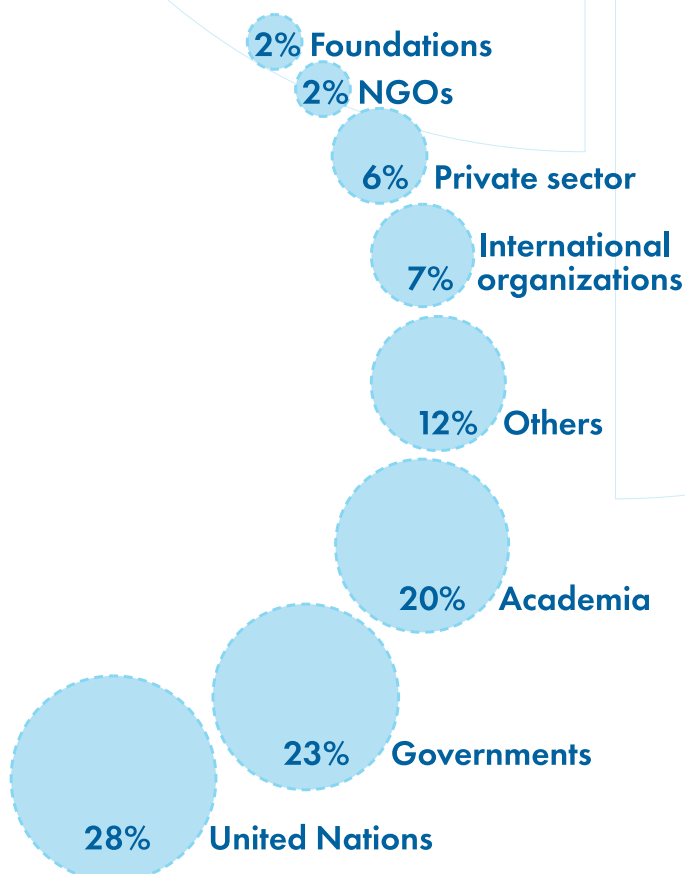
A strong partnership strategy continues to be an integral part of UNITAR’s approach to achieving effective and efficient results by combining the substantive expertise of the UN and other partners with UNITAR’s internal expertise in programming, adult learning and instructional design.

Eighty-nine per cent of 2023 beneficiaries were trained through events implemented in partnership and 92 per cent for learning-related beneficiaries.

CHART 10

Partners by type

Partners include organizations as diverse as UN entities, governments, universities, other international organizations, the private sector, NGOs, foundations and others. The UN CC:Learn Partnership, with UNITAR hosting the secretariat of a platform for 36 agencies; the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy, a joint initiative involving the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and UNITAR; and the CIFAL Global Network continue to be instrumental in delivering results.

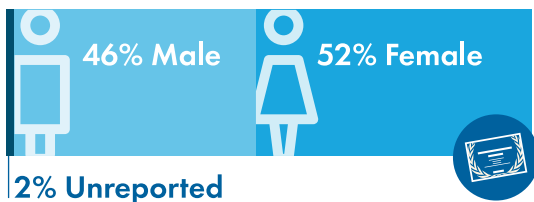


Certification of Learning-Related Beneficiaries

CHART 11

Completion rate by gender

UNITAR issued 146,011 certificates of participation and completion for 2023 learning-related events, which have an objective assessment of learning. The male to female gender ratio of the distribution of certificates is marginally more balanced than in 2022 (45 to 54 per cent and 1 per cent accounting for “others”), following the trend of the overall gender distribution.



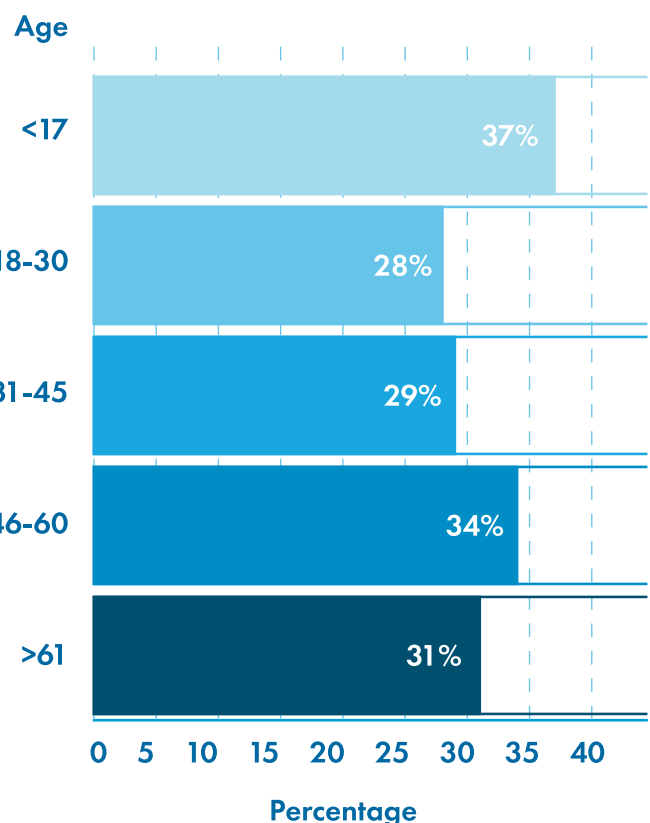
The certification of completion (CoC) rate differs by event format (online, face-to-face-blended) and when differentiating between Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and non-MOOCs. The distribution has become somewhat more balanced in 2023, with MOOCs accounting for a 33 per cent CoC rate and others accounting for 36 per cent when compared to 2022 (MOOCs 26 per cent CoC rate compared with others at 19 per cent). The difference is, however, more visible when comparing event delivery mode. Face-to-face events account for a CoC rate of 79 per cent, while blended events reveal a CoC rate of 46 per cent and e-learning of 33 per cent.

Learning participants from Developing Countries which are not in Special Situations obtained the highest CoC rate (35 per cent), followed by Developed Countries (33 per cent) and Countries in Special Situations (26 per cent).

CHART 12

Completion rates age

When breaking down the CoC rate by age,⁹ learning-beneficiaries who are 17 years old or younger reveal the highest CoC rate. The lowest CoC rate was recorded for participants between 18 and 30 years old, followed by those between 31 and 45 years old.



Highlights in Training



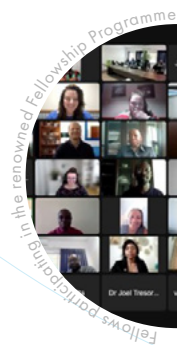
Discussion at Geneva Peace Week on leveraging mental health for trust, peace, and development.



Participant of Environmental, Social and Governance Frameworks for Public Officials



Participants developing sustainable ideas for the public youth pitch event in Hiroshima



Fellows participating in the renowned Fellowship Programme

Results Themes Key



Gender equality and the empowerment of women



Youth participation and engagement



Disaster risk reduction



Highlights in Training

Peace

We aim to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. We support institutions and individuals to contribute meaningfully towards sustainable peace.



Events¹⁰
272



Learning Events
164



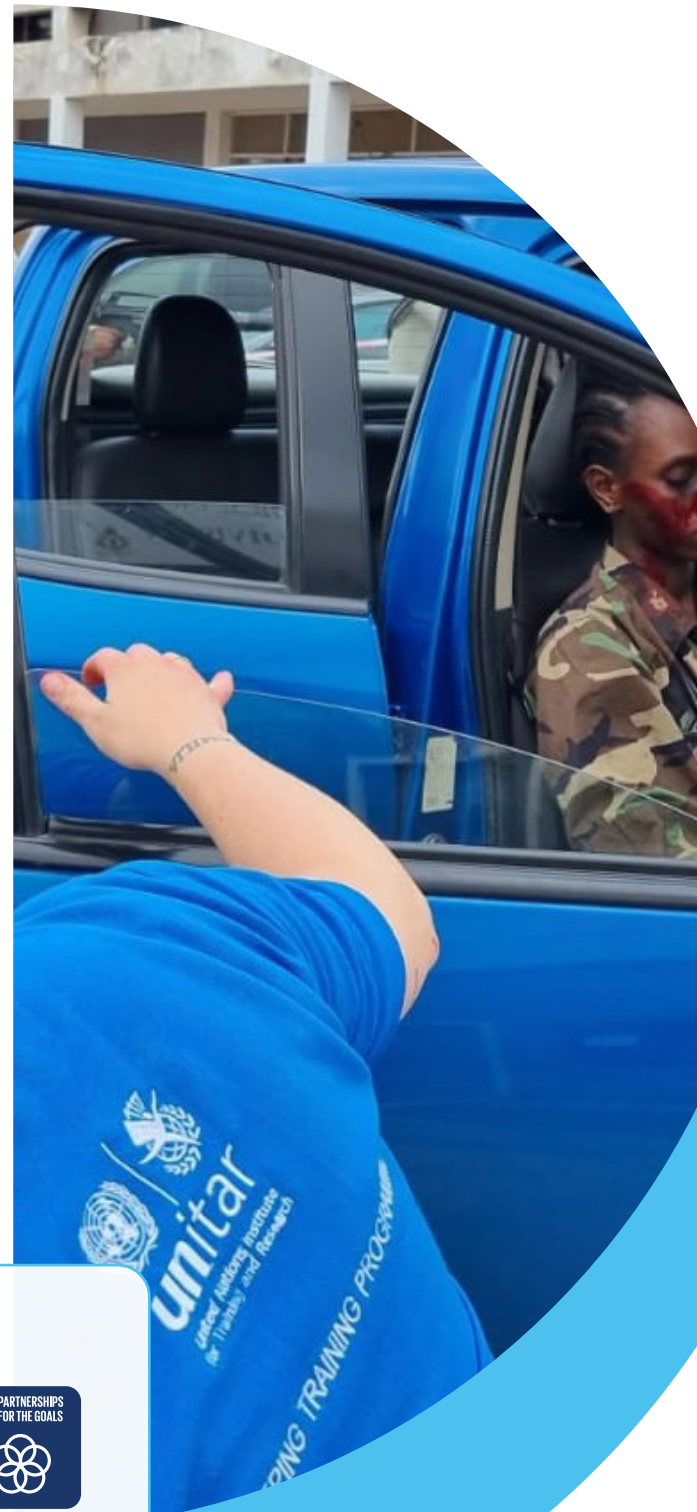
Beneficiaries
16,496



Learners
10,600



Certificates¹¹
3,429



Key SDG Alignments



Stressing the key role of diplomacy and conflict prevention to enhance sustainable peace

Maintaining high-level exchanges between Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations remained a priority in 2023. Forty-six Fellows shared their best practices on conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation during the annual Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy. Forty-three senior and mid-level officials and representatives benefited from the Regional Training Programme to enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking in Africa.



Advancing peace, security and inclusivity through preparation of uniformed personnel

In the area of Pre-Deployment Training and Advisory, we excelled as a global leader, fostering lasting peace and security. With partners in 43 countries worldwide, we reached 9,982 members of security and defence forces, focusing on sustainable capacity-building and optimal performance. Our efforts extended beyond borders, supporting security institutions globally. With a balanced approach, contributing to the UN Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, approximately 26 per cent of women and 74 per cent of men benefited from the sessions. By empowering learners incrementally, we catalysed professional transformations, enhancing operational effectiveness. Our commitment to long-term engagement fostered a safer, more secure world for all.



Fostering youth and women's empowerment

The Women's Leadership for Peace Programme successfully equipped global cohorts of women to confidently navigate the challenges of leading for peace in an increasingly complex world. In 2023, our programme further evolved through four iterations, reaching 70 women from 25 countries. With its global reach and focus on peace and gender equality, the programme plays a crucial role in combating the underrepresentation of women in peace and security spaces, and creates a network of women leaders prepared and inspired to create positive change in their communities worldwide. The programme is tailored to women leaders at all

Essential practice for the field being provided at the MGA course in January



Participants from the maritime and port sector during the port safety training in Abidjan



levels, acknowledging the unique role of young women leaders in shaping the future of peace and security, while equally supporting senior women leaders to take up leadership positions in UN peace operations.

Online master's degrees and courses

Our Online Master's Degree Programmes offered flexible, advanced academic options in peace and security. They empowered individuals, contributing to positive community impact and supporting the UN's Our Common Agenda and UN 2.0 vision. Our Open Online Courses provided free learning on conflict, peace and SDGs. UNV Online Courses enhanced UN Volunteers' skills. In 2023, 170 people attended Master's and Post-graduate Certificate programmes; 4,402 benefited from MOOCs; and, out of 400 UN Volunteers, 151 completed UN Volunteers' online courses.

Participants in a Social Cohesion Consortium's workshop on stabilization and peacebuilding



Enhancing recovery and resilience

We continued supporting stakeholders at the national and community levels in their efforts to promote reconciliation, from enhancing capacities on Community Violence Reduction (CVR) in Cameroon and supporting local civil society organizations in Libya in their peacebuilding efforts, to continuing building capacities of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and weapons and ammunition management practitioners. Moreover, with the backing of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), our collaboration with the World Bank Group, the African Union and the OHCHR entered a new phase, emphasizing human rights in early warning systems, and bridging conflict prevention and response.

Supporting Ukrainian diplomats and civil servants with navigating international mechanisms



Promoting the rule of law

In Mali, 1,650 judges, prosecutors, bailiffs, notaries, lawyers, judicial police officers and clerks enhanced their knowledge and skills; the Malian judicial training institute increased its capacities in offering services at

the highest professional level; and actors from civil society and media improved their understanding of democracy and electoral law. The project strengthened the judicial system's capacity to drive forward SDG 16.

Our engagement in the rule-of-law area was also fostered by projects benefiting the Académie Internationale de Lutte contre le Terrorisme (AILCT) in Côte d'Ivoire that supports African countries in building their capacities and in enhancing inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation to counter terrorism. Tailored training courses at the AILCT target counter-terrorism practitioners from various African countries ensuring that they have the required knowledge and abilities to plan and implement effective measures against terrorism and assist the victims of terrorism in their country.

New maritime governance courses

In 2023, the Maritime Governance Training Catalogue was created with courses to enhance safety and security in seaports and on ships. Three main projects have progressed: the Ports Governance Project in the Gulf of Guinea, West and Central Africa, to reduce the vulnerability of ports; the pilot phase of the Malaysian project, aimed at improving the capabilities of Malaysian authorities in maritime surveillance; and Phase I of the Bahrain project, focused on enhancing regional maritime security through improved surveillance, more effective counter-piracy and maritime crime efforts, and establishing a legal framework in alignment with the Djibouti Code of Conduct.



Strengthening Capacities of Vital Regional Actors



Ambassador Amanul Haq

Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Türkiye

📍 Ankara, Türkiye

Currently Ambassador of Bangladesh to Türkiye, Amanul Haq participated in the UNITAR's Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy while with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The OIC, lacking personnel for peace and conflict resolution, cooperated with the UN Mediation Support Unit, which introduced him to UNITAR. Haq found the programme's mix of practical and theoretical experiences invaluable, enhancing his conflict resolution skills through case studies and role-playing exercises.

The Fellowship Programme, now in its 31st year, uniquely brings together mid- and senior-level diplomats, representatives of regional organizations, and UN staff for intensive training in conflict analysis, negotiation, and mediation. Senior UN staff, top academics, and practitioners share their lessons with fellows globally. The programme facilitated OIC-UN cooperation, strengthening preventive peace structures. Haq emphasized the programme's role in professional networking and integrating gender policies in peace efforts. He noted the importance of regional organizations in conflict prevention, recognizing their local expertise and advantageous positions.

UNITAR continues to invite officials from regional organizations worldwide to enhance capacities and strategic collaboration for peace.

Adaptability and New Perspectives in CVR Approaches



Anna Beck

Associate DDR officer at the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO)

📍 Goma, The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Anna Beck transitioned from the private sector to become a project manager with the United Nations peacekeeping mission MONUSCO in 2022, focusing on Community Violence Reduction (CVR) as a Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) officer. Eager to deepen her understanding of peacekeeping, Anna participated in the UNITAR training programme on Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in a changing DDR context. The training exposed her to diverse participants, including technical experts, UN members, and NGOs, broadening her perspective on WAM and introducing her to new stakeholders in the field.

The knowledge Anna gained reshaped her approach to CVR, providing a conceptual framework that connected DDR processes with weapons management. Inspired by team discussions, she began exploring the incorporation of Transitional Weapons and Ammunition Management (TWAM) into future CVR programmes. Anna acknowledges the challenge of integrating this knowledge due to organizational planning cycles and regional context differences, but remains committed to enhancing her skills and contributing meaningfully to MONUSCO's mission.



Highlights in Training

People

We aim to promote people’s well-being, including the protection and empowerment of groups that are vulnerable and marginalised, and to support equitable representation of countries in global decision-making fora.



Events¹²
446



Learning Events
153



Beneficiaries
120,248



Learners
22,445



Certificates¹³
17,051



Key SDG Alignments





CIFAL Global Network Expansion

The CIFAL Global Network (CGN) expanded geographically and thematically, hosting 380 events and reaching 97,407 beneficiaries. New CIFAL Centres were established in [six strategic locations](#). Additionally, a CIFAL Mentorship Programme was initiated to facilitate knowledge exchange between CIFAL directors, alongside the launch of the CGN intranet, CIFALnet, promoting collaboration.



Global Road Safety Initiative empowers 17,652 beneficiaries and reaches 10 million road users

Our [Road Safety Global Training Initiative](#) reached 17,652 beneficiaries through 73 activities, focusing on road safety management and post-crash response. A Road Safety Virtual Dashboard was developed for Andean Community (CAN) countries. Ministries in CAN built technical capacities for data collection and analysis, leading to targeted interventions in the region. In partnership with universities and young Key Opinion Leaders, our messages about drink-driving prevention reached more than 10 million road users in Vietnam and Cambodia.



Launching the Global Breastfeeding Education Initiative

The [Global Breastfeeding Education Initiative](#) (BFEI), launched in March 2023, aims to enhance breastfeeding education worldwide by providing training and educational tools to increase women's knowledge, skills and confidence. Key achievements include the availability of online courses in 14 languages with 3,019 engaged beneficiaries, and two Training of Trainers Workshops for 67 nurses and midwives from Senegal, Ivory Coast, Mali, Cameroon, and Gabon.



Reducing disaster risk

In collaboration with UNDRR, three online courses on disaster risk reduction (DRR) were offered, reaching 2,196 learners on topics such as scaling up DRR in humanitarian action, resilient city development, and multi-sectoral approaches to integrate public health in disaster management.



New online programmes in health, 3,789 surgical workers trained and thousands engaged in redesigned Value-Based Healthcare Hub

UNITAR and Empower School of Health launched [three online programmes](#), including an MSc and Postgraduate Diplomas in Procurement and Supply Chain Management and Digital Health, which enhanced expertise in critical areas. UNITAR's [Global Surgery Learning Hub](#) (SURGhub) trained 3,789 surgical care workers in 150 countries, providing 52 courses and issuing over 1,200 certificates.¹⁴ Furthermore, through the [Value-based Healthcare \(VBHC\) programme](#), we engaged with 843 women (including 750 breast cancer patients), 807 healthcare providers, and 37 key opinion leaders in Rwanda and Turkey, fostering partnerships and VBHC resources through the re-designed UN Value-based Healthcare Hub. Over 2,000 individuals engaged with the Plasma4Life platform and more than 400 participants attended plasma-related events.



Launch of good governance learning initiatives

Since 2023, UNITAR and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians joined efforts to develop learning initiatives. The Virtual Roundtable "Parliaments using technologies for combating corruption" reached 305 beneficiaries from 94 countries. The online Global Training Platform Parliamentarians against Corruption was also prepared, with different courses. Additionally, UNITAR and UNCTAD established the Digital Government Academy, for bridging the digital divide by promoting transparent governance through capacity-building.

The ageing series

Since 2022, we led the Virtual Roundtable Series "[Mainstreaming Knowledge on Ageing](#)". In 2023, 5 events focused on accessibility were hosted, attended by 694 beneficiaries, from 95 countries. This multi-stakeholder initiative includes UN entities, States, academia and NGOs. The UN Secretary-General recognises this initiative¹⁵ as a contribution to the UN Decade for Healthy Ageing.



CIFAL Flanders 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Matheus Falasco

Director for the Youth Action Hub in Curitiba

 Curitiba, Brazil

Matheus Falasco, 25, leads the [Youth Action Hub Curitiba](#), an initiative by UNCTAD focused on empowering youth and advancing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Since 2019, the hub has engaged young people through tailored online and offline courses, like Sustainable Intelligence, which educate participants on the principles and practical applications of the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, the hub collaborates with universities to host seminars and classes, broadening awareness of sustainable development. Another key activity is organizing hackathons where youth propose innovative solutions to societal challenges.

Matheus credits his foundational understanding of the 2030 Agenda to a [CIFAL Flanders](#) workshop in 2019, which provided critical insights just before he launched the Youth Action Hub. This workshop enriched his consultancy work, particularly in advising organizations on sustainable practices in HR and stakeholder engagement, demonstrating how the 2030 Agenda can be integrated across various sectors. His efforts continue to drive impactful initiatives within Curitiba's youth community.



Highlights in Training

Planet

We aim to strengthen capacities that foster a green, low-carbon and climate resilient transition, and that manage dangerous chemicals and waste in a sound and sustainable manner. We support the conservation, restoration and safeguarding of the planet for present and future generations, improving the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.



Events¹⁶
221



Learning Events
125



Beneficiaries
320,615



Learners
300,981



Certificates¹⁷
114,225¹⁸



Key SDG Alignments



Sixty-two public servants trained on macroeconomic modelling for green economic transformation

The Partnership for Action on Green Economy, in collaboration with the UN Development Coordination Office and Resident Coordinator Offices Economists, trained 62 public servants working for Ministries of Finance, Planning and Development, as well as national think tanks, on The Role of Macroeconomic Modelling in a Green and Fair Economic Transformation. The six-week moderated e-learning course included dedicated coaching sessions for nine country teams. The training supported participants in selecting the right modelling tools for their country context and to take steps to enhance evidence-based decision-making.



UN CC:Learn reaches almost 200 thousand learners in one year alone

[UN CC:Learn](#) and partners raised 17 million euros in financial support from the German Government's International Climate Initiative to assist Zambia in strengthening knowledge and capacities nationwide to adopt climate-friendly behaviours and achieve a green economy transition by 2030. We also leveraged additional resources to support training and public awareness on climate change in Benin, Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe, in line with Action for Climate Empowerment, through the NDC Partnership Action Fund, thereby contributing to the implementation of UN CC:Learn's National Climate Change Learning Strategies.

More than 157,800 unique beneficiaries learned about climate change through the UN CC:Learn platform in 2023 in various topics such as gender, finance, adaptation and health, among others. Seventy-eight per cent of the beneficiaries found the training useful and 73 per cent said the training was relevant for their job. UN CC:Learn has been offering e-courses on climate change, green economy and circularity for over 10 years, and has built a global community of more than 800,000 learners.

Advancing chemical classifications and labelling

Three Latin American countries progressed towards the implementation of national schemes for classifying and communicating the hazards



of chemicals in line with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). Supported by UNITAR, Ecuador, El Salvador and Peru formalised political commitments through intergovernmental committees, long-term roadmaps and regulatory instruments. These endeavours align with a key target of the recently signed Global Framework on Chemicals, demonstrating the countries' progress in reducing harm from chemicals and waste.

Supporting greater capacity to manage persistent organic pollutants amongst communities

Two African countries, Ethiopia and the Gambia, built and consolidated national capacities to protect their communities and environments from the impacts of persistent organic pollutants. Ongoing training activities and technical support from UNITAR contributed to the establishment of systematic methods to identify, analyse and prioritise sources of exposure, manage associated risks, and implement sound management of contaminated equipment, wastes and soil. These two countries are now one step closer to complying with the 2025 and 2028 commitments of the Stockholm Convention.

IOMC partnership

UNITAR was the Chair of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) during the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management in September 2023. The IOMC has a key role in implementing the newly adopted Global Framework on Chemicals. During the conference, we coordinated different interventions and actions of the IOMC Participating Organizations, showcased the GHS Partnership and promoted key targets, the development of a measurability structure and the involvement of the financial sector. It is expected that UNITAR will continue leading these initiatives.

Discover our SCYCLE's programme work under the Research and Other Services section.



Training on gender and climate change to civil servants in Kigali, Rwanda



Group discussions during the workshop for climate negotiators on climate finance architecture under the UNFCCC



Workshop on sustainability for small and medium-sized enterprises in Argentina

Advancing Green Economy Education



Karyna Rosetti

Professor at Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso

📍 Mato Grosso, Brazil

Karyna Rosetti, a professor at the Federal University of Mato Grosso (UFMT), is leading efforts to bring green economy education to Brazil's agricultural state of Mato Grosso. In 2022, she developed the "Inclusive Green Economy: Preparing Tomorrow's Innovators" programme, a 60-hour course supported by UNITAR and part of the [Partnership for Action on Green Economy](#) (PAGE). This programme aimed to equip graduate and postgraduate students with in-depth knowledge of the green economy.

Karyna played a key role in creating a consortium of four federal higher education institutions in Mato Grosso, marking a pioneering collaboration in the state. This partnership facilitated the launch of Mato Grosso's first academic-grade training on the green economy, delivered virtually. The programme's first year saw 57 students participate, leading to the development of 11 action plans, with four advancing to incubation.

Karyna is now preparing the second edition of the programme, focusing on addressing real-world challenges in industry, trade, and agriculture to drive the state's green economy transition.

Continuous Cooperation for Improved Management of Chemicals



Paulo José Porta Bedón

Director, Dirección de Control de la Contaminación y Sustancias Químicas

📍 Lima, Peru

Paulo Porta, Director of the Pollution and Chemical Substances Control Directorate at Peru's Ministry of Environment, has been instrumental in developing the Ley de Gestión Integral de Sustancias Químicas and its regulations. His unit focuses on pollution control and chemicals management, with the latter becoming a priority after the 2016 Environmental Performance Assessment of Peru by the OECD and ECLAC. This report prompted the formulation of the chemicals management law, a process Paulo led as a technical specialist in 2019.

Since 2020, Paulo has collaborated closely with UNITAR, beginning with an online course on the UN Globally Harmonised System (GHS). This training, along with UNITAR-provided scholarships for his team, deepened their understanding of international standards, crucial for drafting the law. UNITAR also facilitated networking and collaboration, helping Peru connect with international experts and agencies like the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI). Despite challenges like language barriers and adapting standards to Peru's context, Paulo values UNITAR's ongoing support, which has enhanced his expertise and contributed significantly to strengthening chemicals regulations in Peru.



Highlights in Training

Prosperity

We aim to promote and help countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth by supporting people to become job-ready and empowering changemakers.



Events¹⁹
122



Learning Events
93



Beneficiaries
17,946



Learners
8,238

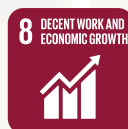


Certificates²⁰
1,107

unitar



Key SDG Alignments





Digital upskilling and reskilling

Our flagship programmes support women and youth around the world. [Bolstering Livelihoods: Digital Reskilling for Ukrainian Women Evacuees in Poland](#) trained more than 500 Ukrainian women evacuees on high-demand digital skills with learning paths on data analytics, web design, cybersecurity and geographic data analysis. Through [our programme in Africa](#), in partnership with IBM, Microsoft and other partners, over 7,000 women and youths from 24 Anglophone countries developed in-demand digital skills. The hybrid programme's skills-based approach empowered displaced Ukrainian women and underemployed African youths with transformational digital competencies.

The Great Ideas Space

In 2023, more than 220 locals from Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon leveraged their skills to create [innovative local solutions to health recovery post-COVID-19](#). In Afghanistan, more than 250 local entrepreneurs and innovators were trained to [address issues of food insecurity, unemployment and social problems](#) through innovative solutions. To combat the growing challenges of food insecurity in South Sudan, we supported 325 locals to turn their ideas for a social or for-profit enterprise into a business model.



Youth and women empowerment

In 2023, more than 65 per cent of our training participants identified as women and more than 80 per cent were from developing countries. We launched the [third phase of the GEWE programme](#) for government officials of Jordan and Lebanon, teaching advanced, essential leadership skills to empower gender equality. A [youth pitch event](#) at Eikei University in Hiroshima and the [2023 Youth Ambassador programme](#) fostered cross-cultural connections. The latter engaged diverse Asia-Pacific youth in developing critical thinking, innovation, entrepreneurship, communication and leadership.



Trade and finance

The FAO and UNITAR [e-learning course on trade and food security](#) supported government representatives/related authorities from 14 different countries and territories, in the Near East and North Africa (NENA). Additionally, 219 representatives gained key entrepreneurial and digital skills to develop climate-resilient businesses and create inclusive, environmentally-responsible and viable employment and livelihood opportunities that contribute to climate mitigation.

Combating financial crimes and anti-money laundering

We hosted the [third conference on Financial Technology](#) (Fintech), seeking to build a critical eye on Fintech opportunities and risks. Four hundred and seventy-four participants joined three sessions on the thematic areas of Fintech and development; Fintech and security; and Fintech and ecology. In partnership with the University of Geneva, we hosted a 60th-anniversary public forum on [Scaling Responsible Entrepreneurship and Solutions to Global Challenges](#), with members of the [Division for Prosperity Advisory Board](#) facilitating discussions to foster public-private partnerships to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.



Hiroshima and nuclear disarmament

The UNITAR Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Training Programme 2023 held in-person workshops in Hiroshima. The diplomats and government officials focused on preparing for the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ, or the Bangkok Treaty). Before the 2023 G7 summit, seven youths in Hiroshima, one from each G7 country, shared their experiences in promoting peace with more than 100 attendees. Meaningful events honouring [20 years of the Hiroshima office's commitment to sustainable prosperity](#) profoundly reminded the world of our collective responsibility.



Promoting Agritech in South Sudan



Kuena James Dak Kuena

Entrepreneur, Social Worker and ICT Specialist

📍 Juba, South Sudan

Kuena James Dak Kuena, a South Sudanese entrepreneur, social worker, and ICT specialist, is dedicated to empowering local farmers through technology. He developed an application that connects small-scale farmers with those who want to rent their farm tools and land, addressing the critical need for mechanization in South Sudan's agricultural sector. To operationalise his agritech project, Kuena joined the UNITAR programme "Great Ideas Space for South Sudan 2023," which aims to equip entrepreneurs with the skills to combat food insecurity and build sustainable businesses.

Through the programme, 325 learners, including Kuena, gained knowledge in entrepreneurship and agribusiness. Kuena's strong performance earned him an invitation to Japan, where field visits and workshops further inspired him. He plans to use the skills he acquired in project management, risk mitigation, and resilience to overcome challenges like limited resources and fragmented land ownership. Kuena is now working with local agents, NGOs, and the Ministry of Agriculture to bring his project to life and transform South Sudan's agricultural sector.



A Food Scientist's Fight for Food Security



Salma Khalifa

Regional Food Technologies at World Food Programme

📍 Cairo, Egypt

Salma, a food scientist with over eight years of experience as a Product Development Manager in the private sector, transitioned to a meaningful role with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Cairo. With a Master's degree in food chemistry and currently pursuing a PhD, Salma joined FAO's Agri-Food Fellowship Programme, marking her entry into the UN system.

Motivated by a desire to address global food security, Salma's shift from the profit-driven private sector to WFP allowed her to apply her technical skills to humanitarian efforts. Her work now focuses on ensuring safe, nutritious food reaches vulnerable populations, emphasizing the importance of context-specific solutions in food regulations and supply chains.

The programme she attended highlighted the intersection of economic factors, like trade, with food security, enriching her understanding of the global food supply chain. After completing her PhD, Salma aims to continue contributing to international efforts to combat hunger and food insecurity worldwide.



Highlights in Training

Multilateral Diplomacy

We aim to promote people's wellbeing and to support equitable representation of countries in global decision-making fora. We work to strengthen representation of countries in special situations within institutions of global governance.



Events²¹
180



Learning Events
129



Beneficiaries
8,582



Learners
5,279



Certificates²¹
1,428



Key SDG Alignments



Capacity-building through Master's programmes

Through our 15 Master's Programmes, in partnership with esteemed universities across the world, almost 400 individuals from the diplomatic community, academia, and the public and private sectors benefited from our unparalleled expertise in diplomacy and international law, and gained new knowledge and skills to advance their careers.

In 2023, we launched the Online Executive M.S. in International Affairs and Diplomatic Practice, with Seton Hall University (US), as well as UNITAR's first LL.M., the Master's programme in Public International Law, in partnership with Sigmund Freud University Vienna, Austria.

Climate change diplomacy training in preparation for COP28

Together with the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), we held our second Fellowship Initiative in Climate Diplomacy Training in Accra, Ghana.

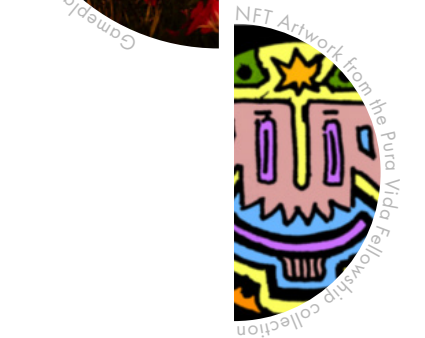
Fellows from nine CVF Member States were trained with the necessary tools to adeptly advocate for the interests and requirements of their climate-vulnerable nations within the multilateral system, drive ambitious climate action and mobilize international support for climate-threatened nations in preparation for COP28 in Dubai.

Advancing access to education through innovation

Our Art for Peace NFT Collection, in partnership with the University for Peace, a series of digital artwork by Costa Rican artist, Gussa, funded the Pura Vida Fellowship Programme, offering Fellowships for UPEACE-UNITAR Master's and Certificate Programmes for LDC and SIDS nationals.

We also launched the first United Nations native Metaverse, an immersive experience designed to raise awareness about the SDGs and UNITAR's role in advancing them.

These innovative initiatives were designed to support our mandate to accelerate SDG 4, expanding access to quality educational opportunities for all.



Advanced Training for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the State of Qatar in Negotiation, Mediation and Conflict Resolution

Participants from the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs enhanced their capacities in negotiation, overcoming deadlocks, conflict resolution and mediation during this four-week training. Through simulations, lectures and discussions, the programme was remarkably successful, with 100 per cent of participants agreeing, or strongly agreeing, that their awareness of the topics had increased and 100 per cent confirming they would recommend the course to a colleague.



The Columbia Law School Series

We relaunched the Columbia Law School Series, together with the Columbia Law School Mediation Clinic. The workshop attracted 1,673 participants over six sessions.



Youth and multilateralism

The President of the General Assembly Fellowship Programme promoted youth engagement in multilateralism and supported the next generation of diplomats, particularly from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, while ensuring geographical representation and gender balance.

Training for delegates and permanent missions

The 2023 workshop on the Relationship Between the General Assembly and the Security Council, jointly organized with the Permanent Mission of Ecuador and Portugal, on 12 May 2023, featured participation from the President of the 77th UNGA, Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi, Permanent Representatives and 117 UN personnel.

In collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Singapore, we conducted a two-day course entitled Briefing New Delegates on the 78th Session of the General Assembly and the Main



Committees. Over 160 delegates participated in-person and online. The course featured participation from high-level UN officials, such as the President of the 78th UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, UNITAR Executive Director and UN Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Nikhil Seth, and various Permanent Representatives. The Practical Preparation for Membership in the UN Security Council training programme helped delegates from all five newly elected Member States - Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia - to serve in the Security Council.

High-level political forum

The [SDG Learning, Training and Practice sessions](#) were held on 10-14 July 2023 during the High-Level Political Forum. They garnered 5,111 participants and highlighted the platform for governments, academic institutions and other stakeholders to conduct learning and training sessions on sustainable development implementation.



Stepping up as a Co-facilitator at COP28 Negotiations on Gender



Angela I. Ebeleke Yoka

Gender and Climate Change focal point at the UNFCCC, for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

📍 Manchester, England

Angela, also known as Angèle in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point (NGCCFP) at the UNFCCC for the DRC. Her climate change journey began at COP22 in 2016, which led to her current role. In 2023, Angela joined the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Fellowship and participated in a UNITAR-CVF Climate Diplomacy Training in Ghana, followed by COP28 in Dubai.

At COP28, she served as a co-facilitator, responsible for reporting on gender to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Despite her dyslexia, Angela gained confidence, speaking on a panel about the Kalehe natural disaster in South Kivu.

Beyond her UN role, Angela is an activist in Manchester, UK, raising awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through community engagement. Her work reflects her deep empathy and commitment to both environmental protection and supporting others.

From UNITAR Alumni to UNITAR Trainer.



Jelena Pia-Comella

Senior consultant and adjunct lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

📍 New York, United States

Jelena, an adjunct lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and senior consultant on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), has been closely linked with UNITAR since 1996.

As one of Andorra's first diplomats, her early UNITAR training was crucial for navigating the UN's complexities. In 2000, she received targeted training for representing Andorra at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which greatly enhanced her skills and network for drafting a key report.

Her connection with UNITAR continued as she advised colleagues and benefited from further training in election processes and resolution drafting. Transitioning to academia and international organizations, Jelena became a UNITAR trainer in 2017, focusing on topics like the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and WPS. Her ongoing relationship with UNITAR has significantly influenced her career and contributions, underscoring the importance of continuous learning and UNITAR's role in her professional development.





Highlights in Training

Satellite Analysis and Applied Research (UNOSAT)

We aim to optimise the use of new technology, including geospatial technologies for evidence-based decision making, and to support coherence for the 2030 agenda.



Events²³
31



Learning Events
26



Beneficiaries
6,268



Learners
6,174



Certificates²⁴
5,578

Key SDG Alignments





UNOSAT strengthens resilience in Asia, the Pacific and Africa

Thanks to the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) provides technical assistance and integrated web application solutions to countries in Asia, the Pacific and Africa, helping them address disasters, climate change and food insecurity. UNOSAT works with local experts to enhance their geographic analysis skills, enabling them to make informed decisions. In 2023, UNOSAT conducted 18 training events, including 2 blended and 16 face-to-face sessions, to further enhance these capabilities. Of the participants, mainly academics and government officials, 87 per cent indicated that they are likely to use the information acquired during the training in their professional occupations.

UNOSAT at COP28: advancing climate resilience in Pacific Island States

At COP28, UNOSAT championed climate action by showcasing geospatial data tools that bolster resilience in Pacific Island States. Discussions focused on critical issues such as planned relocation strategies and achieving the 1.5°C target. The focus was on urging stronger financial support for vulnerable communities facing the brunt of climate change. UNOSAT joined forces with the Commonwealth Secretariat, to help Pacific Island States to secure funds to tackle the impacts of climate change.

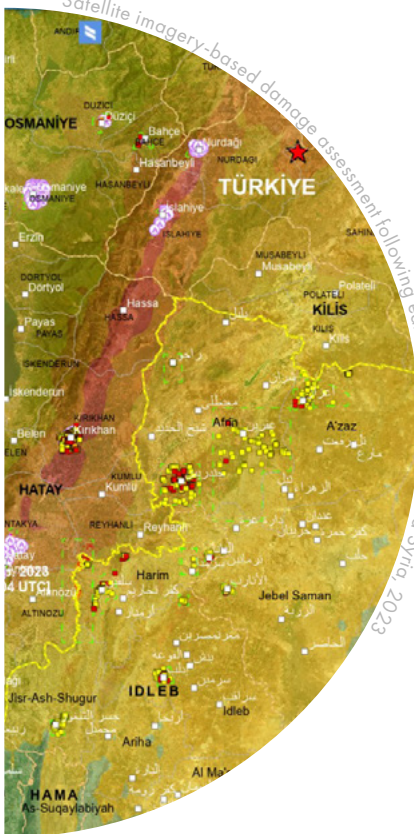
New course: Satellite Imagery as Evidence for International Justice

To transfer the competencies accumulated over 15 years in assessing, monitoring and documenting human rights abuses and violations of international law, an online course by UNOSAT and partners equips legal professionals to use satellite imagery as evidence in legal proceedings. This first-of-its-kind training reinforces understanding between justice professionals and geospatial analysis.

Participants to training session in Lao-PDR held in 11-15 december 2023



Satellite imagery-based damage assessment following earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, 2023



Satellite images are crucial for documenting human rights abuses, but legal professionals may not have extensive experience in utilising them. This course fills that need, empowering lawyers and judges to leverage this powerful tool for pursuing justice.

Protecting Ukrainian heritage from space: UNOSAT and UNESCO deliver satellite imagery training

Since the war's outset, the cultural heritage of Ukraine, which serves as a cornerstone of the country's identity, has been under constant threat. To empower its preservation, UNESCO and UNOSAT joined forces in Lviv as part of a two-year programme to deliver a capacity-building initiative. This specific programme focused on utilizing satellite imagery and data interpretation for damage assessment. We monitored 1,055 cultural properties and equipped 153 cultural professionals with Geospatial Information Technology (GIT) skills, crucial to prioritizing restoration efforts and safeguarding Ukraine's cultural heritage during this critical time.



From Training to Action: Impact on Disaster Management



Micky Welin

Planning and Logistics Support Officer at Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)

 Port Vila, Vanuatu

Micky Welin, Planning and Logistics Support Officer at Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), has transformed disaster risk management through advanced Geospatial Information Technology (GIT). Recognizing the need for better disaster response, Micky pursued UNOSAT training in remote sensing and GIS as part of the Strengthening Capacities project.

With these skills, he integrated GIS techniques into NDMO's operational frameworks, creating detailed risk maps that pinpoint vulnerable areas and enhance decision-making during crises. Despite initial challenges, Micky's efforts improved the office's ability to anticipate and respond to cyclones, floods, and other hazards.

His training also allowed him to share valuable knowledge with colleagues, fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration. Micky's work exemplifies the impact of education and teamwork in disaster management, significantly boosting Vanuatu's resilience and response capabilities.





Highlights in Training

Accelerating the 2030 Agenda

We aim to optimise the use of technology and to support coherence and evidence based policies of the 2030 Agenda.



Events²⁵
78



Learning Events
52



Beneficiaries
44,197



Learners
42,624



Certificates²⁶
4,196



UN SDG:Learn Users
519,531



UN SDG:Learn Partners
68

Key SDG Alignments



Crowd4SDG continues

More than 100 young persons have participated in the final [Crowd4SDG](#) conference organized by the University of Geneva, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), UNITAR and other partners, refining and demonstrating their innovations to improve data availability on a range of locally relevant topics, such as access to safe drinking water in rural areas in Nigeria, indigenous women's climate resilience in Colombia, early flood warning in the United States and waste management in Italy. The Crowd4SDG project comprised both training and research components.

[Discover more research programme work under the Research and Other Services section.](#)



A Citizen Science Project Aiming to Assess Women's Vulnerability During Drought Caused by Climate Change



Solomon Olusegun

Finalist of GEAR Cycle II Climate Change and Gender Equality 2021

📍 Ibadan, Nigeria

Solomon, a Psychology student at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, is passionate about tech and its role in addressing climate change. His involvement with the [Donate Water](#) team in the Crowd4SDG project focused on Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Climate Change (SDG 13) allowed him to explore citizen science tools for improving access to clean water in Southern Nigeria.

Solomon's team developed a crowdsourcing tool to map and analyse water resources, addressing challenges faced by women and children in water collection. Through training and collaboration with UNITAR and other partners, Solomon and his team collected data on water sources and their accessibility, creating evidence for better policies.

Their work, which earned recognition and awards, now includes an application with data on 10,000 water points. Solomon's journey reflects the transformative impact of integrating technology and citizen science to tackle critical issues.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 872944



Highlights in Training

Non-Communicable Diseases, Digital Health and Capacity Building

Our aim is to enable and assist all low-resource countries to scale-up action on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD). We do this through national capacity building, community scale-up of NCD services, affordability and accessibility of essential NCD supplies, and financing for country-level NCD programming.



Key SDG Alignments



Increased resources and sustainable financing

In 2023, our new Division on NCD, Digital Health and Capacity-Building builds on the progress made with The Defeat-NCD Partnership, collaboration which continues to be strengthened through a long-term strategic partnership agreement, effective as of 2023. It has successfully mobilised an initial US\$ 2.5 million to commence its multi-year programme activities covering the first five years of its work.

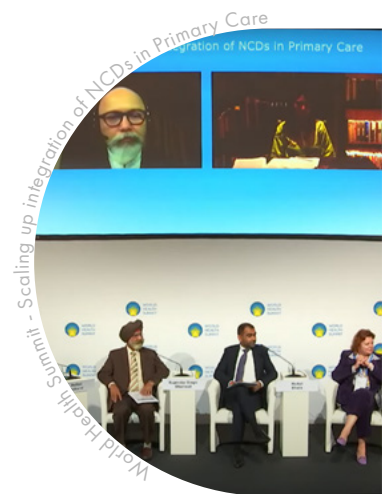
Joint development of training and research courses

Under a new Special Purpose Grant for Capacity-building for NCDs and Digital Health, the division has started the joint development of training and research courses with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) of India. Within the framework of MoHFW's annual capacity-building plan, and its National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, UNITAR's Division on NCD, Digital Health and Capacity-Building, along with the India Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) and The Defeat-NCD Partnership, is supporting the MoHFW in designing the modules and delivering the training of some 40,000 Primary Health Care Medical Officers on Standard Treatment Workflow for Non-communicable Diseases services, with an objective to increase the NCD-related services at Primary level.

Advocacy, coordination and strategic leadership on NCD prevention and control, data for health and sustainable development

UNITAR's Division on NCD, Digital Health and Capacity-Building has continued in its global policy advocacy role, while seeking to help countries appropriately in the practical sphere. A key annual forum, where UNITAR has taken a prominent role since 2019, is the World Health Summit (WHS).

For the fifth consecutive year, UNITAR organized an annual flagship high-level session at WHS and participated in the meetings for the WHS Council. The WHS session, jointly organized with the Government of India during its presidency of the G20, focused on Scaling up Integration of NCDs in Primary Care and was opened by India's Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. Speakers included scientists from the Indian Council for Medical Research, practitioners and representatives from Digital LifeCare/Dell Technologies, the World Health Organization and PATH, an international, non-profit global health organization.



Highlights in Research and Other Services





Highlights in Research
and Other Services

Peace

We aim to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. We support institutions and individuals to contribute meaningfully towards sustainable peace.

Sharing expertise on sustainable energy

Through the Roadmaps for Energy Access in Displacement Settings (READS) project, funded by the IKEA Foundation and supported by the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), Mercy Corps and Practical Action, we produced [three reports](#) on how to increase sustainable energy for refugees and host communities in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The reports summarize the energy and displacement situation in each country, identify the greatest energy needs and promising solutions, and put forward viable project opportunities to increase sustainable energy access in displacement settings.

Training of Trainers website launched

Our Learning Solutions team launched a new Training of Trainers (ToT) [website](#) which shares years of cutting-edge TOT expertise with individuals and organizations around the world. This TOT package includes various TOT-related learning products and services, such as a flagship eLearning course, and face-to-face TOT immersions to empower individuals and organizations to implement effective training and multiply their capacity-building projects. The website also hosts a hub of [free learning resources](#), including Gender and Inclusivity toolkits, digital learning tools and more, in various languages.

“This is one of the best courses I have ever taken. The tools and resources have helped our teams create engaging and transformational learning environments. This course was fabulous in integrating the SDGs and the different perspectives. It has truly transformed how I write curriculum, deliver workshops and peace education initiatives, and even my keynote addresses.” says Tamara Larson, Peace Ambassador, Leadership Development and Community Building; CEO, Grow Leaders; and CEO and Founder, Learn Peace Canada.



Climate security: peace and security consequences of climate change

The inaugural [Climate Security Conference](#) in Bonn, Germany (23-24 November 2023) united 118 stakeholders to address climate change's security implications, emphasizing the conflict, peace and development nexus, including the UN's Agenda for Peace. Key themes included conflict prevention, climate resilience and a focus on SDGs 4, 13, 16 and 17, promoting integrated approaches for sustainable development. Recommendations underscored the interconnectedness of climate security and sustainable development, emphasizing collaboration, international cooperation and climate-resilient measures. These outcomes guide the 2024 edition and ongoing research partnerships with the Technological University Dublin and EUT+, an alliance of nine universities.

Climate Security: Peace and Security Consequences of Climate Change



Dr. Eoin Langan

Faculty of Business, Technological University Dublin

📍 Dublin, Ireland

Dr. Eoin Langan, Dean of the Faculty of Business at TU Dublin, is known for his inclusive leadership and focus on innovation, technology, and sustainability in Higher Education.

At the International Research Climate Security Conference on November 24, 2023, in Bonn, Germany, he stressed the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to tackling climate change and security.

Co-hosted by UNITAR with TU Dublin, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, and WADEM, the conference gathered global stakeholders to discuss climate resilience, conflict prevention, and cooperation. Dr. Langan highlighted that the event provided essential insights for advancing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The next conference will be held in December 2024 in Brussels.



Highlights in Research and
Other Services

People

We aim to promote people's well-being, including the protection and empowerment of groups that are vulnerable and marginalised, and to support equitable representation of countries in global decision-making fora.

Road Safety Data Dashboard



Diego Caicedo

General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN)

📍 Quito, Ecuador

The General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN) is deeply committed to the well-being of its 115 million inhabitants, with a strong focus on positive change. In 2023, SGCAN partnered with UNITAR to enhance road safety across the Andean Community through the introduction of the Virtual Road Safety Dashboard.

This innovative tool, praised by Diego Caicedo, Director of Productive Transformation at SGCAN, revolutionised how road safety metrics are monitored, offering real-time data analysis and improving the quality of information. The dashboard addressed the inefficiencies of traditional monitoring methods, fostering collaboration and driving progress in road safety.

The success of the dashboard is a result of collaboration among experts in various fields, leading to more accurate and timely updates from member nations. This tool has become a catalyst for transformation, showcasing the power of innovation and teamwork in advancing regional road safety and well-being.



Highlights in Research
and Other Services

Planet



Key research products

11

We aim to strengthen capacities that foster a green, low-carbon and climate resilient transition, and to strengthen capacities that manage dangerous chemicals and waste in a sound and sustainable manner. We support the conservation, restoration and safeguarding of the planet for present and future generations, improving the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Data/statistics

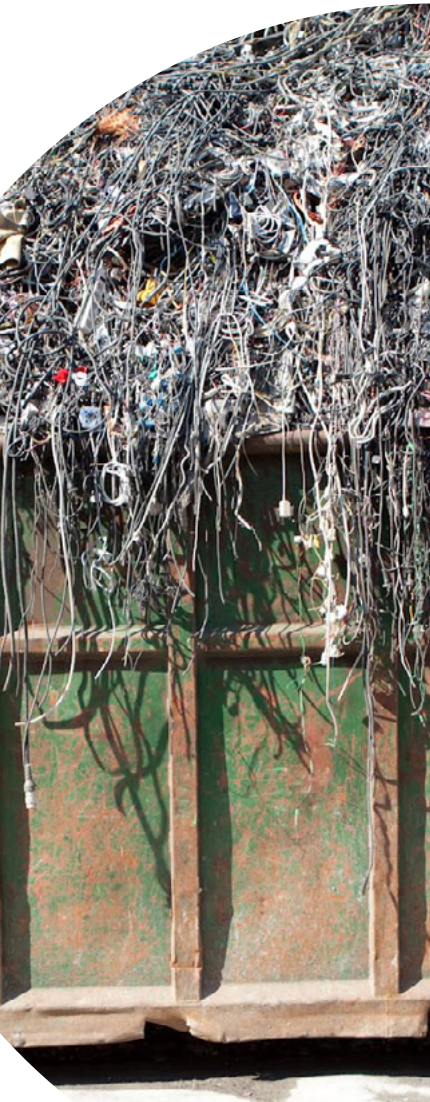
In March 2023, the UNEP-UNITAR 2050 [Electronic and Electrical Waste Outlook for West Asia](#) outlined contrasting future scenarios for e-waste management in 12 countries. Currently, the region faces significant challenges with almost all electronic waste being unmanaged. Transitioning to a circular economy approach could reduce e-waste generation, recycle valuable materials, and mitigate hazardous materials and greenhouse gases. This shift could also create approximately 225,000 jobs.

The UNITAR Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme provided a statistical briefing for International E-waste Day 2023, revealing alarming global e-waste production statistics. Only a small fraction of this waste is properly managed, leading to environmental and health risks.

The Regional E-waste Monitor for the Western Balkans, authored by SCYCLE, UNEP and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), highlighted challenges and progress in the region. Despite legislation and efforts, collection and recycling infrastructure remain limited. Recommendations were proposed for a comprehensive approach, emphasizing the importance of transnational cooperation.



Formal e-waste collection



Wasted cables



E-waste

Environmental crime

Between 2022 and 2023, SCYCLE led research for the Unwaste project, targeting waste trafficking between the European Union (EU) and South-East Asia to bolster the circular economy. Their investigation covered legal and illegal waste flows from the EU to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. Six quarterly Trendspotting Alerts were issued to monitor waste flows and highlight trafficking case studies. The research identified paper, plastics metals, and e-waste as significant challenges. Over the period from 2017 to 2022, millions of tons of waste were exported from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including 13 million tons of paper, 2.5 million tons of ferrous metals and nearly 3 million tons of plastic waste. In 2019, e-waste exports from Europe to ASEAN exceeded 233 kilotons, with Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand being the main importers. Despite import bans, ASEAN countries received around 10,000 tons of clinical waste between 2017 and 2021, primarily through intra-regional trade.

Policy advice

The EU's Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive (2011/65/EU) restricts hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment. Temporary exemptions are granted for substances deemed irreplaceable, with a maximum validity of five or seven years. These exemptions are regularly reviewed to determine their necessity. Similarly, Directive 2000/53/EC (End-of-Life of Vehicles Directive) imposes restrictions and exemptions on hazardous substances. SCYCLE, along with Fraunhofer IZM and Bio Innovation Services, reviewed exemption requests for both directives and prepared a study recommending the adoption or refusal of 12 exemptions to the RoHS Directive.

New longer research projects

Since March 2023, SCYCLE has been leading the Horizon Europe-funded FutuRaM project, which aims to assess and secure the availability of secondary raw materials (SRMs) in the EU up to 2050. The project focuses on developing a knowledge base on SRM availability, particularly critical raw materials (CRMs), to inform decision-making for their recovery and use within and outside the EU.

In March 2023, a consortium including SCYCLE commenced the Circular Economy Resource Information System (CE-RISE) project. Over four years, CE-RISE aims to create a data platform providing stakeholders with detailed information on electronic products, promoting understanding of their environmental impact and facilitating reuse, repair and recycling efforts to preserve important raw materials.

In summer 2023, SCYCLE initiated the ECOSWEEE project under the European Commission's Life+ funding scheme. This three-year project aims to enhance small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and battery collection processes across Member States through innovative methods and incentives, including pilot programmes testing various collection strategies.

Since October 2023, SCYCLE has been working on the EVERPV project under the EU's Horizon Europe financing scheme. EVERPV focuses on sustainable treatment of end-of-life photovoltaic (PV) panels and recovery of high-purity materials. UNITAR's involvement includes providing science-based estimations on PV waste, assessing recycling practices, and evaluating the feasibility of adopting innovative recycling technologies proposed in the project.



Highlights in Research and Other Services

Satellite Analysis and Applied Research

We aim to optimise the use of new technology, including geospatial technologies for evidence-based decision making, and to support coherence for the 2030 agenda.



Mapping products
634

Delivering timely geospatial support for global emergencies

In an era marked by a rising frequency and intensity of disasters and conflicts, the need for situational awareness from remote sensing is paramount.

Over the last two decades, UNOSAT's emergency mapping service has provided crucial geospatial analysis to aid those facing the greatest challenges. In 2023, UNOSAT delivered approximately 1,795 mapping service products across 83 activations in 64 countries worldwide.

UNOSAT supports humanitarian action in the Gaza Strip

Since October 2023, UNOSAT has been actively supporting humanitarian action in the context of the complex emergency in the Gaza Strip. We have provided a dozen agencies and partners with satellite-based analysis, specifically supporting access and monitoring of internally displaced persons, conducting comprehensive assessments of infrastructure and building damage, and evaluating the conflict's impact on agricultural resources. In collaboration with Wuhan University, China, we have pioneered the use of very-high-resolution night-time light satellite data to assess power shortages. This initiative helps in understanding the functionality of essential infrastructure, such as hospitals, during the conflict.



UNOSAT Analyst presenting her work to Ambassadors to the UN



Flood Analysis in Libya



Highlights in Research and Other Services

Accelerating the 2030 Agenda

We aim to optimise the use of technology and to support coherence and evidence based policies of the 2030 Agenda.

Citizen data

Together with the United Nations Statistics Division, UN Women and other partners, we have co-led the [Collaborative on Citizen Data](#) and worked on the development of a new [Copenhagen Conceptual Framework](#). The draft of the Framework presented at the fifty-fifth session of the UN Statistical Commission is expected to be a game-changer, enabling National Statistical Offices, civil society organizations, communities, citizen's associations and other stakeholders to work together and harness the value of citizen data to improve policies, service delivery and accountability, to strengthen citizens' agency, and to give a voice to vulnerable and excluded populations at local, national and global levels.

Filling in Data Gaps on the Gender Dimension of Climate Change



Merlyn Hurtado

Finalist of GEAR Cycle II Climate Change and Gender Equality (2021)

📍 Paris, France

Merlyn, a research and data analyst, launched WOMER through the Crowd4SDG Gear Cycle II to empower indigenous women in Colombia, addressing their exclusion from decision-making despite their key role in biodiversity and climate resilience. WOMER uses a mobile app to collect climate data, promoting policies that reflect these women's needs, combining traditional knowledge with digital tools. This fosters inclusive decision-making and empowers women leaders. With support from UNITAR, Merlyn aims to replicate this model globally, enhancing indigenous women's roles as environmental guardians.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 872944



Highlights in Research and Other Services

Non-communicable Diseases, Digital Health and Capacity Building

Our aim is to enable and assist all low-resource countries to scale-up action on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD). We do this through national capacity building, community scale-up of NCD services, affordability and accessibility of essential NCD supplies, and financing for country-level NCD programming.

Expansion and support to multi-stakeholder partnerships

A critical issue that has emerged in recent years is that of implementation research to tackle the challenges of scaling up NCD responses.

Accordingly, UNITAR has completed the first phase of a programme with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners on a scheme to incentivise young researchers from low- and middle-income countries, to encourage innovative approaches. The objectives are to develop partnerships among implementers, policymakers and young researchers while encouraging them to identify and scale-up context-specific local solutions.

Over 100 applications were received and eight selected. The results include the development of eight policy briefs with WHO on: (i) integrating diabetes care with tuberculosis (TB) in Uganda; (ii) involving people living with diabetes in policy-making in Peru; (iii) restriction policies on sugary beverages in China; (iv) analysing uneven smoking legislation, also in China; (v) mobile phone-based self-management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in India; (vi) health system capacity in Ethiopia; (vii) childhood diabetes in Cameroon; and (viii) healthy ageing in Egypt.

Financial Information

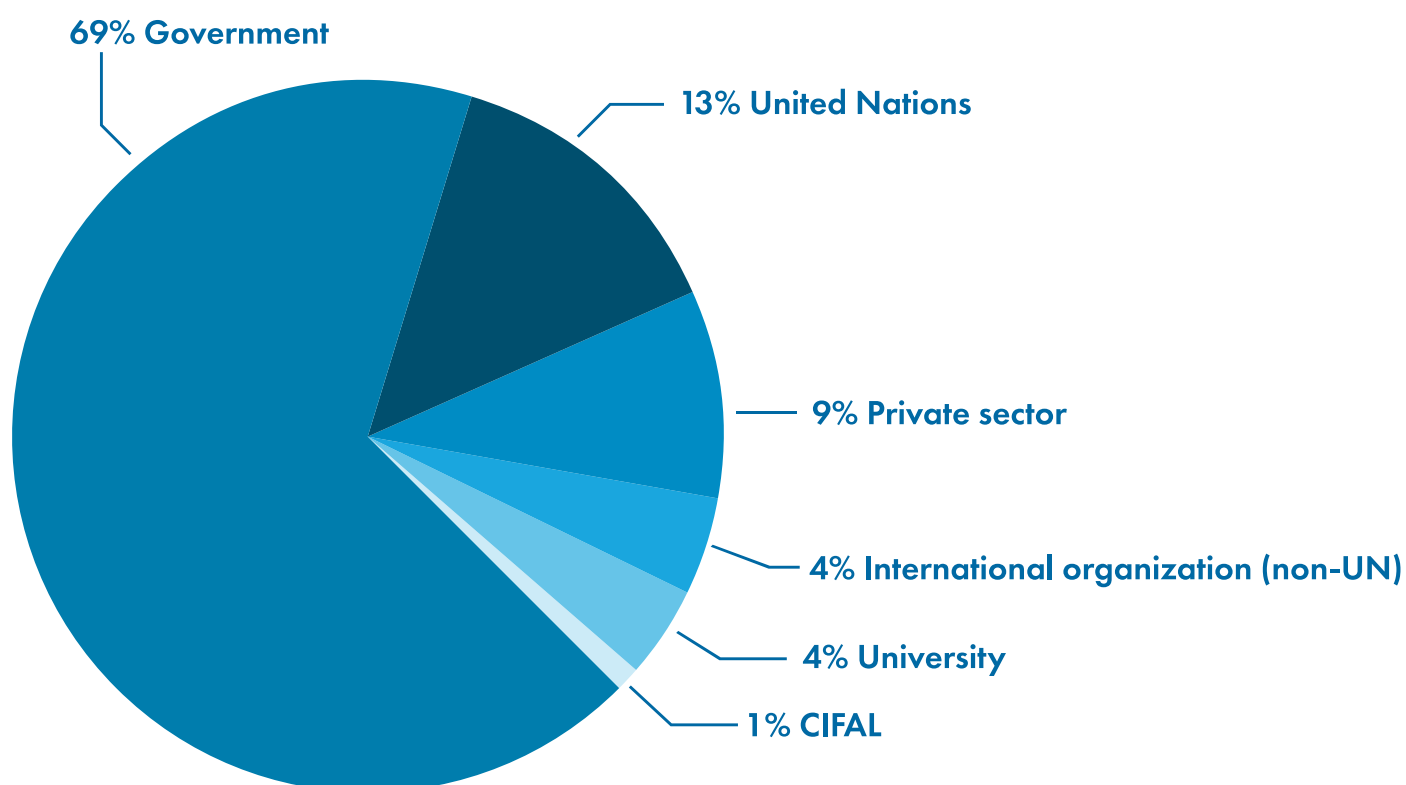


CHART 13

Income by source

In 2023, UNITAR delivered activities and produced results with US\$ 49 million in expenditures.

UNITAR is project-based and does not receive any funds from the United Nations regular budget. UNITAR is financed entirely from voluntary contributions, derived mainly from UN Member States, the business sector, other UN agencies, NGOs, CIFAL centres' affiliation fees, and others, such as public institutions and universities.

TABLE 1

Contributions for the General Fund (cash basis) in USD

The Leave No One Behind Fund is a flexible, pool instrument to leverage support from the donor community to support UNITAR's strategic objectives. The Fund focuses on meeting capacity and training needs from countries in special situations as well as vulnerable groups, including women and persons with disabilities. In 2023, some 11 projects and activities were under implementation, with US\$ 1.3 million in expenditures.

UNITAR is grateful to all organizations and individuals who support its work financially.

China	100,000
Switzerland	100,000
Russia	50,000
Japan	15,881
Türkiye	10,000

TABLE 2

Contributions for programmes (cash basis) >100k USD

Governments		Other entities		UN agencies	
Germany	>16,500,000	European Union	>1,300,000	UNDP	>1,700,000
Norway	>4,900,000	Takeda Pharmaceuticals International Ag	>600,000	UNEP	>1,200,000
Japan	>3,100,000	IKEA Foundation	>500,000	UNESCO	>600,000
Switzerland	>1,300,000	Open University of Catalonia	>500,000	UNOPS	>400,000
Italy	>1,000,000	CIFAL	>400,000	UNDRR	>300,000
Sweden	>500,000	Berexia Digital	>400,000	UNHCR	>200,000
UK	>400,000	Looker Education Group	>400,000	WHO	>100,000
USA	>400,000	Anheuser-Busch InBev SA	>300,000	UNOPS	>100,000
Russia	>300,000	University of Stirling	>300,000	UNCDF	>100,000
Guyana	>200,000	University of Strathclyde	>200,000	UNIDO	>100,000
Denmark	>100,000	Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)	>200,000	UNHQ	>100,000
Kuwait	>100,000	Microsoft Corporation	>200,000	UNESCAP	>100,000
Finland	>100,000	University for Peace	>100,000		
China	>100,000	Pernod Ricard	>100,000		
		Danone	>100,000		
		Impact Initiatives	>100,000		
		Unicaja banco SA	>100,000		
		Diageo	>100,000		
		Sant'Anna University	>100,000		
		Rainbow Health Int (RHI)	>100,000		
		The MacArthur Foundation	>100,000		

End Notes

1. UNITAR reports the number of beneficiaries based on the number of participating individuals in training and related events (as opposed to the number of unique beneficiaries), as recorded by Programme Units in the Events Management System (EMS). The figures and breakdowns in this report are inclusive of all Divisions, Programme Units, Offices, and the Global Network of International Training Centres of Authorities and Leaders. The overall figure of 544,785 participants reflects the number of beneficiaries with gender disaggregation, as downloaded from the EMS on 20 March 2024 and as reported in the 2023 Financial Statements. 3,032 Certificates of Completion for the UN CC:Learn partnership have been added to account for reporting differences.
2. Out of the 400,985 learning-related beneficiaries, 210,225 (or 52 per cent) are unique participants.
3. Learning-related beneficiaries under strategic objective 2 include the Multilateral Diplomacy pillar.
4. Regional and development status breakdowns of beneficiaries are determined on the basis of the reported nationality in the EMS. The breakdowns do not include beneficiaries recorded with unreported nationalities.
5. The number of events reported is based on the figure in the Financial Statements.
6. Based on participant feedback from 566 of 801 learning-related events (or 71 per cent of the total number of learning events delivered in 2023) for which evaluation data was complete.
7. The assessment is based on survey responses from a random sample of learners from 2023 learning-related events. UN CC:Learn learners were surveyed through a random sample (354 responses, representing 95 per cent confidence level and 5 per cent error) while for other UNITAR learning participants a survey was sent to all of the available contacts (4,174 responses received, representing 99 per cent confidence level and 2 per cent error). The survey was deployed in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.
8. All non-binary identified participants from the survey took part in events not delivered as part of the UN CC:Learn partnership.
9. Age-related data for certification of completion rates is only available for 44 per cent of learners participating in events with objective assessments. As the registration form field for a learner's age is self-reported (and not mandatory), age-related data should be interpreted with caution.
10. The numbers include data extracted from the Event Management System based on a search by strategic pillar "Peace" and may hence not comprise all events and resulting beneficiaries organized by the Division for Peace as some events may also have contributed to other or multiple pillars.
11. Certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.

12. The numbers include data extracted from the Event Management System based on a search by strategic pillar “People” and may hence not comprise all events and resulting beneficiaries organized by the Division for People as some events may also have contributed to other or multiple pillars.
13. Certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
14. On the EMS 2,767 unique beneficiaries and no certificates were reported for the United Nations Global Surgery Learning Hub - GSF - Course series in a single event.
15. A/77/134 Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing, Report of the Secretary-General, paragraph 57.
16. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n22/417/22/pdf/n2241722.pdf?token=XxoRKTwSDpLEfvuFQO&fe=true>
17. The numbers include data extracted from the Event Management System based on a search by strategic pillar “Planet” and may hence not comprise all events and resulting beneficiaries organized by the Division for Planet as some events may also have contributed to other or multiple pillars.
18. Certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
19. There is a difference of Certificates of Completion (CoC) between the EMS and UN CC:Learn of a total of 3,032 more CoC on CC:Learn than on the EMS. Moreover, an additional 11 events experienced technical issues or lack of alignment with the Certification Policy and accounted for 23,126 CoCs as per CC:Learn that were not recorded on the EMS. The latter is not included in this report.
20. The numbers include data extracted from the Event Management System based on a search by strategic pillar “Prosperity” and may hence not comprise all events and resulting beneficiaries organized by the Division for Prosperity as some events may also have contributed to other or multiple pillars.
21. Certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
22. The numbers include data extracted from the Event Management System based on a search by strategic pillar “Multilateral Diplomacy” and may hence not comprise all events and resulting beneficiaries organized by the Division for Multilateral Diplomacy as some events may also have contributed to other or multiple pillars.
23. Certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
24. The numbers include data extracted from the Event Management System based on a search by strategic pillar “United Nations Satellite Centre UNOSAT”.
25. Certificates of completion and participation from learning events with objective assessment of learning requirements.
26. The numbers include data extracted from the Event Management System based on a search by strategic pillars “Accelerating SDG Implementation” and “Cross-fertilizing Knowledge” and may hence not comprise all events and resulting beneficiaries organized by the Strategic Implementation of Agenda 2030 unit as some events may also have contributed to other or multiple pillars.



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