What works to amplify the rights and voices of youth?

Meta-synthesis of lessons learned from youth evaluations (2015-2020) to support the implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy
Meta-synthesis of lessons learned

Evaluative exercise across the UN system:
• Increases UN system coherence
• Fosters more strategic and effective inter-agency coordination and collaboration
• Advances the work of the UN on youth issues in a coordinated, coherent and holistic manner

Meta-synthesis of past evaluations:
• Leverages existing evidence and knowledge base
• Identifies shared lessons learned across agencies

Co-chair agencies:
• UNFPA and UNICEF

Reference group members:
• Evaluation and technical specialists
• EvalYouth, FAO, ILO, IOM, OSGEY, DPPA/PBSO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO and UNDP

External consultants:
• Technical and evaluation experts
• Included a youth researcher
Purpose, Objectives, and Scope

**Purpose**
- To generate evidenced-based learning on what works, what does not work in the past implementation of Youth 2030

**Objectives**
- To inform future implementation of priority one and priority four of Youth 2030
- To contribute to existing knowledge on advancing the engagement, participation and advocacy of youth as well as youth and human rights
- To contribute to increasing UN-system coherence, lesson learning, and accountability

**Scope**
- Covers 2015 to 2020 (accounting for progress made since adoption of SDGs)
- Specific focus on priority one (youth engagement, participation and advocacy) and priority four (youth and human rights) of Youth 2030
Methodology

- **Participatory and consultative approach**
  Reference group accompanied the exercise engaging in key points throughout the exercise.

- **Preliminary scoping**
  Resulted a focus on priority one (engagement, participation and advocacy of youth) and priority four (youth and human rights).

- **Evaluation selection**
  Inclusion and exclusion criteria used to identify 151 evaluation reports to be reviewed.

- **Data extraction and synthesis**
  Shared lessons were identified and classified by theme, employing the OECD/DAC definition of a lesson learned.

- **Data validation**
  Preliminary set of lessons were validated by the reference group.
Lessons Learned

**Enabling key actors**

- **L1:** Interventions that deliver human rights education to young people are more successful if they also promote youth human rights among duty bearers.

- **L2:** UN programmes that partner with key community actors are more sustainable, creating an enabling environment that promotes and protects the rights of young people.

**Accountability**

- **L3:** Accountability and recourse mechanisms are critical to support the implementation of laws, policies and regulations in favour of youth rights.

- **L4:** Engaging youth in data collection and knowledge generation supports accountability and can contribute to youth empowerment.

**Engaging youth in multiple capacities**

- **L5:** Working with youth in multiple capacities – as beneficiaries, advisors, partners and leaders – empowers young people by allowing them to engage in more transformative activities.

- **L6:** Engaging youth as strategic or implementing partners – who are adequately resourced and compensated for their efforts - can support youth movement building and result in sustained youth participation outcomes.

**Representation and inclusion**

- **L7:** Youth consultations that are targeted and have built-in feedback loops allow for more meaningful and diverse participation of youth, including those from marginalized and vulnerable groups.

- **L8:** Targeted strategies and partnerships with local youth networks and organizations can enhance the inclusion of hard-to-reach youth.
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**L2:** UN programmes that partner with key community actors are more sustainable, creating an enabling environment that promotes and protects the rights of young people.
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Lessons Learned | Engaging youth in multiple capacities

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#Eval4Youth

The evaluation is available at [unfpa.org/evaluation](http://unfpa.org/evaluation)

### Evaluation materials

- Evaluation report
- Evaluation brief (EN, FR, SP)
- Online snapshot
- Video summarizing the lessons

For further details, please contact [cadondon@unfpa.org](mailto:cadondon@unfpa.org) and [kletshabo@unicef.org](mailto:kletshabo@unicef.org)

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