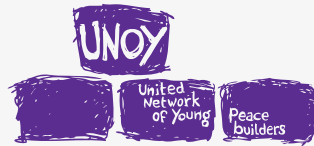# MAPPING A SECTOR:
BRIDGING THE EVIDENCE GAP ON YOUTH-DRIVEN PEACEBUILDING

Findings of the Global Survey of Youth-Led Organisations Working on Peace and Security

Youth, Peace & Security

UNOY
United Network of Young Peacebuilders

Search for Common Ground

Youth, Peace & Security

About UNOY Peacebuilders
and Search for Common Ground

UNOY Peacebuilders

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) is a global network of youth peace organisations with 80 member organisations in 50 countries. UNOY Peacebuilders works to strengthen youth participation in peacebuilding by supporting the development of its members organisational capacity as well as individual young people's capacity as peacebuilders. The network provides opportunities for sharing and learning between youth peacebuilding organisations, and ensures youth participation in international conversations around peace and security.

Search for Common Ground

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) is an international non-profit organization that promotes peaceful resolution of conflict. The world's largest peacebuilding organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC and a European office in Brussels, Belgium, SFCG seeks to help conflicting parties understand their differences and act on their commonalities. With a total of approximately 650 staff worldwide, we implement projects from 59 offices and in 48 countries, including in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.

About the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security

In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. This resolution is the first to recognize the important and positive role young women and men play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. Resolution 2250 requests the Secretary-General "to carry out a Progress Study on the youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels", and to present the results of the Study to Member States of the United Nations.

This report was developed as a contribution to the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, which is co-led by by UNFPA and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

Contents

Designed and implemented by UNOY Peacebuilders and Search for Common Ground

Secretariat of the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security co-led by UNFPA and the Peacebuilding Support Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Youth organisations working on peace and security have told us that they …

… are built on trust, shared values and a sense of belonging.

… are uniquely able to mobilise both youth and other community members, having access where other organisations may not.

… are primarily driven by volunteers and mostly operate on of 5,000 USD per year or less.

… have a greater impact when they have greater access to resources.

… are looking for increased technical support, including through capacity develop ment activities.

… face threats of violence.

… encounter a lack of trust from governments and other stakeholders, leading to marginalisation.

… are successful at preventing violence in their communities, including by preventing recruitment to violent groups.

… deliver humanitarian assistance when other actors fail.

… change perceptions of youth in their communities, from troublemakers to positive contributors.

… build social cohesion and inter-faith unity.

… call for investment in youth-led peacebuilding efforts.

… request to be recognised and taken seriously as peacebuilding practitioners.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and methods

Many young people are agents for peace, engaged in transforming the structures and institutions that hinder the socio-economic and political well-being of people living in fragile and conflict affected communities. In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council recognized these efforts with a unanimous vote on UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (UNSCR 2250). UNSCR 2250 sets guidelines for its member states, the UN and civil society to ensure young people's active, systematic and meaningful participation in institutions and mechanisms relating to peace and security.

To gather evidence and recommend effective responses, the United Nations Secretary-General has commissioned a Progress Study at the request of the Security Council. **The Global Survey on Youth, Peace and Security** was developed in 2016 as a contribution to this study. Its overall goal was to map the activities of youth-led organisations working in peace and security around the world. Specifically, the survey aimed to:

- Map the global community of youth-led organisations working on peace and security
- Identify the main working areas and activities of these organisations
- Understand the impact of the work of these organisations
- Learn about the needs of these organisations

The survey used a purposeful targeted sampling technique with two key criteria for target respondents: (i) youth-led organisations, driven by young people under the age of 35 years old; and (ii) working in peace and security. The survey was conducted online through Youth4Peace.info, with offline versions available for organisations with limited or no internet access.

This report is a descriptive analysis of the 399 responses from youth-led organisations to the Global Survey. It provides **a snapshot and broad overview of the activities, achievements, strengths and needs of youth-led organisations as reported by them.**

Key findings

The responses provided by youth-led organisations working on peace and security indicate that **despite various challenges, youth-led organisations are engaged in noteworthy endeavours for peace, and have achieved remarkable successes.**

Achievements reported by youth-led organisations:

*   Integrating youth in national, local and international decision making processes
*   Preventing violence in their communities (including preventing youth joining violent extremist groups)
*   Creating formal and informal employment opportunities
*   Fostering social cohesion within communities
*   Transforming the perception of youth to being seen as positive agents for peace
*   Delivering humanitarian assistance where national infrastructures are inadequate

The survey's findings confirm the underlying premise of UNSCR 2250 and a number of assumptions about the sector, notably that **young people are contributing in meaningful ways to building peace and security in their communities around the world.** It also provides a first overview of the youth peacebuilding community and a broad base of knowledge for the Progress Study.

In summary, the survey findings are that:

*   **A majority of the youth-led organisations operate with limited funding,** with 49% operating under USD 5,000 per annum and only 11% over USD 100,000.
*   Despite variations in funding, there is a **common thread in the type of activities** that these organisations implement. Due to funding disparity, the life span, depth and impact of these **activities vary from one-off to fully established projects.**

Common activities conducted by youth-led organisations:

*   Trainings and capacity building of youth and other community members on conflict resolution, leadership, peer education
*   Advocacy for the participation and inclusion of youth in decision making both within formal and informal structures
*   Organising events (debates, exhibitions, theatre, sports...) for raising awareness of youth and community members on issues relevant to their communities such as human rights and democracy
*   Organising inter-faith, religious and ethnic dialogues and social cohesion activities between adverse parties
*   Organising campaigns (peace walks, rallies...) by mobilising thousands of youth and community to raise awareness around subjects such as gender based violence, sustainable development goals, climate change
*   Establishing and forming alliances, networks and clubs to build youth capacity and leadership and promote participation

*   With an average age of 29 and 28 years old for males and females in leadership roles respectively, the youth-led organisations are **gender balanced** and operate with **97% volunteers** (including staff and members). They **target both youth as well as relevant members** in their communities such as local and national decision makers, older people, families, displaced persons, etc.

- **Challenges that youth-led organisations face** range from difficulties associated with operating in contexts of ongoing conflict and heightened violence, widespread marginalisation and mistrust from and towards community and government stakeholders, limited access to resources and support, and rampant poverty and under-employment.
- Besides funding and access to resources, youth-led organisations need training and capacity building **to monitor and evaluate their work** for sustainability. Youth-led organisations also expressed the **need for creating and expanding relations, partnerships and exposure to regional and international platforms** to enhance their skills, build networks, exchange best practices and lessons learned, and deepen relationships with other youth.

Main strengths of youth-led organisations:

- Mobilising youth and communities
- Creating an open organisational structure that is built on trust, shared value and a sense of belonging to a common vision to 'do' something for their communities
- Developing skills and expertise amongst themselves and their target groups on youth, peace and security issues
- Accessing local knowledge and hard-to-reach youth
- Gaining credibility in their communities by implementing important community development work, at times in areas where no other actors exists

- Finally, youth-led organisations are applying different skills to overcome funding challenges by finding alternative sources such as through their members, crowd funding, donations and in-kind support. Some push for visibility by participating in and actively joining local, national and international networks and social media. Others solicit funding through traditional sources such as through institutional donor proposals, partnership with CSOs, media houses (radios, TV), and others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey findings indicate the importance of **investing in youth and peacebuilding activities,** including developing direct partnerships with youth-led organisations, strengthening the capacity of youth from diverse backgrounds, involving youth in local, national, regional and international decision making and providing funding for youth-led organisations. Additionally, the findings demonstrate the value of recognising that youth-led organisations are key actors in the peace and security field, **and engaging with them on an equal footing with other practitioners** working on peace and security and in the broader development and humanitarian assistance fields. Specific recommendations to all actors working at the intersection between youth, peace and security as well as in the broader peacebuilding and conflict transformation community follow.

Recommendation 1: Recognise and work with youth-led organisations as peace and security practitioners

- Engage youth-led organisations as practitioners in the field of peacebuilding. This includes recognising their roles in designing, implementing and monitoring programmes, projects and actions that prevent, respond to and address issues related to conflict, peace and security
- Ensure youth-led organisations are involved in shaping international, national and local policies and practices related to peace and security, and not specific only to youth
- Encourage and facilitate coordination between youth-led organisations and other, non-youth actors actively working in the peacebuilding, development and humanitarian fields

  Note: For additional information on working with youth-led organisations within peacebuilding, see "Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding: A Practice Note" on youth4peace.info

Respondents said:

"It's not enough for the UN and the Security Council to 'recognise' the role of youth in peace and security, they should translate their recognition to practice through establishing an agency that focus on mainstreaming youth role in all UN work. We need a (UN youth) that is politically and financially supported by member states" (Tripoli, Libya)

"Young peacebuilders who are working in the conflict affected areas are risking their lives and working for peace, there should be a mechanism/ process for safety of young peacebuilders. Agenda of youth, peace and security should not be used to shrink spaces for youth-led civil society organisations but should be used to create more civic spaces" (Bamenda, Cameroon)

Recommendation 2: Improve youth-led organisations' access to resources and support, including

- Earmark funding specifically for youth-led organisations working in peacebuilding to reflect the range and impact of their actions, and to bolster their innovative approaches. This funding needs to be flexible and designed with the specific needs of youth organisations in mind. It needs to go beyond small funding or seed grants and also enable the build-up of organisational capacity as well as long-term sustainable action

- Work with youth-led organisations as implementing partners for peacebuilding activities both specific to youth and more broadly for their communities, countries and regions
- Encourage private sector engagement with youth-led organisations through the provision of micro financing, apprenticeship facilities to youth etc.

Respondents said:

"[...] engaging youth meaningfully in conflict transformation means long-term commitment and sustained relationships; passing on values, knowledge and skills [...]; trusting them to demonstrate their leaderships and being responsible citizens [...]" (Amman, Jordan)

"we do appreciate the fact that UN is helping and recognising the youth in peacebuilding around the globe. What we don't appreciate is the funding methods as most of it go through either UN agencies or other international organisations who always end up marginalising the actual youth organisations on the ground [...]" (Kenema, Sierra Leone)

"[...] to focus helping young people by encouraging them to create social businesses as this would also impact positively their communities and also supporting them financially to grow [...]" (Lome, Togo)

Recommendation 3: Ensure the implementation of UNSCR 2250 in national and local policies and practices

- Create structures within national governments and other partners to enable young people to participate in developing strategies for improving peace and security at all levels. These can include specific youth committees or youth delegates, but should also enable meaningful youth participation in existing as well as new mechanisms for peace and security that are not youth-specific
- Develop support measures such as data collection, indicators for measuring progress, national legislations and action plans that include specific and direct measures to implement UNSCR 2250, structures for coordination with relevant governmental, CSO, INGO, youth (male and female) and other actors, mobilisation of resources and reporting on progress

   Note: For additional recommendations on kick-starting UNSCR 2250 implementation locally and nationally, see "Translating Youth, Peace & Security Policy into Practice: Guide to kick-starting UNSCR 2250 Locally and Nationally" on youth4peace.info.

Respondents said:

"The UN should set up a structure to encourage and monitor the implementation of the resolution 2250. It should extend invitation to youth and youth-led organisations all over to educate and encourage them to pursue the implementation of the resolution in their respective countries. The UN should also set up a quick response unit to assist youths seeking information or assistance in working for the implementation of the resolution," (Abuja, Nigeria)

"Include a group of youth delegates who can participate as advisers in the implementation of UNSCR 2250, and where their voices are taken into account when making key decisions for world peace" (Bogota, Colombia)

Recommendation 4: Provide space for youth participation within peace and security programming

- Support programming that breaks down barriers to youth participation, changes the negative perception of youth communities and fosters conflict transformation among youth as well as community members
- Encourage peacebuilding and violence prevention programming that gives special attention to intergenerational dialogue and building and (re-) establishing trust between youth and community members and institutions
- Create and protect safe spaces for youth-led organisations to implement peacebuilding programming

   Note: For more recommendations on enabling youth participation in peace and security programming, see "Guiding Principles on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding" on youth4peace.info

Respondents said:

"to increase projects/programmes that enhances community's knowledge and education of peace building and to integrate education for a culture of peace into other development sector or agendas, requires a new strategy of supporting young people" (Hargeisa, Somalia)

"we need projects that have concerted efforts in addressing poverty and unemployment as this further exposes young people in conflict settings" (Harare, Zimbabwe)

Recommendation 5: Strengthen the capacities of youth-led organisations so that they can build resilience in their communities

- Develop capacity building programs for youth-led organisations on issues related to violence and conflict, peace and security, resilience, youth, gender, violent extremism, leadership and ownership, and programming (grants management, implementation). Ensure that these trainings are implemented in partnership with youth organisations themselves
- Build capacity of and provide regular trainings to youth-led organisations on designing strong monitoring, evaluation, learning and accountability mechanisms, such as indicators for measuring success
- Encourage and facilitate learning, sharing and exchanges among youth-led organisations and with other, non-youth organisations by providing platforms for regular national, regional and international forums, seminars, conferences

Respondents said:

"[...] we are ready to overcome the challenges in our community, but we need trainings, technical assistance, funding and life skills [...]" (Mogadishu, Somalia)

"[...] platform to share lessons learned, struggles and insight on how actors work on peacebuilding overcome challenges. Personally, I am thinking of an organisational buddy programme of (small) institutes that help each other to grow stronger while working within the same fields" (Almere, the Netherlands)

Recommendation 6: Conduct research on the activities and impact, needs and capacities of youth led organisations

Bearing in mind the survey finding provides a broad overview of youth led organisations working on peace and security, it is clear that more in-depth research is required to better understand these organisations and their work. Such research should focus on:

- Understanding the agency and life-cycles of youth led organisations must be better understood, including in terms of activities, funding and organisational capacity, as well as how organisations are impacted on by the context in which organisations operate
- Assessing the impact of youth organisations' activities on their communities, moving beyond self-reported successes to more rigorous means of measurement

Respondents said:

"[...] a proportion of funds must support research and organisational capacity development, rather than only programme implementation [...]" (Amman, Jordan)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Setting the Scene

Recent years have seen an increase in attention and awareness of the positive and powerful role of young people, both male and female, as agents for positive and constructive change. Particularly in the context of conflict and violence, emerging evidence demonstrates that young people who actively participate in violence are a minority (UN, 2011). Many youth are creating youth-led movements, networks and organisations to build peace and transform conflicts and at times they are the primary actors in grassroots community development work (Smith & Ellison, 2012; McEvoy-Levy, 2001).

To encourage and enable young people in their role as agents for positive change in lasting peace, and to advocate for a paradigm shift away from youth as victims or perpetrators of violence and towards supporting youth as a force for peacebuilding, an inter-agency working group (WG) was established in 2012. Under the stewardship of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network of Youth Development, the WG is co-chaired by the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, the international non-governmental organisation- Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)- a global network of youth-led organisations. The WG includes over 60 member organisations from the United Nations, NGOs, civil society organisations (CSOs) and academia. As part of their advocacy efforts, the WG has developed the Guiding Principles on *Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding[1]* to support actors working on youth and peacebuilding. The principles provide guidelines for 'participative, inclusive and intergenerational peacebuilding strategies and programmes that systematically promote and ensure the participation of young people in challenging contexts of conflict where violence has often become the norm' (Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding, 2015). Other important policy recommendations from the WG's advocacy efforts include the youth-led *Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security[2]* – which presents a common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework and the *Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace[3]* - which outlines what young people are already doing to prevent and counter violent extremism in their communities and how other stakeholders in the field can partner with youth to support their work.

These efforts paved the way for a groundbreaking resolution adopted with a unanimous vote by the United Nations Security Council in December 2015. *Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security* (UNSCR 2250)[4] sets guidelines for Member States, the UN and civil society to ensure young people's active, systematic, and meaningful participation in institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict and for countering violent extremism. A summary of the key action areas or goals of UNSCR 2250 is included in Box 1 below.

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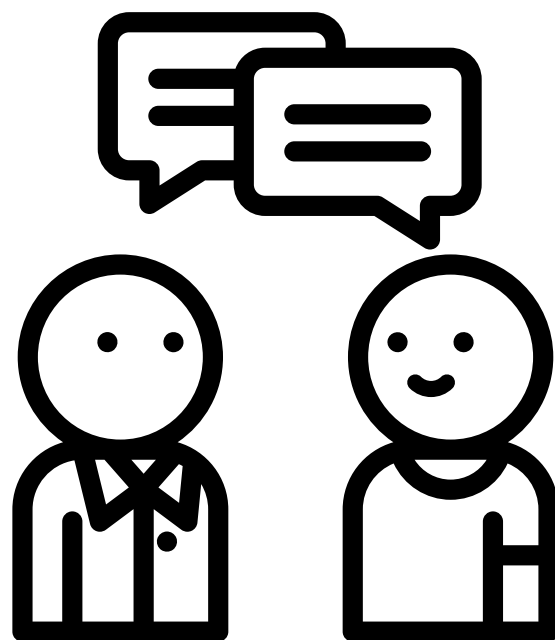
1 For more information on the Guiding Principles, see: https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/up-loads/2014/04/Guiding-Principles_EN.pdf

2 For more information on the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security, see: https://www.unteamworks.org/node/505475

3 For more information on the Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace, see: https://www.counterextremism.com/sites/default/files/Youth_Action_Agenda_Global_Youth_Summit_092815.pdf

4 For more information on UNSCR 2250, see: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2250(2015)

UNSCR 2250 - A Brief Overview

Participation: The resolution asks governments to increase the participation of young people in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and in mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict. It also stresses the need for the Security Council to consider young people's needs during its missions.

Protection: The resolution requires governments to ensure the protection of civilians, specifically including youth, at times of armed conflict and post-conflict, including protection from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence. It also demands countries to end impunity by bringing to justice those who commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against young civilians.

Prevention: The resolution calls on governments to support youth's engagement by creating spaces in which young people are recognised and provided with adequate support to implement violence prevention activities. The document also stresses the need to create policies for youth that would positively contribute to peacebuilding efforts, including for their social and economic development. The Security Council also calls on all relevant actors to establish mechanisms to promote a culture of peace and discourage youth from all acts of violence.

Partnership: The resolution urges governments to establish and strengthen partnerships with relevant actors by increasing political, financial, technical and logistical support to the UN bodies engaged in promoting peace, development and equality; considering the Peacebuilding Commission's advice and recommendations on how to engage young people during and after conflict when developing peacebuilding strategies; and engaging community actors and empowering local people(s)- including youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders- in countering violent extremism and promoting social cohesion and inclusion.

Disengagement and Reintegration: The resolution encourages all actors engaged in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) to consider the impact of these processes on youth as well as the needs of young people affected by armed conflict. Aspects to be considered include: opportunities and policies in the fields of education, employment and training in preventing the marginalisation of youth and promoting a culture of peace.

(UNOY, 2016)

While the resolution and a growing body of knowledge are transforming the narrative on youth in peace and security, there remains a **critical gap in information on the activities young people are implementing as agents for peace and their impact.** Moreover, **limited consolidated evidence exists on the location, challenges, and needs of young people working on peace and security.** On the contrary, however, a plethora of literature and research exists on how different forms of interlinked violence and armed conflict disproportionately affect youth.

Studies have shown that at 1.8 billion, the current generation of youth between the ages of 10 and 24 years old is the largest the world has ever known (UNFPA, 2014). More than 600 million of these young people live in fragile and conflict-affected countries and territories (UNDP, 2014). Every estimate of conflict deaths suggests that more than 90% of all direct conflict deaths are young adult males (UNFPA, 2015), and young women are especially vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation (UNFPA; Save the Children; UNHCR; Women's Refugee Commission, 2012). In

countries where state and social structures have collapsed, this vulnerability is compounded for young people by limited access to basic social services, education and economic opportunities. The combination of ongoing conflict, heightened violence, weak institutions, poverty and exclusion from important political and community decision making leads young people to lose trust in state structures and institutions, and can push them towards violence (PeaceNexus Foundation, 2016).

Although existing data highlights the magnitude of factors contributing to the vulnerability of both young men and women in the context of conflict and fragile settings, the picture it presents is incomplete. It overlooks the positive role youth play as agents for peace despite the challenges and hardships that they face.

This is why UNSCR 2250 commissioned a Progress Study on youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels.[5] As a contribution to this study, an exploratory survey was developed in 2016. The Global Survey on Youth, Peace and Security focuses on youth-led organisations working in peace and security and fills gaps in knowledge on their activities, achievements, challenges and needs. Its findings are the subject of this report.

1.2. Objectives of the survey

The primary goal of the survey was to map the activities of youth-led organisations working in peace and security. Importantly, the survey aimed to reach beyond youth organisations which have been part of the global conversation on peace and security so far, to bring more youth organisations to the table. Specifically, the objectives of the survey were:

- To identify young peace organisations and provide an overview of where they are located
- To identify the main working areas and activities of youth peace organisations
- To understand what impact youth peace organisations are having

In addition to the above, the survey was set to support the UNSCR 2250 Progress study by:

- Providing insight on how youth peace organisations are already working within the key action areas identified by UNSCR 2250 (see Box 1)
- Identifying the main needs of youth peace organisations in relation to the resolution

1.3. Process and methodologies

1.3.1. Survey design

The Global Survey on Youth, Peace and Security was developed following a rigorous review of existing literature on youth, peace and security and of similar prior efforts. The two main prior efforts relevant to the study were the *"CSO Survey for the Global Study on Women, Peace, and Security"*, conducted 15 years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325, and UNOY Peacebuilders' own "Annual Impact Review" surveying the activities, needs and visions of youth-led peacebuilding organisations.

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5 For more information on the UNSCR 2250 Progress Study, see: https://www.youth4peace.info/ProgressStudy

On the basis of this initial research, the project team drafted a questionnaire in cooperation with the Lead Author and Steering Committee of the UNSCR 2250 Progress Study.

The survey had 28 questions, including both closed and open ended questions, divided into five sections: Profile, Areas of work and methods, Results and impact, Challenges and issues, and Recommendations. The questionnaire can be found in an annex to this report.

1.3.2. Sampling and implementation of the survey

Given the survey's stated aim of reaching youth organisations not previously part of the global conversation on peace and security, the sampling method was very important to the implementation of the survey. In order to ensure participation of a wide range of youth organisations, the survey primarily gathered responses online and the project team invited previously identified organisations to submit responses, through a purposeful targeted sampling.

UNOY Peacebuilders hired seven young peacebuilders as "outreach managers", to identify and reach out to youth organisations in their respective geographic regions, defined as: The Americas; Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf; West and Central Africa; East and Southern Africa; South and Central Asia; Asia-Pacific; and Europe.

Each outreach manager conducted a mapping of the youth peacebuilding community in his or her region and identified relevant youth-led organisations. They did so both on the basis of their own knowledge, and by reaching out to other important actors such as intergovernmental bodies, UN agencies and national youth organisations. The outreach managers then contacted the organisations identified and invited them to participate in the survey.

In addition to this main methodology of targeted sampling, a snowballing methodology was used. The survey prompted youth-led organisations to share it on social media, and the project team encouraged respondents to forward the survey to other youth-led peace organisations they knew.

The survey was made available in 11 languages- English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Mandarin, Hindi, Turkish, Korean, Russian and Swahili. Most respondents completed the survey online via the Youth4Peace Global Knowledge Portal (youth4peace.info). However, when youth organisations were not able to respond to the survey online themselves, the outreach managers recorded their responses by phone or e-mail.

1.3.3. Responses, verification and data analysis

A total of 688 organisations responded to the survey. Before undergoing analysis, all responses went through a verification process to ensure that the responding organisations met the survey criteria. Specifically, the survey team assessed whether the organisations were:

- *Youth-led:* The organisation or initiative is primarily made up of, and driven by (including leadership positions) young people. UNSCR 2250 defines young people as falling within the age range of 18-29 years old, while taking into account variations in the definition of youth that may exist in different contexts. However, to provide some flexibility with context, the survey allowed "youth-led" to include leadership ages of 35 years and under

- *Working on peace and security:* Implementing actions that aim to build peace, prevent violence, transform conflict and actively contribute to establishing sustainable peace in their community, nation or region

Final data analysis only included responses meeting this criteria, in consideration of the objectives of the survey, as the first of its kind examining the global community of youth-led organisations working on peace and security. While many organisations which are not youth-led may undertake important work on youth, peace and security, they were not the target of this survey, nor were youth-led organisations which do not work on peace and security. Based on this criteria, 399 survey responses were deemed eligible.

Eligible responses were coded and clustered for data analysis. To test and verify the information, raw data was first entered with codes into a spreadsheet. Pivot tables helped provide a descriptive analysis of the key findings. The information was then uploaded into Nvivo software to check for accuracy and coding categories. Important quotes and anecdotes were extrapolated from each open-ended question and treated as qualitative responses, without creating nodes or coding categories.

1.4. Limitations

While the survey and this report provide a first-of-its-kind mapping of the activities of youth-led peace organisations, a number of limitations must be taken into account when considering its findings:

- **Level of detail and analysis:** The survey was aimed at providing an overview of the work of youth-led organisations across the world. In doing so, it does not provide in-depth analysis or case studies on the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that enable youth agency, and the causal impact of their work.
- **Online implementation:** To enable access for a large sample of respondents, the survey was primarily available online, with an option for respondents to complete an offline questionnaire with assistance from the outreach managers. An online survey, even when supplemented by offline support, is by its very nature exclusionary and unlikely to receive responses from young people who do not have access to the internet.
- **Challenges in data collection:** Participation in the survey was fully voluntary and, as such, relied on the motivation and ability of the youth-led organisations to take part. It proved challenging to motivate a wide range of youth organisations, as many were occupied primarily with their own main activities and operations rather than completing a survey.
- **Safety of respondents:** A number of organisations, especially those operating in authoritarian contexts where space for civil society is limited, expressed a fear that the information provided in this survey would be used against them. Although the responses are presented anonymously in this report, it is likely safety fears prevented some organisations from responding to the survey.
- **Questionnaire format and analysis:** Analysis of the survey responses maintained a level of accuracy, reverifying information where feasible. However, the open-ended nature of many of the survey questions and variations in the level of detail in responses made it challenging to categorise some responses. Direct quotes from respondents have thus been used to support analysis throughout the report.
- **Representative of youth-led organisations:** Finally, it is very important to note that this was a survey of organisations only. It therefore reflects only one part of the larger youth cohort: Youth who are organised and active in leading and implementing peace and conflict related activities. These youth-led organisations

do not represent the larger youth communities working in peace and security. Therefore, survey findings should not be generalised for "all youth" or "all youth affected by violent conflict".

1.5. Report structure

This report presents a descriptive analysis of findings drawn from 399 eligible responses to the Global Survey on Youth, Peace and Security. It offers insights on the activities, achievements, challenges and needs of youth-led organisations engaged in peacebuilding.

The report includes different sections on the profiles, funding, context, challenges, achievements, strengths, needs and recommendations of youth-led organisations. It also provides a brief conceptual framework to contextualise the interconnection between youth, peace and security. Each section includes concluding remarks that revisit the report's recommendations.

Survey respondents included networks, foundations as well as established non-government organisations. This paper uses the terms "youth-led organisations" or "respondent organisations" to incorporate networks and foundations. It also uses "youth" and "young people" interchangeably.

2. PROFILE OF YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS

The findings of this report result from analysis of the 399 eligible responses to the Global Survey on Youth, Peace and Security. This section covers the demographics of respondents, their location, funding sources, activities and partners.

2.1. Location of respondent organisations

Of the 399 survey respondents, 43% were from Sub-Saharan Africa (23% from West and Central Africa and 20% from East and Southern Africa), 17% were from South and Central Asia, 17% from Europe, 13% from the Americas and the Caribbean, 9% from Middle East, North Africa and Gulf, and 2% from Asia Pacific. See Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Location of respondents

① West & Central Africa (23%)
② East & Southern Africa (20%)
③ South & Central Asia (17%)
④ Europe (17%)
⑤ Americas & Caribbean (13%)
⑥ Middle East, North Africa & Gulf (9%)
⑦ Asia Pacific (2%)

2.2. Aim

As the survey was focussed within the premise of peace and security, the respondent organisations' vision and goals are related to building peace, preventing violence and transforming conflict. **Empowering youth to develop their skills** in understanding conflict resolution ranked the highest, with 183 respondents identifying this as their main objective. One respondent confirmed, *"[the organisation] is trying to change the neglection and marginalisation of youth needs and priorities. [the organisation] has been involved in empowering youth through engaging them in humanitarian response and enhancing communities' resilience. [the organisation] has contributed to the overall efforts to assist youth cope with the conflict and participate in all activities that put youth at the top of priorities either as victims of wars or assets to end such wars by building social peace"- (Saana'a, Yemen).*

The second most common stated aim was **reducing violence and promoting a culture of peace** in communities (178 respondents). One respondent wrote to this effect, *"we build the culture of peace among members of the community. we have peace ambassador programme aiming at creating youth who will be champions in their communities in educating members of their community based on problems that they face"- (Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania).*

The third most common aim is to **promote human rights and democracy** (64 respondents); the fourth is to **promote education including formal, non-formal**

and informal; the fifth is to **advocate for youth participation in policy and decision making** (33 respondents); the sixth is to provide skills for young people to **access income generating activities** (22 respondents); the seventh is to **reduce violent extremism and prevent young people from joining radical groups** (15 respondents); and lastly, **to reduce gender based violence and promote gender equality** (12 respondents).

2.3. Scope

Of 399 respondents, 286 said that they work at the local level, 129 at national level, 138 at the international level, 59 at the global level and 8 at a regional level. See Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Scope of work

Multiple responses. Total number of respondents: 399

Number of organisations

Local
National
International
Global
Regional
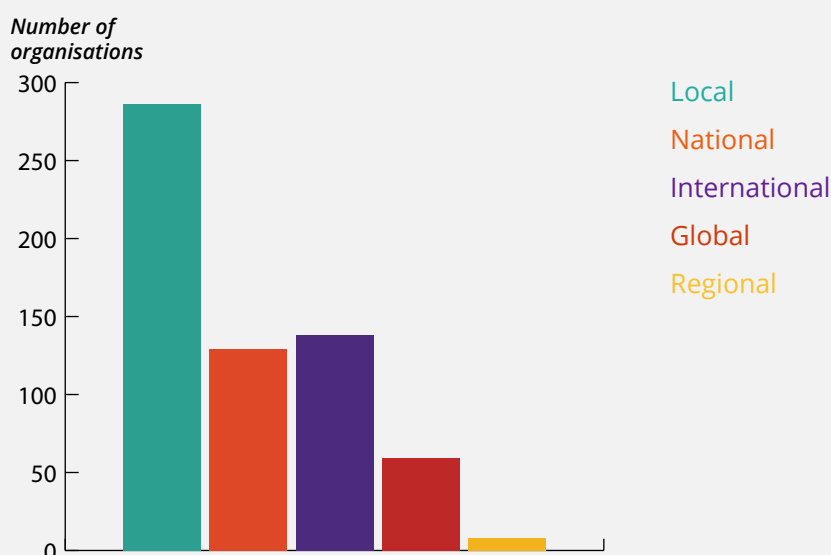
2.4. Target Group

The main target group of the respondents are young people and their peers. Many reiterated that they aim at young people's empowerment and capacity building, among others, for advocacy towards their participation in decision making, for developing income generating activity skills, and general awareness raising on peace and security. Local decisionmakers are the second most important target group mentioned, with 250 respondents stating that working with local decisionmakers and other actors is important to reach their objectives. Other actors include national decisionmakers (211 respondents), older people in communities (198), families (198), displaced persons including internally displaced persons (IDP) and refugees (165), international decisionmakers (129), security services including military and police (98), and ex-combatants (86). In terms of gender, the respondents stated that they target males and females equally within the above categories. See Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Target group of respondent organisations

Multiple responses. Total number of respondents: 399

Number of organisations

- Young people, peers
- Local decision makers
- National decision makers
- Older people in our community
- Families
- Displaced persons (IDP's, refugees)
- International decision makers
- Security services, incl. military & police
- Ex-combatants
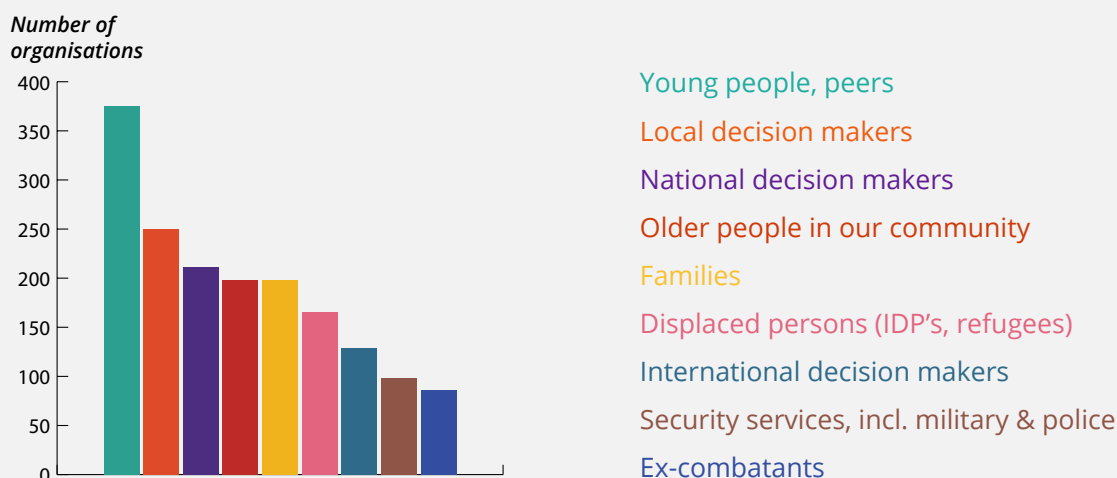
2.5. Staff and leadership structure

2.5.1 Staff

The respondent organisations operate with large numbers of volunteers comprising upto 97% of the organisation's staff. Only 3% of the total staff are paid which include project staff. Of the total unpaid staff, 76% are female staff between the ages of 18 to 25 years old, 43% are male and 55% are from other gender. Of the total paid staff, 46% are other gender between the ages of 18 and 25 years old, 29% are male and femal equally. See Figure 4, 5 and 6 below.

Figure 4: Total staff (in %)

Total unpaid (97%)
Total paid (3%)
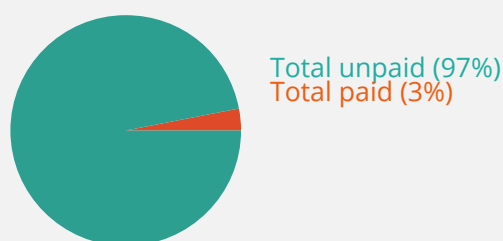
Figure 5: Total unpaid staff by age

Number of organisations (in %)

- Staff under 15
- Staff 15-17
- Staff 18-25
- Staff 26-29
- Staff 30-35
- Staff 35+

Figure 6: Total paid staff by age

Number of organisations (in%)

- Staff under 15
- Staff 15-17
- Staff 18-25
- Staff 26-29
- Staff 30-35
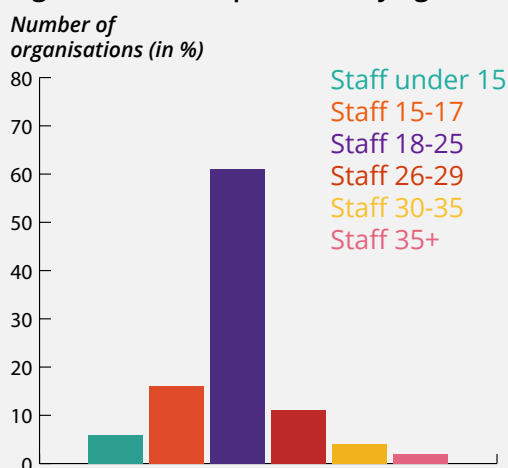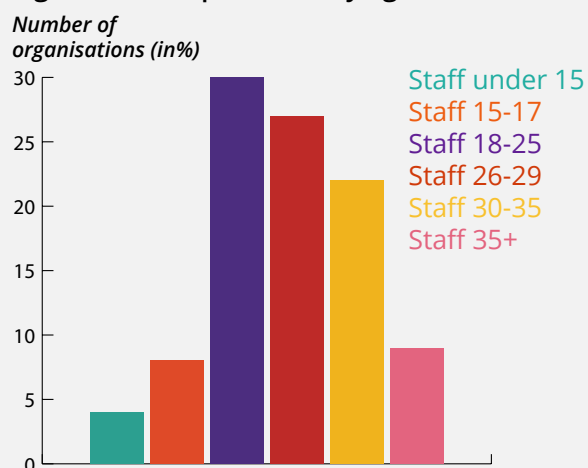- Staff 35+

2.5.2. Leadership

One of the criteria for the qualification of this survey was for the respondents to be youth-led. Of the 399 responses, 254 survey participants responded to the question on leadership. Among these respondents, while some organisations had chairs or presidents of their board above the age of 35, the average age of people holding leadership positions- such as director, deputy director and others in senior management- is 29 years old for male employees and 28 for female.
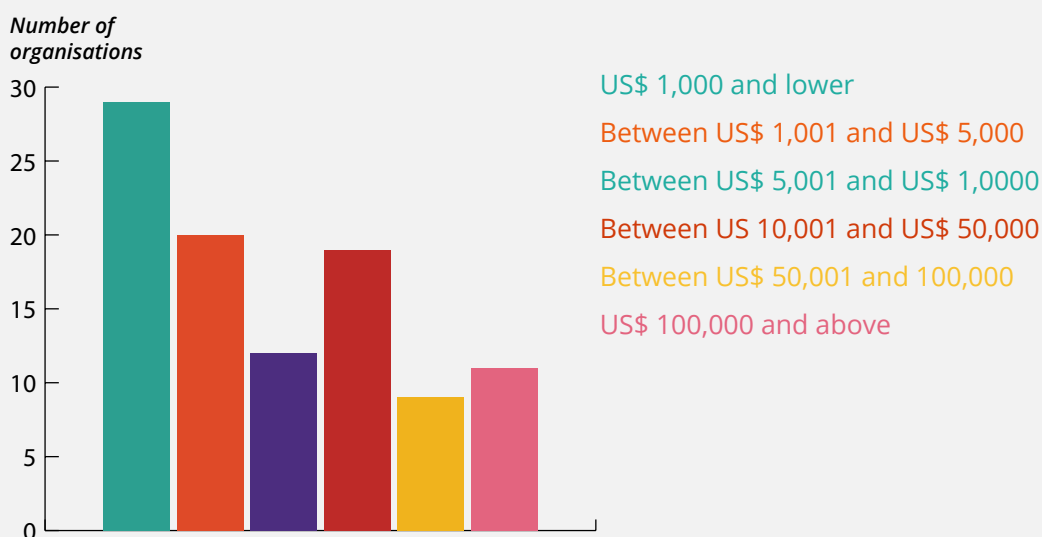
The respondents demonstrated an overall gender balance in their leadership, with 55% males and 45% females holding senior management positions. In addition to this, it is important to note that among the respondents, 19% have an all-male leadership team and 18% have female-only leadership. These female-led organisations specifically target women and girls for their actions.

2.6. Funding, type of activities and sources of funding

2.6.1. Funding and type of activities by funding levels

Among the respondents, 29% are operating with less than US Dollars (USD) 1000 per year and 20% with USD 5000 and less per annum. Twelve percent (12%) are working with between USD 5,000 and 10,000 per year; 19% between 10,000 and 50,000; 9% between USD 50,000 and 100,000; and 11% above USD 100,000. See Figure 7.

Figure 7: Operational funds

Number of organisations

US$ 1,000 and lower
Between US$ 1,001 and US$ 5,000
Between US$ 5,001 and US$ 1,0000
Between US 10,001 and US$ 50,000
Between US$ 50,001 and 100,000
US$ 100,000 and above

The organisations surveyed are highly diverse. Some of this diversity can be analysed by examining organisations' profiles and activities by their funding levels. Although there are common types of activities, the level, life span, depth and impact of these activities fluctuate from one-off to fully established projects. There is no clear correlation between the age and gender of organisations' leadership and their funding levels.

PROFILE OF YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS

The organisations with *funding of USD 1,000 and below* are mostly implementing **online trainings** to other youth on conflict resolution and sustainable development goals (SDGs). The same organisations also organise **face to face** trainings around similar issues, targeted to youth and community members. These organisations put together **one off events** such as peace walks, art exhibitions, concerts, theatre and storytelling competitions. Other activities include establishing peace clubs, participating in conferences and organising study visits. Despite their low budgets, these organisations reach large numbers of their peers.

Organisation with annual funds under 1,000 USD:

"[The organisation] has been training more than 300 youths in the South West region of Cameroon, specifically Wabane in the Lebialem sub-division of the country as PEER educators in the fight against HIV/AIDS in that area, to help educated the zone more and more" (Yaoundé, Cameroon).

Twenty percent (20%) of the organisations have operational funds of USD 5,000 and less. These organisations are implementing **longer term events** such as summer camps, five-day conferences on youth, peace and security, debates, and cross border "peace huts" in areas with heightened violence related to terrorism or gangs. Some organisations organise **monthly peace forums** as a follow up to events. These organisations also organise both **online and offline trainings** relevant to their contexts; for example, an organisation in Rwanda runs trainings for prisoners on conflict resolution and another in Pakistan organises trainings on countering violent extremism for women. Others run trainings on leadership skills and income generating activities. These organisations have **established networks** and **produce training manuals and academic publications.** These organisations also **organise campaigns, arts based exchanges** and are involved in **advocacy** in their countries on localising UNSCR 2250 and youth inclusion in state structures.

Organisation with annual funds between 1,000 and 5,000 USD:

"[the organisation] partnered with the Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin to host the International Peace Day, where we released a policy brief on post-conflict peacebuilding and development in North-Eastern Nigeria, affected by Boko Haram. Currently, we are working to produce the first Peace Index in Nigeria" (Abuja, Nigeria)

Twelve percent (12%) of respondent organisations have funds between USD 5,000 and 10,000. These organisations have **bigger outreach** success in mobilising larger groups of youth and community members for campaigns and events. These organisations organise **longer term camps** and **weekly dialogues** between youth and community members on relevant issues in their communities such as human rights, democracy, inter-religious divides etc. They are running **trainings, mentorships, civic education, peer to peer education** on UNSR 2250, SDGs, leadership, income generating skills etc. Some organisations also **implement projects funded by different national**

governments or NGOs- mostly through "seed" or small grants. These projects include conferences, research, dialogue, movie production, radio programmes, sport diplomacy, dialogues etc. Other activities include **advocacy** for youth inclusion in decision making, **theatre** and **art** exhibitions.

Organisations with annual funds between 5,000 and 10,000 USD:

"Every year, [the organisation] organised Regional Training of Trainers on Peace and Merit camp for about 100 participants from across East African region. Here [TOTs and camp] we explore and share strategies for conflict management and resolution, promote cross cultural exchange, empower youth with entrepreneurial skills and share experiences" (Bujumbura, Burundi).

"[...] trained in Lofa county on peacebuilding and conflict resolution, mediation, dialogues to challenges in post Ebola affected districts resolve conflict associated with EVD crisis [...]. The project used sport and recreation to build peaceful cohabitation and foster recon-ciliation between divided tribal groups, communities in Lofa County [...]" (Voinjama City, Liberia).

Nineteen percent (19%) of the organisations have operational funds between USD 10,000 and 50,000. These organisations are designing and carrying out **projects with a life cycle of at least one year.** These projects are supported by governments, CSOs and INGOs, and they target youth as well as the larger community structures (schools, government institutions, religious institutions etc.). They encompass activities such as **inter-faith and inter-generational dialogues, training youth on how to access income generating activities** including **micro financing, sensitisation** on non-violent elections, **radio** shows etc. **Trainings** to teachers and other community members on issues relevant in their communities, **capacity building** of youth and institutions are additional activities that fall under these projects. The organisations also continue to organise **larger events** (conferences, seminars) at national as well as global levels. **Advocacy** towards institutions, developing **national and global alliances,** promoting **arts-based work** and organising **sport events** are other types of actions that these organisations are engaged in.

Organisations with annual funds between 10,000 and 50,000 USD:

"[We] revived Youth Parliament in Fiji after 10 years and conducted the first ever high powered National Security Youth Dialogue between young Fijians and Security Forces before Fiji held Democratic Election in 2014 after 9 years of political and undemocratic rule since 2006 coup by the Military. [the organisation] also partnered in hosting the Pacific Island Development Forum in Fiji and lobbied for Fiji's 1st ever National Women's Parliament. [The organisation] was also the NGO to host 1 ever National Young Leaders Dialogue on Policing, Criminology & National Security" (Suva, Fiji)

"[...] we are implementing Coberm project of co-working between Abkhazian and Georgian youth in the field of filmmaking, which includes 3 meetings in third countries and

online cooperation. We match personal and professional interest of development with confidence building, through non-formal education strategies and learning by doing methodologies" (Tbilisi, Georgia)

"[The organisation] gave youth and community members trainings on latest technologies like IOS and Android based application development so that they can build peace related applications and websites to raise awareness in the society. For the first time in Pakistan we successfully did peace hackathon where we gathered civil society organisations and young people and did dialogue on countering violent extremism and peace. We gave chance to the youth to build their ideas and to present their ideas to judges" (Lahore, Pakistan).

Nine percent (9%) of the organisations reported that they are working with funds between 50,000 and 100,000 per annum. These organisations are implementing different types of projects including **cross border projects** in border towns of Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar, and are working with **bigger media** producers such as TV. They **use social media and bill boards** to promote their projects and increase their outreach. The projects are funded by embassies, foundations as well as governments, CSOs and INGOs. Organisations operating within this scale of funding also are involved in **producing policy papers**, **academic journals**, **periodic reviews** etc. Other activities like **advocating for youth participation** in different structures, **trainings and capacity building**, and **organising conferences** and **information forums** are part of their activities.

Organisations with annual funds between 50,000 and 100,000 USD:

"The project undertakes inter-community interaction for peace forums with school children and their immediate family members. The product of this interaction for peace is to pair children from two neighbouring communities to become friends for peace and link their families. The main objective of set of activities under the above output is to foster a strong network of children, families and the schools" (Nairobi, Kenya).

"Our flagship initiative is our European Youth Summit, which gathers nearly 300 youth from 25 countries for one week of immersive learning. We're hosted at an eco-demonstration site which models sustainable living to participants, e.g. we provide organic vegetarian food which is largely vegan. Youth take part in working groups, discussions, creative activities, panel discussions and mindfulness and spiritual activities which give them the practical tools they need to further develop themselves while making meaningful contributions to their communities. We also implement C(r)ane Project, for which we fundraised for 2 years in order to buy walking sticks for nearly 800 blind children in Kenya, and the I'm With You Project implemented by our sister organisation in Denmark gives "normal" experiences (sports, arts, music) to asylum-seeking youth in Denmark" (Brombachtal, Germany)

PROFILE OF YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS

Finally, 11% of the respondents reported that they are implementing activities with *over USD 100,000 funds*. These organisations are **implementing national and global projects** funded by embassies, INGOs, foundations, governments, CSOs, private companies, etc. Besides peacebuilding projects, these organisations also carry out **humanitarian responses** such as distribution of materials, food security and preparedness. They are able to **mobilise hundreds of youth and community members for different global and national campaigns** such as awareness raising on SGDs. Some are **building infrastructures** in schools or constructing primary and secondary schools, and others are developing **longer term youth exchanges** between different countries and regions. **Advocacy, trainings, dialogue forums, capacity building** of CSOs and making **courses** available to their targets continue to be the activities they are involved in. These organisations have a more international presence, with some organising side **events at the UN level** for instance.

Organisations with annual funds of over 100,000 USD:

"[We have] conducted five trainings workshop on democracy and human rights which were attended by government institutions, IDPs committees, youth and women groups. [The organisation] organised two days training workshop for young activists and other most influential groups of the communities. The aim of training was to improve the knowledge and awareness of the participants in peace, security, human rights protection, equal participation and gender issues. At the same time, [the organisation] has carried out monthly awareness raising sessions on different topics on democracy, human rights protection and good governance at community level. The purposes of the awareness sessions were to increase community's understanding and education of their basic rights and freedoms, and to reduce discrimination customs and cases of violation occurs among the community, peace building and conflict resolutions. [The organisation] also organised two days' workshop on establishing youth activist groups to carry advocacy for youth issues. At end of the workshop, youth activists' groups were established among school children and other youth those already graduated from schools in order to carry advocacy activities that will facilitate channelling the power and energy of young generation into learning and development purposes. As well as engaging young people including students on human rights protection efforts" (Hargeisa, Somalia).

"Initiative for Sharing: Gives students the opportunity to implement an initiative that addresses an area of improvement with their school or local community. Participating students are equipped with project management skills and supported as they design and implement their own initiatives for social impact. Science for Sharing: Gives students between ages 6 and 12 years old hands-on experience with science, technology, engineering, and math to make the subject matter accessible, relevant, and interesting. Students learn how the STEM fields are applicable to their daily lives and are encouraged to propose solutions concerning environmental and health issues to improve their own communities' future. This is a relatively new program. Art for Sharing: Gives students between ages 11 and 15 experiences that help students develop social skills and strengthen critical, empathetic, and creative participation in society through artistic exploration. Through the theatre-based methodology and reflection, students learn about societal problems such as the achievement gap, school and domestic violence, sex education, lack of self-awareness, and acceptance" (Mexico city, Mexico);

2.6.2. Activities under the five pillars of UNSCR 2250

Under the five pillars of UNSCR 2250, most respondents' activities fall under participation, followed by prevention, then partnership, protection and finally disengagement and reintegration.
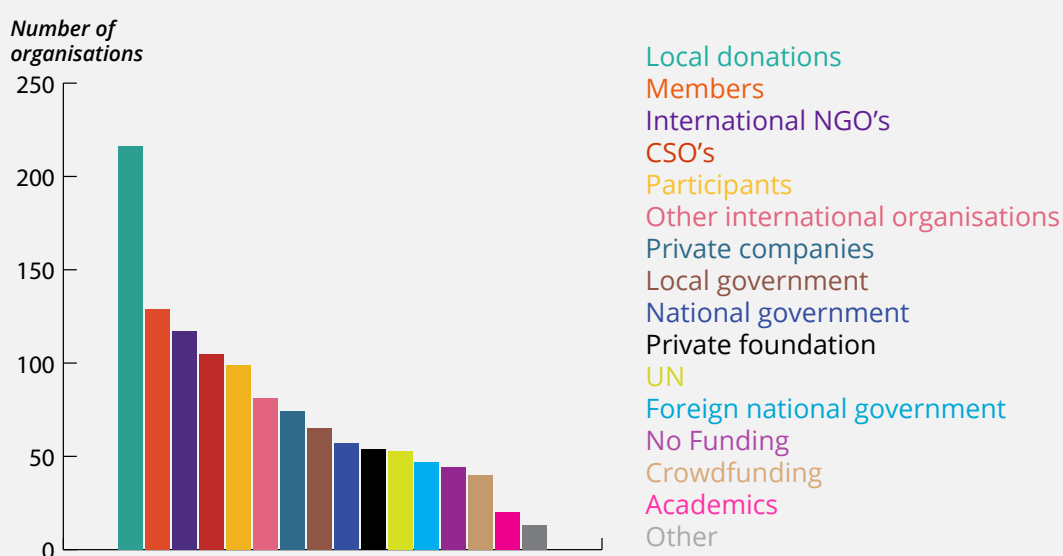
However, 94% of the respondents affirmed that the five goals are interrelated. One respondent summarised, *"In our work we see these goals connected to each other, in participation we involve the participation of young men and women in our peace trainings who graduate as peace ambassadors. Through protection we empower the communities with skills to mitigate violence, reduce their vulnerability to being lured into Al-Shabab militia groups or being used to harm their own society, and create exit ramps for them, this intertwines prevention, protection, disengagement and bring them back together as peace ambassadors through reintegration. Whereby they work closely with the community, security agencies through community policing to promote peaceful co-existence. [the organisation] is not able to do this work in isolation we work with various stakeholders […]"- (Nairobi, Kenya).*

2.6.3. Sources of funding

The main source of funding among the respondent organisations are from local donations (216); then through members (129); followed by INGOs (117), CSOs (105), participants (99) other international organisations (81) and private companies (74). Other funding sources come from foreign national governments, crowdfunding, academics and through fundraising events. In addition to this, 44 of the respondents reported that they do not have any funding. While some of these organisations are based in countries or areas with ongoing conflict or high levels of violence- such as Burundi, Venezuela, Colombia, Yemen, Iraq Ukraine, Nigeria, and Pakistan- others are based in contexts of non-violent conflict and post-conflict countries such as the United States, the Netherlands, Nepal, and Liberia. See Figure 8.

Figure 8: Sources of funding

Multiple responses. Total number of respondents: 399

Number of organisations

Local donations
Members
International NGO's
CSO's
Participants
Other international organisations
Private companies
Local government
National government
Private foundation
UN
Foreign national government
No Funding
Crowdfunding
Academics
Other

2.6.4. Partners

Respondents stated that besides the donors, their partners include other local, national and international youth organisations and networks, community members and leaders, schools, and religious institutions (such as churches and mosques).

Most of the respondents said working with the partners helped in **strengthening their work and deepening the impact** of their work. One responded stated, *"as pressures on community-based organisations increase and the issues faced by our society become more complex, the idea of cross-organisation partnerships can hold much promise. Through partnerships we can contribute our part and reap the benefits of others' efforts. We can accelerate learning and distribute skills and knowledge. Also, we can add depth and breadth to our community impact"- (Mogadishu, Somalia).*

Access to diverse funding, including in-kind and logistical support, was another benefit of having partners, according to the respondents. Some respondents also said that partnerships **fostered broader outreach** at all levels, with one respondent confirming, *"we need these partnerships to continue our work in the field. It is difficult to work with decision makers who are not all the time supportive"- (Mosul, Iraq).* Another respondent said that, *"as one of our main missions is to help young people to represent our country on the international level very well, therefore we can't imagine to reach to this goal without working with international partners"- (Ganja, Azerbaijan).*

Expertise, including technical and general capacity building, was cited as another important role of partnership. Other roles included **enhancing coordination and visibility, and providing information and knowledge sharing.** Some respondents, on the contrary, noted that sometimes **partnerships can be negative** due to the danger of planning activities that are donor-driven. Respondents also said that partnerships can be challenging when *"national decision makers are not convinced that women and young people have a role in peace and security"- (Tripoli, Libya).*

2.6.5. Overcoming funding challenges

When asked **how they are overcoming their funding challenges,** respondents reported that finding alternative sources of funding is one of their main priorities. Among the respondents, 147 said that they actively fundraise for their activities through their own initiatives, membership fees, crowdfunding and diversifying their donor base, including in-kind support from restaurants, etc.

More than a quarter (103) of respondents said they push for visibility through participating in and actively joining local, national and international networks, social media and with a communication strategy. Of the respondent organisations, 86 said they create partnership or expand existing partnership with other CSOs, NGOs and INGOs for their work. This include writing joint or solo grant proposals and organising joint events. Another 73 respondents said that they use strategic planning. 17 of the 73 respondents said that they devise fundraising plans , 43 of the 73 said they design an efficient and effective projects including research and monitoring and evaluation , and 13 of the 73 said they support income generating activities. These activities, according to the respondents, help build a strong profile that creates credibility for

resource mobilisation. Finally, 56 respondents stated that they invest in capacity building of staff to develop their skills and expertise and foster ownership in the organisations or networks, and recruit qualified and charismatic leadership teams who can motivate the members of the organisations.

Overcoming funding challenges:

"[Our organisation] donated sculptures to 13 countries around the world and from the proceeds we organised two youth educational forums/trainings in collaboration with the national authorities which aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue with an overall number of participant amounting to 300" (Moscow region, Russia)

"We organised sport tournaments and sold tickets to finance our costs. We also started a tuition academy with our own personal investment and in one week arranged a class about peacebuilding" (Swabi, Pakistan)

"Last December 2016, [the organisation] organised a social media campaign to mobilise and motivate more young people in community engagement, thus, promoting peace and social cohesion in Côte d'Ivoire through Food and non-food collection for the Tiassale Social Centre. This centre hosts children aged 0 to 11 years, orphaned, vulnerable or infected with HIV / AIDS. A total of more than 100 children were brought together that day and received donations consisting of food, non-food, gifts and cash donations estimated at a total value of 2.5 million CFA Francs. This social media campaign and mobilisation took a month and the donation was done on the 10th December 2016. The activity was featured in the national news" (Abidjan, Ivory Coast)

2.7 Concluding remarks

This section finds that the average ages of male and female leadership of youth-led organisations are 28 and 29 years old. These organisations have networks of committed volunteers that they can count on for implementing their activities. Findings in this section also illustrate that, due to major funding constraints (49% of respondents having funding under USD 5,000), the type and length of youth-led organisations' activities vary. While they fluctuate, respondents tend to implement **common types of activities,** such as trainings and capacity building; advocacy; events (including participating in or organising conferences, debates and exhibitions); dialogues; campaigns; forming alliances, networks and clubs; and implementing projects. Youth-led organisations design and implement actions that not only target youth but also contribute to peace and security at the local, national and international levels. In this sense, youth-led organisations are akin to other national, community based and international peacebuilding CSOs. It is evident, however, that despite their work and impact, the value of youth-led organisations is largely unrecognised by important local, national and international actors (see Appendix A). To help broaden and deepen recognition of youth-led organisations' activities, it is recommended to:

Strengthen the capacities of youth-led organisations so that they can build resilience in their communities

- Develop capacity building programs for youth-led organisations on issues related to violence and conflict, peace and security, resilience, youth, gender, violent extremism, leadership and ownership, and programming (grants management, implementation). Ensure that these trainings are implemented in partnership with youth organisations themselves
- Build capacity of and provide regular trainings to youth-led organisations on designing strong monitoring, evaluation, learning and accountability mechanisms, such as indicators for measuring success
- Encourage and facilitate learning, sharing and exchanges among youth-led organisations and with other, non-youth organisations by providing platforms for regular national, regional and international forums, seminars, conferences

3. CONTEXT OF OPERATION AND CHALLENGES

Having outlined the profiles of respondent organisations in the previous section, this set of findings attempts to shed light on the contexts in which youth-led organisations operate and the challenges they face.

3.1. Context of operation

Among the respondents, 260 said that they are operating in fragile areas and communities facing severe development challenges such as weak institutions, poor governance, political instability, on-going violence or the legacy effects of past severe conflict. Of 399 respondents, 217 said that they are working in ongoing violent conflict such as in Yemen and Northern Nigeria; 217 respondents said that they are operating in post-conflict areas and communities such as in Nepal; 123 respondents are operating in areas of high levels violence and insecurity such as in Colombia and El Salvador; 107 in humanitarian crisis settings such as in Iraq; 91 in recurring and continuous violent conflict such as in Somalia; 24 are operating in other contexts such as in post-natural disaster zones, in hotspot zones in the Baltic region between NATO and Russia, and in spillover areas of regional armed conflict. Of the respondents, 128 said that they are operating in stable areas or communities but with high levels of refugees, youth unemployment and risk of recruitment of young people into radical groups such as Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia and European countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Georgia etc.). See Figure 9 below.

Figure 9: Context of operation

Multiple responses. Total number of respondents: 399

Number of organisations

It's a fragile area/community

There is an ongoing violent conflict

It is a postconflict area/community

It is a stable area/community

There are high levels of violence/insecurity

Humanitarian crisis settings

Recurring/continuous violent conflict

Other

3.1.1. Perception of gender inequality

Of the respondents, 82% indicated that there are elevated levels of gender inequality, and different forms of gender based violence including sexual and domestic violence

in their communities. One respondent confided that, *"women make 53% in Pakistan and are the most affected by conflict making them more vulnerable to displacement and become more exposed to violence. The more they [women] are affected by conflict, the more they are neglected in peacebuilding processes. Besides this, exclusion of more than 50% of the population from social, political and economic spheres create power imbalance in the society [...]"- (Peshawar, Pakistan).* Another respondent revealed that, *"in Colombia, women are still not allowed to access positions and scenarios of decision making. A patriarchal cultural also means that women do not see themselves as capable of being in leading roles"- (Bogota, Colombia).*

The remaining 18% responded that inequality is not a challenge in their context, but they are working tirelessly to ensure there is a balanced representation of both men and women in their organisations. One respondent explained that, *"In the context in which we work, it is not a challenge as our organisation counts more women than men"- (Paris, France).* On the contrary one respondent disclosed that, *"[...] females find it convenient for male to represent and decide for them. They often find it difficult to participate due to lack of exposure"- (Borno and Maiduguri, Nigeria).*

3.2. Challenges faced by respondent organisations

Actors working in peace and security in fragile, conflict-affected and violence-ridden contexts are frequently facing difficulties that test their commitments and force them to find alternate ways to meet their objectives. In addition to these challenges, youth-led organisations face unique obstacles that create further barriers for their successful programming as described in more depth in Appendix A, Contextualising Youth, Peace and Security.

Respondents suggested that the most challenging aspect of their work is that youth face a **lack of space for devising and implementing their activities, are marginalised and misunderstood because of negative perceptions by their community members and elders,** resulting in a **breakdown of trust.** Respondents believed that the marginalisation of youth in their community has caused discrimination against youth, and exclusion from community decision making structures. The lack of space to express themselves hindered youth-led organisations from devising creative initiatives.

Stigmatisation and a lack of trust:

"Trust is a key challenge as we are perceived as children who are not able to make things evolve and change. But without young people working on peace and security, the decision makers will not understand our needs. Young people need to be taken seriously and hold responsible on their [youth-led] projects" (Paris, France)

"In El Salvador, stigmatisation of youth as violent and gang-involved population has resulted in a lack of opportunities for youth to access space where they can contribute to the transformation of conflicts in their communities" (San Salvador, El Salvador)

The second most frequently-mentioned challenge is that youth-led organisations are confronted with a **lack of resources and partners** to implement programming. One respondent noted, *"most organisations are ground level but cannot scale up due to insufficient funding and lack of capacity to fundraise"- (Colombo, Sri Lanka).* Another respondent said, *"members of the community and Donors does not believe in Youth and Youth Organisations, this make it difficult to get funding to implement identified projects"- (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania).* Finding partnership with other civil society organisations besides the provision of seed funding or small grants for their activities are identified as challenges from 30 and 24 respondents respectively. One respondent remarked, *"[...] there is an abundance of civil society mentors but many are specialists from subject areas such as gender, conflict and development but not specifically youth or peace, let alone youth and peace"- (Abidjan, Ivory Coast).*

Respondents also believe that youth are challenged by a **lack of education, skills and technological training.** They believe the lack of sufficient skills, confidence, and awareness of the importance of engaging in peace and security leads many youth to become inactive or hesitant to join active youth groups. Even for the youth-led organisations, a lack of technological training and exposure make it difficult to work effectively.

Respondents also suggested that there is a l**ack of youth participation in policy formulation and implementation**, underlined by **a lack of awareness of youth issues among communities and limited intergenerational dialogue.** This includes political unwillingness to integrate young men and women in policy making, with one respondent revealing that, *"[there is] lack of inclusion of the input of young people in decision-making. 78% of Kenya's population is between the age of 15 and 35 but very few of this percentage is represented in policy making"- (Nairobi, Kenya).* Another respondent stated that, *"[there is] lack of political support, youth are simply being used for the execution of activities"- (San Salvador, EL Salvador).* Another respondent said, *"there exists the wrong conception about youth participation in conflict resolution, the promising youth interventions, the innovation and technology in peacebuilding and opportunities, the quality of programs and their effect, evaluation of the degree of advancement and enhancing accountability, the speech and the counter speech, topics linked to peace for education, youth involvement in peace processes, conciliations and youth social movements, violence in urban areas, youth empowerment and employment to build peace, youth's rights protection beside the most prominent challenges youth face in the middle east area and the world, encourage their role and making benefits from their capacities seeking to find solutions which guarantee a better future for them enjoying peace and security and protecting them from hatred and extremism"- (Abidjan, Ivory Coast).*

Physical safety remains a major concern for young people working on peace and security. Respondents mentioned that youth are often confronted with **violent conflict and violent crimes.** Respondents said that high levels of crime (such as gang violence and drug trafficking) and insecurity in the communities (such as cross border armed violence) impede safe operations. One respondent confided that, *"[we] have a constant fear of being abducted"- (Masvingo, Zimbabwe).* Another specified that, *"young people sometimes are involved in crime, micro trafficking and contract killing"- (Barranguilla, Colombia).*

Respondents also expressed context-specific challenges such as the ethnic and religious divides within their communities, sectarian violence, a culture of oppression, gender based violence, and radicalisation of youth.

Threats of violence:

"[...] because discussing the issue of Boko Haram easily evokes fear, only some few volunteers and partner organisations are willing to take part in some of our preventing violent extremism programmes and this also affects the willingness of the schools to assist in hosting us. For example, in November last year, few days after we launched the "Security Awareness Campaign" in rural areas, suspected members of the Boko Haram sect threatened to kill me. As a result of such threats we have been covering our identities, while we keep working to promote a culture of peace in our communities" (Potiskum and Yobe State, Nigeria).

Finally, respondents noted that youth encounter **political manipulation, lack of community knowledge on peace and security and poverty and unemployment,** all of which pose challenges to their work on peace and security. One respondent affirmed, *"the key challenges facing young people working on peace issues in my community are. Lack of interest from potential stakeholders in the topic. My community is stable community without any current wars or conflict stakeholders do not see the need for peace education or peace work and thus are not engaged. Even though some areas have potential threats of violence they are relatively stable [...]"- (Freetown, Sierra Leone)*

3.3. Concluding remarks/discussions

Despite the growing body of evidence that indicates youth are active and valuable contributors to peace and security, there is still an unprecedented gap in policies and practices that aim to include young men and women in meaningful ways. There are various factors behind this gap, from contextual safety challenges and manipulation by political parties, to negative perceptions of youth and difficulties in accessing resources due to challenges, and limited space for expression and action. UNSCR 2250 and its preceding documents and policy recommendations, such as the *Amman Declaration and the Youth Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace* are significant and momentous stepping stones in addressing these issues. However, for the effective implementation of UNSCR 2250, a number of steps need to be put in place to reduce the barriers and challenges that youth face in their communities, one of which is in ensuring existing peacebuilding and development policies and practices meaningfully include youth. Other recommendations linked to this section are:

Ensure the implementation of UNSCR 2250 in national and local policies and practices

- Create structures within national governments and other partners to enable young people to participate in developing strategies for improving peace and security at all levels. These can include specific youth committees or youth

delegates, but should also enable meaningful youth participation in existing as well as new mechanisms for peace and security that are not youth-specific
- Develop support measures such as data collection, indicators for measuring progress, national legislations and action plans that include specific and direct measures to implement UNSCR 2250, structures for coordination with relevant governmental, CSO, INGO, youth (male and female) and other actors, mobilisation of resources and reporting on progress

Provide space for youth participation within peace and security programming

- Support programming that breaks down barriers to youth participation, changes the negative perception of youth communities and fosters conflict transformation among youth as well as community members
- Encourage peacebuilding and violence prevention programming that gives special attention to intergenerational dialogue and building and (re-) establishing trust between youth and community members and institutions
- Create and protect safe spaces for youth-led organisations to implement peacebuilding programming

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, STRENGTHS & MEASURING SUCCESS

This section confirms the important role of youth as peacebuilders in conflict transformation, as important actors in negotiating and mediating peace processes, in relation to justice mechanisms and security forces, in establishing non-violent movements and in grassroots action as reflected in Appendix A. This section also provides examples of the achievements reported by youth-led organisations, despite the many challenges they face.

4.1. Achievements (2014-2016)

Asked about their achievements in the period of 2014-2016, a significant number of respondent organisations (105 respondents) said that they have been able to **successfully integrate youth in national, local and international decision making processes, including localising UNSCR 2250 in their communities**. One respondent confirmed, *"[the organisation] made a milestone in 2016 by having the African Union Commission agree to appoint a youth officer for youth matters at African Union Commission"- (Gaborone, Botswana).* Another respondent said, *"we established the youth advisory council to governorate council of Ninewa it is the first time in Iraq that such a council is adopted and becomes official"- (Mosul, Iraq, Middle East, North Africa and Gulf).* A respondent from Turkey said, *"we are in the Board of Advisors of the Turkish National Agency under the Ministry of EU Affairs since 2015"- (Istanbul, Turkey).*

Integration of youth in local, national and international decision making:

"[The organisation] has managed to get the national youth authority in Ghana to make youth, peace and security a priority area of the national youth authority meaning that the national authority is obligated to allocate budget to promote youth peace activities and offer trainings at their various training centres across Ghana. We are also proud to be part of the campaign for resolution 2250 with international youth networks" (Kumasi, Ghana)

Inclusion of youth in local, national and international decision making:

"[...] through the project "Building and Consolidating Democracy through Youth Participation in Political Processes", [the organisation] managed to pave way for young people to actively contribute to the shaping of public policy and electoral processes as well developing their communities in a peaceful manner. Specifically, the project was able to: Motivated youth to participate in the socio-economic and political processes in their communities; Increased citizen voice in governance processes by young people that have ensured representative of citizens' interests and that duty bearers were held to accountability and transparency; Increased access to forums for youth participation by young people; Increased number of youths who registered as First Time Voters who are ready to vote in the upcoming 2018 elections" (Gweru, Zimbabwe)

The respondents are most proud of being able to **prevent violence in their communities, including preventing youth from joining violent extremist groups, and to create (formal and informal) employment opportunities.** They expressed that they felt rewarded when they heard stories of how the participants utilised the trainings in their daily lives. One responded exclaimed, *"[the organisation] trained 800 national police officers on conflict resolution and it resulted in a decrease in state violence*

in targeted municipalities"- (Bogota, Colombia). Another respondent enthused, **"***more than 30 young people who received vocational trainings created their micro enterprises and received small credit funds"- (Lubero, Democratic Republic of the Congo).* One more respondent exclaimed, *"we started in September 2015. What we are proud of is to have trained over 200 young people on entrepreneurship and today we have some who have started their businesses and others have succeeded in achieving financial independence. Moreover the first school where we started giving leadership courses has recommended us to other schools and are willing to support our leadership courses in the educational system"- (Lome, Togo).* A respondent reiterated their success in preventing violence, saying, *"In 2014 when police outpost was closed, more than seven people were killed in my village all as a result of drugs abuse and illiteracy, but with our involvement in 2015 this year record no such mess at all"- (Harare, Zimbabwe)*

Facilitating employment:

"Karima[7] continues to be a police officer after the completion of her apprenticeship provided by [the organisation]. Her apprenticeship has been instrumental in increasing her skills and uplifting her financial status. She states, "[the organisation]'s initiative changed my life. I would have never returned to this field if the initial support in my professional development had not been there. Apprenticeship, capacity building and exposure served as an effective launching pad for my professional career and I am back to serving society as a woman police officer" (Kabul, Konar, Jawazjan, Afghanistan)

Preventing youth from joining violent extremist group:

"[...] we met with one of our villagers who wanted to join an extremist group and was recruiting others at the same time. After failed attempts at trying to convince him to stop, we decided to organise a tour to a beautiful location. At first, he rejected to joint but after many meetings we agreed. At the tour, we organised different games to attract the person back into real life and talked about how to deal and behave with people. The process was very slow for his transformation but every day with different activities and he slowly started participating. After our tour, we kept in contact with him and visited him regularly in his village. And after months he started sharing his stories with us. At the second tour, he joined excitedly and openly participated in sharing pictures. We then approached him to join our peace network upon which he was delighted to join. Now he is one of our strongest members and helps promote peace in his community" (Swabi, Pakistan)

The third achievement the respondents mentioned is the ability **to bring social cohesion to their communities.** One respondent stated, *"we arranged ten peace festivals in 10 districts of Gilgit Baltistan to promote peace and harmony among sectarian groups. Producing a song which has become song of unity and peace for the region [...]"- (Islamabad, Pakistan).* Another respondent said, *"[...] we organised four IDGs (Information Dissemination Groups) supported to facilitate performances in the targeted communities and these have increased participation by youth in development activities that promote self-reliance. We also increased in the level of awareness of community members on causes of conflict from a training on early warning system, conflict mitigation and transformation. The trained Community members are able to pre-empt potential conflicts and identify the perpetrators early enough to avert violence [...] There is also increased change of attitude, behaviour and peaceful co-existence among the IDPs and host community in Somaliland"- (Hargeisa, Somalia).* Another respondent added, *"[...] we work for personal and social transformation and it requires regular analysis of the root causes of conflict. [...] our efforts have resulted in helping communities of diverse faiths, ethnicities and political perspectives move from tolerance to acceptance to engagement. We have been able to help communities of diverse faiths, ethnicities move from discussion to dialogue"- (Kabul, Afghanistan)*

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6 Alias

Inter-community social cohesion:

"[The organisation] is able to achieve social transformation through change of attitude and perception of the neighbouring communities towards each other, it enhanced inter community interaction among [organisation's] beneficiary communities, reduced the rate of inter-ethnic violence and improved the sharing of resources by affected communities. The children and family members engage on our interactions for peace initiative by communicating frequently, exchanging gifts and visiting each other" (Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala).

Social cohesion between IDPs and host communities:

"Our organisation was created in 2011 in Donetsk city. In 2014, the war actions started in our city. Majority of our members were displaced and escaped from the war. However, our team didn't give up to volunteer and help other- from a regional organisation we became a national one. We started to help IDPs. We think that our biggest achievement was the project "Human Libraries: building connections with Donbas". The project was conducted in 6 Ukrainian cities that aimed to struggle with stereotypes about IDPs. This activity helped relieve community tensions over misconceptions about IDPs in host communities and foster better understanding between IDPs and host communities. Overall, more than 500 people were involved in the project. The factors contributed to the success was that our team really felt the problem of tension between IDPs and host communities and we found new and innovative methods to solve it." (Vinnytsia, Ukraine,)

The fourth achievement that respondents said they were most proud of was being able **to change the perception of youth in their communities to be seen as positive and constructive agents.** Respondents confided that it took them time to accomplish this through organising inter-generational dialogues, establishing of youth centres, organising events, and more. They noted that involving community members in positive youth activities helped them gain credibility. One respondent summarised, *"[the organisation] has run a number of successful campaigns in its effort to amplify youth voices in democratic spaces. For example, [the organisation] regularly conducts inter-generational dialogues in which youth discuss pertinent issues with elders and leadership-particularly with the liberation war heroes on how youths can work with the elderly in peacefully building the nation without destroying what has already been achieved and at the same time not neglecting the needs and aspirations of young people. This has resulted in a closer collaboration between generations [..]"- (Harare, Zimbabwe).* Another respondent added, *"[...] the most prominent achievement for us was the establishment of [our] mentoring centre concerned with the activation of the youth role- enabling them to deliver their voices and explaining their visions to decision makers. [...] by providing this platform has been the ability to promote dialogue between decision makers in our community"- (Sana'a, Yemen).*

Several respondents cited the achievement of **mobilising thousands of youth and community members for campaigns that are relevant to their communities.** One respondent said, *"[the organisation] has reached over 50,000 youth and a good number vulnerable communities across South Sudan and in refugees' resettlements particularly in Uganda and Kenya through our training, awareness campaign, peacebuilding dialogues, Child-Education Campaign in 2 years of our existence. We are most proud of our peace initiatives in local communities and the responses and change we see especially among the youth perceptions of peaceful co-existence"- (Juba, South Sudan).* Another respondent added, *"[the organisation] established a debate on young women's role in peace, security and countering violent extremism in local communities in Libya, through our trainings and since 2012 on women's role in peacebuilding. We reached out to hundreds of women all over Libya and empowered them to play an active role in peacebuilding and countering violent extremism"- (Tripoli, Libya).*

The sixth achievement that the respondents voiced is being able to *deliver humanitarian assistance where national infrastructures are inadequate, especially in inaccessible post-disaster areas.* One respondent corroborated this, *"[the organisation] formed clubs for children, youth, women, and have mobilised over 1500 young people in development initiatives in the past 3 years. We have been able to help recover earthquake affected families in Nepal. Hundreds of infrastructures like classrooms, compound, toilets have been built for the poor and affected communities. We are proud what we have achieved through the involvement of local and international youth. This has not only helped the community but also develop young people's skills and integration on the mainstreaming of development initiatives"- (Kathmandu, Nepal).*

Some youth organisations have received recognition for their work through **distinguished awards and nominations** at the local, national and international levels such as the N-Peace award, Wise Prize finalists in Mexico, International Young Creative Entrepreneur in Indonesia, and a nomination for the Nelson Mandela-Graca Machel Innovation award. This goes to show that there is indeed some level of recognition for the work done by the youth-led organisations, albeit not enough and not often in the form of long term support.

4.2. Strengths

Building on the previous findings, this section discusses the strengths of the respondent youth-led organisations. Among the respondents, the biggest strength mentioned is the capacity to **mobilise youth and their communities.** One respondent summarised, *"the past half-year of 2015, [the organisation] has reached over 12 000 learners. We have been privileged to spread the #BetheDream message to new territories in Durban (KZN), Jordan and Kenya. We have also formed relationships and partnerships with various entities. We are full members of the Commonwealth Youth Council and have been accepted into the MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet Fundraising Program which allows Woolworths shoppers the opportunity to contribute to the Foundation by donating 1% of their total spend for the month. We have also partnered with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, to train up 5 interns for a period of six months on the Be the Dream Internship programme. In summary, the [organisation] has (a) reached over 1500 young people in 20 schools; (b) 1300 dream/career-related opportunities provided to learners; (c)420 of whom have been empowered with coding skills; (d) 44 improved their academic results through our tutoring programme; (e) employed 17 young people through our internship programme; and (e) 200 young people are part of our #BeTheDream schools programme."- (Capetown, South Africa).*

Another strength reported by respondent organisations lies in their s**tructure, leadership and team**. Of the 399 respondents, 152 mentioned that they have a diverse team of motivated staff and volunteers who are all committed to working for peace and security. They remarked that the openness of working with their peers, trust amongst each other and hunger to make a positive impact in their communities are common traits that bring them together. The **sense of belonging to a common cause and vision** emerged in many of the responses, with one respondent summarising, *"we are young; we are the power of nation. Nation expansion depends on young progress but due to social complexities we are marginalised. Our decision makers need to listen to us. We are united in large number of committed dynamic and creative volunteers."- (Dhaka, Bangladesh).* Another organisation said: *"We work together a lot with other youth groups. We want to mainstream our knowledge on conflict prevention and conflict management to other youth organisations, who are not specialised in these topics. We train volunteers and staffs of other organisations (on local, regional and national level) and answer their questions regarding our themes, provide advice and tips. We also engage in several representations and consultative bodies on national level, to represent the voice*

of youth specifically youth from a socially vulnerable background and youth with a refugee story"- (Mechelen, Belgium)

Youth leadership as a strength:

"The leadership and staff in our organisation is all below 30 years old. The passion and energy we have, has helped us to work with more than 15, 000 youths in a very short amount of time. Most importantly, since we work with youth and majority of our country's population is youth, the demand for our programs have been high." (Kabul, Afghanistan)

"The main strength is that we are youth-led. Young members decide how, in what way, where and when to organise certain projects, they brainstorm ideas and they are in charge of everything. These young members meet with sponsors and they negotiate with them." (Batumi, Georgia).

Related to their teams, another strength respondent organisations listed is their **skills and expertise** on youth, peace and security issues. Respondents noted that not only do they understand youth issues because they are youth, they are also conflict resolution and peacebuilding trainers, facilitators and mediators. One respondent stated, *"we have team work; qualified and competitive trainers (on Peace building, Conflict Transformation, Human Rights, Human Rights education) who are in youth work more than 5 years"- (Tbilis, Georgia)*

Respondents also reiterated that their **credibility in their community** due to the quality of their work is a strength. They stated that at times they are the only organisation working in their area or community, such as one respondent who claimed that they are the first organisation working on peace and security in Belgrade, Serbia. Many respondents also said that they had a unique niche of working on a focussed topic related youth, peace and security that was led by youth themselves.

Finally, an important strength that youth-led peace organisations report is their **local knowledge and ability to access other inaccessible youth** from either hard-to-reach places or because of their association with different types of groups including gangs.

Local knowledge and access:

"We are able to penetrate areas that have been perceived as terror hotpots and feared by many, for instance the Majengo informal settlement in Nairobi, which is perceived as Al-Shabaab militia stronghold in East Africa. We have been able to win the hearts of many, including youth, women, men and the old alike. We have also been able to put people together in this community which was deeply divided along religious and tribal lines" (Nairobi, Kenya)

"[The organisation] works on community development with a specific target on the youth, women and children with aims to empower, and provide opportunities for the youth, women and children to develop their own initiatives as well as take part in the community development. [The organisation] believes in an equal opportunity society, without discrimination amongst youth as well as they are among the society. We Educate and motivate the Somali youth through sustainable development. To realize such a vision [the organisation] acknowledges that the highly diverse generation of young people need to be mobilised, equipped with knowledge and skills that will enable them to actively engage in leadership forums, conflict resolution and political development processes at their level. The project aims building the capacity of youth to include them in peacebuilding processes and decision-making." (Mogadishu, Somalia)

4.3.   Measuring success

It is an ongoing challenge for actors working in peacebuilding to formulate indicators that measure both the short- and long-term causal impact of their work, as well as the more innovative and experiential forms of peacebuilding programming, such as delicate programming to prevent young people in joining radical group. In this light, it is not a surprise that self-evaluation is a challenge and weakness for the respondent organisations. While some respondent organisations implement traditional tools for design, monitoring and evaluation such as pre-post training questionnaires, others commission external evaluations to determine the causal impact of their work, and some simply use output measurements to monitor their work.

A total of 189 respondents answered the question on self-evaluation. Among the respondents, 133 said that they use tools such as pre-and post-questionnaires during trainings to evaluate changes in knowledge and attitude among participants. Another 124 respondents said that they monitor the initiatives developed by participants who went through their vocational trainings; 110 said that they develop project and activity plans with output indicators, such as the number of youth registered in their network or the number of exchange visits conducted; 78 said that they conduct regular evaluations to understand the causal impact of their work in communities; 46 said they do regular monitoring and coaching of trainees; 20 monitor policy change influenced by their advocacy and public campaigns; 18 monitor media articles and interviews; and 13 said that they self-evaluate in other ways such as their level of credibility in the community or being awarded more projects. Furthermore, 14 respondents said that they had no evaluation methods because they are new or they lack the capacity. See Figure 10 below.

Figure 10: Self evaluation

Multiple responses. Total number of respondents: 189

Number of organisations
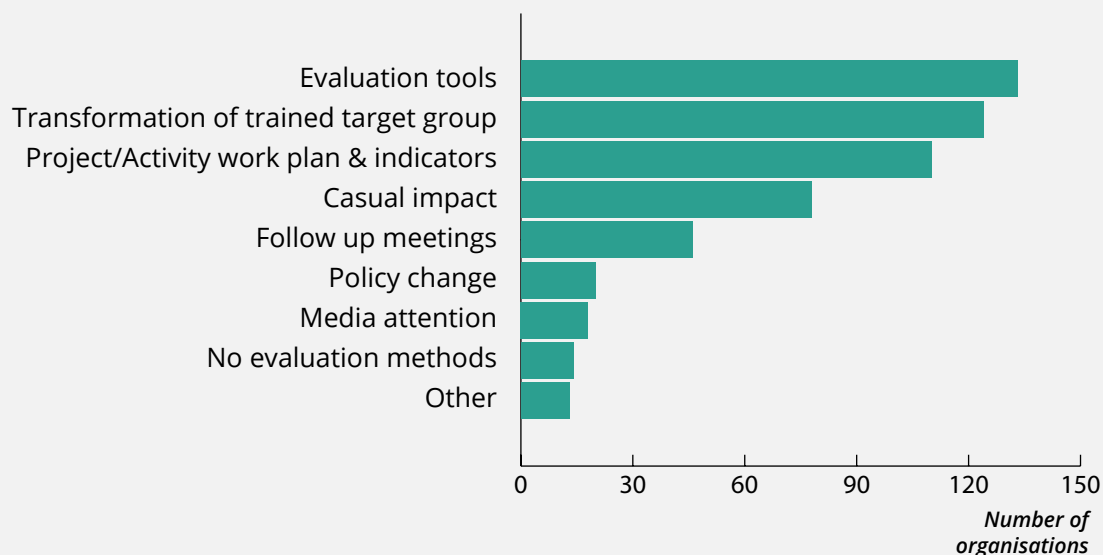
4.4.   Concluding remarks/discussion

It is important to document that despite limited financial resources, youth-led organisations report significant achievements towards peace and security. They are able to convince their communities to donate to their cause and activities. They also lack the capacity to monitor their work for longer term sustainability. Some actions are one-off events and activities and others are project driven. Furthermore, the strengths that youth-led organisations report are connected to their identity and mission: being youth-led and focusing specifically on peace and security. Similar to the documented factors surrounding youth involvement in armed and violent groups, the strengths that youth-led organisations working in peace and security report are strikingly similar: uniting peers for a common cause, creating a sense of belonging, their ability to mobilise peers and others within their communities, and providing opportunities to demonstrate natural and organic leadership skills. This finding highlights the importance of supporting and engaging youth-led organisations as practitioners in peace and security efforts. It also further supports the case for changing the narrative on youth, away from the victim/perpetrators dichotomy towards recognition of youth as credible and effective agents for positive change. Transforming this narrative not only helps address misperceptions among communities and national and international actors, but can also shift perceptions among youth themselves on the role they play in conflict. Specific recommendations from the findings in this section include:

Recognise and work with youth-led organisations as peace and security practitioners

- Engage youth-led organisations as practitioners in the field of peacebuilding. This includes recognising their roles in designing, implementing and monitoring programmes, projects and actions that prevent, respond to and address issues related to conflict, peace and security
- Ensure youth-led organisations are involved in shaping international, national and local policies and practices related to peace and security, and not specific only to youth
- Encourage and facilitate coordination between youth-led organisations and other, non-youth actors actively working in the peacebuilding, development and humanitarian fields

Recommendation: Conduct research on the activities and impact, needs and capacities of youth led organisations

- Bearing in mind the survey finding provides a broad overview of youth led organisations working on peace and security, it is clear that more in-depth research is required to better understand these organisations and their work. Such research should focus on:
- Understanding the agency and life-cycles of youth led organisations must be better understood, including in terms of activities, funding and organisational capacity, as well as how organisations are impacted on by the context in which organisations operate
- Assessing the impact of youth organisations' activities on their communities, moving beyond self-reported successes to more rigorous means of measurement

5. NEEDS OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUTH-LED ORGANISATIONS

When asked about **their needs**, more than half of the respondents identified **funding, office space and equipment and human resources** as key needs. Respondents also expressed a need **for creating and expanding relations, partnerships and exposure to regional and international platforms.**

Many articulated that they require **more capacity building and technical trainings** so that they are not only thought leaders on youth, peace and security but are also able to build their credibility within their target locations. Some said that they need **recognition for their work, as well as platforms or spaces** to deepen their work.

Others talked about the need for **greater involvement of communities, governments and other stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of their programmes,** as well as a need for professional knowledge management systems.

"The basic needs of the organisation to play its role in the field of governance, peace building, security and humanitarian response are: (a) Raising the capacities of the employees and workers in the fields of: Programs, projects and initiatives development, implementation and evaluation in governance, peace building, humanitarian response early resuscitation, reconstruction and general policies' analysis and phrasing; (b) Developing capacities in the fields of getting funds, volunteers management, improvement of communication and transparency jobs, relations management and partnerships with public authorities. (c) Providing technical support and financial resources in order to put and implement the institutional development plans and improving the services provided by the institution as: Broadening the infrastructure of the institution for offices, devices, furniture and training means; Easing the exchange of knowledge, experiences, supporting researches and studies development and improving partnerships with other partners in the fields of governance, peace and development.; Providing the essential financial resources to implement activities and projects in the context of their strategies" (Libya).

Moreover, when asked to prioritise among potential short-term impacts of UN Security Council resolution 2240[7], 297 respondents recommended that funding should be provided by international agencies; 251 respondents said young people should be better represented in decision making processes at local and national levels; 232 recommended developing programming geared towards peace education or education to build a culture of peace; 206 advocated for young people to be included at the negotiation table; 183 suggested that national governments should partner with youth groups to develop structured methods to enable young people's participation; 159 recommended reducing the level of youth unemployment globally; 109 urged for policies to significantly decrease the number of young people actively affected by

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7 Participants were asked the question "What successes related to the UN Security Council resolution 2250 would you most like to see by the year 2020?". Ten possible responses were provided, two corresponding to each pillar of UNSCR 2250, with the option of adding additional responses. For the list of potential responses, please see Appendix C.

violence; 108 remarked that local, national and international organisations should provide youth-specific programmes for demobilisation, disarmament, rehabilitation and reintegration; 104 advised that the international community should adopt a new approach to gender based violence; and 82 respondents said that a new framework for supporting young people's engagement should be formulated. See figure 11 below.

Figure 11: Respondent's prioritisation of short- to medium-term outcomes of UNSCR 2250

Multiple responses. Total number of respondents: 399

Number of organisations
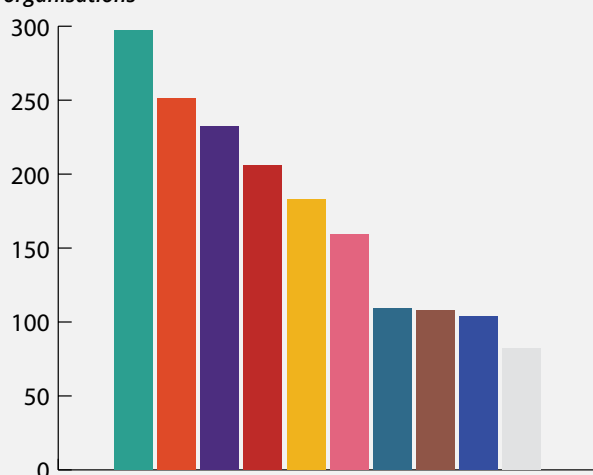
Funding provided by international agencies
Young people are better represented in decision-making processes at local and national levels
Peace education or education for a culture of peace
Youth people are included at the negotiation table
National governments in partnership with youth groups have structured methods to enable young people's participation
Levels of youth unemployment globally dropped
Number of young people directly affected by violencehas been halved
Local, national and international organisations provide youth specific programmes for DDRR
The international community adapted a new approach to gender based violence
A new framework for supporting young people's engagement

5.1. Concluding remarks

While accessing resources is one of the top needs for respondent organisations there is a clear need for capacity building and space to operate as well. It is also important to ask larger questions on how policies and practices can address the diversity in youth-led organisations and their work, and how to leverage their strengths and motivation to bring about positive change for their communities. Recommendations for responding to the needs articulated by youth-led organisations follow.

Improve youth-led organisations' access to resources and support, including funding

- Earmark funding specifically for youth-led organisations working in peacebuilding to reflect the range and impact of their actions, and to bolster their innovative approaches. This funding needs to be flexible and designed with the specific needs of youth organisations in mind. It needs to go beyond small funding or seed grants and also enable the build-up of organisational capacity as well as long-term sustainable action
- Work with youth-led organisations as implementing partners for peacebuilding activities both specific to youth and more broadly for their communities, countries and regions
- Encourage private sector engagement with youth-led organisations through the provision of micro financing, apprenticeship facilities to youth etc.

6. CONCLUSION

The responses provided in the Global Survey on Youth Peace and Security have **clearly demonstrated the noteworthy and important work of youth-led organisations** (Section 2.6.2). They pursue this work despite the various challenges they face, from operating amidst ongoing conflict and heightened violence; to marginalisation and negative perceptions towards youth, resulting in the lack of trust between youth and stakeholders (community members, government etc.); lack of resources, space, partners, education, skills and technical trainings; limited or no participation in policy formulation and intergenerational dialogue; and rampant poverty and un- and under-employment (Section 3.2).
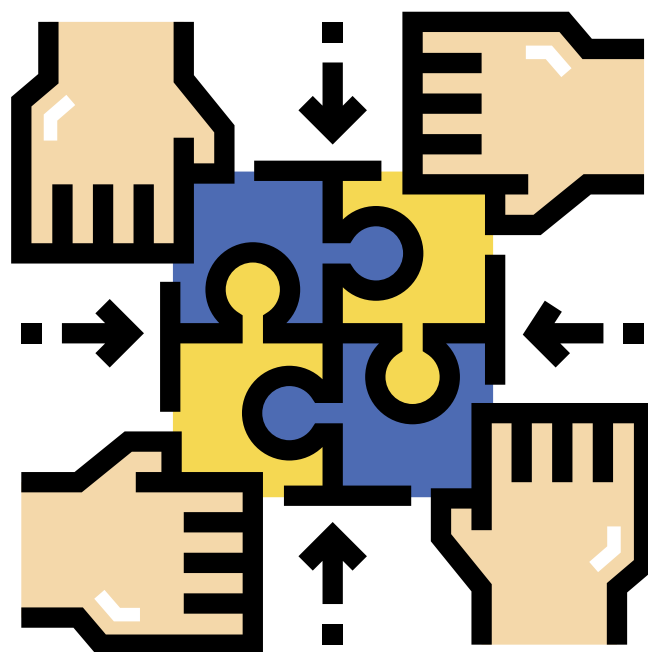
Their activities- from trainings and capacity building, advocacy and organising events to dialogues, campaigns and peacebuilding projects- have resulted in **impressive achievements** as reported by the respondents. Some of which include: successfully integrating youth in national, local and international decision making processes; preventing violence in their communities (including preventing youth from joining violent extremist groups); creating formal and informal employment opportunities; building inter-religious and inter-faith unity and social cohesion in their communities; changing the perception of youth to positive agents for peace; and delivering humanitarian assistance where national infrastructures are inadequate (Section 4.1).

The **main strengths** that youth-led organisations report lie in their ability to mobilise youth and communities; create an open organisational structure that is built on trust, shared value and a sense of belonging; develop skills and expertise amongst themselves and their target stakeholders on youth, peace and security issues; access local knowledge; and acquire credibility in their communities by implementing important community development work, at times in areas where no other actors exit (Section 4.2).

Additional findings include:

- With an average leadership age of 29 and 28 years old of males and females respectively, youth organisations target both their peers and other community members in their activities related to peacebuilding.
- With 49% of organisations operating with funding levels under USD 5,000 per annum, a substantial amount of youth-led organisations' efforts are focused on one-off activities or activities with a duration of an average of 5 months. Those youth organisations which do operate with budgets over USD 5,000, on the other hand, implement projects with more long-term objectives.
- Despite limited funding, youth-led organisations do implement diverse activities. They largely rely on alternative sources of funding through their members, own initiatives, crowd funding, and more. Their stated goals are primarily to work on peacebuilding in their communities. In addition to this, 97% of the people working for the organisations do so as volunteers. This indicates that monetary gain is not the main motivation of youth to work in their communities.
- One area where youth-led organisations need assistance is in building their capacity to monitor their work for sustainability. While organisations with larger

budgets and more long-term projects do use a variety of tools for monitoring and evaluation, organisations primarily implementing one-off activities are less likely to have such mechanisms in place.

- The most important need of youth-led organisations was, unsurprisingly, found to be funding to secure physical resources such as office space and equipment and implementation of activities. Second to funding, creating and expanding relations, partnerships and exposure to regional and international platforms was expressed as a need. Other needs included building up organisational and individual capacities including through technical trainings, recognition of their work, opportunities for a platform and spaces to work, and greater involvement of communities, governments and other stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of their programmes.

- Youth-led organisations surveyed shared a number of recommendations for non-youth actors. These included ensuring young people are better represented in decision making processes at local and national levels and at the negotiation tables. They also called for peace education or education that builds a culture of peace. Respondents additionally called on national governments to partner with them through formal systems and structures. Other recommendations included working to reduce the levels of youth unemployment globally, decrease the number of young people directly affected by violence, adopt a new approach to gender based violence among the international community, and develop a new framework for supporting young people to disengage.

The report therefore **recommends investing in youth and peacebuilding activities,** be it through direct partnerships with youth-led organisations, developing the capacity of youth from diverse backgrounds, meaningfully including them in local, national, regional and international decision making, or by providing them with spaces to manifest their work. It further **calls for recognition of youth-led organisations on equal footing to other actors working on peacebuilding.** See the Recommendations sections for more specific recommendations.

In closing, this survey and its findings provide a first overview of the youth-led organizations working in peace and security, as well as recommendations for policymakers and practitioners on how to better support and engage them. It also serves as a starting point for further research to collect knowledge and evidence on their contributions to peacebuilding.

APPENDIX A:
CONTEXTUALISING YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

"Youth" and "young people" are complicated terms that have been heavily debated over decades in academic, policy and practitioner circles. As a generational group, "youth" is situated between childhood and adulthood. Youth has long existed as a social and cultural category and has been the subject of UN declarations, strategies and proposals of actions (Herrera, 2006). Different international bodies define youth within different age ranges. These include: between the ages of 15 and 24 years old[8], 16 and 30 years old[9], 15 and 35 years old[10], 15 and 29 years old[11], 18 and 29 years old[12], and 20-35 years old[13]. Moreover, across the board, different actors acknowledge "youth" as fluid, with changes and advances depending on the trajectories of experiences over a life course (social biography of individuals constructed socially in addition to age), and in relation to social, political, historical and cultural conditions (Thapa, 2010). They are not homogenous, they have diverse experiences and backgrounds, such as young people with disabilities, young people living with HIV/AIDs, young people from minorities, young people as carers, orphaned young people, young soldiers, and young people who are stateless, internally displaced and refugees (UNOY, 2015; Lopes Cardozo et al., 2015).

In this context, this section sheds light on youth in relation to conflict, peace and security; vulnerability and trust in conflict setting; and youth as peacebuilders in conflict transformation.

Youth in relation to conflict, peace and security

In contexts of conflict and violence, youth are viewed as victims or perpetrators. The "victim" discourse describes youth as those who are used, abused and suffer consequences. They are victimised by political, social, economic structures of already weak and incapacitated states. They are seen as targets of political parties, armed and criminal groups, and state forces (Honwana, 2006). The "perpetrators" discourse, on the other hand, focuses on youth who exercise their agency due to various structural flaws and express their discontent in negative ways by picking up arms, abusing community and promoting violent cultures (ibid). Youth are further depicted in other related dichotomies as "makers or breakers" and "spoilers or facilitators" (De Boeck & Honwana, 2005).

Moreover, the demographic imbalance of the so-called "youth bulge"- whereby the population of young people both male and female who are 27 years and under are in abundance, leading to a demographic "bonus", "dividend" or "crisis" (Cincotta, Engelman, & Anastasion, 2003)- have dominated policies and literature on youth. These literatures have shown that countries with an average population of young men of 40% and over have experienced a series of conflict ruptures, social unrest, militarism and international aggression. This discourse argues that young men have a tendency of becoming 'embroiled in civil conflicts' as a response to under-employment, low wages, social discontent and in cycles of rebellion and repression (ibid, p. 44-45). Of late, with the perceived increase in terrorist attacks in Europe and North America, the public discourse on young people as "potential threats"- especially young men and to a certain extent women- has re-emerged.

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8 UN Definition of Youth, available at: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf, and the Asia Pacific Youth Charter 2011-205, available at: http://www.apyouthnet.ilo.org/resources/ituc-asia-pacific-youth-charter-2011-2015
9 The World Bank, Youth 2 Youth Community, available at: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTYTOYCOMMUNITY/Resources/WB_Y2Y_Brochure_Final_Lo.pdf
10 The African Union, African Youth Charter, available at: http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/african_youth_charter_2006.pdf
11 The European Commission, EU Youth report, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/youth/library/reports/youth-report-2015_en.pdf and The Common Wealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2007-2015, available at: http://www.youthmetro.org/uploads/4/7/6/5/47654969/co._plan_of_action_empowerement_of_youth.pdf
12 UNSCR 2250, available at: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2250(2015)
13 South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, available at: http://www.saarc-sec.org/areaofcooperation/detail.php?activity_id=9

These packed discourses characterising young men and women in violent conflict and violence (a) create generalised notions of their association located in the bulge in population structural flows and marginalisation; (b) depict a homogenised picture of youth painting a glum picture of their situation (suppressed, constrained agency, unemployed, victimised or aggressive...); and (c) critically fails to note young people's vast and largely untapped capacity for peacebuilding. Furthermore, a dichotomous definition of young people neglects to encompass that 'youth may be both victims and perpetrators of violence; others may be neither but instead use their skills and resources to survive and support themselves and families' (PeaceNexus Foundation, 2016, p. 5).

A growing body of knowledge challenges these historical notions in understanding youth as positive actors reshaping social relations and power formations. Emerging studies indicate that only a small percentage of young people turn to violence (UN, 2011). Across the world, young people have taken on active roles and created youth networks to try to build peace and prevent outbreaks of violence, and in some places, served as the primary actors in grassroots community development work (McEvoy-Levy, 2001 and Smith & Ellison, 2012). Young people are mobilising themselves and their communities to prevent violence, build resilience, support rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants (both in war and violent criminal gangs) and foster environment for sustainable peace (see Sections 4 and 5 of the report).

However, there is limited evidence collected on the daily lives of young people not involved in violence and war, and the type of activities they are involved in. This striking lack of information has been recognised by the UNSCR 2250, which commissioned the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security for this purpose. To complement the Progress Study, which is currently underway, this survey report provides first-of-its-kind analysis of the challenges, activities, achievements and strengths of youth-led organisations in peacebuilding.

Youth in relation to vulnerability and trust in conflict and violence setting

Countries with high levels of violence do not necessarily have a bigger youth population (Barakat, Paulson, & Urdal, 2011). Research shows that risk of violent conflict is higher when youth bulge coincides with periods of long term economic decline and where there are low youth opportunities in the form of limited education prospects, poor employment possibilities, and exclusion from political participation (PeaceNexus Foundation, 2016). In this light, youth vulnerability in contexts of conflict and violence are linked to the root causes of conflict and violence themselves.

The above definitions reflect that conflict and violence have the capacity to unmake, remake, and disorder social structures and relations, and have a deep negative impact on long term peace and development. Conflict and violence negatively impact people's lives, livelihoods, relationships and wellbeing.

Youth in particular are uniquely vulnerable in violent conflict and violence. They suffer the consequences of violence such as being "killed, maimed, orphaned, abducted, deprived of education and health", and are "left with deep emotional and physical scars" (UNOY, 2015, p. 10). In addition, young people are heavily marginalised and excluded from community and state structures- at times manipulated by political parties- all of which affects their transition to adulthood (UN DESA, 2011). Youth are also affected by un- and under-employment, limited education, poor governance, sexual and reproductive health issues, and limited civic participation (see section 3.2). These grievances coupled with lack of opportunities lead to frustrations and hopelessness among youth.

In contexts affected by and experiencing conflict and violence, it is not only the physical infrastructure that needs rebuilding. The fabric of society- relationships and trust between conflict parties and trust between society and the government- also needs to be reconstructed (UNOY, 2013).

However, recent studies indicate that a trust crisis is gripping our societies, with 85% of the global population distrusting government systems' ability to provide fairer standards of living and employment opportunities (Edelman, 2017). This crisis in trust has surfaced from the population's concerns with corruption, globalisation, eroding social values, immigration and pace of innovation. This mistrust or the perception of mistrust is prevalent also among youth, with many believing that the 'adults' do not trust them or consider them as 'children,' and many not trusting the adults and systems in return (see Section 4). Youth believe their main strength and motivation is in working with peers for a common vision of preventing violence and promoting peace in communities (see Section 4.2). This peer to peer trust is confirmed by a recent study, which reports that 60% of the population see peers as highly credible (Edelman, 2017). There is, thus, an urgent need to address the crisis of trust and explore ways for young people to use their strengths to help foster positive intergenerational relationships between youth and elders, as well as between state and community structures.

For young women especially, building and sustaining trust is crucial as they face additional vulnerability to sexual and domestic violence. Of the survey respondents, 82% said that young women are more vulnerable due to gender inequality and high levels of gender-based and sexual violence prevalent in their communities (see Section 3.1.1).

Youth as peacebuilders in conflict transformation

Despite their vulnerability in conflict and violence and the negative perceptions they face from community members and politicians, many youth decide to act constructively and build peace in their communities (Del Felice & Wisler, 2007).

Youth in this context are important, not only because they are at the forefront of peacebuilding. Young people are also key actors in negotiating and mediating peace processes, in relation to justice mechanisms and security forces, in establishing non-violent youth movements, and in grassroots work in community and peace groups of various types (ibid, p. 5). They are agents for positive and constructive change (Coomaraswamy, 2015), and with the right educational tools for crisis prevention and peacebuilding, they can develop the skills needed to help prevent violent and armed conflicts (UN DESA, 2015). Youth-led organisations have reported success in: (a) integrating youth in national, local and international decision making processes; (b) preventing violence in their communities (including reducing youth joining violent extremist groups); (c) creating formal and informal employment opportunities; (d) transforming the perception of youth as positive agents for peace; and (e) delivering humanitarian assistance where national infrastructures are inadequate (See Section 4.1).

As peacebuilders, youth (both men and women) are leaders in establishing their organisations, networks and associations in "offering spaces where youth feel they belong, identify with one another and share understandings of and address challenges" (PeaceNexus Foundation, 2016, p. 30) for their peers and the larger community. Moreover, young women are designing and implementing young women-led activities that are specifically focussed on breaking down gender inequality and violence against women and girls (see Section 3.5.2).

APPENDIX A:
CONTEXTUALISING YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

Particularly in the context of high levels of violence, youth play a critical role in building resilience among their peers, including marginalised and hard-to-reach youth, to preventing re-engagement in violence. Besides their peers, research suggests that strong community and youth involvement can build their "social capital" and "sense of belonging and empowerment" as well as "act as an important deterrent to engagement in violence" (Dowdney 2005; and Peters et al., 2003). Youth-led organisations are actively engaged in building social cohesion in their communities by bringing inter-community groups together towards finding collaborating solutions (see Section 4.1).

Furthermore, studies indicate that young people are innovative, open to change, concerned with long term stability and exhibit a willingness to work hard (Emery, 2013). Yet, these "capacities and potentials of youth are often unrecognised" (UNOY, 2013, p. 7).

Section 4.1 of the report attempts to bring to the fore the achievements of youth-led organisations as peacebuilders in conflict transformation, as reported by them, despite limited financial resources. In doing so, the findings of the report call attention to the strengths, capacities and potential of youth-led organisations; and demonstrate that investing in these organisations is key to building resilience among youth's peers, communities and countries.

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APPENDIX C:
MAPPING A SECTOR, QUESTIONNAIRE

I. Profile

1. Do you want the information about your organisations contact details and areas of work to be shared publicly by UNOY Peacebuilders and Search for Common Ground?

☐ YES
☐ NO

2. Organisation

Name:
Website or social media page:

Region:
☐ Americas and the Caribbean
☐ Asia-Pacific
☐ Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf
☐ South and Central Asia
☐ West and Central Africa
☐ Eastern and Southern Africa
☐ Europe

Country:
Location (city, town):

3. Contact Person

Name:
Age:
E-mail address:

4. How many paid staff does your organisation have? Please fill in the number of paid staff in each age and gender bracket using the table below.

	Male	Female	Other
Under 15 years			
15-17			
18-25			
26-29			
30-35			
Over 35 years			

5. How many unpaid staff (volunteers and others) does your organisation have? Please fill in the number of unpaid staff in each age and gender bracket using the table below.

	Male	Female	Other
Under 15 years			
15-17			
18-25			
26-29			
30-35			
Over 35 years			

6. Please describe the age and gender of your organisations' leadership. Leadership can include a chairperson, president, director, manager, or other similar positions.

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7. What were the total annual expenses of your organisation in 2015 (in USD)?

- ☐ Below US$1000
- ☐ Bet. $1,001 and $50000
- ☐ Bet. $5001 and $10,000
- ☐ Bet. $10,001 and $50,000
- ☐ Bet. $50,001 and $100,000
- ☐ Above $100,001

8. Where does your funding come from? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Local donations from individuals
- ☐ Civil society organisations
- ☐ Your local government (e.g. municipalities, provinces, counties, etc.)
- ☐ Your national government or ministries
- ☐ Foreign national governments or ministries
- ☐ UN Agencies
- ☐ Other international organisations (e.g., World Bank, OECD, European Union, etc.)
- ☐ Private companies
- ☐ International NGOs
- ☐ Private foundations
- ☐ Academia
- ☐ Crowdfunding platforms
- ☐ Participants in activities
- ☐ Membership fees
- ☐ We do not receive any funding
- ☐ Other? Please specify

II. Areas of work and methods

1. Which themes does your organisation work on? Please select all that apply and add a small description of your activities in this field.

- ☐ Education and culture (for example: inter-religious dialogue, schools, arts, etc.)
- ☐ Socio-economic issues (for example: vocational education, entrepreneurship, marginalised communities, etc.)
- ☐ Political participation (for example: youth councils, advocacy, online activism, etc.)
- ☐ Institutions, systems, structures and companies (for example: security sector, multinationals, justice system, etc.)
- ☐ Other

2. UN Security Council resolution 2250 is the first thematic resolution adopted by the UN Security Council addressing Youth, Peace and Security. You can learn more about the resolution at http://www.unoy.org/2250-toolkit. The resolution has five

goals.

- **Participation:** Involvement of young people for example in conflict prevention/resolution/transformation, in violence prevention and in the promotion of social cohesion. Representation of youth in decision-making at all levels.
- **Protection:** Protecting civilians, including young people, during armed conflict and in post-conflict times, and in particular protecting young women and young men from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.
- **Prevention:** Ensuring socio-economic development and quality education for young women and young men, and promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue.
- **Partnership:** Working with UN entities, international organisations, national and local authorities and civil society including to increase support for young people's participation in peacebuilding and in countering violence extremism.
- **Disengagement and Reintegration:** Support the meaningful reintegration of young women and men directly involved in armed conflict.

Do you think your organisation works towards these goals? If so, which ones? In your activities, how important are each of these goals?

	Not at all				Very much
Participation					
Protection					
Prevention					
Partnership					
Disengagement & reintegration					

Are these goals separate from each other or connected to each other in your work?

3. Please describe the context(s) and/or communities where your organisation works (Please select all that apply):

☐ There is ongoing violent conflict
☐ It is a post-conflict area/community
☐ It is a fragile area/community (i.e., facing severe development challenges such as weak institutions, poor governance, political instability, on-going violence or the legacy effects of past severe conflict)
☐ It is not a conflict/post-conflict area/community; however, there are high levels of violence/insecurity
☐ It is a stable area/community (i.e. there is no religious and ethnic wars, regional separatist conflicts, military coups, revolutions or any form of violent conflict.)
☐ Humanitarian crisis settings
☐ Recurring/continuous violent conflict
☐ Other: Please specify:

4. What's the main scope of your organisation's work? (Select all that apply)

☐ Local
☐ National
☐ International
☐ Global
☐ Other:

5. What is the aim of your work? What are you trying to change through your initiatives or activities? How do you contribute to that change? We are only looking for a brief summary, not a comprehensive overview.

6. Can you name two or three examples of the types of activities you organise? (For example conferences, trainings, campaigns etc.)

7. Who is the target population of your work? (Please select all target groups that apply, indicate the age and their gender)

Target group	Age Range	Males	Females	Comments
Young people, peers				
Older people in our community				
Families				
Ex-combatants				
Displaced persons (IDP's, refugees)				
Security services, inclucing military and police				
Local decision makers				
National decision makers				
International deci-sion makers				
Other: please specify				

8. What type of partners do you work with (if any)? Partners could include other youth groups, local or national authorities, international NGOs, UN agencies etc.

a. How do these partnerships affect the work you do?

9. What are your organisation's main strengths? Generally, what would you say your organisation is particularly good at?

III. Results and impact

1. What were your organisation's biggest achievements in 2014, 2015 and 2016 so far? What are you most proud of? What factors contributed to this success?

2. Do you measure or evaluate the results or the impact of your work? If so, what do you think is the most important measurement to show the impact of your work?

3. Do you publish reports or videos or other digital formats highlighting your work, for example annual reports? If so, please upload the latest report here or provide a link.

IV. Challenges and issues

1. What are the key challenges facing young people working on peace and security issues in your community?

The key challenges facing young people working on peace and security issues in my community are...

2. Which of the following five goals from the UN Security Council resolution 2250 would help overcome the biggest challenges for young people in your community? Please select the two that you feel addresses the most important challenge.

☐ **Participation:** Involvement of young people for example in conflict prevention/resolution/transformation, in violence prevention and in the promotion of social cohesion. Representation of youth in decision-making at all levels.

☐ **Protection:** Protecting civilians, including young people, during armed conflict and in post-conflict times, and in particular protecting young women and young men from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

☐ **Prevention:** Ensuring socio-economic development and quality education for young women and young men, and promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

☐ **Partnership:** Working with UN entities, international organisations, national and local authorities and civil society including to increase support for young people's participation in peacebuilding and in countering violence extremism.

☐ **Disengagement and Reintegration:** Supporting the meaningful reintegration of young women and men directly involved in armed conflict.

3. In the context where you work, do you find gender inequality to be a challenge to peace?

4. What are your organisation's main needs?

My organisation's main needs are…

5. How do you propose you overcome the above challenges and meet the needs you mentioned?

6. Who can help overcome the above challenges and meet the needs you mentioned?

V. Recommendations

1. What successes related to the UN Security Council resolution 2250 would you most like to see by the year 2020? You may list more, but please indicate which are your top 3 priorities:

☐ Funding provided by international agencies to support youth in addressing issues of peace and security has increased

☐ Young people are included at the negotiation table in all internationally-supported peace negotiations

☐ Young people are better represented in decision-making processes at local and national levels

☐ Peace education or education for a culture of peace have been integrated into national curriculums around the world

☐ The number of young people directly affected by violence has been halved

☐ A new framework for supporting young people to disengage from violent groups has been adopted at the international level

☐ The international community has adapted a new approach to gender-based violence towards youth in violent conflict

☐ Levels of youth unemployment globally have dropped significantly, with new and appropriate job opportunities created for young people

☐ National governments, in partnership with youth groups, have set up structured methods to enable young people to participate in developing violence prevention strategies at both local and national levels

☐ Local, national and international organisations provide youth-specific programs for demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants.

☐ Other:

2. What message, if any, do you want to send to the United Nations, the Security Council, and other policy makers about youth participation in building peace and preventing violence, and the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2250?

3.Is your organisation interested in being contacted by UNOY Peacebuilders, Search for Common Ground and/or the UN-Civil Society Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding about the developments and opportunities within the Youth, Peace and Security community?

☐ YES
☐ NO