



*Empowered lives
Resilient nations.*

UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

31 March 2014

United Nations Development Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNDP supports policy and programming that aims to ensure that youth are informed, engaged and empowered to contribute to sustainable human development and resilience of their communities. The combination of youth and innovation has the potential to create solutions to development challenges and to transform societies.

— Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP

UNDP embraces youth as a positive force for transformative change. The largest-ever youth generation presents unprecedented challenges and opportunities for sustainable human development. Youth make up 60 percent or more of the population in many UNDP programme countries. The UNDP Youth Strategy offers key entry points for systematic and coordinated action to support youth within an increasingly complex development context for their social, economic and political development. While the focus will be on young women and men ages 15–24, the range may extend to ages 25–30 and will remain flexible to ensure that programming is responsive to the diverse needs of youth in different country contexts.

Three outcomes provide a framework for results. National, regional and global initiatives can build on good practices of the past and introduce innovative solutions for the future:

- **Outcome 1:** Strengthened sustainable development pathways through increased economic empowerment of youth;
- **Outcome 2:** Enhanced youth civic engagement and participation in politics and public institutions strengthened;
- **Outcome 3:** Strengthened youth engagement in disaster preparedness, crisis response, and resilience building in crisis and/or conflict contexts.

Four approaches stand out as effective ways to support countries in achieving these outcomes. The **four-pronged approach** includes:

- Supporting capacity development of young people and youth organizations;
- Engaging through outreach, advocacy and mainstreaming of youth issues in all spheres of development planning;
- Developing and exercising spheres of influence through leadership and empowerment;
- Sustaining progress through support to national youth policy development and implementation.

This work is informed by a human-rights based approach to engaging and empowering youth, and by the principles of global agreements and instruments. The UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future is designed to complement and reinforce the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017 by deepening the youth focus across all areas of work. It also supports, among others, the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP), the work of the United Nations Special Envoy on Youth and United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD).

Success depends on forging sustainable and innovative partnerships to deliver. UNDP will strengthen partnerships with civil society and youth led and based organizations, networks and movements, governments at national and sub-national levels, and throughout the development community at all levels. Partnerships will also contribute to improving coordination and coherence within the UN system, particularly in the areas of political inclusion, civic engagement, human rights, employment and health.

Measuring the results of these endeavours will require the design of targets and indicators for youth development, the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data within existing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, in particular for the frameworks developed to monitor UNDP Strategic Plan.