ANNUAL IMPACT REVIEW 2017
REPORT
July 2018
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Introduction

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) is shaping the global agenda for youth, peace and security in partnership with 80 locally grounded organisations. We have members, in over 50 countries and are all united around the vision of a world free from violence in which young people play an active role in contributing to peace. By translating local peacebuilding work into international policy, UNOY Peacebuilders is developing joint approaches to common peace and security challenges.

Our members work in very different contexts and hence, it is crucial for the IS, based in The Hague, to stay in touch with the network and know how the members are performing.

The Annual Impact Review (AIR) is the main tool used to monitor and evaluate the performance of UNOY Peacebuilders. The AIR, formulated on an annual basis, consists of both an AIR Questionnaire and this Report created from the results. The Questionnaire, addressed to all UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations, gathers a variety of information from general demographics and financial statistics to information about members' strengths, needs, activities, members' expectations from being part of the network and what they can contribute to fellow member organisations located all over the world. Thanks to the AIR, the IS and ISG are provided with a comprehensive understanding of the needs and expectations of member organisations. It enables the IS to be informed of what members are doing on the ground within their communities.

77% of member organisations completed the questionnaire in March 2017. It is a requirement for remaining a member of the network. We thank all members that filled in the AIR Questionnaire for their willingness to tell us of their work and aspirations and for contributing to the development of the network.
2017 saw UNOY members make major progress on their individual and collective paths to peace. Our Annual Impact Review reflects this.

Our network reached **4.9 million** young people globally.

The three main themes driving change with our members are:
- Peace
- Education
- Gender equality
- Civic action

We have **80 members totalling 383 paid staff & 4,253 unpaid staff**.

- **68%** of our members’ staff are young volunteers.
- **91%** of member organisations’ staff are under the age of 35.
- **84%** of respondents, said that UNOY Peacebuilders has helped address their needs over the last year.
- **62%** of respondents stated that they have made use of the resources made available by the UNOY network.

- **64%** at the national level
- **25%** at the international level
Network strengths are:

- Mobilising other young people
- Mobilising communities
- Staff commitment
- Advocacy
- Networking

**Funding** is a constant challenge across our network. Different regions also face specific challenges, such as:

- Rise of militarism and hate speech
- Conflict ridden environment
- Barriers to youth participation

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**Key Areas for UNOY Peacebuilders to strengthen in 2018:**

- Extending opportunities for member participation and sense of community in the network.
- Enhancing International Secretariat communications with members;
- Increasing support for capacity development of members through trainings and also fundraising efforts;
- Strengthening member understanding of the International Steering Group and support stronger communications of representatives with member organisations.

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We thank all of our members for being part of our network and for taking the time to let us know of their work in the peacebuilding field.
Section 1  Network Statistics

1.1. Staff and Volunteers

84% of our member organisations are youth-led.¹ We define youth as people between the age of 18 and 35. Youth leadership is a requirement for membership in the network, however some member organisations do have older staff with some in leadership positions. This becomes clear when examining the ages of each organisation’s contact persons. 18% are over the age of 35.

Table 1: Average number and age of staff working in member organisations per region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average number of paid staff</th>
<th>Average number of unpaid staff</th>
<th>% of paid staff under 35</th>
<th>% of unpaid staff under 35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>6²</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>6³</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5⁴</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ One of the challenges when addressing youth is the age range that defines the term ‘youth’; several interpretations are adopted by different entities. UNOY Peacebuilders does not impose one global definition of “youth”. However, for the purpose of the AIR, and without prejudice to other age bracket definitions, UNOY Peacebuilders considers everyone under 35 years old youth.

² The number presented in the table in the column of paid staff for Africa and Europe, does not include data from the member organisations: Youths for Peacebuilding Development in Africa and Artway due to the discrepancy in the data submitted by the organisations and impossibility to check this year. This does not take away the fact that these organisation engage youth meaningfully.

³ The number presented in the table in the column of paid staff, does not include Artway.

⁴ The number presented in the table in the column of unpaid staff, does not include Youth organisation for the United Nations (OAJNU), which has 687 volunteers. This number therefore only counts the unpaid staff of Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru (BVBP), as BVBP and OAJNU were the organisations in the Americas out of our three members in the region to respond to the AIR.
Our member organisations are mostly driven by unpaid staff or volunteers, who make up 91% of the people working for member organisations. This, while reflecting the dedication of young people in their community, is a challenge of long term development and progress of these organisations' work.

1.2. Financial Statistics

The average annual expenses of the network's member organisations across all regions except the Middle East and North Africa region saw an substantial increase in 2017 with the total average annual expenses more than doubling to 112,900 USD\(^5\). This is a return to similar levels of expenses as in 2015 (119,966 USD) thereby showing that the network members were able to jump back from the sudden sink in funding in 2016.

Regional discrepancies in the availability of funding and operating costs of member organisations remains a reality in the network. Member organisations in MENA and Europe have significantly larger annual budgets, demonstrated by their higher average expenses compared to member organisations in Africa, Asia and Americas. This difference is remarkable beyond other factors to be accounted for such as cost of living, high operational expenses in some regions, etc.

Member organisations in the Middle East and North Africa region have the highest average annual budget, which has also been the case in the past years. All the three member organisations in the region: Etijah -Egypt, Youth and Development Institute - Egypt, Arab Educational Institute - Palestine and Youth without Borders Organization for Development - Yemen had six digit amounts as their expenses. This could reasonably be due to the high profile violent conflicts within these states drawing the attention of funding agencies and international organisations working in the area of peace and post conflict peacebuilding operations.

Whilst UNOY Peacebuilders believes in the importance of placing emphasis on peacebuilding during violent conflict, it is important to carve out funds for prevention, both by providing the appropriate attention long before a conflict arises in a country or a region and long after the violence stops to ensure lasting peace. UNOY Peacebuilders feels this is not the case at the moment. Only working before, during and after conflict can we prevent the unnecessary loss of lives and the overall destruction that violence brings.

An important note in this section is the substantial increase in average annual expenses, member organisations in Africa saw. The average expenses for 2017 is 62,068 USD which is over a third more than regional averages in 2016 and 2015 which were up 38% and 34% respectively. Despite a substantial increase, the average expenses for the Africa region still remain the lowest as compared to the other regions, like in previous years.

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\(^5\) The average expenses of member organisations calculated in 2016 (51,520 USD)
Table 2: Annual budgets of member organisations in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average expenses in 2017 (USD)</th>
<th>Average expenses in 2016 (USD)</th>
<th>Average expenses in 2015 (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>62,068</td>
<td>38,424</td>
<td>40,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>171,165</td>
<td>151,803</td>
<td>200,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>181,333</td>
<td>186,152</td>
<td>160,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>95,054</td>
<td>64,617</td>
<td>183,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>86,666</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>53,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total average</td>
<td>119,257</td>
<td>51,520</td>
<td>119,966</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fundraising is a major concern for our member organisations. Table 3 below shows the overwhelming challenge of our members to secure grants.

In 2017, an average of 34% of our members’ grant applications were successful. This is in line with historical results. Members identify a number of reasons for this. Amongst them a lack of appropriate funding programmes designed specifically to support youth building peace and preventing violence and at times donor difficulty in understanding the nature and value of youth-led peacebuilding efforts. A major reason also identified is that many of the network organisations lack capacities to write funding proposals.

This is an area where members within the network with an experience of writing proposals for funding and any other helpful tips can and are beginning to advise others. Towards the end of 2017, to that end, members of the Asia region organised a webinar to provide help and tips to fellow regional members on fundraising and proposal writing techniques. Also in 2017 joint fundraising efforts were developed in West and Central Africa with the support of the IS.

Member organisations from Europe and Asia had the highest percentage of successful grants. Members in Asia showed almost a double increase in successful grant applications to 39% in 2017 as compared to 20% in 2016.

The success rate for African members increased from 15% in 2016 to 17% in 2017 but still remains the lowest in the network. The low success rate of Africa also matches with the region’s low average annual expenses.
## Table 3: Average percentage of successful grant applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average % in 2017</th>
<th>Average % in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total average</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1.3. Reach

When analysing how many young people (aged 18-35) have been reached in 2017 by UNOY Peacebuilder's member organisations, it is necessary to make a distinction between direct and indirect reach. Direct reach refers to the number of young people directly involved with the projects (for instance, training participants). Indirect reach is the number of all beneficiaries that have interacted with UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations’ projects in the wider community (social-media, newsletters, posters, flyers, etc.).

Having an approximate number of the young people reached by UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations provides us with an idea of the footprint of the peacebuilding work carried out. Table 4 shows the number of young people reached directly and indirectly by our member organisations throughout 2017.

It must be noted that some members gave an approximation by stating for example that they have reached around 500-1000 youth. For the purposes of data analysis, the minimum number was taken into consideration in such cases.

#### Table 4: Number of young people (aged 18-35) reached by member organisations throughout 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Direct Reach (total)</th>
<th>Indirect Reach (total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>57,160</td>
<td>3,823,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>20,815</td>
<td>364,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>5650</td>
<td>234,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There is a increase of the total youth reached directly and indirectly by member organisations of the network. All regions except Africa saw an increase in youth directly reached. Our indirect reach had a drastic increase which can be attributed to member organisations in Africa and the Americas, which were successfully able to engage young people in their regions at a scale previously unprecedented.

The main reason for the big jump in indirect reach in Africa can be attributed mainly to the activities of Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD) - Mali, and Positive Peace Group Cameroon (PPGC) - Cameroon who carried successful communication and dissemination programmes and reached 2 million and 1.6 million young people respectively. While AJCAD utilised social media, social clubs and communication tools like radio and TV to promote the campaigns they were part of, Positive Peace Group Cameroon used the follow up activities of their peace education and mediation trainings to reach young people in big numbers.

Similarly in America, Organización Argentina de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas (OAJNU), was able to reach 120,000 young people through nine different projects across Uruguay and Argentina. Other of our members display similar wide reaches.

It is very promising to see how use of social media, communication channels such as TV and Radio and follow up projects can help in indirect reach among youth. The use of these tools to disseminate awareness and campaigns is a great method of communication and UNOY Peacebuilders suggests it to be used extensively by all of our members.

However, the three other regions (Europe, Asia and MENA) saw a negative spike in indirect reach when compared to 2016. European organisations’ reach dropped by 20% and, Asian members reach dropped of 41% MENA members saw the biggest year on year drop of 57%.

In 2017 a total of 4,909,012 of young people have been reached by our member organisations across the world.
1.4. Activities and themes

Thematic areas

Youth participation in peacebuilding takes various forms. As such, UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations have tackled diversified issues in order to build peace. Graph 1 illustrates the different peacebuilding related themes that UNOY Peacebuilders’ member organisations’ activities addressed in 2017.

**Graph 1: Peacebuilding related thematic areas of member organisations**

As in previous years, **peace education** was the thematic area pursued by the largest number of members (84%). Other popular thematic areas are activities related to civic action and community building, as well as **gender equality**.
Regarding gender equality the percentage of members working on the theme varied greatly by region:
- 71% in Africa
- 66% in the Americas
- 66% in MENA
- 60% of Asia
- 40% in Europe.

80% of our Asian members worked on Civic Action and Community Building compared to 79% of our African members and 73% and European members.

These figures illustrate a commonality in focuses across regions yet in different width and scale, showing that youth peacebuilding organisations focus on issues which they feel are pressing and relevant in their community, and this can vary significantly between global regions.

Other peacebuilding related themes which some members have addressed include: peace research; supporting refugee rehabilitation; promoting health and peace education; social inclusion and entrepreneurship for the youth and human rights.

Main scope of members’ work

UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations work at many different levels, ranging from the local to the global. Most of our members work primarily at the local (68%) and national level (64%).

Graph 2: Number of member organisations working at different levels in 2017
Main scope of advocacy activities

An essential part of peacebuilding is advocacy. Besides undertaking action at the grassroots level (68%), our member organisations also engage in advocacy at the national (64%), regional (23%) and international level (25%).

Implementing training activities is the second most common form of advocacy used by member organisations (48%). These training activities are mainly geared towards educating young people (with youth as a target audience of youth-led advocacy) but they also focus on influencing other members of their society. This is an especially useful tool as it can be used to change the mindsets of people with the authority to bring a change in a given community. Only 12% of our member organisations responded that they do not engage in advocacy activities.

**Graph 3: Number of member organisations engaging in advocacy activities at different levels throughout 2017**
Section 2 Achievements, strengths and needs

2.1. Members' biggest achievements in 2017

Some of the highlights as reported by respondents to the AIR 2017 are listed below. They do not do justice to the wide scope of remarkable peacebuilding work that our members lead, but present examples of their actions for change.

** Awards **

Two of our European member organisations have been recognised for their work within the peacebuilding field:

*PATRIR - Romania* received was named the recipient of the Luxembourg Peace Prize 2017 as an outstanding peacebuilding organisation.

Similarly *Young Republic - Sweden* won the European Charlemagne youth prize in Sweden, and we were selected as a member for the advisory council of the council of Europe. The acknowledgment of the work of these organisations at the European and international level strengthens all of our member organisations to continue on the work that they are doing and encourages them to strive for more.

** Achievements **

*Action des jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire et la paix (ADECOP) - Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*

** Advocacy **

ADECOP engaged in youth activism at the international stage through its participation at Youth as PeaceBuilders Forum in Canada where it was part of discussions on Act On 2250, peacebuilding and civic engagement.

*Afghans for Progressive Thinking - Afghanistan*

** Civic Action and Community Building **

Afghans for Progressive Thinking trained 1000 university students to promote tolerance through debate and dialogues in Kabul and Nangarhar.

*Belgium Service Civil International (SCI) - Belgium*

** Refugee crisis **

SCI deepened its work for refugees and migrants by spreading awareness about the refugee situation in the Balkan route and giving a voice to the stories of refugees.
This was supplemented by a push to empower youngsters to take action. In parallel SCI has been working to draw connections of the current forced migration to the past, with an emphasis on WW1, the Spanish Civil War and the war in former Yugoslavia.

**Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) - Bangladesh**

*Leadership skills*
CCD Bangladesh arranged a total of **20 Youth Leadership trainings in which 600 young people** took part in. They also included leadership skills in their Youth Summit which was attended by more than 5000 participants.

**Coalition on Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY) - Pakistan**

*Inter-religious or inter-cultural dialogue*
CRY continued working with young people enabling them to advocate for peace and harmony despite the alarming increase of religious extremism in Pakistan. The organisation trained **65 young people in strengthening their capacity in peacebuilding, and conflict resolution.** The participants then passed along the new skills by working with other young people through peace education sessions, study circles and dialogues to promote peace.

**Community Development Trust Zimbabwe (CDTZ) - Zimbabwe**

*Civic Action and Community Building*
CDTZ brought together young people and local leaders in a series of meetings in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe. They focused on **conflict transformation, their joint capacities and develop leadership skills.** It simultaneously provided platforms for intergenerational collaboration towards peacebuilding. This has helped over **5,674 youths and 1,123 leaders**, gain the knowledge and skills to undertake conflict mitigation and resolution.

**Etijah - Egypt**

*Gender Equality*
Etijah in cooperation with the UNFPA and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, has established **Social Centers and Safe Spaces in 3 governorates to empower Syrian women and girls residing in Egypt**, encourage their freedom of expression help them integrate into society in addition to providing them with essential needed services such as psychosocial support, vocational training and sexual and reproductive health support. As a result these youth centers are becoming more involved with the community issues, especially those related to youth.

**Gyumri "Youth Initiative Centre" (YIC) - Armenia**

*Reconciliation*
YIC continued to encourage people-to-people and institutional contacts and exchange of field-specific knowledge between Turkey and Armenia behind the closed border. **They helped 150 people cross the border** for specific purposes. The next step is to help 10 people live on the other side of the border for extended periods.

**Fundación Escuelas de Paz - Colombia**

*Peace Education*
Following the signature of the peace deal in the country, the organisation has been focusing on **post-conflict areas where over 500 young pupils, teachers and school staff improved their skills in participation, gender equity, reconciliation and**
peacebuilding. As a result, the national public policy project spreading peace education progressed in areas of Colombia most affected by the conflict. Improved school coexistence and effective participation of the entire educational community has been noticed in all areas of intervention.

Horizons - The Netherlands
Civic Action and Community Building
The organisation led a study trip to Palestine for Dutch and international youth. The aim was to raise awareness of injustice and exclusion, along with facilitating a platform for intercultural dialogue among youth from different backgrounds. The visit involved meetings and dialogue with Palestinian students, academics, NGO's, politicians on issues such as politics, religion, identity and the role of youth within our societies.

PATRIR - Romania
Preventing violent extremism
PATRIR created a Library of Responses to Terrorism and Organised Crime featuring 44 case study analyses of different responses with evaluations of good and bad practices within them. These resources can help UNOY Peacebuilders and member organisations to develop better practices in peacebuilding.

Sri Lanka Unites - Sri Lanka
Arts, Media or Technology
The organisation celebrated its 10th year anniversary by launching a Sri Lanka Unites music department with a project bringing together students from all provinces to sing about Sri lankan unity. They also introduced a component on youth engagement with local governments to close the power gap between youth and government.

YELI - Burundi
Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE)
YELI organised its annual Prevention of Violent Extremism Youth Blast in partnership with other peacebuilding organisations. The event welcomed 300 participants from across Burundi. They engaged a wider group of young people digitally to supplement the physical meeting. The Youth Blast is a platform for young people to share experiences and solutions related to radicalisation. It has advanced an environment that helps to forge strategic PVE partnerships and cooperation, develop a knowledge base of activities, initiatives and best practices, and strengthen the Youths PVE strategy to ensure the continued participation of young people in these processes.

Youth for Peace International- India
Peace Education
The organisation facilitated two extensive five day workshops on Peace Education for 100 Youth in two conflict ridden districts of Kashmir (Srinagar and Baramulla). The youth were trained on how they could prevent and transform conflicts both in their Interpersonal lives and in the society and how they can inclusively involve the community in such dialogue.

Youth resource Center Tuzla- Bosnia & Herzegovina
Arts, Media or Technology
Youth resource Center Tuzla was involved in the creation of a Facebook video involving young people from the three Bosnian communities in order both to create inter-ethnic cooperation over a joint project and to spread the message of unity in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Youth without Borders organisation for Development (YWBOD) - Yemen

Peace Education & Participation in Peace Processes

YWBOD which operates under very difficult conditions in the on-going violence of the war in Yemen highlighted its ability to get funding for a wide scale project localising UNSCR 2250. With this, 200,000 young people have been informed about the resolution, 92 initiatives have mobilised youth to advocate for its implementation in Yemen and 200 youth is working on preparing a Roadmap for localizing the UNSCR 2250 in Yemen and paving the way for youth participation to any future national peace initiative.

2.2. Members' main strengths

Our member organisations report diverse and multi-dimensional strengths. The most common strengths highlighted are:

- the ability to mobilise youth and their communities (27 members)
- having committed staff (17 members)
- networking (13 members) and advocacy skills (12 members)

Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) skills was mentioned as a strength by two member organisations for the first time. Although this is statistically small, it is an encouraging sign that youth organisations are improving their skills to learn from their own work and that a culture of MEL is being developed in the youth peace movement.
2.3. Challenges faced by young peacebuilders & support from the network to members

In their quest to build sustainable peace, young peacebuilders face numerous challenges. Some of the challenges mentioned cut across regions and are identifiable by almost all of our members while others are more prevalent in a region or even in a single country. All in all, identifying these challenges is vital for the network in order to map out these issues and address them whenever possible.

2.3.1 Key challenges faced by young peacebuilders

This section outlines the main challenges faced by young peacebuilders in each region. It does not contain an exhaustive overview, but rather a summary of key challenges reported in each region.

Africa

**Three Main Challenges:**

1. **Lack of Funding**
2. **Low participation in political decision making**
3. **Lack of youth friendly policies**

Lack of funding is consistently the biggest challenge our African members face. It is evident from Section 1 that the network members in the African region have the lowest average expenses as compared to other regions. Low participation in political decision...
making and lack of youth friendly policies are another major challenge raised by member organisations. These two problems tend to go together as lack of youth representation ensures that the youth are not seen as demographic on which needs to be taken into consideration while policymaking is done. Community Development Trust (CDT) - Zimbabwe stated that “lack of youth representation in politics, stigmatization and stereotyping of youths, illegitimacy of youth voices” affected the organisation’s activities seriously.

Another major issue raised by African members was the insecure environment for youth to carry out peacebuilding activities. Action des jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire et la Paix (ADECOP) stated that “our Country is facing insecurity and the youth who are working independently for peace are unsecured and considered as a threat to the state. Some of them are arrested or intimidated. Security agents and armed forces such police and army are used as repression forces and are currently unshape the effective activism of youth, our organisation is not excluded. “ This is a bug concern for UNOY Peacebuilders as well as the larger peacebuilding community.

Other challenges raised include: Lack of appropriate capacity to carry out peacebuilding activities; youth radicalism; unemployment and poverty.

**Asia**

**Three main challenges:**

1. Capacity Development
2. Access to/lack of funding
3. Rising extremist violence

Capacity Development was the primary challenge cited by members in Asia along with access to funding. Sri Lanka Unites stated that “access to funding, media platforms, monitoring and evaluation, tools in conducting impact assessments were primary problems in their work”. Similarly, Generation Peace Youth Network (GenPeace) - Philippines stated that their main challenges were “lack of mechanisms and spaces for engagement at the formal level, lack of capacities of local youth organisations to access donors and compete for proposals along with building capacities for the next generation of young leaders”.

Other key challenges raised by members in Asia were: rising extremist violence, recruitment of youth by radical organisations along with insecure environments for peacebuilders.

**Europe**

**Three main challenges:**

1. Rising segregation and hate speech
2. Lack of youth engagement
3. Lack of funding

Like in previous years, the challenges faced by our European members are vast and cover a wide range of topics. Some of these are: rising militarism and right wing rhetorics which are giving way to discrimination, segregation and hate speech/racism;
lack of meaningful communication between political leaders, the government, and the population; lack of information and lack of awareness among the youth; lack of capacities and tools to continue their work.

Lack of funding has been mentioned as a challenge by few of our european members. Furthermore government activities to hinder work done by civil society organisations was also raised by a few member organisations and is a major cause of concern for UNOY Peacebuilders as it points out to how grassroot organisations in Europe are being and intimidated to stop carrying out the activities they do.

Americas
Main challenges are country specific
Challenges faced by members in the Americas region seem to be very complex and contextual. For example Organización Argentina de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas (OAJNU) stated that the lack of trust in peacbuilding process by volunteers seemed to be a challenge for them: most of their volunteers ended their engagement concluding that society in Argentina is violent and will remain so no matter the work for change they are doing.” Meanwhile, Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru (BVB), indicated “the lack of resources to carry out educational activities for Peace, the absence of curriculum in schools that deal with the theme of Peace and inaccessibility of the media in matters pertaining to peace”, as a major challenge for the organisation. Last, Fundación Escuelas de Paz - Colombia pointed out to violent acts against social leaders, major power distances, the lack of empowerment and lack of empathy as the most challenging issues.

MENA
Three main challenges:
1. Ongoing / frozen violent conflict
2. Lack of peace education
3. Lack of awareness / trust in peacebuilding

Unsurprisingly Youth without Borders organisation for Development - (Yemen), declared that “the current armed conflict and war in Yemen was proving to be major challenge for them in carrying out their work.” Similarly, Arab Educational Institute (AEI), in Palestine, stated that the recent development in the Israel-Palestine conflict had created an atmosphere dominated by a severe lack of trust in peacebuilding activities in West Bank territory. In Egypt, Etijah highlighted the absence of peace education in schools and lack of awareness about peacebuilding and peace education by the public as a challenge for its work.
Top Three Global Challenges across our network

As can be seen from above, each region has distinct needs that are not necessarily shared by the other regions while at the same time some issues cut across regions and affect the youth across the globe.

1. Lack of funding
2. Lack of participation of the youth in leadership roles, decision making and peacebuilding processes
3. Security issues including the rise of violent extremism

2.3.2. How the network supports members

Member organisations were asked how the network can support them in addressing their challenges. Some of the answers reflect work already happening in the network, others reflect areas where expansion would be required to supply the support.

Members said they need:
- trainings/workshops (25 organisations)
- partnership opportunities (21 organisations)
- help in getting access to funding opportunities (18 organisations)
- assistance in capacity building (13 organisations)
- advanced technical and material support (14 organisations)
- more toolkits and resources (16 organisations)

In addition support in advocacy; knowledge and experience sharing; stronger regional network; inclusion in joint projects were also requested from our member organisations.
2.4 Members’ main organisational needs

Year on year we hear that funding is the crucial and underlying organisational requirement of our member organisations. Funding was cited as the most important organisational need by 32 of our members. This poses a major challenge for them as it means too much of their time is spent fundraising as opposed to delivering services.

Many of our members also express the need for capacity building (15 members), as well as material and logistical support (14 members).

Other organisational needs that were raised include: networking; partnership opportunities; increase in organisational capacity and human resources; trainings for staff and volunteers; sharing of knowledge and experiences; fundraising support; identifying potential donors and advocacy tools.

72% of respondents, said that UNOY Peacebuilders has helped address some of their needs. 24% felt that UNOY Peacebuilders had not helped them address any of their issues and 6% acknowledged that since they were recent additions to the network, they were not in a suitable position to assess this issue.
Many of the member organisations reported that UNOY Peacebuilders helpful by:
- providing opportunities to represent their respective work on regional and global levels
- providing networking and partnership opportunities
- delivering trainings through its capacity development programme
- by sharing information and best practices from other members.

Members also stated that the toolkits and resources made available on UNOY Peacebuilders’ website, along with the recommendations and advice for funding and advocacy activities provided by UNOY Peacebuilders were helpful to them addressing their main needs.

**Training** is the number one way that members believe UNOY Peacebuilders can help them, with 30 members citing it. Members also desire for the network to continue developing toolkits and resources.

**Concrete technical support** from the network is in demand among member organisations. Other organisational needs that were mentioned by members include: sharing best practices and experiences among members; practical collaboration and networking between members of the network along with help in linking with donors; support to contextualizing projects to their environments and assistance in funding.

**Graph 6: Member organisations’ organisational needs in 2017**
Section 3 Participation in the network

3.1. Participation by Members in UNOY Peacebuilders’ Activities

UNOY Peacebuilders is a network of youth peace organisations from around the world. Actively participating in the network is a necessary step for members in order to fully benefit from the membership.

62% of our members participated in the network through the members Facebook group making it the most common form of communication. This line of communication was also the most common last year with 65% of members mentioning it as such.

Graph 7: Number of member organisations participating with UNOY Peacebuilders in different ways throughout 2017
32% of our responding member organisations participated in at least one activity organised by the IS, including:

- advocacy missions to Brussels, Strasbourg, New York and Addis Ababa
- the training of trainers in the Hague
- online trainings on UNSCR 2250.

This is a year on year drop as in the past 36% (2016) and 52% (2015) of our members participated in IS organised activities. This trend is a cause for concern for the IS as it plans its future activities.

Part of the explanation comes from limitations in the funding the IS has received. It is often short-term and restricted to support activities in Europe. UNOY Peacebuilders’ main concern and priority in the coming years is to increase its financial sustainability and diversify its funding sources to be better able to support its members network-wide.

In addition to participating in activities or projects organised explicitly as network activities, 35% of respondents (22 members) indicated that they had collaborated with other UNOY members in 2017. This is an increase of 7% from last year.

Funding remains a major need for member organisations\(^6\), especially in Africa where members fed back the most struggles to secure funds, organisations decided to collaborate of funding proposals. Members organisation of Advocates for Youth and Health Development (AYHD) - Nigeria, SADAD - Liberia, Youths for Peacebuilding & Development in Africa (YOUPEDA) - Nigeria and Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD) - Mali developed a joint proposal for an Oxfam funding call. While this was unfortunately unsuccessful, the common work developed was a positive experience for all engaged members and a first example of joint fundraising efforts.

An Asian member collaboration began whilst networking at our member Yuvsatta’s Peace festival in Chandigarh, India, where several of our Asian members attended.

European members continue to work together taking advantage of the proximity between these countries. The absence of border control also contributes a lot to such collaboration.

The Middle East and North Africa region was the only area where members did not collaborate with other members of the network in 2017. This trend was also seen in 2016 and can be attributed to the political instability and volatile situation in the region, which makes movement, networking and collaboration tough.

Partnerships between individual organisations is highly encouraged within the network so that young peacebuilders strengthen each other in their work. This is especially helpful since many of our member organisations work on a very limited funding with more than half of the staff working on a voluntary basis.

\(^6\) See section 1 - table 3
3.2. Use of resources

Member organisation’s were asked if they had made use of any resources developed by the network or by individual member organisations. Resources in this case include, but are not limited to: manuals, toolkits, videos, etc.

62% of respondents stated that they have made use of the resources from the network. Several members are also utilising several resources developed by the network.

The Toolkit on UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security is the most used resource with 23% specifically mentioning it.

Member organisations are highly encouraged to utilise the resources found on UNOY Peacebuilders’ website. It will give them an insight into the peacebuilding work being carried out all over the world and they could tap into the knowledge of what’s already out there for their own use.

3.3. Supporting the network

Members were asked in what way they could contribute to the network and support each other. Almost all of our members were eager to offer support to the network. In a nutshell, the offers made were:

★ Providing expertise on peace education, capacity building, advocacy and media campaigns
★ Help other members develop organisational capacity
★ Sharing success stories and good practice
★ Hosting and offering volunteers and interns
★ Providing resources and meeting venues
★ Help other members of the network in writing project proposals
★ Providing platforms for communication and networking
★ Hosting annual youth forums and trainings
★ Transferring special skills to other members
★ Exchanging information and experiences
Section 4 Evaluating the network

4.1. Assessment of UNOY Peacebuilders

Member organisations were asked if being part of UNOY peacebuilders makes them feel like they are part of a community and a network.

Graph 8: To what extent is UNOY Peacebuilders a community?

Considering scores 5 and 4 as indications that members feel that the UNOY Peacebuilders is a community, 65% of members said that this was the case. Similarly 73% indicated that they feel that UNOY Peacebuilders is a inclusive network. We at the IS will continue strive to make all our members feel that they are a part of a community and that UNOY Peacebuilders is a network they enjoy being part of.
4.2. Expectations & Recommendations

**International Secretariat (IS)**

In terms of total expectations, only 21% of our members said that all of their expectations were met by the IS. Many members stated that the IS needs to do more to meet expectations. The IS has a lot of work to do in order to meet members’ expectations and to take into account their recommendations. Worth is to note that the IS also should be careful at how it is setting expectations and communicating to its members on its limitations.

UNOY Peacebuilders members’ expectations of the IS is loosely grouped into 7 categories.

The most common expectation among our members is an **increased, efficient and timely communication** from the IS. This expectation was also the major expectation from the IS last year and we are happy to point out that 34% of the respondents (21 Member organisations) stated that there was substantial improvement in communication by the IS in 2017.

This is a positive note for the IS, but many members did point out that more work needed to be on the IS’s communication strategy in 2018. These members suggested that the IS raise its level of engagement, since the expectations from the member organisations were much higher. For example, **Youth without Borders organisation for Development (YWBO) - Yemen** stated that the “communication takes place only when
needed. It needs much more improvement”. Similarly Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) - Macedonia stated that “their overall engagement with the network had not been considerable, but they are looking forward to engaging more.” Jagriti Child and Youth Concern - Nepal stated that ”the engagement and communication with IS is not weak but needs to be more regular”.

There were also cases of dissatisfaction from network members with the West Africa Centre for Peace Foundation (WACPF) - Ghana and Academy for Peace and Development (APD) - Georgia explaining that IS did not communicate much with them in 2017 and communication needs to be substantially improved.

The second and third most common expectations from the IS by member organisations was support in raising funds and in capacity building. For example the Community Development Trust (CDT) - Zimbabwe, stated that they wanted the IS to “help members write effective and strong grant proposals and build young people's leadership capacities through promoting a culture of peace anchored on sound democratic principles”.

Members also requested that the IS:
● Provide more training opportunities and other activities within the network.
● Work on strengthening regional networks, and bringing cooperation among members
● Encourage more participation among member organisations
● Take into account the the political and legal contexts where its member organisations are related while planning activities
● Develop proposals on behalf of members

However, it must be noted that the last expectation (proposal development) is not within the mandate of the IS.

**International Steering Group (ISG)**

In the AIR 2016, communication with the ISG was the primary concern raised by member organisations with a large portion of our members stating that there should be better communication between the ISG and the members of the particular region. We are happy to announce that 30% of the respondents this year stated that their communication with their respective ISG had improved substantially.

However at the same time, communication and engagement still was the top priority this year with 31% of the respondents still urging ISG to improve communication with regional members. Youth for Peace International (YPI)- India said “ISG has a lot of scope of improvement. ISG can increase the communication, ask for consultation before ISG meetings, and share the decisions made on our behalf in the ISG meetings with us after the meeting with the IS.”

Member organisations also encouraged the ISG to conduct more online meetings with the regional members.
Members also requested that the ISG:
- Increase its visibility and that of UNOY Peacebuilders
- Be more vocal to the IS about the concerns and needs of member organisations of their region.
- Increase consultation with members
- Work towards organising more joint partnerships, events and trainings for members of their respective region

It also needs to pointed that a few members were not clear about the role of the ISG and that they had no information about its activities. UNOY Peacebuilders will try to deal with this issue in consultation with the respective ISG's as soon as possible.

**Regional Coordinators (RCs)**

In 2017, UNOY Peacebuilders conducted extensive consultations among its member organisations, internal governing structures and external partners on how to develop the network. The outcome of these consultations was the decision to appoint RCs in the regions where UNOY Peacebuilders is active. To initiate the process, two pilot regions of Western and Central Africa and Asia were chosen.

We are happy to say that the pilot project has given positive results especially in terms of communication and planning of regional projects. *Youth Peace Brigades (YPB) - Ghana* for instance pointed out that “the RC is a long overdue position and it has further brought the network to the members. We hope to see an increased collaboration between the ISG and the RC and both role should be define and be specific”.

However some organisations did point out that more had to be done from the RC. Example *Coalition on Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY) - Pakistan* stated that “more collaborations, offline or in-person meetings at the regional level will help coordinate the network better and there is a need for follow up activities/plans that can be implemented and the RC needs to take these ideas into consideration.”

**The network**

Generally, organisations’ have listed cooperation and networking among members and the secretariat along with sharing of knowledge and experiences as what they expect from being part of the network.

Members were also asked what the network can do to be ‘even more awesome’. Here are some suggestions provided by our members:

“The network has to continue working actively in the field, bringing in more youth voices to the table, supporting the member organisations with skills, knowledge. It is important to bring the member organisations to learn practices, to connect to each other and shine together” - Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO - Armenia
“CRY is a proud partner of UNOY Peacebuilders for more than a decade and we would like UNOY Peacebuilders to continue its amazing work. Next year is the 30th Anniversary of UNOY Peacebuilders and network can organise a ceremony showcasing its impact and its awesomeness!.” - Coalition on Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY) - Pakistan

“To conduct periodic and regular training programmes within the regions in order to create an interactive networking platform for positive dialogue and exchange programmes among members within the network.” - Peacelinks - Sierra Leone

"1. Create Asia Advocacy Team 2. Make members more active, by bringing them together to meet face to face. 3. Help raise funds by mapping the south asian funders 4. Organise more capacity building programmes, so that we learn more. 5. Make the RC position financially sustainable.” - Youth for Peace International (YPI) - India

“Support the creation of new projects, activities, tools resources to increase awareness about the specific competences which are relevant to build peace, including advocacy, conflict management, media literacy, critical thinking, online campaigning, etc. and advocate to mainstream those competences in the educational system.” - Fundació Catalunya Voluntària (FCV) - Spain

“Advocacy campaigns at international levels, more capacity building opportunities, more funding opportunities.” - Youth without Borders organisation for Development (YWBOD), Yemen

“Take advantage of opportunities to present projects such as Erasmus + to have the participation of all UNOY Peacebuilders members, so that they get to know each other and exchange experiences. UNOY Peacebuilders should also promote global actions with all our organisations involved." - Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru (BVBP) - Peru

“UNOY Peacebuilders need to become more creative in its communication and networking strategy and use digital trainings, webinars, TED-talk updates from IS/members which is more involving than a newsletter or email. It also needs get stronger in campaigning, site/social media more active with updates.” Tumult - Belgium

“The network is doing a lot already. What kills the spirit and enthusiasm of many network organisations is relying more on documentation and online discussions which fail to translate into practical initiatives on the ground. I am therefore of the opinion that UNOY Peacebuilders should start having action plans, with the IS planning practical interventions per country over time.” - Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCRD)-Cameroon

Many members mentioned the desire to be equipped with skills to continue working in the peacebuilding field be provided with more capacity strengthening opportunities and fundraising initiatives.
Section 5 Implementing Resolution 2250

The unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 in 2015 called for the participation and views of youth to be taken into account. After the resolution was passed, it is the responsibility of various stakeholders including UN member states, local communities, non-governmental actors and youth peacebuilding organisations to take on the implementation.

Members were asked how their organisation intends to actively work for the implementation of Resolution 2250 (e.g., through advocacy with locals, fundraising) and if so, they were required to elaborate how.

52% of respondents (32 members) stated that they intend to advocate for Resolution 2250 through various means such as: through lobbying to government agencies and other stakeholders, launching awareness campaign and promoting the Resolution in various events and trainings.

Whereas 40% (25 members) are already working on the implementation of the resolution through national youth consultations, running campaigns and education programmes directed towards the youth’ creating programmes and tools geared towards translating the resolution into tangible action, using the resolution as focal point in their strategic plan and implementing it.

This is showing a positive evolution in youth organisations’ awareness and use of the Resolution compared to previous years.

8% of the respondents (5 members) said that they are not intending or do not yet have a plan to work on UNSCR 2250. Some of the reasons given for this were: not knowing how to plan the objective; not having concrete plans; in exploration phase.
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