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Introduction

United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) is a global network strengthening sustainable youth-driven peacebuilding. Composed of 70 youth organisations in 45 countries, we are all united around the vision of a world free from violence in which young people play an active role in contributing to peace. UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations work in very different contexts and hence, it is crucial for the International Secretariat (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 a Report. 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, and expectations. The AIR Report is then compiled by the IS based on the answers to the AIR Questionnaire.

The AIR Report constitutes the guiding document for the IS and the International Steering Group (ISG) in formulating the network’s multi-annual strategy and annual plans. Thanks to the AIR, the IS and ISG are provided with an insight into the needs and expectations of the network, being able to use this knowledge to make improvements where necessary and ensure that the good work continues.

Filling in the AIR Questionnaire is a requirement for remaining a member of the network, and members who do not fill the questionnaire risk being disaffiliated. The 2015 Questionnaire was sent out in February 2016 and 60 out of 70 member organisations completed it. We thank all members that filled in the AIR Questionnaire for contributing to the development of the network.
Highlights of 2015

- A network of 70 organisations
- Over 2,500,000 youth reached
- Funding is the key challenge
- Only 36% of grant applications were successful
- 77% of staff is under 35
- We need to work for the meaningful involvement of young peacebuilders in decision-making processes
- 76% of staff are volunteers
- Facebook is our main communication tool
Section 1  Statistics about the network

1.1. Staff and Volunteers

UNOY Peacebuilders is a youth-led network. This means that all of our member organisations are youth-led.\(^1\) Table 1 demonstrates that this is the case: 73% of paid staff and 80% of unpaid staff (volunteers) are youth between the age of 18 and 35. Overall, an average of 77% of the staff of UNOY’s member organizations are under the age of 35. The vast majority of the contact persons of member organisations are under the age of 35, out of 120 contact persons (two per organisation) only 21 are over the age of 35.

Table 1: Average number and age of staff working in member organizations 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>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(7^2)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total average</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>80</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. For the purpose of the AIR, UNOY Peacebuilders takes the view that everyone under 35 years is considered youth.

\(^2\) The number presented in the table does not include Argentine Youth Organization for the United Nations (OAJNU), which has 500 volunteers. OAJNU is an outlier, as it has a disproportionately high number of volunteers due to the extensive scope of organization’s work: “OAJNU works in schools, universities, rural communities, neighborhoods peripherals, and where there are young people who want to work with socio - educational projects to build a better society” (OAJNU).
When looking into the human resource capacities of the member organisations, most of the members rely on the work of unpaid staff (volunteers). In fact, more than half of the staff of UNOY members are unpaid: an average of 76% of our members’ staff are unpaid.

The relative reliance on unpaid staff highlights a significant and recurring issue among youth organisations: the lack of sufficient funding to maintain staff. Losing skilled workers is a serious issue since it does not only mean that the organisation loses qualified and capable labour force, but it also puts the organisational stability of the organisations at risk. At the same time the number of volunteers working for UNOY members is a clear sign of young people’s willingness to be active citizens and engage with their communities.

1.2. Financial Statistics

The regional discrepancies in the availability of funding and operating costs of member organisations is revealed in the annual expenses of each organization. Member organisations in Europe and Asia have significantly larger annual budgets, demonstrated by their higher average expenses compared to member organisations in Africa and the Americas. Such statistics are an indicator that regions such as Europe and Asia have more funding possibilities than the other regions, such as Africa which has the least average annual expense. In fact, our African members’ average annual expense is only 20% of our European members one.

Table 2: Annual expenses of member organizations in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average expenses in 2015 (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>40 875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>200 580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>160 833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>183 790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>53 333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total average</td>
<td>119 966</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fundraising frequently comes up as a concern in the AIR. An overwhelming and recurring challenge for our member organisations has been accessing funds. The statistics in the table below clearly show how challenging it is for our members to successfully acquire grants. In 2015, an average of only 36% of our members’ grant applications were successful. This clearly underlines how funding is still a recurring
problem within our members. This issue might be linked to several potential reasons: not properly following the guidelines of the application, donors may have difficulties understanding the nature and value of youth-led peacebuilding efforts, the organization might lack the track record desired by donors, and of course, a lack of appropriate funding programs designed specifically to support youth building peace and preventing violence.

Table 3: Average percentage of successful grant applications in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>22(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total average</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
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1.3. Reach

When analysing how many young people (aged 18-35) have been reached in 2015 by UNOY’s member organizations, 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 member organizations’ projects in the wider community (social-media, newsletters, posters, flyers, etc.).

Having an approximate number of the total amount of young people who have been reached in each region provides us with an idea of the impact of the work of UNOY’s member organizations, as well as their ability to reach out to young people. Below is the table providing the total number of young people directly and indirectly reached by our member organizations throughout 2015.

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\(^3\) Note: since some of our members did not answer with a percentage, this number is not completely accurate.
Table 4: Number of young people (aged 18-35) reached by member organizations throughout 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Direct Reach (total)</th>
<th>Indirect Reach (total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>917.872</td>
<td>1.141.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>95.400</td>
<td>273.580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>10.270</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>10.400</td>
<td>72.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>14.520</td>
<td>+1.350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.048.462</td>
<td>1.493.597</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the data, it is notable that the regional differences are large. For instance, our member organizations in Africa have managed to reach a much larger number of youth. Such discrepancies could be due to differences in human capacities among organizations and differences in the way of counting the number of youth reached. In this case, such discrepancies are also highly likely to be due to the fact that the number of UNOY’s member organizations located in Africa is much higher than in the other regions.

Nonetheless, knowing an estimate of how many youth have been reached is important to understand the impact of our members’ work and how many youth are benefitting from it. In 2015 alone a total of 2,542,059 young people have been reached by our member organizations across the world!

It is also very interesting to note the various creative ways our member organizations use to indirectly reach the youth. For instance, Positive Peace Group, in Cameroon, reached out to young people through various media such as the radio, television, social media and school campaigns.

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4 Since one of the three member organizations from the Americas did not provide an exact amount, we do not have sufficient data on indirect reach in the Americas. The other two organisations indirectly reached 1,350 young people.
1.4. Activities and themes

Thematic areas

UNOY member organisations have been working on a variety of issues, continuing to expand their thematic scope. Graph 1 illustrates the different peacebuilding related themes that UNOY’s member organisations’ activities addressed in 2015.

Graph 1: Peacebuilding related thematic areas addressed by member organisations in 2015

As in previous years, **peace education** was the thematic area addressed by the majority of members: 55 (92%) of the members addressed peace education in their activities in 2015. Other popular thematic areas have been activities related to civic action and community building, as well as gender equality.

There is also a correlation of the most common theme addressed in Africa: 62% of the African members focused on gender equality in 2015. The distinct focus illustrates the different situations and regional needs which require different thematic focuses.

Other peacebuilding related themes which some members have addressed include: human rights, development education, indigenous peoples and internally displaced
persons, child protection, climate justice, leadership, social action and empowerment, and transforming land conflicts. Themes which were addressed in 2014 and have not been mentioned by member organizations this year include social entrepreneurship and themes concerning anti-racism.

It is clear that member organizations’ focus are diverse, focusing their activities on various thematic areas. Yet, a thing in common between all the activities and themes addressed by our members is that they all work for a culture of peace and nonviolence!

Main scope of members’ work

UNOY's members work at very different levels, ranging from local to global levels. The graph below illustrates the number of our members working at different levels. While some members concentrate their work at only one level, others work at a range of different levels. Most of the scope of our members’ work is concentrated at the national and local level: 34 (58%) of our members work at the national level, while 32 (54%) also work at the local level.

Graph 2: Number of member organizations working at different levels in 2015
Main scope of advocacy activities

The advocacy program of UNOY Peacebuilders brings the voices of young peacebuilders to the attention of international policy-makers, advocating for increased youth participation in issues of peace and security, and a culture of peace. In addition to the work done by UNOY Peacebuilders at the international and regional level, individual member organizations’ efforts advocating at the local, regional and national levels are crucial to translating international policies to local realities. As illustrated in Graph 3, most members are engaged in advocating for peace locally, and significant numbers of members also work at the national level. Slightly less members advocate at regional and international levels (only around 16% of the members).

Graph 3: Number of member organizations engaging in advocacy activities at different levels throughout 2015
2.1. Members' biggest achievements in 2015

UNOY Peacebuilders’ goal is to create a world where young people have the opportunity and skills to contribute to peace. In 2015 all the member organisations worked towards this goal in different ways. In this section we highlight a few examples of our member organisations’ successes and achievements in 2015. It is important to keep in mind the difficulty of measuring the success of peacebuilding projects. The work of most of UNOY members is focused on generating sustainable achievements, aiming to change attitudes and behaviour. Measuring such changes is very difficult and in the short-term almost impossible. Many of the results from the projects initiated by our members in 2015 will generate results in the following months and years.

Africa

Most of our African members have been heavily focused on making changes in their communities, responding to their local needs. Our members from Sierra Leone, for instance, have focused in responding to the Ebola epidemic that hit West Africa, specifically Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. For example, one of our members "was engaged in the rehabilitation processes at the national stadium helping humanitarians and government in supporting victims" (PeaceLinks (Sierra Leone)).

Concerning peacebuilding achievements, our member Kenya Youth Foundation, "worked with over 15 community schools, establishing Peace Clubs", while our member Centre for Legal Rights Education, Advocacy and Development (Kenya) "started a Peace Program with law students in some Kenyan Universities". Other notable achievements include making a video documentary on youth radicalisation and child soldiers and developing a youth peer educator training manual which has been used to train over 3000 young people across Cameroon on peace building, conflict prevention and countering violent extremism (Local Youth Corner Cameroon), conducting a football tournament on peace building awareness (Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization (Somalia)), and organizing creative artistic programs and drama exhibitions for 9156 youths, presenting the importance of peace building and encouraging youth to take active role and responsibility in keeping the peace (Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organisation).
Asia

One of our members, Generation Peace in the Philippines, conducted the Conference on Youth, Peace and Security and the Bangsamoro, gathering 30 students and youth leaders, which are committed to advocate for collective action in raising awareness of the importance of the role of the youth in peace processes.

Another member organization, Sri Lanka Unites, hosted the Global Unites Summit 2015, gathering 200 international delegates, and the Annual Future Leaders' Conference (Season 7) with the participation of 500 students and 100 volunteers. Additionally, our member Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal reported how after years of advocating for a national youth council bill to be passed in Nepal, finally in 2015, the Government of Nepal passed the bill for the National Youth Council (which has been formed in 2016).

Conference on Youth, Peace and Security and the Bangsamoro

For the 10th year in a row, YUVSATTA in India held the Global Youth Peace Festival, at Chandigarh: “We initially started this global gathering of young change makers in 2006 with just 14 students of Pakistan, never realized that in a short span of ten years, we’ll host over 250 youngsters from 29 countries of the world in 2015 and now many more are expected to join at GYPF 2016.” (YUVSATTA)
Global Youth Peace Festival, at Chandigarh, India

Europe

Five European member organisations - the European Intercultural Forum (Germany), Service Civil International (Belgium), Peace, Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania, Fundacio Catalunya Voluntaria (Spain), and Centro Internazionale Per La Promozione Dell'educazione E Lo Sviluppo (Italy) - with the support of the International Secretariat have worked together through 2015 to develop guidelines for monitoring, evaluation and learning for youth peacebuilding organisations. The guidelines will be published in 2016. The European Intercultural Forum also worked with the International Secretariat and a number of non-member organisations on developing a competence framework on peace education in the youth field and guidelines for MEL for youth peacebuilding organisations.

Other achievements from European member organisations in 2015 include establishing “a non-official network/platform for peacebuilders from Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and from different communities of Russian Federation” (Peace Dialogue (Armenia)), organising an annual conference for youth NGOs in Georgia (Academy for Peace and Development (Georgia)), and conducting “a comprehensive research programme with various stakeholders to map youth problems/issues of the city of Gyumri, in order to design a report on Gyumri Youth Policy Development and to create a list of recommendations to be advocated for” (Youth Initiative Centre (Armenia)).
Americas

Our members in the Americas have seen a significant increase on the commitment of youth working for their communities. Argentine Youth Organization for the United Nations had more than 14,000 young people being part of their projects in 10 cities in Argentina and Uruguay, while Brigada De Voluntarios Bolivianos Del Peru consolidated the network of organized young volunteers in Peru, engaging the active work of their organization with local and international volunteers.

Another very remarkable achievement has been the work of Fundación Escuelas de Paz in Colombia:

“In 2015 we had the opportunity to work in the conformation of two Schools of Peace...where 150 members of the educational community were qualified in culture peace, human rights, environment, life project, self-care, democracy and respect for diversity. In october 2015, we lead the national meeting for peace along with 40 other convening organizations, where more than 700 people gathered to recount their experiences of peacebuilding in different parts of the country. After the meeting, the issues of education and peacebuilding were positioned in the public national agenda, in addition to consolidating a national network of peace education.”
MENA

One of our member organizations was faced with hard struggles due to the war in Yemen:

“Yemen is passing through violent war that caused the stop of all the public services (electricity, water, security, etc.) This was a great challenge for all NGOs to have effective roles and achievements in 2015.” (Youth without Borders Organization for Development (YWBOD) (Yemen))

Nevertheless, they continued working through this very challenging period in which their security has been seriously threatened. In partnership with the international NGO Saferworld they started a project titled "Yemen Peace Project". “With this project, the organization achieved capacity building for youth initiatives on community peacebuilding and provided them with small grants to implement small projects that contribute in community peacebuilding.” (YWBOD).

In the case of our member organization Etijah in Egypt, they managed to achieve several big achievements throughout 2015, working closely with several partners such as The British Council, UN Women, Synergos Institute and Alwaleed Philanthropies and the World Health Organization (WHO). Etijah is a great example of the significant advantages of working closely with other organizations, uniting efforts to achieve notable results.
2.2. Members' main strengths

Being a global network comprising 70 organizations in 45 countries, our member organizations are very diverse and equipped with very different strengths.

The most common strengths of our members are having committed staff (reported by 27% of our members), networking (25%), the ability to mobilize the youth and their communities (25%), and advocacy skills (20%). Other strengths our members acknowledged to have include: expertise on peacebuilding (11%), conducting trainings (9%), capacity building (9%), creativity (5%), research skills (5%) organizational skills (4%) and teamwork skills (2%).

A very important skill for peace organizations which has not been mentioned by any of our members is the so called ‘MEL’ skills: monitoring, evaluation and learning skills. This suggests that either MEL skills are one of the weak points of our network, which needs further strengthening, or that organisations do not think of monitoring and evaluation as a specific strength.

### Key strengths

- **Committed staff**: 27%
- **Networking**: 25%
- **Mobilizing youth**: 25%
- **Advocacy**: 20%
- **Research**: 5%

2.3. Challenges faced by young peacebuilders & members' main needs

To be able to organize activities as a network, we need to know about the different realities we work in. It is important to understand not only our members’ needs at their organizational level but also to identify the key challenges that young peacebuilders face in their communities. Such information is very important for planning future joint activities for the network. On one hand, our members’ needs at the organizational level refer to the realm of their necessities in order for them to be able to effectively undertake their work, including: human resources, technological resources, funding, workforce, etc. On the other hand, challenges facing young peacebuilders in their communities refers to the general circumstances young activists work in, including their countries’ political and economic situation.

**Key challenges faced by young peacebuilders**

UNOY’s member organizations were asked: **what are the key challenges facing young people building peace in your community?** Analysing their answers, this section outlines the main challenges faced by young peacebuilders in each region.
Africa

From the responses of our African members, it is clear that the overwhelming challenge faced by young peacebuilders in their communities is lack of funding (as reported by 48% of our members in Africa). As stated by one of our members: “Many young people are creative and full of innovation for Peace Building but lack financial support for logistics” (Centre for Legal Rights Education, Advocacy and Development (Kenya)). Another member further outlined the issue as having: “(1) Insufficient fund durations allocation which are mostly between 3 months to 8 months. This affects the long term sustainability of projects. (2) Restrictions in applying to international donors funds such as the EU or USAID” (Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organisation).

Another recurring challenge across our African members’ communities is youth unemployment (reported by 24% of our members). Other significant challenges mentioned by several of our members include lack of skills, lack of recognition, little attention given to peacebuilding activities, social insecurity and lack of access to decision-making processes.

Asia

Within our members in Asia, the most common challenge faced by young peacebuilders is unemployment and “religious extremism”. Our member Coalition on Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (Pakistan) outlined:

“The key challenges facing young people building peace in my community are:
1. Religious extremism: human rights defenders lives are at risk and have lost their lives in our community because of the religious extremism
2. Shrinking space for civil society: the state and non state actors are shrinking the space for peacebuilders
3. Restrictions on freedom of expression: through cyber-security reforms in the country, the Government is restricting the freedom of expression of peacebuilders.”

Another of our members, Afghans for Progressive Thinking, outlined the key challenges as “The ongoing war in the country, exclusion of the youth from power relations and decision making processes, lack of financial support, progressive violent extremism, lack of quality education and wide range of unemployment over the country.”

Europe

Among our members in Europe, it is interesting to see how there is barely any correlation between the challenges the young peacebuilders face among the different communities across Europe.
Each of our European members provided us with different types of challenges: racism and discrimination, lack of confidence, high youth unemployment, isolation from decision making processes, lack of access to quality education, lack of awareness and understanding of violence, conflict and peace, lack of motivation, lack of accountability, lack of tolerance and lack of capacities for youth to raise their voice. What is clear is that most of these challenges relate to **socio-political dynamics**, some of which are common across Europe but some of which vary from country to country.

If we compare these challenges with the ones faced by the African region, for instance, it is very interesting to note how our European members have not mentioned funding issues as the main challenge, while lack of financial resources is the key challenge throughout the African region.

**Americas**

From the 3 member organizations located in the Americas which replied to the AIR questionnaire, 2 of them recognized the key challenge faced by young peacebuilders as the lack of promotion of education for peace. The other member identified the issue as the fact that “the people generally don't identify social violence and inequality as a menace of peace" (Argentine Youth Organization for the United Nations). Hence, it seems that in this region the main issue faced by young peacebuilders is the general lack of an in-depth understanding of the drivers of violence and conflict.

**MENA**

Our member Youth without Borders Organization for Development (Yemen), claimed that “**The armed conflicts and war in Yemen, weaken the capacities of youth in peacebuilding**”, while our member Etijah (Egypt) recognized two main challenges:

1. **Governmental restrictions** on establishing NGOs addressing peace issues.
2. The **undefined peace** concept in the Egyptian society.

Our third member in this region, Arab Educational Institute (Palestine), recognized the main challenges as the **lack of education and work opportunities**, the **fragmentation of Palestinian territories** and the **struggle and despair for peace**.

It is very important to highlight and understand the serious challenges faced by our members working in war zones and armed conflict areas. Such challenges do not only weaken their capacities but in several situations render them completely incapable of conducting their peacebuilding work. Young peacebuilders in such situations are faced by daily threats to their security, not only affecting their physical well-being but also greatly affecting their psychological health. Their work may often go unnoticed, but they are vital stakeholders in peacebuilding.
Concluding remarks

Although it is clear that young peacebuilders in each region face a diverse range of challenges, one common and very clear challenge which cuts across all regional differences is the exclusion of youth from decision-making processes. Hence, meaningful youth participation is something we must continue to work hard for at the global level. This is also one of the key calls of UNSC Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security which calls for the participation of youth in all decision making processes relating to peace and security.

Members’ main organizational needs

As previous years, funding is the overwhelming organizational need across UNOY member organisations. Funding was indicated as the most important organizational need by 55% of our members located in Africa, by 44% of the European members and by 57% of our members in Asia. Another organizational need for many of our members is capacity building and training opportunities for both staff and volunteers.  

Generally, although there are common needs among organizations in each region, it is clear that each organisation has their own particular needs; it is, therefore, very difficult to address every organisation's needs. As a network, UNOY Peacebuilders strives to support its members to address some of their needs. This is a challenge in itself due to the diversity of the members and their needs. Much of the work conducted by the IS of UNOY and joint network activities are designed to have a long-term impact, improving the overall global operating environment of youth peace organizations.

90% of the member organisations responded that UNOY Peacebuilders has helped address some of their needs. 6 organizations felt that UNOY had not helped them address any of their issues and 2 acknowledged that in the past they had received help but would be very grateful for more help and collaboration opportunities. Many of the member organizations reported that UNOY was helpful in assisting their needs by sharing best practices from other members and peacebuilding tools, providing opportunities for trainings and peacebuilding activities, and networking.

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5 Comparing this year's statistics to the ones gathered last year, it is worth noting how our members have not reported the inability of maintaining trained staff as an organizational need. This issue was reported as a main challenge by many of our members in 2014.
Section 3  Participation in the network

3.1. Collaboration between members

Knowing whether our member organizations have participated in the network is vital information used to monitor the general activity of the network and to evaluate the general usefulness of network activities.

The most common form of communication within the network is through the members Facebook group: 71% of our members participated in the network through the members Facebook group.

Graph 4: Number of member organisations participating with UNOY Peacebuilders in different ways throughout 2015

Concerning the amount of member organizations that participated in a project or activity organized by the IS in 2015, 52% of our members participated in at least one activity, including: the Youth Peacebuilders Forum held in The Hague, the Youth Impact Project, the Youth, Peace and Security Forum held in Amman, and the trainings that took place in 2015. Nevertheless, 28 organizations reported that they had not been involved in any of the projects or activities at all. This pressures the IS to
work harder in trying to encourage a higher involvement and participation of our members in events organized by us. On a positive note, the IS is happy to see the impact of the activities/projects organized by the IS and how members have made use of their experience. Notable examples are:

| “Last year one of the members of the Foundation had the opportunity to travel to the Netherlands thanks to a scholarship offered by UNOY, where she had the opportunity to expand our network of international contacts” (Fundación Escuelas de Paz (Colombia)) |
| “Being part of the Youth Impact Project has made a big impact in the development of FCV, both at our project and organizational level. It has given us the opportunity to devote efforts to understand what works and what doesn’t and be more ready to improve...” (Fundacio Catalunya Voluntaria (Spain)) |

Besides participating in activities or projects organised explicitly as network activities, we are glad to see how several of our members also participated with each other in different ways, such as in training programs, projects, joint grants, partnerships and sharing information, experiences and advice. A total of 20 members indicated that they had collaborated with other UNOY members in 2015. Collaborating with each other is a very useful way of strengthening our work by learning from others, hence we strongly encourage all our members to collaborate to a greater extent with each other.

3.2. Use of resources

Sharing resources within the network is vital to learn from and support each other, while growing as a network. Resources include manuals, toolkits, videos, etc. While 13 member organizations reported that they had not made use of any resources developed by the network, the majority of our members have made use of several resources, notably: the Gender Toolkit and the manual on Mainstreaming Peace Education.

In order to make use of these resources, it is firstly important for our members to know that they exist and that they can make full use of them. Although UNOY tries to keep our members updated on all the resources developed by the network, we take into account the suggestion of one of our members: to “advertise the page more among the network!”
3.3. Supporting the network

The large majority of UNOY members are very motivated and willing to support other members. The majority of our members provided several creative and useful ways by which their organisation can contribute to the network. Types of support offered by our members include:

- Providing access to qualified trainers on peace education and peacebuilding
- Collaborating on exchange programmes
- Exchanging information and experiences
- Writing blogs and articles to share experiences
- Sharing best practices and methodologies
- Providing an advice service
- Hosting volunteers and interns
- Collaborating on joint capacity building
- Technical and administrative support
- Supporting members in proposal writing and programme coordination
- Hosting events and activities
- Supporting other members to the arts for peacebuilding

*Peacebuilding processes carried by Fundación Escuelas de Paz with Bancolombia Foundation, July 2015*
Section 4  Evaluating the network

4.1. Assessment of UNOY Peacebuilders

As a network of 70 organisations, it is important for our members and UNOY to feel they belong to a community which is open and democratic. This is why this year we asked our members to what extent they felt that UNOY Peacebuilders is (1) open and democratic, and (2) a community. Below are the responses we got from our members. To what extent is UNOY Peacebuilders...

**Open and Democratic**

- 5 - Completely: 22
- 4: 21
- 3: 12
- 2: 3
- 1 - Not at all: 2

**A Community**

- 5 - Completely: 17
- 4: 18
- 3: 15
- 2: 9
- 1 - Not at all: 1
Considering scores 5 and 4 as indications that the network is open and democratic, 72% of members said that this was the case. Similarly 58% indicated that they feel the network is a community. Although only a small percentage of member organizations feel that UNOY Peacebuilders is not open and democratic nor a community at all, as a network we need to increase our collaboration and engagement in making the network feel like a community which is open and democratic.

4.2. Expectations & Recommendations

**International Secretariat (IS)**

UNOY members’ expectations of the IS are quite diverse. The most common expectation among our members is support in providing the network with training opportunities and other activities within the network, and assist them in identifying funding opportunities and influencing donors. Other expectations mentioned by our members included: sharing information, sharing and developing toolkits and manuals, and developing proposals on behalf of members.

Most of our members feel that their expectations have been met, but a small percentage feel disappointed or have no expectations of the IS. One of our members, for instance, reported that the network has “serious management and communication issues”, further stating that the IS needs “serious improvements in its functions, probably one of the reasons is that the interns are constantly changing and it is difficult to build long term partnerships with them, at the same time it makes us feel excluded from the processes.” The IS obviously takes such concerns very seriously and will continue to work with the member organisations to ensure that they do feel included in the processes of the network. Below is a list of the suggestions provided by our members to improve the work of the IS and meet their expectations:

- ★ Provide more trainings to strengthen our members
- ★ Develop a template to collect ideas from members to help develop proposals
- ★ Increase the possibilities of staff and interns exchange among the network
- ★ Emails should be shorter and less frequent
- ★ More opportunities should be provided outside of Europe
- ★ The French language should be included as one of the working languages of the network
- ★ Increase opportunities of meeting other members of the network
- ★ Request more feedback and short evaluations from members at more intervals within the year
- ★ Intensify regional networking
International Steering Group (ISG)

Generally, many of the UNOY members seem not to have a thorough understanding of what the ISG does or who they are. Several of our members clearly reported that they do not know exactly what the ISG is, what their work consists of and how exactly their work is influencing UNOY. Others have rather vague expectations such as that the ISG coordinates and conducts the affairs of the network or that they share information and set up regional campaigns.

The main advice provided by our members is to **communicate better** the role and work of the ISG to the network and that ISG members should be **more in touch with their members** in their regions. As clearly stated by one of our members: “**The roles and responsibilities for the ISG members should be more specific and ways to ensure the continuous flow of communication between ISG members and network members should be facilitated. The ISG members should have regular contacts with the members.**” Another member mentioned that they expect “**the ISG to work towards the organization of more regional meetings and to encourage members to form smaller meetings in each country and region on a regular basis.**”

Other pieces of advice were to further extend the reach of the ISG into local communities in their regions and to set up regional forums of representation to enable them to address their regional issues.

The network

Generally, organizations’ main expectation as members of the network is the opportunity of being part of a global partnership, enhancing their networking. Other expectations they have is to be provided with opportunities to engage in collaborative projects and opportunities to share work and experiences with other members.

We also asked our members what can the network do to be even more awesome. Here are some very cool suggestions provided by our members:

> “The network can create...**videos or events** to promote the ideals or work of the network...consider a regularly updated **youtube channel** as well as an **online radio or other interactive forum online.**” (Positive Peace Group (Cameroon))

> “Create a **schedule of events** so that we can see what are the important dates for youth organisations in peacebuilding and also what the other members are doing so that we can also help out and collaborate to make the events fulminating.” (Peace Revolution (Thailand))

> “A **peer-to-peer system** that allow the members to ask for support from the others.” (Centro Internazionale Per La Promozione Dell'educazione E Lo Sviluppo (Italy))
“To engage in regional consultative meetings with member organizations; through their representatives, in order to draw up quarterly/half a year Action Plans on the Network’s priority areas.” (Youth Participation in Peace and Development - Sierra Leone)

“Global Web stream conference with all member organizations.” (Centre for Legal Rights Education, Advocacy, and Development (Kenya))

“regional level one to one meetings between members.” (YUVSATTA (India))

“trainings and formations in a digital way (webinars or online seminars).” (Tumult (Belgium))

“Organize an Annual General Assembly for UNOY members” (Young Leaders Sierra Leone Network)

As previous years, several member organizations also mentioned that the network should help by providing fundraising support by linking members with possible donors. While UNOY as a network faces funding problems and it is very rare for our members to be able to directly provide fundraising for other members, the IS tries to assist and support members organisations in their fundraising efforts. The IS encourages the continuous exchange of funding opportunities among our members and we also encourage members with innovative fundraising approaches to share their ideas.
Section 5 Implementing Resolution 2250

On 9 December 2015, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. Resolution 2250 is the result of persistent and strategic youth-led advocacy, and of close partnerships. Although there is no doubt that the passing of Resolution 2250 is a huge victory for young peacebuilders across the globe, it is now necessary to work even harder to make sure its implementation takes place at all levels: locally, nationally, regionally and globally.

In the AIR Questionnaire, only 10\(^6\) organizations reported that their organization intend to actively work for the implementation of Resolution 2250. Moreover, some of the organizations reported that “we didn’t even know that the resolution was adopted” and “this is the first time I hear about this resolution”. Another member mentioned that they “haven’t had the chance to deepen [their] knowledge of the resolution, it would be useful to receive some information on how to work for its implementation”, while another member asked for “some guidance on how to make use of the resolution at local level.” It is, therefore, clear that now we all need to work hard to raise awareness of Resolution 2250 and work for its implementation. UNOY Peacebuilders has already been focusing on raising its awareness, notably we have launched the 2250 Toolkit, available for all our members to use.

We are happy to see how some members are planning to work towards the implementation of 2250 by initiating strong advocacy strategies for 2250, raising awareness of the resolution among the youth, NGOs, international organisations and governments and setting up a youth task force for the domestication of 2250.

CRY WITH THE SUPPORT OF UNOY HAS ENGAGED AT THE UN LEVEL FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY WHICH WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN DECEMBER 2015. IT WAS A VERY PROUD MOMENT FOR CRY TO BE PART OF THIS ACHIEVEMENT TO INCLUDE YOUNG PEOPLE AS PEACEBUILDERS AT A GLOBAL LEVEL.

(CRY PAKISTAN)

\(^6\) Note: the question on whether members were planning to actively work for the implementation of Resolution 2250 was added some days after the Questionnaire was distributed. Hence, not all members answered this question: in total 50 member organizations answered this question.
Conclusion

2015 has been an exciting year of challenge and success!

Here are key concluding points:

★ 77% of member organisations’ staff are under 35
★ 76% of member organisations’ staff are unpaid
★ The network reached 2,500,000 young people globally
★ On average only 36% of members' grant applications were successful
★ Members’ activities mainly focused on peace education, civic action and community building and gender equality
★ Our members' work is mainly focused at national and local levels
★ 72% of our members engage in advocacy activities at the local level
★ Key strengths among our members include: committed staff, networking and the ability of mobilizing the youth and the community
★ A key challenge for all our members is lack of funding, but each region also has its specific main challenges
★ A key challenge for young peacebuilders across the world is the exclusion of youth from decision-making processes
★ The most common form of communication within the network is through the members Facebook group
★ Most of our members feel that the network is an open and democratic community
★ Most of our members’ expectations of the IS and the network have been met but there is still room for improvement
★ Several of our members do not know exactly what the ISG is
★ The ISG needs to communicate better their role and work to the network and ISG members should be more in touch with the organisations in their regions
★ Several of our members were not aware of the adoption of Resolution 2250: we need to raise awareness of Resolution 2250!

We congratulate all members for their hard work throughout 2015 and thank them for being part of the network. Now it is time to take into account all the suggestions made by our members, and try to improve as much as we can.

Let’s continue working for a world free from violence in which young people play an active role in contributing to peace!
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