Introduction

Last year, we introduced a new format for annual reporting, merging our ‘Annual Report’, ‘Annual Impact Review’, and ‘Participants’ Review’. This new format has received positive feedback and we are sticking with it to present our 2019 Annual Review.


The main purposes of this document are organisational monitoring, evaluation, and learning, as well as transparency and accountability to our members and partners.

The sources of information presented in this report are available in the Annexes, which include conclusions of network cohesion, participation and cooperation, as well as members' feedback and reflections.
Our Network in 2019...

119 youth-led grassroots organisations
65 countries

Who they are:

- 82% volunteers, over 3,700 young people
- 46% mixed-gender leadership

129 million young people reached worldwide

Regional Coordinators appointed in MENA & Americas:
5/6 regions have decentralised governance closer to members’ regional realities.

Members’ annual turnover:
- 35% below 10,000 USD
- 25% above 100,000 USD
- 47% overall success rate in grant applications by members
- 42% are supporting each other in fundraising

What they work on:
- Peace education
- Civic action & community building
- Gender equality
- Countering & preventing violent extremism

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1 As of July 2020, UNOY comprises of 119 organisations from 65 countries. The statistics below are based on the information reported by 93 organisations from 56 countries who were members for the duration of 2019.
Our Highlights from 2019...

Together with our members, we...

...facilitated exchanges between 60 young people from 25 different countries at our Young Peacebuilders Forum in Colombia;

...translated the Youth4Peace Training Toolkit into 3 more languages, making youth-sensitive peacebuilding methodologies accessible to a wider audience;

...empowered 155 young people with conflict transformation, advocacy, and organisational development skills;

...helped convene the first International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, with 12 UNOY members participating;

...organised 5 missions of our Youth Advocacy Teams to AU, CoE, EU, UN, and US Congress, increasing the access of 32 young peacebuilders to key policymakers in global and regional institutions;

...developed and fed into 4 reports\(^1\) that advocate for the advancement of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

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\(^1\)Mapping the Progress of Youth, Peace and Security in the EU (September 2019); We are here: An integrated approach to youth inclusive peace processes (2019); Dialogue in Peacebuilding Understanding Different Perspectives (2019); Youth and Peacebuilding: Key insights and lessons from a global online consultation (June 2019);
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# List of abbreviations

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<td>Annual Impact Review</td>
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<td>African Youth Advocacy Team</td>
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<td>COP</td>
<td>Conference of the Parties</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>ESA</td>
<td>East and Southern Africa</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>E-YAT</td>
<td>European Youth Advocacy Team</td>
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<td>GPPAC</td>
<td>Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict</td>
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<td>IS</td>
<td>International Secretariat</td>
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<td>ISG</td>
<td>International Steering Group</td>
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<td>MENA</td>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
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<td>PMEL</td>
<td>Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning</td>
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<td>RC</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNSC</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council</td>
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<td>UNSCR 2250</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250</td>
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<td>UNOY</td>
<td>United Network of Young Peacebuilders</td>
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<td>WCA</td>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
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<td>YPS</td>
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About UNOY Peacebuilders

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders is shaping the global agenda for Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) in partnership with 110 youth-led grassroots organisations. Our members are from over 56 countries, reaching nearly 13 million young people in 2019. We work towards a world free from violence, in which young people play a leading role in building peace and transforming conflicts. We develop the capacities of our members to mobilise youth as peacebuilders, as well as the capacities of young people to lead conflict transformation and advocate for non-violence. We enable youth to act together through a global network and ensure meaningful youth participation in issues of peace and security.

Our origins

In 1989, a Russian UN diplomat, Nikolai Firjubin, had a dream about a general assembly hall filled with young people discussing the major challenges facing humanity. With others who shared his dream, such as Maria Kooijman, who later joined him in founding UNOY, he decided to pursue it. Not long thereafter, the first group of young people from 4 continents met in the town of Handel in the Netherlands and committed themselves to building a new international youth organisation, which they called the United Nations of Youth. After an international peace conference held in the Peace Palace in The Hague in 1993, UNOY became an action-based, loose network of peace organisations, renamed the United Network of Young Peacebuilders. Since then, UNOY has grown into an established network with members and affiliates all over the world.

Theory of change

Our vision is of a world free from violence, where young people lead and actively participate in the peaceful transformation of conflict, and work towards cultivating a culture of peace.

UNOY identified 3 strategies in line with the most common challenges of young peacebuilders, with one common thread: to rebalance the current power relations at play, both horizontally among youth and their communities, as well as vertically across young people and their governments and multilateral institutions. These strategies are outlined below:

1. UNOY seeks to empower1 and give agency to young people building peace, while strengthening youth organisations’ capacities to support them and have a sustainable impact.

2. UNOY creates and nurtures partnerships and collaborations—both within and among our global network of youth-led peacebuilding CSOs and other multilateral partners—in which young people are viewed as equal and essential partners for peace.

3. UNOY aims to bring about changes to the very structures that perpetuate youth exclusion, whether on a governmental (local, regional, and national), inter-governmental, or international level, or within the development sector itself.

1 The notion of ‘empowerment’ is infused throughout UNOY’s objectives as 3 notions of power: ‘with’, ‘within’, and ‘to’, and defined with caution as it has been overused and often abused.
UNOY Peacebuilders Theory of Change

VISION
A world free from violence where young people actively participate in and lead the peaceful transformation of conflicts and work towards cultivating a culture of peace.

ACTION AREAS

1. Organisational capacity development
   - Methods: Boosting organisational capacities to mobilise youth as peacebuilders, through:
     1) Peer-to-peer learning activities
     2) Creation and use of different tools, procedures and resources
   - Outcomes 1, 3

2. Individual capacity building
   - Methods: Developing training modules on the role of youth in peacebuilding, for use in local contexts
   - Outcomes 1, 3

3. Network strengthening & partnership development
   - Methods: Decentralisation of UNOY network for global participation and shared ownership
     - Developing regional and global activities, nurturing partnerships with stakeholders who share our vision
     - Nurturing partnerships with stakeholders to sustain the coaction between local and global actors
   - Outcomes 1, 2, 3

4. Lobbying & advocacy for peace
   - Methods: Calling on states for agreements for inclusion of youth in building peacebuilding
     - Urging for adoption of regional policies for inclusion of youth in peacebuilding, and the regional adoption of international agreements
     - Maintaining dialogue with national and international parties
     - Participating in global initiatives for peace
   - Outcomes 2, 3

OUTCOME 1
Young people of all genders and from different social, ethnic, cultural backgrounds and youth-led organisations are empowered to lead conflict transformation processes, and advocate for nonviolence, as well as an enabling environment for youth participation.

OUTCOME 2
Young people of all genders and from different social, ethnic, cultural backgrounds are addressed as equal and essential partners for peace both a strong UNOY global network and meaningful multilateral, multi-stakeholder partnerships.

OUTCOME 3
The structural barriers that prevent youth inclusion on local, national, and global levels are challenged to enable increased participation of young people in peacebuilding, and to transform social norms and values.
Section 1 Impact Report

This section gives an overview of our work and achievements in 2019, guided by each strategic outcome outlined in our theory of change. More information about our activities is available through the links provided in the following subsections.

1.1 Overview of 2019

All UNOY members plan and organise their own activities; and they also take part in the activities organised by the network. These are designed to address the challenges and needs identified by members and build on their strengths. Below is a list of the major activities organised by the International Secretariat (IS).

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Project</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Training on conflict transformation in the Caucasus (Nov 2018 - Oct 2019)</td>
<td>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1 Empowered youth leaders and organisations</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Organisational development training for our members in Asia (Jun - Dec 2019)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Translation and dissemination of the Youth4Peace Training Toolkit (2019)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Young Peacebuilders Forum in Colombia (July 2019)</td>
<td>STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2 Youth as partners for peace</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Regional Coordinators appointed in MENA and America (April &amp; July 2019)</td>
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<td>Regional Action Plans developed by members in 5 regions (2019)</td>
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<td>Building and disseminating evidence of youth-led peacebuilding (2019)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Co-organising International Symposium on youth-inclusive peace processes (March 2019)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>GPPAC's Youth Policy development and adoption (2019)</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>European Youth Advocacy Team mission &amp; report launch (September 2019)</td>
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1.2 Progress towards strategic outcomes

1.2.1 Empowered youth leaders and organisations

**Strategic Outcome 1**

Young people of all genders and from different social, ethnic, cultural backgrounds and youth-led organisations are empowered to lead conflict transformation processes, and advocate for nonviolence, as well as an enabling environment for youth participation.

**Summary of progress in 2019**

Through its capacity development programme, UNOY empowered over 130 young peacebuilders with skills and knowledge to transform conflicts, promote peace, and support civic engagement. As a direct result of these activities, in 2019, UNOY members improved the operations of their organisations, facilitated trainings in their own communities, and advocated for meaningful youth participation on global, regional, and local platforms. In the long term (since 2017), our capacity development activities have empowered 6,000 young people worldwide.

**Highlights**

- The *Youth4Peace Training Toolkit* democratised access to training resources way beyond our membership by making youth-sensitive peacebuilding methodologies accessible to a wide audience.
- Strong network-building elements are a key part of our capacity development programmes. With this, our network becomes both stronger and more cohesive with time.
- Young peacebuilders carried out 206 trainings based on what they learnt 2 years after being trained by UNOY.
- Since 2017, 90% of participants in our Training of Advocates programmes are doing local level advocacy.
- In 2019, 23 young people from around the world shaped UNOY’s global advocacy strategy and advocated for peace on national and international platforms.

UNOY seeks to empower and give agency to young peacebuilders, while strengthening youth organisations' capacity to support them and help them have a sustainable impact. The notion of 'empowerment' has been overused and often abused by development actors bestowing power on so-called ‘marginalised’ groups or putting the responsibility to change societies on the ‘empowered’ individuals, rather than focusing on structures and 'power holders' that are unjust and inequitable. UNOY seeks means of empowering UNOY members and young peacebuilders to make lasting changes to the contemporary peacebuilding agenda. Where we refer to 'empowerment', we infer 3 notions of power:

- **'Power within'**, where young people are empowered through strengthened self-awareness, confidence, and skills on an individual level.
- **'Power with'**, where young people are empowered to unite, build common understandings, and take collective action with their peers and other actors.
- **'Power to'**, meaning power to act to initiate change within existing systems; the power to make a difference.
In 2019, we have worked on Strategic Outcome 1 on the basis of 3 working areas:

A. Empowering Youth Working with Conflict

In 2019, we continued focusing on enhancing our members’ ability to transform conflicts. Developing sustainable solutions for peaceful change requires us to grow as individuals and to learn new ways of engaging with conflict creatively and constructively. Building on the methodology from the Youth4Peace Training Toolkit published in 2018, UNOY organised a training on conflict transformation in the Caucasus. 24 participants from 7 of our European members gained knowledge and skills on conflict transformation and project management.

All participants indicated that this training is applicable to their work and they now have the ability to plan conflict management interventions, and more thoroughly understand root causes of conflicts. To complement these conflict sensitive skills, participants received direct training in project planning and implementation, which aimed to equip them with the technical and administrative skills needed to have an impact in the field.

"I recognised that I should consider more perspectives, opinions, and attitudes that differ from my own ones, and that the inclusion and participation of youth within peacebuilding processes is highly important."

"[The training taught me] to be creative with planning strategies and interventions; to be more focused on the ground reality of the community and the tools for project planning and implementation."

Anonymous participants, Conflict Transformation Training, Caucasus 2019

Multiplication activities are essential to sustain the impact of capacity development projects beyond the participants. In 2019, our participants were able to test their new capacities during local follow-up activities. In the longer term, the IS will monitor how these capacities are used.

When considering the long-term impact of our activities, it is especially noteworthy how the learning has been shared by our members, highlighting the individual value, as well as the applicability of the content. After 2 years, 100% of respondents who participated in our Trainings of Trainers (ToT) in 2017 reported having facilitated training programmes in their communities following participation.

"My participation in the 2017 UNOY training enabled me to launch the UN YPS programme at the UN Mission in Kosovo [after organising a] Kosovo-wide Youth Consultation on YPS in June 2017. I facilitated the capacity building of the first multi-ethnic group of young peacebuilders.

Thanks to this programme that I am leading (and I owe the inspiration and knowledge that enabled me to start it to UNOY training), in 2017-2019, over 4,000 young people from all Kosovo communities benefited from our activities on peace education and youth advocacy, launching a number of cross-community creative initiatives to address shared problems."

~ Iana Minochkina
Kosovo
The long-term monitoring of our capacity development activities also shows that the greatest impact was made on the attitudes of participants.

Our online database of resources accessible is growing significantly over the years. In 2019, 63 of our members (67%) made use of these online resources, with the clear favourites being the Youth4Peace Training Toolkit and the 2250: A Youth Toolkit.

Last year, the development of the Youth4Peace Training Toolkit—collating the expertise of our network into a single resource to guide peace education on conflict transformation—marked a big step in the resourcing of young peacebuilders and received overwhelming enthusiasm across the globe (see members’ feedback in the Cohesion Report, page 4). In 2019, the translation of the toolkit has drastically extended its outreach, usability, and impact. Moreover, UNOY members mobilised in all regions to ensure this resource is accessible and relevant to even more youth communities.
UNOY’s impact on empowering youth working with conflict:

- 24 young people from Europe were trained through a comprehensive online and offline curriculum in conflict transformation and project management.
- 60 young peacebuilders from 25 countries came together during the Young Peacebuilders Forum (Colombia), where 20 formal partnerships were forged among participants, 3 forum initiatives were given micro-grants, and 5 media outlets covered the event, increasing visibility of YPS and UNOY in the region.
- 206 activities were carried out by participants of our ToT in 2017, training over 6,000 people in doing so, far exceeding the combined objectives of the 2 ToTs, which hoped to reach 1,200 people through multiplier training programmes.

B. Mobilising Youth to Promote Peace

To ensure young people’s perspectives are represented correctly, it is crucial to equip young leaders to take on the advocacy for youth and peace. To do this, we are using key policies and guidelines recently adopted, such as UNSCR 2250 and the Progress Study on YPS.

Our Youth Advocacy Teams (YATs) directly train young activists to use the tools available to advance the YPS agenda. YAT members are often former participants of our Training of Advocates (ToA). Looking back, we see that participants’ competences and engagement in advocacy activities today has grown. Through participating in the YATs, young peacebuilders from diverse backgrounds increase their capacity to advocate for their priorities, and come together to construct unified and consistent messaging to promote youth participation.

‘I learnt that young people are unique in steering sustainable peace through art, music, research, and willingness to share experience is what mostly strengthens our solutions. I learnt that we can use resolution 2250 to achieve agenda 2030 especially on climate change and youth affecting issues.’

— Anonymous, ToA participant 2017

‘The A-YAT has been an amazing platform for me to add my voice to issues of Youth, Peace and Security in my context through a broader spectrum. Being a part of this great team has fortified and sharpened my advocacy skills in holding local authorities accountable to young women.’

— Cynthia Sirri Wakuna, A-YAT member Cameroon
UNOY’s impact on mobilising youth to promote peace:

- 23 young people represented UNOY in different multilateral platforms (UN General Assembly, UN High-level Political Forum, ECOSOC Youth Forum, among others) and several teams from the network came together to jointly shape UNOY’s advocacy strategies at regional and global levels;
- 9 new youth advocates joined UNOY’s European and African Advocacy Teams;
- 94% of participants to past advocacy training programmes reported increased competences in advocating for non-violence and a culture of peace following their participation. 89% of respondents also reported having engaged in advocacy activities following participation.

C. Supporting Civil Society to Drive Change

UNOY supports members to apply their full impact by responding to the organisational development (OD) needs identified in the Network Report. In 2019, 28 organisations reported that UNOY supported them in addressing their organisational needs through capacity training programmes. A crucial step towards strengthening members’ financial capacities has been achieved through the OD training for our members in Asia.

As a direct result, 4 out of 12 regional organisations taking part applied for grants, 10 developed their fundraising strategy, and all are implementing concrete OD activities.

- The Afghanistan’s New Generation Organization (Afghanistan) is revising its HR & financial policy;
- The Centre For Communication and Development (Bangladesh) is developing a sexual harassment policy;
- Youth for Peace International (India) has made gender mainstreaming an organisational priority.

These examples demonstrate a shift in organisational culture towards better planning for sustainability.

Fundraising is one of the most predominant challenges faced by UNOY members (see members’ top challenges). The success of this training raises hopes of tackling this issue in other regions where financial sustainability poses a greater challenge. In our African regions, we are scaling up these results through grants committees (see section 2).

Beyond training programmes, organisational capacity development in the network happens through peer-to-peer learning and resource development accessible beyond our participants. In 2016, our European members created the Learning Curve Guide on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, a guide to impact-oriented M&E for youth-led organisations. In 2019, this rich resource has been used in 2 of our regions (Asia & MENA) to strengthen members’ ability to understand and utilise impact.

Our Regional Coordinators (RCs) are examples of youth leadership at the regional level, pulling and sharing resources, providing coaching advice, and driving communities of young peacebuilders with them, while their own capacities as youth leaders develop immensely.
We see it as our responsibility to **reflect on our work and to explore new ways** to resource young people, and strengthen our expertise and leadership in mainstreaming the role of youth among our key partners.

**UNOY’s impact on supporting civil society to drive change:**

- OD trainings in Asia and MENA, targeting prevalent challenges—such as financial sustainability and M&E—successfully trained 30 individuals from 18 UNOY members;
- 2 new grants committees formed in Africa, a platform to support each others’ fundraising efforts and share donor mapping and engagement methods;
- GPPAC adopted a **youth policy** developed by UNOY, who leads the working group for its implementation.
1.2.2 Youth as partners for peace

Strategic Outcome 2

Young people of all genders and from different social, ethnic, cultural backgrounds are addressed as equals, and essential partners for peace through both a strong UNOY global network and meaningful, multilateral, multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Summary of progress in 2019

UNOY continued to strengthen and deepen the regionalisation of its network structure, programmes, and fundraising. This process has brought members closer together, leading to a stronger supportive and cooperative bond between regional and global communities of young peacebuilders. This new reality is constantly adapting, with new structures created to harness members’ expertise, such as grants committees in 3 regions. In other regions, members have developed guidelines for collective decision-making, for instance with participatory budgeting in the Americas. Globally, 21 regional online meetings were held, in which 70 member organisations participated at least once. Never before has our network been so large and so engaged.

Highlights

- The UNOY team now includes 5 Regional Coordinators—they are local peacebuilding practitioners based in Chile, India, Liberia, Jordan, and Burundi.
- Participants to our Caucasus and Asia training respectively reported an 86% and 100% increase in their sense of community. Their participation in regional meetings and engagement with other members has increased as a result.
- All participants from the Young Peacebuilders Forum in Colombia recommend the experience to the young people in their network. Our strategic emphasis on UNOY visibility and partnerships in the region was also extremely fruitful, having engaged 11 stakeholder entities at the event, which was covered by more than 5 media outlets. As a result, membership applications have surged!

The overarching principle behind UNOY’s work relates to the notion of ‘power with’. Being part of a youth-led network—where (1) all decisions are democratic and bottom-up, and (2) the organisational development of youth-led grassroots members is supported—makes UNOY members feel collectively empowered.

Indeed, the structure of a network like ours is built to provide a space for support, collaboration, dialogue, and exchange among like-minded youth peace organisations worldwide. UNOY creates and nurtures partnerships and collaborations—both within and among our global network of youth-led peacebuilding CSOs and other multilateral partners—in which young people are viewed as meaningfully engaged peace and security stakeholders.

In 2019, we have worked on Strategic Outcome 2 on the basis of 3 working areas:

A. Building Regional and Global Communities

UNOY is a worldwide network where, most of the time, members are only connected virtually. To create a sense of global community working for a common cause, every year the IS organises opportunities for young people to meet, to facilitate knowledge exchange and opportunities for collaboration.
Our global community of young peacebuilders also relies on robust regional foundations. By linking youth organisations regionally, we foster a sense of participation in a global movement. Our team, therefore, encourages and inspires exchanges among members through various regional network-building activities. These also often focus on capacity development or advocacy for specific regional priorities, which are closely interlinked with the strengthening of local ties and networks.

In 2019, we have increasingly organised our programmes at the regional level. Our efforts have resulted in cross-country partnerships among members, advancing the regional decentralisation of UNOY, and bringing members closer to each other. This emerging practice not only fosters cohesion in our network but also serves the very structures on which it functions and gains strength. We intend to continue doing this in the coming years.

The 2019 Young Peacebuilders Forum is another example of our focus on regional networking and strengthening. For the first time, this landmark event was organised outside of Europe. It connected 60 young peacebuilders from 25 countries, 16 of which were from the Americas region—giving UNOY members in the region the opportunity to meet for the first time.

The regional focus and zoom into the ongoing Colombian peace process deepened the debates and nurtured concrete avenues for discussion and cooperation among participants and stakeholders. Our strategic emphasis on UNOY visibility and partnerships in the region was extremely fruitful, having engaged 11 stakeholder entities at the event, which was covered by more than 5 media outlets.

All participants identified the connections made with other young peacebuilders as the number one takeaway from the event. Almost a year later, the fruits of these connections are
showing: a group of participants co-authored a youth briefing to the COP 2020, marking UNOY’s first steps in the climate and peace agenda. In 2020, 4 new members joined the Americas network, all forum participants.

UNOY is also a platform to strengthen solidarity among peacebuilders from different countries. Rich in their differences, collective values bring our members together as they can count on each others’ support and expertise in difficult times. They feel empowered vis-a-vis large institutions and organisations, as their voices are carried up by a global movement. For instance, at the Young Peacebuilders Forum, participants came together to produce a public statement on shrinking civic space, as a means of solidarity with their 8 peers who were denied visas to attend the forum. The statement has been viewed more than 30,000 times.

‘I would not have survived the last year without the help of UNOY. The solidarity I felt, and the visibility given to my situation through endlessly reaching out to their contacts, and publicly speaking out were key in resolving my situation. When UNOY spoke out for us, it did not make the case of an individual or organisational problem, but that of a movement all together. Local voices need to be backed and UNOY must continue doing this and highlighting the reality.’

Gulalai Ismail, Aware Girls Pakistan

UNOY’s impact on building regional and global communities:

- 2 cross-country partnerships formed among UNOY members, between Ukraine and Spain, as well as between Georgia and Armenia;
- 80% of members participate in subsequent online regional meetings, as a result of our Asia training;
- 3 cross-regional projects were launched between members after the Forum, involving the dissemination of a non-formal art-based methodology to create peaceful and resilient communities among youth.

B. Regionalising Governance and Strategy

Furthering the decentralisation process that started in 2017, regional structures have now been established in all regions except Europe, where the IS is based. These structures are led by RCs appointed to (1) steer UNOY strategy at the regional level, (2) communicate internally with the IS and externally about UNOY, and (3) connect members together and with regional partners.

In all regions, the number of organisations joining UNOY has been growing steadily, and with it the ability of UNOY to represent youth across the world. In regions where we traditionally had a small membership base (MENA and Americas), numbers have significantly increased since the appointment of RCs in 2019.

Driven by RCs, new tools and working modalities at the regional level have been developed, supporting further members’ collaboration. Grants committees were formed in 3 regions
through which members come together to identify and develop joint funding proposals. These are supported by the IS as a platform to share and localise our own progress in financial sustainability.

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<td>Asia</td>
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<td>• RC-led development of 3 successful funding proposals with members for sub-regional and national partnerships to be developed in addressing key regional challenges.</td>
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The consolidation of regional structures in 2019 significantly contributes to a stronger network where members participate in decisions, are better connected with each other and with other key partners at the regional level. Interaction among members in 2019 was significantly higher in regions where regional structures are well established. The number of and participation in regional meetings and elections are on the rise, and 58 of our members have been able to take part in network activities in 2019. When asked to rate whether UNOY is a cohesive community, 80% of our members say yes, against 56% last year.

**UNOY’s impact on regionalising governance and strategy:**

- 2 new RCs appointed in 2019: Doaa Al Abdallat (MENA) and Catalina Salazar (Americas). The network now has a team of 5 RCs;
- Our new RCs were introduced to a number of regional peace and security partners (UNESCO, UNFPA, UNDP, Kroc Institute, etc.), increasing UNOY visibility in the respective regions;
- 25 new members joined the network in 2019 and UNOY is present in 8 new countries;
- Regional Action Plans are implemented in Asia, MENA, WCA, ESA and Americas;
- 21 regional online meetings were held and 70 UNOY members attended at least one.

**C. Connecting Young Peacebuilders**

In 2019, 39 members (42%) reported that their membership at UNOY played a crucial role in connecting them with other young peacebuilders, to share their knowledge and experiences, and find opportunities for collaboration.
Our members Beyond Skin (Northern Ireland) and Escuelas de Paz (Colombia) have developed a very special relation through the years, building on their respective programmes and on key individuals among their teams, weaving the implementation of UNSCR 2250 as the thread through their collaborative activities.

Their partnership has enabled the formation of the international ArtsDialogue team, involving creative peace activists from Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine, Tanzania, Japan, Sri Lanka, USA, Spain, Colombia, Ireland and northern Ireland.

The teams have frequently visited each other, and made up a word (neither Spanish or English) to represent the relationship and the projects developed together: #FUTyOURES (the future is yours and ours). In December 2019, the Natali Márquez Foundation—named after a young leader from Escuelas de Paz and co-founder of ArtsDialogue—was launched to support young girls in Colombia and Northern Ireland.

The momentum presented a strong case for the Northern Ireland government to invest in a dedicated Youth4Peace project manager for Northern Ireland. Based in the Beyond Skin office, the person currently in that role is a Colombian woman.

Facilitating meaningful connections among our members and other key peace and security stakeholders is central to the UNOY network approach and to our advocacy messages. When possible, the IS supports equal, constructive, and meaningful engagement of young people by connecting them to key partners, fostering trust, and demonstrating their impact. We strive to encourage our partners to reach out to youth beyond ‘the usual suspects’, by looking for connections within the network, and supporting members in developing sound and equal partnerships.
Of our members, **29** (31%) reported that their membership allowed them to achieve international visibility, resulting in the formation of several partnerships with international stakeholders. In addition, UNOY members have engaged with several INGOs to form new local partnerships. Networking with different peace and security stakeholders at the regional level significantly boosted UNOY's credibility and members' recognition as viable partners for peace.

**UNOY’s impact on connecting young peacebuilders:**

- An **18-month partnership** contract was signed between Cordaid and YELI Burundi;
- 2 members were invited to shape a multi-million funding proposal with a large INGO, during an ideation session in Kenya;
- Members have developed a **network** of women peace activists for the inclusion of women in the peace process across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.
1.2.3 Challenging the barriers against youth inclusion

**Strategic Outcome 3**

The **structural barriers** that prevent youth inclusion on local, national, and global levels are challenged to enable increased participation of young people in peacebuilding, and to **transform social norms and values**.

**Summary of progress in 2019**

UNOY led in bringing about compelling evidence on youth impact for peace, securing endorsement by **key European and African regional bodies and member states** of Youth, Peace and Security recommendations.

**Highlights**

- 5 reports were developed by and with UNOY members to advocate for the advancement of the YPS agenda.
- 4 national advocacy strategies seeking to further national commitments to UNSCR 2250 were developed by UNOY members in Afghanistan, Colombia, Burundi, and Libya.
- 12 UNOY members have supported UN and CSO partners in evidencing and amplifying the role and impact of young people’s contributions to peace dialogue, which will nurture guidelines for youth-inclusive peace processes.
- 5 advocacy missions were organised, increasing the access of youth peacebuilders to key policymakers in regional institutions.

UNOY aims to bring about changes to the very structures that perpetuate youth exclusion, whether on a governmental (local, regional, and national), inter-governmental, or international level, or within the development sector itself. These barriers come in many forms—from bias and discrimination towards young people to consequent unavailability of funding, or tokenistic outreach to youth that disregards their diversity, potential, or agency. Young people can challenge this status quo by standing united, supporting each other, and speaking as one in the interest of all.

To that effect, UNOY’s work constructs and spreads a narrative around youth in peacebuilding that is transformative and inclusive. We focus on the positive and meaningful contribution that young people make to creating peaceful and resilient societies across the world, making use of recent global commitments to this agenda to create lasting structures for youth participation.

*In 2019, we have worked on Strategic Outcome 3 on the basis of 3 working areas:*

**A. Demonstrating Youth’s Impact for Peace**

Changing the narrative about young people’s participation in and contribution to peace processes is a multi-annual endeavour, as many players in the field of peace and security continue to shape their programmes and funding plans in a way that typically portrays young people as susceptible to one of two roles: victims or perpetrators of violence in armed conflicts. In countering this unhelpful and reductionist narrative, every year brings new challenges, raises new questions, but also presents new opportunities.
In 2019, UNOY’s commitment to demonstrating youth impact for peace revolved around the dissemination and advancement of the evidence base already developed by young peacebuilders and their partners, with the The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security (2017) at its centre. With this in mind, our most recent independent research publication explored the progress of the YPS agenda in the EU.

Mapping the Progress of Youth, Peace and Security in the EU (September 2019). Authored by a young researcher and peace activist, Paloma Lainz, the report and accompanying policy brief were launched in Brussels, September 2019. Over 28 partners and stakeholders attended the launch event. The analysis and policy recommendations are directed to guide the EU’s effective implementation of UNSCR 2250. This will guarantee the meaningful participation of youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes facilitated by the EU.

The Ambassador closed the launch event by noting that there is no lasting peace agreement without women and youth. Young people are not a single-layered group, and that special efforts must be made to include youth from minority and marginalised groups.

In 4 national contexts, UNOY members developed materials to influence national policies after months of research evidencing youth-driven civic engagement and impact for peace. The evidence became the bedrock of national advocacy strategies seeking to further national commitments to UNSCR 2250. As a result, in Afghanistan, the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs publicly committed to advance the recommendations produced by UNOY and share it with other government agencies. In Colombia, this has led to successful outreach and partnership with the UN Verification Mission in support of the Colombian peace process.

BEYOND DIVIDING LINES
The reality of youth-led peacebuilding in Afghanistan, Colombia, Libya and Sierra Leone

Led by UNOY, in collaboration with 4 of its members in Afghanistan, Colombia, Libya, and Sierra Leone, UNOY and Cordaid jointly published 5 policy briefs on youth-led civic engagement, building on the Beyond dividing lines. The reality of youth-led peacebuilding in Afghanistan, Colombia, Libya and Sierra Leone research report. These briefs form crucial evidence, strengthening the knowledge base on youth participation in peacebuilding. They were translated in local languages, and disseminated through launch events in Afghanistan (30 participants), Colombia (88 participants), and Sierra Leone (50 participants).
At the global level, UNOY supported UN and CSO partners in evidencing and amplifying the role and impact of young people's contributions to the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, which will nurture guidelines for youth-inclusive peace processes. These have been used in our advocacy for more recognition of such roles and of the specific and creative contributions young people have in mobilising and engaging communities around them for peace.

In the context of the first International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, a global policy paper on youth participation in peace processes was published by 2 independent young researchers. **We are here: An integrated approach to youth inclusive peace processes (July 2019)** is a collection of best practices and lessons learnt from youth inclusion in negotiating and implementing peace agreements.

The paper provides key recommendations to international communities for more recognition and support of youth contributions to peace agreements. It also offers key messages and evidence for our advocacy to inspire and guide UNOY's future strategies.

We contributed to **Dialogue in Peacebuilding Understanding Different Perspectives (2019)**, a publication produced by the **Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation**, which maps stories of dialogue, showcasing the experience of 2 of our members, **Mother of Hope**, Cameroon and **Afghanistan New Generation Organisation**.

**Peace Direct and UNOY** convened a 3-day online consultation in April 2019 on **Platform for Dialogue**, to explore the different, innovative ways in which local young peacebuilders are advancing youth inclusion in political and peacebuilding processes in their contexts. The insights generated from this consultation form the basis of the analysis and recommendations developed in **Youth and Peacebuilding. Key insights and lessons from a global online consultation (June 2019)**.
B. Making Youth Voices Heard

In many contexts, young people constitute the majority of the population yet are routinely excluded from important decision-making processes that in turn shape their lives and opportunities, including negotiations around peace agreements or ceasefires. The same often goes for high-level global conversations that impact the lives of young people without making available adequate platforms for meaningful participation. Youth must be included and take an active part in the decisions that affect them both at local and global levels, to ensure that their needs are addressed. Denying youth participation can trigger a downward spiral of social mistrust, fueling fear and conflict across society. Youth participation in peace processes increases the sustainability of peace agreements and contributes to more representative governance structures.

UNOY has taken some significant steps in 2019 towards having young people’s voices raised, listened to, and acted upon in decision-making on national, regional, and international levels, through bringing and advocating for youth leadership on a number of platforms. The participation of the UNOY network in policy-making is also growing rapidly, and with it, its impact for peace is becoming increasingly visible.

**UNOY’s impact on making youth voices heard:**

- UNOY continues to provide youth leadership to the Global Coalition on YPS. The year 2019 saw the first 3-day strategic planning retreat, with 11 sponsored spots for representatives of youth organisations. As a result, a multi-stakeholder global strategy for YPS was developed by youth, CSOs, and UN partners. The Coalition also prepared the first report of the UN Secretary-General on YPS, as mandated by UNSCR 2419.
- UNOY provides a youth perspective to the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS). In 2019, we participated in CSPPS’s annual retreat in Addis Ababa.
- UNOY facilitated the participation of 12 young mediators and peacebuilders from our network in the first International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, organised in March 2019 in Helsinki, Finland. These young people joined 100 senior peace mediators and negotiators, government ministers, UN, AU and EU representatives to develop guidelines for youth-inclusive peace processes.
- As a follow up in October 2019, UNOY member in Afghanistan—Afghans for Progressive Thinking—organised a National Youth Jirga gathering youth from different provinces across the country. The aim was to provide Afghan youth with a platform to exchange perspectives on the role of young people in establishing a peaceful future.
- UNOY chaired the GPPAC YPS working group, which intends to mainstream youth in its global network and programming. As a result, reporting on youth inclusivity is now a part of planning and monitoring of all projects at GPPAC.
- 5 youth advocacy missions were organised to the UN headquarters in New York, African Union in Addis Ababa, European Union in Brussels, the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and US Congress in Washington DC.

Along with these global platforms, the strengthening of UNOY’s regional communities has increased the visibility of young peacebuilders towards regional stakeholders and generated support for their youth participation agenda. In the Americas and in the Middle East, where we organised missions in 2019, our connection to international partners (UN agencies, INGOs, etc.) in the region has increased, and with it our ability to follow and support YPS
discussions in different national contexts. On the European and African continent, our YATs have continued being a space for policy dialogue on peace and security issues between young peacebuilders and key regional bodies (see section below).

I consider the A-YAT as a great platform needed to amplify the voices of local peacebuilders among relevant stakeholders, including government and multilateral institutions.

As a young peacebuilder from Nigeria, by joining the UNOY A-YAT mission to Addis Ababa in 2019, I was able to share first-hand experiences of the contributions of young people to peace and security, the various opportunities and potential available among the youth of Nigeria with the various AU agencies.

The 2019 A-YAT mission has opened up partnership opportunities for my local organisation, Building Blocks for Peace Foundation.’

-- Rafiu Adeniran Lawal, A-YAT member
Nigeria

UNOY members’ making youth voices heard:

- 32 UNOY members across all regions represented their organisations and UNOY in 2019, feeding in important regional or sub-regional discussions and providing a regional input to global conversations.
- In Africa, UNOY members are shaping the AU’s study on YPS through participation in the methodology workshop and regional consultations in West, Central, and Southern Africa. A-YAT member, Tobias Saratiel, was selected for the AU’s ‘Training and Assessment Workshop for the Appointment of African Youth Ambassadors for Peace’ in November 2019.
- In the Americas, UNOY members contributed a youth perspective to the pre-COP in Costa Rica and then the COP in Spain.
- Our Libyan member represented the UNOY MENA network in Women, Peace and Security week at the UN in New York.
- Thanks to a micro-grants scheme co-led with GPPAC, UNOY members established the Nigeria Coalition on YPS, bringing together 60 organisations to help galvanise support and resources in moving the YPS agenda forward in Nigeria. Moreover, they are supporting the development of a National Action Plan on YPS, as commissioned by the Nigerian federal government.
- An edition of the ‘Hague Talks’ were held in the Netherlands with 3 members of our international team (Yemen, Nigeria, Chile) as speakers, viewed by more than 1,000 people.

The IS actively tries to give members access to public speaking and advocacy platforms, as they have the most relevant local expertise to bring forward, ultimately enlarging space for youth civil society in the governance and policy environment on peace and security issues.
C. Prioritising Youth, Peace and Security

UNOY works to shape global and regional policies, as well as funding for YPS commitments to be reflected across the entire peace and security field. This is largely done through our advocacy teams (YATs). Their main objective is to support the YPS agenda among the member states of the EU, AU, and UN. These teams build on the impact evidence gathered from our members and bring local voices to the global political fora. In 2019, our YATs have been highly active and significantly pushed for the global and regional implementation of UNSCR 2250.

At the global level, the question of youth participation in peace negotiations—established as a key area for promoting the YPS agenda during the ‘Helsinki’ symposium—was also the focus of a second debate on YPS organised in the UN Security Council. UNOY put forward the young peacebuilders who briefed the council, and supported content preparation. We hope that this establishes a pattern of frequent reporting and youth briefings at the UN, which we have seen continued in 2020 at the Open Debate on YPS with the UN Security Council. Globally, we see that the YPS field is ever-expanding. On 12 December 2019, the First Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 74/64 on Youth, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The resolution was drafted by South Korea, with a total of 84 countries joining as co-sponsors.

At the regional level, the new AU Youth Envoy’s Action Plan for 2020-2021 includes YPS as one of its focus areas. The AU has conducted 2 regional consultations for its baseline study on YPS in the African context, where UNOY members were able to provide input. A draft of the study was presented at the second open session on YPS of the AU Peace and Security Council. The final version will lead to a pan-African strategy on YPS, in accordance with Agenda 2063 and the African Youth Charter.

UNOY advocacy teams’ impact in 2019:

- 12 online meetings were held and 5 missions were organised to the UN, AU, EU, CoE, and US Congress, shaping the focus of these key institutions on YPS.
- Our A-YAT grew significantly, with 6 additional members from 5 different countries—Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Nigeria, and Ghana—meaning more inclusive representation in our advocacy and expanded engagement of our members.
The Peruvian presidency organised a briefing on YPS in the UN Security Council on 17 July. All members of the UN Security Council made an intervention, in addition to 3 youth briefers: UN SG’s Youth Envoy, Weywn Muganda (Kenya), and Sofia Ramyar from UNOY member, Afghans for Progressive Thinking.

Later in the year, South Africa held a UN Security Council debate on the AU's 'Youth Silencing the Guns' programme, after engagement with UNOY on the importance of keeping YPS on the agenda of the Security Council. The AU Youth Envoy, a former UNOY representative, briefed the council alongside 2 young civil society representatives.

Member states prioritising Youth, Peace and Security:

- In Cameroon, led by our member Local Youth Corner, a coalition of youth groups organised a symposium in October 2019 to develop a roadmap towards the effective participation of young people in the national dialogue initiated by the President's office. Major outcomes have included: 600 trained youth mediators across the 4 conflict-affected regions of Cameroon; launch of a national youth mediators network; and publication of the study 'Youths and Peace Processes in Cameroon: Opportunities and Challenges'.

- ECOWAS and the AU convened a National Youth Dialogue in Nigeria: ‘Reinventing Youth Energies and Capacities for Peace and Nation Building in Nigeria’, where 4 UNOY members were represented. Nigeria is also developing a National Action Plan and our members will support it through the newly established YPS coalition in Nigeria.

- Pushed by UNOY members and as a result of the ‘Helsinki’ Symposium, Colombia has committed to a National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250.

- Following the ‘Helsinki’ Symposium, Qatar will host a high-level global conference on youth-inclusive peacebuilding processes in 2021. It will aim to showcase progress on implementing key YPS recommendations by generating national political commitments. With focus on sustainability, the conference will look to strengthen the buy-in for the enabling political environment that YPS needs.

- In Finland, a national UNSCR 2250 network conducted a peace survey and 12 youth consultations in preparation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250, with 323 young people participating. Young people were reached through CSOs and municipalities' youth programmes. The peace survey targeted young people in Finland between 15-29 years. An inter-ministerial drafting process started in March 2019, which is ongoing under the new government.

In Europe, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) committed to explore the creation of a youth-accessible YPS fund, a central recommendation put forward in the report constructed by our YAT that year. As a result, European External Action Service is exploring the creation of a youth-accessible YPS fund, focal points on Youth/Women, Peace and Security in selected EU delegations, and instruments for safety and physical protection of young and women peacebuilders.

The Council of Europe has appointed a new rapporteur, Inka Hopsu, to prepare a scoping report for a Parliamentary Assembly resolution on ‘strengthening the role of young people in the prevention and resolution of conflicts’. The Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly has reached out to UNOY to speed up the drafting process by producing a 10-page background paper for the future report. UNOY has accepted the assignment as a great step forward, building from the efforts of our E-YAT to shape meaningful and youth inclusive policy.
1.3 Reflections on our impact

To conclude this impact report, the IS would like to offer a few critical reflections on our work in 2019 and its potential for impact. These are particularly important in light of the development of our next strategic plan, which will start in 2021 and build on these reflections.

Our approach to capacity development is changing. We are reflecting on and developing more complete approaches to organisational development. This means combining training with resource mobilisation, and investing in innovative ways to resource young people with our partners. Empowering young peacebuilders as leading actors contributing to peace and security continues to be a priority. We are also increasingly aware that UNOY has a role in empowering non-youth partners to engage with young people and mainstream youth sensitivity.

At several occasions in 2019, barriers to universal rights and fundamental freedoms of movement, expression, and assembly have come in the way of inclusive networking or representation in our network. Our members directly under threat have turned to us for support, making us realise that we need to strengthen our protection strategy, and develop a more structured approach to crisis response in the near future by making this a strategic priority in our next multi-annual plan.

With new members active across different conflict geographies, and regional structures locally grounded, we are better able today to represent diverse youth with distinct living and working realities. This growth is challenging too, as we have to ask ourselves: how to continue meaningfully engaging members? With more parties and internal stakeholders involved, questions of feasibility of global networking and digital security of our online meetings are also more acute. We plan to address these new challenges by exchanging with and learning from other network organisations, carrying out an information security audit in 2020.

We have observed a new energy and strategic direction brought into the Global Coalition for YPS, thanks to the dedication and values of our partners. A new chapter for YPS is being written, zooming in on how youth can shape peace agreements, and with implications for young peacebuilders’ protection, resourcing, and accountability. We are mindful that these global conversations now need to be more grounded and enriched by local perspectives. From Helsinki to Doha, UNOY will focus in the coming years on how our members can benefit more from them.

Our progress in 2019 has largely been possible thanks to the unrestricted and multi-annual funding available to UNOY. A snowball effect has led to a number of new partners approaching us in 2019, and we strive for them to do the same with our members directly. We are grateful to the Swedish International Development Agency for this game-changing investment in the ‘missing peace’, and call for similar actions to be taken by peace and security donors worldwide.

In the next section (Network Report) and in Annex I (Cohesion Report), we present our members, how they are shaping their societies for peace, and how UNOY activities have supported their work. These different sections are also essential to assess our impact in 2019; UNOY is the sum of the grassroots youth-led organisations that compose it and nurture each other.

Gizem & Lorraine, Leading Coordinators
Section 2 Network Report

This section illustrates what our network looks like, both in terms of membership and governance. The full list of our members is available on the dedicated webpage.

2.1 Who are the UNOY members?

In 2019, UNOY comprised 110 organisations from 56 countries, located in 6 regions: the Americas, Asia, East and Southern Africa (ESA), Europe, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and West and Central Africa (WCA). Our members preserve their own identity, their goals, and their strategies to deal with their local and regional challenges. Below is the geographical distribution of UNOY members.

![Geographical distribution of UNOY members]

The motivation and commitment of the people who comprise the UNOY network is our greatest strength. In addition to being youth-led, UNOY members rely heavily on the efforts of people who work voluntarily. Of all the people working for our members, 82% are young people (nearly 4,400 people) and 82% of this total are young people who work voluntarily.

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2 This review is based on the information reported by 93 organisations from 56 countries who were members for the duration of 2019. As of July 2020, UNOY hosts 119 organisations from 65 countries.
UNOY members also increasingly prioritise gender equality in their organisational structure: 46% of our members are led by boards that include both men and women, compared to 20% mixed leadership in 2018; while 36% are led by men (56% in 2018) and 17% are led by women.

2.1.1 Members’ activities and achievements

In 2019, UNOY members reached almost **13 million young people** all over the world. Around 420,000 of them interacted directly with our members, while the total 12.9 million is estimated to have been reached indirectly through campaigning and advocacy.

Additionally, members also reported a significant outreach to non-youth. Over **6 million** individuals below the age of **18** and over **500,000 above the age of 35** were reached in 2019, both directly and indirectly. Though the target group of our network is clearly youth, working outside of this narrow definition is evidently relevant for our members.

UNOY members work on various themes. Confirming a pattern through the years, the 3 most common themes in 2019 were: civic action and community building, peace education, and gender equality. Indeed, 87% of our members declare working on the latter, a number rising to 100% in some regions, and encompassing diverse gender-related mainstreaming and programming activities. Security, disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration were among the least common themes, showing that—despite often being located in active conflict areas—most of our members’ work focused on positive peacebuilding activities.

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31,347,898
Our members impact various levels of the societies around them. Most of them are grassroots organisations, which means that they produce change in the direct area where they operate by acting on the local (village, town, city) and national levels. Regional reach (across 2 or more countries) is the most common in Europe, where 15 of 19 members worked at the regional level. This is presumably due to the influence of and the opportunities for cross-regional exchange offered by the EU and the Council of Europe.

Seventy-two out of 93 members reported actively working on disseminating UNSCR 2250. Their aims were focused on young people being treated as equal and meaningful partners in peacebuilding, as well as YPS being prioritised by various local, national, regional, and international decision-makers. Advocacy towards local (municipality, etc.) and national (national parliament, government, etc.) levels were the most common.
MEMBERS' ADVOCACY MILESTONES

The work of the Youth Development Foundation (YDF) in Pakistan was acknowledged by the local state department, which resulted in the Ministry of Human Rights and Minorities Affairs approaching YDF to collaborate on youth-centered projects focusing on YPS in 2020.

PATRIR in Romania launched a climate action campaign 'Cluj4Earth', mobilising hundreds of young people for their community and the planet.

The Rondine International Peace Lab launched the campaign 'Leaders for Peace'. As a result, the Italian government took a symbolic sum from its defence budget and directed it towards the training of a young leader, promoting the development of pacified social and political relations.

Peace of Art in Lebanon organised the project 'Arts Against GBVVI' that led to its nomination as one of 10 best humanitarian projects in the Arab and European regions by the University of Berlin with the 'Arab German Dialogue' Award.

The Center for Intercultural Dialogue in North Macedonia was part of the expert group that created the national law on youth participation and youth policies. This was a milestone for the country and for the organisation, recognised as an expert in advocacy for youth.

Aware Girls in Pakistan went through one of its most difficult years in 2019. Their founder and chairperson was under grave threat because of her human rights activism, but the organisation continued to defend gender equality and peacebuilding in the country, relying on their community support and a smart protection strategy.

The Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization (SOYAVO) was awarded £25,000 for its interventions and human-driven approach that contributed to the reintegration and creation of opportunities for refugees in Somaliland fleeing the Yemeni Civil War. SOYAVO distinguished themselves among more than 100 international and local organisations from 44 countries.

An all-women assembly was set up within OAJNU to discuss gender-related issues in Argentina. The assembly adopted a protocol against gender violence within the organisation and held several debates in different provinces of Argentina with political candidates for Congress and local authorities focusing on youth.
Many UNOY members are also experts in reaching out and developing capacities of their peers, and reported significant achievements in 2019:

**MEMBERS' EMPOWERMENT MILESTONES**

- **The Young-adult Empowerment Initiative in South Sudan and Uganda** organised intercultural dialogues with 10,000 young South Sudanese from 64 different ethnic groups living in 4 refugee settlements in Uganda, to discuss their common identity, and identify shared values to overcome ethnic discrimination. As a result, peaceful co-existence and inter-ethnic exchanges increased, and a common resource pool was shared to disseminate the contents of the 2018 Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan.

- **The Yemen Peace School** launched the concept of ‘community police’ in 3 provinces in Yemen. Community groups of social activists, influential neighbourhood figures, police officers, and citizens came together to promote trust between the community and police, and generate community-led solutions to their challenges. This has led to a cultural change and increased awareness of the importance of community assistance to police. One of the project recommendations led to an advocacy campaign towards authorities to open a special prison for women.

- **Destined Young Leaders** organised a *youth peace summer camp* for adolescents between the ages 15-28 in Liberia to build diverse skills including peace building and leadership. As a result, some volunteer members initiated small-scale peace and community development projects.

- **Local Youth Corner** provided 300 prisoners in Cameroon with new skills to support their reintegration into society and enable them to train more of their peers. 1000 prisoners’ lives were impacted in 8 prison facilities across 6 regions.

**More examples of members’ diverse methods to mobilise, empower, and build capacities:**

- Using art for peace and unity.
  - **Afghanistan Youth Empowerment & Peacebuilding Organization**
  - **Afghanistan**

- Using sport and leisure for young refugee integration in host communities.
  - **Tumult**
  - **Belgium**

- Conducting media literacy training and storytelling.
  - **Qapwa**
  - **Philippines**

- Raising ebola prevention awareness.
  - **Vision Globale d'Orientaiton des Jeunes**
  - **Democratic Republic of Congo**

- Developing IT skills.
  - **Education Ciuyenne et Changement**
  - **Togo**
2.1.2 Strengths and needs of UNOY members

Although UNOY members are from all over the world, they report similar challenges facing young people building peace in their communities. These challenges also give rise to shared needs for young leaders and organisations. Here we have compiled the main reported challenges, needs, and strengths of our members in 2019, based on their responses to the Annual Impact Review. These findings are in line with the findings of the Progress Study on YPS summarised in the figure below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lacking representation of YP in politics (also lacking support of local gov.)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perception of youth as a problem (and consequences such as mental health, feeling of rejection felt by youth, etc.)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polarisation &amp; ethnic division in society (incl. hate speech, divisive narratives, racism, discrimination, etc.)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence and war (incl. violent extremism, human rights violations) and consequences (closed borders, security issues, displacement etc.)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrinking civic space incl protection issues, abuse of HR, denied participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mistrust in the community and between youth and institutions</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to funding</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socio-economic constrains (lacking education, unemployment, poverty)</td>
<td>37</td>
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**Socio-economic constraints** such as insufficient access to education, as well as high rates of unemployment and poverty, are clearly the most common challenge young people face in our network. Many young people find it very difficult to secure a basic living so that they can invest their time in activism or develop their capacity as activists.

Such constraints are almost always linked to challenges related to violence, war, human rights violations, and security issues. Many young people and activists in our network operate in areas of active, frozen, or immediate post-conflict, where civic space is shrinking and where polarisation prevails in political discourse. Youth activism for public interests and legitimate expression of political dissent are thus typically unwelcome and distrusted.
In their direct operations to address the challenges around them, UNOY members overwhelmingly reported access to funds as their most crucial need. UNOY asserts that young people have a great potential to make a difference, though they need more access to knowledge and experience. Many members call for more capacity building opportunities: in planning, monitoring, communicating, and improving their work and organisational development. In addition, members call for more collaboration and networking opportunities, both with external organisations, as well as within the network.

Finally, a new area of support identified, and linked to funding and capacity needs, is the recruitment of experienced staff and support in HR management.

Efficiently addressing these many challenges and needs requires a comprehensive understanding of their contexts, local actors, and stakeholders. UNOY’s governance is currently decentralising to be able to better understand and address these needs. We also want to increasingly build on the many strong assets within the UNOY community, which will only grow in years and multiply in numbers, as we find better ways to use them.
The strongest asset of our members across all regions in 2019 is their experience in and ability to coordinate and carry out capacity training programmes for young people in their social contexts. Though several organisations request more training themselves (mostly focused on fundraising and organisational development), many are confident about their own ability and experience in training young people, as well as in advocating for our shared agenda.

Thanks to their leadership and knowledge, our members are very confident in their ability to understand and, hence, mobilise their peers. Their reach in 2019 confirms this! Furthermore, the optimistic results obtained can translate to positive links with local stakeholders and community members, directly challenging the aforementioned mistrust.

Lastly, the commitment of UNOY members’ staff is one of the most important assets. With the vast majority working voluntarily (82%) and many continuing their work in very difficult contexts, dedication and work ethic is what sets our network apart.

### 2.1.3 Financial statistics

The average budget of our members is growing over time, with significant differences across regions. Organisations in Asia and MENA significantly increased their budget in 2019, while organisations in the Americas and Europe reported significantly smaller budgets on average. The table below shows how these numbers have evolved in the last few years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average expenses in 2016 (USD)</th>
<th>Average expenses in 2017 (USD)</th>
<th>Average expenses in 2018 (USD)</th>
<th>Average expenses in 2019 (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>$ 53.000</td>
<td>$ 86.666</td>
<td>$ 75.004</td>
<td>$ 24,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>$ 64.617</td>
<td>$ 95.054</td>
<td>$ 100.929</td>
<td>$ 172.201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>$ 151.803</td>
<td>$ 171.165</td>
<td>$ 265.892</td>
<td>$ 174.218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>$ 186.152</td>
<td>$ 181.333</td>
<td>$ 173.574</td>
<td>$ 254.581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>$ 38.424</td>
<td>$ 62.068</td>
<td>$ 114.858</td>
<td>$ 63.808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>$ 40.007</td>
<td>$ 31.340</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 51.520</td>
<td>$ 119.257</td>
<td>$ 125.662</td>
<td>$ 120,433</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On average, all regions except Europe and ESA increased their success in grant applications. While this increase is an inspiring success for the network, the total success rate is still considerably low (see table below). Interestingly, there appears to be a correlation between the grant success rate and the average expenses, as both the Americas and ESA report the lowest numbers for each category.

**Non-traditional funding** (other than grants) are less common and mainly in the form of donations, sales, fees and services, crowdfunding, and advertisement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Success in 2016</th>
<th>Success in 2017</th>
<th>Success in 2018</th>
<th>Success in 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>26 %</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Youth ratio of all staff of UNOY members: 84%; Volunteer ratio of all staff of UNOY members: 82%.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Network governance

UNOY is a network of organisations across the world. The governance of UNOY is taken on by various teams and representatives to make sure that the network is governed inclusively, with equal participation of all members and equal representation of all regions.

The IS is based in The Hague, Netherlands, and reports to the Board of Trustees and to the International Steering Group (ISG), which represents the interests and needs of members. In 2019, all of these structures were youth-led. Since 2017, UNOY governance has gradually been decentralising. The structure of UNOY’s governance is captured in the figure below.

**UNOY Peacebuilders Governance Structures**
2.2.1 The Board

The Board is the legal body of UNOY. Its members are voluntarily steering the management of UNOY. The Board overviews all financial activities of the IS, advises its strategic direction, and makes decisions regarding recruitment of IS leaders, in consultation with the ISG. In 2019, the following individuals formed the Board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>HR</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laura Lasance</td>
<td>Siebrich Visser</td>
<td>Bryant Heng</td>
<td>Elodie Theobald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>until 31-5-2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Then Alexander Medik</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rojan Bolling</td>
<td>Gesa Bent</td>
<td>Gabriella Vogelaar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2020, 4 of these positions are to end their mandate and be replaced. The founding members of UNOY, who do not directly work for the network anymore, retain their position within the Board as honorary chairs due to their invaluable efforts that have made this network possible.

The honorary chairs of UNOY Peacebuilders:
Nikolai N. Firjubin, Rabbi A. Soetendorp, Maria Kooijman

2.2.2 International Secretariat

The IS consists of a young international team led by 2 coordinators. The IS coordinates the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the activities of the network, through multi-annual strategies and annual plans. It is composed of a central office located in The Hague, with some coordinators based in the regions where UNOY is present. In 2019, the following individuals formed the IS.

The Hague Office

The Hague office is responsible for leading the network to achieving its goals and managing its partnerships.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading Coordinator, Advocacy &amp; Programmes</th>
<th>Leading Coordinator, Strategy &amp; Finances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gizem Kılınç</td>
<td>Lorraine Degruson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 The IS is itself led by 2 Leading Coordinators recruited by the Board and ISG.
Interns and volunteers comprise an essential part of UNOY’s activities. Internships generally span from 4 to 6 months on a part-time basis and are unpaid. Volunteers make important contributions to UNOY’s work.

Interns and volunteers at the IS
Kerem Yalcin, Clara Pietrek, Hardya Pranadipa, Miguel Pangalangan, Vesa Deva, Darlington Ikechukwu Uzor, Giacomo Castorina Cali.

Regional Coordinators

RCs are members of the IS appointed by The Hague office. They work for a UNOY member in the region that they coordinate and their role is to implement regional strategies and action plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>East and Southern Africa</th>
<th>West and Central Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mridul Upadhyay</td>
<td>Raphael Nkurunziza</td>
<td>Mohammed Foboi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Americas</th>
<th>MENA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catalina Salazar</td>
<td>Doaa Alabdallat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.3 International Steering Group

The ISG comprises 6 elected representatives of members per region. The ISG has a representative, governance, and advisory role within the network, and works closely together with the network’s IS and the Board. The ISG shapes UNOY strategy channeling members’ voices. In 2019, the following individuals formed the ISG.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Americas</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>East and Southern Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian Cito, then Tomas Furfaro</td>
<td>Ali Fayez, Gulalai Ismail, then Prakash Pathak</td>
<td>Tobias Saratiel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Middle East and North Africa</th>
<th>West and Central Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Hovhannisyan</td>
<td>Yazeed al Jeddawy</td>
<td>Lawal Rafiu Adeniran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Network Cohesion

As a network, it is important to look at cohesion, drawing from members’ feedback regarding network resources and governance. The findings from this analysis are presented in detail in Annex 1, with a summary of key findings given below.

**Members’ involvement in the network** and the extent to which they benefit from their membership depends on their participation and use of resources. In 2019, participation in regional online meetings increased significantly to 65%; 63 of our members (67%) made use of our online resources.

**Members’ feedback on the network** shows that it is increasingly cohesive, with an average rating from all regions of 3.8 out of 5, and with space for improvement. The majority of members perceive the network as open and inclusive. Of the most useful benefits of their membership, 28 respondents indicated capacity development programmes accessible through UNOY, while 14 specifically mentioned access to online peacebuilding resources and tools.

We asked for members’ feedback on what we do well, what we can improve, and what else they expect the network to do. In the IS, we want to particularly commit to continue improving communication and responsiveness and fostering interactions and peer-learning within the network. Refocusing our work on regional activities inclusive of the diversity of languages and profiles of our members is also an important way forward.

*Our entire team during our Strategic Retreat, October 2019, The Hague*
2.4 Navigating change through organisational development

2019 was a year of change for UNOY, as our new partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has led to a vast increase in our annual budget and team size. In this context, organisational development has continued to be a prominent topic in the work of the IS. Financial sustainability, credible and legitimate decentralisation, and overall good governance are crucial ingredients to the IS's ability to support the network and make a lasting change in the field of YPS.

Financial Management
A review of UNOY's internal management and control was carried out by independent auditors and led to a clear roadmap to improve the financial management and structure of the organisation in years to come. In particular, a new culture of risk prevention is starting to be established in our team.

Human Resources
With support from a new Board member with HR expertise, UNOY's new team has been set up. This unprecedented growth (from 4 to 7 staff) has been managed with care and resulted in new energies, skills, and support structures available.

Regional Governance
With decentralised regional coordination structures in almost all of our regions, UNOY is becoming a truly decentralised network where decisions are taken in the regions. In 2019, our ISG has contributed to UNOY's development on many different fronts and helped navigate difficult changes. It has truly established itself as the leading strategic organ of UNOY.

Monitoring and Evaluation
In the first half of 2019, UNOY developed a roadmap to its M&E policies and processes. As a result, UNOY has strengthened its ability to track progress towards its new Theory of Change for increased internal and external accountability. Our team has gained capacity to understand and measure the impact of the work of its network and of internal processes and change.

Strategic Planning
The development of our next Strategic Plan (2021-2025) started with 2 retreats of our team and regional representatives. We felt that an environment was created where everyone could participate and engage in a meaningful way. We are committed to organising similarly meaningful consultations with our members in 2020, despite the global pandemic.
The impact described in this report would not have been possible without the support of our partners. The organisations that supported UNOY’s work in 2019 are listed alphabetically below:

- Cordaid
- Council of Europe (CoE), European Youth Foundation (EYF)
- Erasmus+ programme of the European Union (EU)
- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- PeaceNexus Foundation
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth