



PROJECT DOCUMENT

Bangkok Regional Hub, Regional Project

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Brief Description

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the foundation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a 'blueprint to achieve a better and a more sustainable future for all' by 2030. The Agenda is a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Youth empowerment is essential to meet the 2030 Agenda. At least 90 of the 231 indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals include a strong youth component.¹

According to the 2021/2022 Human Development Report (HDR) titled 'Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World', humanity is living in uncertain times and people are feeling more unsettled than ever before. Human Development has reversed for a second consecutive year constituting a backslide in Human Development never seen before, setting the world back to levels recorded at the start of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the adoption of Paris Agreement in 2016. Growing global turmoil has led to unprecedented reversals in human development progress in 90 percent of countries including many countries in the Asia-Pacific region.²

The Asia-Pacific region is home to more than 600 million youth aged 15-24 years.³ Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are at different stages of demographic transition, some with ageing populations and others with a youth bulge, each of which presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities.⁴ A significant proportion of youth in this region, almost **25 per cent around 160 million**, particularly young women, are not in employment, education or training (NEET). In 14 of 26 countries of the region with available data, more than one in five women were NEET.⁵ Before the pandemic, over 183 million (or 32 per cent) 3 to 17-year old school-aged children in the region did not have internet at home. Many students also lack devices and adequate digital literacy.

Devastating effects of climate change and the COVID pandemic followed by the economic crisis have exacerbated these challenges, and is putting enormous pressure on the next generation. While progress has been made within the region towards achieving the SDGs, many countries continue to lag behind. Studies show that despite higher levels of education, youth are considerably more disadvantaged than their adult counterparts across the board.⁶ The impact is felt strongest at the local level and manifests not only in the form of unequitable provisions of services and employment, but also as social and political exclusion, unequal access to justice, and human rights violations. This is especially true for millions of young people belonging to vulnerable and marginalised groups, who often face multidimensional and extreme poverty, and lack of access to opportunities, leading to their growing disillusionment in political institutions

1 UN (2017) <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

2 UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2022. Human Development Report 2021-22: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World. New York.

3 ILO (2021) https://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-jakarta/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_821343.pdf

4 <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/populationtrends>

5 ILO (2022) <https://ilostat.ilo.org/resources/concepts-and-definitions/description-youth-need/>

6 UN DESA (2018) <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/07/Chapter-III-From-youth-to-adulthood-risks-and.pdf>

and leadership. Many young people face discrimination due to ethnicity, race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, and many other factors, or a combination of these. Young people who find themselves at the intersection of these factors are left furthest behind. Deep-rooted structural inequalities and discriminatory gender stereotypes continue to negatively impact girls and young women, and limit their full and equal participation in the social, economic and political spheres.

UNDP's experience on the ground confirms that young people play a critical role in localizing the 2030 Agenda and developing the grassroots solutions to meet SDGs. Many young people want to help achieving the SDGs, but do not always have the resources, tools or opportunities to do so.

The Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP) aims to invest in and empower young people across the region, to accelerate the implementation of SDGs. YEP-AP believes that youth can be leaders, who create inclusive and equitable societies free of discrimination. They can make a positive difference by taking on the challenges through social innovation, mobilising their peers and communities, and creating adaptive and innovative solutions.

YEP-AP focuses on youth political, social and economic empowerment by building the capacities of young people and key stakeholders, creating safe spaces and enabling environments for increased advocacy and civic engagement to ensure equitable inclusion of youth, including women and those from marginalised groups.

The portfolio will promote and advance youth empowerment in the following focus areas (referred to as pillars): (1) Youth Entrepreneurship, (2) Youth and Climate Action, (3) 21st Century and Digital Skills, (4) Youth Civic Engagement and Political Participation.

The portfolio incorporates the principle of 'Leaving No One Behind' (LNOB) - a central transformative promise of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is a commitment to eradicate poverty, discrimination and exclusion, and reduce inequalities that undermine the potential of individuals and communities. The portfolio integrates diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality across all youth empowerment initiatives, using the LNOB principle as a cross-cutting approach across the four above-mentioned focus areas. The portfolio also includes specific interventions targeting marginalised youth groups and national stakeholders to ensure no youth is left behind.

YEP-AP strengthens youth empowerment at all levels: promoting youth-friendly policy and regulatory environments at upstream level, strengthening the capacities and connections between key stakeholders at midstream level, and directly supporting young people at downstream level, for maximum, collective impact across the region. Covering all these bases through interventions that reinforce each other will collectively result in creating a greater and a more sustainable impact. YEP-AP aims to adopt a portfolio approach and the activities under the four areas are aimed at achieving the following five outputs:

- o Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others
- o Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action
- o Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people
- o Output 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions
- o Output 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality

YEP-AP is built upon decades of UNDP's experience of working with young people across Asia-Pacific. The proposed areas are based on consultations with young people and partners, best practices and lessons learnt during the previous regional youth project: 'The Regional Youth Project for Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship'.

The project design uses a portfolio approach, having the potential to further evolve as a ‘Youth Empowerment Portfolio’ in the future, which would be based on the experience from the previous regional youth project and further learnings acquired during implementation of YEP-AP.

YEP-AP portfolio activities are built upon the existing and planned regional youth initiatives: (1) Youth Co:Lab (YCLAB), the regional youth social innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship initiative, (2) Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP), (3) Youth Digitalization for Employability and Entrepreneurship Program (YDEEP) and (4) Youth and Governance Processes and Institutions (Y&GOV). YEP-AP brings these initiatives under one strategy to strengthen UNDP’s regional youth offer, and provides space to address other identified and emerging needs, and development challenges. Refer the Theory of Change diagram in Section II Strategy, for a visual representation on how the YEP-AP portfolio is conceptualized.

The portfolio will directly target 250,000 young people across the Asia-Pacific region, with many more benefitting indirectly from YEP-APs activities. These benefits will also extend to the broader community, including underserved communities supported by young social entrepreneurs, climate advocates, and activists.

The YEP-AP Portfolio includes a strong Gender Responsive Approach and follows the UN principle of Leaving No One Behind, to carry out targeted interventions directed towards leaving no youth behind, including young women and youth from vulnerable and marginalised groups.

YEP-AP results contribute specifically to Outcome 1 of the UNDP’s Regional Programme Document (RPD) through Output 1.2 ‘Macro-economic transformation that supports technological and digital transformation, trade and integration, development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and employment sector reform’. It is also in line with the UNDP Strategic Plan and contributes to Outcome 2 through the Signature Solution 1 and Output 1.3 (refer section V. Results Framework for further details). While directly being aligned to the aforesaid, the portfolio can also be indirectly attributed to few other RPD outputs such as Output 1.4 ‘Sustainable, scalable and innovative solutions and strategies for nature, climate and energy transformation’ and Output 3.1 ‘Policies, programmes and capacity interventions implemented at all levels of governments and society’. The portfolio aims to create regional impact and directly influence the regional SDG agenda, with lasting benefits for both current and future generations in the Asia-Pacific region.

<p>Contributing Outcome (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD):</p> <p>RPD Outcome 1 : Inclusive and sustainable structural transformations accelerated to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerabilities towards the achievement of SDGs and inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and digital transitions.</p> <p>Indicative Output(s):</p> <p>Output 1.2 : Macro-economic transformation that supports technological and digital transformation, trade and integration, development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and employment sector reform, accelerated towards inclusive low carbon and nature-based solution pathways within blue, green, and people-centred recoveries.</p> <p>Gender Marker⁷ : GEN02</p>

Total resources required:	USD 40,000,000	
Total resources allocated:	UNDP TRAC:	-
	Donor:	USD 10,000,000 ⁸
	Government:	-
	In-Kind:	-
Unfunded:	USD 30,000,000	

⁷ The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women’s empowerment. Select one for each output: GEN3 (Gender equality as a principal objective); GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective); GEN1 (Limited contribution to gender equality); GEN0 (No contribution to gender quality)

⁸ It is noted that this total amount has not yet been committed by any donor/s and is not supported by a signed agreement/s.

Agreed by (signatures):

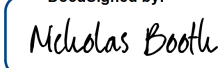
UNDP
<p>DocuSigned by:  7AEDEBBD8834AA...</p> <p>Print Name: Nicholas Booth Title: Manager a.i, Bangkok Regional Hub/RBAP (PAC-Chair)</p>
Date: 7 November 2022

Table of Contents

I. Development Challenge.....	9
A. UNDERSTANDING THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE.....	9
B. ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE	20
I. Tackling the main causes of youth disempowerment	20
II. Strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion through YEP-AP	21
III. Addressing the SDGs	25
II. Strategy.....	32
A. THE THEORY OF CHANGE	32
Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP).....	38
Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action (YECAP)	38
Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people (YDEEP)	38
OUTPUT 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions (Y&GOV)	39
OUTPUT 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP, Y&GOV).....	39
B. KEY RESULTS AND LESSONS LEARNED.....	40
I. Key results	40
II. Lessons Learned	42
C. THE APPROACH	48
I. Programming principles	48
II. Linkages with UNDP strategic frameworks.....	49
III. Results and Partnerships	50
A. Expected Results from Outputs and Key Activities	50
Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP).....	50
Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action (YECAP)	57
Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people (YDEEP)	61
Output 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions (Y&GOV)	64
Output 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality	68
B. Partnerships.....	70
C. Risk Management	71
D. Stakeholder Engagement.....	72
E. Digital Solutions	73

F. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC).....	75
G. Knowledge.....	75
H. Sustainability and Scaling Up	76
I. Environmental Safeguards.....	76
J. Communication and Visibility	77
K. Financial Management and Anti-corruption	77
IV. Project Management.....	78
V. Results Framework.....	81
VI. Monitoring And Evaluation.....	90
VII. Multi-Year Work Plan	93
VIII. Governance and Management Arrangements.....	101
IX. Legal Context	103
X. Risk Management	103
XI. ANNEXES.....	107

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AGYLE	Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
AIYP	Asia Indigenous Youth Platform
AP	Asia and the Pacific
APINY	Asia-Pacific Interagency Network on Youth
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BPPS	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
BRH	Bangkok Regional Hub (UNDP)
CO	Country Office (UNDP)
CoP	Community of Practice
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality (UNDP)
DPC	Direct Project Cost (UNDP)
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESO	Entrepreneurship Support Organisations
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
GMS	General Management Support (UNDP)
GPN	Global Policy Network (UNDP)
HDR	Human Development Report
HQ	Head Quarters
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced People
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPSA/NPSA	International/National Personnel Services Agreement (UNDP)
IRRF	Integrated Results and Resources Framework (UNDP)
IWP	Integrated Work Plans (UNDP)
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex etc
LMS	Learning Management System
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGCY	Major Group for Children and Youth
MSME	Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises
MVP	Minimum Viable Product
NAP	National Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NGO	Non-governmental Organisations
OAI	Office of Audit and Investigations
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PMU	Programme Management Unit (UNDP)

PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
RBAP	Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (UNDP)
RBM	Results Based Management
RPD	Regional Programme Document (UNDP)
RYPLIE	Regional Youth Project for Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreements (UNDP)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment
SES	Social and Environmental Screening (UNDP)
SGP	Small Grants Programme
Sida	Sweden's government agency for development cooperation
SIP-C	Social Innovation Platform for Climate
SMS	Short Message Services
SP	Strategic Plan (UNDP)
SSC/TrC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
ToT	Training-of-Trainers
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activity
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
UNSMS	United Nations Security Management System
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
Y&GOV	Youth and Governance Processes and Institutions
YAR	Youth as Researchers
YCLAB/YCL	Youth Co:Lab - Regional Youth Project on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
YDEEP	Youth Digitalization for Employability and Entrepreneurship Program
YEA	Youth Empowerment Alliance
YECAP	Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform
YEHRD/EHRD/HRD	Young Environmental Human Rights Defenders
YEP-AP	Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific
YOUNGO	Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security
YSE	Young Social Entrepreneur / Youth Social Entrepreneurship
YSIF	Youth Social Innovation Fund
YSO	Youth-Serving Organizations

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

A. UNDERSTANDING THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

According to the 2021/2022 Human Development Report, ‘Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World’, humanity is living in uncertain times and people are feeling more unsettled than ever before. People are feeling insecure about the future. The COVID 19 pandemic, human suffering and economic crisis caused by war, and climate and ecological disasters have wiped out years of human development progress. Intersecting uncertainties means that crises are having devastating impacts on our deeply connected societies. The invasion of Ukraine has compounded a significant cost-of living-crisis and a looming global food insecurity crisis is threatening to leave hundreds of millions without food. The COVID-19 pandemic, beyond its damage to people’s health and mental wellbeing, has also devastated economies and exacerbated gender inequality. Growing global turmoil has led to unprecedented reversals in human development progress in 90 percent of countries including those in the Asia- Pacific region.⁹

Over 60 per cent of the world’s youth live in Asia- Pacific, that is over 660 million young people between the ages of 15 to 24 years.¹⁰ **However, 25 per cent or around 160 million, are not in employment, education, or training (NEET) and this number is growing.**¹¹ Age, along with other drivers of marginalisation can leave certain groups of youth even further behind.¹² Young women make up almost three quarters of NEET in Asia Pacific. Quality education is critical for equipping young people with the skills and knowledge to meaningfully participate in the labour market. A UNICEF study has shown that around 54 per cent of South Asian youth leave school without the necessary skills needed to secure a decent job in the next decade.¹³

BOX.1 YEP-AP DEFINITION OF YOUTH

'Youth' and 'young people' are used interchangeably within this document. The UN definition of 'youth' is persons between 15 and 24 years of age. However, several Asia-Pacific countries define their youth population differently. There is also a definition for 'young people' (10-24 years old) and for 'adolescents' (10-19 years old). There is, however, no universal definition of the "young" or "youth" population, as these terms usually refer to a more fluid category than a fixed age-group. Many agencies adapt their definition to the national/regional context depending on their operations. The definition of 'Youth' and 'Young People' for the purpose of YEP-AP is persons between the age of 15 to 30 years. UNDP acknowledges the United Nations definition of youth as "between the ages of 15-24, without prejudice to national definitions". Flexibility in defining youth allows for country specific policies and programming, considering the heterogeneous nature of the youth population, and recognizing that different age groups may have different needs in different contexts. For the purposes of YEP-AP, by "youth", we refer principally to young women and men aged 15-24, but also those aged 25-30 and higher (which is particularly important as it relates to transition to full adulthood and political participation in line with certain national definitions).

One of the greatest challenges faced by policymakers across Asia-Pacific is to find the required political will and best ways to engage the region’s large youth population. Today’s youth have come of age in an environment of unprecedented potential for their engagement through innovations and technological advances, which gives them the opportunity to participate in the development of their own countries. At the same time, **COVID-19 and resulting challenges around job availability, inflation and social isolation, have made it harder to secure meaningful employment and politically engage in the issues that affect them the most.**¹⁴ This has particularly been the case for the most marginalised youth, including those from the poorest backgrounds, women and girls, youth with disabilities, LGBTQI+ youth, migrants and displaced youth, and indigenous youth.¹⁵ Women and girls' meaningful social, economic and political participation continues to be restricted as a result of discriminatory gender norms and other structural barriers. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing gender inequalities, driving women even further behind. More information, including additional data on the impacted youth populations, can be found in Table 1 below.

Young people today are more connected, creative, informed, and persuasive than any previous generation. They are responding to the world’s challenges with innovative approaches, contributing fresh ideas, creating the world they want, and driving human development for themselves, their communities and societies.

9 UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2022. Human Development Report 2021-22: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World. New York.

10 <https://www.unescap.org/resources/youth-asia-pacific>

11 ILO (2022) <https://ilostat ilo.org/resources/concepts-and-definitions/description-youth-neet/>

12 <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/788326/adb-brief-211-youth-employment-support-asia-pacific.pdf>

13 UNICEF (2019) <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/more-half-south-asian-youth-are-not-track-have-education-and-skills-necessary>

14 IMF (2020) <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2020/10/16/COVID-19-and-inequality-in-Asia-Breaking-the-Vicious-Cycle-49807>

15 IMF (2020) <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2020/10/16/COVID-19-and-inequality-in-Asia-Breaking-the-Vicious-Cycle-49807>

In recent years, we have witnessed a growing movement of young people increasingly involved in civic engagement, climate action and activism. However, **most young people, especially young women and girls are yet to be meaningfully engaged in the decision-making processes and in institutions that impact their lives.** This is reflected in the latest Youth Progress Index results, where most Asia-Pacific countries score poorly in freedom of assembly/association and the freedom of expression, providing key barriers to youth mobilisation and engagement.¹⁶

¹⁶ Deloitte (2021) <https://www2.deloitte.com/global/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/youth-progress-index.html>

Table 1: Core development challenges, supporting data and affected youth populations

Development challenge	Supporting data and narrative	Most affected youth populations
<p>1. Lack of decent and meaningful economic opportunities for youth, and barriers to entrepreneurship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia-Pacific’s rate of young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) has been on an upward trend: increasing from 23.2% in 2012 to an estimated 24.4% - or 162 million young people – in 2020.¹⁷ Young women make up almost three quarters of NEET in Asia Pacific.¹⁸ • According to ILO, the labour force participation rate “for women in the region in 2022 is projected to be 26.3 per cent, compared to 46.6 per cent for young men, while 23.0 per cent of young women in the region are projected to be in employment compared to 39.1 per cent of young men.”¹⁹ • In Asia Pacific, 84.4 percent of young people work in the informal sector, compared with 68.6 percent of adults.²⁰ • 46% of young people in Asia Pacific are in informal employment (the highest share of any region in the world).²¹ • The COVID-19 crisis has inflicted a “triple shock” on young people. As described by the ILO, it is not only destroying their employment, but it is also disrupting education and training, and placing obstacles in the way of those seeking to enter the job market.²² According to ILO (2022), “the youth unemployment rate in the Asia-Pacific region is estimated to have risen by 1.6 percentage points between the pre-pandemic benchmark of 2019 and 2022, which is eight times higher than the corresponding rise for adults. The unemployment rate of young people aged between 15 and 24 years in Asia and the Pacific is estimated to have reached 14.9 percent in 2022.”²³ • According to ILO, in 2020, the labour under utilization rate for youth in the Asia-Pacific region was 20.5 percent (the latest year for which data is available).²⁴ • According to a recent UN study, small business owners, especially women, youth, ethnic minorities, and migrants have suffered the most due to pandemic lockdowns and restrictions.²⁵ • The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately affected lower-paid, young workers, increasing wage inequalities.²⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income youth • Youth facing multidimensional poverty • Youth in informal employment • NEET youth • Girls and young women • LGBTQI+ youth • Young people living with disabilities. • Displaced populations (internally displaced people and refugees) and migrant youth • Indigenous youth

18 ADB (2022) <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/788326/adb-brief-211-youth-employment-support-asia-pacific.pdf>

19 ILO, 2022. Country brief. Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Asia and the Pacific.

20 [Mass unemployment the new normal in SE Asia - Asia Times](https://www.asiatimes.com/news/2022/04/20/mass-unemployment-the-new-normal-in-se-asia/)

21 ADB (2021) <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/626046/covid-19-youth-employment-crisis-asia-pacific.pdf>

22 ADB (2021) <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/626046/covid-19-youth-employment-crisis-asia-pacific.pdf>

23 ILO, 2022. Country brief. Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Asia and the Pacific.

24 ILO, 2022. Country brief. Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Asia and the Pacific.

25 UNDESA (2020) <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/04/YOUTH-FLASH-Special-issue-on-COVID-19-1.pdf>

26 ILO (2021) https://www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/news/WCMS_762842/lang--en/index.htm

Development challenge	Supporting data and narrative	Most affected youth populations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Asia and the Pacific 45% of those earning below the minimum wage are women, 17 per cent under 25 years old and 71 percent educated to less than secondary education level.²⁷ • According to the study by GEM and Youth Co:Lab, young social entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific region face challenges in sustaining their businesses from start-up/idea stage to the operational phase.²⁸ • Access to finance among young entrepreneurs is constrained by age-related factors, lack of credit history and limited financial literacy.²⁹ • Young women entrepreneurs in the region face higher structural barriers as a result of discriminatory gender norms, high unpaid care burden, lower access to productive assets, more limited opportunities to develop relevant skills, constraints on access to finance, absence of entrepreneurial networks and mentors, and gender-blind policies, laws and regulations.³⁰ • Quality entrepreneurship education may not be accessible or equally available for all young people. According to GEM and Youth Co:Lab study, “access to higher education leads to higher entrepreneurial attitudes and entrepreneurial opportunities”³¹. The study suggests ‘rethinking the existing education systems from primary through to tertiary educational levels’ to support youth entrepreneurship in the long term to address challenges that young people face. Weak connections/coordination between incubator programmes and government / private sector social initiatives.³² • According to GEM and Youth Co:Lab study, “the Asia-Pacific region provides a slightly better entrepreneurial ecosystem for social entrepreneurship than the GEM global average. However, the region ranks less favourably in the following framework conditions: entrepreneurial education at school stage, R&D (research and development) transfer to businesses, government entrepreneurship programmes, government policies (tax and regulations), internal market burdens or entry regulations and entrepreneurial finance.”³³ • Human and business networks are important for business development but according to the 2020 World Youth Report “young people rarely have human capital they can leverage to broaden market access and increase the likelihood of success”.³⁴ 	

27 ILO (2021) https://www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/news/WCMS_762842/lang--en/index.htm

28 Ulrike Guelich, Niels Bosma and the Global Entrepreneurship Research Association (GERA), (2018). Youth Entrepreneurship in Asia and the Pacific 2019.

29 Ulrike Guelich, Niels Bosma and the Global Entrepreneurship Research Association (GERA), (2018). Youth Entrepreneurship in Asia and the Pacific 2019.

30 UNDP UNICEF (2021) <https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/8036/file/Gender%20barriers%20report.pdf>

32 Incubators in Developing Countries: Status and Development Perspectives [World Bank Document](#)

33 Ulrike Guelich, Niels Bosma and the Global Entrepreneurship Research Association (GERA), (2018). Youth Entrepreneurship in Asia and the Pacific 2019.

34 UN, 2020. The World Youth Report: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/wyr2020.html>

Development challenge	Supporting data and narrative	Most affected youth populations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to business support services and infrastructure is not equally available for all young people. For example, Youth Co:Lab's study in Indonesia found that availability of support programmes and infrastructure is uneven across the provinces.³⁵ • There are performance gaps between women and men-led enterprises. For example, women tend to be focused on lower productivity sectors and women owned enterprises tend to be smaller than men-led businesses.³⁶ • Young women believe the content and the skills imparted in public education systems as inadequate in equipping them navigate their professional journeys including entrepreneurship.³⁷ 	
<p>2. Youth lack access to knowledge, skills and opportunities to tackle the climate crisis and create a collective impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The August 2021 release of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) highlights the urgency of the situation, with the UN Secretary General declaring a “code red for humanity.” Across the Asia-Pacific region, temperatures are increasing, floods and droughts are becoming more intense, and sea-levels are rising - with disastrous impacts for young people that live there. • Only 40 per cent of the extremely high climate risk countries have mentioned children and/or youth in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).³⁸ • Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change, exacerbating existing gender inequalities including access to resources, technology and information needed to adapt to climate change and posing unique threats to their livelihood, health and safety³⁹ Gendered and social norms impact women's participation, representation and leadership in decision making resulting in women's needs being overlooked by policy making processes including those shaping climate adaptation and mitigation strategies⁴⁰ • 63% of people in Asia and the Pacific recognize climate change as a major “global emergency” and want more action from their leaders. This frustration has been demonstrated by the multiple climate strikes, campaigns and other youth-led movements.⁴¹ • Nine in 10 youth in Malaysia have experienced environment and climate-related effects in the last three years.⁴² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls, members of the LBGTQI+ community and indigenous youth encounter a disproportionate number of attacks. • These groups, in addition to those from the poorest households, out-of-school youth, displaced populations (IDPs and refugees) and those living with disabilities, have least access to the tools, knowledge and resources to protect their rights and advocate for environmental justice.⁴⁸ • Displaced populations (IDPs and refugees) and migrant youth

35 UNDP and IsDB (2022). State of the Ecosystem for Youth Entrepreneurship in Indonesia. <https://www.undp.org/indonesia/publications/state-ecosystem-youth-entrepreneurship-indonesia>

36 Cirera, Xavier, Qasim, Qursum. Supporting growth-oriented women entrepreneurs : a review of the evidence and key challenges (English). Innovation, technology and entrepreneurship policy note, no. 5 Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/301891468327585460/Supporting-growth-oriented-women-entrepreneurs-a-review-of-the-evidence-and-key-challenges>

37 UNDP UNICEF (2021) <https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/8036/file/Gender%20barriers%20report.pdf>

38 UNICEF (2021) <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/one-billion-children-extremely-high-risk-impacts-climate-crisis-unicef>

39 UN Women (2022) <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2022/02/explainer-how-gender-inequality-and-climate-change-are-interconnected>

40 UN Women (2020) https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEA/Docs/Publications/2021/02/ap-HRCC-report_online-compressed.pdf

41 UNDP (2021) <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/asia-pacific-youth-unite-fight-climate-change>

42 UNICEF Malaysia (2020) <https://www.unicef.org/malaysia/press-releases/9-out-10-youth-malaysia-are-already-taking-individual-action-address-climate-change>

Development challenge	Supporting data and narrative	Most affected youth populations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021, more than 50 human rights defenders in Asia-Pacific were killed protecting their environment against hostile corporate and government interests.⁴³ • Marginalised and disadvantaged groups like indigenous peoples and people with disabilities and migrants are more susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change.⁴⁴ • Numerous studies have documented the impact that improved knowledge and awareness can have on young peoples' current and future environmental footprint, and how what they learn now, will be passed on to friends, families, and future generations. This is the basis of much of YECAP and their partners' (including UNICEF's) youth education and advocacy programming.⁴⁵ • Policy makers lack the capacity, knowledge and opportunity to effectively engage young climate activists from diverse backgrounds⁴⁶. • According to Youth Co:Lab's survey conducted in 2022, 84 percent of young social entrepreneurs believe climate change to be a global emergency. 85 percent of the surveyed young social entrepreneurs and changemakers are facing challenges in their efforts to advance climate action. The lack of financial resources is identified as the most common obstacle, followed by lack of connections to relevant partners and lack of education and training. 80 percent of the surveyed social entrepreneurs would like to take more action in tackling climate change through their organisation.⁴⁷ 	
<p>3. Youth lack digital skills and access to the quality education and training needed to prepare for the future of work and to become globally engaged citizens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are growing up in a time of unprecedented workforce transformation due to the 4th Industrial Revolution and this will demand new skills and new ways of working.⁴⁹ • The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented disruption to learning. In Asia Pacific, almost all countries closed schools for two months or more, and reopening is gradual and uncertain as countries continue to deal with fluctuating rates of transmission.⁵⁰ • 128 million young people in Asia Pacific are out of school and vulnerable groups are often systematically excluded from education systems. Often, even those in school are not learning adequately and reaching minimum proficiency in foundational skills, such as reading and mathematics.⁵¹ • 54 per cent of South Asian youth leave school without the necessary skills needed to secure a decent job in the next decade.⁵² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income youth • Youth living in multidimensional poverty • NEET youth • Girls and young women • LGBTQI+ youth • Young people living with disabilities. • Displaced populations (IDPs and refugees) and migrant youth

43 Asia Times (2022) <https://asiatimes.com/2022/06/urgent-need-to-protect-young-climate-activists/>

44 UN (2020) <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/climate-change.html#:~:text=The%20effects%20of%20climate%20change%20on%20indigenous%20peoples&text=Climate%20change%20exacerbates%20the%20difficulties,rights%20violations%2C%20discrimination%20and%20unemployment>

45 <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/reports/heat-is-on-southasia>

46 [3 ways to engage young people for effective climate action | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org/articles/2021/03/ways-to-engage-young-people-for-effective-climate-action/)

47 Youth Co:Lab (2022). Climate Concern to Climate Action. The Role of Young Social Entrepreneurs. (not published yet)

49 Forbes (2018) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/theyec/2018/10/19/how-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-is-impacting-the-future-of-work/?sh=3713924565a7>

50 UNICEF (2021) <https://www.unicef.org/eap/it-time-reopen-southeast-asia-schools>

51 UIS (2019 and 2020). Education dataset. <http://data.uis.unesco.org/> See also: UNICEF (2019). "Learning against the odds: Evidence and Policies to Support All Out of School Children and Adolescents in East Asia and Pacific". Available at <https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/learning-against-odds>

52 UNICEF (2019) <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/more-half-south-asian-youth-are-not-track-have-education-and-skills-necessary>

Development challenge	Supporting data and narrative	Most affected youth populations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey of youth in 10 ASEAN countries revealed that 61 per cent of students do not receive any digital literacy education in schools. Teachers are largely unfamiliar with new technologies and need training to effectively utilize new tools.⁵³ • Access to distance learning has been limited for many young people across Asia Pacific during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially girls and the most marginalized groups.⁵⁴ • The impact of technology can significantly change future labour markets. Women’s participation in jobs and sectors related to technology is low compared with men’s participation, and women are less likely to be connect to the internet. In 2021, just 41% of females in Asia-Pacific could regularly access the internet, compared to 54.6% of males.⁵⁵ There is an urgent need for enabling young women to access a range of skill training opportunities and establish dialogue spaces for addressing job displacement ⁵⁶Young people are more likely to work in the informal sector; less likely to have assets, savings, or social protection; and more likely to work in the sectors that are most adversely affected by the COVID-19 and climate crises.⁵⁷ • A lack of knowledge about existing resources, networks and opportunities at the country level. ⁵⁸ • Lack of coordination of programmes and knowledge management support for youth skills development.⁵⁹ • According to UNESCO (2022), the major challenges in digital transformation in education in the Asia-Pacific region are the following: ‘1) exacerbated learning losses for students most affected by the digital divide, i.e. marginalised and disadvantaged students; 2) low level of relevant ICT and pedagogical skills among teachers; 3) inadequate and unequal access to ICT connectivity and devices; 4) limited policy guidance for ICT in education and digital learning; 5) constrained funding for education; 6) low capacity and lack of tools to monitor education interventions; 7) increased risks related to online safety, privacy and mental health; 8) challenges to leveraging the capacities of the private sector whole protecting education as a basic human right and a public good’.⁶⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous youth

53 UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (2021). Digital Literacy in Education Systems Across ASEAN. Key Insights and Opinions from Young People.

54 UNESCO (2021). When schools shut: gendered impacts of COVID-19 school closures. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379270>

55 ILO (2021) https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/WCMS_737673/lang-en/index.htm

56 ILO (2018) https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_645601.pdf

57 OECD (2020) <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-student-equity-and-inclusion-supporting-vulnerable-students-during-school-closures-and-school-re-openings-d593b5c8/>

58 The Private Sector and Youth Skills and Employment Programs [The Private Sector and Youth Skills and Employment Programs](https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/the-private-sector-and-youth-skills-and-employment-programs) (worldbank.org)

59 [COVID-19: Promoting skills development: Skills development during and after the pandemic: Challenges and opportunities](https://www.unesco.org/en/education/2022/02/covid-19-promoting-skills-development-skills-development-during-and-after-the-pandemic-challenges-and-opportunities) (ilo.org)

60 UNESCO Office Bangkok and Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific (2022). Digital Transformation in Education in Asia Pacific: Policy Brief. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381972/PDF/381972eng.pdf.multi>

Development challenge	Supporting data and narrative	Most affected youth populations
<p>4. Youth lack opportunities to influence decision making, and youth civic engagement remains weak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia-Pacific countries feature poorly in the latest Youth Progress Index results, scoring the lowest in freedom of assembly, association and the freedom of expression, providing key barriers to youth mobilisation and engagement.⁶¹ • Societal norms and cultural practices often act as barriers to youth political participation with marginalised youth facing even high barriers. Discriminatory laws, institutions and attitudes restrict women from equal access to decision-making tables whether that is in COVID-19 Task Force Teams, legislative bodies or political parties.⁶² Young women are markedly under-represented in politics and business across Asia Pacific, with just under 20% of Asia’s parliamentarians being women, and in the Pacific only 16.3%.⁶³ • Women’s representation in local governments falls below the global average (36%) in 86% of Asia Pacific countries with available data.⁶⁴ Youth are routinely invisible in public data and remain underrepresented in public and political institutions as well as in civic processes such as elections, parliaments, public administration, political parties and civil society organizations. This is especially true of youth belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups. Young people’s participation (% under 30 years) in national level parliaments across the region is negligible, between 0-3% for Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, and Pakistan.⁶⁵ • Misinformation and hate speech, that are spread especially on social media, continue to crowd-out evidence-based news, fermenting intolerance and even conflict. A recent report by the UNDP underlines the strong association between declining levels of trust and feelings of insecurity.⁶⁶ • Civic space in Asia and the Pacific continues to shrink with many countries rated as ‘closed’, ‘obstructed’, or ‘repressed’. In the past five years alone, countries in Asia have adopted 47 new measures restricting civic space. • In 2021, Asia-Pacific recorded 305 cases of violations against Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). Moreover, it also recorded 79 killings of HRDs.⁶⁷ • In consultations held with youth for Stockholm+50, they raised the issue of lack of knowledge around policy development and the skills and capacities to engage in such processes beyond the limited opportunities to make their voices heard. This was attributed to lack of resources for skills development in this area, security issues faced by advocates and activists, and insufficient opportunities and means for youth to voice their concerns and present their ideas: for example, easily accessible platforms to crowd-source youth voices, and a lack of resources and capacity to develop such platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income youth • NEET youth • Girls and young women • LGBTQI+ youth • Young people living with disabilities. • Displaced populations (IDPs and refugees) and migrant youth • Indigenous youth

61 <https://www2.deloitte.com/global/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/youth-progress-index.html>

62 UNWomen (2020) <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEA/Docs/Publications/2020/10/ap-wps-Women-in-decision-making-during-and-post-COVID-9-OCT.pdf>

63 Inter-Parliamentary Union. "Women in national parliaments," as of 1 February 2019. Referenced by UN Women here: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-wedo/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures#notes>.

64 UNWomen <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/in-focus/csw/snapshot-of-womens-leadership-in-asia-and-the-pacific>

65 [Youth participation in national parliaments | Inter-Parliamentary Union \(ipu.org\)](https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/in-focus/csw/snapshot-of-womens-leadership-in-asia-and-the-pacific)

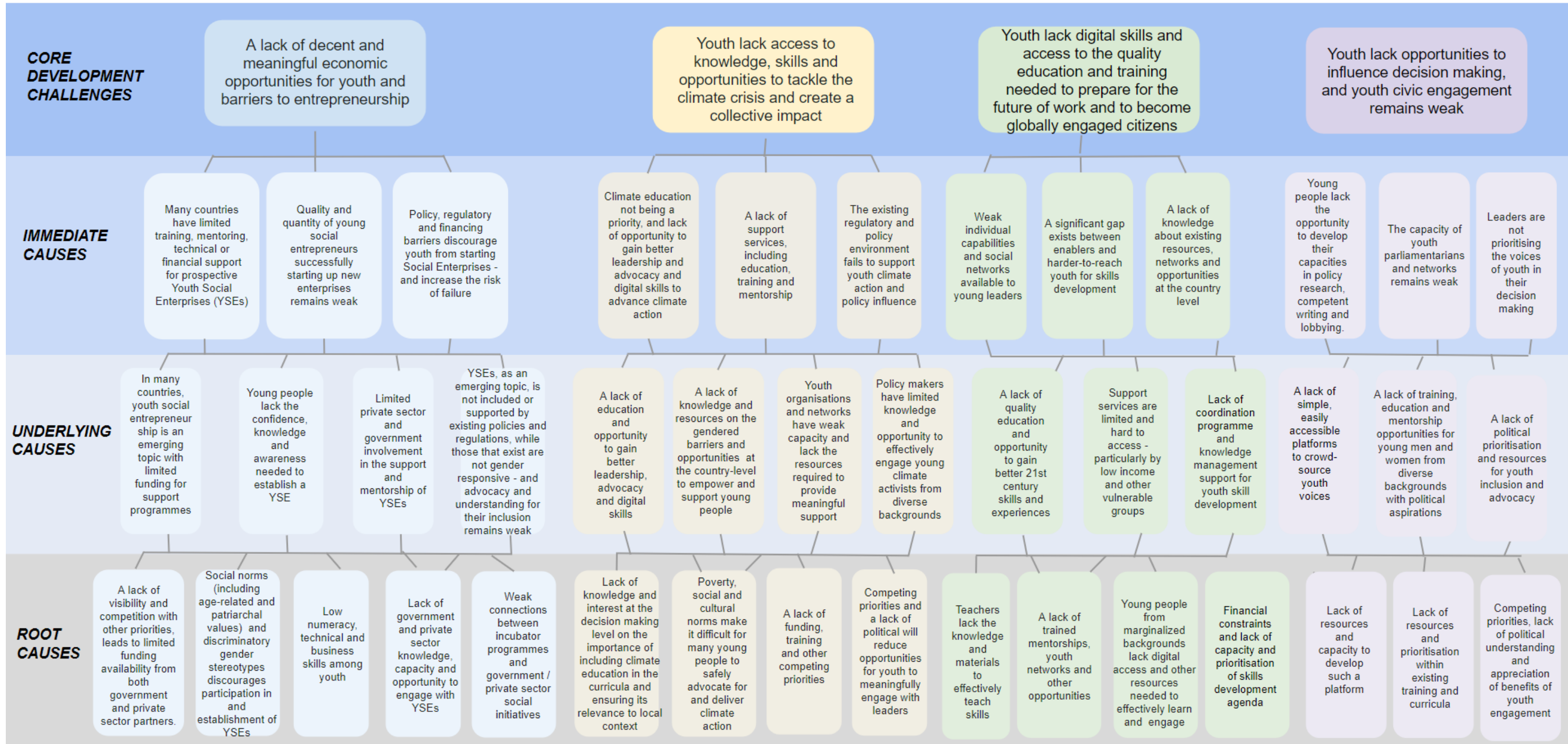
66 [2022 Special Report on Human Security | Human Development Reports \(undp.org\)](https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/in-focus/csw/snapshot-of-womens-leadership-in-asia-and-the-pacific)

67 Front Line Defenders. "Global Analysis 2021" https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/2021_global_analysis_-_final.pdf

Figure 1: A problem tree for YEP-AP

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE:

Young people across Asia-Pacific, particularly the most marginalised, lack the knowledge, skills and opportunity to influence policy and drive transformational change in support of the SDG targets.



Impact of Covid 19

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a significant impact on young people across Asia-Pacific, the repercussions of which may continue to be felt for a long time. Specific impacts included:

- **Missing out on essential education**, not only during the pandemic, but some young people, in particular girls, will be less likely to return to school at all. Further, remote schooling initiatives are not reaching the most vulnerable, are delivered through outdated teaching techniques, and lack of access to technology.⁶⁸ For example, research by UNESCO estimates that 1.2 million additional girls may drop out or not have access to schools in countries in East Asia and the Pacific, due to pandemic's socioeconomic impact. Those who did not have access to distance education during government-imposed lockdowns are at particular risk of dropping out.⁵⁹
- **Losing jobs or moving into long-term unemployment**, as companies are forced to close doors and economies contract. Further, many countries do not have social security systems in place for the unemployed, for example few East Asian countries provide adequate social safety nets, for vulnerable groups.⁶⁹
- **Negative impacts on youth-led enterprises**, as result of lockdowns, collapsing demand, broken supply chains and other challenges brought on by the pandemic. 92 percent of the enterprises surveyed by Youth Co:Lab in 2021 reported being negatively impacted by the crisis. 85 percent had to take actions to shrink their business model or limit their growth, and 51 percent had to partially or fully close at some point, while 59 percent saw their cashflows decrease.⁷⁰
- **Experiencing health complications**, as a direct result of the pandemic. Many young people, especially those with pre-existing health conditions, lost their lives as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many also now experience chronic conditions, due to complications resulting from the virus. This has particularly been the case for those young people with underlying health conditions and/or those lacking access to affordable healthcare.⁷¹
- **Mental health implications**, as a result of physical distancing and school closures, which limited young people's peer to peer interaction, and resulted in increased feelings of anxiety and depression as they lack access to online support services. Poor mental health in turn has a negative impact on learning, health, employment and interpersonal relationships.⁷²
- **Increasing rates of Gender-Based Violence** as a result of social isolation and lockdown measures, and economic instability. Young people – particularly women and gender minorities – are increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence and exploitation, both inside and outside of their homes. The lack of available support services during periods of lockdown, and lack of reliable and quality online support services in the region has only further compounded this issue.⁷³
- **Shrinking civic space and increased mistrust in society** in Asia-Pacific continues with many countries rated as 'closed', 'obstructed', or 'repressed'. In the past five years alone, countries in Asia have adopted 47 new measures restricting civic space, many expedited during COVID.⁷⁴
- **Exacerbating existing gender inequalities**: unequal sharing of power and deep-rooted gender discrimination meant that women were disproportionately impacted by humanitarian and development challenges. During COVID-19, women were more likely to lose their jobs, disproportionate burdens of unpaid care work became heavier, and for women who already faced multiple forms of discrimination, the obstacles to progress became even greater.⁷⁵

World We Want Consultations

According to the World We Want and YECAP consultations in 2021 young people in Asia-Pacific are most worried about the **climate emergency followed by conflict and disasters, geopolitics, and economic inequality**. However, in contrast,

68 UNICEF (2020) <https://www.unicef.org/eap/covid-19-response-east-asia-and-pacific>

69 ADB (2021) <https://www.adb.org/publications/covid-19-youth-employment-crisis-asia-pacific>

70 Youth Co:Lab (June 2021). How Young Entrepreneurs in Asia-Pacific Responded to COVID-19.

71 UNICEF (2020) <https://www.unicef.org/eap/covid-19-response-east-asia-and-pacific>

72 Harvard (2022) <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/covid-youth-mental-health-crisis/>

73 UN Women (2021) <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>

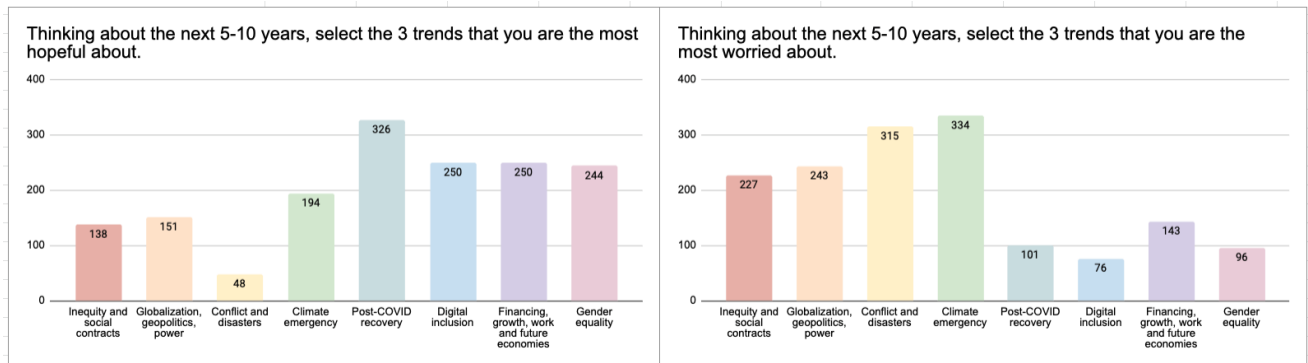
74 ICNL (2022) <https://www.icnl.org/our-work/asia-pacific-program>

<https://asiatimes.com/2022/04/rebuilding-trust-the-missing-link-in-quest-for-a-better-world/>

75 UNDP (2022) Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025 | United Nations Development Programme (undp.org)

they are positive and hopeful about what the future might hold in terms of **COVID-19 recovery, digital inclusion, future economies, and gender equality** (Figure 1).

Figure 2: World We Want consultation results⁷⁶



While young leaders and activists have opened spaces for dialogue and are asking critical questions, their voices are not always heard and reflected in decisions that affect them or their future. There is growing evidence that development policies and programmes which are planned and implemented with the participation of youth have a higher chance of achieving a lasting impact, reducing tensions and fostering inclusive development.

Realising the potential and hopes of young people across the Region, UNDP and its partners have been putting youth front and centre in tackling the key development challenges the world faces through a range of youth-focused initiatives.

Young people have an important economic role to play in Asia-Pacific's development trajectory, both now and in the future. They also play a leading role in the expansion of social enterprises, which are creating employment, reducing youth poverty and supporting countries to meet their SDG targets.⁷⁷

Youth can make a positive difference by taking on the challenges laid out in the 2030 Agenda through social innovation, mobilising their peers and communities and creating adaptive and innovative solutions. These initiatives focus on key issues, such as youth economic empowerment, enhancing youth resilience, increasing youth participation in governance and peacebuilding, and has been informed by decades of UNDP research and engagement with young people across the Region.

Human Development Report

YEP-AP also aligns its work with the **Human Development Report 2021-22** that calls for an urgent focus on finding creative and sustainable solutions to create a safe future and a healthy planet by addressing inequality and unlocking human potential through enhancing people's freedoms and opportunities despite the uncertainties. To chart a new course, the report recommends implementing policies that focus on.

- Investment - from renewable energy to preparedness for pandemics.
- Insurance - including social protection to prepare our societies for the ups and downs of an uncertain world.
- Innovation - technological, economic, cultural innovation that can also build capacities to respond to upcoming challenges.

YEP-AP is informed of these recommendations in its programming, in order to navigate the uncertainty and double down on human development, as it is imperative that we protect the planet and provide people with tools that make them feel secure, give hope for the future and take the focus beyond people's health and wealth.

The **Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP)** aims to tackle four key underlying causes of youth **disempowerment** and lack of opportunity to influence positive, transformational change for young people in the Region. In the context of YEP-AP, **transformational change** refers to transforming the current social, political and economic environment, ensuring that it is more just, inclusive and prosperous for young people.

⁷⁶ UNDP (2021) Youth Consultations for RPD Strategy 2022-25

⁷⁷ UNDP (2021) <https://www.undp.org/asia-pacific/news/youth-social-entrepreneurship-some-learnings-success>

YEP- AP takes into account the issues and challenges that prevent young people from reaching their potential and aims to align its interventions to address and find solutions to these challenges. YEP-AP has identified 4 core development challenges that youth face in this region:

1. *Lack of decent and meaningful economic opportunities for youth, and barriers to entrepreneurship*
2. *Youth lack access to knowledge, skills and opportunities to tackle the climate crisis and create a collective impact*
3. *Youth lack digital skills and access to the quality education and training needed to prepare for the future of work and to become globally engaged citizens*
4. *Youth lack the opportunity to influence decision making, and youth civic engagement remains weak*

In addition to the above, gender-related inequalities, higher barriers and limited access to opportunities among young people from vulnerable and minority backgrounds, represent cross-cutting issues that are visible across all these challenges.

B. ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

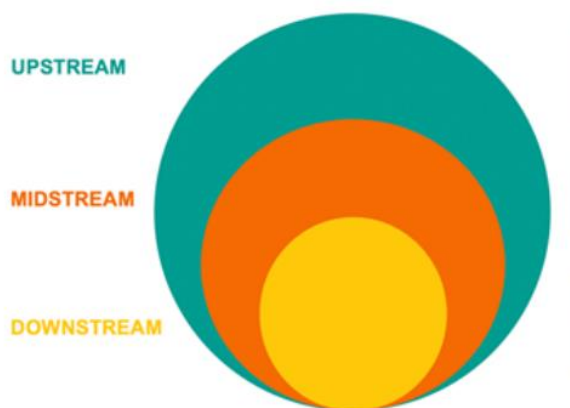
1. Tackling the main causes of youth disempowerment

In order to address the Development Challenges outlined in Section I A, YEP-AP will work with socially conscious and responsible private sector organizations, investors, governments, business incubators and other ecosystem support partners in order to build young people's capacity for social innovation, social entrepreneurship, climate advocacy, civic and political engagement and the future of work – both directly and by strengthening the wider ecosystem throughout Asia and the Pacific. The definition of ecosystem, for the purpose of this strategy, can be found in Box.3 below.

The final evaluation of the Regional Youth Project on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RYPLIE) 'confirm the underlying assumptions of the Theory of Change that Youth Co:Lab presented to the evaluation' (Figure 3). Building on the strengths of this holistic approach and the lessons learnt over the past years, the YEP-AP will continue adopting this approach and work on three interconnected levels of action to tackle the identified development challenges across the five outputs:

- At upstream level contributing to the policy and regulatory environment to develop a more enabling environment for youth social, political and economic empowerment
- At midstream level working with the key stakeholders and partners that supports youth empowerment
- At downstream level directly supporting and working with young people

Figure 3: The YEP-AP aims to create an impact at all levels



BOX.2 YEP-AP DEFINITION OF YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (YSE)

According to UN 2020 Youth Report, social entrepreneurship can be “understood to be entrepreneurial activity with the explicit objective of addressing social problems”. According to the report, drawing from Bidet and Spear (2003), the following are typical characteristics of a social enterprise: “An initiative launched by an individual or a group of individuals; an explicit aim to benefit the community; decision making power not based on capital ownership; participatory governance involving those affected by the venture; limited profit distribution”.

Following characteristics of a social enterprise as laid out by Social Enterprise UK are considered: It is a business with a clear social or environmental mission that is set out in its governing documents; Majority of the enterprise’s income (over 50 percent) is derived from sale of goods or services; As a business, at least half of the profits or surpluses are reinvested towards the social purpose; There is an inherent transparency about how all operations and the social impact is created.

Given that many project activities are targeted at young aspiring social entrepreneurs and idea-stage social enterprises, the YEP-AP project adopts a broad definition of social entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurship, including youth aged 18-30 who are actively involved in an individually or collectively led initiatives, projects, businesses or a non-profit organisations that aim to advance social and/or environmental objectives. The broad definition is chosen in order to support young aspiring and existing social entrepreneurs and changemakers from various backgrounds and in different contexts, as well as at various stages of enterprise development.

BOX.3 YEP-AP DEFINITION OF ECOSYSTEM

In this project document, the ecosystem refers broadly to the overall operating environment for young people and their social, political and economic empowerment. Thus, the ecosystem stakeholders and ecosystem builders include, but are not limited to, national and local governments, entrepreneurs, academia, educational and financial institutes and organisations, business support services, Entrepreneurship Support Organisations (ESOs), Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), and development partners including UN agencies. Young people are at the center of the ecosystem. For instance, in the context of youth social entrepreneurship, the ecosystem can be understood to consist of policy and regulatory environment, business support services and infrastructure, cultural factors, entrepreneurship education and so on.

II. Strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion through YEP-AP

‘Leaving no one behind’ - a central transformative promise of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - is a commitment to eradicate poverty, discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities that undermine the potential of individuals and humanity.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda calls for efforts to ensure no one is left behind, and to reach the furthest behind first. Leaving no one behind requires combating discrimination and rising inequalities within and amongst countries, and tackling their root causes.

Millions of people worldwide are economically, socially or politically excluded. They often face discrimination because of their ethnicity, race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or a combination of these. People who find themselves at the intersectionality of these factors are left furthest behind. For example, Indigenous women who live in remote indigenous communities may experience economic disadvantages or have limited access to formal education and health care, and get disproportionately affected by climate change.

Over the past two decades, Asia and the Pacific has been the fastest growing region in the world; however, progress has been more rapid in groups that are easier to reach. The region has one of the largest populations of young people, many of whom are marginalised and experiencing vulnerabilities. Yet, advances and gains for those hardest to reach, including those in remote areas, have been challenging due to widening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the global recession, local and international conflicts, and humanitarian and natural disasters.

Inequalities, lack of diversity and inclusion, barriers to access development initiatives and economic, social and political, opportunities are some of the issues that cut across all the areas that pose a challenge to youth, especially women and youth from marginalised communities.

These challenges cannot be seen in isolation, and it would not be possible to find a solution for them if we do not look at some common issues that traverse all the above-mentioned challenges. These barriers faced by youth are interconnected through major issues like inequality, including gender inequality, exclusion, discrimination, inequity and unequal access to opportunities for young people, including women from marginalised and hard to reach communities.

Thus, it is critical to use the lens of equality, equity and non-discrimination in our programming efforts when addressing the challenges faced by young people to ensure that no one is left behind.

Inequality and discrimination, including barriers in accessing economic and learning opportunities, prevent young people from marginalised communities from reaching their full potential. Young people who are often isolated, either socially, geographically, economically or discriminated due to their gender or sexual orientation - tend to be marginalised and more vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, violence, conflict, displacement, health emergencies and economic downturns.

An intersectional approach involves looking at multiple factors of increased marginalisation and discrimination affecting communities and individuals. When programmes and services fail to incorporate intersectional approach into their practices and policies, many individuals and entire communities get left behind. Therefore, it is crucial to design programmes and policies that serve diverse groups and effectively address not only discrimination, but ensure that inclusion is at the center of these efforts for equitable outcomes.

BOX.4 DEFINITIONS RELATED TO LNOB

In this document the terms marginalised, vulnerable, underserved, minority groups and LNOB groups have been used to indicate those who have been left behind.

YEP-AP will focus on working particularly with young women, and specific groups like LGBTIQ+, Persons with Disabilities, Migrants and displaced people, and Indigenous People. The project will work with young people who are from the above mentioned groups and also those who may not belong to these groups, but are working for or with these communities.

However, this does not prevent future programme interventions from working with other LNOB groups.





In 2018, a UNDP discussion paper outlined 5 factors which intersect to produce disadvantage and deprivation: discrimination, geography, governance, socio-economic status, shocks and fragility. Intersectionality of these factors, or the complex, cumulative ways in which multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap or intersect, results in marginalisation of individuals or groups. All disadvantages and deprivations that leave people behind should be considered across these five factors:

1. **Discrimination:** Exclusion, bias or mistreatment based on some aspect of a person's identity (ascribed or assumed) including, but not limited to gender, ethnicity, age, class, disability, sexual orientation, religion, nationality and indigenous or migratory status;
2. **Geography:** Physical isolation, vulnerability, deprivation or inequity based on a person's area of residence;
3. **Governance:** Global, national and/or sub-national institutions that are ineffective, unjust, exclusive, corrupt, unaccountable and/or unresponsive; and/or laws, policies and budgets that are inequitable, discriminatory or regressive (including taxes and expenditures);
4. **Socio-economic status:** Disadvantages in terms of income, wealth, life expectancy, educational attainment or chances to stay healthy, be well-nourished, be educated; and access to energy, clean water and sanitation, social protection, financial services, vocational training etc.; and
5. **Shocks and fragility:** Vulnerability and exposure to the effects of climate change, natural hazards, violence, conflict, displacement, health emergencies, economic downturns and other types of shocks.⁷⁸

The following table shows LNOB groups that are identified based on each of the above factors. This table is adapted from the Draft of the LNOB Evaluation Report for UNDP (pending publication, expected in December 2022). It does not include markers for the 5th factor of Governance that affects LNOB groups.

⁷⁸ https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/Brochure_LNOB_web.pdf

Figure 4: Groups Identified by the LNOB Marker⁷⁹

Main LNOB Factor	Related LNOB groups identified by the marker
 Socio-economic	People living in multi-dimensional poverty
	Unemployed persons
	People living under the national poverty line
 Geographic location	People living in rural areas
	People living in urban areas
	People living in peri-urban areas
	People living in slums
 Discrimination ("Status")	Women
	Youth
	Minorities (e.g. race, ethnicity, linguistics, religion, etc.)
	Persons with disabilities (PwD)
	Key populations for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria
	Sexual and gender orientation
 Vulnerability to Shocks and Fragility	Persons negatively affected by armed conflict or violence
	Internally displaced persons
	Persons directly affected by natural disasters
	Refugees
	Migrants

Source: Data from PowerBI Project-Based Portfolio Analytics. BPPS-DIG. as of May 2022

To ensure that young people from marginalised communities are empowered to make a meaningful contribution to the SDGs, YEP-AP will implement a strategy with gender equality, diversity and inclusion at the core of its initiatives. It is premised in the UN's Leave No One Behind principle that the SDGs can be successfully implemented only with the inclusion of all segments of society, including governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), women, youth, and the private sector. It is a dedicated strategy that focuses on marginalised youth who can be the drivers of change because of their personal, first-hand experience in facing the most pressing social, economic, political and environmental challenges.

The Youth Empowerment Portfolio will ensure diversity, equity and inclusion and contribute towards gender equality through youth empowerment initiatives. To achieve this goal, it will integrate the 'Leave No One Behind' and 'Reaching the Furthest Behind First' by following three principles:

- **Equality** – ensuring equality of opportunity and outcomes for all groups
- **Non-discrimination** – ensuring that there is no discrimination against individuals and groups, using principles enshrined in international human rights treaties
- **Equity** – ensuring fairness in the distribution of benefits, costs, and opportunities

YEP-AP will be focussing on working particularly with young women, and specific groups like LGBTIQ+, Persons with Disabilities, Migrants and displaced people, and Indigenous Peoples. The portfolio works with and for these young people to strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion in youth empowerment initiatives.

⁷⁹ LNOB Draft Evaluation Report (pending publication, expected to be published in December 2022)




Figure 5: The Role of Youth in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Youth Empowerment Initiatives








III. Addressing the SDGs





A description of how the Portfolio addresses each of these SDGs can be found in Table.2 below.



Table 2: How the portfolio addresses the SDG targets




Pillar / Focus Area	Goal	How the portfolio will contribute to these related SDGs
Cross-Cutting		<p>The SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals is at the heart of the YEP-AP. The RYPLIE project evaluation listed several benefits of the partnerships the project has developed with the ecosystem stakeholders. The project approach is built on a premise that creating an enabling environment for youth political, social, and economic empowerment requires contributions from the stakeholders across the sectors, including the government, the private sector, civil society organisations, youth organisations and academia. Many of the activities have been co-designed by UNDP and the key partner organisations, including inputs from young people. The project promotes and builds partnerships that contribute to project outcome across all five outputs. Strengthening the capacities of the ecosystem stakeholders, facilitating networking, knowledge exchange and partnership building at the country level and regionally and advocating for system level change are central objectives across the outputs.</p>
Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP)		<p>YEP-AP aims to create economic opportunities for youth and enhance livelihoods in their communities through social entrepreneurship. The project supports young people to start and develop their businesses and turn their ideas into sustainable business models. The project focusses on reducing social and economic inequities by improving access to entrepreneurial opportunities for the most marginalised groups, including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities, and promoting meaningful employment through the enterprises to ensure that no one is left behind.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first output aims to equip youth with skills required for running a successful social enterprise by providing them with capacity building opportunities and connecting them with business development support and mentorship services as well as financing opportunities. The programme will help facilitate south-south cooperation, forums, trainings and other forms of information sharing, encouraging the exchange of knowledge and best practices on youth entrepreneurship and connecting the ecosystem stakeholders to strengthen the support available for aspiring and existing young social entrepreneurs. Customised and targeted entrepreneurship support and training will be provided to youth from marginalised communities to become social entrepreneurs and leaders and create innovative solutions to foster inclusive societies and have a positive impact in the most vulnerable communities.





Pillar / Focus Area	Goal	How the portfolio will contribute to these related SDGs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Co:Lab promotes development and adoption of policies, tools and initiatives that strengthen the operating environment for youth-led enterprises by convening dialogues among ecosystem stakeholders, facilitating knowledge exchange on the best practices and producing action-oriented research studies to guide the development of the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship. • Inspire and motivate all stakeholders engaged in the Leave No One Behind agenda to contribute, develop partnerships, enable innovation, and create funding opportunities for young changemakers from marginalised communities, including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities. • Youth Co:Lab supports youth productivity and innovation, including by creating livelihoods for young people through entrepreneurship, and ensuring equitable access to these entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly for marginalised groups, including young women, LGBTQI+ youth, those from low-income backgrounds, indigenous youth, migrants and displaced youth and youth with disabilities. • Youth Co:Lab will work with young social entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds to strengthen and expand existing businesses, and start new ones, encouraging and formalising their growth. This in turn is expected to lead to more economic opportunities for young people across the region. • Connecting young social entrepreneurs with private sector partners and potential donors will increase their access to business mentorship and financing.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting young social entrepreneurs and enterprises with private sector partners and potential donors will increase their access to financial services and help increase their integration into value chains and markets. • Seed grants and crowdfunding support, provided directly by YEP-AP will also help young social entrepreneurs develop their businesses and social innovations. • Fostering a better connection between ecosystem support organisations: making the support offers and resources better targeted and effective in supporting youth social innovation and entrepreneurship. • Fostering innovation for transformational change by encouraging and supporting young people to develop new and innovative SDG solutions that can be scaled and replicated. • Ecosystem studies produced by the project will help identify gaps and barriers in terms of access to technology and infrastructure that are supportive of innovations, and entry points for strengthening the innovation and technology ecosystem for young entrepreneurs.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has a targeted approach that provides young people, particularly from the bottom 40 per cent, including young women, low-income youth, indigenous youth and youth with disabilities, LGBTQI+ youth and migrant and displaced youth with the training and resources they need to turn their ideas into sustainable businesses, and in doing so, create economic opportunities for themselves as well as for their communities. • The National Innovation Challenges, Regional Forums, Start-ups Support Programme (Springboard) and other trainings, meetings and summits will allow young women and youth from marginalised communities to connect with each other, across their respective countries and regions. It will provide them with an opportunity to connect with and influence leaders and experts in technology, development, innovation, and business.

Pillar / Focus Area	Goal	How the portfolio will contribute to these related SDGs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amplifying the stories and achievements of youth from the minority and marginalised communities (including young women, those living in poverty, indigenous youth, LGBTIQ+ youth, and youth with disabilities and migrant and displaced youth) through communications products and campaigns and to give them more visibility and exposure that lead to further opportunities to connect with other ecosystem partners and expand their businesses.
<p>Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action (YECAP)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action oriented research and other knowledge products will identify barriers specific to women and entry points for strengthening the inclusiveness and accessibility of the operating environment for young entrepreneurs, changemakers and activists who are from minority groups and women and establish direction for dialogue with key stakeholders on practical action to address the higher barriers facing women.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Movers Programme equips youth with the modern-day skills they need to become effective climate advocates and leaders. Whilst climate change is a key pillar of the Movers Programme, the curriculum is designed to improve youths' overall digital skills, interpersonal and global citizenship skills, improving their leadership skills and future job prospects. The project curates dedicated knowledge products and services for youth from marginalised groups to level the playing field and inspire systemic change within UN and beyond. The YECAP Fellowship Programme trains young leaders as climate leaders, green business creators and supporters, and enhance National Climate Action. Under the programme, the Active Citizens Programme, connects young people across and between countries, supporting them to develop their skills and knowledge to develop climate and social action projects to support their communities. The YECAP programme will also work to strengthen national climate education curricula across the region, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and the Environment. YEP-AP will support the development of research and knowledge products, including, long-term low emission development strategies, entrepreneurship and green jobs, and other pertinent subjects. YECAP will provide training and mentorship to youth-led organizations (e.g., proposal writing, partnership development, communications, community building, etc.) and to build their climate change expertise and ability to promote sustainable development across all their activities and achieve a greater impact.

Pillar / Focus Area	Goal	How the portfolio will contribute to these related SDGs
	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full and effective participation of women is a core priority. A concerted effort is being made to ensure that women and those from the most marginalised groups, are included in all programme activities. This includes those from the low-income communities, indigenous groups and those with disabilities. The project will take active steps to ensure gender equal participation in all activities as well as take concrete steps to mainstreamed and design targeted interventions for women and minority groups to ensure they are able to access and meaningfully participate in project activities • Our Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) activity will provide direct guidance, training and support to young people standing on the front lines of the fight for environmental justice. Women, indigenous and LGBTQI+ youth face the greatest risks of violence within this group and will receive the support they need to keep themselves safe.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entire YECAP programme focusses on advocating for major, immediate action, to tackle the climate crisis at all levels. This includes promoting resilience, protecting the poorest and most vulnerable and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through mitigation activities. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The YECAP Fellowship Programme trains young leaders as climate leaders, green business creators and supporters, and enhance National Climate Action at all levels. ○ Government policy labs aim to increase government capacity and opportunity to engage with young climate activists, with the aim of influencing national policy and ensure immediate, urgent climate action. ○ The Active Citizens Programme supports young climate activists move beyond individual, small-scale climate action - to impact at a larger scale, creating collective and systemic change within their communities. ○ The Springboard programme supports young social entrepreneurs who have businesses focussing on green solutions, sustainability and protecting the environment including those from marginalised communities including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities, who are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental disasters
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YECAP focusses on developing climate resilient solutions and strengthening adaptive capacity, through youth activism and social entrepreneurship. This strengthens the capacity of young people to tackle the climate crisis, by improving their knowledge and leadership skills. • The programme also supports young people to advocate for immediate and urgent action to tackle the climate crisis at all levels. This includes promoting resilience, protecting the poorest and most vulnerable and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through mitigation and adaptation activities. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The YECAP Fellowship Programme trains young leaders as climate leaders, green business creators and supporters, and enhance National Climate Action at all levels.

Pillar / Focus Area	Goal	How the portfolio will contribute to these related SDGs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Government policy labs aim to increase government capacity and opportunity to engage with young climate activists, with the aim of influencing national policy and ensure immediate, urgent climate action. ○ Strengthen the inclusion of climate change in national curricula across the Region, making climate change education more fun, practical and inspirational. ○ Connecting youth with national parliaments to help engage youth in parliamentary agenda setting and consideration of policy alternatives. ○ The Active Citizens Programme supports young climate activists move beyond individual, small-scale climate action - to impact at a larger scale, creating collective and systemic change within their communities. ○ Large scale youth-led advocacy campaigns will help increase public and awareness, whilst also promoting government and corporate accountability for climate action. • The Springboard programme supports not only young social entrepreneurs who have businesses with green and sustainable solutions and businesses but also actively promotes and encourages all young social entrepreneurs to include green, sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in all stages of their businesses, thus lowering their carbon footprint and protecting the environment.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has a specific focus on helping indigenous communities who are 5% of the world's population but protect 80% of the world's biodiversity by. • Supporting Young social entrepreneurs from indigenous communities through regional dialogues, springboard programme and connecting them with grant opportunities as these indigenous entrepreneurs not only create livelihoods for their communities but also actively protect their natural environments and biodiversity through their businesses. • Supporting young social entrepreneurs who have businesses that focus on preserving indigenous knowledge, and preservation of their lands, traditions and heritage.
<p>Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YDEEP specifically aims to equip youth with relevant 21st century skills to not only support youth employability but enable young people to thrive as leaders and globally engaged citizens. • Through its methodology, the programme will improve digital, soft (e.g., critical thinking, problem solving, public speaking, professional writing, teamwork etc.) and global citizenship skills for young people across the Region, helping to close existing inequity gaps, particular for those young people living with disabilities, indigenous youth and those living in vulnerable situations.

Pillar / Focus Area	Goal	How the portfolio will contribute to these related SDGs
young people (YDEEP)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movers Programme aims to mainstream access to skills development by utilizing a training-of-trainers approach (ToT) to equip youth, particularly from underserved communities with the necessary 21st century, digital and soft skills to support their employability and to become globally engaged citizens. • 21st century, digital and global citizen skills curriculums will be co-developed with industry leaders and experts. • 21st century skills development workshops/curricula will be piloted at the secondary level educational institutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project through mainstreamed and targeted interventions under this output will ensure women and minority groups are able to access and meaningfully participate in project activities that would support their employability and strengthen their engagement as global citizens
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme strives to empower youth from diverse backgrounds including marginalised youth, particularly women, minority and indigenous groups, LGBTQI+, youth with disabilities, migrant and displaced youth and those from the poorest communities, in creating and being a part of solutions that ensure that they are socially, economically and politically included, thus helping to bridge existing gender disparities and other inequities.
OUTPUT 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project strives to provide more data and evidence on the challenges and barriers women experience when participating in decision making and peacebuilding efforts. The project through targeted interventions will work towards addressing social norms and behavioural change that address deep rooted negative gender stereotypes and discrimination that prevents women's engagement and leadership in decision making processes and civic spaces.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project strives to include youth from diverse backgrounds including marginalised youth, particularly girls, minority and indigenous groups, LGBTQI+, youth with disabilities, migrant and displaced youth and those from the poorest communities, thus helping to bridge existing gender disparities and other inequities for themselves and for others. The project will advocate for more disaggregated data and conduct dedicated research on LNOB.

Pillar / Focus Area	Goal	How the portfolio will contribute to these related SDGs
<p>processes and governance institutions (Y&GOV)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project operates across the region in developing countries and provides spaces for youth representation and voices at both national, regional and global levels.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will advocate and encourage all key stakeholders to invest in and meaningfully engage youth including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities , by addressing the fact that youth are routinely invisible in public data and remain underrepresented in public and political institutions, as well, as in civic/ governance processes such as elections, parliaments, public administration, political parties and civil society organizations. This is especially true of youth belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will take a holistic approach by emphasising that the participation of youth including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities, in public policy- and decision-making processes can take place at various levels. They can engage in local government processes that determine development priorities; they can raise their voices through various media channels; they can also demand accountability from existing institutions. At the same time, specific institutions should provide avenues for young voices, including Youth Councils at national and decentralized levels as well as youth organizations that represent specific youth constituencies or advocate for specific youth-related issues to influence decision-making.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will promote youth-friendly legal systems and raise awareness of the laws that discriminate against youth especially those from marginalised communities, including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities. Despite their significant impact on the nature and degree of youth participation and active citizenship, these vary greatly among countries. Among the most important elements are the minimum legal age, not only for voting but also for running in elections.

II. STRATEGY

A. THE THEORY OF CHANGE

In response to the development challenges outlined above, UNDP created YEP-AP as a regional strategy to help achieve the SDGs by 2030 through empowering youth as transformative agents. The programme is a multi-dimensional and multi-level response to tackle the challenges that young people, including the most marginalized, face today in the Asia and Pacific region. Our programme addresses the needs of youth by harnessing the distinctive strengths that UNDP brings to the United Nations system and the broader development landscape to promote youth empowerment, precisely in areas which have impact in achieving sustainable development.

The programme is closely integrated with broader UNDP programmatic priorities and the signature solutions of the UNDP Strategic Plan as well as the objectives of the Regional Programme Document for the Asia and the Pacific region. The programme is also aligned with UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025; integrating strong gender dimensions across the outputs. The YEP-AP will also focus on addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of inequality and discrimination faced by young people and follow the UN principle of Leaving No One Behind.

The conceptualization of the programme was directly informed by, and integrates, the recommendations that young people, development practitioners and policy makers have formulated in the many global and regional fora, and consultations that UNDP led, co-organized or participated in, including the World We Want and YECAP consultations across Asia-Pacific.⁸⁰ Young people have called for more meaningful rather than tokenistic participation⁸¹, for expanded civic space, for participatory and inclusive political and decision-making processes, for opening of doors for young women, marginalized and vulnerable youth, and for better economic opportunities. A consensus has also emerged on the need for better data, analysis and greater youth mainstreaming in development initiatives worldwide, through the promotion of youth-sensitive budgeting for instance, to better orient policies and actions toward the needs of all young people. As such, the programme is designed to accelerate the implementation of Youth 2030: The UN Strategy on Youth, the 2030 Agenda and other recent strategic corporate policies and normative frameworks (including UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and global programmes such as the Global Programme on Governance for People and Planet).

Following focus areas of the regional youth portfolio have been identified based on the above inputs. These make the pillars presented in the Theory of Change. Gender equality, inclusivity and diversity components are strongly integrated across the pillars to address key drivers of inequality and discrimination facing young people especially women and marginalised youth.

Figure 6: Trajectory of Regional Youth Initiatives



The intent of this regional youth portfolio is to provide a dynamic framework for UNDP's key approaches to empowering youth as agents of change for inclusive growth, social and economic development, and climate resilience. Therefore,

⁸⁰ UNDP (2021) [Youth Consultations for RPD Strategy 2022-25](#)

⁸¹ Youth participation needs to be meaningful and effective; tokenistic gestures can be counter-productive, turning youth further away from development and politics.

the approach aims at working with partners including youth for a new social contract that promotes equitable outcomes that addresses young people’s specific needs for economic prosperity, while protecting their future through green growth, and engages youth in the civic and governance processes to bring about positive change. The programme through its multi-pronged approaches will equip young people with the knowledge and skills to pursue employment opportunities, while addressing structural barriers including social and gender norms that would enhance access to and ensure equal and meaningful participation of all young people including young women and girls, LGBTQI+, people with disabilities, indigenous people, migrants and other marginalised groups. This is expected to contribute to the systemic transformation needed for the achievement of the SDGs and the targets set out in the Paris Agreement. The YEP-AP project is designed with **the portfolio approach** in mind. This Project Document can be the starting point of a future Youth Portfolio, which would be largely informed based on the experience of delivering this project.

The portfolio-based approach has been tried out at the country offices level such as [Hackadev](#) in Sri Lanka, [Youth Participation of Sustainable Development Project](#) in China and the [Youth Strategy](#) of Thailand. These initiatives have provided room for the youth team to develop more offers for expanding issues, such as youth engagement for climate change.

Through its many programmatic offers and activities, YEP-AP will be reaching almost all of the countries in Asia and the Pacific to address the identified development challenges. YEP-AP project activities are built upon the existing and planned regional youth initiatives given below:

Table 3: Initiatives within YEP-AP

YCLAB -	YECAP -	YDEEP -	Y&GOV -
<p>Youth Co:Lab</p> <p>Youth Co:Lab positions young people front and center in order to solve the region’s most pressing challenges. Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to empower and invest in youth, so that they can accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform</p> <p>In 2020, Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) was established by UNDP Asia-Pacific and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific, RCC Bangkok, in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, the British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and the 2030 Youth Force as a safe and inclusive space for youth across Asia and the Pacific to meaningfully engage in climate action.</p>	<p>Youth Digitalization for Employability and Entrepreneurship Program</p> <p>YDEEP aims to create digital pathways and reduce digital inequality for youth, particularly those from underserved communities across Asia-Pacific. In doing so, the programme seeks to support young people’s employability and enable them to thrive as leaders and globally engaged citizens and contribute to sustainable development in their communities and beyond.</p>	<p>Youth and Governance Processes and Institutions</p> <p>Y&GOV enables young people to participate and meaningfully engage in decision making, political processes and governance structures for peaceful, and inclusive societies. Through a holistic approach, the project emphasizes participation of underserved communities including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities.</p>

Through these youth empowerment initiatives Project covers 5 key outputs:

- **Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others (Youth Co:Lab, YECAP, YDEEP)**
- **Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action (YECAP)**
- **Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people (YDEEP)**
- **Output 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions (Y&GOV)**
- **Output 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality (Youth Co:Lab, YECAP, YDEEP, Y&GOV)**



Figure 7: The YEP-AP Theory of Change

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Young people across Asia-Pacific, particularly the most marginalised, lack the knowledge, skills and opportunity to influence policy and drive transformational change in support of the SDG targets.

CORE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

1. The lack of impactful economic opportunities for young people and barriers to entrepreneurship

2. Youth lack knowledge, skills and opportunities to tackle the climate crisis and create a collective impact

3. Youth lack digital skills and access to the quality education and training needed to prepare for the future of work and to become globally engaged citizens

4. Youth lack opportunities to influence decision making, and youth civic engagement remains weak

5. Gender-related inequalities, higher barriers and limited access to opportunities among young people from vulnerable and minority backgrounds

OUTCOME

Youth create transformational change, supporting Asia-Pacific countries to meet their Sustainable Development Goal targets

OUTPUTS

PILLAR 1: YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others

PILLAR 2: YOUTH AND CLIMATE ACTION

Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action

PILLAR 3: 21ST CENTURY AND DIGITAL SKILLS

Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people

PILLAR 4: YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Output 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions

Output 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality

THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY...

	Youth Entrepreneurship	Youth and Climate Action	21st Century and Digital Skills	Youth Civic Engagement and Political Participation
UPSTREAM	<p>Output 1.1: Strengthening the enabling policy environment for youth entrepreneurship through action oriented research and policy dialogues and evidence-based advocacy (YCLAB and YDEEP)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1 Knowledge products: Research, ecosystem diagnostics and toolkits and related policy dialogues (YCLAB and YDEEP) Activity 1.1.2 Strategic Intelligence Hub (YCLAB)</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Connecting youth and government on climate related questions and organising Government Policy Labs on climate (YECAP)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.1 Youth Policy Labs on Climate Activity 2.1.2 Technical support to government partners Activity 2.1.3 Crowdsourcing youth voices and engagement Activity 2.1.4 Research and knowledge products</p>	<p>Output 3.1: Strengthening national systems and creating alternative learning pathways that prepare youth for the future of work and reduce digital inequality (YDEEP)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.1 Piloting 21st century and digital skills development workshops for educators Activity 3.1.2 Convening policy dialogues</p>	<p>Output 4.1: Supporting national and sub-national governments to engage youth in meaningful ways in decision making and policy development (Y&GOV)</p> <p>Activity 4.1.1 Promote and scale-up the use of new ICTs Activity 4.1.2 Ensuring youth participation in Youth, Peace and Security NAP development and implementation at the country level</p>
MIDSTREAM	<p>Output 1.2: Enhancing capacities of the ecosystem stakeholders, facilitating knowledge exchange and strengthening partnerships (YCLAB; YDEEP)</p> <p>Activity 1.2.1 National and regional Youth Empowerment Alliance (YCLAB) Activity 1.2.2 National and regional dialogues and summits (YCLAB) Activity 1.2.3 Ecosystem capacity building (Amplifier) programme (YCLAB) Activity 1.2.4 National partners for innovation challenge winners (YCLAB) Activity 1.2.5 Promoting mentorship (YDEEP) Activity 1.2.6 Digital entrepreneurship opportunities (YDEEP)</p>	<p>Output 2.2: Building capacity of national youth networks, young activists and youth-led organizations to lead sustainable, inclusive, and resilient engagements on climate action (YECAP)</p> <p>Activity 2.2.1 Mapping exercise of youth organisations and relevant stakeholders, and establishing National YECAP Alliances Activity 2.2.2 Training & mentorship Activity 2.2.3 Supporting the expansion of the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP) Activity 2.2.4 Fostering regional and South-South peer to peer and learning opportunities Activity 2.2.5 Increasing access to financing solutions Activity 2.2.6 Opportunities Hub & Knowledge Hub</p>	<p>Output 3.2: Developing capacity of non-profit organizations, community partners and youth networks to deliver accessible and scalable 21st century skills development (YDEEP)</p> <p>Activity 3.2.1. Strengthening capacities of ecosystem support organizations</p>	<p>Output 4.2: Creating and expanding spaces for youth participation and engagement in the public policy and peacebuilding processes to enable youth to influence decisions and processes that affect them (Y&GOV)</p> <p>Activity 4.2.1 Supporting youth networks and organisations to act as channels for youth voices and empowerment Activity 4.2.2 Creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue between youth and decision makers</p>
DOWNSTREAM	<p>Output 1.3 Directly supporting young aspiring and existing social entrepreneurs</p> <p>Activity 1.3.1 Organising innovation challenges (YCLAB) Activity 1.3.2 Facilitating access to capacity building, mentorship, networking and financing opportunities for young social entrepreneurs through Springboard programme (YCLAB, YECAP and YDEEP)</p>	<p>Output 2.3: Increasing youth knowledge, awareness and leadership skills in climate action (YECAP)</p> <p>Activity 2.3.1 The Movers Climate Programme Activity 2.3.2 AGYLE Programme Activity 2.3.3 YECAP Fellowship Programme Activity 2.3.4 SIP-C Activity 2.3.5 Building capacities of EHRDs</p>	<p>Output 3.3: Mainstream access to digital and 21st skills development by empowering youth to lead skills initiatives and provide access to volunteering and learning/internship opportunities (YDEEP)</p> <p>Activity 3.3.1 Movers Programme Activity 3.3.2 Develop standardized learning curricula that combine online learning with facilitator-led learning Activity 3.3.3: Develop a digital learning platform with curated content in the area of digital and 21st century skills</p>	<p>Output 4.3 Building the capacity of young people to participate in civic engagement, decision-making and other political processes (Y&GOV)</p> <p>Activity 4.3.1 The integration of civic engagement and anti-corruption into the Movers Programme Activity 4.3.2 Fostering community dialogues Activity 4.3.3 YPS related activities</p>

ASSUMPTIONS

EXTERNAL FACTORS

- Alignment with partner objectives
- Political will of the governments to advance the agenda
- Ongoing stakeholder demand and partner's commitment
- Relevance of offers for diverse groups and genders of youth
- Energy and commitment of youth participants
- The COVID-19 pandemic will subside, and in-person interactions and meetings can resume.
- Engagement will be meaningful and impactful at all levels, and young people, particularly the most marginalised including young women and girls , can be actively engaged in the programme, despite the challenges they face including socio-economic barriers.
- Political and business leaders will listen and act upon the voices and recommendations provided by young people.

INTERNAL FACTORS

- Staff capacity, commitment and vision
- Capacity to localize training material and resources where needed as well as availability of online resources.
- Youth-leadership in the project activities contributes positively to meaningful youth engagement and youth empowerment.
- Application of gender-transformative approach and strong LNOB lens to reach the most vulnerable youth.
- Sufficient resources can be mobilised in order to maximise the impact of programme activities.
- The proposed programmes will provide youth with sufficient motivation and capacity to be successful in their planned endeavours.
- The project will successfully implement the Leave No One behind principle at all levels.
- The project will be successful in reaching and supporting youth from marginalized groups including women through grassroots efforts through relevant partners.

Table 4: An overview of the assumptions on which the project results are based

Output	Assumptions		How this will impact positive change (and for who)
	Cross-cutting	Output-specific	
<p>Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COVID-19 pandemic will subside, and in-person interactions and meetings can take place. Countries in Asia-Pacific and the region are resilient against crises including conflict and environmental disasters. The project will enhance, rather than duplicate, existing efforts at the country and regional levels, including those that are led by sister UN agencies Engagement will be meaningful and impactful at all levels, and young people, particularly the most marginalised, wish to be actively engaged in the programme, despite the challenges they face. 	<p>Support offers to enable youth to sustain their businesses</p> <p>National ecosystem partners remain committed to advancing youth entrepreneurship and social innovation agenda</p> <p>The project is able to provide targeted support that best serves youth from diverse backgrounds and marginalised communities while addressing national contexts and priorities.</p> <p>Research and thought leadership products are able to identify gaps and entry points for strengthening the enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship</p>	<p>The overall operating environment for young aspiring and existing entrepreneurs will be stronger when the ecosystem partners are committed and have the capacities to support youth-led enterprises.</p> <p>Entry points identified for strengthening the operating environment for young entrepreneurs will support governments and the private sector to develop policies and initiatives that benefit YSEs and break down barriers to entrepreneurship.</p> <p>When youth are supported to develop and sustain their businesses, that will strengthen the livelihoods of themselves and their communities. Sustainable youth-led social enterprises have the capacities to contribute to the SDGs through their business solutions.</p> <p>Young social entrepreneurs from marginalised groups including women, migrant youth, LGBTIQ+ youth, Indigenous youth and youth with disabilities will have better access and is able to participate and receive business support services including springboard programme and training, will feel safe and connected with ecosystem partners that will enable them to grow their businesses and impact their communities</p>
<p>Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action (YECAP)</p>		<p>Young people will be protected, including through UNDP's efforts, to ensure they can participate and advocate safely</p> <p>The political momentum towards youth inclusion and climate action, occurs as needed, at the national and private sector levels</p>	<p>Youth will be able to take, advocate for and drive climate action, contributing to the objective to limit the global temperature rise under 1.5 Celsius.</p> <p>National youth networks, young activists and youth-led organisations are able to lead sustainable, inclusive and resilient engagements on climate action.</p>
<p>Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people (YDEEP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient resources can be mobilised in order to maximise the impact of programme activities. The proposed programmes will provide youth with sufficient motivation and capacity 	<p>Project is able to protect and provide sufficient support for the young volunteers and train-the-trainer approach encourages youth to lead 21st century and digital skills development activities and increase awareness of SDGs through the Movers workshops</p> <p>Digital platforms are accessible to vulnerable and underserved youth</p> <p>National governments and stakeholders are committed to reducing digital inequality and strengthening the 21st</p>	<p>Youth will be equipped with skills and capacities that support their employability and enable them to become globally engaged citizens</p> <p>Young people are more aware and have the means to promote the SDGs through community action</p> <p>Youth are better prepared for the ever-changing work environment and have improved access to digital and transferrable skills development opportunities</p>

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

	<p>to be successful in their planned endeavours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political and business leaders will listen and act upon the voices and recommendations provided by young people. The project will successfully implement the Leave No One behind principle at all levels. The project will be successful in reaching and supporting youth from marginalized groups including women through grassroots efforts with the help of relevant partners and also make progress in addressing societal and gender norms that prevent marginalised groups including women from meaningfully participating in project activities and influencing policy and decision-making processes. 	<p>century and digital skills development opportunities at the upstream level</p> <p>Ecosystem stakeholders are committed to support the agenda</p>	<p>Youth from underserved and marginalized communities will have better access and opportunities to grow their skills and capacities and be empowered to facilitate their own digital transition</p>
<p>OUTPUT 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions (Y&GOV)</p>		<p>Governments at national and sub-national levels are committed to promoting youth participation and adopting new means to engage youth in a meaningful way.</p> <p>Planned interventions are able to reach women and youth from diverse backgrounds, particularly those from marginalised communities, who usually have even less opportunities to influence decision-making than other young people.</p>	<p>Youth can meaningfully influence the decisions that affect them</p> <p>Governments at national and sub-national levels are better able to design policies and programmes that serve the needs of the youth and future generations</p> <p>Strengthened engagement structures and platforms contribute to institutionalization of meaningful youth participation</p> <p>Women and youth from marginalized communities can convey their challenges and needs and influence policy decisions, services and initiatives that will serve their communities</p>
<p>OUTPUT 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP, Y&GOV)</p>		<p>Young people from marginalized communities are empowered, enabled and meaningfully engaged to create innovative solutions that will generate economic opportunities, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities to ensure that no one is left behind.</p> <p>Increased and strengthened collaboration between various youth movements to ensure intergenerational and intersectional partnerships for inclusion, diversity and gender equality.</p>	<p>Through an intersectional approach with inclusion and diversity at the core of the project and its interventions, youth from diverse backgrounds are able to access and benefit from youth empowerment initiatives.</p> <p>Placing a greater emphasis on gender-transformative approaches, communication, and advocacy can lead to the empowerment of young people from marginalised and diverse communities, which can help address socio-political barriers to social inclusion.</p> <p>Youth including marginalised youth including women have access to dialogue platforms and safe spaces and are able to meaningfully participate in political processes and influence programmes and policies. Greater representation of youth voices from LGBTIQ+, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, migrants and refugees in international, national and local development programming and policy reforms aimed at enhancing diverse communities, and political participation.</p>

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

B. KEY RESULTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

YEP-AP is built upon decades of UNDP's experience of working with young people across Asia-Pacific, the approaches built and tested over the past five years under the Regional Youth Project for Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RYPLIE) and the strong country level experience and programmes. The specific pillars proposed, have been tried and tested and adjustments have been made as necessary, to ensure maximum impact for young people across the Region. They are built upon previous evaluations, including the one recently concluded by the RYPLIE. YEP-AP also aims to move from a predominantly project-based single sector approach to an integrated programming approach to enhance and elevate the support to youth as it addresses the critical development issues that they face in the region.

I. Key results

Over the past 5 years, UNDP's regional youth projects have delivered results at scale. The YEP-AP will continue this work and further expand and strengthen the offers based on the lessons learnt. The following key results have been achieved over the past several years in the delivery of the previous regional project - RYPLIE (which was formulated differently from YEP-AP) and the initiation phase of the YECAP initiative. The following table shows those key results grouped according to their relevance to the pillars 1 to 3 of the new project: YEP-AP, where pillar 4 is a new, emerging area of focus.

Table 5: Key results achieved to date

Pillar / Focus Area	Key results
<p>PILLAR 1: Youth Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Since its inception in 2017, the Youth Co:Lab project has grown to be the largest movement for youth social entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership in the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>Some of the key results achieved by the project so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 14,000 youth including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities were reached in 28 countries and territories and supported through innovation challenges, hackathons, National Dialogue events and other activities. National Dialogues across the region convened national partners and young people to discuss the state of the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship, leadership and social innovation and identify means to strengthen the operating environment for young social entrepreneurs. • More than 1,530 youth-led social enterprises and social innovation teams addressing social, economic and environmental challenges in their communities and societies have been launched or improved by the Youth Co:Lab project. • Based on the self-reported data, the livelihoods or jobs of over 112,000 people were enhanced by some of the most established social enterprises supported by Youth Co:Lab and 9.94 million users benefitted from their products and services. • 210 ecosystem stakeholders from government, the private sector, civil society organisations, academia, and the development sector joined Youth Co:Lab's Youth Empowerment Alliance. With a focus on youth entrepreneurship and social innovation, the Alliance is a powerful network connecting young social entrepreneurs to finance, mentors, partners and support. • Three Regional Youth Co:Lab Summits and other regional events have brought together young entrepreneurs across and the ecosystem stakeholders across the region to connect, get inspired, celebrate entrepreneurship and drive change. • As of July 2022, UNDP has provided capacity building to 27 Entrepreneurship Support Organisations through the Springboard Amplifier Programme

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Pillar / Focus Area	Key results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The knowledge and research products produced by Youth Co:Lab to support data-driven decision making and policy design and implementation on youth entrepreneurship, social innovation and leadership were downloaded over 17,900 times from the UNDP website and have started to contribute to the system changes. In 2021, Youth Co:Lab piloted its own youth entrepreneurship ecosystem diagnostic framework in partnership with Islamic Development Bank to identify entry points for strengthening the overall ecosystem for youth-led enterprises. Youth Co:Lab has mobilized USD 47.5 million from government and private sector partners to support youth entrepreneurship initiatives across 28 countries in Asia-Pacific. By 2030, UNDP aims to unlock an additional USD 100 million for transformative enterprises creating developmental impacts to advance the SDGs.
PILLAR 2: Youth and Climate Action	<p>The YECAP platform was officially launched in February 2021 and since been able to complete multiple achievements:</p> <p>298 Movers workshops have been organised, mobilising and empowering over 6900 young climate action leaders.</p> <p>The Springboard Programme has supported 114 youth-led climate focused enterprises across Asia-Pacific</p> <p>2 key knowledge products have been launched:</p> <p>UNICEF South Asia research “Rising to the challenge:” The study examines youth experiences and perceptions of climate change impacts on education, learning and young peoples’ needs to become effective and confident agents of change.</p> <p>UNICEF East Asia and Pacific – UNESCO policy briefs: Policy briefs on Advancing an Inclusive Green Economy through Empowerment and Participation of Young People in the Greater Mekong Region curated from a three-country study in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam.</p> <p>A youth consultation engaging 300+ young energy leaders leading to the high-level dialogue on energy has been convened.</p> <p>National youth consultations for NDC planning in 8 countries: in Malaysia, Viet Nam, Niue, Cook Islands, Iran, Tonga, Maldives and Thailand), in addition to the World We Want YECAP + Stockholm+50 consultations.</p> <p>Launch of Regional YECAP Fellowship programme: for 100 young climate leaders across the Region</p> <p>Participation in Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021 and 2022</p> <p>My Climate Story, YECAP Hackathon and the YECAP Unconference have engaged more than 1000 youth across the Region.</p> <p>YECAP supported ASEAN’s first meeting on Youth and Climate Change: including the launch of Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on ASEAN Youth for Climate Action to ASEAN Environment Ministers.</p>
PILLAR 3: 21st Century and Digital Skills	<p>Since 2019, the Movers Programme is a regional movement of volunteers who develop SDG awareness, entrepreneurial mindsets and 21st century skills by conducting localised training at a grassroots level. Key results so far include:</p> <p>1135 Movers workshops have been organized, mobilizing and empowering over 600 Movers volunteers</p>

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Pillar / Focus Area	Key results
	<p>Workshops attended more than 46 000 times across the region, reaching more than 27,000 youth</p> <p>22 Curriculums developed, with ongoing translations in 7 languages</p> <p>Launch of national Movers activities in 9 countries: in India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Singapore</p> <p>30+ ecosystem stakeholders from government, the private sector, civil society organisations, academia, youth networks and the development sector. With a focus on fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the network can help realize a multiplier effect in expanding and improving the quality of support services available to youth in digital, 21st century and entrepreneurship skills development across Asia-Pacific.</p>
<p>PILLAR 4: Youth Civic Engagement and Political Participation</p>	<p>Recent times have seen a political and social awakening among young people in the region. Whether by participating in democratic processes or protests, organizing climate strikes, or using social media platforms to speak out against repression, the renewed active civic participation of young people is crucial to ensure a diverse public discourse and to create healthy democracies. <u>Y&GOV is a new, emerging pillar of the project under YEP-AP.</u></p> <p>The new Project pillar aims to build upon the 95 projects UNDP is implementing at the country level, focusing on governance for peaceful, and inclusive societies making sure no one is left behind, with targeted efforts to include women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities</p> <p>An additional 19 projects in the Asia-Pacific Region focus on crisis prevention and increased resilience covering areas ranging from civic and voter education, youth peace and security, anti-corruption, preventing violent extremism, hate speech, polarization, and misinformation, as well, as youth political participation and SDG localization at the subnational level etc.</p> <p>Studies have been conducted at the national level together with a range of sister agencies e.g., UNESCO on the Youth as Researchers (YAR) programme. In Pakistan and Philippines youth compiled extensive data on the impact of COVID-19 on youth, and contributions of young people to combat challenges brought about by the pandemic under this initiative.</p>

II. Lessons Learned

The following key lessons have been learned over the past several years, following programme inception and delivery of the previous regional project - 'The Regional Project on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship' (which was differently formulated from YEP-AP). But in this table those lessons learnt are grouped according to their relevance to the pillars of YEP-AP. Table 6 provides a snapshot of the lessons learned, including pillar-specific lessons and those which cut across the whole YEP-AP project.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Table 6: Lessons learned since project inception

Pillar / Focus Area	Pillar-specific lessons learned	Cross cutting lessons learned
<p>PILLAR 1: Youth Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>According to the RYPLIE (Regional Youth Project on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship) final evaluation, the key strengths of the project’s design and implementation lied in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adoption of a flexible, iterative design and implementation processes: this has allowed the project respond to current needs and priorities of youth in the Asia-Pacific; • A clear vision that project activities should be completely youth-led • An ecosystem approach to youth social entrepreneurship that focuses on providing strategic inputs at downstream, midstream and upstream levels • The development of a process which has made it possible for UNDP through Youth Co:LaB to find effective ways of working with the private sector as a key partner. <p>Other lessons learnt during the project implementation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct support, specifically customized and designed for marginalized youth allows young people to become real drivers of change, by incorporating their personal strengths and experiences to tackle the social, economic, and environmental challenges within their communities. Few services target or prioritize marginalized young social entrepreneurs including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities which leads to their under-representation in the entrepreneurship ecosystem – a key gap that will be addressed by YEP-AP. There is also value in knowledge exchanges between marginalized youth and those who aren’t. Learning from each other’s experiences is an empathy exercise and challenges youth’s world views. • Online platforms are great, but they’re not enough: Many young people who are in isolated or distant communities, like rural youth and certain countries that have low digital connectivity cannot access resources and events that are held online. Both youth participants and the national staff identified a strong need some form of in-person contact and interaction, National Dialogues and regional summits have led to new partnerships for both young entrepreneurs and for private sector partners. Face to face interactions also generate different types of connections and exchanges and levels of influence among key stakeholders and decision-makers as well as among YSEs. 	<p>1. Targeted efforts are required to ‘leave no youth behind’: Experience from project implementation has shown that a focus on providing spaces for youth leadership and entrepreneurship only benefits young people who already have capacities and access to various opportunities, if such support is not balanced with capacity development for more marginalized youth and specific measures to ensure inclusivity. According to the lessons learnt provided by the RYPLIE project evaluation, definition of success and growth priorities and approaches may need to be defined in different ways when working with young entrepreneurs from groups that are left behind compared to approaches and success factors when working with highly educated youth from urban areas.</p> <p>2. Youth empowerment is a collective agenda and requires a systemic approach: As youth empowerment involves all aspects of young people’s lives, it cannot be achieved by any single actor. It requires collective efforts of a range of actors to create an enabling environment that encompasses policies, regulations, spaces, actors, skills, culture, finance etc. YEP-AP will use a network of networks approach to facilitate collaborative and collective action to drive youth empowerment.</p> <p>3. Without youth empowerment, Agenda 2030 cannot be achieved: 90 of the 230 indicators of the SDGs are</p>

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Pillar / Focus Area	Pillar-specific lessons learned	Cross cutting lessons learned
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni interaction and mentorship: Innovation challenge participants and new Springboard participants have stated that they would like to interact more and learn from experienced alumni to exchange knowledge, share ideas, build connections and receive mentorship. 	
<p>PILLAR 2: Youth and Climate Action</p>	<p>The following factors have been found to imperative for the success of the project:</p> <p>Partnerships: Single sector approaches often result in unnecessary competition, duplicating efforts, and wasting of valuable resources. Partnerships, like YECAP, instead provide an important opportunity for “doing development better” - by recognizing the quality and competencies of each sector and finding ways of harnessing these for common good.</p> <p>Regional-national collaboration: Convening partners have learned that managing a large-scale partnership that includes on-ground implementation, government partnerships, and regional advocacy, require effective coordination and collaboration and regional and national levels. The partnership’s activities, budget, and reporting will be coordinated at the regional level, with regular communication with the country-office technical focal points. As outlined above, at the regional level convening partners will also coordinate closely with UN global initiatives for youth empowerment and regional bodies.</p> <p>Government support (alignment with UN SDCFs and existing global, regional, national programmes): Endorsement and leadership from government and regional counterparts (such as ASEAN, SAARC etc.) has been one of YECAP’s key success factors, as is the ability of YECAP’s convening partners to leverage diverse representation of government partners for technical and financial support. This includes close collaboration with the Ministries of Youth, Ministries of Education, Ministries of Environment etc. in each country. Thus far, the activities proposed are well aligned with the respective agencies’ cooperation agreements (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, UNSDCF) and established workplans with government counterparts (Country Programme Documents, CPDs) and regional counterparts (Integrated Work Plans, IWPs). In order to reach scale and shift systems, YECAP has learned that convening partners must continuously identify and target entry points with government stakeholders and regional</p>	<p>related to youth and young people can play a significant role in contributing to other targets as well. More importantly, previous experience with Youth Co:Lab, YECAP and other programme components have shown that young people play a critical role in localizing the agenda and developing innovative grassroots solutions.</p> <p>4. Youth mainstreaming is critical: The proposed programme is based on years of previous experience, and a series of trailed and tested platforms for mainstreaming of youth across the sustainable development agenda. UNDP is collaborating with dozens of partners across Asia-Pacific, ensuring the streamlining of interventions and maximum impact.</p> <p>5. Sub-regional and sub-national strategies are required: Asia-Pacific region has considerable sub regional variations in terms of culture, education, skills, and socio-political challenges. Sub-national strategies are also required to respond to the heterogeneity of young people. The RYPLIE project evaluation found that there is a need to add local context to Youth Co:Lab training materials, establish long term relationships with local business partners and set up entrepreneurship competition themes that are closely linked to local challenges and national priorities. While the evaluation found the project flexibility at the national level to be a great advantage, it is recommended to find ways to</p>

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Pillar / Focus Area	Pillar-specific lessons learned	Cross cutting lessons learned
	counterparts, including policy consultation and formulation efforts and the development of regional and national roadmaps etc.	monitor and track the national level results in an effective way.
PILLAR 3: 21st Century and Digital Skills	<p>Connecting policy makers and fostering South-South collaboration: Youth-related policies and investments can all too often be siloed. YDEEP aims to create a community of practice among policy makers, to support integrated approaches for youth skills development.</p> <p>Establishing online platforms: The design and scale-up of accessible and relevant digital learning platforms enable young people, including more marginalized groups, to build skills; delivering efficiencies and economies of scale.</p> <p>Carrying out joint research: Research collaborations are important to develop a strong, inclusive evidence base for all current and future project activities. Lessons learnt will be disseminated to support further results across Asia Pacific and beyond.</p> <p>The RYPLIE project evaluation provided the following Lessons Learnt regarding the 21st century skills development activities of the project (Movers programme):</p> <p>To ensure retention of Movers Volunteers, YCLAB needs to develop a system to cover the upfront expenses associated with in-person workshops. As the project shifts to a stronger focus on LNOB groups, it also cannot expect the Volunteers to advance these costs out of their own pockets nor is it reasonable to ask more well-off volunteers to do so, as many simply do not have these funds to spare even if they are at university.</p> <p>Seed funding for partners and training targets need to be in proportion with the size of the country's youth population and the capacity of the implementing partner.</p> <p>Movers participants have suggested that they need to also learn how to detect if something is fake news. They have several constructive suggestions to make regarding additional programming that could contribute to their acquisition of 21st Century skills.</p>	<p>6. Youth empowerment is intrinsically linked to future of work: youth programmes need to respond proactively to trends around the future of work and design interventions accordingly. The pillars of our programme are building young people's capacity with regards to 21st century skills and future readiness.</p> <p>8. Gender responsiveness: According to the RYPLIE final evaluation, the previous project was gender-responsive in some ways but overall has more of a gender-sensitive approach focused on achieving gender-balanced participation. According to the evaluation, to achieve more equitable results for all genders, the project needs to work towards the adoption of a more gender transformative approach in which its program components address the root causes of gender inequality and work towards results which reflect changes in gender relations relevant for the project context.</p> <p>9. Trusting young people to lead the process: UNDP, through their provision of capacity building support and creating a space for them to lead, has empowered young people to act as their own facilitators. Across all our programming areas, youth have led the localization, organization, facilitation, participant recruitment of the consultations with the support from youth focal points at UNDP country offices. This has allowed UNDP to curate</p>

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Pillar / Focus Area	Pillar-specific lessons learned	Cross cutting lessons learned
	<p>Movers participants think they could play an effective role as ambassadors for the program, particularly at the high school level. They would like to create more awareness of the program at this level and suggested that this could be a role for Movers participants even if they do not want to become full-fledged Movers Volunteers. They felt it was important for younger age groups to become aware of the SDGs before they go on to choose what they will do after they graduate from high school.</p>	<p>genuine and transparent dialogues with youth which would not have been possible otherwise.³¹</p>
<p>PILLAR 4: Youth Civic Engagement and Political Participation</p>	<p>RBAP’s collective programming and research on youth has come to the following conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We must keep up the pressure on member states to protect and prioritise the rights, freedoms and security of their youth including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth, and young people with disabilities. • To embrace the ideas of youth, and not shut them out. To educate and empower them, rather than leaving them behind. To increase and protect spaces for dialogue, rather than closing them. • We must advocate for youth leadership in decision making and peacebuilding: This conversation must go beyond the narrative of youth employment, where very often it remains, to promote the positive role youth can play in decision making, mediation, peace processes, disarmament and community and political dialogues. • The youth agenda cannot move forward alone. For example, we must continue to enhance women’s roles in peacebuilding and preventing violent extremism by pushing the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Resolution 1325. By moving together in unity, we are stronger. <p>This can be done through the following interventions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote civic awareness, encouraging volunteerism and networking, and community-based development 2. Engage youth in enhancing quality of public services, social accountability, and government responsiveness 3. Create space for youth’s involvement in elections, constitution-making, peacebuilding and parliamentary processes 4. Support awareness and promotion of youth rights, access to information, justice and security 	<p>10. Digital tools should be used as an enabler, not as a barrier: The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that over the past two years, much of the YEP-AP’s engagement has been carried out virtually. While various digital platforms are providing varied solutions, they might also pose difficulties in engaging the audience effectively considering the complexity of features and bandwidth restrictions. Tools such as “Mentimeter” have been successfully used gamify the data collection and real time data visualizations to spark the dialogues. The simplicity of this platform allowed us to have more time for meaningful conversations instead of time spent on learning new systems. ³²</p> <p>11. Country level implementation can be strengthened through new and existing coordination mechanisms: for example, the UN Task Forces, UN-Country Team, or existing joint workplans between convening partners. YECAP convening partners aim to develop a coordination mechanism that allows for quick decision-making on the ground, with regional support available through technical advice, evidence-generation, regional advocacy, regional platforms, knowledge management, capacity building and cross-country learning, programme communications.</p>

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Pillar / Focus Area	Pillar-specific lessons learned	Cross cutting lessons learned
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Strengthen social cohesion, combat hate speech, mis/disinformation and prevent all forms of violent extremism6. Support legal reform to eliminate discrimination against marginalized youth7. Opening up new spaces and opportunities for youth political involvement – including changes in the policy environment and regulatory frameworks8. Developing the requisite skills and competences among young people needed for their effective participation – through civic education and other informal mechanisms of political socialization and learning9. Better youth-specific research and related data analysis – increased investment & disaggregated data collection and analysis	

C. THE APPROACH

The types of interconnected issues described in the Development Challenge chapter call for systemic, transformational innovation across Asia-Pacific's youth empowerment and entrepreneurship agenda. This means looking at the entire system and its sub-systems, to determine the key challenges holding back young people in the region, and finding the appropriate leverage points from where the project can aim to tackle, this complex development issue.

The project is designed to meet the increasing demand for integrated solutions to these complex problems, which UNDP as the SDG integrator is well-positioned to deliver. Our model will deploy a balanced portfolio of interventions - across capacity development, technological innovation, citizen engagement, policy, finance, and other relevant levers of change. Emphasis is placed on empowering the "users" or value recipients of the project by using various methods and tools, including digital tools, leveraging the best aspects of youth participation and deliberation; and thereby ensuring that the offer and its various components are driven by youth and are responsive to their needs.

I. Programming principles

The project is grounded in a set of principles crucial to enabling system transformation:

1. **Targeted efforts to 'leave no youth behind:** Experience from project implementation has shown that a focus on providing spaces for youth leadership and entrepreneurship only benefits young people who already have capacities, if such support is not balanced with support to capacity development for more marginalized youth and specific measures to ensure inclusivity. Marginalised youth are more susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change, violence, conflict, displacement, health emergencies and economic downturns. Youth at the intersection of these factors are often left furthest behind. An integrated approach, to provide direct support, specifically customized and designed for marginalized youth is required. Keeping in line with the UN 's principle of leaving no one behind the project will implement solutions that focus on youth from marginalised and vulnerable groups including women, LGBTIQ+, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and displaced or migrant youth.

YEP-AP fully embraces young people's diversity in all its forms. YEP-AP seeks to employ and advocate methods reflective of this diversity, so that young people can achieve full engagement, empowerment and development. It means addressing the specific needs of the vulnerable youth such as youth with disabilities, youth living with HIV/AIDS, rural youth, girls and young women, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), youth affected by conflict, climate change and natural disasters. The project recognizes that the systematic inclusion and participation of women and the consideration of gender, as central in social and economic development. It is essential to the just (re-)construction of political, legal, economic and social structures, and to the advancement of gender equality. Operationalization of the project outputs is guided by the principle of LNOB and gender equality, and will - to the extent possible - ensure gender and LNOB sensitive data-collection, analysis and project intervention design, as well as budgeting. The Leave No One Behind principle is premised on the idea that the SDGs can be successfully implemented only with the inclusion of all segments of society, including governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), the private sector, youth from marginalised groups including women, the LGBTIQ+ community, indigenous youth, young people with disabilities etc.

2. **Long-term vision:** An effective youth empowerment strategy must be embedded in a vision of sustainable, long-term change, with longer time horizons required to create meaningful, long-term change. In line with this principle YEP-AP aligns with the global [Youth 2030 strategy](#).
3. **A systems approach:** Empowering youth means making a positive impact in all aspects of their lives – this cannot be achieved by any single actor. It requires collective efforts of a range of actors to create an enabling environment that encompasses policies, regulations, spaces, stakeholders, skills, culture, finance etc. For example, Youth Co:Lab uses a network of networks approach to facilitate collaborative and collective action to drive youth empowerment through social innovation and entrepreneurship. Therefore, our programme proposes a portfolio of interventions at multiple levels (i.e., downstream, midstream and upstream), using strategic leverage points to create long-term, systemic and transformational change for young people and the achievement of the SDGs.
4. **Using the human rights-based approach** outlined by the UN to promote and protect civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. YEP-AP will follow a human rights-based approach, seeking to ensure that that young

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

people are empowered to achieve their full potential, while recognizing young people's agency as rights-holders, their resilience and positive contributions as agents of change.

5. **Innovation and 21st century thinking** including digital literacy, skills and other knowledge are important for young people to flourish and lead both in the now, and in the future. The YEP-AP project will support young people to develop new and innovative solutions that can be scaled, replicated and help to achieve SDGs, including innovative approaches to influencing policy decisions.
6. **The use of sub-regional strategies:** Asia-Pacific region has considerable sub regional variations in terms of culture, education, skills and socio-political challenges. YEP-AP aims to tailor sub-regional strategies and programming to respond to these challenges and ensure maximum inclusivity, depending on the diverse groups of young people that live there, and support national strategies.
7. **Embedding adaptability:** It is impossible to accurately predict every required policy response to all future challenges. Flexibility will be at the heart of this regional youth portfolio. This project document is a living document (as opposed to a static one) that can be adjusted in response to real-time data, feedback and evaluation findings. It needs to be parametric in scope and engineered with contingent capabilities for unpredictable evolving circumstances (e.g., macro-economic shifts, training needs because of shifting labour market demands, adoption of modern technologies, political shifts, among others). During the implementation phase of YEP-AP, an adaptive project management approach will be deployed.
8. **Collaborative capability development:** The dynamic and interconnected nature of challenges and opportunities related to youth empowerment and development require governments to become enablers for different stakeholders, including young people, to work together. YEP-AP will focus on strengthening and harnessing collaborative capabilities and partnerships among the key stakeholders that can play critical roles in youth empowerment.
9. **Bottom-up participation:** The YEP-AP project's central assertion is that bottom-up co-creation optimizes public policy and public service design by elevating the knowledge and preferences of policy users, analysts and policy makers through deliberation, expert review and inclusive participation. Policies and programmes developed through this process are more relevant, legitimate, responsive, effective, and generate knowledge in the process of design and delivery that informs future reforms. This in line with the principle of participation and inclusion of "Leaving no one behind" promise of the UN's 2030 Agenda. The YEP-AP project will add value to existing grassroots initiatives, anchoring our efforts in the communities where young people's activism takes place. Youth working at the local level are key to bringing about significant change, especially in remote communities.

II. Linkages with UNDP strategic frameworks

The programme's strategy is grounded in the [UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#) and the [Regional Programme Document for Asia and Pacific \(2022-2025\)](#) and the Global Programme on Governance for People and Planet. YEP-AP specifically aims to especially address RPD Outcome 1: Inclusive and sustainable structural transformations accelerated to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerabilities towards the achievement of SDGs and inclusive, sustainable, resilient and digital transitions and Output 1.2 Macro-economic transformation that supports technological and digital transformation, trade and integration, development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and employment sector reform, accelerated towards inclusive low carbon and nature-based solution pathways within blue, green and people-centred recoveries.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

YEP-AP also supports the RPD Outputs:

- 1.4 ‘Sustainable, scalable and innovative solutions and strategies for nature, climate and energy transformation strengthened through enhanced ‘climate promise’, nature -based solutions, and transitioning to clean energy and zero -carbon development’ especially through the Youth and Climate Action pillar; and
- 3.1 ‘Policies, programmes and capacity interventions implemented at all levels of governments and society to sustain peace in all its dimensions, social cohesion and human rights, particularly for women, youth and marginalized groups, including people on the move.’ especially through the Youth Civic Engagement and Political Participation pillar and activities related to peacebuilding.

The project outputs contribute to pursuing the three directions of systemic change as outlined in the Strategic Plan: supporting structural transformation, including green, inclusive and digital transitions; leaving no one behind by adopting a rights-based approach centered on empowerment, inclusion, equity, human agency and human development, and building resilience by strengthening countries to prevent, mitigate and respond to climate, social or economic shocks.⁸²

In addition, the Programme supports implementation of UNDP’s Signature Solutions by strengthening the enabling environment for youth empowerment at policy level, working with the ecosystem stakeholders to improve their capacities to empower and amplify the potential of youth, and directly supporting young people and youth-led social enterprises. Social enterprises and youth-led initiatives and networks catalysed and supported by the project provide scalable solutions to Eradication of Poverty and inequality, Efficient and Responsive Governance, Increased Resilience, Nature Based Solutions, Clean Affordable Energy and Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality.

YEP-AP directly responds to the aim of [Youth 2030 – the UN Strategy on Youth](#) – to expand global, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the world, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. The programme responds to the prioritised areas in the UN Youth Strategy, in particular Youth Economic Empowerment through Decent Work and Youth Engagement, Participation and Advocacy.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The intent of this regional youth portfolio is to provide a dynamic framework for UNDP’s key approaches to empowering youth as agents of change for inclusive growth, social and economic development, and climate resilience. This is developed with the flexibility for the regional project to grow as a portfolio, and to engage a wide range of partners.

The activities and partnerships mentioned below (in sub-sections A and B) do not constitute exhaustive lists; and by design of this portfolio document, it has the flexibility to develop new activities to achieve one or more of the outputs stated in the Theory of Change, and to collaborate with a variety of partners to achieve them.

A. Expected Results from Outputs and Key Activities

Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP)

⁸² UNDP Strategic Plan (2022) https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke226/files/2021-09/UNDP-Strategic-Plan-2022-2025_1.pdf

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

UNDP will support the development of transformative, youth-led enterprises across Asia-Pacific by fostering inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystems and breaking down barriers for young people, particularly those from marginalised communities, to access critical skills building and business support.

Expected results:

- Action oriented research and knowledge sharing platforms contribute towards the development of policies, programmes and regulations that address the needs of all youth groups, and programmatic action that fosters an enabling, inclusive and gender responsive operating environment for aspiring and existing young entrepreneurs.
- New, as well as strengthened existing partnerships and enhanced capacities of Entrepreneurship Support Organisations contribute to a more enabling operating environment for youth-led enterprises and better availability and accessibility of the support services to all youth groups.
- Youth-led social enterprises, including those led by women and those from marginalised groups, have strengthened capacities to turn their ideas into businesses, and to sustain and grow their enterprises, contribute to the SDGs through their operations and through enhancing livelihoods in their communities.

To achieve this output, YEP-AP will implement the following key activities. Given below is not an exhaustive list of activities, and the project has the flexibility to develop new activities to achieve this output.

UPSTREAM

1.1. Strengthening an enabling policy and regulatory environment for youth entrepreneurship through action-oriented research, policy dialogues and evidence-based advocacy

YEP-AP leverages UNDP's convening power to influence policy and regulatory environments that break down barriers for youth, particularly young women and underserved and marginalised groups to access entrepreneurial opportunities and resources. The project will advocate for inclusive entrepreneurship and youth employment policies and programmes at the highest level of government, encouraging national and sub-national governments to prioritize entrepreneurship as a path to employment, innovation and skill-building, and to ensure needs of vulnerable groups are considered in the policy design.

Activity 1.1.1: Developing knowledge Products: Research, ecosystem diagnostics and toolkits, and organising related policy dialogues (YCLAB and YDEEP)

Over the past five years, Youth Co:Lab has established itself as a thought leader in the area of youth social entrepreneurship and innovation, by partnering with the ecosystem stakeholders to conduct research studies that help understand the barriers and enablers within youth entrepreneurship ecosystem in Asia-Pacific. YEP-AP portfolio will continue to drive the systemic change through data-driven advocacy and communications.

The focus areas of the **regionally developed research products** include but are not limited to:

- Generating information on the opportunities for empowerment of marginalised and minority youth, and young women entrepreneurs, through a regional flagship study. This study aims to identify the barriers to entrepreneurship faced by marginalised and vulnerable, and means to support aspiring and existing youth entrepreneurs from these groups. Guided by project's LNOB strategy, the study(ies) will focus particularly on the following marginalised youth groups: youth with disabilities, LGBTQI+ youth, indigenous youth, displaced and migrant youth.
- Providing young entrepreneurs with practical tools and resources to foster a gender responsive working environment and advance gender equality, through the development of a gender toolkit for young entrepreneurs.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

- In addition to the regional knowledge products, the project aims to collaborate closely with Country Offices to commission **national studies** on the state of the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship and digital technology ecosystems through a gender and inclusion lens. Data-driven research studies on the *State of the Ecosystem for Youth Entrepreneurship* is being conducted in six countries to identify gaps, barriers and entry points for strengthening the youth entrepreneurship ecosystems. The studies have been published in Bangladesh and Indonesia, and are initiated in Singapore, Maldives, Pakistan and Brunei Darussalam.

The studies will provide practical recommendations for key stakeholders on the actions needed to strengthen the ecosystem for entrepreneurship, including entry points to strengthen the technology and infrastructure domains and skill development opportunities. The findings will contribute towards framing targeted interventions aimed at strengthening digital and 21st century skill development (contributing to output 3), guide policy discussions on potential entry points for creating an inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem and help identify specific opportunities for supporting youth, especially those from marginalised communities, to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities. The studies will also identify specific gender-related barriers to entrepreneurship and provide recommendations to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities among women at policy and programmatic levels.

To date, Youth Co:Lab has established extensive **online communities** on its social media channels to increase visibility and encourage discussion on the key topics around youth entrepreneurship. Youth Co:Lab will leverage the existing online communities and **expand external communication efforts** to enhance the visibility of youth social entrepreneurship and innovation agenda and leverage its thought leadership value proposition.

Activity 1.1.2: Strategic Intelligence Hub (YCLAB)

The Strategic Intelligence Hub for Youth Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Asia and the Pacific is intended to be a nerve centre for strategic priorities for policymakers. UN 2020 World Youth Report recommends the formation of a task force that regularly reviews and evaluates the business environment and its specific impact on youth entrepreneurship and makes recommendations for improvements.

The strategic intelligence hub will serve as a core hub for regional development partners like UNDP, Citi Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat and others to organise thought leadership and build a community of practice (CoP) consisting of policy and programmatic leaders at the regional, national and sub-national levels. As the hub will continue to grow in membership and its scope of work beyond the pilot duration, private sector representatives and youth entrepreneurs will be invited to the hub as well.

The strategic intelligence hub will be piloted through virtual and in-person engagement opportunities for policymakers, with its need and effectiveness assessed by the organising partners, before considering further engagement. The specific objectives of the hub will include:

- Expanding regional and national understanding of relevant policies, regulatory frameworks and requirements through a youth entrepreneurship lens, to identify common and differentiated ecosystem challenges and enablers for various youth groups, including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, Indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth and young people with disabilities.
- Fostering collective intelligence for South-South and triangular collaboration between government partners and other core stakeholders, to bridge data evidence gaps and strengthen enablers for ecosystem development.
- Identifying leverage pathways and offers for research and thought leadership to influence policy, programmes and partnerships development around thematic priority areas identified by the hub at the regional and national levels.
- Increasing understanding of the Youth Co:Lab, Commonwealth Secretariat and the Youth Empowerment Alliance's support offers, including the ecosystem diagnostic methodology, and ways that government actors can leverage key partnerships with development actors.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

MIDSTREAM

1.2 Enhancing capacities of the ecosystem stakeholders, facilitating knowledge exchange and strengthening partnerships

At the mid-stream level, the project will enhance and strengthen the operating environment for aspiring and existing young entrepreneurs by connecting ecosystem stakeholders, providing them with capacity building opportunities and facilitating peer-to-peer learning and South-South knowledge exchange.

Activity 1.2.1 Strengthen partnerships through national and regional Youth Empowerment Alliance (YCLAB)

The Youth Empowerment Alliance was established to connect different entrepreneurial ecosystem stakeholders and help bridge access to funding, mentorship and other opportunities to young people across the region. As of June 2022, the Alliance consisted of 203 partners across the region, including stakeholders from the government, the private sector, CSOs, youth organisations and academic institutions. The project will continue to connect and strengthen partnerships through Youth Empowerment Alliance to actively engage partners to support social entrepreneurs including, women and girls, youth with disabilities, LGBTQI+ youth, migrant and displaced youth and indigenous youth, to test and scale their businesses.

The YEA- AP will also act as a platform to connect young entrepreneurs to various capacity building, mentorship and financing opportunities, including those tailored to support the different needs of young people including women, those from low-income backgrounds, migrant and displaced youth, indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ youth and young people with disabilities. This includes targeted support to women entrepreneurs to build their networks and access funding opportunities through the alliance, and connecting social entrepreneurs with gender lens investors to tackle persistent gender inequalities within communities.

Activity 1.2.2 Facilitate knowledge exchange and partnership-building through national and regional dialogues and summits (YCLAB)

Youth Co:Lab will organise regional events and summits to provide platforms to advocate for, showcase and celebrate the SDG solutions of young social entrepreneurs, as well as for stakeholders across the region to come together to share knowledge, experiences and ideas, to connect and feel inspired to take action to amplify the impacts of young social entrepreneurs in the region. Youth Co:Lab will also amplify and work closely with partners with similar initiatives e.g., Generation Unlimited, SDG Action Awards, Commonwealth Youth Award etc.

National Dialogues will bring together stakeholders across the national ecosystem to discuss common and differentiated barriers and opportunities within the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship, and provide platforms for discussion and sharing between the ecosystem stakeholders and young entrepreneurs on creating an inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem. The national dialogues will also showcase young entrepreneur role models, including young female entrepreneurs sharing their experiences, to inspire and build confidence of young people, including girls and women, to pursue entrepreneurship opportunities. The national dialogues will be a platform to share good examples and best practices in terms of supporting young female entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from marginalised groups.

Activity 1.2.3 Strengthen capacities of the national partners through Ecosystem Capacity Building Programme (Amplifier Programme) for Ecosystem Support Organisations (YCLAB)

Capacity building programme for national entrepreneurship support organizations (ESOs) will be delivered in the Asia Pacific Region. Through this programme, local ecosystem enablers will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to improve the quality of support services given to young social entrepreneurs, and accessibility of their services for young women and marginalised youth, as well as get an opportunity to strengthen their networks and connections with other stakeholders. The Springboard Amplifier programme activities mainly include:

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Peer to Peer learning workshops/masterclasses

Each year, from February to July, bi-weekly workshops or masterclasses will be conducted, focusing on team management, curriculum design, impact measurement, partnerships building, mentorship, scaling strategy and key development strategies, including Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) and gender equality.

Community building

Physical and virtual community-building events and activities will be carried out. This includes, but is not limited to newsletters for ESOs, quarterly online meetups, physical regional events, and national partner mixers in some markets.

Knowledge products - Toolkits

Consolidating inputs and best practices from programme participants, the programme will develop toolkits for incubators and accelerators, as an instructional guide to improving the quality and accessibility of support services for young social entrepreneurs across the region, especially for young women and minority youth. An LNOB toolkit for ESOs will be introduced as the first instructional guide for ESOs in the Asia Pacific, with the aim of improving the inclusiveness of their programmes and promoting the LNOB agenda.

Scaling impact through meaningful partnerships

Facilitating meaningful partnerships and South-South collaboration on supporting youth-led entrepreneurship to empower youth and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

Activity 1.2.4 National partners for innovation challenge winners (YCLAB)

To expand the outreach to fast-growing start-ups at the national level and to enhance the sustainability of Youth Co:Lab's regional start-up pipeline, Youth Co:Lab will establish partnerships with national entrepreneurship support organizations through UNDP country offices and the Springboard Amplifier Programme, inviting country offices to nominate the most promising SDGs solutions from their cohort that did not enter Youth Co:Lab regional pipeline due to certain reasons. These start-ups will also be invited to Youth Co:Lab's Springboard Hub to receive dedicated account management services, mentorships, join the pre-acceleration programmes, etc to fuel high-impact growth.

Activity 1.2.5 Promote mentoring to inspire, upskill and connect young entrepreneurs, including peer to peer mentoring (YDEEP)

YEP-AP will establish partnership with government agencies and local private sector to provide longer term mentoring opportunities to young entrepreneurs from marginalised communities, including exploring a peer-to-peer approach and private sector volunteer mentors. The project will provide targeted support for young girls and women and young entrepreneurs from marginalised communities to ensure they have capacity and access to connect with local and regional role models and mentors. It will also build capacity of local partners, private sector and government institutions, to deliver inclusive mentoring programmes at-scale, that considers social and gender norms which may limit meaningful participation of certain youth groups including women and those from marginalised communities, through national programming and regional technical guidance and capacity building.

Activity 1.2.6 Strengthen access to digital entrepreneurship opportunities (YDEEP)

Based on the recommendations from the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem diagnostic studies, the project will work with ecosystem partners in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Brunei, and Maldives to explore avenues for connecting young people to socially responsible online, micro-work or micro-entrepreneurship opportunities and other digital enterprise opportunities (such as E-Commerce), in conjunction with relevant skilling and targeted interventions aimed at addressing discriminatory and gender stereotypes that may prevent young people, especially young women from accessing similar support and benefiting from them.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

DOWNSTREAM

1.3. Directly support young aspiring and existing entrepreneurs

The following activities will help young people to turn their ideas into sustainable business models through equitable access to financial education, business skills training, blended mentoring models and other means of support.

Activity 1.3.1 Organising innovation challenges for aspiring and existing young social entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds (YCLAB)

Youth Co:Lab organises national dialogues and innovation challenge forums for aspiring and existing young entrepreneurs, to provide them with opportunities to test and strengthen their ideas and business models for social impact in their communities, as well as to connect them with ecosystem support organisations and investors for further support. The national programmes also provide a platform for young entrepreneurs and ecosystem stakeholders to come together and discuss about the barriers within the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship and entry points for strengthening the operating environment for young entrepreneurs. The national events also provide opportunities to strengthen the capacity of ecosystem partners to enhance their role in supporting social enterprises, understand the higher barriers facing marginalised youth, including women and accelerating implementation of the SDGs. The Movers for Entrepreneurs workshops provide youth with opportunities to get inspired about entrepreneurship and develop entrepreneurial skills and mindsets.

Moving on to the new project cycle, Youth Co:Lab national programmes will strengthen the specific focus on reaching and supporting aspiring and existing young entrepreneurs from marginalised communities, such as youth with disabilities, LGBTQI+ youth, indigenous youth, displaced and migrant youth, and young women. Young women and marginalised youth often face higher barriers, have a more limited access to support and opportunities available, relative to other young people. At the same time, with adequate support, they are well placed to address the social and environmental challenges faced by their communities and advocate for positive change through their businesses.

Regional and National Innovation Challenges for marginalised youth who are from and working with marginalised groups including women, LGBTQI+, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and migrants, will provide a safe space for the young founders to share their solutions and make connections, and in doing so, establish trust and credibility in these communities. The regional and national innovation challenges will also act as a platform to showcase young role models from marginalised groups to inspire and build confidence of aspiring entrepreneurs from these youth groups.

Activity 1.3.2 Run Springboard incubation and pre-accelerator programmes at national and regional levels (YCLAB, YECAP and YDEEP)

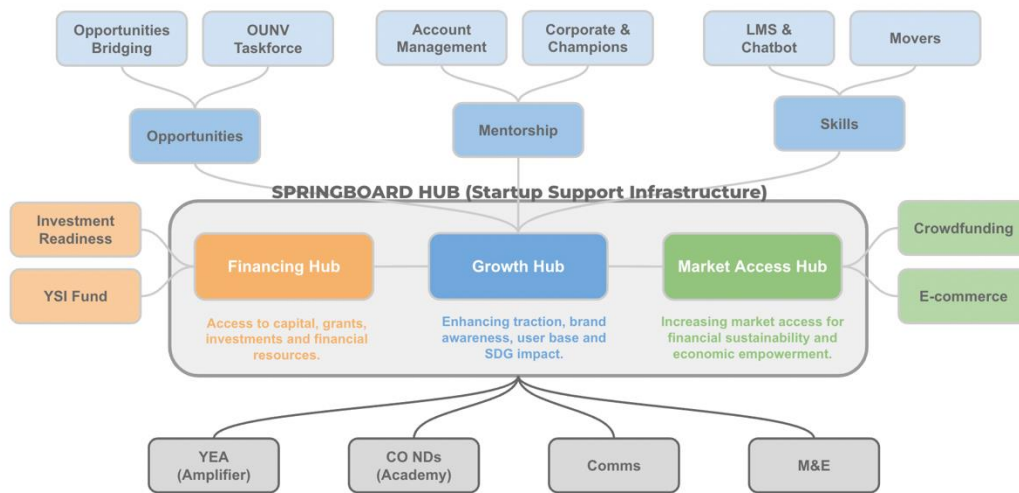
The Springboard Hub is a social enterprise support infrastructure for youth-led social enterprises. Specific activities under this programme include:

- **The Growth Hub:** Aims to help young social entrepreneurs in their journey by providing support at many levels. This includes improving digital literacy among young social entrepreneurs, the adaption of technology for business development and growth, and supporting them in digitalizing their businesses. It aims to improve their leadership and resilience through entrepreneurship training with investors and founders. The Springboard Hub also bridges global funding, awards and mentorship opportunities for YSEs, leveraging on expertise from Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) Partners. It provides mentorship opportunities from industry leaders and practitioners in the entrepreneurial, finance and technology space to nurture YSEs, including employees of Citibank, Google and regional investors.
- **The Financing & Market Access Hub:** This includes the Investment Readiness Programme for early-stage investors and venture capital firms, rolling-out crowdfunding campaigns with YSEs and the Youth Social Innovation Fund (YSIF), a financing solution that aims to support and “de-risk” youth-led social enterprises, by providing technical assistance and grants, augmenting further investments from impact and institutional

investors. The participants and winners of the Youth Co:Lab national innovation challenges have the opportunity to receive further support to scale and grow their business and enhance their investment readiness through the Springboard programme. The Springboard support offers include, among others:

- **Dedicated Start-up Support Account Management, curation of global opportunities and showcasing impact and mentorship**
 - Focus areas for greater access to finance include: The **Springboard PLUS Investment Readiness Programme, the Springboard Accelerator, catalytic grants and dedicated crowdfunding and E-commerce support.**

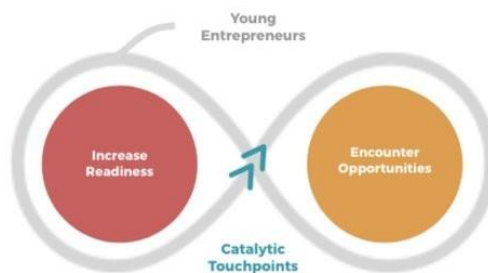
Figure 8: Springboard Hub – Financing, Growth and Market Access Architecture



Building on the experiences and lessons learnt during the first five years of Youth Co:Lab programme, the project will develop dedicated support tracks for youth from marginalised communities and young women, and strengthen the localisation of the training material to make the skills development opportunities better accessible for those with limited access to digital technology. Targeted outreach campaigns will be organised with national ecosystem partners to reach underserved youth.

The figure below shows the catalytic model of the Youth Co:Lab Springboard in supporting young social entrepreneurs from ideation stage to investment ready and sustainable businesses.

Figure 9: Learning loop framework with catalytic touchpoints



United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

The figure below outlines the various activities under the Springboard programme:

Figure 10: Springboard Programme Structure

YCL Programmes/ YSE Stage	SDG Awareness & Ideation >>	Minimum Viable Product (MVP) >>	Revenue Generation >>	Resources For Scaling
With Regional & COs & Partners	Movers For Entrepreneurs			
With COs & National Partners	National Dialogues		National Springboards	
With Regional Team & YEA			Regional Springboard	SB Ventures (TBD)
#Portfolio YSEs by stage	30,000+	1,200+	470+	90+ [Mobilized US\$9.01M, 6.9M users]*
Springboard Leverage Points and Programmes to shift YSEs up the value chain and into financially viable SDG solutions for scaling impact.	(3) YSE Scouting and Training		(1) YSE MVP to Revenue Generation	(2) YSEs Obtaining Resources for Scaling
	3.1. YCL Academy for COs		1&2.1. Startup Support Managers & Resource Hub for Bridging Opportunities	
	3.2. YCL Amplifier For Partners		1&2.2. Springboard PLUS Investment Readiness Pre-Accelerator Programme	
	3.3. LMS & Chatbot Localisation		1&2.3. Regional Business Mentorship Programmes with Citi, Google, Cherie Blair etc.	
	3.4. YSE Support Toolkits for COs & Partners		1.1. Crowdfunding & E-Commerce	2.1. Investor Relations and Capital Connect

The Springboard Programme for Climate Entrepreneurs provides online training courses, a funding opportunity database and other tools for existing and aspiring climate entrepreneurs, helping them to create impact. Additional support and mentorship will be provided to those entrepreneurs with high-potential innovative climate solutions, which will be funded and scaled through the Climate Innovation Accelerator programme. The young entrepreneurs also benefit from support from the National Youth Networks convened by YECAP (also contributing to output 2).

Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action (YECAP)

With 60% of the world's population, the Asia-Pacific region is particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis. However, the climate crisis is not inevitable and youth, who see climate change as a major priority, are an important part of the solution. Despite some enhancement of legal provisions to promote the empowerment and participation of youth across the region, opportunities for their participation in local and central government decision-making processes remain limited. As the climate crisis intensifies, bold, decisive action must be taken at the local, national and regional levels to avert disasters.

In recent years, there is a growing movement of young people across the Asia-Pacific region calling for action on the climate agenda. The Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) established by UNDP in collaboration with UNFCCC, UNICEF, British Council and youth-led organizations such as YOUNGO, Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force aims to enhance youth leadership for climate change and develop green skills for youth.

YECAP provides a comprehensive platform (including raising awareness, training, knowledge sharing platform, opportunities hub, grants, policy labs etc.) to support young people, specifically from underrepresented groups, at every phase of their global citizenship and climate action journey; while government counterparts and partners will strengthen the support ecosystem and policy environment to engage public and scale these actions.

Expected Results:

- Youth are connected with government on climate related questions to influence decision making and participate in the NDC implementation. Policy makers have strengthened understanding of the differentiated impact of climate change on young people including women and enhanced capacities to engage youth in climate related policy and programmatic work.
- Capacities of national youth networks, initiatives and youth-led organizations are strengthened to lead sustainable, inclusive and resilient engagement networks on climate action.
- Young climate activists and solutionists have better access to financing solutions that support the implementation of their climate action initiatives. Youth including the most marginalised are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action.

To achieve this output, YEP-AP will implement the following key activities. Given below is not an exhaustive list of activities, and the project has the flexibility to develop new activities to achieve this output.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

UPSTREAM

2.1 Connecting youth and government on climate related questions, and organising Government Policy Labs on climate

Activity 2.1.1 Youth Policy Labs on Climate

In collaboration with relevant government decision-makers and young parliamentarians, YECAP will work at national and regional level, with parliaments, youth parliaments, youth councils and youth networks to develop a policy lab on Climate for young people. This will be done, with a conscious effort to include women and youth from marginalised groups, to establish their careers in local and national government agencies to address specific climate and local SDG challenges including common and differentiated barriers youth face in tackling these challenges.

Activity 2.1.2 Technical support to government partners

YECAP will also provide direct support to policy makers, to strengthen integration of youth voices into their NDC plans through a gender and inclusivity lens. It will develop mechanisms to engage youth from diverse backgrounds including young women and those from marginalised communities in NDC implementation, and increase the availability and accessibility of green jobs for young people. This will include supporting policy makers to identify the existing barriers and then develop necessary policies for increased green skills, jobs and apprenticeships.

Activity 2.1.3 Crowdsourcing youth voices and engagement

To help address the trust deficit and increase youth interest in participating in parliamentary activities related to climate action, YECAP will advocate with parliaments to engage with and crowdsource inputs from young people including women and those from marginalised communities, and involve them in parliamentary agenda setting and consideration of policy alternatives. It is important to hear and address the challenges of marginalised community that bear a bigger brunt of climate change, in order to have a comprehensive and holistic approach towards influencing policy.

UNDP recently launched an online interactive survey through the open-source resource [Pol.is](#) in Bhutan, Pakistan and Timor-Leste to survey youth on the issues that mean most to them, and presented them directly to parliamentarians. YEP-AP aims to expand the use of the platform in all countries targeted by the proposal. In addition to facilitating direct conversations between youth and parliamentarians across the region, particular attention will be given to young women's participation, and providing targeted support to strengthen their voice and influence in these conversations.

Activity 2.1.4 Research and knowledge products

Throughout the duration of the proposed programme, YECAP will work with youth including women and those from marginalised communities to identify key challenges and bottlenecks to youth empowerment across the region, to develop knowledge products through an inclusivity and gender responsive lens including action-oriented research, to create training and advocacy materials on youth environmental rights and their perspectives on climate change and education, NDCs, long-term low emission development strategies, entrepreneurship and green jobs, and other pertinent subjects.

MIDSTREAM

2.2 Building capacity of national youth networks, young activists and youth-led organizations to lead sustainable, inclusive and resilient engagements on climate action

Activity 2.2.1 Mapping youth organisations and relevant stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, and establishing National YECAP Alliances

YECAP will map youth led organisations and other relevant stakeholders. It will establish and expand their network to foster connections, knowledge exchange and collaboration for collective advocacy on inclusive climate action, including

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

organisations that work with marginalised communities like indigenous peoples who are closely interlinked with natural habitats and face disproportionate adverse effects of climate change.

Activity 2.2.2 Training & mentorship

YECAP will deliver customised training for operating youth-led organizations including proposal writing, partnership development, communications, community building etc., aimed at building expertise on climate change. The trainings will also aim to strengthen capacity and knowledge of youth led organisations in integrating gender equality, diversity and inclusion lens to their organisations and services they currently provide. Through the platform a mentorship programme with the support of YECAP partners and conveners, will be implemented targeting marginalised youth including young women and girls.

Activity 2.2.3 Supporting the expansion of the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP)

YECAP will support the expansion of the AIYP Platform by providing targeted support including a 3-month long paid fellowship for indigenous youth. The intervention will foster responsible green business practices among indigenous youth entrepreneurs, and build their capacities around social innovation, business and human rights issues, gender equality, while raising awareness around the challenges faced by indigenous youth and advocate for change.

Activity 2.2.4 Foster regional and South-South peer to peer learning opportunities in coordination with regional bodies and private sector partners

YECAP will convene regional and national youth dialogues, in collaboration with convening partners and other key stakeholders from across the region. These dialogues will showcase best-practice examples from civil-society, businesses and governments on inclusive climate action, providing young people with inspiration and knowledge on how to best influence policy, run a successful sustainable enterprise and mobilize large-scale citizen action.

Activity 2.2.5 Increasing access to financing solutions for young climate advocates and solutionists

YECAP will utilise two key financing mechanisms to support young climate activists across Asia-Pacific. These include:

- **The Small Grants Programme (SGP):** will support individual climate action leaders working at the national level and national youth networks to strengthen their climate action programmes by connecting youth to financing opportunities. Gender equality is an integral component of the SGP, and support will be provided to ensure gender equality during the designing and implementation of climate initiatives by young people.
- **The Climate Innovation Accelerator programme:** The Programme, which has previously been supported by the Adaptation Fund, aims to provide direct financial support for the development and diffusion of innovative and inclusive adaptation practices, tools, and technologies and products, allowing them to scale-up.

Activity 2.2.6 Opportunities Hub & Knowledge Hub

YECAP will establish an online database with opportunities and resources, to support and build the capacity of youth-led organizations to tackle the climate crisis at all levels. The database will also contribute towards strengthening knowledge of youth led organisations on how climate change impacts marginalised groups including young women and girls, and strategies for delivering inclusive climate products and services.

DOWNSTREAM

2.3: Increasing youth knowledge, awareness and leadership skills in climate action (YECAP)

Activity 2.3.1 The Movers Climate Programme

The Movers Programme equips youth with the modern-day skills they need to become effective climate advocates and leaders. Whilst climate change is a key pillar of the Movers Programme, the curriculum is broader and is designed to improve youths' overall digital skills, interpersonal and global citizenship skills, improving their leadership skills and

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

future job prospects (see Output 3). The Movers climate programme will strengthen the understanding of youth on the impact of climate change on marginalised communities including young women, and actively engage marginalised youth in the Movers Programme.

The Movers Climate Programme includes the following key activities:

- **Climate education:** through curriculum development and curation of a resources hub.
- **Train-the-trainer program:** to develop the capacities and skill sets of trainers to lead climate advocacy and climate action education.
- **Green jobs awareness:** aims to raise awareness about green jobs and train young people with a focus on young women and youth from marginalised communities including LGBTQ+, Indigenous Peoples, migrants and youth with disabilities, with green skills to engage and lead green businesses. This includes improving their understanding of Green Jobs, Green Economy and Green Skills.
- **Creating job opportunities:** through mechanisms like the Springboard Programme, YECAP Hackathon and matching green enterprises with green skills talent.

The Movers for Climate Programme is implemented through online sessions as well as in-person events to reach youth who don't have access to digital tools and resources required for online participation.

In order to collect and track the climate actions of youth, a self-reporting mechanism, combined with annual surveys, will be set up to track their activities, actions, progress and increase in knowledge, aptitudes and skills over time.

Activity 2.3.2 The AGYLE Programme

Youth will take part and graduate from the YECAP Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment (AGYLE) in-depth learning programme about climate policy development and negotiations, and will also be placed across organisations and agencies in Asia-Pacific to gain work experience and contribute to climate policy development. The AGYLE youth will also attend key climate-related meetings and events at the national, regional and international levels as well as attend and support capacity building workshops for other YECAP youth.

Activity 2.3.3 The YECAP Fellowship Programme

The Fellowship is cohort-based, with Fellows selected based on their outstanding contribution within the YECAP community.

The Fellowship is a 6-month program for selected Fellows, enabling them to lead, represent and contribute to the YECAP Community by raising awareness among Asia-Pacific youth, including women and those from marginalised communities, while engaging with them in various activities on the safe and inclusive platform. From brown bag sessions to consultations, dialogues and more, on national, regional and global levels, this is an opportunity to address climate issues and solutions by youth, for youth, to elevate youth voices in advocating for climate action priorities and systematic change, and to be a part of a larger youth movement.

During the 6 months, Fellows go through 3 phases:

- **Mentoring:** Guiding the Fellows to choose a particular team to work with, and participate in different tasks and activities during the Fellowship to enrich their experience and knowledge.
- **Scaling Up:** Supporting the Fellows to improve their skills through monthly trainings and progress meetings, leveraging peer-to-peer learning opportunities and initiating climate ideas to implement in the next level.
- **Networking:** Connecting with local youth networks, start-ups, private sector, governments and development organizations, to scale up the impact of the programme by implementing climate action ideas in local communities.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

The Fellowship includes modules on climate education, gender responsive climate action community engagement, mobilization and outreach in broader networks, and opportunities for the Fellows to work together on developing collective as well as a personal climate action project(s).

Activity 2.3.4 The Social Innovation Platform for Climate (SIP-C)

UNDP is currently piloting the use of Social Innovation Platforms (SIP) across Asia-Pacific. The platforms use real-time data to assess local communities' needs and opportunities, including those of youth, and leverages various portfolio approaches to tackle complex challenges and advance SDG localization.

The pilots have been a major success and are ready to be taken to scale across the region. YECAP aims to expand the use of these platforms, to reach all countries targeted by the Programme. This will lead to an increased opportunity for direct political engagement between youth and local governments across the region.

Activity 2.3.5 Building capacities of EHRDs

Environmental defenders are “individuals and groups who, in their personal or professional capacity and in a peaceful manner, strive to protect and promote human rights relating to the environment, including water, air, land, flora and fauna”. Environmental defenders across Asia-Pacific face harassment, intimidation, violence, criminalization and assassination.

To help tackle the issue, YECAP will develop a training course, with a course curriculum that aids young EHRDs in navigating potential and actual harm while conducting their work, help to keep them safe while empowering them to continue their environmental and climate activism. This will specifically include:

- **The synthesis and consolidation of existing tools and guidelines:** addressing security and protection of young defenders, including a toolkit for EHRDs, which is being developed by partners and can be used as a solid baseline. This toolkit will be adapted as needed, according to the specific needs of the targeted youth.
- **Conducting research:** to fill gaps in existing tools and guidelines, and address the challenges highlighted during roundtables;
- **Developing a course curriculum for YECAP and the Movers Programme:** to provide practical, high-impact education and skills development training for young climate advocates.

Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people (YDEEP)

The **Youth Digitalization for Employability and Entrepreneurship Program (YDEEP)** aims to create digital pathways for youth to not only support their employability, but to enable them to thrive as globally engaged citizens contributing to the sustainable development of their communities and beyond. With a marked focus on bridging the digital inequality gap for youth from underserved communities, the programme equips young people with the necessary 21st century and digital skills they need in order to prepare for the future of work. Within YEP-AP, the term 21st century skills refer to three pillars of skills:

1. Digital Literacy Skills, including information and communications technology, technological literacy skills and digital media literacy skills
2. Soft Skills, including leadership, communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills
3. Global Citizenship Skills, including social and cultural competencies (including but not limited to creativity, innovation, commitment to peace, human rights and sustainable development) to support inclusive and sustainable societies.

Through its methodology, the programme will improve digital, soft and global citizenship competencies and skills to ensure comprehensive support to youth, particularly those from underserved communities including women. Besides

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

directly empowering and working with young people, this project component aims to strengthen the overall skills development environment and structures to better prepare and equip youth for the future of work, and bridge the digital inequality gap for those who are most at risk of being left behind.

A combination of mobilization channels will be leveraged to identify and engage young people, particularly those from underserved groups including women and girls, young people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+, migrant and Indigenous youth. This will be done by working with enabling partners such as governments like the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Youth and Youth Employment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), Ministry of Technical Education, Vocational Training, Office for training and upgrading of programs and community-based organizations (non-profit organizations, relevant local organizations, community partners and youth networks).

Expected results:

- National systems and alternative learning pathways that equip youth with digital and 21st century skills and prepare youth for the future of work are strengthened.
- Community organizations, non-profits and youth-led networks have an increased capacity to lead and implement scalable digital and 21st century skills development initiatives that are accessible by marginalised youth groups including women.
- Youth have strengthened 21st century and digital skills.

To achieve this output, YEP-AP will implement the following key activities. Given below is not an exhaustive list of activities, and the project has the flexibility to develop new activities to achieve this output.

UPSTREAM

3.1: Strengthening national systems and creating alternative learning pathways that prepare youth for the future of work and reduce digital inequality

Activity 3.1.1 Piloting 21st century and digital skills development workshops for educators

The project will promote and pilot 21st century and digital skills development workshops and programmes at educational institutions and youth engagement systems in the project countries. This will encompass curricula development, testing and training of teachers and educators, in secondary and tertiary level education, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The aim is to help the governments and ecosystem partners to better provide targeted support for those groups that have limited access to skills development opportunities to prepare youth from underserved communities, including young women, youth in rural areas, youth with disabilities, for a future of work that is sustainable and inclusive. Targeted interventions will also be designed to address social and cultural norms and negative gender stereotypes to facilitate the inclusion of those who face additional challenges to participation.

Activity 3.1.2 Convening policy dialogues

The policy dialogues aim to curate insightful and meaningful discussions around emerging policy themes on youth skills development, digitalization and the future of work, fostering a collaborative environment for stakeholders to a shared, lived-in experience of South-South cooperation. As a dedicated community of practice, these policy dialogues provide opportunities to generate evidence on good practices, lead policy advocacy and organize thought leadership on reducing digital inequality for underserved groups and promoting a sustainable and inclusive future of work for all.

MIDSTREAM

3.2: Develop capacity of non-profit organizations, community partners and youth networks to deliver accessible and scalable 21st century skills development

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Activity 3.2.1 Strengthening capacities of ecosystem support organizations

Ecosystem supporters, including **non-government organizations, community partners and youth networks**, will be strengthened so that they can facilitate the growth and implementation through the following activities: (i) provide capacity building, mentorship, and resourcing opportunities to relevant and selected ecosystem partners who will be implementing the program; (ii) coordinate with NGOs, community partners and youth networks to develop resources through a diversity and inclusion lens for community facilitators and educators and (iii) realize a multiplier effect by expanding and improving the quality and access of services available to youth for digital and 21st century skills development across Asia-Pacific.

This also includes dedicated support to non-government organizations, community partners and youth networks that work directly with underserved communities who in turn will also support outreach to underserved youth to develop the necessary 21st century and digital skill competencies.

The programme will invest in online and offline, non-formal approaches to education and learning for the most underserved groups including young women, to gain transferable 21st century and digital skills, in partnership with private sector companies. Working with governments, support development of flexible, alternative learning pathways linked to certification and reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised groups.

DOWNSTREAM

3.3: Mainstream access to digital and 21st skills development by empowering youth to lead skills initiatives and provide access to volunteering and learning/internship opportunities

Activity 3.3.1 Movers Programme

The Movers Programme is a regional movement of volunteers who develop SDGs awareness, entrepreneurial mindsets and 21st century skills by conducting localized training at a grassroots level. The Movers Programme uses a training-of-trainer approach and works with community partners to target marginalised youth including women. This programme equips youth with the modern-day skills they need to improve their employability and future job prospects, become effective advocates and leaders, and be meaningfully engaged as global citizens.

The initiative will make a concerted effort to include young people from all backgrounds, actively facilitating the inclusion of those who face additional challenges to participation. These include:

- Localization of digital skills development and capacity building content: Adapting content into local languages and dialects, and ensuring content and trainings are inclusive and culturally responsive.
- Empowering young women and girls: Focusing on reaching young women and girls, particularly from lower income and other disadvantaged communities, working with gender-focused development agencies, civil society organizations and networks at the country level to provide them with the capacity development support needed for them to flourish.
- Solutions to bridge the digital access: To bridge the digital divide, private sector partners will develop offline skills development and capacity building activities and workshops, to ensure the effective participation of youth who do not have access to the Internet.

Activity 3.3.2 Develop standardized learning curriculum that combine online learning with facilitator-led learning

The project will develop a learning curriculum that provides facilitator-led learning online and in-person. The development of standardized learning curricula for digital and 21st century life skills training focuses on a selection of core learning tracks. The curricula will be developed at the regional level with industry experts and localized at the national level. The delivery of the learning curriculum will be guided by national partners to ensure that the most underserved youth groups are able to access, and will include interventions aimed at addressing social and gender norms that may prevent underserved youth groups from benefiting from these modules.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

The curricula are designed to cover a broad range of topics to improve youths' overall digital skills, interpersonal and global citizenship skills, leadership skills and will target marginalised groups. The program focuses on providing demand driven skills training that are linked to certification to provide recognition of skills development and improve employability prospects.

The levels of skills development include:

- **Digital skills training:** for anyone with basic reading skills who wants to learn the fundamentals of using digital technologies
- **Foundational Skills:** for continued digital fluency and productivity
- **Role-based Knowledge and Skills:** to learn relevant skills for jobs in-demand
- **Technical skills:** for example, skills tied to roles that lead to formal certification.

Activity 3.3.3: Develop a digital learning platform with curated content in the area of digital and 21st century skills

The one-stop-shop digital learning platform enables youth to be guided step by step, to build digital and 21st century life skills. The digital learning platform is designed as a complementary tool to support the learning journey of youth, alongside online and offline facilitator-led trainings and workshops through the Movers Programme. The user experience on the platform is optimized for asynchronous course learning with videos and quizzes – even on low internet bandwidth or while offline, with the objective of reaching underserved youth groups. While accessing course content, learners can also connect and interact with peers and experts in the communities to enable social learning and use the platform to track online and offline activities and progress. The platform also enables the ability to manage, track, optimize and enhance the online learning activities of the youth. It allows the centralization of key resources and training toolkits on the same platform. The platform's performance, coverage and participation will be measured by the platform's built-in analytics tool which allows to gather data such as gender, age, completion rates, learner performance and progress, learner satisfaction and approval, learner competency and proficiency.

Output 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions (Y&GOV)

As outlined in the Development Challenges section, space for meaningful civic engagement is shrinking, with tightening regulations on freedom of expression and assembly, restricting youth voices online and offline, and limiting opportunities to influence policy, political and governance processes and institutions.

The fourth YEP-AP programme pillar aims to boost both Asia and Pacific youth's interest, and engagement and active participation in the politics, peacebuilding and democratic institutions that affect their daily lives, both now and in the future.

Expected results:

- National and sub-national governments have enhanced capacities to engage youth in meaningful ways in decision making processes and policy development, including peacebuilding processes, and they adopt means to actively provide spaces for youth to influence decisions.
- New spaces are created, and existing spaces strengthened and expanded, for inclusive youth participation and engagement in the public policy and peacebuilding processes to enable youth, with a focus on marginalised youth, to influence decisions and processes that affect them.
- Youth have strengthened leadership and civic engagement skills and capacities to participate in political processes, peacebuilding and influence decisions that affect them.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

To achieve this output, YEP-AP will implement the following key activities. Given below is not an exhaustive list of activities, and the project has the flexibility to develop new activities to achieve this output.

UPSTREAM

4.1: Supporting national and sub-national governments to engage youth in meaningful ways in decision making and policy development

The aim of this activity is to support governments and policy makers to meaningfully engage youth and provide youth with opportunities to influence decision making, political processes and institutions.

Governments in the region are increasingly adopting legal and policy frameworks to respond to young peoples' needs, aspirations and demands.⁸³ Efforts to create integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to youth participation that will address civic engagement, alongside broader dimensions through youth polices, have increased dramatically in the past few years. More positively, young people are becoming more involved in the development and renewal of these national policies. Yet, their effectiveness, and the degree to which youth are empowered by these measures, varies greatly. YEP-AP will support countries in the development and implementation of these polices.

YEP-AP will also work closely with key government institutions e.g., election commissions, youth ministries, as well as youth councils and youth parliaments, including the increasing number of parliaments that are establishing parliamentary standing committees on youth, networks of young MPs, and other key government institutions dedicated to supporting youth. Specific activities will include:

Activity 4.1.1 Promote and scale-up the use of new ICTs for public participation

YEP-AP will work to promote **new Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)** to strengthen participatory and collaborative processes by enabling young people, including women and marginalised groups, with the skills and knowledge to use ICT platforms to voice their concerns and influence key policy and decision-making processes. This will include:

- **The use of mobile technologies and short message services (SMS):** to allow young people to participate in various initiatives, such as reporting of violence, human rights abuses, corruption, electoral fraud or other violations of rights.
- **Leveraging data mining and interaction on social media:** to collect data which will be used to inform and influence policymakers to understand the needs of young constituencies and shape policies accordingly. For example, a bespoke engagement platform has recently been piloted by several UNDP country offices. New streams of interactivity and feedback, such as crowd-sourcing and social networks, will also offer young people new opportunities to voice their concerns.⁸⁴

Activity 4.1.2 Supporting the development and implementation of Youth, Peace and Security frameworks through youth participatory processes at the national level

YEP-AP will also work with member states and key stakeholders to advance the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015),⁸⁵ recognizing the positive contribution of young women and men to sustain and build peace. YEP-AP will provide support to increase capacities of national authorities and other development partners and stakeholders to promote young people's participation in peacebuilding including through Youth, Peace

⁸³ <http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/documents/the-state-of-youth-policy-in-2014/>

⁸⁴ <https://www.cogco.co/wp-content/experiments/undp2022/pakistan.html>

⁸⁵ Resolution 2250 was followed in 2018 by Resolution 2419, and on 14 July 2020 the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2535, underlining the vital role of youth in building peace and significantly expanding the agenda with new tasks.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

and Security (YPS) frameworks and multi-stakeholder coalitions. Various mechanisms to implement YPS agenda nationally can be in the shape of roadmaps, national action plans, strategic plans, policies and programs, projects and services. Among other things, YEP-AP will work with national partners to address structural barriers including social and gender norms that may prevent certain youth groups from meaningfully engaging in the framework.

YEP-AP will build capacity of young people with a particular focus on the most marginalised youth groups and young women to engage in the Youth, Peace and Security agenda at the national level, and provide targeted support to integrate diverse youth perspective into the decision-making processes, recognizing their unique role in strengthening national, local and community-based capacities, in conflict and post-conflict situations to prepare for and respond to increasingly frequent, severe weather events and natural hazards, as well as public health challenges that affect young people's lives and their futures, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

MIDSTREAM

4.2: Creating and expanding spaces for youth participation and engagement in the public policy and peacebuilding processes to enable youth to influence decisions and processes that affect them

Enabling and broadening young people's participation in political processes involves creating new spaces and opportunities for youth political involvement. Secondly, it entails developing the requisite skills and competences among young people needed for their effective participation in the political arena. These are tasks for both civic education and other informal mechanisms of political socialization and learning. Thirdly, effective and meaningful empowerment often requires significant changes in power relations, both at the level of agency (e.g., the ability of girls and women to think and act in their own interests), and structure (formal and informal institutions, rules, norms and beliefs that enable and constrain thinking and action). One method of assisting young people to engage more effectively in civic life and understand democratic principles is through networks, youth councils and youth parliament. Through this programme, youth can directly address and challenge issues or policies that most affect them. UNDP will also work together with countries that organize youth parliaments as a means to educate and engage greater numbers of young people in parliamentary work while gaining skills such as public speaking, debate, presentation, research and organisational skills and enhancing their personal development skills that will prepare them for future parliamentary and other political leadership roles.⁸⁶ The spaces and means of engagement must be tailored to the local context and address social and cultural barriers and negative gender stereotypes that may prevent the equal participation of marginalized youth groups. Potential channels include but are not limited to youth councils, youth parliaments, youth organisations, political parties, democracy clubs and various online and offline citizen initiative platforms.

Activity 4.2.1 Supporting youth networks and organisations to act as channels for youth voices and empowerment

YEP-AP will cultivate networks of young indigenous, LGBTQI+, Persons with Disabilities, migrant and women who are motivated to participate in processes that have an influence on young people's lives and their communities. This will include providing support to youth councils, youth parliaments; youth organizations, political parties; democracy clubs, citizen initiative platforms to create new spaces and expand and enhance the inclusiveness of the existing ones through targeted interventions for youth to connect with each other and policy makers and make their voices heard. By providing resources, capacity development opportunities and connections that contribute to the engagement of the marginalized communities, the hope is that the activities contribute towards creating role models, dismantling negative social attitudes and gender stereotypes towards these groups and allow them to meaningfully participate and influence decisions that affect them.

⁸⁶ The term "youth parliaments" generally refers to youth-oriented events which replicate parliamentary procedure and debates. In many cases, they are organized by youth organizations for the purposes of educating young people and raising their awareness about the political process. They can also help highlight the importance of youth policy, feed into parliamentary deliberations and help recruit younger MPs.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Activity 4.2.2 Creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue between youth and politicians

YEP-AP will aim to create safe spaces for dialogue between politicians and young voters and peacebuilders as a critical step towards building accountability and transparency in elected leaders and governance institutions and to increase the willingness of politicians to engage with youth. Specific interventions will be designed to ensure these spaces are accessible and allow for meaningful engagement from all youth groups including women, indigenous youth, LGBTQI+ and people with disabilities.

DOWNSTREAM

4.3 Building the capacity of marginalized youth, including women, to meaningfully to participate in civic engagement, peacebuilding, decision-making and other political processes

Actors at all levels are taking steps to increase the educational foundations for civic education in Asia-Pacific. In various countries primary and secondary schools, as well as universities and technical colleges are increasingly incorporating issues of active citizenship and service-learning into classroom-based and extra-curricular activities. Universities and research institutions are also increasingly conducting research on youth needs, attitudes and forms of participation. Schools bear a special responsibility for the development of civic competency and civic responsibility, but civil society, the media and community groups can also serve important educational functions.

Gender underlies one of the most important cleavages in political participation in Asia-Pacific. In order to address young women's significantly lesser representation, participation and sense of empowerment in the region, special attention needs to be devoted to making political engagement relevant and accessible to them. As mentioned above, a number of structural measures, such as quotas or other forms of affirmative action, may be required to address the most severe imbalances in formal politics. Other measures can include building young female politicians' capacity to campaign by establishing a mentoring system with other candidates, training young women as election monitors, or establishing a gender action plan within political parties, one that also takes into account the specific role of young women. YEP-AP will implement outreach activities to engage with younger women who may not have considered leadership or political careers, for example young women in remote areas, with diverse social and economic backgrounds and experiences.

Initiatives focused on strengthening the capacities and skills of young women and girls are essential to enable them to actively and effectively participate in social, political, cultural and economic life. Efforts must be made to break down stereotypes of the role of girls and young women in society. Increasing the participation of young women in decision-making processes and leadership positions is essential to guarantee sustainable progress, human development and democracy.

YEP-AP will work with these actors at the regional, national, and subnational level to support and further expand such efforts, including through the following activities.

Activity 4.3.1 The integration of civic engagement and anti-corruption into the Movers Programme

Young people will be provided with skills and further development opportunities on leadership, civic engagement, peacebuilding, decision making and anti-corruption. This activity will also include the strengthening and updating of the Business Integrity Movers module and expanding to include a module relevant to ethics and accountability for youth leaders and entrepreneurs.

Activity 4.3.2 Fostering community dialogues

Community dialogues can serve as an important avenue for fostering active citizenship e.g., collaborations with community-based organizations for the use of techniques such as community-based theatre productions to promote greater social cohesion in vulnerable and marginalised communities. Such dialogues can create safe spaces for young people from diverse backgrounds to discuss development challenges, governance issues and address barriers to

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

meaningful civic participation for marginalised youth including negative social norms and gender stereotypes and promote social cohesion.

The concept builds upon the intellectual, emotional and creative resources of participants to engage young people in constructive dialogues.

Activity 4.3.3 Youth Peace and Security (YPS) related activities

Young people will be provided with skills and further development opportunities on e.g., peacebuilding leadership, civic engagement, decision making and anti-corruption. Direct support to youth peace initiatives will also be provided through a combination of capacity development, network building, and small grants. The areas of capacity development include but are not limited to areas of conflict resolution, mediation, dialogue, integrating human rights into journalism, and technical knowledge of political processes, conflict analysis, effective advocacy, combatting mis/disinformation etc.

Output 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality

YEP-AP is dedicated to mainstreaming diversity, equity and inclusion through the operationalization of the LNOB approach across all its initiatives, focusing particularly on LGBTIQ+, women, people with disabilities, indigenous people, migrants and displaced youth. This crosscutting output aims to explicitly articulate how the project, through its' interventions, will address some of the existing barriers of inequality and discrimination for young people through data driven research, multistakeholder policy level dialogue, capacity building of ecosystem stakeholders and targeted interventions for young people, including young social entrepreneurs.

These interventions will cut across Outputs 1 to 4. This output is designed to help understand the extent to which the project is advancing the LNOB agenda through diversity, equity, inclusion and contributing towards gender equality.

Expected results:

- Policies and programmes that advance youth empowerment are gender responsive and respond to the needs of underserved youth.
- The ecosystem stakeholders have improved capacities to design and deliver services and programmes, and provide dialogue platforms that are gender responsive and able to serve underserved youth.
- Young people from underserved communities have enhanced economic and skills development opportunities, and they are able to participate in and influence political and decision-making processes.

To achieve this output, YEP-AP will implement the following key activities. Given below is not an exhaustive list of activities, and the project has the flexibility to develop new activities to achieve this output.

UPSTREAM

Activity 5.1 Developing knowledge products and facilitating dialogue spaces, to strengthen the integration of gender, inclusivity and diversity in policies and programmes (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP, Y&GOV)

Activity 5.1.1 Development of knowledge products

YEP-AP will produce action-oriented research and other knowledge products to identify entry points for strengthening the inclusiveness and accessibility of the operating environment for young entrepreneurs, changemakers and activists from diverse backgrounds across the region. In-depth research will be conducted to identify drivers of inequality and discrimination for the most marginalised youth groups, including a study on social entrepreneurship among young

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

minority youth. The project will also advocate for policy changes by generating evidence and data through research, to create an enabling environment and reduce the barriers for marginalised groups and women.

All knowledge products developed through the project will take a diverse and inclusive approach to facilitate stakeholder action that caters to the need of all youth groups including:

- National ecosystem diagnostic studies that are gender and youth inclusive to identify barriers and entry points to entrepreneurship among minority youth and women
- A gender toolkit aimed at providing practical guidance for young entrepreneurs on making their enterprises gender responsive.
- A LNOB toolkit for supporting entrepreneurship support organisations in making their services and programmes more diverse, inclusive and accessible to youth and women from diverse backgrounds.

In order to integrate the findings of the knowledge products, the project will establish and facilitate dialogue platforms between young entrepreneurs, decision makers and other key stakeholders to promote inclusiveness and gender responsiveness of policies and programmes.

Activity 5.1.2 Strengthening participatory approaches for inclusive and gender responsive policies and programmes

YEP-AP will support the development of participatory mechanism in close collaboration with national partners to engage youth from marginalised communities in policy processes and developing plans and programmes. The project will also support policy makers to identify common and differentiated barriers and entry points for increasing youth engagement in areas such as green jobs and youth peace and security. The project will also partner with national stakeholders to address social and cultural norms and gender stereotypes negatively impacting marginalised youth.

In addition to national level dialogues, the project will convene regional dialogue platforms to facilitate knowledge exchanges on key issues such as good practises in preparing education systems to deliver remote learning for all, including hard to reach and most marginalised.

MIDSTREAM

Activity 5.2 Strengthening the capacities of ecosystem partners in providing services and programmes through a LNOB approach (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP and Y&GOV)

Direct support will be provided for ecosystem stakeholders to strengthen their capacity and knowledge on providing services and programmes that are more inclusive and accessible for youth from diverse backgrounds, including common and differentiated barriers facing young people. Specific interventions will include establishment of alliances, networks and other platforms aimed at facilitating knowledge exchange at regional and national level focused on promoting diversity and inclusion in youth empowerment initiatives. Additional interventions will be designed to expand and strengthen existing platforms such as the Asia indigenous Youth Platforms. In partnership with ecosystem partners specific interventions will be designed to address social norms and negative gender stereotypes that prevent meaningful participation of young people especially young women and marginalised groups.

YEP-AP will inspire and motivate stakeholders engaged in the Leave No One Behind agenda to contribute, develop partnerships, enable innovation, create funding opportunities and establish avenues for meaningful dialogue for young changemakers. The project will also support youth networks and organisations to expand and create new spaces that enhances the participation of young people from marginalised communities to engage in decision making processes.

DOWNSTREAM

Activity 5.3 Enhancing capacities of aspiring and existing young social entrepreneurs, activists and changemakers (YCLAB, YECAP, YDEEP and Y&GOV)

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

The project will support young people from diverse backgrounds with a focus on amplifying the voices of young leaders, activists and social entrepreneurs from underserved communities. Existing initiatives such as the Springboard programme, business incubation support and training and skills developments will be expanded to provide targeted support for these groups. It will support young social entrepreneurs from underserved communities with dedicated mentorship, training and access to grants and funding, incubators and accelerators, training on digital skills and 21st century skills. The project will also support these groups to strengthen their knowledge, awareness and leadership skills for greater climate action.

All capacity building interventions under the project will also incorporate a gender responsive and inclusive lens to strengthen the understanding and skills of young people on providing services, projects and advocacy through a LNOB approach.

The specific interventions include but are not limited to:

- Organising Regional and National Innovation challenges for marginalised youth who are from and working with marginalised groups including women, LGBTQI+, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and migrants
- Organizing targeted 21st century and digital skills development and capacity building support to empower underserved youth
- Establishing safe spaces and fostering dialogue for young people from vulnerable and marginalised backgrounds to participate and influence in decision making and political processes, including climate action and peace-building activities
- Addressing social and gender norms that negatively impact young people including women and prevent their meaningful participation and representation in economic and political sphere, using new methodologies such as behavioral insight tools.

B. Partnerships

YEP-AP will be implemented in collaboration with a variety of partners from across the region and beyond. This includes development partners, relevant government ministries, Civil Society Organizations (including youth organisations and networks), international NGOs and other specialized UN agencies, the private sector and academia. Specific partners for each programme pillar are listed in Table 7 below.

Development partners, that financially contribute to YEP-AP, will receive periodic audit and financial management reports of the programme's results and disbursements.

The table below provides an overview of the key partnerships involved in each pillar of the programme, but does not constitute an exhaustive list of partnerships of YEP-AP.

Table 7: Key Partners

Pillar / Focus Area	Key Partners
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening partners: Citi Foundation, CVC Capital Partners, Islamic development Bank, Accelerating Asia, Startup Bangladesh, National Incubation Centre Pakistan, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, National Youth Council Singapore, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network, Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs, All China Youth Federation and other initiatives that are mainstreaming youth-led social entrepreneurship agenda, such as Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator, and UNDP FairBiz Programme.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other partners: Youth Co: Lab also works closely with other UN partners and development agencies, such as UNICEF, UNESCO, UNV, ILO, ESCAP, ADB, Commonwealth Secretariat, etc.
YOUTH AND CLIMATE ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening partners: UNICEF, Citi Foundation, UNFCCC RCC Bangkok, the Movers Programme, the British Council, YOUNGO, the 2030 Youth Force • Other partners: the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) in Asia-Pacific, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNEP, the Asia-Pacific Interagency Network on Youth (APINY), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Fridays For Future, March for Science, Climate Tracker, Climate Action Tracker, etc. and organizations and initiatives mainstreaming and supporting underserved youth groups such as, Being LGBTQI+ in Asia and the Pacific, UNDP Human Mobility Initiative etc.
21ST CENTURY AND DIGITAL SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening Partners: Islamic Development Bank, Microsoft, LinkedIn, EY • Other partners: Johnson & Johnson, National University of Singapore, UNV, ILO, UNICEF, Commonwealth Secretariat, the 2030 Youth Force, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, EMK Centre, AIESEC, the Earth Society, Polaris Youth, and other organizations and initiatives mainstreaming and supporting underserved youth groups such as UNDP Business and Human Rights programme, Being LGBTQI+ in Asia and the Pacific
YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening partners: Sida, UNICEF and Open Society Foundation • National and sub-national governments, youth councils and networks • Other partners: UNV, OHCHR, the 2030 Youth Force, and other organizations and initiatives mainstreaming and supporting underserved youth groups such as UNDP Business and Human Rights programme, Being LGBTQI+ in Asia and the Pacific, Human Mobility project, GEF/SGP etc.

C. Risk Management

Risks and assumptions:

The key risks that can threaten the achievement of results through the chosen strategy and the assumptions on which the project results depend are discussed under the Strategy section above; informed by these assumptions, how the project risks will be identified, mitigated and managed are mentioned in the risk analysis below.

Risk Analysis:

YEP-AP is a large-scale, long-term programme. As such, there is invariably a number of key risks which UNDP and partners must take into consideration and manage in a proactive manner.

To ensure the effective delivery of activities, outputs and to achieve the envisioned outcomes, UNDP and their convening partners will put in place an effective Risk Management System, in which risks are identified, monitored, evaluated and mitigated, as required, throughout the course of the programme.

Refer Table 3 under Strategy section for an overview of the assumptions on which the project results are based, and the Risk Register in Annex 3 for a detailed analysis of risks and treatments.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

D. Stakeholder Engagement

The Regional Youth Empowerment Portfolio has a range of key stakeholders and target groups. This section provides an overview of these and outlines principles for identifying and engaging stakeholder groups.

Civil society

Civil Society partners, youth networks, youth councils, and other youth organizations are important stakeholders. Extra efforts will be made to engage youth groups at various parts of the project cycle. This project gives special focus to young women, youth with disabilities, young indigenous people, LGBTI+, migrant and displaced youth, marginalized youth, and youth in conflict. These groups will be strategically engaged to ensure the most vulnerable segments of the youth population are supported and their voices are part of the conversation.

Local youth organizations

UNDP RBAP has been working with youth-serving organizations (YSOs) across the region to offer capacity building to youth as change-makers over the years. This project will continue to work with YSOs to improve, tailor and accelerate their support to youth based on their expertise. Building the capacities of youth is one of the main approaches to address skills gaps and 21st century skills required. Working with national partner YSOs, based on their in-house expertise, will further support and lean on existing national capacities available and ensure a greater number of youth are reached.

Governments

National and local government bodies and institutions (including parliaments) are one of the main partners, as systemic change requires the direct participation of municipalities, ministries and other governing national bodies. Policymakers, relevant ministries and public officials are identified as stakeholders as per the theory of change, and require multiple levels of engagement to address barriers to youth economic and social inclusion. Governments will be engaged at various programming levels in addressing policy, regulatory and legal barriers, in supporting public-private financing of youth enterprises, in consultations on national approaches across the four pillars, etc. As a main stakeholder deep engagement with different levels of government is paramount to both sustainability and impact.

Local and regional innovation ecosystems

Tapping into regional and local innovative ecosystems is key to help solve development challenges around the outputs of this project. These will include existing other intermediaries such as incubators, creative hubs and coworking spaces, as well as start-ups and social enterprises. Each country will have its own unique set of diverse stakeholders that make-up the local innovation ecosystem.

Experts

To support this project, there will be a need to tap into both internal and external expertise across the four pillars; it is also needed in order to support the portfolio approach, and other innovative organizational requirements of the project that steps away from business-as-usual programming. Internally UNDP has a host of experts that will meet the needs of the project including micro and macro economists, gender, innovation, climate change and environmental specialists, amongst others. There will also be a need to identify external expertise who are part of the existing ecosystems that

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

support youth in the four areas of work. There will be a necessity to also contract experts from consulting firms - local, regional and possibly global - to address some of the more advanced requirements of the project.

Funders

Engaging with donors as stakeholders that can also support co-creative processes, is an important approach of the project. This enables to leverage both technical expertise and resource contribution.

Research institutions: think tanks, academia

In accordance with this project's approach and based on the theory of change, evidence-based programming and interventions require partnerships with research institutions, including think-tanks and academia. This project requires collective action for success and leveraging the existing strengths of these entities to ensure sound research that can inform interventions aimed at achieving impact at scale.

Private Sector

Working with the private sector is built into the approach of several of the outputs of the project: Alliances with the private sector to support youth employment, access to finance, addressing barriers to youth led MSMEs, facilitating innovations, sharing private sector expertise and technology especially as it relates to green growth, and renewable energy, engaging private sector with youth for mentorships and networking, and to support mobilizing funds at scale.

UNDP Internal

UNDP RBAP has a youth focal point system that makes-up a network of staff at the country office level that both coordinate and implement youth related programming. This network has been key to supporting the UNDP-RBAP wide coordination on youth. This approach is aligned to the UN-wide Youth Strategy.

Regional Project Teams, GPN, BPPS Technical Teams in Regional Hubs (inclusive of Governance, Innovation, Gender, Environment, Sustainable development, and Livelihoods, Communications teams, etc.), Country offices, and other relevant units within UNDP global including Youth Team in HQ: UNDP's technical expertise is the organization's main asset and this project will require working very closely with different technical experts within the region and tapping into other bureaus to ensure approaches, design and implementation meet UNDP quality standards and achieve results intended.

UN Agencies

Aligned to Youth 2030 Agenda, YEP-AP aims to build on the existing partnerships with sister UN agencies to pilot and scale various activities. Some of the UN partners include UNICEF, UNFCCC, ILO, UNESCAP, UNV, UNEP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNCDF.

E. Digital Solutions

Technology and innovation are important drivers of learning, advocacy and economic development. Business incubators and accelerators provide a conducive environment that nurtures innovation. Investments need to be made in technological infrastructure to create the foundation for a thriving digital economy and to provide the impetus for

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

the spread of innovation, as well as to ensure that young people have access to knowledge and the competencies, as well as skills to exploit technology and create commercially viable and sustainable products and services.

To unlock the youth potential and ensure marginalized groups are not left behind, it is vital to enhance their pathways to learning, skills development, and participation by adopting innovative, scalable and replicable approaches to youth empowerment and engage millions of youths.

YEP-AP Learning Management System

The YEP-AP Learning Management System (LMS), piloted from 2020, has been a pivotal knowledge hub that supports the project objective to empower young people, providing a range of courses and resources in an easy-to-navigate and accessible manner. It has played a vital role in consolidating and improving the journey and learning experience of all 1,600 users, to date.

The LMS increases engagement with the programmes on many levels, attributed to the user-friendly and cohesive experience of using an LMS. It is where:

- Young social entrepreneurs can learn how to strategize, build and sustain a business venture.
- Changemakers can master their knowledge of the SDGs and hone their 21st century skills.
- Partners, industry experts and other UN agencies can co-develop online modules with YEP-AP.

The LMS allows to empower young entrepreneurs and youth leaders, at scale, by providing them with all the necessary learning and engagement resources and tools so they can establish a strong brand and boost their confidence for showcasing and mobilizing their community, creating practical materials and skills to mobilize resources from investors and partners.

With over 20 courses to date, the learning platform is where young social entrepreneurs and youth leaders can choose from practical modules to learn at their own pace, drawing from examples, templates and tips shared by alumni, founders and leaders, mentors and investors on how to best showcase and operate their SDGs solutions and/or advocacy, boost their employability, and learn more about climate change.

YEP-AP Chatbot

The chatbot, launched in early 2020, is an innovative and scalable awareness-raising and engagement tool that provides the youth in Asia-Pacific with the opportunity to learn about social entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership and engage with YEP-AP programs. To date, there are more than 16,000 subscribers for our chatbot.

The chatbot is embedded into Facebook Messenger, one of the most popular social media platforms, with approximately 1.28 billion monthly active users across Asia-Pacific (Q4 2021, Statista). Having more than 250,000 followers on the Youth Co:Lab Facebook page, the chatbot allows for deeper engagement with the online community by adding value and providing curated resources to our community members.

The chatbot acts as a steppingstone for young social entrepreneurs and change-makers to support their journey of partaking in the YEP-AP initiatives. They can access a wide variety of content on how to strategize, build, and sustain a business venture, master their knowledge of the SDGs, and hone their 21st century skills – all through the chatbot. The bot provides:

- Information and guidance to join different programs and events of YEP-AP.
- Inspirational content such as examples of social entrepreneurs in the region who have built their ventures from the ground up or youth leaders mobilizing their community for the SDGs.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

- Educational quizzes to learn more about the SDGs with links to the YEP-AP LMS where users can receive support on their SDG solution.

F. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC)

At the regional level, UNDP is well placed to help transfer knowledge and experience across country office projects, programs and initiatives.

The project plans to enable and facilitate dialogue and learning across countries and stakeholders in the Global South interested in managing and engaging with complexity and uncertainty. This includes exploring the formation of communities of practice (CoP) to enable south-south learning across governments, and peer-to-peer network of youth groups, networks and individual change makers. Second, the Project is actively identifying and seeking to engage partners from the Global South (see “Partnerships” above) and to connect their experiences and expertise with needs of stakeholders in developing countries working with complexity and uncertainty. The project will focus on strengthening cross-country knowledge-sharing to identify best practices and lessons learned which could be drawn upon by Country Offices as well as local partners.

G. Knowledge

The project produces research and thought leadership products to support data and evidence driven programming and policy development.

To support entrepreneurship and 21st century skills and digital skills development activities

- Regional research products
 - o LNOB and Youth Entrepreneurship – Regional Flagship Study on entrepreneurship among aspiring and existing young entrepreneurs from vulnerable backgrounds. The study aims to identify the barriers and entry points for strengthening entrepreneurial opportunities among minority youth and amplifying their potential as social entrepreneurs.
 - o Gender toolkit for young entrepreneurs. The toolkit aims to provide young entrepreneurs with tools and resources for promoting gender equality in their workplace and through their businesses.
- A course on Inclusive Development for example: Disability Inclusion
- LNOB Toolkit - A programme for Incubators and Accelerators to make them more inclusive in terms of recruitment, program design, facilitation and amplification.
- National research products
 - o National studies on the state of the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship. These studies identify barriers and opportunities within the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship. The studies incorporate strong gender and inclusion lenses to provide recommendations to make the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship more supportive of youth from diverse backgrounds. The diagnostics will include a mapping of the ecosystem stakeholders to support operationalisation of the recommendations of the studies by identifying the key players and their roles in the ecosystem.
- A toolkit for running innovation challenges specifically targeting youth, with good practices from country offices and a menu of resources and tools that country offices, governments, and other ecosystem players can use.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Under the Youth and Climate Action Pillar

At least 5 flagship products will be developed to enhance understanding and challenges and opportunities for meaningful youth engagement in climate action across the region.

Communications and visibility activities

The project will develop tailored communication and visibility campaigns for thought leadership pieces and knowledge products using relevant communications platforms. This may include but is not limited to:

- Identifying the key target audiences
- Planning the strategic dissemination timeline
- Coordinating various strategic campaign activities by producing social media campaigns, opinion pieces, blogs, web articles and press releases over multi-pronged campaigns
- Defining key messages and dissemination channels
- Engaging country offices and partners in the communications activities
- Monitoring communications results

H. Sustainability and Scaling Up

All project activities are aimed at achieving sustainable change in the region through an eco-system strengthening approach at downstream, midstream and upstream levels. The four pillars aim to work together to support and reinforce long-term sustainable change for young people across the region through this approach.

YEP-AP is designed for replication and sustainability from the outset. A strong emphasis is on strengthening the regional and national ecosystems for youth advocacy, knowledge, innovation and social entrepreneurship so that impacts are scaled, sustained and multiplied beyond the lifetime of the project.

- In addition, YEP-AP will enable country offices to mobilise more resources to support the youth empowerment agenda and to promote sustainability and scale-up. In addition, each pillar supports the mainstreaming of youth within the country context.
- The project utilizes and promotes Opensource software and tools to build the capacities of the ecosystem partners and other beneficiaries.
- Alliances with partners reduces the dependability on YEP-AP for continuity.

I. Environmental Safeguards

Given the capacity development nature of the project, UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure was completed during the project document development process by obtaining services of an SES expert. UNDP's internal quality assurance assessment includes evaluation of potential social and environmental impacts of the project and concludes that indirect environmental impact is expected to be positive given that one of the project's focusses is on empowering young people to lead on the sustainable development agenda, including mainstreaming climate change considerations. Please refer Annex 2: Social and Environmental Screening attached for further information. The project team plans to monitor the evolution of the project and changes in the environment for potential risk management.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

J. Communication and Visibility

Communication and visibility initiatives, such as knowledge product dissemination campaigns and thematic campaigns around global UN days, play an integral role in cutting across all four key pillars to empower youth, inspire, mobilize and engage youth changemakers across Asia-Pacific. This also supports highlighting the impact of the project activities and building connections among diverse stakeholders to strengthen project outputs.

External communication efforts and knowledge production will enhance the visibility of the projects and youth leadership overall. This includes the production of knowledge products and content that promote the impact of the projects and youth action overall through regional and national level communications channels.

Social media and campaigning contribute to the creation of a sense of community online. This includes the delivery of digital campaigns that centre around core project areas.

Thought leadership efforts contribute to systems change in the ecosystem that young leaders, innovators, and changemakers operate in. This includes media outreach thought leadership or opinion pieces, and knowledge products on project initiatives. These communications and visibility activities will include but are not limited to, websites, videos, blogs, publications, newsletters, op-eds, media engagement, social media and digital campaigns.

A communications strategy and branding guidelines have been developed for Youth Co:Lab and YECAP. The exact timing and content of communication, tools and visibility activities will be specified in annual work plans, based on communications strategies of the projects. YEP-AP commits to acknowledge all donor contributions to this programme in the programme activities.

K. Financial Management and Anti-corruption

UNDP BRH has excellent procurement processes which are of the highest standard for competition, objectivity, efficiency and environmental protection. Fiduciary risk systems are managed using IPSAS15 and ATLAS16 (potentially replaced by Quantum and Quantum+) and UNDP BRH has excellent routines, resources and competence to ensure adequate financial management of this programme. This programme is implemented using the UNDP's Direct Implementing Modality, which falls under UNDP's overarching anti-fraud policy.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A. Management structure and implementation modality

This project will represent one component of the regional portfolio within UNDP's RBAP, falling under the Regional Programme. It will be operationalised by the BRH Youth Team which operates within BRH Governance Team.

The Project Board (Ref. to Annex 4 for the Project Board ToR) will undertake the strategic decisions related to the implementation of the activities. The Board shall also provide constructive assessment, strategic guidance and insightful directions for the project, its future development and expansion of the initiatives to ensure project sustainability. The composition of the Project Board will include the Manager of the Bangkok Regional Hub, representatives from selected donors, Youth-Serving Organizations and beneficiaries. Additionally, key partners will assist in helping to oversee their respective pillars.

The project will be implemented through Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) whereby UNDP assumes full management responsibility and accountability for project delivery.

Where possible, project aims to strengthen youth as internal human resource whether as staff, UN Youth Volunteer, or intern, among others, and prioritize recruitment of young women and young people from marginalized sectors

B. Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

YEP-AP expects to deliver maximum results with available resources by using the theory of change analysis to explore different options at the project design stage, and by using a portfolio management approach to improve cost effectiveness and learning by leveraging activities and partnerships with other initiatives/projects aligned with YEP-AP architecture.

Efficiency: a project design based on learning, sensemaking and adaptation tends to perform better when faced with uncertainty and complex challenges. YEP-AP aims to make initial bets (drawing on different proven methods available in the market), learning from and adapting these allows for a nimbler allocation of resources, reducing the risk that funds are spent inefficiently.

Effectiveness is ensured through a number of design features.

First, the YEP-AP aims to deploy a portfolio management approach where the Regional Hub's interventions are coordinated, synergetic and learn from each other, and thereby are more likely to contribute to the intended results.

Second, as mentioned, the project will proactively engage, collaborate with and leverage on a range of internal and external partners which increases the likelihood that the project achieves intended results (effectiveness) and is efficient (through synergies and co-funding with partners).

Third, the project's emphasis on generating capabilities across UNDP as well as fostering ecosystems of country-level stakeholders increases the likelihood that positive change will materialise and be sustained.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

C. Project Management

The YEP-AP project will represent one of the components of the regional portfolio within UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific⁸⁷, falling under the Regional Programme. It will be operationalised in the Bureau's Regional Hub in Bangkok alongside RBAP country offices.

Oversight of the project will be provided by the Hub's Regional Program Unit. Operational support to the project will be provided by UNDP's Regional Hub alongside RBAP country offices, to ensure effective execution of activities, as well as guidance on results-based management. To ensure effectiveness of project delivery, a dedicated Regional Project Management Team and dedicated country office capacities will be maintained to implement the workplan and coordinate activities. This will include project management, strategic and technical advisers, project analysts (including communications, RBM and coordination functions) and operational functions (see Section VIII Governance and Management Arrangements). The project may enter collaboration arrangements with other regional projects on cross cutting issues such as digital innovation, anti-corruption, climate action, parliaments, gender, and peacebuilding, as examples.

The Project Board will undertake the strategic decisions related to the implementation of the activities. The Board shall also provide constructive assessment, strategic guidance and insightful directions for the project, its future development and expansion of the initiatives to ensure project sustainability. The composition of the Project Board will include UNDP RBAP Manager, Beneficiaries and the Funders. Relevant units of RBAP Regional Programme, as well as Project staff under this project will attend the Project Board meeting as needed. For more details see Project Board TOR in Annex 4.

The project will be implemented through Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) whereby UNDP assumes full management responsibility and accountability for project delivery. Accordingly, all aspects of project implementation shall be provided in accordance with the policies, procedures and regulations established by UNDP for its operations.⁸⁸ The project will be subject to the auditing procedures laid out in the UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules, through which the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations conducts independent, objective assurance⁸⁹. Audit reports are published according to UNDP disclosure policies.⁹⁰

In accordance with the decisions and directives of Member States on UNDP's Executive Board reflected in its policy on cost recovery, the project shall be subject to cost recovery by UNDP for two distinct cost categories related to the provision of support services, namely UNDP General Management Support (GMS) and Direct Project Cost (DPC). GMS is recovered generally with a minimum flat rate of 8% for contributions from donors. GMS encompasses costs incurred in providing general management and oversight functions of the organization. These costs are incurred in support of its activities, projects and programmes, and services provided, that cannot be traced unequivocally to specific activities, project or programmes. Furthermore, these costs are incurred throughout and at all levels of the organization. Direct Project Costs are linked to the specific project, are built into the project budget against a relevant budget line and represent clearly identifiable transactions.

⁸⁷ The Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific (RBAP) has its headquarters in New York and serves UNDP regional programmes and country offices in 24 Asia-Pacific countries, covering 36 countries.

⁸⁸ UNDP Programme and Operations Policy and Procedures (POPP) covering administrative services, financial resources management, human resources management, ICT, partnerships and procurement can be found at <https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/Regulations%20and%20Rules.aspx>

⁸⁹ Provisions relating to audit are stipulated in Article 4 of UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules found on the POPP website referenced above. Rule 104.01: "The Office of Audit and Investigations shall evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and control processes regarding the: (a) reliability and integrity of financial and other information; (b) effectiveness and efficiency of operations; (c) safeguarding of assets; and (d) compliance with legislative mandates, regulations, rules, policies and procedures."

⁹⁰ In accordance with decision 2012/18 of the UNDP Executive Board, audit reports issued by its Office of Audit and Investigations are publicly disclosed on the UNDP website.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Implementation of some activities may be through a sub-contracting of local implementation partners or responsible parties' modality, which will be executed using standard procurement procedures for transparency and best value for money.

The project may also apply a grant beneficiary mechanism for youth in line with specified themes under project outputs. In this case, funding will be awarded on the basis of clear criteria and competitive rules, with discretionary grant awards permissible under agreed policies and UNDP project execution rules.

V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK⁹¹

Table 8: Results Framework

<p>Intended Outcome as stated in the Regional Programme Results and Resource Framework: Regional Programme Outcome 1: Inclusive and sustainable structural transformations accelerated to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerabilities towards the achievement of SDGs and inclusive, sustainable, resilient and digital transitions.</p>
<p>Output indicators as stated in the Regional Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: RPD Output 1.2. Macro-economic transformation that supports technological and digital transformation, trade and integration, development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and employment sector reform, accelerated towards inclusive low carbon and nature-based solution pathways within blue, green and people-centred recoveries. RPD Indicator 1.2.2. Number of ultimate (economic) beneficiaries of partnerships with the private sector (women, men, PwDs) Baseline (2020): 8,035 (women: 3,214) Target (2025): 20,100 (women: 10,000); people with disabilities: 1,000 Data source: Monitoring reports RPD Indicator 1.2.4. Number of tools, policies and initiatives (including guidance notes and policy briefs) developed to improve gender equality and youth empowerment in employment, adopted by government or private sector. Baseline (2020): 7 Target (2025): 20 Data source: Policies and tools</p>
<p>Applicable Outcome and Output from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Outcome 2: No-one left behind, centering on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development Development Outputs under Signature Solution 1 Poverty and Inequality: Output 1.3 Access to basic services^[1] and financial and non-financial assets and services <i>improved</i> to support productive capacities for sustainable livelihoods and jobs to achieve prosperity ^[1] <i>Basic services refer to public service provision systems that meet human basic needs including drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, mobility, waste collection, health care, education and information technologies. (SDG 1.4.1)</i> Indicators 1.3.2 Number of people accessing financial services (Female, Male, Sex-disaggregated data unavailable, Poor (income measure), Informal sector workers, Youth, Persons with disabilities, Displaced populations, Ethnic minorities) Indicator 1.3.3 Number of people accessing non-financial assets: Female, Male, Sex-disaggregated data unavailable, Poor (income measure), Informal sector workers. Youth. Persons with disabilities, Displaced populations, Ethnic minorities)</p>
<p>Project title and Atlas Project Number: The Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP)</p>

⁹¹ UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
		Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	FINAL (2023-2026)	
Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others									
1.1 # of countries where knowledge products influence ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship	CO monitoring and activity reports; dialogue and roundtable event minutes, research studies; media monitoring reports	4	2022	3	1	1	1	6	Data collection methods: Progress and activity reports from the COs; follow up with the research partner organisations; roundtable discussions and dialogue events; media monitoring Risks: Weak ownership of the studies or consultation results by the stakeholders; challenges to track the contribution of the studies to the ecosystem
1.2 # of ecosystem partners have enhanced capacities to support youth-led enterprises	Ecosystem partners and activity monitoring reports	27	2022	8	8	8	6	30	Data collection methods: Follow-up surveys and consultations with the ecosystem partners supported by the project; CO monitoring reports, pre- and post-activity surveys and tests Risks: Low response rates to the feedback and consultation requests

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
		Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	FINAL (2023-2026)	
1.3 # of youth have enhanced entrepreneurial skills (Disaggregated by age, gender and LNOB status)	COs and Implementing Partners; Regional and National Springboard and Movers for entrepreneurs attendance data and feedback	14,275	2022	1,000	2,000	3,000	4,000	10,000	Data collection methods: Monitoring reports, collecting attendance records and feedback from the national and regional Springboard programme participants; follow-up surveys and consultations with young people, pre- and post-activity surveys and tests Risks: Low response rates to the feedback forms; data privacy and protection of sensitive data, e.g., related to the minority status of participants
1.4 # of livelihoods enhanced through youth-led enterprises (Disaggregated by age, gender and LNOB status)	Youth-led social enterprises; CO monitoring reports	1,860	2022	360	720	1,080	1,440	3,600	Data collection methods: Follow-up surveys and consultations with the YSE supported by the project Risks: Low response rates to the feedback/consultation forms; challenges in data verification (self-reported data by the enterprises); data privacy and protection of sensitive data
Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action									

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
		Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	FINAL (2023-2026)	
2.1 # of youth-responsive components adopted and implemented by the NDC plans and initiatives	Government partners; CO monitoring and progress reports	0	2022	1	1	1	1	4	Data collection methods: Consultations and engagement with the partners and youth involved in the NDC processes. Risks: Challenges in monitoring the implementation of the youth responsive components especially when the processes are carried out over a long period
2.2 # of ecosystem partners, youth networks, CSOs helping young people take climate action	Ecosystem partners, youth networks, CSO supported; CO monitoring and progress reports	0	2022	1	2	3	4	10	Data collection methods: Tracking engagement with the ecosystem partners and youth networks through country offices and at the regional level; feedback forms and follow up consultations with the ecosystem partners. Data on the gender and LNOB status of the youth supported through the organisations collected to the extent possible. Risks: Challenges to obtain and verify data on the support provided to young people through organisations.
2.3 # of countries where youth groups influence policies and programmes	Monitoring reports; youth coalitions or	0	2022	1	2	3	4	10	Data collection methods: CO monitoring and progress reports; meeting minutes, attendance record and consultations with the key

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
		Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	FINAL (2023-2026)	
	groups supported; government and private sector partners								stakeholders and youth groups and coalitions; media monitoring. Risks: Weak ownership of consultation results by the stakeholders
2.4 # of young people taking climate action (disaggregated by age, gender and LNOB groups)	CO and implementing partner monitoring reports; Participant feedback data (Movers Climate programme; AGYLE; YECAP fellowship; AIYP; youth dialogues)	22,272	2022	20,000	40,000	60,000	80,000	200,000	Data collection methods: CO and implementing partners' monitoring reports, attendance and feedback forms; consultations with youth participants Risks: Low response rates to the feedback forms; data privacy and protection of sensitive data, e.g., related to the minority status of the participants.
Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people									

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
		Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	FINAL (2023-2026)	
3.1 # of countries where knowledge products influence the ecosystem for digital skills	CO monitoring and progress reports; Knowledge products, meeting minutes	0	2022	-	-	2	2	4	Data collection methods: Follow up with the research partner organisations; Roundtable discussions and dialogue events; media monitoring Risks: Weak ownership of the studies or consultation results by the stakeholders
3.2 # of ecosystem partners improve access of young people to digital and 21st century skills	COs; ecosystem partners; monitoring and progress reports	0	2022	2	4	6	8	20	Data collection methods: Collecting feedback from and organising consultations with the ecosystem partners supported; pre- and post-activity surveys and tests Risks: Low response rates to the follow-up consultation requests
3.3 # of underserved young people have enhanced 21st century and digital skills (disaggregated by gender and LNOB status)	Activity monitoring reports; Participant feedback and attendance data	0	2022	3,500	7,000	10,500	14,000	35,000	Data collection methods: Attendance and feedback data from the programme participants; pre- and post-activity surveys and tests, follow-up surveys and consultations with participants; CO monitoring and progress reports Risks: Low response rates to the feedback forms; data privacy

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
		Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	FINAL (2023-2026)	
									and protection of sensitive data, e.g., on the minority status of the participants
Output 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions									
4.1 # of instances where young people and parliamentarians meet to engage on development agendas	CO monitoring and progress reports; meeting minutes or attendance records, media	0	2022	3	3	3	3	12	Data collection methods: CO monitoring and progress reports; collecting attendance records and meeting minutes Risks: Management of the participant data when sensitive question such as those related to conflicts or human rights violations are discussed
4.2 # of policies, programmes and interventions where youth voices are embedded	CO monitoring and progress reports; Policy and programme documents	0	2022	-	-	2	2	4	Data collection methods: CO monitoring and progress reports; engagement and consultations with the national governments and youth groups Risk: Management of the participant data when sensitive question such as those related to conflicts or human rights violations are discussed

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
		Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	FINAL (2023-2026)	
4.3 # of young people engaging in decision-making processes, including peacebuilding processes (disaggregated by gender and LNOB status)	CO monitoring reports; attendance data, meeting minutes; youth consultations	0	2022	500	1,000	1,500	2,000	5,000	Data collection methods: Collecting attendance records and meeting minutes; consultations with the partners and youth Risks: Management of the participant data when sensitive question such as those related to conflicts or human rights violations are discussed
OUTPUT 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality									
5.1 # of policies, programmes and initiatives influenced that are gender responsive or LNOB	CO monitoring and progress reports; Government partners; policy documents	0	2022	-	-	2	2	4	Data collection methods: Consultations with governments; CO progress and monitoring reports Risks: Challenges to monitor the implementation
5.2 # of ecosystem organisations that have improved capacities to plan and implement interventions that are gender responsive and able to serve underserved youth	Ecosystem partners and COs	0	2022	-	-	6	6	12	Data collection methods: CO and implementing partners monitoring and progress reports; tracking engagement with the ecosystem partners through country offices and at the regional level;

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
		Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	FINAL (2023-2026)	
									<p>feedback forms and follow up consultations after capacity building activities</p> <p>Risks: Challenges to obtain and verify follow up monitoring data to understand longer term results on the support provided to underserved youth</p>
5.3 # of young people from underserved communities served (disaggregated by gender and LNOB status)	Participant feedback and attendance data; CO and implementing partners monitoring and progress reports	599	2022	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	50,000	<p>Data collection methods: CO and implementing partners monitoring and progress reports; Feedback data from the participants; follow-up surveys and consultations with youth</p> <p>Risks: Low response rates to the feedback forms; data privacy and protection of sensitive data</p>

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

Continuous Learning: In the YEP-AP, various streams of action aim to contribute to systems change. Collecting quantitative and qualitative monitoring data for learning purposes is therefore important to support continuous learning and adaptive management. Consultations with the key stakeholders, including young people following the principles of meaningful youth engagement, are an integral part of this learning approach.

Enhanced Digital Tools for Planning and M&E: The project will strengthen the existing planning, monitoring and reporting systems through digital tools that support safe and effective data management across the project activities.

Systematising Planning and M&E processes across project countries: Building on the lessons learnt and recommendations of the RYPLIE project evaluation, the project will focus on standardising planning, monitoring and data collection processes across the project countries. Enhanced digital tools will contribute to these efforts.

LNOB Strategy and M&E: Collecting data to understand results related to the support provided to young women and youth from marginalised and vulnerable communities is a central objective of the M&E activities. In line with project's LNOB strategy, the project collects disaggregated data across the activities to measure the reach of underserved youth and effectiveness of the support provided to them. Besides attendance data, the project learning activities include consultations with youth from marginalised groups and young women to better understand the gaps and strengths in the activities and understand the benefits for the participants.

UNDP's M&E Standards and Principles: The project M&E will follow UNDP's monitoring and evaluation guidelines and adhere to the donors' requirements related to monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The project M&E is supported by the Regional Hub's Programme Management Unit (PMU).

Evaluations: The project will undergo two evaluations: a mid-term review to support learning and adjust project activities as needed and a final evaluation to support accountability and facilitate knowledge exchange and learning.

Table 9: Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (If joint)	Cost (If any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator. Youth participant data, including disaggregated data by gender and LNOB groups, is updated	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	-	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning costs are included in the Regional Programme support costs.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (If joint)	Cost (If any)
		upon completion of each activity.			The total budget of M&E activities is USD 690,000.
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	-	
Learn	Knowledge, good practices, and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually, but also on an ongoing basis when the key partners and stakeholders are consulted, and activity reports prepared	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.	-	
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.	-	
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually; but also, on an ongoing basis based on the monitoring data and lessons learnt during the implementation	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.	-	
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)	Report is produced and disseminated among relevant stakeholders. Separate progress reports may be produced for different project components according to the donor requirements.	-	

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (If joint)	Cost (If any)
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Annually	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	-	

Table 10: Evaluation Plan⁹²

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Mid-Term Evaluation	N/A	SP IRRF 1.3	RPD Outcome 1	December 2024	Project partners and donors, UNDP country offices and governments in implementing countries, UN partner agencies, young people	USD 67,000
Final Evaluation	N/A	SP IRRF 1.3	RPD Outcome 1	January 2027	Project partners and donors, UNDP country offices and governments in implementing countries, UN partner agencies, young people	USD 100,000

⁹² Optional, if needed

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN ^{93 94}

All anticipated programmatic and operational costs to support the project, including development effectiveness and implementation support arrangements, need to be identified, estimated and fully costed in the project budget under the relevant output(s). This includes activities that directly support the project, such as communication, human resources, procurement, finance, audit, policy advisory, quality assurance, reporting, management, etc. All services which are directly related to the project need to be disclosed transparently in the project document.

Table 11: Multi-year Work Plan

OUTPUTS / SUB-OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year (USD'000)				Budget Description	Amount (USD '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026		
Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others							
1.1. Strengthening an enabling policy and regulatory environment for youth entrepreneurship through action-oriented research and policy dialogues and evidence-based advocacy	Activity 1.1.1 Developing knowledge Products: Research, ecosystem diagnostics and toolkits and organising related policy dialogues	200	400	600	800	Contractual Services, Institutional Services for Research, Communications, Staff cost	2,000
	Activity 1.1.2 Strategic Intelligence Hub						
1.2 Enhancing capacities of the ecosystem stakeholders, facilitating knowledge exchange and strengthening partnerships	Activity 1.2.1 Strengthen partnerships through national and regional Youth Empowerment Alliance	250	500	750	1,000	Organizing travel and other logistics (international and	2,500

⁹³ Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

⁹⁴ Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUTS / SUB-OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year (USD'000)				Budget Description	Amount (USD '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026		
	Activity 1.2.2 Facilitate knowledge exchange and partnership-building through national and regional dialogues and summits					local), Staff travel, Contractual Services	
	Activity 1.2.3 Strengthen the capacities of the national partners through Ecosystem Capacity Building Programme (Amplifier Programme) for Ecosystem Support Organisations						
	Activity 1.2.4 National partners for innovation challenge winners						
	Activity 1.2.5 Promote mentoring to inspire, upskill, and connect young entrepreneurs, including peer to peer mentoring						
	Activity 1.2.6 Strengthen access to digital entrepreneurship opportunities						

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUTS / SUB-OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year (USD'000)				Budget Description	Amount (USD '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026		
1.3. Directly support young aspiring and existing entrepreneurs	Activity 1.3.1 Organising innovation challenges for aspiring and existing young social entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds	400	800	1,200	1,600	National Innovation Challenges, Contractual Services, Travel, Staff cost	4,000
	Activity 1.3.2 Run Springboard incubation and pre-accelerator programmes at national and regional levels						
Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action							
2.1 Connecting youth and government on climate related questions and organising Government Policy Labs on climate	Activity 2.1.1 Youth Policy Labs on Climate	200	400	600	800	Contractual Services, Institutional Services for Research, Communications, Staff cost	2,000
	Activity 2.1.2 Technical support to government partners						
	Activity 2.1.3 Crowdsourcing youth voices and engagement						
	Activity 2.1.4 Research and knowledge products						

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUTS / SUB-OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year (USD'000)				Budget Description	Amount (USD '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026		
2.2 Building capacity of national youth networks, young activists and youth-led organizations to lead sustainable, inclusive, and resilient engagements on climate action	Activity 2.2.1 Mapping youth organisations and relevant stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region and establishing National YECAP Alliances					Organizing travel and other logistics (international and local), Staff travel, Contractual Services	3,500
	Activity 2.2.2 Training & mentorship						
	Activity 2.2.3 Supporting the expansion of the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP)	350	700	1,050	1,400		
	Activity 2.2.4 Foster regional and South-South peer to peer and learning opportunities in coordination with regional bodies and private sector partners						
	Activity 2.2.6 Increasing access to financing solutions for young climate advocates and solutionists						
	Activity 2.2.7 Opportunities Hub & Knowledge Hub						

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUTS / SUB-OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year (USD'000)				Budget Description	Amount (USD '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026		
2.3: Increasing youth knowledge, awareness and leadership skills in climate action	Activity 2.3.1 The Movers Climate Programme	300	600	900	1,200	Organizing travel and other logistics (international and local), Staff travel, Contractual Services	3,000
	Activity 2.3.2 The AGYLE Programme						
	Activity 2.3.3 The YECAP Fellowship Programme						
	Activity 2.3.4 The Social Innovation Platform for Climate (SIP-C)						
	Activity 2.3.5 Building capacities of EHRDs						
Output 3: Digital inequality is reduced for underserved young people							
3.1: Strengthening national systems and creating alternative learning pathways that prepare youth for the future of work and reduce digital inequality	Activity 3.1.1 Piloting 21st century and digital skills development workshops for educators	200	400	600	800	Contractual Services, Communications, Staff cost	2,000
	Activity 3.1.2 Convening policy dialogues						
3.2: Develop capacity of non-profit organizations, community partners and youth networks to deliver accessible and scalable 21st century skills development	Activity 3.2.1 Strengthening capacities of ecosystem support organizations	100	200	300	400	Contractual Services, Communications, Staff cost	1,000

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUTS / SUB-OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year (USD'000)				Budget Description	Amount (USD '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026		
3.3: Mainstream access to digital and 21st skills development by empowering youth to lead skills initiatives and provide access to volunteering and learning/internship opportunities	Activity 3.3.1 Movers Programme					Contractual Services, Communications, Staff cost	4,500
	Activity 3.3.2 Develop standardized learning curriculum that combine online learning with facilitator-led learning	450	900	1,350	1,800		
	Activity 3.3.3 Develop a digital learning platform with curated content in the area of digital and 21st century skills						
Output 4: Young people are enabled to participate in and positively influence decision making, political processes and governance institutions							
4.1: Supporting national and sub-national governments to engage youth in meaningful ways in decision making and policy development	Activity 4.1.1 Promote and scale-up the use of new ICTs for public participation					Contractual Services, Communications, Staff cost	1,500
	Activity 4.1.2 Supporting the development and implementation of youth, peace and security frameworks through youth participatory processes at the national level	150	300	450	600		

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUTS / SUB-OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year (USD'000)				Budget Description	Amount (USD '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026		
4.2: Creating and expanding spaces for youth participation and engagement in the public policy and peacebuilding processes to enable youth to influence decisions and processes that affect them	Activity 4.2.1 Supporting youth networks and organisations to act as channels for youth voices and empowerment	150	300	450	600	Contractual Services, Communications, Staff cost	1,500
	Activity 4.2.2 Creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue between youth and politicians						
4.3 Building the capacity of young people to participate in civic engagement, peacebuilding, decision-making and other political processes	Activity 4.3.1 The integration of civic engagement and anti-corruption into the Movers Programme	200	400	600	800	Contractual Services, Communications, Staff cost	2,000
	Activity 4.3.2 Fostering community dialogues						
	Activity 4.3.3 YPS related activities						
OUTPUT 5: Youth empowerment initiatives strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion and gender equality							
5.1 Developing knowledge products and their application, to strengthen the integration of gender, inclusivity and diversity in policies and programmes	Activity 5.1.1 Development of knowledge products	80	160	240	320	Contractual Services, Research partners, Communications, Staff cost	800
	Activity 5.1.2 Strengthening participatory approaches for						

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

OUTPUTS / SUB-OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year (USD'000)				Budget Description	Amount (USD '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026		
	inclusive and gender responsive policies and programmes						
5.2 Strengthening the capacities of ecosystem partners in providing services and programmes through a LNOB approach	Activity 5.2 Strengthening the capacities of ecosystem partners in providing services and programmes through a LNOB approach	210	420	630	840	Contractual Services, Communications, Staff cost	2,100
5.3 Enhancing capacities of young aspiring and existing social entrepreneurs, activists and changemakers	Activity 5.3 Enhancing capacities of young aspiring and existing social entrepreneurs, activists and changemakers	210	420	630	840	Contractual Services, Communications, Staff cost	2,100
Sub-Total Programme Cost (including Implementation Support Services Fee - ISS)		3,450	6,900	10,350	13,800		34,500
Programme Management Support Cost							
Regional Project Team and Project Monitoring, Safeguard including other Management Support Cost	Project Manager and Coordinators, Project Assistants, M&E and Safeguarding etc.	500	500	500	500	Contractual Services, Staff cost	2,000
Project Evaluation	Mid-term review and Final evaluation	-	67	-	100	Contractual Services, Communications	167
Overheads:							
General Management Service Fee (GMS)		316	597	868	1,152	GMS	2,933
Coordination Levy		43	81	118	157	Coordination Levy	400
Grand Total		4,309	8,145	11,836	15,709		40,000 ⁹⁵

⁹⁵ It is noted that this total amount has not yet been committed by any donor/s and is not supported by a signed agreement/s.

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation modality

The Project will be directly implemented (DIM) by the UNDP and all aspects of the project will comply with UNDP guidelines for DIM.

Management and coordination arrangements

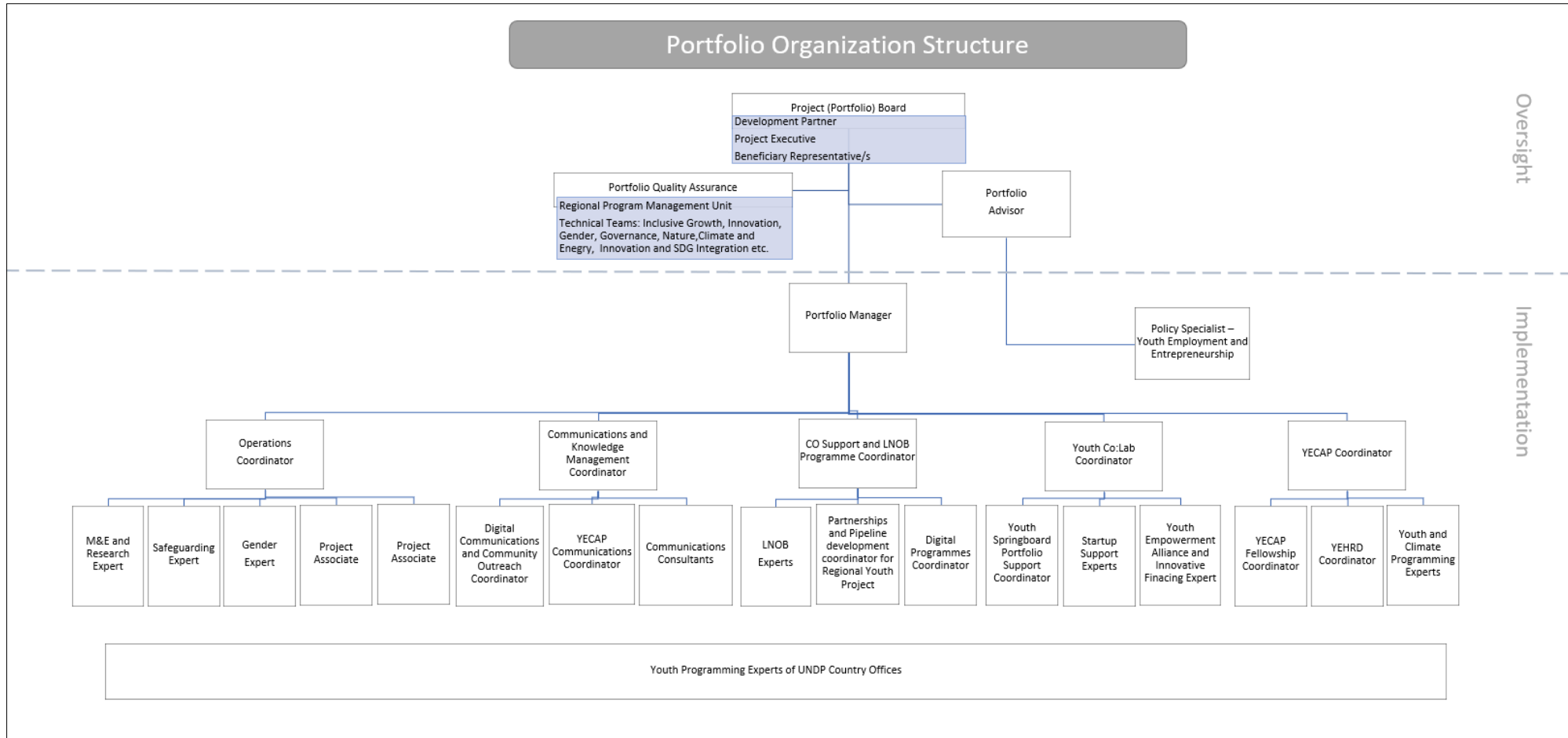
YEP-AP is managed by the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) and its identified partner(s) under the Regional Project Document 2023-2026. At the regional level, the BRH will provide in-country and virtual technical support for the implementation of the outputs of the project, and will be responsible for monitoring, and reporting against the targets. The UNDP Country Offices will continue to play a key role as the conduit at the national level for ensuring smooth operationalization of each of the outputs that require in-country activities. For any organization identified as a suitable implementing partner for this project, UNDP will strictly follow all UNDP rules and regulations for the selection process. All partners will meet regularly and be involved in planning, reviewing and reporting results.

The YEP-AP project will be overseen by a Project Board (Refer Annex 4), consisting of Project Executive/Director, representation from Development Partner/s and Beneficiaries, and would convene at least annually. The Project Board will have the overall responsibility for providing strategic guidance and oversight for the implementation of the Project. The Project Board is responsible for making consensual management decisions concerning project issues and risks and will provide advice and guidance when required to the Project Manager. Approval of any significant project revisions and approval of Annual Work plan (AWP) is also a key role of the Project Board. The Project Board will also be used as a mechanism for leveraging partnerships and mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Project. Project reviews by the Project Board will be made at designated decision points during the running of the project, or as necessary when raised by the Joint Project Manager. The Project Manager will consult the Project Board for decisions if/when tolerances (i.e. constraints normally in terms of time and budget) have been exceeded.

To be able to ensure that YEP-AP is a responsive regional mechanism which can quickly and effectively deliver to counterparts, the project will be managed in the following way:

- a) A Programme Manager based in BRH will have the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager is responsible for day-to-day management and decision-making for the project. The Programme Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results (outputs) specified in the project document to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.
- b) Regional Project Team based in BRH will support the project manager with managing the day-to-day activities of the project including partnership development, country office support and coordinating responsible parties.
- c) Various project output components will be led by dedicated individuals with specialized capacity in delivering various project activities (ex – advocacy, impact measurement, social entrepreneurship and innovation, Start-up support, alliance coordination, event coordination etc.). These individuals will be engaged via service contracts, individual consultancies, UNV modalities, Personnel Services Agreements (IPSAs and NPSAs) where necessary
- d) Project Quality Assurance is the responsibility of each Project Board member under the guidelines specified by the Regional Project Document supported by the Regional Program Management Unit (PMU) and Technical Teams; however, the role can be delegated. The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. Project Assurance has to be independent of the Project Manager; therefore, the Project Board cannot delegate any of its assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager.
- e) The Project Support role provides project administration, management and technical support to the Project Manager as required by the needs of the individual project or Project Manager. It is necessary to keep Project Support and Project Assurance roles separate in order to maintain the independence of Project Assurance.

Figure 11: Project Organization Structure



IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)

Option c. For Global and Regional Projects

This project forms part of an overall programmatic framework under which several separate associated country level activities will be implemented. When assistance and support services are provided from this Project to the associated country level activities, this document shall be the “Project Document” instrument referred to in: (i) the respective signed Standard Basic Assistance Agreements (SBAA) for the specific countries; or (ii) in the [Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document](#) attached to the Project Document in cases where the recipient country has not signed an SBAA with UNDP, attached hereto and forming an integral part hereof.

This project will be implemented by UNDP in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

Option b. UNDP (DIM)

1. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
2. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]⁹⁶ [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]⁹⁷ are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism, that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List, and that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used for money laundering activities. The United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List can be accessed via <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered under this Project Document.
3. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
4. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP as the Implementing Partner will handle any sexual exploitation and abuse (“SEA”) and sexual harassment (“SH”) allegations in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures.
6. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.
7. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor, and sub-recipient:
 - a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [*or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document*], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its

⁹⁶ To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

⁹⁷ To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in such responsible parties, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:

- i. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, considering the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
 - ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible parties, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
- b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible parties, subcontractors, and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.
- c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient (each a "sub-party" and together "sub-parties") acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the sub-parties, and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.
- (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").
 - (b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, each sub-party, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. SH may occur in the workplace or in connection with work. While typically involving a pattern of conduct, SH may take the form of a single incident. In assessing the reasonableness of expectations or perceptions, the perspective of the person who is the target of the conduct shall be considered.
- d. In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall (with respect to its own activities) and shall require from its sub-parties (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, sub-parties will and will require that their respective sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:
- (i) Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;
 - (ii) Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where sub-parties have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;
 - (iii) Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which any of the sub-parties have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;
 - (iv) Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

- (v) Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. Each sub-party shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the relevant sub-party shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.
- e. Each sub-party shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the relevant sub-party to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.
- f. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will ensure that any project activities undertaken by them will be implemented in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards and shall ensure that any incidents or issues of non-compliance shall be reported to UNDP in accordance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.
- g. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud, corruption or other financial irregularities, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption, anti-fraud and anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.
- h. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices (b) UNDP Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy; and (c) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
- i. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (And its consultants,' subcontractors,' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.
- j. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud, corruption other financial irregularities with due confidentiality.

Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

- k. Choose one of the three following options:

Option 1: UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud corruption, other financial irregularities or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Project

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail any responsible parties, subcontractors, or sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

- l. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.
- m. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
- n. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, *mutatis mutandis*, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document YEP-AP

XI. ANNEXES

1. Project Quality Assurance Assessment
2. Social and Environmental Screening
3. Risk Analysis
4. Project Board Terms of Reference
5. TORs of key project staff
6. Lessons learnt from World We Want Consultations
7. Research Outputs
8. Final Evaluation of Youth Co:Lab Project
9. Leave No One Behind Strategy
10. Risk Mitigation and Communication Strategy
11. UNDP Anti-Corruption Policy