



PROJECT LESSONS-LEARNED REPORT

Total length of report: 2-3 pages.

Project Title:	Social Cohesion Through Youth Civil Participation
Country:	Ukraine
Related CPD/UNPF Outcome	UNDAF Outcome 3. By 2022, women and men, girls and boys participate in decision-making and enjoy human rights, gender equality, effective, transparent and non-discriminatory public service Output 1.2. National institutions, systems, laws and policies advance the equitable realization of human rights, especially among vulnerable groups
Project Description and Key Lessons-Learned	
Brief description of context	<p>Please give a brief description of the country context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What were the main challenges being faced at the start of the project? <p>Since 2019, with the change of political leadership in the country and the Government, the political discourse started changing towards promoting the national unity and social cohesion in the country.</p> <p>At the beginning of 2020, the Government had an ambitious goal of implementing the national unity dialogue largely through youth, by organising the Youth Mobility Programme with the exchange visits of young women and men to different parts of Ukraine and promoting their dialogue on the national civic identity of Ukrainians in an effort to try and find commonalities and points that unite the nation. Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 outbreak, this ambitious plan was revisited, but the vision for continued social cohesion work is still on the agenda of the Government. UNDP used this window of opportunity to provide support to the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine in implementing youth policy with the focus on promoting of social cohesion among young women and men.</p> <p>As of June 2021, the State Target Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine 2025” was officially approved by the Government of Ukraine (The Programme). The Programme will be a guiding youth policy document at the subnational level for the next five years. It has direct reference to achieving Agenda 2030 and SDGs as well as sets youth civic participation and promotion of social cohesion among youth as the key priorities which directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 16.</p> <p>The key national partners of UNDP during the implementation of the project were the Ministry of Youth and Sports and All-Ukrainian Youth Center. All-Ukrainian Youth Center (AUYC) is a governmental agency established under the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the aim of supporting institutions and professionals working with youth through coordination, networking and training activities. The key priorities of AUYC are enhancing youth civic participation and development of competencies and abilities of young people. AUYC serves as an educational and resource platform for oblast youth centres, which, in turn, perform the same function for local youth centres. The subnational youth centres could be established by subnational</p>

	<p>authorities or by CSOs with the goal to provide space and non-formal education activities for youth.</p> <p>The SCYP Project was intended as a preparatory phase for the large-scale 2-year programme which is funded by UN Peace Building Fund and is designed to be jointly implemented by three agencies: UNDP, UNFPA and OHCHR. The PBF project launch was scheduled for January 2021 and was coordinated by RC Office in Ukraine. Due to political reasons, the launch of the PBF project was postponed until November 2021 and the target regions originally envisioned, namely Zakarpattya, Vinnytsya, Kharkiv, Kherson and Kyiv were changed to Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and therefore the implementation modalities for the PBF project were adjusted and the project was anchored under the UNDP IDRPB portfolio.</p>
<p>Brief description of project</p>	<p>A short description of the project should be provided here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What were the issues the project tried to address? ○ What solutions the project tried to offer? What were its major outputs? <p>Through this project, UNDP aimed to contribute to creating an enabling environment for sustainable peace in Ukraine by supporting the efforts of young Ukrainian women and men to promote greater social cohesion and a sense of national unity through dialogue at the local, regional and national levels.</p> <p>The objective of the project is to promote social cohesion and a national unity dialogue in Ukraine through establishing non-violent mechanisms of conflict resolution, youth inclusion in decision-making, civic participation and engagement.</p> <p>The SCYP project was structured against four Activities, each of them incorporating several Actions. The four Activities identified were:</p> <p>Activity 1: Conduct an in-depth research "Social Cohesion of Youth in Ukraine" in order to analyse the challenges and needs of young women and men in the area of social cohesion;</p> <p>Activity 2. Develop educational materials aimed at promoting social cohesion among youth, based on the research results and recommendations of the study;</p> <p>Activity 3. Engaging young women and men, youth centres and youth organisations in co-design of the programme by implementing pilot social cohesion programmes;</p> <p>Activity 4. Establishing non-violent mechanisms of conflict resolution to support national unity across all Ukraine.</p> <p>It is proposed to implement the project on the basis of existing and evolving infrastructure for youth policy implementation as outlined in the draft Law #3718 on Youth Policy, developed with UNDP participation in 2019-2020, and the State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine 2025", developed with UNDP support in 2020. The above-mentioned youth infrastructure for youth policy implementation includes All-Ukrainian Youth Centre (AUYC), subnational youth centres and youth workers, trained within the framework of the state Youth Worker Programme implemented jointly by the Ministry and UNDP.</p>

<p>Key project successes</p>	<p>Please describe what has worked well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What have been the key successes of this project? <p>Under the project, the following results were achieved:</p> <p>The project has produced an in-depth research "Social Cohesion of Youth in Ukraine" was conducted in order to analyse the challenges and needs of young women and men in the area of social cohesion. It focused on 5 target oblasts to identify the risks to social cohesion that exist with the youth of Ukraine (inequalities, exclusion, lack of trust between peers and towards institutions, lack of shared vision for the future, lack of shared values etc), and was based on Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for Eastern Ukraine (SCORE) methodology. Representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, structural oblast departments of the Ministry and All-Ukrainian Youth Center were informed about the results of the SCORE 2021 research and encouraged to use it during the development and implementation of youth policy (26 duty-bearers in total). The methodology for assessing capacities of youth centres was developed and is planned to be institutionalised the methodology to be used by the AUYC for all similar assessments in the future.</p> <p>In order to support the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine in implementing National Unity/Youth Mobility programmes with the aim of strengthening social cohesion among young people, the project developed a training manual for the youth workers and youth centres as the potential implementers of these programmes. The training for trainers course was focused on the four interconnected modules: 1. Diversity; 2. Participation. 3. Media Literacy 4. Communication.</p> <p>Young women and men, youth centres and youth organisations were engaged in co-design of the programme by implementing pilot social cohesion programmes. In total, 11 youth centres from the five target regions Kyiv, Kherson, Zakarpattya, Vinnytsya and Kharkov completed the training of trainers (TOT) training programme. The training module was also launched through the online communication platform for youth workers and youth, First Youth TV Channel and reached 1.2K viewers. The study visits of representatives of youth centres of the selected regions to each other were transferred online due to COVID-19 quarantine restrictions. The project supported the development of 11 introductory videos about the youth centres which were demonstrated during experience sharing online events which were organized with active participation of young people and youth workers.</p> <p>The project enhanced technical capacity of the Ministry of Youth and Sports to incorporate social cohesion priorities in the youth policy documents by engaging the Social Cohesion Advisor to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. At the request of the Deputy Minister the consultant conducted an analytical review of the draft Concept of State Target program "Youth of Ukraine 2021 - 2025". One of the key achievements of this work is that social cohesion was added as a key policy priority of with the Programme which was not identified in the draft policy document. The Advisor was also an active member of the working group and provided policy recommendations to the Draft Law "On Basic Principles of Youth Policy".</p> <p>As for establishing non-violent mechanisms of conflict resolution to support national unity across all Ukraine, a report was prepared on the Early Warning</p>
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	<p>and Response Systems and context analysis. The analytical report focused on articulation of a rationale and strategic framework for social cohesion (including youth and gender dimensions) in Ukraine that is informed by UNDP's own corporate approaches to social cohesion (the Guidance and SCORE definitions), as well as youth engagement, anchored in Ukrainian context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What factors supported this success? Overall UNDP steering and close coordination by a research assistant ensured a close collaboration between all the consultants / researchers. Along with this, there was political buy in on business and human rights in particular by the NHRI and the topic became of high relevance after it was included into the new National Human Rights Strategy adopted in March 2021. Considering that the BHR environment in Ukraine haven't been studied sufficiently before, the comprehensive study on business and human rights turned to be of high relevance.
<p>Project shortcomings and solutions</p>	<p>Please describe what have been the main challenges of this project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What have been the main challenges/ shortcomings/ unforeseen circumstances of this project? Among the key challenges were the time limits of the project and the novelty of the topic. In addition, the project had wished to facilitate field mission and face-to-face interviews which had to be adapted due to the covid situation. The full implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights have been integrated into the new National Human Rights Strategy only in 2021 bringing public attention to the existing challenges in this area. The BHR and UN Guiding Principles requires more raising awareness initiatives to promote human rights values in business activities. ○ How were they overcome (if they were). The project supported the contest for academic papers on business and human rights. The contest committee received 153 academic papers on issues of socially responsible business and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights from more than 60 universities around Ukraine. Thus, the business and human rights topic proves to be of high relevance for Ukrainian society and academic community. The contest provided a number of insights on how to anchor human rights into Ukrainian business activities and to boost implementation of the UN Guiding Principles. ○ Were the project results attained? If not, what changes need to be made to achieve these results in the future? The project fully attained the goals and managed to implement a comprehensive analysis of the existing opportunities for boosting UNGPs implementation. The in-depth study revealed the most common violations of human rights in business activities, as well as the most vulnerable social groups. This catalytic study will help to further enhance the implementation of the UNGPs addressing the most pressing issues.
<p>Lessons learned</p>	<p>Please think about and describe the key lesson(s) learned from this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What could have been done differently/ better? Despite some contextual changes with the implementation of PBF initiative, there is still a high interest in the implementation of social cohesion programmes and initiatives as well as increasing youth civic engagement and participation of youth in volunteerism within the

	<p>Ministry of Youth and Sports as seen in the State Target Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine – 2025”. The Programme is the key policy and document for the subnational authorities to implement youth policy priorities on the oblast and local level. Currently, subnational social programmes on youth are only being developed in accordance with the State Programme, and opportunities exist for UNDP should use this opportunity to support the subnational authorities in formulation of these policies and their subsequent implementation. It should be noted that funding for the subnational programmes that funding for their implementation should be allocated from the subnational budgets. Including young women and men in the discussions and formulation of such policies is crucial for their ownership of the process, and for ensuring that developed documents really correspond to young people’s needs and aspirations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What would you recommend to improve future programming or for other similar projects elsewhere <p>Social Cohesion is a rather new concept for Ukraine, and, as seen from the implementation of the SCYP, additional capacity development will be necessary on both the national level (Ministry and All-Ukrainian Youth Center) and the subnational level (structural departments of the Ministry, local governments) to ensure a mutual conceptual framing for future programming. Other actors within the youth policy implementation infrastructure such as youth workers, youth centers and youth civil society organizations may also require additional guidance and mentorship should they be involved in the implementation of initiatives aimed at promoting social cohesion and national unity. Currently, social cohesion is mostly seen by the Ministry in conjunction with youth mobility programmes which can potentially be a limiting factor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What mistakes should be avoided if the initiative were to be replicated? <p>Online mode should be used with caution. When it comes to establishing ties between people from different regions and backgrounds, creating unity, influencing people’s perceptions and behaviors, building a more tolerant and inclusive society, realizing how accepting diversity can enrich our lives etc., the online mode can provide only limited opportunity for a real change. The content and materials of the training module developed by the project was well received by the participants of the training programme but keeping the motivation for participation in the events organized in the online mode and competing with work and home priorities of the training participants was challenging. According to the results of the final survey and feedback from the participants, the major concern and regret highlighted by the majority was lack of opportunity to truly connect with people during exercises. Another important aspect highlighted by the participants was that should youth centers be selected as partners during implementation of social cohesion programmes they will require additional training and mentorship support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How easy would it be to replicate the successes in a different context/ country? <p>There is an interest in social cohesion programming in other oblasts of Ukraine as well. The project team received multiple requests from youth centers located outside of regions of immediate project area. At the same time, youth centers as the key elements of the youth</p>
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	<p>policy implementation infrastructure are in fact very different and diverse entities with very different capacities to implement youth policy in general and social cohesion programmes in particular. All-Ukrainian Youth Center which was established quite recently aims to bridge this gap through tailored capacity assessment, capacity development, establishing and promoting quality standards for youth centers. However, the All-Ukrainian Youth Center itself will need to be strengthened as an institution for this strategic vision to fully materialize.</p>
Follow-up Actions	<p>Include a brief record of decisions and conclusions related to follow-up actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introducing a more purposeful strategic direction around social cohesion into UNDP’s work in Ukraine - <i>UNDP Ukraine country programme 2023-27</i>. 2. Share the key project results, knowledge products and conclusions with the team implementing the PBF project as well as provide support with establishing cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and All-Ukrainian Youth Center.

Project Information	
Award ID:	00129289
Partners:	Ministry of Youth and Sports; All-Ukrainian Youth Centre
Project resources:	Social Cohesion through youth participation training manual 2021-12-15_Ukraine UNDP social cohesion report. Jessica Banfiled
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