



**HUMAN RIGHTS
& DEVELOPMENT**



THE RIGHTS OF YOUTH

A cross-cutting challenge to ensure their role
of actors in society and the fundamental rights
of future generations



"In light of the significant regressions observed over the course of the past decade in many regions of the world, France has adopted, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a new and different Human Rights and Development Strategy. Fully in line with France's action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, **this strategy reaffirms the indissociable link between the realisation of human rights and sustainable development**. Although the global health crisis has sometimes been used as a pretext for violating human rights, it has also made it possible to show the universality and interdependence of such rights. The right to reliable and pluralistic information has thus emerged as an indispensable public good for effective and fair treatment of the crisis. The heavy toll paid by populations who are the most vulnerable due to their poverty or who suffer discrimination also underlines all that remains to be done to ensure full respect of fundamental rights, including equal access to health, the right to decent housing, the right to a decent standard of living and every person's right to social security. France's development cooperation policy aims to address these issues."


"The Human Rights and Development Strategy establishes **a new method so that our international solidarity actions fully contribute to respect human rights and are resolutely more sustainable**. France's conception of development is built on the idea that while the fulfilment of human rights is the common ideal to be attained, it is also a means to achieve sustainable development. Development creates the conditions for the enjoyment of human rights for all, and respect for human rights contributes to a development that is truly sustainable. Therefore, it is important to further develop France's approach and design **development programs that are no longer just focused on solidarity-based action** but that can also be used as tools to implement states' international human rights obligations. To achieve this objective, France has committed to two aspects: **ensuring that none of the projects and programmes which it finances violate human rights and that throughout all sectors, they aim to produce the maximum amount of positive effects to fulfil human rights.**"

Source:

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/human-rights-and-development/

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CONTEXTUALISATION OF THE SUBJECT IN LIGHT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS- BASED APPROACH



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The Challenges

In 2022, the world's population of young people aged 15–24 reached over one billion and is projected to rise to 1.3 billion by 2030.¹ The proportion of youth is decreasing in the Asia-Pacific region, while increasing in sub-Saharan Africa, and set to rise from 19% of the population in 2015, to 42% by 2030.²

While young people constitute a valuable potential for the future, the challenges that they must help to tackle are huge: the weakening of the rule of law and democracy, the climate and environmental crisis, increasing inequality, drawn-out conflicts and systemic human rights violations.

In this context, young people's participation in political, social, environmental and economic life is an absolute necessity to progress towards inclusive and sustainable development. Yet, compared to older citizens, their participation in formal and institutional political processes is relatively low. This situation calls into question the representativeness of political systems³ and underscores the challenge of ensuring intergenerational equity in order to preserve the rights of future generations.

¹ 2020 World Youth Report: Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda, United Nations, 2020.

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8629-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

³ <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf>

Young people's potential is also compromised by shortcomings and inequalities in accessing quality educational and training services, as well as health services, including mental health and sexual and reproductive health services. These issues are often exacerbated when it comes to young girls, adolescent girls and young women, as well as young people with disabilities and indigenous, refugee or displaced youth, LGBTQIA+ youth and all the other groups experiencing discrimination.

Youth

The notion of "youth" is closely tied to social and cultural practices that vary over time and from one context to another, particularly when it comes to the gender and social class of those concerned. There is no universally accepted definition of "youth" or "young people".⁴ The definitions depend on the country, the context and the different organisations.

For statistical purposes, the UN defines "youth" as the 15–24-year-old age group.

According to the ILO Convention 138, youth begins at the age of 15 years.

The Commonwealth defines "youth" as any person between the ages of 15 and 29 years.

The African Union defines "youth" as pertaining to anyone between the ages of 15 and 35 years.

The World Bank defines "youth" as persons aged from 15 to 24 years.

In this fact sheet, the term "youth" is used to encompass the whole spectrum of the above definitions rather than referring to a single age group; it thus recognises this broad diversity and denotes a period of transition from childhood to adulthood – i.e. when a person attains full socio-economic, environmental, civil and political independence.

It is essential to accompany all these young people towards their full integration into society, citizenship and economic, professional, environmental and climate aspects of life so that they can not only exercise their right to participate in public life but also contribute to intergenerational justice, which will ensure truly sustainable development.



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The commitments

At international level, there is a consensus on the role and potential of young people.

In its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations General Assembly recognises youth from all countries as actors that are crucial to the achievement of this Agenda. In 2019, the UN Human Rights Council⁵ urged the Member States to study the possibility of mainstreaming questions related to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights for young people both within the Universal Periodic Review and treaty bodies. The United Nations Security Council recognises in particular young people's contribution to peace thanks to the "Youth, Peace and Security" programme and highlights their role in conflict prevention and resolution, the fight against violent extremism, peacebuilding (Resolution 2250 in 2015) and in implementing peace agreements and conflict prevention (Resolution 2419 in 2018).

⁴ Note that the international Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as every human being below the age of 18 years.

⁵ Resolution 41/13 "Youth and Human Rights" adopted 11 July 2019.



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A youth rights-based approach

The youth rights-based approach ensures that young people become key actors in social, political, ecological and environmental change, and not simply beneficiaries of the policies and programmes concerning them. When a development project¹¹ applies a youth rights-based approach, it:

- ▶ Strengthens the capacity of young people to claim their rights;
- ▶ Strengthens the capacity of duty-bearers to respect their commitments to youth rights;
- ▶ Identifies the project's potentially adverse effects on youth rights and puts corrective measures in place;
- ▶ Takes young people's needs and expectations into account and ensures the participation of the most marginalised groups of young people.

Depending on its context, resources, technical capacities and ability to build partnerships, each project will focus on some of these elements in line with its own specific scope.

Implementing a youth rights-based approach is a crucial factor for the effectiveness of development policies and programmes. It ensures that actions are relevant and provides new insights into the issues involved. Likewise, it enables young people to acquire and develop skills and build up their civic engagement. This approach aims to be cross-cutting and systematic regardless of the sector involved and/or the type of project implemented, as it contributes intrinsically and significantly to the project's transformational capacity.

In June 2020, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted the conclusions inviting the European Commission to produce an action plan to ensure that the EU's external action contributes to the empowerment, leadership and participation of young people in political, social, environmental and economic affairs. This Action Plan, launched on 4 October 2022, covers the period 2022–2027.⁶

France also commits to youth through its international cooperation policy. The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) adopted a “youth” strategy in 2015,⁷ in which one line of intervention aims to give young girls and boys the means of becoming agents of change. The Programming Act on Inclusive Development and Combating Global Inequalities (2021)⁸ recognises the importance of citizens' and young people's engagement internationally, mainly through volunteering.⁹ For AFD, the “100% Social Link” strategy supports the clear ambition to have youth play an active role in half of the projects that it supports from now through 2025.¹⁰

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_5884

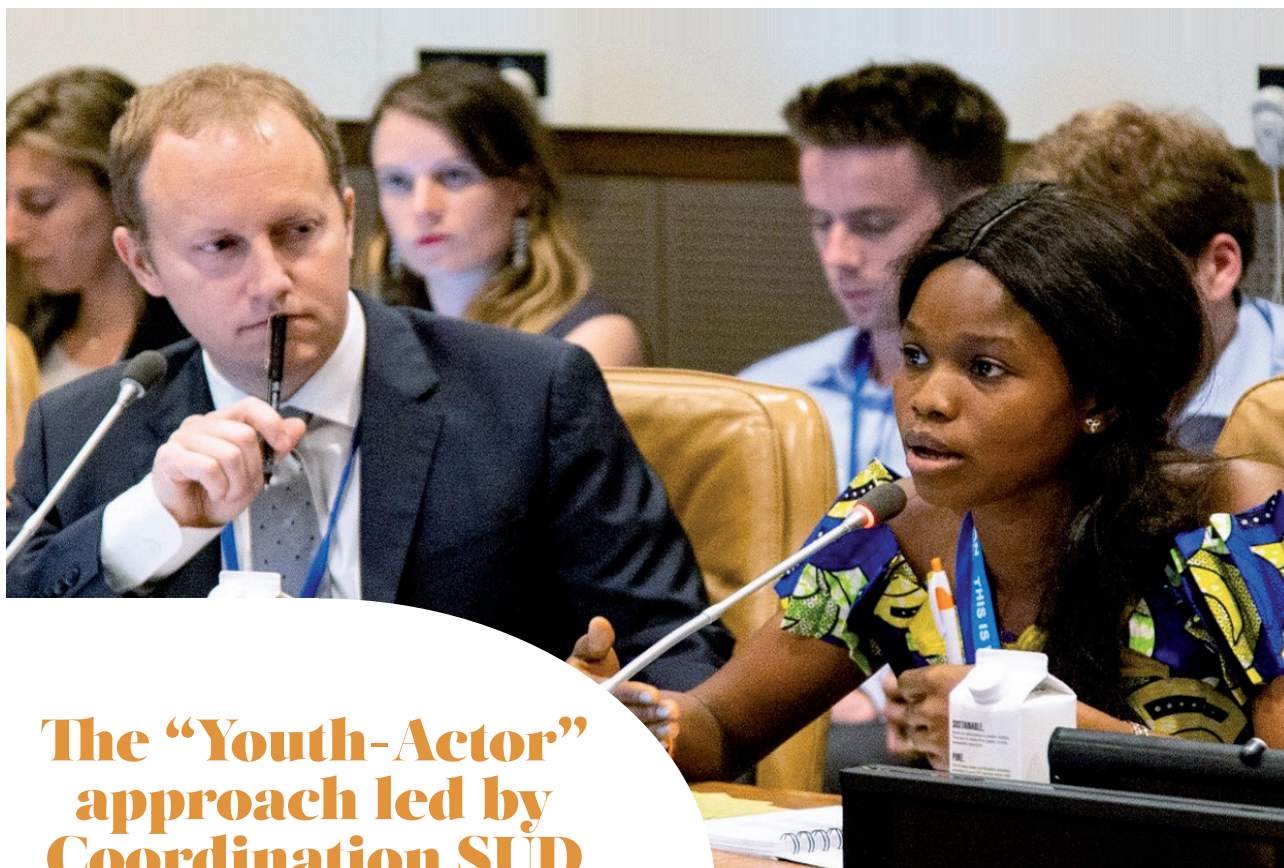
⁷ France's external action for youth – Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (France) – 2015.

⁸ Programming Act No. 2021-1031 on inclusive development and combating global inequalities published in the *Journal officiel* n° 180 du 4 août 2021.

⁹ Programming Act No. 2021-1031 also mentions that “France recognises girls, adolescent girls, young women and women as full-fledged actors in the dynamics of social transformation by not considering them simply as aid beneficiaries, and promotes their effective participation in elaborating, implementing, and monitoring public programmes and policies affecting them.”

¹⁰ <https://www.afd.fr/en/ressources/social-link-2021-2025-strategy>

¹¹ Historically, the human rights-based approach relates to the field of development and international cooperation, but it has also been mainstreamed into humanitarian action.



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The “Youth-Actor” approach led by Coordination SUD

The Youth and International Solidarity Committee (YISC) of the NGO platform, Coordination SUD, **supports a youth rights-based approach called “Youth-Actor”**.¹⁵ This approach pays particular attention to the following:

- It highlights the determinants and structural causes leading to marginalisation and exclusion;
- It involves interventions that recognise young people in all their diversity;
- It entails facilitating the emergence of spaces that associate young people with decision-making on the co-construction, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and programmes;
- It requires setting up an enabling environment to recognise young people's role as agents of change and encourage and support their initiatives.

THE YOUTH RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH AND THE CHILD RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH¹²

These two approaches are underpinned by the same building blocks as the human rights-based approach. Both of them also involve the engagement of adolescents below the age of 18 years.¹³ Both essentially hinge on the principle of respect for intergenerational justice.¹⁴ They are thus closely related and complementary.

¹² For more details on the child rights-based approach, see the AFD fact sheet, “The Rights of the Child”.

¹³ The Committee on the Rights of the Child issued specific recommendations on the rights of adolescents. (General Comment No. 20 of 2016).

¹⁴ Intergenerational justice is an integral part of the sustainable development concept. It is related to intergenerational equity. In other words, the current generation's search for well-being must not reduce the possibilities for the well-being of following generations.

¹⁵ *État des lieux de la prise en compte des jeunes dans les organisations françaises de solidarité internationale* (State of play of the mainstreaming of youth in French international solidarity organisations) – Coordination SUD – 2020.

FOCUS

CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED BY PROJECTS

The solutions described below are not exhaustive and aim to highlight some selected elements specific to implementing a youth rights-based approach in a given context. Additional information on the projects presented below can be viewed on the websites of the organisations concerned and, in some cases, on the AFD website.

PROJECT

“SAKSHAM”



JASI Plan Int Saksham © Plan International

COUNTRY	KEYWORDS
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Right to decent work ▶ Gender equality ▶ Training and full empowerment
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	
Plan International France	

CONTEXT The economic empowerment of young women in India is still limited due to gender-based discrimination, a lack of training and decent employment, and wage inequality between women and men.

PROJECT Since 2010, the Saksham project has been promoting equal access to employment for young women in four regions in India through vocational training centres open to young women and men from marginalised communities. Since its launch, 12,000 young people have graduated. The post-study job placement rate is markedly higher than that of most of the country's other training programmes.

- ▶ During the design of the current project phase, the participants of the previous phase were consulted.
- ▶ The training curricula include professional technical skills and “life skills” such as personal development (leadership, conflict management), on-line safety and gender equality.
- ▶ The project establishes positive relationships with the authorities and institutions, and advocates for gender equality in the professional world.
- ▶ Some young people participating in the project develop their own initiatives: they engage in dialogue with their communities on gender equality and decent employment. They also run youth groups to share their experience and advise other young people.

This project is co-financed by private donors.

A MAJOR DETAIL The safety of young girl participants is a key consideration and various strategies are put in place to deal with this. All of the young participants and staff are trained in gender equality. The training centres are set up at a reasonable distance from the target communities, in order to facilitate access for the most fragile and support the safety of young women.



“ EDUCATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY ”



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COUNTRY	KEYWORDS
France and international	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Death penalty ▶ Functioning of institutions
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	
Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Youth competitions ▶ Collective projects

CONTEXT The right to life is a fundamental right enshrined in international conventions and it is recognised that the death penalty does not deter criminality more effectively than other measures.¹⁶

¹⁶ Death Penalty Fact Sheet – Council of Europe, <https://rm.coe.int/168008b914>

PROJECT

PROJECT The project has been running since 2009 and reinforces young people’s understanding of questions linked to the death penalty, such as pardon, vengeance, justice, minority rights, abuse, the functioning of institutions and citizenship. It includes activities with “school” groups (lower and upper secondary school students), higher education students, young people in civic service and minors in conflict with the law, in order to encourage them to think about themes that concern them directly.

This project is co-financed by AFD.

A MAJOR DETAIL the final external evaluation of the project’s 2018–2020 phase notes that one of its strong points lies in the association’s capacity to tailor its interventions to the specific characteristics of the different types of youth (age groups and profiles). This approach requires strategic partnerships and substantial resources to reach a broad audience.



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PROJECT

“MÉDIASAHÉL”



Media Sahel ©Olympia de Maismon

COUNTRY	KEYWORDS
Mali / Burkina Faso / Niger	
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	
Agence française de développement médias (CFI) Fondation Hirondelle Radio France Internationale (RFI) The Burkinabé network UNALFAL, and the Senegalese NGO <i>Réseau Africain pour l'Éducation, la Santé et la citoyenneté</i> (African network for Education, Health and Citizenship – RAES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Audiovisual productions ▶ Calls for youth projects ▶ Training for journalists

CONTEXT The Sahel region has been disrupted by a series of multi-faceted crises that compound and amplify each other. The MédiaSahel project is underpinned by the premise that the media are key vectors of the right to information, freedom of expression and participation in public affairs – a prerequisite for democratic governance.

PROJECT The specific objective of MédiaSahel is to provide young women and men living in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger with greater access to reliable, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive information, focused on their concerns. The aim is that they appropriate this new media space in order to participate in the public debate more equitably and peacefully.

▶ Audiovisual programmes in which young people and representatives of the authorities and civil society discuss together were made in the three countries in partnership with the major media players.

▶ All of MédiaSahel's activities are carried out in concertation with a group of 75 young people who are regularly consulted about their expectations and who relay the project to their communities, particularly to the most marginalised.

▶ A system for launching calls for youth projects was organised and 22 projects were selected, including the production of radio programmes and awareness-raising campaigns aimed at decision-makers on social networks.

▶ The project includes training for local journalists on the fundamentals of professional journalism.

This project has been supported by AFD since 2019.

A MAJOR DETAIL The gender-equality objective is twofold: first, provide women with a space enabling them to express themselves and give them more opportunities to have their voices heard, and secondly involve men in discussions on gender relations and changes in everyday roles.



PROJECT

“ADOLESCENT CIRCLES FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS”



© UNICEF / UN0249851 Liz Pick

COUNTRY	KEYWORDS
Indonesia	▶ Climate change ▶ Disaster risk preparedness ▶ Youth circles
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	
UNICEF	

CONTEXT As in many countries worldwide, climate change has been identified by Indonesian adolescents as a major concern.

PROJECT Since 2015, Adolescent Circles have been active in raising awareness on climate-related disaster preparedness and a range of other subjects that the adolescents considered the most urgent, particularly managing menstrual hygiene, harassment and the prevention of child marriages. To disseminate this initiative, UNICEF Indonesia joined forces with the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, the Indonesian Red Cross, the Indonesia Scout Movement and NGOs. The partners have trained facilitators in the villages to work with over 3,300 adolescents.

A MAJOR DETAIL A 2019 UNICEF internal evaluation underlined the ways in which the project's activities (based on UNICEF's *Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation*) had helped to increase adolescents' capacities. The adult duty-bearers' contribution to implementing the young people's solutions nonetheless proved difficult mainly due to social norms that undervalue the adolescents' contributions, and to complicated budget procedures within the educational system.



PROJECT

“THE YOUTH PLAN COMMITTEE (YPC)”



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COUNTRY	KEYWORDS
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Youth engagement ▶ Advocacy on cooperation policies
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	
Plan International France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ High-level events, ▶ Awareness-raising for the general public, children and young people

CONTEXT The Youth Plan Committee (YPC), launched in September 2016 by the NGO Plan International France, is a group of 20 young volunteers working to support child and youth rights and gender equality across the world.

PROJECT In France the missions of the YPC are: (1) raise awareness of gender equality issues and child rights in developing countries; (2) participate in advocacy actions with French or European decision-makers to influence cooperation policies; (3) co-run the Youth Plan¹⁷ movement in support of gender

equality in developing countries. The young YPC members participate in high-level events such as UNESCO's International Day of the Girl Child (2021) or the seminar at the French Senate during the World Children's Day (Objectif Enfance, 2021). These members also organise awareness-raising events and their social network audiences are constantly growing.

▶ The criteria for recruiting young people focus on the members' motivation and availability and not on their level of expertise. Once a member, they follow an advanced training course (gender equality, leading an awareness-raising action, advocacy, etc).

▶ The young people develop their projects with tailored support from Plan International France, according to their needs.

▶ YPC members are renewed each year in order to ensure a diversity of profiles in terms of age, sex, territorial departments, socio-economic status and cultural origin. This diversity is enabled mainly thanks to the relations developed with different organisations.

This project was financed by Plan International France's own resources.

A MAJOR DETAIL Evaluations by former members are taken into account to adapt the functioning of the Youth Plan Committee and to provide feedback to newly arrived young people in the form of concrete examples of the actions and activities implemented.



VIDEO
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9u5iR2pzlAs&t=5s

Example of a Youth Plan Committee project involving advocacy with the European Parliament.

¹⁷ <https://www.plan-international.fr/se-mobiliser/plan-des-jeunes/> (French)

PROJECT

“BUDGET ADVOCACY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN”

COUNTRY	KEYWORDS
Togo	
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	
<i>Réseau de Lutte contre la Traite des Enfants au Togo (RELUTET Network to combat the trafficking in children in Togo)</i> Girls Not Brides partnership	▶ Budget planning ▶ Youth advisory council run by the prefecture ▶ Child marriage

CONTEXT In Togo, 22% of girls are married before the age of 18 and 6% before the age of 15.¹⁸ Child marriage is exacerbated by low levels of education and by poverty. It is also linked to harmful traditional practices and concepts of “family honour”. Under Togo’s 2007 Code of the Child, the minimum legal age for marriage is 18 years, with exceptions permitted if serious cause is found. RELUTET gathers together 40 Togolese civil society organisations and is a member of the Girls Not Brides partnership.¹⁹

PROJECT RELUTET has committed to strengthening child protection in Togo through budget advocacy to put an end to child marriage.

▶ 29 representatives from the municipal authorities (including the local councillors responsible for budgeting) were trained to prepare municipal budgets that provided for actions on child marriage.

▶ 20 young people were trained to keep track of the local municipal authorities and hold them accountable by monitoring the budgets and carrying out budget advocacy work.

A MAJOR DETAIL This project, which helped to obtain quick wins over a very short time, builds on work already carried out by the local actors for child protection and young members of the prefecture’s youth advisory councils. The collaboration between the authorities, civil society organisations (CSOs) and young members of the prefecture’s youth advisory councils has continued after project completion.



¹⁸ Togolese Ministry of Planning, Development and Territorial Development, Ministry of Health and ICF International, *Enquête démographique et de santé au Togo 2013-2014* (Demographic and Health Survey 2013-2014), 2015 (French).

¹⁹ <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org>

PROJECT

“YOUTH CO:LAB”



© Youth Co:Lab

ZONE	KEYWORDS
Asia and the Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Social entrepreneurship ► Youth leadership ► Support for youth initiatives
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	
UNDP / Citi Foundation	

CONTEXT Out of the 660 million young people in the Asia-Pacific region, around 160 million are facing severe economic insecurity as they are without jobs, education and training. Moreover, many young people are sidelined from decision-making processes, which further marginalises and excludes them.

PROJECT The Youth Co:Lab programme is co-directed by the UNDP and the Citi Foundation and aims to give young people the means to accelerate the

realisation of the SDGs by developing youth-led social enterprises. It has been implemented in 28 countries and territories and has helped to launch or improve over 1,240 social enterprises led by young people. The youth initiatives supported by Youth Co:Lab include notably advisory services to improve the life of deaf people in the Fiji Islands, mobile applications for mental healthcare in Bangladesh, a company in the fashion sector that supports refugee women in Indonesia, and a Nepalese social network that shares the stories of people who have experienced discrimination and gender inequality.

A MAJOR DETAIL The programme supports the development of pro-youth policies adapted to young people's needs by engaging with national agencies and institutions.



LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES

Based on an analytical assessment of several projects funded by the Agence française de développement and other cooperation actors (institutions and associations), various lessons learned and good practices can be shared as factors contributing to the success of projects that adopt a youth rights-based approach.



The importance of sensitising and training CSOs and institutions on the youth rights-based approach

Establishing contact and developing relations with groups of young people means being able to engage their interest. It also requires being prepared to devote time and resources to work with these partners, whose structure and length of engagement will not necessarily correspond to the usual way of functioning. Training professionals on the youth rights-based approach is vital to enable them to rethink and adapt their posture in order to effectively collaborate with young people. For example, regular discussions and exchanges need to be initiated on the particularities of youth in a given context, and on the participation modalities that have been defined for the different groups of young people.

EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

► Plan International France has integrated a youth rights-based approach into its five-year strategic plan and ensures that young people meaningfully participate in its governance. Teams have been trained on the human rights-based approach and in 2020 they conducted an evaluation of the extent to which youth was taken into account as an actor in Plan International's projects. This led to the implementation of a scoring system for project portfolios based on a marker and definition of objectives and key performance indicators to be met.

► The "*Place aux Jeunes !*" (More space for young people!) project, led by Engagé·e·s et Déterminé·e·s within a consortium of 14 organisations is working on more effectively mainstreaming the approach within CSOs through training (led by Solidarité Laïque) and support, and within institutions via the advocacy of the Youth and International Solidarity Committee at Coordination SUD (led by Plan International France).



The importance of training young people

This may involve training on the issues of international development, eco-responsibility, self-assertion, engagement in associations, advocacy, structuring and developing networks, civic education, the use of new technologies, etc. Working with young people to co-build training schemes that meet their needs and the needs of the CSOs. Several initiatives among those analysed for this fact sheet have identified the key role of "alumni" – i.e., when young former members join an organisation or movement to ensure training for new arrivals, this facilitates the engagement of the newcomers and their understanding of ongoing actions.

EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

► The *Jeunes des 2 Rives* (J2R – Youth from 2 shores) programme is a project for education on citizenship and international solidarity. During phase 1 of the project,²⁰ meetings between young people, youth and institutional bodies helped to identify the support required and to co-build a made-to-measure training programme for thirty youth leaders on diverse themes: interculturality, citizen engagement, volunteering, the role of civil society in preventing risky behaviours...²¹

²⁰ Phase 1 led by Migrations & Développement, bringing together a consortium of French, Moroccan and Tunisian actors.

²¹ *État des lieux de la prise en compte des jeunes dans les organisations françaises de solidarité internationale* (State of play of the mainstreaming of youth in French international solidarity organisations) – Coordination SUD – 2020, p.31.



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Young people's participation is necessary at all stages of the project cycle

Young people's participation in a project – from identifying needs and priorities through to steering and evaluating projects – is an essential way of ensuring that the project optimally defines and achieves its objectives, and that it effectively contributes to the respect, protection and implementation of youth rights. In addition, this participation enables young people to acquire the knowledge and skills that they will be able to use in other contexts, such as taking part in political decision-making. For many organisations, this means not only using animation methods that are more dynamic and more adapted to young people's constraints, but also strengthening partnerships with organisations from different sectors to extend participation to a broader diversity of young people.

EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE ²²

- ▶ In the Scouts et Guides de France movement, it is the young people that decide, organise and implement their projects. Supervisory staff are present to support them and the different tools enable them to guide the youngsters.
- ▶ Réseau Euromed France (REF) sets up internal steering committees composed of young people to ensure the governance of its projects.
- ▶ As an association by and for young people, with a governing board totally made up of 15- to 30-year-olds, Engagé·e·s et Déterminé·e·s each year supports the young board members of its network in their new role.

The importance of financing youth organisations

Youth organisations worldwide often struggle to access financing, which de facto restricts their ambitions and the reach of their actions. There are many reasons for this, including limited knowledge of how donors operate and difficulties in meeting the eligibility criteria and in using the technical language of application dossiers. The promotion of financing for youth organisations can take the form of specific financing, assistance with the design of financing requests, or simplified application procedures for youth organisations.

EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

- ▶ The With and For Girls fund of the Purposeful collective proposes different types of flexible financing to young feminist activists via a selection method that is open to all (formal and informal groups). The funds are allocated by a committee made up of activists from across the world, who decide on grant allocations and guide the strategic direction of the fund.

²² État des lieux de la prise en compte des jeunes dans les organisations françaises de solidarité internationale (State of play of the mainstreaming of youth in French international solidarity organisations) – Coordination SUD – 2020.



Ensuring the meaningful participation of young people, particularly in high-level events

Meaningful participation in an institutional dialogue implies facilitating the emergence of mechanisms for a continuing dialogue between the youth groups and the institutions concerned. These mechanisms can be set up efficiently and more swiftly if they are linked with existing initiatives that have a youth participation culture, for example, movements for popular education or scouting, and the national Red Cross or Red Crescent societies.

Ensuring young people's participation in high-level events²³ requires among other things: full involvement of young people right from the design of the event, clear terms of reference for young people (as for all the participants), work to prepare the young people selected, and a communication strategy to manage their image and avoid stereotyping and violation of their dignity.²⁴

EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

► In 2019, Plan International France and the French Education Coalition, with support from the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, set up a project to engage young people in education challenges within the framework of the G7.²⁵ Following an online consultation with 657 young leaders from 19 West and Central African countries, some fifty young people ran a face-to-face workshop to define their recommendations for improving access to education and its quality. Finally, a delegation of six peer-elected young people presented these recommendations at the meeting of the education and development ministers of the G7 and G5 Sahel.



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Contributing to the safety and empowerment of young people in digital spaces

Digital spaces promote young people's empowerment and personal development. They represent unique places of freedom for oppressed minorities. However, the risks relating to safety, disinformation and data protection are many. Development projects thus need to make every effort to minimise and manage these risks and ensure that young people have the skills required for optimal and secure use of digital spaces. This mainly means setting up training programmes, providing support to youth organisations that combat disinformation and online abuse, particularly gender-based violence, and fighting to reduce the digital divide.

EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

► In the “*Amplifier les voix des jeunes féministes*” (Amplifying the voices of young feminists) project, implemented by Equipop in West Africa, young people are trained to use digital spaces and tools within the project to strengthen their collective action.

²³ Defined as events attended by policy makers and during which strategic decisions and orientations are discussed and adopted.

²⁴ For more details, see the document: *Pour une participation authentique des jeunes dans les événements de haut niveau* (For the meaningful participation of young people in high-level events) – Coordination SUD – 2021.

²⁵ <https://www.plan-international.fr/actualites/g7-les-jeunes-leaders-dafrique-de-louest-et-du-centre-se-mobilisent-pour-leducation/> (French).



EXAMPLES OF AVAILABLE TOOLS FOR THE YOUTH RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Grid for analysing "Youth-Actors" practices

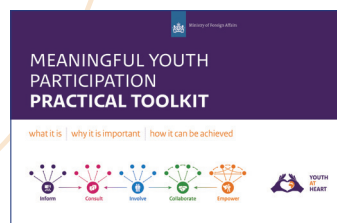
Designed by Coordination SUD, this grid aims to identify the specific practices relating to youth actors and human rights in projects implemented by civil society actors. It is intended to be used by actors from different sectors and identifies, for instance, the specific measures that can be put in place at project level (analysis of social norms and the legal framework, awareness-raising for young people, donors and communities, methods for steering a project, etc.) and measures for operationalising the principles of inclusion and participation.

<https://www.coordinationsud.org/publications/publications-csud/> (French)

Young Citizens Score Cards

The "Young citizens score cards" help young people to monitor the performance of basic services in their region (e.g. drinking water, health, education), identify the means to improve these services and advocate with duty-bearers and the other actors involved. This method was designed by the Children's Environments Research Group (CERG) and Plan International. *Available in English and French.*

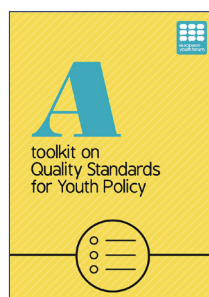
<https://cergnyc.org/scorecards>



Meaningful Youth Participation: Practical Toolkit

The purpose of this toolkit is to help policy makers at ministry and embassy level, as well as development agencies, to work more effectively with and for young people. Designed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it provides practical guidance for putting youth participation into practice. *Available in Dutch, English and French.*

<https://www.youthatheart.nl/meaningful-youth-participation-toolkit/documents/publications/2022/03/14/myp-toolkit-en>



A Toolkit for Quality Standards for Youth Policy

This toolkit was developed for youth organisations in Europe. It describes eight standards characterising a high-quality youth policy, and a series of indicators for each standard. The toolkit is designed as a ready-to-use tool that can help youth organisations assess the quality of pro-youth policy in their country, and accordingly call for improvements. It was developed by the Expert Group on Youth Policy of the European Youth Forum. *Available in English, Lithuanian, Spanish and Portuguese.*

<https://www.youthforum.org/news/toolkit-on-quality-standards-for-youth-policy#:~:text=This%20toolkit%20provides%20you%20with,local%2C%20national%2C%20European.>

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Towards a world in common

AFD Group implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector and NGOs, as well as research and education in sustainable development; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to private sector financing; and, Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world.

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