Working with Youth...

WHY?

Youth continue to be at the frontline of disaster risk and comprise of the many groups vulnerable to disasters. Their role as key stakeholders in reducing risk and building resilience is undeniable. Youth currently comprise the largest generation in history and their mobilization is influencing public opinion and increasing pressure on decision makers. Today, youth demographics comprise 1.8 billion of the global population (approximately 23 per cent), of which an estimated 90 per cent live in developing countries. By engaging with, equipping and supporting youth to advocate for better disaster risk reduction efforts to global leaders and their communities, we can mobilize the most populous voice for change.

**Youth2030** is the first-ever UN system-wide strategy on youth and guides joint UN action for and with young people globally across the three pillars of the UN system: human rights, peace and security, and development, as well as in all its humanitarian endeavours. In support of the implementation of Youth2030 and responding directly to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) developed a 2020-21 Youth Engagement Action Plan that outlined UNDRR’s work with youth and relevant partners. Building on progress made against the 2020-2021 Action Plan and aligned with UNDRR’s new Strategic Framework 2022-2025 and Biennial Work Programme 2022-2023, this 2022-25 Action Plan outlines how UNDRR will continue to work hand-in-hand with youth and relevant partners to further implement Youth2030 in support of the Sendai Framework and risk-informed development.

**The Strategy’s goal:**
Increase and catalyse engagement and action of youth in risk reduction and prevention for sustainable development at global, regional, national, and local levels.

**The expected results:**
1. Youth are engaged as experts and innovators in Sendai Framework implementation processes, including the Global and Regional Platforms for DRR, as well as the work on the Mid-Term Review of the Sendai Framework (MTR SF), and key intergovernmental bodies such as the ECOSOC, including especially the Youth Forum, Financing for Development Forum and ECOSOC High-level Political Forum, and General Assembly, including the High-level Week that opens each session and climate COPs as well as related regional processes.

2. DRR Youth partners promote and infuse DRR knowledge and engagement within their peer groups, including the broader UN Youth groups as well as Youth at local and national levels as and where possible.

**The expected overall impact:**
DRR and prevention action across the globe reflect youth concerns and priorities.

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020-2021 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN**

| 18 knowledge products supported to enhance youth capacity and risk knowledge – at least 70% of youth participation in the development of products |
| 9 events on capacity building and engagement of the youth in the UNDRR Regional Platforms – at least 500 people attended, mostly youth |
| 1 training, 5 webinars, 1 partnership agreement on the engagement with institutions of higher education and to empower youth for innovation and novel communication to enhance Sendai Framework implementation – at least 6,029 students and 229 teachers trained |
| 1 initiative launched: “A global challenge for youth”, to raise awareness on children's specific needs and capacities to prevent and recover from disasters |
WHAT AND HOW

UNDRR works hand-in-hand with youth groups, networks and representatives on:
1. Enhancing awareness, knowledge, and capacity of youth on DRR
2. Developing targeted advocacy and communication messages and strategies for youth
3. Enabling and facilitating youth engagement in key DRR and resilience related policies

Result Area 1:
Youth capacity and risk knowledge enhanced

a. Enhance awareness, capacity and knowledge among youth on DRR and climate change and the SDGs through tools, trainings and knowledge products, including collaboration with higher education institutes and young scientists.
b. Incentivize youth engagement in DRR and strengthen “community feeling” through leveraging channels and contacts, especially at scientific and higher education institutions, to get more young people involved in DRR.
c. Increase engagement of young scientists in DRR initiatives through the GAR, GRAF, R-STAGs and the MTR SF.

Result Area 2:
Youth empowered to drive innovative DRR communication

a. Youth are enabled to lead targeted advocacy and communication on DRR, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development.
b. Create regular exchanges, higher visibility, and recognition of the various global and regional DRR Youth groups activities, both internally (among members) and externally, with youth groups engaged in policy processes on climate and development.
c. Accelerate leadership and organizational culture for meaningful youth engagement in DRR.

Result Area 3:
Youth DRR engaged in policy processes and practice

a. Youth voices are systematically included in key DRR and resilience related events and processes. This includes enhanced advocacy, communication, and stakeholder mobilization on youth, DRR and SDGs through the participation by youth and recognition of youth considerations in GP22 and the MTR SF.
b. Youth are engaged in regional strategy implementation and product development and youth concerns are reflected in UN strategic plans and cooperation frameworks, coordination architecture and capacities related to Youth2030 and the Sendai Framework.
c. Global governance, technical leadership and system-wide coordination are strengthened, including engagement of youth in the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM).

WHO WE ARE WORKING WITH:

Using the Words into Action Guideline on Children and Youth Engagement in Sendai Framework implementation guidelines launched in 2019, as a basis for action and leadership, UNDRR will continue to work with youth representatives, youth-focused civil society groups, and youth networks, such as the Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY), targeted regional youth groups, UN agencies (e.g UNICEF and UN Women) and other organizations leading engagement with children and youth, to build their capacity through tools, information and spaces for advocacy.