



Youth for South (Y4S): Advanced Youth Leadership Programme

Programme Concept

I. Overview of the Programme

The “Youth for South (Y4S): Advanced Youth Leadership Programme” is an umbrella facility dedicated to supporting South-South cooperation to promote youth leadership and capacity development related initiatives, projects and activities.

Y4S was launched by United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) during the Global South-South Development Expo 2017 in Antalya, Turkey, in partnership with the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation, the Islamic Conference Youth Forum, FK Norway, IFAD, and UNFPA.

Y4S aims to:

- 1) Support the exchange of knowledge and solutions, and facilitate mutual learning among young people globally.
- 2) Provide capacity development training for youth leaders so that they can learn, adapt and apply South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTrC) tools and methods in order to implement and scale-up sustainable development solutions and projects in their home community, institution and country contexts.
- 3) Provide youth leaders from developing countries accesses to expertise, resources and networks offered by partners of South-South cooperation, to support their efforts in scaling up innovative solutions in promoting sustainable development.
- 4) Promote dialogue between youth and development stakeholders in areas of critical importance to youth such as leadership and empowerment, political participation, skills development, gender equality, and women and youth empowerment.
- 5) Increase youth engagement and participation in global dialogues and discussions including ECOSOC Youth Forum, World Programme of Action for Youth, BAPA+40, Global South-South Development Expo, and World Expo 2020.

To serve these goals, Y4S is designed as a multi-stakeholder programme and grant facility implemented and managed by UNOSSC with specific contributing partners and development partners in accordance with UN policies. Initiatives, projects and activities supported by this facility promote South-South and triangular cooperation for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNOSSC was established in 1974 by the UN General Assembly, as a separate entity, with a mandate to advocate for and coordinate South-South and triangular cooperation UN system-wide and globally. UNDP hosts and provides operational support to UNOSSC. UNOSSC receives policy directives and guidance from the General Assembly and through its subsidiary body, the High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation.

In keeping with relevant General Assembly mandates, UNOSSC focuses on providing support to: global and United Nations policy development and advocacy; inter-agency coordination and facilitation; promoting innovative mechanisms; fostering inclusive partnerships; and supporting

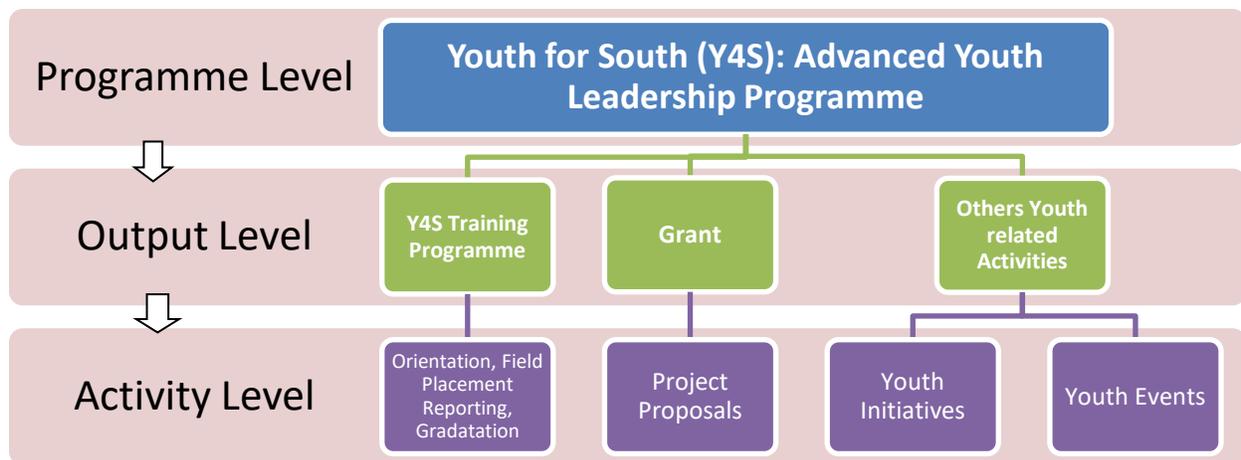


knowledge-sharing and the exchange of best practices, including through Southern Centres of Excellence.

To facilitate the implementation of Y4S as a multi-stakeholder programme, UNOSSC, with its mandate and strategic positioning at the UN system and globally, will engage with all stakeholders including Member States, UN entities, NGOs, civil society and the private sector at both global and regional levels. Among its various means to support SSTRC, UNOSSC manages and supports implementation of four South-South cooperation trust funds including the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) which provides means and institutional backup to enable Y4S to serve as grant receiving and making facility.

Pillars under the umbrella of the Y4S programme will include:

- Advanced Youth Leadership Training Programme.
- Organization of youth related events, activities and initiatives.
- Grant facility to support to scale up selected project proposals from young leaders.



II. Y4S Development Objectives and Theory of Change

The SDGs set out priority objectives to reduce poverty and advance broad-ranging human development while enhancing environmental sustainability, thereby ensuring the future we want for all. Sustainable development outcomes are only possible where the ability for development is homegrown and led, and managed locally.

The wave of youth-led transformational change processes across many countries around the globe have highlighted youth as positive assets for development and powerful agents for change. Leadership development is a key pillar of capacity development be it at individual, organizational or at the national level.

Y4S supports the attainment of the SDGs and will achieve transformational change through funding initiatives, projects and activities related to leadership and capacity development for youth, as well as facilitate scaling up successful development solutions to inform future policy decisions and ensure long term sustainability.

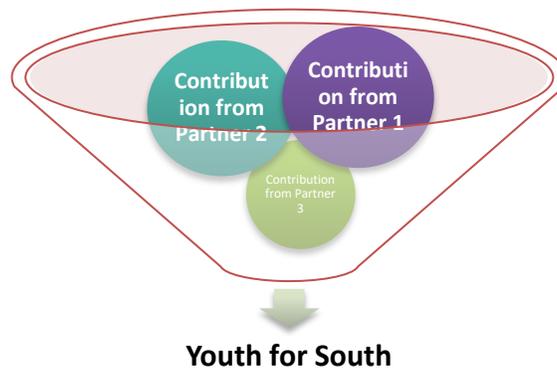


Theory of Change of the Y4S is built on the assumption that youth leaders can be empowered and nurtured to become change agents through broadened global horizon, tailor-made on-site learning, and leadership development programmes. SSTRc can be important means for its realization.

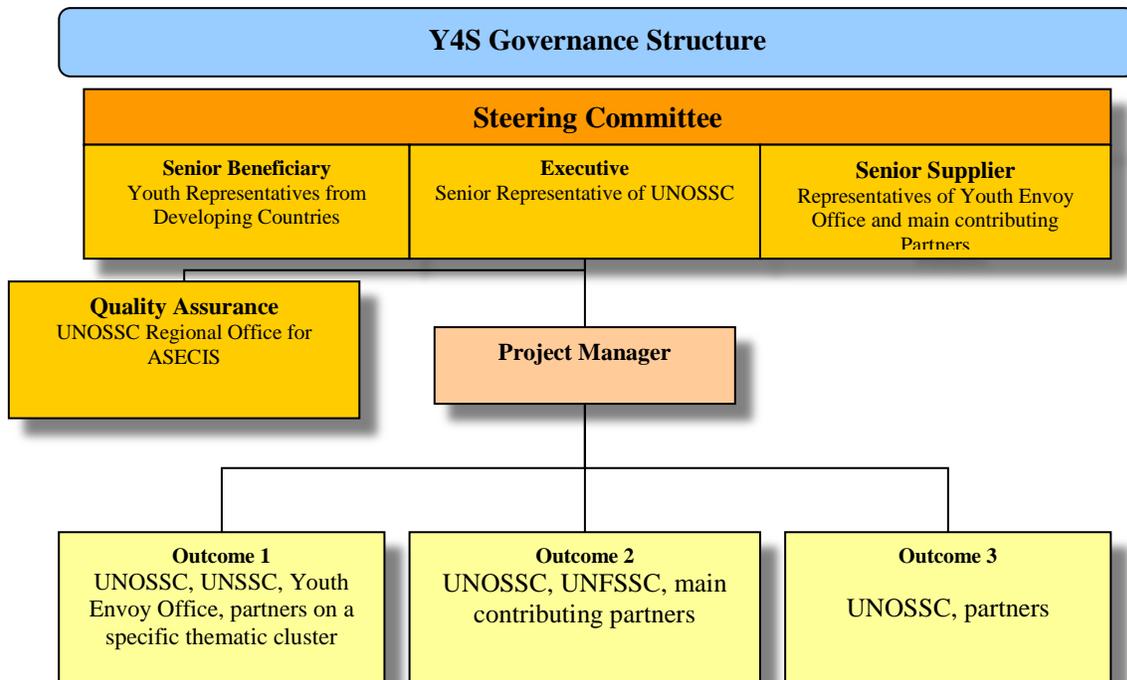
III. Y4S Programme Management

Partnership and Funding Arrangement

Y4S will benefit from a broad partnership and contribution strategy, and stakeholder engagement to best respond to the needs of, and capitalize on the comparative advantages of, various partners.



Management Structure





UNOSSC will delegate governance of the Y4S to a Steering Committee comprised of:

- 1) Senior Beneficiary: Youth representative from developing countries
- 2) Executive: Senior Representative of UNOSSC
- 3) Senior Supplier: Envoy of SG on Youth, Senior Representatives of Main Contributing Partners

As the Project Manager, UNOSSC will support

- ***Governance structure of the facility***, with programmatic and development expertise; advisory, focal point and liaison services; convening arrangements; administrative support; and document repository functions.
- ***“Youth for South: Advanced Youth Leadership Training Programme” cycle facilitation***: fund annual work plan and activities;
- ***Grant facility***: review project proposals, receive and make grants in full compliance with UNDP policies, procedures, rules and regulations; the terms of reference of UNFSSC; and United Nations Development Group (UNDG) guidelines for inter-agency collaboration;
- ***Monitoring, reporting and risk management***: Monitor risks, and inform the board about them where applicable. Contribute to project evaluations and audits;
- ***Communications, outreach and branding***: Develop and implement impactful and carefully targeted visibility strategy.
- ***Knowledge-sharing***: Ensure knowledge-building and sharing of the experiences, accomplishments and good practices developed through the Y4S, including through cross-portfolio and/or thematic publications, debates with academia and other researchers, and participation at conferences and events.



Annex 1:

Advanced Youth Leadership Training Programme

As one important pillar of the Y4S umbrella programme, the Advanced Youth Leadership Training will be guided by and implemented following below criteria:

1. **Geographic and country focus:** Southern countries from across different regions will be selected annually. Countries will be paired based on supply and demand of a specific area of interest related to sustainable development
2. **Thematic focus:** agriculture and rural development, social protection, health, peacebuilding, climate change, sustainable energy, youth employment, etc.
3. **Age group:** Individuals 40 years of age or younger by the time of application.
4. **Selection Process:** Candidates will be selected among applications nominated by partners. Applications will be reviewed against the selection criteria, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, in their specific thematic area.
5. **Criteria for selection:** Participants will be chosen based on their established expertise, proven leadership capabilities and strong potential to make a difference in their communities upon successful completion of the programme in scaling up development impact, specifically:
 - a. Proven leadership capabilities and strong potential to make a difference in their communities, as demonstrated by their command of significant spheres of influence in their respective areas and experience in organizing grass-roots community movements.
 - b. Previous three years' experience working in government, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, grass-roots organizations, sports organizations or other development-related field.
 - c. Proficient in English and/or language of host country.
6. **Programme Cycle:** 12 months from the orientation.
7. **Programme Methodology:**

The programme consists of intensive training for the selected young leaders which will consist of interactive sessions, on-site and on-the-job training, and distance learning. It is expected that each young leader chosen for the programme will commit an extensive amount of time to related activities highlighted below. The capacity building of the young leaders will span a 12-month period.

The flow of the programme is envisaged in the following manner:

- a. **Orientation:** Selected young leaders will attend a 3-day to 1-week long orientation facilitated by UNOSSC team and the relevant stakeholders.

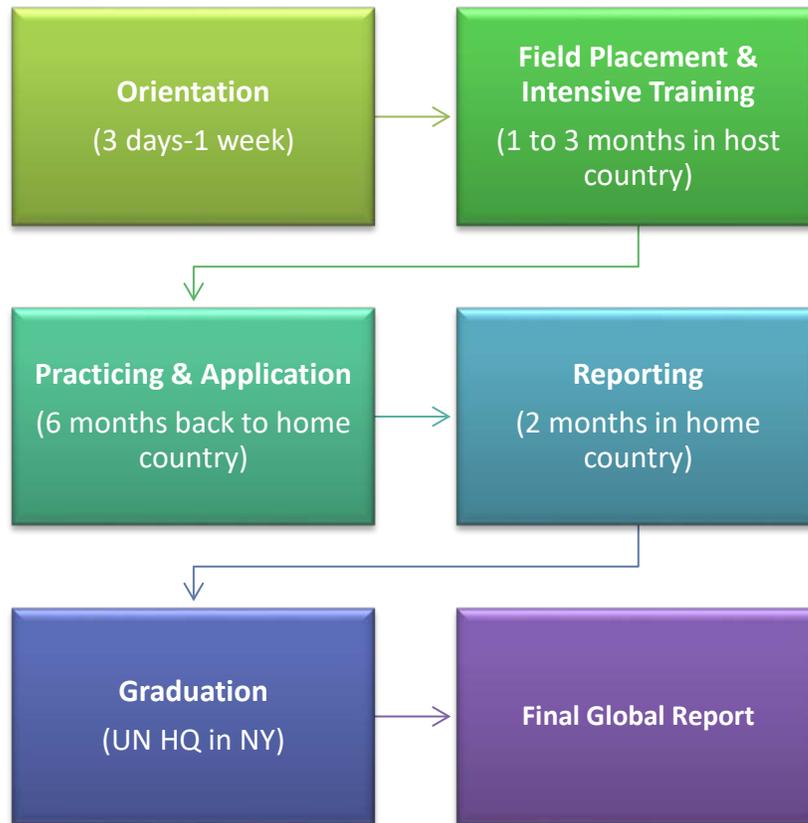
During the orientation, participating young leaders will have the opportunity to: (a) have peer discussion and in-depth analysis of sustainable development experiences and challenges of their home country and community; (b) be introduced to the concepts of scaling up, the relevance of scaling up in their development approaches, and how the scaling up approach can be used for strategic and programme planning in order to bring transformational change in to their own communities and countries; (c) be introduced to the importance of SSC and TrC and the



achievements such cooperation are able to attain in addressing many development challenges through the exchange of knowledge and experiences; and (d) receive coaching to develop project proposals of national priorities. Sound proposals in line with strategic focus of UNOSSC will be granted seed funding for implementation and scaling up.

- b. **Field Placement and Intensive Training:** participating young leaders will have the opportunity to travel to a host country of a specific thematic focus, where they will receive on-job and on-the-site field placement in the host country's relevant institutions to learn a proven scaled-up solution (or certain elements of it) that can be adapted or replicated in their own countries and communities. The duration will vary between 1 month and 3 months, depending on what different host institution can offer and accommodate. This process will be facilitated by partner UNDP or other UN agencies' country offices in the host countries in cooperation with relevant national institutions.
- c. **Practice and Application:** After the field placement and intensive training in the host country, participating young leaders will spend the following six months back in their home country, engaging stakeholders/designing a plan to scale up initiatives within their home communities and home countries. UNOSSC and partner UNDP or other UN agencies' country offices will facilitate the project scale up, and play the monitoring role, as well as designate a mentor to advise the young leaders in the whole process. Youth leaders throughout their capacity development process will share experiences among all the participating youth leaders' community. These inputs and dialogues will be conducted through an online platform.
- d. **Reporting:** Programme participants will then spend two months developing a synthesis report that will analyze the challenges and identify the opportunities in their scaling up approach and provide suggestions on the way forward, under the overall guidance of the UNOSSC and the partner institution. The participants will also be encouraged to share their findings through the online platform to facilitate the exchange of ideas and solutions. Reports will be submitted to UNOSSC, shared with both the hosting and home institutions.
- e. **Graduation:** The training cycle will conclude with a global event (graduation ceremony) in which participating young leaders will discuss what they have learned and achieved throughout the 12-month learning and implementation period. They will also form a Youth community who will be willing to share their knowledge and contribute to development thinking and practice for sustainable development issues.
- f. **Final Global Report:** UNOSSC will develop a global report based on the synthesis reports submitted by the participating young leaders and their contributions through the on-line platform. The global report will feed into the global discussions and dialogues on sustainable development and SSC issues.

The results of the capacity development for the young leaders and the youth network for sustainable development will be featured in UNOSSC Online Solutions Portal and on other social media resources. This platform has been designed and implemented to match supply and demand for those scalable solutions and generate knowledge from the South that has proven potential for scalability. It will also serve as a channel for young leaders to exchange knowledge and experiences and as a channel to empower youth to voice their perspectives on sustainable development and SSC issues.



In addition to the above, young leaders will benefit from the engagement of a group of mentors and leaders who will provide mentoring and guidance throughout the period of 12 months of implementation.

Other specific criteria will be determined by the country-level stakeholders, based on the themes and needs of each project. A combination of select advertisements will be used to select advanced young leaders (UNOSSC, UNDP and other UN agencies' affiliated websites, young leadership organizations, youth ministries etc.)