

Youth & the UN in Nepal



Developed By

February, 2012



About this booklet

In 2008 the UN Country Team (UNCT) set up the United Nations Youth Advisory Panel (UNYAP). The UNYAP is a part of the UNCT's commitment to young people's empowerment and rights in accordance with basic human rights principles. The purpose of the UN Youth Advisory Panel is to serve as a platform for dialogue and information sharing between young people in Nepal and the UN Country Team.

This booklet is an UNYAP initiative with the intention of serving as a resource for young people to familiarize themselves with the UN Nepal Country Team as well as contribute to the wider vision of bridging the gap between young people in Nepal and the UN. For more information click [here](#). You can contact the UNYAP at unyap.nepal@gmail.com or through the [UNYAP Facebook page](#).

This booklet has been developed by YUWA with technical support from UNICEF. YUWA is a not for profit, purely youth run and youth led organization working to promote youth participation at all levels of decision making through empowerment and advocacy. YUWA strictly follows the age bracket of 15 to 29 in its planning, implementation and decision making body. Find out more about YUWA [here](#).

Objectives of this booklet

- To provide information on UN's core activities significantly related to youth in Nepal.
- To identify national, regional and global opportunities for youth engagement with and advocacy toward the UN.

Methodology

- Desk review of relevant documents and web based resources.
- Meeting with the United Nations Youth Focal Points (UNYFPs) of the thirteen UN agencies that have appointed UNYFPs.
- Consultation in Kathmandu with various youth organisations in the workshop 'Together we can...Exploring areas of collective action' organized by the UNYAP, UNICEF and YUWA.



Photo: Richa Bhattarai, 2010

Introduction

According to the United Nations definition, youth are people between the ages of 15 and 24. This makes up approximately 18% of the world population – making the present generation of youth the largest ever in history. While there are about 1.2 billion young people living in the world today, there will be 72 million more youth by 2025. The UN definition of youth also includes children between the ages of 15 to 18 as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The definition and nuances of the term ‘youth’ often vary from country to country, depending on socio-cultural, institutional, economic and political factors. The Government of Nepal defines youth as people aged 16–40 years of age. Nevertheless, a number of youth organisations in Nepal use the UN definition or define youth as people aged 15–29 or 15–35.

It is youth who encounter the uncertainties generated by economic and cultural globalisation. The transition to adulthood can be a period of opportunities and advancement but it is also risky and challenging. At the same time young people possess the energy, motivation and vision essential for positive social change. Click [here](#) to learn more about the **UN Youth Development Agenda**. The [Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development](#) strengthens collaboration and exchange among UN entities to increase the effectiveness of UN work in youth development.

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 100 million adolescents aged 10–19 do not attend school.
- Of the 1.8 billion young people in the world today, about half survive on less than \$2 a day.
- 16 million adolescent girls (10–19) become mothers every year.
- Almost 40 per cent of the 6,800 new HIV infections each day are among young people.

Source:

[UNFPA Adolescents and Youth site](#)



Photograph: Ben Shrestha, 2011

The MDGs and Youth

In 2000, 189 world leaders signed the Millennium Declaration and agreed to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The eight Millennium Development Goals have been broken down to 21 quantified targets to be met by 2015.

Young people's participation and inclusion in the efforts to achieve all the MDGs is crucial. Whether it is poverty, hunger, lack of education, maternal mortality, unemployment, environmental degradation or HIV/AIDS, the impact on young people is huge. This is because many young people often lack access to information, schooling, social influence and basic rights, and are often overlooked in national development agendas. Therefore youth are among the most vulnerable of all persons the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aim to reach.

Learn more about the MDGs and youth in the [MDG Youth Action Guide](#) and the United Nations [cyberschoolbus](#).

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Nepal acknowledges the need for social investments in young people for the effective implementation of its development assistance to Nepal, as well as for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the country. At more than 7 million, the 15 to 29 age group in Nepal constitute a quarter of the population (Youth Survey of Nepal 2011, British Council and Association of Youth Organizations in Nepal). Young people are effective agents of change and the current context of structuring new Nepal it is crucial for young people's voices to be heard in framing the development agenda in Nepal.



Photograph: Santosh Bohara, 2010



Together Achieving the Millennium Development Goal By 2015

The UN Country Team in Nepal

The United Nations has been present in Nepal for more than sixty years.

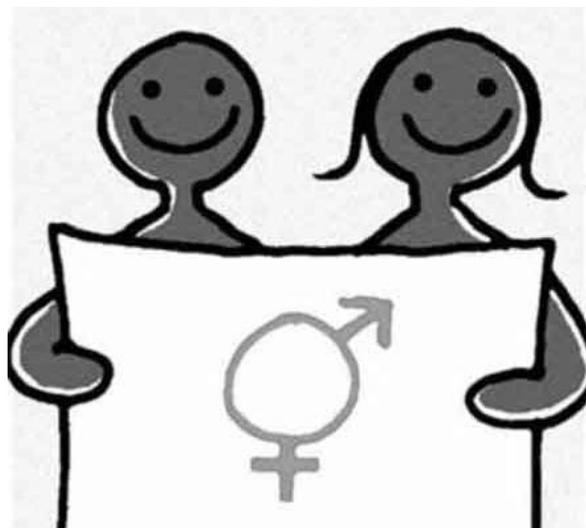
The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Nepal comprises of 25 UN agencies working in all 75 districts with 26 field offices and 6 regional hubs.

The UNCT is coordinated by the Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator. The objective of the UNCT is to deliver coherent, effective and efficient support to Nepal in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other national goals through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The UNDAF is a strategic document aligned to national priorities that guides all the activities of the UNCT in Nepal. The UNDAF is always formulated in close consultation with the government, civil society as well as donor representatives. Youth are also represented in the development of the UN Development Assistance Framework through UNYAP representatives.

The current UNDAF for Nepal (2008–2012) responds to the national priorities identified in the Three Year Interim Plan of the Government of Nepal, and is guided by the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The main priority areas of the UNDAF are **consolidating peace, delivery of quality basic services, sustainable livelihoods and promoting human rights, gender equality and social inclusion**.

UNDAF applies what is called a **Human Rights-based approach to programming** with special emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.



What is the Human Rights Based Approach to Programming?

Human rights are the minimum standards that people require to live in freedom and dignity. They are based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, interdependence, equality and non-discrimination. In a human rights-based approach to programming, every human being is recognized both as **a person and as a right-holder**. A rights-based approach strives to secure the freedom, well-being and dignity of all people everywhere, within the framework of essential standards and principles, duties and obligations. The rights-based approach supports mechanisms to ensure that entitlements are attained and safeguarded. The human rights-based approach focuses on those who are most vulnerable, excluded or discriminated against.

Visit the UN Human Rights Based Approach to Programming [portal](#).

Gender Equality means that women and men, and girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. It does not require that girls and boys, or women and men, be the same, or that they be treated exactly alike.

The UN system focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment not only as human rights, but also because they are a pathway to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. Learn more about the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the United Nations system [here](#).

The United Nations Interagency Task Force on Adolescent Girls

was established in 2007 co-chaired by UNFPA and UNICEF, and including UNESCO, UN Women, ILO and WHO. With the theme 'The Future is in their Hands' the task force seeks to reorient youth programs to better reach marginalized adolescent girls. It targets adolescent girls and works to keep them in school and develop a range of skills so they may reach their aspirations. The Adolescent Girls Task Force supports collaboration at country level - with government ministries, NGOs, and women's and girls' networks - to identify marginalized adolescent girls in selected communities and to implement programs aimed at ending their marginalization and enabling adolescent girls to claim their full rights and access to social services, particularly education, health care, employment and human development. To learn more click [here](#).



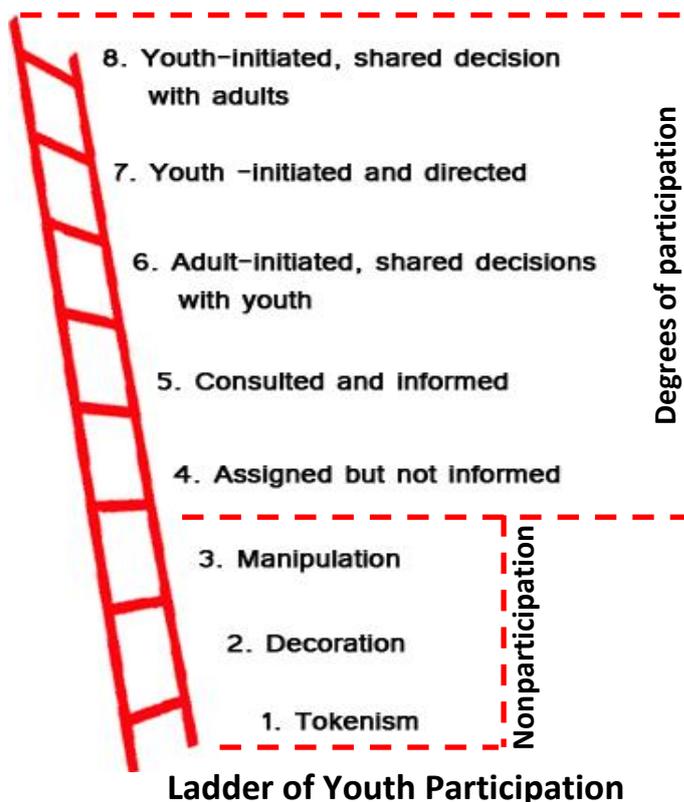
Photograph: Richa Bhattarai, 2011

A commitment to meaningful youth participation:

Youth participation is one of the key priority areas of the United Nations agenda on youth. Young people possess important perspectives and opinions that are often unheard. Youth participation refers to the involvement of youth in processes, decisions and actions that meets their genuine needs. Through participation young people can develop skills, build competencies, form aspirations, gain confidence and access valuable resources.

Roger Hart's ground-breaking '**Ladder of Participation**' is often used to explain the different approaches and practices that adults take in involving young people below 18 in decision making with adults, but it can also apply to the participation of youth of other ages in [educational](#) institutions, [government](#), [community development](#) and [economic activity](#):

According to Hart's Ladder, participation is measured hierarchically according to the rungs of the ladder and mainly describes participation in the context of projects and programs. In Hart's ladder genuine participation involves **youth initiated, shared decisions with adults**. Non-participation is the false appearance of inclusive practices such as **tokenism** or when young people are used as show-pieces to **decorate** meetings and big events. Sometimes adults **manipulate** youth by consciously using the voices of youth to carry their own messages and intentions. However, "genuine participation" does not depend on "decision-making" only. Young people can participate meaningfully in **life-affirming and empowering** activities and processes at home, in the community, in educational settings or places of worship even if it does not involve decision making all the time.



Amplifying the VOICES of YOUTH

UNICEF has established the voices of youth website - in which youth can read and share articles; and engage in discussion with other youth. In Nepal, UNICEF hosts the "Freedom Express" debate platform where young people in Nepal can send in their opinions on various topics via text messages through a toll free number. The 4400 number, launched with a tagline "SMS garaun sitaima," is a toll-free mobile text message service that allows users to send messages directly to UNICEF.

To learn more about mobile technology and social impact click [here](#).



Together We Can! Exploring Areas of Collective Action

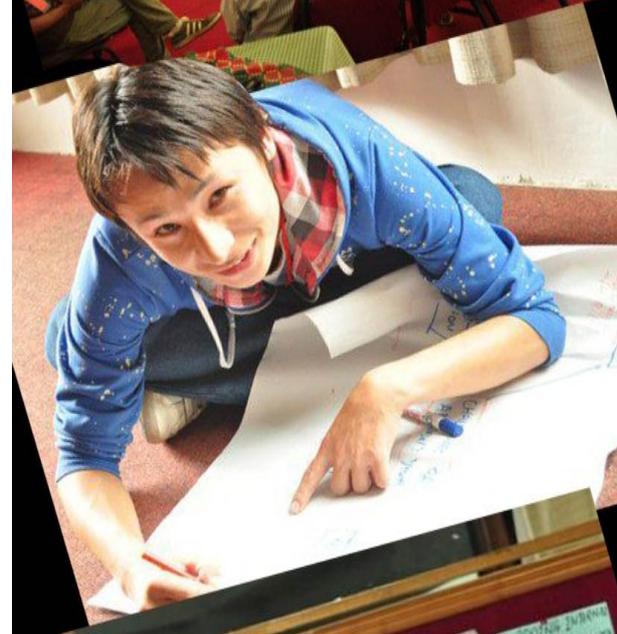
On 24th September 2011 the UNYAP and YUWA, with support from UNICEF, jointly organized a workshop for youth engaged in social sectors to come together and brainstorm on their achievements and challenges. Some of the major challenges for youth organizations highlighted by the participants were capacity gaps in human resources of youth led organisations, partial or non-

existent monitoring and evaluation, inability to sustain projects and ineffective use and dissemination of information on government policies. Participants also highlighted constraints among youth such as lack of motivation to carry out volunteering activities, the politicization of social work and the inability of the youth to take on long term responsibilities. Participants linked this to lack of acceptance of youth initiatives and activism by the older generation.

The participants identified crucial stakeholders in carrying out youth activism and projects. These included youth themselves, parents, teachers and mentors, influential personalities and celebrities, the media, policy makers, the government and its bodies and the police. Interestingly, only one of the participants identified the UN in Nepal as a stakeholder!

The youth participants identified modes of advocacy and collective action:

- Identification of problems of youth by youth themselves
- Utilization of local media and new media Infotainment!
- Using new ideas and innovation
- Using networking among youth, youth organizations and stakeholders as a strategy
- Linking urban and rural youth



In their own words:



Striking a chord at the policy level

There's something peculiar about the children in Rajpur village development committee (VDC). That's evident in their outlook, stream of thought and the body language.

"Children are stakeholders of the society. Akin to adults, we're too a party to development, and thereby should not be excluded," says Jaskala Gharti Magar, 17, president of the child club coordination committee, a common network of twelve child clubs spread across the VDC.

Thanks to the exposure and orientation involving child rights, skill development and leadership, members of the village level child clubs here in the far west region concur on the new-found self-esteem and confidence.

It is as if, as an amalgamated unit, they have found a new meaning to their being. For this sense of awareness and empowerment, the children in this settlement — bordering India to the south and cut off by Rapti River in the north — asserted claims on what they believed were rightfully theirs.

"For our concerted efforts, we got a sum allocated in the VDC budget for the children," shares, Jaskala, with a visible sense of achievement.

Ram Lal Shah, the VDC secretary — who also heads the VDC council in the absence of an elected political leadership — concedes that it was for the children's initiative that the council decided on such a budgetary allocation.

The practice has been in place for two consecutive years now. The VDC council allocated fifteen thousand rupees in the first year while increasing the sum to twenty thousand rupees during the second.

"It wasn't easy though," recalls Om Prakash DC, 18, who headed the child club coordination committee that dared to take up the issue at the VDC level.

The coordination committee, upon much deliberation and discussion, had approached the VDC council for the allocation of budget in children's welfare. That was three years ago, and then, such an option was unheard of at the local level.

"To begin with, we were not taken seriously. We were also ridiculed as good-for-nothing children. But that did not deter us. We registered a formal appeal at the VDC council," he adds.

With an apparent reference to the inherent societal dynamics, Om Prakash further shares his real-life experience.

The political level in particular was much inclined towards infrastructural development. Hence, children were a non-issue for them, he says, adding: "That's why we had to lobby and exert a lot of pressure. Children's welfare was never a priority. But we left no stone unturned to be understood and heard."

The zest and vigor aside, what keeps the child clubs ticking? It's the unity that counts, says Jaskala. It is for this reason the child clubs regularly meet once every month. Awareness though crucial isn't enough in kneading one's way into the society, she adds with a knowing smile.

"We have to be intact and organized."



UNDAF Priority area

Quality Basic Services

Quality basic services refer to the provision of **health care, education, access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and targeted nutrition interventions.**

Some of the government policies, strategies and plans that relate to the basic services are: the Nepal Health Sector Programme Implementation Plan, the Nepal Water Plan, the Education for All core document, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and Action Plan, the National Nutrition Strategy Paper, and the Local Governance Act and the Social Mobilization strategy.

The UN Country Team in Nepal aims to improve quality health care, education, safe drinking water, sanitation and nutrition by supporting effective government structures at the 1) community level; 2) district level; and 3) national level. The UN as a whole has made a substantial contribution towards improving reproductive and maternal health; reducing under-5 mortality; improving school enrolments; increasing women's leadership and participation and addressing the gender gap, combating HIV/AIDS; reducing the incidence of malaria; and improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Program is a collaborative initiative between the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Governments of Asia. The WAC Program was officially launched at the Third World Water Forum on 18 March 2003. WAC Program in Nepal was initiated in 2004. The WAC Program is supporting implementation of the water and sanitation related Millennium Development Goals and targets (MDGs) in Asian cities. Click [here](#) for more information about clean drinking water and the WAC-Nepal programme.



Photograph: Santosh Bohara, 2011

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ministry of Local Development has initiated Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) as part of the national local governance program with technical support from UNICEF. CFLG seeks to put children and young people up to the age of 18 at the core of the policies and planning at the local level, and include the participation of children and young people among local bodies, line agencies and civil society.

DID YOU KNOW?

With a low coverage and use of latrines in Nepal, open defecation is widespread, exposing large numbers of people to fatal diseases. Of the 3915 VDCs in Nepal, only 125 have been declared Open Defecation Free as of January 2011.

Source: "Cleaning Up", Kathmandu Post, 3. February 2011

Two of the eight Millennium Development Goals involve ending poverty through providing **Education For All**. This means that 164 governments, including the Government of Nepal, have committed to:

- to ensure that all boys and girls complete primary schooling by 2015
- to ensure that girls have the opportunity for education at all levels by 2015

Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP)

Strengthened **governance** that is both participatory and inclusive, and which is transparent and accountable, is crucial for the realization of all UNDAF outcomes. **The Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP)** is implemented by the Ministry of Local Development along with UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNV and UNCDF) and other development partners.

DID YOU KNOW?

Young people can influence the utilization of the Block Grants provided to VDCs and DDCs by the Ministry of Local Development.

Young people can participate in the Ward Citizen Forums in order to influence local planning processes and decision making.

To learn more go to the LGCDP [website](#)

The aim of LGCDP is to:

- Empower citizens and communities for their **active engagement with local governments** and for strengthening downward accountability.
- Fund DDC, municipality and VDC-led **local development**.
- Develop the capacity of local governments for **effective service delivery**.
- Provide policy support for decentralization and **local governance**.



Photograph: Sandeep Gurung, 2011

In Nepal discrimination against women during menstruation is widespread, particularly in the Mid-and Far West regions where 19% percent of women aged 15-49 reported that they have to live in a different house during their periods. In the mountain regions of the Mid-and Far West fifty-eight percent of women have to live in an animal shed during their menstrual period. In the country overall more than 66 percent of schools do not have separate latrines, exposing girls to inadequate sanitation facilities – particularly during their menstruation.

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011, Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF

In their own words:



Menstrual hygiene helps make school a better place for girls

After my menstrual period started, my study is suffering. Every month during my period, I found myself going through some kind of mental trauma – like what if there is lot of bleeding and blood stains on my school dress and the boys saw that. I could not concentrate in class and it is even harder at exam times. The toilets at our school are not clean and there is no place for changing or throwing away used pads. It is not my problem only. All my friends are facing the same problems.” – A student at Sitalbox School, Kabilbastu

Maya Devi, a teacher at Sitalbox Lower Secondary School in Kapilbastu District, has started something new in her school to encourage more girls to stay in school full time. She has mobilised the School Management Committee (SMC) to fund sanitary pads for the menstruating girls in the school. “There are about thirty adolescent girls in our school who are menstruating. During this time, these girls used to skip up to five days a month as they were too embarrassed to be in school during this time”, says Maya.

Now these girls come to school for the five days they used to skip as we provide sanitary pads to manage their menstruation”, Maya adds proudly. Maya collects a contribution from the SMC every month so there is a continuous supply of sanitary pads in the school for the girls to use. After one month, the school will have a new latrine where an incinerator is being built attached to the girls’ wing so they can easily dispose of the used sanitary pads.

Menstruation is a monthly occurrence that requires access to appropriate materials and facilities. Managing menstruation is essentially dealing with menstrual flow and being able to continue with normal day to day activities such as going to school and working. Without this access, women and girls suffer from poor menstrual hygiene that restricts both their movement and their dignity. Girls attending schools that do not have adequate sanitary arrangements, such as separate toilets for girls and boys, proper privacy, or physical facilities to dispose of sanitary items, feel excluded in many ways.

This issue is more than just about girls’ need for better facilities but also about women’s empowerment and gender equality– “If girls cannot attend school for one week out of four,” said Ms. Maya Devi, “their education will suffer in relations to their male counterparts. Thus, to ensure equality and to help guarantee their right to education, focus and resources must be put into what at first might seem like an issue of minor significance.”

Maya is proving that positive changes are achievable. Girls in Sitalbox School now have the right information on how to care for themselves during their menstruation and access to local products and disposal facilities. They feel safer and far less embarrassed.

Prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases

The reproductive health needs of young people are often ignored. In many countries, including Nepal, there is a lack of information and services available to adolescents and young people to help them understand their sexuality and to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. [Young people who use drugs are especially vulnerable to contracting HIV.](#)

One of the eight MDG goals is to combat HIV/AIDS. In 2005, the Secretary-General of the United Nations reaffirmed that the only way to achieve the Millennium Development Goals was **to break with business as usual** and dramatically accelerate and scale up fight against HIV/AIDS toward 2015.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) brings together ten UN agencies in a common efforts to fight the epidemic: the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the international Labour Organization (ILO), The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Bank. Visit the [UNAIDS in Nepal](#) website for more information on the epidemic in Nepal.

UNAIDS unites the responses to the epidemic of these ten cosponsoring organizations and supplements these efforts with special initiatives. Its purpose is to lead the international response to HIV/AIDS on all fronts. The [UNAIDS Inter-agency Task Team on HIV and Young People](#) seeks to increase young people's utilization of HIV prevention, treatment, and care services.

Prevention of HIV transmission requires positive change in sexual behaviour such as abstinence or delay in sexual debut, reduction in the number of sexual partners, monogamy, and correct and consistent condom use for those who are sexually active. For HIV positive adequate care, treatment and support, including sexual and reproductive health services is crucial. Click [here](#) to learn more about youth-adult partnerships on HIV prevention.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2009 there were an estimated 4.3 to 5.9 million young people globally aged 15 – 24 years living with HIV, and every day some 2500 young people are newly infected.
- In 2009, young people aged 15–24 years accounted for 41 per cent of new infections among adults aged 15 and older, and most young people living with HIV do not know their status.
- Globally young women make up more than 60 per cent of all young people living with HIV.

Source: [Opportunity in Crisis: Preventing HIV From Early Adolescence to Young Adulthood](#),

UNICEF, 2011

DID YOU KNOW?

In Nepal, first case of AIDS was reported in 1988. Since then country evolved from a “low” to “concentrated” epidemic, amongst most-at-risk population. These groups include injecting drug users, female sex workers, men who have sex with men and migrant workers. As of August 2010, a total of 16,262 HIV cases had been reported to the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control. Vulnerability to HIV is high amongst young people aged 15–24 as 64% do not have comprehensive knowledge of the disease.

Source: [HIV/AIDS in Nepal](#), the World Bank,

2008.

The male latex condom is the single, most efficient, available technology to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Source: [Condoms and HIV prevention: Position statement by UNAIDS, UNFPA and WHO](#), 2009

In their own words:



"If the environment is supportive, people won't hide"

Manish learned that he was HIV positive in 2004, when he was a 23 year-old injecting drug user. Struggling for drug money, he agreed to get tested for HIV in exchange for 200 rupees, as part of a program offered by an NGO. High, when he learned his status, Manish was unable to react. Later, he felt desolate: "I thought it was the end of my generation, that there was no future." He thought he would never be able to marry, and he was frightened to tell his parents that he was HIV positive.

Manish confided in his cousin, who had also been an injecting drug user, and who was also HIV positive. His cousin was supportive. "Between us," Manish says, "HIV was a normal thing." Manish's cousin had sought treatment for his HIV and was working at Nava Kiran Plus, a Kathmandu community-based treatment and care facility for people living with HIV and AIDS. Because of his cousin's example, Manish decided to be open about his HIV status, and to seek treatment.

*Knowing that he was HIV positive motivated Manish to quit drugs, practice safe sex and take care of his health. **Manish has embraced the reality that, even if no cure for HIV currently exists, he can still live a healthy, prolonged life.** Now that he is drug free and taking the prophylaxis Bactrim to support his health, Manish has also discovered within himself a commitment to helping others. Specifically, he finds meaning and satisfaction in providing service through Nava Kiran Plus.*

Manish is blunt in his advice to HIV-positive people who opt to remain "hidden": "If you hide your status, you might not get proper treatment, and you'll probably die. There are many medicines available, and people like me will support you accessing them, so you should not remain hidden."

In addition, being open about his status allows Manish to enjoy the benefits and support of a community of other HIV-positive people. Knowing so many openly HIV-positive individuals, and seeing how they live, work, contribute to their communities, marry and raise children, allows Manish to feel normal. Manish emphasizes that the societal mindset about people living with HIV and AIDS, as well as about injecting drug users, needs to change: "If the environment is supportive, people won't hide."

Because of this stigma and discrimination, some people who know their status decide to remain hidden despite the high risk of reduced lifespan. "We can't reach them," says Manish. "If they're aware of the consequences of hiding their status, and they don't want help, we can't help." If societal attitudes were informed and non-discriminatory, fewer people living with HIV and AIDS would choose to be hidden and unreachable.



UNDAF Priority area

Consolidating Peace



The ten year long armed conflict between the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and the Nepali government officially ended in November 2006 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAA). Soon after the Maoist army and their weapons were cantoned across 28 sites in Nepal.

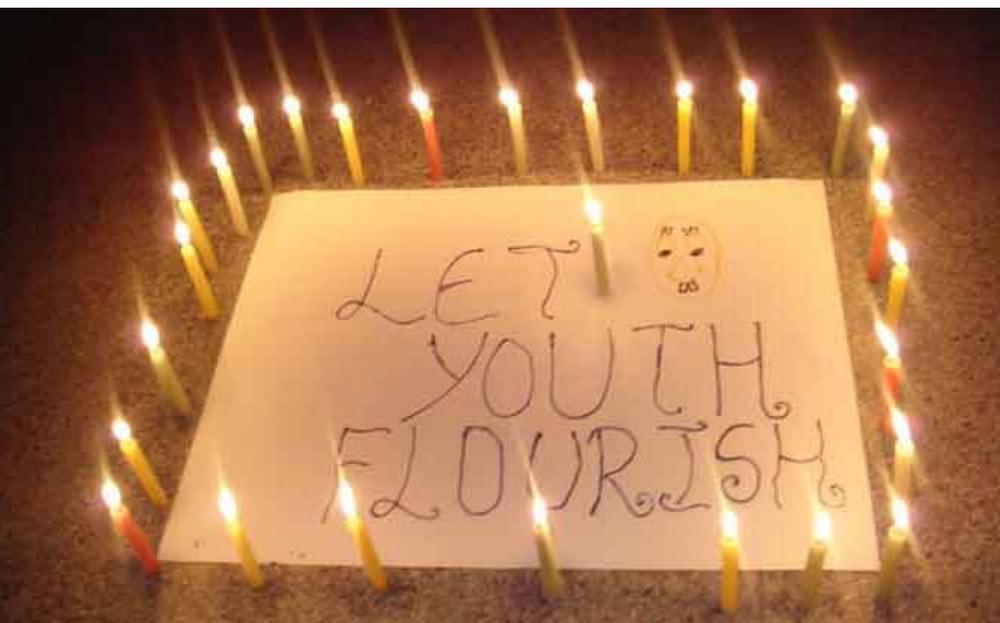
The [UN Peace Fund for Nepal \(UNPFN\)](#) was established in March 2007 to complement the government's Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF). The UNPFN delivers flexible UN responses to Nepal's unique needs in the existing transitional environment. The UNPFN is also one of the key instruments to enhance UN and donor coordination and alignment to ensure more coherent international support to Nepal.

In support to Nepal's constitution making process the UN Development Program (UNDP) established the Support to Participatory Constitution Building Project (SPCBP). SPCBP is a resource centre providing training opportunities, expert advice, information, dialogue space as well as promoting public awareness on the constitution making process. It is open to the Constituent Assembly members, civil society, and anyone who is interested in the constitution making process. You can access a library with over 2,700 volumes on constitution building and other materials as well as attend workshops, seminars and interaction programmes associated with Constitution Building in Nepal. SPCBP is open to the public 9:00 - 17:30 Monday to Friday. More information is available on the [website](#).

The United Nations Interagency Rehabilitation Program (UNIRP) was initiated in 2010 to assist those people who were recruited into the PLA when they were still under 18 or those who were recruited after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement gain employment or livelihood opportunities in society. These are young people who needed help to transition from military to civilian life.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the UN Interagency Rehabilitation Program

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has, in partnership with UN agencies, development partners, women's and children's networks and organisations, developed a National Plan of Action on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820. The National Plan is the first in South Asia and Second in Asia and focuses on 6 pillars: Participation, Protection and Prevention of violence, Promotion, Relief and Recovery, Resource Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. The National Plan aims to contribute to the government's overall goal of achieving sustainable peace and establishing a just society by ensuring participation and protection of women and girls at all stages of peace building. UN Women has since 2004 advocated around women, peace and security issues in Nepal.



PEACE YOUTH

UNDAF Priority area

Sustainable livelihoods



In Nepal, development gains have not reached the whole population. In many rural areas poverty and malnutrition remain acute, especially amongst traditionally excluded and economically marginalized groups. Lack of livelihood alternatives in the rural areas has pushed people to collect fuel and timber putting tremendous pressure on the forests. This poses a challenge for energy and environmental resource management in the developing planning of the country.

The UNCT in Nepal aims at creating economic opportunities for young people, excluded groups, people living with or at risk of contracting HIV, migrant workers, homebased workers and refugees.

UN Women works in the areas of safe migration and reintegration programme for returnee **Women Migrant Workers** through the use of remittances for creating sustainable livelihoods. It is also supporting the Government and non government agencies to implement policies and legislation on safe migration while supporting the organization of returnee women migrant workers to claim rights and entitlements in 15 districts of Nepal.

To be prepared for natural disasters, the UN supports capacity building on gender-responsive disaster risk management and preparedness in order to mitigate the impact of droughts, floods, earthquakes and other calamities.

The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management, supported by UNDP, has introduced risk reduction as a cross-cutting approach to development planning and programming. The **Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme** focuses on policy and institutional strengthening in line with the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management as well as the establishment of 11 District Emergency Operations Centres to better coordinate and help integrate disaster risk reduction into planning mechanisms.

Click [here](#) to learn more about disaster risk management in Nepal.

The **sustainable livelihoods approach** is a way to improve understanding of the livelihoods of poor people. It draws on the main factors that affect poor people's livelihoods and the typical relationships between these factors. It can be used in planning new development activities and in assessing the contribution that existing activities have made to sustaining livelihoods. This framework places people, particularly rural poor people, at the centre of a web of inter-related influences that affect how these people create a livelihood for themselves and their households.

Migrant Resource Centers established by IOM in collaboration with the Foreign Employment Promotion Board is providing individual counselling, e-based guidance and also telephonic guidance on legal requirements, job demand, migrants rights pertaining to overseas employment to aspirant migrant who are mainly youth.

The UNDP supported **Micro Enterprise Development Program** specifically targets women and youth for self-employment in 36 districts across Nepal. 60% of the beneficiaries are youth. Click [here](#) to learn more.

UNDAF Priority area

Promoting human rights, gender equality and social inclusion.

The Government of Nepal has ratified various human rights instruments and proclaimed its support for inclusive democracy and gender equality. The UNCT aims to improve respect, promotion and protection of human rights in Nepal through policy development and improvement; institutional capacity building; and community empowerment.

DID YOU KNOW?

Women represent 70 percent of the world's poor. They are often paid less than men for their work, with the average wage gap in 2008 being 17 percent. Women face persistent discrimination when they apply for credit for business or self-employment and are often concentrated in insecure, unsafe and low-wage work. Eight out of ten women workers are considered to be in vulnerable employment in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, with global economic changes taking a huge toll on their livelihoods.

Source: [UN Women](#), Women Poverty and Economics

In Nepal women face greater challenges than men in engaging in economic activities and generating economic resources. Women generally earn less than men and are often confined to unpaid work. Only 18 percent of women earn a wage in the non-agricultural sector, compared to 51 percent in the agricultural sector. Women's labor migration has increased, at the same time exploitation and abuse of Nepali women employees in host countries as well as in Nepal by employment agencies and brokers has also grown.

With support from UN Women, three women's political watch groups have been formed, in Kathmandu, Kaski and Kailali districts since 2008. These groups have been advocating for women's political, social and economic rights and opportunities for participation. Also, in 44 districts UNFPA has provided support to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare to set up Access to Justice funds with women's federations (women's cooperative groups) providing immediate relief to gender based violence survivors.

The UN defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

A joint UN framework has been developed to respond to Gender Based Violence in Nepal and UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women jointly work on Gender Based Violence prevention and protection services for women, men, and children at the community level.

IOM is working closely with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in the design and implementation of a **transparent reparation system** to provide assistance to victims of human rights violations during the ten-year armed conflict. It is supported by the UN Peace Fund for Nepal, in cooperation with the Government of Nepal and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Government of Nepal has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has thus an obligation to fulfil and protect the rights of anyone under the age of 18. Since 2007 UNICEF has collaborated with a network of children's rights organizations to ensure that child rights are included in the new constitution and pending legislation on children. This collaboration involved extensive national and district-level consultations with children and young people and the recommendations from these consultations laid the foundations for an expert submission on children's rights in the new constitution as well as advocacy aimed at Constituent Assembly members, political parties and the media.

The 10th Anniversary of International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10)

Volunteering empowers change from the grassroots up, especially when enabled by strong partnerships at every level. It is 10 years since 2001 was declared as the International Year of Volunteer, and the United Nations General Assembly has called for this anniversary to be marked across the planet in 2011. The partners' aims are to promote and recognize volunteering's positive impact on peace and development, to reinforce volunteering networks, and to help all people make a difference through volunteering.



Photograph: Santosh Bohara, 2010

Special Youth Fellowship Program: This Program is designed to give young people aged 20 to 24 from developing countries opportunities to engage in policy development and programming; to help build their capacity; and to sensitize both young people and UNFPA staff on partnering to address adolescent and youth issues. There is a global call for applicants at the start of each year. The Program involves an 11 month working fellowship in which the fellow spends half the time at UNFPA HQ in New York and the rest at his/her respective UNFPA Country Office working closely with the Program Units. Each year there are 5 fellows chosen to represent each global region. Click [here](#) for more information.

UNAIDS Special Youth Programme: The UNAIDS Special Youth Programme seeks to recruit young people aged 20-24 from developing countries with experience in HIV related issues to join UNAIDS for a 9-month remunerated fellowship. The fellowship is divided into two sections: an initial fellowship in UNAIDS Geneva, and continued fellowship in the UNAIDS country office in the fellow's country of origin. Click [here](#) for more information.

Young professionals have opportunities to engage with the **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)** as full time or part time volunteers. Different types of volunteering opportunities include National UNV Specialists, National UNV Field Workers (placed in local communities), International UNV Volunteers and Online volunteers. The qualifications needed vary according to the type of opportunity. Volunteer opportunities are announced and advertised on a need-basis. Interested candidates can also sign on to a UNV roster for international placements. Click [here](#) for more information. UNV has very limited funding opportunities, but occasionally provides small grants on proposals based on volunteerism and MDGs, i.e. any youth focused NGOs/ CBOs/ CSOs are free to send in proposals of their project at any time. If the proposals are based on volunteerism and the achievement of the MDGs, are focused and innovative, they might be considered for a small grant as encouragement.

UN Country Team Traineeship Program: Launched in April 2011, the UN Traineeship Program provides marginalized and disadvantaged youth in Nepal with opportunities to be exposed to the UN system.

It enrolls youth who are fresh graduates as trainees for 11 months. Currently, there are 30 trainees working in various UN agencies in Nepal, both in Kathmandu and the field offices. Click [here](#) for more information. In addition, **UNIC** provides unpaid internships to youth. **OHCHR** provides fellowships to marginalized youth under the age of 32 for Minorities Rights Studies, and Indigenous Rights Studies. Further information can be obtained from OHCHR's website www.ohchr.org on this. Interested applicants should apply by June every year.

UNHABITAT provides an annual youth fund to projects that are related to the working areas of UNHABITAT. Youth groups are encouraged to apply at unhabitat.nepal@unhabitat.org.np.

Y-PEER was established in 2001, as a response to recommendations from a UNFPA commissioned assessment of peer education efforts in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Its members include young people, active peer educators, trainers and youth advocates for adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Its main focus is to reinforce the status and credibility of peer education and also to reduce the vulnerability of young people to HIV/AIDS and STIs. **Y-PEER** envisions young people to have meaningful participation in decision making related to their health in order to have equal access to information and services to live a healthy, content life.

Y-PEER national network in Nepal was officially launched in December 2011. Since then, the Y-PEER national network Nepal has been working on capacitating young peer educators reaching more than 30 districts. The network has been supporting its member organizations technically in the process of development and standardization of peer education programs. Similarly, Y-PEER has continuously been advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights through Youth Day, World AIDS DAY day etc.

With the core aims to educate young people and the community about the work of the United Nations; empower young people to get involved in international affairs and civil society; represent the views of young people at a local, national and international level; and act as a forum young people to network and socialize, the [United Nations and Youth and Students Association](#) (UNYSAN) was formed. UNYSAN carries out several activities including the Model UN as well as UN Youth Delegates Program. It has also been actively involved in the sector of HIV and AIDS, organizing the Third National Conference on HIV and AIDS as well as a talk programs on youth involvement in this sector.



Photograph: YUWA, 2010

Annex I: Information on the UN agencies with designated Youth Focal

Points

Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator's Office (RCHCO)

The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator's Office (RCHCO) provides services to the UNCT, the Government of Nepal and Development Partners, working through the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC). It provides integrated support for peace-building, humanitarian and development support through coordination, planning, advocacy, analysis, information management and communication. The RCHCO is not an implementing entity.

RCHCO, UN House Pulchowk
GPO Box 107, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: (9771) 5523200
RCHCO Website: <http://un.org.np/rchco>
Office Email: rchco.nepal@one.un.org

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) is the focal unit for United Nations activities in regard to information and communication. Its major objective is to help the UN fulfill its purpose and objectives by informing people, target groups, stakeholders and partner organizations of its aims and activities.

United Nations Information Centre
UN House, P.O. Box 107, Pulchowk, Lalitpur,
Tel: (9771) 5523200 ext 1600
UNIC Nepal
website: <http://unic.un.org/imucms/kathmandu/35/98/home.aspx>
UNIC website: www.un.org/aroundworld/unics/english/about.htm
Office Email: ram.shah@undp.org

International Labor Organization (ILO)

The International Labor Organization (ILO) focuses on the advancement of opportunities for people to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Its main aims are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.

ILO, Dhobhighat, Lalitpur,
P.O.Box 8971, Nepal
Tel: (9771) 5555777, 5550691
ILO Nepal website: www.iloktm.org.np
ILO website: www.ilo.org
Office Email: kathmandu@ilo.org

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) works in the field of migration with the objective of promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.

IOM Baluwatar, Kathmandu
Tel: (9771) 4426250
IOM Nepal website: <http://www.nepal.iom.int>
IOM website: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/jsp/index.jsp>
Office Email: iomnepal@iom.int

Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is committed to promote and protect the universal ideals of human dignity. The principal United Nations office mandated to uphold human rights for all, OHCHR speaks out in cases of abuses and violations of Human Rights. OHCHR-Nepal has monitored and investigated the cases related to the allegations of both Civil and Political rights, and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Nepal.

OHCHR, Silu Building, Chauni Museum Road, Kathmandu

Tel: (977-1) 4280164

OHCHR Nepal website: nepal.ohchr.org

OHCHR website: www.ohchr.org

Office Email: registry.np@ohchr.org

UN Women

The mandate of UN Women is to work to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment, partnering with Governments, NGOs, gender advocates and women's groups including the excluded women's groups.

UN Women 201/42 Ramshahpath, Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: (977-1) 4255110/4254899

UN Women website: www.unwomen.org

Office Email: sangeeta.thapa@unwomen.org

UNAIDS

UNAIDS is a joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the HIV and AIDS response.

UNAIDS, UN House, Pulchowk

P.O.Box 107, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: (977-1) 5523200

UNAIDS Nepal Page: <http://www.facebook.com/UNAIDS>

UNAIDS Website: www.unaids.org

Office Email: nepal@unaids.org

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is the UN's global development network advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. Its mandate covers poverty reduction and achieving the MDGs, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, environment and sustainable development as well as cross cutting themes such as women's empowerment and capacity building.

UNDP, UN House, P.O. Box 107, Pulchowk, Lalitpur,

Tel: (977-1) 5523200

UNDP Nepal website: www.undp.org.np

UNDP website: www.undp.org

Office Email: registry.np@undp.org

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect. This is the only agency with designated staff and strategies specific to young people within the country team.

United Nations Population Fund, Sanepa, Lalitpur

P.O. Box 107, Pulchowk, Lalitpur,

Tel: (977-1) 5523637, 5523880

UNFPA Nepal website: www.unfpanepal.org

UNFPA website: www.unfpa.org

Office Email: registry-np@unfpa.org

UN-HABITAT

The United Nations Human Settlements Program, UN-HABITAT promotes socially and environmentally sustainable human settlement development and the achievement of adequate shelter. It works in urban development and management, Land and Housing, Environment and Climate Change, Water Sanitation and Infrastructure, Urban Economy and Financing Shelter, Risk and Disaster Management and Social Inclusion.

UN- HABITAT, Pulchowk, P.O.Box 107, Nepal

Tel: (977-1) 5536699, 5542816

UN- HABITAT website: www.unhabitat.org

Official Email: unhabitat.nepal@unhabitat.org.np

UNICEF

The (United Nations Children's Fund), UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and advocates for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF Nepal works in the areas of health, nutrition, education, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), child protection, emergencies, HIV/AIDS as well as in supporting the government in the development of policies, legislation and budgets that advance women's and children's rights.

UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund

UN House, P.O. Box 107, Pulchowk, Lalitpur

Tel: (977-1) 5523200 ext. 1100

UNICEF Nepal

website: <http://www.unicef.org/nepal/>

UNICEF website: www.unicef.org

Office Email: kathmandu@unicef.org

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is committed to achieving security and justice for all, making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism. (ask binija to rephrase it+ office email)

UNODC, KSK Building, Pulchowk

Tel: (977-1) 5523200

UNODC website: www.unodc.org

Office Email: archana.singh@unodc.org

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is the organization that utilizes volunteerism as a powerful tool to combat developmental issues and to contribute to peace and development worldwide.

United Nations Volunteers

UNDP Nepal, P.O. Box 107, UN House, Pulchowk, Lalitpur,

Tel: (977-1) 5010135/318/319

UNV Nepal website: www.unv.org.np, www.iyv10nepal.com,

UNV website: www.unvolunteers.org,

www.worldvolunteerweb.org

Annex II: Relevant websites with special reference to youth and the UN

[HIV/AIDS and Human Rights](#)

[Frequently asked questions on a human rights-based approach to development cooperation](#)

[Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Plain Language Version](#)

[Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Child Friendly Version](#)

[The Convention on the Rights of the Child as Photo Essay](#)

[An explanation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

[United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children Adapted for Children and Young People](#)

[Youth at the UN](#)

[UN International Year of Youth](#)

Annex III: International Treaties and recommendations with relevance to youth

Declarations, Conventions, Covenants, Recommendations	Date
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	1948
Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention	1948
Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention	1949
Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention	1958
Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples	1965
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1966
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1966
Special Youth Schemes Recommendation	1970
Minimum Age Convention	1973
Human Resources Development Convention	1975
The Convention on the Rights of the Child	1979
The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	1979
United Nations Guidelines for Further Planning and Follow-Up in the Field of Youth	1985
United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules)	1985
Declaration on the Right to Development	1986
United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty	1990
United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines)	1990
The Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development and Agenda 21	1992
Universal Declaration of Youth Rights And Duties	1992
The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	1993
Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	1994
Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development	1995
World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond	1995
Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women	1995
The Habitat Agenda and The Istanbul Declaration of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)	1996
Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action of the World Food Summit	1996
Braga Youth Action Plan	1998
Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes	1998
ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work	1998
Special Session on Social Development (Copenhagen+5), Geneva	2000
Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy	2001

