

PRACTICE NOTE ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY:

Good practices in implementing the YPS agenda: the experience of the
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Prepared by the United Nations Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peace Operations



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DEPARTMENT OF
PEACE OPERATIONS

¹ This report is not an official document and does not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations Department of Peace Operations.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last decade, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has developed many innovative approaches to accelerate implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda in Kosovo². Presently, it is the only peacekeeping mission with a dedicated Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator and a mission-specific YPS strategy, along with a specific YPS portfolio and consistent programmatic funding for YPS implementation.

This practice note documents UNMIK's work to implement the YPS agenda since the adoption of the first Security Council Resolution (2250) on YPS in 2015. It identifies good practices and innovative steps taken by the Mission towards: (1) integrating YPS in institutional and policy frameworks; (2) mainstreaming YPS across Mission components, including in areas of rule of law and gender; (3) supporting youth-led activities in Kosovo; and (4) fostering meaningful youth participation in decision-making.

While recognizing that peacekeeping missions operate under different contexts and mandates, UNMIK's work may provide relevant insights for youth engagement and YPS programming in other mission settings. Several good practices articulated in this note could be adapted, replicated and scaled-up to address existing gaps and constraints in implementing the YPS agenda by other peacekeeping operations.

Methodology and Scope: The note was developed by OROLSI based on desk research, interviews and focus group discussions conducted in consultation with UNMIK, including through a visit to Kosovo from 2 to 13 September 2024. The note is intended for internal learning, in line with the DPO-DPPA Policy on Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning, and was developed in response to the Secretary-General's call for enhanced efforts to document and share good practices and lessons learned in YPS implementation. While OROLSI has a particular interest in the documentation of good practices pertaining to rule of law areas, a broader scope is needed to identify the institutional, policy and programmatic practices that enable UNMIK to mainstream YPS principles and advance the YPS agenda across all mandate areas.

OROLSI's role in YPS

OROLSI co-leads the YPS agenda within DPO and therefore takes a leading role in departmental efforts to advance the YPS agenda in peacekeeping contexts. In coordination with partners, OROLSI provides expertise and support to United Nations (UN) entities, Member States and other stakeholders by:

- Enhancing YPS capacities and expertise through training;
- Integrating youth and gender into the development and review of guidance;
- Mobilizing resources for YPS implementation;
- Enhancing opportunities for knowledge sharing;
- Documenting good practices and lessons learned;
- Deploying specialized expertise through OROLSI's standing capacities and its cluster on WPS and YPS.

²References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



UNMIK's good practices in implementing the YPS agenda

1 Integrating the YPS agenda in policy frameworks and institutionalizing YPS capacities creates the conditions for effective YPS implementation, promoting joint ownership and accountability among Mission leadership and components. UNMIK has mainstreamed YPS in its institutional and policy frameworks by: (a) developing a dedicated framework strategy on YPS and mainstreaming youth throughout the Mission's strategic and planning documents; (b) investing in and institutionalizing dedicated YPS capacities and expertise, including by recruiting a Youth Adviser/ YPS Programme Coordinator and establishing a Mission-wide network of youth focal points; (c) developing mechanisms to formalize the advisory function of its youth partners; and (d) dedicating significant financial resources and its own programmatic activities for YPS implementation.

2 Generating a common understanding about the importance of YPS mainstreaming fosters a holistic and coherent approach to YPS implementation, ensuring that young people's concerns and experiences are an integral element of activities across all mission components. UNMIK's leadership and mission staff have developed a joint understanding that youth are natural partners for the Mission and central for achieving its priorities. As a result, UNMIK not only developed a dedicated YPS programme, but it also mainstreamed youth engagement and the YPS agenda throughout the work of its substantive sections. For example:

- UNMIK's YPS programme focuses on inclusive participation of youth from all communities in local and central decision-making processes, on capacity-building of young peacebuilders and on providing incentives for cross-community youth-led initiatives addressing matters of mutual concern, such as critical thinking, countering intolerance, inter-cultural dialogue, AI, innovation and science, environment and mental health.
- UNMIK's rule of law support promotes inclusive and youth-responsive justice services, including through: capacity-building for young legal professionals and justice chain actors; the expansion of legal aid services; support for language rights in judicial proceedings; advocacy on gender-related rule of law issues; and assistance to legislative drafting processes relevant to youth.
- UNMIK promotes gender responsive YPS approaches by empowering young women through capacity-building initiatives and by challenging patriarchal norms and gender stereotypes, for example, through the production of films raising awareness on early and forced marriage.
- UNMIK empowers youth through human rights education and support to youth-led human rights advocacy, including with regards to the publication of an annual civil society report on human rights in Kosovo.
- UNMIK's work on community trust building promotes inclusiveness and inter-ethnic cooperation in YPS implementation, including in the context of local initiatives to promote tolerance and understanding through arts and culture involving youth.
- UNMIK uses strategic communications as a tool to promote the YPS agenda by highlighting positive stories of inter-ethnic cooperation and amplifying the voices of young changemakers, including through social media campaigns, youth-led initiatives and activities, and media partnerships. This helps spread messages of peace, inclusivity, and collaboration while providing a platform for young leaders to advocate for their rights and contribute to peacebuilding efforts.



3 Working in partnership with youth is an effective way for peacekeeping missions to empower young peacebuilders and ensure that UN programmes are responsive to the needs of young people from all communities.

By working with youth as partners rather than simply as beneficiaries, UNMIK has developed many innovative approaches for multi-ethnic youth-led activities and projects implemented through the United Youth Task Force (a multi-ethnic network of young Kosovo peacebuilders launched by UNMIK at the onset of the YPS programme in 2017) and the small-grants competition at the United Nations Youth Assembly in Kosovo.

4 Facilitating the meaningful engagement of youth with decision-makers is vital for localizing the YPS agenda and empowers youth to shape YPS implementation in Kosovo by actively participating in legislative and policy processes.

UNMIK's youth activities provide important entry points for facilitating the meaningful engagement of young people from all communities in Kosovo with decision-makers at the central and local levels, and for building their capacity to actively participate in legislative and policy processes, including the development of Kosovo's new Law on Youth, youth strategies and action plans. UNMIK thereby contributes to the localization of the YPS agenda, underscoring that meaningful youth participation is crucial for promoting local ownership and for translating the needs and lived experiences of young people from diverse backgrounds into context-specific actions for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on YPS.

The Way Forward

Interviews and focus group discussions identified the following entry points to further advance the YPS agenda:

- Capitalize on UNMIK's success in institutionalizing the YPS agenda by : continuing to prioritize youth during the ongoing review of strategic and planning documents; maintaining an inclusive and consultative approach when updating UNMIK's Framework Strategy on YPS; and advancing the formalization of a youth advisory body.
- Advocate for enhanced cooperation and coordination on YPS in Kosovo with a view to strengthen coherence and align priorities among different UN entities, government stakeholders, international and regional organizations, and civil society partners.
- Strengthen reporting, monitoring and evaluation on YPS with a view to better showcase the impact of UNMIK's YPS work, including through the planned introduction of a youth marker.
- Continue building on the success of past initiatives to further strengthen meaningful youth engagement with decision-makers at the local level. To this end, the Mission could consider revitalizing past practices such as the facilitation of focus group discussions between UNMIK's youth partners and municipal authorities.
- Continue to advocate for an inclusive and youth-responsive approach in processes around Kosovo's new Law on Youth and its implementation, including by building on UNMIK's cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in the field of capacity-building of municipal youth participatory mechanisms, with specific focus on integration of young people from non-majority communities.
- Continue to leverage the role of strategic communications for YPS implementation, including by utilizing the expertise of UNMIK's Office of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs (OSCPA) to build the capacity of youth partners in the area of strategic communications.



BACKGROUND

Kosovo continues to have the youngest population in Europe, with over 58 percent of the population under the age of 30.³ Efforts to build and sustain peace are therefore inextricably linked to the empowerment and effective participation of young people from all Kosovo communities in political, social, economic and environmental processes. Despite the widely recognized role of youth in reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts in Kosovo, their meaningful engagement on peace and security is often hindered by a set of interrelated challenges such as: limited access to quality education and economic and job opportunities; patriarchal norms; exclusion from decision-making at the central and local levels; and a distrust in justice and security institutions. Post-conflict divides along ethnic lines have also resulted in language barriers and scarce opportunities for inter-ethnic communication and cooperation. A 2018 survey conducted by the International Organization for Migration found that 70 percent of young Kosovo Albanians and 72 percent of young Kosovo Serbs had never spoken to their peers from the other community.

Recognizing the crucial role of young people as agents of change for reconciliation in Kosovo, UNMIK has made significant strides to meaningfully engage and include young people in the implementation of its mandate defined in Security Council resolution 1244 of 1999. Although UNMIK's mandate has remained unchanged since 1999 and does not explicitly refer to youth or the YPS agenda, references to "ensuring conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants in Kosovo" have enabled the Mission to interpret its mandate in line with the three Security Council resolutions on YPS. The Mission has taken steps to integrate and localize the YPS agenda in its mandate priorities⁴, which include: the promotion of inter-community trust building; the provision of support in the areas of human rights, the rule of law, and gender equality; and the empowerment of women and youth. In carrying out this work, UNMIK developed good practices and innovative approaches to accelerate the implementation of the YPS agenda. Presently, it is the only peacekeeping mission with a dedicated Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator and a mission-specific YPS strategy, along with a specific YPS portfolio and consistent programmatic funding for YPS implementation.

While UNMIK's YPS work can provide valuable insights for youth engagement and YPS programming in other mission settings, it should be acknowledged that UNMIK operates in a unique context that provides a comparatively conducive environment for YPS implementation. Contributing factors include the relatively small geographical area and population size of Kosovo, an environment of relative peace with significant investments from the international community and favorable exchange rates, as well as a mandate scope and budget that allows for a focus on youth issues. In addition, it is important to recall that UNMIK operates in a landscape replete with stakeholders working on youth issues, including through initiatives supported by the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund⁵, the OSCE, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Regional Youth Cooperation Office, and bilateral donors such as the United States, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. Gains made in advancing the YPS agenda in Kosovo can therefore not be attributed to UNMIK's support alone and should be seen in this broader context.

³ Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 2024 census, available at <https://askapi.rks-gov.net/Custom/0657ff3e-ae62-4e85-a713-e6b55cc5b335.pdf>

⁴ See <https://unmik.unmissions.org/mandate>

⁵ To date, the Peacebuilding Fund supported several projects addressing youth issues in Kosovo and the Western Balkans: "Empowering Youth for a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Future in Kosovo" (2019-2021); "Youth 4 Inclusion, Equality & Trust" (2022-2024 and 2024-2026); and "Youth Empowered through Inclusive Schools and Societies" (2024-2026).



UNMIK's Good Practices in YPS implementation

1. Integrating YPS in institutional and policy frameworks

Youth has been mainstreamed throughout UNMIK's strategic and planning frameworks: UNMIK's strategic and planning frameworks demonstrate how peacekeeping missions can prioritize youth issues in the absence of explicit references to the YPS agenda or youth engagement in mission mandates. Over the years, youth has been mainstreamed across UNMIK's key policy and planning documents, including the Mission concept, the trust building strategy, the gender framework strategy, the communications strategy, the Results-Based Budgeting (RBB) framework, the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System (CPAS), and reporting on Action for Peacekeeping+ (A4P+). In addition, UNMIK is the only peacekeeping mission whose Secretary-General's reports include a dedicated YPS section.

Importantly, UNMIK is the only peacekeeping mission with a dedicated framework strategy on YPS.⁶ The Strategy was developed by the Mission's Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator through a series of consultations with substantive sections and the United Nations Kosovo Team (UNKT). It introduces a joint vision for UNMIK's youth engagement and provides a comprehensive roadmap for incorporating YPS as a cross-cutting element of the Mission's activities. To this end, the Strategy sets out clear priority areas and actions in the areas of: (1) youth inter-ethnic community trust building; (2) the implementation of the Kosovo Roadmap on YPS; (3) human rights education in youth work; (4) youth involvement in justice-related processes; (5) the empowerment of young women and girls; and (6) strengthened partnerships for YPS implementation.

In line with these focus areas, the Strategy outlines specific priority actions on rule of law and gender. Relevant outputs relate to:

- Awareness raising on free legal aid, mediation, women's rights, access to justice, and conflict-related sexual violence;
- Training and technical support for justice actors;
- Youth inclusion and strengthen capacities of judicial institutions;
- Activities to combat gender norms and patriarchal structures; and
- Capacity-building to empower young women's participation in decision-making.

In order to ensure coherence and local ownership, the Strategy is aligned with Kosovo's priorities on youth⁷ and seeks to enhance partnerships with international, governmental and civil society partners. It also aims to promote youth ownership, including by formalizing the Mission's partnership with the United Youth Task Force - a multi-ethnic advocacy network of young peacebuilders from across Kosovo.

UNMIK has invested in and institutionalized dedicated YPS capacities and expertise: As highlighted in the Secretary-General's reports on YPS and the thematic evaluation of the YPS agenda by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (E/AC.51/2023/7), the lack of dedicated capacities and expertise is a key factor hampering YPS implementation in many contexts. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 in 2015, UNMIK was among the first peacekeeping missions to invest in building and strengthening dedicated YPS capacities with the institutional support, technical expertise, and resources to be effective.

⁶UNMIK approved its first Youth Strategy in 2016, followed by a dedicated Framework Strategy on YPS in 2018. While the Strategy was developed with a four-year timeframe, its use has been extended beyond 2022 and the Strategy will remain in place until the forthcoming adoption of an updated Strategy.

⁷As outlined in relevant legislation and policies, the Kosovo Roadmap on YPS, and the recommendations of the United Nations Kosovo Trust Building Forum.



Youth Adviser: Presently, UNMIK is the only peacekeeping mission with a dedicated Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator. The position of a Youth Focal was initially established in 2016 and the role was defined further since then, including through the inclusion of terms of reference in UNMIK's Framework Strategy on YPS in 2018 and the elevation of the portfolio to Youth Programme Coordinator level. While the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator previously reported to the SRSG directly, the post is currently located within the Office of the Deputy SRSG and the Office of the Chief of Staff. The establishment of this role was instrumental in enabling the Mission to mainstream youth engagement across Mission components and in guiding the development of a dedicated portfolio on YPS. It allows for the effective representation of the Mission in relevant external fora, including youth-related inter-ministerial working groups, UN Kosovo Team meetings and technical working groups for PBF projects.

Mission-wide coordination on YPS: The role of the UNMIK Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator is complemented by youth focal points appointed by substantive Mission sections, including in the Regional Field Office in Mitrovica and in Pejë/Peć Field Office. A mission-wide Youth Focal Points Network provides a platform for regular information sharing, planning and coordination on YPS priorities. The creation of this coordination mechanism was vital in moving from ad-hoc arrangements to more effective and institutionalized coordination on YPS programming, thereby enhancing transparency, continuity, data collection and stronger ownership of the YPS portfolio across sections.

Overall, the following factors contribute to the effectiveness of UNMIK's institutional framework on youth:

- UNMIK formalized roles and functions of the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator and youth focal points through the YPS Framework Strategy, dedicated terms of reference, and individual work plans.
- UNMIK invests in capacity-building on YPS for youth focal points and mission staff, including through online courses and training provided by the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator.
- UNMIK empowers the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator to contribute to mission-wide policy and planning processes by ensuring representation in decision-making fora, including: the Project Review Committee for Community Trust Building Projects; the review of proposals for programmatic activities by substantive sections; and the senior management meetings.
- The personal commitment and consistent presence of individual staff members, including the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator, facilitate the maintenance of institutional memory and the development of trusting relationships with external partners, including government counterparts. This is particularly crucial in contexts such as Kosovo where some authorities may be reluctant to be perceived as cooperating closely with a peacekeeping mission.

UNMIK is working to institutionalize a youth advisory body to ensure that its YPS programming is inclusive and responsive to the needs of young people in Kosovo: Since 2017, UNMIK has undertaken significant efforts to support external mechanisms that empower young local peacebuilders to work in partnership with the Mission. This is key not only for promoting youth-participation in the work of the UN, but also for ensuring that UNMIK's YPS programming is responsive to the needs and perspectives of young people from different communities.

United Youth Task Force: As a follow-up to the first United Nations Youth Assembly in Kosovo in 2017, UNMIK supported the establishment of the United Youth Task Force, a multi-ethnic advocacy network of young peacebuilders from across Kosovo. Under the coordination of UNMIK's Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator, the Task Force has expanded and evolved, achieving NGO status in 2021. Mentorship and training provided by UNMIK has been critical in building the capacity of Task Force members and fostered their role as peer-to-peer multipliers in their communities. While not serving as an official youth advisory body, the Task Force is consulted and the feedback received guides the development of UNMIK's YPS programme, and its members have been actively involved in its implementation - both as beneficiaries and implementing partners of youth-led activities and projects.



Youth Reference Group: As a next step, UNMIK's Framework Strategy on YPS (currently being updated) foresees the establishment of a Youth Reference Group to further inform and promote youth ownership in the Mission's YPS programming. The youth reference group will institutionalize the Youth Task Force as a youth advisory body within UNMIK on matters related to the YPS agenda. The Group will include nine to eleven ethnically diverse youth leaders and representatives of various youth groups. Members will serve for a one-year period (extendable) and will be elected based on an open call and nominations by UNMIK sections. The Group will be coordinated by the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator and will meet with the Mission leadership on a bi-monthly basis.

UNMIK has dedicated financial resources to advance YPS implementation: UNMIK remains the only peacekeeping mission with funding specifically dedicated for YPS implementation. While the budget allocation has varied over the years, the Mission leadership has consistently allocated programmatic funding for the youth programme since 2017, and YPS has been integrated into UNMIK's budget report of the UN Secretary-General (A/78/721).⁸ Sustained financing has allowed the Mission to ensure the sustainability of youth-led initiatives such as the annual UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo and the United Youth Task Force.

Youth-responsive activities are supported through various modalities, including UNMIK's community trust building projects, small grants for youth-led projects, and programmatic funds of other sections (e.g. rule of law, human rights and gender). This allows the Mission to support a variety of stakeholders, including NGOs, local authorities, government institutions, informal youth groups and networks. In some cases, impactful initiatives such as the establishment of the first multi-ethnic youth center in Klokot/Klllokot municipality and the "Under One Sky" Astronomy Peace Camps have been supported over time through a combination of several modalities. *See Sections III and IV for details.*

Observations and Opportunities:

- Mainstreaming youth in UNMIK's strategic and planning frameworks played a vital role in institutionalizing the YPS agenda across mission components as it fosters shared understanding that working for and with youth is a vehicle for trust building and crucial for achieving Mission priorities. It also encourages joint ownership and accountability for YPS implementation among Mission leadership and staff, ensures sustainability of YPS commitments over time, and helps to ensure that political commitments translate into resource mobilization.
- To capitalize on UNMIK's success in institutionalizing the YPS agenda, it will be important to maintain youth as a priority when updating strategic and planning documents, including during the ongoing review of the mission concept, the RBB Framework and the trust building strategy.
- Maintaining an inclusive and consultative approach will be vital to ensure that the Mission's next YPS Framework Strategy will be responsive to current priorities, needs and challenges of Kosovo's youth. In this context, the establishment of a Youth Reference Group could be an important tool to formalize the advisory role of UNMIK's youth partners.

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⁸ For the period from 1 July 2024 to 31 June 2025, \$68,350 were approved for programmatic activities dedicated to YPS.



- While UNMIK's strategic framework highlights the importance of cooperation with other stakeholders working on youth issues, there is no dedicated coordination mechanism on YPS efforts in Kosovo. Building on past practices, UNMIK could consider advocating for the revitalization of the previous youth-engagement working group (or the establishment of a similar mechanism) with a view to strengthen coordination, enhance coherence, and align priorities among different UN entities, government stakeholders, international/regional organizations, and civil society partners.
- Although faced with the challenges of peacekeeping budget cycles, UNMIK has developed ways to enhance the sustainability and scalability of its YPS efforts. Diversified modalities provide UNMIK with the flexibility to support a variety of stakeholders and initiatives that promote local ownership and thus have the potential to grow over time.

2. Mainstreaming YPS across the work of Mission components

Mainstreaming YPS across Mission components promotes a holistic and coherent approach to YPS implementation by ensuring that young people's concerns and experiences are an integral element of all Mission activities. Following the adoption of the first Security Council Resolution (2250) on YPS in 2015, UNMIK was among the first peacekeeping missions to develop a YPS portfolio and mainstream YPS throughout the work of its substantive sections.⁹ While not all initiatives are fully youth-led or exclusively youth-centered, many activities involve youth engagement, focus on topics of relevance to young people, or target youth as key beneficiaries. In carrying out these activities, efforts are undertaken to incorporate gender-responsive approaches to the Mission's youth work.

UNMIK's Youth, Peace and Security programme focuses on inclusive participation of youth from all communities in local and central decision-making processes, capacity-building of young peacebuilders and providing incentives for cross-community youth-led initiatives addressing matters of mutual concern, such as critical thinking, countering intolerance, inter-cultural dialogue, AI, sciences & innovation, environment and mental health. See Sections III and IV for details.

UNMIK's rule of law support seeks to promote inclusive and youth-responsive justice services: The Office of Rule of Law leverages its strong relationships with justice actors to facilitate youth-inclusion in judicial institutions and to promote access to justice for young people, including young women and youth from non-majority communities. Initiatives supported by UNMIK, in coordination with other partners¹⁰, include:

- Capacity-building for law students and young legal professionals, including by providing training on practical legal skills for young lawyers from non-majority communities in the North; establishing a multi-ethnic legal clinic that provides training and facilitates exchanges between law students from Mitrovica and Pristina; organizing moot court competitions for law students; and recruiting and sponsoring young legal associates to support the work of judicial institutions;
- The expansion of legal aid services in Albanian and Serbian languages and the recruitment of translators to strengthen language rights in judicial processes, enhance access to justice and services for marginalized groups, and facilitate judicial integration;

⁹ The history of these developments is outlined in UNMIK's Framework Strategy on YPS.

¹⁰ Partners include the Kosovo Law Institute, the Kosovo Judicial Council, the Academy of Justice, the Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture in Mitrovica, the Initiative for Justice and Equality, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the Ministry of Justice.



- Advocacy on property rights to enhance access to justice for young women;
- Capacity-building for justice chain actors on gender-based violence;
- The establishment of a bakery inside the Lipjan/Lipljan youth and women's correctional facility, to provide vocational training and facilitate future reintegration; and
- Assistance to legislative drafting processes relevant to youth (e.g. by convening workshops on amendments to the Family Law and secondary legislation for the Juvenile Justice Code).

UNMIK's rule of law support aims to increase the trust of young people in justice institutions by ensuring that they are more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all communities. Projects involving the recruitment of translators and young legal associates are important examples demonstrating how UNMIK's rule of law support can simultaneously strengthen the capacities of judicial institutions and help with the timely resolution of court cases, while also promoting youth inclusion and improved access to justice. For example, UNMIK's support to the Basic Court of Pristina and Basic Prosecution Office of Mitrovica has contributed to the reduction of approximately 3,500 backlog cases while providing 100 young lawyers from different communities with an opportunity to gain practical work experience and therefore facilitating their inclusion into Kosovo's legal practice. The project also incorporated a dialogue and trust building component that facilitated cooperation among legal interns from different communities in Kosovo and promoted exchange visits of interns from Pristina to the court in Mitrovica and vice versa. This approach not only helped to facilitate judicial integration in Kosovo but also strengthened language rights in judicial proceedings and therefore promoted inclusive justice services for all communities.

UNMIK promotes gender responsive YPS approaches by empowering young women and challenging patriarchal norms and gender stereotypes: Collaboration between the youth and gender advisers has helped promote gender-responsive approaches to UNMIK's YPS interventions, while also ensuring that programmatic activities on gender are youth-responsive. The Gender Adviser and the Gender Team have mainstreamed youth-responsive activities, in particular regarding its capacity-building work. For example, the "She4She" programme is a mentoring initiative pairing young women from different backgrounds and communities with UNMIK's female senior managers who share their leadership experience and provide advice on professional development.

Joint initiatives between the Gender Team and the OSCPA have been instrumental in UNMIK's efforts to dismantle gender norms and stereotypes that contribute to discrimination, inequality and violence. For example, UNMIK raised awareness on the issue of early and forced marriage through the production of the fictional movie "Romni" and an accompanying documentary "Like a Real Woman". Between 2021 and 2024, UNMIK cooperated with partners across Kosovo to organize film screenings and accompanying panel discussions, including in rural areas. These events provided an opportunity to bring the global campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence to the local level, creating a space for dialogue on this issue among local authorities, community leaders, activists, civil society representatives, and youth from different communities. By featuring Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian activists, the films also sparked discussion about prejudice against these communities and helped to amplify the voices and contributions of young activists from non-majority communities. A dedicated roundtable with the Kosovo Law Institute, legal professionals and law students highlighted the links between early marriage and the rule of law. Importantly, the impact of this initiative has been sustained until now as the films have been made available to government and civil society partners free of charge, enabling them to continue organizing screenings in schools, etc.



UNMIK empowers youth through human rights education and support to youth-led human rights advocacy: UNMIK's Human Rights Section and Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator work with local partners to provide human rights education for young people, empowering them to stand up for their rights (including in the areas of access to justice, language rights, non-discrimination, gender-based violence and hate speech) and building their capacity to act as human rights champions within their communities. These activities often provide an important entry point to discuss sensitive issues such as minority and LGBTIQ+ rights and to promote trust and cross-community dialogue among youth. "Living library" events, for example, bring together young people from diverse communities to listen to each other's stories and experiences on human rights issues, just like reading a book.

The Human Rights Section also cooperates closely with youth-led partners such as the Kosovo branch of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) - an NGO focused on strengthening youth activism at the local and regional levels, including in the areas of human rights, rule of law, and dealing with the past. One of the flagship initiatives resulting from this cooperation is the "Civil Society Report on Human Rights in Kosovo", which has been published annually since 2020 and includes a dedicated section on youth. The initiative is coordinated by the YIHR and brings together 37 human rights organizations representing various Kosovo communities for the drafting of the report. While the process is fully CSO-led, the support of UNMIK's Human Rights Section has contributed to the success of this initiative through capacity-building on human rights reporting and monitoring methodologies, as well as substantive advice on the integration of topics such as transitional justice and economic, social and cultural rights. Over time, the report has received increasing recognition from the government and rule of law actors, including members of the judiciary, legal professionals and the Ombudsperson Institution. It has become an important advocacy tool for the promotion of human rights, equality and inclusiveness, including of young men and women from marginalized communities. In addition, as part of its efforts to promote formal and informal human rights education, the Human Rights Section, through the YIHR, has supported Kosovo's first Master's program in Human Rights, International Criminal Law, and Transitional Justice at the University of Pristina for two consecutive academic years.

UNMIK's work on community trust building promotes inclusiveness and inter-ethnic cooperation in YPS implementation: The Office of Community Support is vital in facilitating the implementation of gender and youth-responsive activities at the local level, including in rural areas, mixed municipalities and minority communities. The Office works with a network of community-based interlocutors and supports the implementation of so-called Community Trust Building Projects (CTBPs).¹¹ The projects take a variety of forms and themes including, support for access to services, non-recurrent training activities, and awareness-raising programmes on human rights, gender equality, women, and youth issues. The common thread of all initiatives supported through this modality is a focus on inter-ethnic and inter-municipal cooperation to build trust and foster cooperation and reconciliation at the local level. Between 2017 and 2024, 70% of CTBPs supported by UNMIK addressed youth needs while 40% were youth-centered.

In the Pejë/Peć region, for example, the Office of Community Support (OCS) works with the local NGO Agimi Iznig, which uses the transformative power of art and culture to promote tolerance, reconciliation and multi-ethnic cooperation among young people from areas that are often overlooked by international donors. With support from UNMIK, Agimi Iznig organizes multi-ethnic activities, including art colonies, visits to cultural heritage sites, community clean-up events, traditional games, and educational lectures on gender-related issues such as domestic violence. For many of the young men and women, participation in these activities presents the first opportunity to connect with youth from different communities and to learn about each other's cultural heritage. For instance, Kosovo Albanian students visited the Kosovo Serbian Dečani monastery. By paying attention to gender-balance and socio-economic background, the activities also facilitate meaningful engagement with less privileged youth and young women who may otherwise not have access to such activities.

¹¹ CTBPs (previously known as confidence-building projects) are small-scale and rapidly implementable projects of up to \$25,000 that are selected annually through an open call for project proposals from NGOs, local authorities and government institutions. While they are managed by the UNMIK Office of Community Support, the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator is part of the selection process and facilitates the identification of project proposals that meaningfully integrate youth and gender. Although projects are implemented within six months, many initiatives have demonstrated impact over time as the Mission prioritizes projects ensuring sustainability beyond the initial period of UNMIK support e.g. through co-funding.



In addition to CTBPs, OCS also supports youth activities and engagement through Programmatic Activities projects. The office implemented over 50 capacity-building related projects primarily aimed to address the needs of communities. These workshops, with an average of 25 participants per session, included about 30% youth, resulting in approximately 350 young individuals benefiting from the activities. OCS is currently implementing the third phase of the “Be My Partner for Welfare” initiative, which includes activities such as the funding for sports centers buildings, the revitalization of youth centers in the villages of Hoqë e Madhe/Velika Hoça, Plemetin/Plemetina, and in Lipjan/Lipljan for the benefit of all ethnic communities and in close cooperation with municipal authorities.

UNMIK’s Regional Field Office in Mitrovica also supports local partners in promoting tolerance and understanding through arts and culture. The Aquarius Cultural Center in North Mitrovica is a women-led initiative supported by UNMIK and founded by two women from the Kosovo-Serbian and Kosovo-Albanian communities with a view to build bridges between youth from the north and south of the city. The Center provides a multilingual space for young people from all backgrounds to meet and learn about each other’s communities through art therapy, music, poetry and other cultural activities. Creating such spaces is particularly important in the north of Kosovo, where opportunities for multi-ethnic youth engagement are limited and often politicized.

UNMIK uses strategic communications as a tool to promote the YPS agenda by highlighting positive stories of inter-ethnic cooperation and amplifying the voices of young changemakers: In line with the United Nations Integrated Strategic Framework on Kosovo (2024-2026), UNMIK’s policy framework incorporates strategic communications as an important tool to promote the YPS and WPS agendas in Kosovo.¹² Accordingly, the OSCPA cooperates closely with the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator and the Gender Team to raise awareness on the YPS and WPS agendas among the wider public, and ensure accurate and effective communication about the Mission’s work on youth and gender. This is key to gaining public support and building trust in the work of UNMIK, and is particularly crucial in contexts where the presence of peacekeeping missions is perceived critically by some. Moreover, the Mission’s communications and outreach work provides an important platform to elevate the diverse voices of women and youth, including those from non-majority communities, showcasing their contributions to peacebuilding and highlighting their role as agents of change.

By focusing on positive stories of inter-ethnic cooperation the Mission also helps to counter divisive narratives, which is vital for achieving the Mission’s priorities on inter-community trust building. For example, UNMIK cooperated with the youth organization YMCA to support the launch of the first youth-led television series. Under the theme “Youth Heroes: United in Diversity” a multi-ethnic team of young changemakers explore creative ways to challenge stereotypes and jointly tackle issues affecting youth, including hate speech, access to education, youth involvement in decision-making, and the empowerment of young women.

¹² UNMIK’s Framework Strategy on Gender includes a dedicated section on strategic communications and the Mission’s Framework Strategy on Youth foresees the OSCPA’s involvement across a wide variety of activities and areas of intervention outlined in the Strategy. A dedicated section on communications and media will be included in the updated Framework Strategy on YPS and the updated Communications Strategy will include a dedicated pillar on YPS.

Observations and Opportunities:

- UNMIK's rule of law support has been instrumental in strengthening youth inclusion in judicial institutions; building trust of young people in rule of law institutions; expanding access to justice; and enhancing the capacity of judicial institutions to provide justice services that are responsive to the needs of all young people, including young women and youth from non-majority communities.
- Human rights education provides valuable entry points for youth engagement and capacity-building for young people, which is critical to empower them to advocate for their rights and act as human rights champions within their communities.
- UNMIK's policy framework and programmatic activities leverage the complementarities between the YPS and WPS agendas by promoting a gender lens to YPS programming and ensuring that interventions on gender are also youth-responsive.
- UNMIK's field presences are a critical entry point for multi-ethnic engagement at the local level and provide a comparative advantage as other international actors are predominately focused on Pristina. Their trusting relationships with community-based interlocutors and municipal institutions have proven instrumental in building bridges among communities and in connecting them with local decision-makers. Their work with grassroots partners has been particularly vital for facilitating multi-ethnic initiatives with youth, which require sustained outreach and awareness raising with parents, schools and community leaders who can be reluctant to support such activities due to deep-seated prejudice and mistrust stemming from the conflict.
- Strategic communications play an important role in building trust in, and raising the profile of, UNMIK's YPS work; promoting positive narratives about inter-ethnic cooperation; challenging gender norms; and highlighting the peacebuilding contributions of women and youth. Investing in strategic communications also has a demonstrated multiplier effect as young peacebuilders frequently share the Mission's communications material with their networks and use it to support their own advocacy work.
- The planned inclusion of a dedicated section on media and communications in the updated Framework Strategy on YPS provides an opportunity to further leverage the role of strategic communications for YPS implementation. In this context, UNMIK could consider capitalizing on the expertise of the OSCPA to build the capacity of youth partners in the field of strategic communications.



3. Supporting youth-led activities

By working with youth as partners rather than simply as beneficiaries, UNMIK has developed many innovative approaches for multi-ethnic youth-led activities that empower young peacebuilders and help to tailor UNMIK's YPS programming to the needs of young people from diverse communities:

United Nations Youth Assembly in Kosovo: The United Nations Youth Assembly in Kosovo first convened by UNMIK in 2017 as a Kosovo-wide consultation for localization of the YPS agenda, is a flagship project that has grown into a multi-stakeholder initiative jointly supported by international, regional and local partners under the leadership of UNMIK and the United Youth Task Force. It provides an annual platform connecting young peacebuilders from all communities with representatives from Kosovo institutions, UN entities, international and regional organizations, and civil society. Through panel discussions, practical workshops, and engagements with decision-makers, participants exchange ideas, discuss common challenges, and jointly develop youth-centered solutions.

- While UNMIK and its partners provide support and guidance, the UN Youth Assembly in Kosovo has become a youth-led process. Under the mentorship of UNMIK's Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator, the United Youth Task Force leads the planning and organization of the Assembly. The thematic focus areas for each year reflect the current priorities of young people in Kosovo and are identified through surveys among UNMIK's youth networks. Themes of the previous editions included youth role in reconciliation and peacebuilding, participation of youth in governance and community affairs, impact of AI and digitalization, and environmental peacebuilding.
- Since 2022, the Youth Assembly has sponsored the participation of young leaders from Western Balkan countries and has therefore become an important forum for regional cooperation among young peacebuilders.
- By facilitating the participation of young leaders with disabilities, the Youth Assembly has become a platform to promote disability-inclusion in YPS programming and to advocate for the rights of young persons with disability.
- The Youth Assembly serves as a youth-led platform to monitor progress and gaps in YPS implementation. Recommendations stemming out of the Youth Assembly are shared with decision-makers and are used to inform youth-related legislative and policy processes. *Further details are provided below.*

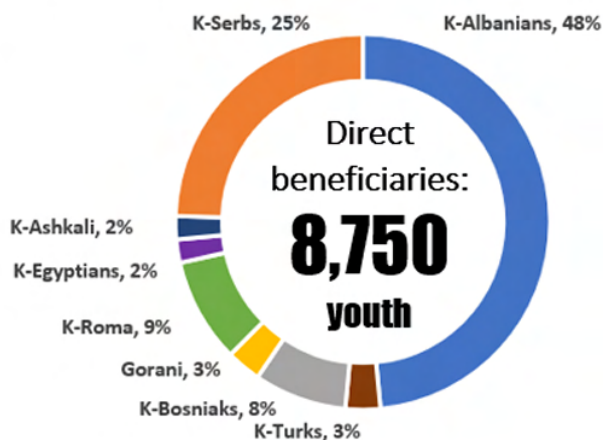
Small-grants for youth-led projects: UNMIK developed innovative ways to invest in informal youth groups and networks of young peacebuilders that would otherwise not be able to access resources due to stringent eligibility criteria of other donors. In particular, UNMIK's small grants scheme provides a unique avenue for informal youth groups and networks to directly access financial resources for the implementation of youth-led activities that are based on needs identified by young people themselves rather than donor priorities. The small grants are allocated through a competition convened annually as part of the UN Youth Assembly, where youth from across Kosovo present their idea for inter-ethnic collaboration and winners receive funds of up to 2,000€ to bring their ideas to life. Between 2017 and 2024, UNMIK supported 32 youth-led activities through this modality. The winning teams are mentored by UNMIK's Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator and peers from the United Youth Task Force.

One of the flagship initiatives supported through the small grants is the establishment of the first multi-ethnic astronomy outreach programme in Kosovo. As part of the initial project, over 370 young women and 260 young men from different Kosovo communities participated in 10 municipal outreach sessions and a 3-day astronomy peace camp where they discussed the power of observational astronomy as a tool of peace and trust building in the Western Balkans. Over time, and with UNMIK's continued support, the astronomy club has developed into an important platform for trust building and inter-ethnic cooperation among young people from across Kosovo. Collaboration between UNMIK, the United Youth Task Force and the astronomy club resulted in several youth-led follow-up initiatives. Under the theme "Under one sky: youth trust building through astronomy and science", UNMIK supported the revitalization of the Pristina Observatory, the organization of astronomy peace camps, as well as a series of activities designed to advance the inclusion of young women in science and to facilitate cross-community scientific exchanges among Western Balkans youth. UNMIK's investment has proven to be catalytic as it helped to garner support and additional resources from government stakeholders and other donors.

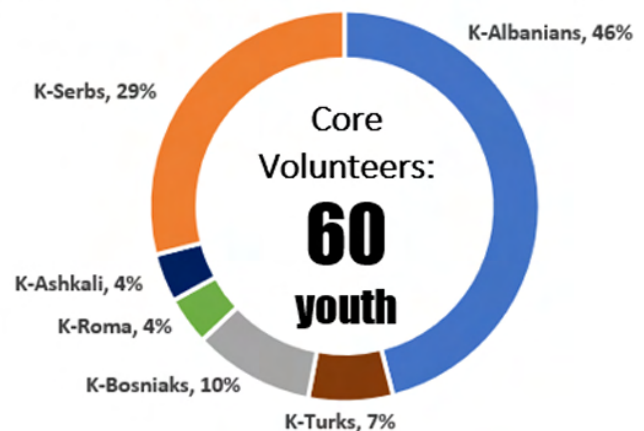
Tracking Impact

Between January 2017 and July 2024, a total of 8,750 youth were direct beneficiaries of UNMIK's youth programme, with over 50 percent from non-majority communities. The ethnic background of direct beneficiaries correlates closely to the composition of the United Youth Task Force - evidence that its members act as multipliers in their communities.

Ethnic Breakdown of Direct Beneficiaries January 2017 - July 2024



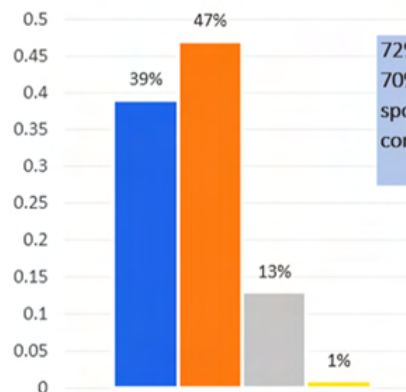
Ethnic Breakdown of UN Youth Task Force



In the absence of a monitoring and evaluation unit, the Youth Adviser developed innovative ways to facilitate data-driven and evidence-based YPS programming. For example, the Mission uses open-source tools to track the change of perceptions among young men and women participating in UNMIK's activities. In a 2024 survey, 39 percent of the 980 respondents indicated a "very positive" change of perception about inter-ethnic youth cooperation after participating in one of UNMIK's activities. An additional 47 percent indicated "positive" changes in perception, while 13 percent indicated partial improvements and only 1 percent reported no/negative changes in perception. Crucially, the perception of participants is tracked before and six months after an activity, which is key to accurately measure the impact of activities and provides important data for the identification of champions that can act as multipliers and peer-to-peer educators in their communities.

Change in perceptions on inter-ethnic cooperation among youth after attendance of UNMIK activities

Number of respondents: 980 people



- Very positive: The activity motivated me to initiate multi-ethnic actions in my community because reduction of hatred and mistrust are crucial for building a better life for all in Kosovo.
- Positive: I improved my perception of the other communities in Kosovo and I am more aware about their needs and able to engage in a positive inter-ethnic communication.
- Partially: I am more aware of cultural diversity in Kosovo, yet I have some reservations to inter-ethnic cooperation.
- Negative: The activity did not change much for me.

72% of Kosovo Albanian youth and 70% of Kosovo Serb youth have never spoken to their peers from the other community

(IOM, 2018)



Observations and Opportunities:

Data collection varies across sections and there are currently no formalized mechanisms or standardized approaches to measure impact. Strengthened capacities on reporting, monitoring and evaluation could enable the Mission to better capture and showcase the impact of its youth initiatives and to demonstrate progress made in implementing the Mission's Framework Strategy on YPS. The introduction of a youth marker, as foreseen in the updated Framework Strategy on YPS, and the planned development of updated Standard Operating Procedures for programmatic activities are important steps in this regard.

United Youth Task Force: UNMIK supports the United Youth Task Force in the development and implementation of youth-led activities. While most Task Force members are volunteers, those responsible for coordinating projects are remunerated by UNMIK for their work. Examples of initiatives include:

- Awareness raising and training activities on a variety of priority topics identified by youth (including on media literacy, the role of media in promoting tolerance and transitional justice, human rights and peace education, mis/disinformation and hate speech, and digital technologies);
- Fostering inclusive participation of young people in decision-making processes (*see part IV*);
- Cultural exchanges bringing together youth from different Kosovo communities to learn from and about each other through joint trips to different regions in Kosovo, meetings with local leaders and activists, and visits to cultural sites; and
- The organization of a humanitarian fair bringing together ethnically diverse social enterprises.

UNMIK's engagement with the United Youth Task Force has created many opportunities for synergies and cooperation with other youth-led initiatives driven by individual members of the Task Force. UNMIK's support to the Gračanica/Graçanicë Innovation Centre and the Centre for Cultural Diversity and Minority Development are two examples of cooperation facilitated through Task Force members. With support from UNMIK and other partners, the Centres conduct a variety of educational and training activities for youth in the areas of technology, innovation, environmental protection, mental health, digital media literacy, countering mis/disinformation and online hate speech. These activities not only contribute to capacity-building on inter-ethnic cooperation, but also foster the empowerment of young women and girls in STEM fields and contribute to expanding income-generating and employment opportunities for youth.

Similarly, thanks to engagement of the United Youth Task Force, UNMIK partnered with the Kosovo Youth Council to organize the first Student, Peace and Security Conference in November 2024 addressing YPS priorities in the field of high school education. Of particular note was that the engagement of UNMIK and United Youth Task Force secured the participation of high school students from the Government of Serbia-run educational system in Kosovo, who are usually excluded from any integrated discussions.

Observations and Opportunities:

- UNMIK's support for youth-led activities is evidence that the Mission has moved from considering young people simply as target audience and beneficiaries to working with young people as partners in achieving Mission priorities and advancing the YPS agenda. Working in partnership with youth is not only an opportunity to better tailor YPS programming at UNMIK, but can also build capacity towards youth empowerment and ownership.
- Streamlined and relatively simple reporting requirements for youth-led implementing partners, along with mentorship provided through the Youth Adviser/YPS Programme Coordinator, have proven effective in enhancing accessibility to UNMIK's funding opportunities. This is especially crucial in working with young people as overly complicated reporting and fiduciary requirements can be prohibitive for small youth-led initiatives with limited expertise on financial issues and capacities for donor reporting.
- Small investments in youth-led activities have demonstrated a significant multiplier effect as they serve as a catalyst for innovation, peer-to-peer learning, and inter-generational awareness raising. Youth-led initiatives also enhance the impact and sustainability of UNMIK's YPS efforts as they often attract additional investment from other donors and government authorities.
- UNMIK's work with young people is a vehicle to promote equality and inclusion of marginalized youth, including young women, young persons with disabilities, and youth from non-majority communities, rural areas or underprivileged socio-economic backgrounds.
- UNMIK's youth work provides non-political entry points for fostering trust between young people from different communities and enhancing their confidence in Kosovo institutions. This investment in trust building has been crucial in creating avenues to address more sensitive topics such as transitional justice and discrimination in a responsible manner that is both youth and gender-sensitive. Going forward, trust building gains made through UNMIK's youth work could be leveraged further to open doors for cooperation with government authorities on other issues.

4. Fostering meaningful youth participation in decision-making

UNMIK has made substantial contributions towards the localization of the YPS Agenda in Kosovo by fostering youth participation in legislative and policy processes: Over the years, UNMIK has used its youth activities to empower young people to play an active role in youth-related legislative and policy processes across Kosovo. The first United Nations Youth Assembly in Kosovo in 2017 provided a multi-ethnic and youth-centered platform for consulting over 940 young people from diverse communities on YPS and resulted in the adoption of the Kosovo Roadmap on YPS - a comprehensive set of 50 recommendations to the UN, international organizations, Kosovo institutions and civil society. The Roadmap provided a key tool for localizing the YPS agenda by translating the needs and lived experiences of young people from diverse backgrounds into context-specific recommendations for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) in Kosovo.

The Roadmap not only serves as a key guiding document for YPS programming at UNMIK but has also informed government efforts to localize and operationalize the YPS agenda. In follow-up to the first United Nations Youth Assembly in Kosovo, UNMIK organized a series of activities with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport in 2017-2018 to promote youth participation in public decision-making and advocate for the inclusion of the Kosovo Roadmap on YPS in policy documents impacting youth.



UNMIK's efforts empowered the Youth Task Force to directly contribute to the drafting of the Kosovo Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022, and resulted in the incorporation of recommendations from the Kosovo Roadmap on YPS in Kosovo's central level Youth Strategy.

More recently, UNMIK facilitated the participation of young people in the development of Kosovo's new Strategy for Youth 2024-2032 and the Law on Youth and its administrative instructions. This involved supporting the participation of youth representatives in hearings and facilitating the participation of young people from non-majority communities in the drafting process. By fostering meaningful youth engagement in such processes UNMIK contributes to capacity-building of young peacebuilders and helps ensure that diverse youth voices are heard by decision makers.

UNMIK builds the capacity of young peacebuilders to meaningfully participate in local level decision-

making: Since the start of its youth programme, UNMIK has played an important role in empowering young people to engage with decision-makers at the local level. Between 2018 and 2021, in cooperation with the United Youth Task Force, UNMIK conducted capacity-building activities to strengthen municipal youth advisory boards, known as local youth action councils, enhancing their capacity to engage in inter-community dialogue, to develop joint advocacy strategies, and to promote youth-sensitive budgeting. In total, 25 municipal youth officials, 55 members of local youth councils and over 150 young leaders from 15 municipalities across Kosovo took part in the trainings on meaningful participation and mainstreaming of YPS priorities in local policies.

UNMIK also leveraged its strong relationships with municipal authorities to organize focus group discussions between youth and local representatives from ten ethnically mixed municipalities. With the support and seed-funding from UNMIK, these engagements resulted in several joint initiatives, including the drafting of municipal Youth Strategies and Action Plans reflecting the needs of non-majority communities; the establishment of the first multi-ethnic youth center in Klokot/Killokot municipality; youth-led responses to COVID-19 such as distribution of food and hygienic items packages to the most vulnerable families by young cyclists; the development of a demo version of an E-Youth platform connecting young people with different institutions at the local and central level; and the launch of self-defense courses for young women and many others.

Observations and Opportunities:

- Fostering meaningful youth participation in decision-making is key for localizing the YPS agenda and empowering young peacebuilders to shape YPS implementation in Kosovo. Going forward, UNMIK's continued efforts will be vital in ensuring that processes around the new Law on Youth, including upcoming consultations on secondary legislation, are inclusive and responsive to the needs of young people from diverse communities. Building on the cooperation with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo could provide important entry points in this regard considering its direct involvement in the drafting of administrative instructions for the Law.
- Building on the success of past initiatives could provide important opportunities to continue strengthening meaningful youth engagement with decision-makers at the local level. In this context, UNMIK could consider revitalizing the practice of inviting youth representatives to join meetings of the SRSG with municipal stakeholders and to convene focus group discussions between youth partners and authorities at the municipal level. Sustaining such initiatives over time is particularly relevant considering the turnover among local officials and the distinct needs of successive youth generations.
- Building on the past success of these initiatives could also offer an entry point for dialogue among youth and local authorities about the significant changes to the local youth architecture (e.g. Local Youth Action Councils) foreseen under the new Law on Youth.



ANNEX

1. List of key offices, entities and organizations consulted during the OROLSI visit

1. UNMIK

- Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General
- Office of the Chief of Staff
- Youth Adviser/ YPS Programme Coordinator
- Gender Adviser/Team
- Office of Community Support
- Office of Rule of Law
- Human Rights Section
- Office of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs
- Regional Field Office in Mitrovica
- Field Office in Pejë/Peć

2. United Nations Kosovo Team (UNKT)

- UNDCO
- UNDP
- IOM
- UNHCR
- UN Women
- UNICEF
- UNFPA

3. Regional stakeholders

- OSCE Mission in Kosovo (Democratization Department; Human Rights and Communities Department)
- Regional Youth Cooperation Office (Kosovo Office)

4. Implementing partners

- United Youth Task Force
- Astronomy Club of Kosovo
- Center for Cultural Diversity and Minority Development & Gračanica Innovation Center
- Agimi Izniq
- Aquarius
- MOSTURA 2.0
- Individual youth activists and informal networks of young peacebuilders

2. Background material

- United Nations Integrated Strategic Framework on Kosovo (2024-2026)
- UNMIK mandate, [S/RES/1244\(1999\)](#)
- Vision statement of former UNMIK SRSG Zahir Tanin (2018)
- UNMIK [Mission Concept](#) (July 2022_June 2023)
- [UNMIK Framework Strategy](#) on Youth, Peace and Security (October 2018-June 2022)
- [UNMIK Framework Strategy](#) on Gender Equality and Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Kosovo (2023-2026)
- UNMIK Trust Building Strategy (2022-2024)
- UNMIK Communications Strategy
- UNMIK practice note on the implementation of programmatic activities for the mandate implementation of UNMIK (2021)
- [Reports](#) of the Secretary-General on UNMIK
- [Reports](#) of the Secretary-General on Youth and Peace and Security
- Security Council Resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security: [2250 \(2015\)](#), [2419 \(2018\)](#), [2535 \(2020\)](#)
- OIOS thematic evaluation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Youth Participation, [E/AC.51/2023/7 \(2023\)](#)
- [DPO thematic paper](#) on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations & The five pillars of action for youth, peace and security (2022)
- [UNYO Independent Snapshots Series](#): Advancing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in UN Peacekeeping Operations (2023)
- [DPO-DPPA Policy](#) on Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning, DPO 2020.11/DPPA 2020.2 (2023)