



Dag Hammarskjöld  
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# Overcoming Barriers to Resourcing Young Peacebuilders

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Funding for youth-led peacebuilding remains a challenge, despite a global recognition of the important role that young peacebuilders play in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This paper explores strategies to overcome the barriers faced by young people in accessing quality funding, and it presents recommendations and areas for collaboration and learning for funders.

## Introduction

Despite a global recognition of the important role that young peacebuilders play in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, funding for youth-led peacebuilding remains a challenge. Funding is difficult to access and ad-hoc; restricts young people's abilities to define their own priorities and methods; and overburdens them with regulatory and reporting requirements.<sup>1</sup> While these challenges are well documented, strategies to overcome them are sporadic and limited at best. Systematising access to quality funding requires cross-sectoral learning and coordination amongst funders around ongoing efforts to develop funding that is inclusive of young peacebuilders.

This paper explores funds which are available to young peacebuilders. It maps their strategies to overcome the barriers faced by young people in accessing quality funding, and based upon this mapping, it presents recommendations and areas for collaboration and learning for funders.

The analysis is informed by external funder reports, interviews conducted with funders who resource young peacebuilders, and validation interviews with young peacebuilders. Interviews were conducted with 60 individuals representing 35 funders as well as 18 young peacebuilders.<sup>1</sup> This includes some funds that do not present themselves as peacebuilding funds in order to facilitate learning across silos and reflect the wide range of funding sources young peacebuilders access.

Funders were identified through desk research, as well as through a survey disseminated within the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) and other youth peacebuilding networks. The list of interviewees was expanded through a snowball methodology, with additional contacts identified during interviews. This paper is structured according to funder-identified approaches to improving the inclusivity of funds for young peacebuilders. It identifies approaches to improve fund's: (1) accessibility in entry-point engagements with young peacebuilders; (2.) flexibility towards youth-led strategies and programming; (3.) monitoring, evaluation and learning policies; (4.) mentorship, accompaniment and training of youth peacebuilders; (5.) length of funding and approaches to build the sustainability of youth-led organisations.<sup>2</sup>

## 1 Strategies to Increase Entry-point Accessibility of Funds

The limited quantity of funding available to youth-led peacebuilding severely limits access to funding for diverse young people and increases competition between them. There is a growing mismatch between applications for funding received and the resources available to be distributed across all funds interviewed.<sup>3</sup> Funders are hampered in meeting growing demands by limited resources distributed to funds that are available to youth peacebuilders. Pooled funds, which combine the resources of multiple funders, can amplify the amount and sustainability of funding.<sup>4</sup>

While increasing allocations to these funds is necessary, ensuring that diverse young people can access these funds requires a more informed and comprehensive strategy. Nearly every funder interviewed struggles to expand access to their fund beyond affluent, urban youth groups. However, there are several best practices to expand accessibility.

Disaggregating data and strategies to account for the diverse identities of young people is key to reaching different groups.<sup>ii</sup> Funders target different subsets of young people through quotas, the prioritisation of grantees who partner with marginalised groups<sup>5</sup>, and exclusively focusing on programming conducted by marginalised groups.<sup>iii</sup> Many call for funders to develop strategies collaboratively to prevent duplication of efforts and to ensure that no young people are left behind.<sup>iv</sup> Funders also recognise the need to account for the increasing violence and incarceration of young people face as a result of shrinking civic space. Risk of violence varies between different youth populations, intersecting barriers and oppression based upon their diverse identities must be considered.<sup>v</sup> This trend makes it more difficult to resource young people. Additionally, funders have a responsibility to protect the young people they resource. Protection strategies should be built in consultation with young peacebuilders.<sup>vi</sup>

Local partnerships facilitate access to marginalised populations.<sup>vii</sup> For multi-country funds, ensuring outreach and accessibility of funding requires significant time and resources, and is largely dependent on the support of

<sup>1</sup> Those young peacebuilders interviewed in 2020 were interviewed for preparatory research, those interviews conducted in 2021 were validation interviews. Four of the funders interviewed were also youth-led organizations.

<sup>2</sup> This paper references contributions from a wide range of funders, including: intergovernmental funds (including the United Nations and the European Union); bilateral funds; UN and governmental agencies and Member State embassies; intermediary international non-governmental and national organisations; private funds and foundations; and youth-led funds. While it is not possible to specify the different funds in each recommendation and practice, an effort was made to isolate recommendations for prime funders (the originating funders including intergovernmental and bilateral funds and private foundations) and intermediaries (including private funds and international, national and local organisations, as well as country-level UN agencies) which distribute funds to youth-led organisations from prime funders. This distinction is important to identify how policies implemented throughout the donor chain affect intermediaries and youth-led organisations. It is also important not to double-count funding from prime donors and the intermediaries they fund through. In endnotes, interviews will be cited by the fund name unless clarification is required.

<sup>3</sup> The following examples highlight the mismatch in applications received and funding distributed. The United Nations Alliance on Civilisations Youth Solidarity funded five applicants from a pool of 1,508. Peace Direct's SIDA-funded project received 3-400 applications in each country, with only one successful recipient. The European Youth Foundation funded 100 applicants from a pool of 234. The Global Fund for Human Rights and Purposeful Tar Kura Initiative in Sierra Leone funded 10 groups from more than 100 applicants.

<sup>4</sup> The Global Resilience Fund, for example, leveraged US\$ 1 million to support 234 women and girl led organisations in 2020.

<sup>5</sup> For example, certain funds focus on resourcing young women, LGBTQI youth, young people with disabilities, rural youth, or indigenous youth.

local networks across contexts.<sup>viii</sup> Decentralising funds to local offices allows for grant-making strategies which are responsive to varied local contexts.<sup>ix</sup> Institutionalising the mapping of communities is an important step for funders to ensure that they reach diverse local communities. As part of this mapping, funders should identify the relevant local networks, as well as online and offline platforms accessible to young people that give them the ability to apply for the fund.<sup>x</sup> Including this mapping exercise as a budgetary item within a granting program ensures that funders have dedicated resources and time to identify localised strategies.<sup>xi</sup>

Young people themselves are an important resource in accessing diverse youth populations.<sup>xii</sup> Partnering with youth networks (including previous grantees); distributing resources through youth-led NGOs; and participatory grantmaking processes (that allow young people to decide who receives funding and to determine the funding priorities) expand reach to diverse young people and build funding systems responsive to their needs, abilities and interests.<sup>xiii</sup>

Distribution through diverse platforms facilitates wider reach. While social media and other online platforms are powerful outreach tools, they were identified as insufficient in distributing calls for proposals.<sup>xiv</sup> Outreach at youth centers and schools<sup>xv</sup>, radio shows, WhatsApp, and newspapers<sup>xvi</sup> are proactive ways to reach a wider audience of young people. This outreach should be conducted in local languages to expand access.<sup>xvii</sup> For multi-country funds, this translation represents a significant budgetary cost.<sup>xviii</sup> Prime funders should account for these costs in their granting to intermediaries.

Finding ways to support informal and non-registered organisations is critical to reaching diverse young people. Young activists across the world are increasingly under threat. For example, many LGBTQI+ youth operate in contexts where their identities are criminalised, making registration of their organisations challenging at best, and dangerous at worst.<sup>xix</sup> Additionally, this process of registration is bureaucratically onerous for youth-led organisations.<sup>6</sup> Funds that require the formal registration of groups limits the diversity of groups that funders support.<sup>xx</sup>

Strategies that funders use to overcome this barrier include funding unregistered groups through a nominated representative<sup>xxi</sup>, providing administrative assistance to register unregistered applicants<sup>xxii</sup>, and working with these groups through fiscal sponsors. These fiscal sponsors are typically international or national NGOs which take on the 'risk' and administrative burdens.<sup>xxiii</sup> Efforts should be made to ensure that this relationship is equal.<sup>xxiv</sup> Finally, small grants, distributed through intermediaries, can spread the 'risk' of fraud.<sup>xxv</sup>

While some of the strategies identified previously could help overcome barriers for unregistered groups, for government and intergovernmental funders, the bureaucratic burden of working with unregistered groups makes this cumbersome and reduces incentives to engage in this funding.<sup>xxvi</sup> Moreover, youth peacebuilding work happens as a preventive measure in countries that are sanctioned or in early warning contexts; however, youth in the very same countries and contexts face barriers in receiving funding and support from donors due to institutional and sanction barriers on top of barriers of not being registered.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Extensive application processes overburden and exclude many youth groups with limited administrative capacities.<sup>xxviii</sup> Approaches to overcoming these barriers varied across funders. Some funders have developed consultative periods and online webinars to provide guidance to applicants<sup>xxix</sup>, while some simplified their application processes to include basic narrative questions<sup>xxx</sup>. Some funders recognise that written application forms exclude young people without the ability or technology to submit a written application. They allow submitting audio and visual applications<sup>xxxi</sup>, oral dictation of applications, and provide devices and connectivity for applicants<sup>xxxii</sup>. Finally, a few funds develop application processes in consultation with young people to ensure that the process is inclusive of them.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

## 2 Flexibility of Funds

Access to funds is only one step towards meaningful inclusion of young people. Their flexibility to design, implement and manage peacebuilding work according to their own priorities and strategies must also be supported. Young people are increasingly turning away from traditional funding due to its constrictions on their ability to operate creatively and independently.<sup>xxxiv</sup> Traditional funders must adapt to engage young people by ensuring that young people and not funders set the agenda.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Several funders criticise the global aid architecture as 'adult' - and 'Global North'-oriented, resulting in restrictions on project design, implementation and evaluation that limit the agency and ownership of young peacebuilders.<sup>xxxvi</sup> Colonial conceptions of the risk associated with local control of funding are amplified when engaging young people and must be challenged.<sup>xxxvii</sup> Young people are frequently shoe-horned into 'youth issues', but some funders reflected the importance of funding their work across all portfolios.<sup>xxxviii</sup> This inflexibility in programme design occurs throughout the donor chain, with restrictions from funders limiting the flexibility of intermediary funders to operate more innovatively.

<sup>6</sup> Particularly if they are not aligned politically with their government.

Funders operating through intermediaries should ensure that the relationship between the intermediary and the recipient is based on authentic partnership.<sup>xxxix</sup>

Funders have had to become more flexible, particularly in the aftermath of COVID-19. Failure to allow young people to adapt their projects to changing circumstances and learnings, through consistent communication about programming and timelines, limits their ability to grow and integrate those learnings.<sup>xl</sup> While funders indicate that flexibility to young people's innovative modes of operation increased impact, more research is required to identify their contribution to wider peacebuilding work.<sup>7,xli</sup> Including young people in funded co-creation periods, where youth have meaningful input on the design of the grant program, is an important approach to build grant programs responsive to young people's needs, identification of problems and approaches to addressing them.<sup>xlii</sup> These processes are resource intensive and require flexible timelines.<sup>xliii</sup>

Expanding beyond the co-design process into a participatory grantmaking model is a best practice. In this model, young people decide funding priorities, the amount and structure of funding, the application and reporting process and the recipients of the funds.<sup>xliv</sup> Benefits to this model include: granting programs became responsive to the priorities of young people; selected participants reflected a more diverse population of young people through peer-to-peer outreach and selection; recipients employed innovative methods with significant impact; and giving young people greater control of the resources facilitated corresponding trust from within their communities.<sup>xlv</sup> The success of these models reflects the need to continually challenge narratives about risk associated with funding young people.<sup>xlvi</sup>

Core support encourages long-term planning, strategy and creativity of youth-led organisations. This support allows young peacebuilders to implement according to their own strategies. While many funders expressed support for this approach, only a few utilise it themselves.<sup>xlvii</sup> Funders who do indicate that young peacebuilders are best positioned to know where their resources should be spent<sup>xlviii</sup> and that it transforms the relationship between funder and grantee, building solidarity and equal partnership.<sup>xlix</sup>

### 3 Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Reporting

Intensive monitoring and reporting frameworks render funds inaccessible to many youth-led organisations who do not have the resources or capacity to fill them. Many young people avoid traditional funders due to a frustration with these monitoring systems, forcing them to spend most of their time reporting rather than conducting their work.<sup>l</sup>

While some bilateral funders have shifted away from onerous results-based frameworks – and towards simpler narrative reports – accountability to government and multilateral body regulations requires significant monitoring and data uptake.<sup>li</sup> Even funds who employ simpler learning and dialogue-based monitoring face pressure to report 'traditional' results up the chain, taxing their capacity.<sup>lii</sup> While some funds built new systems of results monitoring into their applications to their prime funders, prime funders should allow and encourage intermediaries to do so.<sup>liii</sup>

Some funders indicated that shifting from intensive monitoring to continuous learning-based dialogue yields richer and more relevant learnings.<sup>liv</sup> Dialogue with reflective exercises based on simple learning questions allows for contextualised learning and encourages recipients to discuss successes and failures with their own vocabulary.<sup>lv</sup> In addition to learning calls, funders allowed recipients to report through videos, WhatsApp, and simple reporting forms.<sup>lvi</sup> When prime funders require burdensome reporting, some funders, or the mentors or fiscal sponsors they work with, assist filling out reporting templates. This assistance should be clearly budgeted to ensure that it does not divert resources from youth peacebuilders.<sup>lvii</sup>

Defining impact has a significant effect on how funders view the role of youth peacebuilders in contributing to peace. Measuring 'impact' based on the parameters assigned by funders—which are frequently disconnected from local contexts and based upon unrealistic timeframes—sets young peacebuilders up for failure, particularly when operating with short-term funding arrangements.<sup>lviii</sup> Funders which monitor based upon scale restrict the type of programming that recipients use to ones with the most reach.<sup>lix</sup> This can discourage powerful organising strategies young people employ and frequently results in funders supporting formally organised youth-led organisations at the expense of informal but powerful youth organising.

<sup>7</sup> Search for Common Ground is currently developing research to measure the impact of youth-led peacebuilding on the communities they operate within. Building the evidence base for the impact of youth-led peacebuilding is an important step to encourage funders to increase investment in youth-led peacebuilding. [www.sfcg.org/social-return-on-investment-in-youth4peace/](https://www.sfcg.org/social-return-on-investment-in-youth4peace/)

Some funders have begun using community-driven understanding of change, where young people and the communities they operate and live in decide what constitutes change and how to measure it through participatory action research.<sup>LXI</sup> This is an important step in shifting power in defining priorities and success. Funders cited examples of co-financing from local communities, including tax breaks to youth-led businesses or land grants, as indicators of local ownership that promote the longevity of these initiatives.<sup>LXII</sup> Given that the majority of young peacebuilders fund themselves through community financing models, grounding evaluation in community-led approaches could help complement these models.

## 4 Mentorship, Accompaniment and Training

Many funders reflected the importance of providing other forms of support – training, workshops and networking – in parallel with funding.<sup>LXIII</sup> The most frequently cited support was assistance with project design, grant application, and management.<sup>LXIV</sup> A few funders reported providing this support to unsuccessful applicants.<sup>LXV</sup> This is important to develop a larger and more diverse pipeline of applicants. While this support is time- and resource-intensive, funders indicated that it is key to transforming the funder-grantee relationship to equal partnership.<sup>LXVI</sup>

However, some funders cautioned that this support should be driven by the expressed needs of young people, and should recognise existing youth capacity without seeking to mold them according to ‘adult’ or ‘Global North’ NGO models.<sup>LXVII</sup> These funders provide capacity-building based upon the expressed needs of the young people they fund.<sup>LXVIII</sup> The types of assistance sought from recipients includes: organisational management and application assistance; wellness and wellbeing training; and trainings on avoiding state surveillance.<sup>LXIX</sup>

Local mentorship is a powerful tool to increase the impact and sustainability of youth peacebuilders, by providing tailored learning and a local network to young people. Funders who facilitate mentorships from within the country or region of the grantee indicated that this support resulted in relationships which lasted past the granting period.<sup>LXX</sup> Similarly, peer-to-peer learning has transformational effects on the capacity and operation of grantees, providing long-term support and learning opportunities for participants.<sup>LXXI</sup>

Some funders reflected on the need to provide training to funders on how to work with young people. These funders indicated that there is frequently a significant capacity gap among funders about the tools necessary to meaningfully resource young people. A few funders and youth-led groups have developed resources and facilitated donor dialogues on best practices working with young people.<sup>8</sup> Wider sharing of learning between funders can further build funder capacity.

## 5 Amount of funding, length of funding, and sustainability

While some funders recognise the need to provide larger amounts of funding based upon longer timelines, they struggle to do so. The amount of funding provided per grant ranges from €100 to €75,000. However, most grants amount to under €2,000. Funders who provide greater and longer-term funding do so for a small number of recipients, and surveys of young peacebuilders indicate that few have experience with grant cycles longer than 6–12 months.<sup>LXXII</sup> This system results in sporadic funding, limiting organisational longevity, preventing youth-led organisations from engaging in programming that requires long-term commitments, and forcing youth peacebuilders to adapt their strategy from application to application to survive.<sup>LXXIII</sup>

Some funders commit to multi-year funding.<sup>LXXIV</sup> However, many intermediary funders are constrained by their own timeline from their funders.<sup>LXXV</sup> Some funders caution that funding models need to reflect the diversity of youth groups which exist. For youth groups organising around a single activity, for example, core support and large, long term grants are not relevant, as these groups do not aspire to have the organisational set up to absorb larger grants.<sup>LXXVI</sup> These informal methods of organisation are more common in marginalised youth communities.<sup>LXXVII</sup> Funder coordination around different funding models is important to create opportunities for a wide range of youth-led peacebuilding.<sup>LXXVIII</sup> Young peacebuilders indicate that smaller grants including seed funding can be impactful for them and should not be discounted.

Funder coordination is important to link applicants and recipients to other funders and support diverse organisational structures. Funders support recipients getting funding from other funders by helping them with applications; connecting them with networks and conferences; amplifying visibility of their work; and providing databases of their previous recipients. However, several funders and young peacebuilders

<sup>8</sup> For example, see Civicus’s guide to resourcing young people: [www.civicus.org/documents/en-Playbook-2020-march.pdf](http://www.civicus.org/documents/en-Playbook-2020-march.pdf); Restless Development’s Donor Dialogue Series: <https://restlessdevelopment.org/the-donor-dialogues/>; Elevate Children Funders Group is developing a funder’s toolkit and has developed a [paper on strengthening child and youth-led community rooted groups](#); and the [Children’s Rights Innovation Fund](#) has developed a learner’s community for funders.

expressed frustrations that their attempts to do so are stymied by many funders being unwilling to trust youth-led applicants.<sup>LXXIX</sup>

In addition to longer-term funding, networking between recipients fosters sustainability of organisations. Funders indicated the importance of supporting joint action by grantees in order to challenge cultures of competition within grantmaking. Bringing youth together in the grantmaking process, through coordinated proposals and with collective approaches to problems, reduces competition among youth groups; encourages network-

building; and promotes longevity of efforts.<sup>LXXX</sup> Similarly, funders play an important role in facilitating dialogue and action between youth groups, more 'formal' groups and governments.<sup>LXXXI</sup>

A number of funders highlighted plans to shift funding distribution from themselves or intermediary funders to collectives of youth groups, through locally-rooted youth hubs or international youth networks.<sup>LXXXII</sup> While intermediary funders are important to shift funds from large funders who can't provide small grants, increased support for local youth intermediary funders is required.<sup>LXXXIII</sup>

## Recommendations

Funder interviews highlighted a variety of approaches to improving the accessibility of funds for young people. While the ability to implement these approaches varies between funders, there are several opportunities for coordinated action by and between funders:

- Funders should increase the quantity of funding available to, and targeted to, support youth-led organisations. Pooled funds, combining the resources of multiple funders, can help ensure sustainability and predictability of funding.
- Funders should expand partnerships with locally-rooted activists, including youth activists, and networks in order to expand their outreach and accessibility.
- Funders should explore models to shift funding distribution through intermediaries which are locally-rooted and youth led.
- Funders should increase funding for co-creation of grants and participatory grantmaking models, and direct funding through intermediaries who allow young people to decide their own strategies through flexible programming and increased core support.
- Supporting informal and unregistered groups through partnerships with intermediaries is a critical tool to expanding accessibility of funds. Funders should discuss standards for authentic and equal partnerships between youth organisations and intermediaries.
- Funders should disaggregate data by the diverse subsets of youth peacebuilders they work with, share that data with other funders, and coordinate to ensure that funding is accessible to all young people.
- Funders should share best practices in applying more flexible mechanisms and policies for monitoring and reporting.
- Funders should coordinate to develop a range of funding models capable of supporting the diversity of youth-led organisational structures.

## Annex: Interviews Referenced

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### **Children's Rights Innovation Fund**

Ramatu Bangura, (Founder, Children's Rights Innovation Fund), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Civicus**

Elisa Novoa (Networks Engagement Coordinator, Civicus), Clara Bosco (Senior Advisor of Civil Society Resourcing, Civicus) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **European Youth Foundation**

Sylvia Ivanova, (Deputy Head, European Youth Foundation), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **Firelight Foundation**

Nina Blackwell (Executive Director, Firelight Foundation) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Fondo Semillas**

Tania Turner (Executive Director, Fondo Semillas) and Alma Magaña (Directors Assistant, Fondo Semillas), in conversation with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **The Global Fund For Human Rights**

John Kabia (Program Officer, The Global Fund for Human Rights), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

Marianne Mollman (Director of Regional Programs, The Global Fund for Human Rights), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Het Actiefonds**

Diana Quirshfeld (Partnership Coordinator, Het Actiefonds), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **HIVE Pakistan**

Ali Abbas Zaidi (Founder, HIVE Pakistan), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Humanity United**

Bryan Sims (Senior Manager Peacebuilding, Humanity United), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Landsrådet for Norges barne-og ungdomsorganisasjoner (LNU) Frifond**

Stian Skarheim Magelssen (Political Advisor, LNU) and Anette Pedersen (Organizational Advisor, LNU), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **National Partnership Of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding**

Steven Malaki (Executive Director, National Partnership of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding) and colleagues, in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers**

Phillip Gassert (Project Manager, The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Oxfam Novib**

Zhiren Ye, (Campaign Specialist, Oxfam Novib), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **Peace Direct**

Charlotte Divin (Programme Funding Manager, Peace Direct) and Harriet Knox Brown (Head of Programmes and Research, Peace Direct), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **Purposeful**

Purity Kagwiria (Director, With and For Girls Fund and Collective) and Chernor Bah (Co-Founder, Purposeful), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Restless Development**

Gemma Graham (Business Director, Restless Development), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Search for Common Ground**

Sölvi Karlsson (Program Manger Search for Common Ground) & Saji Prelis (Director Search for Common Ground & Co-Chair, Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **Seattle International Foundation**

Nataliza Lozano (Director, CAMY Fund), Diana Campos (Research Project Manager, Seattle International Foundation) and Adriana Beltran (Seattle international Foundation), in conversation with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **Sharetrust**

Courtenay Cabot Venton (Founder, Sharetrust), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)**

Catarina Fabiansson (Senior Advisor, SIDA), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **Trust Africa Foundation**

Abdrahamane Wone (Communications Officer, Trust Africa) and Facoumba Gueye (Grants Officer, Trust Africa Foundation) in conversation with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Youth Solidarity Fund**

Dana Podmolikova (Project Management Specialist-Youth, UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Alma Mirvic, (Joint UN Regional Program Coordinator, UNDP BiH), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Tunisia**

Salome Ponsin-Louette (Programme Analyst, UNDP Tunisia), Alexandra Corra (Project Associate, UNDP Tunisia), Abdelhafidh Chaibi (Regional Coordinator, UNDP Tunisia), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

Herve Morin, (Upshift Global Lead, UNICEF) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)**

Ludmila Andrade (Network Coordinator, UNOY) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **United Nations Peacebuilding Fund**

Ylva Skoendal (Gender and Peacebuilding Officer, UN PBSO) and Joao Felipe Scarpelini (Youth Peace and Security Focal Point, UN PBSO), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

Rashad Nimr (Contractor with the USAID Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2020.

Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.

### **URU**

Kessy Okomo Soignet, (Founder, URU), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.

### **United States Institute of Peace (USIP)**

Paula Porras, (Program Officer, USIP), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **Voice Global Fund \*Includes representatives of HIVOS and Oxfam\***

Kayla Lapiz (Linking, Learning and Amplifying Officer, HIVOS) and Dawn Macahilo (Project Manager, Voice Philippines), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

Ishita Dutta (Program Manager, Voice Global Fund) and Nicolette Matthijsen (Championing Civic Space Manager, Oxfam Novib), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

### **Young Peacebuilders**

Binita Karki (Youth Programme Officer UNDP Nepal & Co-Founder 2030 Youth Force), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, July 2020.

Cynthia Wakuna (Programme Director Mother of Hope), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, July 2020.

Ilias Alami (Executive Director ANGO), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, September 2020.

Jason Wee (Co-founder, Architects of Diversity), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.

Livio Liechti (Partnership Coordinator United Network of Young Peacebuilders) & Mridul Upadhyay (Asia Coordinator United Network of Young Peacebuilders), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, August 2020.

Miloš Kovačević (Youth Program Coordinator, UG Centar), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2020.

Malika Iyer (Program Officer, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, August 2020.

Nanfuka Zulaika (Resource Mobilization Manager at the Ugandan Muslim Youth Development Forum), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.

Raphael Nkurunziza (East and Southern Africa Regional Coordinator, UNOY) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.

Rafiu Lawal (Founder, Building Blocks 4 Peace Foundation) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.

Shadi Rouhshahbaz (MENA Regional Coordinator, UNOY) and Dorsa Babei (Co-director, PeaceMentors) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.

Vera Mawla (President, Peace of Art), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.

## Endnotes

- <sup>i</sup> Restless Development, 'Shifting the power: What will it take to fund and resource youth CSOs differently?', 2020, [https://restlessdevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DevAlt-Shifting-The-Power\\_Brief.pdf](https://restlessdevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DevAlt-Shifting-The-Power_Brief.pdf).
- <sup>ii</sup> See the Global Fund for Human Rights, Seattle International Foundation, Voice Global Fund: Phillipines. Rashad Nimr (Contractor with the USAID Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2020.
- <sup>iii</sup> **On percentage targeting:** See HIVE Pakistan and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. **On priorities within calls:** See UNDP Bosnia Herzegovina, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, Voice Global Fund: Phillipines. On exclusive focus on marginalised groups: See Disability Rights Fund, Frida Feminist Fund, and Purposeful.
- <sup>iv</sup> See HIVE Pakistan, Humanity United and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.
- <sup>v</sup> See Global Fund for Human Rights, Het Actiefonds, Humanity United, Seattle International Foundation.
- <sup>vi</sup> Shadi Rouhshahbaz (MENA Regional Coordinator, UNOY) and Dorsa Babei (Co-director, PeaceMentors) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021. Raphael Nkurunziza (East and Southern Africa Regional Coordinator, UNOY) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.
- <sup>vii</sup> See Civicus, Fondo Semillas, Het Actiefonds, HIVE Pakistan, Humanity United, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Peace Direct, Purposeful, Restless Development, Seattle International Foundation, UNDP Tunisia, UNICEF Upshift, USIP, Voice Global Fund. Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.
- <sup>viii</sup> See Global Fund for Human Rights, HIVE Pakistan, LNU Frifond, Voice Global Fund, Restless Development, SIDA. Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.
- <sup>ix</sup> See UNOY, UNICEF Upshift, Voice Global Fund. Zhiren Ye, (Campaign Specialist, Oxfam Novib), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.
- <sup>x</sup> See HIVE Pakistan, Peace Direct, Purposeful and UNDP Tunisia. This was identified by several youth peacebuilders interviewed.
- <sup>xi</sup> See HIVE Pakistan, USIP.
- <sup>xii</sup> Lakshitha Saji Prellis, Carolyn Williams, A.J. Bryant, Leah Muskin-Pierret, Ellen Cosgrove, Tara Comstock-Green, Search for Common Ground, 'Mapping youth leaders for peacebuilding: A toolkit from Search for Common Ground', 2014, [www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Mapping-Youth-Leaders-for-Peacebuilding.pdf](http://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Mapping-Youth-Leaders-for-Peacebuilding.pdf). This was reflected by all young peacebuilders interviewed.
- <sup>xiii</sup> **On partnership with youth networks:** See Civicus, European Youth Foundation, Fondo Semillas, the UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund, Voice Phillipines. Prellis et al., 2014. **On distributing funds through youth NGOs:** See Peace Direct. **On participatory grantmaking models:** See Children's Rights Innovation Fund, Global Fund for Human Rights, Purposeful, Search for Common Ground. Civicus, 'Youth Action Lab: Outcomes and Learnings of the Youth Action Lab 2020', 2020, [www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020\\_en.pdf](http://www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020_en.pdf).
- <sup>xiv</sup> See Civicus, Firelight Foundation, Global Fund For Human Rights. Zhiren Ye, (Campaign Specialist, Oxfam Novib), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021. Steven Malaki (Executive Director, National Partnership of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding) and colleagues, in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.
- <sup>xv</sup> See LNU Frifond, UNDP Tunisia.
- <sup>xvi</sup> See Global Fund for Human Rights, Purposeful.
- <sup>xvii</sup> See Civicus, Fondo Semillas, Het Actiefonds, Purposeful, Seattle International Foundation, Voice Global Fund, Voice Phillipines. Zhiren Ye, (Campaign Specialist, Oxfam Novib), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.
- <sup>xviii</sup> See USIP.
- <sup>xix</sup> See Firelight Foundation, Global Fund for Human Rights, Het Actiefonds, Search for Common Ground, Seattle International Foundation, Voice Phillipines.
- <sup>xx</sup> See Fondo Semillas, Global Fund for Human Rights, HIVE Pakistan, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Voice Phillipines. This was reflected by all young peacebuilders we interviewed.
- <sup>xxi</sup> See Global Fund for Human Rights, Purposeful. Shadi Rouhshahbaz (MENA Regional Coordinator, UNOY) and Dorsa Babei (Co-director, PeaceMentors) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.
- <sup>xxii</sup> See HIVE Pakistan, Voice Phillipines. Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.
- <sup>xxiii</sup> See Fondo Semillas, Humanity United, Search for Common Ground, SIDA, Voice Global Fund, Voice Phillipines. Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.
- <sup>xxiv</sup> See Voice Phillipines.
- <sup>xxv</sup> See Search for Common Ground.
- <sup>xxvi</sup> See UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
- <sup>xxvii</sup> Shadi Rouhshahbaz (MENA Regional Coordinator, UNOY) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.
- <sup>xxviii</sup> See Global Fund for Human Rights, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was highlighted by several young peacebuilders.
- <sup>xxix</sup> See Civicus, European Youth Foundation, Fondo Semillas, LNU Frifond, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP Tunisia.
- <sup>xxx</sup> See Civicus, Global Fund for Human Rights, Het Actiefonds, LNU Frifond, Purposeful.
- <sup>xxxi</sup> See Het Actiefonds, HIVE Pakistan, Purposeful, Trust Africa Foundation, Voice Global Fund, Restless Development.
- <sup>xxxii</sup> See Firelight Foundation.
- <sup>xxxiii</sup> See Children's Rights Innovation Fund, Global Fund for Human Rights.
- <sup>xxxiv</sup> See Fondo Semillas, Seattle International Foundation, Voice Global Fund. Rashad Nimr (Contractor with the USAID Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2020.
- <sup>xxxv</sup> See Fondo Semillas, Global Fund for Human Rights, Het Actiefonds, Humanity United, LNU Frifond, Peace Direct, Purposeful, Seattle International Foundation, SIDA, USIP.
- <sup>xxxvi</sup> See Children's Rights Innovation Fund, HIVE Pakistan, Purposeful. Steven Malaki (Executive Director, National Partnership of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding) and colleagues, in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.
- <sup>xxxvii</sup> See Children's Rights Innovation Fund, Firelight Foundation, Purposeful, Search for Common Ground. Rashad Nimr (Contractor with the USAID Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2020.
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> See Fondo Semillas, Seattle International Foundation. Shadi Rouhshahbaz (MENA Regional Coordinator, UNOY) and Dorsa Babei (Co-director, PeaceMentors) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.

- XXXIX See Fondo Semillas, Seattle International Foundation, Voice Global Fund. This was referenced by several young peacebuilders.
- XI See Global Fund for Human Rights, HIVE Pakistan, Humanity United, UNOY, USIP. Civicus, ‘Youth Action Lab: Outcomes and Learnings of the Youth Action Lab 2020’, 2020, [www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020\\_en.pdf](http://www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020_en.pdf).
- XLI See European Youth Foundation, Global Fund for Human Rights, Lesley Spencer Tapuwa Garura and Keith Thomas Short, ‘Trust Young People: The evidence on the impact of youth led development’, Oxfam and Restless Development, 2021. Civicus, ‘Youth Action Lab: Outcomes and Learnings of the Youth Action Lab 2020’, 2020, [www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020\\_en.pdf](http://www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020_en.pdf).
- XLII See Firelight Foundation, Global Fund for Human Rights, Peace Direct, Purposeful, Restless Development, Search for Common Ground, SIDA, Trust Africa Foundation, UNICEF Upshift. Athavarn Srikantharajah, Civicus, ‘The power of radical collaboration: Co-designing solutions in partnership with youth’, 2020, <http://www.civicus.org/documents/The-Power-of-Radical-Collaboration.pdf>.
- XLIII See Global Fund for Human Rights, Restless Development.
- XLIV See Children’s Rights Innovation Fund, Fondo Semillas, Global Fund for Human Rights, Purposeful, Search for Common Ground, UNOY.
- XLV See Fondo Semillas, Global Fund for Human Rights, Purposeful. Rafitu Lawal (Founder, Building Blocks 4 Peace Foundation) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.
- XLVI See Peace Direct.
- XLVII See Fondo Semillas, Global Fund for Human Rights, Purposeful, SIDA. This was reflected by several youth peacebuilders interviewed.
- XLVIII See Purposeful. Lesley Spencer Tapuwa Garura and Keith Thomas Short, ‘Trust Young People: The evidence on the impact of youth led development’, Oxfam and Restless Development, 2021.
- XLIX See UNOY.
- L See the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. This was reflected by all of the young peacebuilders interviewed. Rashad Nimr (Contractor with the USAID Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2020.
- LI See SIDA, UNDP Bosnia.
- LII See Global Fund for Human Rights, Voice Philippines.
- LIII See Global Fund for Human Rights, Search for Common Ground.
- LIV See Fondo Semillas, Search for Common Ground, Seattle International Foundation, Voice Global Fund.
- LV See Global Fund for Human Rights, HIVE Pakistan, Humanity United, Purposeful, Search for Common Ground, Voice Global Fund, Voice Philippines.
- LVI See Global Fund for Human Rights, HIVE Pakistan, Purposeful.
- LVII See Civicus, Children’s Rights Innovation Fund, Global Fund for Human Rights, HIVE Pakistan, Humanity United, Purposeful, Seattle International Foundation, UNOY, Voice Global Fund, Voice Philippines.
- LVIII See Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Search for Common Ground. Jason Wee (Co-founder, Architects of Diversity), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021.
- LIX Rashad Nimr (Contractor with the USAID Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2020.
- LX See Search for Common Ground.
- LXI See Children’s Rights Innovation Fund, Civicus Firelight Foundation, HIVE Pakistan, Peace Direct, Search for Common Ground, Sharetrust, SIDA. Civicus, ‘Youth Action Lab: Outcomes and Learnings of the Youth Action Lab 2020’, 2020, [www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020\\_en.pdf](http://www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020_en.pdf). Steven Malaki (Executive Director, National Partnership of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding) and colleagues, in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.
- LXII See Peace Direct.
- LXIII See Search for Common Ground, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.
- LXIV See Fondo Semillas, SIDA, UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP Tunisia. Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.
- LXV See Children’s Rights Innovation Fund, European Union Youth Foundation, UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund, UNDP Bosnia.
- LXVI See Search for Common Ground. This was referenced by several young peacebuilders.
- LXVII See Children’s Rights Innovation Fund, Firelight Foundation, Global Fund for Human Rights, Purposeful, Seattle International Foundation. This was expressed by several young peacebuilders.
- LXVIII See Global Fund for Human Rights, Het Actiefonds, Restless Development, UNAOC Youth Solidarity Fund. Restless Development, ‘Shifting the power: What will it take to fund and resource youth CSOs differently?’, 2020, [https://restlessdevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DevAlt\\_Shifting-The-Power\\_Brief1.pdf](https://restlessdevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DevAlt_Shifting-The-Power_Brief1.pdf).
- LXIX See Global Fund for Human Rights, Het Actiefonds, Humanity United, Purposeful, Seattle International Foundation, UNDP Tunisia, UNOY. Civicus, ‘Youth Action Lab: Outcomes and Learnings of the Youth Action Lab 2020’, 2020, [www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020\\_en.pdf](http://www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020_en.pdf).
- LXX See Civicus, Firelight Foundation, Global Fund for Human Rights, Humanity United, Purposeful, Voice Global Fund, UNDP Tunisia. Civicus, ‘Youth Action Lab: Outcomes and Learnings of the Youth Action Lab 2020’, 2020, [www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020\\_en.pdf](http://www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020_en.pdf).
- LXXI See Global Fund for Human Rights, HIVE Pakistan, Purposeful, USIP, Voice Global Fund, Voice Philippines, Sharetrust. Vera Mawla (President, Peace of Art), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021. Lesley Spencer Tapuwa Garura and Keith Thomas Short, ‘Trust Young People: The evidence on the impact of youth led development’, Oxfam and Restless Development, 2021.
- LXXII Restless Development, ‘Shifting the power: What will it take to fund and resource youth CSOs differently?’, 2020, [https://restlessdevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DevAlt\\_Shifting-The-Power\\_Brief1.pdf](https://restlessdevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DevAlt_Shifting-The-Power_Brief1.pdf). These figures were also reflected in validation interviews with youth peacebuilders.
- LXXIII See Global Fund for Human Rights, HIVE Pakistan, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF Upshift, USIP. This was reflected by all youth peacebuilders interviewed.
- LXXIV See Children’s Rights Innovation Fund, Firelight Foundation, Fondo Semillas, Global Fund for Human Rights, Purposeful, Sharetrust.
- LXXV See Global Fund for Human Rights, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Seattle International Foundation. Steven Malaki (Executive Director, National Partnership of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding) and colleagues, in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

- LXXVI See Children's Rights Innovation Fund, Seattle International Foundation, Voice Philippines, UNOY, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.
- LXXVII See UNICEF Upshift.
- LXXVIII See Voice Philippines. This was also emphasized by several youth peacebuilders interviewed.
- LXXIX See Children's Rights Innovation Fund, Firelight Foundation, Global Fund for Human Rights, Humanity United, Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Peace Direct, Purposeful, Trust Africa Foundation, UNOY, USIP, Voice Philippines. Civicus, 'Youth Action Lab: Outcomes and Learnings of the Youth Action Lab 2020', 2020, [www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020\\_en.pdf](http://www.civicus.org/documents/youth-action-lab/youth-action-lab-outcomes-2020_en.pdf).
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- LXXXI See the Global Fund for Human Rights, Trust Africa Foundation.
- LXXXII **On locally rooted youth hubs:** See Peace Direct, UNDP Tunisia, Sharetrust. Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021.  
**On international networks:** See Restless Development.
- LXXXIII See SIDA. Hillary Hambrick Taft, (Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID), in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, October 2021. Rafiu Lawal (Founder, Building Blocks 4 Peace Foundation) in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, December 2021. Steven Malaki (Executive Director, National Partnership of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding) and colleagues, in discussion with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, November 2021.

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