



Increasing the capacity of youth affected by displacement to become peacebuilders and agents of change within their communities.

The Regional Youth Peacebuilding Programme (RYPP) sets out to prove that youth can lead the way towards peace by training, mentoring and supporting [South Sudanese youth affected by displacement](#) to become peacebuilders and agents of change within and beyond their communities. In the process, they strengthen their own resilience, contribute to social cohesion, and play an important role in peacebuilding, and thus also in the mitigation and prevention of secondary displacement.

The RYPP is based on anthropological research into the peacebuilding and other needs and capacities of youth across countries of asylum, the findings of which informed UNHCR's 2022 Youth Peacebuilding Training Manual. The RYPP uses [adaptive management](#) and [participatory programme design](#) to involve youth at all stages. The programme also recognises the under-appreciated role of women and girls in peacebuilding and thus places a particular focus on [young women leaders](#).

Objectives and Programme Model

Objective #1: To increase the capacity of youth to contribute to peaceful coexistence in countries of asylum and upon return to countries of origin.

A [cascading model of conflict transformation and peacebuilding training](#), where youth are trained and eventually become trainers of their peers and communities, equips refugees and hosts of diverse backgrounds with tools to manage conflict. The RYPP also supports young South Sudanese refugees' self-designed efforts to create more peaceful futures for their communities.

✓ **498** youth peacebuilders trained and mentored 2021 to 2023

➤ **100** new youth peacebuilders targeted for 2024 in:

Ethiopia	Gambella and Assosa regions
Kenya	Kakuma, Turkana County
South Sudan	Juba, Torit and Bor regions
Sudan	White Nile State
Uganda	Moyo, Adjumani, Arua and Yumbe Districts

Objective #2: To build a regional network of youth peacebuilders from the same country of origin.

A smaller cohort of youth are trained as youth peacebuilders, mentored, and supported over several years in their journey to develop positive leadership skills and adapt non-violent peacebuilding and conflict resolution approaches. They are then connected to a [network of changemakers](#) across countries of asylum to develop meaningful relationships across geographic, cultural, and gender divides to draw on for years to come.

Complementary Interventions

Given that training alone does not lead to peaceful societies, the RYPP implements complementary activities, including [mental health](#), [education](#) and [livelihoods services](#), to ensure the resilience of youth peacebuilders and sustainability of program impacts.

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Learning Agenda:

The innovative nature of RYPP offers valuable learning to a range of humanitarian, development, and peace actors, including on:

1 A **population-based approach** to youth and peacebuilding: Working with youth based on their country of origin ensures tools are contextualized to the experience of all youth from the same country.

and reveals the challenges youth face in differing countries of asylum.

2 A **long-term approach**: The program's timeline is unique to humanitarian programming. A 15-year longitudinal research project (ASPIRE) will follow youth peacebuilders in RYPP-targeted communities.

3 A **regional approach**: Learning on regional refugee responses can inform those in other contexts.