

## A thank you note from the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that more than ever before, we need a United Nations that is able and ready to empower and engage with young people to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.

Youth 2030, the United Nations Youth Strategy, puts young people at the center of an intergenerational and action-oriented Decade of Action. Working with and for young people, the global implementation of the Youth Strategy is gaining momentum to expand global, regional, country, and community-level action and accelerate impact.

I am delighted to present the report of the field validation of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard, a tool for strategic planning, performance measurement, and accountability for UN Country Teams. The successful completion of the field validation in just seven weeks, in the backdrop of COVID-19, is remarkable. This was only possible because of the amazing enthusiasm, remarkable flexibility, adaptive skills of team members, and the exceptional teamwork.

I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation to the members of the Joint Working Group, the technical leadership team of Youth 2030, for the design and development of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard and shaping its testing in the field, before wide implementation . My special thanks are to the team in the United Nations Development Coordination Office for their active role in planning, organizing, and coordinating the field validation.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude are to the United Nations Resident Coordinators of the three Fast Track Countries for Youth 2030, Ms. Helena Fraser (Uzbekistan), Dr. Catherine Sozi (Ethiopia), and Ms. Alice Shackelford (Costa Rica) for their leadership and commitment to implementing Youth 2030 and for hosting the field validation of the scorecard in challenging times.

I express my heartfelt appreciation to the members of the UN Country Teams and the youth networks of Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, and Costa Rica for their time and active, online engagement and meaningful discussions during the validation. These insights have greatly strengthened and helped fine-tune the UNCT Scorecard for field implementation.

None of this would have been possible without my dedicated team in the Youth 2030 Secretariat, in particular, Dr. Sudha Balakrishnan, the Head of the Secretariat, who with her able team, Ms. Maanishaa Jessani and Ms. Anca Gliga, has led, inspired, and steered the Youth 2030 implementation with utmost passion and dedication. My special appreciation goes out to them and the broader team who supported their work along the way.

Last but not the least, I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the Assistant Secretary Generals in the High-level Steering Committee (HLSC) of Youth 2030, for their strategic guidance, constant encouragement, and support to make this vision a reality.

This is an important milestone in the joint inter-agency and multi stakeholder work of the UN with young people on the road to achieve the SDGs. I'm convinced that other exciting milestones await us on this journey. Onwards and upwards!

Jayathma Wickramanayake United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth



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#### **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

BOS	Business Operations Strategy
GEEW	Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
HLSC	High Level Steering Committee
HQ	Headquarters
JWG	Joint Working Group
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDG IMS	United Nations Sustainable Development Group Information Management Systems
UN-SWAP	UN System-Wide Action Plan
π	Youth 2030 Task Teams

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# Executive Summary

Global implementation of *Youth 2030*, the United Nations' system-wide strategy on youth, is gaining good momentum. Guidance and tools for implementation and performance measurement are in a phase of accelerated development. The first tool developed and field-tested is a 19-indicator scorecard, a strategic planning, performance measurement, and accountability tool for United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs). This report presents a summary of the Youth 2030 Scorecard for UN Country Teams (Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard) field validation, the process, lessons learnt, and feedback received, and outlines the next steps.

Set in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard was validated through a fully online exercise in Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, and Costa Rica, three countries designated as fast-track countries for accelerated action on the strategy. Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard components (a two-page integrated guidance, 19 indicators, scoring criteria for the indicators, thresholds for scoring, COVID marker, excel version), were reviewed to understand if they were sufficient, relevant, if they measured what they set out to measure, clarity of language, and ease of use (excel version). Through a structured survey, the feedback was collected from 118 participants (UN Country Team members and young people) spanning 28.5 hours of active, online engagement over a seven (7) week period between July and September 2020.

The fully online field validation was a new, intense, and challenging but successful exercise. The first exercise in Uzbekistan established several sound practices that were continued during field validation in Ethiopia and Costa Rica; limitations that were identified were reworked and improved. Seven (7) key lessons learnt included i) the need to adopt a flexible approach for engagement, based on country needs and convenience, ii) the importance of in-depth, joint planning and preparation, iii) the need for tailoring 'content' of the exercise to field context, iv) giving due consideration and time to both content and online working, v) understanding that structured, online surveys are a great way to get feedback, vi) the need for contextualizing the expectations from and engagement of young people to country realities, and vii) the value of continuous learning and adaptive management.

The integrated guidance scored high (≥70%) on sufficiency and clarity. All nineteen (19) indicators scored high on relevance. While seventeen (17) indicators scored high on if they measured what they set out to measure, indicators on policy alignment and youth workforce scored the lowest. While twelve (12) indicators scored high on the *clarity of language*, indicators on youth workforce and internships scored lower. Eighteen (18) scoring criteria scored high on *relevance*, fourteen (14) on *indicator measurement*. On clarity of scoring criteria language, fifteen (15) scoring criteria scored high and scoring criteria on policy alignment and investments for youth-led solutions scored lower. Respondents agreed that *thresholds* across 15 indicators are reasonable.

For a few indicators and scoring criteria with scores below 70%, an examination of country-level differentials revealed higher scores in Ethiopia or Costa Rica compared to Uzbekistan, confirming the benefits of detailed briefing on programming content.

Some of the key recommendations included simplifying language, strengthening reporting accountabilities in the guidance, defining terms used (e.g., fairness, quality), further aligning terminologies in the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard to UNCT-specific guidance, revisiting indicator on youth workforce and specific scoring criteria (investments for youth-led solutions, knowledge exchange, communication, and advocacy), clarifying UNCT support to national governments, adding sources of data as well as positively framing of the terminology for the scoring system (missing, approaching and meeting requirements). There was a request for translation of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard to official UN languages, and training of youth focal points in UNCTs on Youth 2030.

The feedback and key recommendations from the field validation exercise are being reviewed and incorporated to generate the final Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard. The scoring criteria are also being structured as questions for inclusion in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Information Management Systems (UNSDG IMS) to enable routine annual reporting by UNCTs.

Background



<u>Youth 2030</u>, the UN's system-wide strategy for and with youth, launched in 2018, by the Secretary-General, outlines achieving impact on priority issues for young people through joint action of the United Nations, together with young people.

The implementation of Youth 2030 benefits from the strategic guidance of a *High-Level Steering Committee* (*HLSC*), at the level of UN Assistant Secretary-General and is chaired by the *Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth*. The *Youth 2030 Secretariat*, established in the *Office of Secretary General's Envoy on Youth* (*OSGEY*), supports the HLSC and the overall coordination of Youth 2030 implementation.

Global implementation of Youth 2030 is gaining good momentum, under technical leadership of the Youth 2030 *Joint Working Group (JWG)* and several *Task Teams (TT)*, advancing the development an implementation package consisting of guidance and tools for implementation and performance measurement. *Ten (10) fast-track countries* envisaged as leaders in the implementation of the UN Youth Strategy, are the field test areas to trial and fine-tune the implementation package.

Drawing lessons from the UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW) and UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), a set of two Youth 2030 scorecards are being advanced, one for UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and one for UN Entities, for strategic planning, performance measurement, and accountability. The Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard, drafted by the JWG between September 2019 and April 2020, with nineteen (19) indicators was validated in three fast-track countries – Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, and Costa Rica. This report provides an overview of the field validation process for the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard, describes the lessons learnt, summarizes the feedback received, and outlines the next.

Field validation of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard



#### 2.1 Objectives

The main objectives of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard field validation were to:

- Test appropriateness of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard for use at the UNCT level as a tool for strategic planning, performance measurement, and accountability;
- Review relevance and clarity of indicators, their scoring criteria and thresholds to UNCTs' work; and
- Gather any additional feedback on the tool in advance of UNCT-wide implementation.

#### 2.2 COVID-19 pandemic and key considerations for the field validation

The Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard was ready for field validation by end-April 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was rapidly expanding across the world. Balancing the momentum around the Youth 2030 implementation and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the JWG made the following decisions on the field validation:

- i) Proceed with the field validation, but adopt a fully online format; and
- ii) Restrict the field validation to three UNCTs, representing different regional and programming contexts and where the field validation could be completed in a reasonable timeframe.

Three fast-track countries, namely Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, and Costa Rica, with different youth programming settings in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and the Caribbean, expressed interest and confirmed the ability to host the field validation in an online format, within the end of the third quarter of 2020.

#### 2.3 Preparing for the field validation

The fully online format of field validation was a novel exercise for the JWG and required deliberate planning and preparation.

Realizing the importance of getting the online platform right, the JWG explored several options and decided on an accessible, easy-to-use, and intuitive platform for the exercise. Several members of the core validation team were also familiar with the use of the platform, making it an optimal choice.

While the platform decision was critical, substantial uncertainty still existed on how best to manage online working dynamics in the fully online format. It was decided to take an adaptive management approach to the field validation, i.e., an intentional approach to iterative learning and management, in response to new information and experience.

In addition, the team decided to move away from paper-based tools and developed *e-tools* for the field validation, including a) agenda and planning tools and b) structured, online feedback surveys.

The team meticulously planned and assembled the field validation package, which included the following:

- i) Agenda and planning tool (Please refer to Annexes 1-3);
- ii) UNCT Scorecard, test-ready version, with 19 indicators (word, excel)<sup>2</sup> (Please refer to Annexes 4 and 5);
- iii) Mock-up of Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard (pdf) (Please refer to Annex 6);
- iv) A structured, online feedback survey tool<sup>3</sup>, with 59 questions (*Please refer to Annex 7*);
- v) Slide deck, to serve as visual aids and included content slides, dynamics of online working<sup>4</sup> (*Please refer to Annex 8*);
- vi) Background documents (Youth 2030, UNSDCF guidance).

#### 2.4 Field validation process

The UNCTs with the JWG structured the field validation as a five (5) step process. The steps included planning and preparatory sessions<sup>5</sup>, briefing of UNCT facilitators and rapporteurs<sup>6</sup>, UNCT field validation (full) team briefing and deep-dives on Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard indicators, followed by structured feedback through online surveys, section-by-section.



Fig.1 - Field validation process

Includes agenda for each session (facilitators' briefing, team briefing, deep dives), list of preparatory tasks, participants' and facilitators' list.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Includes 19 indicators organized in 4 sections – i) Youth focus in Cooperation Frameworks (4), ii) UNCT support to governments (6), iii) UNCT supported innovation, knowledge exchange, communication & advocacy (4), iv) organizational culture, policies, architecture, capacities for youth (5); includes COVID marker in some indicators.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes 59 questions on internal guidance (clarity and sufficiency for use of scorecard), indicators (relevance, clarity of language, measurement of section of scorecard), scoring criteria (relevance, clarity of language, measurement of the indicator, reasonableness of thresholds); COVID marker (relevance across Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard); excel (ease of use, relevance).

<sup>4</sup> Includes i) Briefing on Youth 2030, ii) UNSDCF- Youth 2030 crosswalk iii) online working, iv) Youth 2030 scorecard- indicator by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Includes i) Briefing on Youth 2030, ii) UNSDCF- Youth2030 crosswalk iii) online working, iv) Youth 2030 scorecard- indicator by indicator with detailed guidance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Two sessions, to schedule dates for the pilot, discuss participants' criteria, division in breakout groups, identify facilitators/rapporteurs, identify the platform for the exercise and adapt the process based on the UNCTs individual needs (number of sessions for the country and finalizing agenda and run of session for each of them).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Providing an overview of the field validation process and a focused discussion on the specifics of breakout group dynamics and facilitators' roles.

#### 2.5 Summary of field validation

The Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard was validated in the three countries over a seven (7) week period, between 20<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Feedback was received from 118 participants including members of UN Country Teams and youth, organized in eleven (11) teams. A total of 28 hours and 30 minutes was dedicated to the field validation.



Fig. 2 - Overview of field validation

#### 2.5.1 Uzbekistan field validation

In Uzbekistan, the field validation took place between 20<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020, and took 6 hours and 30 minutes:

	Field validation overview – Uzbekistan						
Planning	Facilitators briefing	Team briefing		Deep dives	Youth consultation	Total hours	
			Online	Offline			
20-Jul, 23-Jul		24-Jul		29-Jul, 30-Jul, 3-Aug			
1h 30m		3	h	2h		6h 30m	

Fig. 3 - Field validation overview - Uzbekistan

A total of thirty-six (36) participants, including twenty (20) UNCT members, six (6) youth participants, and ten (10) JWG members were involved.

Field validation participants - Uzbekistan				
<b>Details</b>	UZB			
Total Participants + Facilitators	36			
UNCT participants (other UNCT participants < 35)	20			
Youth participants (including Young UN/in-country networks/individuals)	6			
Youth 2030 JWG members (from UN Entities + Youth Networks)	10			

Fig. 4 - Field validation participants - Uzbekistan

The twenty (20) UNCT participants represented ten (10) in-country UN agencies, the six (6) youth participants represented five (5) youth networks from Uzbekistan, while the ten (10) JWG members were from five (5) UN agencies at headquarters (HQ) level and one (1) youth network.

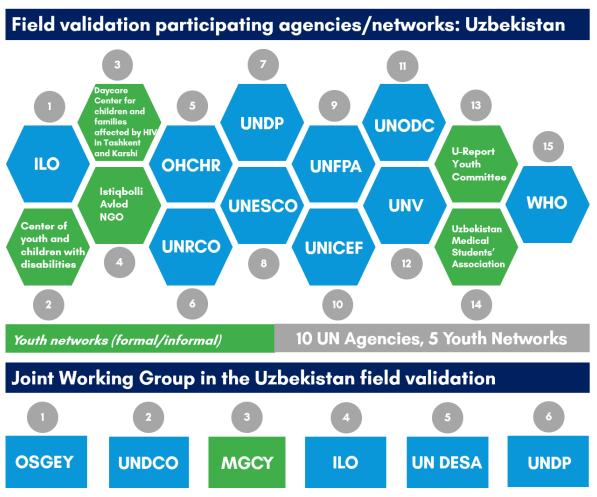


Fig. 5 - Participating agencies and youth networks - Uzbekistan

#### 2.5.2 Ethiopia field validation

In Ethiopia, the field validation took place between 29 July and 13 August 2020, over a total duration of 8 hours and 30 minutes.

Field validation overview – Ethiopia								
Planning	Facilitators briefing	Team briefing	Deep dives		Deep dives		Youth consultation	Total hours
			Online	Offline				
29-Jul, 03-Aug	04-Aug	06-Aug	10-Aug, 13-Aug					
1h 30m	1h	1h	5h			8h 30m		

Fig. 6 - Field validation overview - Ethiopia

A total of sixty-two (62) participants, including forty (40) UNCT members, nine (9) youth participants, and thirteen (13) JWG members were involved:

Field validation participants – Ethiopia				
<b>Details</b>	ETH			
Total Participants + Facilitators	62			
UNCT participants (other UNCT participants < 35)	40			
Youth participants (including Young UN/in-country networks/individuals)	9			
Youth 2030 JWG members (from UN Entities + Youth Networks)	13			

Fig. 7 - Field validation participants - Ethiopia

The forty (40) UNCT participants represented twenty (20) in-country UN agencies, nine (9) youth participants represented five (5) youth networks from the country, while the thirteen (13) JWG members were from six (6) UN agencies at HQ level and one (1) youth network.

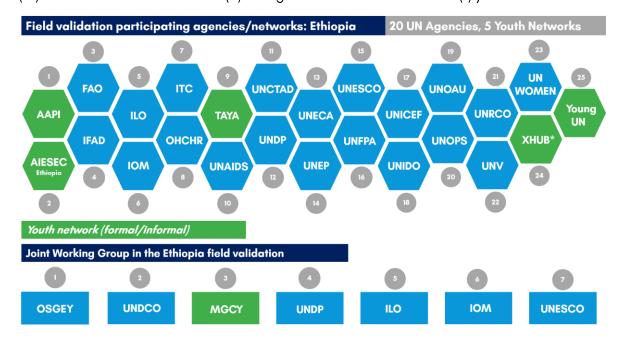


Fig. 8 - Participating agencies and youth networks - Ethiopia

#### 2.5.3 Costa Rica field validation

In Costa Rica, the field validation took place between 24 August and 4 September 2020, over a total duration of 13 hours and 30 minutes.

Field validation overview – Costa Rica						
Planning	Facilitators briefing	Team briefing	Deep dives		Youth consultation	Total hours
			Online	Offline		
24-Aug, 1-Sep	27-Aug	28-Aug, 4-Sep			03-Sep	
2h30	2h	6h			3h	13h 30m

Fig. 9 - Field validation overview - Costa Rica

The process involved a total of 52 participants, including twenty-one (21) UNCT members, twenty-two (22) youth participants, and nine (9) JWG members.

Field validation participants – Costa Rica					
<b>Details</b>	CR				
Total Participants + Facilitators	52				
UNCT participants (other UNCT participants < 35)	21				
Youth participants (including Young UN/in-country networks/individuals)	22				
Youth 2030 JWG members (from UN Entities + Youth Networks)	9				

Fig. 10 - Field validation participants - Costa Rica

The twenty-one (21) UNCT participants represented eleven (11) in-country UN agencies, the twenty-two (22) youth participants represented four (4) youth networks from Costa Rica, while the nine (9) JWG members were from four (4) UN agencies at HQ level and one (1) youth network.

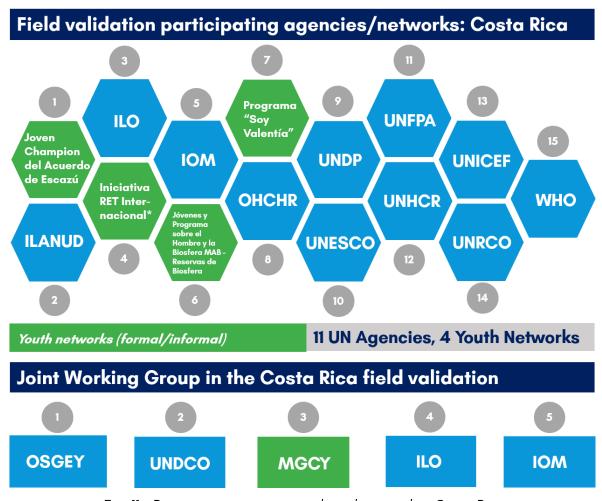


Fig. 11 - Participating agencies and youth networks - Costa Rica





The online field validation exercise, set in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic as described earlier, was a novel experience, both for the headquarters team who shaped the exercise and the participating country teams. Successful completion of the field validation in seven (7) weeks across three (3) countries was only possible because of the amazing enthusiasm, remarkable flexibility, and adaptive skills of team members and exceptional teamwork.

The fully online format of teamwork was a new, intense, and challenging exercise. The first exercise in Uzbekistan established several sound practices that were continued during field validation in Ethiopia and Costa Rica; limitations that were identified were reworked and improved. Detailed country-specific information, on what worked well, what needed improvement, and the key recommendations, is available in the annex. (*Please refer to Annexes 9-11*).

In all, seven (7) key lessons were identified for a successful online exercise, that can be applied to activities that require the active and online engagement of participants over a few to several hours. These include:

- 1. A flexible approach to the overall exercise, based on country needs and convenience;
- 2. In-depth, joint planning and preparation is critical;
- 3. Tailoring content to field context is highly important for the success of the field validation;
- 4. Due consideration and time need to be given to both content of field validation and the context of online working;
- 5. Online, structured surveys are a great way to collect detailed feedback from multiple teams:
- 6. Expectations from and engagement of young people should be contextualized to country realities; and
- 7. An intentional approach to iterative learning, adapting, and implementing changes, in response to new information and learning is vital.

A flexible approach to the exercise based on country needs and convenience was critical to ensure the availability and engagement of the country teams. For example, adjusting the dates and timelines for the exercise in countries, within the overall July-August 2020 timeframe of the field validation, based on the availability of teams and access to the internet (issues of internet black-out) as well as structuring sessions – one session on one day (single-session) or split sessions (multi-touch sessions over several days), based on country realities (and factoring in exhaustion from online working) was vital for the success of the exercise.

Online exercises add an additional layer of complexity. To ensure seamless organization of the sessions, in-depth, joint planning and preparation by the headquarters and the country teams was critical. A contextualized and meaningful field validation package (agenda, planning tool, test-ready scorecard, online survey forms, slide deck, and background documents), clear division of roles and responsibilities within the joint planning team, near-real-time communication between teams for rapid trouble-shooting and decision-making, were all critical. The comprehensive orientation of facilitators and rapporteurs on content and working online ensured good engagement of participants in the breakout sessions.

The Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard indicators cut across diverse domains and included several 'new' concepts and 'not-so-new' concepts that were not widely implemented within UNCTs (e.g. investments in youth-led solutions, knowledge exchange plans, etc.).

Due to varying degrees of UN staff involvement in UNSDCF processes and the linkages with Youth 2030, it was necessary to include an additional orientation session and guidance, which helped bring participants on the same page and strengthened meaningful participation of the group in the review of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard.

Adding a section on the linkage between UN's Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework development process and Youth 2030, with a detailed explanation on the concepts before each indicator made a significant difference in bringing participants to the same page, for meaningful review of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard.

Working entirely online (sharing screens, toggling between documents, filling out online forms) required a range of tech-skills that varied among participants and facilitators. Investing time to enable participants to understand and practice online working was critical for the seamless organization of breakout sessions. The addition of content and details of online working (which was new to many participants), resulted in the exercises needing much more time than was originally planned. Structured online surveys, through a mix of closed and open questions, were useful to get structured feedback from various teams and synthesize feedback rapidly.

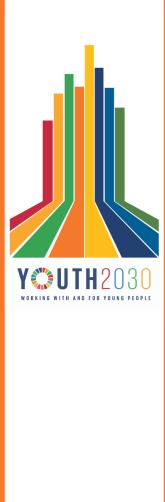
Young people's involvement in the UNCT processes varied greatly across countries. Guided by the UN country teams, the expectations from and engagement of young people in the validation exercise was tailored. While youth were included as a part of the main validation team in Uzbekistan and Ethiopia, in Costa Rica, young people had the opportunity to voice their views on their current and ideal engagement with UNCTs on Youth 2030 implementation, in a youth- specific session.

In all, an intentional approach to iterative learning, adapting, and implementing changes, in response to new information and learning, was critical for the successful completion of the field validation. The following table captures the eight (8) key shifts that were made from Uzbekistan to Ethiopia to Costa Rica.

Details	Uzbekistan	Ethiopia	Costa Rica	
Organisation of session(s)	isation of session(s) One		Multi-touch, over several days	
Facilitator's briefing	Included in overall session	Dedicated 1-hour session	Dedicated 2-hour session	
Content – UNCT processes, instruments + Substantive areas	Basic	Detailed	Detailed	
Dynamics of online working	Dynamics of online working Short description		Detailed segment	
Feedback survey structure	First per themes (relevance, language, thresholds etc) and then by indicators in each section	By indicator first and then by themes	By indicator first and then by themes	
Youth engagement	Youth engagement With UNCT team		Dedicated 3-hour youth session	
Access to documents	Emailed to participants	Online, one-stop-shop folder	Online, one-stop-shop folder	
Total field validation time	6.5 hours	8.5 hours	13.5 hours	

Fig. 12 - Adaptive management - Eight shifts

Data cleaning, analysis, and reporting



As described in Section 3, the field validation participants reviewed the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard through the structured 59-question feedback survey.

Responses from the online, structured survey form were exported to an excel worksheet. The data from the Uzbekistan survey was aligned to Ethiopia and the Costa Rica survey. The raw data across the three countries was cleaned and consolidated into one sheet per section of Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard.

The responses were analyzed in two separate categories. First, the scores of each question were analyzed as a proportion or percentage of the participants that responded "yes" or agreed to and synthesized as quantitative feedback. Second, the qualitative feedback provided by participants were reviewed and synthesized.

Indicators with low scores across the various themes were further analyzed by disaggregating responses at the country-level to examine country differentials in responses.

Results and recommendations



This section of the report presents the results of the field validation and the key recommendations from the country teams.

#### 5.1 Feedback on integrated guidance

The scores for the questions on clarity and sufficiency of the integrated guidance are presented below.



Fig. 13 - Feedback on Integrated guidance

73% of respondents agreed that the guidance sets out Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard's process clearly. 91% of respondents agreed that the integrated guidance was sufficient for using Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard. Key recommendations included clarifying the language on joint programmes/joint programming and clearly describing the reporting accountabilities for Youth 2030 in UN Country Teams.

#### 5.2 Feedback on indicators

The feedback on indicators- relevance, if it measures what it set out to measure, and clarity of language for all 19 indicators are presented below.

#### 5.2.1 Feedback on indicator relevance

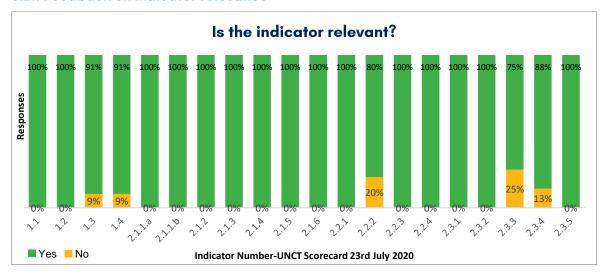


Fig. 14 - Feedback on indicator relevance

The scores for indicator relevance ranged between 75% and 100%, with 14 indicators scoring 100%. Two indicators with the lowest scores were indicator 2.2.2 (*Knowledge exchange*) with 80% and 2.3.3 (*Youth workforce*) with 75%.

#### 5.2.2 Feedback on indicator measurement

Presented below is a synthesis of the feedback on indicator measurement, i.e., if they measure what they set out to measure, namely, for Section 1 – Youth focus in Cooperation Framework; for Section 2.1 – Support to National Governments, for Section 2.2. – UNCT-led innovation, knowledge exchange, advocacy, and communication; for Section 2.3. – UNCT's organizational policies, architecture, capacities for youth.

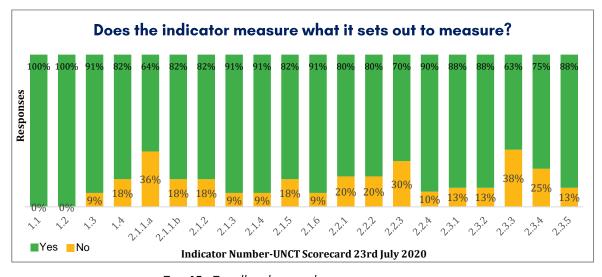


Fig. 15- Feedback on indicator measurement

The scores for this category ranged between 62% and 100%, with 15 indicators scoring greater than or equal to 80%. The modal score was 91%.

The lowest score was for indicator 2.3.3 (62%) on Youth workforce. The recommendation was "the measurement of the indicator is beyond the UNCT's decision-making capabilities and due consideration needed to be given to measuring what is operationally feasible at the country level".

The score for indicator 2.2.2 on knowledge exchange was 80%. The recommendation was to include national and local exchange plans as well, as "not many UNCTs have north-south, south-south, etc. programmes."

The score for indicator 2.2.3 on communication and advocacy was 70%. The recommendation included the addition of an indicator on accessibility to communication strategies/campaigns, focusing on young people with disabilities and the digital divide.

#### 5.2.3 Feedback on clarity of *indicator language*

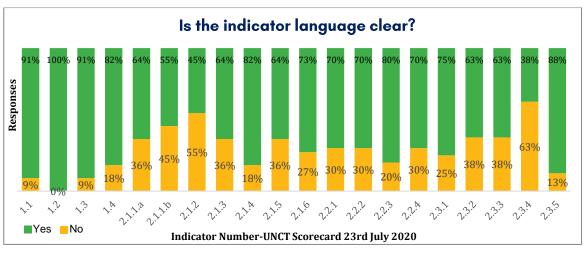


Fig 16 - Feedback on clarity of indicator language

The scores for this category ranged between 38% and 100%, with 12 indicators scoring greater than or equal to 70%. The lowest scores were for indicator 2.1.1a (64%), indicator 2.1.1b (55%), indicator 2.1.2 (45%), indicator 2.1.3 (64%), indicator 2.1.5 (64%), indicator 2.3.2 (62%), indicator 2.3.3 (62%), indicator 2.3.4 (38%).

A common suggestion for improving the clarity of indicator language in Section 2.1 was to explicitly state UNCT support to Governments. There was a request for clarifying further, the difference between 'policy alignment' and 'policy coherence', for indicator 2.1.1. For indicator 2.1.5, the recommendation was to "not restrict the indicator to monitoring and review only but also to include design and implementation stage." Recommendations for indicator 2.3.2 included clarifying what the capacity building/training would focus on, who were the target group for the training, and who would deliver the training: "It may be left to interpretation if it is measured by agency, or if it is measured by the entire UN System." Suggestions for indicator 2.3.3 included reviewing the "50% percentage increase of youth from 2019 levels"

and replacing with a "fixed quota" or taking a flexible approach to target setting. For indicator 2.3.4, the recommendation was to "define fairness and quality."

#### 5.3 Feedback on scoring criteria

The results and recommendations for the scoring criteria are described below (i) relevance, ii) if it measured the indicator, and iii) clarity of language).

#### 5.3.1 Feedback on relevance of scoring criteria

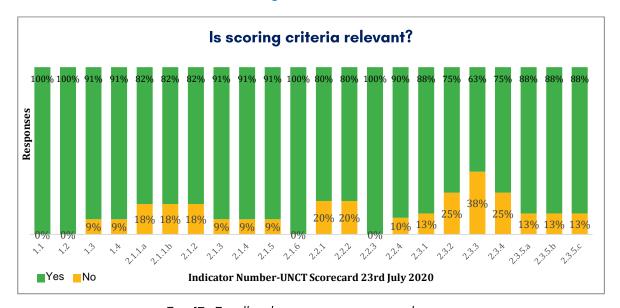


Fig. 17- Feedback on scoring criteria relevance

The scores in this category ranged between 62% and 100%, with 18 indicators scoring greater than or equal to 70%. The modal score of scoring criteria for relevance was 91%.

#### 5.3.2 Feedback on scoring criteria measuring the indicator

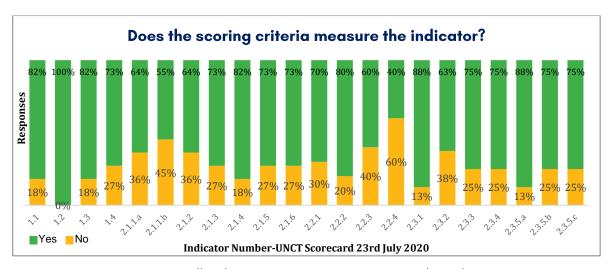


Fig. 18 - Feedback on scoring criteria measuring the indicator

The scores for this category ranged between 40% and 100%. 70% or more respondents agreed that scoring criteria across 14 indicators measured their respective indicators. Low

scores were for 5 scoring criteria namely 2.1.1.a (64%), 2.1.1.b (55%), 2.1.2 (64%), 2.2.3 (60%), 2.2.4 (40%) and 2.3.2 (62%).

The recommendation for the criteria for 1.3 was to "include spent budget in addition to planned budget". A common suggestion across the scoring criteria in section 2.1 was to include further guidance. The recommendation for indicator 2.2.4 was to combine reporting on results and resources.

#### 5.3.3 Feedback on clarity of scoring criteria language

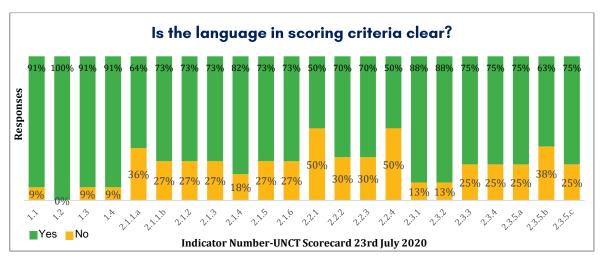


Fig. 19 - Feedback on clarity of scoring criteria language

The scores for this category ranged between 50% and 100%. Low scores were for 4 scoring criteria namely 2.1.1a (64%), 2.2.1(50%), 2.2.4(50%) and 2.3.5.b (62%).

The key recommendations on scoring criteria for 2.2.1 on investments for youth-led solutions were i) to reformulate the last criterion- 'at least 10 solutions funded' ii) "Not all country teams have a full understanding of what innovation means; this indicator might be confusing. Propose to add option "there are no such activities" and iii) "It would be nice to get more guidance for the UNCTs and agencies to recognize and identify youth funding and to get tips on how to engage with stakeholders, how to map them, to get better input."

For 2.3.5b, the recommendation was to clarify "vulnerable groups" and offer flexibility for different countries to select vulnerable groups based on country context.

#### 5.4 Feedback on thresholds

The results and recommendations on thresholds (if they were reasonable or not) are given below:

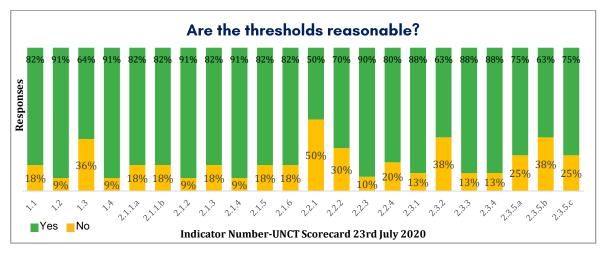


Fig. 20 - Feedback on thresholds

The scores for this category ranged between 50% and 91%. Low scores were for 4 thresholds namely 1.3 (64%), 2.2.1(50%), 2.3.2(62%), 2.3.5.b (62%). The recommendation for the lowest score (2.2.1, Investments for youth-led solutions) was to review and assign different weights for the 5 scoring criteria.

#### 5.5 Feedback on relevance of COVID-19 marker

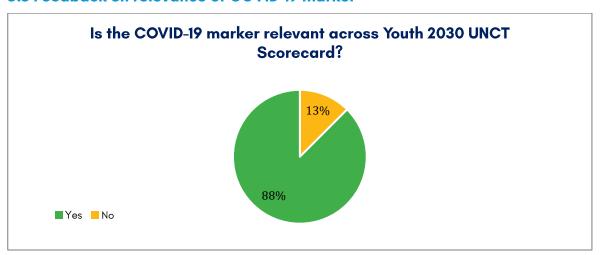


Fig. 21 - Relevance of the COVID-19 marker

88% of respondents agreed that the COVID response and recovery marker was relevant. No recommendations or suggestions were provided on the marker.

#### 5.6 Feedback on the excel version of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard

The feedback on the excel version of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard, on ease of use and sector selection, are presented below:

#### 5.6.1 Feedback on sector selection in excel version of Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard

Sector selection in the excel tool was evaluated across 5 indicators of section 2.1, namely indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, and 2.1.5.

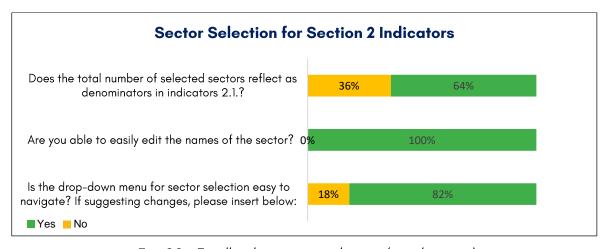


Fig. 22 - Feedback on sector selection (excel version)

82% of respondents agreed that sector selection and drop-down menu were easy to navigate; all agreed that youth-relevant sector names could easily be customized for country context. The key recommendation was to highlight the selected denominator after sector-selection in the reporting tool.

#### 5.6.2 Feedback on ease of use of excel version of Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard

Respondents rated the ease of use of the excel version of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard on a scale of 1 (easy) to 3 (difficult).

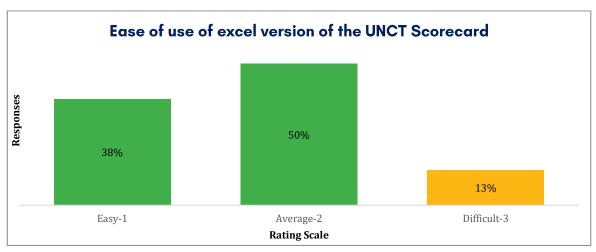


Fig. 23 - Feedback on the ease of use (excel version)

38% of respondents rated the excel tool as easy, 50% as average, and 13% rated it as difficult to use.

### 5.7 Feedback from the youth session in Costa Rica

Feedback from the youth-specific session in Costa Rica included young people's views on current engagement and ideal engagement with UNCTs on Youth 2030 implementation. The current engagement of young people in UNCT Costa Rica's work included involvement in communication and awareness-raising campaigns (UN-agency run), capacity building activities, and engagement in educational, cultural, and community-based UN-run projects.

Recommendations on the ideal engagement of young people in Youth 2030 activities included "spaces for real youth participation for youth groups or networks, but also for young people as individuals", "being involved in dialogues for decision-making" and "being part of planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation at all levels."

Additionally, young people considered that UNCT could facilitate their engagement in national and global processes by i. "fostering intergenerational dialogues", ii. ensuring their meaningful participation when issues that impact them are being discussed at national level, iii. "facilitating participatory spaces, strengthening networks in the regions (rural areas)", iv. partnering with youth-led organizations, v. doing more awareness campaigns on Youth 2030 at national level on Youth 2030, "including through the Ministry of Education (schools, universities), social media, radio, etc. with due consideration for digital divide". They also emphasized the need for tailored approaches to reach diverse groups of young people.

#### 5.8 General recommendations

Some of the general recommendations included simplifying or providing additional clarity on language where needed, defining terms where applicable, and further aligning terminologies in Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard to UNCT-specific guidance like *UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)*, Business Operations Strategy (BOS), Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

Recommendations were also to specify the term 'UNCT' in the indicators on support to national governments, revisit indicator on youth workforce and specific scoring criteria (investments for youth-led solutions, youth workforce), featuring youth engagement earlier in the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard sequence so that the cross-linkage with other indicators was visible and clear and adding indicator definitions and sources of data.

Other recommendations included positive framing of the terminology for the scoring system (to change *missing*, *approaching*, *meeting requirements*), ensuring further ease of filling in the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard, for example, through the inclusion of measurable tick-boxes and providing space for uploading country-specific documents. There was a request for translation of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard to official UN languages, and training of youth focal points in UNCTs on Youth 2030.

Country differentials in feedback and discussions



The indicators and scoring criteria with the lowest scores were for policy alignment (2.1.1 a), policy coherence (2.1.1b), public finance (2.1.2), investments for youth-led solutions (2.2.1), and results and resources for youth programming (2.2.4). In order to understand patterns of feedback and the causes of the lower score as well as to enable appropriate adjustments in the final scorecard, the feedback data for the low scoring indicators/ scoring criteria were further disaggregated by country. The country differentials for the five sets of indicator-scoring criteria are presented below:

# 6.1 Country differentials in feedback for indicator and scoring criteria on policy alignment (2.1.1a)

Significant differences were observed in the responses for highlighted questions (in blue) on policy alignment between Uzbekistan and Ethiopia/ Costa Rica.

Feedback survey data disaggregated by country:									
Indicator 2.1.1a (policy alignment)									
	17a.	17a.	17a.	18a.	18a.	18a.	18a.		
	Please	Please	Please	Please	Please	Please	Please		
	evaluate	evaluate	evaluate	evaluate	evaluate	evaluate	evaluate		
	the		the	the	the scoring	the	the		
	indicator	indicator	indicator	scoring	criteria	scoring	scoring		
	from a	from a	from a	criteria	from a	criteria	criteria		
	policy	' '	policy	from a	policy	from a	from a		
	alignment	•	alignment		alignment	policy	policy		
	viewpoint: [Is the	viewpoint: [Does the	viewpoint: [Is the	alignment viewpoint:	viewpoint: [Does the	alignment viewpoint:	alignment viewpoint:		
	indicator	indicator	language		scoring	Is the	Are the		
		measure UNCT		criteria	criteria	language	thresholds		
			indicator	relevant to		in scoring	reasonable?		
	context?]	• •	clear?]	your UNCT	the	criteria	]		
		Governments?		context?]	indicators	clear?]			
		]			under this				
					section?]				
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Just right		
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Too high		
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Just right		
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Just right		
Ethiopia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		
Costa Rica	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
%	100%	64%	64%	82%	64%	64%	82%		

Fig. 24 - Country differentials in feedback of Indicator 2.1.1a

While **none** of the Uzbekistan respondents agreed that the indicator language was clear for policy alignment, **all** respondents from Ethiopia and Costa Rica agreed that it was clear.

Similarly, while *only a quarter* of the respondents agreed that the scoring criteria measured the indicator in Uzbekistan, *three-fourths* of the respondents from Ethiopia and *all* respondents from Costa Rica agreed.

# 6.2 Country differentials in feedback for indicator and scoring criteria on policy coherence (2.1.1b)

Feedback survey data disaggregated by country:									
Indicator 2.1.1b (policy coherence)									
			19a.	20a.	20a.	20a.	20a.		
			Please	Please	Please	Please	Please		
		evaluate	evaluate	evaluate	evaluate	evaluate	evaluate		
			the	the	the	the	the		
			indicator	scoring	scoring	scoring	scoring		
	from a	from a	from a	criteria	criteria	criteria	criteria		
	,	policy	policy	from a	from a	from a	from a		
	coherence		coherence	policy coherence	policy coherence	policy coherence	policy coherence		
	viewpoint: [Is the		viewpoint: [Is the	viewpoint:	viewpoint:	conerence viewpoint:	conerence viewpoint:		
	indicator	indicator	lis me language	[Is scoring	Does the	(Is the	Are the		
	relevant to		for this	criteria	scoring	language in	thresholds		
	your UNCT		indicator	relevant to	criteria	scoring	reasonable?]		
	,		clear?]	your UNCT	measure	criteria	. • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
	_	National		context?	the	clear?]			
		Govern-			indicators	,			
		ments?]			under this				
					section?]				
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Just right		
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Too high		
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Just right		
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Just right		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
%	100%	82%	55%	82%	55%	73%	82%		

Fig. 25 - Country differentials in feedback of Indicator 2.1.1.b

**None** of the Uzbekistan respondents agreed that indicator language on policy coherence was clear, whereas **all** the respondents from Ethiopia and **two-third** of respondents from Costa Rica agreed that the language was clear.

Similarly, *half* of Uzbekistan respondents agreed that the scoring criteria for policy coherence was relevant, while in both Ethiopia and Costa Rica *all* the respondents agreed.

While **only a quarter** of the Uzbekistan respondents agreed that the scoring criteria measures the indicator on policy coherence, half of the respondents from Ethiopia and **all** respondents from Costa Rica agreed.

## 6.3 Country differentials in feedback for indicator and scoring criteria on public finance (2.1.2)

Feedback survey data disaggregated by country:									
Indicator 2.1.2 (public finance for youth development)									
	21a. Please evaluate the	21a. Please evaluate the indicator: [Does the indicator measure	21a. Please evaluate the indicator: [Is the language for this indicator clear?]	22a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Is scoring criteria relevant to your UNCT context?]	22a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Does the scoring	22a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Is the language in scoring criteria clear?]	22a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Are the thresholds reasonable?		
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Just right		
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Too high		
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Just right		
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Just right		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
%	100%	82%	45%	82%	64%	73%	91%		

Fig. 26 - Country differentials in feedback of indicator 2.1.2

A similar pattern of country differentials was seen for the indicator and scoring criteria for public finance. While *a quarter* of the Uzbekistan respondents agreed that the *indicator language* was clear and the scoring criteria measured the indicator, *three-fourths* of respondents from Ethiopia and *two-thirds* (indicator language)/ *all* (scoring criteria measuring the indicator) from Costa Rica agreed.

# **6.4** Country differentials in feedback of Indicator **2.2.1** (Investments for youthled solutions)

Feedback survey data disaggregated by country: Indicator 2.2.1-Investments for youth-led solutions									
		cator 2.2.1-Inv 33a. Please evaluate the indicator: [Does the indicator measure UNCT-led		for youth- 34a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Is scoring criteria relevant to your UNCT	ed solution 34a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Does the scoring criteria	ons  34a.  Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Is the language	34a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Are the thresholds reasonable ?]		
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Too high		
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Too high		
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Too high		
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Just right		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
%	100%	80%	70%	80%	70%	50%	50%		

Fig. 27 - Country differentials in feedback of Indicator 2.2.1

A similar pattern of large differentials was evident between Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, and Costa Rica for the feedback on scoring criteria for investments for youth-led solutions.

# **6.5.** Country differentials in feedback of Indicator# **2.2.4** (Results and resources for joint youth programmes)

		k Survey Resp			•	_	
	Indicator 39a. Please evaluate the indicator: [Is the indicator relevant to your UNCT context?]	evaluate the indicator: [Does the indicator measure UNCT-led	and resounces 39a. Please evaluate the indicator: [Is the language for this indicator clear?]	40a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Is scoring criteria relevant to your UNCT context?]	40a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Does the scoring	40a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Is the language	40a. Please evaluate the scoring criteria: [Are the thresholds reasonable ?]
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Just right
Uzbekistan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Too high
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Just right
Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Just right
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
%	100%	90%	70%	90%	40%	50%	80%

Fig. 28 - Country differentials in feedback of Indicator 2.2.4

The pattern was similar for the scoring criteria for results and resources for joint youth programmes.

### 6.6 Interpreting the country differentials

Uzbekistan was the first country for field validation and a real learning ground. Based on lessons learnt in Uzbekistan, additional content was included for the briefings in Ethiopia and Costa Rica, both for facilitators and the participants.

An extensive crosswalk on the linkages between UNSDCF guidance and youth 2030 was included. This helped bring participants from various entities on the same page, on UNCT processes. In addition to the overview of Youth 2030, the programming significance of each domain captured in the 19 indicators of the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard, was elaborated indepth in Ethiopia and Costa Rica. This helped introduce several 'new' concepts and 'not-sonew' concepts that were not widely implemented within UNCTs (e.g. investments for youth-led solutions, north-south, south-south cooperation, etc.) that the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard indicators were based on. The extended online engagement in each country resulted in progressively increasing investment of time (6.5 hours in Uzbekistan compared to 8.5 hours in Ethiopia ad 13.5 hours in Costa Rica).

There was another important difference in process between Uzbekistan and Ethiopia / Costa Rica. Due to lack of time, Uzbekistan UNCT had three self-administered, deep-dive sessions (described as offline sessions in the tables), on Section 2.1 and Section 2.3 of Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard (whereas every deep-dive was fully supported technically in the latter two countries). This also affected the quality of understanding and scoring.

Incorporating feedback, finalizing Scorecard



The final Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard will be generated incorporating feedback from the field validation exercise. Some of the key changes that would be reflected in the final Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard include i) revision and positive framing of the nomenclature used in the scoring system (Red – from 'missing requirements' to 'Getting ready'; Yellow from 'approaching requirements to 'Moving forward'; Green – from 'meeting requirements' to 'At milestone', ii) moving the indicator on meaningful youth engagement to an earlier section of Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard, iii) COVID-19 marker organized as a separate section for ease of use iv) overall simplified language and minimal jargon, v) closer alignment of terminology in the indicators and the scoring criteria to several UNCT guidance documents, vi) addition of definitions and guidance for specific indicators, vii) introduction of skip logic/conditional branching in scoring criteria selection viii) revision of specific thresholds and ix) addition of data sources.





The final Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard will be adapted for the UNCT reporting in the UNSDG IMS.

The indicators will be transformed to questions and the scoring criteria as options for selection in a drop-down menu, in line with the rest of the reporting in the IMS system.

Next steps include integrating sessions on sensitization on Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard into broader UNSDG IMS training (November 2020), organizing dedicated clinics on Youth 2030 (Planned/ On-demand; Regional / Country cluster clinics) and developing pre-recorded, short training videos with language subtitles (French, Spanish) on the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard. Additionally, on-demand support will be offered during the high reporting period (November 2020), including office hours troubleshooting and e-mail support, to support the first reporting on the Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard across the 131 United Nations Country Offices in November- December 2020.

The Youth 2030 full baseline will be established, using the first report, which will feature prominently in the first Youth 2030 Stocktake report. The data will also be linked to a public-facing dashboard that is being developed (January 2021).

#### **List of Annexes**

- Annex 1 Agenda and Planning Tool (Uzbekistan)
- Annex 2 Agenda and Planning Tool (Ethiopia)
- Annex 3 Agenda and Planning Tool (Costa Rica)
- Annex 4 Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard Test-ready
- Annex 5 Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard Test-ready (excel)
- Annex 6 Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard Mockup
- Annex 7 Online Feedback Survey Forms
- Annex 8 Field validation slide deck (example Costa Rica)
- Annex 9 Lessons learnt (Uzbekistan)
- Annex 10 Lessons learnt (Ethiopia)
- Annex 11 Lessons learnt (Costa Rica)

Youth 2030, the United Nations Youth Strategy, puts young people at the center of an intergenerational and action-oriented Decade of Action. Working with and for young people, the global implementation of the Youth Strategy is gaining momentum to expand global, regional, country, and community-level action and accelerate impact.

