

Global Urban Peace Labs

Urban Youth Fund- Colombia Window

Mentorship Program Overview



Within the Latin America and the Caribbean region, Central America has the highest proportion of young people at 18.6 percent, followed by South America with 17.7 percent. A 2009 World Bank report indicates that in 2008, young people from 15-25 years of age represented 38 percent of people under 25 in the region. Latin America and the Caribbean's high proportion of young people hold enormous economic potential. In order to unleash this source of growth and support the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean, the right conditions and opportunities must be present and accessible to urban youth.

Colombia: Innovating Political Models towards Peace

However, this has partially not been realized due to the one of the world's most protracted and violent conflicts in Colombia. Positively, the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia insurgents reached a comprehensive peace agreement after almost four years of peace negotiations in Havana. This agreement is a major milestone, at a time of unprecedented humanitarian crisis; Colombia is becoming a global reference for identifying political solutions to apparently intractable conflicts.

In their third major attempt in five decades to reach a negotiated solution to the conflict, the parties to the conflict have taken stock of both their own past failures and lessons learned from other peace processes. In doing so, *they have developed innovative frameworks and approaches, e.g. a clear procedural distinction between peace negotiations and the peace process; positioning the rights of the victims at the center of the talks; addressing the structural problem of rural development; creating a Gender Sub commission; and planning for implementation long before the agreement is signed.*

Cities and peace building

Cities today are economic magnets and sources of real opportunity for many even in the presence conflict. However, they are also sites of great poverty and grinding inequality in access to services, including all of the basics –housing, schooling, health care, food, transport, security, and justice. There is widespread agreement that surging youth populations, in contexts of high unemployment, urbanization and other factors- can lead to violence and are considered a potential threat to security. Indeed, the city's physical and psychological proximity of people, makes densely populated urban areas laboratories of innovative solutions to urban challenges. This includes innovative democratic governance that highlights transparency and accountability through the institutionalization of coherent checks and balances. This justifies the need for strategic interventions towards peace and resilience building.

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The UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund Mentorship Programme

The UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund mentorship programme is not only a capacity building program but also an exciting opportunity for people who want to mentor youth-led organizations from around the world and help them to become active citizens in their communities and bring about global change. The UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund selects mentors to guide our youth-led organizations to realize their full potential. Once appointed, the individual will be an official part of our UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund community, with access to a global network of mentors and emerging youth leaders.

Colombia window mentorship phase

The Colombia window presents the third phase of the Urban Youth Fund Mentorship programme since inception.

Benefits to Mentors

While unpaid, mentors who successfully complete this program will receive recognition from UN-Habitat with an announcement through our communication channels and on our official website. This is a unique opportunity for grassroots, experts and consultants to work with top youth groups in Colombia on peace building and resilience. The programme pairs the mentors to projects, based on their interest areas and expertise to assist participating organizations to reach their full potential, and the mentors have a direct impact on meaningful projects that are aligned with the mentor's interest areas. The mentorship programme allows UN-Habitat to provide deeper and better support to Youth Fund grant recipients, strengthening the sustainability of the projects through capacity development tailored for youth leaders. The Colombia Youth Fund program welcomes mentors to provide their technical and practical expertise to the selected innovative programs on, but not limited to:

1. Improving the livelihood of the community and target groups
2. Creating jobs or promoting entrepreneurship towards peace and resilience
3. Providing ICT driven solutions towards peace building and resilience
4. Building peace and resilience through research and training
5. Sports and development or creating safe spaces for dialogue towards peace building and resilience
6. Building peace and resilience through Art and Culture
7. Encouraging/involving youth in governance and governance structures

Supporting youth to strengthen their roles as change makers, critical thinkers, innovators and leaders

Why Mentor Youth?

- 1.Counter existing trends: Mentors gain the opportunity to be part of the solution.**
- 2.Convert youth enthusiasm into effective results: With proper guidance and support, youth energy and enthusiasm can be channeled into effective and sustainable change**
- 3.Extend your influence: For busy professionals who are unable to devote full-time efforts to youth issues, mentoring is an effective way to extend knowledge. By sharing knowledge and opening up network opportunities, mentors expand the multiplier effect of impact.**

Peacebuilding through Youth

In cases of armed conflict, the most vulnerable groups always include youth. Today, more than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by fragility and conflict, a majority of which are under the age of 30. These numbers alone justify the inclusion and consideration of youth in policymaking and planning. However, in practice, the meaningful participation of young people in peace building has been hindered by discourses that overwhelmingly depict youths as victims or villains. However, all young people face specific vulnerabilities after conflict. This holds true whether they were direct or indirect victims, perpetrators of violence or bystanders. They have specific needs that need to be addressed, including missed years of education, unemployment or loss of traditional livelihood opportunities, social rupture, trauma and – especially for those involved as combatants – a loss of status and resources. Rather than benefitting from anticipated social and economic changes, many young people (again) face the prospect of being “stuck” and failing to navigate the transition to adulthood. Another reason to engage young people in building peace and developing their societies is that most young people want to and do play positive roles in peace building.

Overall, it is very important that the specific needs and priorities of different groups of young people, including the differentiated needs of young women and men, during and after conflict are identified and addressed through targeted initiatives. These should be developed with and by young people themselves, building on research which identifies existing local capacities for peace and young people’s sources of resilience, as opposed to externally driven solutions.

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Why UN-Habitat?

UN-Habitat has been on the forefront in adoption of Security Resolution 2250 which formally recognizes that young women and men play a critical and positive role in the promotion of peace. In Colombia, youth have an important role to play in the implementation of the New Urban [Agenda 2030](#), particularly at this historic end to the armed conflict. Colombian youth have a unique role in reaching both [Sustainable Development Goal 11 and 16](#). Therefore this moment is a key opportunity for activating and supporting youth in strengthening their unique role as change makers, critical thinkers, innovators, and leaders.

UN-Habitat offers a competitive edge in building peace in the city as it requires a different approach; one that seeks to harness the symbiotic relationship between the public sphere of urban government, and the more informal processes of conflict mitigation.

The Colombia Urban Youth Fund

In this regard, the Colombia Urban Youth Fund window aims to actively seek and provide young people a platform to action their innovative ideas in peace building, peace keeping and resilience of young people in cities in Colombia. The program aims to demonstrate that young people are an optimal catalyst towards attaining peace and building long-term resilience for the peace process in Colombia through:

1. Promoting employment and entrepreneurship to encourage social and economic reintegration of youth;
2. Effecting behavioral change among youth to prevent conflict and violence: and resolve conflict peacefully while also creating sustainable conditions for peace;
3. Increasing awareness of youth mainstreaming and meaningful participation of youth in influencing policies and strategies in efforts of peace building and resilience in Colombia

Mentor Roles and Responsibilities

Coaching

Leadership

- Aligning vision, goals
- Resolving conflict effectively
- Navigating change
- Risk identification and mitigation
- Communication and Influencing others

Management

- Managing people
- Financial planning and tracking
- Timeline tracking

Expansion & Solidification

- Leveraging own network
- Suggesting improvement guides, tips
- Strengthening partnerships and alliances
- Planning for long-term sustainability

Tasking

Bi-Weekly

- Preparing for weekly call materials provided by UYF
- Skype/Hangout/phone calls with mentee
- Writing Half-page Progress Report summaries

Quarterly

- One Page Progress Report summarizing mentee/ project development

Mid-Term and Close-Out Report

- One-Page Report Summary at mid-term and completion
- Program Improvement suggestions

Interacting

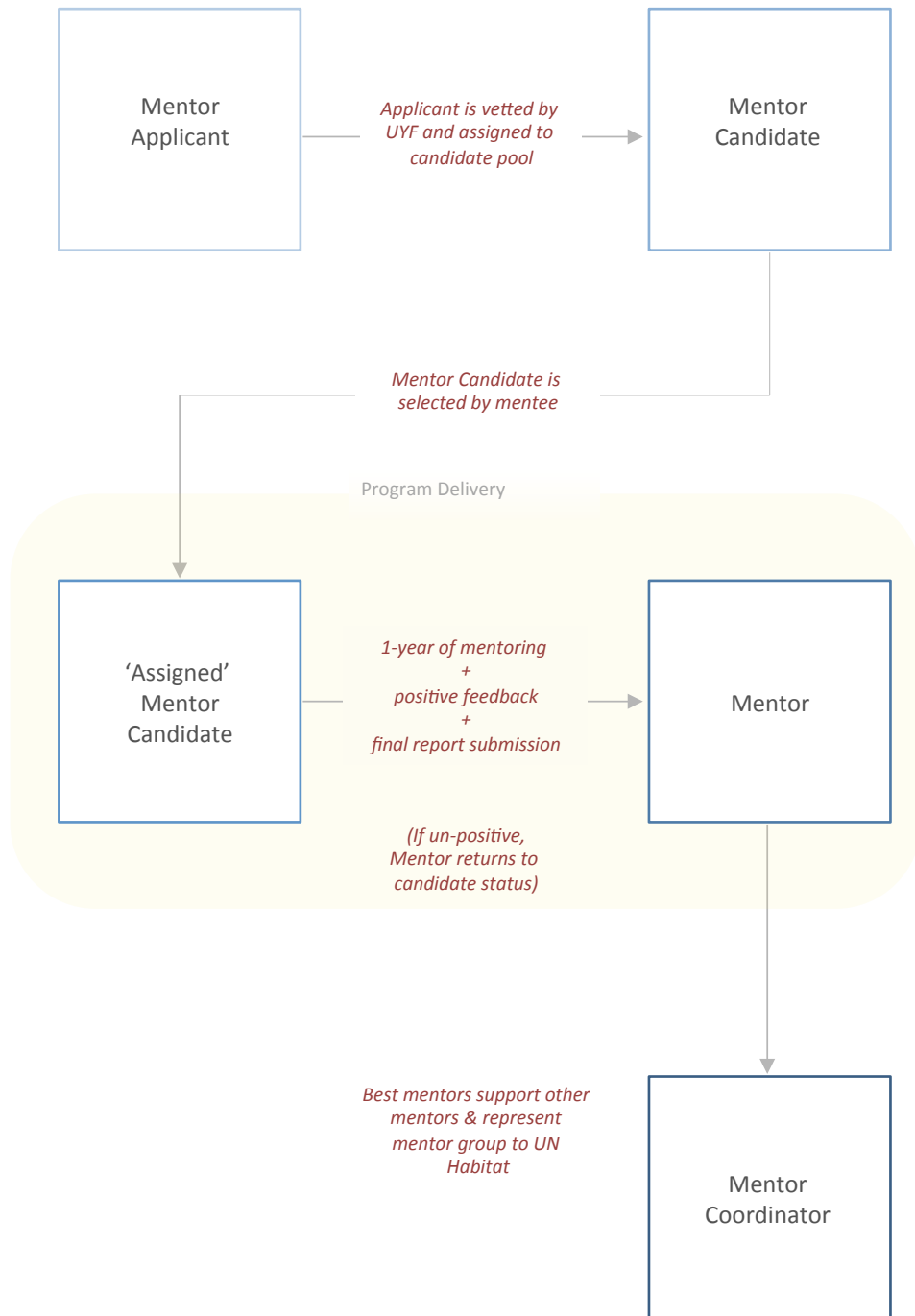
Ongoing

- Reading other mentors' reports
- Interacting with and supporting other mentors
- Networking for organization's sustainability

Not a Mentor's Role:

- Representing UN Habitat
- Enforcing mentees' report submissions / timeliness
- Checking on funding status

Mentor Selection Procedure



Mentee-Mentor Match-making

Profile Creation

Mentee-Mentor Exchange

- Each creates a 3-min video
- Stating interests & motivations
- Goals of the funded program
- Traits sought in a mentor/mentee
- Upload application form
- Website, LinkedIn or other info

Selection

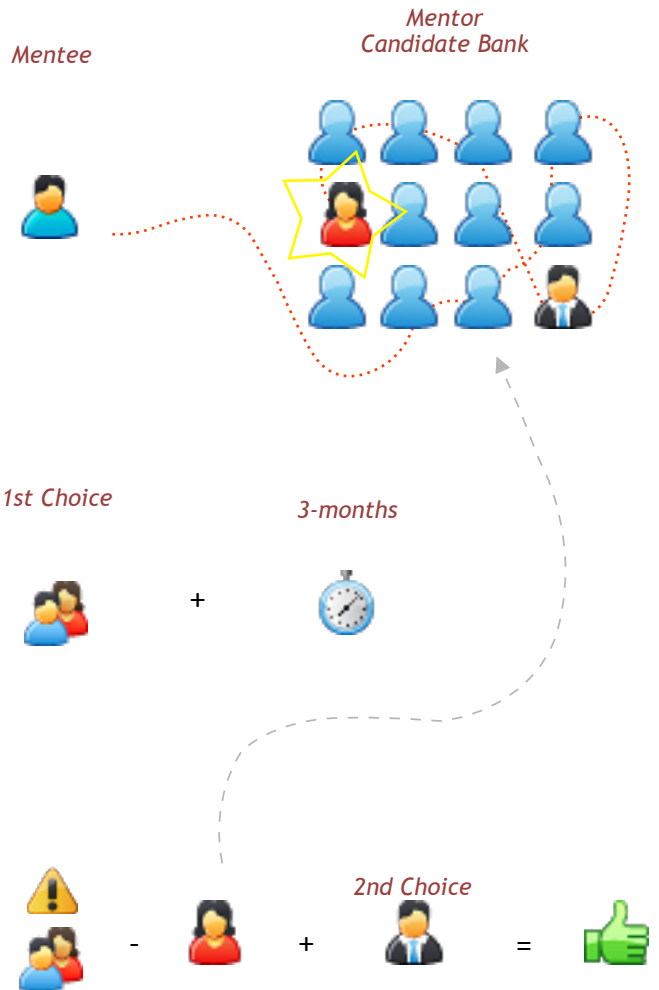
Matching

- Mentee reviews videos
- Indicates top 3 interest (if top interest taken, default to second interest)
- 3-month Trial period

Adjustment Period

Changing Mentors (if needed)

- Mentee can change mentor after 3-months with an evaluation report explaining reasons
- Mentor can learn and improve, becomes a Candidate
- Mentee is only allowed one adjustment



General Timeline

Mentor Selection & Assignments

1 July	Mentor Applications Due
15 July	Pre-selection Announcements
25 July	Mentor Video Presentations due
26-31 July	Mentee-Mentor matching period

Program / Project Implementation

Early August	Induction & Training Session with Mentees
Mid-August	Project implementation + Bi-weekly reports
Early November	Progress Review by UN Habitat
December	Close-out stages begin

Project Close-Out

March 2018	Final Evaluation (Mentor and Project)
April	Mentor Designation

Q: Which Age-Groups do Youth represent?

UN-Habitat categorizes youth as individuals between the ages 15-32 years. UN-Habitat mentors are matched and work with applicants organizations of the [UN-Habitat Youth Fund programme](#) to promote youth-led innovative ideas and solutions to urban challenges in developing countries.

Q: Why Focus on Youth for Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development?

1. Youth comprise an increasing proportion of societies' make-up, the largest unemployed age-group, and the largest economic potential.
2. Youth possess more energy and optimism
3. Young people are an optimal catalyst towards attaining peace and building long-term resilience
4. Youth play unique and positive role as change makers, critical thinkers, innovators, and leaders
5. Young people face specific vulnerabilities after conflict.

Q: Why Mentor Youth?

- 1.Counter existing trends:** Mentors gain the opportunity to be part of the solution rather than idly watching from a distance.
- 2.Convert youth enthusiasm into effective results:** With proper guidance and support, youth energy and enthusiasm can be channeled into effective and lasting change.
- 3.Extend your influence:** For busy professionals who are unable to devote full-time efforts to youth issues, mentoring is an effective way to extend knowledge. By sharing knowledge and opening up network opportunities, mentors expand the multiplier effect of impact.