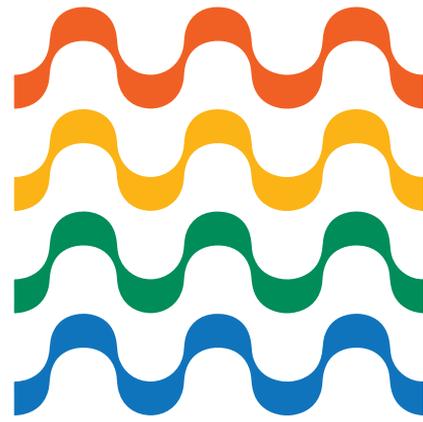


World Non-Formal Education Forum 2019 Report

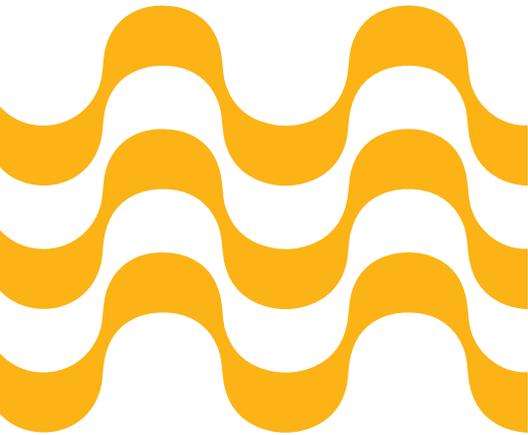


WORLD
NON-FORMAL
EDUCATION FORUM

RIO DE JANEIRO
9-11 December 2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-ORGANISING PARTNERS

UNFPA

" UNFPA puts young people at the very center of our mandate along with women and girls, and we believe that the Non-Formal Education Sector has the potential to transform their lives around the world."

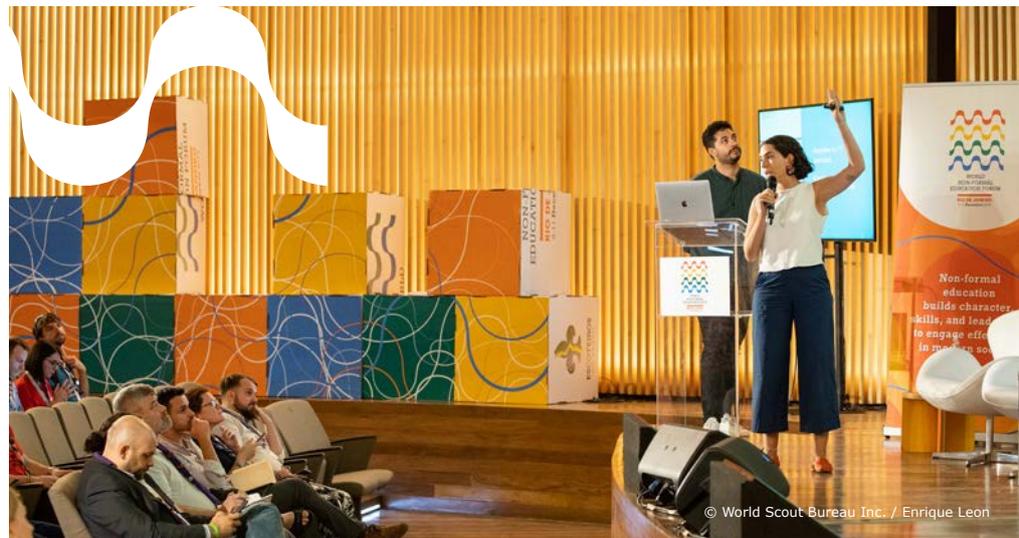


UNFPA sees non-formal education as an important platform to equip young people with knowledge and skills for making decisions over their bodies, lives, and world. SDGs cannot be achieved without non-formal education; ensuring quality education for all cannot be fully achieved without out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education, and gender equality cannot be achieved without every single girl having access to education. We see non-formal education as an important platform to recommit our support for adolescents and youth.

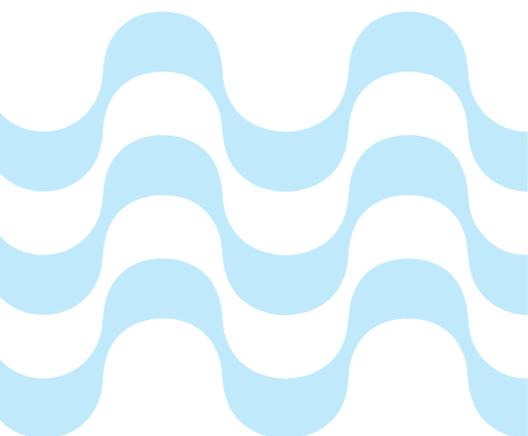
As UNFPA, we were excited to co-organise this event as it was an important opportunity to bring together ideas, learnings, innovations, and solutions to reach out to the most disadvantaged young people, leaving no one behind. The three main focus areas for our engagement were youth leadership and participation, comprehensive sexuality education (especially in out-of-school settings) and empowering adolescent girls in non-formal education. We commend the participants of the Forum for the strong outcome, the Rio Declaration, and especially commend the specific references to gender equality and adolescent girls, as well as the emphasis on human rights and civic engagement. These are all important features of the Declaration and strategically align with UNFPA's Global Strategy on Adolescents and Youth: My Body, My Life, My World.

Taking the outcomes of the Forum forward, UNFPA will push for more involvement from the UN system in this agenda, call for investments in non-formal education and leverage decades of technical expertise operating in non-formal settings to support practitioners of non-formal education. We also see the Forum as an important milestone in our partnership with World Scouting, and we intend to increase the collaboration between our organisations to support youth-led action towards the SDGs.

As UNFPA, we believe in the values of human rights, gender equality and inclusion. Therefore, we believe in non-formal education as a sector that needs to be built with the foundations of pedagogy as practice of freedom, hope and happiness, to provide young people means to fulfill their full potential.



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UNICEF

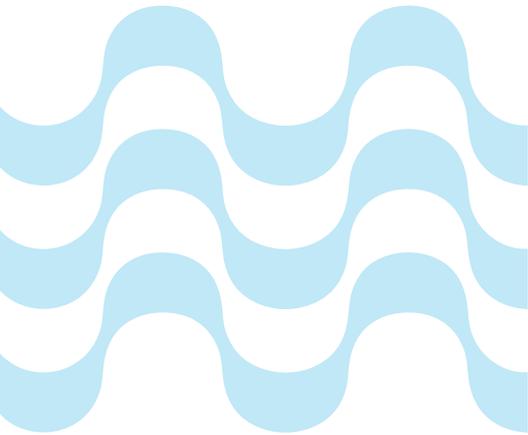
While a lot of progress has been made in terms of access to education, much remains to be done to achieve SDG 4, in particular in view of the strong emphasis on leaving no one behind. The provision of formal education is far from fulfilling the right to education for all. About 258 million children - 59 million children of primary school age, 62 million of lower secondary school age and 138 million of upper secondary school age are not in school (UIS, 2018)¹. Worldwide, an estimated 253 million youth are not in education, training, or employment (ILO, 2018). This situation is exacerbated by a serious learning crisis – 617 million children and adolescents (387 million primary school age children and 230 million lower secondary school age adolescents) are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics (UIS, 2017)².

This situation constitutes a complex challenge for all countries and directly impacts development prospects. In this context, non-formal education and alternative learning pathways play a key role in addressing the challenge in providing learning opportunities for children, young people and adults who missed out on formal education or training, who have no or insufficient literacy and numeracy proficiency or low levels of qualification and vocational skills.

The conference was a great opportunity to discuss the key role non-formal education plays in addressing the challenge of providing learning opportunities for children, young people and adults who have been left behind.

UNICEF is very satisfied with the outcomes of the conference which stressed the urgency for education systems to adopt a comprehensive and holistic approach, fully integrating all forms of education for children and young people and adults. This lifelong learning approach is crucial in realising the objective of SDG 4 and providing education to all by 2030.





OFFICE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENVOY ON YOUTH



The UN Youth Strategy, Youth 2030, calls for advancement of youth policy frameworks that support the non-formal education and its role in the development of young people's knowledge, skills and competencies. Therefore, the UN will continue to advocate for quality formal and non-formal education by engaging and supporting Member States and other partners to ensure universal access to quality education which is inclusive for young people, learner-centered, and adopts a lifelong learning approach.

Young people of today live in a rapidly changing world. Impacted by advancing digital technologies and the fourth industrial revolution, climate change, new types of conflicts and violence, demographic shifts and increased inequalities, young people could feel especially vulnerable while trying to navigate the multidimensional complexities that surround them. Unfortunately in many instances, formal education systems do not equip young people with the skills, knowledge or sometimes the access they need to acquire information in line with the evolving needs and changing environment. Therefore, non-formal education can play a crucial role in bridging those gaps and empowering young people to realise their fullest potential.



In light of the above, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), along with UN partners and the World Organization of the Scout Movement co-organized the World Non-Formal Education Forum which brought together young participants, experts and practitioners from all over the world.

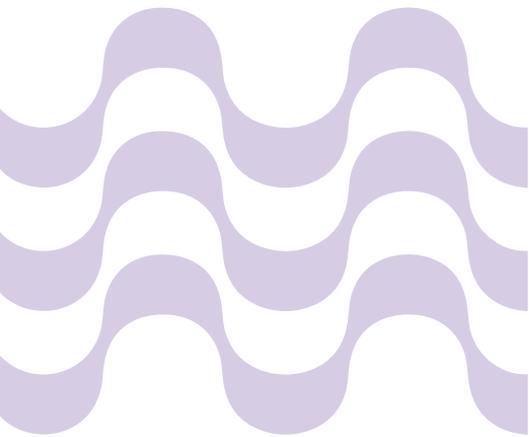
The outcome of discussions, which shaped the Rio Declaration, helped take stock of the current state of Non-Formal Education and built consensus among stakeholders to recognize and agree on recommended actions needed to advance Non-Formal Education as a powerful tool for the development of young people.



Building on the Rio Declaration, and in line with the UN Youth Strategy, the Envoy on Youth in her capacity as the advisor and the representative of the UN Secretary General on Youth, will continue to advocate for

- young people's equal access to quality non-formal education,
- increased investments in non formal education
- and proper recognition, validation and accreditation for Non-Formal Education processes and for the skills and expertise young people acquire through non- formal education.

The success of Non-Formal Education, both its delivery and its outputs, will depend on building strong partnerships. In follow up to the forum The Envoy on Youth also commits to utilize her platform to continuously and sustainably build partnerships and convene actors for the advancement of Non-Formal Education.



WOSM

Non-formal education is critical for unleashing the potential of young people and enabling global citizens who are playing an active role in shaping their communities and making a contribution to sustainable development.

The World Non-Formal Education Forum built on a successful tradition of past events focused on non-formal education and brought together leadership from across the Scout Movement, as well as educational practitioners from a coalition of more than 70 leading youth and UN partner organisations, to focus on exploring educational approaches for the future.



This one-of-a-kind event was long overdue and responded to the growing need for sector leaders to come together to advance the global debate on non-formal education, youth development, sustainable development, and active citizenship.

Through a combination of plenary sessions, interactive breakout sessions, space for new collaborations, and online participation, the Forum's programme highlighted how organisations can keep pace with

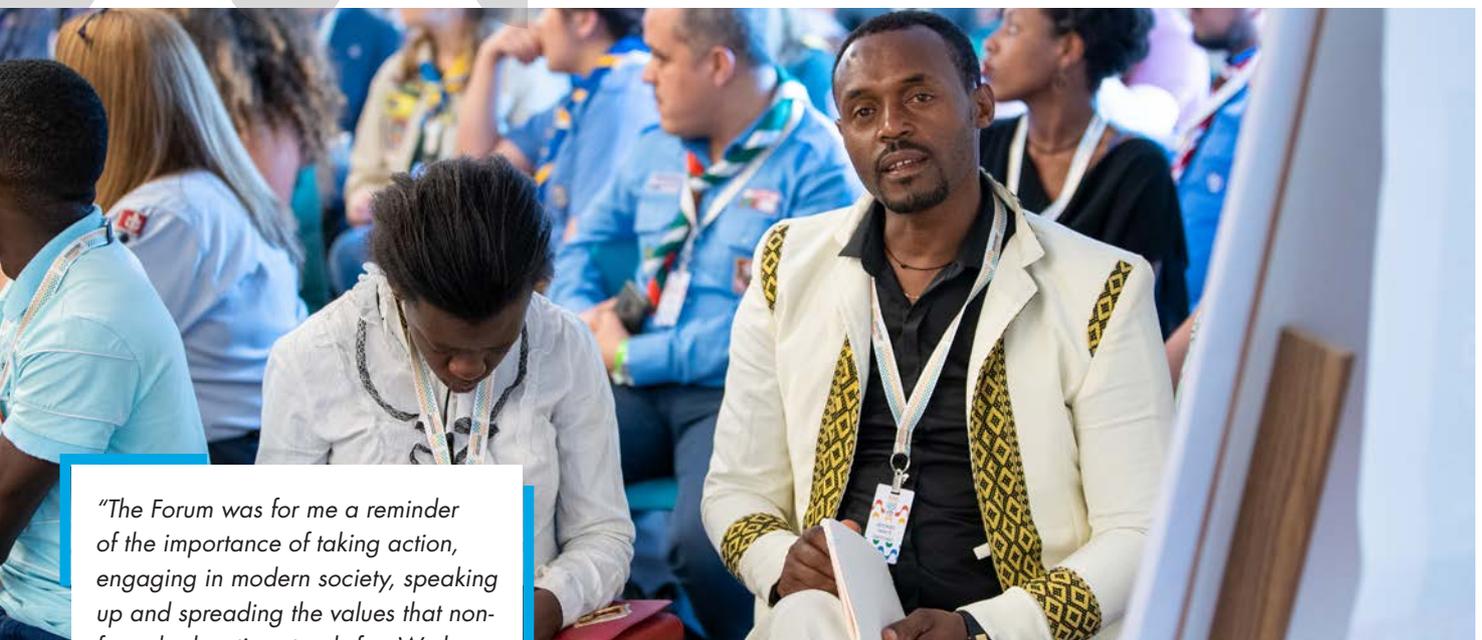


the latest trends in non-formal education and youth development. The event also enhanced coordination and promoted collaboration to empower young people to take action for sustainable development.

As a key outcome of the Forum, the Rio Declaration on Non-Formal Education sets forward an ambitious call to action for more recognition, innovation and investment in non-formal education. Our hope is that this seminal document offers a foundation for participants and other stakeholders to implement the learnings from the event back home and advance non-formal education as a powerful vehicle for the development of children and youth.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



“The Forum was for me a reminder of the importance of taking action, engaging in modern society, speaking up and spreading the values that non-formal education stands for. We have the power in our hands, to make a real change happen.”

The first-of-its-kind World Non-Formal Education Forum took place in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, from 9 - 11 December 2019. More than 400 youth leaders, international youth-serving and youth-led organisations, UN agencies, academic experts, and educational practitioners gathered to debate the current and future trends in non-formal education.

The Forum was convened by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), UNICEF, UNFPA and the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, and involved the participation of more than 70 international organisations. The event offered an international platform for the exchange of ideas and best practices on non-formal education, and explored how organisations can develop programmes, concepts and methods to keep pace with the latest trends in non-formal education and contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over the course of three days, Forum participants examined the relevance of non-formal education in today's society, and looked in particular at how non-formal education can complement other types of education (formal and informal) in supporting the skills development and leadership of young people to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The Forum validated the need to look at non-formal education as a critical field within the broader education sector which needs attention, collaboration, investment and continuous development.

The event also provided a platform for youth-serving and youth-led organisations, including members of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) and the "Big 6" group of youth organisations (World Organization of the Scout Movement, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), YMCA, YWCA, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award) to convene bilaterally to discuss key trends around non-formal education and youth development.

The Forum discussed a wide range of topics, theories and ideas which were captured in the Rio Declaration of Non-Formal Education as an outcome of the event. The Rio Declaration is an ambitious action agenda calling upon governments, academic institutions, multilateral organisations, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector to invest in the potential of young people by leveraging the transformative power of non-formal education and learning. The Rio Declaration will continue to be a key advocacy platform in advancing the non-formal education agenda for years to come.

The World Non-Formal Education Forum took place at the Museu Do Amanhã (Museum of Tomorrow) and Museu de Arte do Rio (Rio Art Museum) with support from the national host, União dos Escoteiros do Brasil, the Brazilian Member Organization of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

RIO DECLARATION ON NON-FORMAL EDUCATION



"At the Forum, I learned to organise my project ideas by relating them to the SDGs that concern them the most."

More than 400 participants and organisations attending the World Non-Formal Education Forum called for greater recognition, innovation and investment in non-formal education as a collective call to action to empower millions of young people worldwide through non-formal education.

The Rio Declaration on Non-Formal Education collected the outcomes of the Forum's discussions during the three-day programme to help assess the state of non-formal education and forge a consensus among stakeholders for actions needed to advance non-formal education as a powerful vehicle for the development of children and youth, and their role as active global citizens.

THE RIO DECLARATION CALLS FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- **Right to Non-Formal Education:** By recognising non-formal education as an integral part of the right to education, and a key approach to promoting the development of personal and collective values, and civic engagement for young people. Importantly, non-formal education must be anchored in legislation with adequate policies, strategies and funding.
- **Recognition:** By promoting a system of recognition, validation and accreditation of learning outcomes acquired through non-formal education and informal learning. A common framework for formal and non-formal education structures should be set up to allow for equality between formal and non-formal learning outcomes.
- **Innovative Learning:** By investing in technology and digital solutions to scale up non-formal education and learning programmes. It is also critical to promote alternative flexible learning pathways at all educational levels, promote evidence-based approaches to non-formal education, and strengthen the assessment of non-formal education learning outcomes, as well as data collection and monitoring systems.
- **Investment:** By increasing funding to non-formal education programmes and organisations at the global, regional, national and local level to further invest in research on the learning process and impact of non-formal education, in partnership with academic institutions and youth organisations. This should be achieved by calling upon the Global Partnership for Education to recognise and invest in non-formal education.
- **Stronger Partnerships:** By enhancing the coordination among non-formal educational stakeholders, and strengthening the links between formal and non-formal education to create policies that holistically meet the educational needs of young people. This can be achieved by strengthening youth and volunteer organisations committed to non-formal education and learning, including in emergency and humanitarian contexts.

The Rio Declaration was developed through an active and participatory process led by the Forum's co-organising partners involving digital polls, focus groups, and innovation labs during the three-day event. As a key outcome document, the Rio Declaration will serve as a foundation to define the future direction of the non-formal education sector, and act as a guide for professionals and organisations to advocate for more recognition, innovation and investment in non-formal education.



AN ENGAGING AND INSPIRING FORUM PROGRAMME



The World Non-Formal Education Forum centred around an engaging three-day event programme that featured a series of plenary sessions, panel discussions, on-stage talks, innovation labs, side events and more than 30 interactive sessions led by key experts in the education and youth development fields. The discussions led to many sector-building outcomes, including the development of the Rio Declaration of Non-Formal Education as a collective call to action.

PRE-EVENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

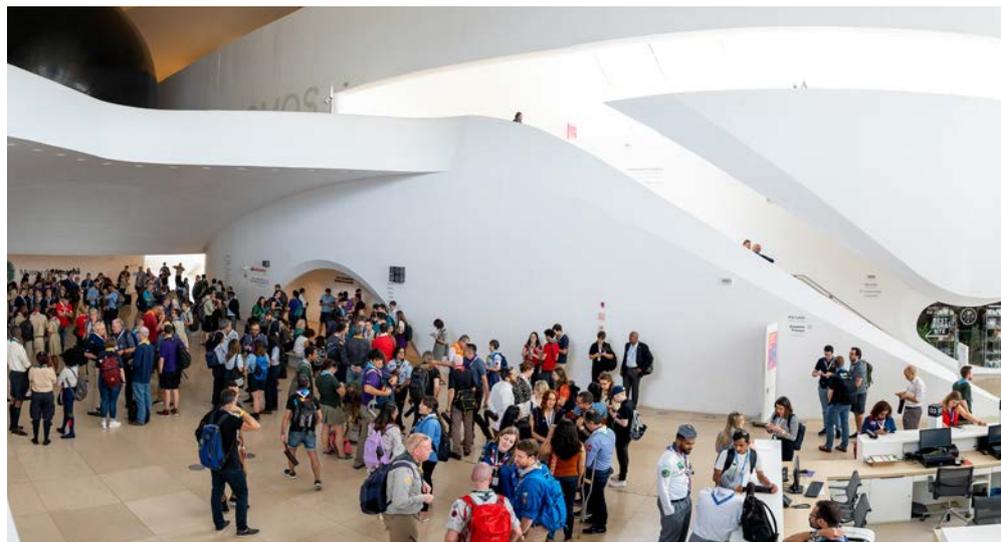
Prior to the event, the Forum offered three webinars for participants in October and November 2019 looking at key trends and best practices in non-formal education.

[The Evolution of the Forum from Hong Kong to Rio](#)

[Non-Formal Education in the World Today](#)

[Breaking Down Barriers: Non-Formal Education and Intercultural Dialogue](#)

"I learned a multitude of new understandings, methodologies, technologies and various educational possibilities."



DAY ONE – MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2019

Positioning Non-Formal Education



“Formal and non-formal education should work together because all knowledge is important and not everyone learns the same way.”

The first day of the Forum focused on positioning non-formal education in today’s rapidly changing world and connecting it to the broader field of education. Day One brought participants up-to-speed with the latest figures, theories and trends in non-formal education, and the impact of these realities on the development of young people and advancement of the education sector.

The main stage hosted several plenary discussions tapping into the agility of the non-formal education sector and how it can drive change. Exploring the question: **Where does non-formal education fit in a changing world of learning?**, the first panel discussion dove into the history of non-formal education and emphasised its relevance in today’s modern world of evolving skills and education. Panelists highlighted how non-formal education complements formal education, and can act as a catalyst in revolutionising education at large.

The day's second panel emphasised **how the Sustainable Development Goals are creating values for global citizenship**, at a time where shared values are continuously evolving. The conversation focused on the interaction between formal and non-formal education, as well as the impact that holistic approaches to education can have on youth development.

Education, youth and women's empowerment advocate, **Sarah Abushaar** motivated the audience with an inspirational message as she talked about the power of transformative and intentional education. During her keynote, Sarah shared how education must remain innovative to help young people to discover their unique story and create opportunities for them to transform their communities.

Throughout the day, participants attended **multiple breakout sessions** which unpacked a diversity of themes. Participants engaged in sessions focused on gender equality in non-formal education, creating physical and emotional safe spaces for young women and men, explored quality standards used by organisations to monitor and evaluate youth activities, learning collaborative leadership skills, and understanding how to achieve sustainable impact. During the sessions, participants were also introduced to the educational values of Scouting in relation to youth development.



The day ended with a **networking evening** that provided a fun, interactive space for participants to engage and reflect on their ideas and aspirations for the future of non-formal education. Organised by the co-organising partners, the networking night featured four different activity stations with four exhibitions for discussion.

DAY TWO - TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2019

Mastering Non-Formal Education in Changing Realities



The second day of the Forum focused on the realities of today's world, and how non-formal education is preparing young people to adapt and develop the necessary skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Day Two brought participants together to consider **what's at stake for the world's largest youth generation**, and the role of non-formal education and youth development in nurturing active global citizenship.

Youth perspectives and an array of interactive breakout sessions filled the second day. United Nations Envoy on Youth, **Jayathma Wickramanayake**, took the stage giving the audience a reality check by highlighting global figures on the number of out-of-school children and low number of young parliamentarians around the world. After taking a look at famous youth activists today, Jayathma welcomed a panel of inspiring young panelists to the stage. Four young people making an impact in their communities sat to discuss the different

challenges and opportunities facing young people, how young people are excluded from formal decision-making structures, and how we can better appreciate the wide diversity of experiences, ideas and perspectives of youth around the world.

Following the plenary, participants took part in **19 breakout sessions** exploring the potential of non-formal education in addressing the needs of youth related to mental health, justice, education and environmental activism. The interactive workshop sessions allowed participants to map out how they want their education system to look like in the future, and what actions each individual can take to achieve that vision. During a side event to end the day's programme, UNFPA and Prezi presented their joint project, **Step Up Youth Leadership Toolkit**, that contains helpful resources and activities for young leaders looking to create social impact. The toolkit enables youth organisations to support youth-led action towards the SDGs.



At the **Marketplace of Ideas**, participants experienced a range of organisations sharing their expertise and learnings from successful projects and youth initiatives from different corners of the world. The Marketplace featured several different projects, including one about how young people from Favela de Mare are standing up for human rights, justice and equality. The Marketplace ran alongside an **international evening** where participants showcased food and music in a celebration of cultures. A total of 43 stands enriched the Marketplace and international evening.

"My favourite part was finding someone else from another country who had the same ideas as I did, and being able to share our experiences on what we've been working on."

DAY THREE – WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2019

Innovation and Future of Non-Formal Education



The third day wrapped up the Forum with a focus on shifting learnings from the event into action for the future. Day Three started with a panel discussion with philanthropy and technology experts from the Raspberry Pi Foundation, Prezi, Fledglink App and Fablab Live, discussing the **integration of technology in non-formal education programmes**.

Founder of social enterprise Los Zúper, **Juan David Aristizabal**, gave a heartfelt keynote as he took the audience on a journey to imagine humanity's shared future. He challenged participants with critical questions, talked about the next era of human-machine partnerships, and stressed the importance of using artificial intelligence to measure work outputs, outcomes and impact. Juan covered three principles of engaging in communities: leadership, creating win-win transactions and seeing the future.

The plenary session was followed by a series of four interactive **Innovation Labs** that involved participants in workshops to design action plans around various topics, including how to engage adults in non-formal education, advocating for inclusive education, measuring the impact of non-formal education, and designing the Rio Declaration on Non-Formal Education.



"I was able to acquire new knowledge and tools to support the young people of my country in scouting through non-formal education ... I understood how important it is that values are transmitted to young people and I learned from techniques and advice from the experience of others."

Parallel to the Innovation Labs, the **Global Goals Stage** offered a platform for youth speakers to present projects, stories and ideas in condensed, impact focused talks. From humanising banking to building peace, and raising more awareness for HIV/AIDS, the inspiring talks and impactful projects highlighted how young people are contributing in communities around the world towards the SDGs.

A key outcome of the Forum, the **Rio Declaration on Non-Formal Education**, was presented on the third day by four young advocates as a call to action to continue to empower millions of young people worldwide through non-formal education. Together as a collective voice, the Rio Declaration defines a direction for the future of non-formal education and calls for recognising the right to non-formal education, more innovative learning methods, greater investment, and stronger partnerships. Following the presentation, panelists and heads of youth organisations shared how they would use the Rio Declaration moving forward to innovate and advocate for advancements in non-formal education.



A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



After three days of intense learning and an exchange of good practices and diverse perspectives from across sectors and across the world, the Forum wrapped up with the Tidal Wave, a scavenger hunt team-building activity that began at the Museum of Tomorrow and ended at AquaRio, where an exciting closing ceremony took place. The Tidal Wave brought teams together to develop action plans that could be implemented by participants back home using the new knowledge, experience and networks generated during the Forum. Some of the topics from the action plans included:

- Promoting gender equality and ensuring full participation in organisational decision-making
- Creating more sustainable communities through the involvement of stakeholders and personal commitments
- Increasing access to education in remote communities and youth groups
- Forming alliances, conducting research and reviewing educational programmes to increase quality and impact
- Creating a national-level forum or seminar to engage partners and advocate for non-formal education
- Increasing acceptance and understanding of non-formal education among parents and increasing growth in Scouting's membership
- Promoting the responsible use of technology by youth
- Developing a platform to facilitate youth and adults to engage in strategic and informed ways of implementing the SDGs in a local context
- Integrating and aligning the SDGs with Scouting's youth programme to raise awareness and form partnerships



Evaluation was also an integral part of the Forum to measure satisfaction, receive feedback and better understand the interests and learning objectives of participants. Through daily data collection, event surveys and focus group discussions and interviews, the key learnings and insights from participants will help to improve the design of the Forum in the future.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The World Non-Formal Education Forum was a resounding success thanks to the commitment and contributions from a wide range of partners, INGOs, youth-serving organisations, UN entities and volunteers. The Forum Planning Team would like to thank the following groups for dedicating their time, expertise, resources and networks to make the Forum an engaging world-class event.



ESCOTEIROS
DO BRASIL



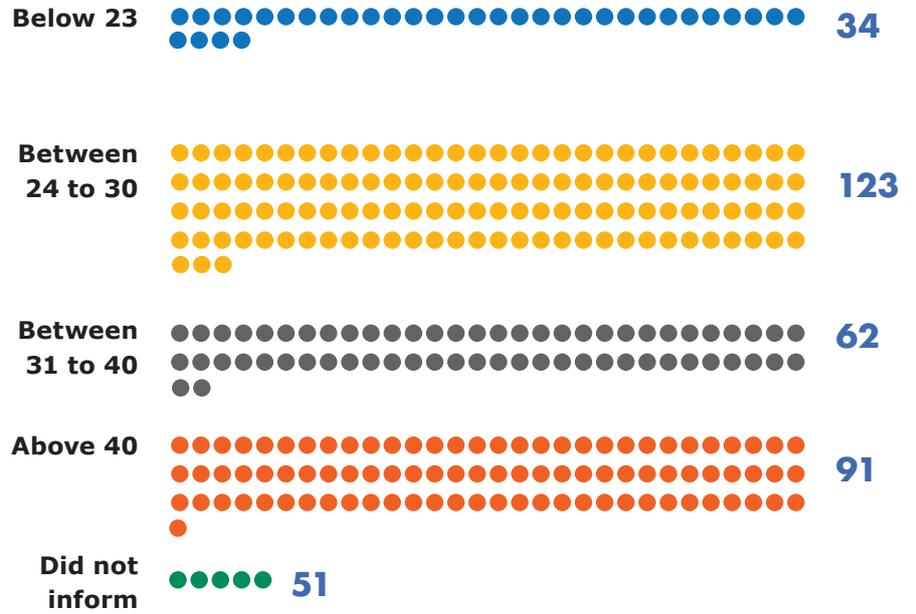
INTERNATIONAL



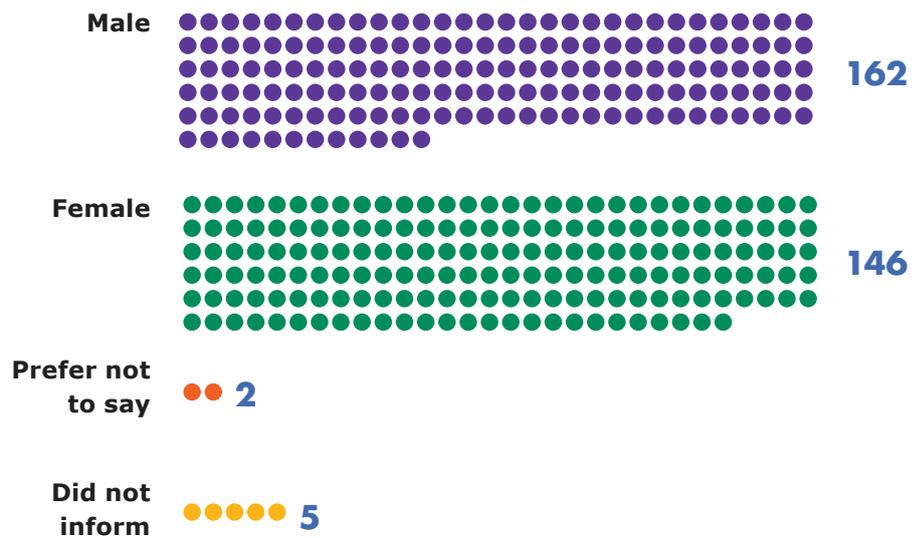
FEDERATION



AGE*



GENDER*



*All percentages were calculated from the total number of participants (315), excluding members of the organising team (105).

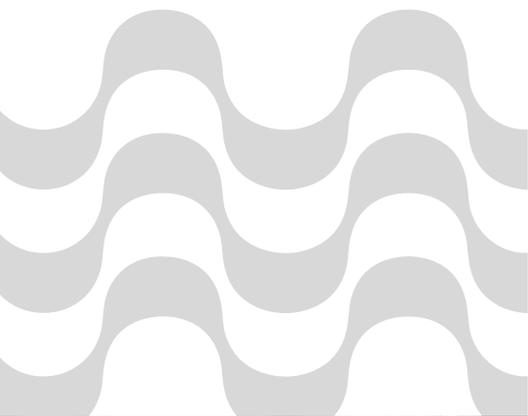


 **79%** of evaluation survey respondents learned something new at the Forum

 **72%** of evaluation survey respondents agree the sessions were in line with Non-Formal Education principles

 **82%** of evaluation survey respondents think the Forum was good value for money

 **67%** of evaluation survey respondents left the Forum with an action plan for their organisation



ANNEXES



Annex 1: List of Papers

The World Non-Formal Education Forum, acting as a hub for good practices and innovative ideas, collected dozens of academic papers from around the world presenting new concepts for the field of non-formal education and youth development. From action-oriented resources to engaging and inspiring projects, these papers explore how non-formal education can be leveraged as a catalyst to empower young people and work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

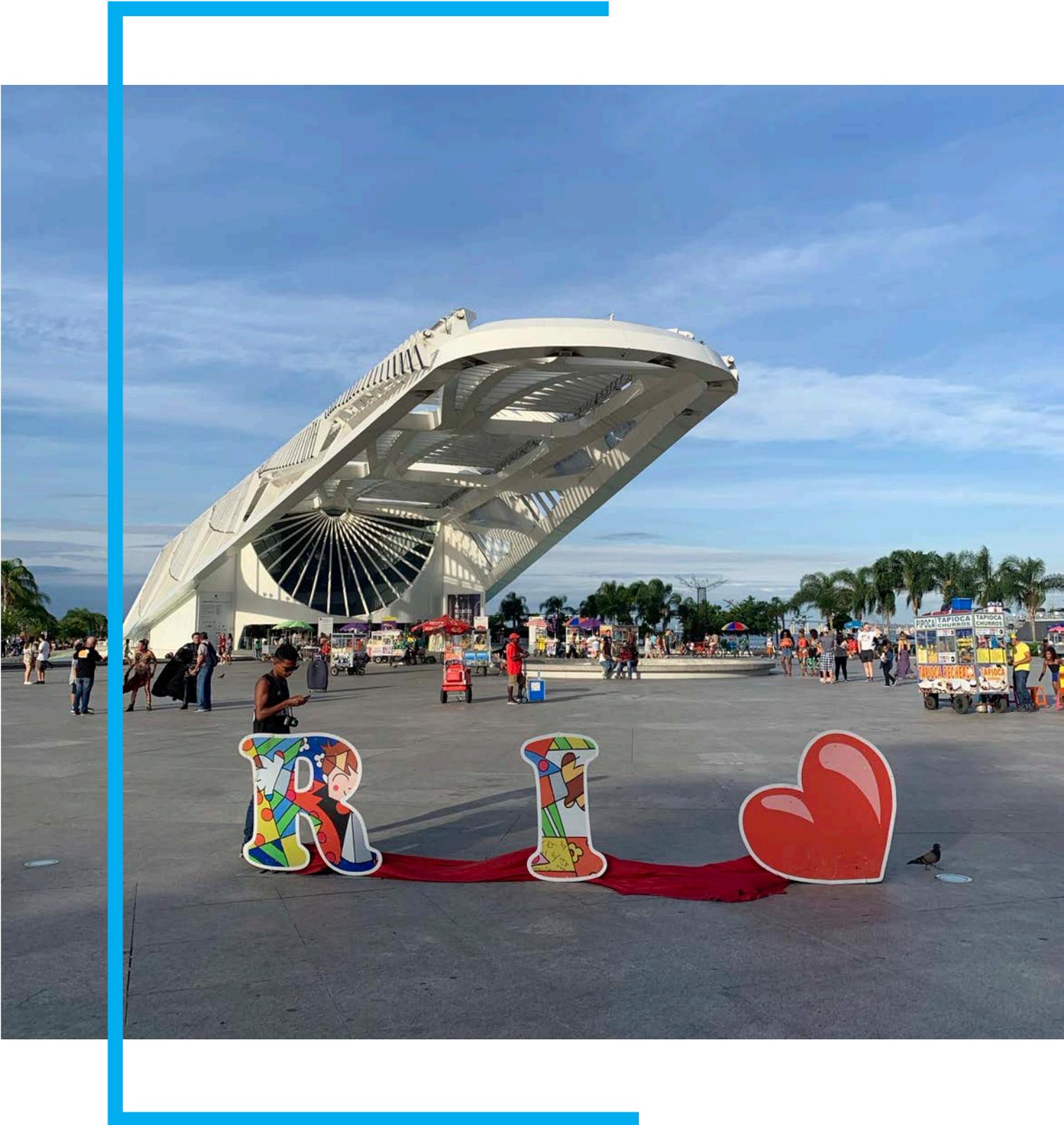
- [“Strengthening Non-formal Education within Educational Planning”, Margarete Sachs-Israel](#)
- [“An empirical illustration in scouting to implement Gifted Education Framework into Non-Formal Education” William C.Y. Cheung, Hon Chim Chiu and Kwan Tai Shiu](#)
- [“Common House Project” Juan Manual Salvado](#)
- [“Education for Critical International Relations: The role of the youth to achieve social justice” Eduardo Matos de Oliveira](#)
- [“Education for Sustainable Development: A Systemic Approach” Case Study: Romania – Daniela Borontis](#)
- [“Education from colonial to post-colonial era: Discourse change in the Scout Movement” Thaís Lacerda Queiroz Carvalho](#)
- [“Gamification to combat discrimination and radicalisation: How young people’s digital habits help human rights education meet modern societal challenges offline” Maria Marinova-Alkalay](#)
- [“How are we teaching Science in Scouting? Scientific Literacy and STEM teaching” Mariana De Marchi and Prof. Dr. André Machado Rodrigues](#)
- [“Intercultural education – How can we educate intercultural citizens when the children are afraid?” Hanne Tange](#)
- [“Leadership Education for Community Development in Scouting: Educating young people for leadership” Troels Forchhammer, World Scout Youth Programme Unit](#)
- [“Life skills and citizenship education project” UNICEF – SMA cooperation project Algerian Muslim Scouts](#)
- [“Leveraging partnerships to empower youth: An exploration of literature and the experience of Scouts Australia in promoting youth leadership and ownership” Emma Watson](#)
- [“Non-formal education provision for refugees in camps: Analyzing the contribution of the Scout Movement” Thaís Lacerda Queiroz Carvalho](#)
- [“Scouts de Argentina: the playground as a space for social inclusion” María Luján Peciña, Giamello, Daniela Ileana and Lucas Ferrari Balcedo](#)
- [“Scouting 4.0: A connected vision on today’s challenges and the rise of two Industrial Revolutions” Stephanie Avari, Pauline Grangette and Tadej Pugelj, World Scouting](#)
- [“Spiritual development: new skills for a truly sustainable development” Stefano Casalini, Secretary General of Spiriteco](#)
- [“The non-formal education in Brazilian Scouting: the case study over the coeducation Scouting Coeducation” Aldenise Cordeiro Santos](#)
- [“UPSHIFT: Innovating non-formal education for youth at scale” Robyn Lui and Katherine Crisp](#)

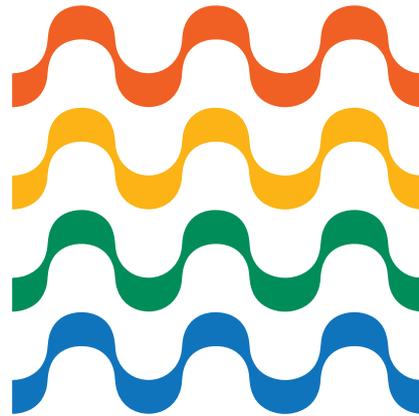
Download and read the Forum papers at:
<https://worldnfeforum.com/papers/>

Annex 2:

Global Goals Stage - Speakers and Talks

	Speaker Name	Organisation	Global Goals Talk
1	Mariana De Marchi Oliveira	União dos Escoteiros do Brasil (UEB)	"1000 Gardens" - Promoting healthy eating among the Scout community
2	Maame Serwaa-Gyamfi	Hope for Future Generations	Investing in All-Inclusive Interventions
3	Ezequiel Vedana da Rosa	Piipee	Saving water with "pee"
4	Marina Rustan and Daiana Neil	Scouts of Argentina	Scouting: changing lives across Argentina
5	Hernando Flores	IPBF Banking & Insurance Institute	Transforming industries, one person at a time
6	Amy Butterworth	The Scout Association	How can just a million hands change the world?
7	Rawaad Mahyub	ACWAY	Interfaith Development Goals (IDGs) - filling the gap
8	Joana Bacelar	Corpo Nacional de Escutas - CNE	How to implement the SDGs in my scout organization?
9	Paola Paternina Chicre	Tanager - ACIDI/VOCA	Creating opportunities for diverse youth: Why it's important
10	Hector Carrer	Scouts of Argentina	"Una niñez sin infancia" La imposibilidad de alcanzar los ODS si desde la educación vaciamos a la niñez de infancia.
11	Ellie Yell	Fledglink	Helping the digital generation become 'work ready' - innovations from the UK
12	Fabio	UNICEF	What happens when UNICEF and Scouts get together?





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