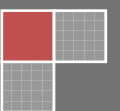


2008

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY E- CONSULTATION REPORT

A report of the 4-week long online consultation on the National Youth Policy



NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY E-CONSULTATION FINAL REPORT

I. Acknowledgement.....	2
II. Introduction.....	2
III. About the Participants.....	3
IV. The Process.....	4
V. E-consultation Results.....	5
VI. Conclusion.....	11
VII. Facilitators.....	12
VIII. Appendix.....	14

I. Acknowledgement

The e-consultation team would like to thank the 122 young people and adult allies from all over Nigeria and beyond that joined and participated in the 4-week long e-consultations. The robust contributions and discussions have formed the crux of this report. We also express our gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Youth Development for initiating the overhauling of the National youth policy whose review has long being overdue. Finally, our thanks goes to UNFPA who has maintained a strong institutional support to youth development over the years, without their support, this e-consultation would not have been possible.

II. Introduction

The National Youth Policy represents a declaration and commitment of the priorities, directions and practical support that a country intends to provide for the development of its young men and women. It is a concrete and bold step to put the development and participation of young people at the centre of national development efforts. It is indicative of the readiness of the Federal Government to meet the needs and aspirations of the youth as well as seek solution

to their problems. It sets guidelines and provides the framework for all stakeholders to empower the youth to realize their potentialities and take advantage of the opportunities available to make positive contributions to the well-being of their communities across the entire countryⁱ.

In response to the dire need for the review of the 2001 National Youth policy, which was long overdue; the UNFPA in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development commenced the review process with the provision of the draft policy and implementation strategy as well as holding consultations over the documents.

In order to ensure meaningful youth participation in the review process, UNFPA spearheaded the online consultation to serve as a platform for those who may not attend the policy's zonal consultations to contribute their ideas. Thus this report presents the thoughts and recommendations of participants recognizing that young people are partners of today; leaders of tomorrow.

III. About the Participants

In order to get a wide scope of opinions and ideas from young people, persons/agencies working with youths, etc ; the e-consultation team disseminated information about the consultation through friends, email linkserves of coalitions and networks and groups. Participants were active youth leaders in their communities, adult allies and development workers.

There were 122 participants in the e-consultation from the 36 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and also a number of young Nigerians in the Diaspora and non-Nigerians participated in the discussion.

IV. Process

The E-consultation was held on the platform of TakingITGlobal(TIG)ⁱⁱ an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved and take action in their local and global communities.

The consultation lasted for a period of 4 weeks; each week the facilitators posted 2-4 questions for participants' response. The following week, the facilitator posted a weekly summary of responses and the questions for the next week.

The first week of the e-consultation focused on the new youth age definition being (18-30), the priority groups and activities slated for these groups, participants also suggested excluded groups for inclusion in the final draft of the policy.

During the second week, participants addressed the priority themes and strategic interventions in the policy, making recommendations for new themes and a re-phrasal existing ones.

The discussions in weeks 3 and 4 were centered on policy implementation and resource mobilization; institutional framework as well as monitoring and evaluation. Opportunity was also provided for additional thoughts on issues that may have been missed during the previous weeks.

This report summarizes the discussions that took place during the consultation. The outcomes of this e-consultation would be presented at the zonal consultation for the youth policy and would be incorporated into its final draft.

V. E-consultation Results

The following section reflects the responses, thoughts and recommendations of the 120 participants. Responses are categorized based on the questions for each week. Quotes were employed to capture respondents own words, attempts was also made at minimizing paraphrasing.

WEEK 1

YOUTH AGE DEFINITION

Question 1: Do you support the new youth age definition?

The new youth age definition of (18-30) was resoundingly accepted by participants stating that is more realistic and it is in line with the UN definition of Youth. A participant from Kaduna State noted that *“I think it implies that we are preparing to standardize our youth development, making it higher and can begin to expect that youth should have reached the peak of their development before or by the age of 30. If we can work to keep this target in view and ensure its attainment, it will be one way of aiding national development - a major way for that matter”*. Others who were in contradiction stated the need for a line to be drawn between chronological age and mental age.

PRIORITY TARGET GROUP

Question 2: What activities do you think the National youth policy can propose to improve the lot of the priority groups?

Participants endorsed the activities already stated in the policy and suggested that programme contents for these priority groups should focus on value re-orientation. There was also a call for the review of the objectives and contents of the NYSC programme a participant from Lagos state, puts in this way *“I think the FG should revisit the intent and content of the NYSC programme, Imagine if you spend the 3 weeks mandatory orientation camp in entrepreneurship classes and*

afterwards the state government through SMEDAN gives loans to viable business plans, do you know how many businesses will be created in our states”

Question 3: Is there any priority group that has been left out that you think deserves to be included?

They asserted that though the policy is comprehensive in the categorization of priority groups; some groups were exempted, so they suggested however, they strongly suggested that Men having sex with Men (MSM) and Women Having Sex with Women (WSW} as well as Nigerian Youth in Diaspora for inclusion in the policy. A participant from Lagos State stated that *“this Class of young people are a critical mass, whose contributions are extremely important and should not be ignored”*. The Policy was also called to address the xenophobic attacks faced by this group in South Africa, Spain and other countries.

Question 4: Please suggest activities for these group (Illiterate Youth, Youth addicted to drugs and chemical substances, Domestic servants/helpers, Sex Workers)

For the following priority groups(Illiterate Youth, Youth addicted to drugs and chemical substances, Domestic servants/helpers, Sex Workers)Participants suggested second chance programmes which may include Rehabilitation, Reintegration and skills development activities for these categories to enable them to move them from their present status to that of normalcy and independence.

WEEK 2

PRIORITY THEMES AND STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

(Amongst the 18 priority groups mentioned in the draft policy) **Is there any priority theme that has been left out? Please propose any priority theme that you think should be included?**

Most participants were of the opinion that there is need to rephrase some of the priority themes in order to make it more encompassing, a participant from Osun State noted *“Youth in decision making should also encompass governance; I think it’s better to say youth participation in decision making and governance”*. While others demanded that the goals and strategic intervention be apt and clearly spelt out *“stating actions”* in order to enhance implementation tracking. A participant from Abuja puts it this way *“one of the strategic interventions under Youth and Conflict Prevention and Peace Building is effort should be made to prevent youth involvement in thuggery, and those who sponsor youths as political thugs directly or indirectly should be severely penalized”. I do not take this to be a strategic action. The question is - who will make the effort? What is the desired action? The penalty should be spelt out, or referred to the law to take its full course.*

Question 6: Please suggest strategic interventions for each of the priority themes. Some strategic interventions have already been proposed in the draft document.

- Youth and Leadership development,
- Youth and Food Security,
- Youth and Value System,
- Youth and community development were the priority themes suggested by participants for inclusion in the final draft of the youth policy.

The intervention areas were endorsed by participants; however they strongly demanded that the intervention efforts be clearly stated, in line Ministries/policies be mentioned and their role clearly stated. Under the Youth and Education theme-A participant from Abuja suggested *“The education of females should be given priority, especially as it concerns their personal hygiene and menstrual health; I propose incentives*

in the like free sanitary towels, clean toilets and other necessities for the female children to be given to them for free in schools”

WEEK 3

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Question 7: How do you think that the federal Government can demonstrate political will and support for the National youth policy?

Participants were of the view that government’s political will can largely be demonstrated by the annual budgetary allocation to youth issues and the Federal Ministry of Youth Development (FMOYD); it could also be seen through the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth policies, projects and programmes.

The FMOYD was also called upon to spearhead structural reforms in the National Youth Council to enable it function effectively and represent the views of Nigerian youths as well as address the challenges facing them. A participant from Lagos state said *“As far as i am concerned, the powers bestowed on the national youth council is too much weight for a single organization to carry on its head. The national youth council has swum against the tides in recent times and trust and respect by young people across Nigeria in the council is at sub-zero. A lot of young people have approached the ministries of youth and different states ministries in charge of youth only to be turned down because they do not belong to the national youth council and efforts to join and meaningfully participate in the national youth council are at best frustrated or an exercise in futility.”*

Question 8: In what areas and ways can resources (human, material, technical and financial) be mobilized for the implementation of the National youth Policy?

Participants were of the view that Nigeria is blessed with enormous resources both human and financial; so the Federal government through the MOYD should work towards recognizing and supporting youth networks that are working on specific issues relating to young people e.g. HIV/AIDS, Employment, ICTS etc; so young people's perspectives and experiences could be integrated and harnessed thereby building their leadership capacities through these platforms. A participant from Cross River State puts in this way" *our voices and opinions are very vital in addressing issues that concern/ affect us; we don't want to be project beneficiaries and token collectors rather we want meaningful Adult-Youth partnership*"

The Federal government was also called upon to establish a "Youth Development Tax or Levy" where corporate organizations and multi-nationals are mandated to pay a certain amount of money as part of their corporate social responsibility; thereby affirming their commitment to youth development.

WEEK 4

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Question 9: How can the national youth policy be institutionalized in such a way that the impact is felt at the federal, states and local government levels.

Participants were of the opinion that institutionalizing the National Youth Policy can be done through concretizing the existence of the policy through legislation; suggestions were strongest that the Policy should be upheld by the Nigerian constitution. Other suggestions were that in view of the diverse values, culture and orientation; The Federal Government and the FMOYD should create Youth Development indexes and trend monitoring schemes that are aligned

to every thematic areas in the Policy. This report should be disaggregated by both age and gender; it should comprise educational background, location: both rural or urban, employment status and average income. This should be encapsulated in an annual State of The Nigerian Youth Report that will be developed annually using a multi-stakeholder platform that will include the Federal Ministry of Youth development, relevant ministries, the National Planning Commission, selected youth leaders, UN agencies and development partners. The report will monitor yearly progress made in the implementation of the youth policy, highlight challenges and gaps; and profer recommendations on filling the gaps identified. A participant from Ogun State summarizes that *“ The lack of disaggregated data at local level, especially in poor and densely populated areas limits the availability of strategic analysis to study, measure and evaluate the impact of the various policies.”*

Question 10: How can the progress made be monitored and evaluated?

On monitoring and evaluation; participants recommended that the Ministry should institute a multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation team comprising the staff of the various in line Ministries, Youth Networks, NGOs, and development partners. They suggested that these M & E team should be created based on each thematic area billed for evaluation, e.g Education, Health, ICTS, Employment etc. The report of the annual evaluation exercise should form the crust of the State of the Nigerian Youth Report

VI. Conclusion

Youths are critical stakeholders in the development process, they possess skills, passion and energy as well as the ability to lead and create positive change in their society. Therefore their engagement in policy making processes and in tackling issues that concern them is an essential step to achieving progress.

The outcome of this e-consultation will be presented to the Federal Ministry of Youth Development who have committed that the recommendations will be integrated into the final version of the policy.

Getting the policy right is a major step in the right direction. However, we urge the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, development partners, youth leaders and other stakeholders to claim ownership of this policy and spearhead its implementation as a tool to fast-track youth development across the nation.

VII. Facilitators

Esther Eshiet is the West African Regional Focal point for the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS. She is the lead author of the 2008 UNGASS National Youth Shadow Report, a member of the Mexico Youth Force and ICASA Youth Front Advocacy sub-committees (a coalition of youth-led and/or youth-serving HIV/AIDS organizations who are working to empower young delegates and promote youth participation around HIV/AIDS before, during and after the XVII Mexico City International AIDS Conference, 2008 and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa, Senegal 2008). She can be reached on esther@youthaidscoalition.org

Rotimi Olawale is the task force member of the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS. Over the past three years he has been involved in leading youth advocacy efforts mainly around the Millennium Development Goals. Rotimi in 2005 was selected to represent Nigeria at the United Nations pan-African Youth Leadership Summit in Ifrane Morocco. Also, in the same year, he was selected to represent Nigeria and the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS on United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Global youth Advisory Panel in New York. In 2006, he was selected as one of 2 Nigerian youth delegate to the United Nations Global youth leadership Summit which held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. (www.unyouthsummit.org) Very recently, due to his work on youth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), he has been selected to the Global reference team for young people and PRSPs convened by the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). He has worked extensively with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Global Peace Initiative for Women (GPIW) and the Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) on various youth development initiatives. Rotimi maintains a blog on www.rotionline.tigblogs.org

VIII Appendix

Contact Details of Participants

Names	Sex	Organization/Affiliation	State/City	E-mails
1. Esther Eshiet	F	Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS	Cross River	Daisydiamond2000@yahoo.com
2. Rotimi Olawale	M	Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS	Lagos	rotimi@youthaidscoalition.org
3. Azubike Nwokoye	M	Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS	Abuja	azubike@youthaidscoalition.org
4. Kingsley Essemonu	M	Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS	Imo	kingsley@youthaidscoalition.org
5. Akinbo A. A. Cornerstone	M	Save Children Now	Lagos	akimbo@savechildrennow.org
6. Ibiye A Lawson	F	Girls To Mothers' Initiative	Rivers	magotaji@yahoo.com
7. Plato Owulezi,	M	Local ABC4All-NIGERIA	Lagos	plato_owulezi@myself.com
8. Victor Gotevbe	M	Nigerian Professionals International Network	Lagos	victor@unesco.co.uk
9. Emmanuel Oyetunde Olaoti	M			emmaolaoti@yahoo.com
10. Ajala Abosede				oajjala@yahoo.com

11. Ifeanyi Ume	M	Society for Family Health	Abuja	iume@sfnigeria.org
12. Desmond Onyebuchi	M	LEND	Lagos	buchyxx@yahoo.co.uk
13. Kolawole Osinowo	M	Junior Chamber International	Lagos	kolaosinowo@yahoo.com
14. Nnaemego Nkiruka	F	WomenAid Collective (WACOL),	Abuja	alexijan@yahoo.com
15. Ubak Victoria	F	Youth Environmental Leadership Programme	Lagos	vickyoriall@yahoo.com
16. Abdiel Kude	M	Prime Initiative	Kaduna	Primer25@gmail.com
17. Fatoki Taiye Timmy	M	Life vanguards	Osun	lagbajadon@yahoo.com
18. Unyime-Abasi Ben	M	New Akwa City Leo Club,	Akwa Ibom	mclato@gmail.com
19. Aderonke Faniyan	F	Action AID	Abuja	moi_0386@yahoo.com
20. Ukwo Joy Michael	F	Action AID	Abuja	ujm4luv@yahoo.com
21. Shola Babadiya	M	Pan-African Development Education and Advocacy Programme	Katsina	activistshola@yahoo.com
22. Kilanko Adeolu	M	Centre for Democracy	Abuja	kilankoa@yahoo.co.uk

and Development					
23. Esther Agbarakwe	F	Earth Charter Youth Initiative	Cross River	donestyc@yahoo.com	
24. Adeola Samuel Ogunlade	M	Youth Advocate for Change	Ogun	godslopever@yahoo.com	
25. Ibekwe Ogochukwu Alexander		Association of Positive Youth in Nigeria (APYIN)	Anambra	alexodegreat@yahoo.com	
26. Aanu Rotimi	F	Nigerian Youth Network on HIV/AIDS	Abuja	aanurot@yahoo.com	
27. Ayodele Aiyegbusi Benjamin		Youth Development International	Lagos	aiyepraz@hotmail.com	
28. Bosede Akinbolusere	F	Development Initiative for Community Enhancement	Abuja	dicenigeria@yahoo.com	
29. Chidi Anekwe	M	NYNETHA	Anambra	joemetals@yahoo.com	
30. Chinazo Nkechi Iloghalu	F	Humane Health Organization	Anambra	nazomnk@yahoo.com	
31. Chinwe	F	Development Synergy	Lagos	accesschinwe@yahoo.com	
32. Christabell Opudo	F	GYCA	Kenya	copudo@gmail.com	
33. Critical Peers			Oyo	criticalpeers@gmail.com	
34. Dabesaki Mack-	M	DPI	Rivers	dabesaki@yahoo.com	

Ikemenjima						
35.	Edgar Dearn Makona	M	GYCA	Kenya	makona22@hotmail.com	
36.	Emmanuel Femi	M	Life Vanguard	Osun	emmanuel_femi2003@yahoo.com	
37.	Emilia Eyo	F	Girls Power Initiative	Cross River	emyeyo@yahoo.com	
38.	Esther Ochukudi	F	Youth for Impact	Abuja	cleobertt@yahoo.com	
39.	Excellence Uso	M	Young People's initiative	Cross River	ypinigeria@yahoo.com	
40.	Francis A. Anyaegbu	M	Youth In Transit Organisation	Lagos	koolsenator@yahoo.com	
41.	Kazeem Balogun	M	Hearfeltservice	Lagos	heartfeltservice@yahoo.com	
42.	Igie Taiwo Kelv	M	FASTED	Lagos	fastedvision@yahoo.co.uk	
43.	Josephine Gua	F	Africare	Rivers	doublejayy@yahoo.com	
44.	Kamal Gaya	M	NYNETHA	Kano	kamalgy@yahoo.com	
45.	Kenniecee	M	COALITION FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY.		bestndehse@yahoo.com	
46.	Leke Obadimu	M	REALFRIENDS	Ogun	lekeoba@yahoo.com	
47.	Kingsley Ibibia	M	youth survival concensus		ibiking4real@yahoo.co.uk	
48.	Nnabuchi Akpeh	M	Critical Peers	Oyo	anikpezie@dintaconcept.com	
49.	Maria Emmanuel	M	World Youth Alliance	Oyo	angelemma2000@yahoo.com	

50.	Thomas Julo Barlue	M	GYCA	Liberia	thomasbarlue@yahoo.com
51.	Mu'azu Muhammad	M	SYFROD	Sokoto	muazumz@yahoo.com
52.	Olaniran Faith Oluwalose	M	The Child Rights Advocacy Campaign (CRAC)	Niger	faithlism2k3@yahoo.com
53.	Olu-Desmond	M	Youth HIV/AIDS Alliance (YOHA), Nigeria.	Osun	emmaolaoti@yahoo.com
54.	Olugbenga Aijotan	M	Impact Foundations	United Kingdom	gbengaijotan@yahoo.co.uk
55.	Opeyemi Yekini	M	Mindset and Community Advancement Operations (MICADO)	Plateau	ope_prof@yahoo.com
56.	Oyelakin Oladayo Taiwo	M	NYNETHA		allcorrect202@yahoo.com
57.	Rabiu Umar Maska	M	PADEAP Nigeria	Katsina	rb_maska@yahoo.com
58.	Ravi Narayan	M	Indian Committee of Youth Organizations (ICYO)	India	icyoindia@gmail.com
59.	Prince Felix	M	Diplomatic Youth	Abia	princefelix@yahoo.com

		organization			
60.	Stephen Moses	M	SteveITglobal	Lagos	stivo_onyx@yahoo.co.uk
61.	Tijani Kabiru	F	National Youth Council of Nigeria	Abuja	nycnyes@yahoo.com
62.	Vanessa Ford	F	GYCA	Canada	vanessa@youthaidcoalition.org
63.	Vidar Ekehaug	F	Takingitglobal	Norway	vidar@youthlink.org
64.	Wizard	M	NIGERIA INTERNET WIZARD	Lagos	wizard4god@yahoo.com
65.	Ojobo Atuluku	M	Action AID	Abuja	Ojobo.Atuluku@actionaid.org
66.	Olawale Rasheed	M	FMOYD	Abuja	walerashid@yahoo.com
67.	kolawole oreoluwa	M	GYCA	Oyo	lofuja@yahoo.com
68.	Ibrahim Oseni	M	NEPAD African Students Union	Kaduna	likeibro@yahoo.com
69.	Nnaemego Nkiruka	F	Women AID collective	Abuja	alexijan@yahoo.com
70.	Ngozi Eziowuo	F		Abia	eziokwuo@yahoo.com
71.	Ayo alegbe	M		Nassarawa	vfdlaf@yahoo.com
72.	Edunabim				edunabim@yahoo.com
73.	Dominic	M		Lagos	dominionfarms2001@yahoo.com
74.	Abdul Rahman			Sierra	abdul_gyptown@yahoo.co.uk

Jalloh	Leone	
75. Abdul-Mumin	Ghana	kaabarah@yahoo.com
76. Abdulganiyu a. Abubakar		abdulabu2000@yahoo.com
77. Adebisi Ademola		adexconsult2@yahoo.com
78. Adetayo Bamiduro		bamtayo@gmail.com
79. Adeyemo Olawale Samuel		waleworship@yahoo.com
80. Akufai Jonah		mendiata4@yahoo.com
81. Menjos333		menjos333@hotmail.com
82. Alhassan Awwal Shehu		danbabs_awwal@yahoo.com
83. Aniekan Ekah M	Akwa Ibom	manpo2k@yahoo.com
84. Asangha Jude	Cameroon	asangha82@yahoo.com
85. Auta Nana Eunice		autanana@yahoo.com
86. Babu Ram	Nepal	loktantra2065@gmail.com
87. Bamiduro M	Zamfara	trinitechnologies@yahoo.com
88. Bokamoso Kaisara	Botswana	bkaisara17_17@yahoo.com
89. Busari Lawal M	Lagos	buolla@yahoo.com

90.	Chinedu Jude Chukwu	M			cosjuddy@yahoo.com
91.	Ella Offiong	F	Abuja		ellaoffiong@gmail.com
92.	Endurance Edafewotu	M	Delta		orchid3260@yahoo.com
93.	Frebakus		Ghana		frebakus@yahoo.com
94.	Geraldo Stephen		Ghana		denzen44@gmail.com
95.	Ibrahim	M			likeibro@yahoo.com
96.	Ibrahim Yusuf	M			ibrahimjid@yahoo.com
97.	Joseph Gimba	M	Taraba		gimba4peace@yahoo.com
98.	Maliksomalia				maliksom@yahoo.com
99.	Musa Dasuma	M	Yobe		elzor03@yahoo.com
100.	Obinna	M			obinna4u@yahoo.com
101.	Ogunladeolufem				phemmy924@yahoo.com
102.	Ojimaduka				ojimadukakings@yahoo.co.uk
103.	Olufunke Afolabi				fnkdare@yahoo.com
104.	Onyilimba Kene	M	Lagos		simplykene@gmail.com
105.	Sajita	M	Nepal		sajju_ra@yahoo.co
106.	Shakir Ajayi	M	Lagos		dayijajayi@yahoo.com
107.	Shehu Musa	M	Sokoto		shehubinmusa@yahoo.com
108.	square	M	Ghana		squarex66@yahoo.com
109.	Talatu Sule Leden	F	Plateau		talatu_sule@yahoo.com

110. Ajala Abosedede	oaajala@yahoo.com
111. Anne Domatob	adomatob@yahoo.com
112. Bamidele Olusola	akinuk2004@yahoo.com
113. Bukola Amoo	bukkibadef@yahoo.com
114. Bulu Oluayemi	princebulu@yahoo.com
115. Chuma Ehuru	chumaehuru@yahoo.com
116. Hien Linh Nguyen	evergreen_wo3@yahoo.com
117. Khabir Muhammad	khabir77@yahoo.com
118. Question_it	question_it@fanboxnotes.com
119. Shake Badalyan	question_it@fanboxnotes.com
120. Shelby Gullion	beachbabe98835@yahoo.com
121. Simplicie Douglas	jeunessealternativesorg@gmail.com
122. Sting Sale	mustaphakurfi@yahoo.com
123. Uzair Ahmad	uzairjaan@gmail.com
124. Wahab Gbadamosi	weabless@yahoo.com
125. Akobi Ekene	akobi.ekene@ydeing.org

i Second Draft Review of the National Youth Policy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

ii <http://www.TakingITglobal.org>