

OSUN STATE YOUTH POLICY

Promoting Youth Education, Empowerment, Engagement and Entrepreneurship
within the context of Sustainable Growth and Development



Osun State

MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AND SPORTS,
OSUN STATE 2021

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Osun State Youth Policy

F O R E W O R D

Osun State recognizes the need for the State Government and other stakeholders to collaborate in achieving a long-term comprehensive goal that is well organized, coherent, meaningful and resourceful in its noble objective to mobilize the community in addressing youth issues within the State. Osun State has a strong commitment to the youth and this policy is an affirmation of the fundamental human rights of the youth of the State. The policy aims to harness the vibrant and great potentials of the significant youth population within the State. It recognizes the specific needs, concerns and aspirations of the youth for social inclusion of youth in the State at all levels within a just and equitable society where gender justice, efficient and dynamic democracy, good governance and sustainable development are the ethos.

Osun State Youth Policy reaffirms the core values enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999 as amended), the 2019 National Youth Policy and the State of Osun Development Plan (2019 – 2028). The latest efforts towards enhancing the development of the youth in Nigeria is the 2019 National Youth Policy and the State is taking a cue from this initiative to evolve a youth policy geared towards educating, engaging, empowering, as well as entrepreneurship training for the youth of the State to achieve personal fulfilment and corporate prosperity. Importantly, Osun State Youth Policy sets guidelines and provides the framework for all stakeholders to engage, empower and equip the youth of the State to realise their potentialities and take advantage of the opportunities available to make positive contributions to the well-being of their communities across the entire State. The policy lays emphasis on the facilitation of a multi-dimensional and integrated approach towards formulation and implementation of youth programmes in Osun State. The Policy emphasizes greater youth participation and engagement in decision making as well as welfare programmes of the Government at State as well as Local Government levels. Thus, the policy will ensure sufficient investment by the State Government and other stakeholders on issues impacting youth through the provision of resources, skilled labour and facilities.

I feel honoured and privileged to write the foreword to this very important document which is a by-product of hard work and a lot of critical thinking, driven by passion to re-direct development in our State. I have always believed that a nation's future is mirrored in the quality of her youth and that it is the government's sacred duty to provide a conducive environment for young people to become strong, capable leaders for the future.

I would like to commend the excellent work done by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Osun State to develop this policy which could have remained in the embryo because of the scale of challenges faced in addressing these deep-seated contributions for the production of this policy. We hope to receive support from our partners as we journey through the implementation of this policy and strive to achieve its set goals.

Azeez Olayemi Lawal,
Hon. Commissioner,
Ministry of Youth and Sports,
Osun State.



Osun State Youth Policy

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

The quest to develop Osun State Youth Policy (OSYP) became imperative as part of the new government's agenda to run an all-inclusive government and people centered plan as stated in the State Development Plan (2019-2028). It is pertinent to provide an effective policy framework to address the impending challenges confronting the youth in Osun State. Consequent upon this the Ministry of Youth and Sports compiled information from Youth Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Faith based organizations and some concerned individuals to develop the Youth Policy.

Special thanks to the State Government under the administration of The Executive Governor, Mr. Gboyega Oyetola for the approval for the development of Osun State Youth Policy and the commitment to deliver a robust policy that promotes all round development of Osun Youth. It is important to acknowledge and appreciate the pivotally helpful insights and drive from the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Hon. Azeez Olayemi Lawal in making the development of the Osun State Youth Policy a priority task upon assumption of office. His vehement zeal and relentless efforts towards the realization of this long-craved policy was second to none. Special appreciation goes to the Commissioner of the following Ministries; Ministries of Economic Planning and Budget Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Affairs and Ministry of Environment and Sanitation. Also, we appreciate the representatives of the following MDAs and Organizations, Hospital Management Board, Osun Job Center, Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO), National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Young Muslim Islamic Organization, Lydia Auxiliary (Osun Baptist Convention), Methodist Church Nigeria Diocese of Osogbo Youth Fellowship, Islamic Youth League of Nigeria, Sheriff Guards of Nigeria, United Army of Christ of Nigeria, Unification of Church Missionary Brigade, Ahmadiyya Muslims Youth Organization, Humanity First initiative and many others whose inputs and contribution have helped to develop this policy.

Also, appreciation goes to the Osun State House of Assembly, especially the Chairman and Vice- Chairman, House Committee on Youth and Sports for their kind observations, valuable contributions as well as legislative support in developing a youth policy that is inclusive and practical. The contributions made by the Senior Officers in the Osun state Civil Service are well appreciated. A very special appreciation to the past Coordinating Directors of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Osun state in persons of Dr. Awoyemi and Mr Diran Fasesin, whose administrative leadership qualities ensured the process of the development of a youth policy which was seamless and hitch free. Sincere appreciation also goes to all Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and all other groups and organizations that made undeniable contributions to the course of enlivening this outcome.

Conclusively, I forwarded an utmost appreciation to the resource persons as well as youth policy consultants in the persons of Engr Rotimi Oyeniran (Lead Consultant, Osun State Youth Policy); Mr Thomas Akhigbe (Creative Consultant) and Mr Dotun Fatoki (Technical Consultant) whose sacrificial and selfless efforts ensured the development and delivery of a Youth Policy that captures the essence of youth education, engagement, employment and entrepreneurship development within a sustainable development framework.

Mr. Taiwo A. Agunlejika
Coordinating Director,
Ministry of Youth and Sports, Osun State



Osun State Youth Policy

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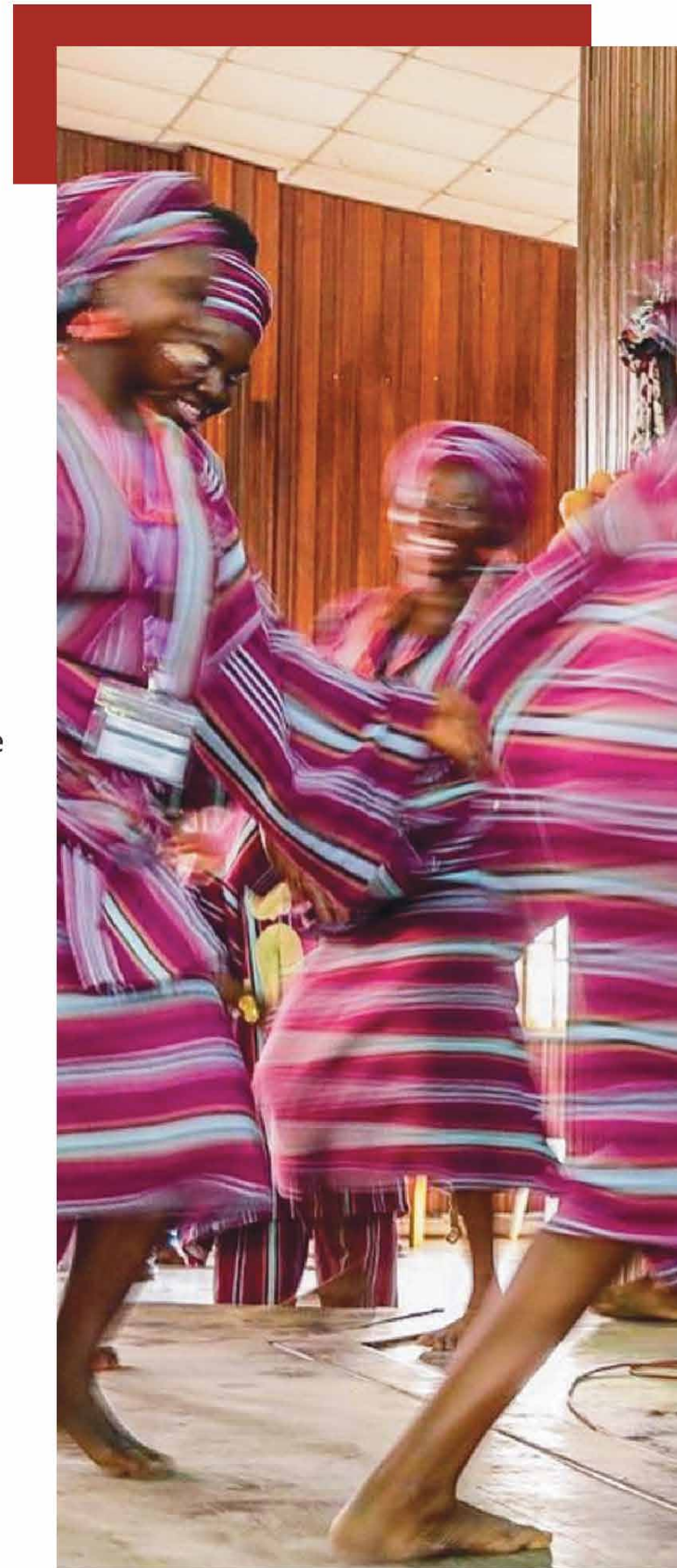
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AYFHS	Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services
BOA	Bank of Agriculture
BOI	Bank of Industry
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CFRN	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
CSDP	Community and Social Development Projects
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
FBOs	Faith-based Organisations
FLHE	Family Life and Health Education
FMOYSD	Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
JAMB	Joint Admission and Matriculation Board
JCCE	Joint Consultative Committee on Education
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MoEPBD	Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget & Development
MoICCE	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Cooperatives & Empowerment
MoIST	Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology
MoAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MSMEs	Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises
MWCSA	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Affairs
NDB	National Data Bank
NDHS	National Demographic Health Survey
NDHS	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations



NPopC	National Population Commission
NSC	National Sports Commission
NUC	Nigeria University Commission
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
SODP	State of Osun Development Plan
OHIS	Osun Health Insurance Scheme
OJOBS	Osun Job Centre
OREAP	Osun Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Programme
OREHAB	Osun Destitute Rehabilitation Scheme
OSACA	Osun State Agency for Control of HIV/AIDS
OSHIRC	Osun Special Health Intervention and Revitalization Committee
OSPARK	Osun Parks and Gardens Agency
OSSEPA	Osun State Environmental Protection Agency
OYES	Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme
PHC	Primary Healthcare Centre
PHCDB	Primary Health Care Development Board
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria
OSYP	Osun State Youth Policy
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nation Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
NDLEA	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NYCN	National Youth Council of Nigeria
TWG	Technical Working Group
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
OSEETF	Osun Employment and Empowerment Trust Fund
STEAM	Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics
PTAs	Parent Teacher Associations
LGA	Local Government Areas
LCDA	Local Council Development Areas
STI	Sexually Transmitted Disease
YLWHA	Youth Living with HIV/AIDS



POLICY

HIGHLIGHTS

POLICY VISION

Osun State Youth Policy envisions a society where the youth of Osun become the beacons of hope and progress by making them veritable assets for the social and economic development of the State by placing a premium on the acquisition of adequate knowledge and the right skill sets. This vision is informed and propelled by the core values of gender equity, youth participation, inclusiveness, sustainability as well as commitment.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

In pursuance of the policy objective, Osun State Youth Policy seeks to

- (i) establish a general policy framework which will provide guidelines on all matters relating to youth development on education, empowerment, engagement, entrepreneurship and sustainability;
- (ii) proffer adequate solutions to youth problems based on feasibility studies and research in addressing the most critical elements based on priority; and
- (iv) promote youth participation in the community and civic decision-making process.

POLICY MISSION

The Policy mission identifies stakeholders, youth leaders and youth-based organizations as veritable allies in championing programmes and projects that recognize young people's rights to equitable resources that allow them access to adequate knowledge and the right skill sets in order to ensure the overall development of the State.

POLICY GOAL

The State Youth Policy seeks to encourage and empower youth with good character and virtue to become veritable assets to the State's economic and social development. The State Youth Policy places a high premium on the Omoluabi ethos as it reflects the spiritual essence of the youth of Osun



Policy Core Values

Osun State Youth Policy reaffirms the core values enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999 as amended), the 2019 National Youth Policy and the State of Osun Development Plan (2019 – 2028). This policy adopts youth empowerment as an approach with the following core values:

a

GENDER EQUITY

Osun State Youth Policy affirms equal access to State resources and opportunities irrespective of sex, gender and sexual orientation for youth who are indigenes and residents of the State.

b

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Youth will have equal rights to participate in the decision-making processes, especially issues that pertain to youth engagement and development.

c

INCLUSIVENESS

Equitable opportunities for all youth to enable them live in dignity with emphasis on rights and prevention of all forms of discrimination.

d

SUSTAINABILITY

There will be a harmonious existence with nature so as to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising on the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

e

OBLIGATIONS

This Youth Policy equally affirms commitment to the responsibilities of youth to the society as well as the society's responsibility to the youth of Osun State.



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Chapter One

1.1. INTRODUCTION

According to the 2017 edition of the World Population Prospects, the total population of Nigeria was put at 185.989 million in 2016. The proportion of 0 to 15 years was 44%, between 15 and 65 years was put at 53.2% while 2.7% was 65 years or older. Young people are not just the future of Nigeria, they are Nigeria today. According to the 2019 World Population Data Sheet, Europe and Asia are aging rapidly, while Africa is home to the World's largest Youth Population. The Global Youth Development Index (2016) of the Commonwealth ranked 183 countries according to the prospects of young people in employment, education, health, political sphere, literacy, mental disorder rates, financial inclusion and voter engagement. After the review, it was observed that the index throws a challenge to policy makers everywhere in that, without action to promote young people's empowerment, boosting opportunities for employment and opening up space for political dialogue, countries will be squandering their most precious resource and storing up problems for the future. Due to this reality, global bodies such as the United Nations and the World Bank have evolved many policies towards enhancing the development of the youth. In Nigeria, the latest effort towards this direction is the 2019 National Youth Policy. The Osun State is taking a cue from this

initiative to evolve a Youth Policy geared towards educating, engaging, empowering, as well as entrepreneurship training for the youth of the State to achieve personal fulfilment and corporate prosperity. Youth are the propelling factors for national development and as a result they are the engine of national development when they are equipped with adequate knowledge and the right skill-sets. Youth provide the labour force for production of goods and services to take effect and they are the critical mass of people whose actions and inactions can develop or destroy the hegemonies of their society. There is, as a result, the need to harness the demographic dividends of the increasing youth population in the World, Africa and Nigeria.

185.989 million
people in 2016



53.2%
15-65 years

2.7%
65 and above

44%
0-15 years



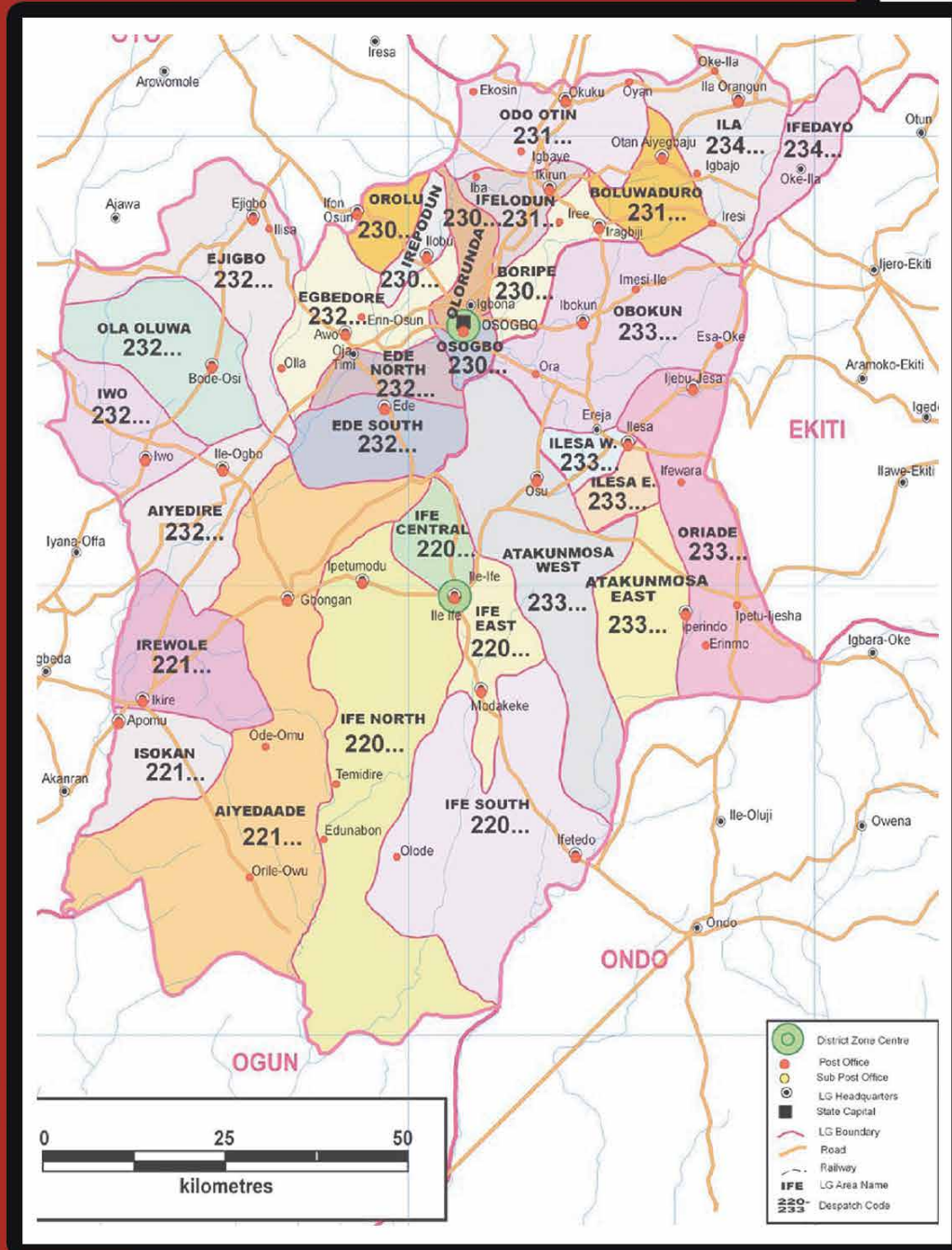


Figure 1: Map of Osun State

Youth is a critical stage in the life cycle of human beings because of the high energy, enthusiasm, insecurities, idealism, confusion and challenges that characterize this unique life stage. Societal norms and practices often exclude the youth from participating in critical decision-making pertaining to their lives and activities. In view of the abundance of youthful energy that characterizes youth, the State Government has in recent times focused its attention on youth while framing programmes and projects that impact on youth empowerment, employment and social justice. Despite this vast and growing population of youth in the State, young people’s participation in governance and development in Osun State has been minimal.

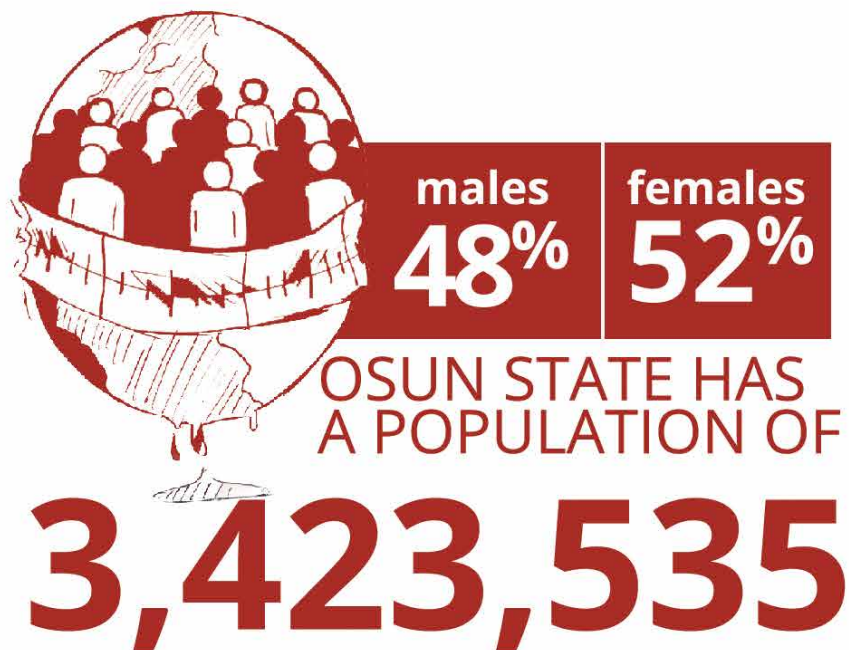
POLICY CONTEXT

Youth have been at the forefront of progress and social change all over the world. They have contributed immensely towards economic development, political freedom, and fight against economic exploitation, social and political injustice, discrimination based on religion as well as gender. They have also engaged in creative activities on a large scale that has led to huge socio-economic and political gains. On the other hand, youth have also formed the pool of underemployed and unemployed globally. Hence the need to create opportunities for youth in Osun State to develop their personality and functional capability and thus makes them economically productive and socially useful. Perceiving the versatile and creative roles being undertaken by youth and the need to harness their unique potential in a sustainable development process, the Federal Government of Nigeria formulated and adopted the 2019 National Youth Policy. In line with the novel step taken by the Federal Government of Nigeria, the institution of Osun State Youth Policy has become highly imperative.



Osun State was carved out of Oyo State on 27th August 1991. The State covers an area of approximately 14,875 sq/km bounded with Ekiti, Kwara, Oyo and Ondo States in the South, North, West and East respectively. The State has 30 LGAs and 1 Area Office, until March, 2017 when additional 30 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) and 5 administrative offices were created. According to the National Population and Housing Census exercise conducted in 2006, Osun State has a population of 3,423,535 with a gender distribution of 48% males; and 52% females (National Population and Housing Census, 2016).

Osun State has a strong commitment to the youth and this policy is an affirmation of the fundamental human rights of the youth of the State. The policy aims to harness the vibrant and great potentials of the significant youth population within the State. It recognizes the specific needs, concerns and aspirations of the youth for social inclusion of the youth in the State at all levels within a just and equitable society where gender justice, efficient and dynamic democracy, good governance and sustainable development are the ethos.



1.3

RATIONALE FOR THE OSUN STATE YOUTH POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide a common and mutual understanding of the importance of youth development among all stakeholders and citizens in Osun State and to set guidelines for the delivery of programmes and projects related to youth development through a multi-dimensional and integrated human right based approach. This policy will also serve as the official State framework, approved by the State Government, for sustainable youth development across the length and breadth of the State.

Osun State Youth Policy is of great strategic importance as an inclusive policy which aims to work with the youth rather than work for the youth. The policy lays emphasis on the facilitation of a multi-dimensional and integrated approach towards formulation and implementation of youth programmes in Osun State. The Policy emphasizes greater youth participation and engagement in decision making as well as welfare programmes of the Government at State as well as Local Government levels. Osun State Youth Policy seeks the creation of supportive legislative, political, social, economic, cultural as well as organizational conditions necessary for comprehensive youth development and empowerment in the State. Osun State Youth Policy also seeks to ensure sufficient investment by the State Government and other stakeholders on issues impacting youth through the provision of resources, skilled labour and facilities. This Policy also recognizes the need for the State Government and other Stakeholders to collaborate in achieving a long-term comprehensive goal that is well organized, coherent, meaningful and resourceful in its noble objective to mobilize the community in addressing youth issues within the State.



1.4

POLICY STATEMENT

Osun State youth policy represents the political will, declaration and commitment to the priorities, directions and practical supports that a state like Osun intends to provide for the development of its young men and women. It is a deliberate and carefully thought out approach to put the development and participation of youth at the centre of the development quest of Osun State Government . It also shows the desire and willingness of the State Government to meet the yearnings and aspirations of the youth as well as seek solutions to their problems. Osun State youth policy sets guidelines, processes and provides the framework for all stakeholders to engage, empower and equip the youth of the State to explore their innate potentials and take advantage of the opportunities available to make positive contributions to themselves and their communities across the entire State. Osun State youth policy specifically identifies youth in Osun State as assets that need to be groomed, developed and allowed to flourish irrespective of ethnicity, religious inclination, gender and background which are integral values enshrined in the “Omoluabi” ethos that guides the aspiration and cultural values of the people of Osun.

1.5

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Youth, as a concept differs from culture to culture and from society to society and in most societies in Nigeria the progression from childhood to youth involves some systematic rites of passage. These rites have symbolic significance in that, simply by participating in them, an individual achieves a new status and position. Such new status gains validity through genuine community action and recognition (First National Youth Policy Document, 2009). One thing is clear, the boundaries defining the transition from childhood to youth and from youth to adulthood are shifting, and the crossover into each new stage is now manifested in different ways.



The changes that young people must negotiate do not occur as predictably as in the past. Therefore, defining youth globally according to some exact age range can be a very difficult task. The age range 15 to 24 years is often used by the United Nations and others for statistical purposes, but in many cases, this distinction is too narrow for countries like Nigeria. Apart from the statistical definition of the term “youth”, the meaning of the term “youth” has continued to change in response to fluctuating political, economic and socio-cultural circumstances.

In many countries in Africa, the male transition to adulthood, in terms of achieving the economic and social stability that comes with steady employment, may extend into late twenties and mid-thirties. In line with the conditions and realities on ground especially historical and contemporary socio-economic and political conditions, and for the purpose of execution of Osun State youth policy, the youth shall comprise of all young males and females aged 15 to 29 years, who are citizens or residents in Osun State. In addition to this age classification, ages 15 to 29 years will be the focus of this youth policy while ages 30 to 39 years will serve as the transition point for this particular age classification. In the spirit of creating an all-inclusive age classification the Youth Policy will also consider ages 11 to 14 years as preparatory years for youth engagement. This process will create a synergy that allows for adequate preparation for youth at the same time create leverage for transiting from youth to adulthood.

While it is true that this definition is broad, it is understood that this is a time in life when most young people are going through dramatic changes in their life circumstances as they move from childhood to adulthood. Young people in this age group require social, economic and political support to realize their full potential. Young people as defined by this youth policy are characterized by energy, enthusiasm, ambition, creativity, and promise; they are also faced with high levels of socio-economic uncertainty and volatility thereby becoming the most, vulnerable segment of the population.

Chapter Two

2.1 OSUN YOUTH SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

According to the 2006 National Population Census, the youth population of Osun was seven hundred thousand (700,000) between ages 15 to 35 years and this constitutes about 60% of the State's population. However, the recent population distribution of ages 15 to 29 years as at 2017 estimate of population distribution by aged groups (Situation of Children and Women in Osun State, December 2018), shows a total of 1,476,479 which is 56.9% of the age population distribution.

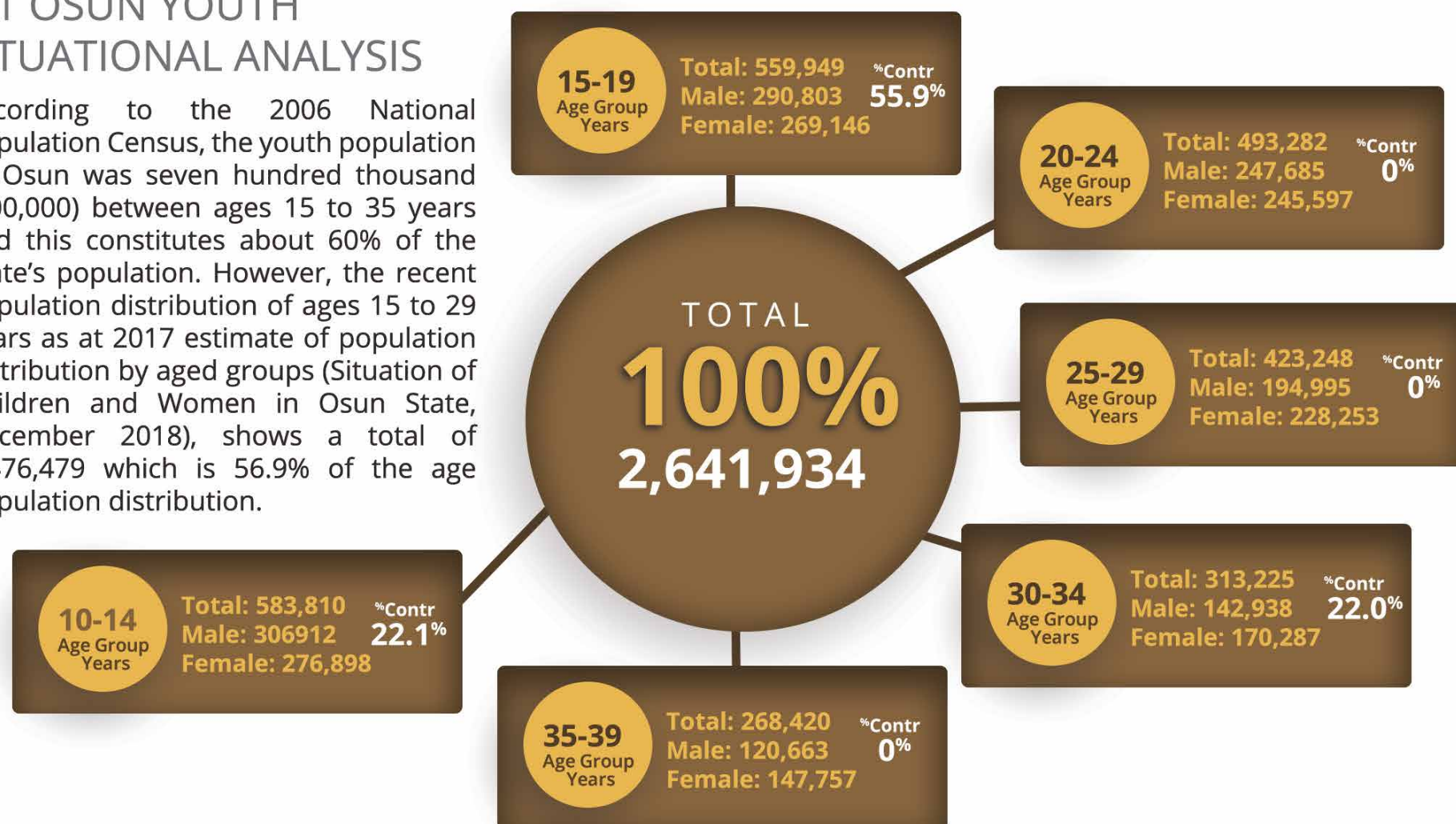


Table 2.1 Population Distribution by Age groups – 2017 Estimate
Source: Situation of Children and Women in Osun State, December 2018



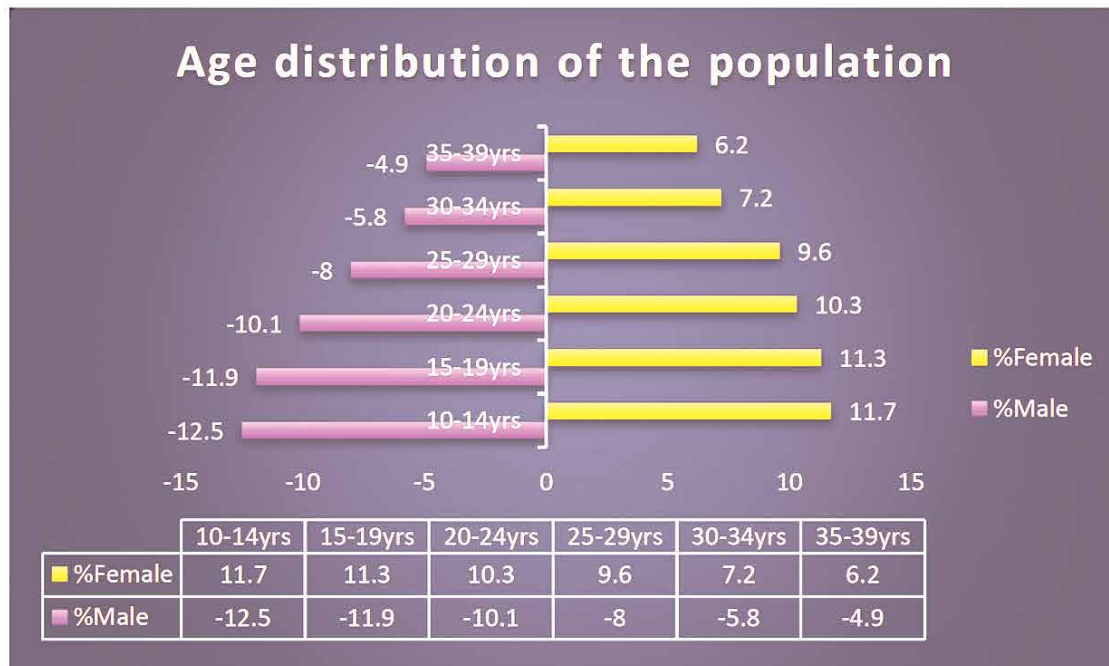


Figure 2: Age Distribution of the Population

This implies that a growing share of the overall population in Osun State is made up of the youth who are considered to be of working age and thus imposes supply pressures on the educational systems and labour markets. The recent economic decline across the nation has created a continuous strain on public services and resources, specifically in areas of health and education. State Bureau of Statistics revealed that the overall unemployment rate has been on the steady increase since 2005, from 11.9% in 2005, to 21.1% as at September, 2011. With limited and highly inadequate skills, there exists, a high rate of unemployment among the youth in the State and consequently social issues continue to rise; crime and violence appear to be devastating this age group, with the increasing numbers of untimely deaths. Young people have been found to be the perpetrators as well as the victims in most cases. Some of the unemployed male youth have become habitual users of drugs, alcohol and are perpetrators of most of the reported crimes and cases of physical violence, including rape, bullying and physical assault in the State.

Drugs and alcohol abuse are also sometimes the foundation and catalyst of reckless, impulsive and anti-social acts and behaviours against and towards peers and society at large. To add to the dilemma, health preservation and protection among young people seem to have been pushed to the background.



Despite the availability of birth control and education on family planning, the rates of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS related illnesses as well as unplanned pregnancies are rising considerably in the State. The HIV/AIDS epidemic and its related illnesses have continued to negatively impact the health of youth, being the number one killer of persons aged 15years to 44 years in the State (OSACA 2017). With the rapid development of technology, youth are over exposed to various cultures that run counter to the core values of the traditionally defined “Omoluabi” identity of the citizens of the State. Youth now strive to emulate “popular culture” also known as pop culture that inherently promotes materialism, violence and sexual promiscuity thus leading to further degradation of the traditional conceptions of community and family life.

Within the population of young people in the State lies a population of persons who are classified as socially marginalized and rejected youth, out-of-school youth, garage boys, street youth and hawkers. These categories of youth were all found in the three Senatorial Districts of the State (Osun East, Osun Central and Osun West) and a sense of hopelessness seemed to characterize these youth. It is even more disheartening when youth are excluded from the designing, planning and implementation of programmes and policies that directly affect them. There is therefore, a need for a comprehensive and holistic State Youth Policy that addresses these obvious inequalities and serves as a guide to public and private sector investments in all areas that affect the youth. The present analysis identifies the various areas that are barriers to the fulfilment of young peoples’ rights with special attention given to the vulnerability of young people in the State.

2.2 CHALLENGES OF YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

There are risk factors that can threaten the development and well-being of a young person. These factors are rooted in the interplay between a young person's environment and individual characteristics. The individual characteristics include:

- a. Physiological,
- b. Cognitive
- c. Psychological,
- d. Biological

(sub-ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or disability status) attributes of the individual young person.

The youth environmental factor implies the following:

- a. Family circumstances (household poverty, poor care, lack of parental support or violence in the household)
- b. Community circumstances (negative peer influences, community violence, poor quality of schools, or inadequate infrastructure and public services)
- c. Social institutions and norms and values (restricted civil liberties, gender discriminatory social norms or harmful traditional practices)
- d. Policies and macro circumstances (weak social policies, inadequate judicial systems, joblessness and unsustainable growth policies, conflict and wars or climate change and hazardous environment)

2.3 POLICY FRAMEWORK

The significant contributions of the 2019 National Youth Policy in acknowledging the importance of youth development and making certain constructive recommendations for the well-being of the youth have been the impetus to embark on the development of a State Youth Policy. The policy has been developed with specific recognition of and in alignment with the prevailing rich policy environment in the State. Some International and Regional Policies and Legislation also set the background for the development of Osun State Youth Policy. These include the United Nations Resolutions on Youth (The Commission for Social Development, 1978), the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, the National Gender Policy, National Policies on Education, Health, Population for Sustainable Development and the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030), the African Youth Charter and other international agreements to which Nigeria is a signatory served as further guide to the policy. It is worthy to mention that the United Nations Resolutions on Youth (The Commission for Social Development, 1978) called for the "recognition of young people as an active part of the society and important actors for social development and went on to encourage member states to involve young people and youth organizations in all aspects of youth development".

Osun State Youth Policy also reflects international best practises in youth policy development with particular attention to the issues of inclusion of youth, who are the beneficiaries of the policy. The policy also leans on the Sustainable Development Goal – Eight (SDG-8), which targets productive employment and decent work for all. The State already has a Gender Equity and Social Inclusive Policy and Osun State Development Plan 2019 – 2028, which provides a road map for the development of the State and takes cognizance of the youth within the State with a view to creating linkages with sectoral intervention programmes that add value to the youth of the State. Osun State Youth Policy, through its commitment to International and National Youth-related policies and frameworks, addresses the major concerns and critical issues faced by youth in Osun State. It will regulate the implementation of all youth-related projects and programmes and it is expected that the policy will provide direction for the creation of a Strategic Action Plan on youth to complement the roles of all Ministries, Department and Extra-ministerial Agencies (MDAs) engaged in youth development work so as to ensure that a holistic integration and inclusion of youth is entrenched in all development plans of Osun State.



2.4 POLICY APPROACHES

Taking a cue from the National Youth Policy, Osun State Youth Policy adopts the life cycle approach and the causal linkages between different life transitions. It emphasizes the need to identify and focus policies for young people already suffering from certain deprivations and for those at risk of falling into deprivation.

Consequently, Osun State Government is encouraged to utilize this Youth Policy as a guideline to deal with some critical issues highlighted in the policy's objectives. Accordingly, a practice of reciprocity is to be followed when dealing with youth issues in the State since the policy incorporates all sectors of the society who provide services to the youth. These approaches are to be guided by the following:

- i Developing a comprehensive model of sustainable youth development that harnesses the copious yet disjointed and disintegrated programmes and services offered by various stakeholders.
- ii Aggressive Education and Youth Awareness Campaigns that targets policy makers, programme administrators, service providers, parents and custody institutions to ensure that adults become informed and responsible socialization agents for youth.
- iii Providing problem prevention and problem response services that cover a wide scope of areas where young people are finding hindrances to their development.
- iv Having an asset-based approach that moves youth from being seen as a problem to be solved and more as assets to be harnessed.
- v Expanding existing programmes for the engagement of youth work to enhance knowledge, skills and capacity of youth practitioners in the areas of at-risk behaviours and opportunity creation for Osun youth.



- vi Expanding, extending and creating collaborative links between research-based knowledge and the application of this knowledge by the Ministry of Youth and Sports so that programmes and projects designed help provide an enabling environment for youth at the community level.
- vii Incorporating youth technical cadet programmes into relevant MDA's mandates to facilitate intellectual and skill exchanges and create sustainability of youth intervention work in the society.



2.5 OSUN YOUTH CATEGORIZATION

The State Youth Policy is designed to have a targeted impact upon all young people in the State. Even though youth within the age bracket 15 to 29 years are not homogenous, the policy will have positive impacts on the following sub categories of youth. In line with the policy objectives, ages 15 years to 29 years are considered key categories of youth while ages 30 years to 39 years are considered to be the transition period.

- a. **Location:** This refers to youth either in urban or rural areas

- b. **Origin:** This refers to indigenes, non-indigenes, tribe or ethnic status of the youth and youth in migration.
- c. **Shelter:** These include youth in sheltered homes, homeless youth, garage boys and young people living on the streets.
- d. **Economic Class:** These are youth from either rich and upper class, middle class and lower class.
- e. **Gender:** This is based on biological definition of being male or female.
- f. **Gifted Youth:** These include young professionals, skilled and unskilled youth.
- g. **Occupational Role:** This category includes employed, unemployed, underemployed, youth involved in agriculture and mining.
- h. **Parenting and Family Background:** This category includes youth with parents, half orphans or complete orphans and abandoned youth.
- i. **Vulnerable Youth:** These include young commercial sex workers and drug addicts.
- j. **Youth with Special Needs:** These are youth with varying forms of physical, mental and psychological challenges.
- k. **Female Youth:** This category refers to young girls and women.
- l. **Socially marginalized Youths:** Youth in conflict with the Law, Social Justice, Delinquency and Safety:
- m. Youth infected by STDs, HIV/AIDS.
- n. Youth with chronic and terminal health illness.





2.6 POLICY VISION

Osun State Youth Policy envisions a society where youth of Osun become the beacons of hope and progress by making them veritable assets for the social and economic development of the State by placing a premium on the acquisition of adequate knowledge and the right skill sets. This vision is informed and propelled by the core values of gender equity, youth participation, inclusiveness, sustainability as well as commitment.

2.7 POLICY MISSION

Osun State Youth Policy mission identifies stakeholders, youth leaders and youth-based organizations as veritable allies in championing programmes and projects that recognize young people's rights to equitable resources that allows them access to adequate knowledge and the right skill sets in order to ensure the overall development of the State.

2.8 POLICY GOAL

Osun State Youth Policy seeks to encourage and empower youth with good character and virtue to become veritable assets to the State's economic and social development. The State Youth Policy places a high premium on the "Omoluabi" ethos as it reflects the spiritual essence of the youth of Osun

2.9 POLICY OBJECTIVES

In pursuance of the policy objective, Osun State Youth Policy seeks to

- (i) establish a general policy framework which will provide guidelines on all matters relating to youth development on education, empowerment, engagement, entrepreneurship and sustainability;
- (ii) proffer adequate solutions to youth problems based on feasibility studies and research in addressing the most critical elements based on priority; and
- (iv) promote youth participation in the community and civic decision-making process.

2.10 POLICY CORE VALUES

Osun State Youth Policy reaffirms the core values enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999 as amended), the 2019 National Youth Policy and the State of Osun Development Plan (SODP 2019 – 2028). This policy adopts youth empowerment as an approach with the following core values:

a GENDER EQUITY

Osun State Youth Policy affirms equal access to State resources and opportunities irrespective of sex, gender and sexual orientation for youth who are indigenes and residents of the State.



b YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Youth will have equal rights to participate in the decision-making processes, especially issues that pertain to youth engagement and development.

c INCLUSIVENESS

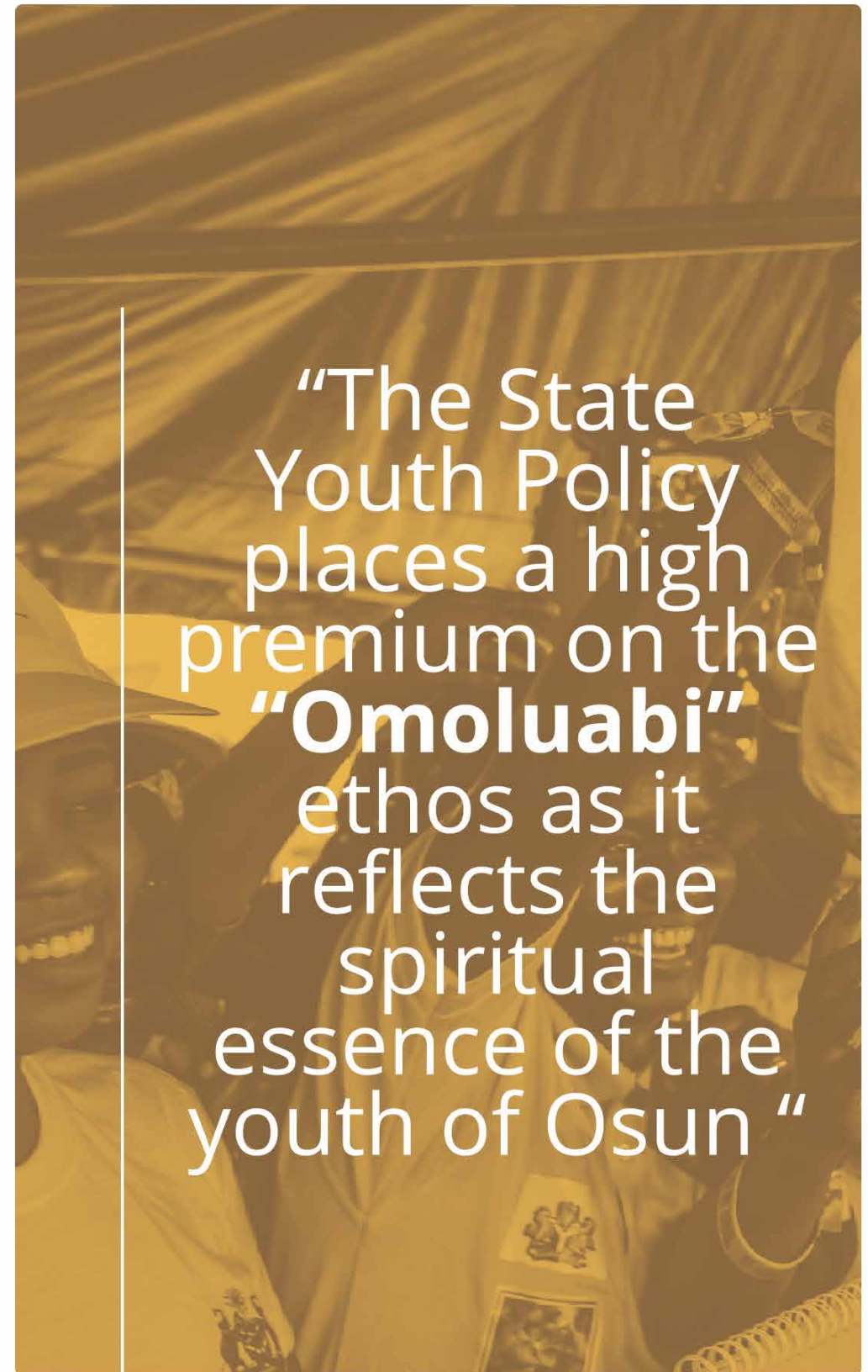
Equitable opportunities for all youth to enable them live in dignity with emphasis on rights and prevention of all forms of discrimination.

d SUSTAINABILITY

There will be a harmonious existence with nature so as to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising on the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

e OBLIGATIONS

The Youth Policy equally affirms commitment to the responsibilities of youth to the society as well as the society's responsibility to the youth of Osun State.



“The State Youth Policy places a high premium on the “**Omoluabi**” ethos as it reflects the spiritual essence of the youth of Osun “



Chapter Three

3.1 THE RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH

In line with the 2019 National Youth Policy, Osun State Youth Policy recognizes that all young persons in the State have rights and obligations just as the State Government, parents and guardians have obligations towards the youth. These considerations have to be factored together and nurtured as well as promoted in the overall development of the youth in the State.

Osun State Youth Policy subscribes to all the Rights guaranteed by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), International Charters, Covenants, and Conventions, to which Nigeria is a signatory, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter of Human and People's Rights. Among the most important of these rights which youth in the State shall equally enjoy are the following:

- i. Right to life
- ii. Freedom of opinion, expression, thought and religion, association as well as movement
- iii. Right to protection from forceful recruitment into the Armed Forces
- iv. Right to security of life and property
- v. Access to benefits such as proper education and training (including opportunities to life-long learning), employment, housing, legal services, health care (including reproductive health care) and recreation
- vi. Right to be protected from any form of harassment and degrading, cruel and inhuman treatment, gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices and torture
- vii. Right to individual ownership and protection of property
- viii. Right to participate in governance, leadership and decision making in matters that affect them
- ix. Right to marriage at the legal age of consent
- x. In the case of the physically challenged, the right to be provided with special treatment.





3.2 THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE YOUTH IN OSUN STATE

Every right of the youth indicated above has a corresponding set of obligations. This policy subscribes to all the responsibilities and obligations of young persons contextualized in the provisions of Chapter Four of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights.

In order to make young persons in the State tolerant, caring, responsible and productive citizens, this Youth Policy therefore outlines the following set of obligations of the youth in the State towards their active participation in societal development:

- i. To be patriotic and loyal to Osun State in particular and Nigeria in general;
- ii. Promotion and defense of democracy and civility in the State;
- iii. Eschewing sub-tribal, ethnicity and religious bigotry;
- iv. Eschewing all acts of violence and crimes such as cultism, armed robbery, street violence, alcoholism, substance abuse, prostitution, amongst all;
- v. To promote and advance the principle of gender equality;
- vi. Active involvement in the promotion of unity, reconciliation, peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness;
- vii. Promotion of values of tolerance and responsible conduct;
- viii. Conservation and promotion of the environment against pollution and degradation;
- ix. Respect for and promotion of all symbols of unity within the State;
- x. Promotion of a healthy, responsible and respectable lifestyle free from communicable diseases, alcohol and drug abuse;
- xi. Strive to be law-abiding, respectable and enlightened citizens, knowledgeable about their rights as well as duties and obligations;



- xi. Strive to be actively involved in the decision making on matters that affect them;
- xii. To acquire skills which increase their capacity for self-help, self-respectability, cooperation and community development.

3.3 THE OBLIGATION OF GOVERNMENT TO THE YOUTH

As the duty bearer, State Government's obligations towards ensuring the actualization of the rights of the youth in the State include:

- i. Empowering the youth to be able to discharge their obligations to society;
- ii. Creating the enabling environment for the right kind of orientation, education and psychological conditioning for the youth;
- iii. Creation of opportunities for the youth to be involved in decision making that affect them, the environment and society;
- iv. Inculcation of human rights values, social justice, equity, fairness and gender equality;
- v. Recognition of their capacities, their individualities, according to age and maturity, and allow whenever possible their choice of educational fields and careers;
- vi. Provision of adequate funding for education and equal opportunities to be educated;
- vii. Provision of adequate funding for sustainable youth development projects;
- viii. Recognize the rights of young women and men to take responsibility for their actions and inactions;
- ix. Respect and accept the contributions of young men and women to society through the use of their talents, resources, ideas, etc;
- x. Be sensitive to the needs and difficulties of young men and women.

3.4 THE OBLIGATION OF SOCIETY, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO THE YOUTH

The parents, guardians as well as responsible adults have obligations to ensure that the youth are empowered to discharge their obligations to the society. This policy advocates that they have a responsibility to create the enabling environment for the right kind of orientation, education and psychological conditioning for the youth. Their obligations include:

- i. Provision of conducive environment for mental, emotional and physical development of young persons;
- ii. Nurturing the youth with warmth and affection in an environment of peace and harmony;
- iii. Promote responsible parenthood;
- iv. Provide equal access and opportunities to family resources to the youth regardless of gender;
- v. Constant provision of counselling, support and guidance in accordance with their specific and personal needs;
- vi. Act as positive role models to young men and women.
- vii. Create an enabling platform for positive and fair competition.





Chapter Four

4.1 STRATEGIC THRUSTS

The strategic thrusts of Osun State Youth Policy are six (6) cross-sectoral developmental pillars that are fundamental to enable youth of Osun transit to self-fulfilled and productive adulthood with opportunities for full, effective and constructive participation, in line with the Policy vision and mission. These are:

4.1.1 Develop a Productive Workforce through Sustainable Economic Engagement of Osun Youth

The development of youth into a productive and committed workforce through appropriate quality education and skills development, adequate opportunities for productive employment and successful entrepreneurship that will enable them to live economically empowered lives and make sustainable contributions to State development, as well as strategically position the country for the achievement of demographic dividends.

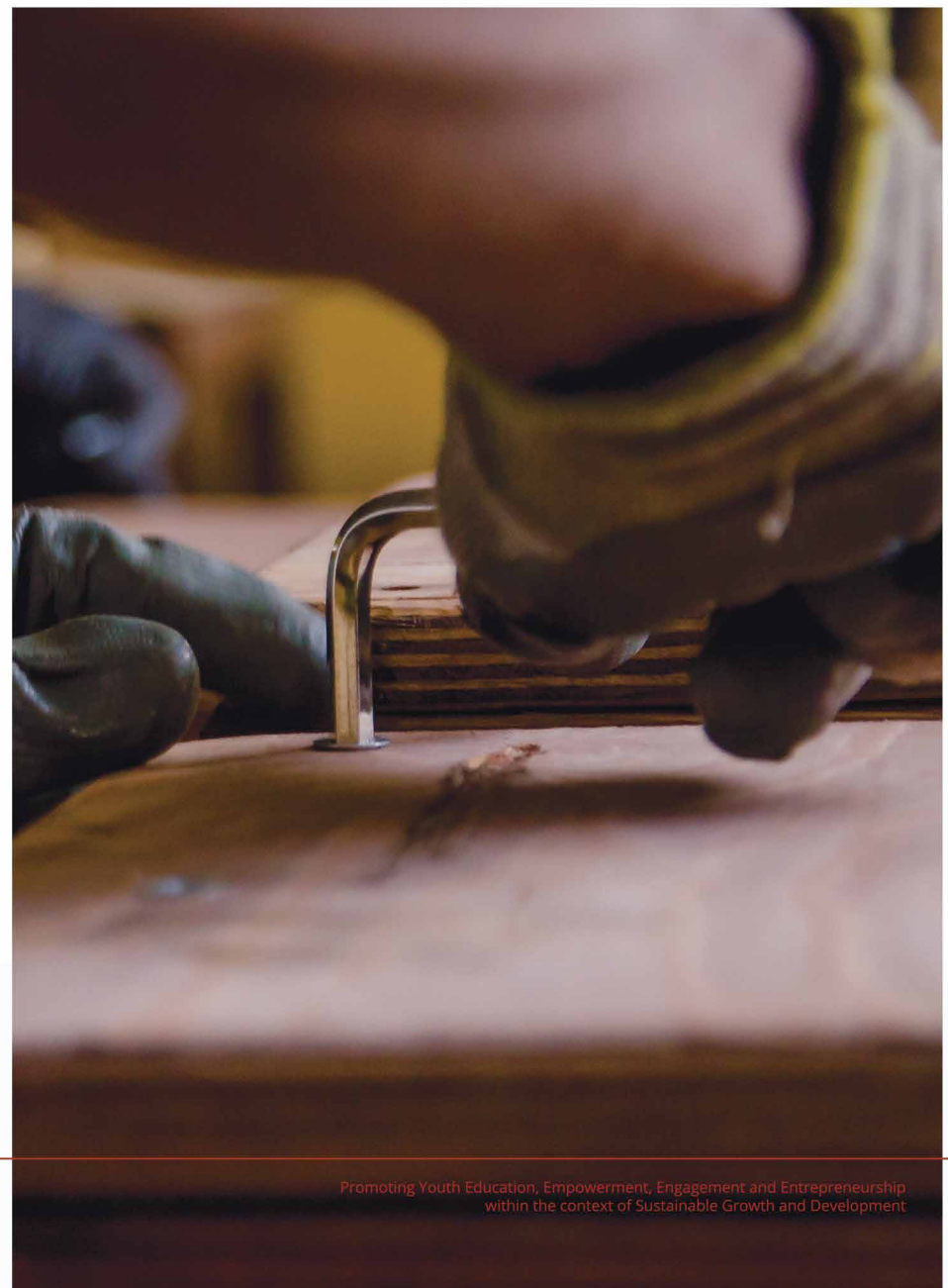


TABLE 4.1.1 POLICY BENCHMARK FOR STRATEGIC THRUST 1

STRATEGIC THRUST 1

Develop a Productive Workforce Through Sustainable Economic Engagement of Youth Education, Capacity-Building and Skills Development

Strategic Thrust Goal	Target Group	MDA	Policy Intervention Goals
<p>Create Osun State Youth Employment and Empowerment Trust Fund (OSYEETF) backed by law and with special focus on lending credits and grant to youth entrepreneurs and agropreneurs and re-skilling based on industry requirements</p> <p>Encourage enrolment in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) courses by offering annual bursaries to eligible STEAM undergraduates.</p> <p>Ensure that all 9 Universities, 10 Polytechnics, 5 Colleges of Education, 8 College of Health Technology, 4 College of Technology and Innovation, 4 School of Nursing follow the concepts of establishing their schools in line with the on-going education and youth policy reforms.</p> <p>Establish Study Loan Schemes for tertiary students in Osun State.</p> <p>Establish special intervention fund to support the education of persons with special needs</p> <p>Expand short-term entrepreneurship capacity development and establish enterprise development centre to assist emerging and practicing youth entrepreneurs in each LGAs</p> <p>Enhance agricultural extension services and youth accessibility to Medium and Small-Scale Enterprises Funds (MSME)</p> <p>Engage in innovative financing mechanisms to encourage diverse participation of youth in Agriculture and ICT</p> <p>Channel funding to youth entrepreneurs in the ICT sector through accelerators and incubators</p> <p>Ensure adequate facility in all public secondary schools and tertiary institutions for teaching in computer science, ICT and ensure digital literacy for all secondary school and tertiary institution students</p> <p>Develop mentorship programs to support up-coming youth start-ups by already established ICT businesses</p>	<p>All Youth</p> <p>Rural and Urban Youth</p> <p>Male and female young persons,</p> <p>Students in post primary schools,</p> <p>Unemployed youth</p> <p>Youth with professional ICT skills as well as those who aspire to be proficient in ICT</p> <p>Youth in agriculture.</p> <p>Professional youth in arts, entertainment and culture</p>	<p>Ministry of Youth and Sports;</p> <p>Ministry of Finance;</p> <p>Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget;</p> <p>Ministry of Commerce Industry and Co-operative;</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security;</p> <p>Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology.</p>	<p>To engage 80% of the youth in economic development and prosperity of the state.</p> <p>Develop and expand the platform for youth engagement in hospitality, entertainment, culture, tourism and, allied economic opportunities that abound in Osun State.</p> <p>To engage youth in the expansion of the economy through active participation in agriculture toward attainment of food security.</p> <p>To promote awareness amongst youth on environmental issues and economic opportunities in environmental management.</p> <p>To create awareness of an access to the opportunities offered by ICT for self-development, employment and entrepreneurship among the youth and encourage the use of appropriate technology for sustainable socio-economic and health development.</p> <p>Encourage participation of youth in the state mining sector in order to boost the economy of the state</p>



Osun State Youth Policy

4.1.2 Develop and Promote Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyle

The development and promotion of healthy practices among youth will foster the health development of youth through appropriate healthcare systems and supportive social sector actions and health-related behaviours geared towards the attainment of physical, social, mental, and spiritual well-being to enable young people live meaningful and fulfilling lives, and contribute appropriately to the achievement of a healthier and more productive society.

TABLE 4.1.2 POLICY BENCHMARK FOR STRATEGIC THRUST 2

STRATEGIC THRUST 2

Develop and Promote Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyle			
Strategic Thrust Goal	Target Group	MDA	Policy Intervention Goals
<p>Integrate adolescent- and youth-friendly health services in the PHC facilities available and targeted for renovation by the State government</p> <p>Fully implement the State Standards and Minimum Service Package for Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) throughout the State.</p> <p>Establish State accreditation system and certification for training programmes in adolescent- and youth-friendly health services as well as for service delivery facilities</p> <p>Ensure the availability of AYFHS in at least 75% of established youth development centres through integration of services and/or effective linkage with health facilities</p> <p>Enforce the Tertiary Institutions Social Health Insurance Programme for students in tertiary institutions</p> <p>Sustain free anti-retroviral treatment for Youth Living With HIV/AIDS (YLWHA)</p> <p>Ensure the implementation of health-promoting school initiative on statewide basis, including school-based physical education and drug education</p>	<p>All youth</p> <p>Youth infected by STDs, HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Vulnerable youth</p> <p>Young commercial sex workers</p> <p>Youth with chronic/terminal health illnesses</p> <p>Youth with special needs.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health;</p> <p>State Primary Health Care Board, OSACA;</p> <p>NDLEA;</p> <p>Hospital Management Board;</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>State Universal Basic Board</p>	<p>Reducing and curbing the high rate of mental health among young people.</p> <p>Promote good health and general wellbeing including; emotional, mental and physical health, through the provision of accessible and affordable health care backed by modern technology to ensure a healthy Osun youth population.</p> <p>To reduce sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS among the youth of Osun State through continuous sensitization and' provision of reproductive health information and services.</p>



4.1.3 Develop all Inclusive Platforms where Equitable Opportunities for all Youth in the State are guaranteed

This strategic thrust addresses barriers to meaningful youth engagement in civil and political affairs, and enhance opportunities for constructive involvement and meaningful participation of all youth in community and social development, political processes and governance agenda at all levels, to the limit of their ability, desires and experience.

TABLE 4.1.3 POLICY BENCHMARK FOR STRATEGIC THRUST 3

STRATEGIC THRUST 3

Develop All Inclusive Platforms Where Equitable Opportunities for All Youth in the State Are Guaranteed

Strategic Thrust Goal	Target Group	MDA	Policy Intervention Goals
<p>Strengthen YESSO, OYES and other related skill development supporting programmes to support the entrenchment of the culture of volunteerism for both in and out of school youth.</p> <p>Create an enabling environment for the emergence of youth social entrepreneurs by awarding grants to innovative initiatives.</p> <p>Develop preventive, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to integrate vulnerable youth and a platform for the engagement of youth with disabilities.</p> <p>Increase educational opportunities for youth with special needs through the expansion of existing special schools, improvement of the quality of special education, and promotion of the integration of children with disability into the normal school system.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacities of youth for political engagement through training and mentorship, and the promotion of their leadership skills for governance.</p> <p>Institute a State Youth Award scheme to recognize and honour exceptional youth in all fields of endeavour.</p>	<p>Youth In Schools</p> <p>NGOS and Families</p> <p>PTAs,</p> <p>Media,</p> <p>Orphanages</p> <p>Motherless Babies Homes</p> <p>Homeless Youth</p>	<p>Ministry of Youth and Sports;</p> <p>Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget;</p> <p>Osun State Sports Council;</p> <p>Ministry of Health;</p> <p>Private Organizations involved in Sports Development, Coaching and Sporting equipment;</p> <p>Ministry of Education;</p> <p>Ministry of Women, Child and Social Affairs</p>	<p>To recognize the uniqueness and right of girls and young women, and empower them to participate fully in the development of the society.</p> <p>To re-engage families in providing the appropriate atmosphere that inculcates the right values, build-up and protects youth against risky and unhealthy anti-social behavior in the state.</p> <p>To promote the participation of youth in a wide range of leisure and sporting activities for youth empowerment and socio-economic development of the state.</p> <p>To provide quality and quantitative education to all.</p>



4.1.4 Develop and Promote an Enabling Environment for Youth Development and Engagement

The essence of promoting and ensuring an enabling environment that is supportive of optimal development of youth and protective of their fundamental human rights is vital to this policy as it seeks to ensure inclusion, equal opportunities for development and freedom from abuse, violence, intimidation and discrimination.

TABLE 4.1.4 POLICY BENCHMARK FOR STRATEGIC THRUST 4

STRATEGIC THRUST 4

DEVELOP AND PROMOTE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT			
Strategic Thrust Goal	Target Group	MDA	Policy Intervention Goals
<p>Advocacy to strengthen and enforce appropriate legislations and policies relating to the rights of youth with disabilities and Youth Living With HIV.</p> <p>Support youth-led organizations with a focus on fundamental human rights and advocacy for the protection of these rights.</p> <p>Establish and enforce appropriate legislations to protect internally displaced persons and other victims of violence and armed conflicts from further abuse, such as rape and other forms of gender-based violence</p> <p>Advocate for the ratification of the Conventions of the Rights of the Child in Osun State.</p>	<p>All youth in the state</p> <p>All young women and girls.</p> <p>Students in secondary and tertiary institutions, non-students, out-of-school youth (dropouts, pregnant, suspension, expulsion).</p> <p>Youth in conflict with the law, social justice, delinquency & safety.</p>	<p>Ministry of Youth and Sports;</p> <p>Ministry of Justice;</p> <p>Ministry of Women, Child and Social Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget;</p> <p>Law Enforcement Agencies in the State;</p> <p>Non-Governmental Organizations.</p>	<p>To build the leadership capacity of the youth for political participation and governance.</p> <p>To recognize the uniqueness and rights of girls and young women, and empower them to participate fully in the development of the society.</p> <p>To promote safety, security and peaceful coexistence among the youth and general populace by promoting social justice, inclusion, moral rejuvenation, ethnic and religious tolerance, and dialogue.</p> <p>To reduce delinquent and criminal behavior among youth in the State and promote community based preventive measures</p>

4.1.5 Ensure Partnership-building relationships and effective collaboration among stakeholders and partners

Enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergy among all stakeholders as well as sustain the inter-sectoral and multisectoral dynamic of youth development agenda through the creation of relevant supportive structures and partnership engagement frameworks driven by competent and committed professionals, to ensure the maximum impact of youth-focused programmes and activities on the individual and the society.



STRATEGIC THRUST 5

Ensure partnership-building relationships and effective collaboration among stakeholders and partners			
Strategic Thrust Goal	Target Group	MDA	Policy Intervention Goals
<p>Establish a multi-sectoral youth development technical working group to ensure effective delivery and to achieve policy objectives.</p> <p>Strengthen the youth mainstreaming strategy to ensure the designations of Focal persons and specification of annual budget lines in relevant MDAs in line with the objectives of the State Youth Policy.</p> <p>Strengthen the diploma in youth development work anchored on the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) model.</p> <p>Ensure the revival of grants through functional Youth focused NGOs to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of their activities</p>	All youth in the state.	<p>Ministry of Youth and Sports;</p> <p>All relevant MDAs</p> <p>Political Parties;</p> <p>Ministry of Justice;</p> <p>Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget</p>	<p>To promote safety, security and peaceful coexistence among the youth and general populace by promoting social justice, inclusion, moral rejuvenation, ethnic and religious tolerance, and dialogue.</p> <p>To build the leadership capacity of the youth for political participation and governance.</p>

4.1.6 Develop and Promote Sustainable Transition from Youth to Adulthood

Develop sustainable exit strategies and programmes that enhance the transition of youth to adulthood thereby creating a pool of mentors who pull back resources and experience gathered during the period of youth development and engagement for youth captured in the policy.

TABLE 4.1.6 POLICY BENCHMARK FOR STRATEGIC THRUST 6

STRATEGIC THRUST 6

Develop and Promote Sustainable Transition from Youth to Adulthood			
Strategic Thrust Goal	Target Group	MDA	Policy Intervention Goals
<p>Establish a pool of youth resources through the activities and programmes of mentors</p> <p>Develop mentorship programmes where the resources of responsible adults are integrated into youth programmes and project and an exchange programme where responsible adults undertake to mentor youth captured in the policy</p> <p>Develop platforms where youth mentored are celebrated and honoured for active participation in the youth programmes as enshrined in Osun State Youth Policy</p>	<p>All youth captured in the programmes and project of the State Youth Policy.</p> <p>Other Youth who can serve as mentors and role models</p>		<p>Encourage youth in transition to plough back into the programmes and projects of the State Youth Policy through sharing of their experiences, stories as well as providing mentorship for those captured in the youth policy</p> <p>Become Role Models for Youth captured in the youth policy</p>



Chapter Five

PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS, INTERVENTIONS AND THEMATIC AREAS

5.1 TARGET GROUPS

Osun State Youth Policy broadly targets all young men and women in Osun State between the ages of 15 and 29 years, while recognising that youth are not a homogeneous group in terms of needs and circumstances. Therefore, the policy aims to provide a basis for interventions to appropriately address the specific and special needs of each of several identified target groups. In this regard, this policy categorises the target population into three groups:

5.1.1 Low Risk Youth

This consists of young people who are transitioning appropriately to healthy and productive adulthood with minimal challenge and have the appropriate supportive environment. This group consists of individuals who have no apparent physical or mental health challenges; have low level of engagement in, and vulnerability to risky health and social behaviours; and are in an age-appropriate development-oriented process such as schooling, vocational training or employment to empower them for an economically productive future, and have the required supportive environment to enable them optimize their potentials and achieve their developmental goals.

5.1.2 Vulnerable Youth

Youth who are socially and economically disadvantaged, or those in challenging social and economic circumstances, based on limited development opportunities, social exclusion, family circumstances, inadequate education, unemployment or precarious employment, migration, and other social, cultural, political, legal and economic factors, which may threaten their development trajectory or compromise the attainment of their potentials. This group includes:

- i. Youth Not-In Education, Employment or Training (NEET);
- ii. Youth living with special needs and chronic health challenges that may affect their potential or opportunities for participating positively;
- iii. Youth in challenging social and environmental circumstances that increase their vulnerability to health risks, and anti-social behaviours;
- iv. Youth living on the streets;
- v. Youth living in extreme poverty;
- vi. Youth living in slum areas (with high rates of crime and access to drugs);
- vii. Youth living in disadvantaged communities, including rural areas;
- viii. Youth living in families where there is physical and/or sexual abuse and internally displaced youth;
- ix. Female youth in environments of high gender inequity
- x. Youth working in hazardous occupations

5.1.3 Most At-Risk Youth

This group refers to youth engaging in behaviours or practices detrimental to their health, well-being and development, and whose activities may also put the larger society at risk. This group includes youth who are engaged in:

- i. Youth in Armed Conflicts
- ii. Youth in Crime (Whether Incarcerated Or Not)
- iii. Youth in Substance Abuse
- iv. Radicalised Youth
- v. Youth Exposed to Human Trafficking
- vi. Youth in Sex Work
- vii. Youth involved in other risky behaviours that compromise health, well-being and their own development or that of other members of the society

To achieve the objectives of this Policy, strategies and programmes have been carefully and specifically developed with appropriate target segmentation and context-specificity to meet the need of each category of youth defined above.



5.2 THEMATIC AREAS AND RECENT INTERVENTIONS

Osun State Youth Policy identifies twenty (21) priority intervention areas as vital sectors of the youth that need to be addressed to enhance youth activities and their lives. They include:

5.2.1 Youth and Agriculture:

Youth participation in agriculture is a veritable tool for increasing agricultural production, ensuring food security, access to safe hygienic and nutritious food and poverty alleviation through employment and entrepreneurial activities. However, available data on youth participation in agriculture suggest a dismal picture with only 4.2 percent of youth involved in agriculture (State of Osun Household Survey, 2014).

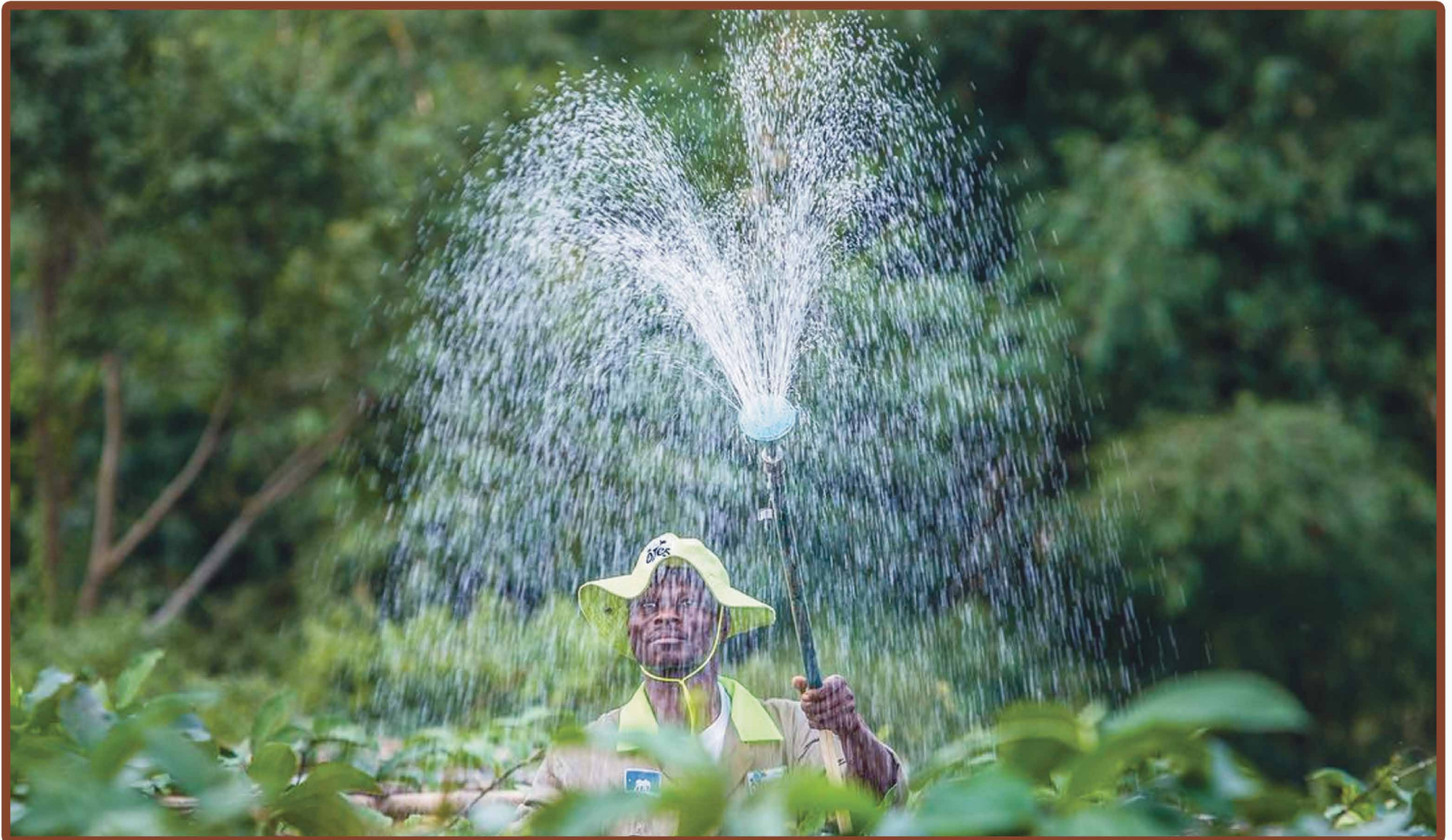


TABLE 5.2.1: YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Stimulate the interest of the youth in farming and replace the aged and low productive farming methods with modern techniques of agriculture;</p> <p>Include practical agricultural education in the school curriculum, starting at primary and continuing into secondary and tertiary school levels;</p> <p>Sensitize youth on the available opportunities in agriculture; Provide enabling environment for youths' participation in sustainable agricultural programmes etc.;</p> <p>Provide grants/credit facilities without or with low interest to encourage youth participation in agriculture;</p> <p>Involve the youth as major stakeholders in designing agricultural policies and programmes;</p> <p>Encourage and support extensive research in agricultural sector;</p> <p>Provide necessary agricultural inputs such as extension services, lands, farming implements; and all other agricultural inputs at subsidized rate to interested youth;</p> <p>Provide means of gainful employment for youth in Osun State</p> <p>Encourage processing and storage of agricultural products by the youth in the State</p> <p>Encourage youth in Agro-produce/product marketing.</p>	<p>To engage youth in the expansion of the economy through active participation in agriculture toward attainment of food security.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security</p> <p>OTHERS; Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.2 Youth and Education

It is a priority for every child in the State to receive a minimum of nine (9) years of free education. The youth in the State Educational system consist of;

- i. Primary School
- ii. Secondary School
- iii. Tertiary School

Some of the problems associated with education faced by youth in the State are mass promotion from Primary to Secondary Schools and the need to adjust the school curriculum to focus on the transition from school to labour economics.



TABLE 5.2.2: YOUTH AND EDUCATION

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Development of critical fields of knowledge in applied science and technology, technical skills, vocational skills in agriculture, and promotion of the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT);</p> <p>Encourage the participation of youth in school-based ethical leadership and democratic culture;</p> <p>Establish State Educational Trust Funds to support project within the state;</p> <p>Review the educational curriculum to address skill gaps and meet the societal needs for skill development and entrepreneurial training;</p> <p>Promote non-discriminatory attitudes in educational institutions;</p> <p>Upgrade teachers capacity through periodic training and retraining;</p> <p>Ensure schools in rural areas are effective and functional, having adequate numbers of teachers and other necessary teaching aids while encouraging the study of science.</p>	<p>To provide quality and quantitative education to all.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>Others; Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.3 Youth and Arts, Entertainment, Culture and Tourism

Osun State has a long and vibrant history in Arts and Culture and in recent years, Osun State Council for Arts and Culture has been the vehicle for promotion of Arts and Culture in the State through the implementation of the National Cultural Policy. The development and promotion of Arts and Culture serves as a medium for promoting important communal values of cohesiveness, continuity and historical preservation of cultural values that have defined us as a people. This in turn helps to unlock and identify viable sectors that can lead to diversification of the State’s economy, thereby creating wealth. These values help to connect youth to their cultural backgrounds and history which gives them a sense of belonging and identity. Other benefits include, opportunities for self-development, economic independence and entrepreneurial development. In view of the aforementioned, it is vital that the State channel some effort in the direction of promoting Arts, Culture and Entertainment among the youth in the State.

Tourism remains a big business potential in the State which has improved the economy of the State. Cultural festivals such as the Osun-Osogbo Festival which is a UNESCO Heritage Site recorded a major boost in 2018. This world-wide recognition prompted the Federal Government of Nigeria to commit to build a resource centre for the training of culture and tourism entrepreneurs in Osun State. It is pertinent that the potentials of historical sites like Erin-Ijesa Waterfall, Ile-Ife Museum and a host of other centres of Arts and Culture be exploited for the needed employment for the youth in the State.



TABLE 5.2.3: YOUTH AND ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, CULTURE AND TOURISM

POLICY OBJECTIVES <small> Lorem ipsum</small>	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Develop existing tourist attraction sites (Osun-Osogbo shrine, Erin-Ijesa waterfall, Kiriji/Imesi-Ile war site) and establish more sites;</p> <p>Provide information easily accessible by youth on social media sites and Youth Centres about the history and culture of the State;</p> <p>Develop and facilitate seminars and workshops on arts, entertainment, culture, tourism to encourage young people in entertainment and allied opportunities for youth in the State;</p> <p>Revive arts and culture festivals as well as develop and promote traditional games</p> <p>Develop structures and mechanism for the production, propagation and utilization of local arts and crafts industries among different native languages in the State;</p> <p>Preserve indigenous artifacts, galleries, culture and encourage tourism</p> <p>Synchronize operations of government agencies involved in hospitality, culture and tourism.</p> <p>Exportation of sales artifacts and legislation</p>	<p>Develop and expand the platform for youth engagement in hospitality, entertainment, culture, tourism and, allied economic opportunities that abound in Osun State.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Culture and Tourism</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working ' Group</p>

5.2.4 Female Youth Participation in Development

Osun State Youth Policy places a high premium on young women and girls because of the difficulties they encounter such as less occupational opportunity, physical violence and abuse, labour exploitation, teenage marriages and pregnancies. The policy seeks to protect the rights of young women as well as girls while also promoting their interests and goals, empower females, restore dignity and establish programmes to eradicate gender-based discrimination and violence.



TABLE 5.2.4: FEMALE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Discourage all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women.</p> <p>Ensure young women's access to a full participation in power structures, decision making and leadership.</p> <p>Promote and sustain the rights and wellbeing of girls and young women in Osun State through enlightenment on their rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>Promote leadership of female youth through leadership training programmes developed specifically for girls and young women.</p> <p>Empower girls and young women through skill acquisition, building of capacity and programmes designed to help sustain businesses.</p> <p>Provide financial and material support to female youth who have undergone training and have acquired skills for self and sustainable employment.</p> <p>Improve gender parity in the crucial areas of health, education, and employment.</p> <p>Promote sexual and reproductive health education in schools and homes.</p> <p>Enforce the statutory age of marriage, that is 18 years, as defined under the child rights law.</p> <p>Enforce the provisions of the protection against domestic violence law, 2007.</p> <p>Protect and advocate female youth against female genital mutilation, other harmful traditional practices and rape.</p>	<p>To recognize the uniqueness and rights of girls and young women, and empower them to participate fully in the development of the society</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Women, Children and Social Affairs.</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>



5.2.5 Youth and Environment

Young people, as with people of all ages, have a right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being as well as have the environment protected for the benefit of future generations. The State Youth Policy identifies the issues of environmental management and improvement of the environment as a major concern for youth development. Young men and women must be encouraged, trained and empowered to play an active role in programmes and activities that will improve the environment. According to the State of Osun Development Plan (SODP), the objective of the State Government is to eliminate the incidence of flooding by 2025. Government aims to bring environmental pollution within internationally agreed limits through the use of environmentally friendly materials in all production processes and enforcing existing environmental pollution control laws.



The environment is a priority for youth development in the light of its impact on the health, quality of life and preservation for future generations as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which states that the Government is required to protect and improve the environment and safeguard, water, air and land as well as forest and wildlife (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chapter II, section 20, 1999 as amended). The Osun State Environmental Sanitation Law which established the Osun State Environmental Protection Agency (OSSEPA), as the primary regulator of environmental issues was put in place to check some of the highlighted challenges. This youth policy identifies the urgent need to maintain and preserve the natural environment from environmental degradation while exploitation of natural resources must be responsibly done to protect the natural environment from collapse and degradation. Environmental preservation also offers an opportunity for youth to be innovative, creative and entrepreneurial especially in the use of bio-degradable materials in production processes.

TABLE 5.2.5: YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Encourage volunteer environmental sanitation corps among the youth and engage youth groups in gathering environmental data.</p> <p>Encourage the private sector to develop initiatives for sustainable environment management including capacity building programmes for youth.</p> <p>Promote awareness of, and provide information on the effects of climate change on the environment and various prevention and management methods including tree planting and emission reduction.</p> <p>Engage and sustain youth involvement in waste management and drainage cleanliness as a means of creating employment opportunities (waste to wealth).</p> <p>Promote community initiatives aimed at improving and protecting the environment.</p> <p>Engage youth in landscaping and beautification in major location within the State.</p>	<p>To promote awareness amongst youth on environmental issues and economic opportunities in environmental management.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Sanitation.</p> <p>Other:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.6 Youth and Family Life

The family is the first unit of socialization and it is the foundational success of any society. The home is the most important and most critical institution where the development of youth starts. Healthy families provide guidance, counselling, discipline as well as setting boundaries. Young people who lack this basic support flounder and find themselves disadvantaged in certain areas of their lives.

Crime and juvenile delinquency are often the result of dysfunctional families and poor family values which exposes young people to car snatching, armed robbery, kidnapping and other societal vices. Osun State Youth Policy identifies policy intervention goals designed to stem this ugly tide by making a case for families and the needed support to ensure that youth benefit from their homes so they can be useful and productive. It is therefore important that the strategies recommended in this Youth Policy be adhered to as they will promote stable, secure family life that would help nurture and provide our youth the necessary tools to build self-esteem and good value systems that can be articulated for the benefits of the youth, their parents and guardians as well as the community and the State.



TABLE 5.2.6: YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Orientation and advocacy that promote and showcase good family virtues, preserve cherished family cultural values and role model families</p> <p>Encourage families to involve the youth in the family as stakeholders in decision making processes relevant to the youth within the State through public enlightenment campaigns.</p> <p>Engaging families in curbing anti- social behaviour among youth</p> <p>Sensitize and educate families on the expectations of the State with respect to youth in their care</p> <p>Encourage private sector involvement in youth development and family programmes</p> <p>Intervene through existing programmes, policies and laws to prevent and reduce parental neglect of minors</p> <p>Partner with religious bodies to strengthen cohesive family values.</p>	<p>To re-engage families in providing the appropriate atmosphere that inculcates the right values, build-up and protects youth against risky and unhealthy anti-social behaviour in the state.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare</p> <p>Other: Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.7 Youth and Health

Youth in Osun face a myriad of health issues like malaria, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections as well as drug and substance abuse. Issues of poor hygiene, risky behaviour and poor sanitation as well as poor access to health services, poor awareness on health protective conduct are some of the major challenges youth encounter in relation to their health status. Besides these challenges, socio-economic determinants such as employment, housing, violence and crime are also determinants of the health status of young people.

Existing data on health issues show improvement in certain areas and it is worthy to note that the awareness on traditional methods of contraceptive use increased from thirty seven per cent (37%) in 2013 to forty-two per cent (42%) in 2014, while awareness of the State Government’s free contraceptive use increased from sixty per cent (60%) in 2013 to sixty-five per cent (65%) in 2014 (State of Osun Household Survey, 2014). In this regard, patronage of primary health centres is only about 53.6% indicating that a significant number of youth access health services at private hospitals and alternative health care delivery facilities with attendant increase in out-of-pocket expenses. A significant number of youth also have unmet reproductive health needs and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the youth has become a worrisome problem and research has shown that a large percentage of new HIV infections occur among youths.

The State Government through the State Youth Policy will work hard to improve health status of all resident youth in the State because the National Health Reform Law 2005 aims to improve the quality of healthcare in all health facilities. Its implementation has led to improvements in primary healthcare centre infrastructure, encouraged the establishment of sustainable drug revolving fund in the primary health centres. The Health Management Agency Law 2015 equally aims to make health insurance affordable, mandatory and universal in order to reduce out-of-pocket expenses. These laws require active implementation to improve health care in the State. In the third quarter of the year 2018, the State Government inaugurated Osun Special Health Intervention and Rehabilitation Committee with the following mandates:

i. **Renovation of Selected Secondary Health Care Facilities**

ii.  **RENOVATION OF 332 Focal Primary Health Centres**

“one facility per ward in the State for delivery of basic health care provision fund in the State including full complement of staff at the Primary Health Centres”

iii.  **Provision of Boreholes and Solar Lighting Systems.**



TABLE 5.2.7: YOUTH AND HEALTH

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Promote youth driven and youth-focused health campaigns and enlightenment programmes.</p> <p>Provide affordable healthcare services for youth in the state.</p> <p>Improve access to voluntary HIV counseling and testing services for all youth and improve the service delivery mechanism in Primary Healthcare Facilities.</p> <p>Promote and support programmes on personal physical and mental health</p> <p>Ensure that Primary and Secondary health care centres place a priority on youth health.</p> <p>Enhance youth capacity in leadership and advocacy to enable them advocate for and manage youth health programmes.</p> <p>Promote easy access to health care services for youth in the State without discrimination.</p> <p>Implement the health management agency law to ensure that youth benefit from mandatory health insurance provisions of the law.</p> <p>Develop health education programmes for the organized, out of school and artisan youth groups through community outreaches.</p> <p>Provide and increase accessibility to health information for young people.</p> <p>Provide interventions and counselling within- health facilities to manage substance abuse and mental health concerns in youth.</p> <p>Encourage young people to take responsibility for their health.</p> <p>Create a health care system that accommodates youth with special needs and provide structure and system to address the needs of survivors of calamity, accident and torture.</p>	<p>To promote good health and general wellbeing including; emotional, mental and physical health, through the provision of accessible and affordable health care backed by modern technology to ensure a healthy Osun youth population.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.8 Youth and Sexual Reproductive Health

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) is a state of complete, physical, mental and social wellbeing in all matters relating to the reproductive system. It implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life, the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Young people are more prone to risky sexual behaviour which may lead to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), with human papilloma virus, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Genital Herpes, Syphilis, Pelvic inflammatory disease and HIV/AIDS as the most common. STIs may not be easily detected especially where there is mild or no symptom and even when detected, young people may be reluctant to seek treatment due to fear of stigmatization. The stigma associated with sexually transmitted infections often prevents youths from discussing STIs and from getting treatment when infected.



The HIV/AIDS prevalence in Osun is quite disturbing and research has shown that a large number of new HIV/AIDS infection occur among the youth. From the foregoing, a complex set of factors contribute to sexual and reproductive health problems among youth but the problem is compounded by the lack of youth-friendly health services and accurate information on safe sex and contraceptive use. Often times, there are misconceptions on various reproductive issues that have become beliefs among youth and these misconceptions inhibit youth from getting the necessary information needed to protect them. The Government through the Osun State Agency for the Control of AIDS (OSACA) has embarked on massive awareness campaigns on the disease and to provide materials which prevent STIs. It has also passed the Protection Against HIV/AIDS discrimination Law to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people, including youth living with HIV. This will further strengthen policy initiatives designed to eradicate this menace in our State.

TABLE 5.2.8: YOUTH AND SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Sustain and increase awareness of counseling, testing and treatment of STIs, including HIV/AIDS among youth in the State.</p> <p>Sensitization and enlightenment of young people on SRH and consequences of risky sexual behavior.</p> <p>Incorporate representatives of the youth in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Promote and establish home and community-based welfare programmes to help the youths orphaned by HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Expand free and voluntary counselling and testing services for young people in urban and rural areas in the State.</p> <p>Enforce legislative provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of HIV status in employment, health facilities, and educational institutions in the state.</p> <p>Improve and promote easy access to information, education and communication materials on STIs with a view to enhancing preventive and curative health care service among the youth.</p> <p>Promote youth-friendly and confidential services in health centres to encourage youth to access appropriate health care.</p>	<p>To reduce sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS among the youth of Osun State through continuous sensitization and provision of reproductive health information and services.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.9 Youth and Mental Health

The primary aim of the 2018 World Health Day theme was to improve the awareness of the public on emerging issues that can have negative impact on the mental health of young persons. The importance of mental health of citizens of Osun prompted the State Government to establish O'REHAB with a mandate to treat and rehabilitate over one hundred and sixty (160) vagrant psychotics under the scheme. The Ilobu Rehab Centre of the scheme trains rehabilitated patients on vocational skills like soap making, bead making, tailoring, hairdressing and various crafts. The treatments are carried out at the various hospitals located in Osun namely; Ladoke Akintola Teaching Hospital Complex, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Complex, Ile-Ife, Specialist Hospital, Asubiaro and in some cases Aro Psychiatric Hospital, Abeokuta and Yaba Psychiatric Hospital, Lagos.



TABLE 5.2.9: YOUTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Provide mental health care for youth</p> <p>Improve existing rehabilitation centres</p> <p>Create awareness on mental health and how to get help</p> <p>Offer mental health promotion activities to individuals to enhance competence and a sense of well-being</p> <p>Strengthen the ability of individual families and communities to cope with stressful events that happens in their everyday lives</p> <p>Promote anti-stigma initiatives or campaigns</p> <p>Train non-professionals to establish caring and trusting relationships with youth; and</p> <p>Develop strategy to intervene in all settings including schools, homes and communities;</p>	<p>To help in reducing and curbing the high rate of mental health among young people</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.10 Youth and Information and Communication Technology

Information and Communication Technology has changed the way the world works and how people live. It has also rendered some occupation redundant while creating new ones. In order to fully embrace the opportunities embedded in this new way of life, the State Youth Policy identifies this target group as very vital because of the potentials in the skill as well as the knowledge ICT entails and the rewards of job creation, economic diversification and innovative youth engagement.

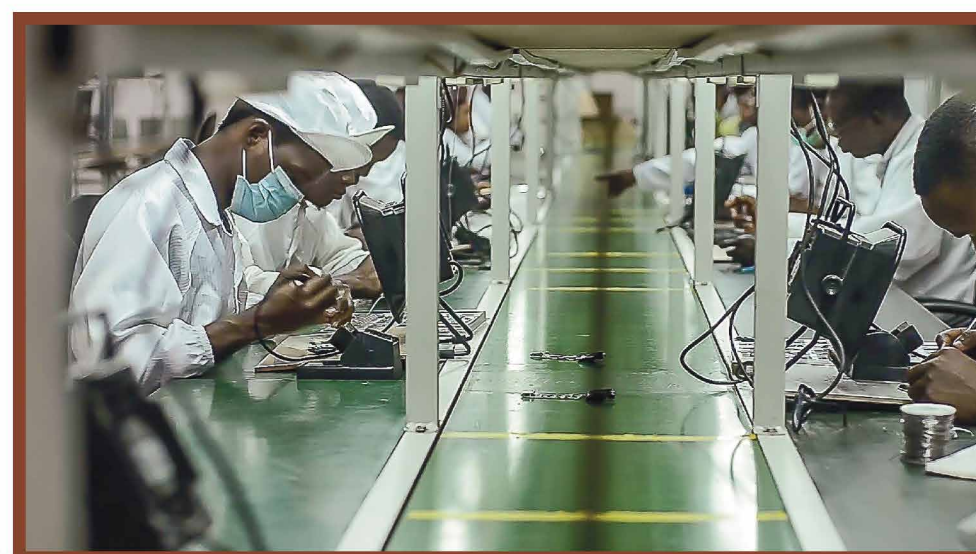


TABLE 5.2.10: YOUTH AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Promote ICT among youth and institutionalizing science and technology clubs and societies in schools at all levels of education.</p> <p>Promote private sector participation in encouraging youth in science and technology in educational institutions</p> <p>Encourage science and technology champions, role model and mentoring</p> <p>Collaborate with relevant government agencies and private establishments on the provision of ICT resources at community-based youth facilities</p> <p>Provide greater access to youth-relevant and beneficial information, through extensive use of social media and dedicated government websites</p> <p>Develop a framework useful for development to reduce rural-urban migration and prepare youth for the labour market</p> <p>Create an environment that enables and promotes adequate computer education centres and continuing education centres in each local government with well-funded public libraries equipped with books, e-resources, newspapers, magazine, internet facilities, mobile library vans among others</p> <p>Empower ICT professionals and allied service providers to guide the youth in acquiring and utilizing available resources for obtaining employment</p> <p>Create incentives such as annual prizes and grants for gifted/talented youth in ICT to encourage innovation;</p> <p>Enhance the access of people living with special needs to ICT, science and technology</p> <p>Promote public-private partnerships in the development of projects and initiatives to develop capacity of youth in the areas of science and ICT</p> <p>Enhance appropriate regulation of materials on the internet among-the youth by the appropriate government agency</p> <p>Appraise the youth of the existing law governing ICT locally and internationally</p> <p>Upgrade the ICT capability of youth to internationally acceptable standard.</p>	<p>To create awareness of an access to the opportunities offered by ICT for self-development, employment and entrepreneurship among the youth and encourage the use of appropriate technology for sustainable socio-economic and health development.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology.</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>



5.2.11 Youth Welfare, Drug and Substance Abuse

Substance abuse refers to any non-medical or excessive use of a drug or any substance that changes the normal operation of the mind and body. It is a health hazard that has significant implications for the physical, psycho-social and mental development of the youth. Substance abuse is a major problem around the world and has been described as a scourge destroying the health of young people in Osun State and preventing them from achieving their full potential. Alcohol and cigarettes are the most common substances abused by young people and they constitute “getaways” to the use of other substances and illicit drugs.

Young people often engage in recreational use of drugs and substances as a social habit and a way of proving that they have come of age. The escalating high level of substance abuse among youth in Osun has become worrisome as it has been established that it increases youth delinquency, school failures, violent crimes, physical and psychological damage, and in some cases premature death. According to the Ministry of Health, Osun State, the use of marijuana, heroin and cocaine is more prevalent in Osun and other metropolitan cities and common among street beggars and youth (Osun State Ministry of Health, 2013). The use of illicit drugs cuts across all social strata but is more common among motor park workers, drivers, youth artisans and prostitutes. The top three causes of crime in Osun State have been identified as unemployment which account for 24%, alcohol related crimes which accounts for 11% and other drug related reasons which account for 9% (State of Osun Bureau of Statistics, 2014). Previous interventions include school campaigns to sensitize youth on the dangers of substance abuse; however, more effort is needed to curb the increase in the number of youth engaging in substance abuse.

TABLE 5.2.11: YOUTH AND WELFARE, DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Collaborate with relevant agencies on drug control to reduce drug abuse among youth and partner with voluntary organizations in related fields.</p> <p>Advocate restrictions on the marketing of illicit drugs, tobacco and alcohol to youth.</p> <p>Harmonize and enforce existing laws and policies to facilitate effective regulation of alcohol and drug supply and sales.</p> <p>Promote healthy recreational and sporting activities and encourage youth groups and organizations to play key roles in designing and implementing preventive educational programmes</p> <p>Promote rehabilitation efforts within public health facilities and better medical care for substance abuse issues amongst youth</p> <p>Encourage parents and guardians to provide secure home environments and take responsibility for youth in their charge;</p> <p>Require substance abuse education to be incorporated in school curricula from primary-schools and resuscitate drug free clubs in school</p> <p>Advocate for legislation against the use of young girls and boys for alcoholic adverts; and</p> <p>Partner with faith-based organisations to enhance promotion of good moral values that will discourage substance abuse.</p>	<p>To reduce substance abuse and its consequences among youth in Osun State.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>



5.2.12 Youth and Conflict with the Law, Social Justice and Safety

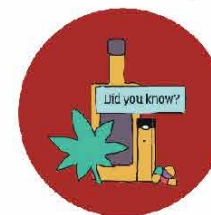
As a growing State with a large youth population, the rate of crime in the State is quite significant. Three major causes of crime have been identified according to the State Bureau of Statistics and they include;



Unemployment account for 24% of all crimes committed in the State



Alcohol-related crimes which accounts for 11%



OTHER DRUG-RELATED REASONS ACCOUNTS FOR 9% of all crimes committed

Others include burglary, armed robbery and vandalism which accounts for 16%, 15% and 13% respectively (Osun State Household Survey, 2014). Criminal conduct whether as a result of delinquency, ignorance or peer pressure limits the potential of young people thereby creating the attendant negative problems that the society tries to eradicate. The State Youth Policy explores effective and sustainable strategies involving all stakeholders, including parents and guardians as well as teachers, peers and communities and the State on means to curb these negative trends

TABLE 5.2.12: YOUTH AND CONFLICT WITH THE LAW, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SAFETY

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Establish preventive programmes aimed at helping youth to learn how to engage in positive self-appraisal, resolve conflict and control aggression.</p> <p>Coordinate effort of relevant stakeholders such as police, school authorities and Community Heads in youths' involvement in crime.</p> <p>Encourage and promote effort that will reduce cult activities among young people in the State;</p> <p>Encourage different communities to involve youth in community-based security planning and strategies;</p> <p>Create youth guidance and counseling desks within security outfit and law enforcement agency facilities such as police stations;</p> <p>Collaborate with other stakeholders including the Ministry of Justice, the law enforcement agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) involved in the provision of legal aid in providing intervention in legal matters affecting youth as appropriate;</p> <p>Create a youth focused reward system including awards for excellence in different spheres of endeavour, education, integrity and honesty;</p> <p>Promote the rehabilitation of youth offenders, street youth, out of school youth, female sex workers and any other groups of youth susceptible to criminal activities</p> <p>Establish specific social programmes to help youth in difficult circumstances build self-esteem, confidence and positive attitudes required for responsible adulthood.</p> <p>Provide economic opportunities, employment and mentorship, in order to prevent youth involvement in delinquent activities</p>	<p>To reduce delinquent and criminal behavior among youth in the state and promote community based preventive measures</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Justice</p> <p>OTHERS:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>



5.2.13 Youth, Conflict Prevention and Peace Building

Osun State has a reputation for hospitality and as a result the State has attracted people from different ethnic, creed, cultural and religious background across the world. In spite of the presence of a diverse and heterogeneous population, Osun remains the most peaceful State in Nigeria. Peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution remain critical, not only to sustain peace but also to preserve the lives and potential of young people.

TABLE 5.2.13: YOUTH, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Enhance youth civic engagement and participation in decision-making, political processes and institution so as to build trust and reduce suspicion.</p> <p>Strengthen youth resilience, tolerance and emotional intelligence through enlightenment, leadership training and programmes.</p> <p>Establish sustainable moral rejuvenation programmes that promote economic empowerment of the youth.</p> <p>Institute early warning systems including reporting mechanisms and routine dialogue fora to prevent and resolve potential conflicts.</p> <p>Establish advocacy meetings with political and community leaders on conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms.</p> <p>Integrate peace building in the school curriculum;</p> <p>Sensitize the youth on conflict management and needier dialogue.</p> <p>Create a youth conflict management and resolution desk in citizens' mediation centres.</p> <p>Discourage youth engagement in gangs and cult-related activities and all forms of thuggery both violent and non-violent in the State</p>	<p>To promote safety, security and peaceful coexistence among the youth and general populace by promoting social justice, inclusion, moral rejuvenation, ethnic, religious tolerance, and dialogue.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Justice</p> <p>OTHERS:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.14 Youth, Sports and Recreation

Leisure time activities include games, sports, cultural events, entertainment and community service. The importance of these activities on the psychological, cognitive and physical development of young people cannot be over-emphasized. Appropriate leisure activities help channel the vast energy associated with youthfulness to productive and creative use, and this can be veritable tool to curbing social ills that come when youth are not creatively engaged. Engaging in sporting activities either for leisure or professionally improves physical health and serves as a platform to express innate capabilities. Sports and recreational activities can thus be the veritable vehicle to unite young people as well as promote socio-economic development.

Leisure time or discretionary time, when respected, promoted and channelled appropriately can play a major role in promoting social inclusion, access to opportunities and overall development of the people. The State Government, in a bid to promote sports and recreational activities, engaged in the development of sports and recreational infrastructure in different parts of the State. Football is one of the major sporting activities Osun is known for and considerable success stories have come from the State's Football teams. Other sports include weight lifting, aquatics, canoeing etc.



The State has developed sports initiatives to empower young people in the state. Some of these initiatives include O’Calisthenics which was designed to identify and create a pool of budding talents below the age of eighteen (18) years and train them in calisthenics. While these initiatives are substantive and positive, it is important to continue to address existing challenges, including lack of sporting facilities in many secondary schools and tertiary institutions as well as inadequate support for youth recreational facilities and activities and the lack of access to sporting competitions within and outside the State.

TABLE 5.2.14: YOUTH, SPORTS AND RECREATION

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Design sports based initiatives to reduce the gap between rural and urban youth socialization and recreation</p> <p>Incorporate sport into the regular school curricula in the State</p> <p>Create and sustain programmes to promote sports and nurturing of sports talents among the youth</p> <p>Strengthen the council for the promotion of sports and sports related matters like supervision of Osun State Sports council and other sporting organizations in the State and relating with National Sports Commission;</p> <p>Promote Public Private Partnership in support of indoor games, sports and recreation through the school system</p> <p>Promote the organization of grassroots games competitions involving youth from all backgrounds, including able-bodied and youth living with disabilities</p> <p>Promote the remuneration and award of excellence for best performing youth representing Osun State in any competitive indoor games and sporting activities within and outside the State</p> <p>Develop Sports Connect Centres in all the Local Government Areas of the State for the promotion of grassroots development of football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, lawn tennis, swimming, table tennis and handball.</p>	<p>To promote the participation of youth in a wide range of leisure and sporting activities for youth empowerment and socio-economic development of the State</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Other: Technical Working Group.</p>

5.2.15 Youth, Poverty Reduction, Empowerment and Employment

In spite of the State’s policy thrust on poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth through infrastructural development and renewal as encapsulated in the State of Osun Development Plan, and the recognized responsibilities of various MDAs to achieving these goals, a significant proportion of eligible youth in the population are unemployed. Youth poverty in the State remains a huge challenge and it is occasioned by the lack of institutional framework designed to tackle the problem. Empowering the youth in Osun requires an economic base as well as a social base; the political will, adequate institutional framework devoid of political factors, supportive legal and administrative framework as well as adequate resource need to be committed to achieve the intended goals and objective outlined in the Osun State Youth Policy.



TABLE 5.2.15: YOUTH, POVERTY REDUCTION, EMPOWERMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Involve the youth at all levels of government and decision-making process concerning poverty reduction, employment and empowerment in Osun State.</p> <p>Promote programmes which encourage youth initiative in credit management and involvement in the co-operative movement.</p> <p>Review employment and training policies to encourage companies to offer internship and volunteer opportunities to the youth to give them the required experience to be competitive in the job market.</p> <p>Create and facilitate highly specialized and technologically driven vocational skilled certification programmes for Osun youth.</p> <p>Collaborate with other States and nations on youth exchange programmes with bilateral agreement;</p> <p>Encourage private organization and companies domicile in the State to periodically engage in youth empowerment through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).</p> <p>Promote schemes that provide seed money to support enterprise and empowerment programmes for the youth.</p> <p>Create special empowerment and employment incentives for vulnerable youth.</p> <p>Create Osun State Youth Employment and Empowerment Trust Fund to help Osun address unemployment issues and skill gaps in the State.</p> <p>Create a physical and gender-responsive conducive working environment for all categories of youth in Osun.</p> <p>Promote and encourage technology-based innovation through periodic trainings for Osun youth.</p>	<p>To engage 80% of the youth in economic development and prosperity of the State.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>OTHER: Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.16 Youth and Special Needs

The vast majority of people with special needs have difficulties surviving let alone living a valuable life, however, disability should not be a barrier to success and breaking these barriers will help unlock the potential that people with special needs have to offer. The economic self-sufficiency and independence of people living with special needs depends largely on their capacity to maintain financial stability. Such individuals are among those with highest poverty rate, lowest educational levels and lowest average incomes and highest out-of-pocket expenses of all population.



TABLE 5.2.16: YOUTH AND SPECIAL NEEDS

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Provide institutional care and physical structures for development of youth and people with special needs such as juvenile delinquents, destitute and physically challenged persons.</p> <p>Promote the participation of youth with special needs in leadership, politics, governance and decision making.</p> <p>Provide and promote easily accessible health care services and conducive working and learning environment for youth with special needs.</p> <p>Advocacy and enlightenment against all forms of discrimination and stigmatization against persons with special needs in all sectors.</p> <p>Ensure access and adequate mobility within government facilities. Ensure that all public transport systems take steps to adapt required fitting for the needs of the disabled.</p> <p>Provide grants, bursary, scholarship and other funding support for academically brilliant persons with disability.</p>	<p>To protect the rights of youth with special needs</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.17 Youth Politics, Leadership and Governance

Leadership is one of the most observed and least understood phenomena on earth. A call for a focus on leadership and governance is timely, important and topical as it reflects the worldwide thrust towards political and economic liberalization. Throughout the world, there has been an urgent desire among various people and government for unity, justice, peace and stability. The resurgence of this desire is not only explicable through their political policies alone; but it is also reflected in the social and economic policies (Obasola, 2002).

Today, the State and the nation at large are currently governed by the elders who take various decisions, steps and create various policies in order to lead the country in the path of sustainable development, but this nation will go the path of doom if the youth are marginalized. Youth is a creative force and a dynamic source of innovation. Today, we are an independent nation because of the resilience and resistance by the youth against the colonial masters. However, even after being aware of the significant roles the youth play in the governance of a nation, there is strong evidence of exclusion of youth in governance.

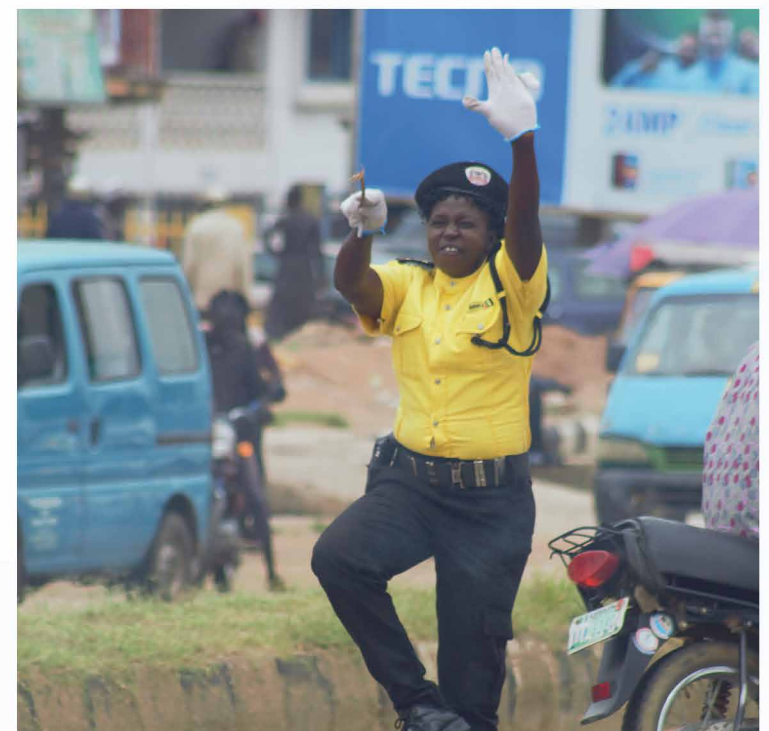


TABLE 5.2.17: YOUTH POLITICS, LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Establish youth development programmes aimed at equipping young people with life skills and self-confidence to take up leadership positions</p> <p>Create a structure for participation and representation, in which young people are selected to input into processes of governance and represent their peers in decision-making bodies.</p> <p>Promote in-depth and practical approach to teaching civic education in the school curriculum.</p> <p>Promote and facilitate youth parliamentarian activities across the State; and promote youth as delegates in the State and national programmes.</p>	<p>To build the leadership capacity of the youth for political participation and governance.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.18 Girls and Young Women

Girls and young women have traditionally faced negative cultural attitudes, practices, gender-based discrimination, and exclusion from the political process, inequality of status that tend to limit their opportunities and undermine self-esteem. Girls and young women continue to occupy lower positions and status, playing subordinate roles to their male counterpart as a result of patriarchal culture and structures that continue to reinforce the situation in our society. Although educational and employment opportunities have increased, the problem remains in gender equality; young women experience more difficulties than young men in finding decent employment.

Osun State has made some progress in entrenching gender equality in many spheres of life in the State, including increase in female child school enrolment and milestone achievement in the political sphere with several elected and appointed officials and enactment of legislation against domestic violence among others. The Youth Policy seeks to take advantage of the knowledge that empowering women and girls has not only direct economic benefits but also positive generational impact. It is against this background that the Osun State Youth Policy specially designed strategic policies to address this very important target population.

TABLE 5.2.18: GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Discourage all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women;</p> <p>Ensure young women's access to full participation in power structures, decision making and leadership.</p> <p>Assert the rights and promote the wellbeing of girls and young women in the state, by enlightening them on their rights and responsibilities;</p> <p>Engender leadership qualities in female youth through participation in capacity building training programmes;</p> <p>Empower girls and young women through skill acquisition and capacity building programmes designed for the sustainability of their businesses</p>	<p>To recognize the uniqueness and rights of girls and young women, and empower them to participate fully in the development of the society.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Women, Child and Social Affairs</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>



TABLE 5.2.18: GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Provide funding and material support to female youth who have undergone training and have acquired skills for self and sustainable employment</p> <p>Improve gender parity in the crucial areas of health, education, and employment;</p> <p>Promote sexual and reproductive health education in communities, schools and homes;</p> <p>Enforce the statutory age of marriage, that is 18 years, as defined under the child rights law;</p> <p>Enforce the provisions of the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law and Rape 2007;</p> <p>Promote and protect the reproductive rights of young women by providing information, services and enabling environment including the right to decide the number, timing and spacing of their children;</p> <p>Encourage female enrolment and education in the area of science and technology and other fields through incentives such as scholarships;</p>	<p>To recognize the uniqueness and rights of girls and young women, and empower them to participate fully in the development of the society.</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Women, Child and Social Affairs</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.19 Youth and Mining

Nigeria is endowed with a lot of mineral resources widely distributed in virtually all States in the country. In Osun State, almost all the Local Government Areas have one of more than one mineral resource. The mineral resources found in Osun include Gold, Talc, Feldspar, Cassiterite, Columbite, Granite, Mica, Iron Ore, Kaolin, Tourmaline and Aquamarine. Gold can be found in Igila, Itagunmodi, Oluwu Village, Iperindo, Iregun, Okulu-Omo, Aiyetoro, Eyingbin village, Ashafe, Eyinta village, Igangan village, Okepo village, Ipole village, and Ajoku village, (Atakunmosa East Local Government Area and Atakunmosa Local Government Area). Tourmaline can be found in Irewole Local Government, Aquamarine can be found in Atakunmosa East and West and Ife Central Local Government Area. Cassiterite can be found in Atakunmosa East and West and Ife Central Local Government Area. Iron ore can be found in Ejigbo, Ola-Oluwa. Tantalite mining centre is located in Ifewara, Columbite is mined in Iperindo. The State Youth Policy identifies that mining sector as a viable sector where youth can thrive. However, adequate knowledge acquisition and skills training will characterize youth involvement in mining as stipulated in the Youth Policy so that youth can understand the value chain that characterizes the mining sector.



TABLE 5.2.19: YOUTH AND MINING

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Showcase to the youth the available opportunities in mining through the media;</p> <p>Encourage Osun youth's participation in mining and provide strong institutional and structural support for Osun State youth interested in mining;</p> <p>Educate the youth about the various minerals that are available in the state and organize training and retraining programmes for youth interested in mining;</p> <p>Ensure that safely procedures are followed in mining fields to prevent or reduce mining hazard and negative environmental impact</p> <p>Ensure that mining firms prioritize the employment of youth in the state and that there are insurance schemes for youth engaged in mining activities;</p>	<p>Encourage participation of youth in the state mining sector in order to boost the economy of the state</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Office of Forestry and Natural Resources (Mining Department)</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>

5.2.20 Youth in Transition

The reality of life dictates that we all transit from one phase of life to another. Successful transition from one phase of life to another requires adequate training, acquisition of requisite skills and adaptable knowledge that allow one to thrive in one's vocation or pursuit in life. The State Youth Policy recognizes and identifies that youth development has an exit point and those who have been beneficiaries of the provisions of this policy can further serve as a pool of resource for those still captured in the policy. This transition does not particularly mean that these resources are lost, but they will form the vanguard of mentors and by their stories and experiences serve as those who can be relied upon to serve as role models having enjoyed the benefits of Osun State Youth Policy.

TABLE 5.2.20 YOUTH IN TRANSITION

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Create a database for all youth captured in the State Youth Policy</p> <p>Develop a mechanism that allows these mentors to be part of the other policy provisions itemized in the Strategic thrust</p>	<p>Encourage youth in transition to plough back into the programmes and projects of the State Youth Policy through sharing their experiences, stories as well as providing mentorship for those captured in the youth policy</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports.</p> <p>OTHERS:</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>



5.2.21 Youth in Diaspora

Many youth clamour for the benefits of a better life to achieve their dreams and aspirations. Youth in Diaspora have immense opportunities to be an integral part of the development in any nation. The youth policy takes a particular interest in youth who have in the course of the dreams and aspirations found themselves in other countries around the world and their contribution to the development of the motherland. It also takes into consideration the yearnings of these youth and their desire to add value to the homeland and the strategies that will ensure that their concerns, challenges and opinions are adequately covered in the youth policy. The youth policy also considers the unique challenges faced by youth in Diaspora and advocates on strategies that can help youth overcome these challenges through partnership and collaboration with the National Commission on Diaspora with a view to protecting the interest of Osun youth citizens.

TABLE 5.2.21 YOUTH IN DIASPORA

POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY INTERVENTION GOAL	MDA
<p>Create a platform that collates the database for all youth in Diaspora to enable State have a profile of Osun Youth in the Diaspora.</p> <p>Create a linkage between the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Osun State and the National Commission for Nigerians in Diaspora.</p> <p>Develop awareness programmes that attract youth in Diaspora to be part of the socio-economic development of Osun.</p> <p>Develop strategies that protect youth in Diaspora from the various challenges faced by youth in other countries of the world.</p>	<p>Create a platform where youth in Diaspora have access to be an integral part of the socio-economic development of Osun State</p>	<p>LEAD:</p> <p>Ministry of Youth and Sports</p> <p>Ministry of Regional Integration and Special Duties</p> <p>OTHER</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p>



Chapter Six

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Osun State Youth Policy envisions the following institutional framework and implementation mechanism. This institutional framework is designed to function in consonance with the objectives of the State Youth Policy and create an all-inclusive platform that allows the contributions of all stakeholders to be part of the policy framework of the Osun State Youth Policy.

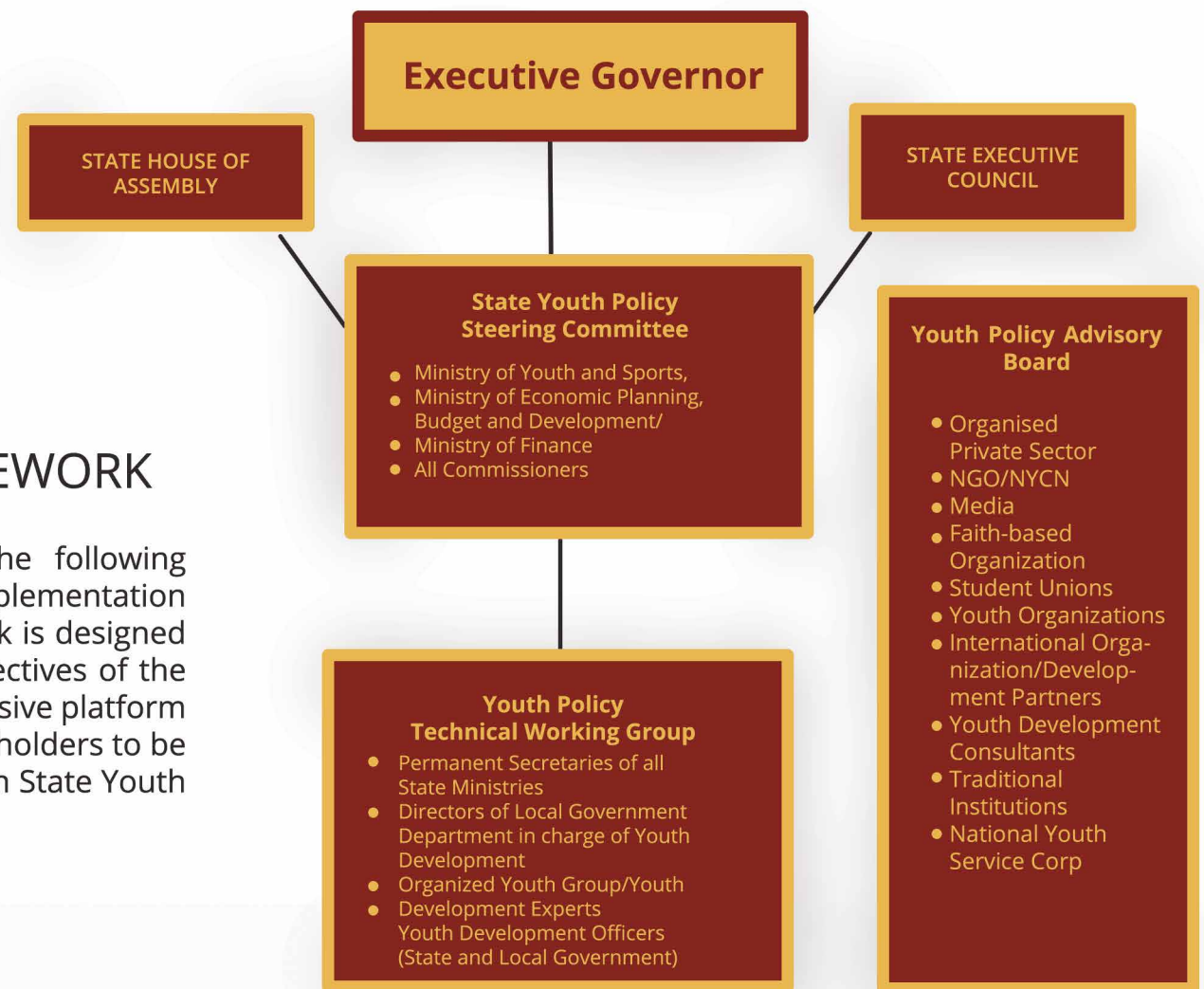


Figure 3: Osun State Youth Policy Institutional Implementation Framework



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

STATE YOUTH POLICY INSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approves all policy programmes and projects ○ Approves proposed Youth-related bills for Osun State House of Assembly 	<p>EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review and recommend policy programmes and projects as evaluated by the State Youth Policy Steering Committee 	<p>STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enact Youth Policy Laws as recommended by the State Youth Policy Steering Committee 	<p>STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review all youth policy programmes and projects as recommended by the Youth Policy Technical Working Group 	<p>STATE YOUTH POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluate all youth policy programmes and projects for recommendations to the State Youth Policy Steering Committee 	<p>YOUTH POLICY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluate youth policy strategic thrust and implementation strategies outlined in the youth policy for Youth Policy Technical Working Groups ○ Make wide consultations on various thematic areas highlighted in Osun State Youth Policy 	<p>YOUTH POLICY ADVISORY BOARD</p>



6.2 STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

6.2.1 Youth-Friendly Legislative Support

This requires the continuous policy mandates and awareness campaigns geared towards educating the State Parliament and Local Governments for;

- i The provision of immediate structural and institutional changes necessary for the dismantling of failed programmes and services
- ii The implementation of concerted and comprehensive youth-based programmes
- iii Addressing youth inclusion in the decision-making process
- iv Addressing public services stagnated response to youth issues
- v Alleviating government bureaucracy in youth service and programme management
- vi Building consensus among Ministry of Youth and Sports staff and key youth stakeholders, especially young people on the strategic direction for youth development in the State Cabinet approval for youth related legislation.
- vii Full adoption by the House of Assembly with supporting legislation
- viii Inclusion in Annual State budget
- ix Creation of a shared Strategic Action Plan based on a prioritized list of programmes, projects and services.

6.3 STATE YOUTH POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE

6.3.1 The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Osun State

This is the ministerial organ of the State Government directly responsible for policy formulation, review and design of priority programmes of action and broad guidelines for youth development in the State. The ministry has the responsibility and mandate of overseeing and coordinating the implementation of Youth Policy from the State and Local Government levels, other implementation agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has the overseeing and supervisory responsibility for specialized agencies concerned with youth development such as the Osun State Youth Development Council, National Youth Service Corp scheme as well as the proposed Osun Youth Development Fund (Osun Employment and Empowerment Trust Funds).

6.3.2 Osun State Youth Policy Implementation Committee

There will be a need for the establishment of a broad-based State Committee on Osun Youth Policy and Programmes comprising of members from the Ministries of Youth and Sports, Health, Agriculture and Food Security. This committee is to be chaired by the Honourable Commissioner, Youth and Sports or the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports. The committee will be saddled with the following responsibilities:

- i Review and assess various State youth-based programmes and schemes being offered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and its stakeholders.
- ii Advise the State Government on appropriate implementation measures for Osun State Youth Policy Action Plan.
- iii Develop a prioritized list of youth programmes and projects.
- iv Develop a coordinated approach to make the most efficient use of resources available for youth programmes and projects.
- v Efficient classification and synchronization of existing youth programmes and projects for the youth.
- vi Revision of the State Youth Parliament.
- vii Strengthening and improving existing programmes for youth.



6.4 OSUN STATE YOUTH TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

6.4.1 Local Government Departments In Charge of Youth Development

In order to ensure an all-inclusive policy cover, effective as well as mass participation of all the youth in the State especially from the grassroots levels, each Local Government Authority will create a platform within the respective Local Government Areas of the State to ensure that youth participation in the decision-making process of their local governments is in line with the Osun State Youth Policy.

6.5 OSUN STATE YOUTH POLICY ADVISORY BOARD

6.5.1 National Youth Council of Nigeria (Osun State Chapter)

The National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) was founded in 1964 to be the voice and the umbrella organization for youth organizations in the country. The National Youth Council of Nigeria (Osun State Chapter), is saddled with the responsibility of shouldering the various youth organizations in the State. The Youth Council is a non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit making organization with a twelve (12) member State Executive Committee which are democratically elected officials from the affiliated youth organizations registered with the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Osun State Chapter.

The Youth Council is the major stakeholder in the implementation of the Osun State Youth Policy and should be strengthened by the State Government by making provisions for subventions for the Youth Council annually while also allowing the organization to exercise a length of independence in the control

and organization of its activities. All voluntary youth organizations will be encouraged to be affiliated to the State Chapter of the National Youth Council of Nigeria in order to ensure proper coordination at the level of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. As a mother body, the Youth Council will be mandated to pursue transparency and accountability in all its conduct and activities in line with the Policy.

6.5.2 Youth Organizations and Non-Governmental Organization and Student Unions

Under the State Youth Policy, the creative input of youth organizations as well as non-governmental organizations dedicated to youth development will be encouraged. The involvement of these organizations will help develop a crop of youth volunteers who are vital to youth engagement and participation. Voluntary organizations dedicated to youth development will be actively engaged while new ones will be encouraged to be part of the success of the State Youth Policy. The Student Unions' domiciled in all tertiary institutions in the State will also be mobilized to be actively involved in the implementation of the Policy. The Student Union serves as a training ground in leadership and service quality as it grooms youth in tertiary institutions to be transparent, accountable and patriotic towards the development of the State. The Student Union will have a representative in the State Youth Development Fund (Osun Employment and Empowerment Trust Funds).

6.5.3 Organized Private Sector

The Organized Private Sector has been identified as a veritable partner in economic development as well as an important partner in promoting the objectives of the State Youth Policy. This is because they are the beneficiaries of employable youth as well as the creative value youth bring into development of ideas that sustain and enable enterprises to thrive. The Organized Private Sector will be expected to contribute to the development of job creation as well as skills training, community enterprise development as well as seminars, workshop and remedial training in order to improve the quality of youth work force in Osun, which is a policy thrust of the State Youth Policy. The Organized Private Sector will thus have a representation in the State Youth Employment and Empowerment Trust Fund.



6.5.4 International Organization

The State Youth Policy recognizes the benefits of having international partnerships as well as collaboration. The State Youth Policy has this as one of its strategic policy thrust. This is important because of the intellectual experience, human and financial resources as regards youth-based development that international donor agencies and partnership bring to the table. The wealth of experience as well as access to relevant data and materials that help equip youth that international organizations will help the State Youth Policy achieve its objectives.

6.5.5 Mass Media

The role of the mass media is vital to the success of the State Youth Policy as the responsibility of educating, informing and enlightening the citizens of the State lies in the hand of the mass media. The role of the media has, in recent times, evolved as the emergence of social media has revolutionized the way information is distributed. The Youth Policy will take advantage of the various media platforms in reaching the youth citizenry on all policy provisions enumerated in this youth policy. Information relation to the State Youth Policy will also be made available on the official website of the State Government of Osun.

6.5.6 Faith-Based Organizations

Faith-based organizations serve as a meeting point for various youth irrespective of the religious leanings. This makes such faith-based organization important partners in the implementation of a State Youth Policy. The moral discipline that forms the anchor upon which most religious bodies thrives can be used as a veritable tool for youth development. The State Policy recognizes the importance of these organizations and place a premium in its involvement in the implementation of the State Youth Policy document. These organizations will also be represented in the State Development Funds.

6.6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The role of monitoring and evaluation is vital to the success of the State Youth Policy and the reality is that none of the policy objectives outlined in this document can be achieved without the structural support, institutional capacities and resources, implementation and periodic evaluations necessary to deliver the recommended strategies, objectives as well as action plan and monitor their impact on the target population as well as the State economy as a whole. In view of the aforementioned, the monitoring and evaluation of the State Youth Policy will assist in the following areas:

- Provision of multi-sectoral coordination among various governmental and
 - i non-governmental agencies as well as facilitate their involvement in the youth development process as outlined in this Youth Policy to fulfil the policy objectives.
 - ii Provision of technical assistance in research, planning, policy development and information dissemination to youth and youth-based organizations;
 - iii Overseeing the periodic revision of the Osun State Youth Policy;
 - iv Spearheading the development of a Strategic Action Plan for youth development based on the policy objectives outlines in this youth policy.
 - v Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, implementation costs and identify sources of funding for the youth policy;
 - vi Setting up reasonable benchmarks and timelines for phased implementation of Osun State Youth Policy;
 - vii Tracking risk trends and monitoring positive advancement of youth in the state;
- Conducting and inventory of youth-led and youth serving organizations
 - viii which will include information on their structure, staffing, challenges, projects and programmes, funding, impact as well SWOT assessment in the State

6.6.1 Mechanism for Monitoring and Reporting

The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Osun State supported by the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Osun State Chapter, youth-based organizations, youth practitioners and researchers, the Osun State Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the National Data Bank, the National Population Commission and Universities as well as Social Science Research Institutes will be adopted and mandated to monitor and evaluate the progress as well as challenges of the projects and programmes of the State Youth Policy.



6.6.2 Assistance of External Partners on Monitoring and Evaluation

- i External partners will be encouraged to observe, participate and examine the monitoring and evaluation processes and methods of the State Youth Policy;
- ii Efforts to advance and extend the objectives of the Youth Policy are to be supported by the adoption of best practices, refining methods, strengthening capacity and expand ownership of the monitoring and evaluation process in collaboration with external partners;
- iii Independent, impartial and objective reporting by external partners to ensure good governance and accountability for the development, implementation and progress of this youth policy;
- iv Developing clear terms of reference when external partners are involved in defining the objective, composition, status, scope, role and responsibility, reporting, channels of communication and duration of monitoring and evaluation work to be done by the external partners;

6.6.3 The Development of Annual Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

The Strategic Action Plan will describe the actions, programmes and projects to be implemented to achieve key objectives of the State Youth Policy. The process of selecting possible actions will be guided by standards outlined by recommended strategies of this youth policy. The following criteria will guide the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan:

- i Action strategies will include a range of possible actions which are acceptable to all stakeholders.
- ii Where there are sequences of activities, a particular long-term goal should be clearly defined within the plan
- iii The process of developing the Strategic Action Plan must be exposed to creative and manageable approaches
- iv Short term actions and decisions must be separated from long term actions and decisions
- v Exploration approaches will be encouraged in order to diminish reservations or assumptions about the impact of a particular action in mind

- vi There must be openness to ideas and other approaches because a great deal of learning and shared understanding will characterize the development of the Strategic Action Plan

6.6.4 Osun State Youth Policy Review Process

Osun State Youth Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years from the date of commencement of implementation with a view to making necessary improvement. The review process will be democratic, inclusive and involve wide range consultations and discussions with all relevant stakeholders.

6.7 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The success of the implementation and actualization of the objectives enumerated in the Osun State Youth Policy is of great importance. The success of this policy is hinged on the ability of government to mobilize sufficient resources, both from internal and external sources. Within the context of this Policy, resources are categorized into three perspectives. These include human, technical and financial resources. It is important to note that each of these resources is of great importance and none should be overlooked. Therefore, no effort should be spared in the task of generating sufficient resources to facilitate the efficient and timely execution of the programmes associated with the Osun State Youth Policy.

6.7.1 Human Resources

In enhancing human resources for Osun State Youth Policy, the government and other stakeholders are to:

- i. Encourage the tertiary institutions to promote leadership training programmes and skill training for youth in school
- ii. Provide short-term in training and re-training programmes through workshops and seminars, both at the State and international levels, so as to strengthen the capacity of youth development organizations
- iii. Formulate and implement manpower policy for youth across the State



6.7.2 Technical Resources

The government is to procure technical equipment for the provision of quality educational trainings, health services, skills training, rehabilitation as well as sporting facilities for the youth in the State.

6.7.3 Financial Resources

Financial resources shall be mobilized from both internal and external sources

- i Financial resources shall be mobilized from the State Government's Annual budgetary allocations and these allocations should be made available and cashed backed on time for implementation.
- ii Establishment of the Osun State Employment and Entrepreneurship Trust Fund where contributions from Organized Private Sector and persons of goodwill can be warehoused for promotion and implementation of the Youth Policy.
- iii Government shall mobilize external funds from development partners for the implementation of Osun State Youth Policy.
- iv The Government shall ensure transparency and accountability in the disbursement of all funds for youth development programmes as outlined in this policy.



CONCLUSION

Osun State Youth Policy aims to achieve all sustainable round development for the youth in the State. The policy has taken into consideration the various facets that revolve around sustainable youth engagement and development in the State.

Therefore it is important for the State Government as well as all relevant stakeholders to identify with the goals and objective of the policy. The policy advocates that the State Government should continue to solicit the continuous engagement, active participation, collaborations and support of all stakeholders in line with the policy objectives. Osun State Youth Policy is a policy that will actively engage the youth of the State and ensure this blueprint becomes the official template of youth development in the State.





Osun State Youth Policy



Ministry of Youth and Sports,
Osun State, Nigeria

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