



Federal Republic of Nigeria

National Youth Policy

*Enhancing Youth Development and Participation
in the context of Sustainable Development*

Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development

2019 Edition

FOREWORD

Nigeria's youth plays key role in our National Development efforts hence our administration has enunciated a clear policy framework to ensure that the enabling environment is created for them to maximally realize their creative and productive potentials. Appropriate strategies to mainstream youth concerns into our national development efforts are receiving priority attention in order to properly face up to the challenges thrown up by our commitment to human capital development with special emphasis on our vibrant youth.

The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development has completed the review and updating of the 2009 National Youth Policy. The new document is all inclusive, elaborate and proactively crafted to take into account exiting, new and emerging challenges in the youth sector. The review process itself took into consideration the guidelines originating from best practices as synthesized under the United Nations. The ministry and its partners moved beyond the guidelines to add areas peculiar to Nigeria setting such that the new policy has 3 strategic thrusts, 10 thematic areas and 21 objectives and commits to evidence based approach.

The review also incorporated a pragmatic approach to policy formulation; it emphasized the need for a coherent, systematic and comprehensive approach to the determination of good programmes for the youth. The new National Youth Policy is a product of an all-inclusive, participatory and consultative meetings with various stakeholders across the length and breadth of the country as well as International Development Partners. The participatory approach to the design of the policy has heightened awareness and provided opportunities for various actors to articulate their views and make inputs into the new policy. The approach also promoted collective ownership of the policy by all stakeholders.

A major thrust of the current review is regarding the age bracket for the classification of youth from existing grading of 18 – 35 years to 15 – 29 years. The review is informed by practical empirical analysis and the need to promote the appropriate targeting of desired beneficiaries of intervention programmes for the youth rather than adults masquerading as youth. As a national policy framework for the development of our youth, I commend the document to all levels of government for accelerated implementations as the roles of all stakeholders are clearly spelt out.

I want to reassure all Nigerians that this new National Youth Policy vividly captures workable strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Demographic Dividend and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) of the present administration. This administration will do all that is necessary to ensure that, in collaboration with other stakeholders, the lofty intentions of the new policy is made a reality for our teeming youth.

Barr. Solomon Selcap Dalung
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The quest by the Management of Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development to review the National Youth Policy became necessary and even more imperative in view of the fact that the 2009 edition expired 2014 and the proviso in the document for five years periodic review. In all ramifications it needed to be upgraded to provide an appropriate policy framework to deal with emerging challenges confronting the modern day Nigeria youth. Therefore, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development in collaboration with the United Nation Population fund (UNFPA) brought together relevant stakeholders and organizations to review the National Youth Policy.

While acknowledging the efforts of the past management and staff of the Ministry and, indeed all stakeholders in the implementation of the old document, the review of the new National Youth Policy (NYP) was made possible by Almighty God for the drive, strength and knowledge he provided throughout the review exercise. The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development wishes to thank the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for its encouragement and support and for the recruitment of two notable consultants: Professors Alfred Adegoke and Adesegun Fatusi who diligently and committedly facilitated the review process to a successful end.

Justice will not have been done without mentioning the contributions of the various stakeholders like the Office of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Members of the National Assembly, Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP), National Youth Service Corp, Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre, National Bureau of Statistics and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government. Let me also thank the National Youth Council of Nigeria, the Nigerian Youth Parliament, Youthhub Africa and other Youth-led and Youth focused Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, members of the Organized Private sector and our Development partners whose invaluable inputs and contributions towards the development of this policy will not go unnoticed.

We also wish to thank all the staff of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, especially the Directorate cadre of staff of Education and Youth Development Department in the Ministry and the staff who worked closely with them for their cooperation and sacrifice

towards the review of the Policy from the consultative meetings, drafting and zonal consultative meetings and validation to final production.

To The teeming youth who linked up on line via social media and other electronic medium to give credibility to this document, our profound gratitude go to you all for your inputs. It is our prayer that everyone and in particular, the policy makers and Government personalities would find this policy document useful for coordination and implementation of the development of our young people.

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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
CLTC	Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre
CoEs	Colleges of Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ERGP	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
FBOs	Faith-based Organisations
FLHE	Family Life and Health Education
GAR	Gross Attendance Ratio
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information 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
MSMEs	Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises
NACA	National Agency for the Control of AIDS
NAR	Net Attendance Ratio
NARHS	National HIV/AIDS & Reproductive Health Study
NASS	National Assembly
NBTE	National Board for Technical Education
NCCE	National Commission of Colleges of Education
NCY	National Council on Youth
NDHS	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NECA	Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, Training
NEPC	Nigeria Export Promotion Council
NGOs	Non-governmental Organisations
NIS	Nigeria Immigration Service
NITDA	National Information Technology Development Agency
NITDF	National Information Technology Development Fund
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp
NTI	National Teachers Institute
NUC	Nigeria University Commission
NYCN	National Youth Council of Nigeria
NYDC	National Youth Development Council
NYP	National Youth Policy
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
OST	Out-of-School Time
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PHCs	Primary Health Care
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria

SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
STEM	Sciences, Technical, Engineering, and Mathematics
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
YCE	Youth Civic Engagement

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

The National Youth Policy represents a declaration and commitment to the priorities, directions and practical supports that a country intends to provide for the development of its young men

and women. It is a concrete and bold step to put the development and participation of youth at the centre of national development efforts. It is indicative of the readiness of the Government and people of Nigeria to meet the needs and aspirations of the youth as well as seek a solution to their problems. It sets guidelines and provides the framework for all stakeholders to empower the youth 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 country.

Policy Vision

Develop Nigeria youth with equal opportunities to realise their dreams and aspirations, irrespective of their background and living in a safe and secure environment that would optimise their contributions to National Development.

Policy Mission

To provide stakeholders in youth development an all-inclusive framework that will ensure the realisation of the full potentials of all Nigerian young men and women irrespective of their ethnic, religious, and socio-economic background.

Policy Goal

To provide an appropriate framework that protects the fundamental human rights of all youth, promote their optimal development and well-being, and enhance their participation in every sphere of national development processes.

Target Population

The National Youth Policy broadly targets all young people in Nigeria 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: low-risk youth, especially vulnerable youth, and most-at-risk youth.

Strategic Thrusts

The strategic thrusts of this Policy are five cross-sectoral developmental pillars that are fundamental to enabling youth to 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:

1. **Productive Workforce and Sustainable Economic Engagement of Youth:** 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 national development, as well as strategically position the country for the achievement of demographic dividends.
2. **Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyle:** Fostering the health development of youth through appropriate health 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.
3. **Participation, inclusiveness and equitable opportunities for all Youth:** Address barriers to meaningful youth engagement in civil and political affairs, and enhance opportunities for constructive involvement and meaningful participation of all Nigeria youth in community and social development, political processes and governance agenda at all levels, to the limit of their ability, desires and experience.
4. **Promotive and Protective Environment for Youth Development:** Ensure an enabling environment that is supportive of optimal development of youth and protective of their fundamental human rights, thereby ensuring inclusion, equal opportunities for development and freedom from abuse, violence, intimidation and discrimination.
5. **Partnership-building and effective collaboration:** Enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergy among all stakeholders as well as sustain the inter-sectoral and multi-sectoral 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.

Policy Benchmarks

<p>1. Productive Workforce and Sustainable Economic Engagement of Youth</p>	<p><u>Education, capacity-building and skills development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage enrolment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses by offering annual bursaries to 100,000 eligible STEM undergraduates ● Enable best practices and professional training for over 295,000 education personnel under the Continuing Professional Development for Teachers Programme, and 850 English Language, Science and Mathematics teachers across the country ● Ensure that all 151 CoEs and 200 NTI study centres nationwide key into the teacher education reforms ● Establish Study Loan Schemes for tertiary students in all states ● Establish special intervention fund to support the education of persons with special needs ● Establish 500,000 learner-friendly mass literacy centres for out-of-school youth over the next five years. ● Recruit and train 500,000 mass literacy instructors/counselors and deploy in the mass literacy centres over the next three years for out of school youth <p><u>Employment creation and entrepreneurship</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create an average of 3.7 million jobs per year (approximately 18.5 million jobs over the 5-year policy period), with priority on youth employment ● Establish a job matching programme for new graduates by incentivizing employers to retain National Youth Service Corp members at the end of their service ● Enhance access to the N250 billion CBN MSME fund by reviewing its design and implementing enabling initiatives to encourage on-lending ● Expand short-term entrepreneurship capacity development to assist 10,000 emerging and practicing youth entrepreneurs in each state and the FCT ● Establish/strengthen incubation centres (at least one per state and the FCT) and support youth innovators to acquire rights over their properties/ inventions through patents/ trademarks registration
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish Enterprise Development Centre in each LGA <p><u>Youth in Agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance youth access to the multi-billion Naira CBN MSME fund by reviewing its design and implementing enabling initiatives to encourage on-lending ● Enhance agricultural extension services to 1:1,000 by 2020 and to 1:750 by 2022, and with priority on youth in agriculture ● Sustain and scale up the delivery of credit to 1.6 million farmers by 2020 and 2 million farmers by 2022, including youth ● Create the Nigerian Youth Development Fund (NYDF) with special focus on lending credits and grant to youth entrepreneurs and agropreneurs. ● Establish two Agribusiness Incubation Centre per zone ● Engage in innovative financing mechanisms to encourage diverse participation of youth in Agriculture <p><u>Youth and ICT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build the capacity of at least one million youth in Basic, Mid-level and Advanced digital skills ● Channel funding to youth entrepreneurs in the ICT sector through accelerators and incubators ● 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 ● Develop mentorship programs to support up-coming youth start-ups by already established ICT businesses
<p>2. Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrate adolescent- and youth-friendly health services in at least 70% of the 100,000 PHC facilities targeted for renovation by the federal government ● Fully implement the National Standards and Minimum Service Package for Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services nationwide. ● Establish national accreditation system and certification for training programmes in adolescent- and youth-friendly health (AYFHS) as well as for service delivery facilities ● Ensure the availability of AYFHS in at least 67% of established youth development centres through integration of services and/or effective linkage with health facilities ● Enforce the Tertiary Institutions Social Health Insurance Programme for students in tertiary institutions ● Sustain free anti-retroviral treatment for youth living with HIV

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure the implementation of health-promoting school initiative on nationwide basis, including school-based physical education and drug education
<p>3. Participation, inclusiveness and equitable opportunities for all Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen NYSC platform to support the entrenchment of the culture of volunteerism for both in and out of school youth ● Create an enabling environment for the emergence of youth social entrepreneurs by awarding grants to innovative initiatives ● Develop preventive, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to integrate vulnerable youth ● Develop platform for the engagement of youth with disabilities and other vulnerable youth and their equitable participation in governance ● 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. ● Strengthen the capacities of youth for political engagement through training and mentorship, and the promotion of their leadership skills for governance. ● Institute a National Youth Award scheme to recognize and honour exceptional youth in all fields of endeavor.
<p>4. Promotive and Protective Environment for Youth Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy to strengthen and enforce appropriate legislations and policies relating to the rights of youth with disabilities and youth living with HIV. ● Support youth led- organizations with a focus on fundamental human rights and advocacy for the protection of these rights. ● 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 ● Advocate for the ratification of the Conventions of the Rights of the Child by all states and its enforcement, including the minimum marriage of 18 years
<p>5. Partnership-building and effective collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish a multi- sectorial youth development technical working group to ensure effective delivery and to achieve policy objectives ● Establish a National Youth Development Fund ● 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 National Youth Policy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen the diploma in youth development work anchored on the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) model. ● Government should ensure the revival of grants to functional Youth focused NGOs to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of their activities
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Implementation Framework

Youth development is a cross-cutting national agenda; as such, the implementation of this Policy will involve all development sectors, including the government, the civil society, the organised private sector, international development agencies, and the youths themselves. The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development will directly be responsible for coordinating and driving the implementation of this policy in line with her mandate.

THEMATIC FOCUS	OBJECTIVES	KEY AGENCIES/STAKEHOLDER
Strategic Thrust I: Productive Workforce and Sustainable Economic Engagement of Youths		
Education, capacity-building and skills development	1. Improve the quality of education and skill training programmes	<i>Lead MDA:</i> Education
	2. Improve access, enrolment, retention and completion of youth to education and skill acquisition programmes.	<i>Other MDAs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth and Sports Development ● Information and Culture ● Office of the Vice President ● Science and Technology ● Labour and Employment ● Agriculture and Rural Development
	3. Promote equitable access to educational opportunities for all youths	
	4. Promote life-long learning among youths	
Employment creation and entrepreneurship	5. Expand employment opportunities through diversification of the economy.	<i>Lead MDA:</i> Budget and National Planning Labor and Employment/FMYSD
	6. Increase access of youth entrepreneurs to assets and supportive services	<i>Other MDAs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance ● Agriculture and Rural Development ● Water Resources
	7. Build linkages between the industrial sector and the	

	educational system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Science and Technology ● Communication ● Solid Minerals ● Industry, Trade and Investment ● Petroleum Resources ● Bank of Industry ● Bank of Agriculture ● Central Bank of Nigeria ● Youth and Sports ● Women Affairs ● Education
Youth in Agriculture	Promote Active Youth Involvement in Agriculture for National Food Security, Social Development and job creation	<p><i>Lead MDA: Agriculture & Rural Development</i></p> <p><i>Other MDAs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education ● Industry, Trade and investment ● Science and Technology ● Central Bank of Nigeria ● Bank of Industry ● Bank of Agriculture ● NAFDAC ● Water Resources ● Standard Organisation of Nigeria ● Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing Agency for Agricultural Lending ● Finance ● FMYSD
Youth and ICT	To put in place an environment where Nigerian youths can aspire to prosperity by harnessing the opportunities provided by	<p><i>Lead MDA: Communication</i></p> <p><i>Other MDAs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Science and Technology ● Education ● Galaxy ● NITDA/ NITDF ● FMYSD
<p>Strategic Thrust II: Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyles</p>		

Health Services	8. Improve the quality of youth-related health care services	<i>Lead MDA:</i> Health
	9. Improve the coverage of health care services for youths	<i>Other MDAs:</i>
	10. Promote appropriate health behaviour, including sports and leisure-time activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education ● Youth and Sports Development ● NACA ● NDLEA ● NIS ● FME
Strategic Thrust III: Participation, Inclusiveness and Equitable Opportunities for All Youth		
Civic Engagement	11. Strengthen the platform and capacity for youth engagement and participation	<i>Lead MDA:</i> Youth and Sports Development
	12. Create platforms and enabling environment for the inclusion of marginalized youths	<i>Other MDAs:</i>
	13. Strengthen intergenerational relationships and solidarity 14. Encourage all Nigerian youth to always recite the two stanzas of the national Anthem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women Affairs ● Information & Culture ● CLTC ● NYSC ● NOA
Political Inclusion	15. Enhance the capacities of youth and youth-led organisations to engage actively with the political processes at all levels	<i>Lead MDA:</i>
	16. Foster an enabling environment for youth engagement with the political processes at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Independent National Electoral Commission ● Youth and Sports Development ● Human Right Commission Ministry of Justice
Strategic Thrust IV: Ensure Promotive and Protective Environment for Youths		
Human rights and fundamental freedom of youth	17. Develop and enforce gender-sensitive laws and policies that promote and protect the human rights of all youth	<i>Lead MDA:</i> Ministry of Justice National Assembly National Human Right Commission <i>Other MDAs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth and Sports Development ● Women Affairs ● Information and Culture
Peace and Security	18. Entrench a mind-set and culture of peace-building, tolerance, dialogue and conflict resolution	<i>Lead MDA:</i> Ministry of Interior/NSA <i>Other MDA:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defense

	among youth through formal and informal education, and putting in place supportive social structures and mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information, NOA ● NIMC ● Immigration ● NSCDC ● NPF ● Institute of Peace & Conflict Resolution ● CLTC ● FME
Strategic Thrust V Effective Partnership-Building and Collaboration in Youth Development		
Capacity for promoting youth development agenda	19. Strengthening the capacity of government agencies for promoting youth development agenda	<i>Lead MDA:</i> Youth and Sports Development, Women Affairs <i>Other MDA:</i> FMST
	20. Strengthening professional development and professionalism in youth work	Academic and Research Institutions (NYCN) CLTC
	21. Strengthening the capacity of youth-led organisations for youth work	
Sustainable platform for multi-sectoral collaboration	22. Establishing and operationalizing sustainable platforms for multi-sectoral collaboration	<i>Lead MDA:</i> Youth and Sports Development <i>Other MDAs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education ● Health ● Women Affairs ● Science and Technology ● Agriculture ● Information ● Finance ● Justice ● Academic and Research Institutions ● NECA

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1. Background, Rationale and Policy Context

1.1. Background to the National Youth Policy

Youth are one of the greatest assets that any nation can have. Not only are they legitimately regarded as the partners of today, but also the greatest investment for a country's development. Young women and men are, in particular, recognised as a vital resource whose prospects are inextricably tied to that of their country. They are the valued possession of any nation or region: without them, there can be no future. They are the centre of reconstruction and development. They serve as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself. The extent of their vitality, responsible conduct, and roles in society is positively correlated with the development of their country. Programmes and policies that focus on the wholesome development of young people and their active participation in various sectors of nation building are increasingly being emphasised on a global level. The recognition of this fact led to the development of a National Youth Policy.

A National Youth Policy (NYP) is a declaration and commitment to the priorities, directions and practical support that a country intends to give to the development of its young men and women. It clearly defines the place and role of youth in society and the responsibility of society to youth, and should be supported by the following four universal concepts: 'Participation', 'Equity', 'Protection' and 'Cohesion'. In keeping with this perspective, the National Youth Policy should be viewed not so much as a means of addressing problems associated with young people but as a means of ensuring their participation in and positive contribution to the building of their communities and societies. The National Youth Policy recognises and values young men and women as valuable resources, national assets and situates their needs and aspiration at the centre of national development.

1.2. Rationale for the Revision of Nigeria National Youth Policy

Nigeria's first National Youth Policy was developed in 1981. The drafting of an inclusive social development policy for Nigeria in 1989 provided a basis for the review of the first youth policy in the same year. Subsequent youth policy reviews have been conducted over the years partly because the implementation mechanisms of the previous policies were weak and ineffective, and partly because of the changing national macro-economic and socio-political environment as well as the dynamics of the global youth development. In the year 2007, the Federal Government created a full-fledged Ministry of Youth Development. This development gave impetus for the revision of the 2001 youth policy in 2009. In 2016, it has become necessary to revise the 2009 youth policy to reflect new realities and trends including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and new and emerging issues affecting the vast majority of young people in Nigeria.

This new Policy aims to build on the achievements of previous youth development efforts, provide the national framework to address the new realities and emergent issues in national youth arena, and elevate youth engagement in economic, political, and community life. The Policy recognises and strategically addresses the limitations and challenges that constrained the optimal implementation of previous policies including: poor funding of policy implementation; (How can the issue of funding be addressed, is it by creating youth Development fund or separate budget line?)the absence of a formal multi-sectoral coordination mechanism; inadequate monitoring and lack of evaluation of policy implementation; and, inadequate participation of youth in advocacy for the policy implementation and the actual implementation, monitoring and evaluation of relevant policy implementation activities. The development of this Policy also takes into cognisance that the periodic review of the National Youth Policy is necessary to improve the level of coordination among policies and sectors that affect youth in the country, raise the standard of accountability for youth outcomes, capture new and emerging issues, and elevate youth

engagement in economic, political and community life in Nigeria. This Policy covers a five-year period, and provisions have been made for its evaluation at the mid-term period and at the end of the implementation period. Why is the policy different from the previous ones?

1.3. Youth in the Context of this National Youth Policy

Youth, as a concept varies in different societies and culture around the world. Traditionally, 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. However, 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. For statistical purposes, youth is defined by the United Nations as the age range 15 to 24 years, but this age bracket is largely considered as too narrow for countries in Africa, given their political, economic and socio-cultural circumstances. In Nigeria, as in many other African countries, the transition to independent adulthood life, in terms of achieving the economic and social stability that comes with steady employment, may extend into the late twenties and sometimes, beyond. Thus, the African Youth Charter of 2006 defines youth as persons between the ages of 15 and 35 years. On a similar basis, Nigeria's 2009 National Youth Policy chronologically defined youth as persons of age 18 to 35 years.

While the contemporary socio-economic and political conditions in Nigeria still demands that the youth group be broadened beyond the 24 years stipulated by the United Nations, there is also the need for better targeting of the Youth Policy and Youth development agenda to mostly people who are transitioning to adult

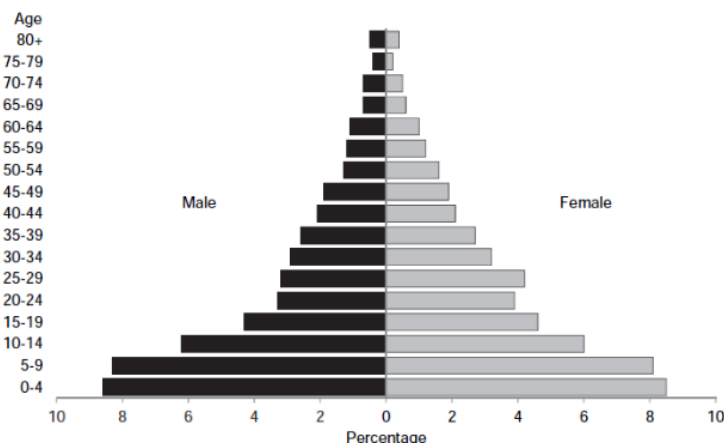
life. As the Nigerian demographic statistics (Section 3.1) show, less than five percent of Nigerians are still in school beyond age 29 years, and about three-quarters of males, and over 90 percent of females have been married – a major social landmark for adulthood in Nigeria – by the age of 29 years. Thus, on the basis of the available demographic evidence, this new Policy specifies 29 years as the upper age limit for the chronological definition of youth. This provision also recognises that the “Not Too Young to Run” law also specifies 30 years as the age of eligibility for running for the presidency of the country; the age of eligibility for the office of the presidency of Nigeria should signal an adult period of life in the country.

On the other hand, the earlier rate of pubertal development, which marks the onset of reproductive capacity, and the earlier commencement of educational and other developmental pursuits in the 21st century support a lowering of the age bracket for youth in Nigeria. Furthermore, the convention in national and international population-based data arena, including the National Youth Survey, to present data in standard five-year brackets poses a significant challenge for data-based monitoring and programming for 18-19 year bracket separately. Thus, 15 years is specified as the lower age group for defining youth in the context of the current policy. Accordingly, for the purpose of execution of the current National Youth Policy, the youth shall comprise young males and females in Nigeria and Diaspora between the ages of 15 and 29 years. This age bracket captures the period that most young people in Nigeria are transitioning from childhood to adulthood, and require social, economic and political support to realise their full potentials. This definition is in tandem with labour act which stipulates that persons between the ages of 12 years to 16 years are eligible to enter into contract of apprenticeship.

1.4. Demographics of Youth in Nigeria

Nigeria is currently ranked as the seventh most populous country in the world, and the fastest growing nation. Nigeria’s population was slightly over 182 million in 2015, with a median age of 17.9 years¹. According to the Census, in 2006, Nigeria had 50 million people in the age group 15-34 years – which roughly covers the age bracket of 18-35 years that chronologically defined youth in the 2009 National Youth Policy; this youth population figure represented 35.6 percent of the Nigerian population. By sex, age 15-34 years constituted 33.4 percent of males and 37.9 percent of females in Nigerian in 2006. Please reconfirm the statistics 35.6

Nigeria’s Population Pyramid

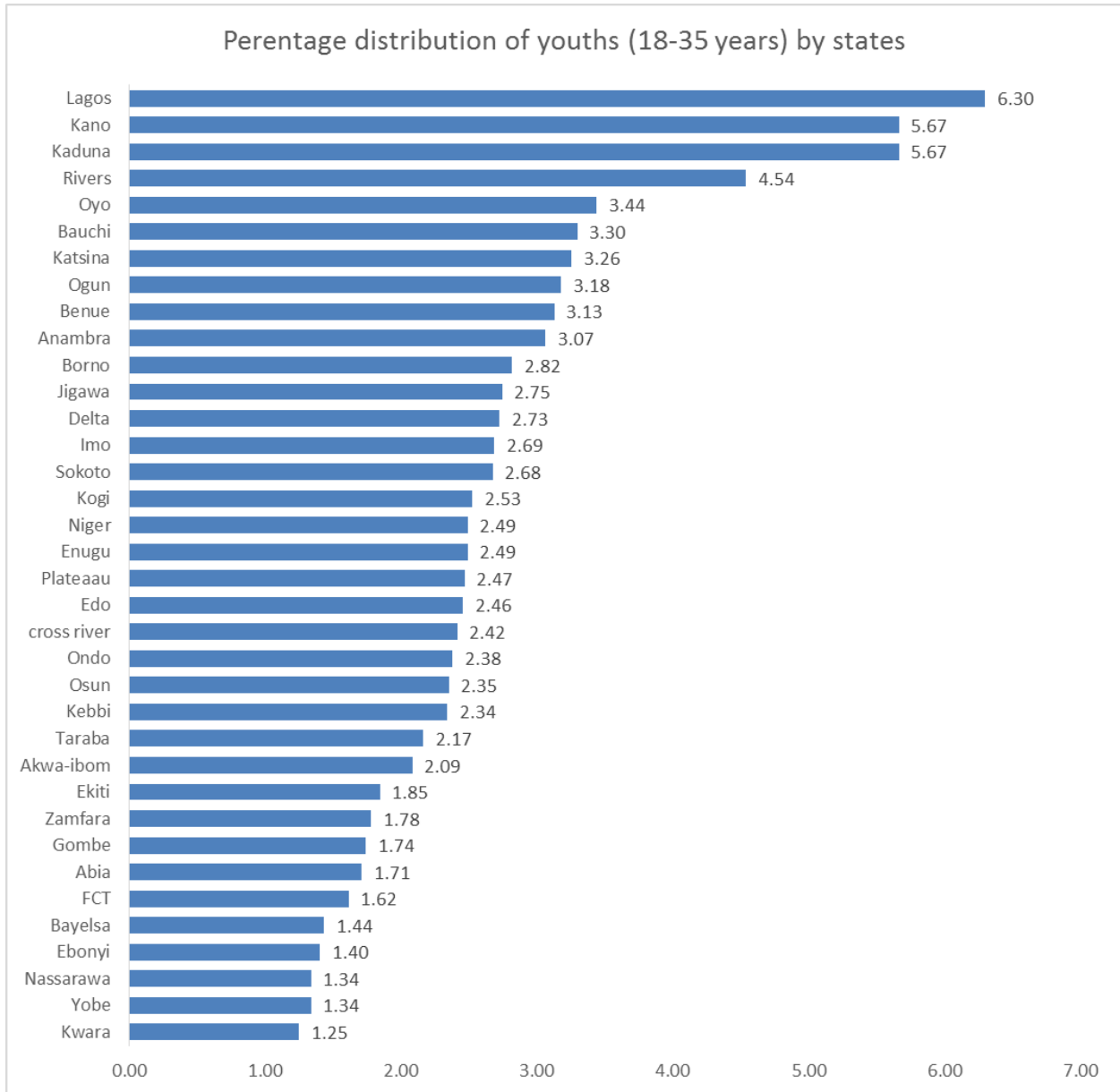


Source: NPC & ICF International (2014). 2013 NDHS

The 2012 National Baseline Youth Survey, undertaken by the National Bureau of Statistics in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, estimated the population of youth aged 15-35 years in Nigeria as 64.1 million, and youth aged 18-35 years as 52.2 million. Females constituted 51.6 percent of youth aged 15 -35 years and 52.8 percent of youth aged 18 - 35 years. Lagos State had the highest percentage of youth (age 18-35 years) in Nigeria (6.3 per cent) while Kwara State had the lowest (1.3 percent) in 2012.

¹ UN-DESA, *World Population Prospects, the 2015 Revision*

Percentage Distribution of Youth (18 – 35) by States: Nigeria, 2012



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2012 National Baseline Youth Survey

Nigeria's population structure and current trends in its youth population growth have

‘By investing in the right policies and programmes for adolescents to realize their potential and their human rights to health, education and full participation in society, we can unleash the vast human potential of this ‘SDG Generation’ to transform our world’.

a. Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health (2016-2030)

significant implications for socio-economic policies and agenda in the country.

The growing population of youth, among others, has amplified the need to acquire high-quality education and skills to contribute to a productive economy, as well as access to a job market that can absorb them into its labour force. The increasing number of young people entering the

working-age population positions Nigeria for significant economic growth through the realisation of demographic dividends, as the dividends become a possibility when a country's working age population is larger than the population that is dependent and younger. However, the dividends can only become a reality if the country invests heavily in young people's education and health, and protects their rights, and strategically equip them to seize opportunities for meaningful jobs and other income-earning possibilities. As the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) notes, "By investing in the right policies and programmes for adolescents to realize their potential and their human rights to health, education and full participation in society, we can unleash the vast human potential of this "SDG Generation" to transform our world.

1.5. The Policy Development Process

The policy development process has been highly interactive and consultative in nature and has involved a wide group of stakeholders, including youth and youth-led organisations. Broadly, the process involved the following steps: (i) three rounds of consultative meeting with stakeholders from the states, including Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at federal and state levels, civil society organisations (CSOs) – community-based organisations [CBOs], non-governmental organisations [NGOs], Development Partners/International Organisation faith-based organisations [FBOs] and other groups – and youth organisations over a period of time; (ii) development of a draft policy following the third consultative meeting in September 2016; (iii) circulation of the draft policy to a wide group of stakeholders – Federal and State (MDAs), civil society organisations and placement of the draft policy on the website of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development for over a 6-month period and harvesting of comments from stakeholders thereby; (iv) meeting of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development with other federal-level MDAs on the draft policy in September 2017; (v) two zonal consultative meeting in October 2017, resulting in validation and adoption of the revised draft.

Following its adoption by the stakeholders, the process of formal government approval and launch of the Policy then took place.

2. Policy Context and Guiding Principles

2.1. Policy Context

The National Youth Policy recognises the broader policy context in which it has been formulated and shall operate. This policy context is guided largely by other national policy initiatives and it is also reflective of international programmes and conventions, particularly the under-listed ones.

2.1.1. National Policies and Development Agenda

- *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*: Sets a broad policy context for the National Youth Policy, and assures the fundamental rights of all youth and other Nigerians.
- *National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People in Nigeria*: Sets the policy agenda for the health and well-being of young people age 10 to 24 years.
- *National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development*: Identifies youth as a critical population group, and emphasises the need for Government to “recognise their special needs and make appropriate provision for their growth and development, and meaningful participation in national development”.
- *National Gender Policy*: Establishes a policy platform for gender equity and equality, and supports efforts to improve the development and well-being of the disadvantaged female gender.
- *National Health Policy*: Provides evidence-based mechanisms and directions for significantly improving the health status of all citizens of Nigeria, to enable them lead fully healthy and fulfilling lives.
- *National Policy on Education*: Constitutes the national policy platform for implementation of education agenda for the youth and other age groups in Nigeria.

- *Vision 20:2020*: Sets the goal of Nigeria becoming one of the top twenty economies in the world by the year 2020, with “building a productive, competitive and functional human resources base for economic growth and social advancement” as one of its main policy thrust.
- Nigeria Youth Employment Action Plan (NIYEAP)

The Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan was developed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment with technical support of the International Labour organisation; it provides a strategy to respond to the challenges of youth unemployment in Nigeria through Cross Sectoral collaboration and synergy among stakeholders.

National Youth Job Creation Templates
- The National Job Creation Templates is an outcome of the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan (NIYEAP 2009 – 2011). It provides an outlines of jobs description according to sectors, with details of costs, numbers of jobs available and identified timeline.
- The Nigeria Roadmap on harnessing Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth.
- National Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Policy for the evolution of a new Nigeria that harnesses, develops and utilises ST&I to build a large strong, diversified, sustainable and competitive economy that guarantees a high standard of living and quality of life to its citizens.
- Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) a Medium Term Plan for 2017- 2020, builds on the SIP and has been developed for the purpose of restoring economic growth while leveraging the ingenuity and resilience of the Nigerian people.

2.1.2. Regional Youth-related and Development Agenda

- *The ECOWAS Commission Youth Policy* – The National Youth Policy recognises the ECOWAS Commission Youth Policy as the basis for the overall development of all young people in the West African sub-region.
- *African Youth Charter* – Nigeria, as a member State of the African Union that has ratified or acceded to the African Youth Charter, is working towards achieving the principles of the Charter, which aim at enabling all young men and women to enjoy full participation in the life of the society.
- *Commonwealth Youth Charter* – the National Policy recognises the work of the Commonwealth in supporting National Youth Policies in all Commonwealth countries and its effort towards creating societies where young women and men are empowered to fully develop their potentials.

2.1.3. Global Development Agenda

- *Charter of the United Nations*: Nigeria, as a member of the United Nations agrees to the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which protects the fundamental human rights of all youth, including their rights to development opportunities and full participation in the life of their society.
- *United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth*: The principles and purposes of the United Nations World Programme of Action for the Youth as well as its identified priority area have informed the National Youth Policy at many levels.
- *International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (1994) and the ICPD Beyond 2014 follow up action (2014)*: The ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) emphasises that everyone counts, and addresses the issues of sustainable development, poverty reduction, sexual and reproductive health and rights, education and gender

equality, and the health and development of adolescents and youth among others. The objectives of the PoA include “to promote to the fullest extent the health, well-being and potential of all children, adolescents and youth as representing the world’s future human resources.” In the ICPD follow-up action, the UN General Assembly asserts that “the ICPD agenda remains relevant and must be fully implemented beyond 2014”, and identifies investment in youth development, women empowerment, and reproductive health as some of the key priorities.

- *Resolution 2012/1 of the UN Commission on Population and Development on Adolescents and Youth*: Reaffirms the ICPD PoA, and calls on States to, among others, “promote equal opportunities for all, to combat all forms of discrimination against young people”, “meet the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in the areas of education, work, income creation and citizen participation” and “ensure that young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to sustainable health and social services without discrimination, by paying special attention to nutrition, prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, promotion of sexual and reproductive health.”
- *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*: Nigeria has fully committed to these global developmental goals for the 2016 to 2030 period, and most of the 17 SDGs have implication for development and well-being of youth, and the environment in which they grow and function.
- *Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health (2016-2030)*: This Strategy, which replaced the earlier Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, “acknowledges not only the unique health challenges facing young people, but also their pivotal

role alongside women and children as key drivers of change in the post-2015 era.”

- *“Our Future: A Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing” Report (2016)*: Sets evidence-based agenda for improving the health and well-being of young people aged 10-24 years by 2030 and outlines the opportunities and challenges for effective investment at both country and global levels in this respect.

2.2. Guiding Principles and Values

The National Youth Policy is structured on guiding principles and values, which influenced its design and strategic direction. The key principles and guiding values for the Policy are:

- The National Youth Policy is based on a commitment to extensive consultations, respect for diversity of interests and opinion, input and consensus from the grassroots and local communities in the spirit of national ownership.
- The Policy affirms and upholds the fundamental human rights of all youth, including their rights to fundamental freedoms, development opportunities and full participation in the democratic and governance processes, as well as in community and civic decision-making and development agenda.
- Young people are the most important and valuable resource of the nation, and strategic investment in their education, health, security, and overall development carries the potential for demographic dividends. As such, the government shall recognise and harness the needs, interests, issues, aspirations, ideas and capacities of young people and youth, and make appropriate provisions for their optimal growth and development.
- The principles and aspirations of the National Youth Policy aligns with the provision of other existing national policies and development initiatives, including: the National Reproductive Health Policy; National

Health Policy; National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young people; National Gender Policy; National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development; National Policy on Education; National Policy on Environment; and, Vision 20:2020.

- Effective and result-focused policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation demands a cooperative interaction of all stakeholders, including the different tiers of government, the private sector, the civil society, and development partners at all levels, and youth or organised youth bodies.
- Commitment to mainstreaming youth issues as a development approach shall inform the economic reform agenda, medium and long-term development planning, value reorientation and social transformation, and other development initiatives of the government.
- The Policy affirms that youth development programmes must be youth centred, and implemented with high degree of youth involvement, and youth-led participation, and with full considerations for gender equity, evidence-informed approaches, inclusiveness as well as political and fiscal accountability.
- The NYP recognises and respects the role of tradition, religion, and culture in the development of young men and women.

3. Vision, Goals and Target Population

The National Youth Policy represents a declaration and commitment to the priorities, directions and practical supports that a country intends to provide for the development of her young men and women. It is a concrete and bold step to put the development and participation of youth at the centre of national development efforts. It is indicative of the readiness of the Government and people of Nigeria to meet the needs and aspirations of the youth as well as seek a solution to their problems. It provides a framework for all stakeholders to empower the youth to take advantage of the opportunities available to maximise the well-being of their communities across the entire country.

“The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.”

- 2030 Agenda, paragraph 53

3.1. Policy Vision

Develop Nigeria youth with equal opportunities to realise their dreams and aspirations, irrespective of their background and living in a safe and secure environment that would optimise their contributions to National Development.

3.2. Policy Mission

To provide stakeholders in youth development an all-inclusive framework that will ensure the realisation of the full potentials of all Nigerian young men and women irrespective of their ethnic, religious, and socio-economic background.

3.3. Policy Goal

To provide an appropriate framework that protects the fundamental human rights of all youth, promote their optimal development and well-being, and enhance their participation in every sphere of national development processes

3.4. Target Population

The National Youth Policy broadly targets all young people in Nigeria 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:

- a. *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.
- b. *Especially 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:
 - Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) – young people who are not engaged in education, employment or any form of training.
 - Youth who are drop-outs from the formal education system.
 - Youth living with special needs and chronic health challenges that may impact their potential or opportunities for participation negatively.
 - Youth in challenging social and environmental circumstances that increase their vulnerability to health risks, and anti-social behaviours:

- i. Youth living on the streets
 - ii. Youth living in extreme poverty
 - iii. Youth living in slum areas (with high rates of crime and access to drugs)
 - iv. Youth living in disadvantaged communities, including rural areas
 - v. Youth living in families where there is physical and/or sexual abuse
 - vi. Internally displaced youth
 - vii. Female youth in environments of high gender inequity
 - viii. Youth working in hazardous occupations
- c. *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:
- armed conflicts
 - crime (whether incarcerated or not)
 - substance abuse
 - Radicalised youth
 - sex work
 - other risky behaviours that compromise health, well-being and their own development or that of other members of the society

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

4. Strategic Thrusts, Thematic Focus, Objectives

4.1. Strategic Thrusts

The strategic thrusts of this Policy are five cross-sectoral developmental pillars that are fundamental to enabling youth to 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:

1. **Productive Workforce and Sustainable Economic Engagement of Youth:** 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 national development, as well as strategically position the country for the achievement of demographic dividends.
2. **Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyle:** Fostering the health development of youth through appropriate health 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.
3. **Participation, inclusiveness and equitable opportunities for all Youth:** Address barriers to meaningful youth engagement in civil and political affairs, and enhance opportunities for constructive involvement and meaningful participation of all youth in Nigeria in community and social development, political processes, and governance agenda at all levels, to the limit of their ability, desires and experience.
4. **Promotive and Protective Environment for Youth Development:** Ensure an enabling environment that is supportive of optimal development of youth, and protective of their fundamental human rights, thereby ensuring inclusion, equal opportunities for

development, and freedom from abuse, violence, intimidation, and discrimination.

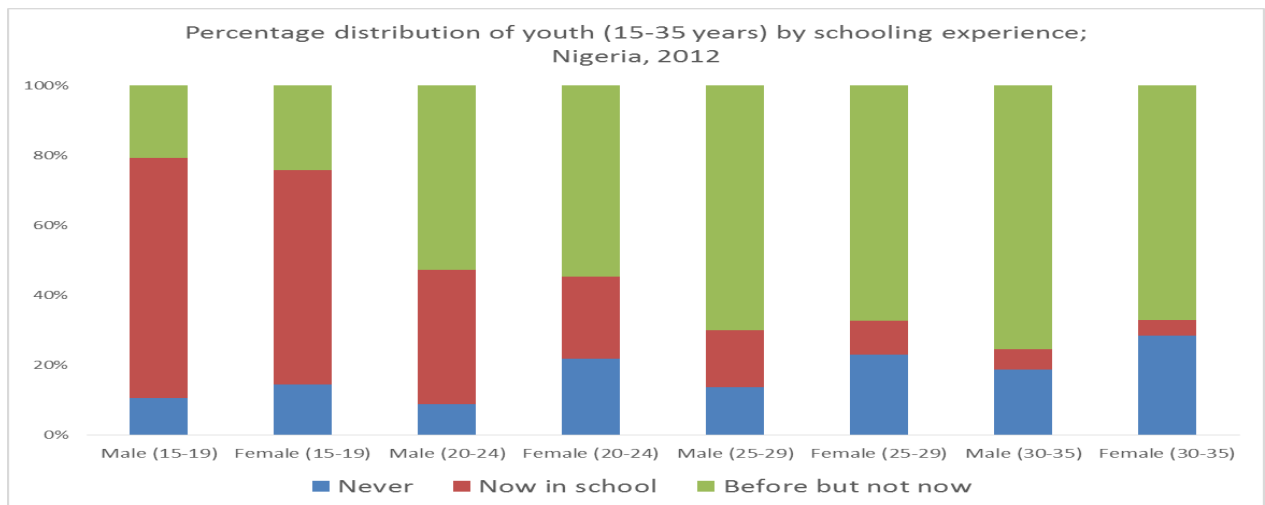
5. **Partnership-building and effective collaboration:** Enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergy among all stakeholders as well as sustain the inter-sectoral and multi-sectoral dynamic of youth development agenda through the creation of relevant supportive structures and partnership engagement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

4.1.1. THEMATIC FOCUS I: EDUCATION, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

A. Situation analysis

Education is the single most important factor contributing to the ability of young people to live a productive and responsible life. However, the Nigerian educational system faces challenges in terms of both access and quality. As a result of high population growth rate and young population structure as well as insufficient investment, the educational system is not able to keep pace with the educational needs of the school-age population both in terms of access and quality. An estimated ten million out of the 30 million school-aged children are not enrolled in school in Nigeria. The National Youth Survey conducted in 2012 indicated that 17.5 percent of youth have never been in school and that a higher proportion of male youth (51.5 percent) attend formal school compared to females (48.5 percent).

Percentage Distribution of Youth by Attendance in School and Age Group



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, *2012 National Baseline Youth Survey*

According to the DHS Education Data Survey conducted in 2003, the school Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) in Nigeria was 60 percent, and Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) was 91 percent. For secondary schools, At the secondary school level, as reported by the 2013 DHS Education Data Survey, the Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) and Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) ratios were 35 percent and 61percent respectively. At the secondary school level, the NAR was 38 percent for males and 33 percent for females while the GAR was 69.0 percent for males and 53.3 percent for females.

At the tertiary level, despite an increase in the number of universities from 51 in 2005 to 152 in 2018, several hundreds of thousands of aspiring youth are not able to get admission annually into tertiary institutions. In 2018, over 1.6 million students registered for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination, but only about a quarter scored up to 50% in the examination.

Overall, the rate of schooling is higher among males compared to females and in Southern Nigeria compared to Northern Nigeria. Youth in rural areas have less access to education compared to their urban counterparts, and the quality of education they receive is also poorer. Poverty is a major barrier to schooling. When poor parents need to make a choice, girls tend to be excluded first from attending school.

Table 4-1: Thematic Focus I: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Thematic Focus I	
Objectives	<p>Objective 1: Improve the quality of education and skill training programmes</p> <p>Objective 2: Improve access, retention and completion of youth to education and skill acquisition programmes</p> <p>Objective 3: Promote equitable access to educational opportunities for all youth</p> <p>Objective 4: Promote life-long learning among youth</p>
Lead Ministry	Education
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth and Sports Development ● Information and Culture ● Office of the Vice President ● Science and Technology ● Labour and Employment ● Agriculture and Rural Development

B. Objectives and Strategies

Objective 1: Improve the quality of education and skills training programmes

There is need to strategically review and re-orient educational curricula across board in Nigeria to improve the quality of education, foster greater skills development, engender the spirit of scientific inquiry, creativity and entrepreneurship that will make Nigerian youth more globally competitive and position them to drive the knowledge economy envisaged in the country’s vision for the future.

Strategies:

- a. NBTE (and by implication NUC and NCCE) shall carryout mandatory review of curricula and procure equipment to match the curricula regularly and provide necessary soft and hard ware and/or facilities to move the country to the next level. (FME)
- b. Develop new curricula to cover new and emerging vocational trades. (FMLE)

- c. Compulsory entrepreneurship training component shall be in polytechnics and universities. Technology incubation must be added to spin off entrepreneurs and not just to teach theories. (FME)
- d. Ensure the BSc-HND dichotomy is enforced to encourage technical and vocational education and training. (FME)
- e. Polytechnics with capacity are allowed to mount Postgraduate training especially in areas of high competences such as engineering and technology. (FME)
- f. Teachers should undergo compulsory periodic Teacher Industrial Work Experience (TIWES) in collaboration with Industrial Training Fund (ITF) to promote linkages between Polytechnics and industry. (FME)
- g. Government in collaboration with stakeholders shall intensify the expansion and reinvention of the Federal Technical Colleges, and Establishment of Vocational Centres. (FME)
- h. Strengthen Federal and States Science Technical Colleges (FSTCs) across the country to train employable young Nigerians and create potential entrepreneurs. (FME)
- i. Ensure the establishment of technical college in each local government area of Nigeria and four vocational centres to feed into each of these colleges. (FME)
- j. Create enabling environment for Technological Innovation in Nigeria through the creation of centres of Excellence that are equipped with state of the art facilities, trained manpower and a clear roadmap. These may include: Mechatronics Engineering and Prototyping Centre of Excellence, Biotechnology Centre of Excellence, Renewable Energy Technology (RET) Centre of Excellence, Food Packaging Technology Centre of Excellence, Automobile Technology Centre of Excellence, and Oil and Gas Technology Centre of Excellence. (FME)

- k. Establishment of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in the Federal Capital Territory to serve as a lead Institution in technological innovations in the country (similar to the Nanyang Technological Institute, Singapore). Key industry players, such as Dangote and Globacom should be invited to invest in this venture of utmost national priority. (FME)
- l. Conduct national outreach campaign in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria to make citizens aware TVET courses/training programmes. (FME)
- m. Ensure that all 151 CoEs and 200 NTI study centres nationwide key into the teacher education reforms; (FME)
- n. Ensure that the 29 NCE curricular are updated regularly. (FME)
- o. Enhance the status of the teaching profession and make it attractive to the best brains in the country; (FME)
- p. Reform teaching and teacher education in order to make it more attractive. (FME)
- q. Launch the National Teacher Education Policy; and (FME)
- r. Enable best practices and professional training for over 295,000 education personnel under the Continuing Professional Development for Teachers Programme, and 850 English Language, Science and Mathematics teachers across the country.
- s. Government shall build capacities and capabilities of youth on application of biotechnology and space technology for national development.
- t. Improve the quality and quantity of learning facilities in all schools (classrooms, science laboratories, technical and vocational workshops, libraries, sports and recreational facilities, etc.).
- u. Strengthen quality assurance mechanisms in the educational sector by ensuring bi- annual inspection of secondary schools and regular

accreditation of programmes in tertiary institutions to improve learning outcome.

- v. Encourage enrolment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses by offering annual bursaries to 100,000 eligible STEM undergraduates.

Objective 2: Improve access of youth to education and skill training programmes

The level of access of youth to education and skills training in Nigeria at all levels needs to be improved to ensure the optimisation of the capacity of young people for self-actualization as well as contribution to national economic growth and development.

Strategies:

- a. Conduct national literacy survey in collaboration with NBS. (FME)
- b. Government in collaboration with stakeholders should intensify the expansion and reinvention of the Federal Technical Colleges, and Establishment of Vocational Centres. (FME)
- c. Compulsory entrepreneurship training component should be taught in polytechnics and universities. Technology incubation must be added to spin off entrepreneurs and not just to teach theories. (FME)
- d. Strengthen Federal and States Science Technical Colleges (FSTCs) across the country to train employable youth and create potential entrepreneurs. (FME)
- e. Ensure the establishment of technical college in each local government area of Nigeria and four vocational centres to feed into each of these colleges. (FME)
- f. Government in collaboration with stakeholders should ensure the existing vocational centres are standardized and properly coordinated. (FME)
- g. Government should expand access to open and distance education through proper funding and monitoring.

Objective 3: Promote equitable access to educational opportunities for all youth

Access to opportunities for education varies in the country, with poorer families, those in rural areas, young people with disabilities, internally displaced persons, and those belonging to groups such as nomadic herdsman and migrant fishermen as part of the population groups with less access to education. There is at opportunities demands creative and context-specific interventions to reach these educationally disadvantaged and special groups of youth.

Strategies:

- a. Government in collaboration with relevant agencies should expand and improve the quality of existing special schools and establish new schools to improve the access of vulnerable groups to education.
- b. Establish innovative educational programmes to expand the access of vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.
- c. Government should put in place policies to reserve 5% of admission into tertiary institutions to young people with physical disability and improve facilities for mobility and learning for physically challenged in educational institutions.
- d. Stakeholders should ensure advocacy for quick passage of the Persons with Disabilities bill and the implementation in educational institutions.
- e. Provide scholarship opportunities for qualified physically challenged and especially vulnerable youth (as defined in the policy).
- f. Stakeholders should intensify efforts to ensure gender equality at all educational levels particularly in secondary school across all the regions in Nigeria.
- g. Expand the scope of the initiative on Conditional Cash Transfer programme to support school enrolment and gender equality.
- h. Government with relevant stakeholders should enforce Child Rights Act and National Labour laws and support the access of affected young people to training and education opportunities.
- i. Advocate access for young people who are Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) to training, education and employment opportunities.
- j. Provide technical, vocational and trade centres for nomads. (FME)

- k. Conduct national literacy survey in collaboration with NBS. (FME)
- l. Design, develop and implement a national mass literacy programmes for out of school youth. (FME)
- m. The Federal Government shall establish Education Bank and the states shall have the Study Loan Boards that give concessionary interest rate to allow students easy access to fund. (FME)
- n. States of the federation should establish “Education Fund” with special emphasis on funding teacher development and secondary education. (FME)
- o. Special intervention fund should be established for persons with special needs just as investments in education should be tax deductible. (FME)
- p. Contracts and other financial transactions should be taxed to fund education and that revenue generated from parastatals under the Federal Ministry of Education shall be ploughed back to the education sector. (FME)
- q. Government should create the “right conditions for alumni to plough back to their alma-mater.” for the purpose of student loans. (FME)
- r. Tertiary Institutions should have scholarship, loans, grants, and emergency Financial Aid Office for students who are experiencing financial difficulties by providing access to campus jobs, counselling and referral services. (FME)
- s. Conduct nationwide mass literacy sensitization campaign in 774 LGAs in Nigeria annually for the next five years; and run adequate numbers of radio jingles in Nigerian languages over the next five years. (FME)
- t. Establish 500,000 learner-friendly mass literacy centres for out-of-school youth over the next five years for out of school youth (2018-2022). (FME)
- u. Recruit and train 500,000 mass literacy instructors/counselors and deploy in the mass literacy centres over the next three years for out of school youth (2018-2022). (FME)
- v. Strengthen post –literacy programmes for completers of basic literacy. (FME)
- w. Integrate vocational skills mass literacy programmes for out of school youth. (FME)

Objective 4: Promote life-long learning among youth

There is the need for continued improvement in knowledge and skills to remain relevant in the modern economy and the workplace environment of the 21st century. The foundation for lifelong learning needs to be laid in the early phases of life and through the educational system as well as value re-orientation. Furthermore, the culture of lifelong learning needs to be created, supported and nurtured at organizational and institutional levels.

Strategies:

- a. Establish and/or strengthen Citizenship and Leadership training facilities within each tertiary institution of learning.
- b. Integrate Citizenship and Leadership education into school curriculum at all levels.
- c. Teachers' and students' training curricula as well as curricula delivery should emphasize lifelong learning.
- d. Government should provide facilities in and out of schools to facilitate and support lifelong learning including ICT and community learning centres.
- e. JCCCE should integrate life skills training into educational curricula.
- f. Formulate and promote programmes to support in- service training for self-development and ensure that all youth in public service have access to in-service training.

4.1.2. Thematic Focus II: Employment creation and entrepreneurship

A. Situation Analysis

Nigeria faces significant economic changes resulting in increasing unemployment and poverty levels. Youth are disproportionately affected by the unemployment challenge. Whereas Nigeria's unemployment level has increased from 30 to 40 percent between 2002 and 2015, the rate among youth doubled. As the National Bureau of Statistics noted, the youth unemployment rate averaged 17.5 percent from 2014 until 2016,

reaching an all-time high of 24 percent in the second quarter of 2016 and a record low of 11.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014.

The high rate of youth unemployment has several negative socio-economic and political implications. The frustration that accompanies long-term unemployment among young people is believed to feed political and ideological unrest and violence as untrained, jobless and alienated youth may be ready to take up arms in exchange for small amounts of money. Thus, youth unemployment is also a political and security issue, as well as a socio-economic one. Its causes lie in both spheres, as do its effects. Unemployment fuels conflict and crime, both of which in turn increase unemployment still further by their effects on economic performance, investors' confidence, and political instability. Job creation, therefore, is a critical tool for conflict resolution.

Unemployment and poverty are quite intertwined. The share of the total population living below the \$1.9 a day threshold of 46 per cent is higher in 2016 than in the 1980s and 1990s—despite significant improvements in the growth of GDP in recent years. Poverty makes it difficult to make investments in education and health that would increase productivity. There is a great need for entrepreneurship development in Nigeria currently, as entrepreneurship development is a major factor in economic growth and development, and also the permanent cure for extreme hunger and poverty dictated by unemployment. If properly guided, young people generally tend to be risk-takers, high achievers, task-focussed, future-oriented, and quite resourceful. These are some of the attributes required to be an entrepreneur.

The Federal Government has initiated the N-Power programme as a bold initiative to address youth unemployment. Specifically, the N-Power is a job creation and empowerment programme of the National Social Investment Programme of the Federal Government of Nigeria targeted at young Nigerians

aged 18-35 years. The programme has two categories: the graduate category (N-Power Volunteer Corps), and the non-graduate category (N-Power Knowledge and N-Power Build). N-Power is reputed to be the largest post-tertiary engagement of human resources in Africa; the programme had engaged 500,000 youths between 2016 and 2017 alone into her programme and deployed them to public primary and junior secondary schools, primary healthcare centres and in agricultural development project centres in all the Local Government Areas in Nigeria. Thus, in addition to tackling youth unemployment, the programme is also simultaneously enhancing the quality of ailing public services, particularly with respect to basic education, agriculture extension services, and public health. The N-Power is a cornerstone element of the holistic social investments objective of President Muhammadu Buhari’s administration, particularly the 500,000 Job Creation Goal. Overall, the N-Power is central to this policy’s focus on employment creation for the Nigerian youth.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-2: Thematic Focus II: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Thematic Focus	Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs
Objectives	<p>Objective 5: Expand employment opportunities through diversification of the economy.</p> <p>Objective 6: Increase access of youth entrepreneurs to assets and supportive services</p> <p>Objective 7: Build linkages between the industrial sector and the educational system</p>
Lead Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget and National Planning ● Labour and Employment ● Youth and Sports Development
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance ● Agriculture and Rural Development ● Water Resources ● Science and Technology ● Communication ● Solid Minerals ● Industry, Trade and Investment

- Petroleum Resources
- Bank of Industry
- Bank of Agriculture
- Central Bank of Nigeria
- Youth and Sports Development
- Women Affairs
- Education

Objective 5: Expand employment opportunities through diversification of the economy.

Diversification of the economy is critical to expanding opportunities for employment for Nigeria’s growing number of youth. Policies need to be put in place to support the expansion of the manufacturing sector and ensure greater productivity and efficiency, and further promote the purchase of made-in-Nigeria products not only nationally but also across the African region.

Strategies:

- a. Vigorously implement the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) to create approximately 15 million net jobs by 2020 and sustain the trend thereafter with particular focus on addressing youth unemployment.
- b. Sustain the commitment to the implementation of the N-Power programme as a cornerstone for the national agenda of expanding youth employment opportunities
- c. Strengthen economic policies to promote export earnings and curb import growth.
- d. Strengthen the entertainment sector to provide jobs for youth by providing funds and enforcing copy right acts.
- e. Engage qualified young people to provide supply services in at least 20% of contracts in all sectors with emphasis on locally produced goods.
- f. Government should establish Science and Technology Hubs/Clusters/Villages/Parks/Museums to provide platforms for trained and empowered youth to achieve their potentials.

- g. Encourage and engage youth for deployment of creative media platforms to facilitate advocacy and awareness creation on the benefits of Science, Technology and Innovation to national development.
- h. Mobilize and support youth to participate in Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) activities such as Science Museums, Science Fairs and Exhibitions, etc. for youth development.
- i. Government in collaboration with stakeholders should provide access to low interest loan facilities and start up grants for young entrepreneurs in all states.
- j. Restructure the Tourism, Hotels and Restaurant sector to be more dynamic and market oriented to accelerate output and employment growth.
- k. Establishment of cottage industries in sectors that have the capacity to absorb large number of youth.
- l. Strengthen employment services institutions for more effectiveness and to close the gap between the labour market and employers.
- m. All bilateral agreements signed between the Nigerian Government and friendly Nations should incorporate skills development training, especially in Science and Technology, Information Communication Technology (ICT), and Agriculture and other areas to promote job creation for Youth and expose them to modern technology.
- n. Develop sensitization programmes to motivate youth to become entrepreneurs. (FMLE)
- o. Empower Youth SMES through the formation of youth cooperative societies. (FMLE)
- p. CBN should encourage financial institutions to create special credit windows for young entrepreneurs, with more liberal and youth friendly conditions that encourage the uptake of such facilities by all categories of youth.
- q. Recognize and support youth as small scale entrepreneurs, empower and incorporate them into the value chain of production and marketing (FMLE)

- r. Government shall support youth with incentives to encourage creativity and innovativeness in technological inventions and innovations.
- s. Facilitate and support the commercialization of technological inventions and innovations developed by youth.
- t. Build Entrepreneurial capacity and skills of youth on indigenous technologies for the production of items such as soccer boots, footballs, food and agro-allied products, science kits & equipment, artificial limbs, solar panels, renewable energies, waste management, building and construction sectors.
- u. Facilitate National Research and Innovation Fund (NRIF) for pooling of funds to support youth on research and innovation commercialization.
- v. Develop prospective Youth Exporters through capacity building and empowerment for export business. (NEPC, FMITI)
- w. Provide duty free market access platform for Nigeria non-oil- Exports under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (ALGOA) and encourage the participation of Nigerian youth. (FMITI)

Objective 6: Increase access of youth entrepreneurs to assets and supportive services

Entrepreneurship among youth is a vital approach to reducing youth unemployment which has additional potential to bring self-fulfillment to youth and contribute towards improving the national economy. Thus, strategic efforts need to be made toward promoting youth entrepreneurship, particularly by increasing access of youth entrepreneurs in both rural and urban areas to relevant assets, including financial and material resources as well as mentorship, and supportive services such as infrastructure and partnership with financial institutions and industries.

Strategies:

- a. Set up entrepreneurship development centres to train at least 20,000 young people per state and FCT annually.
- b. Integrate entrepreneurship development in school curriculum and out of school training programmes for young people.

- c. Empower youth entrepreneurs in different sectors of the economy through provisions of grants, productive resources, extension and advisory services.
- d. Coordinate and extend short term entrepreneurship capacity development to assist 10,000 emerging and practicing entrepreneurs in each state and FCT in all sectors of the economy.
- e. Strengthen and coordinate existing skill development centres across the country by ensuring standardisation and national certification.
- f. Provide access to business support services and mentoring for 10,000 young entrepreneurs annually in 36 state and FCT by encouraging private sector participation.
- g. Enhance access to the N250 billion CBN MSME fund by reviewing its design and implementing enabling initiatives to encourage on-lending specifically targeting youth.
- h. Provide through the Bank of Industry, low or zero interest loans to youth entrepreneurs. (FMLE)
- i. Develop National manpower Policy to match job skills requirements and education. (FMLE)
- j. Enforce the local content policy to promote job creation in all sectors of the economy. (FMLE)
- k. Government should collaborate with cognate multi-sectoral stakeholders, including youth, to mentor and deploy innovative technologies for the improvement and utilization of herbal medicines and nutraceuticals thereby contributing to employment opportunities for youth.(FMST)
- l. Strengthen Cluster Industrial Development Programme to facilitate crowd funding and access to modern energy ,power, technology and to promote competitiveness among youth SMEs (FMITI)
- m. Decentralization of business registration i.e start-to-finish (24 hour e-registration) (FMITI)

- n. Establish/strengthen incubation centres and support youth innovators to acquire rights over their properties/ inventions through patents/ trademarks registration. (FMITI)
- o. Establish a job matching programme for new graduates by incentivizing employers to retain National Youth Service Corp members at the end of their service.

Objective 7: Build linkages between the industrial sector and the educational system

Building and enhancing the linkages between the industries and the educational system has the potential to make educational curricula and training more responsive to the workforce needs of industries, as well as give youth an opportunity for more skills development in the course of their educational pursuit. Such linkages will also provide the industries with a ready supply of more skilled and competent workforce, as well as provide for the educational system to develop solutions targeted at improving the performance of the industrial sector, which should also translate to more employment opportunities and profitability.

Strategies:

- a. Strengthen the National Electronic Labour Exchange (NELEX) operated by the Federal Ministry of Labour to facilitate job exchange functions and provide LMI to planners and job seekers. Ensure the NELEX is designed to be Youth user friendly. (FMLE)
- b. Provide youth job seekers with information on working legitimately in other countries to discourage irregular migration. (FMLE)
- c. Strengthen governance of labour migration within the ECOWAS sub-region (FMLE)
- d. Ensure equal opportunity and fair treatment in access to employment (FMLE)
- e. Assist informal youth enterprises to become part of the formal sector (FMLE)
- f. Strengthen students industrial work experience schemes (SIWES) to ensure access of young people to quality and professional exposure.

- g. Integrate internship programmes across relevant disciplines in our education system and provide incentives for collaborating organisations.
- h. Improve the funding and establish more centres of excellence in selected technological fields in higher institutions and provide incentives for industries that partner with these centres to advance technological education and innovations.
- i. Increase government funding for research and innovations by 10% annually to promote technological advancement and establish/ ensure appropriate and accountable mechanism for the management of such funds.
- j. Promote the establishment of Industrial parks and stronger linkages between the industries and research/ educational institutions.

4.1.3. Thematic Focus III: Youth in Agriculture

A. Situation analysis:

The Agricultural Sector, which had served as the backbone of the Nigerian economy before the discovery of oil, has been abandoned for a considerable period of time. With the reduction in income from oil, the Nigerian economic sector has little chance for recovery unless diversification of the economy is assiduously pursued. The agricultural sector provides significant opportunities for job creations across its various sub-sectors and the value chain that it supports.

In this regard, the Nigerian government has started paying growing attention to the agricultural sector in the recent years and several programmes have been initiated particularly to stimulate the interest of the Nigerian youth in the agricultural sector. These include provision of special incentives such as credit facilities for youth involved in agricultural production and processing. In addition, several states as well as private agencies have also provided training, internship and funding opportunities for youth to engage actively, meaningfully and profitably in agricultural enterprises. However, despite these laudable initiatives, youth involvement in the agricultural sector remains pitiable at best due to factors such as inadequate knowledge of the youth about the potentials of the agricultural sector, lack of access to relevant resources for profitable agricultural engagements, as well as the inadequacies and

gaps in the policy-making and policy implementation structure and processes.

In general, many Nigerian youth still lack adequate appreciation of the potentials of the agricultural sector and the opportunities in agro-based enterprises, and hold a biased perspective of the sector as being non-prestigious, manual labour-oriented demanding, and lacking in the potential for commensurate economic returns. Inadequate access to funds, lands, high-yield seeds, fertilisers and other productive resources have also discouraged many youth who have made efforts to engage with the agricultural sectors. Inadequate technical know-how for economically-viable agro-businesses lack of facilities to preserve agricultural products, inadequate access to the fair product marketing and food processing industries are also deterrent factors. The inadequacies in the policy environment including repeated policy somersaults and low political will in policy implementation also challenge many youth in the agro-businesses. There are also very limited successful youth agropreneurs who can serve as motivators, models and mentors to other youth with regards to agricultural engagements. Overall, addressing unemployment among young people must include a reorientation towards the agricultural sector and promotion of entrepreneurship in relation to the agricultural field.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-3: Thematic Focus III: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Thematic Focus III: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs	
Objectives	Objective 8: Promote active youth Involvement in agriculture for national food security, job creation, and social development
Lead Ministry	Agriculture and Rural Development
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education ● Industry, Trade and investment ● Science and Technology ● Central Bank of Nigeria ● Bank of Industry ● Bank of Agriculture ● NAFDAC ● Water Resources ● Standard Organisation of Nigeria ● Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing Agency for Agricultural Lending ● Finance ● FMYSD

Objective 8: Promote Active Youth Involvement in Agriculture for National Food Security, Social Development and job creation.

The Federal Government recognizing the extent of the youth unemployment crisis in Nigeria and the threat it poses to economic and social stability, identified agriculture as the single sector with the highest potential for massive job creation. By engaging the youth in agriculture, the nation can address the problems of youth unemployment, restiveness, aging farm population, rural development, low productivity and poverty prevalence. In addition, involvement in agriculture is also veritable tool for achieving the national agenda for food security and promoting social development in a sustainable manner.

Strategies:

- i. Access to credit/ finance
 - a. Establishment of 2 Agribusiness Incubation Centre per zone and Enterprise Development Centre in each local government to address the issues of lack of finance, infrastructure and mechanization;
 - b. Creation of the Nigerian Youth Development Fund (NYDF) with special focus on lending credits and grant to youth in Agriculture, ICT, Textile and Garment Industry, Entertainment (Eco Tourism), among others. Special projects on Agriculture can be funded from idle Nigerian Agriculture Fiscal Policy Accounts such as the Wheat Levy Fund, Rice Levy, Sugar Levy fund among others;
 - c. Special collateral arrangement will be made to improve access of youth to credit.
 - d. Nigerian graduates of agriculture shall be entitled to interest free loans using their NYSC certificate as collateral.
 - e. Encourage private sector to set up agricultural related lending institutions and to be able to draw from the Nigerian Youth Development Funds (NYDF) for onward lending to youth activities in agriculture;

- f. Innovative financing mechanisms (Grants – Research, Travel & Project; Impact Investment, Credits) shall be explored to encourage diverse participation of young people in Agriculture. Special consideration shall be given to Youth and their peculiar needs during conceptualization/review of Agricultural Credit Scheme.
 - g. Enhance youth access to the multi-billion Naira CBN MSME fund by reviewing its design and implementing enabling initiatives to encourage on-lending.
 - h. Enhance agricultural extension services to 1:1,000 by 2020 and to 1:750 by 2022 and with priority on youth in agriculture.
 - i. Sustain and scale up the delivery of credit to 1.6 million farmers by 2020 and 2 million farmers by 2022, including youth.
- ii. Youth Access to Land for Agricultural Purposes
- a. Land Use Act shall be reviewed to liberalize land and give youth more access to Land. Land shall be given as gifts and incentives for youth in Agriculture;
 - b. Land shall be designated in each State and Local Government Area for the establishment of Youth Agricultural Incubation Centre, Enterprise Development Centre and Youth Farm Settlement System;
 - c. At least 50% of Lands in the River Basin Development Authorities shall be allocated to Youth for Agricultural Productive purpose. Premium for land and water use can be funded from a dedicated fund such as Nigerian Youth Development Funds (NYDF);
 - d. Government shall develop part or all of the over 47million unused arable lands across the states for the purpose of establishing the Youth Incubation Centres, Enterprise Development Centres, Youth Farm Settlements and/or Agricultural Industrial Estate.
- iii. Education/Mentorship/Capacity Building/Volunteerism
- a. The agricultural education curriculum will be reviewed to integrate vocational, technical, practical skills for agricultural entrepreneurship and business

management among students towards meeting the needs of the industries to include;

- b. Public sensitization on the immense benefits of agriculture for youth and community development to address the negative perception of agriculture among the population;
- c. Youth Desks shall be established in each of the MDAs and purposeful synergy shall be created to align research and capacity building needs of young people to be more impactful, competitive and measurable. The Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP) and N-Power Agro programme will be scaled up by FGN;
- d. As a means of employment generation for youth, young graduates with agricultural related background from each community shall be trained, supported and integrated in the community to render extension-related services to farmers and rural communities;
- e. Special Mentoring Platforms and Volunteering Opportunities as a matter of policy shall be created for Youth Engagement to increase the knowledge of youth to make more informed decisions.

iv. Agribusiness Supportive Infrastructure for Youth

- a. Agribusiness Incubation, Enterprise Development Centres, Farm Settlement System shall be established in each across the Country as a medium for meaningful and measurable youth engagement in Agriculture.
- b. Key infrastructural supports such as ICT and other social amenities shall be deployed to those Agribusiness Incubation centres, Enterprise Development Centres, Farm Settlement System to reduce rural -urban migration while creating jobs.

- c. Formation of Youth in Agribusiness Advisory Groups to participate in decision-making.
- d. Special attention shall be given to provision of mechanization and ICT related support services for youth in agriculture.
- e. Provision of web based trading system that facilitates effective marketing of targeted agricultural commodities for youth in agriculture. (FMITI)
- vi. Opportunities for Youth Employment in Agriculture
 - a. Create opportunities for youth participation at every node of the value chain based on the comparative advantages in each geo-ecological zone (seed/seedling production, supply chain management / aggregation, processing, marketing, services including agricultural input supply, extension, mechanization etc, farming by proxy, land matching programme)
 - b. Create opportunities for youth in production for export - raw materials, local cuisine ingredients for Nigerians in diaspora, processed products.

4.1.4. Thematic Focus IV: Youth and ICT

A. Situation Analysis

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has considerably transformed lives in the 21st century, and youth are at the forefront of the ICT revolution in Nigeria as in other parts of the world. From electronic media such as television, communication media such as the mobile phone, to the computer-based devices (both hardware and software), ICT provides great opportunities for productive engagement of the youth in terms of fueling creativity and enhancing efficiency and productivity, creation of new jobs, and enhancement of standards of living and personal fulfillment. The national licensing of GSM operators in Nigeria in 2000, for example, has opened up opportunities for engagement and economic advancement of millions of youth in Nigeria in various realms – as staff in the telephone companies, distributors and marketers phone sets, mobile phone repairers, and sellers of phone

recharge card, among others. The expansion in the computer and computing field in Nigeria has also witnessed the engagement of the youth in the ICT sector in the various domains, including sales, repairs, software engineering, development and use of apps, internet-based marketing and internet-based service delivery. ICT has the potential to power business innovation centres and improve the rate of doing businesses, improve educational activities and expand opportunities for learning, and generally improve the efficiency and productivity of industries – all of which have significant positive implications for the youth. Thus, ICT is a key pillar in advancing youth development agenda and is central to improving the youth employment rate and well-being in Nigeria. Already, Nigeria has a strong focus on empowering youth with ICT skills and prepares them for global competition as part of her laudable ICT vision, and has incorporated computer education as one of the subjects to be offered at various levels of education.

Despite the advancement so far witnessed in the ICT sector, there are yet huge untapped opportunities in Nigeria as the country currently ranks low in the Networked Readiness Index (or Technology readiness index), which ranks countries in terms of performance in leveraging information and communications technologies to boost competitiveness, innovation and well-being. The index, published by the World Economic Forum, ranked Nigeria in the 90th position in 2008 and in 119th position out of 139 countries in the year 2016. This ranking shows that Nigeria needs to considerably intensify efforts towards ensuring that her youth and the population at large benefit maximally from the opportunities offered in economic and development terms.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-4: Thematic Focus IV: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Th	
Objectives	Objective 9: Enhance youth capacity and expand the use of ICT to drive

	youth creativity and productive engagements, employment, and development
Lead Ministry	Communication
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Science and Technology ● Education ● Galaxy ● NITDA ● FMYSD

Objective 9: To put in place an environment where Nigerian youth can aspire to prosperity by harnessing the opportunities provided by ICT.

The Federal Government is desirous of reversing the dire case of youth unemployment in the country and harnesses the immense potentials of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to birth a new crop of tech entrepreneurs, create more jobs and improve the efficiency of the system as well as the quality of lives of youth.

Strategies:

- a. Sustain the implementation of the N- Power Knowledge- Tech and innovation hubs and further expand their coverage
- b. Government should encourage private sector participation to increase the number of ICT hubs in Nigeria which will be based on University/Polytechnic campuses. These ICT hubs should be at least 3 per state and made attractive to the best hands in programming, machine language, scripting, software development, application development, artificial intelligence, business analysis and product development. (Galaxy)
- c. Government should leverage social investment programme like the NPower to take the teaching of ICT, especially knowledge needed to program, script, learn artificial intelligence and write machine language to towns and villages. They should be provided with the necessary equipment to make teaching ICT in the remote areas possible. The beneficiaries should be used as teachers in government supported ICT Hubs across the country. (Galaxy)

- d. Develop Mentorship programs to mentor up and coming youth start-ups handled by resources from already established ICT businesses that were once start-ups. (Galaxy)
- e. The National Information and Communication Technology Fund (NICTF) managed by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) should be reenergized to support start-ups with grants and investments. NITDA should be mandated to invest a certain percentage of the fund every year for the next 10 years to support the growth of youth start-ups. (Galaxy)
- f. The Central Bank should support youth start-ups with grants and investments over the next 10 years to fund the growth of ICT economy in Nigeria. (Galaxy)
- g. Government should strengthen the Local Content initiative to encourage ICT start-ups/companies owned by Nigerian youth to find a market for their innovative creations. There is a need to deliberately cut out a percentage of contracts that must be particularly given to businesses owned by youth. This will encourage innovation, create new jobs, and grow youth prosperity in Nigeria. (Galaxy)
- h. Government should consider setting up a Youth Development Fund where a percentage of the budget will go into. This fund will further provide the necessary investment to push all youth employment creation and entrepreneurship initiatives beyond just ICT. (Galaxy)
- i. Government should incentivize the private sector to invest in youth start-ups that have come up with innovation that map to their own organizational goals. (Galaxy)
- j. Government should make available a platform for 'Tech Hubs' to use for carrying out research, development, data and application hosting. (Galaxy)
- k. Build capacity of at least one million youth in Basic, Mid-level and Advanced digital skills: (Advanced skills: coding, software, and app development, network management, machine learning, big data analysis, IoT, cyber security and block chain technology; Mid –level: digital graphic design, marketing, desktop

publishing and social media management; Basic digital Skills: web research, online communication, use of professional online platforms and digital financial services)- ILO, Decent Job for Youth .

- I. Incorporate soft skills into technical digital skills training to ensure professionalism and effectiveness in the digital economy. (Soft skills: communication, teamwork, client focus, etc)- ILO, Decent Job for Youth.

STRATEGIC THRUST 2: HEALTH AND HEALTH-PROMOTING LIFESTYLE

Healthy youth are a nation's chief resources for development. In that regards, programmes that contribute to the optimal health of youth, including preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health-related activities are critical for the well-being of the individual and the development of the society. Efforts to engender health-promoting behaviour and lifestyle are crucial. The health and related social sectors play significant role as social determinants of health and, accordingly, influence youth health-related behaviours and health outcomes.

4.1.5. Thematic Focus V: Health Services and Healthy Behaviour

A. Situation Analysis

The leading health challenges among youth in Nigeria are in the domains of sexual and reproductive health (SRH), mental health, substance use, injury and violence, and nutrition. The SRH issues include: (a) HIV and other sexually transmitted infections; (b) maternal health conditions, including early pregnancy and teenage motherhood, unsafe abortion, maternal morbidity and mortality; (c) gender-based-violence, which includes sexual coercion and rape. The National HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey (NARHS) shows that HIV prevalence rate for the general population of adolescents (15-19 years) increased from 1.7 percent in 2007 to 2.9 percent in 2013. An estimated 160,000 adolescents age 10-19 years (73,000 males and 90,000 females) in Nigeria were living with HIV while 17,000 new HIV infections and 11,000 AIDS-related deaths were recorded in 2013. About a quarter of adolescents of

15-19 years had commenced childbearing in 2013. Also, the level of unsafe abortion and teenage marriage is high.

Mental health accounts for a high proportion of disability-adjusted life years among young people in Nigeria. The growing challenge of substance use, increased economic and increasing divorce rate in families and family instability are also likely to add to the mental health challenge among the youth. Currently, facilities and professionals for mental health care are severely lacking in Nigeria. The rate of injuries and violence has also been increasing among the youth in Nigeria. The practice of commercial motorcycle, which has increased with the worsening economic condition and unemployment, has been associated with high level of accidents. Similarly, the worsening state of Nigerian roads has increased the rate of road traffic accident, while the increased rate of community-level violence has further increased the rate of youth injury.

Also, the challenge of non-communicable diseases is rising among the youth due to unhealthy diet, sedentary lifestyle, tobacco use, and harmful use of alcohol. In terms of nutrition, youth face a double burden of challenges. On the one hand, the rate of obesity and overweight is increasing among youth in Nigeria. On the other hand, a spectrum of Nigerian youth faces the challenge of poor nutrition. Sedentary lifestyles and westernised diet are associated with over nutrition, while poverty and food insecurity are associated with under-nutrition. Teenage pregnancy also contributes to iron deficiency anaemia among young girls. Most of the health challenges of youth in Nigeria have behavioural roots and are preventable. Thus, the high level of health challenges among youth reflect, to a large extent, the inadequate response of the Nigerian health and related social sector systems to the health needs, concerns and challenges of the youth. The result of the National Survey on Youth carried out by the Federal Ministry of Youth Development and the

National Bureau of Statistics, in 2012, for example, reported that less than half (47.4 percent) of youth in Nigeria had access to and used public hospitals, compared to 19.5 percent recorded for the Private hospitals. Most public sector facilities also do not youth-friendly services.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework, and Strategies

Table 4-5: Thematic Focus V: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Thematic Focus V: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs	
Objectives	Objective 10: Improve the quality of youth-related health care services Objective 11: Improve the coverage of health care services for youth Objective 12: Promote appropriate health behaviour, including sports and leisure-time activities
Lead Ministry	Health
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education ● Youth and Sports Development ● NACA ● NDLEA ● NIS ● FMST

Objective 10: Improve the quality of youth-related health care services

The rate and pattern of healthcare utilization among the youth is poor, and the poor quality and unfriendly nature of the orthodox health care system is contributory. Strategic efforts needed to improve the health of young people include training adequate number of healthcare workers on youth-related health friendly services, provision of adequate infrastructure and materials for optimal services, and, institutionalization of quality assurance systems in health care services. Implementation of the National Health Act is another key strategic intervention that can ensure appropriate quality of the health service.

Strategies:

- a. Establish national accreditation system and certification for training programmes in adolescent- and youth-friendly health (AYFHS) as well as for service delivery facilities
- b. Expand access to training programme in adolescent- and youth-friendly health for health workers and other professional groups working with young people.
- c. Ensure the full implementation of the National Standards and Minimum Service Package for Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services nationwide.
- d. Advocate for the implementation of the National Health Act.
- e. Ensure the implementation of the National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescents Health (RMNCAH) Quality of Care Strategy.

Objective 11: Improve the coverage of health care services for youth

A high proportion of morbidity and mortality that occur among the youth is preventable and linked to health-compromising. In general, the poor response of the health system to the health needs and challenges of young people has been implicated in the high level of preventable morbidity and mortality among youth.

Strategies:

- a. Ensure the integration of adolescent- and youth-friendly services meeting the national standards in at least 70% of the 100,000 primary health care facilities targeted to be renovated by the Federal Government
- b. Ensure the availability of AYFHS in at least 67% of established youth development centres through integration of services and/or effective linkage with health facilities
- c. Ensure comprehensive and quality implementation of the Family Life and HIV Education (FLHE) nationwide.
- d. Institutionalization of peer-to-peer health education strategy to equip and empower in school and out of school youth with comprehensive sexuality education and life-building knowledge and skills.
- e. Integrate adolescent- and youth-friendly health into primary health care to improve the access of youth to both preventive and curative services.

- f. Strengthen occupational health services for working class youth.
- g. Promote the use of social media and digital technologies to reach youth with relevant health information and education as well as influence positive health behaviours.
- h. Advocate for the implementation of the Basic Primary Care Fund as provided by the National Health Act.
- i. Ensure the implementation of the Integrated Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and Nutrition Strategy.
- j. Strengthen partnership with private sector to expand access to health services and programmes for youth.
- k. Enforce the Tertiary Institutions Social Health Insurance Programme for students in tertiary institutions .
- l. Ensure that the National Health Insurance Scheme covers the adolescent- and youth-friendly minimum package of service.
- m. Sustain free anti-retroviral treatment for youth living with HIV.

Objective 12: Promote appropriate health behaviour, including sports and leisure-time activities

Most youth-related health problems have behavioural origin; as such, appropriate health-related behaviours are fundamental to sustaining, enhancing and improving the health of youth. Key behavioural issues include sexual behaviour, nutritional practices, use of substances, physical exercises, sanitation-and environmental-related practices, sleep pattern and appropriate use of health services. Leisure-time activities including games and sports, religious and spiritual engagements, cultural events, entertainment and community services also contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of the individual youth.

Strategies:

- a. Expand youth-targeted health promotion activities and promote healthy behaviour using multiple channels including schools, workplaces, health facilities, youth centres, ICT and the media

- b. Ensure comprehensive and quality implementation of the Family Life and HIV education nationwide including the promotion of positive relationships and pro-social behaviours
- c. Ensure the implementation of health-promoting school initiative on nationwide basis, including school-based physical education and drug education
- d. Improve the availability and quality of sporting facilities and the access of youth to the facilities
- e. Expand the number and scope of sporting activities and increase the opportunities of sport engagement for youth through the integration of sports and physical activities into various youth-related programmes and promotion of games and sports events at all levels and for all categories of youth, including those with physical challenges
- f. Promote private sector funding and support for youth-focused sporting activities and appropriately recognise funding individuals and organisations
- g. Enforce the regulation of products that are risky to the health and well-being of youth, including the production, importation and marketing of alcohol and cigarette as well as the operation of fast food joints

Strategic Thrust 3: Promote Participation, Inclusiveness and Equitable Opportunities for All Youth

Youth participation is one of the key elements in positive youth development critical for national development. Efforts need to be made to ensure that every group of youth have the opportunity for meaningful engagement and participation in development processes, including community development, governance, and politics. To make this a reality, special attention needs to be focused on disadvantaged groups that hitherto have limited opportunities for participation. The social development sector is particularly important in this respect, with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development playing lead roles in the Nigerian context, alongside the civil society organisations, youth-led organisations, and the political and governance institutions.

4.1.6. Thematic Focus VI: Civic engagement

A. Situation Analysis

Civic engagement of young people in Nigeria encompasses a wide range of programmes including those initiated by government agencies, the private sector, and the civil society. The National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) offers the largest platform for civic engagement in Nigeria, with an estimated 350,000 youth engaged in the scheme in 2018. The NYSC scheme, which was created by the Federal Government of Nigeria on 22 May, 1973, is a compulsory one-year service for Nigerian graduates. Although the scheme has faced some challenges including funding issues and community violence that threatened the posting of corps members to some parts of the country, it continues to provide an opportunity for graduates to render useful services to the Nigerian populace as well as inculcate the spirit of social responsibility and service in the youth.

Youth-related organisations such as the Man O' War, Boys and Girls Brigade, Boys Scout, Girls Guide, Red Cross and Red Crescent exist across the country and have continually served as useful platforms for civic engagement of the Nigerian youth. In addition, there has been a significant growth in the number of youth-focused civil society organisations in Nigeria; these organisations have provided an expanded platform for civic engagement of youth. A number of international development organisations including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and VSO operate formal volunteering programmes for youth in Nigeria.

However, the opportunities for volunteerism in the private sectors have shrunk over time with increasing economic challenge in the country and the decreasing fortune of the manufacturing sector. In the recent years, there has been little or no opportunity for youth to volunteer with government agencies. On the whole, the opportunity for youth civic engagement and volunteerism is grossly inadequate viz-a-viz the

population of the Nigerian youth. Also, the culture of youth volunteerism is yet to take a firm root in the Nigeria till date.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-6: Thematic Focus VI: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Thematic Objectives	Objective 13: Strengthen the platform and capacity for youth engagement and participation Objective 14: Create platforms and enabling environment for the inclusion of marginalized youth Objective 15: Strengthen intergenerational relationships and solidarity
Lead Ministry	Youth and Sports Development
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<i>Other MDAs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women Affairs ● Information & Culture ● CLTC ● NYSC ● NOA

Objective 13: Strengthen the platform and capacity for youth engagement and participation

Civic engagement counts significantly in the healthy transition of youth to adulthood, and contributes towards both the success of the individual and development of the society. The key strategic interventions to promote civic engagement include education on citizenship and community values, creating and supporting opportunities for youth to engage in volunteerism at community and organisational levels.

Strategies:

- a. Stakeholders in public and private sectors should create opportunities for civic engagement of youth using volunteerism.
- b. Strengthen NYSC platform to support the entrenchment of the culture of volunteerism for both in and out of school youth.

- c. Revive and strengthen youth voluntary/ community based organisations (boys scout, girls guide, red cross, boys brigade etc.).
- d. Reform and strengthen street youth groups for positive engagement.
- e. Create an enabling environment for the emergence of youth social entrepreneurs by awarding grants to innovative initiatives.
- f. Government institutions and relevant stakeholders should create social media platforms to promote civic engagement with young people.
- g. Forums should be created for young people to engage community and political leaders periodically.
- h. Government should design and promote programmes and activities that will sensitize and mobilize urban/rural youth participation in governance and development processes through building capacity of youth based organisations at local, state and national levels.
- i. Government should promote the Principle of transparency, accountability, non-discrimination and mutual respect on youth engagement in governance processes.
- j. Government should create an enabling environment that will Increase 10% full participation of physically challenged, less privileged and other disadvantaged groups in governance.
- k. Promote 'social entrepreneurship' by recognising and honouring youth social entrepreneurs and provide grants to some of their initiatives that promote civic engagement among youth.
- l. Institute a National Youth Award scheme to recognize and honour exceptional youth in all fields of endeavour.
- m. Encourage all Nigerian youth to know, recite and honour the National Anthem.

Objective 14: Create platforms and enabling environment for inclusion of marginalised youth.

Specific attentions and strategic actions are needed to provide opportunities for civic engagements to disadvantaged and otherwise socially excluded youth. These groups of youth may include those with disabilities, teenage mothers, youth on the street and

many other groups of “especially vulnerable” and most-at-risk youth as defined in the section on “target population” of this Policy.

Strategies:

- a. Develop platform for the engagement of youth with disabilities and other vulnerable youth.
- b. Strengthen the youth parliament to include marginalized youth at federal and state level.
- c. Develop preventive, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to integrate vulnerable youth (sex workers, drug addict, youth affected and involved in crime etc.) into the society.
- d. Establish Legal provisions and affirmative actions may be necessary to protect the rights of certain groups, or promote their rightful participation in certain developmental processes.
- e. Government and stakeholders also need to create support and rehabilitation systems for vulnerable youth, including those involved in substance use, sex work or crime and those in institutional care, correctional homes and prisons.
- f. Explore the use of ICT to mitigate and minimise the effects of their disability on their development, functioning, and activities.
- g. Develop structural interventions and environmental modifications to facilitate the easy mobility of some groups,
- h. Increase educational opportunities 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.

Objective 15: Strengthen intergenerational relationships and solidarity

Effective and positive intergenerational relationships between youth and older generation are symbiotic in nature. It holds the potential for benefitting both the youth and older people. On the one hand, youth can enjoy mentorship from the older generation and gain tremendously from their knowledge and experiences. On the other hand, older generations can benefit from the physical strength and support of young

people. Providing opportunities for youth to work and partner with older generations in a more robust manner could offer the youth a platform to contribute to richer family and community lives, and enhance community cohesion and solidarity. Efforts needed to build inter-generational relationships include development of mentorship programmes to connect older generations and youth, and providing the platform for inter-generational communication.

Strategies:

- a. Public and Private sector should be put in place programmes on value re-orientation which should include emphasis on the teaching of history and civic education to project family life and national values.
- b. Strengthen community based interactions and mentorship programmes between youth and the older generations.
- c. Stakeholders should engage with the entertainment industry to promote traditional values.
- d. Provide opportunities for youth to work and partner with older generations in a more robust manner could offer the youth a platform to contribute to richer family and community lives, and enhance community cohesion and solidarity.
- e. Promote inter-generational relationships by developing mentorship programmes to connect older generations and youth, and providing the platform for inter-generational communication.

4.1.7. Thematic Focus VII: Political inclusion

A. Situation Analysis

Young people are a creative force, a dynamic source of innovation, and they have undoubtedly, throughout history, participated, contributed, and even catalysed important changes in political systems of many countries of the world. Whereas, most of the leading political actors and leaders of thoughts at independence in 1960 were in their youthful years, the situation is radically different today with very few youth having the opportunity to play leadership roles in political parties, political processes, and overall

governance of the country. Females are particularly disenfranchised by the political process practices. As at 2018, the President, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives and all the 36 governors in Nigeria are all males. Factors such as poverty, the high cost of the electoral processes, multiple forms of discrimination, and inadequate political mobilisation and opportunities have mitigated against youth participation and inclusion in the active political sphere.

Young people are not only “future good citizens in training” – a role from that they are often pushed to by the Nigerian educational and political institutions, but are also major actors in today’s democracy and the governance sphere. As such, young people must be correctly viewed as critical stakeholders in democratic processes and practices. Furthermore, youth participation in developmental processes, including politics and governance, is a fundamental democratic right. Several international conventions and declarations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the World Programme of Action for Youth, provide a strong frame of reference for a rights-based approach to related programmes of support. Removing existing barriers to youth political participation should be an end in and of itself. Participation and active citizenship is about having the right, the means, the space and the opportunity and where necessary the support to participate in and influence decisions and engaging in actions and activities so as to contribute to building a better society². The passage of the “Not Too Young to Run” bill by the National Assembly is one potential incentive for more active youth participation in the political process. The bill, which was signed into law by the President on 31 May 2018 reduced the age for vying for House of Assembly and House of Representatives from 30 year old to 25 year old, Senate and Governorship from 35 year old to 30 year old

² United Nations Development Programme (2013). Enhancing Youth Political Participation throughout the Electoral Cycle – A good practice guide.

and office of the president from 40 to 30, and also provides for independent candidature.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-7: Thematic Focus VII: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Thematic Focus VII: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs	
Objectives	Objective 16: Enhance the capacities of youth and youth-led organisations to engage actively with the political processes at all levels Objective 17: Foster an enabling environment for youth engagement with the political processes at all levels
Lead MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Independent National Electoral Commission ● Youth and Sports Development
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Right Commission ● Justice ● Information and Culture

Objective 16: Enhance the capacities of youth and youth-led organisations to engage actively with political processes at all levels.

Youth are critical stakeholders in democracy and have potentials for influencing political processes and governance positively. However, the engagement of youth in Nigeria with the political system and their inclusion in political processes has been rather poor. Inadequate knowledge and experience, and lack of institutional support for political engagements are part of the major challenges limiting youth participation in politics. To address this challenge, there is the need to appropriately strengthen the capacities of youth for political engagement through training and mentorship, and the promotion of their leadership skills for governance. Furthermore, the capacity of youth-led organisations needs to be strengthened and their potentials harnessed to serve appropriately as the platform for advocacy for youth engagement in politics, and a base for continuous capacity-building for youth engagement in politics and governance. Just as other political parties have extended waivers to women, the same should be extended to youth in politics.

Strategies:

- a. Government should design and promote programmes and activities that will sensitize and mobilize urban/rural youth participation in governance and development processes through building capacity of youth based institution at local, state and national levels.
- b. Government should promote the Principle of transparency, accountability, non-discrimination and mutual respect of all youth in governance processes.
- c. Government should create an enabling environment that will Increase 10% full participation of physically challenge, less privileged and other disadvantaged groups in governance.
- d. Strengthen the capacities of youth for political engagement through training and mentorship, and the promotion of their leadership skills for governance.
- e. Strengthen and develop the capacity of youth-led organisations with a view to harness their potentials to serve.
- f. Extend waivers to young women in politics.

Objective 17: Foster an enabling environment for youth engagement with political processes at all levels.

With the mindset to fully maximise the potentials of youth and harness their resources for improved governance system, government and political actors need to promote an enabling environment for youth participation in inclusive political processes and democratic practices. This will include developing and enforcing, as may be appropriate, legal frameworks, regulations, policies and plans targeting active and full participation of youth and youth-led organizations in a broad range of political processes and governance activities at various levels.

Strategies:

- a. Advocacy by relevant stakeholders for the full implementation of “Not –too- Young –to- Run –Law.”
- b. Advocacy by relevant stakeholders to ensure 25% political appointment for qualified young people from National, States and Local Governments.

- c. Government should engage relevant stakeholders to ensure 25% of elective positions for qualified youth.
- d. Establish internship programmes for young people with the national and state parliament for political mentorship.
- e. Capacity building programmes for youth led organization to engage the political process and promote political inclusion.

Strategic Thrust 4: Ensure Promotive and Protective Environment for Youth

To ensure their optimal development, youth need to develop and operate in an environment in which their human rights are safeguarded and their rights to fully enjoy fundamental freedom promoted. Youth need to grow and operate in an environment devoid of abuse, violence and discrimination on any ground. In this respect, the legal sector, law enforcement and security agencies are important, along with community leadership and agents. Similarly, youth need environments that enhance their self-confidence, stimulate their creativity, as well as support their drives, dreams and initiatives.

Violence and armed conflicts endanger development and lead to situations where individual rights and well-being can be easily compromised. As such, youth development, peace and security and human rights must be recognised as being inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. Youth development efforts must embrace the necessity to ensure an absence of every form of armed conflict, community violence and insecurity.

4.1.8. *Thematic Focus VIII: Human rights and fundamental freedoms of youth*

A. Situation Analysis

Nigeria has recorded serious improvements in human rights since the return to democratic governance in 1999; the human rights of the youth and all other population groups are protected under the country's current constitution. Nevertheless, there are areas of gaps in the protection and promotion of the human rights of the youth, and it is crucial to address these areas.

Broadly, females in Nigeria experience more human rights violation compared to males; early marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, and gender-based violence are three key human rights violation affecting female youth in Nigeria. The rate of girl-child marriage and associated early motherhood is high in many states in Northern Nigeria. According to the 2016 Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey (MICS), 18.5% of women age 15-49 years were married before age 15, 44.1% of women age 20-29 years were married before age 18, and 22.2% of females age 15-19 years are married. Girl-child marriage are often non-voluntary in nature, and puts the girl at a high risk of maternal morbidity and mortality in case of pregnancy as well as limits her rights to education and other development opportunities. While the Convention of the Rights of the Child, which specifies the age of marriage as 18 years, has been passed into law at the national level, several northern states are yet to ratify the convention by 2018. Female genital mutilation is widespread in Nigeria; as the 2016 MICS reported, 18.4% of women age 15-49 years reported undergoing any form of FGM/C, and 21.6% of women age 15-49 years were of the opinion that the practice should be continued. Gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence are also increasing reported in Nigeria.

Youth with disability are a group that face multiple discrimination in Nigeria and, in general, there are gaps in human rights protection of people with special need who constitute about 2.3 percent of the population according to the 2006 National Census. According to the 2012 National Baseline Youth Survey, almost half a million youth (490,000 or 0.94 percent of the youth population) have one form of disability or the other. Poliomyelitis-related disability constituted the highest category (37 percent), followed by visual impairment (34 percent). Youth living with HIV and those who are sexual minorities also suffer discrimination in

Nigeria. Issues of killings by governmental forces, abuses in violence situations (such as by the Boko Haram group) and lack of social equality are also issues of human rights concern in Nigeria that may affect youth disproportionately. The higher rate of unemployment among youth compared to other population groups, low percentage of youth holding in political offices, and social inequality and differential access to development opportunities and quality of social services on the basis of socio-economic class are also areas of gaps in the human rights protection of the youth in Nigeria.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-8: Thematic Focus VIII: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Thematic Focus VIII: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs	
Objectives	Objective 18: Develop and enforce gender-sensitive laws and policies that promote and protect the human rights of all youth
Lead MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry of Justice ● National Assembly ● National Human Right Commission
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth and Sports Development ● Women Affairs ● Information and Culture

Objective 18: Develop and enforce gender-sensitive laws and policies that protect human rights of all youth.

The promotion and protection of the human rights of youth is core to the agenda of youth development, and critical to the transition of the youth into full adulthood and active citizenship. Youth, among others, need to enjoy full rights to development to fulfil their potential. In this respect, government needs to intensify efforts to enact, strengthen or enforce, as appropriate, legislations, regulations and policies, to protect

the human rights of youth, and eliminate all forms of abuse, violence and discrimination. It is important that gender lens be applied in this process and specific efforts must be made to particularly protect the rights of socially disadvantaged groups including women and youth with disabilities, and those living with HIV. Among others, the laws against child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence should be reviewed and revised as necessary, and robustly implemented.

Strategies:

- a. Sensitization and education of young people on the National Youth Policy and other related policies.
- b. Engage the youth through the mainstream media and social media on values to protect them from abuse and safeguard their rights.
- c. Engagement of Law enforcement Agencies on the protection and enforcement of youth rights
- d. Establish a platform for youth to engage policy makers, law enforcement agents and community leaders
- e. Advocacy to strengthen and enforce appropriate legislations and policies relating to the rights of youth with disabilities and youth living with HIV.
- f. Support youth led- organizations with a focus on fundamental human rights and advocacy for the protection of these rights.
- g. Advocate for the ratification of the Conventions of the Rights of the Child by all states and its enforcement, including the minimum marriage of 18 years.

4.1.9. Thematic Focus IX: Peace and Security

A. Situation Analysis

Although a generally peaceful country, Nigeria has experienced several and repeated episodes of violence over the years, and the emergence of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad group otherwise popularly known as *Boko Haram* is of particular significance in this regard. Boko Haram is characterised by

acts of violent extremism, resulting in one of the worst humanitarian crisis in Nigeria’s history. About 15 million people are estimated to have been affected by the Boko Haram crisis since 2009, and about seven million people estimated to require humanitarian assistance in 2016, including 3.8 million people aged 18 years or younger. As such, youth constitute a huge proportion of persons affected by the fall-out of the Boko Haram activities.

On the other hand, youth also constitute the majority of the perpetrators of the violent Boko Haram activities as well as other episodes of violence in the country, including the inter-communal clashes, restiveness in the Niger-Delta region, and increasing clashes between the Fulani herdsmen and indigenous community members in various parts of Nigeria. Cases of inter-community clashes, often based on land and border disputes, are also witnessed intermittently. On the other hand, inter-personal conflicts including armed robbery as well as intimate partner violence and other forms of sexual violence such as rape are also increasingly reported by the mass media. Natural disasters such as flooding and drought may also result in a similar effect, and thousands of Nigerians, including youth, have been displaced as a result of such disasters.

Youth unemployment and related economic frustration are widely believed to be “push factors” associated with the rising rate of violence in Nigeria. As the resolution 2250, of which Nigeria was one of the co-sponsoring countries, adopted on 9th December 2015 by the United Nations Security Council indicates, there is a nexus between youth, peace and security. Thus, it is important to meaningfully engage youth as veritable partners in preventing violence, countering violent extremism and building sustainable peace.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-9: Thematic Focus IX: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

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Objectives	Objective 19: Protect youth from direct involvement in armed conflicts,

	and the effects of conflicts and violence
Lead MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Internal Affairs ● Institute of Peace & Conflict Resolution
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defense ● Information ● NIMC ● NIS ● NSCDC ● NPF

Objective 19: Protect youth from direct involvement in armed conflicts, and the effects of conflict and violence.

Ensuring security is a primary responsibility of the state, and all efforts must be made to strengthen the security services and put in place other measures that will ensure the sustenance at local, sub-national, and national levels. There is the need to entrench a mind-set and culture of peace-building, tolerance, dialogue and conflict resolution among youth through formal and informal education, and putting in place supportive social structures and mechanisms. Government should ensure adequate measures to protect youth in situations of conflict and post-conflicts from harm, torture and abuse, especially vulnerable populations such as young women. In addition, appropriate measures are needed to promote the recovery, rehabilitate and socially re-integrate victims of conflicts.

Strategies:

- a. Strengthen institutions and coordination of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) programming.
- b. Strengthen the Rule of law, access to justice and human rights approaches.
- c. Engage communities and build resilience among youth.
- d. Integrate strategic communications in PCVE programming.
- e. Establish 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.

- f. In the event of armed conflicts and violence, efforts must be made to protect youth from direct involvement and minimise the effects of the conflicts and violence on them.

Strategic Thrust 5: Effective Partnership-Building and Collaboration in Youth

Development

Youth development is a multi-sectorial agenda that needs effective collaboration among various groups of stakeholders to achieve the optimal result desired in line with this policy goal. Skilled and competent professionals with the appropriate attitudes and approach to the multi-sectorial nature of youth development are core to building result-oriented partnerships to drive productive collaborations. The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development is strategic to developing and implementing appropriate partnership frameworks for youth development agenda.

4.1.10. Thematic Focus X: Capacity for promoting youth development agenda

Youth development efforts have been a major focus of successive Nigerian governments. The Federal Government created a full-fledged Ministry of Youth Development in 2007 as part of that effort, with the statutory responsibility for advancing the youth development agenda nationally. In addition to spearheading policy development and advocacy efforts, the Ministry has also been engaged in major efforts to monitor the status of youth and facilitate youth development programmes, among others. The Ministry is currently named the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development under the current national government with sports development merged into it.

As part of the national youth development agenda, the Federal Government launched the National Youth Service Corps programme in 1973 to expose graduates of tertiary institutions to leadership roles and community development projects before joining the job market and as a vehicle to promote national unity and integration. In addition to the NYSC, the Ministry also has the Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre (with units in Lagos, Jos and Port Harcourt) and the

National Institute of Sports as key parastatals and collaborate actively with youth and youth-serving organisations and national youth-related platforms. The Ministry also have oversight and/or supervisory responsibilities for specialized agencies concerned with youth development in Nigeria, including the National Youth Development Council, the National Council on Youth, the Council recognised by the federal government with responsibility of coordinating and regulating affairs of youth associations/ councils and the Nigeria Youth Parliament.

The Ministry, over time, has initiated several initiatives to advance youth development agenda. Among others, in 1988, the Ministry developed a Youth Development Index as a measure of the well-being of the Nigerian youth, introduced the Annual Nigerian Youth Development Report, and developed the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan (NIYEAP). In 2012, the Ministry undertook the National Baseline Youth Survey in conjunction with the National Bureau of Statistics. Other key initiatives of the Ministry include the development of Youth Development Centres to provide vocational and developmental training for youth in different parts of the country; and, organise the national sports and cultural festivals as fora for the research, identification and encouragement of talent amongst the youth.

A. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-10: Thematic Focus X: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Thematic Focus X: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs	
Objectives	Objective 20: Strengthening the capacity of government agencies for promoting youth development agenda Objective 21: Strengthening professional development and professionalism in youth work Objective 22: Strengthening the capacity of youth-led organisations for youth work
Lead MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth and Sports Development, ● Women Affairs ● Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FMST ● (NYCN)

Objective 20: Strengthening the capacity of government agencies for promoting youth development agenda.

The strategic intervention for strengthening youth development agenda at government ministries and agencies include the designation of youth development focal persons in each ministry/agency, specification of budget line for youth development agenda in congruence with this Policy objective, allocation of funds annually into the budget line, and subsequent release of allocated funds for focal activities.

Strategies:

- a. Establish a coordinating mechanism that allows the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development to coordinate activities of other relevant MDAs on youth development issues.
- b. Establish a National Youth Development Fund.
- c. 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 National Youth Policy.
- d. Strengthen the institutional framework established by the Policy to ensure effective coordination of youth development programmes/projects.
- e. Government should develop a youth database and ensure periodic updates.

Objective 21: Strengthening professional development and professionalism in youth work

Government and relevant stakeholders, particularly academic and training institutions, should strengthen the Commonwealth Youth Diploma Programmes and develop appropriate skills-based programmes at various levels (certificate, diploma, degree, and postgraduate) to enhance the capacity of youth workers with desired level of knowledge, attitude, skills and professional orientation in youth work. Training programmes are similarly needed for developing the organisational leadership of youth-led organisations and youth work initiatives. Mechanisms for recognising such training and remunerating such trained individuals in the regular scheme of employment in the country are also important. Existing youth leadership training programmes and curricula should also be reviewed as necessary and improved where necessary for greater effectiveness.

Strategies:

- a. Government should establish a National Youth Development Institute for capacity development to ensure service delivery.
- b. Strengthen the diploma in youth development work anchored on the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) model.
- c. Develop periodic capacity building programmes for youth workers to ensure effective service delivery.
- d. Review the curricula of the CLTC and other leadership training programmes to ensure effectiveness.

Objective 22: Strengthening the capacity of youth-led organisations for youth work

Government should institute mechanisms to undertake regular organisational capacity assessment of youth-led and youth-focused organisations to understand their potential for effectiveness and the nature of capacity strengthening needed.

Strategies:

- a. Government should ensure periodic capacity building programmes/workshops for Youth leaders and youth focused organizations.
- b. Government should ensure bi-annual effective monitoring and appraisal of Youth related activities.
- c. Government should ensure the revival of grants to functional Youth focused NGOs to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of their activities.
- d. Ensure the creation and regular update of database of functional NGOs/VYOs for effective planning of programmes and activities.
- e. Develop a directory of civil society organisations involved in youth-related work on a regular basis.
- f. Government and stakeholders should organise periodic capacity-building programmes for credible youth-focused organisations and youth leaders to boost their capacity and morale, providing them with relevant technical and financial resources where relevant and possible.

- g. Support should also be provided to credible and result-oriented youth leaders to participate in local training and youth-related sub-national and national activities.

4.1.11. Thematic Focus XI: Sustainable platform for multi-sectoral collaboration

A. Situation Analysis

Youth development is a multi-sectoral agenda. Whereas the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development is the national-level organ for leading and coordinating youth development initiatives, several other sectors have youth development initiatives in their domains and multiple stakeholders – including the academia and research institutions, civil society organisations, organised private sectors and international development partners – also make critical contributions to youth development. There is, therefore, a need for strong coordination platform to ensure synergy between the various players in the youth development sector and optimise the impact from the diverse input of various stakeholders.

Example of major government-led youth-related initiatives in other sectors in the recent years include the Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWiN) Programme designed to encourage youth entrepreneurship and provide grants for small and medium scale enterprises; promotion of youth engagement in agribusiness; and, the Growing Girls and Women in Nigeria (G-WIN) Project that focuses on young females and women. The G-WIN initiative involves five key Federal Government ministries: Health, Works, Communication, Agriculture and Water Resources.

Most of the technical and financial support for policy and programming in the youth development arena has been from the international development partners. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), for example, has been in the forefront of adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and development in Nigeria for several decades in

line with her mission as “the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled “and mandate to support countries to fulfil their ICPD PoA commitment. UNFPA has supported policy development efforts in the areas of adolescent health, population and development, and reproductive health, and youth development. UNFPA champions the call for increased investment in youth development as a fundamental step for Nigeria to reap the demographic dividend. UNFPA has also provided technical and financial supports to the operationalisation of the national agenda in reproductive health, sexual and reproductive rights, girl-child empowerment and gender equity, as well as data collection to support development planning, among others.

Other multilateral agencies have also contributed to the youth development agenda in Nigeria in line with their mandate including the World Health Organization (WHO); the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO); International Labour Organisation (ILO); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC); the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS); UN Women, and the IMF and World Bank. Several bilateral organisations are also very active in the youth development arena in Nigeria, including the Department of International Development (DfID) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the European Union.

B. Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies

Table 4-11: Thematic Focus XI: Objectives and Key Implementing MDAs

Th	
Objectives	Objective 23: Establishing and operationalizing sustainable

	platforms for multi-sectoral collaboration
Lead MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth and Sports Development
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education ● Health ● Women Affairs ● Science and Technology ● Agriculture ● Information ● Finance ● Justice ● NECA

Objective 23: Establishing and operationalizing sustainable platforms for multi-sectorial collaboration

Strategic interventions needed for effective partnership and collaboration in the youth development arena include the establishment of multi-sectorial Youth Development Working Groups that will involve representatives of various key government ministries, departments and agencies, as well as representatives of other stakeholder groups like civil society organisations, research and academic institutions, the organized private sector, international development agencies and youth at every level of governance; effective government funding of the meeting and operations of the Working Groups; and institutionalization of effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the policy implementation.

Strategies:

- a. Adequate Funding of youth programmes/ projects/ activities through collaboration and partnership among stakeholders.
- b. Government should ensure adequate funding of agencies in the institutional framework for delivery of the youth development policy.
- c. Stakeholders should ensure periodic monitoring and evaluation of programmes/ projects of agencies involved in youth development.
- d. Establish a multi- sectorial youth development technical working group to ensure effective delivery and to achieve policy objectives.

4.2. Objectives

Based on the five overarching strategic thrusts, the policy has a total of 11 thematic areas with 23 linked objectives as shown in Table 1. The thematic areas and objectives are further described below and with an accompanying implementation framework and benchmarks.

Table 4-12: Thematic Areas and Policy Objectives

Strategic Thrust I: Productive Workforce and Sustainable Economic Engagement of Youth	
1. Education, capacity-building and skills development	1. Improve the quality of education and skill training programmes
	2. Improve access, retention and completion of youth to education and skill acquisition programmes
	3. Promote equitable access to educational opportunities for all youth
	4. Promote life-long learning among youth
2. Employment creation and entrepreneurship	5. Expand employment opportunities through diversification of the economy.
	6. Increase access of youth entrepreneurs to assets and supportive services
	7. Build linkages between the industrial sector and the educational system
3. Youth in Agriculture	8. Promote active youth Involvement in agriculture for national food security, job creation, and social development
4. Youth and ICT	9. Enhance youth capacity and expand the use of ICT to drive youth creativity and productive engagements, employment, and development
Strategic Thrust II: Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyles	
5. Health Services and Healthy Behaviour	10. Improve the quality of youth-related health care services
	11. Improve the coverage of health care services for youth
	12. Promote appropriate health behaviour, including sports and leisure-time activities
Strategic Thrust III: Participation, Inclusiveness and Equitable Opportunities for All Youth	
6. Civic Engagement	13. Strengthen the platform and capacity for youth engagement and participation

	14. Create platforms and enabling environment for the inclusion of marginalized youth
	15. Strengthen intergenerational relationships and solidarity
7. Political Inclusion	16. Enhance the capacities of youth and youth-led organisations to engage actively with the political processes at all levels
	17. Foster an enabling environment for youth engagement with the political processes at all levels
Strategic Thrust IV: Ensure Promotive and Protective Environment for Youth	
8. Human rights and fundamental freedom of youth	18. Develop and enforce gender-sensitive laws and policies that promote and protect the human rights of all youth
9. Peace and Security	19. Protect youth from direct involvement in armed conflicts, and the effects of conflicts and violence
Strategic Thrust V Effective Partnership-Building and Collaboration in Youth Development	
10. Capacity for promoting youth development agenda	20. Strengthening the capacity of government agencies for promoting youth development agenda
	21. Strengthening professional development and professionalism in youth work
	22. Strengthening the capacity of youth-led organisations for youth work
11. Sustainable platform for multi-sectoral collaboration	23. Establishing and operationalizing sustainable platforms for multi-sectoral collaboration

5. Policy Benchmarks

The policy benchmarks (that is, the targets to be achieved within the policy period) are indicated for each strategic thrust in Table 4.1.

Table 4-13: The Policy Benchmarks

<p>1. Productive Workforce and Sustainable Economic Engagement of Youth</p>	<p><u>Education, capacity-building and skills development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage enrolment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses by offering annual bursaries to 100,000 eligible STEM undergraduates ● Enable best practices and professional training for over 295,000 education personnel under the Continuing Professional Development for Teachers Programme, and 850 English Language, Science and Mathematics teachers across the country ● Ensure that all 151 CoEs and 200 NTI study centres nationwide key into the teacher education reforms ● Establish Study Loan Schemes for tertiary students in all states ● Establish special intervention fund to support the education of persons with special needs ● Establish 500,000 learner-friendly mass literacy centres for out-of-school youth over the next five years for out of school youth ● Recruit and train 500,000 mass literacy instructors/counselors and deploy in the mass literacy centres over the next three years for out of school youth <p><u>Employment creation and entrepreneurship</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create an average of 3.7 million jobs per year (approximately 18.5 million jobs over the 5-year policy period), with priority on youth employment. ● Establish a job matching programme for new graduates by incentivizing employers to retain National Youth Service Corp members at the end of their service. ● Enhance access to the N250 billion CBN MSME fund by reviewing its design and implementing enabling initiatives to encourage on-lending. ● Expand short-term entrepreneurship capacity development to assist 10,000 emerging and practicing youth entrepreneurs in
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	<p>each state and the FCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish/strengthen incubation centres (at least one per state and the FCT) and support youth innovators to acquire rights over their properties/ inventions through patents/ trademarks registration ● Establish Enterprise Development Centre in each LGA <p><u>Youth in Agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance youth access to the multi-billion Naira CBN MSME fund by reviewing its design and implementing enabling initiatives to encourage on-lending ● Enhance agricultural extension services to 1:1,000 by 2020 and to 1:750 by 2022, and with priority on youth in agriculture ● Sustain and scale up the delivery of credit to 1.6 million farmers by 2020 and 2 million farmers by 2022, including youth ● Create the Nigerian Youth Development Fund (NYDF) with special focus on lending credits and grant to youth entrepreneurs and agropreneurs ● Establish two Agribusiness Incubation Centre per zone ● Engage in innovative financing mechanisms to encourage diverse participation of youth in Agriculture <p><u>Youth and ICT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build the capacity of at least one million youth in Basic, Mid-level and Advanced digital skills ● Channel funding to youth entrepreneurs in the ICT sector through accelerators and incubators ● 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 ● Develop mentorship programs to support up-coming youth start-ups by already established ICT businesses
<p>2. Health and Health-Promoting Lifestyle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrate adolescent- and youth-friendly health services in at least 70% of the 100,000 PHC facilities targeted for renovation by the federal government ● Fully implement the National Standards and Minimum Service Package for Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services nationwide. ● Establish national accreditation system and certification for training programmes in adolescent- and youth-friendly health (AYFHS) as well as for service delivery facilities ● Ensure the availability of AYFHS in at least 67% of established

	<p>youth development centres through integration of services and/or effective linkage with health facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enforce the Tertiary Institutions Social Health Insurance Programme for students in tertiary institutions ● Sustain free anti-retroviral treatment for youth living with HIV ● Create and adequately fund budget line for adolescent and youth health programmes at the Federal Ministry of Health ● Ensure the implementation of health-promoting school initiative on nationwide basis, including school-based physical education and drug education
<p>3. Participation, inclusiveness and equitable opportunities for all Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen NYSC platform to support the entrenchment of the culture of volunteerism for both in and out of school youth ● Create an enabling environment for the emergence of youth social entrepreneurs by awarding grants to innovative initiatives ● Develop preventive, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to integrate vulnerable youth ● Develop platform for the engagement of youth with disabilities and other vulnerable youth and their equitable participation in governance ● 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. ● Strengthen the capacities of youth for political engagement through training and mentorship, and the promotion of their leadership skills for governance. ● Institute a National Youth Award scheme to recognize and honour exceptional youth in all fields of endeavour
<p>4. Promotive and Protective Environment for Youth Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy to strengthen and enforce appropriate legislations and policies relating to the rights of youth with disabilities and youth living with HIV. ● Support youth led- organizations with a focus on fundamental human rights and advocacy for the protection of these rights. ● 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 ● Advocate for the ratification of the Conventions of the Rights of the Child by all states and its enforcement, including the minimum marriage of 18 years

<p>5. Partnership-building and effective collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish a multi- sectorial youth development technical working group to ensure effective delivery and to achieve policy objectives ● Establish a National Youth Development Fund ● 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 National Youth Policy ● Strengthen the diploma in youth development work anchored on the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) model. ● Government should ensure the revival of grants to functional Youth focused NGOs to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of their activities
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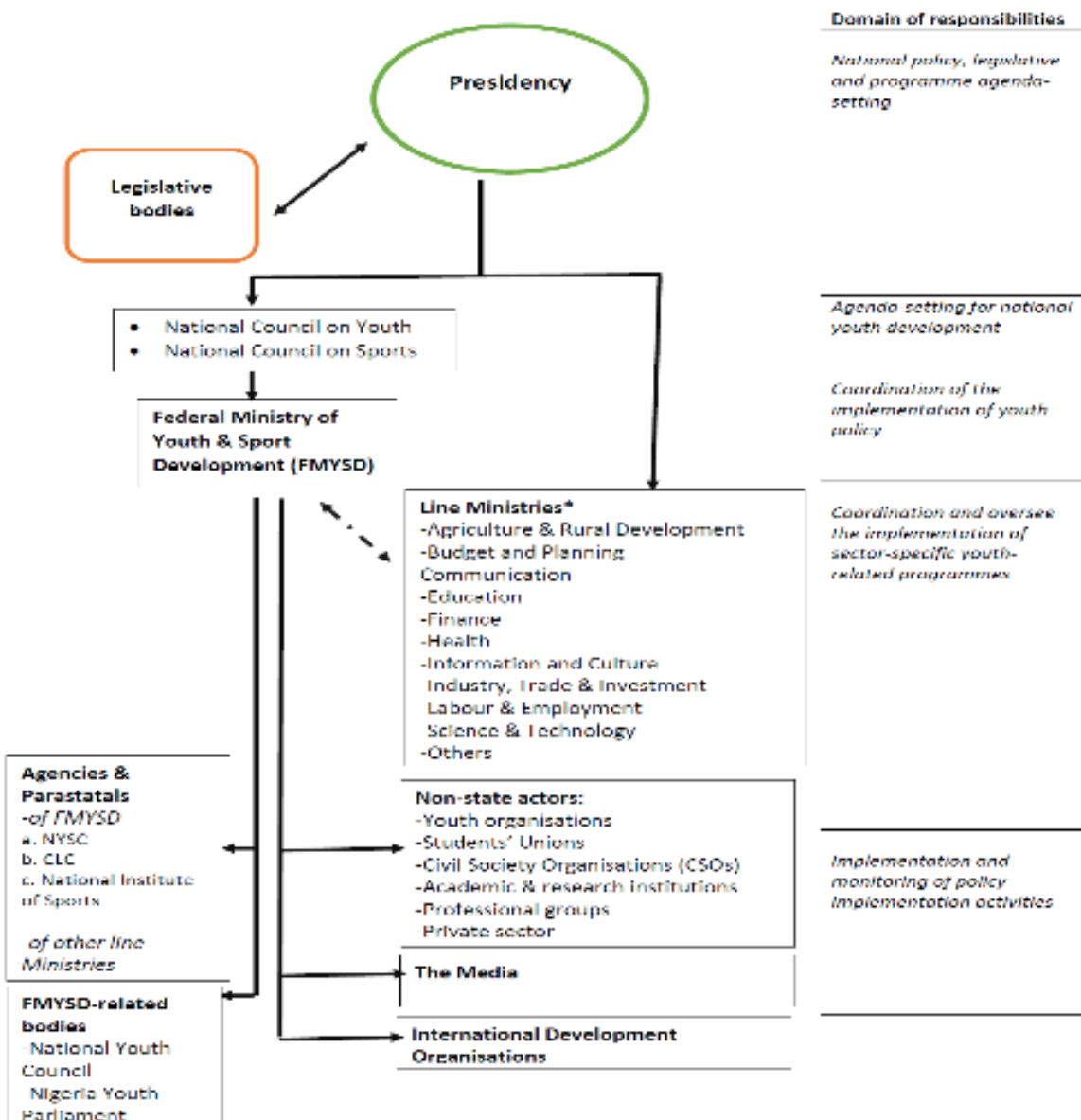
6. Implementation Framework

Youth development is a cross-cutting national agenda; as such, the implementation of this Policy will involve all development sectors, including the government, the civil society, the organised private sector, international development agencies, and the youth themselves. This section highlights the roles and responsibilities of various institutions, agencies and groups related to youth development activities in Nigeria, as well as the coordinating structures at the various levels of governance. It is important to note that the National Youth Policy provides a foundation and direction for a National Youth Action Plan. The Plan will further elaborate on the roles of all institutions and groups concerned with youth development, and the programmes, services, facilities and activities they will undertake to achieve the goals and objectives of this Policy.

The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development is the ministerial organ of the Federal Government assigned the responsibility for policy development and coordinating youth-related activities. The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development also has oversight and/or supervisory responsibilities for the specialized agencies concerned with youth development, such as the National Youth Development Council (NYDC), National Council on Youth (NCY), the Council recognised by the federal government with responsibility of coordinating and regulating affairs of youth associations/ councils, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme, and the Nigeria Youth Parliament. Overall,

the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development will directly be responsible for coordinating and driving the implementation of this policy in line with her mandate.

Implementation Framework; Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders



6.1 Youth-Related Councils and Parliament: Roles and Responsibilities

6.1.1. National Youth Development Council (NYDC)

Composition

The National Youth Development Council is an Inter-Ministerial Council to be chaired by the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Because youth development is

a cross-cutting national agenda, the membership of the national youth development council shall consist of the entire Ministers of the core and relevant ministries in youth development. This shall include Ministries such as Youth and Sports Development, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Women Affairs and Social Development, Labour and Employment, Information, representatives of NYCN, National Orientation Agency etc. and the Commissioners of states ministries. The secretariat is the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development.

Roles and Responsibilities –

1. To provide the much-needed political will for youth development.
2. To elevate and mainstream youth development as a crucial national agenda.
3. To provide a forum for an integrated cross-sectoral approach to youth development in Nigeria.

6.1.2 National Council on Youth Development (NCYD) to meet biennially

Composition

The National Council on Youth Development shall consist of all State Commissioners for Ministries of Youth Development or relevant State Ministries and agencies in charge of youth development. The Chairman of the National Council on Youth is the Honourable Minister for Youth and Sports Development. The Director of Youth Development from the FMYSO and the state counterparts will participate in the Technical Sessions of the National Council on Youth and be in attendance at the actual Council Meeting. It should be a biennially event.

Roles and responsibility –

- Coordinating and streamlining youth development activities at state levels
- Define and coordinate the roles of the private sector, CSOs, and NGOs at state levels in line with the provisions of the National Youth Policy.
- Serve as a link between state and local government, key government implementation agencies and the private sector and NGOs to ensure that youth development initiatives and programmes are properly and promptly executed.

6.1.3 The National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN)

The Council recognised by the Federal government with responsibility of coordinating and regulating affairs of youth associations/ councils which currently is the National Youth Council of Nigeria was founded in 1964 to be the voice and the umbrella organisation for all youth organisations in the country. The NYCN is non-governmental, non-partisan, and not-for-profit organisation.

The NYCN comprises the National Executive Committee (NEC) of 23-members. The NEC members are democratically elected from their respective State Chapters and affiliated voluntary youth groups and organisations. NYCN is a major stakeholder in the implementation of the National Youth Policy, and, as such, should be strengthened by the government. Government at all levels should endeavour to provide subvention for NYCN annually. Without necessarily controlling or interfering in the day-to-day running of the Youth Council Government should provide some oversight functions to the Council.

All voluntary youth organisations and groups, youth NGOs and CBOs should be affiliated with the NYCN. As an umbrella organisation for all Nigerian youth organisations across the country, the NYCN shall endeavour at all times to pursue democratic norms, embrace the principles of accountability and transparency in all its conduct, avoid partisanship, and initiate and execute activities that are in consonance with the goals of the National Youth Policy.

Where the National Youth Council is unable to perform its role as a major stakeholder in the implementation of the National Youth Policy, and as an umbrella organisation for all youth organisations in the country for one reason or the other, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development as the coordinating body for youth development programs in the country shall create an alternative platform that will give voice to all youth in Nigeria.

6.1.4 *Nigeria Youth Parliament*

The Nigeria Youth Parliament is an affiliate of the World Youth Parliament, and is supervised by the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development. The Parliament is a replica of Nigeria Senate with 109 members representing the senatorial districts in

Nigeria. The Parliament provides a platform for developing and empowering the Nigerian youth to fully utilise their potentials and to compete favourably with youth in other democratic nations of the world. The objectives of the Nigerian Youth Parliament include, but not limited to, the following: preparation of the Nigerian youth to participate in the process of decision-making especially in matters affecting them; inculcating leadership qualities for governance and public administration in the Nigerian youth; equipping the youth adequately for future challenges in the process of interaction with their environment and the world at large; fostering national unity among Nigerian youth; and, providing opportunity for sharing experiences through peer learning. The Parliament shall make contributions to the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this Policy in line with her mandate, including the consideration of relevant bills at her sitting and submission of bills to the federal legislative bodies. The Parliament will also advocate for the full support of the federal legislative houses and government leadership at all levels to the policy implementation, including provision of adequate funding. The Parliament will work closely and harmoniously with the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and the National Youth Council towards the full and effective implementation of this Policy.

6.2 Youth Development Technical Working Group: Roles and Responsibilities

Technical Working Groups on Youth Development will be established at the three levels of governance in Nigeria. The Working Groups will be multi-disciplinary.

6.2.1 Federal Level

A National Technical Working Group shall be established at the Federal level. The technical working group shall consist of representatives of the core relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to youth development, youth groups, and youth focussed NGOs. Among other things the technical committee will ensure the mainstreaming of a youth perspective in all relevant policy areas at the federal level, and. monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national youth policy at the national level.

6.2.2 State Level

The technical working committee at state level shall also consist of all relevant ministries and departments and agencies at the state level. Among other things, the technical committee will ensure the mainstreaming of a youth perspective in all relevant policy areas at the state level, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national youth policy at the state level.

6.2.3 *Local Government Level*

The technical working committee at local government level shall consist of all relevant stakeholders at the local government level. Among other things the technical committee will ensure the mainstreaming of a youth perspective in all relevant policy areas at the local government level, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national youth policy at the local government level

6.3 Government Institutions: Roles and Responsibilities

6.3.1 *The Presidency*

The Presidency shall take full responsibility for convening regular meetings of the National Youth Development Council. The roles and responsibilities of the national youth development council shall be to provide the much-needed political will for youth development, elevate and mainstream youth development as a crucial national agenda, and also provide a forum for an integrated cross-sectoral approach to youth development in Nigeria. The presidency shall ensure the integration of planning, implementation and coordination of youth development with national development planning. The Presidency should organize evaluation meetings periodically.

6.3.2 *Legislative bodies*

To ensure the effective implementation of the national youth policy, certain aspects of the youth policy need to be passed into law. This will provide the necessary legal backing for the policy and ensure that the implementation is mandatory for all relevant agencies. The House Committee on Youth Development and the Senate Committee on Youth Development have major

roles to play to develop the required bill necessary to give legal teeth to the youth policy and ensure that such bill is passed into law.

6.3.3 *Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development*

The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development is the ministerial organ of the Federal Government assigned the responsibility for being the coordinating body for youth-related issues and for coordinating the development and implementation of the youth policy. The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development is the national organ with the mandate to coordinate youth-related development issues, including the implementation of the National Youth Policy. The ministry is directly responsible for policy formation and review, the design of priority programmes of action, and broad guidelines for youth development in Nigeria. It has the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the policy across the country, including the coordination of efforts of other implementing agencies and civil society organisations. The Ministry shall also be directly responsible for the implementation of all issues relating to sports as it affects the youth of Nigeria.

6.3.4 *Federal Ministry of Education*

The Federal Ministry of Education will be responsible for the implementation of issues relating to formal and will collaborate with relevant MDAs/ Stakeholders informal education and training of youth in Nigeria.

6.3.5 *Federal Ministry of Health*

The Federal Ministry of Health will in collaboration with other stakeholders be responsible for the implementation of all issues relating to the health of youth in Nigeria, thereby ensuring the optimal health and development of young people.

6.3.6 *Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development*

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development shall be responsible for the implementation of all issues relating to young women and

girls, and shall work hand in hand with the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development

6.3.7 *Federal Ministry of Information and Culture*

The Federal Ministry of Information and its agencies such as the National Orientation Agency shall be responsible for the implementation of all issues relating to information and national orientation as it relates to youth.

6.3.8 *Federal Ministry of Finance*

The Federal Ministry of Finance will be responsible for facilitating innovation of financial programmes for the development of youth. In addition, it should seek avenues of generating fund for the youth development fund.

6.3.9 *Federal Ministry of Budget and National planning*

The Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning will allocate more funds to youth programmes in the various relevant MDAs that will ensure sustainable development and demographic dividend in health, education, employment and good governance.

6.3.10 *Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will be responsible for the implementation of agricultural programmes that will address the issues of youth unemployment, restiveness, aging farm population, rural development and poverty prevalence.

6.3.11 *Federal Ministry of Science and Technology*

Federal Ministry of Science and Technology will build Entrepreneurial Capacity and Skills of youth on indigenous technology.

6.3.12 *Other Ministries and Agencies*

Will focus on mainstreaming a youth development perspective and the implementation of all areas related to youth development in the respective MDA. Federal Ministry Science and Tech. will be responsible implementation of all areas relating to youth in science, tech. and innovation.

6.4 Organized Private Sector: Roles and Responsibilities

The organized private sector is an important partner in planning, implementing, and evaluating the overall goals and objectives of the National Youth Policy. It can play major roles in employment generation, skills training for the Youth, work-experience as well as support community development activities involving youth. Representatives of the organized private sector should be members of the Youth Development Council and the National Council on Youth Development.

6.5 Civil Society: Roles and Responsibilities

6.5.1 Civil Society Organizations

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are important stakeholders in the implementation of the National Youth Policy. CSOs have major roles to play in implementing some of the strategic interventions in this Youth Policy and also in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation processes.

6.5.2 Academic and Research Institutions

The Universities and research institutions across the country have a major role to play in ensuring that the National Youth Policy on a continuous basis is evidence-based, through periodic research into key issues in youth development and programmes. This will help to collect quantitative as well as qualitative data on youth development, which will in turn inform youth intervention initiatives. The Universities should also introduce new programmes and courses in youth work education and training both at the Diploma and Degree levels. This will go a long way in encouraging the professionalization of youth work in the country.

6.5.3 Professional Groups

It is important that youth workers be recognized as members of a profession. This is crucial towards the effective implementation of the policy initiatives contained in the National Youth Policy. The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development needs to take the lead in investing in youth work education and training. State governments should be encouraged to do the

same. Both Federal and State governments should take steps to further train, register and employ youth workers. Professionalising youth work brings legitimacy, status and power to the activities of youth workers. Professionalization also provides a common language and value base for youth work and enhances quality, effectiveness, and advances within the professional network. Other professional groups can also network in providing important necessary social enterprise skills needed by all young persons.

6.5.4 *Students' Unions (The National Association of Nigerian Students)*

Students' Unions, particularly in tertiary institutions, are voluntary youth associations, which provide leadership-training opportunities for the youth. The unions empower and enable young people to actively participate in decision-making processes about matters that affect them as students. Students' unions also empower the youth to contribute positively to institution-building and national development. Student unionism helps to nurture and galvanize values of democracy, accountability, transparency and good governance in the youth. The national umbrella organization of students' unions in tertiary institutions (NANS) should have a voice in decision making on youth development at the highest level.

6.5.5 *Youth-led Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other youth organizations*

These have a crucial role to play in youth development programs and initiatives. They are major stakeholders in National Youth development policy. They are expected to join hands and collaborate with other stakeholders in pursuit of the objectives of the policy. Not only are they expected to forge unity; they must also be well organized to tap the potential benefits of the policy for their own empowerment and development. Through voluntary youth associations and NGOs, young people can actively participate in the implementation of the youth policy. Government and the private sector should support and reach out to youth organizations and integrate them in

the efforts to promote and concretize youth development programs in the country. The National Youth Policy promotes the fact that all youth development programmes must be youth-driven and youth centred.

6.6 International Development Partners: Roles and Responsibilities

International development partners, including multilateral and bilateral agencies, Foundations, and international NGOs, (UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, UNESCO, UNHRSC, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, IRL, UN WOMEN, OCHA, WHO, FAO, ILO, ECOWAS) will provide technical and financial support to youth development agenda in Nigeria in line with their mandates in conformity with the national policies and plans; and will participate in relevant coordination structures and monitoring of on-field activities as relevant.

6.7 The Media: Roles and Responsibilities

The print and electronic media are important partners in the implementation of the National youth policy. It is expected that the press will be at the vanguard of educating, informing, and enlightening the citizenry on youth development programs as envisaged by the national youth policy. The media can also be involved in reviewing and evaluating progress made in the implementation of the youth policy.

7 Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

The monitoring and evaluation systems broadly encompass monitoring, evaluation and research. Monitoring and Evaluation are essential parts of the implementation of the Policy and are critical to achieving the policy objectives. Monitoring will involve the continuous, systematic process of collecting, analysing and using information to track the Policy implementation efforts to assess whether the related activities are progressing according to plans, and the efficiency with which the stated goals and objectives are being achieved. Evaluation, on the other hand, will take place at specified periods in the policy cycle and geared towards the assessment of the impact of various youth-focused programmes on the development and well-being of youth as articulated in the policy goals. Research in the field of youth development agenda will contribute to improved data on youth structure and composition, to drive evidence-based youth-focused programming.

Appropriate and user-friendly monitoring and evaluation tools will be developed and shared with all implementing agencies, and the Planning, Monitoring and Information Management (PMI) Department of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development in partnership with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Academic Institutions will be the focal point for the data aggregation, analysis and dissemination. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be developed specifically with respect to the policy implementation, and indicators for monitoring and evaluation would thereby be specified based on the Policy objectives. Youth and youth-led organisations are expected to play active roles in the monitoring, evaluation and research activities.

7.2 Monitoring

Monitoring of all relevant youth-related activities is expected to take place on a continuous basis by the relevant implementing partners – government agencies, organised private sector, civil society organisations, and international development partners. The monitoring activities will cover all aspects of programme implementation and the result forwarded to the Planning, Monitoring and Information Management (PMI) Department of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development or its equivalent at

the different levels of governance (LGA, State and Federal). Data from each level will be forwarded to the next level on a monthly basis. For the LGA, this shall be done not later than the end of the second week of the new month, while for the State, the state-level data, incorporating those from LGAs as well as state-level activities and civil society organisations operating within the state, shall be forwarded not later than the end of the fourth week of the month following the reporting period using structured reporting templates.

The State and Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development will present a report on the policy implementation to the Youth Development Working Group at their level of governance at each of the regular meetings of the Working Group. The State and Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development will give regular feedback to the implementing agencies based on the monitoring data, and the feedback from the Working Group meetings will also be shared with relevant stakeholders.

The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development will publish an annual “State of Youth Development in Nigeria” report, which will highlight the progress made in the year on the implementation of the policy, the associated challenges in the policy implementation and the recommendations for improving the implementation of the policy in the following year. The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development will also track various research publications relating to the Policy focus as part of the monitoring activities, and this will also constitute part of the input into the annual report. The annual report shall be disseminated widely, particularly in electronic format, and will be made available on the website of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development. States are also encouraged to develop and disseminate their annual report on youth-related activities and policy-related issues.

7.3 Evaluation

Evaluation shall take place at both the midterm and end of the policy cycle to determine the overall achievement in youth development in the focal period and identify success and mitigating factors. The report of the mid-term evaluation will be fed back into the policy implementation process to inform strategies and activities for the latter half of

the policy period, while the report of the end-of-cycle evaluation will be expected to shape the future development of strategic youth agenda and foci. The evaluations will be participatory in nature and conducted jointly with representatives of other youth development stakeholders' groups, including government agencies, civil society organisations, international development partners, youth-led organisations, and the academic and research institutions. The evaluation will also involve independent and experienced experts in the field of evaluation. The result of the evaluation will be shared widely, especially in electronic format, through the website of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development.

7.4 Research

Research is critical to generating data and providing evidence on progress being made in the implementation of youth agenda, and in the assessment of the status and needs of youth in Nigeria. Thus, research forms the backbone of evaluation, and is complementary to both monitoring and evaluation activities. Research efforts in the context of the youth development agenda in Nigeria will include collection of data through national household surveys, programme activities, special surveys and research focusing on specific youth-related issues and the thematic thrusts of this Policy (such as education, employment and job creation, health services and health-related behaviour, civic engagement, and political inclusion). Other types of research would also be required to improve programming and policy efforts, operational research, implementation research, and action research. Research and related data collection effort must prioritise appropriate disaggregation of data by age, sex, geographical location, socio-economic level, educational and health status among others, for optimal utility. As such research is fundamental to the implementation of this policy, and government must spearhead efforts in this realm with support from relevant stakeholders.