LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE & THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY TRUST FUND (LMI-NALTF)

YOUTH DIALOGUE SERIES:

Exploring Strategies for Effective Implementation of the National Youth Policy

REPORT
MAY, 2026





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Executive Summary

The National Youth Dialogue on the National Youth Policy was held on 6th May 2026 at the **National Assembly Library Trust Fund (NALTF)**, Abuja, through the collaboration of the **Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (CoSPAL)** under its **Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI)**, the **National Assembly Library Trust Fund**, the **Federal Ministry of Youth Development**, the **Nigerian Youth Parliament**, **Abuja Global Shapers**, and other stakeholders. The event brought together policymakers, youth leaders, civil society organisations, development practitioners, and governance experts to discuss the review and harmonisation of Nigeria's National Youth Policy.



The dialogue recognised Nigeria's youthful population, with over sixty percent of citizens under thirty, as both an opportunity and a policy challenge requiring stronger institutions, sustainable financing, and meaningful youth inclusion in governance. Speakers stressed the need to move beyond symbolic consultations toward practical systems capable of delivering measurable outcomes for young people. The programme featured **six thematic breakout sessions** focused on *Governance and Institutional Reform*; *Economic Transformation and Job Creation*; *Gender and Social Inclusion*; *Peace, Security and Sustainable Environments; Climate Change; and Physical and Mental Health Promotion.*

Discussions produced recommendations aimed at improving implementation mechanisms, financing, accountability systems, legislative oversight, institutional coordination, and grassroots participation.

Participants consistently **identified a gap** between policy intentions and implementation. **Key recommendations** included centralised coordination frameworks, dedicated funding mechanisms, stronger monitoring systems, decentralised implementation at state and local government levels, publicprivate partnerships, and legally enforceable accountability structures. The dialogue reaffirmed the importance of recognising young people as active partners in policy design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. It concluded with evidence-based recommendations intended to support the validation, domestication, and implementation of the revised National Youth Policy while strengthening collaboration between government institutions, development partners, civil society, and youth-led organisations.



1. Introduction

Background

Nigeria has a unique demographic profile, with **over 60% of its 230+ million population under 25 and a median age of 18** (Worldometer). This *youth bulge* presents both opportunities and responsibilities for governance. Across Africa, the demographic reality is equally striking. The African Union estimates that the continent is home to over 400 million young people aged 15–35, making youth the largest demographic group shaping Africa's political, economic and social trajectory. This aligns with **Agenda 2063**, which recognises young people as central drivers of Africa's transformation.

Despite their numbers, young people face structural barriers to economic participation and political representation. Reports show that youth unemployment remains high, and globally, only **2.6% of parliamentarians are under 30**, highlighting gaps in legislative engagement (IPU). The State of the Nigerian Youth Report (2025, ActionAid Nigeria) showed that **more than 1.7 million graduates enter the labour market annually**, while youth unemployment and underemployment remain pressing concerns.

These underscore the need for **strong legislative ownership, institutional alignment and accountability mechanisms** to ensure youth policy commitments translate into measurable development outcomes. The Federal Government of Nigeria has initiated efforts to **reposition the National Youth Policy** to reflect emerging socio-economic realities and the aspirations of young Nigerians. However, its effectiveness depends not only on executive action but also on active engagement from legislative institutions, which play a central role in policy domestication, budgetary approval, oversight and institutional accountability.

The recognition of the urgent need for a structured engagement between youth leadership and legislative institutions fronted the idea for this National Youth Policy Dialogue. The **Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (CoSPAL)**, through its **Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI)**, built on this idea and created a robust platform for policy dialogue and institutional collaboration, in partnership with the **National Assembly Library Trust Fund**, the **Federal Ministry of Youth Development** and the **Abuja Global Shapers** to ensure the initiative is both evidence-based and impactful.

Rationale

CoSPAL's Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) and the National Assembly Library Trust Fund sought to convene the first in a series of Youth Policy Dialogues. This platform aimed to: Promote youth leadership and policy literacy; Enable structured intergenerational dialogue within governance institutions; and Provide evidence-based recommendations.



Strategic Objectives

The Dialogue sought to:

i. Strengthen legislative ownership of the National Youth Policy. ii. Promote state-level policy domestication of youth priorities. iii. Enhance youth engagement with legislative institutions.
ii. Identify sustainable financing and budgetary mechanisms for youth programmes.
iii. Adopt a Policy Communiqué with actionable recommendations.

Focus Areas

The dialogue explored:

i. Legislative frameworks for youth development
ii. Budget alignment and financing mechanisms
iii. Coordination between federal and state actors

iv. Legislative oversight and accountability
v. Institutionalising youth inclusion in governance

Expected Outcomes

i. Policy Communiqué with legislative and institutional recommendations
ii. Enhanced collaboration between CoSPAL, the Library, the Ministry of Youth Development, and youth platforms
iii. Evidence-based policy inputs for the National Youth Policy Harmonisation

Participants

The Dialogue convened:

i. Representatives of the National Assembly Library Trust Fund
ii. Officials of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development
iii. The Nigerian Youth Parliament
iv. Youth leaders and emerging policy actors
v. Governance and development experts
vi. Civil society organisations and Media representatives



2. Context-Setting Session: National Youth Policy Overview

The opening segment of the dialogue was anchored by **Ms. Solape Sonuga** (Director of the **Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI)**, and Deputy Chief of Staff at the **Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures - CoSPAL**),



who set a purposeful and energetic tone for the dialogue, including opening remarks, goodwill messages, and a detailed context-setting session on the National Youth Policy. Present at the dialogue included: **Amb. Dapo Oyewole** (Secretary-General of CoSPAL and Chairman of the LMI Planning and Advisory Committee), **Hon. Henry Nwawuba** (Executive Secretary, National Assembly Library Trust Fund - NALTF), **Mr. Mohammed Abdulahi** (Chief of Staff to the Honourable Minister of Youth Development, **H.E. Hon. Ayodele Olawande Wisdom**), Representative of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development (**Mrs. Stella Okeje**, Assistant Chief Youth Development Officer), **Rt. Hon. Ali Yuzakari** (Speaker, Nigerian Youth Parliament), other stakeholders, and youth leaders across all sectors and regions of the country.

The dialogue was not "*just another policy conversation*" but a platform to address the critical questions that bordered on: (i) How can the National Youth Policy move beyond the Ministry to become actionable for young people?
(ii) How do young people move from being consulted to shaping outcomes? (iii) How can accountability mechanisms ensure the policy delivers results?

Participants were encouraged to be clear, honest, practical, and respectful, with the goal of producing concrete recommendations, actionable steps, and a policy communiqué.

3. Breakout Sessions

Following the opening ceremonies and context-setting presentations, the dialogue transitioned into its most critical phase: the technical breakout sessions. These sessions served as the engine of the dialogue, shifting from broad policy overviews to the granular task of formulating actionable recommendations for the National Youth Policy.

The participants moved into six thematic breakout sessions in line with the updated National Youth Policy strategic focuses, each tasked with dissecting specific pillars of the updated policy framework:

i. **Group I**: Stakeholder Collaboration, Partnerships and Effective Policy / Governance, Participation and Institutional Reform.
ii. **Group II**: Economic Transformation, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation / Quality Education and Capacity Development for Lifelong Learning
iii. **Group III**: Gender, Social Inclusion, and Equitable Opportunities for all youth
iv. **Group IV**: Peace, Security, Rights, and Sustainable Environments
v. **Group V**: Youth Inclusion in Climate Change
vi. **Group VI**: Physical and Mental Health Promotion

To ensure the discussions resulted in high-quality, policy-ready outputs, each group was supported by a dedicated leadership team with defined roles:

Facilitator: Managed the flow of conversation, ensuring balanced participation and keeping the group focused on the specific consultation objectives.

Technical Lead: Acted as the policy expert to ensure accuracy and relevance, helping to translate grassroots ideas into evidence-based policy language.

Rapporteur: Responsible for capturing the group's outputs in a structured format and preparing the final submission for the plenary validation.



Timekeeper: Enforced strict adherence to time allocations to ensure that all sections of the thematic review were completed.

These sessions produced the core content of the Policy Communiqué, identifying specific strategies for the domestication, financing, and legislative oversight of youth development in Nigeria, paving the way for the unified presentation and validation of recommendations in the plenary session.

3.1 Outcomes from Thematic Areas Sessions

Outputs from each thematic group discussion session are presented below in **subsections 3.1.1 to 3.1.6** and subsequently summarised in **Table 1**.



3.1.1. Governance, Participation & Institutional Reform and Stakeholder Collaboration, Partnerships & Effective Policy Implementation

1. **Overview of Thematic Focus** This thematic area examines how governance structures, institutional frameworks, and multi-stakeholder partnerships can be strengthened to ensure effective youth policy implementation in Nigeria. It focuses on improving coordination between the government, CSOs, private sector, and development partners to enhance participation, accountability, and delivery of youth development outcomes.

2. Key Gaps Identified

Despite these strengths, the following critical gaps were identified:

- **Fragmented Institutional Coordination:** Multiple overlapping youth programmes across MDAs and CSOs; Absence of a single coordinating authority or "driver"; and Weak alignment between federal, state, and non-state actors

- **Weak Implementation Accountability Framework:** Technical Working Groups exist but are largely inactive; No clear enforcement or compliance mechanism for implementation; and Lack of defined institutional responsibility for follow-up.
- **Absence of Centralised Data and Programme Repository:** No national database of youth programmes or CSO interventions; Difficulty tracking who is doing what and where; and Duplication of efforts and inefficient resource allocation.
- **Weak Monitoring, KPI, and Results Tracking System:** Lack of structured KPI enforcement for MDAs and CSOs; Absence of a real-time, public-facing tracking system; and Limited consequences for non-performance.
- **Weak Structure for Multi-Sectoral Partnerships:** Poor coordination between government, private sector, and CSOs; Matching fund concept unclear (cash vs value contributions not defined); and a limited structured public and private partnership (PPP) model for youth development delivery.



3. Priority Policy Recommendations

i. **Establish a Centralised Youth Policy Coordination and Delivery Framework:** A single institutional structure within the Federal Ministry of Youth Development to coordinate all youth programmes nationwide.

ii. **Institutionalise a Structured Multi-Sectoral Partnership and CSO Integration System:** A formalised system for CSO registration, PPP engagement, matching contribution frameworks, and private sector participation.

iii. **Strengthen Monitoring, Enforcement, and Results Accountability Systems:** A performance-driven implementation system anchored on KPIs, enforcement units, and public-facing dashboards.

4. Implementation Pathways

Recommendation (i): *Centralised Youth Policy Coordination Framework*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive *(Implementation)*

- The Federal Ministry of Youth Development is the single coordinating authority
- Establish a Youth Policy Coordination Unit
- Create a National Youth Programme Repository (CSO + MDA database)
- Introduce annual thematic youth development priorities
- Reactivate and restructure Technical Working Groups (TWGs) with clear mandates
- Introduce a quarterly KPI reporting system for all stakeholders

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Legal backing for the Coordination Unit and repository system
- Mandatory alignment of all youth programmes with national priorities
- Budget linkage to coordinated youth programming outcomes
- Oversight by National Assembly Committees on Youth and Development

3. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- CSOs and youth organisations are required to register and align programmes
- Participation in TWGs and policy design platforms
- Use of a repository for collaboration and transparency

B. Levels of Implementation

- **Federal:** Policy direction, coordination, funding framework
- **State:** Domestication and alignment of youth programmes
- **Local Government:** Grassroots delivery and monitoring

Recommendation (ii): *Multi-Sectoral Partnership & CSO Integration System*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive *(Implementation)*

Key coordinating institutions:

- Nigeria Governors' Forum – federal–state alignment
- National Orientation Agency and Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation – public awareness and behavioural change
- Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Youth Initiatives Monitoring and Delivery – programme tracking and delivery oversight
- National Bureau of Statistics – youth data systems and evidence tracking
- Federal Inland Revenue Service – private sector incentive framework

Additional mechanisms:

- Establish National Youth Partnership Platform
- Create CSO/NGO accreditation and registry system
- Define matching contribution framework (cash + value-based assets)
- Develop a structured Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model for youth delivery
- Strengthen collaboration through revitalised TWGs

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Legal framework for PPP in youth development
- Formal recognition of the CSO registry system
- State-level adoption through governors' coordination structures
- Oversight of matching fund governance and transparency

3. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Youth organisations are formally integrated into implementation structures
- Co-design and co-implementation of programmes
- Thematic alignment with national youth priorities

B. Levels of Implementation

- **Federal:** Framework design and financing incentives
- **State:** Local adaptation and execution
- **Local Government:** Community-level implementation

Recommendation (iii): *Monitoring, Enforcement & Performance Accountability System*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive *(Implementation)*

- Establish an Enforcement and Compliance Unit within the Ministry of Youth
- Develop a public-facing youth implementation dashboard

- Introduce structured quarterly, bi-annual, and annual reporting cycles
- Conduct national youth needs assessment surveys
- Strengthen collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics
- Develop a national youth database updated biannually
- Allocate a dedicated communication and awareness budget

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Mandatory performance reporting and audits
- KPI-based budget allocation system
- Oversight hearings on youth policy implementation

3. State-level compliance enforcement mechanisms

4. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Youth-led monitoring and feedback systems
- Civic tech platforms for reporting and tracking
- Participation in accountability forums

B. Levels of Implementation

- **Federal:** Monitoring system design and enforcement
- **State:** Implementation tracking and reporting
- **Local Government:** Grassroots validation and feedback

5. Prioritised Actions

Priority Action 1: Establish a central Youth Coordination and Programme Repository system

Priority Action 2: Institutionalise a formal multi-sectoral Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and CSO engagement framework

Priority Action 3: Deploy a national KPI-based monitoring and enforcement system

3.1.2 Economic Transformation, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation / Quality Education and Capacity Development for Lifelong Learning

1. Overview of Thematic Focus

This thematic area addresses youth enterprise development, job creation, agriculture value chains, digital economy participation, migration management, and quality education/lifelong learning. It is critical because **young people constitute the majority of Nigeria's population**, and MSMEs (largely driven by youth) account for **approximately 80% of jobs** in the country. The policy seeks to convert the demographic bulge into a demographic dividend through skills, entrepreneurship, and economic inclusion.



2. Key Gaps Identified

- **Implementation and accountability deficit**: Many well-intentioned provisions (e.g., access to funds) remain vague with weak mechanisms, leading to intermediaries' interference and benefits not reaching grassroots youth.
- **Limited support for emerging industries**: The Creative Economy, which has grown organically into a multi-billion-dollar sector through youth efforts, lacks structured support, equipment provision, and early-stage incubation.

- **Vague and weak education provisions**: Mass literacy centres lack clear pathways to certification or employment; special needs education intervention is under-defined; STEM support focuses on bursaries rather than infrastructure (labs); teacher training, incentives, and national consciousness components are missing or weak.
- **Poor Federal-State-local collaboration** and grassroots access, especially for rural and underserved youths.
- **Age discrimination** and a lack of practical vocational integration from secondary school level.

3. Priority Policy Recommendations

i. **Establish an Independent Accountability and Monitoring Body** for youth policy implementation.

ii. **Provide Structured Support for Innovation and Emerging Industries** (with emphasis on the Creative Economy).

iii. **Strengthen Quality Education and Teacher Ecosystem** through targeted reforms in curriculum, infrastructure, and incentives.

4. Implementation Pathways

Recommendation (i): *Establish an Independent Accountability and Monitoring Body for Youth Policy Implementation*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive *(Implementation)*

- **Relevant Federal MDAs**: Federal Ministry of Youth Development (coordinating), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, and National Bureau of Statistics.
- **Implementation Mechanisms**: Establish a statutory **Independent Youth Policy Implementation & Accountability Commission**.

Coordination Structures: Multi-stakeholder Technical Working Groups at the federal and state levels.

- **Budgeting & Financing**: Dedicated funding line in the national budget with contributions from development partners.

- **Monitoring & Evaluation**: Annual performance audits, public dashboard, and beneficiary feedback systems.

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Enactment of the **National Youth Policy Implementation and Accountability Act**.
- National and State Assemblies to pass domestication resolutions.
- Regular oversight hearings, scorecards, and budget performance reviews by relevant committees.

3. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Youth representation (***at least 40%***) on the governing board of the Commission.
- Youth-led monitoring teams and digital reporting platforms.
- Formal partnerships with the Nigerian Youth Parliament and the National Youth Council for social accountability.



B. Levels of Implementation

- **Federal**: Policy framework design, legislation, and national coordination.
- **State**: Establishment of State-level Accountability Committees.
- **Local Government**: Community-level monitoring and grassroots validation.

Recommendation (ii): *Provide Structured Support for Innovation and Emerging Industries (with emphasis on the Creative Economy)*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive *(Implementation)*

- **Relevant Federal MDAs**: Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, Ministry of Youth.
  Implementation Mechanisms: Establish Innovation Support Fund, equipment/tool access schemes, incubation hubs, and creative industry grants.
- **Coordination Structures**: National Creative Economy Council with youth representation.
- **Budgeting & Financing**: Ring-fenced funding for innovation grants and low-interest loans for youth creatives.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation**: Quarterly impact assessment on job creation and revenue generation.

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Legislative framework for Creative Economy Development Fund.
- Tax incentives and intellectual property protection for young creatives.
- State Assemblies to establish creative industry development agencies.

3. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Youth creatives co-design programmes and access criteria.
- Youth-led innovation challenges and pitch competitions.
- Digital platforms for application, tracking, and feedback.

B. Levels of Implementation

- **Federal**: National policy, funding framework, and flagship programmes.
- **State**: Adaptation and establishment of regional innovation hubs.
- **Local Government**: Community-based creative spaces and talent identification.

Recommendation (iii): *Strengthen Quality Education and Teacher Ecosystem through targeted reforms in curriculum, infrastructure, and incentives*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive (*Implementation*)

- **Relevant Federal MDAs**: Federal Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission (NUC), NERDC, National Commission for Colleges of Education, and Ministry of Youth Development.

  Implementation Mechanisms: Teacher training and special needs education programmes, functional STEM laboratories, and vocational skills integration from secondary school.

- **Coordination Structures**: Inter-ministerial committee on education and youth skills development.

- **Budgeting & Financing**: Special Education Intervention Fund and dedicated teacher incentive budget.

- **Monitoring & Evaluation**: National Education Quality Assurance Framework with clear KPIs.

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Review and strengthen the National Policy on Education to align with the Youth Policy.
- Legislation for a minimum teacher salary benchmark and continuous professional development.
- State Assemblies to domesticate curriculum reforms and teacher welfare laws.

3. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Student and youth feedback mechanisms in curriculum review.
- Youth representation in school governance and quality assurance bodies.
- Peer-to-peer vocational and digital skills training programmes.

B. Levels of Implementation

- **Federal**: Curriculum standards, national examinations reform, and major infrastructure funding.
- **State**: Teacher recruitment, training, and deployment; establishment of STEM labs.
- **Local Government**: Community-based mass literacy centres and grassroots vocational programmes.

5. Prioritised Actions

Priority Action 1: Creation of a statutorily independent Accountability & Monitoring Body that ensures effective implementation.

Priority Action 2: Structured support system (tools, funding, incubation) for the Creative Economy and emerging youth innovations.

Priority Action 3: Comprehensive education reforms, teacher incentives/training in special needs education, integration of vocational skills from secondary school, and STEM infrastructure (labs) over mere bursaries.



3.1.3 Gender, Social Inclusion and Equitable Opportunities for All Youth

1. Overview of Thematic Focus

This thematic area addresses the structural, institutional and fiscal barriers that continue to prevent female youths, youths with disabilities (YWDs), internally displaced youths (IDPs), rural and grassroots youths, and NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young people from meaningfully participating in, and benefiting from national development programmes. The thematic area is critical within the National Youth Policy because Nigeria's **youth population is not monolithic**. Without deliberate, enforceable and adequately resourced inclusion frameworks, policy interventions **risk deepening existing inequalities**, leaving behind the most vulnerable segments of the youth population, and undermining Nigeria's commitments under the SDGs – particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).



2. Key Gaps Identified

i. **No Consequences for Non-Compliance and Absence of Legislative Oversight:** The policy sets participation targets for marginalised groups but establishes no enforcement mechanism, legislative oversight, sanctions or institutional consequences for MDAs that fail to meet them.

ii. **No Dedicated, Costed Funding for Gender and Social Inclusion:** The policy contains no ring-fenced budget lines specifically for gender and social inclusion programming. There is a structural overdependence on external donor funding and external implementing bodies, making sustainability fragile and implementation uneven.

iii. **Policy Rests on Assumptions That Do Not Reflect Institutional and Fiscal Realities:** A significant portion of the policy's inclusion provisions are based on assumptions about state and local government capacity, willingness and resourcing that are not borne out by current institutional realities creates coordination complexity and overlap, with no clear mechanism to resolve it.

iv. **Insufficient Attention to Youth Self-Reliance and Overdependence on Government Programming:** The policy does not adequately address youth self-reliance or build independent economic and civic agency among marginalised youths; remaining largely government-centric, with limited provision for peer-led initiatives, youth-owned enterprises or community-driven models that reduce dependency on central government delivery.

v. **No Group-Specific Implementation Framework with Timelines and Milestones:** The policy is generalised in its inclusion provisions and lacks a detailed, disaggregated implementation plan specifying timelines, milestones and responsible actors per target group. There is no specific roadmap for persons with disabilities, NEET youth, IDPs or rural youth at each level of government.

vi. **Insufficient Provisions for SGBV Survivors and IDP Youths:** Survivors of sexual violence and internally displaced youths are identified as a marginalised category but receive no dedicated programme pathways, psychosocial support provisions or legal protection mechanisms within the policy. Their reintegration into education, employment and civic life is not addressed with the specificity or resourcing their circumstances demand.

vii. **Weak Disability Inclusion Architecture:** The 10% participation target for YWDs is stated without corresponding implementation structures. There are no requirements for accessible infrastructure, assistive technologies, disability-responsive programme design or alignment with the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018. Formal and vocational education provisions for YWDs at the community level are absent.

3. Priority Policy Recommendations

i. **Establish a Structured Compliance and Accountability Framework:** Led by the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, this framework should assign clear, unambiguous roles and responsibilities to relevant MDAs for the delivery of gender and inclusion commitments. It must define consequences for non-compliance, mandate quarterly public reporting on inclusion targets, and bring in civil society organisations (CSOs) for independent third-party monitoring.

ii. **Create a Costed, Phased Gender and Social Inclusion Fund:** A ring-fenced trust fund should be established, structured to remain operational with or without external donor support. The fund must carry distinct budget lines for each target group: young women, YWDs, NEET youth, IDPs and rural youth. iii. **Produce a Group-Specific, Disaggregated Implementation Framework:** Within six months of policy adoption, the Ministry of Youth Development should publish a detailed implementation plan, disaggregated by target group and level of government, with clear timelines, milestones and named responsible actors. This framework must include: explicit, standalone provisions for young women; formal and vocational education pathways for persons with disabilities, including community-level implementation overseen by youth desk officers; specific reintegration pathways for IDP and SGBV-survivor youths; and LGA-level delivery structures.

4. Implementation Pathways

Recommendation (i): *Structured Compliance and Accountability Framework*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive *(Implementation)*

- **Lead MDA**: Federal Ministry of Youth Development – to establish and resource the Gender and Inclusion Compliance Unit (GICU).
- **Supporting MDAs**: Ministry of Women Affairs, NCPWD, FMHDS, NDE, SMEDAN, INEC.
- **Mechanism**: Develop and publish a National Compliance Framework within 12 months of policy adoption, with MDA-specific role assignments and a public accountability register.
- **Coordination**: Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Youth Inclusion, chaired by the Ministry of Youth Development, with quarterly review meetings and a published outcomes register.
- **Financing**: Ring-fence a minimum of 15% of the National Youth Policy implementation budget for gender and inclusion programming, with a dedicated line in the annual Appropriation Act.

- **M&E**: GICU to collect and publish sex-, age-, disability- and geographydisaggregated data quarterly via a public-facing dashboard; CSOs to be formally contracted for third-party monitoring.

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Amend the National Youth Policy enabling legislation to include a mandatory Gender and Inclusion Compliance clause, with defined consequences for non-compliance.
- The House Committee on Youth Development and the Senate Committee on Women's Affairs to hold joint annual hearings on inclusion compliance and MDA performance.
- State Assemblies: Pass State-level Gender and Youth Inclusion Bills to domesticate the compliance framework in all 36 states and the FCT.
- Establish a legislative scorecard mechanism to grade MDAs publicly on inclusion target performance on a biannual basis.
- Incorporate an intergovernmental conditionality clause into budget appropriation legislation, linking gender compliance reporting to statelevel federal funding transfers.

3. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Constitute a Youth Inclusion Advisory Panel (YIAP) with a minimum 50% female, 20% YWD and 30% grassroots or NEET representation to advise the GICU and provide structured youth input into compliance reviews.
- Fund independent youth-led social audits of MDA compliance with inclusion targets on an annual basis.
- Establish a digital feedback portal through which marginalised youths can report exclusion, programme inaccessibility and non-compliance.
- Partner with the Nigerian Youth Parliament and National Youth Council to mainstream inclusion monitoring as a standing item in youth civic activities.

B. Levels of Implementation

- Federal: Establishment and resourcing of GICU; development of national compliance standards; coordination of inter-ministerial working group; national data systems.
- State: Adoption of State-level Gender and Youth Inclusion Plans; statelevel data collection and quarterly reporting; domestication of compliance framework.

- Local Government: LGA Gender and Youth Desk Officers; communitylevel feedback mechanisms; grassroots compliance monitoring.

Recommendation (ii): *Costed, Phased Gender and Social Inclusion Fund*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive *(Implementation)*

- Lead MDA: Federal Ministry of Finance (fund structure and oversight) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Development (programmatic governance) and NASSCO (social protection integration).
- Supporting MDAs: Ministry of Women Affairs, NCPWD, FMHDS, NDE, Bank of Industry (BOI), SMEDAN.
- Mechanism: Establish the Gender and Social Inclusion Fund (GSIF) as a ring-fenced trust fund within 18 months of policy adoption, with a published fund prospectus, eligibility criteria and grant disbursement protocols.
- Financing: Seed funding from federal budget appropriation; state cofinancing contributions; leveraged donor funding as supplementary (not primary) resource; Victims Support Fund (VSF) contribution for SGBV survivor provisions.
- M&E: Biennial independent fund assessment; public reporting on disbursements by target group, level of government and outcomes achieved.

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Pass a National Gender and Social Inclusion Fund Act to establish the GSIF on a statutory footing, independent of any single administration's political will.
- Appropriate dedicated GSIF funding in annual federal and state budgets, with a minimum floor set in the enabling legislation.
- The Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Women's Affairs to conduct joint annual oversight hearings on fund disbursement and impact.
- State Assemblies to pass complementary appropriation legislation to ensure state-level co-financing is legally mandated.

3. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Establish a Youth Fund Advisory Committee with direct representation from each target group (young women, YWDs, NEET youth, IDPs, rural youth) to advise on fund design and disbursement priorities.
- Ensure CSOs and youth-led organisations working directly with marginalised groups are eligible for direct grants from the GSIF.
- Publish a publicly accessible fund tracker showing real-time disbursements, recipient organisations and measurable outcomes.

B. Levels of Implementation

- Federal: Fund establishment, governance architecture, eligibility standards and national-level grant management.
- State: State co-financing contributions; state-level grant windows for subnational implementation; adaptation of fund criteria to local contexts.
- Local Government: Community delivery of funded programmes; LGAlevel beneficiary registration and verification; grassroots monitoring of fund impact.

Recommendation (iii): *Group-Specific, Disaggregated Implementation Framework*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

1. Executive *(Implementation)*

- Lead MDA: Federal Ministry of Youth Development – to convene a Technical Working Group (TWG) tasked with producing the Implementation Framework within six months of policy adoption.
- Supporting MDAs: Ministry of Women Affairs, NCPWD, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs, NAPTIP, Federal Ministry of Education, NDE, NASSCO.
- Mechanism: The Framework must disaggregate provisions by target group and level of government, with defined timelines, milestones and responsible actors for each. It must include: explicit standalone provisions for young women; formal and vocational education pathways for persons with disabilities overseen by community-level youth desk officers; specific re-entry pathways for IDP and SGBV-survivor youths (psychosocial support, legal aid, educational re-entry and livelihood support); and LGAlevel delivery structures.

- Coordination: TWG to include state ministry representatives and CSO partners to ensure the Framework is grounded in subnational realities from the outset.
- Financing: Framework development and roll-out to be funded through the GSIF (Recommendation 2) and federal implementation budget.
- M&E: Annual review of Framework progress against milestones; disaggregated reporting published biannually.

2. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Amend the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act to explicitly include provisions for SGBV-survivor youths' access to reintegration services.
- Enact a National IDP Youth Inclusion Bill to formalise government obligations to displaced youths and provide a legislative basis for the IDP provisions within the Framework.
- State Assemblies to receive domestication guidance and adapt the Framework to state-level contexts within 12 months of national publication.
- The Senate Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Senate Committee on Women's Affairs to conduct joint oversight of Framework implementation annually.

3. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Co-design the Framework through structured consultations with young women, YWDs, NEET youth, IDPs and rural youth prior to publication – not after.
- Establish Survivor and IDP Youth Voices Networks in conflict-affected states to provide ongoing input into Framework review and adaptation.
- Integrate survivors and IDP youths into state-level youth councils with protected seats to ensure their voices are institutionally represented throughout implementation.
- Train community youth advocates as first responders for SGBV referral pathways and IDP youth outreach.

B. Levels of Implementation

- Federal: TWG convening and Framework development; national consultation and publication; establishment of national protocols for each target group.
- State: State-level domestication of the Framework with adaptation to local contexts; integration into State Youth Development Plans; state-level SGBV response plans and IDP youth registers.

- Local Government: Community-level delivery of group-specific provisions; LGA youth desk officer oversight of disability education provisions; safe space establishment for SGBV survivors; local IDP youth registration and outreach.

5. Prioritised Actions

Priority Action 1: Establish the National Gender and Social Inclusion Compliance Framework within 12 months of policy adoption, led by the Federal Ministry of Youth Development. Constitute the Gender and Inclusion Compliance Unit (GICU) with dedicated staffing and budget. Mandate quarterly public reporting on inclusion targets by all relevant MDAs, with CSO third-party monitoring built in. Incorporate an intergovernmental conditionality mechanism linking gender compliance to state funding transfers.

Priority Action 2: Establish a ring-fenced Gender and Social Inclusion Fund (GSIF) on a statutory footing within 18 months of policy adoption, with distinct budget lines for each target group, federal and state co-financing, NASSCO integration and direct CSO grant access.

Priority Action 3: Within six months of policy adoption, publish a detailed, groupspecific implementation framework disaggregated by target group and level of government, co-designed with young people and including explicit standalone provisions for young women; formal and vocational education pathways for persons with disabilities; and dedicated reintegration pathways for IDP and SGBV-survivor youths. Decentralise the framework formally to the state and LGA levels with domestication timelines.

3.1.4 Peace, Security, Rights and Sustainable Environments

1. Overview of Thematic Focus

The Peace, Security, Rights and Sustainable Environments thematic area **constitutes the strategic bedrock** of the National Youth Policy. It mandates rigorous institutional frameworks to shield young Nigerians from violence. Ultimately, physical security and uncompromised **human rights are the nonnegotiable** prerequisites for realising any economic, educational, or digital dividends.



2. Key Gaps Identified

i. **Absence of a Dedicated Financing Mechanism:** The policy makes significant commitments but designates no budget line or fiscal accountability. For sustainable implementation, establish a mandatory, non-discretionary fund as a first-line charge within the Youth Ministry's budget.

ii. **Accountability Deficit:** Human rights provisions are awareness-oriented, with no grievance mechanisms, redress pathways, or enforcement frameworks. Without fact-checking structures or binding inclusion standards, the policy informs but does not protect. A policy that cannot enforce its commitments is not a credible protection instrument.

iii. **Nominal Recognition of Digital Rights Without Institutional Mandate:** The policy names digital rights and social media as peacebuilding tools, but creates no regulatory body or protection framework. Without an institutional mandate, digital and financial rights violations affecting young Nigerians, including in banking and online spaces, remain unaddressed.

iv. **Absence of Geographic and Socioeconomic Differentiation:** A uniform implementation approach cannot serve conflict-displaced youth in Borno, rural youth in Kogi, and urban youth in Abuja equally. The agriculture target should also scale from 1 million to 10 million youth across all six geopolitical zones.

v. **Structural Exclusion of Education MDAs and Development Commissions:** Ministries of Education, NUC, NBTE, ITF, and Nigeria's Development Commissions are absent from this thematic area despite being primary delivery channels for peace education. The Federal Ministry of Youth Development should also establish desk officers across all government institutions to drive youth inclusion.

3. Priority Policy Recommendations

i. **Establish a Youth Peace and Security Fund with Domestic Ownership:** Amend the National Youth Policy to mandate a statutory, non-discretionary Youth Peace and Security Fund as a first-line charge within the Federal Ministry of Youth Development's budget, with legal safeguards preventing virement of resources. The Fund must finance early warning systems and peace clubs across all 774 LGAs, and scale agriculture opportunities from 1 million to 10 million youth across all six geopolitical zones within four years.

ii. **Mandate a Comprehensive Youth Digital Rights Protection Framework:** Insert a sub-provision under Thematic Area 8 mandating NITDA, NHRC, and the Ministry of Youth to jointly develop a Youth Digital Rights Protection Framework within 18 months of policy adoption, covering all categories of youth rights across digital and financial systems, including protection from unlawful surveillance, arbitrary arrest for online expression, and financial service denials such as the unlawful retention of bank cards. The Framework must establish clear definitional boundaries between the regulation of harmful content and the protection of lawful dissent, supported by an enforcement mechanism with institutional accountability to ensure digital rights protection translates from policy recognition into practical redress.

iii. **Mandate Ministerial Desk Officers, Education MDAs, Development Commissions, and an Expanded Youth Parliament Role**.

Amend the NYP to:

a. formally include Federal and State Ministries of Education and all Development Commissions as named responsible MDAs for this thematic area;

b. mandate the Federal Ministry of Youth Development to establish desk offices in every institution of government and be staffed by proactive desk officers with a specific mandate to protect youth rights and drive inclusive implementation;

c. establish a dedicated Youth Peace Council of Nigeria in partnership with State Ministries of Youth Development, with desk offices across all 774 LGAs to oversee implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and oversight of peace clubs; and

d. expand the formal mandate of the Nigerian Youth Parliament to include contribution to policy direction, implementation planning, and legislative review. Specifically, harmonised copies of all bills must be transmitted to the Youth Parliament before final ratification by the National Assembly, to ensure youth perspectives are embedded in legislation.

4. Implementation Pathways

Recommendation (i): *Establish a Mandatory Youth Peace and Security Fund with Domestic Ownership.*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

i. Executive *(Implementation)*

- Ministry of Youth: Lead MDA; Fund custodian; desk offices in all MDAs
- Federal Ministry of Finance: Appropriation and MTEF integration
- IPCR: Technical oversight of peacebuilding programmes
- NEMA: Conflict-zone programme delivery
- Federal and State Ministries of Education: Peace and civic education integration
- Development Commissions: Regional implementation of agricultural and peace programmes
- NBS: Data collection and performance metrics
- Multi-stakeholder Technical Advisory Board with youth, CSO, and private sector seats **ii.**

Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- National Assembly: Insert Fund as a mandatory line in the annual Appropriation Act
- Amend the NYP Act to make the Fund a statutory obligation
- Senate Committees on Youth and Finance: Joint oversight hearings
- Transmit all harmonised bills to the Nigerian Youth Parliament before ratification
- State Assemblies: Enact matching fund provisions

- All 36 states to domesticate the Child Rights Act without exception **iii. Youth** *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Nigerian Youth Parliament: Shadow audit of Fund allocations
- CSO coalition: Bi-annual accountability scorecard
- Youth Peace Council: Oversight of peace clubs across 774 LGAs
- Community peace clubs: Grassroots beneficiary monitoring
- Youth-led budget tracking dashboard (publicly accessible)

B. Levels of Implementation

Federal

- Policy formulation, Fund design, and annual appropriation
- Civic Education Curriculum reform: Tolerance and national values must be inculcated from primary school through all levels
- IPCR and the Ministry of Youth co-lead national coordination
- National M&E framework with public-facing dashboard
- Federal desk officers in all MDAs proactively protect youth rights

State

- States co-finance through a matching window; set up state-level implementation offices
- Every state must domesticate and implement the Child Rights Act. States yet to do so must complete this as a precondition for Fund disbursement
- State Action Plans on1 Youth, Peace and Security were developed and gazetted.
- State Ministries of Education integrate civic values and conflict resolution in school curricula.
- State Ministries of Youth Development partner with the Youth Peace Council desk offices

LGA

- Peace clubs mandated across all 774 LGAs, inclusive of all genders, disability, rural/urban, and socioeconomic classifications
- LGA Youth Desks receive and administer community-level Fund allocations
- Youth Peace Council desk offices monitor peace club operations and report quarterly
- Community-based conflict reporting systems feed into the national early warning system
- LGA Chairpersons are accountable for local disbursement records and peace club status

Recommendation (ii): *Mandate a Comprehensive Youth Digital Rights Protection Framework*

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

i. Executive *(Implementation)*

- NITDA: Lead regulator; co-develop Youth Digital Rights Framework
- NHRC: Rights oversight; Grievance Desk with live monitoring dashboard tracking violations, actions taken, and redress status. Cases remain open until justice is served.
- Ministry of Youth: Policy coordination; host Digital Safety Fund
- NDPC: Alignment with Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023
- Ministry of Finance: Oversight of financial rights violations (e.g., banking and card retention issues)
- CBN: Regulation of financial service institutions regarding youth consumer rights

ii. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- State Assemblies: Domesticate digital rights provisions in state-level IT and media laws
- Consumer rights legislation to cover financial product denial for youth
- Enact binding inter-agency protocols stipulating severe administrative penalties for security or financial institutions that fail to formally respond to an NHRC digital rights query within a mandatory 72-hour window.

iii. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Digital rights coalitions: Annual 'Digital Freedom Index' on youth cybercrime arrests
- Youth tech hubs: Digital rights education and safe reporting centres
- Youth monitoring of financial services compliance with consumer rights

B. Levels of Implementation

Federal

- NITDA, NHRC, Ministry of Youth constitute the Joint Framework Committee within 90 days
- NHRC operates a live monitoring dashboard: all rights violation reports tracked from lodgement through action to resolution or redress
- The Youth Digital Rights Protection Framework will be published within 18 months.

State

- State IT Bureaus adopt Framework for state regulatory context
- State Ministries of Youth administer digital literacy programme grants
- NHRC zonal offices process state-level digital rights complaints
- State Assemblies include digital rights in domestication legislation
- Financial service regulators at the state level enforce consumer rights

LGA

- LGA innovation hubs and tech clusters serve as digital literacy delivery points
- Ward-level youth coordinators act as first referral points for digital rights violations.
- Local media and radio stations engage youth on online rights and reporting channels.

Recommendation (iii): *Mandate Ministerial Desk Officers, Education MDAs, Development Commissions, and an Expanded Youth Parliament Role* **A. Governance**

& Institutional Roles

i. Executive *(Implementation)*

- Federal Ministry of Youth Development: Establish desk offices in every MDA and institution of government; desk officers proactively drive youth inclusion and rights protection
- Federal & State Ministries of Education: Named as responsible MDAs; integrate civic, peace, and rights education
- Development Commissions (NDDC, etc.): Deliver regional youth peace and security programmes
- Youth Peace Council of Nigeria: Constituted with state-level chapters and 774 LGA desk offices
- NUC, NBTE, NCCE, ITF: Ensure peace and rights curricula are embedded in tertiary and vocational institutions **ii. Legislative** *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- Amend NYP to list Education MDAs and Development Commissions as responsible institutions formally
- Legislation establishing the Youth Peace Council of Nigeria with a statutory mandate
- National Assembly: Amend procedures to transmit all harmonised bills to the Youth Parliament before ratification
- State Assemblies: Mirror this provision for state-level legislation
- Budget appropriation for Youth Peace Council operations and LGA desk offices **iii. Youth** *(Participation & Accountability)*

- Nigerian Youth Parliament: Formally reviews all bills before NASS ratification; issues youth-perspective position papers
- Youth Peace Council: Drives implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and oversight of peace clubs in all 774 LGAs
- Youth Parliament: Elects youth observers to Development Commission boards
- Youth-produced annual Policy Compliance Report submitted to the Ministry of Youth and NASS

B. Levels of Implementation

Federal

- Ministry of Youth desk offices constituted in all MDAs within 12 months
- Youth Parliament receives harmonised bills for review and formal input before ratification
- The Youth Peace Council was established by legislation; the national coordinating office is domiciled at the Ministry of Youth
- Development Commissions integrate youth peace programming in annual work plans and budgets
- The Federal Ministry of Education formally co-owns this thematic area with the Ministry of Youth

State

- State Ministries of Education update curricula to include civic education, peace, and rights literacy
- State chapters of the Youth Peace Council were established and linked to State Ministries of Youth Development
- State Assemblies transmit bills to state-level youth consultative bodies before passage
- Development Commissions establish youth peace programme offices in each geopolitical zone
- State desk officers of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development are embedded in state government offices.

LGA

- Youth Peace Council desk offices operational in all 774 LGAs
- Peace clubs in every school and community, inclusive of all genders, socioeconomic statuses, and disability classifications
- LGA Youth Desks coordinate with desk officers to track implementation gaps
- Community education programmes on peace, rights, and civic responsibility delivered by ward-level youth coordinators
- Youth-led monitoring reports are submitted quarterly to State Youth Peace Council chapters

5. Prioritised Actions

- **Priority Action 1:** Establish the Youth Peace and Security Fund. The National Assembly should appropriate a dedicated line for the Youth Peace and Security Fund in the first budget cycle following the adoption of the NYP. **Priority Action 2:** Operationalise the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Grievance Desk with a Live Monitoring Dashboard. The (NHRC) must establish the Youth Security Interface Grievance Desk with a publicly accessible live monitoring dashboard that tracks every rights violation report

from initial lodgement, through investigation and action, until redress or justice is fully served.

- **Priority Action 3:** Constitute the Youth Peace Council, Transmit Bills to Youth Parliament, and Amend the Cybercrimes Act. These structural changes must proceed in parallel:

  a. The Nigerian Youth Parliament's mandate must be formally expanded through legislation to include a review of all harmonised bills before National Assembly ratification, and

  b. The Youth Peace Council of Nigeria must be constituted, with 774 LGA desk offices as its operational infrastructure.



3.1.5 Youth Inclusion in Climate Change

1. Overview of Thematic Focus

This thematic area focuses on mainstreaming youth participation in environmental governance, climate education, and the emerging green/blue economies. It is critical because Nigeria's youth demographic is most vulnerable to climate-induced instability, yet they possess the innovation necessary for driving sustainable national development.



2. Key Gaps Identified

i. Current awareness strategies lack provisions for local language translation, potentially alienating non-English speaking youths in rural regions.
ii. Lack of clarity on which specific agencies will lead the execution and how they will coordinate.
iii. The policy outlines massive training targets without defining clear funding mechanisms or budget line items.
- Existing strategies do not sufficiently emphasise the State and Local Government's role, risking a disconnect with local realities.

3. Priority Policy Recommendations

i. CSO-Led Bottom-Up Implementation: Adopt a Federal to State and to Local Government approach by leveraging Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to drive localised implementation and ensure community buy-in.
ii. The use of social media and digital platforms as real-time monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools for youth policy milestones.
iii. Launch a nationwide awareness campaign translated into major local languages to ensure grassroots penetration.

4. Implementation Pathways

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

i. Executive (Implementation)

Relevant Federal MDAs

- Federal Ministry of Youth Development
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- Federal Ministry of Education
- National Council on Climate Change
- Energy Commission of Nigeria
- National Orientation Agency (NOA)
- National Universities Commission (NUC) or TETFUND
- Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council
- (NERDC)

Implementation Mechanisms

- Partnership with NGOs, development partners, and private sector stakeholders.
- Integration of climate education into formal and non-formal learning systems.
  Move from climate advocacy to funding actual research in Universities for Master's and Ph.D. students.
- Establishment of youth climate innovation and skill hubs across the geopolitical zones.

Coordination Structures

- Inter-ministerial committee on Youth and Climate Change.
- State and Local Government-level implementation committees.
- Public-private partnership structures for training and funding support.

Budgeting & Financing

- Annual budgetary allocations for youth climate programs.
- Creation of climate innovation grants and green entrepreneurship funds.

- Collaboration with international climate finance institutions and development agencies.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Annual reporting and assessment mechanisms.
- Data tracking systems for beneficiaries and programme outcomes.
- Periodic stakeholder review sessions involving youth representatives.

ii. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

Required Laws or Amendments

- Domestication of climate-related youth provisions at the state level.
- Legislative support for green job creation and climate education policies.

National & State Assembly Roles

- Oversight of policy implementation.
- Budget approval and monitoring.
- Legislative advocacy for climate inclusion and youth participation.

Budget Alignment

Ensure dedicated funding lines for climate-related youth initiatives in national and state budgets.

Oversight Committees & Hearings

Regular public hearings and implementation reviews by relevant committees on the environment, youth, and education. **Accountability Mechanisms**

- Periodic public reports by implementing agencies.
- Independent monitoring and evaluation processes.

iii. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

Youth Engagement Mechanisms

- Youth representation in climate policy implementation committees.
- Youth-led climate forums and advocacy platforms.

Feedback Systems

- Community feedback channels and digital reporting systems.
- Stakeholder consultations and periodic youth town halls.

Civic Participation Structures

- Partnerships with student bodies, youth organizations, and grassroots associations.

Youth-Led Monitoring Initiatives

- Youth climate ambassadors and monitoring volunteers.
- Community-based tracking and reporting initiatives.

B. Levels of Implementation

Federal Level

- National policy formulation and coordination.
- Funding support and strategic partnerships.
- Development of implementation standards and national frameworks.

State Level

- Domestication and adaptation of policies to local realities.
- Coordination of training and awareness programs.
- Establishment of state climate education initiatives.

Local Government Level

- Grassroots sensitisation and community engagement.
- Delivery of localised climate programs.
- Monitoring and feedback collection from communities.

5. Prioritised Actions

- **Priority Action 1**: Launch a nationwide climate change awareness campaign targeted at youths, including translations into major local languages for grassroots accessibility.
- **Priority Action 2:** Establish standardised implementation and monitoring frameworks for all
- youth climate programs under the National Youth Policy.
- **Priority Action 3**: Create sustainable funding mechanisms and partnerships to support youth-focused green skills acquisition, renewable energy training, and climate innovation initiatives.

3.1.6 Physical and Mental Health Promotion

1. Overview of Thematic Focus

This thematic area covers the holistic well-being of young Nigerians, spanning healthcare access and affordability, mental health services, substance use and rehabilitation, nutrition, sports and physical activity, and the availability of health information across both urban and rural communities. It is critical within the National Youth Policy because Nigeria's population is predominantly young, and no credible development agenda can sideline the health of its most dynamic demographic, particularly when one in every six Nigerian youths is currently living with a mental and/or physical health condition.



2. Key Gaps Identified

i. **Absence of Dedicated Youth Health Budget Allocation:** There is no ringfenced health budget line specifically for young people. Broad references to health financing mean very little when funds are not purposefully directed towards youth health services, healthcare workers' remuneration, and infrastructure. Youth health programmes remain perpetually vulnerable to being crowded out by competing government priorities.

ii. **Substantial Underrepresentation of Mental Health:** Despite the alarming rise in mental health challenges amongst young Nigerians, the current policy treats mental health as secondary rather than central to youth wellbeing. There is no institutional mandate for mental health services to be embedded within schools, youth centres, or community health facilities. This absence means mental health care remains reactive and crisis-driven, rather than preventative.

iii. **No Provision for Health Information Dissemination to Rural Communities:** The policy is entirely silent on how health information will reach young people in rural communities who lack access to both digital and conventional health education platforms. The policy raises neither the platforms to be used nor the mechanisms for deployment. This is not a minor omission; it is a structural failure that entrenches geographic inequality in health literacy.

iv. **Legislative Silence on Substance Regulation and Sex Education:** There is no provision regulating alcohol sales to minors, addressing age verification requirements, retail volume caps, or the prohibition of sales near schools. Similarly, sex and reproductive health

education are absent from curriculum-related health provisions, a gap that directly contributes to poor reproductive health outcomes and vulnerability to abuse amongst young Nigerians.

v. **Insufficient Capacity and Retention of Healthcare Professionals:** No provision exists to address the retention, remuneration, or capacity development of health professionals serving young Nigerians. This results in chronically understaffed facilities and the continued brain drain of trained professionals who seek better conditions abroad, leaving those who remain behind with less and less.

3. Priority Policy Recommendations

i. **Enshrine a Dedicated Youth Health Budget:** A dedicated youth health budget line must be embedded within the National Health Act framework, with clearly defined minimum percentage allocations that cannot be reallocated without legislative approval. This single reform would provide the financial bedrock for every other health initiative targeting young Nigerians. Without it, no programme, however well designed, will be sustainable.

ii. **Institutionalise Mental Health Services in Educational Institutions:** A legally binding policy directive must mandate the establishment of mental health counselling departments in all public primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions. Students must not be left without professional psychological support during the most formative and often most stressful years of their development. This directive should also create an interministerial task force on youth mental health, reporting directly to the Office of the Minister of Health, with participation from civil society and youth organisations.

iii. **Introduce Comprehensive Substance Regulation and Sex Education Legislation:** Specific legislation must be introduced to regulate the sale of alcohol, including age verification requirements, maximum daily retail volumes, and prohibition of sales within defined distances of schools and youth facilities. Simultaneously, comprehensive sex and reproductive health education must be incorporated into the National Curriculum through an amendment to existing educational policy provisions. These two legislative actions address two of the most silent and most damaging gaps in the protection of young Nigerians.

4. Implementation Pathways

A. Governance & Institutional Roles

i. Executive *(Implementation)*

- **Relevant Federal MDAs:** The Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Youth Development, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

- **Implementation Mechanisms: A coordinated Youth Health** Implementation plan should be developed jointly by the Ministry of Youth Development and the Federal Ministry of Health, with quarterly accountability reports made publicly available.
- **Coordination Structures:** A dedicated inter-ministerial task force on youth mental health, with civil society and youth organisation representation, should coordinate implementation across all relevant agencies.
- **Budgeting & Financing:** Ring-fenced youth health budget allocations must be embedded in the National Health Act, with protected minimum percentages. Financial incentives should also be introduced for the rural service deployment of health professionals.
- **M&E:** Youth should be actively recruited as co-implementers and monitors of the very policy that concerns them, through a legal framework mandating youth participation in the monitoring and evaluation process of all health interventions.



ii. Legislative *(Domestication & Oversight)*

- **Required Laws or Amendments:** An amendment to the National Health Act for dedicated youth health budget lines; new legislation on alcohol regulation and age-restricted sales; an amendment to the National Curriculum Policy to incorporate sex and reproductive health education; and a legally binding directive for mental health counselling in educational institutions.

- **National & State Assembly Roles:** Both chambers must enact the necessary legislative amendments and ensure that federal provisions are domesticated at the state level through parallel state legislation.
- **Budget Alignment:** Appropriations committees at the federal and state levels must align annual budgets with the mandated youth health funding floors established in legislation.
- **Oversight Committees & Hearings:** The National Assembly's Committees on Health and Youth Development must hold quarterly hearings reviewing implementation progress, with civil society and youth group representation guaranteed.
- **Accountability Mechanisms:** Legislative sanctions must apply where MDAs fail to meet mandated implementation timelines or budget disbursement thresholds.

iii. Youth *(Participation & Accountability)*

- **Youth Engagement Mechanisms:** A legal framework must mandate Nigerian youths as active participants in the implementation process through volunteering roles at organisations responsible for monitoring and evaluation, or other formally recognised forms of co-implementation.
- **Feedback Systems:** A government-funded mobile application for youth health information, mental health support, and abuse reporting with offline accessibility for low-connectivity communities. This should serve as the primary digital feedback and engagement channel.
- **Civic Participation Structures:** Youth-led health advocacy networks should be formally recognised and funded as partners in community health promotion, with structured frameworks for public-private collaboration.
- **Youth-Led Monitoring Initiatives:** Young people should be embedded within monitoring structures at the ward, local government, state, and federal levels, to provide ground-level intelligence on the effectiveness of health programme delivery.

B. Levels of Implementation

- **Federal Level:** Policy formulation, national coordination, funding frameworks, and mandatory quality inspection of imported consumables through an empowered NAFDAC operating at all ports of entry, shops, and marketplaces with real consequences, not merely warnings, for violators.
- **State Level:** Domestication of federal legislation, adaptation of programmes to local contexts, deployment of rural health professionals through compulsory rural service schemes, and funding of rehabilitation centres in all six geopolitical zones with youth-specific wards.
- **Local Government Level:** Community delivery of health promotion programmes, grassroots sensitisation of caregivers and parents on mental health and substance abuse

through community health workers, and local investment in sports facilities and youth physical activity programmes.

5. Prioritised Actions

Priority Action 1: Legislate a Dedicated, Protected Youth Health Budget Line. This is the single most consequential reform. Without guaranteed, ring-fenced funding, no programme survives the next budget cycle. The National Assembly must enshrine this within the National Health Act immediately, with built-in protections against reallocation.

Priority Action 2: Mandate Mental Health Counselling in All Public Educational Institutions. A legally binding directive must compel the establishment of functional counselling departments in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions nationwide, staffed by certified professionals and supported by the inter-ministerial youth mental health task force.

Priority Action 3: Deploy the National Youth Health Mobile Application and Commission Rural Health Information Campaigns. Technology exists. Mobile penetration amongst Nigerian youth is high. What is missing is the political will to fund a platform that can deliver health information, mental health support, and abuse reporting tools directly into the hands of young Nigerians, including those in rural areas with low internet connectivity.



3.2 Recommendations and their Implementation Pathways

Table 1: Extracts from the Breakout Sessions

1. Governance, Participation & Institutional Reform AND Stakeholder Collaboration, Partnerships & Effective Policy Implementation		
Key Gaps Identified	**Recommended Pathways**	**Priority Actions**
i) Fragmented Institutional Coordination: Multiple overlapping youth programmes across MDAs and CSOs; Absence of a single coordinating authority; Weak alignment between federal, state, and non-state actors **ii) Weak Implementation Accountability Framework: Inactive TWGs; No enforcement mechanism; Lack of defined institutional responsibility** **iii) Absence of Centralised Data and Programme Repository** **iv) Weak Monitoring, KPI, and Results Tracking System** **v) Weak Structure for Multi-Sectoral Partnerships**	i) **Establish a Centralised Youth Policy Coordination and Delivery Framework** – Federal Ministry of Youth Development as the single coordinating authority, Youth Policy Coordination Unit, National Youth Programme Repository, reactivated Technical Working Groups. ii) **Institutionalise a Structured MultiSectoral Partnership and CSO Integration System** – Nigeria Governors' Forum, National Orientation Agency, Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Youth Initiatives, National Bureau of Statistics, Federal Inland Revenue Service. iii) **Strengthen Monitoring, Enforcement, and Results Accountability Systems** – Enforcement and Compliance Unit within the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, public-facing youth implementation dashboard.	i) Establish a central Youth Coordination and Programme Repository system ii) Institutionalise a formal multi-sectoral Public– Private Partnership (PPP) and CSO engagement framework iii) Deploy a national KPIbased monitoring and enforcement system

2. Economic Transformation, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation / Quality Education and Capacity Development for Lifelong Learning		
Key Gaps Identified	**Recommended Pathways**	**Priority Actions**
i) Implementation and accountability deficit **ii) Limited support for emerging industries (Creative Economy)** **iii) Vague and weak education provisions (literacy centres, special needs, STEM infrastructure, teacher training)** **iv) Poor Federal-Statelocal collaboration and grassroots access** **iv) Age discrimination and lack of practical vocational integration**	i) **Establish an Independent Accountability and Monitoring Body** – Federal Ministry of Youth Development (coordinating), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, National Bureau of Statistics; statutory Independent Youth Policy Implementation & Accountability Commission. ii) **Provide Structured Support for Innovation and Emerging Industries (Creative Economy)** – Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, SMEDAN, NITDA, Bank of Industry, National Creative Economy Council. iii) **Strengthen Quality Education and Teacher Ecosystem** – Federal Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission (NUC), NERDC, National Commission for Colleges of Education.	i) Creation of a statutorily independent Accountability & Monitoring Body ii) Structured support system (tools, funding, incubation) for the Creative Economy and emerging youth innovations iii) Comprehensive education reforms, teacher incentives/training in special needs education, integration of vocational skills from secondary school, and STEM infrastructure

3. Gender, Social Inclusion and Equitable Opportunities for All Youth		
Key Gaps Identified	**Recommended Pahways**	**Priority Actions**
i) No Consequences for Non-Compliance and Absence of Legislative Oversight **ii) No Dedicated, Costed Funding for Gender and Social Inclusion** **iii) Policy assumptions not**	i) **Establish a Structured Compliance and Accountability Framework (GICU)** – Federal Ministry of Youth Development (lead), Ministry of Women Affairs, NCPWD, FMHDS, NDE, SMEDAN, INEC. ii) **Create a Costed, Phased Gender and Social Inclusion Fund (GSIF)** – Federal Ministry of Finance (fund structure), Federal Ministry of Youth Development (programmatic governance), NASSCO. iii) **Produce a Group-Specific,**	i) Establish the National Gender and Social Inclusion Compliance Framework within 12 months (GICU) ii) Establish a ring-fenced Gender and Social Inclusion Fund (GSIF)

reflecting institutional/fiscal realities **iv) Insufficient attention to youth self-reliance** **v) No Group-Specific Implementation Framework** **vi) Insufficient Provisions for SGBV Survivors and IDP Youths** **Weak Disability Inclusion Architecture**	**Disaggregated Implementation Framework** – Federal Ministry of Youth Development (convene TWG), Ministry of Women Affairs, NCPWD, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs, NAPTIP, Federal Ministry of Education, NDE, NASSCO.	Publish a detailed, group-specific disaggregated implementation framework within six months
4. Peace, Security, Rights and Sustainable Environments		
Key Gaps Identified	**Recommended Pathways**	**Priority Actions**
i) Absence of a Dedicated Financing Mechanism **ii) Accountability Deficit (no grievance/redress mechanisms)** **iii) Nominal Recognition of Digital Rights Without Institutional Mandate**	i) Establish a Youth Peace and Security Fund – Federal Ministry of Youth Development (lead and fund custodian), IPCR, NEMA, Federal and State Ministries of Education, Development Commissions. ii) Mandate a Comprehensive Youth Digital Rights Protection Framework – NITDA, NHRC, Ministry of Youth, NDPC, Ministry of Finance, CBN.	i) Establish the Youth Peace and Security Fund ii) Operationalise the NHRC Grievance Desk with live monitoring dashboard iii) Constitute the Youth Peace Council, transmit bills to Youth Parliament, and amend relevant acts

iv) Absence of Geographic and Socioeconomic Differentiation **v) Structural Exclusion of Education MDAs and Development Commissions**	iii) **Mandate Ministerial Desk Officers, Education MDAs, Development Commissions, and Expanded Youth Parliament Role** – Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Federal & State Ministries of Education, Development Commissions, Nigerian Youth Parliament, Youth Peace Council of Nigeria.	
5. Youth Inclusion in Climate Change		
Key Gaps Identified	**Recommended Pathways**	**Priority Actions**
i) Awareness strategies lack local language translations **ii) Lack of clarity on leading agencies and coordination** **iii) Massive training targets without clear funding mechanisms** **Insufficient emphasis on State and Local Government roles**	i) **CSO-Led Bottom-Up Implementation** – Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Federal Ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Education, National Council on Climate Change, Energy Commission of Nigeria, National Orientation Agency (NOA), NUC, NERDC. ii) **Use of social media and digital platforms for real-time M&E** iii) **Launch a nationwide awareness campaign in local languages**	i) Launch a nationwide climate change awareness campaign (translated into major local languages) ii) Establish standardised implementation and monitoring frameworks iii) Create sustainable funding mechanisms and partnerships for youthfocused green skills, renewable energy, and climate innovation

6. Physical and Mental Health Promotion		
Key Gaps Identified	**Recommended Pathways**	**Priority Actions**
i) Absence of Dedicated Youth Health Budget Allocation **ii) Substantial Underrepresentation of Mental Health** **iii) No Provision for Health Information Dissemination to Rural Communities** **iv) Legislative Silence on Substance Regulation and Sex Education** **v) Insufficient Capacity and Retention of Healthcare Professionals**	i) **Enshrine a Dedicated Youth Health Budget** – Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Federal Ministry of Youth Development. ii) **Institutionalise Mental Health Services in Educational Institutions** – Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Federal Ministry of Youth Development, inter-ministerial task force. iii) **Introduce Comprehensive Substance Regulation and Sex Education Legislation** – Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, NDLEA, NAFDAC.	i) Legislate a Dedicated, Protected Youth Health Budget Line (in National Health Act) ii) Mandate Mental Health Counselling in All Public Educational Institutions iii) Deploy the National Youth Health Mobile Application and commission rural health information campaigns

4. Conclusion

The National Youth Dialogue held on 6th May 2026 at the National Assembly Library Trust Fund, Abuja, represented a significant milestone in advancing structured youth engagement in Nigeria's governance and policy processes. Organised through the partnership of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) of CoSPAL, the National Assembly Library Trust Fund (NALTF), the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, the Nigerian Youth Parliament, Abuja Global Shapers, and other stakeholders, the dialogue provided an inclusive platform for evidence-based discussions on youth development. The event was timely, given that over 60% of Nigeria's population is below age 30. This demographic reality presents both a major opportunity and a pressing responsibility.

A central theme that emerged from the dialogue was the persistent gap between policy ambition and implementation. Although the revised National Youth Policy contains progressive provisions, participants stressed that its success depends on robust implementation frameworks, adequate financing, effective monitoring, and legislative oversight. The dialogue, therefore, shifted focus from policy formulation to practical execution, domestication, and measurable outcomes. Breakout sessions produced comprehensive recommendations across governance reform, economic transformation, climate inclusion, peace and security, gender equity, and health promotion. Participants advocated for dedicated funding, coordinated leadership, decentralised mechanisms, and stronger collaboration among government, civil society, development partners, and youth. Importantly, the dialogue reaffirmed that young people should not be seen merely as beneficiaries but as active co-creators, implementers, and monitors of national development. It highlighted the readiness of Nigerian youth to contribute meaningfully when given credible platforms and underscored the value of intergenerational collaboration.

The National Youth Dialogue produced actionable recommendations and a policy communiqué that can inform the implementation of the revised National Youth Policy. As Nigeria grapples with economic, social, digital, and climate challenges, investing in young people remains a strategic priority. The event demonstrated that when institutions create genuine spaces for participation, youth respond with insight and commitment. Moving forward, sustaining this momentum and converting recommendations into concrete actions, legislative reforms, and budgetary provisions will be crucial for inclusive national development.

5. Acknowledgment

The successful convening of the National Youth Dialogue on the National Youth Policy, held on 6th May 2026 at the National Assembly Library Trust Fund (NALTF), Abuja, was made possible through the commitment, collaboration, and collective efforts of several institutions, public leaders, development actors, and young people dedicated to advancing youth inclusion and participatory governance in Nigeria. Special appreciation is extended to the **Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (CoSPAL)** for providing strategic vision and institutional leadership through its **Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI)**. Particular recognition goes to **Amb. Dapo Oyewole**, Secretary-General of CoSPAL and Chairman of the LMI Planning and Advisory Committee, whose guidance and advocacy for youth participation were instrumental to the dialogue's success. Profound gratitude is expressed to the **National Assembly Library Trust Fund (NALTF)** for hosting the event and offering institutional support. Special appreciation is extended to **Hon. Henry Nwawuba**, Executive Secretary of NALTF, for his leadership and commitment to knowledge-driven governance and intergenerational dialogue.

Sincere appreciation is also extended to the Federal Ministry of Youth Development for its policy leadership. The organisers acknowledge the support of the Hon. Minister of Youth Development, **H.E. Hon. Ayodele Olawande Wisdom**, and **Mr. Mohammed Abdulahi**, Chief of Staff to the Minister, who represented the Ministry. Further appreciation goes to **Mrs. Stella Okeje**, Assistant Chief Youth Development Officer, for her insightful policy briefing. The organisers recognise the Nigerian Youth Parliament for its active partnership, particularly **Rt. Hon. Ali Yuzakari**, Speaker of the Nigerian Youth Parliament, for strengthening youth representation. Appreciation is extended to Mind the Gap for technical expertise, with special recognition to **Mr. Tayo Olosunde**, Founder and CEO, and **Ms. Oluwaseyi Adebimpe-Ojo** for their valuable contributions. Deep appreciation goes to the LMI coordination team, especially **Ms. Solape Sonuga**, Director of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative, and **Dr. Kutyyi AngoDada,** Coordinator, for their dedication to planning and execution. The organisers also acknowledge representatives of ministries, development organisations, civil society, academia, and media who enriched the dialogue. Special thanks are extended to all technical leads, facilitators, rapporteurs, moderators, and support teams for ensuring productive sessions and actionable recommendations.



Finally, sincere gratitude is extended to all participants, youth leaders, and emerging policy actors whose contributions reinforced the importance of inclusive participation in shaping Nigeria's future.

ANNEX I

National Youth Policy Framework

STRATEGIC FOCUS Economic Transformation, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation	
Thematic Areas & Objectives	**Relevant Stakeholders**
1. Youth enterprise development and Job creation • Create an average of 3 million jobs per year (approximately 12 million jobs over the 4-year policy period). • Establish a job matching programme for new graduates by incentivizing employers to retain National Youth Service Corp members at the end of their service • Improve access to funds from CBN MSME fund, SMEDAN, and other funding facilities to encourage on lending to youth enterprises. • Improve youth enterprise ecosystem by providing supportive services such as loans, vocational skills training and youth enterprise development centers in every state in the country. • Build linkages between the industrial sector and the non/formal educational system for youth apprenticeship. • Provide 18 million youths with market driven and in demand skills based on labour market research • Increased sensitization and economic opportunities • Advocacy to increase funding support for youth led business while improving the business environment. • Integrate citizenship and Leadership Training into all Youth Empowerment Interventions programmes and Concessions for social entrepreneurs	National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Small and Medium Enterprise Dev. Agency, Nigeria (SMEDAN) Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE) Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Science and Technology Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)

	National Information Technology Development Fund (NITDF) Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA)
2. Youth and Agriculture • Implement innovative programs in agriculture to facilitate youth entry into agriculture value chains. • Train 10,000,000 youths in skills and knowledge on modern and sustainable agricultural practices, value chains, including crop cultivation, livestock management, and agritechnologies (65,000 in each state, each year. • Improve access to financial resources, credit facilities, and agricultural inputs for youths. • Strengthen support systems, including extension services, training,	
and mentorship programs, to equip youth with necessary skills and • knowledge for agribusiness. Utilize social media and tech platforms to educate 25, 000, 000 youths on potentials in the Agricultural sector	Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)

3. Youth in the Digital economy • Enhance the digital competencies of 10,000,000 youths annually in areas such as coding, digital marketing, videography, data analytics, cybersecurity, and digital literacy to develop their capacity for job creation and income generation.	NACCIMA Bank of Industry (BOI)
• Strengthen existing innovation centers across states with affordable and reliable access to digital tools and the internet empowering youth to leverage digital platforms effectively. • Establish new tech hubs and innovation centers in states without to facilitate, identify and support innovation and digital products developed by youths. • Establish new tech hubs and strengthen the existing innovations centers in the state.	Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy (FMIST)
4. Migration and Youth in Diaspora • Provide structural awareness campaigns for Nigerian youths on migration. • Set up desk offices in collaboration with universities to provide support for students seeking overseas study opportunities. • Set up talent exchange platforms for digital, vocational and professional skills. • Partner with foreign embassies on mutual basis to facilitate knowledge transfer between countries. • Minimum wage for young people to reduce the traffic of 'Japa' and improve • their social economy.	Nigeria Immigration Service Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nigerians in Diaspora Commission

STRATEGIC FOCUS Physical and Mental Health Promotion	
Thematic Areas & Objectives	**Relevant Stakeholders**
5. Physical Wellbeing • Improve the quality of youth-related health care services • Improve the coverage of health care services for youth • Integrate adolescent- and youth-friendly health services in PHC facilities in the 774 Local governments in the country. • Support the provision of safety nets and social protection mechanisms for marginalized youths especially to poor, vulnerable youth, and those in emergency and conflict situations • Promote appropriate health behaviour, including sports and leisure-time activities • Implement Adolescent Health Reproductive Health Education • Increase the availability, affordability and access to quality health services with well-trained specialists through subsidy, increase first aids club in schools • Collect data on communities that lack access to these services. • Improve healthcare facilities in tertiary institutions • Integrate adolescent and youth friendly health services in PHC facilities in the 774 governments in the country. • Introduce programs that will ensure the domestication and implementation of the policy document and the funding. • Conduct monitoring and evaluation of Ministry of Health and other youth related ministry agencies and its activities.	Ministry of Health National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) National Orientation Agency (NOA) National Universities Commission (NUC) National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) National Commission of Colleges of Education (NCCE)

6. Mental Health of Youths • Provide mental health education in tertiary education • Implement drug abuse prevention programs for youths in partnership with NDLEA • Improve access to mental health services in educational institutions (both secondary and tertiary). • Leverage on technology and digital platforms to deliver health care and mental health information to youths. • Increase the availability of Sexual assaults centres (SAC) centres in all LGA's of Nigeria. • Conduct national awareness campaigns with NOA on mental health. • Provide mental health education in secondary and tertiary education. • Ministry to collaborate with NGO'S &NDLEA to implement abuse prevention for youth. • Establish Juvenile rehabilitation centres for young people and collect data to inform mental health programming.	Federal Ministry of Education, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Eonomy (FMIST)

STRATEGIC FOCUS
Peace, Security, Rights and Sustainable environments

Thematic Areas & Objectives	Relevant Stakeholders
7. Peace, Conflict Mitigation and Security • Conduct physical/online training programs, workshops, and seminars to equip at least 10,000,000 youths with skills in conflict analysis, early warning systems, mediation processes, resolution and peacebuilding. • Integrate conflict resolution and nonviolent communication training into formal and informal education systems • Leverage on influence of social media to educate youths on peace building and conflict mitigation. • Support and fund youth-led projects that address local peace and security challenges. • Engaging youths in local communities in peace initiatives and civic engagement programs. • Establish youth led peace clubs and organizations in schools and communities.	National Orientation Agency (NOA) Police Force Independent Corrupt Practices & Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Ministry of Environment Human Rights Commission National Agency for the Prohibition

8. Human rights and fundamental freedoms • Implement educational programs and public awareness campaigns to inform youth about their rights. • Protect digital space rights for youths and conduct public awareness to combat cyber-crimes by youths. • Implement human rights-based approach (HRBA) programs to tackle GBV among youths. • Provide training for educators, community leaders, and youth advocates on human rights, equipping them with the tools to educate and empower young individuals. • Conduct Public Awareness Campaigns on youth rights and human rights violations affecting young people. • Support youth led initiatives that advocate for human rights and fundamental freedom. • Increase awareness on human trafficking and strengthen collaboration between Ministry of Women Affairs and NAPITP to mitigate this.	of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Ministry of Women Affairs Department of State Services (DSS) National commission for refugees/migrants and IDPs, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) Nigeria National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy

9. Youths Inclusion in Climate Change • Provide Climate Change education for youths in the 6 geopolitical regions about the causes and consequences of climate change and ways to mitigate its impact. • Facilitate Youth entry into the green and blue economy through skills development across the 36 states. • Provide training in green skills for 100, 000 youths across the country in renewal energy, solar, waste management, carbon credit etc. for livelihood development. • Build capacity of 1,000,000 youths on sustainable agricultural practices • Train youths on the sustainable use and conservation of marine and aquatic resources for economic growth, job creation, and environmental sustainability (Blue Economy) • Mainstream Climate Change education into school curriculum at secondary and tertiary institutions.	Department of State Services (DSS) National commission for refugees/migrants and IDPs, Nigeria National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy

STRATEGIC FOCUS Gender, Social Inclusion and Equitable Opportunities for all Youths	
Thematic Areas & Objectives	**Relevant Stakeholders**
10. Inclusive Programming for ALL Youths • Promote political inclusion for all youths (Female, YWDs and Grassroots youths) • Promote gender equality in youth development programs and implement programs that address gender-based discrimination. • Promote and implement strategies that social barriers and discrimination, ensuring that all youths, have equal access to education, employment, healthcare, and other essential services. • Proactively ensure that all program activities have the participation of 40% female youths, 10% Youths with disabilities, 40% grassroots youths, 30% NEET (Not in Education, Employment or training) youths. • Develop a monitoring and implementation framework with inclusive indicators that tracks the participation of these marginalized youths.	Ministry of Women Affairs Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHDS) National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Small and Medium Enterprise Dev. Agency, Nigeria (SMEDAN) Ministry of Health
• Inclusion female youths, youths with disabilities, internally displaced youths and rural youths in program development and in the implementation tracking process from national to local levels as key stakeholders.	

11. Targeted programs for Marginalized youths • Create economic opportunities for 5,000,000 marginalized and homeless youths and enhance. • Provide access to formal education for 18,000,000 through adult literacy programs. • Provide social welfare packages for marginalized youths such as internally displaced youths, youths in conflict areas and youths with disabilities. • Include marginalized youths across the country in the National social Register (NSR) • Advocate for conditional cash transfer to marginalized youths living in extreme poverty in collaboration with the National Social Safety Net Coordinating Office (NASSCO) and integrate them into social Safety Net Programs. *(**Marginalized Youths**: Internally displaced youths, youths in conflict areas youths with disabilities, survivors of sexual violence and trafficking and rural youths.)*	Bank of Industry (BOI) Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) National Social Safety Net Coordinating Office (NASSCO) Federal Ministry of Finance National commission for refugees/migrants and IDPs,

STRATEGIC FOCUS Quality Education and Capacity development for Lifelong learning	
Thematic Areas & Objectives	**Relevant Stakeholders**
12. Qualitative Education & Life Skills Development	
• Integrate life skills education into the curricula of all secondary schools, ensuring that students acquire essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence. • Strengthen and enforce quality standards for educational institutions, including teacher training, infrastructure, and learning materials. • Establish a national mass literacy programme for out of School youths. • Establish 1800 learner-friendly mass literacy centres for out-of-school youth over the next five years. • Establish special Education intervention fund to support the	Federal Ministry of Education. National Universities Commission (NUC) Industrial Training Fund (ITF) National Commission of Colleges of Education (NCCE) National Board for

education for Youths with disabilities • Encourage enrolment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses by offering annual bursaries to 100,000 eligible STEM undergraduates • Build youth leadership capacity through statutory youth organizations such as the National Youth Council, NYSC and Nigerian Youth Parliament • Develop Accountability framework for the implementation of educational policies and impact assessment for all stakeholders working on Youth Development in Nigeria. • Invest in Research and Development (R&D): quality research, innovation and funding for Academic Institutions, NUC and Ministry of Education. • Strengthen and promote Virtual learning system for youths.	Technical Education (NBTE) Minister of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy (FMCIDE

STRATEGIC FOCUS Stakeholder Collaboration/ Partnerships and Effective Policy Implementation	
Thematic Areas & Objectives	**Relevant Stakeholders**
13. Platforms for multi-sectoral collaboration • Build platforms and mechanisms to coordinate and integrate youth development initiative with CSOs for youth development in Nigeria. • Strengthen platforms for engagement, coordination, integration and policy domestication between Federal Ministry of Youths and State Ministries • Strengthen multi sectoral engagement with the Private sector, donors and CSO for increased investment and contribution to achieve policy priorities. • Establish a matching Funds scheme for CSOs, MDAs working on youths, INGOs and Donor agencies to support the delivery of policy objectives. • Professionalization for youth social workers and desk officers across the country through training, accreditation, educational certification.	Nigerian Public-Private Partnership Network (NPPPN) National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Ministry of Labour Nigeria Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

14. Strengthen Policy implementation • Conduct public awareness campaigns and sensitization workshops to educate the public and stakeholders on policy priorities and benchmarks. • Develop and maintain a public facing Monitoring and Evaluation framework and platform for tracking the implementation of this Policy. • Conduct research on the status of Youth and produce a biannual Status of Youth Report to inform development intervention by multiple stakeholders. • Develop youth database and ensure periodic updates every two years for informed programming. • Set up Regional Youth Policy Commission domiciled in anchor State Ministries of Youth for context specific interventions. • Strengthen Stakeholders Forum's Technical Working Groups on NYP at state and National level through annual and quarterly meetings to collect data, review and track progress of policy implementation. • Mainstream Youth development and policy development in every Ministry, Department and Agency (MDAs) of Government working with youths through Youth desk officers in these MDAs.	National Youth Council Nigerian Youth Parliament Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (FMBEP) Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (FMIST)

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