

ADDRESSING GAPS IN YOUTH SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN EKITI AND NASARAWA STATES OF NIGERIA

Implementation of the Strategic Plans in the States

Project implemented by the
NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
with the support of the
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Why the Youth?

- Proportion of global population aged 30 & below is 50.2% [*Euromonitor International*]
- The Youth are 70% of the Nigerian population
- Nigerian Youth face enormous challenges:
 - poor or non-existent access to functional education [*including vocational education*]
 - high unemployment rates
 - exposure to conflicts
 - vulnerability to adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes [*including gender-based sexual violence*]
- > 60% live below the poverty line

THE NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (NAS)

- Uniquely positioned to bring scientific knowledge to bear on the policies & strategic direction of the nation
- Dedicated to the development and advancement of science, technology & innovation in Nigeria
- Promoting the growth, acquisition and dissemination of scientific knowledge in Nigeria and beyond
- Facilitating the use of new knowledge in the solution of major problems of national interest.



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- Response to the Challenges Facing Nigerian Youth

- Advocacy to state governments to come to terms with the challenges facing youth in their localities and help in assessing current needs
- Work with the state governments to develop strategic plans of action for the comprehensive development of the youth based on needs
- Continue to engage with the states to mobilize multiple stakeholders to aggregate resources and act in concert to implement plans to enhance youth reproductive health and overall social well-being

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- Project on Youth Development: Goal

- Mainstream the promotion of the life skills, livelihood and social development of youth into the broader development agenda at all levels in Nigeria

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- Project on Youth Development: Overall Strategy

- Pilot action in Ekiti and Nasarawa States
- Build partnerships with the two state governments and key stakeholders to assess the social development and reproductive health needs of youth aged 10-24 years who reside in the states
- Develop a strategic plan of action for improving the social development and reproductive health of the youth in each state, in partnership with policymakers and other stakeholders
- Advocacy and mobilization of the political and other civic leadership to implement the plans
- Replicate in other states and FCT

1. Building Partnerships

Activities

- Hold consultations with government officials in the two pilot states & obtain their commitment, support and participation in youth development
- Constitute technical committee involving government, civil society groups and technical experts to assess needs
- Conduct a systematic review of published and unpublished data on youth development & reproductive health, and the existing policies designed to meet those needs

2. Developing a Strategic Plan

Activities

- Convey identified needs to government officials & other stakeholders, and obtain their perspectives on ways to realistically address the social development & reproductive health needs of the youth
- Constitute and support a committee to develop the Strategic Plan for Youth Development (SPYD) for each state
- Prepare policy and action plan document that will present the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with promoting youth development in the states

3. Advocacy and Mobilization

Activities

- Present the action plan document to the State Governor & Executive Council
- Make copies of action plan available to all relevant stakeholders in the state
- Facilitate public presentation of the action plan by the State Governor, outlining how the plan will be implemented and how it will be captured in the state annual budget
- Develop/update a list of partners and stakeholders in the private sector and civil society willing to commit resources to the implementation of the plan

Progression

- Consultation visits to the Governors of the states and key policy makers in the states
- Needs Assessment done in the two states
- Advocacy and presentation of the needs assessment findings to key stakeholders in the two states
- Strategic Plan Committees set up in the two states and action plan documents prepared for each state by these committees
- Public presentation of the action plan in each state

Needs Assessment

- Document the socio-demographic characteristics of youths in the state
- Assess employment and occupational status of out-of- school youths in the state
- Document level of enrolment in schools in the state
- Assess the quality of science education, library facilities and access to information, communication and technology (ICT) facilities in the school system in the state.
- Assess the sexual and reproductive health behaviour of the youth in the state, including experiences with adverse reproductive health outcomes
- Assess youth access to evidence-based information and services for reproductive health
- Document the nature of existing policies (if any) and programmes that address youth development
- Assess the level of official commitment to prioritising youth development needs in the state

Strategic Plan – Ekiti State

Highlights

Ekiti State – Thematic Areas 1

- Social Development
 - Leadership & Governance
 - Negotiating skills & assertiveness of the youth
 - In-school skills acquisition (School Enterprise)
 - Curricular vocational & entrepreneurial skills
 - Management Information Systems
 - Service Delivery
 - Training of Trainers
 - Human Resources Mobilization
 - Youth empowerment
 - Community Participation and Ownership
 - Community re-orientation

Ekiti State – Thematic Areas 2

- Improvement in Science Education
 - Engaging full complement of science teachers
 - Renovation and equipment of laboratories and libraries in schools
 - Establishment of ICT facilities in schools
 - Membership of science teachers in professional development organizations
 - Community ICT and library facilities

Ekiti State – Thematic Areas 3

- Reproductive Health Issues
 - Increase skills and knowledge of teachers in Family Life & HIV Education
 - Promote introduction of functional FLHE curriculum in schools
 - Encourage parent-child interaction on Reproductive Health issues
 - Promote awareness & use of Youth-Friendly health facilities
 - Mobilization of funds for FLHE & YFHS programmes
 - Enforcement of child rights law

Strategic Plan

– Nasarawa State

Highlights

Nasarawa State – Thematic Areas 1

- Reproductive Health Issues
 - Increase skills and knowledge of teachers in Family Life & HIV Education
 - Promote introduction of functional FLHE curriculum in schools
 - Encourage parent-child interaction on Reproductive Health issues
 - Promote awareness & use of Youth-Friendly health facilities

Nasarawa State – Thematic Areas 2

- Social Development & Improvement in Science Education
 - Advocacy for job creation
 - Youth empowerment for out-of-school youth
 - Opportunities to enhance computer literacy among in-school youth
 - Enhance quality of science education – teaching and learning in schools
 - Empowerment of physically and mentally-challenged individuals

**Partnering With the Ekiti &
Nasarawa State Governments to
Implement the Strategic Plans**

Thrust [1]

- To increase awareness and promote support for the strategic plans at the highest political levels, among the executive and legislative arms of government

Thrust [2]

- To sensitize and strengthen the capacity of middle and senior level officials of government ministries, and other relevant stakeholders, in Ekiti and Nasarawa States to implement the youth development and reproductive health strategic plans produced for the two states.
- To develop and disseminate protocols and guidelines on provision of youth-friendly reproductive health services for use in the two states.

Activities [1]

- Advocacy Visits to key political leaders in each state
 - **The Governors**
 - **Key Functionaries of the Executive Branch of Government**
 - **The Legislature**
 - **The Speakers**
 - **Chairmen of Key Relevant Parliamentary Committees**

Activities [2]

- Establishment of inter-ministerial implementation teams to ensure the implementation of the strategic plans
- Organization of training workshops for the inter-ministerial implementation teams and key government officials from the MDAs on *Getting Research into Policy and Practice [GRIPP]*

Activities [3]

- Development of protocols and guidelines on provision of youth-friendly reproductive health services in the states
- Launching of the protocols and guidelines, in collaboration with key stakeholders, in Ekiti and Nasarawa States

Activities [4]

- Conduct of a 'training of trainers' workshop for selected teachers in each state, using an appropriately adapted family life and health education curriculum. These trainers are expected to train other teachers in their schools on the use of the adapted curriculum

Lessons Learnt [1]

- Officials of the MDAs can benefit significantly from training in how to get the output of research into policy and practice
- There are existing curricula addressing the issues of family life and health education but some of the concepts and areas of emphasis are not keeping with contemporary trends

Lessons Learnt [2]

- There are a lot of misconceptions among the teachers about how to transmit the concepts of family life and health education to the youth
- There is a lot of enthusiasm among the teachers to learn new material and incorporate them into what they are doing to enhance the development of the youth.

Lessons Learnt [3]

- Commitment at the highest levels of Government is essential to maintain continuity of implementation of youth development programmes
- Other stakeholders, especially the media, have a major role to play in supporting youth development activities

THANK YOU

