

CONCEPT PAPER.

PROJECT TITLE

**YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF
THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY II (NEEDS II)**

PROJECT DURATION

March 28 – April 12 2007

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION

**Nigerian Youth Network on MDGS (NYNM)
Development Partnership International (DPI)**

DATE

MARCH 28-April 12, 2007

CONTACT PERSON

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

The Nigerian Youth in relation to national objectives, conditions and realities that exist on ground, especially historical and contemporary socio-economic and political issues that need to be addressed, is defined as any young person aged between 18 – 35 years, who is a citizen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This category of Nigerians represents the most active, volatile and yet, the most vulnerable segment of the population, socio-economically, emotionally and in other respects. It is the segment often ironically misunderstood, neglected and blamed for most of society's ills.

It is however strategic and of importance that young people be involved in policy/decision making activities that affect their lives.

The development of the Second National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS II) presents a unique opportunity to involve young people in the development of a National economic blue print that will have far-reaching effect on youth development in Nigeria, particularly with the recent establishment of a Federal Ministry of Youth Development.

The youth participation project in the development process of NEEDS II will work with a team of youth experts to improve on a draft memorandum that will capture youth input into the process. The draft memorandum will be circulated widely amongst youth groups, and youth leaders so as to capture the concerns of young people and also widen the scope for participation. The expert team will work to incorporate relevant ideas into the memorandum, adopt and present it to the National Planning Commission which is responsible for coordinating the NEEDS II development process.

The project will take place from March 28, 2007 to April 12, 2007. The budget is estimated at eight hundred and ninety one thousand naira (N891, 000) for the 14 day project.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

More than half of Nigeria's population are young people, yet channels for their involvement in policy-decision making processes remains largely limited. In Zambia and Uganda, young people have

been given adequate space to participate in parliaments through their National Youth Parliament and National Youth Council structures. Zambia's population is about 10million, 78% of these figures are youth, but this figure is relatively small compared to Nigeria's 77million youth (This accounts for 55% of the entire population).

However, the channels of participation between youth and policy makers have been remarkably increased in Zambia in recent years. Malawi's PRSP development process has also incorporated the concerns and opinions of young people with an important focus on their education.

The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy is Nigeria's home grown Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). NEEDS is a Nationally coordinated framework of action in close collaboration with the States and Local Government and other stakeholders to build a solid foundation for the attainment of Nigeria's long term vision of becoming the largest and strongest African economy and a key player in the world economy.

NEEDS rests on four key strategies: reforming the way government works and its institutions; growing the private sector; implementing a social charter for the people; and re-orientation of the people with an enduring African value system.

NEEDS (2003-2007) was developed with wide consultations amongst Government agencies, civil society groups, the National Assembly, the Manufacturing Association of Nigeria and a host of others. However, it was not documented that youth groups and young people were involved in the consultation processes.

The NEEDS I is the blue-print for driving Nigeria's economic development in the last four years. One of the identified challenges of economic development is economic growth without a corresponding increase in employment, which has had an adverse effect on Nigeria's youthful population. According to the Minister for education, only 10% of the 140,000 young people that graduated from Nigerian Universities in 2006 will be gainfully employed after their first year in the job market.

Deleted: development is

Youth have too often been seen as a burden rather than an asset, a group to be taught but not to teach, and to receive but not to give. Yet this is a view we simply can't afford to have! Young people are in fact an ever-growing demographic force in Nigeria where more than half of the population are young people.

It is therefore important to involve young people in the development of the Nations economic blue print (NEEDS II) which

will drive Government's policies and economic strategies in the next four years.

GOAL:

To ensure young people's participation and input into the development of the Second National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS II)

OBJECTIVES

1. To bring together youth experts from across Nigeria to discuss the challenges and priorities of young people and to develop an agenda for youth inclusion in Needs 2 development processes.
2. To publish and widely disseminate the thoughts of young people on NEEDS and advocate the inclusion of youth issues into NEEDS II by Mid April 2007

ACTIVITY/ STRATEGY

1. 2-day youth expert meeting: This meeting will be a forum for youth leaders to come together to discuss the concerns, challenges and priorities of young people in Nigeria in order to evolve an agenda to ensure the integration of youth issues into NEEDS II . Experts from the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, the National Planning Commission, the Millennium Development Goals office in Nigeria, the World Bank and other relevant institutions will also be invited to present papers on youth issues that will provide the youth experts with background materials and information to work with during the 2 day meeting.
2. At the end of the 2-day youth expert meeting, an advocacy document will be developed and shared with as many youth organisations/networks as possible so as to subject the draft document to wider review.
3. Relevant comments will be incorporated into the draft document and the final document will be submitted to the National Planning Commission and used as an advocacy instrument for youth inclusion in the NEEDS II process.
4. Publishing and dissemination: The final advocacy document which is an outcome of the 2 day expert meeting will be published and widely disseminate to various stakeholders

5. Targeted Policy Advocacy: The expert group members will pay advocacy visits to targeted policy makers in the NEEDS II development process particularly the chairman of NPC and the minister of Finance

STRATEGY

The advocacy document will be developed by asking these four questions in relation to youth development in Nigeria:

- a. Where we are (the prevailing position, circumstances, rules, regulations, factors etc affecting current position/performance)
- b. Why we are where we are
- c. Where we want to be (the preferred state)
- d. What strategy and actions must be taken to improve youth development

TIMELINE

ACTIVITY	DATE	COMMENTS
Identify and invite youth participants for the 2day expert meeting	March 28- March 30, 2007	
Invite stakeholders for presentation at the 2day meeting	March 28- March 30 2007	
Hold a 2day youth expert meeting	April 5 and 6 2007	
Widely distribute draft advocacy paper and call for comments and reviews	April 7-10 2007	
Finalise advocacy document	April 10 2007	
Pay advocacy visit to the Chairman of National Planning Commission to discuss on the meeting outcome and advocacy document	April 10 and 11, 2007	
Distribute the published advocacy document to relevant stakeholders	April 12- April 30, 2007	

BUDGET

N	Item	Unit Cost(Naira)	Total Cost in Naira	Remarks
1	Transportation cost for 15 persons	20,000	300,000	
2	Hire meeting room for 2 days	15,000	30,000	
3	Accommodations for 15 persons for 2 days	6,000	120,000	
4	Meals (2 coffee breaks +Lunch) for 2 days	750	45,000	
5	Per Diem for breakfast and Dinner for 2 days	2,000	60,000	
6	Stationary + Documentation		10,000	
7	Cost of internet access during review of draft advocacy document from the meeting + computer printing costs for 3 days	2,000	6,000	
8	Time costs for 2 volunteers to collect input from stakeholders for 3 days	2,000	12,000	
9	Printing of 1000 copies of Youth advocacy document on NEEDS II	110	110,000	
10	Postage Cost of 500 copies of advocacy document	120	60,000	
11	6 Days accommodation costs for 2 Project Facilitators	6,000	72,000	Facilitators will remain in Abuja to finalise advocacy

				document and pay visit to key stakeholders in the NEEDS II development process to present youth advocacy report
12	Meals for 2 project Facilitators for 6 days	3,000	36,000	
13	Communication + Internal Transport Costs for 10days	3,000	30,000	
		TOTAL	891,000	

Budget Total: Eight Hundred and Ninety One Thousand Naira only (N891, 000)