

## Consultation Youth Strategy Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Input by Amref Flying Doctors, with inputs from Amref Health Africa Senegal, Kenya (Y-ACT) and Uganda

We welcome the initiative by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop a Youth Strategy that recognizes youth as key priority in its Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation policy, and are happy to contribute to its drafting.

The answers below were formulated with inputs from the Amref Health Africa country offices of Senegal, Uganda and Kenya (Youth in Action project), and are categorized accordingly to reflect context-specific information.

At the bottom of the document, some additional factsheets, reports and scorecards are attached for your information.

*Question 1: If you look at the 3 regions that we focus on (MENA, Horn of Africa, Sahel) – can you mention specific trends per region which are relevant for the strategy. Are there, for example, specific sectors where there is much to be gained? Or specific skills that young people lack in a certain region or sector?*

### **Senegal**

In Senegal, the specific sectors where there is much to be gained, are considered to be: *Agriculture, ICT services, solar energy, waste management, access to water, and access to health services.*

It is noted that young people lack skills specifically due to *poor quality of low- and mid-level education that match the needs on the job market, lack of start-up incubators, poor management capabilities, and lack of legislative support in ensuring labor right.*

### **Kenya**

In Sub-Saharan Africa, *skills on scaling up and connecting with partnerships* is needed among the youth. While there are too many youth led platform existing in the region, the *youth often don't have a mechanism or platform for partnerships building*, that enables them to have a common voice on advocacy issues and priorities that matter to them, *for greater impact.*

### **Uganda**

*Youth health in Uganda shows the following trends* (according to the demographic and health survey report 2016):

high teenage pregnancy (25 % of youth 15-19 years); an unmet need for family planning in married women and unmarried women age 15-19 of 19.9% compared to and the total demand for FP which was 36%, implying that this age group may not be as keen to delay pregnancy as the general women in child bearing age; 50% of all new infections are occurring among young people 10-24 years of age and majority are girls; also 16.7 % of women and 7.4% men age 15-19 in Uganda who have experienced sexual violence past 12 months was and respectively; substance abuse is high and on the increased especially alcohol, tobacco and other highly intoxication substances such as cannabis; health services are generally not designed to address youth issues i.e. the infrastructure and the health worker's skills are lacking; gender discrimination is so rampant in many regions where the girls are denied access to education and the boys get favored to stay at school; the continuous domestic violence in peoples' homes has made many children flee their parents and guardians' homes seeking for refugee elsewhere.

*This translated into concrete policy needs for youth health:*

There is need to address the health of young people in a holistic manner i.e SRHR including GBV, teenag pregnancy, substance abuse e.t.c and build capacity of health system – leadership, HRH skills, infrastructure, quality to provide these services and demand creation; Their is need for innovative financing that allows unemployed youth access services but also incentivize the health system to address youth issues; a supportive environment needs to be created to organize, educate and enable people who influence to adress the health issues among youth. These influencers can include; Adolescent led Friendly Health Services (AFHS), Male Action Groups (MAGs) and Alliance for Parents, Adolescents and Community for Adolescent Health; Promote use of data in planning and use in diecision making and resource allocation; Address the health of girls with boys as supporters; Address harmful practices and dangers like; GVB, teenage pregnancies and child protection , forced work, toxic stress, early marriage.

*Trends and indicators in response to education in Uganda*

([https://uganda.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/YoungPeople\\_FactSheet%20%2811%29\\_0.pdf](https://uganda.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/YoungPeople_FactSheet%20%2811%29_0.pdf)):

High school dropout rates is as at 22% as children have to support families at home in with domestic chores, or to support family income as well as early teenage pregnancy and marriage for girls; In terms of management in the education sector, according to the Gender in Education Strategic Plan 2015-2020, there is gender disparity between teachers with male teachers dominating in roles of leadership and decision making which do not effectively reflect women's input in matters of prioritization and investments; Education in the early stages does not build employable skills or job creation opportunities; Many children are forced to work instead of attending school especially those coming from poverty sticken families and often rely on children to supply extra income; Prolonged exposure to high levels of stress from trauma, violence, neglect or deprivation causes toxic stress and can have devastating physical and psychological consequences for children. Trauma affects their ability to learn and their ability to stay in school, which is very common in extended families.

*This translates in clear policy needs of education:*

Provode Vocational Education and Skills Training to all school going youth and school dropouts to enable young people to make a smooth transition from school to decent employment; Advocating for increased budget allocations and financing of the education sector to at least 16% of the national budget; Advocating for provision of free sanitary pads by government for adolescents (10-19 years) in schools; Advocating for increased transition, retention and completion rates for girls in schools; Advocating for the review of UPE policy, USE policy to address the gender specific needs for girls; Advocating for improved teachers skills, welfare, exposure, remuneration and motivation (including housing facilities, upgrades and retooling); Advocating for female youth representation in school decision making bodies; Advocating for enforcement of the 1/3 representation of women on school management committees; Reform technical and vocational education and training systems to make them more practical; Expedite curriculum review and or include more practical education modules since institutions of learning including BTVET are largely theoretical; Provide infrastructure to facilitate practical education as many of the secondary and BTVET institutions are running below capacity; Intensify career coaching at many levels of education including primary, secondary and higher institutional level.

*Trends and indicators for employment:*

According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2017 based on the National Population and Housing Census 2014, 19.7 percent of the youth aged 18-30 were not working. This includes those who were looking for work, not working and not looking for work, involved in household chores, full time students and those who are too young to work; Many youth do not have employable skills.

*Policy needs related to employment:*

Create markets targeting youth products; Promote Foreign and local Direct Investment (FDI) targeting youth led entrepreneurship; Ensure investments also target to skill and employ Ugandan youths; Allow eligible youth to be part of Investment debates/discussions and decision making;

Support enterprise development and sustainability by establishing programs that provide entrepreneurship training, business development, incubation and workspace support to youth; Support mechanization of agriculture and reduce taxes on agricultural inputs or subsidized rates for youth; Encourage commercial large scale agriculture through deliberate programs targeting youths; Equipping the youth with skills to start, manage and operate their own businesses; Career guidance should be given to students earlier on in their schooling to tap into their skills and help steer them on a career path; Advocating for a new standard for work experience for students across the variety of industries. This will broaden their minds on the opportunities available and help them with a well-rounded sense of direction for their career path; Providing an enabling environment for private sector investment to create jobs for youths; Equipping youth with requisite knowledge and skills to suite the labour market; Partnership with cultural and religious institutions to promote abandonment of harmful practices including child marriage.

Overall specific skills that are currently a challenge for youth in Uganda: The youth need to be equipped with life and survival skills, that support youth in “how to make it without running to the city”?. Those skills are considered to be: strategic planning – i.e. needs based planning, problem solving based on strength and opportunities; decision making and responsibility; problem solving; financial literacy; community support for working class; Social and personal developmental assets. Those skills should be complemented with entrepreneurial or business skills such as business communication – i.e. articulation of business propositions; tangible assets management; literacy and numeracy skills (notably, the percent who could read with accuracy); self-employment skills; and workplace teamwork and drive.

*Question 2: Do you have examples of successful "scaled up" initiatives / programs in the field of education and work to increase youth employment, and if so, which ones? Or do you know of certain successful initiatives that are worth scaling up in the 3 regions mentioned?*

### **Senegal**

Examples of successful "scaled up" initiatives / programs in the field of education and work to increase youth employment are reflected in *policies for the creation and decentralization of Technical and Professional Schools/Centers and Regional University Centers*, as well as in the *set-up of agencies and Programs for Youth Entrepreneurship/Youth employment*.

### **Kenya**

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance, with support from the World Bank implemented *Kenya Youth Empowerment Project (KYEP)*, Training and Internship component which was aimed at providing the selected youth with relevant work experience and skills through training and work placements in the formal and informal sectors.

The project was successful in placing youth in paid jobs (An average of 75% of the Interns participating in the project ended up securing employment (wage or self) while approx. 10% went for further skills development).

More information can be found here: <https://kepsa.or.ke/kyep/>

### **Uganda**

1. The following programs have been recommended for Uganda:
2. The African Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (AYEDI)'s non-formal education (NFE) is a program in Uganda where adolescents learned market-based trade skills from accredited vocational institutes or community master artisans. The training is created to assist trainers of the NFE program to provide and structure non-formal skills

training programs for competency-based vocational training delivery AYEDI Non-Formal Education Training Guide: <https://bantwana.org/resource/ayedi-non-formal-education-training-guide/>

3. The UNFPA Youth Enterprise Model (YEM) 2.0 targets young people at all levels, including the most vulnerable refugee youth, in order to achieve inclusive development and maximize all young entrepreneurs' potential is fulfilled. YOUTH Enterprise model is funded by David and Lucile Packard Foundation and implemented by UNFPA in partnership with Communication for Development Foundation Uganda. The project has trained 50 small medium enterprises, 23 institutions, 27 health facilities and 6 financial institutions on youth friendly service delivery to young people in enterprises.
4. Youth in Action Program in partnership with The Mastercard Foundation: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/youth-action-program-uganda> The Mastercard Foundation, aimed at improving the socio-economic status of out of school young people. In Uganda, The Youth in Action programme started in September, 2012 with the target of realizing the aspirations of 11,050 youth. Through the development of youth's foundational skills and entrepreneurship skills, they are empowered youth to make informed entrepreneurship pathway choices for the future. 3/5 youth reported high levels of financial literacy, 90% of the youth work as compared to 64% before YiA. Youth's daily income nearly doubled in Rwenzori region.
5. The connect to implement Project: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/08/04/empowering-ugandas-youth-to-be-job-creators>
6. Enterprise Uganda a local entrepreneurial development agency in partnership with The prince's Youth Business International seeks to push for comprehensive enterprise development solutions to combat unemployment currently victimizing the young population. The organization trained over 30,000 youth in business since 2007.
7. Social innovation academy (SINA) encourages social entrepreneurship amongst youth. It recruits candidates with innovative ideas which when implemented would have high impact through a rigorous process. The selected are trained in social entrepreneurship, strategic management, pitching and some winners are awarded seed capital

*Question 3: Do you have specific ideas or additions about how we can make young people part of this policy? How do we ensure that they participate in the implementation of this strategy? Specific ideas or additions about how we can make young people part of this policy?*

### **Senegal**

Youth in Senegal can best be engaged by means of: *Youth Parliament; promotion models that involve consultation and hearings focused on Youth; Innovative systems of youth orientation, talent and skills detection among Young people; Information and orientation/guidance centers where youth are 'responsibilized'*. It is also deemed important to *recruit and train youth for the management of those initiatives* to ensure that information about means to engage reaches the youth.

### **Kenya**

*Participation in the implementation of this strategy has to be deliberately tracked and documented.* In most cases, youth are involved in policy making without being able to show clear benefits of how youth involvement makes the policy process or policy outcome better. At Y-ACT, Youth in Action, we have developed a score-card that can be replicated to support the

documentation of meaningful youth engagement in policy processes, through a joint process by policy makers and the youth. See attachment.

### **Uganda**

*Guided Youth leadership* is critical to participation. This can be achieved by *mentorship from senior practitioners*, but also by *support what the youth are passionate at doing as long as it fulfills the objectives of education and employment*. To make youth part of the Strategy, it is important to *include youth from the start, keep them informed, hold them accountable on their promises, and involving them in decision making*. Support the youth to be *key stakeholders at all levels in mobilization and dissemination of information*. When consulting with youths in our network: “Nothing for the youth without the youth, one of them said.” Furthermore we believe it is important to *pick and amplify the unheard voices, in order to generate a fair representation of youth issues in policy and decision-making processes*.

### **Question 4: Anything else you feel is worth mentioning?**

Africa is the youngest and fastest growing continent in the world – with 70% of its population below the age of 30. It is estimated that by 2030, 1.68 billion people will be living on the continent. This accounts for an increase of 42% compared to 2015 (source: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/trends/Population2030.pdf>). Youth is an important population to invest in, as any investment in youth is an investment in the future. This change in demographic dividend demands rejuvenating policy and innovate solutions to guarantee accessible and inclusive economic, social and political participation. It also demands new ideas of power dynamics and equity.

The continent bursts with energy, creativity, and potency. To stimulate the chances and opportunities of this young generation, it is important to invest in a future in which young people can develop to their full potential. Good health forms the basis for a healthy and productive society, and with this the basis for a healthy and strong continent. This request investments in education and employment, and beyond.

### **Senegal**

It is important to advocate strongly on influencing policies for *adequation of education/training that matches the demands of the labor market*.

Furthermore, besides education and employment, there are other trends that affect youth in Senegal: *migration, early marriages, and sexual and reproductive health and rights* in order for youth to finish their education and make an informed decision about if, when, and with whom to have children. Without addressing those pressing issues, it will be hard for youth to find themselves in the position where they can access, attend and complete school, as well as meaningfully engage on the job market to contribute to their family's, society's and country's economic development.

### **Kenya**

The policy should ensure that *the needs of the youth in marginalized regions and key populations are included in the implementation of the program*. Making the voice of youth heard in policy- and decision-making at all levels, to guarantee effective plans that meet the needs and opportunities of young Africans. This also regards the voices of the rural, often unheard, youth.

Furthermore, besides education and employment, there are other aspects in life that will spur the youth agenda: *Ending sexual and gender based violence affecting the youth, investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights for the youth, and other aspects of economic empowerment, beyond employment e.g entrepreneurship and innovation and technology.*

### ***Uganda***

There is need to *interest youth in health service delivery* (making them be providers rather than beneficiaries), *agriculture and tourism sectors*. This also requires investments in young entrepreneurs to develop local innovative solutions for local challenges.

Furthermore, besides education and employment, there are other factors that influence the ability of youth to participate in Ugandan society, namely good health (especially sexual and reproductive health & mental health).

**Additional information to inform the consultation for the Youth Strategy for the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
*Click on sources to get access to the documents*

**Overall**

*capability statement available on request*

As we pursue lasting health change in Africa, Amref believes the ambition of a great Africa must be anchored in our youth. We will therefore continue to focus on young people and harness their energy, creativity, innovation and numbers. Similarly, to grow and sustain African economies and improve living standards, youth must play a central role. This will require increased investment in developing their diverse capacities, supporting their entrepreneurial prowess and creating a 'youth-friendly' policy environment. Read our Capability Statement to learn more on how we do this by e-mailing: [Milou.lustermans@amref.nl](mailto:Milou.lustermans@amref.nl)

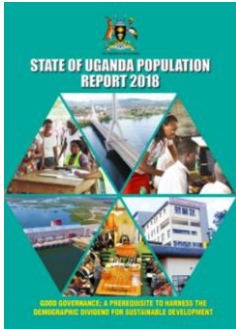
**Kenya**



Meaningful Youth Engagement scorecard developed by Youth in Action ('Y-ACT'), a youth-led program focusing on the voice, skills and participation of youth advocates to influence youth policy and resource priorities in the areas of gender equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at national, sub-national and grassroots levels in Kenya.

The scorecard functions as a measurement tool for youth engagement in policy making specifically, and is used by youth across Africa to collaborate with government officials.

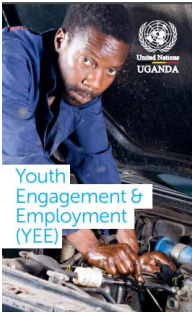
**Uganda**



This report talks about the state of the Uganda population and mentions about issues of youth and employment



This is a national labour force survey. It bears statistics on youth employment.



This is a UNDP brief on youth engagement and employment

**Senegal**

- Sectoral Policy of Youth Employment
- Policy Documents on Education Reforms and Training
- Policy Documents on Adolescents and Youth Health