

# **UGANDA NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

**Theme: "Unlocking youth potential for sustainable wealth creation and development."**

## **Popular Version**

**Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development**

**September, 2016**

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## 1.0 FOREWORD

The Government of Uganda recognises the vital role that youth play in national development. Government is also fully aware that the youthful population in this country presents an exceptional potential with energy, talent and creativity for development.

However, for effective utilisation of these potentials and creativity, there is need to properly channel the youth in constructive activities. The needs, desires and ambitions of the youth require to be directed for effective contribution to Uganda's transformation from a peasant to a developed economy.

It is against this background that my Ministry, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) revised the National Youth Policy 2001 to guide different stakeholders in provision of quality services to the youth to enable them enhance their competencies for improved participation in the national development. This revised National Youth Policy clearly outlines the objectives, guiding principles, core programme areas and implementation framework.

I am deeply honoured to present to you the popular version of the Uganda National Youth Policy 2016 that will be useful in guiding different stakeholders in provision of quality services to the youth to enable them enhance their competencies for improved participation in the national development.

This popular version of the Uganda National Youth Policy is aimed at increasing access to information contained within the revised National Youth Policy in a more user friendly manner especially for the youth, and allow them to hold to hold respective leaders accountable in line with Government of Uganda commitment in the revised Policy. I am optimistic that this popular version will popularise the revised National Youth Policy among key stakeholders including Members of Parliament, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the National Youth Council and other Youth Leaders, Youth focused Civil Society Organisations, Development Partners, youth and any other persons that may seek information on the NYP.

I wish to applaud the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) who spearheaded the development and production of this Popular Version of revised National Youth Policy.

My sincere appreciation goes to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) with who have provided financial and technical support the development of this popular version.

I urge all stakeholders to utilise the opportunity presented by this revised National Youth Policy and this Popular version. I believe that the youth shall utilise this policy to demand for effective service delivery from the varied stakeholders.



**JANAT B. MUKWAYA (HAJAT)**

**MINISTER FOR GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## Background

The Government of Uganda has reviewed the National Youth Policy of 2001 in order to address the emerging youth issues and outline priority areas of concern, in line with current and anticipated development challenges faced by the youth. The revised policy; Uganda National Youth Policy 2016 (NYP) highlights appropriate objectives, strategies, principles, priority strategic areas, implementation framework, and monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

The revised NYP reiterates the commitment of government, as espoused in the National Development Plan 2016-2020 (NDPII), to undertake systematic youth programming through a multi-sectoral strategy involving relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, development partners, private sector, civil society organisations, communities and the youth.

The revised policy targets all persons aged 15 to 30 years and recognises that youth are a heterogeneous group. It also contains provisions that address the specific and special needs of the different youth categories.

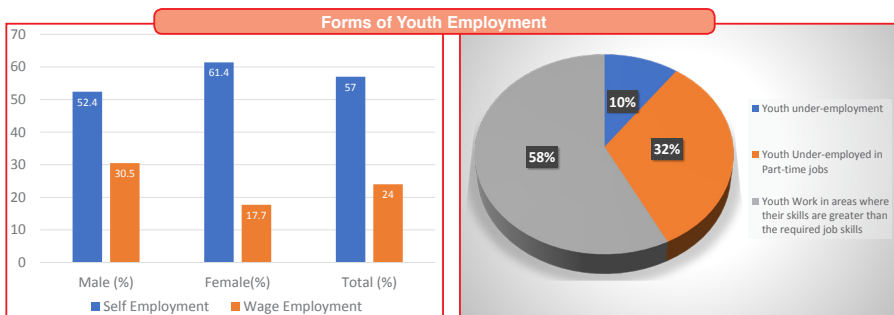
## Situational Analysis

Uganda's population grew from 16.7 million in 1991 to the current 34.6 million people today. The youth population (18-30 years) currently constitutes a significant proportion of the total population (22.5%). The youth population was estimated to grow from approximately 3.7 million in 1991 to 7.7 million in 2014, out of which 53.4% are females and 46.6% are males.

## Poverty and Employment

The poverty situation in Uganda improved from 56.4% in 1992/3 to 19.7% in 2014/15 (MoFPED, 2014). According to the Youth Employment Report produced by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in 2012, the number of youth in the labour force bracket were found to be 4.4

The National Action Plan for Youth Employment (NAPYE), estimates that the youth share of unemployment in Uganda is at 53.4%. The vast majority of employed youth live in rural areas, with at least 70% mainly engaged in agriculture (UBOS, 2012).



Source: The National Development Plan 2016-2020 (NDPII)

million of which about 3.5 million (or 80%) were rural based. Of these, 51% are female while 49% are male.

## Entrepreneurship

Youth who wish to undertake entrepreneurship face obstacles to successful business management which include; low qualities of education, lack of entrepreneurial skills, limitations in access to affordable financial services, preference to formal employment as a career path of choice, lack of collateral/security and negative perceptions that the poor cannot manage funds, among others.



## Education and Training

The education sector is still marred by a number of challenges. NDP II flags the inadequate quantity and quality of the human resources as one of the seven major constraints to national development. For instance, with UGX 2 trillion of government spending FY 2015/16 dedicated to education, Uganda was still dwarfed by regional counterparts.

Overall, only about 3 million of the 11 million working persons do have an essential trade or skill for the labour

The current education curriculum does not adequately equip youth with relevant skills, thus causing a costly mismatch between the skills provided in training institutions and the labour markets. Supposedly practical courses like agriculture and entrepreneurship taught in secondary schools are still theoretical hence a secondary school dropout lacks skills to initiate and invent.

market (UNHS 2012/13). The sector also still grapples with the challenge of inclusion of students with special needs. The infrastructure in majority of the schools is not adapted to meet the needs of these students. Assistive devices for such students are also very expensive making it difficult for many of them to access and own them. Majority of human resource in the sector do not have the relevant skills to handle students with disability making it difficult for them to be fully included. Furthermore, there is inadequate deliberate investment in business and vocational training to equip young people with relevant market driven skills.



## Health

Although the quality of life has improved in Uganda in the recent years, there are still significant issues that affect the health of the youth. Deficits in the number of personnel also affects health service delivery to the population in addition to other issues including inadequate funding for youth-friendly health services; low perception of risky sexual behaviours; break down of traditional norms and values; alcohol, substance and drug abuse. Only 10% of the health facilities in Uganda provide

youth-friendly health services (UDHS, 2011).

### Youth and HIV/AIDS

The increase in HIV prevalence rate from 6.4% to 7.3% among 15-to-49 year old Ugandans threatens to undermine gain Uganda recorded in the early 1990s. According to (UAIS 2011) majority of HIV infections occur in the population segment between ages 15 and 49 years. Actual HIV infection rates in the 15 to 24 year age range vary between 3.7% to 6.4% among females and 1.5% to 2.9% among males. Among young people aged between 12 and 24 years, females are at a higher risk of infection than their male counterparts. Indeed, up to 570 Ugandan girls aged 15 – 24 get infected every week (UAC, June 2014). However, after age 24, males are more at risk of becoming infected with HIV than are females (MOH, 2011).

Percentage of women age 15-19 who have had a live birth or who are pregnant with their first child, and percentage who have begun childbearing, by background characteristics, Uganda 2011

Background characteristic	Percentage of women age 15-19 who:		Percentage who have begun childbearing	Number of women
	Have had a live birth	Are pregnant with first child		
<b>Age</b>				
15	0.7	0.9	1.6	480
16	5.0	3.5	8.5	414
17	13.1	7.7	20.8	367
18	28.3	9.1	37.4	417
19	48.7	8.8	57.6	370
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	16.6	4.8	21.4	395
Rural	18.4	6.0	24.4	1,652
<b>Region</b>				
Kampala	15.3	6.3	21.6	190
Central 1	17.1	2.0	19.1	230
Central 2	17.5	5.1	22.6	199
East Central	23.6	7.0	30.6	202
Eastern	24.5	5.8	30.3	318
Karamoja	11.5	18.2	29.7	65
North	17.5	8.2	25.6	181
West Nile	19.7	6.6	26.4	127
Western	17.3	5.3	22.6	288
Southwest	11.1	3.4	14.6	249
<b>Education</b>				
No education	29.9	14.6	44.5	60
Primary	20.9	6.0	26.9	1,327
Secondary+	11.4	4.4	15.8	661
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	24.0	10.4	34.4	316
Second	24.9	7.9	32.8	346
Middle	20.0	4.3	24.3	368
Fourth	14.1	5.0	19.1	481
Highest	12.5	3.3	15.8	537
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>2,048</b>

Source: UDHS 2011

### Youth Participation in Decision Making

Effective youth participation is about creating opportunities for the youth to be actively involved in designing, shaping, and influencing policy development and implementation processes. The Government of Uganda has put in place legal and institutional frameworks to ensure participation and involvement of the youth in decision making and national development.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 provides for representation of the youth in the national parliament. The National Youth Council Act, Cap 319 established the Youth Council structures from village to national level to provide channels through which youth engage in development process. The Local Government Act of 1997 also provides for representation of the youth in all Local Government Council structures. Civil society organizations and other non-state actors provide alternative spaces for youth participation.

Despite the above mechanisms, the level of youth participation remains significantly low and it is paramount that strategic interventions are instituted to promote more meaningful youth participation in decision making and management consistent with the asset-based approach to youth development.

## Youth access to Information, Communication and Technology

Youth access to and use of ICTs in Uganda is still insufficient, and this is attributed to numerous factors namely disadvantage in financial, educational and/or cultural resources; inadequate ICT infrastructure; and low literacy levels; among others and as the coverage and use of ICT increases in the country there is need for guidance and mentorship on proper usage.



## Sports and Recreation

The realization of the full potential of the sports sector in Uganda is constrained by several factors including limited funding and inadequate facilities and equipment; inadequate data; poor infrastructure, facilities and space at all levels especially outside the education sector. Uganda needs to engage, challenge and empower its youth through the provision of proper sports infrastructure, equipment and opportunities and promotion of Uganda's visual and performing arts.

## Culture

The youth engage in risky and anti social behaviours such as crime, illicit sex, drug and substance abuse, due to contact with retrogressive foreign lifestyles and pornographic material which have been exacerbated by a decline in positive traditional practices that promoted proper socialisation and engagement of youth in productive activities.

Some of the cultural practices in Uganda hamper social-economic development of the youth. These include early marriage and female genital mutilation, bride wealth and cattle rustling impinge on the rights of youth, especially the girl child.

## Gender

The extent to which young girls and women are affected by many of the challenges faced by youth can be significantly heightened by two factors: (a) gender biases and discrimination faced in educational, cultural and political contexts as well as in the labour market, and (b) access to health services and in the private sphere. Young women may face a broader range of obstacles preventing them to actively engage in the public sphere.

**The Constitution of Uganda guarantees equality as well as protection of women and girls rights.**

## Youth with Disabilities

Youth With Disabilities (YWDs) in Uganda face extreme conditions of poverty, limited opportunities to access education, health, employment opportunities and decent housing. There is need for improved efforts to make the physical environment more accessible, providing information in a variety of formats, and challenging misconceptions about the YWDs.



## Youth and Agriculture

In spite of the importance of agriculture to Uganda's economy, the sector struggles with a myriad of challenges. Low national sector budgets, poor economic returns, labour intensiveness, limited access to inputs such as land, machinery, credit and extension services etc. The nature of our education system trains youth for white collar jobs as opposed to involvement in agribusiness hence a large number of young people are migrating to urban areas in search of jobs disregarding opportunities in agricultural production and business.



## Youth and Environment

Although the youth benefit from environment as a source of income, Uganda's high population growth rate of 3.0% per annum (UBOS 2016; The National Population and Housing Census 2014 Main Report, has put enormous pressure on natural resources, with increased demand for fuel and energy negatively impacting the environment.

## 2.0 RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY

The development of a country is dependent on the active participation of its citizens. The youth constitute a resource of tremendous potential and they can propel Uganda into a middle income country if invested into.

The Ugandan National Youth Policy (2016) is premised on the need to address a range of challenges that the youth face in the development process as well as harness their potential to contribute to national development. It provides a basis for holistic integration and inclusion of the youth in Uganda's development while appreciating the current impact of globalisation and its associated advantage and disadvantages.

It also reflects Government's preparedness to meet needs, interests and aspirations of the youth in line with NDP II, the Constitution of Uganda, regional and international obligations that the country ascribes to.

The Policy reiterates the commitment of the entire Government to a multi-sectoral and systematic youth programming for provision of quality services. It further provides a framework for all stakeholders to empower the youth to utilize their potential by taking advantage of the available opportunities.

## 3.0 LEGAL, POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This policy is anchored within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, other national laws, regional and international instruments that promote empowerment of the youth as ratified by Uganda.

## 4.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Uganda National Youth Policy (2016) is guided by the following principles; Non-discrimination, Inclusion and Participation, Gender Inclusiveness, Innovativeness and Adaptability, Multi-sectoral Collaborations, Good Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.

## 5.0 VISION, GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

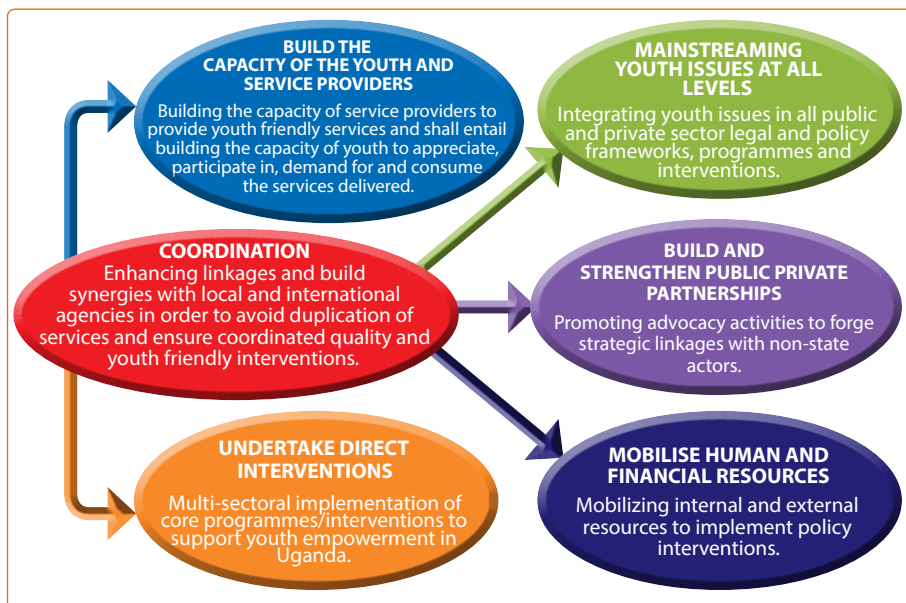
**Vision:** An empowered, industrious, inclusive and prosperous youth population.

**Goal:** To provide a framework for harnessing the full potential of the youth for improved productivity and equitable socio-economic and political development.

### Objectives

- i. To improve youth accessibility to quality services.
- ii. To enhance the productivity and employability of youth for sustainable livelihood.
- iii. To promote equitable participation in decision-making processes that impact on youth and community at all levels.
- iv. To promote effective coordination and programming of youth interventions at all levels.

### Strategies



## 6.0 PRIORITY AREAS



### Sustainable livelihoods, Employment promotion and Enterprise development

The Government of Uganda has prioritized youth employment as a driver for wealth creation and poverty eradication. This policy shall emphasize both wage and self-employment.

### Skills training and entrepreneurship development



Government acknowledges the mismatch between the knowledge acquired in formal education and the skills required in the labour market. Besides, many youth have no formal education or did not complete primary level education. Skills training and entrepreneurial development propels and accelerates socio-economic development. This Policy seeks to promote systematic and sustainable development of skills among youth.

### Youth participation and governance



Good governance and civic responsibility are basic ingredients for national development. Participation of young people in the democratic socio-economic and political development of a nation promotes ownership in the efforts to improve their wellbeing and demand for accountability in service delivery. Government shall pursue an asset-based approach to youth programming because they are a critical resource in solving their own and community challenges.

### Access to resources and services



Government recognizes the importance of improved wellbeing of the young people in this country. It is, therefore, imperative for the youth to access resources and quality services. Priority services and resources in this Policy shall include education, health, Information Communication Technologies (ICT), recreation and sports, agricultural extension services and finance.

### Management coordination and partnerships



This Policy shall be implemented through the National Action Plan for Youth which details strategies, activities, target groups, time frame and the budget lines. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is the main agency and shall spearhead the overall policy implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review, in addition to mobilizing resources necessary for the implementation working in partnership with nongovernmental organisations; the private sector and various youth organisations. Partnerships within the different organisations will play a key role in achieving the policy's objectives.

## 7.0 IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

The implementation of the policy shall utilize a multi-sectoral approach involving Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Local Governments, Development Partners, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Cultural Institutions; Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and Private Sector. With MoGLSD spearheading the implementation, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and review of the policy. Government shall publicize this policy and also put in place an enabling legislation for its implementation.

The successful implementation of the Uganda National Youth Policy depends on mutual cooperation, partnership and solidarity and networking among the various stakeholders as outlined in the following matrix:

Institutions	Responsibilities
Ministry responsible for youth affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be the lead agency in the implementation of the policy.</li> <li>• Establish the structure for coordinating, monitoring and evaluating programmes for youth.</li> <li>• Develop and disseminate guidelines to operationalise the policy.</li> <li>• Collaborate with other stakeholders to ensure mainstreaming of youth in concern in their respective programmes and plans.</li> <li>• Collaborate and network with the stakeholders to promote understanding, guidance, involvement and community support for youth.</li> <li>• Initiate laws and review the existing legislations to address the concerns of the youth.</li> <li>• Develop a National Youth Programme action Plan.</li> <li>• Build the capacity of stakeholders to mainstream youth issues in their policies, programmes and plans.</li> </ul>
Sector Ministries, Departments and Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translate the National Policy for youth into sector-specific strategies and activities;</li> <li>• Build capacity of staff in programming for youth;</li> <li>• Commit adequate resources for implementation of programmes of youth;</li> <li>• Collaborate with the MGLSD on matters of mainstreaming Youth concerns.</li> </ul>
Office of the Prime Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate sector programmes for their impact on youth</li> </ul>

Institutions	Responsibilities
Local Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the local Government development programmes benefit youth;</li> <li>• Monitor mainstreaming of youth concerns in local Governments to ensure services benefit them;</li> <li>• Collaborate with MGLSD on matters of mainstreaming youth issues;</li> </ul>
National Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize Youths to consolidate their role in national development in the economic, social, cultural and educational fields.</li> <li>• Create awareness and civic competence among the youth to protect them against any form of manipulation.</li> <li>• Promote and provide a unified and integrated system through which the youth can communicate and consolidate their ideas and activities.</li> <li>• Lobby and establish channels through which economic and social services and amenities may reach the Youths in all areas of Uganda.</li> <li>• Promote, collaboration networking and partnerships among local and international organizations with similar objects or interests.</li> </ul>
Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate and allocate adequate resources for the implementation of this policy</li> </ul>
Political Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote inclusion of youth in all political party policies, structures, programmes and systems;</li> <li>• Collaborate with Government on matters of mainstreaming youth issues</li> </ul>
Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation of the National Youth Policy.</li> <li>• Establish appropriate institutional/donor coordination mechanisms for ensuring youth' responsiveness of development cooperation;</li> </ul>
Civil Society Organisations and Faith Based Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with MGLSD on matters of mainstreaming youth issues;</li> <li>• Monitor the operationalisation of international instruments on youth;</li> <li>• Participate in Sector Working Groups and local Government planning and budgeting processes to advance the rights of youth;</li> <li>• Develop and implement programmes that address key Policy intervention areas for youth;</li> </ul>

Institutions	Responsibilities
Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide gainful employment to the Youth.</li> <li>• Ensure that corporate policies and practices incorporate concerns of youth;</li> <li>• Ensure that essential products, supplies and services are accessible to youth;</li> <li>• Provide incentives and support Youth entrepreneurship;</li> <li>• Offer internship, apprenticeship and mentoring of youth to enhance their competencies and competitiveness.</li> <li>• Collaborate with MGLSD and other appropriate institutions on matters of mainstreaming of youth concerns</li> </ul>
The Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the dissemination and implementation of the policy;</li> <li>• Appreciate interventions developed to address their concerns;</li> <li>• Uptake projects and programme that contribute to their well-being;</li> <li>• Exhibit good morals and values;</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate policy interventions.</li> </ul>

## 8.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Ministry responsible for youth affairs shall be the lead agency in the monitoring and evaluation of the policy and its implementation.

Monitoring shall be routinely carried out to track progress on the implementation of the policy. Evaluation shall be periodically carried out to assess the impact of the interventions on the lives of the youth.

## 9.0 FINANCING THE POLICY

This policy shall be funded through contributions from Lead Ministry as well as other line Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Local Governments, Development Partners, CSOs, FBOs and Private Sector. Each stakeholder shall identify and integrate youth concerns in their plans, budgets and fund them within their mandate. The funding shall include both basket financing and off budget support.

## 10.0 POLICY REVIEW

The Uganda National Youth Policy shall be reviewed from time to time with a view of making necessary improvements. The review process shall be inclusive involving wide stakeholder consultations and discussions, especially the youth.



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