



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH AND SPORTS  
DEVELOPMENT



# Impact Report: One Year into the Implementation of the Nigeria National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security

SUPPORTED BY:



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# About the NCYPS

The Nigeria Coalition on Youth Peace and Security (NCYPS) is a multi-stakeholder movement of over 1000 organizations comprising of the Nigerian government, youth groups, civil society, private sector and development partners working on YPS. It started as the National Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding in 2016, and was renamed NCYPS in 2019. The overall role of the NCYPS is to provide constant and up-to-date strategic technical advice, coordination and support to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda including the domestication of the UNSCR 2250 and the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) in Nigeria. The duties of the NCYPS includes convening monthly meetings (online and offline) of core stakeholders (government, youth groups, civil society, private sector and development partners), mobilizing technical and financial resources, monitoring and evaluation, and peer learning to support the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Nigeria. The NCYPS is responsible for providing oversight for the work of State Coalitions on YPS. The NCYPS is also responsible for reporting results to the Global Coalition on Youth Peace and Security.

The NCYPS is led by three Co-Chairs drawn from government, civil society and youth groups, with the support of a Steering Committee comprising of youth groups and civil society, helping to drive the work of the NCYPS.

## Steering Committee Member Institutions/Organizations:

1. Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development.
2. Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa.
4. Police Community Relations Committee – Youth Wing.
5. Markengee Touchinglives International Initiative.
6. Youth Advocacy and Health Foundation.
7. Next Generation Youth Initiative International.
8. Centre for Rural Youth Entrepreneurship and Environmental Development.
9. Youth, Peace and Security Network.
10. West Africa Network for Peacebuilding.
11. African Center for Leadership, Strategy and Development.
12. Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center.
13. Center for Democracy and Development.
14. Technoworld Community Foundation.
15. ActionAid
16. National Youth Council of Nigeria.
17. Nigeria Youth Parliament.

# Forward

In an effort to domesticate the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250) on **Youth, Peace and Security**, Nigeria became the first country in Africa and second globally to develop and launch a National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security (NAPYPS).

Since the launch of the Nigeria National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security (NNAPYPS) by the Honorable Ministers of Youth and Sports Development, and Women Affairs, several steps have been taken by the Nigeria Coalition on Youth Peace and Security to ensure a holistic and sustainable implementation of the NNAPYPS.

Notably, a workplan was developed to mobilize resources, engage stakeholders and measure outcomes and impact over a three years period beginning from the end of 2021. Advocacy to the Nigerian government to make budgetary allocations for the implementation of the NNAPYPS and the YPS agenda was also successful. The establishment of the YPS Basket Fund that is managed by the United Nations in Abuja has also been completed with an initial pledge of 400,000 Euros by the European Union. Pre-dissemination of the NNAPYPS and stakeholders mapping has also been concluded in the six selected pilot states as embedded in the

workplan. Strategic engagement of the media to reach over 40 million Nigerians especially young people to create awareness on the NNAPYPS has also been implemented nationally and in pilot states. Activities aimed at building the capacity of youth, civil society and government on YPS, including peer exchanges are on-going. At the sub-national level, two states (Kogi and Nassarawa) have developed and launched their State Action Plans on YPS (SAPsYPS). Eight additional states are at different stages of consultations and development of their strategies and SAPsYPS.

Despite these achievements, there is a huge gap in funding, lack of capacity on YPS by youth and stakeholders, challenges with creating sustainable spaces for youth and civil society to engage, effects of government bureaucracy, and competition from some international and regional actors to promote their interests. These challenges have hampered the holistic implementation of the workplan.

There is an urgent need to address these identified challenges to ensure that the workplan is implemented in a timely manner so that young people in Nigeria are able to co-create with other stakeholders in safe spaces that are well resourced and sustainable. We call on national, regional and international actors to support the process to implement the NNAPYPS and especially through the Nigeria Coalition on YPS to ensure robustness,

inclusivity, and a higher standard of impact helping the youth of Nigeria to escape violence, exclusion and poverty.



**Hajiya Amina Dauran**  
**Co-Chair**  
**NCYPS**



**Theophilus Ekpon**  
**Co-Chair/**  
**Technical Lead**  
**NCYPS**



**Maryam S. Ibrahim**  
**Co-Chair**  
**NCYPS**

# Introduction

Since the return of civilian rule in 1999, Nigeria has undergone a series of security challenges. While the country has at different stages within the last 23 years made progress in its efforts to entrench peace, these efforts have been compromised in recent years by the increasing spate of banditry, kidnapping, terrorism and violent extremism across the different regions. Nigeria's youth demographic is particularly vulnerable to the persistent insecurity.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on **Youth, Peace and Security** that was unanimously adopted on 9 December 2015 brought renewed hope to the search for sustainable frameworks and policies that can provide protection for young people, and at the same time, recognize their important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. In a bid to localize UNSCR 2250 in Nigeria, the Federal Ministry for Youth and Sports Development (FMYSD) in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA), and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) with support from Search for Common Ground (SFCG) launched the UNSCR 2250 in Abuja in October, 2016 to bring attention to the issues of Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). Participants at the launch suggested that the Nigeria Coalition on YPS should be created, and a National Action Plan on YPS should be developed. The Nigeria Coalition on YPS was established and a National Action Plan on YPS (NAPYPS) was

developed and launched. The NAPYPS also derives from the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security and its 10-Year Implementation Plan.

Nigeria's NAPYPS was made possible through the collaboration between the Nigeria Coalition on Youth Peace and Security (NCYPS), the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, the CSDEA and IPCR with support from the Global Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, the European Commission, and the United Nations Population Fund. The process to achieve a NAP on YPS in Nigeria was robust including nine in-person consultations in the form of national conferences, zonal workshops, national validation meetings, and community level focus group discussions to bring together youth groups, civil society, government, security agencies, the media, traditional and religious institutions from communities across the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory. Inputs were also received through over one dozen online consultations and meetings. Several youth and civil society organizations, as well as the AU and ECOWAS sent in written inputs. Notably, these consultations were preceded by a desk review, development of structured instruments, pre-test and validation of the instruments before use.

Subsequently, the draft NAPYPS was subjected to an affirmation meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021 before it was launched by the Honourable Ministers of Youth and Sports Development, and Women Affairs on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2021 during the National Youth Conference that was attended by over 500 young people.



# Structure and Coordination

The Nigeria Coalition on Youth Peace and Security with membership of over 1000 youth organizations is tasked with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the Nigeria National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security (NNAPYPS) and the YPS agenda in Nigeria. A Steering Committee under the leadership of three co-Chairs (one each from government, youth groups and civil society) take key decisions and give direction to the work of the NCYPS. At the sub-national level, State Coalitions on Youth Peace and Security (SCYPS) have also been established especially in pilot states to bring together youth groups, governments, and civil society to work together to ensure coordination and coherence in the implementation of the NPYPS and the YPS agenda in the states.

# Key Achievements and Results

Following the launch of the NNAPYPS, a workplan was developed to implement the NNAPYPS (2021 to 2024). Six pilot states including Abuja, Adamawa, Delta, Kaduna, Oyo, and Plateau were selected for strategic implementation, data collection and measuring of impact. However activities around socialization and capacity development related to the implementation of the NNAPYPS is taking place in all 36 states of Nigeria and Abuja.



Some participants at the dissemination of the National Action Plan on YPS in Kaduna State



A meeting of the National Steering Committee of the Nigeria Coalition in YPS



Some participants at the combined YPS Southern Region consultation in Oyo State



Some stakeholders at the combined YPS Northern Region consultation in Bauchi State

It is important to note that Anambra State was also chosen as a pilot state but implementation was put on hold due to perceived safety and security challenges in the state. In the interim, key stakeholders from Anambra State continue to join forces with their counterparts in Delta State in the areas of capacity development, networking, and dialogues until the decision to continue full implementation of the NAPYPS in Anambra State is reached.



NCYPS co-Chair, Maryam Ibrahim Sani (Middle) with some stakeholders during the dissemination of the National Action Plan on YPS event in Yola, Adamawa State



Some participants at the NNAPYPS Affirmation event in Abuja

As a result of years of advocacy by Civil Society for government to make budgetary allocations for the implementation of the NNAPYPS, the FMYS D made available funding in its 2021 and 2022 budgets which has enabled the Nigeria Coalition on YPS (NCYPS) to begin the implementation of the NNAPYPS in pilot states and nationally. For example, dissemination activities and stakeholders mapping exercises were done in pilot states. State Coalitions on YPS (SCYPS) have also been formed in the pilot states and others. SCYPS with support from the NCYPS and the FMYS D have commenced processes aimed at developing State Action Plans on YPS in pilot states. Also, non-pilot states such as Kogi and Nassarawa states have

completed their SAPsYPS. Kano and Katsina states are in the exploratory stages of developing their own SAPsYPS.

It is worthy to note that the 1<sup>st</sup> High Level Strategy Meeting with Donors on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2022, and Chaired by the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development has led to a generous pledge of an initial 400,000 Euros by the European Union to the YPS Basket Fund managed by the United Nations towards the implementation of the NNAPYPS. It is important to state that it will cost around 3 million Euros to implement the 3 years workplan of the NNAPYPS.

The NNAPYPS pre-dissemination events had an average of 50 participants in each of the six pilot states visited. The stakeholders mapping exercises in all six pilot states had an average of 40 participants that were engaged via Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). The pre-dissemination workshops also afforded stakeholders which comprised of youth groups, civil society, state ministries of youth and sports officials, religious and traditional leaders, security agents, and vigilante groups the opportunity to commence consultations and data gathering towards developing their own State Action Plans on Youth Peace and Security (SAPsYPS). Adamawa, Delta, Kaduna, Oyo, Plateau, and Abuja have also networked before and during the pre-dissemination workshops to form their State Coalitions on Youth Peace and Security to coordinate the implementation of the YPS agenda and the NNAPYPS in their respective states, with a direct reporting link to the NCYPS.

During the pre-dissemination exercises at the pilot states, the NCYPS met with state Commissioners and Directors of youth development, civil



A youth delegate speaking during the combined YPS Northern Region consultation in Bauchi State



Youth and state governments delegates during the combined YPS Southern Region consultation in Oyo State



A youth delegate speaking during the combined YPS Southern Region consultation in Oyo State



Some participants at the 2021 event to Commemorate the 6th Anniversary of the UNSCR 2250 on YPS in Abuja

society and youth groups, and other relevant partners to solicit their commitments for the long-term implementation of the NNAPYPS and the YPS agenda.

Also, the pre-dissemination of the NNAPYPS enabled the NCYPS to strategically engage the media in the pilot states. For example, three print media, two television stations, and one radio station were part of the pre-dissemination events in each of the pilot states. The NCYPS also engaged these media stakeholders in press conferences and interviews. Six live

radio call-in programs, and two television programs that lasted between 45 minutes and one hour to disseminate the NNAPYPS to over 40 million Nigerians were conducted in the pilot states and nationally.

ActionAid who is a member of the Steering Committee of the NCYPS has also supported the engagement of 50 youth leaders from across Kano state in a capacity development workshop on the NNAPYPS and the YPS agenda.



A cross section of participants at the High Level Meeting with Donors and Development Partners on YPS



Some youth delegates during a breakout session at the dissemination of the National Action Plan on YPS in Ibadan, Oyo State



The Honorable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare Chairing the High Level meeting with Donors and Development Partners on YPS in Abuja



Some members of the NCYPS Steering Committee at the dissemination of the National Action Plan on YPS event in Jos, Plateau State



Hajiya Amina Dauran addressing the High Level Meeting with Donors and Development Partners on YPS



Participants at a Focus Group Discussion on Mapping Stakeholders for NAPYPS implementation in Adamawa State



## The Honorable Ministers of Youth and Sports Development, and Women Affairs Launching the NNAPYPS



A cross section of youth and state government delegates during the dissemination of the NNAPYPS in Asaba, Delta State



Some members of the NCYPS Steering Committee during a Radio Call-in-program to disseminate the NNAPYPS at the 89.9 FM in Adamawa State



More pictures from the NNAPYPS Validation event



The Honorable Minister of Youth and Sports Development with some participants at the High Level Meeting with Donors and Development Partners on YPS

The UNFPA has supported the printing of around six thousand (6000) copies of the NNAPYPS document to ensure that stakeholders and especially those with limited or no access to the internet can have readily available hard copies.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has also supported the NCYPS to develop a website to give the coalition the needed visibility and to be able to share its objectives and impact with the general public.



# Challenges

Despite the progress made in the implementation of NAP in Nigeria, there have been several challenges. Firstly, there has been the challenge of safe spaces for youth and civil society to engage as equal stakeholders especially at the sub-national levels. The formation of State Coalitions on YPS to bring together government, youth groups and civil society to collaborate in implementing the NNAPYPS has created spaces for youth engagement. However, there is more to be done to ensure the sustainability of the SCYPS.

The lack of capacity on YPS by all categories of stakeholders including policy makers is a key challenge to the implementation of the NNAPYPS and the YPS agenda that should be addressed urgently. The coalition has already engaged some stakeholders to build their capacity via training workshops. However, there is need to reach more stakeholders with these trainings to ensure the smooth implementation of the NNAPYPS.

Another noticeable challenge is the lack of adequate funding. Despite the financial support from the Nigerian government, and the establishment of the YPS Fund, the challenge of adequate funding to implement the NNAPYPS persists.

Government bureaucracy has also ensured that timelines are not strictly adhered to. This tendency has led to the loss of time and late implementation of activities.

The meddling of some international and regional actors to forcefully promote their interests and those of their in-country partners who are often times disconnected from the NNAPYPS and the YPS agenda in Nigeria is a major challenge that has led to lack of trust in the process by national actors. There is the need to support locally led processes and actors to thrive.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

There has been some progress in the implementation of the NNAPYPS and the YPS agenda in Nigeria. However, this has fallen short of the expected outcomes and impact set out in the three years workplan for the implementation of the NNAPYPS.

The gaps in the implementation of the NNAPYPS are connected with the creation and sustainability of safe spaces for young people and civil society to co-create as equal partners in the process, lack of capacity on YPS, inadequate and timely funding, government bureaucracy, and meddling by regional and international actors to promote their preferred national partners against already established locally driven processes.

For Nigeria to achieve its set goals associated with the implementation of the NNAPYPS and the YPS agenda, the creation and sustainability of safe spaces for youth and civil society to dialogue with the government and other stakeholders must be prioritized.

Stakeholders should be acquainted with the knowledge of the YPS agenda and the NNAPYPS so they can relate it to everyday occurrences around them. Strengthening the capacities of youth and stakeholders on YPS will ensure the effective implementation of the NNAPYPS leading to better outcomes and impact.

The large funding gap should be resolved urgently to ensure that the required resources needed for the YPS Fund to effectively support the implementation of the NNAPYPS workplan is in place before the end of 2024.

There should be continuous engagement and advocacy to political leaders and policy makers to drastically reduce bureaucracy and ensure timely release of government funding. Agreed timelines for the implementation of activities should be adhered to.

Concerned regional and international actors should desist from forcefully promoting their local partners who are in most instances not part of the locally led process to develop and implement the NNAPYPS. Instead, they should partner with the Nigeria Coalition on YPS in a constructive manner to deepen and strengthen the implementation of the NNAPYPS and the YPS agenda in Nigeria.



## CONTACT US

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