



ADAMAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

STATE YOUTH POLICY

2025



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MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS
DEVELOPMENT

TABLE OF CONTENT

Forward:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ii
Acknowledgements:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iii
Executive Summary:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iv
Table of Content:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	v

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND, RATIONALE AND POLICY CONTEXT- 1

1.1 Background to the Adamawa State Youth Policy:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1.2 Rationale for the Development of Adamawa State Youth Policy:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1.3 Demographics of Youth in Adamawa State:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1.4 Youth in the Context of Adamawa State Youth Policy:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1.5 The Policy Development Process:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1.6 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

CHAPTER TWO: ADAMAWA STATE YOUTH POLICY CONTEXT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES - - - - - 6

2.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
2.2 Policy Context:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
2.3 Guiding Principles:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
2.4 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10

CHAPTER THREE: ADAMAWA STATE POLICY VISION, POLICY GOALS AND POLICY TARGET POPULATION - - - - - 12

3.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
3.2 Policy Vision:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
3.3 Policy Mission:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
3.4 Policy Goals:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
3.5 Target Population:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
3.6 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

CHAPTER FOUR: STRATEGIC THRUST 1: UNITY, PEACE AND SECURITY AMONG INDIGINOUS GROUPS

	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
4.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
4.2 Policy Goals:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
4.3 Strategies for Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
4.4 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
4.5 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20

CHAPTER FIVE: STRATEGIC THRUST 2: EMPOWERING YOUTH; FOSTERING A DYNAMIC WORKFORCE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
5.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
5.2 Thematic Focus 1: Education, Capacity-Building, And Skills Development:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
5.3 Policy Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
5.4 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
5.5 Thematic Focus 2: Employment Creation and Entrepreneurship:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
5.6 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
5.7 Thematic Focus 3: Youth in Agriculture:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
5.8 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
5.9 Thematic Focus 4: Youth and ICT:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
5.10 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
5.11 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36

CHAPTER SIX: STRATEGIC THRUST 3: HEALTH AND CULTIVATING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
6.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
6.2 Thematic Focus 1: Health Services and Healthy Behaviour:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
6.3 Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
6.4 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
6.5 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42

**CHAPTER SEVEN: STRATEGIC THRUST 4: FOSTERING YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT: ADVANCING INCLUSIVITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES- 43**

7.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
7.2 Thematic Focus 1: Civic Engagement:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
7.3 Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
7.4 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
7.5 Thematic Focus 2: Political Inclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
7.6 Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
7.7 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
7.8 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49

**CHAPTER EIGHT: THRUST 5: CREATING A SUPPORTIVE AND SAFE
ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH PROMOTION AND PROTECTION- 50**

8.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
8.2 Thematic Focus 1: Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Youths:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
8.3 Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
8.4 Thematic Focus 2: Peace and Security:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
8.5 Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53
8.6 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
8.7 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54

**CHAPTER NINE: STRATEGIC THRUST 6: COLLABORATION FOR YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BUILDING OF EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH
STAKEHOLDERS - 56**

9.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
9.2 Thematic Focus 1: Capacity for Promoting Youth Development Agenda:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
9.3 Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
9.4 Thematic Focus 2: Sustainable Platform for Multi-Sectoral Collaboration:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
9.5 Objectives, Implementing Framework and Strategies:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
9.6 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
9.7 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61

CHAPTER TEN: CLIMATE CHANGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
10.1 Introduction:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
10.2 Climate Change Policy Goals:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
10.3 Strategies for Implementation:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
10.4 Indicators for Monitoring Progress in Policy Implementation:						-	-	65
10.5 Conclusion:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67

FORWARD

In the dynamic landscape of Adamawa State's development, the Youth emerge as the catalysts for transformative change. As we step into a new era, recognizing the indispensable role of our Youth in propelling innovation, fostering growth, and effecting positive change is important. This forward-looking Youth Policy endeavors to craft a comprehensive framework that addresses the different challenges faced by Adamawa State's Youth, such as unemployment, lack of relevant skills, conducive environment for creativity, inclusivity, and skill development.

The policy aims to empower and encourage the engagement of young individuals across various sectors of society in the State to acquire new skills that are relevant to the 21st century economy. It strives to provide meaningful opportunities for all young men and women, including Youth with disabilities, to realize their full potential, both as individuals and as active contributors to the development of the State.

The target groups identified in this policy include young students in tertiary institutions, young women, Youth with disabilities, those involved in criminal activities, talented/gifted Youth, rural Youth, individuals living on the streets, out-of-school young men and women, unemployed and underemployed Youth, young men and women living with HIV/AIDS, and those affected by insurgency.

Our vision is to cultivate an environment where every young person in Adamawa State has equal opportunity to thrive, pursue their ambitions, and actively contribute to the development of our state and nation at large. Envisaging a future where Adamawa Youth possess the skills, knowledge, and resources to succeed in their chosen fields is the essence of this policy.

His Excellency, RT. HON. DR. AHMADU UMARU FINTIRI
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR,
ADAMAWA STATE, Nigeria.

ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

We extend commendations to individuals who played a vital role in overseeing the Policy Formulation Process, specifically acknowledging the leadership of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Adamawa State, Rt. Hon Ahmadu Umar Fintiri, and his Deputy, Her Excellency, Prof. Kaletapwa George Farauta. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in the successful formulation of Adamawa State Youth Policy. This effort makes Adamawa State the third in the entire nation to formulate a State Youth Policy. Their leadership also champion the development of a Youth portal to record vital information about the Youth population across the State. This portal is designed to be a valuable resource for future reference, particularly in matters concerning employment opportunities, palliatives, and the implementation of the quota system. The portal will capture essential details such as local government, area of specialization, gender, age, disability, and hobbies.

Our heartfelt commendations are also directed to the lead consultants, Dr. Lucky Benson and co-consultants, Mal. Mohammed Sirajo Baba and Mr. Michael N. Ngula, whose time and dedication turned imagination into reality during the development of the Adamawa State Youth Policy. Their impact will remain in the hearts of Adamawa State Youths.

Appreciation is expressed to the United Nations Population funds (UNFPA) and participants from Civil Society Organizations for their valuable contributions and support. Special thanks are reserved for members from the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development for effectively coordinating the development process, along with participants from the Line Ministries Departments and Agencies in Adamawa State.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the significant efforts of our Youth and other stakeholders who shared their knowledge in shaping the development of the Adamawa State Youth Policy document.



Mary B. Paninga (Ph.D)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adamawa State Youth Policy stands as an essential initiative undertaken by the government to unlock the potential intrinsic among the Youth population, specifically targeting those aged 15 to 40. Departing from the conventional national age definition, the policy views Youth not merely as a demographic group but as dynamic contributors to the economy and the future leadership of the State. Embracing global best practices, the policy takes a general approach that encompasses education, employment, entrepreneurship, health, and civic engagement. In tandem with the comprehensive approach outlined in the policy, the State government has instituted the development of a robust portal for Youth database. This database serves as an instrumental resource for future reference, particularly in the realms of employment opportunities, palliative measures, and other pertinent areas. By establishing a systematic and accessible database, the government aims to ensure equal opportunities for Youth across the entire State, employing a transparent and equitable quota system. This proactive measure not only facilitates the targeted allocation of resources but also strengthens the effectiveness of policy implementation by providing real-time insights into the specific needs and aspirations of the Youth population. The incorporation of a data-driven approach underscores the government's commitment to precision and inclusivity, aligning with the overarching goals of the Adamawa State Youth Policy. The policy strives to bridge implementation gaps evident in previous iterations and responds adeptly to emerging challenges such as technological advancements, environmental sustainability, and evolving employment patterns. Multisectoral coordination is prioritized to enhance collaboration among local stakeholders and overcoming historical issues of weak execution. Strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ensure accountability, with a focus on Youth participation, recognizing their crucial role not only in advocacy but also in policy implementation. Most importantly, the policy addresses the State's demographics, with young people constituting 46% of the total population. The policy defines "Youth", within the context of Adamawa State, as individuals aged 15 to 40, and 45, a critical parameter for programme eligibility and the provision of services designed to support their full development, empowerment, and participation in societal affairs. Importantly, the commitment to social inclusion and gender equality is evident, with specific emphasis on marginalized groups, including those with disabilities.



HON. YAKUB WALI
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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND, RATIONALE AND POLICY CONTEXT

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE ADAMAWA STATE YOUTH POLICY

There is no single universally agreed definition of the ages of young persons referred to as Youth. Consequently, each organization and country have their own definitions for the ages of Youth. The United Nations, without prejudice to any other definitions given by its Member States, define Youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. In Nigeria, the Youth are those persons between the ages of 15 and 29 years. However, the Adamawa State Youth Policy defines a Youth as an individual between the ages of 15 and 40. These are people who are not only young but are also full of energy and have great desire to put their skills to use so as to accomplish new things that bring positive results. Consequently, they are the backbone of every productive economy and the immediate future leaders of every modern State. They simply need to be modelled, trained and prepared to take over leadership from the older generation at the right time. On the contrary, when the energy and skills of young people are left untapped, they become a problem to a society.

Consequently, programmes and policies that are aimed at active participation of young people in various sectors of nation building, including economy and security, are being emphasized at both national and international levels. It is therefore the recognition of this fact that led to the formulation of the first National Youth Policy (NYP) of Nigeria in 1981. The shortcomings of the policy and the new challenges faced by young people justify the need to review the NYP in Nigeria. Similarly, the whole of the NYP has not been domesticated in Adamawa State. Thus, the need to domesticate the NYP in Adamawa State justifies the development of this policy.

The Adamawa State Youth Policy embodies the government's dedication to harnessing the potentials of Youth in the State. It recognizes that Youth empowerment is an important aspect for sustainable development, social cohesion, and peace in the State. The policy addresses various facets of Youth development, such as education, employment, entrepreneurship, health, and civic engagement. It draws inspiration from international best practices while considering the unique socio-cultural context of Adamawa State. The policy aims to provide a holistic approach to Youth development, encompassing both urban and rural areas, and promoting inclusivity for marginalized groups. Key aspects of the policy include; enhancing education and skill development, creating an enabling environment for job creation and entrepreneurship, improving healthcare access and mental health support, encouraging Youth participation in

decision-making and governance, promoting social inclusion and gender equality. It emphasizes peace building and conflict resolution. Ultimately, Adamawa State Youth Policy stands as a testament to the government's commitment to the well-being, empowerment, and active participation of its Youth in governance.

Additionally, the Adamawa State Youth Policy is underpinned by a commitment to social inclusion and gender equality. It seeks to eliminate discrimination and empower all young people in the State with a special focus on those with disabilities who constitute marginalized groups that face additional barriers to progress.

Given the regional context, the policy also addresses the challenges of insecurity. It places a strong emphasis on peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and the prevention of radicalization among young people in Adamawa State by contributing to the overall stability and security of the State.

1.2 RATIONALE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADAMAWA STATE YOUTH POLICY

The evolution of the NYP over the years reflects a responsive approach to the changing dynamics within the country and the global landscape. Since its inception, the policy has undergone revisions and updates for several compelling reasons. First and foremost, the need for policy revision stems from historical challenges in implementation. Previous iterations encountered issues related to weak and ineffective execution of the NYP. The Adamawa State Youth Policy (ASYP) aims to rectify these implementation challenges by introducing more robust strategies and mechanisms for effective implementation. Recognizing the emergence of new issues impacting a substantial portion of Nigeria's young population, the ASYP seeks to address these contemporary challenges. These issues encompass technological advancements, environmental sustainability, and evolving employment patterns, and the policy aims to provide adaptive responses.

Additionally, the NYP suffered from a lack of formal multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, impeding collaboration among various local stakeholders. The new ASYP prioritizes enhanced coordination and endeavors to establish more efficient mechanisms for cross-sectoral collaboration at the local level. Inadequate monitoring and evaluation of past policy implementations also prompted the need for revision of the NYP. The State policy emphasizes robust monitoring and evaluation processes to track progress and ensure accountability.

Furthermore, the new policy places a significant emphasis on Youth participation. It recognizes that Youth engagement is not only essential for advocacy but also for active involvement in policy implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes. The policy introduces a dynamic approach by specifying a four-year duration for evaluations. This adoptive approach enables regular updates and adjustments based on performance and emerging trends, ensuring that it remains responsive to the evolving needs and aspirations of young population in Adamawa State.

Lastly, the need to domesticate the NYP in Adamawa State is the major rationale for the development of the Adamawa State Youth Policy.

1.3 DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUTH IN ADAMAWA STATE

Based on data provided by the World Bank, Adamawa State has a recorded population of 4,536,948 people. Young people represent 46% of the total population of the State. The State's geographical area covers 36,917.0 square kilometers. These statistics are significant as they offer crucial insights into both the size of the population and the State's geographical expanse. This data is indispensable for various purposes such as governance, resource allocation, and the formulation of policy strategies specific to Adamawa State Youth.

1.4 YOUTH IN THE CONTEXT OF ADAMAWA STATE YOUTH POLICY

Within the context of Adamawa State Youth Policy, "Youth" typically refers to individuals within a specific age of 15 to 40 years or as may require by Adamawa State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development. The State Youth Policies are government initiatives aimed at addressing the unique needs and concerns of young people within Adamawa State.

The definition of "Youth" in a State Youth Policy is important because it determines which individuals are eligible for various programmes, services, and benefits designed to support their development, empowerment, and participation in social, economic, and political life. This age range is chosen based on considerations of education, employment, civic engagement, and other factors that are relevant to young people's lives and needs within the specific context of the State.

1.5 THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Consultative and participatory approaches were used in the development of Adamawa State Youth Policy. This is to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are given the opportunity to participate and get involved in the making of the State Youth Policy. Consequently, a diverse range of stakeholders that include Youth and Youth-led organizations, Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) among other critical stakeholders were involved in the making and development of Adamawa State Youth Policy. The process unfolded through several key steps, underscoring its inclusivity and transparency.

1. **Terms of Reference (TOR):** a team of experts were contracted to develop a robust Terms of Reference (TOR). The developed TOR was used to write Adamawa State Youth Policy. The TOR commences with a succinct title and an initial section that provides context and rationale for the proposed Youth Policy in the State. It then proceeds to delve into the policy's background, objectives, and scope. It meticulously breaks down objectives into precise measurable components. The methodology section outlines the approaches and procedures employed to get the job done.

The TOR was advertised for experts who have the capacity and know-how of policy development to apply. Many applications were received from different consultants and the best and the most qualified consultants were selected and given the job to write the first draft of the State Youth Policy with the major aim of domesticating the NYP in Adamawa State.

- 2.1 **First Consultative and Validation Meeting with Stakeholders:** The process commenced with two rounds of consultative meetings, of which the first was scheduled on the 13th of November, 2023. This process involved engaging key stakeholders who play significant roles in Youth-related matters. The major stakeholders included members Youth workers, Youth mentors, NGOs among other relevant individuals or groups with expertise and interests related to Youth issues. The major activity here was the presentation of an outline as well as the first draft of the Adamawa State Youth Policy to the stakeholders for input and feedback.

- 2.2 **Second Consultative and Validation Meeting with Stakeholders:** A second consultative meeting with key stakeholders was held on 23rd November, 2023 where an improved, clean draft of Adamawa State Youth Policy was presented to the aforementioned stakeholders for yet another input and feedback. Comments, observations as well as contributions from the stakeholders were taken, noted and responded to before producing the second draft of

Adamawa State Youth Policy. The second draft was presented to Adamawa State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development for final input and feedback. It was after these processes that the final clean copy of the draft policy was produced and presented to the Director, Adamawa State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development.

3. **Development of First Draft Policy Document:** After an extensive consultative session, observations and input from the major stakeholders, the first draft of Adamawa State Youth Policy was improved and then formulated. This draft served as the foundational document for Adamawa State Youth Policy development.
4. **Other Stakeholders Feedback:** To ensure comprehensive input and feedback, the draft of the Adamawa State Youth Policy was circulated widely among major stakeholders. It was made accessible to State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Ministry of Labour and Productivity, State Planning Commission, Youth Representative from different Local Governments, MDAs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and other interested parties.
5. **Government Approval and Launch:** Following its adoption by a wide array of stakeholders, the policy underwent formal government approval processes. Subsequently, the policy was officially launched and ready for implementation in the State.

1.6 CONCLUSION

The development of the Adamawa State Youth Policy is driven by the recognition of changing dynamics and challenges faced by young people. It addresses historical implementation issues, introduces adaptive strategies for contemporary challenges that aim to rectify the shortcomings of other past policies that excluded Youth in Adamawa State. The policy is responsive to issues like technological advancements, environmental sustainability, and evolving employment patterns. Demographic data highlights the significant Youth population in Adamawa State (46% of the total population). The policy defines "Youth" as individuals aged between 15 and 40, crucial for programme eligibility. The consultative development process involved key stakeholders, multiple rounds of feedback, and experts' input. The final policy emphasizes inclusivity, transparency, and responsiveness to Youth needs.

CHAPTER TWO

ADAMAWA STATE YOUTH POLICY CONTEXT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The development and implementation of the State Youth Policy in Adamawa State are deeply embedded in a broader policy landscape that reflects both national and international dimensions. This chapter sheds light on the policy context within which the State Youth Policy operates, outlining the various State, National policies and development agenda that shape its direction and objectives. Furthermore, it highlights key international programmes and conventions that play an important role in guiding the policy's principles and values.

The Youth Policy in Adamawa State operates within a framework informed by various national policies and development agenda, each of which addresses different facets of the State's well-being. These policies include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which sets a foundational context ensuring fundamental rights for all, including the Youth. Additionally, the National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People prioritizes the health and well-being of young individuals aged 10 to 24 years.

Furthermore, the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development identifies Youth as a critical demographic group and emphasizes the need for tailored provisions to facilitate their growth, development, and meaningful participation in the State progress. Gender equity and equality are addressed by the National Gender Policy, seeking to improve the well-being of the disadvantaged female gender.

This chapter delves into the multifaceted policy landscape that shapes the State Youth Policy in Adamawa State. These national and international policies and agendas provide a comprehensive framework for Youth development and well-being, setting the stage for the subsequent sections of the policy document, which delve into guiding principles and strategic directions.

2.2 POLICY CONTEXT

The policy environment is primarily influenced by the National Youth Policy and other related policies of both the Federal, State and Local Governments. It is also in line with international programmes and agreements of the Nigerian States. Thus, this policy will operate within the

broader framework of various national policies and development agenda, each of which play a vital role in shaping the Adamawa State Youth Policy landscape. These policies include:

1. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria: The constitution provides the overarching policy context for not only the National Youth Policy but also the domesticated Adamawa State Youth Policy. Thus, guaranteeing the fundamental rights of all Nigerians, including our young people in the State.
2. National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People in Nigeria: This policy specifically addresses the health and well-being of young people aged 10 to 24, setting the agenda for their health-related needs.
3. National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development: Recognizing the importance of Youth, this policy emphasizes the need for the government to acknowledge their unique needs and ensure their growth, development, and meaningful participation in national development.
4. National Gender Policy: This policy platform focuses on gender equity and equality, with particular attention to improving the development and well-being of disadvantaged female gender.
5. National Health Policy: It provides evidence-based strategies for enhancing the health status of all Nigerians, enabling them to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.
6. National Policy on Education: This policy forms the basis for implementing educational programmes for Youth and other age groups in Nigeria.
7. Nigeria Youth Employment Action Plan (NIYEAP): Developed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, NIYEAP offers a comprehensive strategy to address the significant challenge of Youth unemployment in Nigeria. It emphasizes cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders to tackle this issue effectively.
8. Nigeria Roadmap on Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth: This roadmap outlines a strategic plan for maximizing the benefits of Nigeria's demographic dividend by making targeted investments in Youth development and empowerment.
9. National Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Policy: This policy framework is designed to harness, develop, and leverage science, technology, and innovation to build a strong, diversified, sustainable, and competitive economy. It aims to enhance the standard of living and quality of life for Nigerian citizens.

10. Adamawa State Youth Policy frequently relies on and harmonizes with the policies of other States in the North East; such as Taraba, Gombe, Bauchi, Yobe and Borno at various levels of government. These interdependencies and alignments are essential for achieving consistency and synergy in governance and developmental endeavors.

Here are several key ways in which Youth policies can be interconnected with and reliant on other State policy frameworks:

1. **National Policy Frameworks:** As previously mentioned, State-level Youth policies often draw inspiration from and align with other State and National policies, including the Constitution and the National Youth Policy. These national policies provide a broader context for the formulation of State-specific Youth policies.
2. **Sectoral Policies:** Youth development and empowerment encompass a range of sectors, including education, healthcare, employment, and more. State Youth policies frequently synchronize with and hinge upon sectoral policies to ensure that Youth-focused programmes and initiatives are seamlessly integrated into overarching development strategies.
3. **Economic Development Strategies:** State Youth policies often harmonize with regional or State-specific economic development plans, such as strategies for economic growth and recovery. This alignment ensures that initiatives directed towards Youth contribute to the overall economic advancement of the State.
4. **Education Policies:** Youth policies are reliant on State education policies to provide quality educational opportunities and skill development for young individuals. These policies also influence the alignment of educational curricula with the demands of the job market.
5. **Healthcare and Social Welfare Policies:** Policies related to healthcare, social welfare, and gender equality are fundamental to the well-being of Youth. Youth policies depend on these frameworks to address health-related challenges and promote social inclusivity.
6. **Employment and Entrepreneurship Policies:** Given the emphasis on Youth employment and entrepreneurship in Youth Policies, they often complement and rely on State-level policies aimed at job creation, workforce development, and support for startups and small businesses.

7. **Environmental and Sustainability Policies:** Youth policies increasingly emphasize environmental sustainability and awareness of climate change. They depend on and align with State policies pertaining to environmental protection and sustainability.
8. **Security and Peacebuilding Policies:** In regions affected by conflicts or security issues, Youth policies may depend on security and peacebuilding policies to foster peace and mitigate radicalization among young individuals.
9. **Local Government and Community-Based Initiatives:** Youth policies frequently involve collaboration with local governments and community-based initiatives to implement programmes at the grassroots level. These partnerships ensure that policies are effectively implemented and reach their intended beneficiaries.

2.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Adamawa State Youth Policy is structured upon foundational principles and values that have significantly shaped its design and strategic orientation. These key principles and guiding values for the Policy include:

1. **Inclusivity and Grassroots Engagement:** Adamawa State Youth Policy is rooted in a commitment to extensive consultations, respecting the diversity of interests and opinions. It emphasizes the importance of seeking input and consensus from grassroots and local communities.
2. **Human Rights and Participation:** The Policy strongly upholds the fundamental human rights of all Youth. This includes their rights to fundamental freedoms, opportunities for development, and active participation in democratic and governance processes, community decision-making, and overall development agenda.
3. **Youth as a Valuable Resource:** Acknowledging young people as the most crucial and valuable resource of the nation, the Policy emphasizes strategic investment in their education, health, security, and holistic development. It recognizes the potential for demographic dividends in this investment.
4. **Alignment with Existing Policies:** The principles and aspirations of the Adamawa State Youth Policy are aligned with other established State policies and development initiatives in the North East. These include policies related to reproductive health, gender, education, environment, and sustainable development, among others.

5. **Collaborative Implementation:** Effective and results-oriented policy implementation, monitoring, and evaluation require the collaborative involvement of all stakeholders. This includes various levels of government, the private sector, civil society, and development partners, as well as organized Youth bodies.
6. **Mainstreaming Youth Issues:** The Policy emphasizes the commitment to integrating Youth issues into the broader development approach. This includes economic reforms, long-term development planning, value reorientation, social transformation, and other government-led development initiatives.
7. **Youth-Centered Approach:** Adamawa State Youth Policy advocates for Youth development programmes that are centered around the needs and perspectives of young people. It highlights the importance of high levels of Youth involvement, Youth-led participation, gender equity, evidence-based approaches, inclusiveness, and political and fiscal accountability.
8. **Respect for Tradition, Religion, and Culture:** The Policy acknowledges and respects the role of tradition, religion, and culture in the development of young men and women. It recognizes the significance of these factors in shaping the lives of Youth in the State.

2.4 CONCLUSION

The Adamawa State Youth Policy provides insight into the broader policy landscape that influences its development and implementation. The policy is connected to both national and international dimensions, aligning with various policies and development agendas to address the diverse needs of the State's Youth.

The policy operates within a framework shaped by national policies, including the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which ensures fundamental rights for all citizens, including the Youth. Other policies like the National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People, National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development, National Gender Policy, National Health Policy, National Policy on Education, Nigeria Youth Employment Action Plan (NIYEAP), Nigeria Roadmap on Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth, and National Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Policy contribute to a comprehensive approach to Youth development.

Additionally, the policy reflects interdependencies and alignments with other States in the North East region, fostering consistency and synergy in governance and developmental

endeavors. The interconnectedness of Youth policies with various national and State-level frameworks is highlighted, encompassing constitutional rights, healthcare, education, gender equity, economic development, environmental sustainability, security, and community-based initiatives.

Guiding principles and values for the Adamawa State Youth Policy are outlined, emphasizing inclusivity and grassroots engagement, human rights, the recognition of Youth as a valuable resource, alignment with existing policies, collaborative implementation involving stakeholders, mainstreaming Youth issues, a Youth-centered approach, and respect for tradition, religion, and culture.

These guiding principles underscore the commitment to holistic Youth development, ensuring that policies are not only aligned with existing frameworks but also rooted in the unique needs, perspectives, and rights of young people.

CHAPTER THREE

ADAMAWA STATE POLICY VISION, POLICY GOALS AND POLICY TARGET POPULATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Adamawa State Youth Policy represents a declaration and commitment to the priorities, directions and practical supports that the State intends to provide for the development of her young people. It is a bold step to put the development and participation of Youth at the center of State development efforts. It shows the willingness and readiness of the State government to meet the needs and aspirations of her Youth as well as seek a solution to their problems.

3.2 POLICY VISION

The vision of Adamawa State Youth Policy is to provide equal opportunities for young people in the state, irrespective of their background and to live in a safe and secure environment that would optimize their contributions to State development and progress.

3.3 POLICY MISSION

The mission of Adamawa State Youth Policy is to establish an all-inclusive framework for Youth development that unlocks the full potential of young men and women regardless of their ethnic, religious, and socio-economic background.

3.4 POLICY GOALS

- To prevent drug abuse, crime etc and provide the young people with opportunities for self-reliance and participation in governance of the State.
- To provide an appropriate framework that protects the fundamental human rights of all Youth, promote their optimal development and well-being, and enhance their participation in every aspect of State development.
- To protect green environment in the State.
- To promote Unity, Peace and Security in the State
- To develop a data base for unemployed Youth in the State

3.5 TARGET POPULATION

The State Youth Policy broadly targets all young people in the State between the ages of 15 and 40 years, while recognizing that Youths are not a homogeneous group in terms of needs and circumstances. Therefore, the policy aims to provide a basis for interventions to appropriately address the specific and special needs of each of several identified target groups. In this regard, this policy categorizes the target population into three groups namely: low risk Youth, especially vulnerable Youth and most at-risk Youth (Youth with physical and mental disabilities).

- a. **Low risk Youth:** this consists of young people who are transitioning appropriately to healthy and productive adulthood with minimal challenge and have the appropriate supportive environment. This group consists of individuals who:
 - i. Have to apparent physical or mental health challenges
 - ii. Have low level of engagement in, and vulnerability to risky health and social behaviours; are in an age-appropriate development-oriented process such as schooling, vocational training or employment to empower them for an economically productive future
 - iii. Have the required supportive environment to enable them optimize their potentials and achieve their developmental goals.
- b. **Especially vulnerable Youth:** Youth who are socially and economically disadvantaged, or those in challenging social and economic circumstances, based on limited development opportunities, social exclusion, family circumstances, inadequate education, unemployment or precarious employment, migration, and other social, cultural, political, legal and economic factors, which may threaten their development trajectory or compromise the attainment of their potentials. This group includes:
 - i. Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) young people who are not engaged in education, employment or any form of training
 - ii. Youth who are drop-outs from the formal education system
 - iii. Youth living with special needs and chronic health challenges that may impact their potential or opportunities for participation negatively
 - iv. Youth in challenging social and environmental circumstances that increase their vulnerability to health risks, and anti-social behaviours and this includes:
 - a) Youth living on the streets
 - b) Youth living in extreme poverty

- c) Youth living in slum areas with high rate of crime and access to drugs
 - d) Youth living in disadvantaged communities including rural areas
 - e) Youth living in families where there is physical and or sexual abuse
 - f) Internally displaced Youth
 - g) Female Youth in environment of high gender inequality
 - h) Youth working in hazardous occupations
- c. **Most at Risk Youth:** This group refers to Youth engaging in behaviours or practices detrimental to their health, well-being and development, and whose activity may also put the larger society at risk. This group includes Youth who are engaged in conflict:
- i. Armed conflicts
 - ii. Crime (whether incarcerated or not)
 - iii. Substance abuse
 - iv. Radicalized Youth
 - v. Sex work and
 - vi. Other risky behaviours that compromise health, well-being and their own development or that of other members of the society.

3.6 CONCLUSION

The Adamawa State Youth Policy is a comprehensive declaration and commitment by the State government to prioritize the development and participation of its young population in politics and governance. The vision of the policy is to provide equal opportunities for young people, irrespective of their background, allowing them to realize their dreams in a safe and secure environment that optimizes their contributions to State development. The mission is to establish an all-inclusive framework for Youth development that unlocks the full potential of young men and women, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or socio-economic background.

The policy has outlined specific goals, including preventing drug abuse and crime, providing opportunities for self-reliance, and enhancing Youth participation in governance. Additionally, it aims to protect the environment in the State. The target population is broadly defined as young people between 15 and 40 years old, acknowledging the diversity of needs and circumstances within this age group. The policy categorizes the target population into three groups: low-risk Youth, especially vulnerable Youth, and most at-risk Youth.

Low-risk Youth are those transitioning to healthy and productive adulthood without significant challenges, engaged in development-oriented activities like schooling or vocational training.

Especially vulnerable Youth face social and economic disadvantages, including those not in education, employment, or training, dropouts, those with special needs, and those in challenging social and environmental circumstances such as extreme poverty, hazardous occupations, or living in high-crime areas. Most at-risk Youth engage in behaviours detrimental to their health, well-being, and societal harmony, including involvement in armed conflicts, crime, substance abuse, radicalization, sex work, and other risky behaviours.

By categorizing the Youth population in this way, the policy aims to provide targeted interventions that address the specific needs of each group, ensuring a more nuanced and effective approach to Youth development in Adamawa State.

CHAPTER FOUR

STRATEGIC THRUST 1: UNITY, PEACE AND SECURITY AMONG INDIGENOUS ETHNIC GROUPS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the Youth Peace and Security Policy in Adamawa State, known for its diverse indigenous ethnic groups. The policy aims to safeguard peace, counter radicalization threats, and empower Youth. It emphasizes cultural diversity celebration, educational programmes, and community-led initiatives. Objectives include economic empowerment, cultural exchange, conflict resolution training, and healthcare support. Youth inclusion in decision-making, media literacy, and international cooperation are crucial components. A comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluation will ensure the policy's effectiveness in creating sustainable peace and security while preventing Youth engagement in extremist activities.

4.2 POLICY GOALS

Adamawa State, known for its variety boasting more than 100 indigenous ethnic groups, acknowledges the importance of developing a comprehensive Youth Peace and Security Policy. This initiative aims to leverage the diversity within the State for the benefit of collective prosperity among Youth.

The Youth Policy is formulated to safeguard peace and security. The objectives of this policy are deeply rooted in inclusivity, cultural sensitivity, and the empowerment of Youth within these diverse ethnic communities in the State.

Our first objective is to celebrate the richness of cultural diversity and establish a policy framework that respects the distinct traditions, languages, and practices of each indigenous group. Simultaneously, we aim to instigate educational programmes that underscore the significance of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding among these diverse groups. By incorporating a curriculum that encapsulates the history and contributions of all indigenous communities, the policy strives to foster a sense of national identity and unity.

To empower Youth, the policy advocates for community-led initiatives, providing resources and support for skill development, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities. By addressing economic vulnerabilities, we seek to diminish the risk factors that may lead to radicalization. Additionally, cultural exchange programmes will be instituted to bridge gaps

and build friendships among Youth from different ethnic backgrounds, thereby fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for each other's cultural heritage.

Recognizing the potential of Youth as ambassadors for peace, the policy will implement conflict resolution and mediation training programmes. These initiatives will engage young individuals in resolving disputes within their communities, preventing the escalation of conflicts. Concurrently, we will collaborate with religious leaders, community elders, and influencers to counter extremist ideologies and raise awareness about the dangers associated with groups like Boko Haram.

Access to quality healthcare, including mental health services, is imperative in addressing the psychological impact of conflicts and violence. Therefore, the policy emphasizes the provision of healthcare support to address trauma and promote resilience among affected Youth. Additionally, Youth inclusion in decision-making processes at local and national levels will be actively advocated for, ensuring their perspectives are considered in shaping policies that directly affect them.

Promoting media literacy and responsible reporting is essential in preventing the spread of misinformation and stigmatization of specific ethnic groups. By encouraging critical analysis of information, the policy seeks to equip Youth with the tools to navigate the media landscape responsibly.

Finally, international cooperation is paramount. This policy calls for collaboration with international organizations, neighboring countries, and relevant stakeholders to share best practices, resources, and intelligence in countering transnational threats.

To effectively monitor and evaluate the impact of these initiatives, a comprehensive framework will be established, engaging communities, Youth representatives, and stakeholders for continuous feedback and necessary adjustments. Through this multifaceted approach, the policy aims to create a foundation for sustainable peace and security, while preventing the engagement of indigenous Youth in extremist activities.

The three primary goals outlined in chapter four are:

1. **Cultural Celebration and Understanding:** Promote the celebration of cultural diversity by respecting and preserving the distinct traditions, languages, and religious practices of each indigenous group. Educational programmes will underscore the

importance of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding among the diverse ethnic communities in the State.

2. **Prevention of Radicalization and Conflict Resolution:** Implement conflict resolution and mediation training programmes for Youth to engage them in resolving disputes within their communities. Collaborate with religious leaders, community elders, and influencers to counter extremist ideologies, raise awareness about the dangers associated with groups like Boko Haram, and prevent the escalation of conflicts.
3. **Promote Peace and Unity:** The ultimate objective is to promote peace and unity within Adamawa State, preventing the engagement of indigenous Youth in extremist activities and fostering a harmonious coexistence among diverse communities.

4.3 STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Educational Promotion:

- Develop and implement programmes that respects the unique traditions, languages, and practices of each indigenous ethnic group.
- Establish educational programmes emphasizing the importance of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding among diverse ethnic communities.
- Incorporate a curriculum highlighting the history and contributions of all indigenous groups to foster national identity and unity.

2. Economic Empowerment and Community-Led Initiatives:

- Advocacy for community-led initiatives that provide resources and support for skill development, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities.
- Address economic vulnerabilities to diminish the risk factors associated with radicalization.
- Institute cultural exchange programmes to build friendships among Youth from different ethnic backgrounds.

3. Conflict Resolution and Mediation Training:

- Implement conflict resolution and mediation training programmes to engage Youth in resolving disputes within their communities.

- Collaborate with religious leaders, community elders, and influencers to counter extremist ideologies and raise awareness about associated dangers.

4. Healthcare Support and Youth Inclusion:

- Provide access to quality healthcare, including mental health services, to address the psychological impact of conflicts and violence.
- Advocacy for Youth inclusion in decision-making processes at local and the State levels to ensure their perspectives shape relevant policies.

5. Media Literacy, Responsible Reporting, and International Cooperation:

- Promote media literacy to equip Youth with tools to navigate the media landscape responsibly.
- Encourage responsible reporting to prevent the spread of misinformation and stigmatization of specific ethnic groups.
- Call for international cooperation with organizations, neighboring countries, and stakeholders to share best practices, resources, and intelligence in countering transnational threats.

4.4 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Goal 1: Cultural Celebration and Understanding

1. Indicator 1: Cultural Programmes Implementation
 - Metric: Number of cultural programmes implemented annually.
 - Statistical Analysis: Conduct a yearly count and assess the trend over time.
2. Indicator 2: Educational Programme Impact
 - Metric: Pre- and post-programme assessments of Youth understanding of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding.
 - Statistical Analysis: Conduct surveys or assessments before and after educational programmes to measure changes.
3. Indicator 3: Curriculum Integration
 - Metric: Percentage of schools integrating the specified curriculum.

- Statistical Analysis: Calculate the percentage of schools that have successfully integrated the curriculum.

Goal 2: Prevention of Radicalization and Conflict Resolution

1. Indicator 1: Conflict Resolution Programme Effectiveness

- Metric: Percentage reduction in community disputes after the implementation of conflict resolution programmes.
- Statistical Analysis: Compare the number of disputes pre- and post-implementation.

2. Indicator 2: Counter-extremism Collaboration

- Metric: Number of collaborative events with religious leaders, community elders, and influencers.
- Statistical Analysis: Track the frequency of collaborative events over time.

Goal 3: Promote Peace and Unity

1. Indicator 1: Prevention of Extremist Engagement

- Metric: Number of reported incidents involving Youth in extremist activities.
- Statistical Analysis: Analyze trends in reported incidents to assess the impact of preventive measures.

2. Indicator 2: Harmonious Coexistence

- Metric: Community cohesion index based on surveys measuring perceptions of harmony.
- Statistical Analysis: Conduct surveys and create an index to quantify the level of community cohesion.

4.5 CONCLUSION

The Unity, Peace and Security Policy outlined for Adamawa State presents a holistic approach to addressing the diverse challenges faced by the indigenous Youth in the State. By celebrating cultural diversity, empowering the Youth through economic development, and actively engaging in conflict resolution, the policy seeks to establish a foundation for sustainable peace

and unity in the State. Through these initiatives, the policy aims not only to safeguard against radicalization but also to foster a sense of national identity, understanding, and resilience. The comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluation ensures adaptability and continuous improvement, reflecting a commitment to creating lasting positive impacts on the lives of the Youth and the broader community in Adamawa State.

CHAPTER FIVE

STRATEGIC THRUST 2: EMPOWERING YOUTH; FOSTERING A DYNAMIC WORKFORCE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The strategic thrusts of this Policy are centered around five key cross-sectoral developmental pillars essential for enabling Youth to transit into self-fulfilled and productive adulthood, ensuring their full, effective, and constructive participation in line with the Policy's vision and mission. This is done to achieve the goal and objectives of this policy. The strategies were carefully and specifically developed with appropriate targets segmentation and context-specificity to meet the need of each category of Youth defined above.

This pillar focuses on developing Youth into a productive and committed workforce through high-quality education and skills development. It aims to provide them with ample opportunities for gainful employment and successful entrepreneurship, ultimately leading to economic empowerment. The goal is to enable Youth to make sustainable contributions to State development. Development of Youth into a productive and committed workforce through appropriate quality education and skills development, adequate opportunities for productive employment and successful entrepreneurship that will enable them to live economically empowered lives and make sustainable contributions to State development.

There are four thematic areas under this particular strategic thrust namely:

- i. Education, capacity-building and skills development
- ii. Employment creation and Entrepreneurship
- iii. Youth in Agriculture
- iv. Youth and ICT

5.2 THEMATIC FOCUS 1: EDUCATION, CAPACITY-BUILDING, AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Situation Analysis: Within this policy framework, the first thematic focus revolves around education, capacity-building, and skills development. The Situation Analysis reveals that education is a critical factor influencing young people's ability to lead productive and responsible lives. However, challenges related to access and quality persist within the State's educational system. Factors such as high population growth, insufficient investment, and disparities between male and female in terms of school attendance also contribute to these challenges.

Overall, the rate of schooling is higher among males compared to females in Adamawa State. Similarly, Youth in rural areas have less access to education compared to their urban counterparts, and the quality of education they receive is also poorer in the rural areas. Poverty is another major barrier to schooling in the State as it is the case in many States across Nigeria. Thus, when poor parents need to make a choice, the girl-child tends to be excluded first from attending school.

5.3 POLICY OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

Policy Objectives	i. Improve the quality of education and skills training programmes ii. Improve access to education, retention rate at schools and completion of Youth education iii. Promote equitable access to educational opportunities for all Youths iv. Promote life-long learning among Youth
Leading Ministry	Education
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	i. Ministry of Youth and Sports Development ii. Ministry of Information and Strategy iii. Office of the Governor iv. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development v. State House of Assembly

A. **OBJECTIVE 1:** Improve the Quality of Education and Skills Training Programmes

STRATEGIES

- I. Relevant government Ministries and Agencies must regularly review schools' curricula and direct the procurement of equipment to match the curricula and provide necessary soft and hardware and other facilities to improve the quality of education in Adamawa State.
- II. Develop new curricula to cover new and emerging vocational trades and challenges

- III. Compulsory entrepreneurship training component should be introduced across all levels of schools in Adamawa State
- IV. Teachers should undergo compulsory periodic Teacher Industrial Work Experience (TIWES) in collaboration with Industrial Training Fund (ITF) to promote linkages between schools and industries.
- V. Reform teaching and teacher education in other to make it attractive
- VI. Improve the quality and quantity of learning facilities such as classrooms, science laboratories, technical and vocational workshops, libraries, ICT centers, sports and recreational facilities in all schools
- VII. Encourage students' enrolment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses by offering annual bursaries to 20,000 eligible students.

B. OBJECTIVE 2: Improve access to education, retention rate at schools and completion of Youth education

The level of Youth access to education and skills acquisition training especially for the young people living in rural areas need to be improved to ensure the optimization of the capacity of young people for self-actualization as well as contribution to State economic growth and development.

STRATEGIES

- i. State government should expand access to open and distance education through proper funding and monitoring
- ii. Government in collaboration with stakeholders should ensure that the existing vocational centers are standardized and properly coordinated
- iii. Establishment of more Science and Technical Colleges across the country to train employable Youth and create potential entrepreneurs

C. OBJECTIVE 3: Promote Equitable Access to Educational Opportunities for All Youths

Access to educational opportunities varies across the State, with poorer families, those in rural areas, young people with disabilities, internally displaced persons, and those belonging to groups such as nomadic herdsman and migrant fishermen as part of the population groups with less access to education. There is need for creative and context-specific interventions to reach these educationally disadvantaged and special groups of Youth.

STRATEGIES

- I. Government should put in place policies to reserve 5% of admission into tertiary institutions to young people with physical disability and improve facilities for mobility and learning for physically challenged by educational institutions
- II. Establish innovative educational programmes to expand the access of vulnerable and disadvantaged young people
- III. Stakeholders should ensure advocacy on implementation by educational institutions of the person with disabilities act
- IV. Provide scholarship opportunities for qualified persons with disabilities and especially vulnerable Youth
- V. Government in collaboration with relevant agencies should expand and improve the quality of existing special schools and establish new schools to improve access of the vulnerable groups to education
- VI. Provide technical, vocational and trade centers for nomads
- VII. Government should issue an executive order or a law to be formulated, banning street begging especially among young people in the state.
- VIII. Special intervention fund should be established for persons with special needs just as investments in education should be tax deductible
- IX. Government should create the right conditions for alumni to plough back to their alma-mater for the purpose of student loan
- X. Recruit and train 30,000 mass literacy instructors and deploy to mass literacy centers across the State over the next three years for out-of-school Youth
- XI. Tertiary institutions in the State should have scholarship, loans, grant, and emergency Financial Aid Office (FAO) for students who are experiencing financial difficulties by providing access to campus jobs, counselling and referral services
- XII. Advocate access for young people who are not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) to training, education and employment opportunities

D. **OBJECTIVE 4:** Promote Life-Long Learning Among Youth

There is the need for continued improvement in knowledge and skills to remain relevant in the modern economy and the work-place environment of the 21st century. The

foundation for lifelong learning needs to be laid in the early phases of life and through the educational system as well as value re-orientation. Furthermore, the culture of lifelong learning needs to be created, supported and nurtured at organizational and institutional levels.

STRATEGIES

- i. Integrate Citizenship and Leadership education into school curriculum at all levels
- ii. Teachers' and students' training curricula as well as curricula delivery should emphasize lifelong learning
- iii. Government should provide facilities in-and-out of schools to facilitate and support lifelong learning including ICT and community learning centers
- iv. Formulate and promote programmes to support in-service training for self-development and ensure that all Youth in public service have access to in-service training.

5.4 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Policy Objective i: Improve the quality of education and skills training programmes

1. Indicator 1: Average Educational Quality Index

- Measure the overall quality of education and skills training programmes using a composite index that includes factors such as curriculum effectiveness, teacher qualifications, and infrastructure.

2. Indicator 2: Student Performance Improvement

- Track improvements in students' academic performance through standardized testing or assessments.

3. Indicator 3: Teacher Training and Development

- Monitor the percentage of teachers who have participated in professional development programmes to enhance their teaching skills.

Policy Objective ii: Improve access, retention, and completion of Youth to education and skills acquisition programmes

1. Indicator 1: Enrollment Rates

- Track the percentage of eligible Youth enrolled in education and skills acquisition programmes.

2. Indicator 2: Retention Rates

- Monitor the percentage of enrolled Youth who successfully complete their educational or skills training programmes.

3. Indicator 3: Dropout Rates

- Measure the percentage of Youth who drop out before completing their education or skills training.

Policy Objective iii: Promote equitable access to educational opportunities for all Youths

1. Indicator 1: Socioeconomic Equity in Access

- Assess the extent to which Youth from different socioeconomic backgrounds have equal access to educational opportunities.

2. Indicator 2: Gender Equity in Access

- Monitor gender-based disparities in access to education and skills training programmes.

Policy Objective iv: Promote life-long learning among Youth

1. Indicator 1: Participation in Continuous Learning

- Track the percentage of Youth engaged in continuous learning activities beyond formal education, such as workshops, seminars, and online courses.

2. Indicator 2: Skill Acquisition and Development

- Measure the acquisition and development of new skills among Youth beyond their initial education.

Cross-cutting Indicators (Applicable to all objectives):

1. Indicator: Budget Allocation and Expenditure

- Evaluate the allocation and expenditure of budgets related to education and skills development programmes to ensure sufficient resources are dedicated to achieving the policy objectives.

2. Indicator: Stakeholder Engagement

- Assess the level of engagement and collaboration among key ministries and agencies (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Ministry of Information and Culture, Office of the Governor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) in implementing the policy.

3. Indicator: Policy Awareness and Public Perception

- Conduct surveys or assessments to gauge public awareness of the policy and gather feedback on its perceived impact.

These indicators can be measured periodically to assess progress and make informed adjustments to the implementation strategies as needed.

5.5 THEMATIC FOCUS 2: EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Situation Analysis: Adamawa State is one of the must poorest States in Nigeria. Consequently, the levels of unemployment and poverty is high in the State. This has both political and security implications. The prolonged Youth unemployment can generate political and ideological unrest, potentially leading to violence. Jobless and marginalized Youth may be inclined to engage in criminal activities or conflicts for modest financial gains. Consequently, Youth unemployment is not solely an economic issue; it also poses political and security challenges in the State.

Promoting entrepreneurship is identified as a critical solution, fostering economic growth, alleviating hunger, and reducing poverty. Therefore, a recognized need exists for entrepreneurship development in Adamawa State. Young people often possess attributes like risk-taking, high achievement, task orientation, forward-looking perspectives, and resourcefulness—qualities valuable for entrepreneurs. Encouraging entrepreneurship represents an effective strategy for addressing unemployment and poverty in the State.

OBJECTIVES 1: Expand Employment Opportunities through Diversification of the Economy

Diversification of the economy is critical to expanding opportunities for employment for the growing population of Adamawa State Youth. Policies need to be put in place to encourage Youth participation in Agriculture and also support the expansion of the manufacturing sector to create more job opportunities for our young population in the State.

STRATEGIES:

- a. **Develop database for unemployed Youth in the State:** Create a specialized website and database designed to serve as a centralized hub for the organization and coordination of information concerning young individuals who are currently unemployed. This encompasses not just basic demographic data but also specific information about their fields of expertise and specialization.
- b. **Provide Information on Legitimate International Employment Opportunities:** Efforts should be made to inform young job seekers about legal opportunities for working in other countries, aiming to discourage illegal migration.
- c. **Ensure Equal Employment Opportunities:** The policy emphasizes the importance of guaranteeing equal opportunities and fair treatment in employment access to all irrespective of ethnic, religious and political affiliations.
- d. **Support Informal Youth Enterprises:** Initiatives will be put in place to assist informal Youth enterprises in transitioning into the formal sector.
- e. **Enhance Students' Industrial Work Experience Schemes (SIWES):** Strategies will be implemented to strengthen SIWES, enabling young people to access quality professional exposure.
- f. **Integrate Internship Programmes in Education:** The policy advocates for the integration of internship programmes across various disciplines within the education system. Incentives will be provided to organizations to facilitate this integration.
- g. **Increase Government Funding for Research and Innovation:** There will be an annual increase of government funding for research and innovation by 5% to promote technological advancement. Mechanisms for transparent fund management will be established.
- h. **Promote Industrial Parks and Collaboration with Educational Institutions:** The policy encourages the establishment of industrial parks and stronger connections between industries and research/educational institutions, fostering innovation and skills development.

5.6 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Policy Objective: Expand Employment Opportunities through Diversification of the Economy

1. Indicator 1: Youth Employment Rate in Agriculture

- Measure the percentage increase in Youth employment in the agriculture sector over time.

2. Indicator 2: Manufacturing Sector Job Creation

- Track the number of new jobs created in the manufacturing sector as a result of policy interventions.
- Track the number of unemployed Youth in the State.

3. Indicator 3: Agricultural Productivity Growth

- Assess the growth in agricultural productivity as an indicator of the sector's expansion and potential for creating more jobs.

4. Indicator 4: Manufacturing Sector Contribution to GDP

- Monitor the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Adamawa State.

5. Indicator: Skill Development and Training Programmes

- Measure the participation of Youth in skill development and training programmes relevant to agriculture and manufacturing.

6. Indicator: Access to Finance for Youth Entrepreneurs

- Assess the accessibility of financial resources for young entrepreneurs interested in agriculture or starting manufacturing businesses.

7. Indicator: Entrepreneurship and Start-up Growth

- Track the number of new Youth-led startups in agriculture and manufacturing, indicating entrepreneurial growth in these sectors.

8. Indicator: Sustainable Practices

- Monitor the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture and manufacturing to ensure long-term viability and resilience.

9. Indicator: Rural-Urban Migration Trends

- Analyze trends in rural-urban migration to understand whether economic diversification initiatives are reducing migration by creating opportunities in rural areas.

These indicators should be regularly assessed to gauge the effectiveness of policies aimed at expanding employment opportunities through the diversification of the economy. Adjustments to strategies can be made based on the performance of these indicators over time.

5.7 THEMATIC FOCUS 3: YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

Situation Analysis:

Agriculture is the backbone of Adamawa State economy. The agricultural sector offers substantial opportunities for job creation across its various sub-sectors and the associated value chain. Various programmes have been initiated to stimulate the interest of Youth in agriculture, including special incentives like credit facilities for young individuals engaged in agricultural production and processing. States and private agencies have also offered training, internships, and funding opportunities to encourage Youth involvement in profitable agricultural enterprises. However, despite commendable initiatives by both Federal and State governments, Youth participation in agriculture remains very minimal in the State due to several factors:

1. **Limited Knowledge:** Many young people lack adequate understanding of the agricultural sector's potential and the opportunities available in agro-based businesses.
2. **Resource Accessibility:** Youth often face challenges in accessing critical resources such as funds, land, high-yield seeds, fertilizers, and other productive assets for profitable agricultural ventures.
3. **Technical Expertise:** Inadequate technical know-how for economically viable agro-businesses poses a significant hurdle.
4. **Infrastructure and Marketing:** Limited facilities for preserving agricultural products, inadequate access to fair product marketing, and food processing industries deter Youth engagement.
5. **Policy Inadequacies:** The policy environment, characterized by policy inconsistencies and low political commitment to implementation, presents additional obstacles.

6. **Lack of Role Models:** There is a scarcity of successful Youth agro-entrepreneurs who can serve as motivators, role models, and mentors for other young people interested in agricultural pursuits.
7. **Perception of Agriculture:** Many Youths hold a biased perspective of agriculture, viewing it as non-prestigious, labor-intensive, and lacking in potential for commensurate economic returns.

OBJECTIVE: Promote Active Youth Involvement in Agriculture for Food Security and Job Creation

The State Government has identified agriculture as the single sector with the highest potential for massive job creation in Adamawa State. When the young people are engaged in Agriculture, the State government can solve the problems of Youth unemployment, restiveness, aging farm population, rural development, low productivity, abject poverty and food security.

STRATEGIES: The strategies include implementing policies that will encourage Youth involvement in agriculture in Adamawa State:

- a. **Access to Credit/Finance:** Establish two Agribusiness Incubation Centers across the State and an Enterprise Development Center in each of the 21 Local Governments to address finance, infrastructure, and mechanization issues. Implement special collateral arrangements to improve Youth access to credit, encourage private sector to establish agricultural lending institutions and access funds from Bank of Agriculture.
- b. **Youth Access to Land for Agricultural Purposes:** Review the Land Use Act to liberalize land access for Youth in agriculture, allocate land for Youth Agricultural Incubation Centers, Enterprise Development Centers, and Youth Farm Settlements
- c. **Education/Mentorship/Capacity Building/Volunteerism:** Revise the agricultural education curriculum to integrate vocational, technical, and practical skills for agricultural entrepreneurship, conduct public awareness campaigns to highlight the benefits of agriculture for Youth and community development, establish Youth Desks in each government department (MDAs) to align research and capacity-building needs with Youth employment programmes, train young graduates with agricultural backgrounds to provide extension services to farmers and rural communities, create mentoring platforms and volunteering opportunities for Youth engagement.
- d. **Agribusiness Supportive Infrastructure for Youth:** Establish Agribusiness Incubation Centers, Enterprise Development Centers, and Farm Settlement Systems

across the State for Youth engagement in agriculture. Deploy key infrastructural support such as ICT and social amenities, to these centers to reduce rural-urban migration and create jobs. Form Youth in Agribusiness Advisory Groups for decision-making, provide mechanization and ICT-related support services for Youth in agriculture, implement a web-based trading system for effective marketing of agricultural commodities in the State.

- e. **Opportunities for Youth Employment in Agriculture:** Create opportunities for Adamawa State Youth to participate at various stages of the agricultural value chain, based on comparative advantages. Develop opportunities for Youth in production for export, including raw materials, local cuisine ingredients, and processed products.

5.8 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Policy Objective: Promote Active Youth Involvement in Agriculture for Food Security and Job Creation

1. Indicator 1: Youth Participation Rate in Agriculture

- Measure the percentage increase in the number of young people actively engaged in agriculture.

2. Indicator 2: Job Creation in Agriculture

- Track the number of new jobs created in the agriculture sector as a result of increased Youth involvement.

3. Indicator 3: Agricultural Productivity Increase

- Assess the growth in agricultural productivity, considering factors such as crop yield per hectare and livestock output.

4. Indicator 4: Food Security Index

- Develop an index that quantifies the improvement in food security, considering factors like availability, access, and utilization of food.

5. Indicator 5: Youth Entrepreneurship in Agriculture

- Monitor the number of Youth-led agricultural enterprises established in the State and their sustainability.

5.9 THEMATIC FOCUS 4: YOUTH AND ICT

Situation Analysis: The Situation Analysis highlights the following key points regarding Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Youth engagement in Adamawa State:

1. **ICT Transformation:** ICT has ushered in remarkable changes in the 21st century, yet the Youth of Adamawa State have not fully embraced this digital revolution. ICT encompasses a wide range of electronic and communication tools, along with hardware and software devices, offering abundant prospects for Youth involvement, fostering creativity, enhancing efficiency, and boosting productivity.
2. **ICT Opportunities:** ICT has opened up opportunities for Adamawa State Youth in various sectors, such as telecommunications, mobile phone sales and repair, mobile phone recharge card distribution, computer sales, repairs, software engineering, app development, internet-based marketing, and service delivery.
3. **Potential of ICT:** ICT has the potential to drive innovation centers, enhance business operations, improve educational activities, expand learning opportunities, and boost the efficiency and productivity of industries, all of which have positive implications for Youth development.
4. **Importance of ICT in Youth Development:** ICT plays a vital role in advancing Youth development and improving Youth employment rates and well-being in Adamawa State. The State has focused on empowering Youth with ICT skills to prepare them for global competition, incorporating computer education into various levels of education.
5. **Challenges in Leveraging ICT:** Despite the progress made in the ICT sector, Adamawa State faces untapped opportunities, particularly in leveraging ICT for competitiveness, innovation, and overall well-being. Adamawa State ranks relatively low in the Networked Readiness Index, indicating the need for greater efforts to ensure that Youth and the population at large can benefit fully from ICT in economic and developmental terms.

OBJECTIVE: To put in place an environment where Adamawa State Youth can be inspired to prosperity by harnessing the opportunities provided by ICT

Adamawa State government is determined to reverse the dire case of Youth unemployment in the State. The State intends to achieve that feat by harnessing the immense potentials of ICT to

produce a new group of tech entrepreneurs, create more jobs and improve the quality of lives of young people in the State.

STRATEGIES

- a. Government should encourage private sector participation to increase the number of ICT hubs in the State that will be based on Universities and Polytechnic campuses.
- b. Develop mentorship programmes to mentor up-upcoming Youth start-ups handled by resources from already established ICT businesses that were once start-ups.
- c. Government should make available a platform for 'Tech Hubs' to use for carrying out research, development, data and application hosting.

5.10 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Policy Objective: Inspire Youth Prosperity through ICT Opportunities

1. Indicator 1: ICT Skill Acquisition

- Track the percentage increase in the number of Youths acquiring relevant ICT skills through training programmes.

2. Indicator 2: Tech Entrepreneurship Development

- Monitor the number of new tech startups established by Youth in Adamawa State.

3. Indicator 3: Job Creation in ICT Sector

- Measure the number of jobs created in the ICT sector as a result of Youth engagement.

4. Indicator 5: ICT Infrastructure Development

- Track the development and accessibility of ICT infrastructure in the State, including internet connectivity and technology hubs.

5. Indicator: Access to ICT Resources

- Assess the accessibility of ICT resources such as computers, internet, and software tools for Youth in the State.

5.11 CONCLUSION

The policy focuses on five key pillars for Youth development in Adamawa State, aiming to facilitate a transition to self-fulfilled and productive adulthood. The first strategic thrust centers on creating a productive workforce and sustainable economic engagement for Youth. The thematic areas under this thrust include education, capacity-building, skills development, employment creation, entrepreneurship, Youth in agriculture, and Youth in ICT.

The first thematic focus, Education, Capacity-building, and Skills Development, addresses challenges in the State's educational system, emphasizing the need for quality and accessible education. The policy objectives include improving education and skills training programmes, enhancing access and retention rates, promoting equitable access, and fostering lifelong learning. The Ministry of Education, along with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Ministry of Information and Culture, and the Office of the Governor, leads these efforts.

The second thematic focus, Employment Creation and Entrepreneurship, acknowledges high unemployment and poverty levels in the State. Strategies involve providing information on international employment, ensuring equal employment opportunities, supporting informal Youth enterprises, strengthening Students' Industrial Work Experience Schemes (SIWES), integrating internship programmes in education, increasing government funding for research, and promoting industrial parks and collaboration with educational institutions.

The third thematic focus, Youth in Agriculture, recognizes the potential of agriculture for job creation. Objectives include expanding employment opportunities, particularly in agriculture, and strategies involve providing credit/finance, improving access to land, education/mentorship/capacity building/volunteerism, and supporting agribusiness infrastructure.

The fourth thematic focus, Youth and ICT, emphasizes the untapped potential of ICT for Youth development. The objective is to inspire prosperity through ICT opportunities. Strategies include encouraging private sector participation in ICT hubs, developing mentorship programmes, and providing platforms for research and development.

Overall, the policy aims to create a conducive environment for Youth to contribute to the State's development through education, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and ICT, addressing specific challenges and leveraging opportunities in each thematic area.

CHAPTER SIX

STRATEGIC THRUST 3: HEALTH AND CULTIVATING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Healthy Youth are a nation's major resources for development. In that regard, programmes that contribute to the optimal health of Youth, including preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health-related activities are critical for the well-being of the individual and the development of the society. Efforts to engender health-promoting behaviour and lifestyle are crucial. The health and related social sectors play significant role as social determinants of health and, accordingly, influence Youth health-related behaviours and health outcomes.

6.2 THEMATIC FOCUS 1: HEALTH SERVICES AND HEALTHY BEHAVIOUR

Situation Analysis: The health issues confronting young people in Adamawa State, span various domains, including Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), mental health, substance and drugs abuse, injury and violence, and nutrition. Here's a breakdown of these challenges:

1. **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH):** This category encompasses concerns like HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, maternal health conditions, gender-based violence, early pregnancy, teenage motherhood, unsafe abortion, and maternal morbidity and mortality. HIV prevalence among adolescents aged 15-19 increased from 1.7 percent in 2007 to 2.9 percent in 2013, with a significant number of adolescents living with HIV.
2. **Mental Health:** Mental health issues constitute a substantial portion of disability-adjusted life years among young in the State. Factors such as substance use, economic challenges, and family instability exacerbate the mental health problems faced by Youth in Adamawa State.
3. **Injury and Violence:** The incidence of injuries and violence is on the rise among Youth in Adamawa State. Factors like the proliferation of commercial motorcycles, road traffic accidents, and community-level violence contribute to the high rate of Youth injuries.
4. **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs):** Unhealthy dietary habits, sedentary lifestyles, tobacco and harmful alcohol consumptions have led to an increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases among Youth in the State.

5. **Nutrition:** Adamawa State Youth confront a dual nutrition challenge. On one hand, there is a growing prevalence of obesity and overweight due to sedentary lifestyles and Westernized diets. On the other hand, poverty and food insecurity contribute to undernutrition among some Youth. Teenage pregnancy also contributes to iron deficiency anemia among young girls.

These health challenges often have behavioural origins and are preventable. However, the response of the State health and social sector systems to the needs of Youth has been insufficient. Access to healthcare, particularly in public hospitals, remains limited, and many public facilities do not offer services tailored to the needs of Youth.

6.3 OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

Thematic Area	Health Services
Objectives	1: Improve the quality of Youth-related health care services 2: Improve the coverage of health care services for Youth 3: Promote appropriate health behaviour, including sports and leisure-time activities
Lead Ministry	Ministry of Health
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	- Ministry of Youth and Sports Development - Ministry of Education and Human Capital Development

OBJECTIVE 1

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF YOUTH-RELATED HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The rate and problem of healthcare utilization among the Youth is poor in Adamawa State, and the poor quality and unfriendly nature of the orthodox health care system is contributory. Strategic efforts are required to improve the health of young people including training adequate number of healthcare workers on Youth-related health friendly services, provision of adequate infrastructure and materials for optimal services in health care services. Implementation of State health insurance scheme could be helpful.

STRATEGIES: Strategies to address the health challenges among Adamawa State Youth include:

- **Provision of Youth-Friendly Health Care Services:** Ensure that at least 70% of all the primary healthcare facilities renovated by the State Government meet the standards for adolescent- and Youth-friendly health care services.
- **Family Life and HIV Education (FLHE):** Ensure comprehensive and quality provision of information to the young people on HIV and AIDS and other related diseases.
- **Peer-to-Peer Health Education:** Institutionalize peer-to-peer health education strategies to equip and empower both in-school and out-of-school Youth with comprehensive sexuality education and life-building knowledge and skills.
- **Integration into Primary Healthcare:** Integrate adolescent- and Youth-friendly health services into primary healthcare to improve Youth access to both preventive and curative healthcare services.
- **Occupational Health Services:** Strengthen occupational health services for working-class Youth in the State.
- **Use of social media:** Promote the use of social media and digital technologies to disseminate relevant health information and education to Youth, influencing positive health behaviours.
- **Private Sector Partnerships:** Strengthen partnerships with the private sector to expand access to health services and programmes for Youth.
- **Tertiary Institutions Social Health Insurance:** Enforce the Tertiary Institutions Social Health Insurance Programme for students in tertiary institutions.
- **Free Anti-Retroviral Treatment:** Sustain free anti-retroviral treatment for Youth living with HIV.

6.4 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Objective 1: Improve the quality of Youth-related health care services

1. Indicator 1: Youth Health Outcomes

- Monitor improvements in key health indicators among Youth, such as reduced rates of preventable diseases, improved mental health, and overall well-being.

2. Indicator 2: Patient Satisfaction

- Conduct surveys to measure the satisfaction levels of Youth receiving healthcare services, including factors like accessibility, responsiveness, and quality of care.

3. Indicator 3: Healthcare Provider Training

- Track the percentage of healthcare providers who undergo specialized training to enhance their ability to address the unique health needs of Youth.

Objective 2: Improve the coverage of health care services for Youth

1. Indicator 1: Healthcare Access Index

- Develop an index to measure the accessibility of healthcare services for Youth, considering factors such as proximity to health facilities, availability of services, and waiting times.

2. Indicator 2: Immunization Coverage

- Monitor the percentage of Youth who receive recommended vaccinations and immunizations.

3. Indicator 3: Preventive Services Utilization

- Track the utilization of preventive healthcare services among Youth, including regular check-ups and screenings.

Objective 3: Promote appropriate health behaviour, including sports and leisure-time activities

1. Indicator 1: Youth Participation in Physical Activities

- Measure the percentage increase in Youth engagement in sports and physical activities.

2. Indicator 2: Health Education Programme Effectiveness

- Assess the effectiveness of health education programmes by monitoring changes in Youth knowledge and behaviour related to health.

3. Indicator 3: Reduction in Risky Behaviours

- Monitor the reduction in risky health behaviours among Youth, such as substance abuse and unsafe sexual practices.

6.5 CONCLUSION

The chapter underscores the importance of prioritizing the health of the Youth population for overall societal development. It identifies and analyzes various health challenges faced by young individuals in Adamawa State, ranging from sexual and reproductive health issues to mental health, injuries, non-communicable diseases, and nutrition concerns. The response from the health and social sectors is deemed insufficient, with limited access to Youth-tailored healthcare services.

Objectives, implementing frameworks, and strategies are outlined to comprehensively address these challenges. The goals include improving the quality and coverage of Youth-related healthcare services and promoting health-conscious behaviour. The Ministry of Health, along with collaboration from Ministry of Education and Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, is designated to lead these efforts.

Key strategies involve providing Youth-friendly health services, comprehensive education on HIV and related diseases, peer-to-peer health education, integrating Youth-friendly services into primary healthcare, strengthening occupational health services, using social media for health education, fostering private sector partnerships, enforcing social health insurance for tertiary institutions, and sustaining free anti-retroviral treatment for Youth with HIV. The overarching aim is to enhance the overall health and well-being of the Youth in Adamawa State.

CHAPTER SEVEN

STRATEGIC THRUST 4: FOSTERING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: ADVANCING INCLUSIVITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Youth population is one of the key elements in positive Youth development critical for State development and growth. Efforts need to be made to ensure that every group of Youth have the opportunity for meaningful engagement and participation in development processes, including community development, governance and politics. Special attention needs to be given to disadvantaged groups, such as people with disabilities, orphans, that hitherto have limited opportunity for participation. The social development sector is particularly important in this respect, with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Civil Society Organizations and Youth-led organizations playing lead roles in the State.

7.2 THEMATIC FOCUS 1: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Situation Analysis: The civic engagement landscape for young people in Adamawa State comprises various programmes initiated by government agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations. Various Youth-related organizations such as the Man O' War, Boys and Girls Brigade, Boys Scouts, Girls Guides, Red Cross, and Red Crescent operate nationwide and serve as valuable platforms for Youth civic engagement in the State. Additionally, there has been a notable increase in Youth-focused civil society organization, expanding opportunities for Youth participation. However, volunteerism opportunities in the private sector have diminished due to economic challenges and the declining fortunes of the manufacturing sector. However, the Government needs to push or encourage the private sector to invest in more corporate social responsibility as it is doing in other parts of the country. In recent years, there have been limited or no opportunities for Youth to volunteer with government agencies. Overall, the availability of opportunities for Youth civic engagement and volunteerism is insufficient relative to the Youth population, and the culture of Youth volunteerism has not firmly taken place among the young people in the State.

7.3 OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

Thematic Area	Civil Engagement
Objectives	• Strengthen the platform and capacity for Youth engagement and participation • Create platforms and enabling environment for the inclusion of marginalized Youth • Strengthen intergenerational relationships and solidarity
Leading Ministry	Ministry of Youth and Sports Development
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	• Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development • Ministry of Information and strategy • Ministry of Entrepreneurship Development

STRATEGIES: Strategies to Enhance Civic Engagement and Volunteerism Among Adamawa State Youth are as:

1. Create Opportunities for Civic Engagement:
 - a. Public and private sector stakeholders should establish opportunities for Youth civic engagement through volunteerism.
2. Revive and Strengthen Youth Voluntary and Community-Based Organizations:

Reinvigorate and empower Youth-based organizations like Boys Scouts, Girls Guides, Red Cross, and Boys Brigade.
3. Reform and Empower Street Youth Groups:
 - a. Transform street Youth groups into positive engagement platforms through reforms and support.
4. Support Youth Social Entrepreneurs:

- a. Create an enabling environment for Youth social entrepreneurs by providing grants for innovative initiatives.
5. Promote Civic Engagement Through social media:
 - a. Establish social media platforms to promote civic engagement with young people.
6. Facilitate Dialogue Between Youth and Leaders:
 - a. Create forums where young people can engage with community and political leaders on a regular basis.
7. Mobilize Urban and Rural Youth for Governance Participation:
 - a. Design and promote programmes to sensitize and mobilize urban and rural Youth for active participation in governance and development.
 - b. Build the capacity of Youth-based organizations at local, State, and national levels.
8. Promote Principles of Transparency, Accountability, and Non-Discrimination: Advocate for the adoption and promotion of principles such as transparency, accountability, non-discrimination, and mutual respect in Youth engagement in governance processes.
9. Ensure Inclusion of Marginalized Youth: Create an enabling environment to increase the full participation of physically challenged, less privileged, and other disadvantaged Youth in governance.
10. Promote Social Entrepreneurship: Recognize and honor Youth social entrepreneurs and provide grants to initiatives that encourage civic engagement among Youth.
11. Institute a National Youth Award Scheme: Establish a national scheme to recognize and honor exceptional Youth across various fields.

These strategies aim to create platforms and an enabling environment for the inclusion of marginalized Youth and enhance their participation in civic engagement and volunteerism.

7.4 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Objective 1: Strengthen the Platform and Capacity for Youth Engagement and Participation

1. Indicator 1: Youth Participation Rates

- Measure the increase in the percentage of Youth actively participating in civic, social, and community activities.

2. Indicator 2: Youth Representation in Decision-Making Bodies

- Track the proportion of Youth represented in local and State decision-making bodies and committees.

3. Indicator 3: Civic Education Programmes

- Assess the effectiveness of civic education programmes in enhancing Youth awareness of their rights and responsibilities.

Objective 2: Create Platforms and an Enabling Environment for the Inclusion of Marginalized Youth

1. Indicator 1: Representation of Marginalized Youth

- Monitor the representation and participation of marginalized Youth in decision-making processes and initiatives.

2. Indicator 2: Accessibility of Support Programmes

- Assess the accessibility of support programmes, resources, and opportunities for marginalized Youth.

3. Indicator 3: Reduction in Marginalization

- Track progress in reducing socio-economic and cultural marginalization among targeted Youth population in the State.

Objective 3: Strengthen Intergenerational Relationships and Solidarity

1. Indicator 1: Intergenerational Collaboration

- Measure the level of collaboration between different age groups in community projects, initiatives, and decision-making.

2. Indicator 2: Interactions in Community Events

- Monitor the frequency and quality of interactions between different age groups during community events and activities.

3. Indicator 3: Knowledge Transfer and Mentorship Programmes

- Assess the effectiveness of programmes promoting knowledge transfer and mentorship between older and younger generations.

7.5 THEMATIC FOCUS 2: POLITICAL INCLUSION

Situation Analysis

Young people have been recognized as a dynamic force, contributing significantly to political changes and innovations. During the period of Nigeria's independence in 1960, many of the prominent political actors and leaders were youthful individuals. However, the present political landscape differs significantly, with only a limited number of young people being granted the opportunity to assume leadership roles within political parties, participate in political processes, or engage in governance at the State level. This exclusion from political leadership is particularly pronounced among female gender.

It is crucial to recognize that young people are not merely "future citizens in training" but are active participants in today's democracy and governance systems. They should be acknowledged as critical stakeholders in democratic processes, including politics and governance. Youth participation in political processes is a fundamental democratic right, supported by international conventions and declarations like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the World Programme of Action for Youth.

7.6 OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

Thematic Area	Political Inclusion
Objectives	• Enhance the capacity of Youth and Youth led organizations to engage actively with the political processes at all levels • Foster an enabling environment for Youth engagement with the political processes at all levels
Leading Ministry	• Ministry of Youth and Sports Development • Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
Other Key Ministry and Agencies	• Ministry for Justice

	• Ministry of Information and Strategy • Human Right Commission
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STRATEGIES:

1. Promote advocacy efforts by relevant stakeholders to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the "Not-Too-Young-to-Run" Law in the State.
2. Advocate for the allocation of 25% of political appointments at the State, and local government levels to qualified young individuals.
3. Engage government and stakeholders in discussions to secure 25% of elective positions for capable young candidates.
4. Establish internship programmes that offer young people the opportunity to gain political mentorship through engagement with national and State parliaments.
5. Develop capacity-building initiatives targeting Youth-led organizations to enable them to actively participate in the political process and advocate for greater political inclusion.

7.7 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Objective 1: Enhance the capacity of Youth and Youth-led organizations to engage actively with political processes at all levels

1. Indicator 1: Youth Political Education Programmes

- Measure the effectiveness of political education programmes for Youth in enhancing their understanding of political processes, governance, and civic responsibilities.

2. Indicator 2: Youth Participation in Political Training

- Track the percentage of Youth who have participated in political training and leadership development programmes.

3. Indicator 3: Capacity Building for Youth Organizations

- Assess the capacity-building initiatives for Youth-led organizations, including training programmes, mentorship, and resource support.

Objective 2: Foster an enabling environment for Youth engagement with political processes at all levels

1. Indicator 1: Inclusive Policy Development

- Monitor the inclusion of Youth perspectives in the development and revision of policies at local and State levels.

2. Indicator 2: Accessibility of Political Spaces for Youth

- Assess the accessibility of political spaces for Youth to engage, including opportunities for representation, public forums, and involvement in decision-making.

3. Indicator 3: Support for Youth-Led Initiatives

- Track the provision of financial and institutional support for Youth-led initiatives that contribute to political engagement.

7.8 CONCLUSION

The chapter underscores the vital role of the Youth population in fostering positive development within Adamawa State and emphasizes the necessity for their active engagement in community development, governance, and politics. Two key thematic focuses are outlined. Firstly, in civic engagement, the chapter identifies existing programmes but notes economic challenges hindering Youth volunteerism and the need to firmly establish a culture of Youth engagement. The objectives aim to strengthen Youth platforms, create an inclusive environment for marginalized groups, and foster intergenerational relationships. Strategies include establishing opportunities for civic engagement, reviving Youth organizations, supporting social entrepreneurship, and promoting transparency through social media and dialogues with leaders. Secondly, in political inclusion, the chapter acknowledges limited opportunities for Youth in political leadership, especially for females, and outlines objectives to enhance their capacity and create an enabling political environment. Strategies involve advocating for the "Not-Too-Young-to-Run" Law, securing 25% of political appointments for Youth, and establishing mentorship programmes. In essence, the chapter advocates for comprehensive strategies to empower and include the Youth in civic engagement and political processes for the overall development of Adamawa State.

CHAPTER EIGHT

STRATAGIC THRUST 5: CREATING A SUPPORTIVE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

8.1 INTRODUCTION

For the optimal growth of young individuals, it is crucial that they thrive in an environment that upholds their human rights and actively promotes their freedom. The Youth require a setting free from any form of abuse, violence, or discrimination. Key contributors to this environment include the legal sector, law enforcement, security agencies, community leaders, and various agents. Additionally, it is essential for young people to be surrounded by environments that boost their self-confidence, ignite their creativity, and support their aspirations, dreams, and initiatives.

The presence of violence and armed conflicts poses a threat to development, creating circumstances where individual rights and well-being are easily compromised. Therefore, the interconnectedness of Youth development, peace, security, and human rights should be acknowledged and understood as mutually reinforcing. Initiatives for Youth development must actively work towards eliminating all forms of armed conflict, community violence, and insecurity.

8.2 THEMATIC FOCUS 1: HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF YOUTHS

Situation Analysis: The protection and promotion of human rights have improved significantly since the return to democratic governance in 1999. However, there are still gaps in safeguarding the human rights of young people that require attention.

Gender-based disparities persist, with females in Adamawa State experiencing higher rates of human rights violations compared to males. Key issues affecting female Youth include early marriage and gender-based violence. In many States in Northern Nigeria particularly Adamawa State, girl-child marriage rates are alarmingly high, with girls often forced into non-voluntary marriages. This practice places them at risk of maternal morbidity and mortality. It limits their access to education and other opportunities, and violates their rights. While Nigeria has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which sets the minimum age for marriage at 18, several northern States are yet to adopt this standard.

Gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, rape, and sexual violence, is also a growing concern in the State. Cases of violence against women and girls are frequently reported.

Youth with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination and experience gaps in human rights protection. The higher rate of unemployment among Youth compared to other population groups, low percentage of Youth holding political offices, and social inequality and differential access to development opportunities and quality of social services on the basis of socio-economic class are also areas of gaps in the human rights protection of Youth in Adamawa State.

8.3 OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

Thematic Area	Hunam Rights and Fundamental Freedom of Youth
Objectives	• Develop and enforce gender-sensitive laws and policies that promote and protect the human rights of all Youth in Adamawa State
Leading MDAs	• Ministry of Youth and Sports Development • Ministry of Justice • State House of Assembly
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	• Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development • Ministry of Information and Strategy

STRATEGIES:

Strategies to address the gaps in human rights protection for young people in Adamawa State include:

a. **Sensitization and Education:** Raise awareness among young people about the Adamawa State Youth Policy and related policies that protect their rights.

b. Media Engagement: Utilize mainstream and social media to educate and inform Youth about their rights and values that can safeguard them from abuse.

c. Law Enforcement Collaboration: Collaborate with law enforcement agencies to ensure the protection and enforcement of Youth rights, and provide training to law enforcement personnel on this issue.

d. Youth-Policy Maker Platform: Establish a platform for young people to engage with policy makers, law enforcement officials, and community leaders to advocate for their rights.

e. Legislation and Policy Advocacy: Advocate for the strengthening and enforcement of legislations and policies that protect the rights of Youth with disabilities and Youth living with HIV.

f. Support Youth-Led Organizations: Provide support to Youth-led organizations that focus on fundamental human rights and advocacy for the protection of these rights.

g. Advocate for Convention Ratification: Advocate for the ratification of international conventions, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by the State, and ensure enforcement, including raising the minimum marriage age to 18 years.

These strategies aim to empower and protect young people in Adamawa State by increasing awareness, advocating for policy changes, and strengthening collaboration among stakeholders to ensure the protection of Youth rights.

8.4 THEMATIC FOCUS 2: PEACE AND SECURITY

Situation Analysis: The situation in Adamawa State is characterized by episodes of violence, including the activities of the Boko Haram extremist group. Despite being a generally peaceful State, Adamawa has faced repeated incidents of violence, particularly due to Boko Haram's actions. This extremist group has caused one of the most severe humanitarian crises in the State. Approximately over 2 million people have been affected by the Boko Haram crisis since 2009, with around 1 million individuals requiring humanitarian assistance. Among those affected, majority are young people. Consequently, a significant portion of the population affected by the Boko Haram crisis consists of Youth.

Interestingly, Youth also make up the majority of individuals involved in violent activities, including Boko Haram activities and other forms of violence in the State.

One of the contributing factors to the rising violence, Youth restiveness in Adamawa State is believed to be Youth unemployment and the economic frustrations associated with it. The United Nations Security Council's Resolution 2250, co-sponsored by Nigeria and adopted on December 9, 2015, recognizes the interconnection between Youth, peace, and security. Therefore, it is crucial to engage Youth as active partners in efforts to prevent violence, counter violent extremism, and promote sustainable peace.

8.5 OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

Thematic Area	Peace and Security
Objectives	• Protect Youth from direct involvement in armed conflicts, and the effects of conflicts and violence
Leading MDAs	• Ministry of Youth and Sports • Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	• Ministry of Information and Strategy • Nigeria Police Force • Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) • Ministry of Education

STRATEGIES:

The strategies to stop violence and extremism in Adamawa State include the following:

1. Strengthening institutions and improving coordination of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) programmes.
2. Enhancing the rule of law, access to justice, and human rights approaches.
3. Engaging communities and fostering resilience among Youth.
4. Integrating strategic communication into PCVE programming.
5. Establishing measures to protect internally displaced persons and other victims of violence and armed conflicts, particularly from gender-based violence such as rape.
6. During armed conflicts and violent situations, efforts should be made to prevent Youth from direct involvement and minimize the impact of conflicts and violence on them.

8.6. INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Objective: Develop and enforce gender-sensitive laws and policies for the Youth

1. Indicator 1: Existence of Gender-Sensitive Laws and Policies

- Assess the development and implementation of gender-sensitive laws and policies explicitly designed to promote and protect the human rights of Youth.

2. Indicator 2: Gender-Responsive Legal Framework

- Evaluate the extent to which the legal framework is responsive to gender-specific issues affecting Youth, addressing disparities and ensuring equal protection.

3. Indicator 3: Youth Awareness of Rights

- Conduct surveys or assessments to measure the awareness of Youth, particularly marginalized genders, about their rights as protected by existing laws and policies.

4. Indicator 4: Legal Aid and Support Services

- Assess the accessibility and effectiveness of legal aid and support services for Youth, especially for those facing discrimination or human rights violations.

8.7 CONCLUSION

The chapter underscores the critical need for a conducive environment that upholds human rights and promotes freedom for the optimal growth of young individuals in Adamawa State. It emphasizes the interconnectedness of Youth development, peace, security, and human rights, recognizing them as mutually reinforcing elements. The first thematic focus addresses human rights and fundamental freedoms of Youths, identifying gaps in the protection of young people's rights, especially regarding gender-based disparities, violence against women, Youth with disabilities, and socio-economic inequalities. The outlined objectives involve developing gender-sensitive laws and policies, with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development leading the initiative and collaborating with other key ministries and agencies. Strategies include

sensitization, media engagement, law enforcement collaboration, advocacy, and support for Youth-led organizations.

The second thematic focus delves into peace and security, analyzing the situation in Adamawa State marked by episodes of violence, particularly due to the activities of the Boko Haram extremist group. Acknowledging Youth involvement in both perpetrating and being affected by violence, the chapter aligns with the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 2250, emphasizing the need to engage Youth as active partners in efforts to prevent violence and promote peace. Objectives focus on protecting Youth from direct involvement in armed conflicts and their effects, with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution leading. Strategies encompass strengthening institutions, enhancing the rule of law, community engagement, strategic communication, and measures to protect victims of violence and armed conflicts.

CHAPTER NINE

STRATEGIC THRUST 6: COLLABORATION FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BUILDING OF EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

9.1 INTRODUCTION

Youth development is a multi-sectoral agenda that needs effective collaboration among various groups of stakeholders to achieve the optimal result desired in line with this policy goal. Skilled and competent professionals with the appropriate attitudes and approach to the multi-sectorial nature of Youth development are core to building result-oriented partnerships to drive productive collaborations. Consequently, Ministry of Youth and Sports Development is strategic to developing and implementing appropriate partnership framework for Youth development agenda in the State.

9.2 THEMATIC FOCUS 1: CAPACITY FOR PROMOTING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

9.2.1 Situation Analysis

The Adamawa State government has consistently focused on Youth development, with significant efforts made to advance this agenda.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development oversees several key institutions and agencies that contribute to Youth development in Adamawa State, including the Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre. Additionally, the Ministry collaborates actively with Youth and Youth-serving organizations and participates in national Youth-related platforms.

Over the years, the Ministry has introduced various initiatives to advance the Youth development agenda. Other important initiatives involve establishing Youth Development Centers across the State to provide vocational and developmental training for young people and organizing cultural festivals to identify and encourage Youth talent.

9.3 OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

Thematic Area	Capacity for Promoting Youth Development Agenda
Objectives	Strengthening the capacity of government agencies for promoting Youth development agenda

	• Strengthening professional development and professionalism in Youth work • Strengthening the capacity of Youth-led organizations for Youth work
Leading Ministry	• Ministry of Youth and Sports Development
Other Key Ministries and Agencies	• Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

STRATEGIES:

To create a coordination mechanism within the State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development to oversee and synchronize the activities of other relevant government agencies working on Youth development issues, the following need to be done:

- i. Establish a State Youth Development Fund to provide financial resources for Youth-oriented programmes and projects, ensuring that adequate funding is available to support the Youth development agenda.
- ii. Enhance the Youth mainstreaming strategy by appointing focal persons within relevant government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and designating specific annual budget allocations in alignment with the goals and objectives outlined in the State Youth Policy.
- iii. Strengthen the institutional framework outlined in the State Youth Policy to ensure the effective coordination of Youth development initiatives and projects across various sectors and levels of government.
- iv. Develop a comprehensive Youth database and implement a system for regular updates to gather and maintain accurate data on the Youth population. This database will serve as a valuable resource for evidence-based policymaking and programme planning

9.4 THEMATIC FOCUS 2: SUSTAINABLE PLATFORM FOR MULTI-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

Situation Analysis

Youth development in Adamawa State involves multiple sectors and stakeholders. While the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development plays a central role in leading and coordinating

State-level Youth development initiatives, various other sectors also contribute to Youth development in their respective domains. Additionally, numerous stakeholders, including academia, research institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international development partners, play essential roles in advancing Youth development. Effective coordination among these diverse players is crucial to ensure synergy and maximize the impact of Youth development efforts.

Some notable government-led Youth-related initiatives in various sectors such as Promotion of Youth Engagement in Agribusiness; Programmes aimed at involving young people in agriculture, which is a critical sector for economic growth and food security.

International development partners, such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), have played a significant role in supporting Youth development in Adamawa State, for instance, UNFPA has been actively involved in adolescent and Youth sexual and reproductive health and development efforts. It has supported policy development in areas related to adolescent health, population, reproductive health, and Youth development. UNFPA advocates for increased investment in Youth development as a crucial step for the State to harness the demographic dividend. Other multilateral agencies and bilateral organizations, including UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, UNDP, USAID, and the European Union, are also actively engaged in Youth development in Nigeria as well as in Adamawa State. Aligning their efforts with their respective mandates and priorities would be great in Adamawa State. This collaboration between government, international agencies, and various stakeholders underscores the importance of a coordinated approach to Youth development in the State.

9.5 OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

Thematic Area	Sustainable Platform for Multi-sectoral Collaboration
Objectives	Establishing and operationalizing sustainable platforms for multi-sectoral collaboration
Leading Ministry	Ministry of Youth and Sports Development
	- Ministry of Education - Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Other Key Ministries and Agencies	• Ministry of Information and Strategy • Ministry of Health • Ministry of Justice • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Entrepreneurship Development • Department of Labour and Productivity • Civil Society Organization (CSOs)
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STRATEGIES:

- **Adequate Funding:** Collaborate and form partnerships among stakeholders to secure adequate funding for Youth programmes, projects, and activities. This may involve engaging both government and non-government sources to allocate resources for Youth development initiatives.
- **Government Funding:** Ensure that the government allocates sufficient funding to agencies within the institutional framework responsible for implementing the Youth development policy. Adequate financial support is essential for the effective execution of Youth development programmes.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implement a system for periodic monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects carried out by agencies involved in Youth development. This process should assess the impact, effectiveness, and efficiency of these initiatives, allowing for adjustments as needed.
- **Youth Development Technical Working Group:** Establish a multi-sectorial technical working group focused on Youth development. This group should include representatives from various sectors and organizations involved in Youth-related activities. Its purpose is to facilitate effective coordination, communication, and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve the objectives outlined in the Youth development policy.

9.6 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Objective 1: Strengthening the capacity of government agencies for promoting the Youth development agenda

1. Indicator 1: Youth Development Strategy Implementation

- Assess the extent to which government agencies have implemented and made progress on the Youth development strategy.

2. Indicator 2: Budget Allocation for Youth Programmes

- Evaluate the allocation and expenditure of budgets specifically designated for Youth development programmes within government agencies.

3. Indicator 3: Cross-Agency Collaboration

- Measure the effectiveness of collaboration among different government agencies in implementing a cohesive Youth development agenda.

Objective 2: Strengthening professional development and professionalism in Youth work

1. Indicator 1: Youth Workers' Professional Training

- Track the participation of Youth workers in professional development programmes and training opportunities.

2. Indicator 2: Accreditation of Youth Work Programmes

- Assess the accreditation status of Youth work programmes and the adherence to professional standards.

3. Indicator 3: Code of Ethics Implementation

- Evaluate the implementation and adherence to a code of ethics within the field of Youth work.

Objective 3: Strengthening the capacity of Youth-led organizations for Youth work

1. Indicator 1: Organizational Development Programmes

- Measure the participation of Youth-led organizations in capacity-building programmes, including training and mentorship.

2. Indicator 2: Collaboration with Government Agencies

- Assess the level of collaboration and engagement between Youth-led organizations and government agencies in promoting Youth work.

3. Indicator 3: Sustainability of Youth-led Organizations

- Track the sustainability and growth of Youth-led organizations over time, indicating their capacity to contribute to Youth work.

9.7 CONCLUSION

The chapter emphasizes the need for effective collaboration among stakeholders in Adamawa State to achieve optimal results in Youth development. The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development is identified as a key player responsible for developing and implementing a partnership framework. The first thematic focus highlights the State government's consistent commitment to Youth development, with objectives including strengthening government agency capacity and enhancing professionalism in Youth work. Strategies involve creating a State Youth Development Fund, mainstreaming Youth strategies across ministries, and developing a comprehensive Youth database. The second thematic focus underscores a multi-sectoral approach, involving various stakeholders and international partners. Objectives center on establishing sustainable platforms for collaboration, with strategies including securing funding, ensuring government allocations, implementing monitoring systems, and forming a multi-sectoral technical working group. In essence, the chapter stresses coordinated efforts, financial support, and monitoring across sectors for successful Youth development initiatives in the State.

CHAPTER TEN

CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 INTRODUCTION

Developing a policy for climate change requires a comprehensive approach that addresses mitigation, adaptation, and international cooperation. Below is a framework for a climate change policy and a strategy for its implementation.

The Adamawa State climate change policy aims to holistically address the different challenges posed by global warming, incorporating both mitigation and adaptation strategies. Establishing ambitious emission reduction targets is important, coupled with a decisive shift towards renewable energy sources and energy-efficient practices across industries in the State. For instance, the imminent threats caused by the cutting down of trees for burning of charcoal that was recently banned by the State government was a welcome development. The policy emphasizes adaptation plans for vulnerable communities and the development of resilient infrastructure across the State. Integral to this framework is the implementation of carbon pricing mechanisms (put a price on carbon emissions, aiming to incentivize businesses and individuals to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. These mechanisms are instrumental in the global effort to mitigate climate change by internalizing the social cost of carbon and encouraging the transition to a low-carbon economy) encouraging the transition away from fossil fuels. Reforestation initiatives and conservation efforts are embedded to safeguard biodiversity and enhance carbon sinks.

The policy also advocates for Youth awareness campaigns and educational programmes to instill a sense of responsibility for sustainable practices among the young people in the State. Concurrently, incentivizing green technology innovation (development and implementation of technological solutions that are environmentally friendly, sustainable, and contribute to the mitigation of climate change. These innovations aim to address pressing environmental challenges, reduce resource consumption, minimize pollution, and promote a more sustainable and circular economy) fosters a culture of continuous improvement towards environmental sustainability.

To operationalize this policy, a strategic implementation plan is outlined. Legislation and regulation will play an important role in mandating emission reduction targets and enforcing sustainable practices. Investments in sustainable infrastructure, facilitated by public-private partnerships, will accelerate the transition to a green economy. Stakeholder engagement, involving businesses, NGOs, Local Governments and local communities, ensures a collaborative and inclusive approach.

Monitoring and reporting mechanisms will provide transparency, keeping the young people and the general public informed about progress and policy adjustments. Capacity-building initiatives will equip the young workforce with the skills needed for a green economy. Incentives and penalties will shape corporate behaviour, rewarding sustainable practices and penalizing non-compliance. International cooperation remains a cornerstone, fostering collaboration on diplomatic and technological fronts. Continuous evaluation of policy effectiveness and adaptation based on emerging scientific insights will ensure a dynamic and responsive approach to the evolving challenges of climate change. This comprehensive strategy serves as a foundation, with flexibility for adaptation to the unique circumstances and needs of Adamawa State.

10.2 CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY GOALS

1. Mitigation Goals:

- Set clear and ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Transition to a low-carbon economy by promoting renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and sustainable practices in industries.

2. Adaptation Strategies:

- Develop and implement adaptation plans for vulnerable communities and sectors.
- Invest in infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change, such as resilient urban planning, flood defenses, and drought-resistant agriculture.

3. Renewable Energy Transition:

- Incentivize the development and use of renewable energy sources through subsidies, tax breaks, and research funding.
- Phase out subsidies for fossil fuels and redirect funds toward sustainable alternatives.

4. Carbon Pricing:

- Implement a carbon pricing mechanism to internalize the environmental cost of carbon emissions.
- Explore cap-and-trade systems or carbon taxes to encourage businesses to reduce emissions.

5. Reforestation and Conservation:

- Support reforestation programmes to absorb carbon dioxide.
- Implement conservation measures to protect biodiversity and natural carbon sinks.

6. International Collaboration:

- Actively participate in international climate agreements and collaborations especially with neighboring countries like Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

10.3 STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

This policy and implementation strategy provide a foundation for addressing climate change comprehensively. It's important to adapt these guidelines to the specific needs and circumstances of the State. The strategies for implantation are as follows:

1. Public Awareness and Education:

- Implement educational programmes to raise awareness about climate change and sustainable practices.
- Encourage public participation in climate action through information campaigns and community engagement.

2. Green Technology Innovation:

- Invest in research and development of green technologies to foster innovation.
- Provide incentives for businesses to adopt and implement sustainable technologies.

3. Legislation and Regulation:

- Enact comprehensive climate legislation to legally mandate emission reduction targets.
- Implement and enforce regulations that promote sustainable practices across industries.

4. Investment in Infrastructure:

- Allocate funds for the development of sustainable infrastructure projects.
- Facilitate public-private partnerships to accelerate the transition to a green economy.

5. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Collaborate with businesses, NGOs, and local communities to ensure a collective approach to climate action.
- Seek input from experts and stakeholders when formulating and adjusting climate policies.

6. Monitoring and Reporting:

- Establish a robust monitoring and reporting system to track progress toward climate goals.
- Regularly update the public on the status of climate initiatives and adjustments to policies.

7. Capacity Building:

- Invest in training programmes to build the skills and knowledge required for a green economy.

- Support the development of a skilled workforce in industries related to renewable energy and sustainability.

8. Incentives and Penalties:

- Provide financial incentives for businesses that adopt sustainable practices.
- Implement penalties for non-compliance with emission reduction targets.

9. International Cooperation:

- Actively engage in diplomatic efforts to collaborate with other nations on climate initiatives.
- Share knowledge, technology, and resources with developing countries to support their climate efforts.

10. Continuous Evaluation and Adaptation:

- Regularly assess the effectiveness of climate policies and make adjustments as needed.
- Stay informed about the latest scientific developments and adjust strategies based on new information.

10.4 INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Mitigation Goals:

1. Indicator 1: Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets

- Quantify and track the percentage reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to a baseline year, reflecting progress toward the set targets.

2. Indicator 2: Transition to Low-Carbon Economy

- Monitor the increase in the share of renewable energy sources in the overall energy mix and the adoption of sustainable practices in industries.

Adaptation Strategies:

1. Indicator 1: Implementation of Adaptation Plans

- Assess the development and implementation of adaptation plans for vulnerable communities and sectors, measuring coverage and effectiveness.

2. Indicator 2: Infrastructure Resilience

- Evaluate the progress in enhancing infrastructure resilience, including the implementation of resilient urban planning, flood defenses, and drought-resistant agriculture.

Renewable Energy Transition:

1. Indicator 1: Renewable Energy Capacity

- Measure the increase in the capacity and share of renewable energy sources in the total energy generation.

2. Indicator 2: Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reduction

- Track the reduction in subsidies for fossil fuels and the redirection of funds toward sustainable alternatives.

Carbon Pricing:

1. Indicator 1: Implementation of Carbon Pricing Mechanism

- Assess the implementation and effectiveness of a carbon pricing mechanism, such as cap-and-trade systems or carbon taxes.

2. Indicator 2: Business Emission Reduction

- Monitor business efforts to reduce emissions in response to carbon pricing, reflecting the success of the incentive.

Reforestation and Conservation:

1. Indicator 1: Reforestation Impact

- Measure the increase in forest cover and the absorption of carbon dioxide through reforestation programmes.

2. Indicator 2: Biodiversity Protection

- Assess the success of conservation measures in protecting biodiversity and natural carbon sinks.

International Collaboration:

1. Indicator 1: Participation in Climate Agreements

- Evaluate the level of active participation and adherence to international climate agreements, reflecting commitment to global efforts.

2. Indicator 2: Collaborative Initiatives with Neighboring Countries

- Monitor collaborative initiatives and projects with neighboring countries like Cameroon, Chad, and Niger to address shared climate challenges.

10.5 CONCLUSION

The chapter concludes that developing a comprehensive climate change policy for Adamawa State is crucial, addressing both mitigation and adaptation. The policy sets ambitious goals, including emission reduction targets, renewable energy promotion, and sustainable practices. Key strategies involve legislation, public-private partnerships, stakeholder engagement, and

international cooperation. Implementation focuses on public awareness, green technology, legislation, infrastructure, stakeholder involvement, monitoring, capacity building, incentives, and continuous evaluation. The policy provides a flexible foundation for Adamawa State, emphasizing collaboration, transparency, and adaptability to address the unique challenges of climate change in the region and serve as a potential model for others.