



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

2019-2023



Ministry of Youth and Sports

Policy Theme: "Accelerating Youth Participation through Policy Formulation"



FORWARD

After a broad-based country-wide consultative process, we are pleased to conclude and present the National Youth Policy and Action Plan 2019-2023. In the wake of the continuous multi-faceted and daunting challenges with which our youth are faced in Liberia, this document is a comprehensive policy that serves as a point of convergence for all actors within the youth sector.

As our Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) asserts, the National Youth Policy recognizes that given our large youth population, we can only benefit from a “demographic dividend” if we properly harness and marshal the energies of our young people and provide them the skills, employment and other opportunities that are needed to enable them contribute to the sustenance of peace and our economic development. Considering the myriad of challenges faced by youth, the policy proposes guidelines and strategies that can be employed to make our youth more productive citizens and enhance their participation in national affair.

Many years since the end of our civil conflict, our nation remains fragile. When used as a guide and implemented, this National Youth Policy and Action plan is a critical tool for promoting peace, enhancing social cohesion and setting the foundation of this country on the path of strong and inclusive development.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Plan, I entreat all of us, as actors serving our youth population, to hold each other accountable for seeing this policy implemented.

We are grateful to all who contributed to the formulation of this National Youth Policy and Action Plan document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Zeogar Wilson".

D. Zeogar Wilson

MINISTER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FLY, LINSU, and MRUYP

This revised National Youth Policy (NYP) and Action Plan was made possible with funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) through the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS). The support received for the revision exercise has demonstrated the commitment of UNFPA and UNICEF in responding to the needs of youths in Liberia.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports working with the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) and other youth organizations in the country ensured that the review process was youth centered and youth driven. The process started with the hiring of an International consultant by the UNFPA to work together with the MoYS in producing a document that complies with international best practices and also reflects the views and aspirations of the youth of Liberia.

The process was an exhaustive exercise with four regional youth consultation meetings covering the fifteen Counties of Liberia. Each regional consultation was followed by a plenary session that allowed different thematic groups to provide inputs to the views of the other groups. This was followed by a national validation workshop to present, discuss and gather inputs from national stakeholders.

Special thanks go to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Liberia, George M. Weah, for his commitment and support for this policy revision process. The support given by the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. D. Zeogar Wilson and his team at the ministry, to the entire process is also highly appreciated. The contributions of the Deputy Minister and Assistant Minister, together with their technical staff throughout the review process are invaluable.

The youth groups and their leaders, including those of FLY, LINSU, and MRUYP, are highly commended for their maturity, good behavior and commitment during the entire review process.

The commitment shown, as well as the leadership provided by the International Consultant, Dr. Patrick Orotin, during the entire review process is particularly commendable. The consultant has worked to ensure that the 2019-2023 Liberia National Youth Policy conforms to global best practices and addresses the hopes and aspirations of Liberian youth.

Once again, the adolescents and young people of Liberia appreciate the support of the Resident Representative of the UNFPA, Dr. Bannet Ndyabangi, and his staff for their support to the policy review process.

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1. POLICY CONTEXT

Liberia has a population of approximately 4.6 million people, and an average population growth of about 2.5 percent. Liberia's growing population is young and increasingly urban, with almost half of the population in urban centers. The age structure of the country presents a very youthful population with about 63 percent below 25 years and 79 percent below 36 years (LISGIS, 2011). The levels of poverty among the youths are high, and the country is faced with a number of critical challenges in the youth sector. Key amongst them is youth unemployment coupled with the lack of employable skills. Even those who are qualified to find a job, face a great challenge in terms of finding and maintaining work. HIV/AIDS prevalence among the youth is also on the increase; with the 15-24 years age group, a dominant group in the society, bearing the greatest effect of the epidemic.

In spite of these challenges, Liberia's youth have the potential to be the most powerful agents of change. In order to assist the country attain the Pro-poor Agenda (2018-2023) and Liberia Rising 2030 (Achieving Middle Income Status by 2030), the Government needs to draw on the strengths and assets of the vast population of the young people in the country. Harnessing the energy and creativity of this large youth population and ensuring that they are directed towards reconciliation, sustained peace, and national development will determine Liberia's future. This will require concentrated and holistic attention and investment, addressing the lack of educational opportunities, lack of access to health services – particularly sexual and reproductive and mental health, limited livelihood and job opportunities, and security risks they face through daily life in an impoverished state.

The Liberia National Youth Policy recognizes the broader policy context in which it has been formulated and shall operate. This policy context is guided largely by other national policies in the country and it is also reflective of international programmes and conventions. The policy emphasizes access to basic needs, creating the conditions for inclusion so that youth are at the forefront of political and civic engagement and integrated into the decision-making structures and processes in a meaningful way at all levels of society. Building the capacity of youth and enabling their development and self-esteem will enhance their ability to act as agents of change and leaders of national transformation that Liberia needs. It is against this background that the revision of the National Youth Policy & Action Plan (2012-2017) was commissioned by Liberia Government Ministry of Youth and Sports. The revision process involved nation-wide consultations with youth organizations and networks, government, as well as development partners. The current National Youth Policy (2019-2023) is another step towards gaining the authority and increasing the influence of the Government and development partners on addressing youth issues in Liberia.

2. POLICY VISION, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

A Liberia where young people live in safety and security with equal opportunities to realize their dreams and aspirations; and be success focused and morally upright to exploit their maximum potential economically, culturally, politically, socially and religiously.

Goal

The overall goal of the National Youth Policy is to promote youth participation in the national decision making process. It is also to provide an appropriate framework that will promote fundamental human rights and protect the health, social, economic and political well-being of all young men and women in order to enhance their participation in the overall development process and improve their quality of life.

Key Policy objectives

- Establish a general policy framework which will provide guidelines on all matters relating to youth development;
- Promote collaboration between different tiers of government and civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, religious organizations on youth development programs;
- Ensure youth involvement in decision-making, leadership, community based and other development programs especially in matters affecting them;
- Promote the harmonization of other policies, programs, strategies and youth-related research.

3. RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND OBLIGATIONS

RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH

- Participation in policy formulation, decision making, leadership, and development at local and national levels;
- Protection from all forms of abuse, coercion, violence, exploitation, discrimination and degradation;
- Access to all benefits such as proper education and training (including opportunities for life-long learning), employment, housing, legal services, health care (including reproductive health), and recreation;
- In the case of the disabled, the right to be provided with the special treatment which his/her condition requires;

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATION OF THE YOUTH

- To promote, dialogue, reconciliation, peace, and development.
- To protect, conserve, and preserve the environment.
- To promote and advance the principles of gender equality.
- To acquire skills which increase their capacity for self-help, self-respectability, cooperation and community development;
- To promote positive lifestyles and behaviors by young men and women;

OBLIGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT TO THE YOUTH

- Encourage participation of young men and women in decision making, community life and development;
- Assist young people in reaching their goals and full potential;
- Respect and accept the contribution of young men and women to society through the use of their talents, resources, ideas;
- Provide adequate funding for educational and create equal opportunities to be educated;

OBLIGATIONS OF SOCIETY TO THE YOUTH

- Promote responsible parenthood;
- Provide the right atmosphere for the mental, emotional and physical development of young persons;
- Provide equal access and opportunities to family resources to the youth regardless of gender;
- Provide adolescent sexual reproductive health information including HIV/AIDS information and education to young people.

4. POLICY TARGET GROUPS

- **In-and-out of school Adolescents and Youth.** According to the Analytical Report on Youths and Adolescents from the 2008 Population and Housing Census (LISGIS, 2011), there are 1,140,291 youth and adolescents out of which 41 percent are in elementary schools, 14.9 percent in high schools, and 0.9 percent are in tertiary/university and about 3.6 percent had no education at all.
- **Unemployed and under-employed Youth.** Reducing unemployment is the most important measure Government ought to take to improve household living standards (CWIQ 2010). Thus, creating enough jobs for all Liberians to be gainfully employed and able to work their own way out of poverty should be one of Government's top priorities.
- **Youth with disabilities.** Analytic Report on Youths and Adolescents based on the 2008 Population and Housing Census (LISGIS, 2011), there are 21,766 youth and adolescents aged 10-24 years who are disabled in Liberia. In urban areas, 10,504 or 48.3 percent were disabled and 11,262 or 51.7 are disabled in rural areas. Disability leads to special poverty problems, and these figures are quite high.
- **Female Youth (young women and girls).** Gender plays a crosscutting role in contributing to factors that leave women – in particular young women and girls especially vulnerable, as is evidenced by new STI and HIV rates at 34% (LDHS, 2013). Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is widespread and constitutes a major risk for HIV infection.
- **Youth affected by HIV/AIDS.** Young women and girls are particularly vulnerable to poverty, especially in rural areas, because of their more limited access to employment and basic services such as health and education. Large numbers of out-of-school youth; early age of sexual debut for young women and girls leave many young persons; especially vulnerable to sexual abuse and violence, and HIV infection.
- **Female Sex Workers.** Women and girls involved in transactional sex or sex work are at particularly at high risk and need to be targeted. Female sex workers and their male clients are the most important at-risk and bridge populations for HIV transmission.
- **Youth in the informal Commercial sector.** These are mainly vulnerable youth groups such as street boys, school drop-outs, and unemployed youths engaged in petty trade. They are generally well organized within their structures. Rather than disparage this group of young Liberians who are trying to earn a living from their makeshift businesses, Government needs to engage them and develop a strategy to regulate their activities and ensure that they are properly trained in business skills to operate those economic activities so as to support their lives and the lives of others who depend on them for a livelihood.

5. PRIORITY THEMES, SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS

	Priority Themes	Situational Analysis	Strategic Objective	Strategic Interventions	Budget (USD)
	Education & Training	Liberia's net enrollment rate (NER) for primary is 37% compared to 74% for the West Africa Region; secondary level is 17% compared to 33% for the region (UNESCO 2018). The declining trend in enrollment from primary to secondary points to the effect of poverty (World Bank 2015). Breakdown in school infrastructure in many counties, short supply of competent and qualified teachers, not enough textbooks and other teaching /learning materials, and insufficient places are all leading to the significant decrease in the access rate between primary and secondary. Consequently, illiteracy rates among children and young people are 68% with more males able to read and write than females throughout the 15 counties of Liberia. The share of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) has remained stagnant at an average of 5% between 2012 and 2015 (Liberia Education Sector Analysis 2016), as many youth churn TVET. The Liberian Government must make education a high priority in order to ensure that today's school-age children get educated and to provide for the large population of older youth who missed out on school during the war.	To promote and ensure equal access to quality education and skills training at all levels for Liberian youths.	Provide enabling environment for more private, faith-based and community-based provision (including ECCD) to expand provision of basic education.	38 9,0 00
				Advocate for quality assurance in education and improvement in communication with parents and other stakeholders.	79 1,0 00
				Enforce existing educational policies as a means of getting and keeping young people in school.	24 8,0 00
				Provide 'second chance' opportunities for youth and young adults who have dropped out of the educational system.	16, 15 2,0 00
				Introduce mechanism for the promotion of female education through legislative and policy reforms.	37 6,4 00
				Promote positive values and academic integrity among the youth.	22 0,0 00
	Employment & Empowerment	In Liberia, youth aged 15-35 constitute over a third of the total labor force of 1,677,000 people (LISGIS 2011). This large share of young workers intensifies demand for decent jobs, farmland, infrastructure, and public services. However, their educational attainment	Provide youth with a wide range of vocational, flexible employment opportunities, decent	Support implementation of the youth employment strategy.	95 6,0 00

		remains low on average, and youth recognize that their lack of skills and experience are impediments to employment. The inadequate skills and vulnerable employment remain key constraints on rapid, inclusive and sustainable growth. Youth vulnerable employment remains at 78% (ILO Database 2018). Addressing the challenge of youth unemployment and vulnerable employment requires that youth are equipped with employable skills as a fundamental pre-requisite. Formalizing and promoting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in both the formal and informal sectors, and financing TVET is one most viable option for job creation and increasing youth productivity in Liberia.	working conditions, and life skills aimed at enabling young people find and maintain gainful employment and sustainable livelihood without discrimination.	Promote and strengthen youth enterprises and increase youths' access to micro-finance as a tool for starting and expanding businesses.	7,100,900
				Provide young people with mentorship in life skills.	23,3700
				Advocate for equal employment opportunities for specific and marginalized groups of young people in priority growth sectors such as wood manufacturing, garments, fisheries, construction and agriculture.	88,000
				Promote a sense of volunteerism and national service among young people	4,000,000
	Sexual and Reproductive Health & Mental Health	Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of adolescents and youth is affected by many factors including; STI and HIV infections, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), limited access to contraceptives, and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). New STI and HIV infections among adolescents and youth remain high at 34% (LDHS 2013). Similarly, FGM remains high at 26% (LDHS 2013). SGBV prevalence remain high at 39% (LDHS 2013), with young women, commonly in the poor households, experiencing high rates of early pregnancy, school drop-out, and 36% of the victims are married as children (LDHS 2013). Reporting SGBV cases needs to be improved, particularly through enhanced community awareness, adequate medical assistance, justice and protection from perpetrators. 32% of women aged 15-19 have started child bearing, and face a higher risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes. 21% of women who die in pregnancy are between the ages of 15 and 19, and the rate of	Improve the health and social welfare status of all young men and women in Liberia on an equitable basis.	Increase young people's knowledge of safe sexual and reproductive health practices.	805,650

		pregnancy among adolescent girls aged 15-19 in rural areas is almost double that in urban areas, at 42% and 24%, respectively. Teenage pregnancies are more likely to occur in marginalized communities, commonly driven by poverty and lack of education and employment opportunities, and interventions that target the root causes will address this problem and other SRH challenges. Recently, mental illness has also become one of Liberia's key challenges facing the youth, contributed to by trauma from over a decade of civil war, alcohol and drug abuse. About 1 in 5 Liberians (20%) suffer a mild to moderate mental disorder. Access to mental health services is often a challenge. While mental health training programmes are expanding access to care, the lack of a sustained supply of medicines for mental health treatment is an ongoing challenge, and external assistance continues to be required.		Improve SRH service delivery to young people.	2,3 11, 92 5
	Justice and Governance	Juvenile delinquency covers a range of different violations of legal and social norms, ranging from minor offences to severe crimes committed by minors. Although there are no hard-core statistics available, young people constitute the most criminally active segment of the population in the country. Most young people in the country have spent fourteen years of their lives in conflict situations; many have suffered severe dislocations in their lives without opportunities of receiving any form of education and psychosocial support. In most cases delinquency tends to be the natural outcome for many of these young people who are exposed primarily to hunger, malnutrition and unemployment. In many cases, youth offenders are "street youth" who have been exposed to violence in their immediate social environment, either as observers or victims. The National Youth Policy seeks to outline a systematic action that is task-oriented aimed at the prevention of juvenile delinquency in the country.	Promote respect for the rule of law among young people and their right to participate in decision-making on all matters that affect them and the society they live in.	Provide young people with increased economic opportunities, training and education aimed at reducing their involvement in delinquent activities.	75 0,0 00
				Promote a culture of respect for the rule of law among young people.	2,2 04, 00 0
				Establish programs targeted at the rehabilitation of street children, unaccompanied and homeless children in the city and in the counties.	1,4 65, 00 0
				Promote the participation of young	14 7,9 00
				people in decision-making and remove obstacles that affect their full contribution to society.	

				Promote inter-generational relationship and support the capacity of young people to participate meaningfully in programs and activities that affect them.	1,0 06, 30 4
				Promote a sense of responsible citizenship among young people.	53 8,1 02
	Peace building	The role of youth in peace building in the Liberia is key to the political, economic and social stability of the country due largely to their energies and vulnerability. Engaging young people from all spectrum of the Liberian society will break this cycle of violence in peace-building activities at local and national levels. In recognition of this reality, several young people are represented at the legislative level in governance of the country. This will enable young people to make meaningful contributions to the peace-building efforts of the country.	Increase the role of young people in peace-building and strengthen their capacities to become peace ambassadors in their communities.	Ensure the promotion of early warning and prevention systems and at the same time create opportunities for young people to earn a living in communities.	64 5,8 00
				Promote dialogue, social cohesion, and reconciliation in communities.	2,1 66, 50 0
				Support capacity building of youth organizations through policies and programs that will enable them lead peace efforts.	1,9 88, 00 0
				Encourage Inter and Intra-generational conversation between and among youths and adults with emphasis on motivating adults to support young people to work towards promoting peace and development in their communities.	2,6 29, 00 0
	Agriculture	Agriculture is the primary livelihood for more than 60 percent of Liberia's population and provides sustenance for many households engaging in cassava, rubber, rice, oil palm, cocoa, or sugarcane production. However, overall agricultural productivity is low, resulting in Liberia importing more than 80 percent of its rice, making the country vulnerable to global food price volatility. Poorly integrated, the sector lacks basic infrastructure such as machines, farming equipment/tools, farm-to-market roads, fertilizers and pesticides, and food storage capacity. As potentially the largest source of employment in the economy and	Promote the involvement and full participation of young men and women in all areas of the agricultural sector in the country.	Promote training in Agriculture and technical support to youth engaged in farming.	57 3,2 02
				Provide opportunities for youth engaged in Agriculture to increase their yield and income base.	3,7 75, 00 0

		a source of food for its people, adding value to agricultural products (rubber, cocoa, rice, cassava, and vegetables) through processing, manufacturing, and marketing for both domestic and international markets will be central to Liberia's vision of economic transformation for wealth creation that leads to poverty reduction. Young people's involvement and participation in this process is crucial.			
	Environment	Young people, as with people of all ages, have a right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and to have the environment protected for the benefit of future generations. The issue of environmental management and improvements is also of a major concern to young people. Young men and women ought to take active role in participating in programs and activities that improve the environment such as recycling, community cleanup's, land reclamations etc. There is urgent need for the natural environment to be maintained and preserved for both present and future generations. The causes of environmental degradation must be addressed; natural resources must be tapped and made use of in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.	Promote environmental awareness on issues associated with management and sustainability of the environment amongst young men and women.	Create public awareness on environmental protection.	87 0,0 00
				Encourage youth participation in programs designed to protect, preserve and improve the environment.	5,3 04, 00 0
				Ensure sustainability and effective management of forest resources.	60, 00 0
				Promote proper land use and curb illicit mining.	15 0,0 00
	Sports and Recreation	The significance of leisure-time activities in the psychological, mental and physical development of young people cannot be over stressed. Leisure-time activities include games, sports, cultural events, and entertainment and community service. Appropriate leisure programs for young people can be employed in fighting social ills such as drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and other deviant behaviors. Leisure-time or discretionary time can also play a major role in promoting social inclusion, access to opportunities and overall development of young people. Sport is a universal language that can bring	Promote the involvement of young men and women in a wide range of leisure and sporting activities.	Adopt legal frameworks that promote the development of sports and recreation for young people.	98 ,0 00
				Promote Sports as an investment in National Development.	9, 65 0, 00 0
				Increase young people's involvement in recreation activities by establishing recreation centers in each county.	1, 42 5,

		people together, no matter their origin, background, and religious beliefs or economic status. If properly managed sports can be a veritable tool to unite young people thereby strengthening the fragile stability of Liberia.			00 0
	Young Women and Girls	A combination of socio-economic, cultural, and behavioral factors leaves specific population groups at particularly high risk or vulnerable to HIV infection, or to the impact of AIDS. Gender plays a cross-cutting role in all these factors, leaving women-in particular young women and girls especially vulnerable, as is evidenced by high HIV rates. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is widespread and constitutes a major risk for HIV infection. Female sex workers and their male clients are the most important at-risk and bridge populations for HIV transmission. Women and girls involved in transactional sex or sex work are at particularly high risk and need to be targeted.	Promote the full participation of young women in the development of the Liberian society through the development of an enabling environment for both sexes to live free of fear and violence	Enforce legislation protecting young women and girls from all forms of violence, including genital mutilation, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography.	45 0,0 00
				Promote the development of young women and girls and ensure gender equity.	1,3 85, 00 0
				Introduce mechanisms aimed at increasing the enrollment of female students at all levels of education.	65 0,0 00
				Develop and institute mechanisms to monitor the representation, performance and welfare of young women and girls in all sectors.	30 5,0 00
				Create programs supported by an enabling environment to ensure that young women with entrepreneurial ability have access to start-up capital and credit.	11 5,0 00
	Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and Globalization	ICT constitutes a socialization force that is increasingly becoming more powerful than the home and the school. This can be seen in the number of young people that patronize cyber cafes across the country. It is impossible to overlook the fact that youth of today are faced with a global media culture that represents a unifying force that shapes the way they think and behave, sometimes positively and sometimes negatively. While it is true that the global media culture constitutes a wave of pressure on the average young person, the effects vary from society to society. In Liberia, internet penetration is only 8.1%, and many rural communities in the country are	Raise the awareness of the opportunities offered by Science and Technology/ICT amongst young people, and encourage its use as a means of forging global connections.	Establish community based youth facilities equipped with information to increase young people's access to ICT.	1,9 30, 00 0
				Mainstream ICT education and use into the national education system.	4,8 90, 00 0
				Ensure young people are protected in their use of ICT.	50 3,0 00

		grossly under-resourced, and lack access to basic ICT. This situation has the potential of impacting young people negatively. The information age has opened up the entire world and converted it into a global village. It is important that all young people in Liberia are able to operate in their local environment, making the best use of the opportunities that modern technology offers.			
	HIV/AIDS	While poverty is a source of vulnerability (particularly in urban areas and among young women and the youth in general), HIV/AIDS intensifies poverty since it undermines the productive capability of its victims. It diminishes the human capital of a country, as many of those affected are young people below the age of 35, and puts extra burden on the national health budget. Due to the high costs of drug therapy, extreme poverty and lack of an adequate national strategy, infected people in Liberia have little optimism. Thus, combating HIV/AIDs requires both preventing new infections and reducing the impact on those already infected, the youth population being the hardest hit. Young people, like adults, contract HIV primarily in three ways: through injecting drugs; through unprotected sexual activity. HIV can also be transmitted via blood transfusions, through sharing of non-sterile equipment that breaks the skin. Injecting of drugs using needles contaminated with HIV is playing a major role in the spread of AIDS among young people. High levels of sexual activity among adolescents are carried out without the use of condoms thereby placing them at very high risk of HIV/AIDS infection.	To stem the spread of HIV/AIDS infection among young people, and mitigate the impact of the epidemic on those infected and affected.	Strengthen existing mechanisms for creating awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention in all private and public secondary schools to reduce risk to students and teachers.	85 2, 00 0
				Ensure that youth have access to a full range of facilities and services for dealing with HIV/AIDS.	1, 57 0, 00 0
				Provide young people affected and infected with HIV/AIDS and their families with general health and food security, social welfare, protection and emotional support to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS.	1, 43 7, 50 0

Culture and Family life	Young people will flourish and contribute positively to society when they have a family life that is characterized by warmth and mutual respect and when parents show serious and sustained interest in their lives. Such a family is very likely to be able to provide a consistent basis of discipline and close supervision, provide powerful protection against the risks of a young person's involvement in unhealthy or antisocial practices. Young people are able to express their personal and collective views through arts and culture on society and the world in which they live. It also contributes to the promotion of social networks, reconciliation, and the breaking down of barriers to social and cultural diversity.	Promote the role of the family in providing care and support young people and increase their understanding of Liberia's cultural heritage and values.	Encourage mechanisms that support and strengthen multi-generational contributions to positive values and cultures in society.	1 4 7 , 0 0 0
			Encourage parents to remain involved in the education of their children and wards.	2 2 0 , 0 0 0
			Encourage local communities to undertake arts and culture.	1 , 8 5 9 , 0 0 0
Alcohol and Drugs abuse	Substance abuse, which refers to any non-medical or excessive use of a drug or any substance that changes the normal operation of the mind and body, is a health hazard for young people and has significant implications for their physical, psycho-social and mental development. The use of marijuana is the most common among most at risk population (NAC Liberia, 2011). The relatively low cost of marijuana and its availability may account for its common use among young people in Liberia. About a tenth of hard drug users only inject the drug, while about half only inhale as mode of administering the drugs. This has very serious implication on mental health and for the transmission of the HIV virus.	Reduce drug and alcohol abuse among young people and rehabilitate young people addicted to drugs and alcohol.	Ensure well-articulated demand-reduction programs targeted at young people, particularly most at risk young people.	3 8 0 , 0 0 0
			Involve youth and Youth Organizations in designing and implementing educational and prevention programs for drug abusers.	1 2 5 , 0 0 0

			Develop a more comprehensive approach to preventing drugs and alcohol abuse among young people.	8 8 5 , 0 0 0
			Establish rehabilitation centers for young people who are drug dependent	2 , 0 3 0 , 0 0 0
			Establish and promote mental health and counseling programs to cater for victims and young people suffering from PTSD.	1 , 0 7 0 , 0 0 0

6. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

6.1. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND AGENCIES

- a) **The Ministry of Youth and Sports:** - Shall be in the driver's seat for purposes of implementing this policy. It shall be directly responsible for overseeing and co-coordinating the implementation, monitoring, and review of the policy for the Government of Liberia. It also has the superintendent responsibility for the specialized agencies concerned with youth development in the country.
- b) **All line Ministries:** All Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in the country with programs, activities that are youth-focused and youth-related.
- c) **County Authorities:** The County Authorities shall work with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to coordinate youth development programs at the County levels
- d) **Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY):** It will directly be responsible for organizing young people into an active youth service corps and cooperate and work with other partners with similar objectives.
- e) **Liberia National Student Union (LINSU):** It will mobilize efforts and advocate for underprivileged students to benefit from the implementation of the policy.
- f) **Youth Associations and NGOs:** Youth driven voluntary associations and NGOs will be important vehicles through which young people can actively participate in the implementation of the policy.
- g) **Private Sector Organizations:** It is expected that this sector will support programs of employment generation, skills training for the Youth, work-experience, as well as community development activities.
- h) **International Organizations/Development Partners:** Multilateral and Bilateral Donor Agencies/development partners, and International NGOs could provide funding, training, information and linkage programs which contribute to the implementation of the Policy.
- i) **Mass Media:** The prints as well as the electronic media are expected to publicize the objectives of this policy, report and review the progress of the implementation of the policy.

6.2. MONITEING AND EVALUATION

The Youth Policy shall have two levels of monitoring and evaluation. There will be an internal monitoring and evaluation to provide feedback on progress in implementation, of the policy. **This feedback will be provided through;** track the record of services to youth and/or youth issues and advocacy, periodic M & E reviews on youth development programs in the country, dissemination of M&E reports to key stakeholders.

A second level will be an evaluation of the policy that will be conducted by an external institution or individual. This is expected to be done 6 months to the end of the current policy.