

Concept Paper

National Youth Task Force (NYTF)

“Learning by doing – Plan of Action 2009”

A Follow up Project of National Youth Summit 2008

Background

Pakistan currently boasts a huge demographic dividend and untapped human resource; it has the largest group of youth (ages 10 – 24) with nearly 54.2 million individuals. These projections of youth population statistics call for enhanced policy and programmatic measures to address young people’s vulnerabilities and empowering them to be agents of change for development and eventually breaking the cycle of poverty in Pakistan. On one hand young people of Pakistan have potential and aspirations to participate fully in development process. They are the agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation whereas, on the other side, they are one of the most vulnerable groups to experience social, economic and even political issues. Therefore, it is necessary and vital to address young people’s needs through a rights-based, gender-responsive and empowering approach.

Youth involvement and participation in policy making and development processes is essential to harness their potential and to ensure their positive contribution in development of Pakistan.

1. Introduction

WPF in collaboration with UNFPA held a three days National Youth Summit on 29th November to 01st December 2008. The basic rationale and idea behind organizing the summit was to

- To strengthen and harmonize the Youth networks and organizations to effectively contribute to national development
- To initiate a National level platform of the Youth (15-25 years of age) to ensure meaningful youth participation and give out message of unity and peace

After National Youth Summit (NYS’08) it was decided to formalize a National Youth Task Force (NYTF) comprises of young, energetic participants of National Youth Summit. The main responsibility of the National Youth Task Force will be to follow up on the recommendations drawn during National Youth Summit through a logical, systematic and result oriented strategy and plan of action.

The National Youth Task Force will adopt and implement a process in which it prepares young people to advocate for enhanced youth participation at the policy making process of Pakistan, to meet the challenges of young people through a coordinated, progressive series of advocacy activities and experiences which help Young people to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically and cognitively competent. NYTF will also cater to the positive youth development

that addresses the broader developmental needs of youth, in contrast to deficit-based models, which focus solely on youth problems.

Young people need some guidance as they seek out their place in the world. They need opportunities to try new things, to learn, to make mistakes and try again to develop as individuals and as members of the community. A central aim of NYTF and its advocacy activities is the provision of these opportunities and guidance. On the other hand to harness Youth potential in Pakistan, NYTF is about helping young people to make the transition to being happy, productive and successful citizens of the society.

2. Goal

Policy level advocacy and lobbying to implement the recommendations of National Youth Summit 08 through meaningful youth participation.

3. Objectives

- To develop the knowledge and skills of NYTF on policy making and lobbying processes.
- To facilitate NYTF during implementation of the recommendations of National Youth Summit.

4. Implementing Strategy

The implementing strategy includes the following steps

Step One: NYTF Formation

During NYS08, nominations were requested from the participants, almost 60 young boys and girls submitted their nomination forms. The Summit Steering Committee (SSC) of National Youth Summit 08' will process and shortlist the applications on the basis of participation at the summit and responses to the questions of the membership form. A total of 20 young individuals, 50% male and 50% female, age (15-24) will be selected from across Pakistan.

Technical Support to NYTF: Other interested participants will be a part of the National Youth Task Force as friends and will carry out the advocacy activities at provincial and district level. The National Youth Task Force will also be supported by a panel of participants from existing youth networks including YAN, YAP, PILDAT and technical support from international youth led organizations including CHOICE and CIVICUS.

Step Two: Capacity Building of National Youth Task Force

After the finalization of members for National Youth Task Force, a series of capacity building sessions will be held to enhance their knowledge and skills. Later, individuals will be divided into small working groups on basis of their interest and preferences, these working groups will act as focal groups at the district, provincial and National level. The working groups will be

based on the following themes to follow up on the recommendations of National Youth Summit 08.

Cohorts	Relevant Policy level
Education	Ministry of Education on Education Policy
Health	Ministry of Health on Health Policy
Youth	Ministry of Youth on Youth Policy
Population Welfare & Development	Ministry of Population Welfare on Population & Development Policy

The National Youth Task Force will meet on quarterly basis for a week residential training in Islamabad. Every quarterly residential training will encompass the following

- four days extensive training on following
 - Policy making processes
 - Policy review and analysis
 - Lobbying & Advocacy with policy makers and implementers
 - two days analysis of the policy relevant to each training area based on NYS recommendations
 - one day advocacy meetings with relevant ministries and departments
- A total of four (4) quarterly activities will be organized, the activities will be divided into four levels, and Members will be required to complete all the levels, on completion of each level a certificate will be awarded to the members.

Step Three: NYTF Advocacy Plan of Action

During the residential training, NYTF will also develop an advocacy plan; it will serve as a guide for NYTF actions for the future. Along with the development of advocacy plan, advocacy materials will also be developed to help NYTF to advocate for the rights of young people. The advocacy materials will involve advocacy manual and publications. The advocacy materials will be developed on thematic approach and a set of four advocacy manuals will be developed i.e.

1. Education Policy
2. Health Policy
3. Population Policy
4. Youth Policy

Quarterly Advocacy Activities

NYTF activities will be on quarterly basis, a three day activity will be organized in Islamabad at WPF every Quarter of 2009. A capacity building training session, planning and advocacy events will also be part of the quarterly activities. These activities will be marked on the International Days including International Youth Day, International Human Rights Day etc.

Step Four: Media Support Group

During the residential The National Youth Task Force will also get an opportunity to interact with a media support group who will work in close collaboration with NYTF to report on the

progress of NYTF and its work with various relevant ministries. The media support group will be an independent third body to reflect on the process through put the year. WPF will facilitate the NYTF in building linkages with the media to on air programmes.

Step Five: Spreading the Words of Change “Voice for change”

A quarterly newsletter of NYTF will also be developed and electronically circulated amongst the stakeholders with a name of “Voice for Change (VoC)”. The newsletter will contain NYTF activities as well as publications by its members on enhancing youth participation and its effects on the social, political and economic development of Pakistan. VoC will address all the four thematic areas of NYTF and members will be encouraged to develop articles on the said issues. It will also be a source of information to other national and international advocacy organizations/networks about NYTF advocacy plan and its implementation.

Step Six: National Youth Summit 2009

NYTF will gradually implement its advocacy plan to enhance youth participation at the policy making process of Pakistan, moving towards planning and organizing the 2nd National Youth Summit 2009. NYS09 will be organized at the end of 2009 by NYTF. The Summit will report on the recommendations drawn during the summit of 2008 besides involving and training more young people from across Pakistan.

It will be a reflection of NYTF activities in 2009; the summit will base on the learning’s of NYTF and orient the participants about advocacy practices from district, provincial and national perspective. NYS09 will be a platform to learn and develop a national level advocacy plan that can be adopted by other organizations as well.

For continuity of activities and recommendations made during NYS08, 50% participants will be invited to be part of NYS09 from last year event, where as 50% applications will be asked from new and interested participants, total of 150 participants from across Pakistan age (14-25) representing different organizations will be invited to be part of the event.

3.1 - Expected Outcomes

- NYTF member’s enhanced capacity on advocacy & Lobbying skills to effectively contribute to the youth development in the country and;
- National level advocacy plan of action by the Youth (14-25 years of age) initiated for ensuring meaningful youth participation.

3.2 Outputs

- 20 young people trained and capacitated on policy making and implementing processes
- 4 Policy analysis documents; including youth, health, education and population & development policies.
- 4, seven days residential trainings by experts in the field of policy making, analysis, implementation and advocacy.
- 4 Training manuals and step by step guides to work with young people.
- 4 provincial level Plan of Actions
- 4 TV programmes and 4 articles with help of media support group

- Quarterly publication of first ever advocacy e-newsletter “Voice for Change” by the youth people for the youth people.
- 1 high level National Youth Summit in 2009.