

COMPONENT BRIEF: IMPROVING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

OBJECTIVE

Reduce grievances around youth employment and empowerment programmes by supporting them to be more transparent, accountable and accessible to more beneficiaries.

CONTEXT

Grievance arising from economic, social and political exclusion, especially high rates of youth unemployment, is an underlying cause of violence in Nigeria. Government youth empowerment and employment programmes are generally implemented in ways that do not guarantee equal opportunity to young men and women. There is a strong likelihood that this contributes to feelings of alienation and exclusion and predisposes youths to be involved in violence.

OUR APPROACH

We provide technical assistance to government agencies to improve the design and implementation of employment programmes. We support civil society organisations, youth groups and target beneficiaries to advocate for a fairer and accountable delivery of empowerment and employment programmes.

WHERE WE WORK

We currently work at the federal level and focus on three states: Kaduna, Kano and Rivers. We will use lessons learned from this to cascade our activities to other states (Bayelsa, Borno, Delta, Plateau and Yobe) from 2015.

WHO WE WORK WITH

Federal:

- Special Assistant to the President on Job Creation
- National Assembly committees
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Youth Development
- Ministry of Labour and Productivity
- Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development

State:

- Ministries on Youth and Employment
- Secretary to State Governments
- Ministries of Economic Planning and Budgeting
- Ministries of Women's Affairs and Social Development
- National Directorate of Employment (NDE)
- Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA)

Civil society organisations:

- Civil society partners, including associations promoting social and economic inclusion, such as the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD)



Of the young women and men surveyed:

79 per cent think only youth close to politicians are selected for employment and empowerment opportunities

64 per cent think female youth are discriminated against

74 per cent think programmes had not contributed to reducing youth unemployment

(Source: NSRP research in Bayelsa, Borno, Delta, Kaduna, Kano, Plateau, Rivers and Yobe states)

OUR WORK

Technical support: We provide support to federal and state institutions in the design and development of employment programmes. We share international best practices that aim to ensure programmes are inclusive, transparent and conflict sensitive. We are currently working with the National Directorate for Employment (NDE) in the three focal states and the Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA).

Federal–state engagement: We work to build relationships with federal government agencies and state ministries related to youth employment to better co-ordinate the implementation of employment schemes.

We collaborate with MDAs in target states on development of Policy Working Groups (PWG) to ensure more synergy, transparency and inclusion on employment schemes, as well as provide conflict sensitivity assessment of MDAs specific programmes

Awareness and accountability: We partner with the media and civil society who work with young women and men to raise awareness about schemes and advocate for better inclusivity and effectiveness.

CASE STUDY

The youth employment study: winners or losers of youth employment schemes

We commissioned research to assess the contribution of youth employment and empowerment programmes in reducing conflict risk in Nigeria. The study explored whether Nigeria's youth – and by extension the country as a whole – stand to be winners or losers from government employment programmes. The study provides evidence, lessons and recommendations for future programmes. Our goal is that the information will help renew the country's effort to tackle youth unemployment and foster peace and stability.

FIND OUT MORE

Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme
www.nsrp-nigeria.org

Image © Nick Cavanagh Photography

© Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme 2014

