STATE OF THE NATION REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE IN ZAMBIA

February 2012
By Kulijekuzhyika Nyimbili
## CONTENTS

**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS** ................................................................. 3

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** .................................................................................. 4

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** ............................................................................. 5

1.0. **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION** ...................................................... 10

1.1 Global Trends on Youth ........................................................................... 10

1.2 Trends in Africa ....................................................................................... 10

1.3 Trends in Sub Saharan Africa ................................................................. 11

1.4 Youth in Zambia ...................................................................................... 12

1.5 Civic Participation ................................................................................... 13

1.6 Livelihoods .............................................................................................. 13

1.7 Sexual and Reproductive Health .............................................................. 13

2.0. **CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY** .................................................. 14

2.1 Sampling .................................................................................................. 14

2.2. Study limitations .................................................................................... 15

3.0. **CHAPTER THREE: LITERATURE REVIEW** ................................... 15

3.1. Civic Participation .................................................................................. 15

3.1.1 Elections ............................................................................................ 15

3.1.2 Policy Making and Governance ......................................................... 17

3.1.3 The National Youth Policy .................................................................. 17

3.1.4 Youth and Leadership Positions ........................................................ 18

3.1.5 Sixth National Development Plan ....................................................... 18

3.2 Livelihoods and Employment ................................................................. 19

3.2.1 Employment ...................................................................................... 19

3.2.2 Access to Training ............................................................................. 20

3.2.3 Young People’s Education ................................................................. 21

3.2.4 Access to Resources for Economic Empowerment ......................... 22

3.3 Sexual Reproductive Health ................................................................... 23
## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUC</td>
<td>African Union Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEEC</td>
<td>Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistics Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP</td>
<td>Commonwealth Youth Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP RCA</td>
<td>Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECZ</td>
<td>Electoral Commission of Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNDP</td>
<td>Fifth National Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender Based Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRZ</td>
<td>Government of the Republic of Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCMS</td>
<td>Living Conditions Monitoring Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSEN</td>
<td>Learners with Special Educational Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoYL</td>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYP</td>
<td>National Youth Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVC</td>
<td>Orphans and Vulnerable Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACRA</td>
<td>Patents and Companies Registration Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>Patriotic Front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNDP</td>
<td>Sixth National Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWG</td>
<td>Technical Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZDHS</td>
<td>Zambia Demographic Health Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZGF</td>
<td>Zambian Governance Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZNS</td>
<td>Zambia National Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZSBS</td>
<td>Zambia Sexual Behaviour Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZYP</td>
<td>Zambia Youth Policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The State of the Nation report has been prepared with the help of many people and organisations, including the following Government departments and Civil Society Organisations: the Ministry of Youth and Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission, the Zambia Development Agency, the Central Statistical Office and the National AIDS Council.

Restless Development is grateful for the support provided by the Technical Working Group (TWG) members for their invaluable support and guidance during the research period.

The preparation and compilation of the report was undertaken by Kulije Nyimbili. In particular, acknowledgements are due to Chimwemwe Muwowo, Nora Zyamike Nyirenda, Isaac Mukando and Brenda Simpasa for collecting data in the field from the various organisations.

The funding for the component reports and the synthesis report was provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Restless Development Zambia would like to thank UNICEF for providing the funding that made this study possible.

Finally, we would also like to acknowledge the support of the different organisations and institutions that participated in this study.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND TO AND PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Young Zambians, like many young people in developing countries across the world, are faced with multiple challenges, including high HIV prevalence, teenage pregnancies, limited education opportunities and lack of livelihood options, among many other issues. Young people are unaware of their rights – they have no understanding of what the Zambia Youth Policy stipulates. Worse still, only a limited number of young people have access to the policy or have even heard of it. Young people have faced challenges in getting involved in any development activities in their communities because of the lack of understanding of the structures that govern them. This leads to them being left out, unable to meaningfully participate in decision-making on issues that directly and/or indirectly affect them, such as access to funds and health services.

Therefore, the purpose of this report is to review and describe the status of young people in Zambia in relation to the Zambia Youth Policy and as regards Restless Development Zambia’s three goal areas, namely:

i) Civic Participation
ii) Livelihoods and Employment
iii) Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this study comprised a combination of desk research (reviewing relevant policy documents – both pre-identified documents, as well as other relevant documents located through an internet search\(^1\)) and primary data collection (Focus Group Discussions or FGDs, interviews with organisations working with young people, and questionnaires administered to young people).

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE LITERATURE REVIEW

i) Civic Participation

From a baseline survey carried out in the Central and Copperbelt provinces by Restless Development Zambia\(^2\), in advance of implementing a Youth Accountability Model in partnership with the Zambia Governance Foundation (ZGF), it was found that the majority of young people (91%) had not engaged with their local leaders and decision makers in the community when it came to addressing their needs in terms of health services provision in particular, but also on any other issue. Only 9% indicated that they

\(^1\) Search undertaken on www.parliament.gov.zm, with the following terms used: youth policy, health policy and education policy

\(^2\) ZGF and Restless Development (2011)
had raised a complaint to their leaders. These complaints had been addressed to the headman (31%), chairman (26%), health workers (23%) and the police (20%). Out of the 34 young people who had addressed complaints, 19 of them addressed these complaints in verbal form and 6 of them wrote a letter. Most of the young people (77%) interviewed under the baseline survey had never been involved in any community development initiative or work.

ii) Livelihoods and Employment

Zambia’s economy has grown since 2000, especially in the urban areas, and particularly in the construction, tourism, transport and mining industries. However, the economic growth experienced during the last decade has not translated into significant reductions in poverty and improved general living conditions for the majority of the Zambians. The poverty levels are still very high, having severe effects on the livelihoods of youth. Zambia’s poverty rate stands at 73%, meaning that the majority of Zambian youth live in absolute poverty in both urban and rural settings. Extreme poverty declined from 58% in 1991 to 51% in 2006. This is a positive trend, but the rate of change at current levels would be too slow to meet the target of 29% by 2015, which would represent a halving of extreme poverty. Extreme poverty is also much higher in rural areas, at 67%, compared to 20% in urban areas. However, the poverty gap ratio declined from 62.2% in 1991 to 34% in 2006, indicating that the severity of poverty declined sharply during this time, and suggesting that, with the right policies and investments, the incidence of poverty can fall fairly quickly.

iii) Sexual and Reproductive Health

Zambia has been at the centre of the HIV pandemic in Southern Africa over the past 25 years. HIV has touched all age groups, all social strata, all districts, and all families throughout the country. Even where HIV prevalence is lowest, it is still very high by international standards. However, the Zambia Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report shows that the national HIV prevalence rate among adults (15-49 years) declined slightly from 15.6% in 2002 to 14.3% in 2007. It must be noted that women in Zambia have a higher prevalence rate compared to men (16.1% compared to 12.3%), and the urban population has rates twice as high as the rural population (19.7% versus 10.3%). The challenge of halving new HIV infections by 2015 remains.

---

3 Ministry of Labour, Sport and Youth (2006), p3
4 UNDP (2011)
5 UNICEF (2009)
6 UNDP (2011)
KEY FINDINGS FROM PRIMARY DATA

i) Civic Participation

From the information collected, it was discovered that low civic literacy levels among young people contributed to their low involvement in decision making. Young people are not able to take up the challenge of involving themselves in taking up any role in the communities, especially speaking out on what is not right, because they lack knowledge and skills to effectively get involved. This shows that many young people do not understand what role they can play in resolving community development issues. As such, decision making in the communities sampled is a preserve of the elderly, especially in rural settings. Young people are not consulted and are not taking part in planning for their communities, as indicated, for example, in an interview at one of the Councils, in which the person in charge of public relations commented:

“the issues that are discussed in the chambers are critical issues, legislation, personal issues etc, which can only be discussed by the elderly......these are sensitive issues”.

Research data also suggests that young people are not concerned about development activities in their communities, hence the lack of involvement. Furthermore, according to the baseline study conducted in May 2011 by Restless Development, in the intervention schools 24% indicated that they had been involved in any community development work in the past year, 15% in control schools and 24% in colleges. This however, saw a turn during the 2011 tripartite elections were young people turned up in numbers. 47% of the registered voters were aged between 18 and 24 years. See figure 2 for the election data.

Yet the necessary role of young people in development cannot be over-emphasised: young people, being in the majority coupled with their dynamics energies which presents a great resource in terms of abilities and number, must not be left out in the process of decision making of the country. They must, both realise the critical role they play and be sufficiently equipped to take up the challenge and create a successional leadership.

ii) Livelihoods and Employment

The organisations interviewed indicated a number of key issues young people are facing in relation to livelihoods and employment, including poor educational backgrounds, high levels of unemployment among young people, low income levels even where they are employed, and lack of recreational facilities. Furthermore, there are limited skills training opportunities for young people, a lack of youth friendly credit facilities and financiers, and a lack of mentorship programmes. Young people have challenges accessing empowerment funds - there is a high level of ignorance surrounding how funds can actually be accessed. Finally, creation of employment opportunities tends to be limited to the formal sector.
iii) Sexual and Reproductive Health

From the interviews that were conducted with organisations, a number of key issues affecting young people in Zambia were highlighted. Early marriages are leading to high maternal mortality, while young people are being exposed to early sexual activity due to lack of financial support. Young people have limited SRH knowledge and are confused regarding safe sex messages, as different messages are being promoted in the media and by various organisations. Limited access to youth friendly health services in many communities is prevalent, while young people with special needs have particular challenges in being provided with SRH services.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people, though faced with these many challenges, are a great resource that can be used in alleviating the many problems we are facing. What is critical is that they are not left out in the developmental process. As such, we recommend the following:

- Young people must be given the chance to be involved in decision making, right through from their local communities up to the national level.

- We must go beyond giving young people information - though this is critical, it must also be policy to equip young people with skills that will enable them to stand on their own, which goes as far as helping young people financially so that they are able to start up businesses to earn them a living.

- Educational opportunities should be increased and education should have an orientation that will give young people the skills to create employment and not just seek employment.

- Government, together with Civil Society Organisations, should work to ensure youth friendly health services are available to young people, as stipulated in the National Youth Policy and as is required. Young people should be able to access health services without any intimidation.

- There is also a great need for further education on how people understand and view matters to do with sex, such as condom use, though it will take time to change the attitudes of people. We must have a more comprehensive evidence- and rights-based sexual education programme. This programme should not, however, forsake the hopes and values of the communities in which we live in.

- Documents like the National Youth Policy, which deal with issues faced by young people in the country, should be made available for young people to access so that they understand what is due for them and what they need to do to access its.

- Young people need to understand policy for them to hold to account their leaders. There must be a deliberate policy by the Government to engage young people in decision-making in the country.
Civic Education being offered in schools should be tailored to standards of actually enabling young people to use what they learn in their day to day lives, as opposed to just preparing them for exams.

- We must ensure that we strengthen the youth sector in the country, ensuring that youth organisations work together to ensure that the voices of young people are actually heard.

The over-arching recommendation stemming from this report is that we have leaders in young people and we must build this resource, not waste it.
1.0. CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Global Trends on Youth
Globally we are facing the largest youth generation in history and young people are disproportionately affected by pressing development issues. Young people aged 15-24 account for over half of all new HIV infections, who represent nearly half of the world's jobless, creating a vicious cycle of poverty.\(^7\) We believe that young people themselves can offer solutions to these challenges and hence there is a need to find a way of engaging them in the process of development not only as beneficiaries but as active stakeholders.

Nearly 50% of the developing world population is comprised of young people and children.\(^8\) It is evident from the numbers available that the stability of governments, the growth of economies, and the development of social sectors are directly impacted by the well-being of youth. This mass of energy must be used to bring above positive change in our communities.

The International Labour Office (ILO) estimates that at least 88 million young women and men are unemployed throughout the world, accounting for 47% of all the 186 million unemployed persons globally. Many more young people work long hours for low pay, struggling to make a living in the informal economy.\(^9\) There are an estimated 59 million young people between 15 and 17 years of age who are engaged in hazardous forms of work (ibid.). Young people actively seeking to participate in the labour market are 2 to 3 times more likely than older generations to find themselves unemployed. While rapid globalisation and technological change offer new opportunities for productive work and incomes for the lucky few, for many working age young people, these trends increase the vulnerability inherent in the transition from childhood to adulthood. Across the planet, millions of young women and men are failing to gain an entry into the workforce, and the disadvantage suffered by young women is greater. The vast majority of jobs available to youth are low paying, insecure, and with few benefits or prospects for advancement. Further, there is limited access to training for young people to support them in the quest for better living standards.

1.2 Trends in Africa
The African Youth Charter refers to young people as those between the ages of 15 and 35 years.\(^10\) The majority of Africa's population is below the age of 30 years. This poses particular challenges, including those related to the nature and level of education provision for young people and their quality of employment within an increasingly complex and rapidly changing global environment. Today, African

---

\(^7\) United Nations, 2006.
\(^8\) UN Population Division, World Population prospects, 2008 Revision.
\(^9\) http://go.worldbank.org/0I9NMTZNP0
\(^10\) African Youth Charter (2006)
young people have visions and aspirations that may seem unattainable, yet they make an essential contribution to today’s societies and the future that awaits coming generations.\textsuperscript{11}

African young people have limited opportunities when it comes to maximising their social welfare, and have often become victims of social and economic regression from previous decades. Young people are further faced with the HIV epidemic. The young African generations have not known a world without HIV and AIDS. Although Africa is home to about 14.5\% of the world’s population, it is estimated to contain 69\% of all people living with HIV, while 72\% of all AIDS deaths in 2009 were in Africa\textsuperscript{12}.

1.3 Trends in Sub Saharan Africa
Not only is sub-Saharan Africa the fastest-growing region in the world, but young women here face a dual threat of unplanned pregnancy and risk of HIV unequalled in the rest of the world.\textsuperscript{13} Young men also face myriad challenges, including coping with the environmental degradation occurring in many of their countries. The realisation of personal goals for these young women and men, and the economic and social development of their countries, depends to a great extent on the ability of youth to avoid unintended outcomes.

Early marriage is common, often involuntary, and violates international agreements. Young women tend to become sexually active at a young age in Sub Saharan African countries, often within or shortly before marriage.\textsuperscript{14} The international standard for the legal age of marriage for girls is 18, but in many of these countries, the legal age is 16 and girls are often married at much younger ages. In most countries profiled, the median age of first sexual experience among women is between ages 16 and 18, and the median age of first marriage is between 18 and 20. Men tend to have a longer interval between first sex and marriage; on average they initiate sex between ages 15 and 20 years, and marry between ages 22 and 26 years. The time between sexual debut and marriage has implications for the health of young people. As the interval between first sex and marriage becomes longer, youth have a greater need for family planning and reproductive health information and services.

Young people should be seen as an asset to the nation and not a problem. In Sub-Saharan Africa, youths do actually get involved in development issues; however the issue is the extent to which they actually participate. There are multiple barriers that stand in the way of young people getting involved in the decision making process in their communities. These include those relating to demography, age restrictions, gender barriers and cultural factors that exclude youth from decision making, while young people also have limited time to develop skills and knowledge for decision-making. Economic status is also a clear barrier – young people lack the income to participate in mainstream economic activities.

\textsuperscript{11} African Youth Report (2011) \\
\textsuperscript{12} UNAIDS (2010) \\
\textsuperscript{13} Singh et al (2009) \\
\textsuperscript{14} Population Bureau (2010)
Furthermore, youths are mostly preoccupied with academic pursuits or search for jobs. In some cases, adults pose resistance to the views of young people and are not ready to share power with the youth. They believe young people are immature and lack commitment, capacity and temperament to participate in adult decision making processes. Other challenges include lack of space for participation, lack of cooperation among youth organisations, and poor discipline and leadership in youth organisations.

1.4 Youth in Zambia
The population of Zambia stood at 9.9 million in 2000, was estimated at 13.3 million in 2010 and is projected to increase to 15.5 million by 2015, based on an annual growth rate of 2.4 percent. At this growth rate, the population is expected to double by 2030.\(^{15}\)

Young Zambians have continued to face challenges including high levels of unemployment and poverty. They have been socially, economically and politically alienated from the mainstream of national development and worse still, young people are faced with a huge burden from the HIV and AIDS epidemic and inadequate sexual reproductive services.\(^{16}\) The educational system is seen to be inadequate - it does not guarantee continued education for youth and there has not been a proper attempt to determine and understand the problems young people are actually facing.

There are gaps in institutions dealing with young people, with many organisations operating as representatives of youth but not really standing for the needs of the young people in the country. The youth sector has suffered limited cooperation, hence the failure to unite and champion a common cause for young people in the country. Youth programmes in Zambia are also affected by a number of other hindering factors, such as poor information flow from government and other stakeholders, poor access to information for young people, especially in rural settings, and limited participation in decision making by young people. This has resulted in poor coordination and networking of youth programmes. There are, however, many youth organisations that are actually on the ground championing the youth cause, advocating for better representation of young people in different positions involved in decision making. Zambia still faces a huge challenge in terms of ensuring that young people are adequately represented, so that their input is actually put across and they are decision makers themselves, because they have the potential and capability.

We cannot overlook the fact that young people are critical if there is to be any meaningful development in communities. In his speech to parliament, the president of the republic of Zambia, His Excellency M C Sata, pointed out;

\(^{15}\) Based on 2000 Population and Housing Census
\(^{16}\) National Youth Policy (2006)
"... the majority of our Youth have poor Education, lack formal skills and consequently remain without jobs which would enable them to earn a living and hence contribute to national development".\(^7\)

Young people in Zambia remain faced with visible challenges, and being in the majority in terms of numbers, the challenges faced by the country affect them more widely. This report looks at the state of young people in Zambia and puts across recommendations for the betterment of young people in the country.

1.5 Civic Participation
Youth participation in decision making of any nation is critical for meaningful development. Young people in Zambia have the chance of standing as Councillors and Members of Parliament and to basically contribute in any way possible in their communities. It has, however, been argued that that young people are not represented enough - they are not consulted even on issues that affect them. The National Youth Policy (2006) advocates for youth participation at all levels of public and private sector planning in political decision making bodies through close cooperation between government and non-governmental organisations. The image of young people is beginning to undergo a positive shift, but they themselves should be able to stand for what they know they can do and prove themselves.

1.6 Livelihoods
Despite the assertions that the Zambia economy has been growing at about 6% in recent years, the reality is that many young people have no stable and sustainable ways to support themselves. In the rural settings, the majority of young people depend on agriculture. The education system does not seem to sustain young people, as many are cut out from it without the necessary skills to maintain their livelihoods. Therefore, young people have limited options to sustain themselves, and this has been cited by many researchers as the major contributing factors to risky behaviours ranging from theft to drug and alcohol abuse. Measures to empower youth include enterprise development, micro financing, resettlement schemes, and rehabilitation and youth training programmes. However there is a lack of implementation of such initiatives, and thus many young people remain without meaningful options, while those who have attained a certain level of education still wallow in the poverty that affects the rest of the population.

1.7 Sexual and Reproductive Health
Since the early 1980s, Zambia, along with the rest of the world, has been faced with the challenge of HIV and AIDS. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has been a devastating public health problem in Zambia and has drastically hindered the country’s economic development. The Government of the Republic of Zambia, with support from NGOs, local and international partners, has made concerted and sustained efforts to

\(^7\) Presidential speech to National Assembly (2011)
control the spread of the disease. Strides have been achieved in terms of more people having access to treatment and the response having been greatly intensified. However, Zambia still has the challenge of ensuring prevention of new infections, discrimination and universal access to treatment. The 2011 World AIDS Day came up with the challenge of counting down to Zero: Zero HIV related deaths, Zero discrimination, Zero cases of Mother to Child Transmission. Apart from HIV and AIDS, young people are faced with lack of access to STI Treatment, limited sexual education and limited access to adequate health care.

2.0. CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY

This study involved both desk research and the collection of primary data.

Desk research: A number policy documents and demographic reports were reviewed, including the Sixth National Development Plan, Vision 2030, Zambia Demographic Health Surveys, the Preliminary Census Report 2010, the National Youth Policy, Zambia Sexual Behavior Surveys, the Zambia Labour Force Survey, the Zambia Millennium Development Goals Report, and the Zambia Situation Analysis of Women and Children among others. Additional documents reviewed, including internet documents, have all been duly acknowledged.

Primary data collection: Primary data for the report was collected through interviews with organisations working with young people in Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt, Northern and North Western provinces of Zambia. Key government institutions interviewed were the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission, the Patents and Companies Registration Agency, the Ministry of Youth and Labour (MoYL), the Ministry of Health (MoH), and the Ministry of Education (MoE). A total of 25 organisations were interviewed through structured questionnaires.

In addition, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), following a set format, were conducted in 13 National Colleges of Education across the country. A further five FGDs were conducted in three Basic Schools and two High Schools.

The Youth Technical Working Group (TWG), made up of youth-focused organisations in Zambia, and constituted by Restless Development with UNFPA support, provided further information as was required.

2.1 Sampling

Provinces were selected on the basis of levels of activity and representation of youth organisations. Organisations and key government institutions working with young people were identified purposively, through the National Youth Development Council, with the target being to interview as many as possible. FGD participants were selected randomly from within educational institutions.

---

18 Sexual behavior survey, 2009
2.2. Study limitations

The major limitation faced by this study was lack of access to the latest statistics, particularly from government institutions. The situation was compounded by the 2011 general election and the resulting change in government, which saw a number of changes in staffing within government departments. Long bureaucratic processes were required to access controlled information from specialised agencies like the Zambia Development Agency, Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission and Central Statistical Office, which it was not possible to complete within the timeframe for the research.

3.0. CHAPTER THREE: LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1. Civic Participation

The Government of the Republic of Zambia seeks to ensure youth participation at all levels of public and private sector planning and in political and economic decision making bodies through close cooperation between government and civil society organisations.\(^{19}\) The National Youth Policy was produced with the aim of promoting good democratic governance and the development of youth into responsible citizens.

In advance of implementing a Youth-Led Accountability Model with support from the Zambia Governance Foundation (ZGF), a baseline study was conducted by Restless Development in the Central and Copperbelt provinces.\(^{20}\) The majority of young people (91%) had not engaged with their local leaders and decision makers in the community in addressing their needs in health services provision in particular, but also on any other issue. Only 9% (n=34) indicated that they had raised a complaint to their leaders. These had been addressed to the headman (31%), chairman (26%), health workers (23%) and the police (20%). Out of the 34 young people who had addressed complaints, 19 chose to address them in verbal form and 6 of them wrote a letter. Most of the young people (77%) interviewed under the ZGF baseline survey had never been involved in any community development initiative or work.

Though civic education is being offered up to grade 12 in schools, it is mostly taken as a subject meant for exams and not necessarily to be used in everyday life.

3.1.1 Elections

Zambia went to the polls on 20 September 2011, which saw the first change of government in 20 years. It has been widely argued that young people were at the forefront of ushering in of the new government led by Patriotic Front Leader Michael Sata. It is therefore important to understand young people’s level of participation in elections. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the participation of young people aged 18-35 years in the September 2011 elections at both provincial level and national level\(^{21}\).

\(^{19}\) GRZ, National Youth Policy
\(^{20}\) Restless Development and ZGF (2011)
\(^{21}\) Electoral Commission of Zambia, Voters Register (2011)
Figure 1: Voters Register by Province

Figure 2 shows the comparison between youth and adult (those above 35) voters. Out of a total of 5,167,174 registered voters for the 2011 elections, 2,781,588 were below the age of 35 years with 1,064,730 from 18-24 years and 1,716,858 from 25-35 years of age.

Figure 1 shows how the voters register was distributed across the country. Lusaka, the most densely populated province, had the highest number of 25-35 year olds as registered voters with 284,898, followed by the Copperbelt with 280,296, and the lowest being North Western province with 105,117. Copperbelt province had the highest number of 18-24 year old registered voters with 190,113 followed by Northern Province with 152,921, with North Western again having the lowest number with 66,183 18-24 year olds. All the parliamentary seats in the Copperbelt, Lusaka and Northern Province were won by the Patriotic Front. Similarly in the presidential race, the PF scored the highest votes.
3.1.2 Policy Making and Governance

Young people are social actors with skills and capacities to bring about constructive solutions to their own problems. More often than not, governments fail to recognise the legitimacy of young people’s contribution to programmes, policies and decision-making. Much of government policy has a direct or indirect impact on young people’s day to day lives, but seldom are young people consulted or considered in these decisions that affect their present and future well-being. Reference should be made to the role youth leaders exhibited during Zambia’s struggle for independence. Young people should be encouraged to build their capacity in promoting democratic ideals based on political tolerance, co-existence, and the rule of law, fair and equal justice.

Out of the 150 Members of Parliament elected to the National Assembly in 2011, less than 5% were below the age 35 of years. On the other hand, a number of young people were elected as ward councilors, with a few of them elected as Council Chairpersons and Mayors.

3.1.3 The National Youth Policy

The National Youth Policy (NYP) seeks to ensure youth participation at all levels of public and private sector planning and in political decision making bodies through close cooperation between governments and non-governmental organisations\(^{22}\). Its overall objective is to promote the participation of youth in national development. To achieve this, the policy seeks to provide an enabling environment that develops the potential and desire of youths to participate in matters that affect them, strengthen the capacity of service providers, advocate for regular review of legislation related to youth development, and encourage freedom of expression among youth. Further, the policy seeks to promote and support youth participation in politics including as MPs, increase budget allocation to youth programmes and strengthen operations and structures at the National Youth Development Council\(^{23}\) and the Department of Youth Development. This has not yet been achieved, though this policy was set in 2006, as NYDC still lacks the recognition it deserves in the Zambia Youth Sector.

The National Youth Policy is, however, not accessed by young people as the case should be. From the ZGF survey conducted in 2011 in the Copperbelt and Central provinces, only 16% of young people interviewed had heard of the National Youth policy or the National Plan of Action, while of those that knew about it, just 3% had read it and only half of these could remember at least one provision\(^{24}\). Such figures are alarming considering the fact that this is a document that young people should be familiar with. Although it should be borne in mind that the reason for the low awareness levels might be because this particular survey was conducted in rural settings, apart from Mindolo Constituency.

---

\(^{22}\) National Youth Policy, p9
\(^{23}\) A statutory body established by Act of Parliament No. 7 of 1986, functioning to register organisations, coordinate and regulate youth activities and mobilise resources for youth development in the country
\(^{24}\) Restless Development/ZGF Baseline Evaluation Report, 2011, p. 11
3.1.4 Youth and Leadership Positions

Representation of young people in decision-making positions has not been a focus of governments past — what has been more emphasised is the gender perspective, through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) declaration that there should be at least 30% representation of women in decision making positions.\(^{25}\)

With the coming in of a new Government, it was anticipated by the youth sector that there could be a greater level of inclusion of young people in decision making positions, considering the fact that it has been argued that this Government was ushered in by the young people who voted in large numbers. Having a glance at how at the cabinet, however, it contains no youth! Representation in parliament is minimal, translating to only about 5%, while the Judiciary has no representation of young people. Other levels, such as the Deputy Ministerial and Position Permanent Secretaries, claim less than 1% and 0% youth representation respectively, while the Constitution Committee of Experts and Commissions of Inquiries also have no young person on board. This is nothing we can be proud of. It can be argued clearly that when it comes to opportunities to give young people a chance to move the wheels of equity and justice, those that that are charged with the power to facilitate this process completely ignore the young people. For example, sections of society have argued that child and youth empowerment, participation and gender equality appears for the large part unfulfilled and is seen as mere rhetoric.\(^{26}\)

Based upon the information on participation, the reality appears that the engagement of young people lies in mainly social activities and the existing forms of participation prohibits young people’s opinions and desires from entering the public sphere, where they may gain recognition. By virtue of being young people, they are holders of knowledge that adults do not possess.\(^{27}\) The absence of the youth perspective means that adults really do not know what young people think or even if they want to participate or the way they would like such participation to occur. It is through dialogue that young people can bring their expertise to the table, be recognised and inform policy.

3.1.5 Sixth National Development Plan

The Sixth National Development Plan aims to achieve increased empowerment and participation of children and youth in all areas affecting their well-being and livelihoods and enhance observance and protection of their rights in order to build a sound human resource base. This plan is meant to cover a period of five years from 2011 to 2015.\(^{28}\) This plan provides for campaigns per year, which will mean a total of 120 campaigns by the end of 2015. During the Fifth National Development Plan, the Government stated that it would be prioritising national child and youth programmes through comprehensive and multi-sectoral plans for integrating young people as partners in development. However, it is important to note that this has not been attended to, as young people still lag behind in terms of being considered as partners in development.

---

\(^{25}\) Governance Profile, Zambia

\(^{26}\) Sheila McArdle (2011)

\(^{27}\) Sanders and Munford (2008), p359

\(^{28}\) GRZ (2010) SNDP, p. 112.
3.2 Livelihoods and Employment

Zambia’s economy has grown since 2000, especially in the urban areas, and particularly in the construction, tourism, transport and mining industries. In contrast, growth in agriculture, the mainstay of the rural economy and main source of income for 75% of the working population, averaged at just 1.26% between 2000 and 2005. The economic growth experienced during the last decade has not translated into significant reductions in poverty and improved general living conditions for the majority of the Zambians. Job creation was not commensurate with the gains registered from economic growth. Among the factors behind this phenomenon were low labour productivity, low absorption capacity of the labour market for new entrants, particularly the youth, and the concentration of growth in highly capital-intensive and urban-based sectors like mining, construction and services. The poverty rate in Zambia still stands high, at 73 percent, meaning the majority of Zambian youth live in absolute poverty in both urban and rural settings. Extreme poverty declined from 58% in 1991 to 51% in 2006. This is a positive trend, but the rate of change at current levels would be too slow to meet the target to halve extreme poverty by 2015 (to 29%). Extreme poverty is also much higher in rural areas, at 67%, compared to 20% in urban areas. The poverty gap ratio declined from 62.2% in 1991 to 34% in 2006, indicating that the severity of poverty declined sharply, and providing evidence that, with the right policies and investments, the incidence of poverty can fall fairly quickly.

3.2.1 Employment

Youth unemployment is an important policy issue for many countries, regardless of the stage of development. The NYP seeks to provide equal access to employment opportunities and equitable distribution of resources, programmes and services, aimed at empowering youth in Zambia. Its specific objectives include developing young people’s capacity by undertaking the following:

- Reducing entry barriers to education and training – for example through the establishment of bursary schemes at all levels, to ensure the provision of education to all youth
- Promoting adult literacy classes for illiterate youth
- Providing an effective, efficient low cost system of skills training to youth, including the provision of training to out of school youth for self-sustenance and quality leadership training to establish a pool of youth leaders.

We are however, still working at achieving the ideas and policy strategies stipulated in this policy document.

29 UNICEF. 2008
30 GRZ, SNDP, p. 6.
32 UNDP (2011)
33 CSO (2005)
The Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP) does not leave out issues of young people - it aims to promote the creation of decent jobs and skills development particularly for young people. The background to the formulation of the SNDP emanates from the fact that recent economic growth has not translated into significant reductions in poverty and improved general living conditions for the majority of Zambians, of which, in turn, the majority are young people, as highlighted above.

The SNDP indicates that the Child, Youth and Sports Development sector has great potential to contribute effectively to poverty reduction and economic growth through skills development and promotion of sport. It is further acknowledged in the plan that the following are the main challenges young people are faced with: the HIV and AIDS pandemic, unemployment, limited access to financial resources, limited tertiary education facilities, and inadequate and poor sports and recreation infrastructure.

3.2.2 Access to Training
According to the SNDP\(^\text{34}\), during the period of review, a total of 15,566 youths were trained in various skills against a target of 6,000, while 79,043 youths were trained in leadership skills against a target of 5,000. Furthermore, success was recorded in the sports sub-sector, with a total of 5,626 Sports administrators, coaches, referees, and the community facilitators trained. Also, the number of vulnerable and street children that were rehabilitated and trained was 648 children against the target of 1,050, of whom 82 were female and 566 were male. In order to facilitate skills development, a number of Youth Resource Centres were constructed and rehabilitated. Those constructed were Chama, Kwilimuna, Mwinilunga, Ngungu, Umoyo and Kazungula while Luwingu, Chiyota, Chinsali, Mbabala, and Chisangwe were rehabilitated. The construction and rehabilitation works at these Youth Resource Centres are planned to be completed during the SNDP period.

The 2011 National Budget also included the youth - the Minister of Finance, Mr. Alexander Chikwanda, pointed out in his budget speech to Parliament that

> “the Government will scale up youth skill development programmes through the construction of 9 and rehabilitation of 12 Technical Training Institutes. This is aimed at empowering youths and making them active participants in the development of the country”.

These promises have not only given hope to many Zambian youths, but are crucial pronouncements of the Government’s commitment to youth challenges. They also demonstrate recognition of the state of young people by the central government. What is awaited, however, is the fulfillment of such pronouncements.

\(^{34}\) GRZ (2010) SNDP, p. 110
3.2.3 Young People’s Education
The 2011 MDG Report shows that the primary education target of 100% has already been attained. The main challenges at present are adult literacy, which declined from 79% in 1990 to 70% in 2004, and the low completion rate in secondary school (despite its increase from 14.4% in 2002 to 19.4% in 2009). The emphasis needs to be on the quality of education, achieving higher completion rates for girls in secondary education and improving access to post-secondary education and skills training, which many young people critically need as the education system cuts them off. Secondary school (Grades 8-12) net enrollment increased from 416,261 to 673,185 in the same period, equivalent to a rate of 8.3% per year. Progression rates for Grade 9 have steadily increased from 35.3% to 52.7% between 2002 and 2009. Although the rate remains very low, this is a considerable increase of 17.4 percentage points. The completion rate for girls lagged slightly behind that of boys. The completion rate for Grade 12 has also been improving, but at a much lower rate, rising from 14.5% in 2002 to 19.8% in 2009. It is worth noting that although primary education is important, it is secondary education that appears to build enough human capabilities to make a real difference. Private schools and community schools have contributed significantly to the expansion in school space for children.

Under the education goals within the SNDP, it is planned to increase access to tertiary education through the establishment of private universities. These efforts have led to the establishment of 14 private universities and 1 additional public university. Total enrollment in public universities increased from 12,774 in 2005 to 19,086 in 2009.

From the statistics presented by the SNDP, the total annual enrollment in Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVET) institutions reached 33,399 in 2009 from 30,511 in 2005 with 59% males and 41% females. Efforts made to increase access to skills training included the establishment of the Lapidary and Gemstone Processing Training Centre and the construction of permanent facilities at Chipata, Mongu, Solwezi, Kaoma, Mwinilunga and Petauke Trades Training Institutes. With regard to Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC), 126,284 pupils (66,219 females and 60,065 males) from Grades 1 to 12 received bursaries in 2009, compared to 76,776 pupils (39,867 females and 36,909 males) in 2005. Access to education from Grades 1 to 12 for Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN) increased from 89,269 in 2005 to 207,437 in 2009, out of which 46% were females. With regards to skills development, 3% of the total enrollments in TEVET institutions were LSEN, of which 2% were physically challenged and 1% were of hearing and mentally challenged.

---
35 UNDP, 2011
36 SNDP, p. 92.
3.2.4 Access to Resources for Economic Empowerment

Figure 2 shows access to funds from Citizenship Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) by group, as of 9th December 2009. There were 67 women (representing 57%), 45 youth (38%), 3 people living with HIV and AIDS and 3 people with disability.

![Figure 2: CEEC Funds by groups](image)

Meanwhile, Table 1 provides figures for youth beneficiaries by province. At least 86 young people across four provinces of Zambia had received funding from CEEC in 2010. Many young people however do not have information on how they can access funding from the Commission - in 2009; K92 Billion was released out of the K150 Billion earmarked for the CEEC. Records also indicate that the Commission spent K35 Billion Kwacha on 160 projects, while 240 projects were approved at a cost of K52 Billion as at 30th September, 2009.

### Table 1: Youth Beneficiaries by Province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,210,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luapula</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>521,795,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>470,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>475,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>86</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,677,595,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2010, the budgetary allocation for youth fund was K5 billion. This was increased to K10 billion in 2011. The Ministry of Youth had a very low recovery rate for the funds disbursed in 2010 and 2011 of less than 4%. In 2012, Government has provided K11.842 billion in the 2012 National Budget for the Youth Development Fund broken down as follows;
i. K6.7 Billion for loans.
ii. K4.0 Billion for grants.
iii. K1.142 Billion for Administration costs.

The following are funds allocated to Provinces for the fiscal year 2012 (Table 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROVINCE</th>
<th>% OF YOUTH POPULATION</th>
<th>AMOUNT ALLOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>9.923%</td>
<td>665,200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copperbelt</td>
<td>16.74%</td>
<td>1,121,600,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>11.67%</td>
<td>782,480,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luapula</td>
<td>7.09%</td>
<td>474,835,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lusaka</td>
<td>19.70%</td>
<td>1,320,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muchinga</td>
<td>5.12%</td>
<td>343,276,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>7.88%</td>
<td>527,812,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>5.80%</td>
<td>388,749,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>12.31%</td>
<td>825,050,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>6.58%</td>
<td>441,957,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3 Sexual Reproductive Health

#### 3.3.1. HIV and AIDS

Youths are an important target group in the fight against HIV and AIDS because they are at a stage when sexual activity and reproductive activity, including risky sexual behaviors, are likely to begin. Positive sexual behavior and practices, such as delaying their sexual debut and avoiding risky sexual behavior, are cardinal in the fight against HIV/AIDS. HIV preventive efforts can have a large effect on halting the spread of HIV if they are successful with adolescents and young adults.  

Zambia has at the centre of the HIV pandemic in Southern Africa over the past 25 years. HIV has touched all age groups, all social strata, all districts, and all families throughout the country. Even where HIV prevalence is lowest, it is still very high by any standard. The Zambia Millennium Development Goals report shows that the national HIV prevalence rate among adults (15-49 years) declined from 15.6% in 2002 to 14.3% in 2007. It must be noted that women in Zambia have a higher prevalence rate of 16.1% compared to men (12.3%), and the urban population has rates twice as high as the rural population (19.7% versus 10.3%). The challenge remains of halving new HIV infections by 2015.

---

38 UNICEF (2009)
39 UNDP (2011)
Young people in the age range 15-28 years are strongly affected by the pandemic, with the majority of those infected being under 25, while others have lost guardians, which leaves them vulnerable. Furthermore, HIV/AIDS is decimating the knowledge and skill base in many communities, leaving young entrepreneurs without traditional mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities. The number of youth-headed households and orphans is steadily increasing.

The Zambia Demographic and Health Survey\(^4\) suggests that the proportion of youths aged 15-24 who had heard of HIV/AIDS was 94% in 2000 and increased to 98% in 2009, with no variations by sex but slight variation by age. The survey also indicates that a slightly higher proportion of young adults aged 20-24 (95%) know that HIV/AIDS can be avoided than the proportion of adolescents aged 15-19 (92%). The ZDHS points out that among the sexually active youth, young men were much more likely than young women to report higher risk, which was attributed to the fact that more young women are most likely to be living with a partner or could in fact be married.

Seeking an HIV test can be more difficult for youth than adults because many youth lack experience in accessing health services for themselves, and because barriers often exist for youth trying to obtain services. Young women are slightly more likely than young men to have been tested for HIV and to have received the results of the test (23% and 13%, respectively). Young women and men age 23-24 are more likely to be tested for HIV and to receive the results than those aged 15-17. Both young women and men in urban areas are more likely to have been tested for HIV and to have received the results of the test than their rural counterparts. Among young women, Copperbelt has the highest proportion that have been tested for HIV and received the results of the test (33%), while Northern has the lowest proportion (10%). Among young men, Central has the highest proportion that have been tested for HIV and received the results of the test (19%), and the lowest proportion is in Eastern (9%). Testing for HIV and receiving results for both young women and men increases with level of education and wealth quintile.

A further 7% of youth aged 15-24 tested positive for HIV, and prevalence is higher among young women (9%) than among young men (4%). HIV prevalence increases with age, from 4% among youth age 15-17 through 6% among those aged 18-22 to 13% among youth aged 23-24. This age pattern is seen for young women, but for young men the increase in HIV prevalence is not linear; prevalence decreases between the 18-19 age groups and the 20-22 age group.

### 3.3.2 Teenage pregnancy

According to the statistics shown in Figure 3, there were 13,634 pregnancies in basic schools and 5,517 readmissions in 2009, meaning 8,117 dropped out of school. In secondary schools, 2009 had 1,863 pregnancies and 1,162 readmissions. It is clear that, overall, the numbers of teenage pregnancies in schools have been increasing despite the efforts being put in place to curb the occurrence – although this

\(^4\) CSO (2007)
could mean we have more cases being recorded than before and not necessarily that more young people are getting pregnant.

**Figure 3: Number of Pregnancies and Re-Admissions by Grade Groups from 2002-2009**

Teenage pregnancy is a major health concern because of its association with higher morbidity and mortality for both the mother and child. Childbearing during the teenage years also frequently has adverse social consequences, particularly on female educational attainment, because women who become mothers in their teens are more likely to curtail their education. Overall, 28% of women aged 15-19 have begun childbearing; 22% have had a child and 6% are pregnant with their first child. A larger proportion of teenagers in rural areas (3%) have begun childbearing compared with teenagers in urban areas (20%). A comparison of the provinces shows that Western has the largest proportion (44%) of teenagers who have started childbearing, while Copperbelt (20%) and Lusaka (21%) have the lowest proportion. The percentage of teenagers who have started child bearing decreases with increasing level of education. Teenagers with no education are more than twice as likely to start childbearing early as those with secondary education (54% and 21%, respectively). Young women in rural areas were more likely to be pregnant than those in urban areas. Among female adolescents, a quarter (26%) said they have already had a pregnancy.

---

42 Ibid  
43 Zambia Sexual Behaviour Survey (2009)
Major causes of teenage pregnancy: In a web-based poll conducted by SAFAIDs in June 2011 on factors causing the increase in number of teenage pregnancies, most participants said that peer pressure to have sexual intercourse at a young age was a major cause of adolescent pregnancies (23%), followed by insufficient sex education and knowledge about pregnancy (19%), lack of access to contraceptives (13%), inter-generational relationships (18%) and use of alcohol and other drugs accounted (14%).

Meanwhile, Figure 4 shows the findings of a desk review on teenage pregnancy recently undertaken by Restless Development (Restless Development, 2012, work in progress), in which organisations dealing with teenage pregnancy were asked about the possible causes. It was found that poverty was the main cause (80.6%), followed by lack of information on sexual and reproductive health (77.4%), early marriage (64.5%) and lack of access to family planning services (35.5%) as other causes of teenage pregnancy.

Figure 4: Causes of Teenage Pregnancy (no. of respondents)

Young people say that unfriendly health workers at local clinics discourage them from seeking the information and services they need when it comes to sex, due to negative perceptions in communities of young people having sex. This has resulted in high teenage pregnancy and fertility rates and exposure to STIs44.

Young men and women of legal age who enter into marriage should do so based on their free consent and enjoy equal rights and responsibilities and the Government should work to ensure, where applicable, that girls and young women who become pregnant or married before completing their education have the opportunity to continue their education. There is also clearly a need to promote culturally appropriate, age specific sexuality and responsible parenthood education45. It is critical for us to reduce cases by the year as reduction of teenage pregnancy will reduce maternal and infant mortality rates and release resources

44 Global State Institute (2011)
45 GRZ and AUC: 2009, African Youth Charter
for other health care needs. In order to reduce teenage pregnancy, there is critical need to empower girls beyond the level of information.⁴⁶

3.3.3 Young people’s Sexual Behaviour
The Zambia Sexual Behaviour Survey shows that in 2009, more than half (58%) of all young people aged 15-24 reported having ever had sex, a decrease from 66% in 2005. This decrease was slightly more pronounced among adolescents (from 44% to 35%) than among young adults (from 89% to 86%). Survey results show variations by sex, with more young women age 15-24 (64%) than young men (51%) reporting having ever had sex. Overall, survey results show a 12 percentage point decline in young people reporting ever having had sex for the survey period 2000-2009, from 70% in 2000 to 58% in 2009⁴⁷

3.3.4 Sexually Transmitted Infections
According to the Zambia Sexual Behaviour Survey conducted in 2009, overall awareness of STIs was very high among both male and female adolescents aged 15-19. 82% of adolescents had heard of STIs, while 95% of young adults aged 20-24 had heard of STIs, with virtually no differences by sex. Awareness of STIs was consistently high across survey years.

3.3.5 Gender Based Violence
There has been an increase in the cases of gender based violence (GBV), as bemoaned by the Gender Deputy Minister Emerine Kabanshi. According to the Inspector General of Police, more than 2,000 cases of GBV were recorded in the first quarter of 2011, caused by drug abuse, petty jealousy and misunderstandings. The Inspector General of Police report also indicates that 462 cases of defilement and 64 rape cases were recorded in 2011.

⁴⁶ SNDP, p81
⁴⁷ Zambia Sexual Behaviour Survey (2009)
4.0. CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS FROM PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

4.1 Organisations’ areas of work
From the organisations that were interviewed, the breakdown was as follows in terms of the areas in which they work.

Figure 5: Focus of sampled organisations

Sexual Reproductive Health had the highest percentage amongst the organisations interviewed, with 41%, followed by Livelihoods and Employment with 35%, and lastly Civic Participation, which had 24% of the total count.

4.2. Civic Participation
According to the baseline studies conducted in May 2011 by Restless Development, 58% of young people indicated that they were not aware of policies that govern them. Furthermore, from the information collected, it was discovered that low literacy levels among young people contributed to their low involvement in decision making, as did negative sentiments among those in charge with regards to youth.

Ultimately, it seems that young people are not able to take up the challenge of involving themselves in taking up any role in the communities, especially speaking out on what is not right, because they lack knowledge and skills to effectively get involved. This shows that many young people do not understand what role they can play in resolving community development issues. As such, decision making in the communities sampled is a preserve of the elderly, especially in rural settings - young people are not consulted and are not taking part in planning for their communities. This was indicated, for example, through an interview at one of the Councils, in which the person in charge of public relations commented:
“the issues that are discussed in the chambers are critical issues, legislation, personal issues etc, which can only be discussed by the elderly...these are sensitive issues”.

The necessary role of young people in development cannot be over emphasised - young people, being in the majority, must not be left out in the process of decision making of the country. They must, however, be sufficiently equipped to take up the challenge. The low levels of literacy among young people especially in the rural areas are critical and threaten the development of the country.

4.3 Livelihoods
With unemployment being one of the economic problems Zambia is critically facing, young people have not been spared. The signs of unemployment are not far from our eyes because we see them daily in our compounds. Upon graduation from high school, a huge number of young people are cut out from the education system as they fail to get to higher education. Furthermore, the limited employment levels could be as a result of the fact that we are more focused on ‘white collar jobs’ and looking for employment as opposed to creating employment. Young people are also hindered by a lack of opportunities to avail training, and limited availability of youth-friendly credit facilities and mentorship programmes. Finally, access to empowerment funds for young people is limited. A major factor behind this is young people not understanding what is required of them. There is clearly a need for a deliberate policy to ensure that young people are given the relevant information to ensure they know how they can actually access such funds in their communities.

4.4 Sexual Reproductive Health
Young people are confused by safe sex messages – the media and various organisations give out lots of different messages in terms of what they can do to protect themselves when engaging in sexual intercourse. There is limited knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) as well as limited access to youth friendly health services in many communities. Young people with special needs have particular challenges accessing SRH services.

Early marriages are obviously not such an issue in areas like Lusaka, where they are aware. But they continue to be a frequent occurrence in rural settings, with many teenagers falling pregnant and ending up getting married, while child marriage is widespread in rural Zambia, even though the legal age for marriage is 21 for both males and females. Customary law and traditional practice discriminate against girls and women with respect to inheritance, property, and divorce rights.

Furthermore, a study conducted in Ndola, an urban setting with a high prevalence of HIV, found that married girls aged 15–19 are significantly more likely than their sexually active unmarried counterparts to be infected with HIV (27% vs. 17%). This basically shows that married teens are put at a higher risk of
getting HIV and AIDS. And in most cases, it is the young people with a limited education who are married off early.

Moreover, many young people fear to access health services from clinics and other health centres because of the intimidation they foresee from health providers. It is critical that health providers are trained so as to be more youth friendly, while young people should stand out on their own to demand for what is theirs. It is argued that young people with disabilities are not included in the planning for services - this could be because of the perceived limited numbers. Advocacy needs to be undertaken on this issue.

Finally, gender-based violence is another issue that young people are facing, especially female teenagers. It has been noted that so far 9,612 cases have been reported to date (2012) a figure which might surpass the 2011 report of 11,908 cases.48

---

5.0. CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Young people, though faced with these many challenges, are a great resource that can be used in alleviating the many problems we are facing. What is critical is that they are not left out in the developmental process. Young people must be given the chance to be involved in decision making from their local communities right through to the national level. We must go beyond giving young people information - though this is critical, it must also be policy to equip young people with skills that will enable them to stand on their own, which go as far as helping young people financially so that they are able to start up businesses to earn them a living. Educational opportunities should be increased and education should have an orientation that will give young people the skills to create employment and not just seek employment.

The report makes the following recommendations:

1. Government, together with civil society organisations, should work to ensure youth-friendly health services are available to young people, as stipulated in the National Youth Policy (NYP) and as is required. Young people should be able to access health services without any intimidation.

2. There is also a great need for further education on how people understand and view matters to do with sex, though it is acknowledged that it will take time to change the attitudes of people. We must have a more comprehensive evidence – and rights-based sexual education programme. This programme should, however, not forsake the hopes and values of the communities in which we live in.

3. Documents like the NYP, that deal with issues of young people in the country, should be made available for young people to access so that they understand what is due to them and what they need to do to access its. Young people need to understand policy in order for them to hold to account their leaders. There must be a deliberate policy by the Government to engage young people in decision-making in the country.

4. The Ministry of Education must consider revising the Civic Education Curriculum offered in schools to address the factors that hinder meaningful civic participation, by focusing on enabling young people to use what they learn in their day to day lives as opposed to just preparing them for exams.

5. We must ensure that we strengthen the youth sector in the country, ensuring that young organisations work together to ensure the voices of the youth are actually heard, giving them the chance to speak for themselves. We have leaders in young people - we must build this resource, rather than wasting it.
REFERENCES


Central Statistics Office (2009a) *Zambia Demographic and Health Survey*

Central Statistics Office (2009b) *Living Conditions Monitoring Survey*


Central Statistical Office (CSO), Ministry of Health (MOH), Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDRC), University of Zambia, and Macro International Inc (2009) *Zambia Demographic and Health Survey 2007*. Calverton, Maryland, USA: CSO and Macro International Inc.


Global Youth Enterprise & Livelihoods Development Conference (2010) USA


McArdle, Sheila (2011) *Power and Powerlessness – Youth Civic Engagement, the Promise of Democracy?* UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, School of Political Science and Sociology, The National University of Ireland, Galway.


President MC Sata49 (2011) *Speech to the National Assembly*

Restless Development and Zambia Governance Foundation (2011), *Baseline study on Young People’s Knowledge of Policy Implementation, Access to Youth-friendly Health Services and Community Engagement in 4 communities in the Central and Copperbelt Provinces of Zambia*


Susheela Singh et al. (2009) *Adding it Up* (New York: UNFPA and Guttmacher Institute)

UNICEF (2009) *Zambia- Situation Analysis of Children and Women*


UNDP (2011) *Zambia Millennium Development Goals Report*

World Bank (n.d.) *Youth Livelihoods and Employment*, http://go.worldbank.org/0I9NMTZN0

---

49 President of the Republic of Zambia
ANNEX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Summary of Technical Working Group

Restless Development is the global leader in youth-led development agency, whose mission is to place young people at the forefront of change and development. Globally we are facing the largest youth generation in history and young people are disproportionately affected by pressing development issues. Young people aged 15-24 account for over half of all new HIV infections, who represent nearly half of the world’s jobless (UN, 2006) creating a vicious cycle of poverty. With all these issues affecting young people, we believe young people themselves can offer solutions to these challenges and hence the need to find a way of engaging them in the process of development.

Restless Development is implementing a UNFPA-supported project focusing on understanding how young people utilise development and policy information to influence change at local and national levels, and designing a toolkit and guide that will provide user friendly methods of making young people aware of policies that govern them. The project will be used by young people from across the world to inform and educate young people on how to engage in the process of development. The project is using a youth-led participatory research model with young people at the centre of the project as co-researchers, key informants, co-designers and co-analysts.

Roles and responsibilities of the Technical Working Group

a) Provide technical advice and support on the research methods and processes that will be used in developing a ‘State of the Nation’ report that will be used to inform decision makers related to the various issues affecting young people in Zambia in the following thematic areas: Civic Participation, Livelihoods & Employment, and Sexual and Reproductive Health.

b) Provide technical advice and support in developing an interactive tool kit that will be used as a guide for young people in understanding policies and fully engaging in the development process.

c) Provide linkages to organisations that might benefit from the guide, especially those in rural communities and other communities that are not readily accessible to information and resources.

d) Attend regular scheduled meetings.

Timeframe

The Technical Working Group will be in effect from the date of being set up to the 31st December 2011.

Deliverables

a) Reviewed and approved ‘State of the Nation’ report

b) Reviewed and approved interactive tool kit

c) Dissemination strategy for the report and tool kit to organisations and other key stakeholders across the country clearly planned
ANNEX 2

PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ADVOCATES (ARHA)
Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates (ARHA) is a dedicated Youth based Organisation that focuses on Reproductive Health, Children’s Rights, Youth Empowerment, HIV/AIDS prevention and Awareness among the youths of Western Province. It was formed in 1999 by the Mongu District Health Management Team (MDHMT) and Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) after realising the number of youths who reported cases of STIs/STDs and other Reproductive Health problems for medical and counselling services late. In the year 2003, on December 3rd, ARHA was registered with the Registrar of Societies in Lusaka as a nonpolitical, non-partisan, nonprofit making and non-Governmental community based youth organization. Today, ARHA is operational in three additional districts of Western Province, namely Senanga, Kaoma and Kalabo.

MISSION STATEMENT
Adolescent Reproductive Health Advocates (ARHA) is a youth oriented non-governmental organisation that exists to contribute to youth empowerment to achieve lasting improvement in their health, financial and social well. ARHA empowers young persons by providing sexual and reproductive health services, recreation facilities, developing HIV & AIDS educational programmes and engaging in advocacy for the rights of young people.

VISION
ARHA envisions a community with empowered and well informed rural and urban youths, with skills and socioeconomic opportunities to address gender issues, human rights, being able to prevent themselves from early and unwanted pregnancies and from contracting STIs/HIV & AIDS, thus contributing to the reduction of new HIV cases in Zambia.

BAREFEET THEATRE

INTRODUCTION
Barefeet is a Zambian charitable organisation registered under the Registrar of Societies in 2007 and is working using theatre for development and other performing arts to enrich the lives of children who are living in difficult circumstances. The organisation is based in Lusaka, where most of its activities are conducted, but it also operates in Kabwe, Ndola, Kitwe and Livingstone. A group of youthful and vibrant performing artists who are working on a voluntary basis comprise the membership of Barefeet. They use their vast experience, skills and talents to work for and inspire the targeted children.

OBJECTIVES

a) To use the arts as a tool to contribute to the prevention and reduction in the number of children living on the streets in Zambia.

b) To provide a platform for vulnerable children where their talent is discovered, developed and exposed to the world

c) To use theatre and arts as tools for providing life serving information in order to contribute to the reduction of infections/diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria etc.

ACTIVITIES

a) Conducting weekly performing and visual arts skills workshops for 1,000 children/young people, across the country.
b) Organising an annual youth arts festival which brings together 2,000 children to showcase their work and share experiences of life.

c) Conducting public performances to raise awareness on various issues.

d) Outreaching to the children who live on the street and discussing with them issues of possible integration to child care centres or reintegration to their homes.

e) Producing an annual Christmas show for hundreds of children from partner centres/community schools as part of Barefeet’s way of investing a theatre culture in the children.

f) Organising psychosocial support camps for children living on the street to keep them occupied and help them access life serving information as a way of helping them to reform.

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAM (CYP)

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) is an intergovernmental youth and development agency devoted to youth development. It works to give young people aged 15 – 29 the skills, confidence and avenues to create a better future for themselves and for their families and communities. CYP works directly with member governments and young people on a range of political, social and economic issues. It also develops partnership with local, regional and international agencies to strengthen youth involvement at all levels. Its work primarily falls under three strategic programme areas, namely: Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods (YESL), Youth Work Education and Training (YWET) and Governance, Development and Youth Network (GDYN), all which are guided by the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE).

AIMS

The Commonwealth Youth Programme works towards a society where young women and men are empowered to develop their potential, creativity and skills as productive and dynamic members of their societies and to participate fully at every level of decision-making and development, both individually and collectively, promoting values of international cooperation.

VISION STATEMENT

The Commonwealth Youth Programme’s (CYP’s) vision is the empowerment of young women and men so they can realise their full potential as individuals; as members of communities, youth organisations, political and social action groups; and as key contributors to the well-being and sustainable development of societies and cultures in which they live and of the global community as a whole.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the CYP to work toward the realisation of this vision by enabling Commonwealth governments and the Commonwealth Secretariat to take action to create, foster and maintain the enabling conditions for youth empowerment in ways that reflect the realities facing the youth of the Commonwealth in the first decade of the new Millennium.

NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (NYDC)

The National Youth Development Council (NYDC) is a statutory body established by Act of Parliament No. 7 of 1986, to register youth organisations, co-ordinate and regulate youth activities and mobilise resources for youth development in the Country. We work with and for young people through established youth organisations, programmes, clubs and enterprises.

FUNCTIONS

a) To advise the Minister responsible for youth affairs on programmes relating to youth development

b) To co-ordinate youth activities in the country

c) To monitor and evaluate youth programmes
d) To assist and encourage organisations interested in youth development in the initiation of youth development programmes

e) To initiate, operate and manage non-profit and profit making projects in support of youth programmes

f) To register and monitor youth organisations in Zambia

What are the Benefits of Registering with NYDC?
Among the benefits of registering with NYDC are:-

- Technical support in capacity building on governance issues and project management
- Access to grants and loans administered by the Council
- Clearance and support when applying for government and donor support
- Information on youth related issues
- International linkages with youth development partners
- Exchange programmes
- International Youth Award
- Youth Entrepreneurship programmes.

MEMBERSHIP

NYDC draws its membership from youth organisations, youth clubs, projects, community-based organisations and faith-based organisations.

A youth organisation will have a constitution, a board with at least 10 members, general membership of not less than 20, a secretariat and should maintain a bank account.

A project will have a specified timeframe and target group as well as a steering committee of at least 10 members. It should have measurable indicators and maintain a bank account.

A youth club will consist of a group people with common interest. It may not be legally registered but recognised. It should have an executive committee.

A youth organisation/project/club is accorded national status if it is active at least in five provinces and provincial status if it is active in at least 50% of the districts: otherwise it is accorded a districts status. An affiliation fee is charged for membership.

OPERATION YOUNG VOTE (OYV)

VISION

“A generation of empowered, motivated and patriotic young people with passion and love for a Green Environment in a just, equal and poverty free society”.

MISSION STATEMENT

An NGO led by young people, working in partnership with both urban and rural young people in order to improve their livelihoods (through wealth creation as means to fight poverty) and enhance their participation in decision-making at all levels, enhance youth capacity to love and protect the environment; through advocacy, leadership development, policy analysis, research and information dissemination.

MOTTO “For Good Leadership, Governance and Sustainable Development”
OBJECTIVES

- To urge young people to Acquire National Registration Cards (NRCs), Register as Voters, Cast their vote wisely and Follow their vote;
- To Lobby politicians to address the inequality of opportunity faced by young people;
- To broaden and enhance the participation of young people in Leadership/Decision making positions;
- To scale up Environmental awareness among the youth in order to foster a common spirit of responsibility towards our environment; and
- To help create conditions conducive for the upholding fundamental human rights and democracy.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA (PPAZ)

VISION

Our Vision is realisation of a society in which all people in Zambia enjoy equal sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and have access to quality and affordable SRH information and services.

MISSION

Our Mission is to advocate for sexual and reproductive health rights of women, men and young people, especially the vulnerable, and to empower them to make free and informed reproductive health choices. We dedicate ourselves to the provision of high quality and sustainable youth-focused sexual and reproductive health services.

UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (UNZAPOSA)

The University of Zambia Political Science Association (UNZAPOSA) is a professional association of Political Science at the University of Zambia. UNZAPOSA endeavors to sensitize the students and the general public at large about the importance of the interface that exists between Politics and national development. Our main objectives are to encourage students to develop interest and active participation in the conduct of local and international politics, to familiarise students with the work of local political parties, the electoral system, role of parliamentarians, voters rights and voting patterns, and to enhance political orientation, socialisation and participation among UNZA students, students of other higher learning institutions and the public at large through debates, seminars, public discussions, radio programmes, publications and research.

YOUNG WOMEN IN ACTION

Young Women in Action (YWA) is a non-governmental, non-profit making organisation that was formally registered with the Registrar of Societies in June 2002 by a group of young women and men to spearhead issues and concerns that affect young women in the women’s movement in particular and Zambia in general.

VISION

YWA sees the future where “empowered young women realize their full potential to effectively contribute to their aspiration, women’s movement and national development”.

MISSION

“Young Women in Action is a non-governmental organisation that seeks to effectively contribute towards the creation of enabling environment in which young women realise their full potential through advocacy, networking and capacity building on gender equality and leadership development issues. Products
Thematic Areas of Operation include:

# Leadership Development and mentorship
# Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights/HIV/AIDS/GBV
# Socio-Economic Empowerment
# Gender and development
# Advocacy and Lobbying

YWA is also involved in availing to its members training opportunities in various sectors, linkage programs in volunteerism, business opportunities, social networking, capacity building and education support to the most vulnerable young women.

Upon filling membership forms, membership subscription is charged annually. This helps to sustain the organization’s administrative costs. Suffice to mention that YWA’s programs are implemented in collaboration with its members in the districts who have formed community based groupings.

Contact Details:
Young Women in Action
Villa Elizabeth,
Salvation Army Compound
Plot 110/8, Room 5, Chishango Rd
P.O Box 36841, Tel: 225250, Lusaka-Zambia
Email: ywa@uunet.zm

YOUTH ALIVE ZAMBIA

Youth Alive Zambia is a youth oriented organisation working towards the harnessing of inherent capacities of diverse individuals and youth groups to adopt and sustain health attitudes and behaviours.

Youth Alive Zambia is a way of life by which youths take steps towards a positive life from a spiritual, social and Physical standpoint in the transformation of their own world.

OBJECTIVES

- To educate and share with youths on issues related to the mitigation of HIV/ AIDS.
- Contribute to the formation and implementation of policies fostering the well-being of youths and children.
- Promote a healthy state of mind, body, spirit and environment amongst youths.
- To promote abstinence as the best strategy in the fight against HIV/ AIDS amongst youths and children.
- To empower children and youths with psycho-social skills.

AIM: To promote values that enhances healthy attitudes and behaviours.

Contact us on:
Youth Alive Zambia, Private bag RW 646x Lusaka, Zambia or
Plot No. 6085
Chituli Road Northmead
Lusaka
Zambia
Tel: +211- 293559
Cell: +260- 977-396209
YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA

The Youth Association of Zambia (YAZ) was formed and registered with the Registrar of Societies under the societies act on the 12th May 1994 in Lusaka, Zambia. It was further registered in 2006 with the National Youth Development Council, a quasi-governmental organisation, under the Act of Parliament cap. 102 mandated to register and monitor all the youth organisations in Zambia.

MISSION

YAZ’s mission is to create a better future for young people and work towards a society where they are empowered to develop their potential and creativity as dynamic and responsible members of their respective societies; to participate fully at all levels of decision making and developmental process as volunteers and professionals both individually and collectively without any discriminatory practices. The role of YAZ is empower young people and build their capacities in different areas so as to enable them participate fully in the life of our country.

FOCUS AREAS

- Promotion of youth enterprise development
- HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness
- International Youth Exchange
- International Study and work camps
- Democracy & Good Governance
- Gender mainstreaming in youth programmes

YOUTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Youth Association of Zambia [YUNA-Zambia] is a youth Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) registered with the United Nations Development 1-NGO Section in the country and the National Development Council of Zambia. It is also affiliated to other organisations around the globe like the World Federation of United Nations Association (WFUNA), African Youth Environment Network (AYEN-UNEP), Clean Up the World (CUW), Global Youth Action Network, One Billion Tree Campaign and Youth Exchange. It has been operating in Zambia for the past 6 years. To this day, the association membership records over 500 youths both active and inactive members. The association also has branches at the higher learning institutions which are the University of Zambia (UNZA), Copperbelt University (CBU), Zambia Open University (ZOU), Mulungushi University, Evelyn Hone College, and Zambia Insurance Business.

VISION

- To have a strong Young Peoples’ Movement in support of the mission, ideals, activities, objectives, principles and purpose of the United Nations in Zambia.
- To fully know the UN, its principles and its works and make it be known to the Youths.

MISSION

To inform educate and train, help to shape the National and Youth agenda, promote Youth empowerment and development programs and advocate, lobby, train and campaign for Youth participation in all UN activities including the UN’s MDGs, by 2015.

ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS (ZAFOD)

The Zambia Federation of Disability Organisations (ZAFOD) has been in existence since 1990. Its vision is to promote a society where persons with disabilities, enjoy equal rights and opportunities that are
generally available in society and are necessary for the fundamental elements of living and development. Therefore, ZAFOD aims at promoting the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities through:

- co-coordinating and supporting activities of the member and supporter organisations of and for persons with disabilities in Zambia;
- providing a forum for the free exchange of information, ideas and views amongst persons with disabilities as well as with the mainstream society; and
- carrying out cross-disability programmes of practical action designed to promote full participation and equality of opportunities amongst persons with disabilities.
ANNEX 3

NATIONAL COLLEGES OF EDUCATION PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY

1. Chipata College of Education
2. Copperbelt College of Education (COSETCO)
3. Kasama College of Education
4. Kitwe College of Education
5. Livingstone College of Education
6. Malcolm Moffat college of Education
7. Mansa College of Education
8. Mongu College of Education
9. Mufulira College of Education
10. National In-Service Teachers College
11. Nkrumah College of Education
12. Solwezi College of Education
13. Zambia Institute of Special Education