NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

2025-2030

UNITED NATIONS
THE GAMBIA

KEY PARTNERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
CRR	Central River Region
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GBA	Greater Banjul Area
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IPC	Inter Party Committee
IR	Inception Report
KMC	Kanifing Municipal Council
LRR	Lower River Region
MECCNAR	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
MoBSE	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
MoGSCW	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare
MoHERST	Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAP	National Action Plan
NAATIP	National Agency Against Trafficking In Persons
NA	National Assembly
NAYCONF	National Youth Conference and Festival
NEDI	National Enterprise Development Initiative
NDP	National Development Plan
NBR	North Bank Region
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NYC	National Youth Council
NYSS	National Youth Service Scheme
ONS	Office of National Security
PIA	The President's International Award
PoA	Programme of Action
PWD	Persons With Disabilities
SALW	Small Arms and light Weapons
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TANGO	The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Gambia
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNODA	United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
URR	Upper River Region
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security

FOREWORD

This National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) serves as a strategic framework to guide our intergenerational efforts in promoting youth engagement in peace-building, preventing violence, and ensuring the active participation of young people in decision-making processes. It identifies the unique challenges young people face which impact their meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes, including opportunities for a better livelihood, social exclusion, and knowledge gaps.

The NAP also identifies the roles of stakeholders in the areas of peace, security, and development through programs, services, facilities, and activities to achieve the resolution's goal. The YPS NAP complements existing national policy initiatives and conventions that affect youth; it is a testament to Gambia's recognition of the importance of peacebuilding and conflict prevention and our commitment to seeing the country's youth as critical partners in such efforts.

It is gratifying to note that we are among the few countries globally that have achieved this feat as recommended by United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250, and the African Union's Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security demonstrating the Government's dedication to sustainable peace and security now and for posterity.

Please be assured of the commitment of the Government of The Gambia towards the implementation of this action plan. We call on all our development, civil society and youth partners for collaboration and working together to support the implementation of this initiative. By doing so, we aim to create an inclusive society where every young person can contribute to and benefit from sustainable development and peace.

Honourable Bakary Y. Badjie

Minister of Youth and Sports

PREFACE

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which The Gambia fully subscribes to, are a strong call to empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all. The Gambia's Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP) 2023-2027 builds upon these principles and demonstrates the Government's strong commitment to addressing issues of inadequate empowerment and social exclusion, particularly among youth. This is clearly articulated in Outcome 6.3 of the National Development Plan (NDP which emphasizes the enhancement of economic opportunities and all-round social and cultural development for youth empowerment. It recognises that removing such barriers is key to unleashing the potential of large segments of society and establishing a just and equitable society.

Despite the Government's commitment to youth empowerment, young people are among the most vulnerable groups in The Gambia and are often perceived as either perpetrators or victims of violence. Youth suffer the consequences of poor governance despite their active role in supporting political campaigns. With 40.8% of the population under 15 years old the median age of the population in the country at 18 years of age and only 3% over 65, youth constitute a significant majority of The Gambia's population. Preliminary reports of the 2024 population census indicate that 77% of the population is under the age of 35.[1] This demographic reality calls for substantial and meaningful attention to the needs of Gambian youth, ensuring that their aspirations are not only recognized, but actively addressed.

These realities make it clear that safe spaces for youth participation in peace and security are crucial for the sustainable well-being of their communities.

The United Nations Security Council, on 9th December 2015, adopted Resolution 2250 [2]. This resolution recognizes the active role of youth in peacebuilding and encourages their valued participation in matters of justice and reconciliation. The Gambia, being an integral part of the International Community and a UN member-state, considers it important to not only adopt the resolution but to also domesticate all its principles through a National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth Peace and Security (YPS).

The NAP on YPS is more than just a document; it is a practical guide for Gambian youth, government, civil society, international partners, and indeed all stakeholders, to work together to create inclusive policies that ensure the protection, participation, and empowerment of youth in peace and security efforts. By aligning with the five pillars of UNSCR 2250—Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnership, and Disengagement and Reintegration—the NAP on YPS will foster an environment where Gambian youth can thrive and contribute to building a peaceful and resilient society. With a comprehensive whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, there is no doubt that this Action Plan will be successfully implemented.

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[1] 2024 Population and Housing Census Reports - GBoS
[2] UN Security Council Resolution 2250 - S/RES/2250(2015)

INTRODUCTION

In The Gambia, as in many countries facing economic challenges, political instability, and the risk of conflict, youth encounter numerous obstacles. Many grow up in environments where prejudice, violence, and trauma are passed down through generations. Neglecting their needs amplifies feelings of exclusion and erodes trust in institutions, creating significant barriers to achieving the objectives of the National Development Plan.

While youth are often stereotyped as perpetrators of conflict and violence, reports such as *"The Missing Piece: A Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security" (2021)*[3], *"If I Disappear: Global Report on Protecting Young People in Civic Space[4]"*, the *1st Report of the Secretary-General on Youth, Peace and Security (2020)*[5] and the African Union's Study on the roles and contributions of youth to peace and security in Africa[6] highlight their role as productive citizens who contribute remarkably to national development.

Recognizing the vital role that youth play in fostering peace, at the normative level, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the ECOWAS Youth Policy on January 19, 2005.[7] This was followed by the African Youth Charter (AYC) [8], endorsed by the African Union (AU) in July 2006, which highlights the positive contributions of young people towards peace and security in the region.

At the global level, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 2250 (2015), calling for youth involvement in peace and security processes worldwide. UNSCR 2250 provides the first international legal and political framework recognizing the impact of armed conflicts on youth, including their role in fostering peace and security (UNSCR Report 2250, 2015). In addition to this historic resolution, two additional Resolutions were adopted by the UN Security Council - Resolution 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020). While Resolution 2419 mandates the UN Secretary General to report on the progress made, it also highlights the important role youth play in mediation and peace processes. Resolution 2535 for the first time recognizes the shrinking civic space young people occupy. Together, these three resolutions act as the global normative framework for the global YPS agenda. In August 2020, the AU Peace and Security Council adopted the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security, urging AU member states to develop National Action Plans in alignment with UNSCR 2250.

Globally, the development of National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security is still in its early stages with only five countries having such a plan in place. Among these, three are AU Member States - Nigeria, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo – alongside Finland and the Philippines.

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[3] https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3846611?ln=en&v=pdf
[4] https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4014684?ln=en&v=pdf
[5] https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3855975?ln=en&v=pdf
[6] https://au.int/en/documents/20200701/study-roles-and-contributions-youth-peace-and-security-africa
[7] ECOWAS - Youth-Policy.pdf
[8] African Youth Charter | African Union

Gambia's NAP on YPS is a strategic document that draws inspiration from regional and global frameworks. The plan provides a blueprint for engaging Gambian youth in peacebuilding, addressing the root causes of violence, and exclusion and providing platforms for their active involvement in decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels. Ultimately, the success of The Gambia's NAP on YPS will depend largely on political commitment, effective coordination among key stakeholders, and financial commitments by domestic and international partners.

BACKGROUND: A Youth-Sensitive Context Analysis

Demographic Factors

The 2024 Population Census estimates The Gambia's population at 2.42 million, with 51% females and 49% males.[9] 77% of the population are categorised as youth. According to The Gambia's National Youth Policy (2019-2028)[10], youth are defined as individuals between ages 15 to 35, consistent with the African Youth Charter (AYC)[11] and ECOWAS[12] Youth Policy. The Gambia's youthful population presents an opportunity to harness their potential for sustainable peace, economic prosperity, and societal transformation.

Table 1: Age Distribution (of youth 15-35 years)

Age Group	Total Population	Males	Females
15-19	285,807	141,157	144,650
20-24	242,231	112,862	129,369
25-29	192,893	87,416	105,477
30-35	162,532	72,410	90,122

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[9] 2024 Population and Housing Census Reports - GBoS
[10] Gambia National Youth Policy https://nyc.gm/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/National-Youth-Policy-of-The-Gambia-2019-2028-Final.pdf
[11] African Youth Charter | African Union
[12] ECOWAS - Youth-Policy.pdf

Political Context

Since 2017, The Gambia has been engaged in democratic transition processes, following the end of a 22-year long authoritarian regime. During this period, young Gambians have played a key role in shaping the country's democratic future through active participation in transitional justice, governance, and peacebuilding. They have been strong advocates for human rights, democracy, and freedom of speech, driving positive change and contributing to legislative re-forms, including the constitutional reform process.

Despite their efforts, Gambian youth face significant challenges. Unemployed and disenfran-chised youth are often exploited by political actors and are sometimes manipulated into engag-ing in violent or illegal activities for political gains. An important example worth highlighting is youth involvement in the political turmoil during the 2016 electoral crisis. On one end of the spectrum, young people were at the center of the violent civil uprisings in April and May 2016, expressing their dissatisfaction with the former president's rule. However, several other young people engaged in peaceful political activism, using social media as a platform to motivate their peers to vote for change.

According to the 2024 Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA), youth continue to be gen-erally excluded from meaningful participation and leadership in political processes. Currently, young people under 35 represent 77 % of the population, yet less than 20% of National Assem-bly Members are under the age of 35[13]. Youth are completely unrepresented in Cabinet. In a 2021 study by Activista   The Gambia, 54% of youth respondents felt that they were "Always or Often" excluded from decision-making processes.[14]

While some political parties have established youth wings, and initiatives like the Youth Branch of the Inter-Party Committee promote dialogue between party leaders and youth, vari-ous gaps persist. There is a systematic absence of meaningful engagement between youth and decision-makers. Additionally, many national policies advocating for minimum quotas for youth representation in leadership have not been implemented.

The continued exclusion of youth from political processes limits their ability to influence gov-ernance despite their potential to contribute to sustainable peace and national development.

Economic Vulnerability in The Gambia

The 2022-2023 Gambia Labour Force Survey[15] pegs the national unemployment rate at 7.6%, with youth unemployment notably higher than adult unemployment (10.1% against 3.8%). Ad-ditionally, 48.6% of youth were considered to be underutilized.

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[13] https://data.ipu.org/parliament/GM/GM-LC01/data-on-youth/ , https://nawatch.org/an-overview-of-the-sixth-legislature/

[14] https://mptf.undp.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-12/gambia_00124863_annex1_0.pdf

[15] 2022-2023 Gambia Labour Force Survey https://webapps.ilo.org/surveyLib/index.php/catalog/8358/re-lated-materials

With 40.8% of the population under the age of 15, the working-age demographic faces increasing pressure, leading to strained economic resources and productivity.

Implications for Youth, Peace and Security

Rising unemployment and economic instability have increased youth vulnerability. While The Gambia has not experienced the same level of extremist activity as some neighbouring countries, its weak economic infrastructure combined with political and social exclusion leaves young people susceptible to radicalization, especially through online platforms. Similar to trends in North Africa and the Sahel, some Gambian youth have been recruited into extremist groups abroad.

The 2024 CDA identifies a direct link between economic vulnerability and issues of conflict, peace, and security. Economic vulnerability has led to negative coping mechanisms, including crime, forced sex work, irregular migration, corruption, drug peddling, and abuse.

These challenges disproportionately affect young people, undermining their economic resilience, self-worth, and trust in systems that are meant to support them. Persistent underemployment and unemployment exacerbate frustration and disillusionment among young people, further threatening peace and stability in The Gambia.

Cultural and Social Factors

Youth in The Gambia are often viewed through a negative lens, either as disruptive perpetrators of violence or as helpless victims lacking agency. These perceptions are shaped by socially constructed age norms that influence attitudes toward young people. Young women, in particular, face greater challenges due to entrenched social notions of masculinity, femininity, and age, which heighten their marginalization.

The 2024 CDA highlights the intersection of gender and age and how these shape the dynamics and experiences of conflict in The Gambia. This gender- and youth-sensitive analysis underscores the unique challenges young women face and the ways these intersecting factors influence their roles in conflict, peace and security.

In 2023, a series of inter-generational dialogue sessions held across The Gambia revealed that young people feel sidelined and excluded from decision-making processes at household, community, regional, and national level, even on issues that directly impact their lives.

The table below replicates some of the findings as highlighted in the 2024 CDA:

Table 2: Findings from the 2024 CDA

The older generation feel that this is their time to be at the forefront of change.	Young people feel that the older generation does not acknowledge the role of young people in peace and development.

Under the 22-year autocratic rule of the former president, democracy was undermined, and citizens had few opportunities to actively participate in governance and decision-making processes. Under this new government, the older generation feel that they finally have the freedom and space to be change makers. They feel that this is their time, and that younger people need to patiently wait for their turn.	They feel the elders do not acknowledge the efforts of young people towards the development of their communities.
The older generation feels that young people have lost respect for the elderly and for traditional and cultural practices. The older generation expressed particular concern over the departure from traditional conflict-resolution mechanisms and highlighted the need for the youth to embrace such traditional means of dealing with conflict because they have proven to be very effective in the past.	**Young people feel that their dignity is not respected by the elderly.** When a young person falls into what is perceived to be a moral problem, they are publicly shamed and discriminated against. Parents warn their children against associating with such individuals.
The older generation see the youth as irresponsible and reckless due to an increase in drug and substance abuse leading to bad behaviour and violence. They also acknowledge the role of parents in introducing the young ones to such habits. Parents send their children to buy these substances for them and often smoke in their presence.	**Young people are frustrated by elders' preconceived negative generalisations** These focus particularly on preconceived notions that young people are troublemakers, leading to heavy-handed police response, e.g. resorting to tear gas and batons during social uprisings involving young people. This incites them to further violence. Young people are always blamed whenever a crime or act of violence is committed within the community.
The older generation feel that young people should be more innovative about jobs and employment. Rather than being preoccupied with moving to urban areas to seek office jobs, young people should have an open and creative mindset	**Young people (especially young men) are under pressure from family to acquire wealth and take care of younger siblings and other relatives.**

to seek out opportunities in their communities.	Parents compare their children to other people's children who are apparently more successful. This places pressure on the youth and leads to desperation. They become willing to do almost anything to live up to their families' expectations of them. Pressure from families also pushes many young people towards irregular migration. Families go as far as borrowing money and selling all their property to support their children to travel through the "backway".

Both younger and older people have expressed the need for more intergenerational sessions and
conversations that help both sides understand each other's role in peace and development.

It would be particularly helpful to share success stories of young people doing great work in their communities and beyond, as a way of dispelling the notion that all young people are irresponsible troublemakers.

Opportunities for co-leadership on peace initiatives could provide an avenue for older people to mentor the younger ones, while experiencing firsthand the enthusiasm and innovation that young people offer.

Within this context, it is apparent that promoting the YPS Agenda is particularly relevant for The Gambia, where youth are both victims and agents of violence. The YPS Agenda emphasizes the need to view youth not merely as perpetrators but also as essential partners in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Several youth-focused civil society organizations and public institutions such as the National Youth Council, have been working to empower youth and engage them in governance and decision-making processes. However, more opportunities are needed to actively engage young people in policy development, particularly regarding peace and security.

To foster sustainable peace in The Gambia, it is crucial to address the socioeconomic challenges facing young people. This includes tackling unemployment, expanding access to education and training, and promoting civic engagement to ensure young people have a voice in national development. The Gambia must move beyond viewing youth as a threat and instead invest in their potential as drivers of peace, stability, and development. By empowering young people and providing them with opportunities for meaningful participation, The Gambia can harness the energy and creativity of its youth to build a more just, equitable, and peaceful society.

ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

The National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security (NAP on YPS) complements existing national, regional, and international policy initiatives and frameworks that impact youth in The Gambia.

National Policies, Frameworks and Legislation:

The Gambia's Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023-2027, known as *'Yiri-waa'* (a Mandinka word for development), aligns with UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security in several ways. The NDP 2023-2027 prioritizes youth empowerment, ensuring that young people are involved in policy development and decision-making, particularly in governance and leadership roles. It acknowledges the importance of youth-led initiatives in achieving sustainable development and peace.

The Gambia Programme of Action for Youth (2024 – 2028) is to serve as the foundation and reference point for developing national policies and programs that promote youth empowerment and development over a five-year timeline. It provides a comprehensive and strategic framework that guides the government and other stakeholders in addressing the diverse needs and challenges facing young people in The Gambia.

The National Youth Policy (2019–2028) provides a framework for addressing issues related to youth development in The Gambia, including employment, education, health, and peacebuilding.

The Gambia's Children's Act (2005) promotes the protection of children's rights and aligns closely with youth protection initiatives, including their participation in peace and security efforts. The act defines a child as any person under the age of 18.

Women's Amendment Act 2015 seeks to promote gender equality and ensure women's equal participation in decision-making processes. It emphasizes the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, including young women, and guarantee their active involvement in political, economic, and social spheres. The aim is to combat the systemic discrimination and marginalization of women in Gambian society by promoting policies that are gender-sensitive, focusing on ensuring equality in education, health, and political participation for women.

The Gambia Women Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plan (NAP): The WPS NAP is aligned with UNSCR 1325 which urges UN Member States provide greater participation and representation of women in decision-making processes, conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms. The NAP has three overarching goals: to ensure greater respect for women's right to participation in the decision-making processes on equal footing with men; to eliminate discrimination against women and to end SGBV perpetrated against women; and to involve women in the security sector, conflict resolution mechanisms and peace processes, including peacekeeping operations.

Persons with Disabilities Act (PWD Act) 2021 is designed to protect, promote and uphold the fundamental rights of PWDs as guaranteed in section 31(1)(2) and (3) of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia and the The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This act ensures the protection of young PWDs who are particularly vulnerable to exclusion and discrimination.

The Gambia's National Policy on Education (2004) ensures access to quality education for all, including youth, fostering their ability to contribute to peace, security, and development.

The Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission (TRRC) Whitepaper: The final report has recommendations that include youth in the peacebuilding process and aims to promote national healing and reconciliation, involving young people in sustainable peace efforts.

The National Gender and Women Empowerment Policy (2023-2033): Aligns with efforts to engage young women in peace and security processes, in accordance with the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

Regional Policies and Initiatives:

The ECOWAS Youth Policy provides a sub-regional framework for the development of youth in West Africa, aligning with the principles of youth inclusion in peacebuilding and development.

The AU Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security (2020) provides a framework which builds on a continental study that examines the key challenges faced by youth and their contributions to peace, security, and good governance. This framework anchors the YPS Agenda at continental level and, as part of its 10-year implementation plan, calls on AU member states to adopt NAPs on YPS.

The African Youth Charter (2006) endorsed by The Gambia, this charter emphasizes youth rights, including participation in decision-making, which directly supports the objectives of the NAP on YPS.

Global Frameworks:

UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF): Outcome 2.2 of The Gambia's 2024 – 2028 UNSDCF[16] has strong linkages with the YPS Agenda and reaffirms the UN's commitment to collaborate with national stakeholders to support transitional justice and peacebuilding and address youth marginalization and resource-based conflicts.
Outcome 2.2: By 2028, marginalised and vulnerable people in The Gambia enjoy efficient social and economic inclusion and right-based human development for reduced poverty and inequality.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The Gambia is committed to achieving the SDGs, many of which intersect with youth development, peace, and security.

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[16] [The Gambia UNSDCF 2024-2028 | United Nations in The Gambia](#)

Pact for the Future: Declaration on future generations: These documents highlight the commitment of Heads of State and Government to protecting the needs and interests of current and future generations. The Pact for the Future contains a dedicated theme on youth and future generations which includes key actions on investing in the social and economic development of children and young people, promoting, protecting and respecting the human rights of all young people and strengthening meaningful youth participation at national and international levels.

Action 20 of the Pact for the Future expresses the commitment of UN member states to accelerate the implementation of commitments to youth, peace and security by taking measures to increase the inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels and by strengthening and implementing existing youth, peace and security national road maps or developing them where they do not exist.

UNSCR 2250, 2419, 2535: The former two resolutions focus on the role of young people in preventing and resolving conflicts, participating in peace building initiatives, and provides a set of guidelines upon which policies and programs will be developed by key stakeholders. The latter resolution demonstrates the Security Council's commitment to taking practical action on YPS across the United Nations system.
By leveraging these policies, the NAP on YPS will be a crucial tool for domesticating and implementing the YPS agenda. It will contribute to peace and security through youth participation and protection, and enhanced partnerships with youth.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINE

History of The Gambia's NAP on YPS

The journey towards the development of The Gambia's NAP on YPS began in 2020 when various youth groups advocated for recognizing the importance of the YPS agenda in Gambia and the urgent need to domesticate the agenda given The Gambia's youth demographic. In 2023, several inclusive and participatory engagements were organised as part of preparatory steps towards the development of the NAP. These engagements included national youth consultations, capacity building sessions on YPS for National Assembly Members, National Youth Council (NYC) staff, regional youth chairpersons, civil society organisations and Local Government Authorities.

In March 2023, the development of the NAP on YPS began in earnest with the establishment of a Technical Working Group (TWG**)**, consisting of representatives from government and civil society, to provide technical advisory support to the process. A preliminary round of regional consultations was conducted, after which the TWG unanimously agreed on the need to conduct more extensive consultations at constituency level for wider reach. This would ensure that the voices of young people at all levels are heard and accounted for in the development of the NAP.

In September 2024, consultations were conducted in 15 constituencies, bringing together 300 youth to share their priorities and aspirations for the NAP on YPS. This was followed by a

three-day national consultation workshop, targeting stakeholders from central government, civil society, youth groups, the private sector, United Nations and development partners. (see Appendix 1) As a key objective of the workshop, participants identified barriers to youth empowerment, protection and participation in peace and security processes, and brainstormed potential solutions to address them. The activities and programmes identified during these sessions informed the formulation of the Implementation Framework.

Between 2023 and 2024, approximately 2,000 stakeholders have been engaged in the development of this important document, with young people making up the majority of those consulted. The NAP incorporates the voices of youth from diverse backgrounds, including grassroots communities, young women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and marginalized youth. Special efforts were made to ensure inclusive participation, reflecting the perspectives of those often underrepresented in decision-making processes.

Table 3: Stakeholder Engagements towards the NAP on YPS

Activity	Year	Lead Organisation(s)	Number of participants
Peace Hub training for women and youth on YPS	2023	Peace Hub The Gambia	50
Preliminary Regional Consultations with youth	2023	UNDP x NYC	210
Consultations on implementation of Youth 2030 in The Gambia	2023	UNCT-Gambia x UN Youth Office x Dag Hammerskjold Foundation	37
National Youth Consultations	2023	UNCT-Gambia	100
Training on YPS for Red Cross Volunteers	2023	Peace Hub The Gambia x ITC x Red Cross	300
Training on YPS in the Fonis *(a group of socially and economically excluded communities (including Kanilai, the residential area of former president Yahya Jammeh) where residents are increasingly becoming easy targets for the recruiting armed groups in Casamance.)*	2023-2024	Peace Hub The Gambia x ITC Peace Hub The Gambia x UNFPA	55
Consultations + Validation of the Gambia Programme of Action for Youth	2023 - 2024	UNFPA x NYC	310
Training on YPS for National Assembly Members	2024	Peace Hub The Gambia x GIZ	15
Training on YPS for NYC, CSOs and Regional Youth Chairpersons	2024	Peace Hub The Gambia x GIZ	50
Training on YPS for Local Government Authorities	2024	Peace Hub The Gambia x GIZ	171
Roundtable Discussion on the development of the YPS NAP	2024	UNDP x NYC	72

Activity	Year	Lead Organisation(s)	Number of participants
Trainings on YPS for women and youth groups	2024	Peace Hub The Gambia	350
Constituency Consultations with youth for the development of the YPS NAP	2024	UNFPA x NYC	300
National Consultations with youth and duty bearers for the development of the YPS NAP	2024	UNFPA x NYC	43
Training of YMCA Peace Ambassadors	2023-2024	The Gambia YMCA	100
TOTAL			**2,163**

THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

### A.	Rationale

The development of a NAP on YPS is a demonstration that The Gambia is fully committed to meaningfully supporting the country's youth as co-leaders and partners in peace and security matters and is aligned with the spirit and intent of the YPS Agenda. This document outlines mechanisms to enhance the meaningful participation of young people in all spheres of peace and security by formulating interventions that will address the barriers identified by young Gambians during the series of country-wide consultations. (see Appendix 2).

The five pillars of UNSCR 2250 — Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships, and Disengagement/Reintegration — serve as the foundation of the NAP. These pillars shape the priority themes designed to address barriers to youth participation while promoting their meaningful engagement in peacebuilding and security efforts. The fifth pillar, disengagement and reintegration, calls for actors involved in Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration processes to support the specific needs of youth involved in conflict. Since the country doesn't have an active DDR process, it was determined that this pillar doesn't apply to Gambia's context.

B. Theory of Change (ToC)
The Theory of Change underpinning this National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security is that:

IF youth gain agency & assets in the field of peace and security,
IF institutions promote youth-inclusive policy and decision-making processes,
IF negative social norms affecting youth are addressed and an enabling environment is created,
IF effective coordination, implementation and accountability mechanisms are established,

THEN youth will be empowered as agents of peace and security and effectively participate in decision-making processes in partnership with community actors to advance the YPS agenda, contributing to reduced vulnerability of youth to the risk of engaging in violence, ultimately leading to a peaceful, secure, just and inclusive society.

Core Assumption:

The assumption on which this Theory of Change is based is that:

1. The current enthusiasm of youth to advance the YPS agenda in The Gambia will be sustained
2. There will be cooperation among government and key stakeholders to create an enabling environment for youth advancement.
3. There will be sustained dedication to mobilise resources for the implementation of the NAP.

*By **providing education, creating employment opportunities, reforming institutional structures,** and **promoting youth leadership**, young people can be meaningfully engaged in peace and security processes, contributing to long-term stability.*

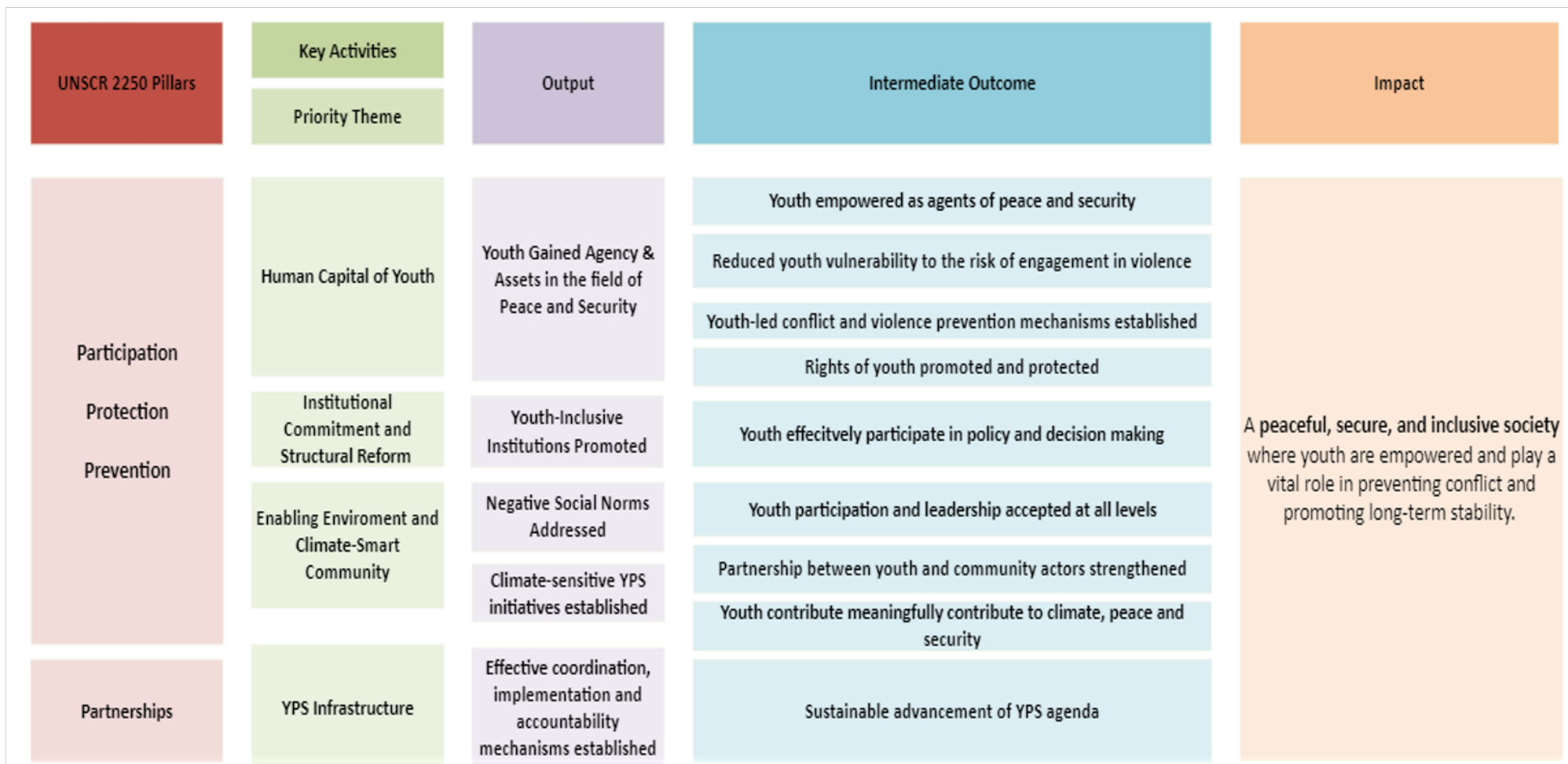| UNSCR 2250 Pillars	Key Activities / Priority Theme	Output	Intermediate Outcome	Impact
Participation Protection Prevention Partnerships	Human Capital of Youth	Youth Gained Agency & Assets in the field of Peace and Security	Youth empowered as agents of peace and security Reduced youth vulnerability to the risk of engagement in violence Youth-led conflict and violence prevention mechanisms established Rights of youth promoted and protected	A peaceful, secure, and inclusive society where youth are empowered and play a vital role in preventing conflict and promoting long-term stability.
	Institutional Commitment and Structural Reform	Youth-Inclusive Institutions Promoted	Youth effecitvely participate in policy and decision making	
	Enabling Enviroment and Climate-Smart Community	Negative Social Norms Addressed	Youth participation and leadership accepted at all levels	
		Climate-sensitive YPS initiatives established	Partnership between youth and community actors strengthened Youth contribute meaningfully contribute to climate, peace and security	
	YPS Infrastructure	Effective coordination, implementation and accountability mechanisms established	Sustainable advancement of YPS agenda	

Figure 1: Linkage between ToC and Priority Themes

C. Priority Themes

This section focuses on the four broad themes of this National Action Plan – Human Capital Development; Institutional Commitment, Legitimacy and Trust; Enabling Environment and Climate Smart Community; and YPS Infrastructure. These themes should be considered as interconnected components while the 4 pillars of UNSCR 2250 act as cross-cutting principles. Together they contribute to the advancement of the YPS agenda in Gambia.

1. Human Capital Development of Youth: This can also be articulated as "**Strengthening Assets** and **Youth Agency".**

Assets: Youth have the necessary resources, skills and competencies to achieve desired outcomes. Agency: Youth are able to employ their assets and aspirations to make or influence their own decisions about their lives and set their own goals, as well as to safely act upon those decisions to achieve desired outcomes in peace and security.
This theme considers how interventions in all aspects related to Human Capital will help enhance youth participation, contribute towards protection, prevention and other facets of the YPS agenda. Emphasis is placed on three critical aspects of human capital that, if neglected, can undermine peace and security: Education (both formal and skills development), Dignified Work (including entrepreneurship and job creation), and Health and Wellness.

2. Strengthening Institutional Commitments, Legitimacy and Trust: For sustainable impact that ensures youth inclusion and participation, protection of rights and prevention of violent conflict, reforms are needed in various institutions, both government and non-governmental. The interventions under this theme highlight the reforms needed to achieve the objectives of the YPS agenda.

3. Strengthening an Enabling Environment and Climate-Smart Community: The term "environment" should be interpreted broadly and includes: social (e.g., relationships with peers and adults), normative (e.g., attitudes, norms and beliefs), structural (e.g., laws, policies, programs services, and systems), physical (e.g., safe and secure conditions that allow young people to live without fear of violence or retribution), and the natural world (e.g., safeguarding the environment through climate sensitive practices).
For interventions under this theme, an understanding of the Nation's socio-cultural climate is needed. Cultural beliefs and practices can have positive impact on society but can equally hinder progress in some cases. Traditional beliefs and practices have often been identified as obstacles to peace and security, as well as barriers to youth participation in these efforts. The priority activities therefore seek to combat these barriers.

Enabling Environment: *Youth are surrounded by an environment that develops and supports their assets, agency, access to services, and opportunities, and strengthens their ability to avoid risks*

and to stay safe, secure and be protected and live without fear of violence or retribution. An enabling environment encourages and recognizes youth, while promoting their social and emotional competence to thrive. An enabling environment also promotes the adoption of climate smart and climate sensitive approaches, recognising the link between youth, climate, peace and security.

***Climate-Smart Community:** Youth become key advocates for increasing communities' capacities to proactively address climate-related impacts, including through the promotion of sustainable, green livelihoods.*

4. YPS Infrastructure - Coordination and Collaboration for Collective Impact: The successful implementation of The Gambia's NAP on YPS is largely dependent on political will, coordination between all relevant stakeholders and financial support through domestic and external funding. This theme therefore looks at all these aspects, how they interrelate and how various actors can be coordinated to ensure effective partnership for success.
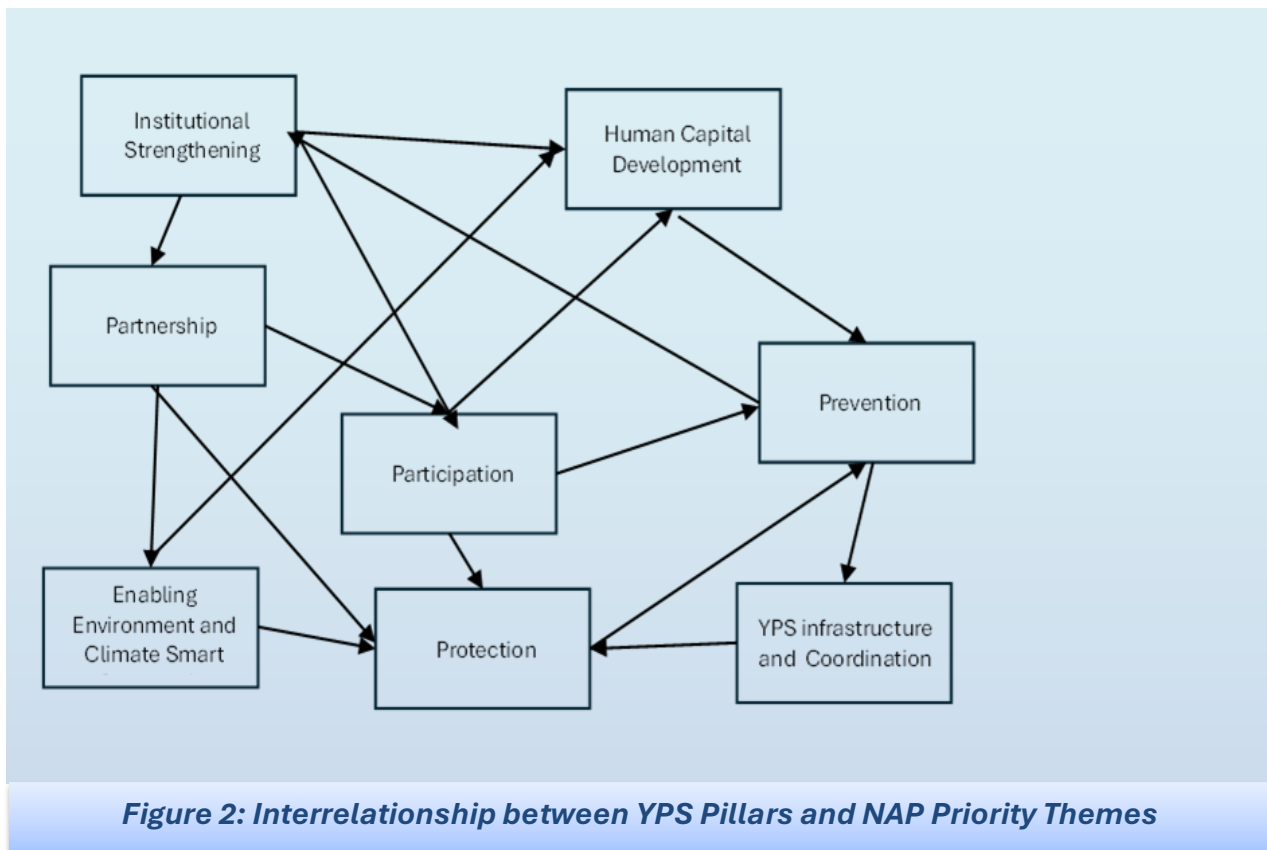

Figure 2: Interrelationship between YPS Pillars and NAP Priority Themes

D. Coordination, oversight and reporting.

The responsibility for coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NAP rests under the overall leadership and guidance of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through its technical arm, the National Youth Council Secretariat. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad, will also have some oversight functions, with the primary responsibility of coordinating with and reporting to international stakeholders.

The NAP proposes for each government ministry to nominate a YPS focal point who will also be a member of the Gambia YPS Coalition. These ministerial focal points will serve as the link between the Gambia YPS Coalition and their various ministries, helping to ensure that YPS priorities are mainstreamed.

Following the official launch of the NAP, the current YPS Technical Working Group will evolve and expand to become the Gambia YPS Coalition. The Gambia YPS Coalition is intended to be a multi-stakeholder platform for promoting the implementation of the NAP and the broader YPS Agenda. The Coalition's work will include capacity building, advocacy, sensitisation and awareness-raising on the NAP, as well as resource mobilisation. There will be a sub-committee for monitoring and evaluation, tasked with the responsibility of ensuring accountability, tracking progress on achieving expected results, and providing data to inform decision-making. The Gambia YPS Coalition will be co-chaired by government, development partners and youth-led civil society.

The implementation of the NAP will be carried out in close collaboration with the NYC's regional youth groups and CSO regional youth wings. This will contribute to ensuring that young people at the community level are not left behind.
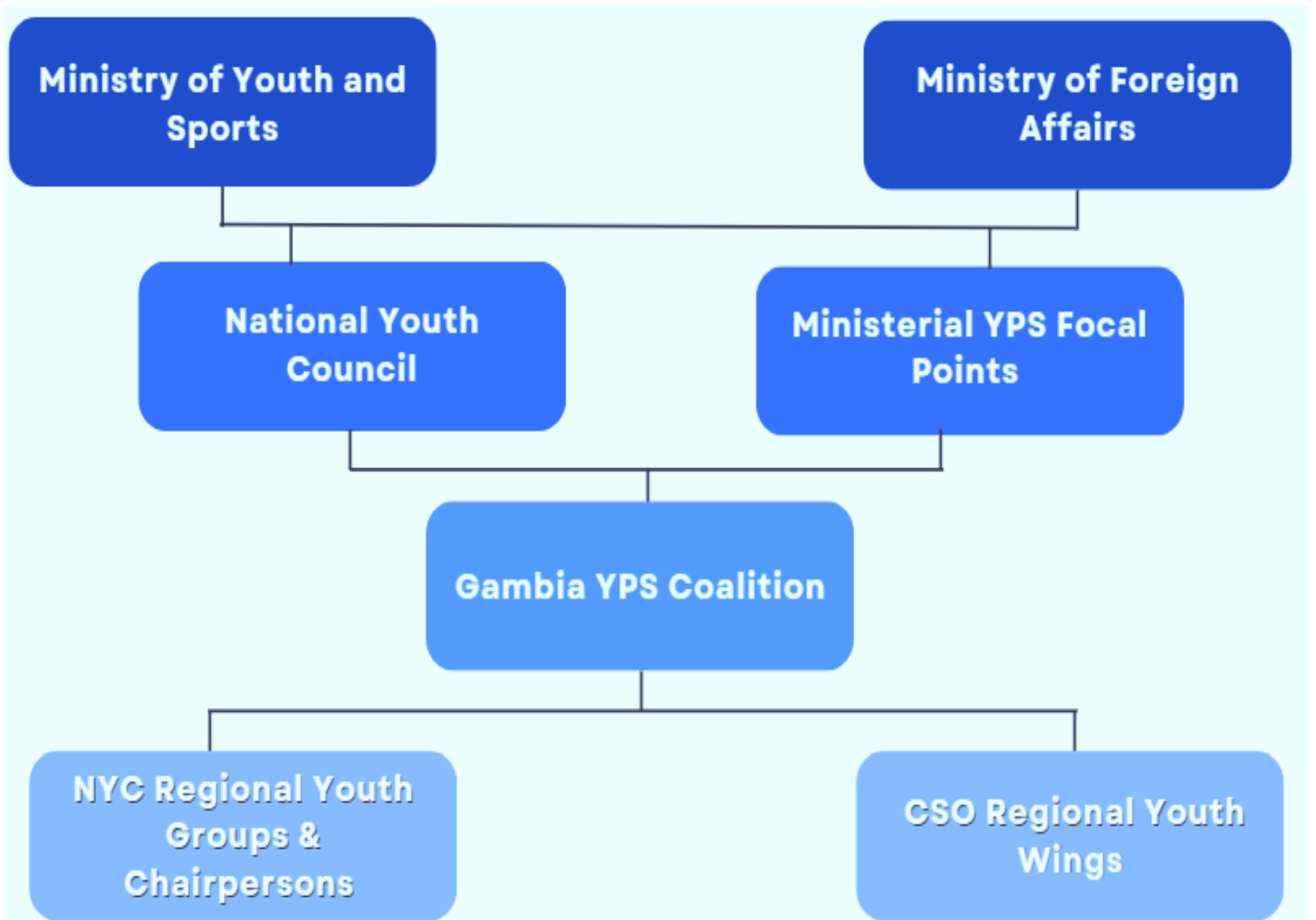
Figure 3:YPS Coordination and Oversight Structure

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK.

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organisations	Linkages to YPS Pillars	Timeline
THEME 1: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (Youth Assets and Agency)						
Enhance youth participation in peace and security processes.	Strengthen and expand TVET programmes with peace and security outcomes. (including conflict resolution and conflict sensitivity training as part of curriculum)	% increase in youth completing peace and security-oriented TVET programs.	TVET reports, attendance records.	MoHERST	**Participation Prevention Partnerships**	Y1-Y6
	Provide leadership and civic education training.	# of youth trained in civic leadership and peacebuilding	Training session attendance, post-training evaluations.	NCCE	**Participation**	Y1-Y6
	Promote internships and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth.	% of youth employed or engaged in entrepreneurship after program	Employment records, follow-up surveys.	Private sector partners	**Prevention**	Y1-Y6
	Establish rehabilitation centres and reintegration programs for youth in conflict with the law.	# of youth reintegrated through rehabilitation centres.	Rehabilitation center records, follow-up data. # of new rehabilitation Centres.	MoI CSOs Development Partners.	**Prevention**	Y1-Y6
	Advocate for the Expansion of Scholarship Programmes.	# of Youth in the scholarship programmes.	MoHERST Report National Budget.	MoHERST	**Protection Participation**	Y1-Y6
	Capacity Building programmes for youth on conflict resolution and peace building.	# of Youth trained.	Programme Attendance registers.	MoHERST,	**Participation**	Y1-Y6
	Capacity Building of Peacebuilding Organisations on YPS	# of organisations reached.	Capacity Building Reports.	NYC, membership	**Partnerships**	Y1-Y2

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organisations	Linkages to YPS Pillars	Timeline
	Build Regional Multipurpose or recreational centres.	# of centres built.	MoYS Reports.	MoYS	**Protection**	Y2-Y6
	Provision of Psychosocial Support to youth survivors of SGBV/drugs/FGM.	# of youth survivors that undergo therapy.	Activity reports.	MoH, CSOs	**Protection**	Y1-Y6
	Establish / strengthen youth-led prevention mechanisms for SGBV/ drugs/ FGM	# of youth-led prevention mechanism established / strengthened	Activity reports	MoH, CSOs	**Prevention Participation**	Y1-Y6
	Support existing SGBV/FGM Interventions targeting youth	# of interventions supported.	Activity reports.	MoH CSOs	**Protection**	Y1-Y2
	Provision of Skill development and Entrepreneurship Services to juvenile offenders	# of initiatives established.	Activity/project Reports.	MoI Prison's Services.	**Prevention**	Y1-Y6
	Advocacy to reduce the discrimination and stigmatization against Juvenile offenders	# of people reached for advocacy campaign	Activity/ Project reports	MoI	**Prevention Protection**	
	Support programmes and protection services for young PWDs: enhance access and accommodation for PWDs to participate in peace and security initiatives.	# of young PWDs supported.	Project activity reports.	MoGCSW GFD	**Protection**	Y1-Y6
	Advocacy on the agency of young PWDs and their role in peace and security	# of people reached by the advocacy	Project activity reports	MoGCSW GFD	**Participation Protection**	Y1-Y6
**THEME 2: STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS, LEGITIMACY AND TRUST**					
Strengthen institutional structures for safe and	Enact laws for youth quotas in decision-making positions.	% of youth in decision-making positions. % of youth involved in design	Government policy reports, legal documents.	MoJ NA NYC	**Participation** **Participation**	Y1-Y2

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organisations	Linkages to YPS Pillars	Timeline
meaningful part- nerships and par- ticipation oppor- tunities for youth		and implementation of policies.				
	Strengthen legal frameworks against human trafficking enhancing the pro- tection of youth	% reduction in reported trafficking cases involv- ing youth	Legal and police records	MoJ NATIP	**Protection**	Y1-Y2
	Ensure implementation of the PWD Act with the special focus on young PWDs	# of young PWDs mean- ingfully engaged in Peace and Security pro- cesses. % of reduction of harm or discrimination cases against young PWDs,	Survey/activity reports from PWD organisa- tions.	Government institutions, GFD	**Participation Protection**	Y1-Y3
	Advocate for meaningful Youth par- ticipation in establishment of Peace and Reconciliation Commission.	. At least 1 member of the commission is youth	Commission Membership.	MoYS NYC Youth CSOs	**Participation**	Y1
	Advocate for youth inclusion and participation in the Security Sector: (i) Promote the recruitment, reten- tion, and promotion of youth within the security sector (ii) Sensitisation on the importance of having youth in the security sector using public and private media platforms (iii) Showcase the contributions of youth in the security sector (iv) Participation of youth in the con- trol of Small Arms and Light	# of youth recruited as part of the reformed se- curity sector. # of people sensitised on the importance of youth inclusion in the security sector Documentary produced to highlight youth contri- butions to the security sector, spotlight young achievers in the security agencies	ONS Reports. Activity Reports.	ONS MoYS NYC MoI	**Participation Prevention**	Y1-Y6

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organisations	Linkages to YPS Pillars	Timeline
	Weapons (SALW) and preparation for the Programme of Action (PoA) reporting process submitted to the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)					
	Include conflict resolution & Peace Studies in School Curriculum, with courses on conflict prevention and management, dialogue and mediation	The inclusion of conflict resolution and peace studies in the school curriculum.	A new school curriculum with the stated inclusion.	MoBSE MoHERST NYC	**Prevention**	Y2
	Sensitization and training of duty bearers on the YPS agenda.	% of Government ministries senior and technical people trained % of follow-up activities inspired by trainings % of new institutions joining the YPS NAP implementation efforts	Reports from Ministerial YPS focal points	MoYS MoFA	**Partnership**	Y1 – Y2
THEME 3: STRENGTHENING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE-SMART COMMUNITY						
Break socio-cultural and political barriers that hinder youth participation.	Conduct sensitization and advocacy campaigns for youth inclusion in decision-making.	# of advocacy and campaign events held	Event reports, advocacy feedback	CSO Youth groups	**Participation Protection Partnerships**	Y1-Y3
	Intergenerational dialogue sessions between older and younger generations and mentorship programs to facilitate co-leadership on peace initiatives	#intergenerational dialogues and mentorship programs between older and younger generations	Event reports Perception Surveys	NYC CSO groups	**Partnerships Participation**	Y1-Y6

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organisations	Linkages to YPS Pillars	Timeline
	Use technology and digital tools to increase and enhance youth participation in peace and security: (v) Train youth to address and prevent social divisions by responding to online violence and polarization (vi) Online peace advocacy and training on youth-sensitive media reporting (vii) Collaboration and networking between Gambia YPS Coalition other external YPS actors and YPS communities of practice.	# of youth trained on addressing online violence and polarization # of online peace advocacy campaigns conducted # of engagements between Gambia YPS Coalition and external actors	Training reports, social media posts and analytics	Ministry of Information Gambia YPS Coalition	**Participation** **Partnerships**	Y1-Y6
Create opportunities for youth to contribute to shaping resilient communities with enhanced abilities to address climate-related conflict and instability	Utilize digital tools and AI technologies to enhance the ability of youth climate activists to anticipate, prevent and respond to climate-related conflict.	# of youth climate groups equipped and trained on using digital/AI tools to anticipate and respond to climate conflict	Training reports	NCCRM	**Participation**	Y1-Y6
	Map and develop a platform for collaboration between youth groups working on peace and security, and those working on climate change,	A database of youth working on peace, security and climate change.	A database.	NYC	**Partnerships**	Y1

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organisations	Linkages to YPS Pillars	Timeline
	recognising the link between climate, peace and security.					
	Conduct a study on the nexus between climate, peace and security in The Gambia and the impact of climate-related conflict on youth.	Research Report on the findings of the study	Published research report	Gambia YPS Coalition CRPD	**Participation** **Protection**	Y3
	Advocacy campaigns aimed at reducing resource conflicts and promoting sustainable livelihoods for youth.					
	Provide financial and technical support, including capacity building to youth and youth organisations on youth, climate, peace and security.	#of youth and youth organisations supported to promote youth, peace and climate change	Youth Organisations' reports. Ministry Reports.	MECCNAR, NEA	**Participation**	Y2-Y6
THEME 4: YPS INFRASTRUCTURE – COORDINATION & COLLABORATION FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT						
Ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the NAP YPS.	Establish a monitoring body for NAP on YPS initiatives	Monitoring body established, operational and guidelines created	Monitoring reports, operational documents	TWG on NAP YPS	**Partnerships Participation Prevention**	Y1
	Develop a proper impact framework for agreed upon activities and ensure they are aligned to global standards.	Impact framework Document.	M&E reports.	NYC		Y1

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organisations	Linkages to YPS Pillars	Timeline
	Training of Monitoring Body on programme design and evaluation.	Monitoring body successfully trained.	Training attendance register. Training report and post-training evaluation.	NYC		Y1
	Conduct Needs assessment of NYC to effectively coordinate the Implementation of the NAP YPS. Strengthen NYC and member organisations for effective implementation of NAP YPS.	Capacity gaps identified and addressed. # of capacity projects and programmes implemented.	Assessment report. Project/programme reports.	NYC MoYS Development Partners.		Y1-Y6
	Collaboration with Relevant Ministries and Stakeholders Signing of MOUs with relevant MDAs.	# of MDAs supportive of the NAP YPS implementation. # of MOUs signed. % increase in support from MDAs to the YPS agenda.	NYC Reports. Signed MOUs. NAP YPS mid-term review report.	MDAs NYC MDAs NYC		Y1-Y2
Enhance knowledge and awareness about the NAP to increase stakeholder engagement and commitment to the NAP	(i) Popularisation, sensitisation and awareness-raising campaigns through roadshows, town hall meetings, school outreaches, social media campaigns, etc. (ii) Produce a simplified and summarised version of the NAP with audio options for the visually impaired.	# of youth reached through popularisation and awareness raising campaigns. Simplified NAP version developed Audio NAP produced Youth App developed	Activity reports, youth app	Action Aid Gambia YMCA		

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organisations	Linkages to YPS Pillars	Timeline
	(iii)Develop a Youth App to host all relevant youth-related policies and documents in a simplified and interactive format.					
	Conduct a study and produce a report on the intersectionality between age and gender, highlighting the experiences, challenges and perspectives of young women and opportunities for linking the NAP on YPS and NAP on WPS.					

MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) plan and an impact/implementation framework is structured according to the four priority themes, drawing on strategic objectives, activities, impact, and linkages to the four selected YPS pillars. The Gambia YPS Coalition will have a sub-committee which will be trained to play a leadership role in the monitoring and evaluation process.

Monitoring & Evaluation Considerations:

I.   **Data Collection:**

   o   Ensure data is collected regularly (monthly, quarterly) from training sessions, rehabilitation centres, government records, and field surveys.

   o   Utilize a mix of quantitative data (e.g., number of youth trained) and qualitative data (e.g., participant feedback) to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

   o   Incorporate gender-disaggregated data to track how activities impact young men and women differently.

II.   **Stakeholder Involvement:**

   o   Involve key stakeholders, including youth organizations, government bodies, and local communities, in the M&E process to ensure transparency and accountability.

   o   Regularly communicate M&E findings to stakeholders for continuous feedback and improvement.

III. **Evaluation Metrics:**

   o   Use SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators to measure progress and assess impact.

   o   Include both process indicators (e.g., activities completed) and outcome indicators (e.g., reduction in youth involvement in violence).

IV. **Reporting and Learning:**

   o   Prepare quarterly and annual reports summarizing findings, challenges, lessons learned, and recommendations for future implementation.

   o   Use the findings to adjust strategies, if needed, ensuring the program is flexible and responsive to changing circumstances.

Monitoring Plan:

1.   **Data Collection Tools:**

   o   Surveys and feedback forms (to evaluate training effectiveness and youth participation).

o   Attendance records (for training and advocacy events).

o   Legal and policy documents (to monitor reforms and new laws).

o   Field visits and project evaluations.

2. **Evaluation Timelines:**

o   **Quarterly monitoring** for program outputs (e.g., number of trained youth).

o   **Annual evaluations** for outcomes (e.g., youth involvement in decision-making).

o   **End-of-project evaluation** for long-term impact (e.g., reduction in conflict and increased youth participation in governance)

M&E Log Frame (Logical Framework)

Intervention Logic	Priority Theme	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Indicators	Means of Verification
Outcome 1	Human Capital Development	Increased capacity of youth to partici-pate in peace and security	# of youth with increased agency and assets to make decisions towards achieving their goals (disaggregated by gender)	Project reports, per-ception surveys
Outcome 2	Institutional Commitments, Legitimacy and Trust.	Reduced institutional barriers to youth participation in decision-making	# of policies enacted to support youth inclusion in decision-making # of youth participating in decision-making processes	Legal documents, policy briefs
Outcome 3	Human Capital Development	Increased youth engagement in pre-vention mechanisms against conflict, violence and instability	# of youth involved in prevention of conflict, violence and insecurity	Project reports, field surveys
Outcome 4	YPS Infrastruc-ture	Establishment of a functional mecha-nism for coordination, implementa-tion and accountability of the NAP on YPS.	% of implementation of the NAP on YPS. # of monitoring activities conducted	Progress report on NAP implementa-tion. Mid-term Re-view Report.
Outcome 6	YPS Infrastruc-ture	Expanded network of partners en-gaged in advancing YPS in The Gam-bia	Increase in # of partners implementing YPS	Stakeholder Map-ping
Outcome 7	Enabling Envi-ronment	Reduced negative social norms bar-ring youth participation in peace and security	Reduction in % of respondents sup-porting negative social norms that hin-der youth participation in peace and se-curity.	Perception Survey

EXISTING INITIATIVES CONTRIBUTING TO THE YPS AGENDA IN THE GAMBIA

Project / Initiative	Aim	Link to Priority Themes
Gambia Youth Empowerment Project	To enhance the livelihoods of youth through skills development, mentorship, and access to finance for entrepreneurial ventures.	Human Capital Development
EU/UNDP Insider Mediation Project	To facilitate dialogue and mediation in community conflicts, utilizing trained insiders to promote peace and reconciliation. The project focuses on women and youth as insider mediators	Human Capital Development
UNDP Infrastructure for Peace Project	The project aims to establish legal and institutional frameworks and build the capacities of peacebuilding actors and institutions, leading to the development of an overarching peace architecture in The Gambia. The project is supporting the development and implementation of the NAP on YPS.	Institutional Commitments, Legitimacy and Trust
Peace Ambassadors Project	To train and empower youth as peace ambassadors, fostering dialogue and promoting peace initiatives in their communities.	Human Capital Development
TVET Enhancement Project (Technical and Vocational Education and Training)	To build capacity in technical and vocational education, improving skills and employability for youth.	Human Capital Development
Gambia Skills and Entrepreneurship Development Project (GSEDP)	To improve employment opportunities for youth through skills training and entrepreneurship development programs.	Human Capital Development
BJ Academy Climate Action Project	To educate and engage youth in climate action, promoting sustainable practices and environmental awareness.	Enabling Environment and Climate-Smart Community
YMCA Work for Peace Project	To enhance peacebuilding efforts through youth engagement and community development initiatives.	Human Capital Development
Great Green World National Youth Parliament	To engage youth in environmental governance and decision-making, promoting sustainable development practices.	Enabling Environment and Climate-Smart Community

Project / Initiative	Aim	Link to Priority Themes
Security Sector Reform Project (2024-2027)	To reform the security sector, ensuring it is accountable, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the community.	Institutional Commitments, Legitimacy and Trust
Think Young Women - Fantanka Project	To empower young women through education, entrepreneurship, and advocacy for gender equality and rights.	Human Capital Development
UNDP post-TRRC Project	To support the transitional justice process in The Gambia following the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission (TRRC) findings, promoting healing and reconciliation.	Institutional Commitments, Legitimacy and Trust
GIRAF Project (Gambia Initiative for Resilient Agriculture and Food Security)	To enhance agricultural resilience along the value chain, improving food security and farmers' livelihoods.	Human Capital Development
Reproductive Health and Rights Project (2022-2030)	To improve reproductive health services and rights, enhancing access to family planning and maternal health care.	Human Capital Development
Gambia Agricultural Sector Support Project (GASSP)	To enhance agricultural productivity and food security among smallholder farmers by providing access to resources and improving agricultural practices.	Human Capital Development Enabling Environment and Climate-Smart Community
Livelihoods and Resilience Project (LRP)	To increase the resilience of vulnerable communities by promoting diversified income-generating activities and improving food security.	Human Capital Development
National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NALWMDP)	To enhance sustainable land and water management practices among farmers, promoting agricultural productivity and resilience.	Enabling Environment and Climate-Smart Community
Women Empowerment and Economic Advancement Project	To empower women economically by providing access to training, resources, and markets to improve their livelihoods.	Human Capital Development

Project / Initiative	Aim	Link to Priority Themes
Conflict Resolution WAVE Project	To promote peaceful conflict resolution and strengthen community ties through training and awareness-raising initiatives.	Enabling Environment and Climate-Smart Community
Constituency Dialogue Activista (2024-2026)	To facilitate dialogue and engagement between constituents and policymakers, enhancing democratic participation and accountability.	Enabling Environment and Climate-Smart Community
National Security Strategy Project (NSSP) under NEDI	The NSSP aims to enhance national security and protection by: Developing a comprehensive national security framework that addresses various threats, including crime, terrorism, and social unrest.	Institutional Commitments, Legitimacy and Trust
Action Aid Activista Project	To promote social justice and empower communities through advocacy and activism on key development issues.	Human Capital Development

STRENGTHENING RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR THE YPS AGENDA

Securing adequate resources is crucial for accelerating and sustaining the implementation of the YPS agenda. This is central to building institutional capacities, enhancing agency, and fostering trust, ultimately contributing to a healthy, just, and peaceful Gambia.

To achieve this, a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy will be developed, grounded in locally defined, outcome-based priorities. This strategy will focus on ensuring local ownership and sustainability.

Key Activities for Resource Mobilization:
1. Workshop on Outcome-Based Indicators - A workshop will be held in early 2025 to develop measurable indicators and activities aligned with the YPS agenda, ensuring clear and actionable outcomes.

2. Donor Roundtables - A series of donor roundtable meetings will be organized to align donor priorities with the NAP objectives. The National Youth Council will take the lead in facilitating these dialogues to enhance collaboration and secure funding.

Approaches to Resource Allocation:
1. National, Subnational, and Municipal Levels - Funds to be allocated within the overall budgeting process for relevant ministries and agencies with mandates to implement the YPS agenda.
2. Ministry, Agency, or Entity Level - Ministries can allocate portions of their existing budgets to YPS initiatives, identify matching funds from other sources, or collaborate with other ministries and agencies to co-fund YPS projects.

3. Department or Unit Level - Departments to allocate resources from their assigned budgets to YPS implementation and seek additional funding through partnerships or matching funds.

Strategies for Ministries and Agencies:

- Propose the addition of dedicated budget lines for YPS initiatives.
- Integrate YPS sub-lines into existing budget allocations within the national budget cycle.
- Advocate for dedicated resources within their existing budgets to support YPS implementation.
- Engage in resource mobilization partnerships with stakeholders sharing YPS goals, including international cooperation partners, private foundations, philanthropic entities, and private sector companies through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs.

These efforts will ensure that the NAP receives the necessary financial backing to create sustainable peacebuilding outcomes, leveraging both local and international support.

Appendix 1: List of Organisations Consulted in Drafting the NAP on YPS.

Regional Youth Councils

Gambia Immigration Department

Gambia Police Force

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Coordinating Center (NCCRM).

Gambia Army Forces

Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Youth and Sports

Department of Youth and Sports

Office of National Security

WANEP – The Gambia

Activista

Gambia Startup Chamber of Commerce

Global Youth Innovation Network – Gambia

Gambia Press Union

Gambia Federation for the Disabled

National Sports Council

Search for Common Ground

Peace Hub The Gambia

Independent Electoral Commission

Peace Ambassadors Gambia

Peace Network

Beakanyang

Think Young Women

National Youth Parliament

Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities

National Enterprise Development Initiative

The Gambia Scout Association

Office of the President

President's International Award

HELP Gambia

Appendix 2: Barriers Identified by Youth During Constituency Consultations

Socio-cultural	Political	Physical	Financial
• Illiteracy • Societal norms and values (Children/youth not speaking when adults are present. The place of the woman being behind the man and in the home). • Retrogressive Cultural Practices • Religion used a tool to cause division • Social Class System • Tribalism • Intergenerational misunderstandings • Bullying • Language • Poor communication • Lack of Parental guidance • Cross-cultural differences • Culture of silence • Indiscipline • Self-centredness • Harmful cultural/traditional Practices	• Political intolerance • Bad governance • Hate speech • Weak Political will • Lack of Knowledge of civic/political rights • Injustice • Lack of legal representation for people in conflict with the law • Restricted rights to protest • Low inclusion of Youth in decision making. • Nepotism • Lack of decentralization of social services • Lack of access to information • Political Tokenism • Voter registration	• Border Security • Access to infrastructure for PWD • Challenges of PWDs • Access to Resources for PWDs • Unequal distribution of Resources • Migration • Land dispute • Access to infrastructure for basic services • Human trafficking • Epidemics • Displacement/ Refugees • Climate and environmental issues • Lack of a land policy	• Unemployment • Poverty • Lack of investment Capital • Corruption • Poor Culture of entrepreneurship • No job security • Corruption • Inadequate entrepreneurship opportunities • High cost of living • Low income • Lack of viable investment in Agriculture. • Hunger • Inflation • High Taxes • Unregulated financial markets • Unregulated financial markets
• Drug Abuse	• Rural Urban digital divide	• Discriminatory law enforcement	• SGBV

Socio-cultural	Political	Physical	Financial
● Mental Health Challenges ● Addictions ● Trauma ● Stigma ● Cyber bullying ● Bullying ● Sexual Harassment	● Cost of Access to internet ● Cyber bullying ● Digital Illiteracy ● Fake news ● Misinformation/Disinformation ● Cyber Crime ● Inadequate Internet access ● Tech-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV)	● Ignorance of existing laws ● Impunity ● Human rights violations ● Repressive laws ● Increase in crime rate ● Inefficient law enforcement ● Human trafficking	● Stereotype towards women and girls ● Defined Gender roles ● Well established patriarchy ● Lack of meaning inclusion/participation of women in decision making ● Teenage pregnancy ● Sexual Harassment