

National Youth Consultation 2010 - Young Ugandans committing to support Millennium Development Goals in Uganda through the National Development Plan

34 young Ugandan leaders convened on August 11th and 12th, 2010, to assess the progress made against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Uganda prior to upcoming global evaluations of the MDGs. The young people - made up of leaders from local government planning units, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, and youth councils across Uganda - also analysed the new National Development Plan (NDP) to decide upon actions that young Ugandans will take to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs through the implementation of the NDP. This policy analysis and strategic mapping process resulted in 1) **commitments by young people** on how they will further the advancement of these plans as individuals and within their organisations, and 2) **recommendations for decision-makers** to ensure that young people are fully engaged as partners by Government and Development Partners in support of the MDGs and NDP. Participants assessed the NDP in light of the four most pressing MDGs facing young Ugandans, and these young leaders then presented their recommendations to decision-makers from the National Planning Authority, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, USAID, World Bank, ILO and UCA. The consultation also received support from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and UNFPA.

Restless Development organised this second annual National Youth Consultation, ensuring that young Ugandans play a positive, leading role in the most important development processes. This consultation builds from Restless Development's expertise in youth led-experience and reflects our mission of placing young Ugandans at the forefront of change and development. To learn more about Restless Development or this paper, please visit us at www.restlessdevelopment.org or write us at infouganda@restlessdevelopment.org.

Youth Commitments and Recommendations to Support MDG and NDP Realisation

Young People Will

Take an active, positive role in local leadership & governance processes and promote broader youth involvement in existing government programmes for livelihood development.

Create income generating activities in rural areas, organising to build businesses and create employment for fellow youth, thereby combating rural-urban migration and agricultural underproduction.

Young People Ask

Government and Development Partners to redesign relevant educational curricula to develop skills for job-creation, not job-seeking.

Government, at all levels, to increase budgetary allocations for youth livelihoods and skill development as a long term strategy for sustained, macro-economic growth, recognising that youth unemployment is a structural problem and requires a strategic response.



Young People Will

Educate and mobilise fellow youth and communities to support UPE enrollment and retention

Support policy-makers and line ministries to ensure proper implementation of UPE by reporting on its implementation at community and district levels.

Young People Ask

Government to engage young people as a resource in the monitoring & evaluation of UPE quality and community support to UPE.

Government and development partners to increase availability of scholastic materials and access to UPE for persons with disabilities.



Young People Will

Engage young mothers, and their partners, to develop positive attitudes toward health workers and to practice health-seeking behavior for greater infant & child health.

Act as role models and mentors to reduce child mortality – leading peers to advocate for change at all levels and form local structures to support healthy children.

Build the capacity of key stakeholders (community members, traditional birth attendants, young people) on the prevention of infant/child mortality and support of young mothers.

Young People Ask

Government to enforce laws that will reduce child mortality (i.e. early marriages, defilement & domestic violence, mandatory immunizations, standards concerning abortion).

Government to widen programmes directed at children (i.e. PIASCY) to engage support from the general community through increased publicity and local language publications.



Young People Will

Engage and support health centres in the provision of youth-friendly services and support government to monitor progress made by health centres against agreed standards.

Strengthen youth awareness at all levels through non-formal education, youth-friendly media campaigns and role modeling to promote maternal health and supportive policies.

Sensitise and support young men to engage in health services alongside young mothers.

Young People Ask

Government and Development Partners to prioritise reproductive health services, especially youth-friendly services and maternal wards for pregnant mothers.

Government and Development Partners to take action on poor infrastructure (ie roads, lack of maternal wards) that contributes to women having unattended home births instead of accessing health care.

