



East African Community

FIRST DRAFT EAC YOUTH POLICY

**EAC SECRETARIAT
September 2010**

1.0 Preamble

This policy has been developed in line with the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, the African Youth Charter and national youth policies from the Partner States of the East African Community (EAC) and the African Youth Charter.

Under the Provisions of Article 120 (c) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, the Partner States undertake to closely co-operate amongst themselves in the field of social welfare with respect to, among others, **the development and adoption of a common approach towards disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including children, the youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities through rehabilitation and provision of, among others, foster homes, healthcare, education and training.** This policy is inspired by the provisions of the Treaty and will be implemented by the Partner States and relevant Organs of the East African Community.

The Treaty also stipulates that in order to further develop as a harmonious community, the following principles will apply;

- i) the people – centered principle;
- ii) the participation of the citizens in the region including women and youth,
- iii) the promotion of peace, security and stability,
- iv) the enhancement and strengthening of partnerships with the private sector and civil society

1.1. Objectives of the East African Community

The objectives of the Community is to develop policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States in political and economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defence, security and legal and judicial affairs, for their mutual benefit.

These objectives are being achieved through;

- (a) the attainment of sustainable growth and development of the Partner States by the promotion of a more balanced and harmonious development of the Partner States;
- (b) the strengthening and consolidation of co-operation in agreed fields that would lead to equitable economic development within the Partner States and which would in turn, raise the standards of living and improve the quality of life of their populations;
- (c) the strengthening and consolidation of the long standing political, economic, social, cultural and traditional ties and associations between the peoples of the Partner States so as to promote people –centred mutual development of these ties and associations;
- (d) the mainstreaming of gender in all its endeavours and the enhancement of the role

- (e) of women in cultural, social, political, economic and technological development;
- (e) the promotion of peace, security and stability within, and good neighbourliness among the Partner States;
- (f) the enhancement and strengthening of partnerships within the Private Sector and Civil Society in order to achieve sustainable socio-economic and political development and;
- (g) The undertaking of such other activities calculated to further the objectives of the community, as the Partner States may from time to time decide to undertake in common.

1.2. Council Decisions based on the recommendations of the EAC Forum of Ministers responsible for Social Development

This policy is also in line with Council Decisions as regards the implementation of the recommendations by the EAC Forum of Ministers responsible for Social Development made during its first and second meeting held in Kigali, from 15th to 19th September 2008 and in Bujumbura from 2nd to 7th October, 2010.

The first meeting of the Forum considered the need for regional strategies on challenges in the areas of Gender, Children, Youth, Social Protection and Community Development, including Gender Based Violence (GBV); the need to harmonize Gender, Youth and Children policies; women and youth empowerment through skills development and life skills programmes; and community empowerment, in general, to facilitate effective participation in social development programmes.

The meeting, accordingly, identified several strategies, including development of a regional comprehensive programme to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks, promotion of social protection interventions targeting the poor and vulnerable groups; development of appropriate structures, policies and laws to improve youth participation; increased opportunities for vocational education and training; establishment of vulnerability indices; and capacity building for communities.

On the issue of youth empowerment and participation in national development, the meeting underscored the need for clear national and regional strategies consistent with international commitments entered by individual Partner States in this regard.

The meeting also recommended that the Ministers responsible for Social Development:

- I. recommend to Council, through the relevant Sectoral Council, to approve the establishment of a Sectoral Council on Gender, Youth, Children, Social Protection and Community Development, considering that under the existing arrangement these important areas are not individually being adequately addressed;

- II. recommend to Council through relevant Sectoral Council, to approve the creation of an East African Youth Council and Women Council;
- III. require that social protection be fully harmonised and mainstreamed in all social development programmes of the EAC and Partner States;
- IV. require that social protection for the older persons and people with disabilities be included as part of the social development programmes of the EAC and Partner States; and
- V. require that youth and gender equality issues be fully harmonised and mainstreamed in all development policies and programmes.

The second meeting of the Forum of Ministers responsible for Social Development agreed on the key priority areas of cooperation in social development and recommended to Council to :

- I. Urge Partner States to ratify the African Youth Charter for Countries which have not done that;
- II. Direct EAC Secretariat to adopt employment creation and productivity enhancement strategies for youth within the EAC social development framework;
- III. Direct EAC Secretariat to highlight International Days on Gender, Youth, Children and community development and make statements on the occasion of those days;
- IV. Conduct regional campaigns against harmful cultural practices including Female Genital Mutilation, Gender Based Violence, HIV AIDs and drug abuse;
- V. Identify regional and international markets for women and youth products;
- VI. Harmonize and mainstream Youth, Disabled, and Elderly and Children issues in development policies, strategies and plans;
- VII. Develop a regional youth policy;
- VIII. Establish Regional Youth resource centres;
- IX. Develop youth exchange programs, skills and entrepreneurship;
- X. Establish and enhance EAC youth awards;
- XI. Conduct campaigns for prevention of HIV/AIDS, prostitution, drug abuse among youth, child labour and trafficking and all forms of violence against children;
- XII. Establish and harmonize policies on Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC's);
- XIII. Promote social protection for poor and vulnerable groups;
- XIV. Harmonize regional social protection policies and systems;
- XV. Encourage synergies among all actors and stakeholders to provide community centred services;
- XVI. Harmonize regional policies and strategies for food supply, nutrition, strategic food reserve, to counter disaster and enhancing social protection;
- XVII.** Encourage Partner States to promote peace and set up clear programmes aimed at sensitizing refugees to return home or integrate in ordinary life according to Partner States laws; and
- XVIII.** Urge Partner States to establish national children Councils.

The recommendations of the Forum of Ministers responsible for Social development were adopted by the 18th Council and 19th Council of Ministers, respectively.

2.0. Major issues common to the Youth in the East African Community Partner States

2.1. Peace and security.

Most of EAC Partner States has experienced tragic incidences where people's lives have been put at risk even resulting to the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians many of them young men and women. In 1994 Rwanda experienced genocide, Kenya experienced unrest after the contentious 2007 Presidential elections, civil war in Burundi that lasted between 1993 and 2005, and Northern Uganda has suffered incidences of attacks since the early 1980s. These incidences have revealed the need for the EAC Partner states to exercise continuous vigilance against insecurity and to deepen their efforts in the protection of life.

2.2. Inadequate participation in political processes and decisions-making processes

The youth have not been accorded adequate opportunities to participate in processes and structures where they can express themselves towards contributing to the political, social and economic development of their countries.

2.3. Unemployment and Skills under-development

Young people are capable and have both informal and formal skills, and are enthusiastic to assume increased responsibility in society. The young people of the East Africa Region face challenges when seeking employment. The opportunities for employment are inadequate to cater for the youth who graduate into the job-market. The environment for self-employment is not youth friendly as the resources are not sufficient to developing entrepreneurial skills among young people, and facilitating their entry into business particularly in remote areas. Even where the opportunities exist, the youth face various challenges including not receiving equal pay for equal work and being exposed to hazardous working environments. Internship, placement and apprenticeship programmes are not formally in place to ensure that the youth can develop and sharpen their skills. Youth have various talents in art, craftsmanship, sports and these are not promoted as they ought to, despite their obvious potential as viable sources of livelihood for the youth.

2.4. Limited facilities for sports and recreation

The youth possess a lot of energy and thus require facilities where they can use their energy positively. One of the ways to expend this energy is through sports and recreation. However there lacks sufficient investment in sporting facilities that would ensure the youth optimally participate in sports and recreation.

2.5. Health

Young people in the EAC are faced with increased health-related issues and risks. The youth constitute a substantial population of the East Africans living with HIV/AIDS. Substance abuse and other sexually transmitted infections are also a great concern among young people.

The youth are most vulnerable as often they cannot afford the high cost of medical care. Accessibility and availability of medication and medical services is thus of deep concern for the youth.

2.6. Limited opportunities for sustainable livelihoods

Poverty is a major hindrance to the development of East African countries. The youth being the majority in the region and the ones with the least livelihood means, bear the greatest brunt of poverty. There is thus urgent need to develop and implement poverty alleviation measures targeting the youth.

2.7. Conflict resolution, peace building and security.

The youth have been involved in conflict both as perpetrators and victims. Many of them have been active aggressors participating in wanton destruction of life and property and by the same token, many have been on the receiving end of violent acts. With this in mind, it is necessary to comprehensively address the whole question of youth and conflict. On peace building, the youth have a critical role to play as peace makers and need to be involved in peace building efforts and facilitated to initiate their own peace efforts.

2.8. Cultural Life

Young people need to be educated about their heritage and they need to appreciate their cultures. In this regard, measures should be put in place for the youth to protect, participate and promote cultural values.

2.9. Vulnerable and Marginalised Youth

The youth demographic is not a homogeneous group and within it, there are those youth who require special attention. These include youth with disability, youth living with HIV/AIDS, female youth, orphans, youth living on the streets, youth in armed conflict, displaced youth, youth who are refugees, youth in and after custodial rehabilitation and youth sex workers.

2.10. The environment

The protection of the environment is of crucial importance more so for the youth since the state of the environment has direct implications on the future of the youth and it is thus in the particular interests of the youth that it is protected and safeguarded.

3.0. Guiding Principles and Values

This policy shall be guided by the following values:

- a. Non-discrimination

- b. Respect for Human rights and fundamental freedoms
- c. Equality and equity
- d. Integrity
- e. Affirmative action
- f. Representation of vulnerable and minority youth
- g. Citizenship
- h. Inter-generational respect and understanding
- i. Identity as East African citizens
- j. Unity and Tolerance

3.0. Definitions and Interpretations

This policy recognizes that the Partner States of the East African Community have varied legal definitions of youth. For the purposes of this policy, Youth shall mean men and women between the ages of 15 and 35 as defined in the African Youth Charter.

4.0. Vision, Mission, Values and Objectives

4.1. Vision

Towards a fully integrated East African Community where its young people are empowered to fully participate and benefit in all facets of the region's development.

4.2. Mission

To create an enabling environment for effective youth participation and empowerment in developing and sustaining the East African Community.

4.3. Objectives

- I. To mainstream youth issues in policies, laws and programmes at the Community level;
- II. To sensitize national and regional policy makers on the need to identify and mainstream youth issues in the development of the Community;
- III. To empower the youth to develop their potential, creativity and skills as productive and dynamic members of the society;
- IV. To ensure youth participation in political processes and peace building for political, social and economic stability of the East Africa region;
- V. To ensure youth participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national and regional development plans, policies and strategies: and
- VI. To promote the values and ethos outlined in this policy

4.0. Priority areas of cooperation in Youth Sector

4.1. Participation in political processes and decision making

The youth shall have the right to participate in public affairs and vie for elective posts. In the East Africa Community, the youth shall be considered for all appointment and elective positions so as to ensure that there is 30% youth representation.

4.2. Employment

The elements of gainful employment include the right to:

- I. freely choose a lawful occupation;
- II. receive equal pay for equal work;
- III. work under equitable and satisfactory conditions that respect their dignity, for maximum working hours with daily and weekly rest periods and annual period of paid leave, and
- IV. be protected from unfair and, or, unjustified dismissal.

Further the youth shall not be exploited, be exposed to hazardous working environments that will adversely affect their health and safety and not be prevented from gaining an education or have their general holistic development impeded.

The promotion of youth entrepreneurship is vital for the realization of these rights. And accordingly, youth enterprise centers shall be established to facilitate and promote youth entrepreneurship.

4.3. Health

Healthcare needs to be accessible, affordable and equitably. Programmes and measures shall be put in place to secure the full involvement of Youth in identifying their reproductive health needs and design programmes that respond to their needs as well as institute comprehensive programmes to prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS by providing health services, education, information, communication and awareness.

The youth shall have the right to timely and affordable access to treatment for young persons living with HIV/AIDS including anti-retroviral therapy. Measures shall be put in place to ensure food security for young persons living with HIV/AIDS. Legislative and other measures shall be put in place to control substance abuse and provide rehabilitation for youth who are substance abusers to enable their reintegration into social and economic life.

Young women shall have the right to access primary maternal healthcare.

The majority of East Africa's youth cannot afford medical cover and are thus denied access to quality health care. There is need to harmonize health policies in consideration of quality free

medical care vis-à-vis the creation of a subsidized East Africa medical insurance scheme that is affordable to the youth within East Africa.

4.4. Education and skills development

The youth desire a homogenous education system that affords them equal opportunities applicable in any part of the EAC. The education system in the region can be improved by:

- I. Ensuring direct access to higher learning institutions and vocational institutions in other East African countries, by recognized/harmonization of university and vocational training entry qualifications.
- II. Harmonization of school fees and academic loans in the higher learning institutions so that there is no discrimination based on nationality.
- III. Harmonization of school curricula.
- IV. Standardizing the quality of education in rural and urban schools.
- V. Promotion of physical education and talent development in and post education
- VI. Promoting internship, placement and apprenticeship programmes post university or college

4.5. Sports and recreation

Sports are a tool that can be harnessed for the promotion of development, peace, security and integration.

4.6. Peace and security

All Youth have the right to national and international peace and security. The principles of peaceful co-existence and good neighborliness shall govern the relations of the East African Community. In as far as possible, the youth shall be protected from conflict and be involved in conflict resolution and peace building processes.

4.7. Culture

Culture is a key pillar of identity for any people and thus to be able to fully understand a people, there is need to understand their culture. The youth shall have the right to participate fully in participate freely in the cultural life of the Community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

4.8. Intellectual property protection

Every Youth has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting

from any scientific, literary or artistic works which he or she has invented or produced.

4.9. Rights of vulnerable and marginalized youth

Affirmative action shall be accorded to ensure the full participation and contribution of youth with disabilities, from minority groups, young women, orphans, youth living with HIV/AIDS, youth in and after custodial rehabilitation, displaced youth, refugee youth, youth sex workers and youth living in streets. These youth shall enjoy the protection of the law and respect for their human rights and respect for their dignity.

The youth shall have the:

- a. right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of the Community,
- b. right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
- c. right to express his or her ideas and opinions freely in all matters and to disseminate his or her ideas and opinions,
- d. freedom of association and to lawful and peaceful assembly and no youth shall be compelled to belong to an association against his/her free will;

Subject however and only to necessary restrictions provided for by law enacted in the interest of security, safety, health, morality and the rights and freedoms of others.

5.0. Implementation mechanisms

Each Partner State shall put in place structures for the implementation of the policy. This policy shall be reviewed from time to time as may be agreed on the Partner States.

The implementation of this policy shall be monitored and evaluated by the EAC Secretariat.

5.0. The East African Community Organs and Institutions

The East African Community through its institutions and organs shall ensure to:

- (i) Guide the Partner States in the implementation of the youth policy by the governments of the Partner States
- (ii) Collaborate with governmental, non-governmental institutions and development partners in identifying best practices on youth policy formulation and in implementing and encouraging the adoption of principles and experiences among Partner states
- (iii) Invite Partner States to include Youth representatives as part of their delegations in various regional meetings held to determine the direction of the Community and other relevant meetings of the policy organs to broaden the channels of communication and enhance the discussion of youth-related issues;

- (iv) Institute measures to create awareness of its activities and make information on its activities readily available and accessible to the Youth.
- (v) Facilitate cooperation for exchange of resources between the five Partner States and development partners across national borders to achieve regional Youth solidarity, political consciousness and democratic participation;
- (vi) Facilitate collaboration of the Partner States in formulating strategies for development.

6.0. The East Africa Youth Council

This policy shall seek to establish an East African Youth Council through a legal framework within the East African Community.

Its mandate shall be:

- i. To provide a platform for young people of East Africa and youth CSOs to effectively engage and contribute towards the integration process of the East African Community;
- ii. To provide a platform for young East Africans to build partnerships and networks to strengthen the EAYC;
- iii. To consider, advocate and promote for relevant legal instruments and frameworks at the regional level to advance the rights and freedoms of the youth in the East African Community;
- iv. To provide a formal and structured mechanism for the youth to engage with the East African Community's Organs and Institutions;
- v. To facilitate the engagement of youth serving organisations whose goals are geared toward the respect for and realization of human rights of all East Africans;
- vii. To serve as a visible and reference body for youth issues in East Africa;
- viii. To foster the spirit of camaraderie and common citizenry amongst the youth of East Africa;
- ix. To present a unified and common position on all matters appertaining to youth in East Africa;
- x. To build the capacity of member organizations to fully explore their potential in their spheres of operation.

7.0. EAC Secretariat

The Secretariat will be responsible for the following-:

- i. Coordination and guiding the overall implementation of the policy framework and its strategic plan;
- ii. Principles and guidelines;
- iii. Reporting implementation progress
- iv. Establishment of a regional database on Youth
- v. Resource mobilization.
- vi. Capacity Building of EAC Organs and Institutions to mainstreaming youth in plans and programmes

8.0. EAC Coordinating Ministries

Each EAC Co-ordinating Ministry in Partner State will be responsible for:

- i. Policy guidance in terms of implementing the Policy Framework principles at National level;
- ii. Co-ordinate and monitor implementation of activities;
- iii. Provide an enabling environment for the implementation of the identified regional programmes

9.0. Youth Ministries

- i. Coordinate other sector ministries
- ii. Coordinate and backstop the development of guidelines of implementation of the Framework at sector level
- iii. Provide leadership in the dissemination of the Framework.
- iv. Resource mobilization
- v. Report on the progress of implementation of the Framework at national and regional level.

10.0. Sector Ministries

- i. Implementation of the Policy Framework.
- ii. Reports on progress.
- iii. Allocate resources to Youth activities

11.0. Youth focused Civil Society Organizations and Community Groups

- i. Mobilize resources
- ii. Implement the Policy Framework
- iii. Monitor the implementation of the Policy Framework

iv. Lobbying and advocacy

12.0. Responsibilities of the Youth

- I. To promote the East Africa Community spirit;
- II. Take full responsibility for their personal development;
- III. Protect and promote family life and cohesion;
- IV. Have respect for parents and elders and assist them in cases of need in the spirit of
- V. positive East African values;
- VI. Partake fully in citizenship duties including voting, decision making, governance and community work where relevant;
- VII. Engage in peer-to-peer education to promote Youth development in areas such as literacy, use of information and communication technology, HIV/AIDS prevention, prevention of drug and alcohol abuse, environmental conservation, conflict prevention, resolution and peace building;
- VIII. Contribute to the promotion of the socio-economic development of the Community by availing their skills and abilities;
- IX. Champion honest work ethics, professionalism, integrity and commit to reject and expose corruption;
- X. Work together towards a Community free from substance abuse, violence and gender based violence, coercion, crime, degradation, exploitation, discrimination and intimidation;
- XI. Promote tolerance, understanding, dialogue, consultation and respect for others regardless of age, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, nationality, colour, sex, disability, religion, status or political affiliation;
- XII. Support democratic values and advocate for democracy, the rule of law, gender
- XIII. equality and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- XIV. Encourage a culture of voluntarism, human rights protection as well as participation in the activities of civil society organisations;
- XV. Promote patriotism towards unity and cohesion of the Community by encouraging
- XVI. the use of a common language, Kiswahili, as the lingua franca
- XVII. Be the vanguard of representing cultural heritage in languages and other forms to which Youth are able to relate;
- XVIII. Proactively engage in measures to protect the environment and conserve nature.

13.0. Development Partners

Development Partners will work closely with the EAC Secretariat and the Partner States Ministries responsible for Youth Affairs, youth focused organizations and other key stakeholders to provide technical and financial support.

ANNEX

Logical Framework for Youth

FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS
<p>Broad Objectives</p> <p>To Promote Youth Development</p>	<p>Socially and economically transformed quality lives and livelihoods of Youth in the East African Community</p>	<p>EAC and Country reports</p>	<p>Political and Social integration</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio- Economic transformation of Youth Macro sector policies and programmes aligned to Youth issues by 2013 • Data and Information available by 2013 • Structures and Organs of conflict resolution 	<p>Surveys</p> <p>EAC reports, M & E reports, Sector reports, meeting reports, Publications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAC ownership and leadership ○ Enabling Policies in place ○ Implementation mechanism in place ○ Availability of funds
<p>Results</p>			

<p>1. Policy and legal framework established</p> <p>2. Training for skill development for Youth developed</p> <p>3. Macro economic sector policies and programmes aligned to reflect Youth issues</p> <p>4. Research and Documentation undertaken</p> <p>5. Mechanism for Peace Building and Conflict Resolution established</p>	<p>1. Established Policy and legal framework by 2012</p> <p>2. Youth Centers established by 2013</p> <p>3. 8 priority sectors have mainstreamed Youth</p> <p>4. Research findings documented</p> <p>5. Programme for Peace building and conflict resolution developed</p>	<p>EAC reports, Economic reports, country reports, Training reports, Meeting reports</p> <p>M& E reports, Financial reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Political goodwill of participating countries ○ Involvement of Youth and Children ○ Availability of funds
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<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish a Youth and Children’s unit ○ Conduct analysis of the policies, plans and programmes ○ Develop and harmonize the existing policies of partner states and ensure they are youth friendly ○ Facilitate Advocacy campaigns for social protection issues affecting Youth ○ Mobilize and sensitize Youth on the opportunities for employment and wealth creation ○ Develop guidelines to promote and adopt appropriate leisure activities and psychological services to the Youth and Children ○ Facilitate Private Sector in building capacity of Youth and Children in vocational skills, ICT, e- Commerce and other special tailored programmes ○ Facilitate Annual Youth Exhibition for SME’s ○ Develop guidelines for promoting Science and Technology for the Youth and Children ○ Facilitate the formation of Youth in Business associations and networks ○ Develop guidelines on behavioral change in attitudes, morals and ethics ○ Organize massive campaigns on the role of Parents in education, child nutrition and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 	<p>Youth unit established</p> <p>No. of policies and plans reviewed</p> <p>No. of legal frameworks developed and enforced</p> <p>No of sensitization seminars</p> <p>No. of Fora for Youth in business held</p> <p>No. of appropriate leisure activities developed</p> <p>No. of programmes developed</p> <p>No. of exhibitions</p> <p>Level of science and technology</p> <p>No. of associations and networks formed</p> <p>level of behavioral change and attitudes</p> <p>No. of campaigns done</p>	<p>EAC reports, Publications, Country reports, M & E reports</p> <p>Budgets</p>	<p>Availability of human resource. availability of logistics</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop guidelines and work plans for mainstreaming Youth issues in all EAC sectors ○ Review and harmonize training manuals ○ Train key EAC Secretariat and Partner states staff on mainstreaming processes and procedures ○ Sensitization and awareness creation ○ To Facilitate Research and Documentation ○ To promote peace 	<p>No. of guidelines</p> <p>No of staff trained</p> <p>No. of sectors and programmes mainstreamed to reflect Youth 's issues</p> <p>Youth Data Bank</p> <p>No. of research linkages and collaborative research</p> <p>No. of Peace camps per annum</p>		
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