

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS CAPACITY BUILDING SCHOOL 2011



8th December, 2011

Narrative Report on The Maiden Edition of
Youth Organizations Capacity Building School
Organised By Youngstars Foundation



SUMMARIES IN THIS REPORT:

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DETAILS

I) PREAMBLE

After completing a youth organization survey in 2010, a practical response to the survey report is the maiden edition of the Youth Organization Capacity Building School, design to be an annual capacity building training program design to strengthen institutional building and operations of youth led organizations, in order to become more professional, impactful, and sustainable in their social development intervention and nation building.

The gap in capacity and professionalism among youth non governmental organizations continues to be a real challenge both in advancing youth development subsector in Nigeria vis-à-vis cultivating donor confidence and relationship with youth organisations. To meet this apparent need, Youngstars Foundation in 2010 after hosting the maiden edition of the Youth Works and Top 12 Awards initiated a National Coalition of Nigeria Youths in Social Development purely for the purpose of capacity building for youth organizations. Towards the last quarter of 2010 a survey was conducted among its member organization of about 60 youth groups across Nigeria.



Early in 2011 the survey was analyzed and it captured the state of youth NGOs as a weak sub sector in dire need of capacity to advance to its next level. This is what led to the Capacity Building School held at the Alexis Hotel, Jabi Abuja on Wednesday 30th November to Thursday 1st December 2011.

II) OBJECTIVES

- I. To sharpen competences/skills that makes youth organizations more professional.
- II. To highlight strategies for effectively marketing and branding of youth organizations.
- III. To expose youth organizations to useful resources, toolkits and other opportunities that can help them build sustainable youth organizations.

III) APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION

Youngstars advertised the event on its website and through other social media platforms and interested youths were asked to send an SMS stating their names, age, gender, name of organization and state of residence. Being a project solely funded by Youngstars Foundation provision was made for only 30 youths, and the youths were responsible for their accommodation, travels and feeding. A whopping total of 89 applications were received by the deadline and 54 youths physically attended the 2 days event, showing a real willingness and readiness of youth to build the capacity needed to become effective change drivers in our society.

IV) THE SCHOOL

The 2days School held Free of Charge on Wednesday, November 30th and on Thursday, December 1st, 2011. Registration at 9am prompt and 54 youths from the following 21 states of Nigeria were in attendance: Abuja, Akwa Ibom, Abia, Anambra, Bauchi, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Imo, Kwara, Kaduna, Lagos, Nassarawa, Ondo, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Yobe, and Zamfara states

Sessions were facilitated by the following high profile resource persons free of charge!

- Dave Larson - National Democratic Institute (NDI) Nigeria
- Lesley Agams - Former Country Director ASHOKA Nigeria, CEO
- Christian Lamarre - Program Officer, United Nations Democracy Fund – UNDEV New York
- Vernice Guthrie – UNDP DGD Nigeria
- Miriam Ofoedo – Snr Accountant National Democratic Institute (NDI) Nigeria
- Oge Onubogu - Program Officer, National Endowment for Democracy USA
- Rose Mary and Adewale Aladejana- T.Y. Danjuma Foundation, Abuja, Nigeria

PARTICIPANTS HIGHLIGHTED THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS

- There is need for such regular interactive platforms where youth organizations can interact and share ideas with government, donors, development partners and CSOs about the challenges being faced by Youth CSOs vis-à-vis the opportunities Youth CSOs offers the development sector.
- Government, Development Partners and Civil Society Organisations(CSO) need to significantly increase investment in building youth capacity by making such a program like this a core area of focus.

- Stakeholders, especially the donor community need to initiate special funds for institutional building of upcoming Youth CSOs, ie to aid them in covering the high cost of CAC registration, renting office space etc.
- Participants also advocated strongly for donor agencies to consider small grantmaking of as low as N100,000 and above for upcoming Youth CSOs to build capacity and credibility for bigger grants.
- Youth CSOs must of necessity take up the responsibility of building their competences in order to become more professional in their approach, implementation and delivery of development services.
- Youth CSOs need to become more proactive in networking and conducting advocacy on their felt needs for better result, especially in requesting for flexibility in access to funding, registration with government among others.
- Participants recommended that more organized and stable Youth CSOs like Youngstars Foundation should wider their mentoring space so as to help upcoming youth organizations deepen their growth processes.

At the end of the 2 days event, participants received the following free of charge

- CD plate containing slides from some sessions.
- Series of Toolkits and resource materials to enhance the organization of youth groups.
- “How to...” youth development publications were given to the first 20 participants.
- Participants who completed the 2 days training were awarded certificates.

There was also a bookstand promoting social entrepreneurship books like “How to Change the World”, “Leading Social Entrepreneurs” among others and they were all sold out!

V) CONCLUSION AND MOVING FORWARD

The feedback and response from participants during this maiden edition has further encouraged Youngstars Foundation in its quest to promote youth capacity building in Nigeria. Consequently, the School shall hold every mid year and end of year to cover as much areas of expertise as possible.

Moreso, the name of the youth network formally called National Coalition of Nigeria Youth in Social Development has been changed to Coalition for Youth Capacity. Membership remains open to all interested youth organizations.

VI) APPRECIATION

All Participants

All local and international Resource Persons

Youngstars Foundation Team