

MAKING COMMITMENTS MATTER TOOLKIT; EVALUATION REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WPAY IN LINE WITH THE UN-MDGs.

BY

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PRIORITY AREAS OF INTEREST;

1.AREA 1 Education

2.AREA 2 Employment

EVALUTION: Area 1; Action 1;

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Question 1:What steps has the government taken in promoting Education for all young people?

Answer: (a)The Rivers State Government from the inception of the present Administration declared education free for all at primary and post primary levels.

(b)Paid bursary to Rivers state students in tertiary Institutions

(c)Made buses available to transport school childrento and fro schools

(d)Renovated many dilapidated classrooms in the state.

Q.2Has the National School Curriculum been reformed? If so, what have been the major changes? What have been the successes and constraints?

Answer: a)Yes, the National School Curriculum hasbeen reformed. The major changes are the inclusion of HIV/AIDS, Human right and Democracy as teaching subjects.

The successes are:

1.The involvement of the most vulnerable (Youths) in the creation of awareness on HIV/AIDS and its prevention in the society etc.

2.The awareness of the democratic principals in the country etc.

3.The constraint has been shortage of trained manpower to cover remote areas.

Q.3Does the National School Curriculum promote Gender equality? Does it embrace a multicultural/multi-ethnic society?

Answer: Yes, the National School Curriculum promotes Gender equally especially with the EFA emphasis on Gender equality in our schools enrolment.

Q.4In what ways has your ministry made a commitment to life-long education? What about distance education?

Answer: The Ministry has encouraged young women and men through skill acquisition programmes of the state to acquire skills that will make them to become employer of labour instead of job seekers.

The state ministry of Education encourages youth to register with the existing long distance educational programme in the country such as NTI, and the open University programme in the country.

Q.5Is non-formal education promoted by the government? Is it recognized by employers?

Answer: Yes, non-formal education is adequately promoted by government. In Rivers, none-formal education is operational as an Agency of the State Ministry of Education. It is highly recognized by employers especially when they write the same examination with the regular students.

Q.6Is education at all levels equally accessible for young people independently of their economic status?

Yes, Rivers State Government give equal opportunity to every body in the State to aspire to all level of education; irrespective of their economic status.

Q.7Have NGOs / Youth organizations been active in promoting education for youth? What about in youth-to-youth (Peer education) programmes.

Yes, NGOs / Youth organization have been active in promoting education for youth.

Example is EFA's programme in the state. NGOs have been very committed to the programme. Recently, some youths were trained as peer educators to train other youths in the prevention of HIV/AIDs in the society.

Q.8In what ways has the government targeted particular groups (e.g. indigenous youth, migrants, refugees, street children, poor children,

youth with disabilities) in education efforts.

Answer: The Government of Rivers State has established a school for disabled children to take care of their primary and secondary level of education with boarding facilities in the State.

A remind home has also been established to cater for street children in the state.

Q.9 What are the factors that hinder young people from going to or remaining in school?

Answer: Some factors listed below could be identified as being responsible for young people not going to or remaining in school.

- a. Poor learning and teaching environment
- b. Parental status in the society
- c. Poverty
- d. Lack of qualified teachers and teaching aids
- e. Peer group pressures etc.

Action 5: ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS

Q.10 Is human rights education taught in schools? What type of curriculum is taught? At what levels?

Answer: Yes, it is taught at primary and secondary schools levels in the State. The type of curriculum taught is integrated curriculum.

Q.11 Do youth organizations participate in the implementation and existing monitoring and reporting procedures linked to human right education?

Answer: No, they do not participate directly. However of recent youth organizations, have started to take active part in the planning, implementation and monitoring through the participation in the State EFA forum.

Area 1: Action 4

ACCESSING VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Q.1 What types of Vocational / Technical training are available in your country? Are these government or NGO programmes? What is the job-placement rate for these programmes? What have been the successes and constraints?

Answer: There are both Government / NGO vocational technical training programmes for the rehabilitation of youth who have been involved in

cultism and armed conflicts. Grace foundation and Michelin Nig Ltd., are working on a technical partnership programme for the development of technological innovation that will provide young people with the necessary skills to succeed in the job market. However, this is not accessible to all youth due to under development of some remote areas. Funding is the major constraint as this tends to slow down efforts in providing the project with equipment, tools, mobility for easy runs, books, payment of staff salary etc.

Q.2 Are government services available to assist young people in entering job market after their education or vocational training?

Answer: Yes, there are government services available to assist young people in entering the job market through the States Ministry of youth and empowerment.

NGOs also assist in this direction. Grace Foundation through its technical partnership programme has offered employment opportunity to many youths in Rivers State.

Area 2: EMPLOYMENT

Actions 1 & 2

PROMOTING SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Q. What types of grant schemes are available in your country for youth? Are these government or NGO managed? What have been the successes and constraints?

Ans: In Rivers State, there is agricultural grant scheme, and is managed by Government. The successes recorded, has been increased food production although not very many young people have access to the scheme.

Q. In what ways does the government promote youth enterprise / employment? What about NGO programmes? How is the business sector involved in such schemes?

Ans: Government promote youth employment through direct employment into the civil service and through linkages with the business sector. However, this is being benefited by few young people.

Q. How are youth organizations and young people themselves involved in the planning and implementation of youth employment programmes?

Ans: This has not been known to be in the past, but efforts are being intensified for creation of awareness and mobilizing support through the programmes of the United Nations Youth and GF youth federation of Nigeria, in a participatory partnership approach to involve youth in the planning and implementation of youth employment programmes.

Action 4:

UTILIZING TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS

Q.What types of training programmes are available for youth in high-technology industries?

Are there linkages between government and business-sector programmes? What about between training programmes and employment opportunities.

Ans: Michelin Nig Ltd, among other high-technology industries, through its training programme, offer access to youth training in a number of courses ranging from basic to advanced levels. At the factory in port Harcourt, over 50 technical instructors teach courses in Machinery, Welding, Fabrication, Electrical works, electronics Mechanisms, (hydraulics, fluids, pneumatics) computer. Trainees are offered direct employment upon completion of their training. Part of this programme has been co-ordinated by Grace foundation (NGO).

Q.Are computer applications part of the school curriculum? Are schools connected to the Internet?

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Ans: In recent times, computer application has become part of the school curriculum, but schools are not yet connected to the Internet.

FACILITATORS: Rivers State Ministry of Education, Rivers State Ministry of Women Affairs, Michelin Nigeria, United Nations Youth and GF Youth Federation of Nigeria.