

# BASELINE STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN CAMEROON



**November 2022**





INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLICATION.

**COMMISSIONED BY:**

UNITED NETWORK OF YOUTH PEACEBUILDERS (UNOY)

**LEAD RESEARCH:**

Melissa Juisi Simo

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:**

Sirri Cynthia Wakuna Ngang

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study was commissioned by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), a youth-led network of peacebuilders with the vision of building a world free of all forms of violence. She sought a situational analysis of the implementation of the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Agenda in Cameroon to inform the network's intervention in the country.

We thank the International Secretariat of the United Network of Young Peace Builders (UNOY) for the technical and financial support provided to achieve this study. Heartfelt gratitude also goes to UNOY's core donor, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for their unfailing support toward promoting the YPS agenda.

We also extend gratitude to the lead researcher, Melissa Juisi Simo, Fulbright '19, for her diligence in task delivery and to the five UNOY member organisations present in Cameroon: Local Youth Corner Cameroon, Mother of Hope Foundation, Denis Miki Foundation, Positive Peace Group and Centre for Change and Development, for their timely interventions at distinct levels of the research implementation process.

This research would not have been possible without the cooperation of the communities that took the surveys, the religious, and traditional and government leaders, the civil society organisations that completed the questionnaires and participated in the focus group discussion and interviews. UNOY appreciates the time, efforts, and their commitment to the peacebuilding process.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>4</b>
Outline of Report	4
<b>SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Research Questions	5
1.2 Research Methodology	5
<b>SECTION 2: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Being Young and Cameroonian:	6
2.2 Overview of Youth and Youth-led/engaged CSOs.	7
2.3 Global Outlook of YPS	7
2.4 Regional Outlook	7
2.5 National Outlook	8
2.6 Finance and Resource mobilisation	9
2.7 Impact of covid-19 on YPS implementation in Cameroon.	10
<b>SECTION 3: PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SECTION 4: KEY OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.</b>	<b>18</b>
References	22

## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	–	African Union
CFYPS	–	Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security.
COVID	–	Corona Virus Disease
CSO	–	Civil Society Organisation
DDR	–	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
INGO	–	International Non-Governmental Organisation
KII	–	Key Informant Interviews
NAP	–	National Action Plan
NGO	–	Non-Governmental Organisation
P/CVE	–	Preventing / Countering Violent Extremism
SNWOT	–	Southwest / Northwest Women Task Force
UN	–	United Nations
UN-BPSO	–	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
UNOY	–	United Network of Young Peacebuilders
UNSC	–	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR	–	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WACSI	–	West African Civil Society Institute
YPS	–	Youth, Peace and Security

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth, Peace and Security Agenda (YPS) is of significant advantage to the population of Cameroon. Although the government, businesses, international organisations, civil society organisations and stakeholders are all committed to the vision of a peaceful Cameroon, this vision remains incomplete without the active participation of young people. In 2015, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) issued the Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security that endorses and encourages youth participation in peacebuilding and P/CVE. There seems to be quite some action on the localisation of this agenda in Cameroon. For this reason, this study was commissioned to conduct a baseline study on the implementation of the YPS agenda in Cameroon.

A mixed study design (quantitative and qualitative) was used to collect data from 28 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and 108 households in Cameroon. Survey questionnaires were administered via Google forms and Kobo Collect, respectively. In the same vein, three focus group discussions (FGD) and six key informant interviews were carried out. Eighty percent (80%) of the CSOs that participated in the survey were invited to engage in the FGDs based on competence, ability, and interest. The quantitative data was analysed using Excel since the study involved a small data set and the qualitative data was analysed thematically.

The findings show that most actors working in the domain of peace and conflict resolution have some knowledge of the YPS agenda and this agenda positively influences their work in some way. Ninety percent (90%) of the actors surveyed are actively engaged in implementing at least one pillar of the UNSCR2250. The research shows that organisations are most engaged in the participation (92.9%) pillar and consider it a priority for Cameroon.

The DDR (14.8%) and Partnerships (14,8%) pillars are considered the least priority to Cameroon according to the YPS actors. The study zoomed in to an apparent divide in priority between the government and the YPS actors and it identified some reasons of the ownership divide, the current rise in juvenile violence and different objectives of prioritisation that could explain this difference. It was also noted that pillars that were considered least priority also had low-capacity engagement levels by the actors.

While no causation can be implied, further research can be done to make more inference.

Some of the major achievements of the YPS agenda have been the creation of a coalition for the implementation of YPS in Cameroon, and a critical rise in youth actors for national peace. The high engagement of youth has been met with challenges such as a repressed civil society space, lack of capacity to sustainably engage and partner, difficulties raising and diversifying funds, lack of adequate recognition from the community and government and the absence of a National Action Framework for synchronised impact. It was noted that, there is a current (2022) tentative National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of YPS in Cameroon issued by the government and supported by several other government bodies, UN Agencies and stakeholders, but this attempt has already received heavy backlash for poor co-ownership by young people. Despite the lack of a national framework, 42.95% of organisations report to have individual action plans that guide their work.

It is therefore important and recommended that the existing coalition for YPS implementation be strengthened and an inclusive and youth-led National Action Plan (NAP) be developed to foster youth ownership and inclusivity. It is equally crucial that youth organisations already engaged in the YPS agenda be capacitated to engage across the different pillars of the YPS agenda, to partner and collaborate between themselves and with other relevant stakeholders. Donors and INGOs are encouraged to fund organisational strengthening and institutional initiatives to strengthen youth civil society intervention and the structure for youth and organisations supporting the YPS agenda in Cameroon.

### OUTLINE OF REPORT

This report contains four sections. Section one is an introduction into the study and captures the methodology used and research questions. In section two, we review the existing literature thematically. In section three, we present the data from the survey and brief analysis and in section four, we present the key findings, recommendations and challenges faced throughout the study.



# SECTION 1

## INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

### INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) issued Resolution 2250 which acknowledges the efforts of young people in ensuring peaceful communities and their role in preventing and countering violence and violent extremism in the world. This agenda has been widely adopted at diverse levels: globally, regionally, nationally, and institutionally. Over the past seven years, this agenda has inspired broad regional frameworks like the African Union Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security which is a guiding document for YPS intervention in Africa today. The agenda was first officially localised in Cameroon in November 2017 by Local Youth Corner Cameroon, a youth-led civil society organisation (CSO) and has since then been popularised within the national territory. This study seeks to investigate how the YPS agenda is implemented in Cameroon, mapping barriers, challenges, and opportunities for further intervention.

### 1. 1 Research Questions

*The study is guided by the following questions:*

- What guides YPS implementation in Cameroon?
- What are the barriers to youth participation in the YPS Agenda in Cameroon?
- What are the challenges youth face in implementing the YPS Agenda in Cameroon?
- What opportunities and existing potentials exist to improve YPS implementation in Cameroon?
- What recommendations can be given by different stakeholders on scaling the impact of YPS Agenda?

### 1. 2 Research Methodology

To conduct a baseline study on the implementation of the YPS Agenda in Cameroon, quantitative and qualitative research designs were used. The quantitative design involved the administration of surveys to twenty-eight organisations/institutions and to 120 households across the four geopolitical regions of Cameroon. The surveys were administered using Kobo Collect and Google survey tools. The qualitative phase used three focus group discussions (FGDs) and six Key Informant Interviews (KII).

A desk review was conducted to capture current implementation trends within the sector. The KIIs targeted thought leaders, opinion leaders, religious, traditional, cultural, political, and community leaders in Cameroon. Eighty percent of the CSOs that participated in the survey were invited to engage in the FGDs as well. This was mainly based on competence, ability, and interest. The quantitative data was analysed using Excel since the study involved a small data set and the qualitative data was analysed thematically.



## SECTION 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Being Young and Cameroonian

Cameroon popularly known as “Africa in Miniature” is also nicknamed “The Melting Pot of Africa” for its rich diversity which is representative of the African continent. She has a population of over 26 million people (Worldometer, 2022), and her citizens represent over 200 ethnicities. The Cameroon Youth Policy (2006) defines youth to be within the ages 15-35. According to statistics provided by the State Bureau (2015), more than half of the Cameroonian population is aged 35 years and below (14,393,230) with an estimated 5,352,620 of these being adolescents (aged 10-19). In 2021, Index mundi, reported that, more than 60% of the Cameroon population was below the age of 25 and this population continues to grow steadily at a rate of about 2.4%. Cameroon's youthful population is faced with challenges such as unemployment, poverty, a dominant informal market, crime, and violence.

The government and stakeholders have in the past decade, initiated talks, investments, and structures to suit the needs of young Cameroonians. In 2016, the Special Youth Triennial plan was announced during the traditional youth day eve presidential address, and in 2017, the plan was launched in Cameroon. In an end of year traditional national address given to Cameroonians in 2020, the head of state urged young people to “return to the farms because the ground never disappoints” that, in fact, was an encouragement for young people to engage in agriculture. This has been accompanied by a roll out of funding opportunities by MINADER specifically for young people. It is noteworthy that none of these initiatives have been measured for impact and it is unclear how relevant the youth perceive these to be.

Other state actions such as the distribution of laptops to college students and several youth programs like the PAGER-U and Youth Konnect of the Ministry of Youth Affairs have been created to cater to the needs of young people in Cameroon. While this sounds progressive, these attempts have received heavy criticism from the Cameroonian population as the outcomes of these actions are a bare minimum to the investments done. Some of the organs and structures available for youth in Cameroon are:

- The Cameroon National Youth Council, a body charged to represent the interests of young people and promote their interaction with government and development partners.
- Multipurpose Youth Empowerment Centres (CMPJ)
- The National Youth Employment Covenant (PANEJ)
- The Support Programme for Rural and Urban Youth (PAJER-U)
- The Integrated Support Project for stakeholders of the informal sector.

As is the case of many other projects in Cameroon, youth projects are also riddled with corruption, mismanagement of funds, bureaucracy, elite capture among others leaving the youth without much hope for a better tomorrow. The ecosystem is far from being an enabling environment for young Cameroonians to thrive. Civicus classifies the civic space in Cameroon as repressed. Even though there are policies, institutions and structures put in place to facilitate youth participation and inclusivity, there remains a lot of political unwillingness to follow through with implementation, delivery, follow up and evaluation. There is general mistrust in the capacity of young people, to the extent that influence around policy tables is largely exclusive of the youth.





## 2.2 Overview of Youth and Youthled/engaged CSOs

Young people are engaged in the development of Cameroon as individual activists, members of community associations, NGOs, INGOs, public sector and/or the private sector. The Ministry of Territorial administration in Cameroon oversees the activities of CSOs, and NGOs in the state. As of 2019, the CSO Sustainability Index for Cameroon reported a total of 55602 registered associations and 50 NGOs of different legal statuses. Cameroon has a growing civic space with an increasing multidisciplinary female participation. There is a sprout in the number of youth and adolescent movements especially since the onset of the Anglophone crisis, with more women leading peace building initiatives.

## 2.3 Global Outlook of YPS

The UNSC is one of the six organs of the United Nations. Since its inception in January 1948, The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), was charged with 4 main objectives.

- To maintain international peace and security.
- To develop friendly relationships amongst nations.
- To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights.
- To be consulted for harmonising the actions of nations.

Within her duty of maintaining peace and security, the UNSC in December 2015 issued the resolution 2250 on Youth Peace and Security, endorsing and recognising the role of young people in preventing and solving conflicts and sustaining peace. This resolution was anchored on five pillars: Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships, and Disengagement and Reintegration.

In August 2016, the UN Secretary General commissioned an independent progress study of the implementation of the UNSCR 2250 and in July 2018, the document titled *The Missing Peace*

was finalised and presented to the security council in the same year.

The UNSCR 2250 has been proceeded by two other resolutions on Youth Peace and and UNSCR 2535. Both resolutions have reemphasized the Security council's commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 2250 but are marked with distinct additions such as a stronger call for the representation of young people in implementing peace agreements and the establishment of a two-year reporting mechanism on respectively. Today, these mandates are being popularised worldwide, facilitating youth inclusion in the peace and conflict resolution process and sometimes termed the “passport” of youth action in the domains of Peace and Conflict resolution.



## 2.4 Regional Outlook

The African Union aspires for Africa to be transformed into the global powerhouse. In her 50-year development plan themed “The Africa we Want”, (Agenda 2063) she outlines her aspirations for the continent and earmarks flagship programs which can boost Africa's economic growth and stability by 2063.

Central to YPS discussions is the “Silencing the guns” program with activities aimed at ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, violent conflicts and preventing genocides. The AU has also designed a framework for guiding and promoting youth participation in peace and P/CVE through her Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS).

Inspired by the UNSCR 2250, the AU's ambition for a peaceful Africa and many other global agendas on peace and security, the CFYPS pushes for youth participation anchored on the pillars of promotion, prevention, protection, partnership, disengagement, and reintegration.

## 2.5 National Outlook

The Cameroonian youth civic space has over the years demonstrated resilience and consistency in her engagements in Peace, Security and P/CVE. Despite this zeal, the Cameroonian civic space is classified as repressed (Civicus monitor, 2022).

Amidst the civic space repression, conflicts and growing youth challenges, it is impressive that the first known documented effort to localise the UNSCR 2250 in Cameroon was organised by a youth-led peacebuilding organisation Local Youth Corner Cameroon (LOYOC) in October 2018. In her 2018 end of year report, she reported that, after a training of about 20 youth leaders from diverse walks of life as Ambassadors for Peace from different communities in Cameroon, they created a coalition for localising the UNSCR 2250 agenda in Cameroon.

The pioneer coalition members were made up of the trained youth, government, international organisations, NGOs, INGOS and other stakeholders. There is little empirical evidence on the progression of the coalition since its inception in 2018, however, an immediate success of this initiative was the popularisation of the UNSCR 2250 across a diverse cross section of domains, stakeholders and actors including several prisons in Cameroon.

In line with the YPS Agenda other organisations across the country have had significant interventions. Some are direct interventions like Mother of Hope Cameroon who trained 50 young women as peace actors and mediators in the Northwest Region and engaged 20 adolescent boys as actors against violence extremism in secondary schools;

It is important to note that while the YPS Agenda corners young people, the implementation cuts across age groups. Nonetheless, many youth-led and youth dominated organisations are engaged in implementing the YPS Agenda in Cameroon.

Some include the Denis Miki Foundation, Women for a Change Cameroon (WFAC), New Seta, the Positive Peace group (PPG), CAMIOSFORP. Community Center for Integrated Development (CCID) amongst others. These have been greatly supported by diplomatic bodies in Cameroon (US Embassy, Canadian Embassy, British High Commission, Israeli Embassy, Japanese Embassy), government, International Non-governmental and Humanitarian organisations and the UN System in Cameroon.

Cameroon was the first country to have a national youth mediator's network built out of Resolution 2419 which is a subsequent Resolution of 2250. Today, many more organisations are conversant with UNSCR 2250 and respond in different ways to the threats to peace in the nation. There is knowledge of the UNSCR 2250 amongst YPS actors, but this knowledge is insufficient in terms of in-depth knowledge of the agenda, its evolution, opportunities it brings, access to platforms and how to fully leverage the gains of the agenda.

Unlike the UNSCR1325, there is currently no nationally adopted National Action plan to guide YPS participation in Cameroon, though there is a tentative draft in circulation.





## UNSCR1325 in Cameroon

The UNSCR 1325 has, through her NAP, been quite successful in increasing the participation of women and girls in the peacebuilding process in Cameroon. There is a visible role played by women in conflict resolution in Cameroon. Two of the most important events that women have championed is Cameroon's First Women's National Peace convention which harmonised the efforts of women toward peacebuilding (2021), and the critical action of Cameroonian women decrying violence in 2018 in the Northwest Region of Cameroon.

There has also been an evolution of female participation over the years. Previously, female participation was almost only seen in peace promotion and advocacy. In recent years however, through the UNSCR 1325, there has been great female engagement in conflict resolution, mediation, hate speech prevention and even research. Networks such as the Cameroon Women Mediators Network have been founded and movements like Southwest/ Northwest Women Task Force (SNWOT) have been instrumental in decrying the injustices that have tarried throughout the crisis.

The successes of UNSCR 1325 have inspired female agility in implementing the UNSCR 2250 and subsequent agendas in Cameroon which is evident in the number of female led activities and organising championed by young women in Cameroon. The Women Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda has been hugely supported by government UN Women, UNFPA, the British High Commission, the American Embassy, the Canadian High commission, The Commonwealth Secretariat amongst others.

The success of these events amongst many others has tremendously increased female participation in the peace building process. Though UNSCR 1325 has been very influential even to the implementation of UNSCR 2250, it is still criticised to be centric and not very inclusive particularly of grassroots organisations.

## 2.6 Finance and Resource mobilisation

The funding landscape for CSOs in Cameroon is still largely dependent on donor funding and international aid. Humentum's research highlights local CSOs' overdependence on donor funds for survival and sustenance.

According to this research, about 66% of funders provide inadequate coverage of their grantees' administration cost and this contributes to a starvation cycle with significantly negative organisational impacts.

This inadequacy in cost coverage and limited access to unrestricted income further stifles the growth of organisational financial health. From this report, 50% of the participating organisations had unrestricted reserves equivalent to less than twenty-one days of annual expenditure.

The finance situation is even more complex for Cameroonian youth organisations working within a context of shrinking regional donor funds, changing priorities and the now threatening COVID-19 pandemic. Following research conducted by the West African Civil Society Institute on the effect of COVID-19 on CSOs (2021), 47% of the surveyed organisations complained that COVID-19 has delayed or reduced funding while another 38.9% reported that the pandemic has brought about funding restrictions.

It is noteworthy that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many organisations including youth organisations working on the YPS Agenda found innovative ways of service provision and communicating their mandates while still responding to the immediate needs of the populations they serve. According to UNPBSO, between 2016 and 2020, funding for youth empowerment and participation fluctuated significantly from 7% in 2016 to 19% in 2012 and then 12% in 2020.



This further influenced the shrinking youth civic spaces and calls for more YPS funding. The UN, however, through the UN Peacebuilding Fund 2020-2024 strategy, has committed to expanding partnerships with civil society organisations and to exploring more funding opportunities available to CSOs including youth-led groups.

While this is a plausible course of action by the UN, it is still largely insufficient to meet the needs of young people and organisations championing the YPS agenda, and so there is a global call for not just increased funding but increased capacitation of local organisations on raising alternative sources of funding, building financial resilience, and mobilising local support.



## 2.7 Impact of covid-19 on YPS implementation in Cameroon

The COVID-19 pandemic was a shock to CSOs as it was to the world at large. In Cameroon, this was met with different responses and to varying degrees of impact. The pandemic also revealed a reactive nature of CSO response to policy making rather than a proactive nature.

According to research conducted by the West African Civil Society Institute, WACSI (2021), only 30.6% of the organisations surveyed had policies that accommodated remote working and 52.7% were not prepared for such changes. The same research revealed that the pandemic largely affected the operations and programmes of CSOs in Cameroon with a majority (83.3%) of

of CSOs having to close their office.

It is however unknown for what duration this shutdown was for and what the conditions for reopening were. COVID-19 undoubtedly affected CSO funding, as respondents of the research admitted to reduced donor funding because of shifting priorities.

While this further exacerbated the financial challenges faced by these organisations, 8.3% of organisations confessed that the COVID-19 pushed them to innovate and diversify their interventions.

## Conclusion

The Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda has had roots in Cameroon in over 5 years. The reviewed literature shows that there is knowledge of the agenda amongst actors, but it is unclear how organisations are leveraging this agenda in their work on building peace and countering violence. In Cameroon youth actors, CSOs are leading the implementation of the YPS agenda with several pockets of excellence mainly engaging through interventions such as sensitization, service provision, organisation of workshops and humanitarian actions.

However, there is a need for a synchronised report showing the current state of YPS implementation in Cameroon, the level of comprehension of this agenda by its actors, the community's perception of the agenda, actors' engagement across the pillars, challenges, and opportunities. That is why this research is timely and will provide empirical evidence on a situational analysis of the implementation of the YPS Agenda in Cameroon.



## SECTION 3

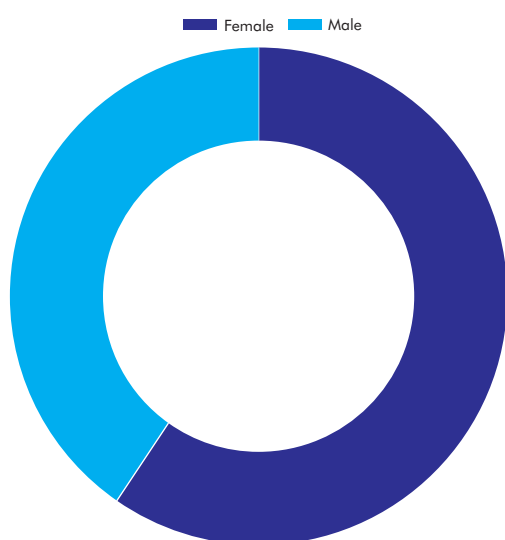
### PRESENTATION AND FINDINGS

This section presents the data from the survey findings. The surveys targeted both institutions working on the YPS agenda in Cameroon and households within communities in the four geopolitical regions of Cameroon.

#### Respondent composition:

##### a) Gender distribution of household head

Out of the 105 household heads that were surveyed, 75 were female and 52 were male.

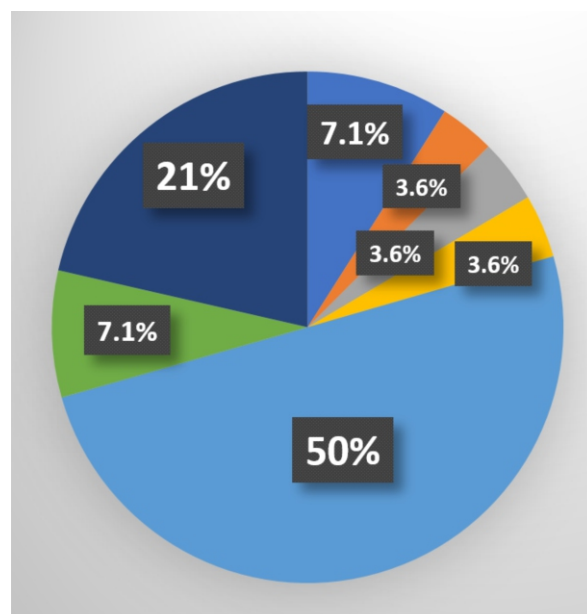


Value	Frequency	Percentage
Female	75	59.06
Male	52	40.94

Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

##### b) Representation of institutions by sector

50% of the responses were captured from CSOs, 21% from community-based organisations, 7.1% from government, 7.1% from associations and 3.6% each from the rest.



- Associations
- Civil Society Organisations
- Media
- Youth Association
- Non Governmental Organisations NGO
- Government
- Community Base Organization

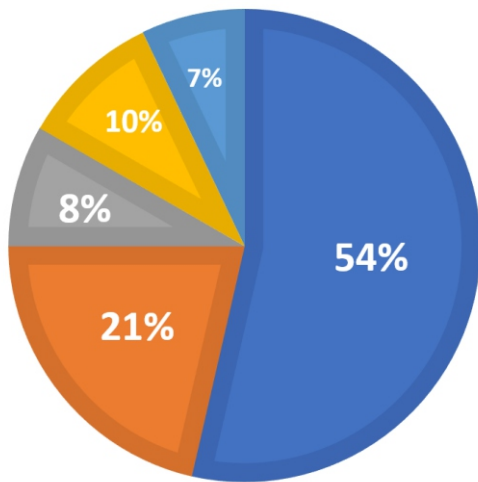
Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

##### c) Representation of institutions surveyed by number of years in existence

Most of the organisations surveyed have been in existence for almost as many years as the YPS agenda has been in existence.

21% have been in existence for at least 6 years and at most 10 years, 10% of organisations have existed between 11-15 years and 7% of organisations have existed between 16-20 years and above 20 years respectively.





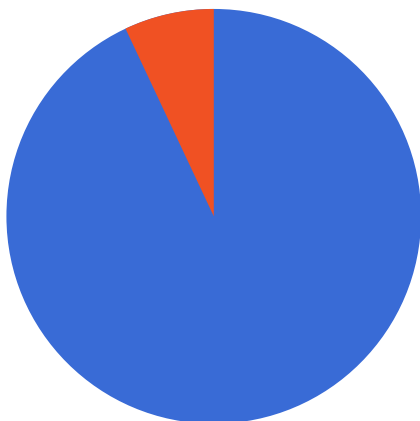
Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

- Year 0 - 5
- Year 6 - 10
- Year 11 - 15
- Year 16 - 20
- Year > 20

### Knowledge of YPS at community and institutional levels

#### Have you ever heard of the YPS Agenda before?

Out of the 88 household heads who responded to the question, 82 of them had never heard about the YPS Agenda, only 6 of them had heard about the agenda and the rest were counted as null.

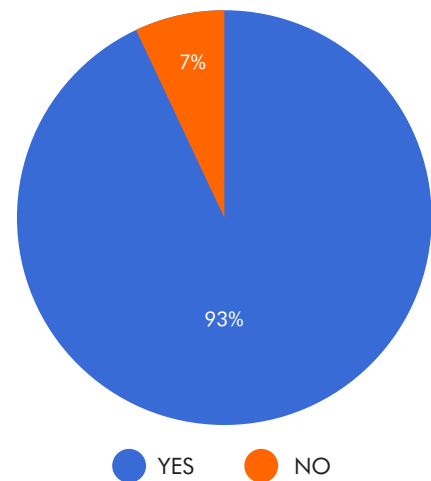


Value	Frequency	Percentage
No	82	64.57
Yes	6	4.72

#### d) Can you outline the Pillars of the YPS Agenda?

A majority, 93% of surveyed organisations working within the domain of peacebuilding agreed to having knowledge of the agenda and its pillars.

The following question which asked respondents from these organisations to list these pillars proved contrary to their earlier claim, as not up to half were able to list all.

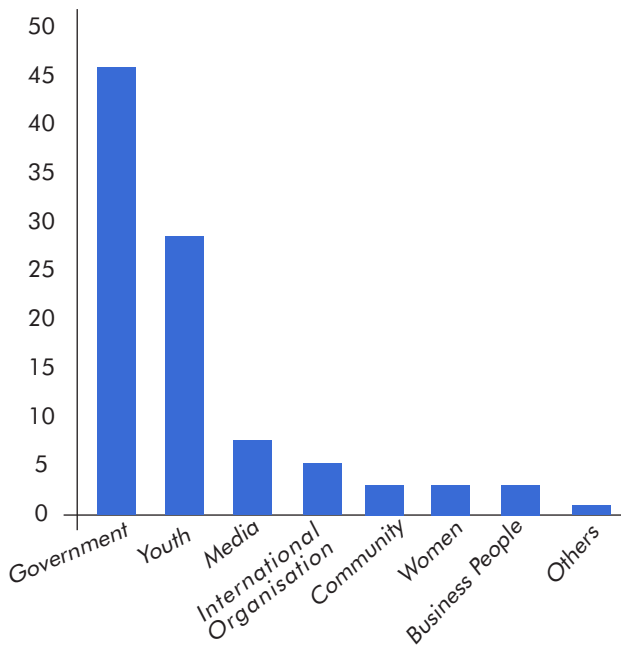


Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

#### Who should take responsibility for youth engagement in YPS?

According to the household survey conducted, the government is perceived as most responsible for enabling youth participation in YPS implementation.

#### e) Community's Perception on who is most responsible for engaging young people in the YPS agenda

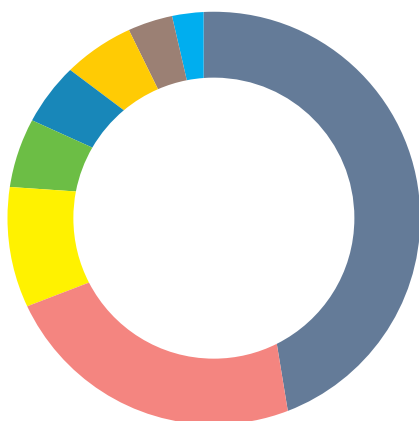


Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

#### f) Community's perception on the most important actor in the Peacebuilding process

The household survey revealed that 33.88% of the households considered young people as the most important actors in peacebuilding advancing reasons pertaining to their demographic advantage; youthful strength, literacy and the common saying that “youth are the hope of the nation”.

About 24.41% of households considered the government as the most important actor and then the community ranked next with 7.87%, women at 6.3%. International organisations at 6.3%, media at 3.94%, businesspeople at 1.57% and others at 2.36%.



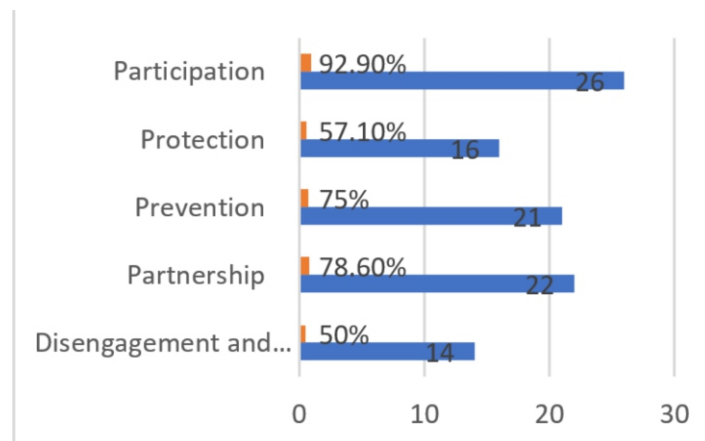
Value	Frequency	Percentage
Youth	57	44.88
Government	31	24.41
Community	10	7.87
Women	8	6.3
International Organisations	8	6.3
Media	5	3.94
Other	3	2.36
Business People	2	1.57

Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

#### g) Organisation's current engagement across the 5 pillars of the YPS

The survey captured organisations' key areas of intervention across the 5 pillars UNSCR 2250. The participants could choose as many pillars as they worked on and so the pillars with the most frequencies represent the pillars that are most worked on across organisations.

The survey findings report that, 92.9% of organisations work on the pillar of participation, 78.6% work on partnerships, 75% work on prevention, 57.1% work on protection and 50% work on some aspect of disengagement and reintegration.



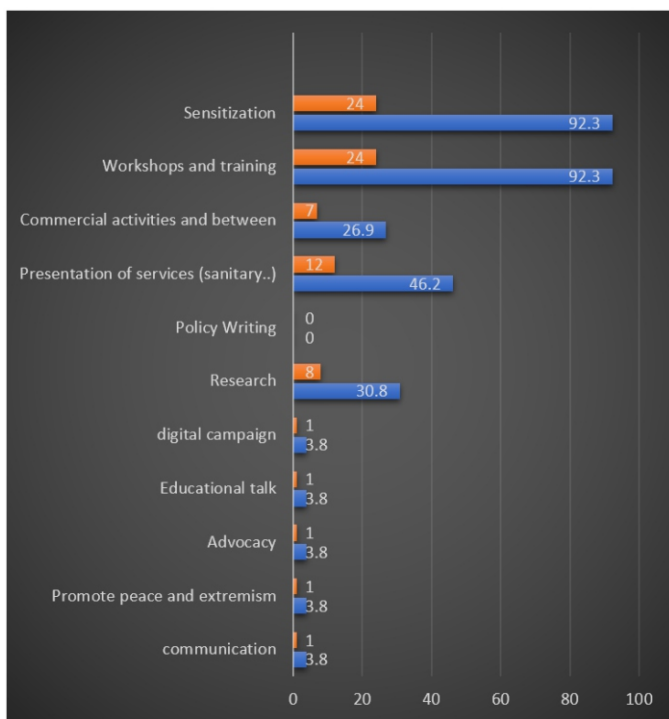
Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

## h) YPS engagement per activity type

Organisations were asked to report what types of activities they carried out. Findings show that there is an emphasis across organisations on sensitisation, workshops, and service provision.

The findings, however, show weak organisational engagement in more technical activities such as research and policy writing that often give more macro effects.

During the focus group discussions, the need for innovation was echoed throughout the sessions.



## Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

Despite CSO engagement in the various sectors, the research probed into understanding priority areas according to the organisations' perspective.

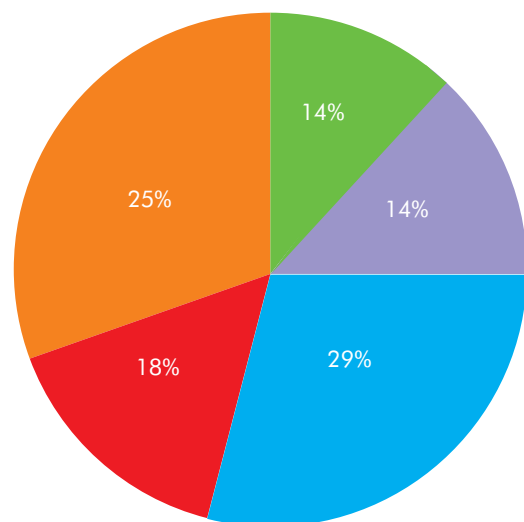
Amongst many other factors the research sought to find out to what extent the organisations working on the YPS Agenda engaged in the areas they considered priority.

## I) Priority as perceived by YPS Actors in Cameroon

Although all the 5 pillars of the UNSCR 2250 are important, the priority may vary across regions. Organisations were asked to identify the pillars which they considered priority.

Expectantly, there was a random distribution of perception of what was considered priority: 29% of the organisation considered participation to be of most priority, 25% did so with prevention, 18% considered protection to be of priority, while partnerships, and disengagement and integration with 14% each were considered pillars with least priority.

The priority classifications are roughly consistent with the organisations' current participation distribution across the pillars, but it is important to note that, priorities as captured by the focus group discussions vary across regions and consideration of these should be captured when the National Action Plan on YPS intervention in Cameroon is finally arrived at.



- Participation
- Protection
- Prevention
- Partnership
- Disengagement and reintegration

## Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

## j) Why is Disengagement not a priority?

In December 2018, the Cameroonian government set up a DDR (Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration) committee. The government describes this as “a framework for the reception and social reintegration of ex-Boko Haram militants and members of armed groups operating in the Northwest and Southwest regions of the country”.

Following the findings from the research, organisations consider pillar five, Disengagement and reintegration, as the least priority pillar and consistent with their rankings, this sector has the least YPS engagement.

During the research, the following reasons could explain this disconnect.

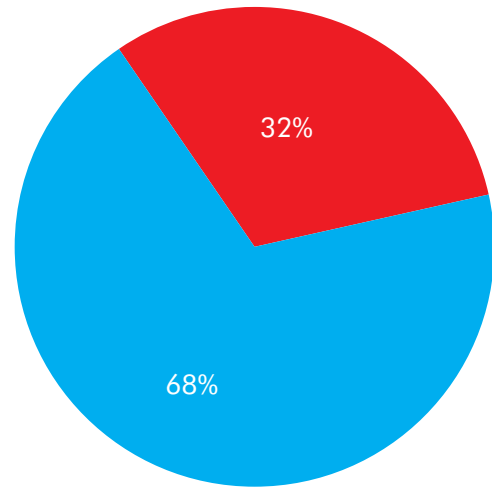
- DDR is a new concept to many organisations working in the sector of peace and security and so organisations don't have enough capacity to engage in these activities.
- DDR was popularised under the canopy of a government-initiated safety program for militants, however, till date, no comprehensive impact report has been produced to document the successes of the DDR program and the term DDR is received with mixed feeling and with a watered-down importance.

Given the current state of crisis in Cameroon, the country is clearly in need of an inclusive DDR strategy to accompany the peace processes.

There is an urgent need for organisations to be capacitated, presented with the concept of DDR, and how they can engage with this pillar of the UNSCR 2250 Agenda.

## Youth Peace and Security Financing in Cameroon

### k) Percentage of organisations receiving non-donor financing



● Yes  
● No

#### Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

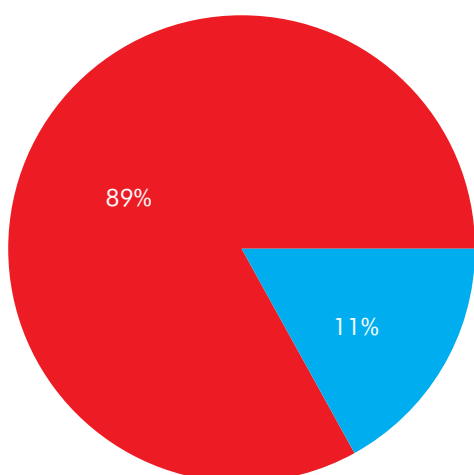
There is still significant dependence on donor funding amongst civil society organisations in Cameroon.

Of the organisations surveyed, 32% are heavily dependent funds alone and 68% are engaged in some sort of funding which is mostly self-funding at a very small scale.

The data shows heterogeneity in the funding tendencies across geopolitical regions; organisations in the Grand North are more liable to self-fund and engage the community in funding than organisations in the southern regions of Cameroon.

Though the emphasis was not placed on sourcing the reasons for these, there is reason to attribute this dichotomy to the communal tendencies of the Grand North inhabitants and to the humanitarian approach to interventions in these regions.

### l) Organisations engaging in community-based fundraising



Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

Very few organisations have the skill, willingness, or idea to mobilise support internally. From our surveyed data, 89% of organisations had never received community-based funding.

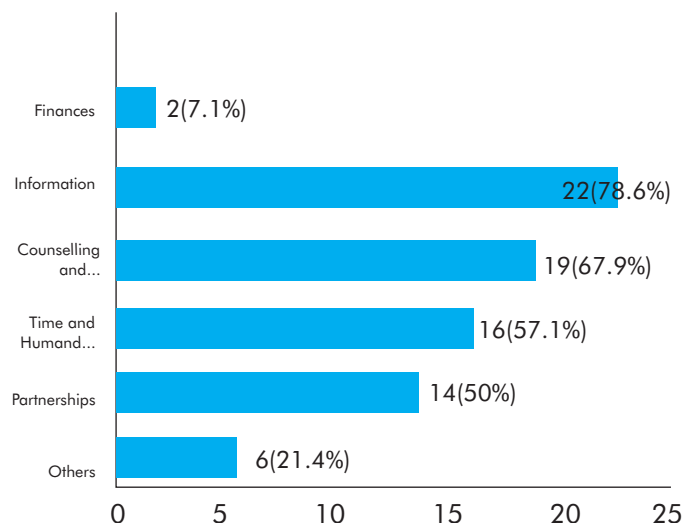
This further solidifies the earlier premise that though organisations are seeking alternative funding sources, they are not engaging their communities enough to pull these resources together. This is mostly a capacity challenge and a wide opportunity which can be filled through organisational strengthening.

### m) Current community resource support to YPS Agenda in Cameroon

Within the past years, the civic space has witnessed continuous funding reductions.

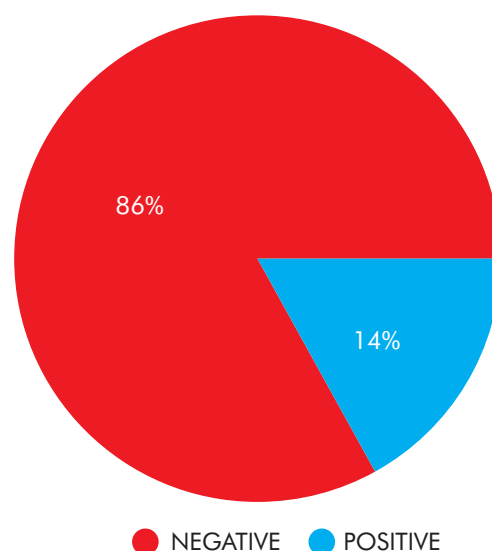
The research explored community funding as an alternative and so we captured the perspective of organisations on the types of resources that are being raised from the community.

From the graph below, we see that information is the greatest resource that organisations get from the community mostly through surveys and interviews, however, a very tiny portion of the resources mobilised were financial resources.



Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

### n) Probable community resource support to YPS Agenda in Cameroon



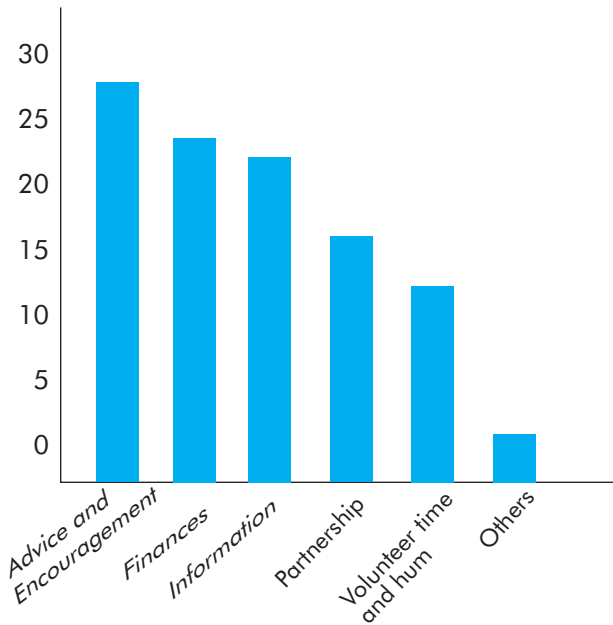
● NEGATIVE ● POSITIVE

Probable Community

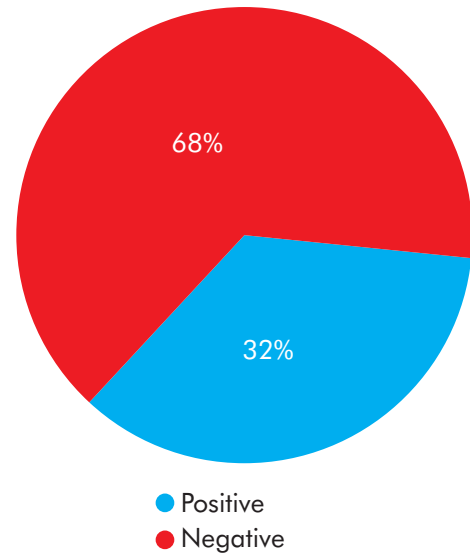
Household heads were asked what contribution they are willing to make towards facilitating the engagement of the YPS agenda in Cameroon, their responses are as displayed below.

This was interesting to find, that the top two services the community was willing to provide were advice/encouragement and finances in contrast to information and which were what organisations reported to be receiving. This is a huge opportunity for organisations to be trained in local fundraising and support mobilisation related skills, with indices for measurement being the amount of funds generated locally by the organisation.





Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022



Source, Baseline Survey on YPS in Cameroon, 2022

## Implementation of YPS in Cameroon amidst Major Shocks

### o) YPS Implementation and COVID-19

Results show that 85.7 % of respondents considered Covid-19 to be detrimental to the implementation of the YPS Agenda due to the restricted movements, limited funding and altered priorities of the organisations. Among the respondents, 14.3% thought that the covid-19 had positive effect on the implementation of the YPS agenda as this enabled for technology to be vulgarised within the sector.

### p) YPS Implementation and Conflict

From the survey, 68% of organisations reported that the conflict in Cameroon has negatively affected the implementation of the YPS Agenda as many lives have been lost leaving a smear of discouragement on the youth. On the flip side, a total of 32% reported that the conflict has positively affected the implementation of the agenda in Cameroon because the conflict has increased youth consciousness of the challenges in maintaining peace and security in the nation and has equally increased the sense of urgency to act and respond. As peace talks are being held, the agenda is simultaneously being popularised.



## SECTION 4

### KEY OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The baseline survey on the implementation of the YPS Agenda in Cameroon sought to:

Gain understanding of what guides YPS implementation in Cameroon, identify barriers to youth participation in the YPS Agenda in Cameroon, outline challenges youth face in implementing the YPS Agenda in Cameroon, identify opportunities and existing potentials to improve YPS implementation, provide recommendations to different stakeholders on scaling the impact of the YPS Agenda.

The findings show that most organisations working in the domain of peace and conflict resolution have some knowledge of the YPS Agenda. Over 90% of the organisations surveyed are actively engaged in implementing at least one pillar of the UNSCR2250. However, this knowledge is largely superficial with little depth and understanding. In contrast, a majority of households reportedly have no knowledge of the agenda nor the YPS activities carried out in their communities. Majority (33.88%) of respondents consider youth as the main actors for peace in Cameroon. Both the youth and the community weighed in on the government to be most responsible for increasing youth participation in YPS.

There is currently (2022) a tentative national framework guiding the implementation of the YPS agenda in Cameroon. In 2022, the Government of Cameroon through the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education (MINJEC) sent out a draft National Action Plan for a period of 1 year. This NAP was done with the participation of other government agencies, a host of UN agencies like UNDP, UNESCO, and UN Women, and some other CSOs. While this is a step in the right direction, this work is already heavily criticised for the following reasons:

- **Ownership:** Young people and youth organisations do not feel a sense of ownership of this tentative NAP. In fact, the survey findings show that a vast majority of organisations surveyed had no idea initially that this was done.
- **Prioritisation:** MINJEC considers her most important work to be on DDR, which should reflect in the tentative NAP.

However, from our findings, organisations and institutions have DDR as least priority. Given this vast disconnect, it is challenging to see the youth voice reflected in this clash of priorities.

- **Youth are perceived as the Problem:** Given the rise of violence in schools and the increase in militia groups, young people may be considered as more of suspects than supporters of peace.

The findings from the research expose several challenges young people face in implementing this global agenda without a national framework. Despite the lack of a national framework, 42.95% of organisations report to have individual action plans that guide their work as organisations. While these pockets of excellence exist at individual levels, the impact does not necessarily reflect on a macro scale. These findings however, revealed that rigorous planning is being done towards the creation of a National Action Plan. Organisations seem to prefer individualistic approaches to engagement, which is characterised by unhealthy competition amongst organisations that compete amongst themselves for recognition.

There is a need for a National Action Plan (NAP) amidst other recommendations to be established through an inclusive co-creation process involving the government, youth-led and youth serving civil society, and all relevant key stakeholders. There is equally a need for efforts to be galvanised towards promoting relations between organisations and within sectors for more efficient YPS implementation in Cameroon.



## Challenges young People face in the implementation of the YPS Agenda

- No existing framework NAP (National Action Plan)
- Intergenerational conflict
- A fatigued outh: The Cameroon civic space is reported to be repressed, amidst crisis, COVID-19 and other economic and social challenges causing reduced efficiency and lack of zeal.
- Capacity gaps: through the different stages of the research there was an echoed limitation to institutional and operational capacity aspects that hinder YPS implementation
- Civic space strengthening: The YPS space is still largely dispersed with very few coalitions that are hardly sustained hence there is duplication of interventions, unhealthy competition and a lot of work being done haphazardly.
- No trust from the community and from within the organisations.
- Socioeconomic challenges

## Opportunities and Existing Potentials to improve YPS implementation

The following are threats which are otherwise described as recommended opportunities.

There is the opportunity to:

- Critically analyse and evaluate the tentative draft NAP in current circulation and harmoniously respond with recommendations from a youth-led and inclusive perspective.
- Strengthen the capacity of YPS actors in community financed resourcing as an alternative funding source to foster YPS implementation in the country.
- Strengthen the Coalition on localising the UNSCR 2250 agenda in Cameroon which was created in 2018 including the government, international organisations, civil society actors and academia.
- Train and refresh civil society organisations on the fundamentals of the YPS Agenda and charting a co-created plan for its implementation

- Build on the successes and failures of UNSCR 1325 and create stronger youth-women partnerships for peace engagements in the region.
- Design initiatives by young people that respond to growing adolescent violence in schools, young militia and extremist groups which are causing mixed impressions on the role of young people in Cameroon.
- Engage actors in empirical work to aid advocacy. There is currently little or no academia-actor engagement and very little capacity in research, impact evaluation and skill to engage evidence.

## RECOMMENDATIONS To Youth CSO

Throughout the research the core needs echoed for young independent activists and CSO working to localise the YPS Agenda in Cameroon are: The need to capacitate, communicate, harmonise, and finance.

### Capacitate:

- Civil society organisations should be reintroduced to and capacitated on the YPS Agenda.
- Capacitate young peacebuilders on how to use their local peacebuilding methods and context-based advantage to solve conflicts within their communities.
- Capacitate organisations on local fundraising techniques and alternative funding models to reduce CSO donor dependence and enable youth peace community funds and thrive in their implementation of YPS agenda amidst the shrinking donor space.
- Capacitate young peace builders to mobilize local support for YPS implementation from their communities, to engage local government and champion CSO influence at grassroots and local community levels.
- Due to an observed disconnect between global policy makers and the grassroots peace activists, and a perceived shallow knowledge of the UNSCR 2250 in Cameroon, it is empirical for in-depth training to be done for CSOs, to strengthen their understanding of UNSCR 2250, their mandate and the support available for them.



## Communicate

- More can be done in communicating the work young people do in YPS implementation in Cameroon. There is a need to strengthen actors involved in implementing the YPS Agenda in strategic communication and media engagement, in raising awareness and communicating impact.
- Communicate their learning needs to their peer CSOs, government, INGOs, donors and the community.

## Harmonise

- Cameroon's heterogeneity is greatly influenced by her diversity and so the challenges faced in the different regions vary. However, working within the same national framework, the similarities outweigh the differences and so it is empirical for organisations to engage a culture of learning from each other, sharing experiences, leveraging on each other's expertise, and harmonising energy in pursuit of a common goal.
- Lead a process of co-creating a harmonised national implementation and popularisation strategy for YPS in Cameroon in partnership with government and relevant stakeholders.
- Actively engage the community in YPS projects from the ideation phases right up to execution, to ensure ownership and participation.

## Finance

- For the YPS agenda to succeed in Cameroon, young people need to be financed. However, young people need capacity to engage alternative funding sources and to mobilise local support for the objectives they seek to achieve.



## To Donors

- Most of the organisations surveyed have weak to average organisational strengthening rankings despite the many activities they engage themselves in. Donors should include operational costs in their budget allocations to contribute to the institutional growth of these organisations that implement their activities.
- Increase direct engagement with local and grassroots organisations and design funding structures that provide funding opportunities to these organisations without creating an overdependence on bigger CSOs, thus promoting more youth inclusion and ownership.
- Due to concerns raised on the need to increase collaboration amongst organisations and across sectors, donors should consider funding joined initiative projects.

## To Government

- Legalise a national framework to guide the implementation of the Youth Peace and Security agenda in Cameroon.
- Provide security for local organisations working in the grassroots areas.
- Recognise the work of young people and partner with them on YPS initiatives.
- Create structures to meet the needs of young people working on peacebuilding and P/CVE and opportunities for their capacity to be strengthened.
- Invest in solid Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms to measure the impact of government youth projects in Cameroon.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs should increase funding and/or allocate a quota of the ministry's yearly budget for the implementation of the YPS Agenda in Cameroon.
- Create an enabling environment for CSOs to implement the YPS Agenda.
- Encourage youth participation in the YPS agenda through programs that are appealing and gender friendly.

## To INGOs / Business Leaders

- Knowledge sharing on best practices through training on how youth actors, and other YPS Actors are championing implementation in other parts of the world.

- Strengthen the capacity of youth organisations and young activists especially those working at grassroots levels on policy engagement strategies, best practices in program implementation, and other themes relevant to YPS implementation and institutional growth.
- Increase direct funding to organisations operating at grassroots levels
- Include components of organisational strengthening within program design to ensure the health and growth led organisations as they partner with INGOs (to avoid the vehicle mentality where CSOs are driven without any proper thought to maintenance)
- Strengthen CSO capacity in resource mobilisation and sustainability.
- Support NGOs on writing institutional policies such as remote work policies, sustainability plans etc.

#### To Technical Partners

- Engage actors in open discussion forums and learning events where technical partners are called to have thought provoking conversations with actors.
- Collaborate with civil society organisations particularly in co-creation programmes so they can leverage on the experience of technical partners.
- Develop articles targeting different thematic of the YPS agenda for the strengthening of the actors in the sector.



#### To Academics

- Adopt a needs-based curriculum and offer more professional courses on YPS thematic.
- Provide empirical evidence on YPS engagement at the grass root level and conduct impact evaluations to measure impact.
- Make research findings more available to civil society actors.
- Provide research, collaboration, and capacity building opportunities for YPS actors, particularly the youth-led organisations.
- Collaborate with policy makers and development partners by sharing the academic perspective and recommending action steps.



## REFERENCES

### CIVICUS Monitor

Cameroon Women decry repeated violence in Cameroon

[Cameroon: After Buea, Bamenda women decry repeated violence \(journalducameroun.com\)](http://journalducameroun.com)

Cameroon's First Women's National Peace Convention: " We build peace, Piece by Piece"

['Cameroon's First Women's National Peace Convention: "We Build Peace, Piece by Piece" - ICAN \(icanpeacework.org\)](http://icanpeacework.org)

Financing for young people in Peace building (2021)

[financing\\_for\\_young\\_people\\_in\\_peacebuilding.20217.final\\_.web\\_.pdf](#)

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/cameroon-population/>

<https://www.africanews.com/2018/12/04/cameroon-s-govt-sets-up-ddr-for-ex-militants-the-morning-call/>

HOFNA. (2020). Hope for the Needy Association (HOFNA) Cameroon. Retrieved from

[https://www.facebook.com/hofnacam/?\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/hofnacam/?_rdc=1&_rdr). Accessed on 15th July 2022

[youth-web-english.pdf \(youth4peace.info\)](#)

LOYOC (2018), Annual Activity Report, Local Youth Corner Cameroon. Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Simpson, G. (2018) The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth and Peace and Security. United Nations

UNPBSO Financing for Peacebuilding: A Primer (2021)

WACSI (2021). Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Civil Society Organisations in Cameroon, West Africa Civil Society Institute, Accra, Ghana.

Worldometer Cameroon. Retrieved from

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/cameroon/>. Accessed on 10th November 2020

## UNOY MEMBER ORGANISATIONS/IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



### **Mother of Hope Cameroon:**

MOHCAM promotes, empowers, advocates for the rights of women and youths in building sustainable peace and development in homes, schools, and communities

**Website:** <http://www.mohcam.org/>

**Email:** [mohcamngo@gmail.com](mailto:mohcamngo@gmail.com)



### **Local Youth Corner Cameroon:**

LOYOC promotes the empowerment of young people aged 15 to 35 (males and females) in the domain of peacebuilding, preventing and countering violent extremism and sustainable development.

**Website:** [www.loyocameroon.org](http://www.loyocameroon.org)

**Email:** [info@loyocameroon.org](mailto:info@loyocameroon.org)



### **Positive Peace Group:**

The Positive Peace Group (PPG) is an organisations for the prevention of violence and promotion of peace, protection gender, human and minority rights, fighting corruption, environmental protection, and health development especially among Cameroonian and African youths, women and children.

**Website:** [www.positivepeacegroup.org](http://www.positivepeacegroup.org)

**Email:** [info@positivepeacegroup.org](mailto:info@positivepeacegroup.org)



### **Community Centre for Integrated Development:**

CCID's vision is to build resilient communities in Africa capable of: Advancing the rights and empowerment of women and girls, Empowering individuals, and groups to become community change agents, Promoting Health, Education and Human rights for all people.

**Website:** <http://comuceid.org/>

**Email:** [info@comuceid.org](mailto:info@comuceid.org)



### **Denis Miki Foundation:**

DMF is women- youth led sustainable development, human rights, humanitarian assistance, peace and entrepreneurial organisation with unique development focus

**Website:** [Denis Miki Foundation - DMF | Facebook](#)

**Email:** [contact@denismikifoundation.org](mailto:contact@denismikifoundation.org)

## LIST OF NGOS CONSULTED FOR VALIDATION

**Victory Foundation for Community Development and Environmental Sustainability (VIFODES);** aims at Empowering Communities with sustainable solutions, Encouraging the observance of human rights, promote the health condition of vulnerable women, youth and children through awareness creation, capacity building, re-integrate and empower victims of domestic violence, teenage pregnancy and Mobilization of communities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders at the community level against corruption.

The specific pillars we work on are: Participation, partnership, prevention, and protection.

**Positive Peace Group:** is a membership-based non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit making Organization for the prevention of violence and promotion of peace, protection of gender, human and minority rights, fighting corruption, political participation, environmental protection and health development especially among Cameroonian and African youths, women and children through capacity building, advocacy, and research.

Our mission is to promote sustainable peace and development by fostering peaceful (co)existence within and between people and the environment.

**Centre for Advocacy in Gender Equality and Action for Development (CAGEAD):** Centre for Advocacy in Gender Equality and Action for Development (CAGEAD) is a women led non-profit grassroots organization which is building skills and changing lives of women and youths in rural communities in Cameroon through Educational advocacy, sensitization, thereby promoting gender equality. Regarding UNSCR 2250, CAGEAD's work mainly focuses on the pillars of Participation, prevention and Partnership by bringing together youths and other governing and local bodies from communities, regional and national to talk peace and seek solution, also providing opportunities for youths to actively participate in the decision making processes.

**Community Centre for Integrated Development (CCID):** Community Centre for Integrated Development is working to build resilient communities with the mission to advance the rights of communities, women, girls and young people in Cameroon while strengthening the capacities of community based organizations to respond to the needs of indigenous people. Our YPS pillars are Participation, Prevention and Partnership.

**Big Steps Outreach Network (BONET):** Big Steps Outreach Network (BONET) was founded in 2010 as a youth-led association with registration No: 000762/ADR/J06/BAPP. BONET has worked relentlessly to foster youth & women empowerment, good governance, Peace, democracy, human rights, fight against different forms of marginalization, inequality, HIV/AIDS and other STDs in communities.

The specific pillars of the YPS that BONET works on include participation, protection and prevention. So far, BONET has implemented a couple of projects benefiting survivors and victims of war, especially women and youths. Peace is transversal and so BONET helps these targets socio economically and provides them with Psychosocial counselling so that they can recover and avoid the possibility of becoming actors in armed conflicts.

**Youth Rebuild Foundation (YRF):** The Youth Rebuild Foundation Cameroon (YRF): is a community based organization made up of young Cameroonians who have joint their efforts to socio-economically empower their peers through positive mind-set rebuild, connection to sustainable resources, active participation in peacebuilding, community development and wealth creation. We carry out educative talks, training workshops, outreach, Counselling and orientation, linking up youths to resources/models.

We operate under these Pillars: Participation; Partnership; Disengagement and reintegration.

**Mouendou Action for AFRIK:** Mouendou Action for AFRIK is a Female and youth led organization created on the 17th of September 2018 as Civil Society organization based in Cameroon working in the West, Northwest and Center region. Focus in all 5 pillars of UNSCR 2250).

**Chefusirri Foundation:** Chefusirri Foundation protects and promotes the rights of women and children. We sensitize in our communities on GBV, hate speech, the consumption of alcohol and drugs. The pillars of YPS we are involved in are prevention and protection.

**Watchman Relief Association Global (WRAG):** Watchman Relief Association Global (WRAG): is committed in building sustainable peace by promoting youth empowerment, inclusion and participation in policymaking and development process by strengthening the capacities of youths to address conflict through dialogue and non-violent ways. Our main activities are Peacebuilding, conflict transformation, youth empowerment, career development.

So far, we are able to build a coalition network of 20 CSOs within the North West Region working on YPS. We are currently working on 3 pillars of YPS which are Participation, protection and Partnership.

**Hope For Children (H4C)** Hope For Children (H4C); was legally created on April 22, 2017. It is an association of volunteers committed to the development of communities through the promotion of education, the culture of peace, health and gender. Its activities consist of raising awareness, donations, the organization of socio-cultural activities and behavioural change. As well as in the search for funding necessary for the realization of its works and activities H4C works on the pillars of prevention, participation, and protection.

**Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PaWED):** Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PaWED): is a women and youth gender equality and empowerment focused organization. PaWED was founded in 2016 with a national coverage.

We carry out empowerment activities, peace education, policy research and advocacy among others. PaWED engages in all the 5 pillars of YPS and all the 4 pillars of WPS.

**Vessels for Development (V4Dev):** Vessels for Development (v4dev): is a non-profit organization created in 2017, whose mission is to contribute to the wellbeing of women, girls, young people and improve their lives for the development of Africa. It is in this perspective that it focuses on social causes, education, entrepreneurship, Health, peace, respect of female rights and volunteerism.

During the past years, V4Dev has contributed to the promotion of peace through sensitization in local community alongside other civil society organizations, training and capacity building of young ambassadors for peace and Security in Cameroon and the eradication of intergenerational conflicts.

**Common Action for Gender Development (COMAGEND):** Common Action for Gender Development (COMAGEND): is a women and youth led organisation based in the North West Region of Cameroon engaged in advocating on the centrality of adolescent girls and young women in the YPS and WPS Agendas. COMAGEND's engagement on YPS is built on ensuring the meaningful participation of young women in peace processes. Pillars of focus are: participation, prevention and partnership.

**Hope Advocate Africa (HADA):** Hope Advocate Africa is a non-governmental organization aims at Advocating for the rights of women and girls in rural communities in the south west region, providing services to victims of gender base violence, organize awareness raising campaigns on GBV. The pillars we focus on are; Participation, Protection and Prevention.