



*... Changing lives is our Concern*

## **YOUTH PARTICIPATION POLICY OF FAMILY HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION**

### **I. YOUTH PARTICIPATION POLICY CONTEXT OF FAHCI**

The Youth Participation Policy recognizes the broader policy context in which it has been formulated and shall operate. This policy context is guided by the vision, mission, and goals of Family Health Care Foundation and largely by other national policy initiatives and it is also reflective of international treaties/conventions as stated in the National Youth Policy Second Document of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2009.

### **II. GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION POLICY**

The values and guiding principle of the Youth Participation Policy is consistent with the Family Health Care Foundation's Vision, Mission and Goals, Six core values (ASCEND) and Strategies in compliance to the existing national policies and other development initiatives and international treaties and as stated in National Youth Policy of Republic of Nigeria, 2009.

#### **Our Vision**

FAHCI envision "An Empowered Society Where People Enjoy Improved Quality of Life"

#### **Our Mission**

To improve the health and socio-economic well being of the poor and vulnerable communities in Nigeria through participatory training, advocacy and quality service delivery.

#### **Our Goal**

To improve the health and socio-economic well-being of our communities

## **Our Core Values**

The acronym ASCEND describes the core values of FAHCI, which form the cornerstones of our success and achievements as an organization, and will continue to guide its actions, decisions, and relationships as we work towards fulfilling our vision, mission and goals:

- A – Accountability and transparency
- B – Strong commitment and Team work
- C – Compassionate care and support
- E- Excellence, reward and discipline
- N- Networking and partnership
- D- Documentation and report writing

## **Our Strategies**

1. Research (Needs Assessment)
2. Community awareness and mobilization
3. Trainings
4. Economic empowerment
5. Service provision (HCT, OVC, PLHIV, Family planning, HBC and counselling etc.)

**III. POLICY GOAL:** To provide youth driven and youth centred venue for the youth ages 15-35 years old, that promote full enjoyment of their right to healthy choices in life, alleviate gender discrimination, bring socio - economic empowerment, carry-out community based and other development programs for the youth own growth and development.

## **IV. POLICY OBJECTIVES:**

In pursuant of the policy goal, the Family Health Care Foundation seeks to:

1. To promote youth participation in democratic process as well as in community and civic decision-making process;
2. To promote physical and mental well-being, including the issues of sexual and reproductive health rights, HIV and AIDS in particular;
3. To assist youth in reaching their goals and full potential by using their life-skills
4. Constantly provide counselling, support and guidance in accordance with the specific and peculiar needs of youth;
5. To eradicate gender discrimination with respect to sexual orientation of the youth;
5. To promote self-employment enterprises

## **V. RIGHTS, REPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS**

### ***RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH***

FAHCI recognizes the importance of youth and their right to enjoy their youthfulness, irrespective of their socio-economic status, ethnicity, religion and gender. Among the most important of these rights which the youth shall enjoy are the following:

- The right to life;
- The right to freedom of speech, expression, association, assembly and movement;
- The right to sexual and reproductive health information and health services;
- The right to protection from all forms of abuse coercion, violence, exploitation, gender discrimination and degradation;
- The right to protection against harmful traditional practices;
- In the case of the disabled, the right to be provided with the special treatment which his/her condition requires;
- The right to access entrepreneurial skills

### ***RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH***

The rights of the Nigerian youth have corresponding responsibilities. In order to make the youth develop their total well-being FAHCI outlines the following set of responsibilities for the youth:

- To promote human dignity and respect for adults and fellow youth, sound family and community values and community well-being;
- To promote gender equality and respect sexual orientation of fellow youth;
- To advocate for sexual, non-sexual and reproductive health rights HIV and AIDS in particular;
- To acquire skills which increase their capacity for self-help, self respectability, cooperation and community development;
- To promote positive lifestyles and behaviours;
- To avoid risky behaviours like sexual abuse, substance abuse, sexual exploitation, multiple sexual partners and child abuse;

### ***OBLIGATIONS OF FAMILY HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION TO THE YOUTH***

FAHCI has obligations to ensure that youth are empowered to fulfil their obligations and responsibilities to society. The obligations of FAHCI to the youth based on the evolving capacities include the following:

- To educate youth about the youth participation policy of the organization;
- To educate youth about human rights values that for every right there is corresponding responsibility;
- To strengthen participation of youth on matters affecting their right to live in a healthy and safe environment;
- To educate youth on gender equality;
- To educate youth on sexual and reproductive health and non-sexual and reproductive health using play and games as methodologies;
- To recognize the youth's capabilities and individualities with recourse to guidance and counselling;
- To respect the contribution of the youth through the use of their talents, resources and ideas
- To create self employment opportunities for youth;
- To harness youth involvement in planning, designing, development and implementation of youth related activities

## **VI. PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS**

The Family Health Care Foundation identifies target groups due to their vulnerability and circumstances of living. They include the following:

- Students in secondary and tertiary institutions
- Out of school Youth
- Unemployed and under employed Youth
- Youth with disabilities
- Youth engaged in crime and delinquency
- Rural youth
- Urban youth
- Young men and women living and affected with HIV/AIDS
- Illiterate Youth
- Sex Workers
- Vulnerable youth
- Homosexual youth
- Heterosexual youth

## **VII. STRATEGIC INTERVENTION**

To be a viable organization, able to harness the resources required to promote the active partnership of youth in advocating measures for the realisation of their rights

Youth participation policy strategies are:

1. **Participatory Action Research (Needs Assessment)**- Identifying problems, issues, needs and concerns as means applying age appropriate interventions and youth- friendly development messages;
2. **Community awareness and mobilizations**- application of alternative arts (play and games) as methodologies for recovery and healing in reaching-out to fellow-youth especially with reproductive health issues that help youth bring positive social change to everyone;
3. **Capacity building, continuing education, and mentoring** - Build the capacity of Youth as Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Advocates
4. **Economic empowerment**- Harness social-economic well being of the youth;
5. **Service provision** – engagement of youth through participatory and quality Reproductive health and public health services;
6. **Volunteer and Internship**- Provide learning opportunities for individuals and/or Youth groups who will, in turn, share what they learn with others
7. **Income generation and resource mobilization**: Harness financial, material, and Human resources to support activities
8. **Legislative and policy advocacy**- Partnership with other organizations (schools, Communities, shelters, other institutions) and participation in collegial efforts to advocate enactment of policies to protect the welfare of youth