

TeamUp Uganda Backs National Youth Coordination for Programs in Uganda

Introducing the Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Youth Empowerment

By Charity Ainembabazi



Members of the National Youth Coordination Mechanism discussing joint implementation plan of youth activities at a meeting in Kampala.

Recognizing the link between young people's well-being and youth inclusive agriculture, Sexual Reproductive Health and Water policies can catapult the significance of the National Youth Coordination Mechanism (NYCM) for Youth Programs to great heights. TeamUp Uganda, through the Program Coordination Unit is introducing the multi-stakeholder collaboration approach to the National Youth Coordination Mechanism as a competitive edge in engaging with different government structures, civil society sectors, backgrounds, and perspectives as a crucial way for addressing complex societal challenges that youth face in their daily lives.

The National Youth Coordination Mechanism was created by the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MoGLSD) to coordinate youth program planning, funding, implementation, and monitoring. The operationalization of the NYCM for Youth Programs provides for a Youth Coordination

Committee (YCC) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) at national, district, sub-county, and parish levels. These structures coordinate and harmonize the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of youth related programs, interventions, and policies.

TeamUp Uganda has taken long strides in fostering the multi sector collaboration as an approach to improve livelihood prospects for young people in rural East Africa. In Uganda, TeamUp leverages the specialized expertise of three implementing partners: namely, [Action 4 Health Uganda](#), [Hanns. R. Neumann Stiftung – HRNS](#) and [Whave Solutions](#) in Mityana and Kasanda districts in central Uganda.



Ms. Monica Basemera represents TeamUp at the National Youth Coordination Mechanism in Kampala.

TeamUp Uganda is working through the already existing government structures at the district, subcounty and parish levels. This involves the school management committees, the parent teachers' associations, the technical planning committees, health facility staff, schoolteachers, and subcounty officials. The structures work hand in hand with TeamUp – made groups such as farmer field schools, out of school youth clubs, in school youth clubs, and flying nurses to reach the youth in Mityana and Kasanda with sexual reproductive health services, agribusiness inputs and knowledge and water facility maintenance services.

“Multi-stakeholder partnerships can be more successful and sustainable if they make use of the arrangements and structures that already exist in communities. However, she cautioned if those cannot be found, the stakeholders must build them. They ought to make sure that they are controlled by young people who should also make the decisions because they are often embracing change readily. But to achieve any of these tasks a thorough understanding of the local situation is indispensable.” Says Monica Basemera, the Head of Program Coordination Unit, TeamUp Uganda.

The benefits of multi stakeholder collaboration far outweigh its short falls. Firstly, it promotes inclusivity and diversity, ensuring that the needs and perspectives of all stakeholders are considered. This leads to more effective and sustainable solutions that are more likely to be accepted and supported by the community.

Secondly, multi-stakeholder collaboration facilitates the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and resources. This can lead to more innovative and cost-effective solutions, as well as opportunities for capacity building and learning.

Thirdly, it promotes accountability and transparency. When different stakeholders are involved, it becomes easier to monitor and evaluate progress towards the shared goal, ensuring that everyone is held accountable for their actions and decisions.

Finally, multi-stakeholder collaboration can lead to greater impact and scalability of interventions. By working together, stakeholders can leverage their respective strengths and networks, leading to greater reach and influence.

Overall, multi-stakeholder collaboration is essential for addressing complex challenges and achieving sustainable development. It requires a commitment to inclusivity, transparency, and accountability, as well as a willingness to collaborate across sectors and boundaries.

The National Youth Coordination Mechanism, therefore, is the ideal space that will nurture the furtherance of mutually beneficial multistakeholder collaborations that promote the wellbeing of the youth in Mityana and Kansanda where TeamUp implements youth focused activities in the areas of agribusiness, water maintenance and sexual reproductive health, with funding [Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#), [Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung \(DSW\)](#), [Siemens Stiftung](#) and [Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung - HRNS](#).