

Model: Engaging youth in policy development at local levels: Case of Santa

Proposed by: Agwenjang, P., with J. Landry & R. Garbary. (2018). *Engaging Youth in Municipal Youth Policy Development (Santa, Northwest Cameroon)*.

Context:

- The blur stagnant decentralization process in Cameroon.
- In most local areas, young people aged 15–35 have little knowledge about the activities, functions, and responsibilities of their municipal council and officials. The result of this a widen communication gap between young people, policy makers and councils. This hinders the involvement of youth in decision making processes that affect their lives. Hence the need to strengthen youth capacity around this same issues like governance, decision making processes etc.

Goal: Developing and implementing a Municipal Youth Policy.

Methods and tools: Workshops (Capacity building), dialogue forums, action-learning and planning meetings, and town hall meetings.

Outcomes:

The goal was partially achieved, as the Youth Policy Framework and Youth Action Plan were developed and reviewed twice. Various aspects of the Municipal Youth Action Plan were implemented, leading to a number of key outcomes including:

- Increased entrepreneurship and employment
- A strengthened culture of volunteering
- Increased youth visibility and credibility for public participation
- A significant number of youth now thirsted for engagement

Lessons learnt.

Several lessons emerged from the Santa experience regarding youth engagement in policy development. These centre on the long-term nature of political change, the implications of leadership change for political space, policy priorities and

advocacy approaches, as well as the tenacity of mobilized youth to push for change over time.

- Building momentum over time
- The challenges of leadership changes
- The challenge of turnover and external dependency
- Closing political space and shifting youth advocacy
- Building on a foundation of mobilized youth

Secondary Sources

- Cheka, C. (2007). The state of the process of decentralization in Cameroon. *Africa Development*, Vol. XXXII, 181–196. Retrieved from <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ad/article/viewFile/57187/45575>.
- Youth Policy. (2014). *Cameroon*. Retrieved from <http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/cameroon/>

External Links

- <https://participedia.net/en/cases/engaging-youth-municipal-youth-policy-development-santa-northwest-cameroon>.
- Santa Council Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Santa.Council/>
- Youth Outreach Programme blog: <https://yopcam.wordpress.com/>
- Youth Outreach Programme Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/YOPCam/>, <https://www.facebook.com/yop.cameroon>
- Santa Town Hall Meetings with Youth Leaders: <https://www.facebook.com/YOPCam/photos/a.10151545769148764.1073741828.277875203763/10153214697558764/?type=3&theater>
- Youth Policy Deliberation: https://www.facebook.com/yop.cameroon/media_set?set=a.1695132110009.88153.1589036416&type=3
- <https://www.facebook.com/YOPCam/photos/a.10151545769148764.1073741828.277875203763/10153214697253764/?type=3&theater>
- Joint Youth Action Planning Workshop: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151027037171497&set=t.1589036416&type=3&theater>
- Workshop on Youth Policy advocacy, implementation and monitoring: <https://www.facebook.com/YOPCam/photos/a.10151545769148764.1073741828.277875203763/10152524476338764/?type=3&theater>