**YOUTH AND STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTION SURVEYS AND RESEARCH ON SELECTED**

**KEY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS**

**FINAL REPORT**

***SUBMITTED TO***

***UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME***

***FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE***

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| **Abbreviations and Acronyms** | **Meaning** |
| DHS | Demographic and Health Survey |
| EVD | Ebola Virus Disease |
| FGDs | Focus Group Discussions |
| KYDI | Key Youth Development Indicators |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MOHs | Ministry of Health and Sanitation |
| MOYA | Ministry of Youth Affairs |
| NAYCOM | National Youth Commission |
| SoE | State of Emergency |
| SSL | Statistics Sierra Leone |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |

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**Executive Summary**

**1.0 Introduction**

Monitoring and evaluation of NAYCOM requires the annual production of the status of the Youth Report covering comprehensive studies on the social, economic, political, health, educational and cultural themes affecting youth development and how they perceive these issues or are perceived within the context of these societal variables. The tools for the annual production of report on youth are the conduct of Annual Youth and Stakeholder surveys, thematic studies and updating Key Youth Development Indicators (KYDIs) (basic demographics, literacy, education, employment, basic needs and health) proposed in the NAYCOM strategic plan (based on the UN global youth report) and the composite index, the SEKYDI (Structured Evaluation of Key Youth Development Indicators) index.

In this vein, the National Youth Commission hired a consultant to (i) conduct Stakeholder and Youth Perception Surveys (ii) provide an update on the Key Youth Development Indicators (KYDIs) identified in the NAYCOM Strategic Plan (2012-2018) and (iii) conduct research on identified thematic areas (youth and civic engagement, youth and access to health services and youth and the environment

**2.0 Methodology**

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used to collect data for the study. Standard questionnaire covering all aspects of the KYDIs and NAYCOM was used for both the annual youth and stakeholder surveys. For the youth survey, the questionnaire was administered in three localities (urban, peri-urban and rural area) to male and female and all 14 districts. In each locality, 10 questionnaires were administered to 5 male youth and 5 female youth. Thus, a total of 30 questionnaires (10 in urban, 10 in peri-urban and 10 in rural area) were administered in each district. Overall, a total of 420 questionnaire were administered for the youth survey. For the stakeholder survey, 10 questionnaires were administered in each district to stakeholders (youth serving civil society representative, business leaders, educators, media journalists and security forces). In each district 1 male and 1 female for each category of stakeholder was targeted. Thus, 5 male and 5 female stakeholders in each district was targeted. This means a total of 140 stakeholders were targeted in all 14 districts.

In addition, to gauge the perception of youth on thematic areas (civic engagement, access to health and the environment), the same sample was surveyed in each district. On youth and civic engagement, the survey covered the participation of youth in community organisation, politics and local governance. On access to health, the survey covered the knowledge of youth on causes and prevention of EVD as well as control of the disease and on the environment, the survey covered the role of youth in environmental degradation and protection.

Data on KYDI were obtained from published statistics from the 2004 Census report, Labour Market Survey and the Education Sector Plan (2014-2018). The key challenges for updating and calculating the SEYDI included absence of current data on the variables and lack of disaggregated data for youth.

Both youth and stakeholder surveys were analysed using the Excel-based Perception Calculator while the data collected from the survey on thematic areas were analysed using SPSS.

**3.0 Findings**

1. **Youth and Stakeholders Survey**
2. Overall, the youth index increased from 56.98 to 58.16 meaning young people are now more positive about overall situation of youth than two years ago. Yet, this is long way away from the ideal of 95 and we still have a long way to go to change youth perception about themselves.
3. There are marginal disparities between male and female on youth issues. The index was 58.29 for male and 58.02 for female. Male respondents have more positive outlook of youth issues than female counterparts.
4. There is a slight drop in perception of young people of NAYCOM from 53.90% to 52.29% meaning there is a slight perception shift about NAYCOM.
5. The perception index on youth issues is estimated at 57.57 in 2015 (57.91 for male and 57.24 for female). Young men have more positive perceptions of youth issues than young women.
6. The survey estimated the perception of young people at 51.6 (51.99 for male and 51.22 for female). The young men who have a slightly more positive outlook of NAYCOM than the young women, partly because the later interact more often with NAYCOM and are therefore more eager to seek job opportunities.
7. By region, the perception index on youth issues is highest in north (59.09) closely followed by the east (59.0) and was 56.58 in the south and least in the west where the estimate was 53.65. This means that youth in the north and the east have more encouraging viewpoint of issues affecting youth than their mates in other regions.
8. Kenema ranks first in terms of youth perception of youth issues. Perception index of 66.27 for Kenema was highest. This was followed by Koinadugu (63.33) and least in Western Rural with an index of 48.58. Perception indices only exceeded the national average of 58.16 in 6 districts (Kenema, Koinadugu, Bombali, Kambia, Western Urban and Port Loko)
9. Youth perceptions of NAYCOM vary among regions with indices for the west, east and north exceeding the national average. Average perception index of youth is highest in western area estimated at 60.21 followed by the east region with an estimate of 59.67 and 58.88 for the north. Index for the south was 34.6 and was least and was below the national average. This means that young men in the western area followed by the east and north have more optimistic perceptions of youth issues and that their counterparts in the south have negative perceptions of NAYCOM.
10. It is worthy of note that with the exception of Kono in the east and all the southern districts, perception indices for 9 districts exceeded the national average. Kenema followed by Bombali records the highest perception of youth whereas Moyamba followed by Pujehun in the south records the least perception index. The interpretation is that youth in Kenema hold more positive views of NAYCOM than other districts whereas their counterparts in Moyamba have more negative views of NAYCOM.
11. The youth perception on youth issues were strongest in urban areas (58.94), followed by peri-urban (57.32) in peri-urban and least in rural areas (56.49). This means that young people in the urban area have more positive outlook of youth issues than their counterparts in peri-urban and rural areas.
12. Youth perception of NAYCOM is 56.43 in rural areas compared to 51.22 in the peri-urban and 49.52% in the urban areas. This means young people in rural areas have more optimistic view of NAYCOM than their counterparts in the urban areas. This was the reverse in 2013. The change in trend could be that urban youth had expected that NAYCOM would create opportunities for them to get for them. Their views changed when their expectations were not meant.
13. On youth issues, the perception index is 60.44 for security forces, 60.43 for business leaders, 59.85 for media journalist, 59.83% for CSOs and 59.15 for educators. This means that security forces and business leaders have more positive outlook of youth issues than CSOs, Media workers and Educators.
14. With respect to perception on NAYCOM, the perception index is 57.96 for CSOs, 57.94 for media journalists, 52.15 for security forces, 50.92 for educators and 47.69 for business leaders. This means that youth serving CSOs and the media that interact more frequently with NAYCOM hold more optimistic view of NAYCOM than other stakeholders. This is obvious as CSOs and the media work with and have better understanding of NAYCOM than other stakeholders.
15. **Thematic Study**

 **Youth and Civic Engagement**

1. Youth freely belong to community organisations, participate in community meetings and decision-making, their views are listened to in the community and are involved in solving community problem.
2. Despite freedom to belong to community organisations, youth revealed through the survey and the FGDs that to a lesser extent, youth do not very actively participate in community organisations, partly because of lack of or limited resources and low level of education.
3. Even though youth freely belong to community organisations of their choice and somehow actively participate in community meetings and decision-making, their views are generally not listened to.
4. Youth play significant role in addressing community problems. These vary from cleaning, security, managing water facility, advocacy and campaigns and providing labour for community work.
5. Youth are very active in politics. They are not only involved in rallies, but contribute to politic discussions and debates, contest elections and canvass for candidates. There is substantial evidence from the survey to show that youth enjoy freedom in political participation measured by (i) freedom to belong to political parties of their choice (ii) freedom to register to vote (iii) freedom to vote at public elections (iv) freedom to contest for political office (v) freedom to participate in political discussions and debates and (vi) freedom to canvass for candidates of choice at public elections
6. Quite apart from providing skilled manpower for local councils, youth participate in local governance through involvement in local government activities such as attending local council or ward committee meetings, advocating for community concerns and interests to local authorities, community fundraising and raising public awareness through radio discussions.

**Knowledge of EVD and role in control of EVD**

1. Youth have adequate knowledge of the causes and prevention of EVD and contribution to the control of the disease through awareness raising and social mobilisation, adherence to the regulations under the State of Emergency (SoE) and chiefdom bye-laws and the enforcement of these laws through manning of checkpoints and intelligence gathering.

**Youth and the Environment**

1. Youth contribute to environmental degradation through deforestation and keeping filths in their community and protect the environment by clearing the drainages and disposing of waste, raise awareness on environmental problems and control an to a very limited extent tree planting.

**Key Youth Development Indicators**

1. In 2014, projected population for youth between15-24 in 2014 was 1,172,639 out of projected total of 6,348,341 representing 18.5% compared to 19.8% in 2013. The male and female differentials were insignificant. The share of male youth in total male population was 18.5% compared to 18.4% of the share of female youth in total female population. Projected population of youth between 15-35 years is 2014 is 1,985,061 out of projected total of 6,348,341 representing 31.3% of the population.
2. Youth between 15-24 years accounted for 23% of total urban population (22.9% for male and 23% for female) and youth between 15-34 years accounted for 38.6% of total urban population (38.4% for male and 38.9% for female).
3. Overall, only 42% of Sierra Leone population is literate or can read or write. Youth literacy is estimated at 51.8% with wide disparities between male and female youth. About 65.4% of male youth can read and write while only 40.9% of female youth can read and write.
4. Gross Enrolment Ratio at the primary level was high as 122% but low as 62% at the Junior Secondary School (JSS) level and 32% at Senior Secondary School (SSS). The gender disparities were noticeable and in favour of the boys. At the primary level, GER was 126 for boys and 118 for girls while it was 69% for boys and 55% for girls at JSS level and 40%
5. Completion rate was 76% at the primary level and 49% at the JSS level. The corollary is that transition rate are low. Transition rate dropped from 77% in 2010 to 71% in 2011 meaning 7 out of every 10 pupils move from primary to secondary school. The gender disparities were not significant. But the transition rate from JSS was 52% meaning merely half of the students who enter JSS move to SSS.
6. According to the 2014 Labour Market survey, over 65% of Sierra Leone’s working age population participate in the labour market. Youth (the 15–35 age-group) representing 31.3% of the total population accounts for the largest share of the working age population (66%) and more than half the employed population (56 percent). Relative to older people (36–64 age-group), the share of youth both in the labour force and among the employed is much smaller, about a 30 percentage point less than the older group. A significant portion of this difference arises because many youth are still in school and not simultaneously working. The unemployment rate is also higher among youth than among older people (5.9% versus 2.2%). The highest unemployment rate across subgroups occurs among young men (7.7%), particularly those who live in Freetown (14.0 %).
7. The key indicator measuring access to basic services include percentage of youth who are underweight, percentage of youth deprived of shelter, water and good sanitation. Estimates on underweight are usually available in the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) report and provided for children under five years of age.Estimates on access to shelter, water and sanitation are usually available in census report and special surveys but disaggregated by locality (urban and rural).
8. The two health indicators are percentage of youth deaths from leading cause and percentage of females in the 20-24 age group that give birth before 18 years. Again, breakdown of these indicators by age group are not available.

**4.0 Recommendations**

1. NAYCOM/MoYA initiate a national life skills training programme that will provide youth training in areas such as youth leadership and inclusiveness, communication skills, problem solving, critical thinking, decision-making, creative thinking, interpersonal relationships, self-awareness building skills, coping with stress and emotions, sexual reproductive health, community participation. This will improve on the mentality and outlook of youth of themselves, community and duty bearers. Initially, a critical mass will be trained at district level who will serve as trainers for onward training at chiefdom, section and village level.
2. Using the District and Chiefdom Youth Councils, initiate a robust community animation programme that will not only continue to raise awareness but used to cascade the life skills training in villages.
3. NAYCOM/MoYA should intensify public education through the print and electronic media as well as town hall meetings on its roles, expectations and opportunities within and outside.
4. The NAYCOM should increase its portfolio of projects and activities that will make it more visible and useful to the youth, government and the public. This may also require clarifications the seeming ambiguities and misinterpretations in roles
5. NAYCOM/MoYA should advocate for disaggregation of national statistics by age group, particularly those relating to accessibility to basic services. This will enrich the arguments for youth empowerment and reversal of marginalization.

**PART I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background**

The National Youth Commission (NAYCOM) was established by an Act of Parliament (No. 11 of 2009) which came into force on 22 December 2009. The Act opened up space for the Commission to "empower the youth to develop their potential, creativity and skills for national development......"Every year NAYCOM is required to provide a comprehensive analysis and documentation of the status of the youth in the country. This is meant to inform relevant national development policies and strategies in order to ensure that young women and men benefit from existing and emerging opportunities in the country. Harnessing the potential and capacity of Sierra Leonean youth to build a peaceful and prosperous future is central to the reform programme of the government’s “Agenda for Prosperity”. According to NAYCOM’s mission, NAYCOM “will secure such information from youth serving and youth group bodies as will be necessary to monitor, evaluate and regulate their implementation of national youth development strategies, building on best national and international practices, which have been commonly agreed with NAYCOM. It will provide timely and regular public information that will enable the independent assessment of the effectiveness of NAYCOM and of its public, private and not-for profit stakeholders in their respective roles. This will include, but not be limited to, reports on the extent of national progress to the youth development profile required for Sierra Leone’s sustainable transition to middle income country status by 2035”. Production of the status of the Youth Report requires the conduction of comprehensive studies on the social, economic, political, health, educational and cultural themes affecting youth development and how they perceive these issues or are perceived within the context of these societal variables.

There are three priority functions for M&E in NAYCOM: monitoring the performance of NAYCOM as an organization, monitoring the situation of young people in Sierra Leone and providing a common framework for project monitoring by implementing partners. The M&E Approach for organization monitoring involves calculating the perception index of NAYCOM performance and the M&E tool for this is conducting Annual Youth and Stakeholder surveys. For situation monitoring the approach is calculating the perception index of the situation of youth. The M&E tool for this is also conducting Annual Youth and Stakeholder surveys. Situation monitoring can also be calculated using the six Key Youth Development Indicators (KYDIs) proposed in the NAYCOM strategic plan (based on the UN global youth report) and the composite index. The M&E tool for calculating the KYDIs is the Excel calculator for SEKYDI (Structured Evaluation if Key Youth Development Indicators) index.

The NAYCOM M&E framework consists of 12 key youth indicators. These consist of 6 quantitative outcome indicators (KYDIs) and 6 complementary qualitative process indicators to measure perception. The 6 outcome indicators are: demographics, education, basic needs, literacy, and employment/mortality/health. The six qualitative process indicators are: participation in formal structures, perception of work, youth leadership, social cohesion, experience and skills and youth health.

In addition to these process and outcome indicators, there are also additional perception indicators looking at the organizational performance of NAYCOM for each of the process areas. These are: Delivery, Education, Advocacy, Support, Opportunities and Care.

Both the complementary index and the NAYCOM index are derived from qualitative assessment of perceptions as these can be measured through a set of two annual surveys - a youth survey and a stakeholder survey. The NAYCOM strategic plan has mandated the conduction of annual youth and stakeholders surveys to elicit data that will be used in an Annual Technical Conference. Through these surveys, participants (young people and other stakeholder groups) will be asked to rate their agreement or otherwise on their perception of processes within the youth sector and NAYCOM performance with statements on a scale with six levels of agreement (strongly agree, agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, disagree, strongly disagree, plus a ‘don’t know’ option).

In this vein, the National Youth Commission hired a consultant to undertake specific studies that will form the basis of the content to be included in the 2015 Annual Status of the Youth Report to be prepared by the National Youth Commission, under the following headings:

1. Research on Selected Thematic Areas of Key Youth Development Indicators
2. Conduct Stakeholder and Youth Perception Surveys

**1.2 General Scope of Work**

The consultancy is to conduct youth perception survey and NAYCOM stakeholder survey, provide an update on the Key Youth Development Indicators (KYDIs) identified in the NAYCOM Strategic Plan (2012-2018) and conduct research on identified thematic areas (youth-related issues) and how these issues impact on the status and development of youth in Sierra Leone and The special thematic areas (youth related issues) to be studied are:

* **Youth and Civic Engagement** - The extent to which the society is promoting or stifling youth participation/engagement in the political, social and economic spheres.
* **Youth and Access to Health Services** - Youth perception on the infection, prevention and control of the EVD and their role in ensuring that the measures are observed. There is need to spell out the role of young people in preserving key health messages in the EVD response and also bring out the lessons learnt.
* **Youth and the Environment** - How youth are contributing to the degradation of the environment and how they can help address this problem. The research may also innovative ways of youth recycling waste in our environment.

**1.3 Responsibilities of Consultant**

* Review sufficient, relevant and reliable national and international literatures
* Prepare detail inception report of the study proposing the valid and reliable study design, methodology, time schedule and outline of the report
* Develop data and information collection tools both for qualitative and quantitative information
* Conduct personal interview and focus group discussions with key informants and other stakeholders for required qualitative information
* Prepare draft report and submit to NAYCOM and UNDP
* Refine the draft report as per the obtained feedbacks and present refined draft in the seminar organized by the client.
* Submit four hard copies and soft copy of the final report.
* Calculate the Complementary Index (perception of youth issues) and the NAYCOM index (perception of NAYCOM) for 2015. Graphical representation should include the following:

- Youth perception index for all districts

- NAYCOM perception index for all districts and

- Graphical comparisons for youth perception index and NAYCOM index for rural, peri-urban and urban communities and their implication/analysis of the results

* Graphical representation and comparison of the genderperspective for the youth perception index and the NAYCOM index and the implications
* Graphical representation and comparison of the groupsperspective for the youth perception index and the NAYCOM index and the implications
* Analysis of the Youth indicators showing the strengths to build on and priority challenges and the implications
* Analysis of the NAYCOM indicators showing the strengths to build on and priority challenges and the implication

**1.4 Purpose of Study**

The information gathered by this study will provide material for inclusion in the Annual Status of the Youth Report. The material will also assist the National Youth Commission to design and plan project activities that reflect the circumstances and needs of the youth population in the country. The findings of the studies will be available to inform the Ministry of Youth Affairs and National Youth Commission as appropriate and will also be published as stand-alone reports or incorporated into the Annual Youth Report prepared by the National Youth Commission.

* 1. **Methodology**
		1. **Youth and Stakeholder Perception Surveys**

The survey was be carried out in three (3) phases. Phase 1 was the pre-field work phase comprising preliminary discussions with officials of NAYCOM/MoYA/UNDP and a review of relevant documents. Phase 2 was the field work or data collection phase and Phase 3 was the data entry, analysis and report writing phase.

### Phase 1: Pre-field work

**Stage I: Review of Document**

The team reviewed relevant documents including the NAYCOM Strategic Plan (2012-2018), NAYCOM M&E framework including the KYDI, Annual Status of Youth Report (2014) and Key Youth Development Indicators (KYDI). This further enhanced better understanding of the assignment and help improve the research methodology.

**Stage II: Development of Data Collection Instruments**

Standard questionnaires were used for both the stakeholder and youth surveys. For the thematic study on civic engagement, health and the environment, a separate questionnaire including questions on the perspectives of youth on the thematic areas (civic engagement, health and the environment) was designed.

**Phase 2: Field Work**

The field work entailed sample selection, identification of data collectors and supervisors, training and pre-testing, as well administration of questionnaire.

**Stage I: Sample Selection**

For the stakeholder survey, as prescribed in the TOR, in each district, 10 stakeholders comprising 1 male and 1 female from youth–serving civil society, business leaders, educators, media journalists and security forces (police/army) will be selected. Thus, a total of 140 stakeholders were be selected nationwide for the interview. Each stakeholder selected was more than 35 years old.

For both the youth survey and the survey of thematic areas, 30 youth (15 male and 15 female) between 18 and 35 years were selected in each district (10 in the district headquarter town, 10 in the peri-urban town and 10 in the remote rural communities). In the 14 districts, a total of 420 youth were targeted nationwide for the youth survey and 420 for the survey of thematic areas.

**Stage 2: Identification of Data Collectors and Supervisors**

Two persons (1 male and 1 female) were selected to serve as data collectors (enumerators) for each district. A total of 28 data collectors were selected for all 14 districts to conduct both the stakeholder and youth surveys as well as a survey on thematic areas comprising persons capable of speaking the dominant local language in the district where he or she will be assigned. A total of 4 supervisors (1 per region) was also be hired to supervise data collection.

**Stage II: Training and Pre-testing**

Training for data collection took place in Freetown for 2 days and another day for pre-testing. For the surveys, training of data collectors covered basics on youth issues covering the thematic areas and details of the questionnaire. Training was carried out in both English and Krio. Each question was read, interpreted into krio and translated into the respective local languages. The enumerators were given the opportunity to review each survey question and agree on common translations in their respective local languages.

Training in FGDs covered basic principles in conducting FGDs including facilitating and recording as well as the use of the specific FGD guide. Each FGD question was interpreted in krio and translated in the local language. This was followed by demonstration session where mock FGD was held with Team Leader as facilitator and enumerators as participants.

Pre-testing of both the FGD guide and survey questionnaires were carried out in the Western Area. After the pre-testing, plenary sessions were held with trainees to gather from them their experiences of the guide and questionnaires. Feedback from the pilot were used to finalise the data collection instruments.

**Stage III: Data Collection**

A team of two data collectors (1 male and 1 female) were assigned to each district to administer the stakeholder and youth module as well as the survey on thematic areas. For the stakeholders’ survey targeting 1 male and 1 female from youth–serving civil society, business leaders, educators, media journalists and security forces (police/army) in each district, each team was provided with 10 copies of the questionnaire. The district team approached the above stakeholders in each district and explained to each person that they were completing a survey for NAYCOM to help understand more about the situation of youth. The team informed the respondents who were more than 35 years that the survey was optional and anonymous. To each respondent, the enumerator read out 20 statements and that he/she just needed to say to each one whether they strongly agree, agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, disagree, strong disagree, or don’t know. The team should read out each statement and make sure that the respondent understood it and then mark on the survey what the level of agreement is. All the statements were read out until the form was complete. This was done until all the forms in each district were completed.

The youth survey and the survey on thematic areas were administered in district capitals representing urban areas, immediate communities about 3-5 Kilometres away from the district capitals representing peri-urban areas and remote village communities about 40-50 Kilometres away from the district capitals representing the rural areas. In each location, equal number of male and female respondents between the youth age group of 18 and 35 years were selected at random. For the youth survey, the approach was the same as the stakeholder survey wherein each enumerator explained to each respondent the purpose of the survey, explained the 20 statements and allowed the respondent to say to each one whether they strongly agree, agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, disagree, strong disagree, or don’t know. For the survey on thematic areas, respondents had three option; yes, no or somehow.

Data collection in each region was supervised by a supervisor. Each supervisor discussed with the team data collection plan before leaving. This assisted the supervisors to prepare his/her travel plan. Both the data collection plan for the teams and travel plans of the supervisors were shared with the Team Leader to enhance field coordination.

**Phase III: Post Field Work**

Post-field work entailing data entry, cleaning and analysis and report writing were carried out in stages as follows:

**Stage I: Data Entry, Cleaning and Analysis**

Data entry for the youth and stakeholders survey was undertaken using Excel based Perception Calculator whilst that for the thematic areas was entered and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). The data were analysed by sex, location (urban, peri-urban and rural) and district

**Stage II: Preparation of Report**

A comprehensive report using primary and secondary quantitative and qualitative data was prepared. Since different methods were used to obtain the same information, data triangulation technique were adopted. This will make us more confident with the information obtained since the different methods may lead to the same findings.

In order to calculate the Complementary Index and the NAYCOM index, each statement in the survey format was allocated a "positive" or a "negative" correlation (i.e. if a respondent strongly agree with a statement then it is either a highly positive or negative score, or vice versa if they strongly disagree.

* A strongly positive score will be quantified to '95'. This is because it is impossible for a qualitative measure to determine 100% certainty.
* A strong negative score will be quantified to '5'. This is because it is impossible for a qualitative measure to determine 0% certainty.
* Intermediate scores will be evenly distributed, and quantified as '23', '41', '59', or '77'

Each indicator and each sub-indicator will be weighted equally. Each indicator can thus be calculated using the mean score for its sub-indicators. The maximum score for an indicator is 95. The minimum score is 5.

Indicatorn = AVERAGE (Sn1: Sn3 ), where S= sub-indicator score

The indicator score will be calculated for each district by entering the responses into the Excel Calculator. The calculator will automatically calculate the composite indexes for both the districts and nationally by calculating the mean of the relevant indicators. These values can be discussed during the Annual Technical Conference, and used in the Annual Youth Report. The maximum score for an index is 95 and the minimum score is 5.

Index *NAYCOM*= AVERAGE (S7.1:S7.7), where S= sub-indicator score

Index *complimentary*= AVERAGE (S1:S6), where S= indicator score

**1.5.2 Review of KYDI and Research on Selected Thematic Areas**

The KYDIs are derived from the UN World Youth Report. They are a broad set of indicators “that can serve as a basis for the development of a comprehensive national youth development plan (“National Plan”) and regulatory and coordination actions related to its implementation by NAYCOM’s implementing partners”. The NAYCOM Strategic plan (2012-2018) identified 6 Key Youth Development Indicators (KYDIs) as follows:

1. Basic Demographics
2. Literacy
3. Education and Productive Citizen Values
4. Labour force participation and employment
5. Access to adequate nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation
6. Leading causes of death among youth

Key Youth Development Indicators (KYDI) for NAYCOM

Source: NAYCOM Strategy 2012-2018

In order to provide a holistic view that is in conformity with the proposed NAYCOM KYDIs, we have presented the identified thematic areas as components of the main KYDI. The issue “Youth and Civic Engagement” is related to KYDI (c) Education and productive citizen’s values. The issue “Youth and Access to Health Services” is related to KYDI (e) Access to Adequate Nutrition, Shelter, Water and Sanitation. The issue “Youth and the Environment” is also related to KYDI (c) Education and Productive Citizens Values.

In order to conduct the research on the identified themes, we have undertaken extensive desk review of available material both at UNDP and NAYCOM to understand the basis of the NAYCOM mandate. The NAYCOM Strategy (2012-2018) and M&E Framework were the primary source materials that provide enough insight into the NAYCOM 6 quantitative outcome indicators (KYDIs), and 6 complementary qualitative process indicators and the additional perception indicators looking at the organisational performance of NAYCOM for each of the process areas - Delivery, Education, Advocacy, Support, Opportunities and Care.

The TOR required the team to provide an update on the Key Youth Development Indicators (KYDIs) identified in the NAYCOM Strategic Plan (2012-2018). This was done through consultations with relevant institutions like the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MoYA), NAYCOM, Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL), the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and other relevant UN agencies.

The TOR also required the team to conduct research on identified thematic areas (youth-related issues). This will be done also through a survey of youth on their perspectives of the thematic areas (civic engagement, health and the environment).

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) wereas conducted in all districts to gain in-depth knowledge on diverse opinions on the identified thematic areas. In each district, 2 FGDs were held (1 with male and 1 with female) in the district capitals. Thus, a total of 28 FGDs were held in all 14 districts.

**PART II**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH SURVEYED**

**2.1 Age Characteristics**

As shown in Table 1, about 41.0% of respondents were between 15 and 24 years, 35.9% were between 25 and 30 years and 23.6% between 31 and 35 years. The disparities between male and female respondents were marked for age groups 15-24 years and 25-30 years but insignificant for 31-35 years. For age group 15 and 24 years, nearly half of the respondents were female and about a third were male and for 25-30 years, about 4 out of every 10 respondents was a male and about 3 out of every 10 were female.

**Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Youth Surveyed by Age Group and Gender**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender** | **15-24 Years** | **25-30 Years** | **31-35 Years** |
| Male | 33.3 | 42.3 | 24.4 |
| Female | 48.8 | 28.4 | 22.9 |
| Both sexes | 41.0 | 35.3 | 23.6 |

As presented in Table 2, the proportions of youth in urban communities that were in age group 15-24 years was 43.6%, 40.1% in peri-urban and 39.9% in rural communities. This pattern varied for other age categories. The percentage varied from 31.2% in rural communities to 37.2% in peri-urban for age group 25 and 30 years in contrast to 29% in rural communities and 20% in urban communities for respondents between 31 and 35 years.

**Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Youth Surveyed by Age Group and Locality**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **15-24 Years** | **25-30 Years** | **31-35 Years** |
| Urban | 43.6 | 36.4 | 20.0 |
| Peri-Urban | 40.1 | 37.2 | 22.6 |
| Rural | 39.9 | 31.2 | 29.0 |

There were noticeable variations among districts as depicted in Figure 1. The percentages of youth between 15-24 years surveyed was about half in Western Urban and over half in Western Rural and Kono in contrast to slightly over a quarter in Pujehun and slightly less than a third in Bombali and about a third in Bo and Kenema. With the exception of Pujehun where half of the respondents were between 25 and 30 years, in all other districts, the percentages of youth interviewed was less than half. It was lowest in Kono where 13.3% were between 25 and 30 years followed by Port Loko (26.7%). It was only in Kambia where the percentage of youth between 31 and 35 years exceed third of those sampled. In Western Rural, only 10% of respondents were between 31 and 35 years and in Moyamba, it was 13.3%.

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**2.2 Level of Education**

The data obtained from the survey shows that a fairly good percentage of youth surveyed have been to school and have attained basic education. The data also validates the fact that literacy among male is generally higher than that of female. The results obtained from survey on thematic areas illustrated in Figure 3 indicate that about 47.5% of all 420 youth surveyed (53.1% male and 41.5% female ) have attained basic education (completed at 9 years of schooling) and 13.5% (6.2% male and 20.5% female) have never been to school.

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The inter-locality differentials were significant. As depicted in Figure 3, about 50.4% of the youth in urban areas and 52.6% in peri-urban areas have completed 9 years of schooling or attained basic education compared to only 39% of those in rural areas. On the extreme side, about 19.8% of rural youth have never been to school in contrast to 13.1% in peri-urban areas and 8.6% in urban areas. This variation merely confirms the urban-rural gap.

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**2.3 Economic Activity**

The results of the survey presented in Table 3 shows that trading is most predominant economic activity with 30.1% of youth surveyed (20.5% for male and 39.3% for female) engaged in it. The statistics further confirms the fact that women are more dominant in food crop farming and men in cash crop farming. About 11.9% of female youth are engaged in food crop farming compared to 5.6% of the male and 5.6% of the male youth are engaged in cash crop farming in contrast to 1% of their female colleagues. Furthermore, unemployment rate measured by percentage of youth not engaged is estimated at 24.2% and was higher among female youth (28.9%) than the male youth (19.5%).

**Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Economic Activity and Gender**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Economic Activity** | **Male** | **Female** | **Both** |
| Food crop farming | 5.6 | 11.9 | 8.8 |
| Cash crop farming | 5.6 | 1.0 | 3.3 |
| Animal Husbandry  | 5.6 | 1.5 | 3.5 |
| Trading | 20.5 | 39.3 | 30.1 |
| Mining | 3.1 | 0.5 | 1.8 |
| Government work  | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.6 |
| NGO/CBO/Private Enterprise | 21.5 | 5.5 | 13.4 |
| Others | 11.8 | 5.0 | 8.3 |
| Not employed | 19.5 | 28.9 | 24.2 |

Table 4 presents data on percentage distribution of youth by economic activity and locality. In all localities, trading is the most dominant economic activity. About 33.8% of rural youth, 29.2% of peri-urban and 27.3% of urban youth are engaged in trading. The data also authenticate the fact that agricultural activity is most dominant in rural settings. About 24.1% of rural youth are engaged in agriculture (15% in food crop farming, 3.8% in cash crop farming and 5.3% in animal husbandry) compared to only less than 10% in urban areas and about 14.8% in peri-urban areas engaged in agriculture. The percentage of rural youth surveyed in agriculture is far less than national average of persons estimated at 75% engaged in agriculture in rural areas. This fact that less percentage of youth are engaged in agriculture has far reaching implications for farm labour. Additionally, unemployment rate in urban areas is estimated at 27.3% is higher than in rural areas (21.1%) and peri-urban communities (24.1%).

**Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Economic Activity and Locality**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Urban** | **Peri-urban** | **Rural** |
| Food crop farming | 4.3 | 8.0 | 15.0 |
| Cash crop farming | 2.2 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| Animal Husbandry | 2.9 | 2.2 | 5.3 |
| Trading | 27.3 | 29.2 | 33,8 |
| Mining | 0.7 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Government work  | 4.3 | 10.9 | 4.5 |
| NGO/CBO/Private Enterprise | 17.3 | 13.1 | 9.0 |
| Others | 13.7 | 6.6 | 5.3 |
| Not employed | 27.3 | 24.1 | 21.1 |

**PART III**

**YOUTH AND STAKEHOLDERS PERCEPTION SURVEYS**

The study measured the perceptions of youth and other stakeholders on youth issues and NAYCOM. As stated in the methodology, a total of 420 youth (210 male and 210 female) and 140 other stakeholders (70 male and 70 female) were surveyed. Therefore, a total of 560 stakeholders were surveyed on their perceptions on youth issues and NAYCOM. The results are presented here by gender (male and female), locality (urban, peri-urban and rural) and district.

**3.1 Overall Results**

Table 5 shows the complimentary/youth index and NAYCOM index for both 2013 and 2015. The youth index increased from 56.98 to 58.16 meaning young people are now more positive about overall situation of youth than two years ago. Yet, this is long way away from the ideal of 95 and we still have a long way to go to change youth perception about themselves.

**Table 5: Youth and NAYCOM index for 2013 and 2015**

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| --- | --- |
| **Youth Index** | **NAYCOM Index** |
| **2013** | **2015** | **2013** | **2015** |
| 56.98 | 58.16 | 53.90 | 52.29 |

***Source: Report on Youth Perception Survey 2013 and Survey on Youth Perception conducted for this study***

Regarding, the perception of young people of NAYCOM, the data obtained from the survey indicate a drop in perception of youth from 53.90% to 52.29%. From the FGDs with youth, it was apparent that the less positive perception of NAYCOM could be because they have not secured decent job since NAYCOM was established. Staff of NAYCOM also attributed such lower perception of NAYCOM to the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease and the fact that most implementation issues are directly undertaken by the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MOYA) thereby make NAYCOM less visible.

In 2015 as shown in Figure 4, the data obtained from the survey shows that there are marginal disparities between male and female on youth issues. Male respondents have more positive outlook of youth issues than female counterparts.

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**3.2 Youth Perception Index**

This index measures the perceptions of young people of youth issues and NAYCOM. Figure 5 displays the perceptions of young people on youth issues. The perception index on youth issues is estimated at 57.57 in 2015 (57.91 for male and 57.24 for female). Young men have more positive perceptions of youth issues than young women.

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The differences in perceptions of young people on NAYCOM as portrayed in Figure 6 is marginal. The survey estimated the perception index at 51.6. The young men who have a slightly more positive outlook of NAYCOM than the young women, partly because the later interact more often with NAYCOM and are therefore more eager to seek job opportunities.

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As shown in in Figure 7, the perception index on youth issues was highest in north (59.09) closely followed by the east (59.0) and was 56.58 in the south and least in the west where the estimate was 53.65. This means that youth in the north and the east have more encouraging viewpoint of issues affecting youth than their mates in other regions.

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As illustrated in Figure 8, Kenema ranks first in term of youth perception of youth issues. Perception index of 66.27 for Kenema was highest. This was followed by Koinadugu (63.33) and least in Western Rural with an index of 48.58. Perception indices only exceeded the national average of 58.16 in 6 districts (Kenema, Koinadugu, Bombali, Kambia, Western Urban and Port Loko)

 **Figure 8: Youth Perception of Youth Issues by District**

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Youth perceptions on NAYCOM vary among regions with indices for the west, east and north exceeding the national average (See Figure 9). Average perception index of youth was highest in western area estimated at 60.21 followed by the east region with an estimate of 59.67 and 58.88 for the north. Index for the south was 34.6 and was least and was below the national average. This means that young men in the western area followed by the east and north have more optimistic perceptions of youth issues and that their counterparts in the south have negative perceptions of NAYCOM.

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It is worthy of note that with the exception of Kono in the east and all the southern districts, perception indices for 9 districts exceeded the national average. Kenema followed by Bombali records the highest perception of youth whereas Moyamba followed by Pujehun in the south records the least perception index. The interpretation is that youth in Kenema hold more positive views of NAYCOM than other districts whereas their counterparts in Moyamba have more negative views of NAYCOM.

  **Figure 10: Perceptions of Youth on NAYCOM by District**

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The study further estimates youth perception on youth issues and NAYCOM by locality (urban, peri-urban and rural areas). Figure 11 displays youth perception indices for various localities. The Youth perceptions of youth issues were strongest in urban areas than the rural areas meaning the young people in the former have more positive outlook of youth issues than the later.

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Figure 12 illustrates youth perception of NAYCOM by locality. The perception index was highest in rural areas and least in urban areas. Young people in rural areas have more optimistic view of NAYCOM than their counterparts in the urban areas. This was the reverse in 2013. The change in trend could be that urban youth had expected that NAYCOM would create opportunities for them to get for them. Their views changed when their expectations were not met.

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**3.3 Stakeholders Perception Index**

As stated earlier, other stakeholders (business leaders, youth serving Civil Society Organisations, educators, media and security forces) were surveyed. Perception indices of these groups are illustrated below. Table 6 and Figure 12 demonstrate the perceptions of stakeholders of youth issues and NAYCOM.

**Table 6: Stakeholders’ Perception of Youth Issues and NAYCOM**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Index** | **Business Leaders** | **CSOs** | **Educators** | **Media** | **Security Forces** |
| Youth  | 60.43 | 59.83 | 59.15 | 59.85 | 60.44 |
| NAYCOM | 47.69 | 57.96 | 50.92 | 57.94 | 52.15 |

On youth issues, the perception indices of security forces and business leaders are higher than those for other stakeholders. This means that security forces and business leaders have more positive outlook of youth issues than CSOs, Media workers and Educators.

With respect to perception on NAYCOM, youth serving CSOs and the media hold more optimistic view of NAYCOM than other stakeholders. This is obvious as CSOs and the media work with and have better understanding of NAYCOM than other stakeholders.

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**PART IV**

**THEMATIC STUDY**

The thematic areas covered in this study are youth and civic engagement, youth and access to health services and youth and the environment. Youth and civic engagement examines the extent to which the society is promoting or stifling youth participation/engagement in the political, social and economic spheres. Youth and access to health services investigates youth perception on the infection, prevention and control of the EVD and their role in ensuring that the measures are observed as well the role of young people in preserving key health messages in the EVD response and also bring out the lessons learnt. Youth and the environment examines how youth are contributing to the degradation of the environment and how they can help address this problem. The research may also innovative ways of youth recycling waste in our environment.

**4.1 Youth and Civic Engagement**

Civic engagement can take many forms—from individual voluntarism, organizational involvement to electoral participation. It can include efforts to directly address an issue, work with others in a community to solve a problem or interact with the institutions of representative democracy. It is the right of youth to participate in decisions through public discussions and debate and their membership in community organisations and political parties. They have the potential to be positive agents of change. Youth civic engagement leads to reduced risky behavior, increased success in school and leads to greater civic participation later in life. It is central to achieving sustainable human development. Yet, youth remain at the margins of political and social and economic mainstream in many countries. In some countries, youth today are less likely than those in earlier generations to exhibit many important characteristics of citizenship.State policymakers across the country are working to engage youth in positive opportunities for civic participation, which is important for healthy youth development and for the health and performance of democracy.

The research investigated youth in civic engagement using three broad categories (a) participation in community organisation (b) participation in politics and (c) participation in local governance. For each of these, analysis has been done by gender, location and district and the data presented in Annex 1.

* + 1. **Participation in Community Organisation**

Youth participate in community through belonging to community organisations, participating in community meetings and addressing common community problem. The participation of youth in community organisations was measured by (i) the freedom of youth to belong to community organisation of their choice (ii) freedom to actively participate and contribute in community meetings and decision-making (iii) youth whose views in community meetings and decision-making are listened to and (iv) youth engaged in solving common community problem

1. **Freedom to Freely Belong to Community Organisation of their Choice**

Table 7.1 presents the views of youth of participation in community organisations. Overall, about 4 out of every 5 youth interviewed revealed that they freely belong to community organisation of their choice. Slightly higher percentage of male youth than their female counterparts reported they belong to community organisations of their choice. This freedom to join community organisations of their choice was validated in all the FGDs. Participants in the FGDs disclosed that they generally have the freedom to belong to community organisations.

By location as shown in Table 7.2, higher proportion of youth surveyed in urban areas than those in peri-urban and rural reported they freely belong to community organisation of their choice. The percentage of youth in urban areas that reported freely belong to community organisation of their choice was 85.0% compared to 76.7% of those in rural areas and 83.9% in peri-urban communities. This marked differential can be explained by the fact that that youth in rural areas continue to observe local tradition and respect for family values and local chieftaincy institutions. Most local organisations are at least remote controlled by chiefs who decide who manages them.

With respect to participation by regions, participation rate of youth as perceived by youth in community organisations were higher in the north and west than the south and east (See Tables 7.3-7.6). On average, about 85% of youth in northern region and western area reported they freely belong to community organisation compared less than 80% of youth in the south and eastern region.

Intra-regional were noticeable in the east with percentage of youth in Kailahun reporting freely belong to community organisations of their choice estimated at 92% in contrast to 53.3% in Kono. In the north, the percentage of youth that freely belong to community organisation of their choice varied from 70% in Port Loko to 100% in Bombali. The situation in the South was different. Over 90% of youth in Bo and Moyamba expressed that they freely belong to community organisation compared to only 56.7% in Bonthe and slightly less than 75% in Pujehun. In western area, the differential was not significant. It was 83.3% in western rural and 86.7% in western urban.

1. **Freedom of Youth who Actively Participate and Contribute in Community Meetings and Decision-making Processes**

Despite freedom to belong to community organisations, youth revealed through the survey and the FGDs that to a lesser extent, youth do not very actively participate in community organisations. The survey shows that 62.5% of youth reported that they actively participate and contribute in community meetings and decision-making processes. It is fascinating to note that 65.2% of female youth compared to 59.7% of their male counterparts reported that they actively participate and contribute in community meetings and decision-making processes. Explanations from the FGDs point to youth lack of resources and age gaps as the most important factors that hinder the contributions of youth in community meetings and decision-making processes.

Youth in urban communities more actively participate and contribute in community meetings and decision-making processes, than their mates in peri-urban and rural areas. Whereas 65.7% of youth in urban areas reported they actively participate and contribute in community meetings and decision-making processes, only 60.9% of rural youth and 62% of peri-urban youth freely participate in meetings and decision-making processes.

Although higher percentage of youth in the north and west reported they freely belong to community organisations than those in the south and east, youths in the later more actively participate and contribute to decision-making processes than those in the former. About 78% of youth in the east and 75.2% of those in the south compared to 53.3% of youth in the north and 41.7% of those in the west disclosed that they actively participate in community meetings and decision-making. The lower participation of youth in community meetings and decision-making processes in the north and west than the south and east can be explained by the fact youth in the former are traders and have their propensity to migrate are higher than their counterparts in the later.

The variations among district even within the same region were noticeable. In Kenema as high as 96.7% of the youth reported that they actively participate in community meetings and decision-making processes and low as 64% in Kailahun. In the northern region, it was only in Koinadugu district where the percentage of youth that reported they actively participate in community meetings and decision-making processes, exceeded the national average. It was low as 40% in Bombali and 50% in Kambia and Port Loko. In Youth in Moyamba and Bo in the south are more active and those in Bonthe and Pujehun. In Moyamba and Bo, 96.7% and 84% of youth respectively reported they actively participate in community meetings and decision-making processes in contrast 70% in Pujehun and only 50% in Bonthe. In the western area, it was 43.3% in western rural and 40% in western urban.

1. **Percentage of Youth whose Views in Community Meetings and Decision-making are Listened to**

Even though youth freely belong to community organisations of their choice and somehow actively participate in community meetings and decision-making, their views are generally not listened to. About 45.1% of youth interviewed reported their views in community meetings and decision-making are not listened to. The gender disparity was marginal with estimates for male youth put at 45.9% and that of female youth at 44.3%. This pattern is an indicator of youth marginalization and reinforces that fact that community decision-making is lead and managed by elders.

Regarding percentage whose views are listened to, the variation among locations were insignificant. The percentage of youth who reported their views are listened to varied from 44.3% in urban communities to 45.1% in rural areas and 45.3% in peri-urban communities.

The percentages of youth whose views are listened to in the east and south where slightly higher than that in the north but considerably different from the west. About 51.8% of the youth in the east reported their views are listened compared to 47.7% in the south, 47.4% in the north and 21.7% in the west. This could be that youth in the south and east are apparently better exposed to education and benefit from liberal outlook of elders than those in the north. In the west, only a few youth have time and patience for community activities. A few of the youth attend meetings or make meaningful contributions in the meetings.

The intra-regional variations were marked. In the eastern region, the percentage of youth whose views are listened to varied from 32% in Kailahun to 83.3% in Kenema. In the north, the situation was best in Koinadugu where 60% of youth reported their views in community meetings and decision-making are listened to and least in Bombali and Port Loko with estimate of 36.7%. Estimates for Moyamba in the south was also impressive. About 86.7% of youth in Moyamba compared to 26.7% in Bonthe and 33.3% in Pujehun reported the views of youth in community meetings and decision-making. In the western area, about 23.3% of youth in western urban compared to 20% in western rural reported the views of youth in community meetings and decision-making are listened to.

1. **Percentage of Youth Engaged in Solving Common Community Problem**

Youth play significant role in addressing community problems. These vary from cleaning, security, managing water facility, advocacy and campaigns and providing labour for community work. About 82.3% of youth surveyed nationally (82.6% male and 83.1% female) reported they are involved in solving community problem.

By location, higher percentage of rural youth reported they are involved in solving community problem than their urban counterparts. The results of the survey indicate that 83.5% of rural youth responded they are involved in solving community problem in contrast to 81.3% in urban areas and 82.5% in peri-urban communities. This slight different can be explained by the fact that rural youth are more homogenous and integrated in their communities than their urban counterparts.

Youth in the south ranks highest in terms of involvement in solving community problem and those in the north ranks least. According to the survey, about 99% of youth in the south reported they are involved in solving community problem followed by east (88.0%) and west (75%).

The intra-regional disparities were not very noticeable in the east. In both Kenema and Kono, about 90% of youth reported they are involved in solving community problem which was higher than estimate for Kailahun (84%). Disparities were wide in the northern region. Estimates varied from 40% in Port Loko to 80% in both Bombali and Koinadugu. In the south, the variations were not marked. All youth in Bonthe, Moyamba and Pujehun and 96% in Bo reported they are involved in solving community problem. The proportion of youth in western urban that reported they are involved in solving community problem is estimated at 76.7% and that for western rural was 73.3%.

**Table 7.1: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Participation in Community**

 **Organisations and Gender**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belonging to community organisationMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 82.780.681.6 | 14.88.011.3 | 2.611.47.1 |
| Active participation and contribution in community meetings and decision-making MaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 59.765.262.5 | 19.914.917.4 | 20.419.920.2 |
| Views of youth in community meetings and decision-making listened to MaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 45.944.345.1 | 26.029.427.7 | 28.126.427.2 |
| Youth involvement in solving community problemMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 82.683.182.3 | 6.26.56.3 | 11.310.410.9 |

**Table 7.2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Community**

 **Organisations and Location**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belonging to community organisationUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 85.083.976.7 | 10.78.814.3 | 4.37.39.0 |
| Active participation and contribution in community meetings and decision-making UrbanPeri-urbanRural | 65.762.060.9 | 16.414.621.1 | 17.923.418.0 |
| Views of youth in community meetings and decision-making listened to UrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 44.345.345.1 | 27.127.029.3 | 28.627.725.6 |
| Youth involvement in solving community problemUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 81.382.583.5 | 7.97.33.8 | 10.810.212.8 |

**Table 7.3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Community**

 **Organisations and District (Eastern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belonging to community organisationKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 92.090.053.378.4 | 0.010.026.712.2 | 8.00.020.09.3 |
| Active participation and contribution in community meetings and decision-making KailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 64.096.773.378.0 | 28.03.323.318.2 | 8.00.03.33.8 |
| Views of youth in community meetings and decision-making listened to KailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 32.083.340.051.8 | 52.03.333.329.5 | 16.013.326.718.7 |
| Youth involvement in solving community problemKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 84.090.090.088.0 | 4.00.06.73.6 | 12.010.03.38.4 |

**Table 7.4: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Community**

 **Organisations and District (Northern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belong to community organisationBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 100.086.790.080.070.085.3 | 0.03.36.713.313.37.3 | 0.010.03.36.716.77.3 |
| Active participation and contribution in community meetings and decision-making BombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 40.050.066.750.060.053.3 | 0.020.00.023.316.712.0 | 60.030.033.326.723.334.7 |
| Views of youth in community meetings and decision-making listened to BombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 36.746.760.036.756.747.4 | 0.023.316.720.010.014.0 | 63.330.023.343.333.338.6 |
| Youth involvement in solving community problemBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 80.070.080.040.076.769.3 | 0.023.36.726.710.013.3 | 20.06.713.333.313.317.3 |

**Table 7.5: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Community**

 **Organisations and District (Southern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belonging to community organisationBo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 96.056.793.373.379.8 | 4.043.36.710.016.0 | 0.00.00.00.00.0 |
| Active participation and contribution in community meetings and decision-making Bo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 84.050.096.770.075.2 | 8.050.03.36.717.0 | 8.00.00.023.37.8 |
| Views of youth in community meetings and decision-making listened to Bo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 44.026.786.733.347.7 | 32.073.313.343.340.5 | 24.00.00.023.311.5 |
| Youth involvement in solving community problemBo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 96.0100.0100.0100.099.0 | 0.00.00.00.00.0 | 4.00.00.00.01.0 |

**Table 7.6: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Community**

 **Organisations and District (Western Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belonging to community organisationWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 83.386.785.0 | 10.06.78.4 | 6.76.76.7 |
| Active participation and contribution in community meetings and decision-making Western RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 43.340.041.7 | 30.030.030.0 | 26.730.028.4 |
| Views of youth in community meetings and decision-making listened to Western RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 20.023.321.7 | 36.736.736.7 | 43.340.041.7 |
| Youth involvement in solving community problemWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 73.376.775.0 | 10.00.05.0 | 16.723.320.0 |

* + 1. **Participation in Politics**

Youth are very active in politics. They are not only involved in rallies, but contribute to political discussions and debates, contest elections and campaign for candidates. There is substantial evidence from the survey to show that youth enjoy freedom in political participation measured by (i) freedom to belong to political parties of their choice (ii) freedom to register to vote (iii) freedom to vote at public elections (iv) freedom to contest for political office (v) freedom to participate in political discussions and debates and (vi) freedom to campaign for candidates of choice at public elections (See Table 8.1-8.6).

1. **Freedom to Belong to Political Parties of their Choice**

According to the results of the survey as presented in Table 8.1, overall, about 88.4% of youth (86.7% male and 90% female) reported they freely belong to political parties of their choice. This was confirmed by participants in all 24 FGDs. Disparities among locations were not very discernable. About 87.2% of youth in rural areas compared to 88.5% in urban and 89.1% in peri-urban reported they freely belong to political parties of their choice.

Inter-regional differentials were not very significant. Percentage of youth that reported they freely belong to political parties of their choice was 78.4% in the west, 88.7% in the north, 89.1% in the east and 92.2% in the south. In the east, the situation was most favourable in Kenema where all youth surveyed reported they freely belong to political parties of their choice compared to 84% in Kailahun and 83.3% in Kono. The picture is gloomier in Koinadugu with an estimate of 70% of youth reporting they freely belong to political parties and most impressive in Bombali and Kambia where 96.7% reported they freely belong to political parties of their choice. In the south, all youth in Bonthe and Moyamba responded they freely belong to political parties of their choice in contrast to 9 out of every 10 youth in Bo and about 3 out of every 4 in Pujehun whereas in the western area, the urban area was slightly better off with 4 out of every 5 respondents reporting they freely belong to political parties of their choice compared to 3 out of every 4 youth in the rural area.

1. **Freedom to Register to Vote and Vote at Public Elections**

Youth expressed freedom to register to vote and vote at public elections. The results of the survey displayed in Table 2.1A shows that nationally, 94.5% of youth (94% for male and 95% for female) responded they freely register to vote and 93.7% (94.5% male and 92.5% female) reported the freely vote at public elections. No participant in the FGDs expressed they were restricted to register to vote and vote at public elections.

More youth in urban areas enjoy freedom to register to vote and vote at public elections. Table 8.2 indicate that 95% of urban youth reported they freely register to vote and vote at public elections. This compares more favourably with peri-urban (93.4%) and rural areas (92.5%). A few participants of FGDs in a northern district revealed that they were intimidated to vote on polling day. It was later in the day, they were allowed after intervention by an observer. In another FGD in southern district, a participant in an FGD disclosed that he was refused to use the boat that was transporting voters because most that were on board the boat did not trust that he would vote for their candidate.

The estimates obtained by the survey show that the western area lagged behind in terms of youth reporting they freely register to vote and vote at public elections and there were no considerable variation among the non-western region. On average, 88.3% of youth in western region reported they freely register to vote whilst those for east, north and south are 97.8%, 95.3% and 95.7% respectively. These estimates were slightly higher than those who vote at public elections. In the east, 94% of youth responded they freely vote, in the north, 97.3% freely vote and in the south, 91.3% freely vote whilst only 88.3% of youth freely vote in the western area.

In Kenema and Kailahun, all youth interviewed responded that youth freely register to vote compared to 93.3% in Kono. Nonetheless, 92% of youth in the Kailahun, 93.3% in Kenema and 96.7% in Kono reported they freely vote at public elections. All youth in Bombali, Kambia and Port Loko districts, 93.3% and 83.3% in Tonkolili and Koinadugu districts respectively freely register to vote. Also, all youth in Bombali and Port Loko responded they vote freely at public elections compared to 96.7% in Tonkolili and Kambia and 93.3% in Koinadugu. In Bonthe and Moyamba in the south, all youth reported they freely register to vote and vote at public elections and in Bo, 96% freely register and 92% freely vote whilst in Pujehun, 86.7% freely register to vote and 73.3% vote at public elections. In the western area, although 90% of youth in western urban responded they freely register to vote, 83.3% reported the freely vote at public elections whilst 83.3% of youth in western rural freely register to vote but 93.3% freely vote at public elections.

1. **Freedom to Contest for Political Offices, Participate in Political Discussions and Debates and Campaign for Candidates of their Choice**

The participation of youth is not only restricted to registration to vote and voting at public elections, although to a lesser extent, they run for public offices in local councils and the legislature, freely participate in political discussions and debates and canvass for candidates of their choice at public elections. Overall, 62.6% of youth reported they freely run for public offices in local councils, 77.3% freely participate in political discussions and debates and 78% freely canvass for candidates of choice at public elections. The data obtained shows that female youth are better off. About 65.7% of female youth compared to 59.5% of their counterparts freely contest elections, about 80.6% of female youth compared to 73.8% of the male freely participate in political discussions and debates and 85.1% of female and 70.6% of female youth reported they freely campaign for candidates of their choice at public elections.

Regarding disparities by location, the proportion of youth in peri-urban communities that reported they freely contest for political offices was 67.2% and those for their counterparts in urban and rural areas were 60.4% and 60.9% respectively. In contrast, the proportion of youth in urban areas that reported they freely participate in political discussions and debates was 83.5% and was higher than estimate obtained for peri-urban (77.4%) and rural areas (71.4%). Also, the percentage of urban youth reported that campaign for candidates of their choice was estimated at 79% and was higher that estimate reported by peri-urban youth (78.8%) and rural youth (75.5%).

Youth in the eastern region enjoy more freedom to contest for political offices than counterparts in other regions. The results of the survey indicate that 87.6% of youth in the eastern region and 70.7% in the south reported they freely run for political offices in the local council and the legislature. These percentages significantly varied from estimate obtained for the north (47.3%) and the western area (50%). According to revelations from the FGDs, limited resources is the main factor that hinder youth to run for political offices. With respect to freedom to participate in political discussions and debates, 84.7% of youth in the east, 81.2% in the south, 76% in the north and 63.4% in the west reported they freely participate in political discussions and debates. Youth in the south and west enjoy more freedom to campaign than their mates in the east and north. About 93.4% of youth in the south, 90% in the west, 70.7% in the north and 61.3% in the east reported they freely campaign for their candidates of their choice

In the east, youth enjoy more freedom to contest election and participate in political discussions than campaign for candidates, particularly in Kono. About 96% of youth in Kailahun freely contest for political office in contrast to 90% in Kenema and 76.7% in Kono. Also, 84% of youth in Kailahun freely participate in political discussions compared to 83.3% in Kenema and 86.7% in Kono. But less than half of the youth in Kailahun, about half in Kono and 9 out of every 10 youth interviewed in Kenema freely canvass for candidates of choice at public elections.

Freedom to contest for political position is more appalling in Port Loko and Kambia districts in the north where only 13.3% and 30% of youth surveyed reported they freely run for public offices in local councils and the legislature than in other northern districts. In terms of participation in political discussions, estimate for Koinadugu (93.3%) was impressive followed by Koinadugu (80%) and then Port Loko (76.7%). They were least for Bombali (60%) and 70% in Kambia. The proportion of youth in the north that responded they freely canvass for candidates of their choice at public elections varied from 63.3% in Bombali to 83.3% in Kambia.

In the southern region, the picture painted for Bonthe and Moyamba were most favourable. All youth in Bonthe and Moyamba freely contest for political positions and participate in political discussions whilst only 46.7% in Pujehun and 36% in Bo responded they freely contest for political office and 56.7% in Pujehun and 68% in Bo freely participate in political discussions. Almost every youth surveyed in Bo, Bonthe and Moyamba and three-quarters of those in Pujehun responded they freely canvass for candidates of their choice at public elections. In the western area, only half of the youth in both western rural and urban responded they freely contest for public offices. The percentages of youth in western rural that reported they freely participate in political discussions and campaign for candidates of their choice was 70% and 93.3% respectively compared to 56.7% of youth that reported they freely participate in political discussions and 86.7% freely campaign for their candidates during elections.

**8.1 Table 8.1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Politics and**

 **Gender**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belong to political parties of choiceMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 86.790.088.4 | 5.18.56.8 | 8.21.54.8 |
| Freely register to vote MaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 94.095.094.5 | 2.12.02.0 | 3.63.03.3 |
| Freely vote at public electionsMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 94.992.593.7 | 1.53.52.5 | 3.64.03.8 |
| Freely run for public offices in local councils and the legislatureMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 59.565.762.6 | 14.912.413.6 | 25.621.923.7 |
| Freely participate in political discussions and debatesMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 73.880.677.3 | 12.87.510.1 | 13.311.912.6 |
| Freely canvass for candidates of choice at public electionsMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 70.685.178.0 | 12.99.010.9 | 16.56.011.1 |

**Table 8.2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Politics and**

 **Location**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belong to political parties of choiceUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 88.589.187.2 | 5.87.37.5 | 5.83.65.3 |
| Freely register to vote UrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 95.093.492.5 | 3.62.22.3 | 1.44.45.3 |
| Freely vote at public electionsUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 95.093.492.5 | 3.62.22.3 | 1.44.45.3 |
| Freely run for public offices in local councils and the legislatureUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 60.467.260.9 | 15.811.714.3 | 23.721.224.8 |
| Freely participate in political discussions and debatesUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 83.577.471.4 | 6.59.514.3 | 10.113.114.3 |
| Freely canvass for candidates of their choice at public electionsUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 79.078.875.9 | 9.410.212.8 | 11.610.911.3 |

**Table 8.3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Politics and**

 **District (Eastern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belong to political parties of choiceKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 84.0100.083.389.1 | 4.00.016.76.9 | 12.00.00.04.0 |
| Freely register to vote KailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 100.0100.093.397.8 | 0.00.06.72.2 | 0.00.00.00.0 |
| Freely vote at public electionsKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 92.093.396.794.0 | 8.00.03.33.8 | 0.06.70.02.2 |
| Freely run for public offices in local councils and the legislatureKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 96.090.076.787.6 | 4.03.36.74.7 | 0.06.716.77.8 |
| Freely participate in political discussions and debatesKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 84.083.386.784.7 | 4.03.310.05.8 | 12.013.33.39.5 |
| Freely canvass for candidates of choice at public electionsKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 44.090.050.061.3 | 40.06.730.025.6 | 16.03.320.013.1 |

**Table 8.4: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Politics and**

 **District (Northern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belong to political parties of choiceBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 96.796.770.086.793.388.7 | 0.00.00.013.36.74.0 | 3.33.330.00.00.07.3 |
| Freely register to vote BombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 100.0100.083.3100.093.395.3 | 0.00.00.00.06.71.3 | 0.00.016.70.00.03.3 |
| Freely vote at public electionsBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 100.096.793.3100.096.797.3 | 0.00.00.00.00.00.0 | 0.03.36.70.00.02.0 |
| Freely run for public offices in local councils and the legislatureBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 56.730.066.713.370.047.3 | 0.023.36.743.370.028.7 | 43.346.726.743.320.036.0 |
| Freely participate in political discussions and debatesBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 60.070.080.076.793.376.0 | 0.020.00.023.30.08.7 | 40.010.020.00.06.715.3 |
| Freely canvass for candidates of their choice at public electionsBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 63.383.356.780.070.070.7 | 0.06.716.716.713.310.7 | 36.710.026.73.316.718.7 |

**Table 8.5: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Politics and District**

**(Southern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belong to political parties of choiceBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 92.0100.0100.076.792.2 | 0.00.00.020.05.0 | 8.00.00.03.32.8 |
| Freely register to vote BoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 96.0100.0100.086.795.7 | 0.00.00.00.00.0 | 4.00.00.013.34.3 |
| Freely vote at public electionsBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 92.0100.0100.073.391.3 | 0.00.00.013.33.3 | 0.00.00.013.33.3 |
| Freely run for public offices in local councils and the legislatureBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 36.0100.0100.046.770.7 | 20.00.00.016.79.2 | 44.00.00.036.720.2 |
| Freely participate in political discussions and debatesBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 68.0100.0100.056.781.2 | 16.00.00.026.710.7 | 16.00.00.016.78.2 |
| Freely canvass for candidates of choice at public electionsBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 100.096.7100.076.793.4 | 0.03.30.010.03.3 | 0.00.00.013.33.3 |

**Table 8.6: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Politics and District**

**(Western Area)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Freely belong to political parties of choiceWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 76.780.078.4 | 16.716.716.7 | 6.73.35.0 |
| Freely register to vote Western RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 83.390.088.3 | 10.06.75.0 | 6.73.36.7 |
| Freely vote at public electionsWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 93.383.388.3 | 0.010.05.0 | 6.76.76.7 |
| Freely run for public offices in local councils and the legislatureWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 50.050.050.0 | 26.733.330.0 | 23.316.720.0 |
| Freely participate in political discussions and debatesWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 70.056.763.4 | 13.323.318.3 | 16.720.018.4 |
| Freely canvass for candidates of choice at public electionsWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 93.386.790.0 | 0.010.05.0 | 6.73.35.0 |

**4.1.3 Participation in Local Governance**

Quite apart from providing skilled manpower for local councils, youth participate in local governance through involvement in local government activities such as attending local council or ward committee meetings, advocating for community concerns and interests to local authorities, community fundraising and raising public awareness through radio discussions. This study assessed the role of the youth in local governance using the following criteria (i) active participation in local government activities (ii) advocacy for community concerns and interests to local authorities (iii) involvement in fund raising activities (iv) participation in community radio discussions

1. **Active Participation in Local Government Activities**

Youth are members of ward committees, they participate in ward committee and local council meetings and attend various programmes organised by the local councils. As shown in Table 9.1, about two-thirds of youth nationally responded that they actively participate in local government activities. It is interesting to note that higher percentage of female youth participate in local governance activities than the male. About 7 out of 10 female and 6 out of every 10 male responded they actively participate in local government activities.

The participation of peri-urban and urban youth in local government activities is greater than that of rural youth. Table 9.2 presents the percentage distribution of youth in local governance and location. In the peri-urban communities, 69.3% of youth responded they actively participate in local government activities compared to 67.6% in urban area and 62.4% in rural areas. In most FGDs, the lower participation of youth in local government was attributed to the low level of literacy in rural communities and lack of self-esteem in the youth to actively participate in meetings.

As seen in Table 9.3-9.6, the proportions of youth in the east and south that actively participate in local government activities are greater in the north and west. Nearly 4 out of every 5 youth in the east, three- quarters of youth in the south, three-fifths of youth in the north and about half of the youth in the western area responded they actively participate in local government activities. In the western area were the capital city is located, youth have the opportunity to interface with central government and heads of NGOs and therefore have little time for the local governments.

The highest proportion of youth that reported that they actively participated in local government activities in the east was in Kailahun which was nearly 10 percentage point higher than Kenema and 20 percentage point than Kono. In the north, the percentage was low as merely a third for Port Loko compared to slightly over three-quarters in Koinadugu and Tonkolili whereas in the south, 2 out of every 5 youth in Bo compared to all in Bonthe responded they actively participate in local government activities. The disparities between western urban and western rural was not much. Half of the youth surveyed in western rural and slightly more than half in the urban area actively participate in local government activities.

1. **Advocacy for Community Concerns and Interests to Local Authorities**

Youth, particularly male, have played key roles in advocating for community concerns and interests to duty bearers. This has been in the forms of lobbying and demonstration. Nationally, nearly three-quarters of youth surveyed (nearly 8 out of 10 male youth and 7 out of 10 female youth) reported that youth advocate for community concerns and interests to local authorities.

It is intriguing to note that rural youth are more engaged in advocacy for community concerns and interests to local authorities. The results of the survey displayed in Table 9.1shows that nearly 8 out of every 10 youth in rural areas compared to about 7 out of every 10 in urban and peri-urban areas reported they advocate for community concerns and interests to local authorities. The reason for this scenario is that rural youth largely depend on public services while private services the urban youth at times

The inter-regional discrepancies indicate that 9 out of every 10 youth in the south responded youth advocate for community concerns and interests in contrast to about 6 out of every 10 youth in the east and the north and about half in the west. The variations among districts in the east presented in Table 9.5 are wide varying from 36% in Kailahun to 65.5% in Kenema and 83.3% in Kono. The result for Kono, a mining area is manifested by the series of demonstration that have taken place in Kono over the years. In the north, as shown in Table 9.4, the estimate varied from 50% in Port Loko about 70% in Bombali and Kambia, about 73.3% in Koinadugu and to 86.7% in Tonkolili district, a mining area where advocacy in the form of public demonstration have taken place over the years. A similar pattern was obtained in the south where all youth in mining districts of Bonthe and Moyamba reported youth advocate for community concerns and interests to local authorities compared to 80% in Bo and 86.7% in Pujehun district. In the west, 7 out of every 10 youth in western rural and slightly over half in western urban advocate for community concerns and interests.

1. **Involvement in Community Fundraising**

Youth are involved in fundraising activities in their communities through organizing fundraising events and collecting of local taxes or dues. The data presented in Table 9.1 shows that nationally, about 67.4% of youth are involved in fund raising activities, 69.7% of female youth and 65.1% of male youth are involved in fundraising activities. As shown in Table 9.2, the disparities among locations are not remarkable. It varies from 65.4% in rural areas to 67.9% in peri-urban to 69.1% in urban areas.

The data obtained from the survey indicate that youth in the south followed by those in the north are more involved in fund raising. About 9 out of every 10 youth in the south, 6 out of every 10 youth in the north and over half of those in the east and west reported they are involved in fund raising in their communities. In the east, higher proportion of youth in Kono than the other two districts are involved in fundraising. Nearly three-quarters of Kono youth reported that youth are involved fundraising in contrast to three-fifths in Kenema and one-fifth in Kailahun. In the north, youth in Tonkolili and Kambia are more involved in fundraising. Nine (9) out of every 10 youth and 7 out of every 10 respectively responded they are involved in fundraising activities. All youth in Bonthe and 19 out of every 20 youth in Moyamba and 8 out of every 10 youth in the south answered that youth are involved in fund raising activities. Whereas in the west, nearly three-fifths of youth in western rural and over half in western urban reported they are involved in fundraising activities.

1. **Participation in Community Radio Discussions**

With the spread of community radio stations over all districts, youth have taken the chance to raise concerns and advocate for their interests. The participation take the form of interviews, voice pox, phone-in programmes and SMS. Almost every radio station report or air news about youth at least once a day. The survey collected data on youth participation in community radio discussions. As shown in Table 9.1 nearly 90% of all youth surveyed (86.2% male and 93.5% female) reported they participate in community radio discussions. The participation marginally varies among location. About 88.7% of rural youth, 89% of peri-urban and 92.8% of urban youth reported they participate in community radio discussions.

The participation of youth in all 4 regions was very high. It varies from 85.3% in the north to 94.7% in the south (See Tables 9.3-9.6). In the east, all youth in Kono, 9 out of every 10 youth in Kenema and Kailahun reported they participate in community radio discussions. The estimates was lowest in Koinadugu district (73.3%) and high as 90% in Kambia and 93.3% in Tonkolili in the north. All youth in the south, 9 out of every 10 youth in Bo and Pujehun reported they participate in community radio discussions. In the western area, the percentage was 83% in western urban which was 10 percentage point less than that for western rural.

**Table 9.1 Percentage Distribution of Youth by Participation in Local Governance and**

 **Gender**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Actively participate in local government activitiesMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 63.169.766.4 | 12.814.413.6 | 24.115.919.9 |
| Advocate for community concerns and interests to local authoritiesMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 78.569.773.7 | 6.712.09.4 | 14.919.017.0 |
| Involvement in fundraising activitiesMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 65.169.767.4 | 18.518.418.4 | 16.411.914.1 |
| Participation in community radio discussionsMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 86.293.589.9 | 7.72.04.8 | 6.24.55.3 |

**Table 9.2: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Participation in Local Governance and**

 **Gender**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Actively participate in local government activitiesUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 67.669.362.4 | 12.911.715.0 | 19.419.022.6 |
| Advocate for community concerns and interests to local authoritiesUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 71.970.878.0 | 9.48.89.1 | 18.720.412.9 |
| Involvement in fundraising activitiesUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 69.167.965.4 | 18.017.519.5 | 12.914.615.0 |
| Participation in community radio discussionsUrbanPeri-UrbanRural | 92.889.088.7 | 2.25.16.8 | 5.05.94.5 |

**Table 9.3 Percentage Distribution of Youth by Participation in Local Governance and**

 **District (Eastern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Actively participate in local government activitiesKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 92.083.363.379.5 | 8.06.723.312.7 | 0.010.013.37.8 |
| Advocate for community concerns and interests to local authoritiesKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 36.065.583.361.6 | 28.020.716.721.6 | 36.013.80.016.6 |
| Involvement in fundraising activitiesKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 20.063.373.352.2 | 68.030.026.741.6 | 12.06.70.06.2 |
| Participation in community radio discussionsKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 92.089.7100.093.9 | 8.06.90.05.0 | 0.03.40.01.1 |

**Table 9.4: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Participation in Local Governance and**

 **District (Northern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Actively participate in local government activitiesBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 63.346.776.733.376.759.3 | 0.026.73.326.70.011.3 | 36.726.720.040.023.329.3 |
| Advocate for community concerns and interests to local authoritiesBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 70.070.073.350.086.770.0 | 0.010.00.010.06.75.3 | 30.020.026.740.06.724.7 |
| Involvement in fundraising activitiesBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 56.770.040.053.393.362.7 | 3.320.013.316.73.311.1 | 40.010.046.730.03.326.0 |
| Participation in community radio discussionsBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 83.390.073.386.793.385.3 | 0.010.00.013.33.35.3 | 16.70.026.70.03.39.3 |

**Table 9.5: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Participation in Local Governance and**

 **District (Southern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Actively participate in local government activitiesBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 40.0100.096.656.773.3 | 28.00.03.420.012.9 | 32.00.00.023.313.8 |
| Advocate for community concerns and interests to local authoritiesBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 80.0100.0100.086.791.7 | 12.00.00.03.33.8 | 8.00.00.010.04.5 |
| Involvement in fundraising activitiesBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 80.0100.096.683.390.0 | 16.00.03.410.07.4 | 4.00.00.06.72.7 |
| Participation in community radio discussionsBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 92.0100.0100.086.794.7 | 8.00.00.06.73.7 | 0.00.00.06.71.7 |

**Table 9.6: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Participation in Local Governance and**

 **District Western Area)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Actively participate in local government activitiesWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 50.053.351.7 | 23.316.720.0 | 26.730.028.4 |
| Advocate for community concerns and interests to local authoritiesWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 70.053.361.7 | 6.716.711.7 | 23.330.026.7 |
| Involvement in fundraising activitiesWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 56.753.355.0 | 26.726.726.7 | 16.720.018.4 |
| Participation in community radio discussionsWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 93.383.088.2 | 3.36.75.0 | 3.310.06.7 |

**4.2 Youth and Access to Health Services**

The study collected information on youth perception on the infection, prevention and control of the EVD and their role in ensuring that measures are observed as measures of access to health services.

* + 1. **Knowledge of Causes and Means of Preventing EVD**

Table 10.1 presents the percentage distribution of youth by perception of knowledge of causes, prevention and control of EVD and by gender. Nationally, slightly over three-quarters of all youth (nearly 9 out of every 10 female youth and two-thirds male youth) reported they understand the causes of EVD and 91% of them (89% male and 93% female) reported they understand the means of preventing EVD.

By location, greater percentage of youth in peri-urban community have better understanding of the causes of EVD than in other locations. According to the data obtained from the survey, four-fifths of all youth surveyed in peri-urban communities and three-quarters of youth in urban and rural communities reported youth know of means of preventing EVD. The data does not show significant disparities among locations.

In terms of youth reporting understanding of the causes of EVD, the inter-regional variances were somehow manifest. A greater proportion of youth reported youth understanding of EVD in the east where the EVD started. The results of the survey displayed in Tables 10.3-6 show that 86.4% of youth in the east reported that youth understand the causes, followed by 78.7% reported by youth in the north where the infection rate was very high. Slightly more than 70% of youth in the west and south reported that youth understand the causes of EVD.

The percentages of youth reporting that youth know of preventing methods of EVD in all 4 regions do not vary considerably. As demonstrated in Table 10.3-6, the estimate vary from 89.3% in the north to 94.1% in the south that experienced the least number of infection. Almost all youth in Kailahun, 9 out of every 10 youth in Kenema and about 7 out of 10 youth in Kono reported that youth understand the causes of EVD. However, all youth in Kono, almost all in Kenema and 8 out of 10 in Kailahun reported that youth understand the means of preventing EVD. The disparities among northern districts in terms of understanding and preventing EVD were wide. All youth in Bombali, 9 out of every 10 in Tonkolili, nearly three-quarters in Koinadugu, about two-thirds in Kambia and three-fifths in Port Loko reported that youth understand causes of EVD. In terms of prevention, all youth in Kambia, Port Loko and Tonkolili, almost all youth in Koinadugu and half in Bombali responded they understand the means of preventing EVD. In the south,all youth in Bonthe and Moyamba, nearly three-fifths in Bo and a third in Pujehun reported they understand the causes of EVD and all youth in Bo and Bonthe, almost all in Moyamba and four-fifths in Pujehun reported that youth understand the means of preventing EVD. In the western urban, slightly over three-quarters and 9 out of every 10 youth reported that youth understand the causes and means of preventing EVD respectively.

* + 1. **Raising Awareness and Social Mobilisation on EVD**

Youth across the country played significant role in control of EVD in several respects. One such way they were involved in the control of EVD was through awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVD. About 94.6% of youth (96% female youth and 93.2% male youth) reported that youth were involved in awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVD. The disproportions among location were marginal. It was 93.3% in peri-urban, 94.9% in urban area and 95.4% in rural areas reported youth are involved in awareness raising and social mobilisation.

Discrepancies among regions with respect to youth reporting they are involved in awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVD were fairly noticeable. About 84.5% of youth in western area, 94.7% in the north, 95.3% in the east and 99.2% in the south responded they were involved in raising awareness and social mobilisation. The variations among districts in the eastern region were marginal. It was 93.3% in Kono and about 96.0% in Kailahun and Kenema. In the north, all youth in Kambia, Port Loko and Tonkolili, nearly all youth in Koinadugu but half in Bombali reported youth were involved in awareness raising and social mobilisation. Similarly, in the south, all youth in Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba and 19 out of every 20 youth in Pujehun responded youth were involved in raising awareness and social mobilisation on EVD. The percentages were less for western area districts. Nine (9) out of every 10 youth in western urban and 8 out of every 10 in western rural reported youth were involved in awareness raising and social mobilisation of EVD.

**4.2.3 Control of EVD**

To control the spread of the EVD, youth adhered to the regulations under the State of Emergency (SoE) and chiefdom bye-laws and were even involved in the enforcement of these laws through manning of checkpoints and intelligence gathering. About 89.8% of youth reported youth adhered to regulations under the SoE and chiefdom bye-laws and 84.4% reported they were involved in the enforcement of these laws. The disparities were more favourable in favor of female youth. About 93% and 86.4% of youth reported that female youth and male youth adhered to the regulations under the SoE respectively. Also, 85.9% and 82.7% of youth responded that female youth and male youth respectively were involved in the enforcement of the laws relating to control of EVD.

As shown in Table 10.2 the differences among locations in terms of adherence to the laws and enforcement of the laws were marginal. The results of the survey shows that 89.9% of youth in urban communities, 89.6% in peri-urban communities and 89.3% in rural communities reported youth adhered to the EVD prevention laws. With respect to enforcement, 86.3% of youth in urban communities, 82.7% in peri-urban communities and 84.7% in rural areas reported youth were involved in enforcing bye-laws through manning checkpoints and intelligence gathering.

Regarding both the adherence to and enforcement of the laws, the inter-regional variations were marked. About 97.5% of youth in the south followed by 87.8% in the east, 87.3% in the north an 84.1% in the west answered that youth adhered to the regulations under the SoE and the chiefdom bye-laws whereas 97.3% of youth in the south, 88.4% in the north, 74.1% in the west and 66% in the east were involved in enforcing the bye-laws. The intra-regional differentials were also significant. In the eastern region, all youth in Kailahun, about four-fifths of the youth in Kenema and Kono reported youth adhered to the EVD prevention laws. This same estimate varied from a little over half of the youth in Koinadugu, to about 9 out of every 10 in Tonkolili and Bombali, about 19 out of every 20 in Port Loko and all youth in Kambia. In the south, all youth in all district with exception of Pujehun where 9 out of every 10 youth reported that they adhered to the EVD prevention laws and about 19 out of every 20 youth in Bo, Moyamba and Pujehun and all in Bo responded youth are involved in enforcement of bye-laws.About 81.5% of youth in western rural reported youth adhered to EVD prevention laws and enforced bye-laws whereas 86.7% of youth in western urban reported youth adhered to EVD prevention laws and 66.7% were involved in enforcing bye-laws.

**Table 10.1: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of Knowledge of Causes,**

 **Prevention and Control of EVD and by Gender**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Understanding of the causes of EVDMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 67.587.077.5 | 25.78.016.6 | 6.85.05.9 |
| Understanding of the prevention of EVDMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 89.093.091.0 | 1.62.52.0 | 9.44.56.9 |
| Involvement in awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVDMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 93.296.094.6 | 1.62.52.1 | 5.31.53.3 |
| Adherence to the regulations under the State of Emergency and Chiefdom bye-laws to prevent the spread of EVDMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 86.493.089.8 | 1.02.01.5 | 12.65.08.7 |
| Enforcing the bye-laws through manning checkpoints and intelligence gatheringMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 82.785.984.4 | 5.211.18.2 | 12.03.07.4 |

**Table 10.2 Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of Knowledge of Causes,**

 **Prevention and Control of EVD and by Location**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Understanding of the causes of EVDUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 75.581.375.6 | 19.414.916.0 | 5.03.78.4 |
| Understanding of the prevention of EVDUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 92.891.889.3 | 0.02.23.8 | 7.26.06.9 |
| Involvement in awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVDUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 94.993.395.4 | 3.61.50.8 | 1.45.23.8 |
| Adherence to the regulations under the State of emergency and Chiefdom bye-laws to prevent the spread of EVDUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 89.989.689.3 | 2.20.71.5 | 7.99.79.2 |
| Enforcing the bye-laws through manning checkpoints and intelligence gatheringUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 86.382.784.7 | 5.89.09.2 | 7.98.36.1 |

**Table 10.3: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of Knowledge of Causes,**

 **Prevention and Control of EVD and by District (Eastern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Understanding of the causes of EVDKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 96.090.073.386.4 | 4.06.713.38.0 | 0.03.313.35.5 |
| Understanding of the prevention of EVDKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 80.096.7100.092.2 | 4.00.00.01.3 | 16.03.30.06.4 |
| Involvement in awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVDKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 96.096.693.395.3 | 0.00.03.31.1 | 4.03.43.33.6 |
| Adherence to the regulations under the State of Emergency and Chiefdom bye-laws to prevent the spread of EVDKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 100.083.380.087.8 | 0.03.33.32.2 | 0.013.316.710.0 |
| Enforcing the bye-laws through manning checkpoints and intelligence gatheringKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 28.073.396.766.0 | 56.020.03.326.4 | 16.06.70.07.6 |

**Table 10.4 Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of Knowledge of Causes,**

 **Prevention and Control of EVD and by District (Northern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Understanding of the causes of EVDBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 100.066.773.363.390.078.7 | 0.033.36.736.73.316.0 | 0.00.020.00.06.75.3 |
| Understanding of the prevention of EVDBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 50.0100.096.7100.0100.089.3 | 0.00.00.00.00.00.0 | 50.00.03.30.00.010.7 |
| Involvement in awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVDBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 96.7100.080.096.7100.094.7 | 0.00.00.03.30.00.7 | 3.30.020.00.00.04.7 |
| Adherence to the regulations under the State of emergency and Chiefdom bye-laws to prevent the spread of EVDBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 93.3100.053.396.793.387.3 | 0.00.00.03.30.00.7 | 6.70.046.70.06.712.0 |
| Enforcing the bye-laws through manning checkpoints and intelligence gatheringBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 93.396.762.196.793.388.4 | 0.00.00.03.30.00.7 | 6.73.337.90.06.710.9 |

**Table 10.5: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of Knowledge of Causes,**

 **Prevention and Control of EVD and by District (Southern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Understanding of the causes of EVDBo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 56.0100.0100.033.372.3 | 40.00.00.046.721.7 | 4.00.00.020.06.0 |
| Understanding of the prevention of EVDBo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 100.0100.096.380.094.1 | 0.00.03.710.03.4 | 0.00.00.010.02.5 |
| Involvement in awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVDBo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 100.0100.0100.096.799.2 | 0.00.00.03.30.8 | 0.00.00.00.00.0 |
| Adherence to the regulations under the State of emergency and Chiefdom bye-laws to prevent the spread of EVDBo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 100.0100.0100.090.097.5 | 0.00.00.00.00.0 | 0.00.00.010.02.5 |
| Enforcing the bye-laws through manning checkpoints and intelligence gatheringBo BontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 96.0100.096.396.797.3 | 0.00.03.73.31.8 | 4.00.00.00.01.0 |

 **Table 10.6: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of Knowledge of Causes,**

 **Prevention and Control of EVD and by District (Western Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Understanding of the causes of EVDWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 66.776.771.7 | 25.920.023.0 | 7.43.35.4 |
| Understanding of the prevention of EVDWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 88.990.089.5 | 3.76.75.2 | 7.43.35.4 |
| Involvement in awareness raising and social mobilisation on EVDWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 88.980.084.5 | 7.410.08.7 | 3.710.06.9 |
| Adherence to the regulations under the State of emergency and Chiefdom bye-laws to prevent the spread of EVDWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 81.586.784.1 | 7.43.35.4 | 11.110.010.6 |
| Enforcing the bye-laws through manning checkpoints and intelligence gatheringWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 81.566.774.1 | 11.116.713.9 | 7.416.712.1 |

**4.3 Youth and the Environment**

Young people take both the responsibilities for degrading and protecting the environment. A number of environmental risks and hazards disproportionately affect young people, who have to live for an extended period with the deteriorating environment bequeathed to them by earlier generations. Young people will be compelled to engage in new forms of action and activism that will generate effective responses to ecological challenges.

The thematic study has examined how youth are contributing to the degradation of the environment and how their views on environmental protection. Specifically, we have gauged the perceptions of youth themselves on the following (i) how youth contribute to degradation of the environment through deforestation (ii) how youth contribute to degradation of the environment through keeping filths in their community (iii) responsibility of youth in raising awareness on environmental problems and protection (iv) the role of youth in protecting the environment through drainage clearing and waste disposal and (v) the role of youth in protecting the environment through tree planting.

* + 1. **Contributions of Youth to Environmental Degradation**

Youth contribute to environmental degradation through deforestation and keeping filths in their community. Currently, timber logging, wood cutting for firewood or charcoal burning are lucrative activities in Sierra Leone. Given the muscular requirement for these economic activities, youth dominant these sub-sectors. As presented in Table 11.1, overall, about 56.8% of youth surveyed agrees that youth cause environmental damage through deforestation. The percentage for male youth estimated at 60.7% was higher than that of the female put at 53%. Youth through their economic and social activities accumulate waste in communities. About 55.6% of all youth (56% of male youth and 55.3% of female youth) agree that indeed youth accumulate waste in their communities.

There were variations among youth from the different localities. About 60.4% of urban youth agrees that youth cause environmental degradation through deforestation compared to 55.7% of rural youth and 53.7% of peri-urban youth. By locality, about 48.7% of youth in urban areas compared to 57.9% in peri-urban and 58% in rural communities agree that youth accumulate filths in their communities as a result of their social and economic activities.

Inter-regional discrepancies were wide. Youth in the western area and the southern region exhibit better understanding of causes of environmental problem than their mates in the east and north. The percentage of youth that agree that youth cause environmental degradation through deforestation is highest in the west estimated at 77.4% and least in the north (42.7%). It was 56.2% in the east and 64.6% in the south. In terms of waste accumulation, about 75% of youth in the west, 70.4% in the south, 44% in the east and 42% in the north.

In the east, estimates for Kono (73.3%) and Kenema (63.3%) exceeds the national average while that for Kailahun is below the average in terms of perception of youth on how youth cause environmental damage through deforestation whereas that with regards causing environmental degradation by keeping filths in their community. In the north, the percentage varied from 16.7% in Bombali to 60% in Kambia. Youth in the south districts have better perception of the contributions of youth to environmental degradation. About 88.9% of the youth in Moyamba, 63.3% in Bonthe, 56% in Bo and 50% in Pujehun reported youth cause environmental degradation through deforestation. Also, all youth in both Bonthe and Moyamba, 70% in Pujehun and 64% in Bo think youth cause environmental degradation by keeping filths in their community. In the west, the disparities were not significant.

* + 1. **Contribution of Youth to Environmental Protection**

Youth contribute to environmental protection through environmental education, drainage clearing and waste disposal and tree planting. About two-thirds of all youth surveyed agree that youth raised awareness on environmental problem and protection, four-fifths agree that youth clear the drainages and dispose of waste while slightly more than two-fifths agree that youth are involved in tree planting. The gender disparities were wider for environmental education than the other protection means. About 70.2% of male youth as against 64% of the female peers responded youth are responsible for raising awareness on environmental problem and waste disposal. In contrast, about 84% of the female youth and 83.2% of the male agree that youth protect the environment through drainage clearing and waste disposal and 36.1% of the male and 38% of the female protect the environment through tree planting.

As exhibited in Table 11.1, there were vast differences among the various regions in terms of environmental protection. Whereas about 80% of youth in the south and 63.7% in the north agree that youth are responsible for environmental education, only 53.6% of those in the east and 34.6% in the west think youth raise awareness on environment problem and protection. Regarding drainage clearing, 94.5% of the south in the east, 77.2% in the north, 47.8% in the west and only 8.5 in the south agree that youth clear drainages and dispose of waste. Also, 38.9% of northern youth compared to 26.2% of those in the east, 17% in the west and 11.5% in the south reported youth protect the environment through tree planting.

The intra-regional variations among eastern districts were very wide. The percentage of youth that responded that youth raise awareness on environmental problem and protection was highest in Kono (90%), least in Kailahun (4%) and about two-thirds in Kenema. Regarding, drainage clearing and waste disposal, the estimates varied from 86.7% in Kono to 100% in Kailahun and for tree planting, about 40% of youth in Kenema, 26.7% in Kono and only 12% in Kailahun responded youth protect the environment through tree planting. In the north, the estimates of youth that reported youth are involved in environmental protection through education was higher than regional average in Tonkolili (80%) and Koinadugu (76.7%) while that for those that reported youth clear drainages and dispose of waste was higher in Tonkolili (93.3%) and Kambia (82.8%) and those that reported youth undertake tree planting was higher in Koinadugu (56.7%) and Bombali (50.0). Also, in the south, all youth in Bonthe and Moyamba and three-fifths in Bo and Pujehun reported youth are responsible for environmental education. Also, all youth in Moyamba, about 9 out of every 10 youth in Bo and Bonthe and 8 out of 10 in Pujehun responded youth clear the drainages and dispose of waste while nearly two-thirds in Bonthe, half in Pujehun, 44% in Bo and 7.4% in Moyamba, youth reported that they youth are engaged in tree planting. The pattern in the western area reveals that youth in western urban have better perceptions about the role of youth in environmental control than those in western rural. About 66.7% of youth in western urban compared to 63% in western rural responded that youth are responsible for environmental education while 76.7% of youth in western urban and 59.3% in western rural hold the view that youth clear the drainages and dispose of waste. Finally, 43.3% of youth in western urban compared to 25.9% in western rural think that youth are protecting the environment through tree planting.

**Table 11.1: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of the Environment and by**

 **Gender**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Youth cause environmental damage through deforestation MaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 60.753.056.8 | 17.827.522.8 | 21.519.520.5 |
| Youth cause environmental damage by keeping filths in their communityMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 56.055.355.6 | 28.332.230.3 | 15.712.614.1 |
| Youth participate in environmental protection meetings in their communityMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 72.873.573.1 | 13.610.512.0 | 13.616.014.8 |
| Youth are responsible for raising awareness on environmental problem and protectionMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 70.264.067.0 | 9.919.014.6 | 19.917.018.4 |
| Youth protect the environment through drainage clearing and waste disposalMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 83.284.083.6 | 8.96.57.7 | 7.99.58.7 |
| Youth protect the environment through tree plantingMaleFemaleBoth Sexes | 36.138.037.1 | 42.940.541.7 | 20.921.521.2 |

**Table 11.2: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of the Environment and by**

 **Gender**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Youth cause environmental damage through deforestation UrbanPeri-urbanRural | 60.453.755.7 | 20.121.625.2 | 19.424.619.1 |
| Youth cause environmental damage by keeping filths in their communityUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 48.257.958.0 | 36.027.828.2 | 15.814.313.7 |
| Youth participate in environmental protection meetings in their communityUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 75.571.671.0 | 10.114.213.0 | 14.414.216.0 |
| Youth are responsible for raising awareness on environmental problem and protectionUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 67.464.269.5 | 13.820.98.4 | 18.814.922.1 |
| Youth protect the environment through drainage clearing and waste disposalUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 82.688.878.6 | 6.55.210.7 | 10.96.010.7 |
| Youth protect the environment through tree plantingUrbanPeri-urbanRural | 29.737.344.3 | 47.137.338.9 | 23.225.416.8 |

**Table 11.3: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of the Environment and**

 **Location (Eastern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Youth cause environmental damage through deforestation KailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 32.063.373.356.2 | 64.030.03.332.4 | 4.06.723.311.3 |
| Youth cause environmental damage by keeping filths in their communityKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 52.040.040.044.0 | 24.056.733.338.0 | 24.03.326.718.0 |
| Youth are responsible for raising awareness on environmental problem and protectionKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 4.066.790.053.6 | 80.026.73.336.7 | 16.06.76.79.8 |
| Youth protect the environment through drainage clearing and waste disposalKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 100.096.786.794.5 | 0.03.36.73.3 | 0.00.06.72.2 |
| Youth protect the environment through tree plantingKailahunKenemaKonoAverage | 12.040.026.726.2 | 88.050.040.059.3 | 0.010.033.314.4 |

**Table 11.4: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of the Environment and**

**Locality (Northern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Youth cause environmental damage through deforestation BombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 16.760.036.753.346.742.7 | 30.016.726.736.70.022.0 | 53.323.336.710.053.335.3 |
| Youth cause environmental damage by keeping filths in their communityBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 46.756.723.346.736.742.0 | 20.043.343.346.733.337.3 | 33.30.033.36.730.020.7 |
| Youth are responsible for raising awareness on environmental problem and protectionBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 60.055.276.746.780.063.7 | 0.06.93.323.36.78.0 | 40.037.920.030.013.328.2 |
| Youth protect the environment through drainage clearing and waste disposalBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 63.382.873.373.393.377.2 | 3.310.30.016.73.36.7 | 33.36.926.710.03.316.0 |
| Youth protect the environment through tree plantingBombaliKambiaKoinaduguPort LokoTonkoliliAverage | 50.034.556.726.726.738.9 | 6.713.86.736.736.720.1 | 43.351.736.736.736.741.0 |

**Table 11.5: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of the Environment and**

**Location (Southern Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Youth cause environmental damage through deforestation BoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 56.063.388.950.064.6 | 20.036.711.123.322.8 | 24.00.00.026.712.7 |
| Youth cause environmental damage by keeping filths in their communityBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 76.053.388.963.370.4 | 16.046.711.126.725.1 | 8.00.00.010.04.5 |
| Youth are responsible for raising awareness on environmental problem and protectionBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 60.0100.0100.060.080.0 | 24.00.00.010.08.5 | 16.00.00.030.011.5 |
| Youth protect the environment through drainage clearing and waste disposalBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 88.093.3100.083.391.2 | 8.06.70.03.34.5 | 4.00.00.013.34.3 |
| Youth protect the environment through tree plantingBoBontheMoyambaPujehunAverage | 44.066.77.450.042.0 | 52.033.392.640.054.5 | 4.00.00.010.03.5 |

**Table 11.6: Percentage Distribution of Youth by Perception of the Environment and by**

 **Location (Western Region)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Yes**  | **No** | **Somehow** |
| Youth cause environmental damage through deforestation Western RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 81.573.377.4 | 7.410.08.7 | 11.116.713.9 |
| Youth cause environmental damage by keeping filths in their communityWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 74.175.975.0 | 11.110.310.7 | 14.813.814.3 |
| Youth are responsible for raising awareness on environmental problem and protectionWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 63.066.764.9 | 18.510.014.3 | 18.523.320.9 |
| Youth protect the environment through drainage clearing and waste disposalWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 59.376.768.0 | 33.310.021.7 | 7.413.310.4 |
| Youth protect the environment through tree plantingWestern RuralWestern UrbanAverage | 25.943.334.6 | 55.640.047.8 | 18.516.717.6 |

**Part IV**

**KEY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS**

**5.1 Definition and Domain**

The YDI defines youth development as “enhancing the status of young people, empowering them to build on their competencies and capabilities for life. It will enable young people to contribute and benefit from a politically stable, economically viable, and legally supportive environment, ensuring their full participation as active citizens in their countries.”

Similar to the human development paradigm, it is not possible to measure youth development via one single measure. Youth development is a multidimensional concept that can be better understood by an aggregation of several indicators. By compiling the available stock of data into one comprehensive and harmonised measure it enables users to gain a better understanding of youth development in a single ‘snapshot’. The research that has informed the YDI also informs users of where there are key data gaps and where data collection efforts need to be better focused.

As KYDI and the composite index (SEKDI) are proposed in the NAYCOM strategic plan. The KYDI measures 6 distinct domains or key aspects of Youth Development; demographics, literacy, education, employment, nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation and health. The indicators for each domain is shown below. The domains are comprised of the following indicators all disaggregated by sex:

Domain 1 – Basic Demographic

* Percentage of youth 15-24 years old as a % of total population
* Percentage of youth 15-24 years living in urban area
* Percentage of youth 15-24 years living in rural area

Domain 2 – Literacy

* Percentage of youth population that is literate

Domain 3 – Education

* Gross Enrolment Ratios
* Net Enrolment Ratios
* School Completion Rate

Domain 4 – Employment

* Percentage of youth in total labour force
* Youth unemployment rate
* Percentage of unemployed youth in total unemployed
* Percentage of unemployed youth in total youth population

Domain 5 – Nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation

* Percentage of underweight youth
* Percentage of youth deprived of shelter
* Percentage of youth deprived of water
* Percentage of youth deprived of sanitation

Domain 6 - Health

* Percentage of female youth 15-24 years that have birth before 18 years
* Death caused by the leading cause of death

**5.2 Sources of Data for Indicators and Limitation**

The following challenges were encountered in updating the KYDI and by extension calculating the SEKYDI:

* The most reliable source for population figures is from Census report. In Sierra Leone, the latest Census is about 12 years old. The 2015 Population and Housing Census was conducted in December and we still await even the provisional results. Data on basic demographics used in this study are projected estimates based on the 2004 Census. Current population data will only be available when the provisional 2015 Census figures are made available.
* The source of labour market statistics including employment is the 2014 Labour Force Survey Report. The survey defines youth to be persons between 15-35 years consistent with the national definition. The SEKYDI calculator defines youth as persons in the age group 15-24 years. This variation in definition makes comparison challenging.
* The data on education are obtained from the Ministry of Education available in the Education Sector Plan 2014-2018. More current data will be made available in the report on the school census by next month.
* Data on accessibility to basic social services like nutrition, shelter, water, sanitation are aggregate and are not disaggregated by age group or gender.

**5.3 Current Estimates on KYDI**

**5.3.1 Basic Demographic**

In 2014, projected population for youth between15-24 in 2014 was 1,172,639 out of projected total of 6,348,341 representing 18.5% compared to 19.8% in 2013. The male and female differentials were insignificant. The share of male youth in total male population was 18.5% compared to 18.4% of the share of female youth in total female population. Projected population of youth between 15-35 years is 2014 is 1,985,061 out of projected total of 6,348,341 representing 31.3% of the population.

Youth between 15-24 years accounted for 23% of total urban population (22.9% for male and 23% for female) and youth between 15-34 years accounted for 38.6% of total urban population (38.4% for male and 38.9% for female).

**5.3.2 Literacy and Education**

Overall, only 42% of Sierra Leone population is literate or can read or write. Youth literacy is estimated at 51.8% with wide disparities between male and female youth. About 65.4% of male youth can read and write while only 40.9% of female youth can read and write.

The key education indicators included here are Gross Enrolment Ratios, Completion rates and Transition rate. Enrolment, completion and transition rates drop as children go through the education ladder. Gross Enrolment Ratio at the primary level was high as 122% but low as 62% at the Junior Secondary School (JSS) level and 32% at Senior Secondary School (SSS). The gender disparities were noticeable and in favour of the boys. At the primary level, GER was 126 for boys and 118 for girls while it was 69% for boys and 55% for girls at JSS level and 40% for boys and 32% for girls at the SSS level.

The greatest challenge is that children leave school and not all those who enter primary school enter JSS and not all who enter JSS proceed to SSS. Completion rate was 76% at the primary level and 49% at the JSS level. The corollary is that transition rate are low. Transition rate dropped from 77% in 2010 to 71% in 2011 meaning 7 out of every 10 pupils move from primary to secondary school. The gender disparities were not significant. But the transition rate from JSS was 52% meaning merely half of the students who enter JSS move to SSS.

**5.3.3 Employment**

According to the 2014 Labour Market survey, over 65% of Sierra Leone’s working age population participate in the labour market. Youth (the 15–35 age-group) representing 31.3% of the total population accounts for the largest share of the working age population (66%) and more than half the employed population (56 percent). Relative to older people (36–64 age-group), the share of youth both in the labor force and among the employed is much smaller, about a 30 percentage point less than the older group. A significant portion of this difference arises because many youth are still in school and not simultaneously working. The unemployment rate is also higher among youth than among older people (5.9% versus 2.2%). The highest unemployment rate across subgroups occurs among young men (7.7%), particularly those who live in Freetown (14.0 %).

**5.3.4 Nutrition, Shelter, Water and Sanitation and Health**

The key indicator measuring access to basic services include percentage of youth who are underweight, percentage of youth deprived of shelter, water and good sanitation. Estimates on underweight are usually available in the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) report and provided for children under five years of age.Estimates on access to shelter, water and sanitation are usually available in census report and special surveys but disaggregated by locality (urban and rural).

The two health indicators are percentage of youth deaths from leading cause and percentage of females in the 20-24 age group that give birth before 18 years. Again, breakdown of these indicators by age group are not available.

**Table 12: List of Key Youth Development Indicators**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Indicator** | **Baseline (2010)** | **2013** | **2014** |
| **A** | **Basic Demographics** |  |  |  |
| 1 | Percentage of youth 15-35 years in total population* Male
* Female
 |  |  | 18.518.518.4 |
| 2 | Percentage of youth 15-35 years in total population* Male
* Female
 |  |  | 31.331.231.3 |
| 3 | Percentage of youth 15-24 years in total urban populationMaleFemale |  |  | 23.022.923.0 |
| 4 | Percentage of youth 15-35 years in total urban populationMaleFemale |  |  | 38.438.938.6 |
| **B** | **Literacy** |  |  |  |
| 1 | Percentage of youth population that is literate MaleFemale | 566848 | 57.667.648.1 | 51.865.440.9 |
| 2 | Percentage of non- youth that is literate |  |  | 22.0 |
| 3 | Percentage of national population that is literate |  |  | 41.7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **C** | **Education** |  |  |  |
| 1 | Gross Enrolment Ratio (JSS level)* Boys
* Girls
 |  | 61.2 | 626955 |
| 2 | Gross Enrolment Ratio (SSS level)* Boys
* Girls
 |  |  | 324032 |
| 3 | Transition Rate * Primary to JSS
* JSS to SSS
 |  |  | 7754 |
| 4 | Proxy Completion Rate primaryMaleFemale |  |  | 76 |
|  | Proxy Completion Rate JSSMaleFemale |  |  | 49 |
| **D** | **Employment** |  |  |  |
| 1 | Percentage of workforce in total populationYouthMaleFemaleNon-youthNational |  |  | 55.753.457.683.165.0 |
| 2 | Percentage of employed in total working populationYouthMaleFemaleNon-youthNational |  |  | 52.449.355.081.362.2 |
| 3 | Unemployment RateYouthMaleFemaleNon-youthNational |  |  | 5.97.74.52.24.3 |
| **E** | **Nutrition, Shelter, Water and Sanitation** |  |  |  |
| 1 | Percentage of underweight youth |  |  | NA |
| 2 | Percentage of youth deprived of shelter* Male
* Female
 |  |  | Na |
| 3 | Percentage of youth deprived of water* Male
* Female
 |  |  |  |
| 4 | Percentage of youth deprived of sanitation |  |  |  |
| F | Health |  |  |  |
| 1 | Percentage of deaths from leading cause* Male
* Female
 |  |  |  |
| 2 | Percentage of females in the 20-24 age group that life birth before 18 years |  |  |  |

**PART VI**

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1 Conclusions**

The study entailed conduct of youth and stakeholders survey on youth and stakeholders on their perceptions of youth issues and NAYCOM, a research on three thematic areas (youth and civic engagement, access to health services and youth and the environment.

Overall, the perception scores on both youth issues and NAYCOM are moderate ranging from 34-61 for both sexes in urban, peri-urban and rural areas in all districts. This means that youth and stakeholders do not have very positive perceptions of youth issues and NAYCOM and we still have long way away from the ideal of 95 and still have a long way to go to change youth perception about themselves.

The study further confirms that youth play a significant role in communities and in promoting democracy and governance. Youth enjoy absolute freedom to belong to community organisations, participate in community meetings and decision-making, contribute towards solving common community problem but their views are at seldom listened to. Youth also enjoy freedom to belong to political parties, register to vote and vote at elections, contest public elections, participate in political discussions and canvass for candidates of their choice. Youth also participate in local government activities including attending council or ward meetings, advocate for community interests and concerns, contribute to fund raising and participate in community radio discussions.

They study further asserts that youth have very good knowledge of causes and prevention of EVD and contributed significantly to the control of the disease through social mobilisation, adherence to emergency laws and chiefdom bye-laws. Youth are partly responsible for environmental degradation through deforestation, accumulating filths in communities as a result of their social and economic activities and protect the environment through raising community awareness on environmental problem and control measures, clearing drainages and disposing of waste and tree planting.

Even with the available data, there is no strong evidence that there has been improvement in KYDI and more need to be done to improve on the social and economic well-being of youth and thus the indicators.

**6.2 Recommendations**

1. NAYCOM/MoYA initiate a national life skills training programme that will provide youth training in areas such as youth leadership and inclusiveness, communication skills, problem solving, critical thinking, decision-making, creative thinking, interpersonal relationships, self-awareness building skills, coping with stress and emotions, sexual reproductive health, community participation. This will improve on the mentality and outlook of youth of themselves, community and duty bearers. Initially, a critical mass will be trained at district level who will serve as trainers for onward training at chiefdom, section and village level.
2. Using the District and Chiefdom Youth Councils, initiate a robust community animation programme that will not only continue to raise awareness but used to cascade the life skills training in villages.
3. NAYCOM/MoYA should intensify public education through the print and electronic media as well as town hall meetings on its roles, expectations and opportunities within and outside.
4. The NAYCOM should increase its portfolio of projects and activities that will make it more visible and useful to the youth, government and the public. This may also require clarifications on the seeming ambiguities and misinterpretations in roles.
5. NAYCOM/MoYA should advocate for disaggregation of national statistics by age group, particularly those relating to accessibility to basic services. This will enrich the arguments for youth empowerment and reversal of marginalization.

Annex







2