

Recommendations of the Yei Youth Drawn During the Three days Conference Held at Crop Training Center in Yei, South Sudan. 28-30/7/2014

The Yei Youth Conference was organized by the two associations of Yei Municipal Youth Association and Yei County Youth Association and was Supported by CEFoRD with funding from Open Society Foundation Initiative. The Topics of the conference were Governance and Youth Participation in Socio-Economic Development. The Theme of the conference was "Nothing About Us without Us". The conference drew up members of Parliament from the state, Government officials and Legislative Council Members at the County and Municipal levels. In the conference the Youth deliberated on a number of issues and concluded with the following strong recommendations:

Recommendations.

Governance

1. Upon a lengthy discussions on the causes of insecurity especially with the current conflict that erupted in December 15, 2013, rampant practices of corruption, wide spread human rights abuses and the economic slow down affecting the education progress of youth in Yei and the whole of South Sudan as many communities are hosted here and in a view of creating peace, stability and economic rejuvenation, the youth have Unanimously Recommended an establishment of a Parliamentary Federalism System of Governance that shall maximize and equally distribute power and authority to the national, state and local governments as the base of the constitutional review process and as a system of governance suitable with the complexities and diversities existing in South Sudan or in any event of forming a national government hereafter.
2. In an effort to increase youth participation in the decision making processes, the Youth are demanding for 20% representation in the local government councils, State and National governments and should be included in the constitution of South Sudan.

Social Development

3. While the youth consider themselves as potential machinery for any social, economic and political drive and yet their future is being ruined with unsatisfactory curriculum, poor educational performances, high school dropout, inadequate parental care, early and forced marriages, congested classrooms, inadequate schools, few professional teachers, inadequate scholarships, limited chances of advancement in education and awareness to motivate children and parents towards enhancing education;
 - The conference emphasized that the state ministry of education, science and technology, county and the municipality should regulate private schools as boarding schools to retain children in schools and minimize school drop out, and introduce provision of holiday study packages during holiday breaks.
 - The national and state government in partnership with NGOs, International Agencies and CSOs should conduct a comprehensive research to establish a profound information that should immediately be used to redevelop a relevant national curriculum that considers and promotes our national values, complexities and diversities that can transform our national pride, innovation and creativity into a broad base economic growth and social prosperity.
 - Immediate actions are needed to establish role model schools in at least each Payam, maximizing the use of the existing vocational skills training centers by introducing job driven courses while encouraging the private sector to invest in more technical schools,

recruit more professional teachers with fair wages and review the capability and performance of the existing ones, increase inspections, supervision and monitoring of school performance, develop legislations and regulations to punish early forced marriages and drug abuses, indiscipline youth in schools and out of school moment by establishing school disciplinary committees in each school to install discipline, national loyalty and decency; introduce study tours for students to increase their knowledge on job creativity and innovations, encourage the already drop out youth to participate in socio economic development and preservation of the environment and waste management, conduct needs assessment as the basis for developing youth programs and conduct massive sensitization on the danger and prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

4. Considering the threat of climatic changes occurring in the country, the youth view that it is necessary to regulate environmental degradation, deforestation, timber lumbering and waste management, and if need be penalties are imposed on abusers.

Economic Development

5. The conference has identified that there are limited incentives to encourage effective youth participation in economic development activities. It has been agreed that the national, state and local governments, CSOs and NGOs develop strategies that can create incentives, encourage and attract youth creativity, innovation and employment. There is the need to establish youth cooperative unions by the Youth in each payam and loan schemes as stimuli for entrepreneurship development, increase farm production and accessibility to potential market. Meanwhile for the youth to pick up jobs at the service labour market a minimum of wage 15 SSP a day of 8 hours should be established in consultation with the private sector.
6. While it's ideally necessary to encourage youth in agricultural activities, the local governments should allocate specific lands in each Boma and Payam for youth groups agricultural investments. Nothing that access to information is a practical incentive to economic growth, the Departments of Agriculture should develop strategies that can supply the youth with local, national and international market information.

