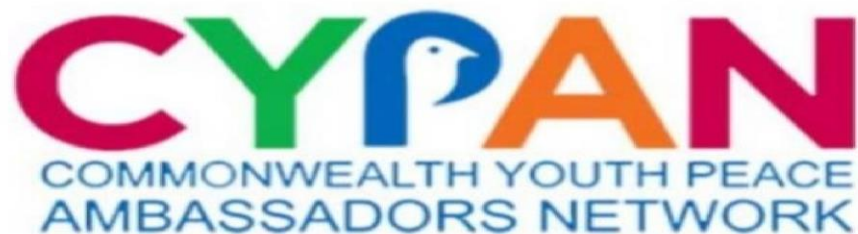


**COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH PEACE
AMBASSADORS NETWORK
(CYPAN) PROGRESS REPORT
FOR FEBRUARY 2022**



CYPAN in collaboration with Arigatou International - End child poverty and in partnership with Eastern Africa Regional Peace Programme held a conference dubbed Youth for Peaceful Elections – Kenya. CYPAN was represented well and was a vociferous contributor.

CYPAN has a new addition! CYPAN has been successfully launched in Belize and we can't wait for their impact in promoting peace and security in Belize.

SOCIAL MEDIA, STAKEHOLDER AND VISIBILITY ENGAGEMENT

CYPAN Belize has set up its social media accounts to enable peace and security discussions to reach a wider audience. Active Instagram and Twitter accounts have been launched and Instagram seems to garner more conversations. This is Belize's first year and to start right, the CYPAN Global Coordinator Miss Christine Odera met with all members to welcome them and provide onboarding information and assistance. The members also met to brainstorm new ideas to increase and promote the awareness of CYPAN in Belize.

CYPAN Kenya also held social media and advocacy trainings virtually.

DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY

CYPAN Kenya in August 2021 started a one-year countdown to Kenya's next general election. They are closely monitoring the political narratives and are preparing to embark on a massive peace campaign.

OUTREACHES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTS

CYPAN Nigeria partnered with Youth Cities for Peace led by one of its members in Lagos, Ruhamah Ifere to hold a one day online Positive Peace Training on **Understanding Concepts of Peacebuilding** for roughly 40 Nigerian youths with the Country Coordinator of CYPAN Nigeria, Victor Okechukwu Chimezie as the Facilitator. The training was held on the 12th of February 2022 online via WhatsApp. An online national meeting was also held where participants discussed the situation in various parts of the country where members reside and also evaluated CYPAN work for the year 2021 and how greater achievements could be realized in the year 2022. The meeting was held online via Zoom on the

13th of February 2022 by 4pm. Members lamented the inability to hold a national physical meeting and a lack of funding to engage in group projects.

In the months of January and February, CYPAN Zambia is helping as many youth as they can to register cooperatives that will benefit from government interventions. These cooperatives receive startup capital as part of the Zambian government's interventions to alleviate youth unemployment and poverty.

CHALLENGES

Lack of funding for group projects is really affecting the Nigerian team to such an extent that apathy is now being observed towards group meetings and towards active participation.

Zambia is highly short staffed as currently they only have a total of five members. Also, since CYPAN is solely a voluntary youth group it is unattractive for most youth because other youth organizations give 'something small' (at least a stipend) to their members as a form of reward or pay.

CYPAN Belize faces a number of challenges, including a lack of members due to it being new. Also, Belize has very little access to CYPAN policies and procedures as well as other relevant documents.

Kenya had a change of leadership which broke the chain of communication from the Global Coordinator's office to the Country Coordinator and his team.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Zambia will take advantage of its National Youth Day which is the 12th March 2022 to launch and increase CYPAN visibility in secondary schools and universities.

CYPAN Belize hopes to continue its awareness campaign on social media. It hopes to engage and form alliances with other youth-led organizations and to create a country program that reflects the current needs of Belize to guide its programs and activities.

REPORT ON CONFERENCE HELD AT FOUR POINT HOTEL ON NOVEMBER 20TH 2021 IN KENYA

THEME: PEACE BUILDING YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT

1. National Youth Council
2. Executive office of the President
3. Ministry of ICT and Youths Affairs.
4. Gojunction
5. CYPAN
6. Run for Office
7. IEBC
8. Youth Cafe

CYPAN MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Christine Odera
2. Mercy Motana
3. Tobias Nauruki

KEY TOPICS AND AREAS OF DISCUSSION

1. Peace building strategy.
2. Youth participation in the election process
3. Youths and leadership and political participation

PEACE BUILDING - YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- I. Participation through dialogue
- II. Seek mentorship from the leaders
- III. Parental dialogue for formation
- IV. Mental health and psychological support
- V. Alternative livelihoods
- VI. Mobilization and organization of youth formidable groups
- VII. Right and informative decision making
- VIII. Unite to learn and get to amplify one another towards achieving a common course.
- IX. Be innovative

- X. Cocreate solutions in communities
- XI. Have a vision and a mission

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTION PROCESS.

- This is vital. It begins from within the youths themselves.
- Through the National Youth Council, the youth have an opportunity to elect themselves into positions at the national and county levels.
- If the young people and the entire society lives with the same values the rate of violence and instability in society will decrease.
- The youths ought to use their freedom well with responsibility.

How to engage and participate in the national elections

- I. Roadmap to align with the IEBC regulations by registering as a voter. This is the only tool to help choose the right leader in office.
- II. Partner with relevant organizations and participate in civic education.
- III. Use social media well to promote peace during and after elections.
- IV. Choose the right political parties
- V. Advocate for democracy
- VI. Discover the power of voting
- VII. Be proactive

YOUTH, LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (ASPIRANTS)

Let the youth stand with their own and support fellow youth vying in various leadership and political positions in order to have a voice in decision making and policies.

Let the youth have meaningful engagements while negotiating for these leadership and political positions

Main Youth Action Ideas while aspiring for leadership or political office.

- I. Material;
Digital publicity. The aspirants need support by being given posters, t-shirts and campaign caps.
- II. Voter protection during and after voting.
- III. Youth aspirant's publicity in print media. They should be given media space to promote their manifestos.
- IV. They should be given platforms to hold town hall meetings with their supporters

- V. Come up with ways to curb voter trafficking
- VI. Come up with realistic goals, political strategies and objectives.
- VII. They need financial support
- VIII. They need psychological support.