

COUNTRY ACTION PLAN

ETHIOPIA



Localizing the Roadmap for **Youth** in Politics

2026 - 2030



Empowering Ethiopia's youth to participate, influence and lead the democratic future of our nation.



Participation



Voice



Influence



Impact

 Inclusive

 Democratic

 Accountable

 Youth-led

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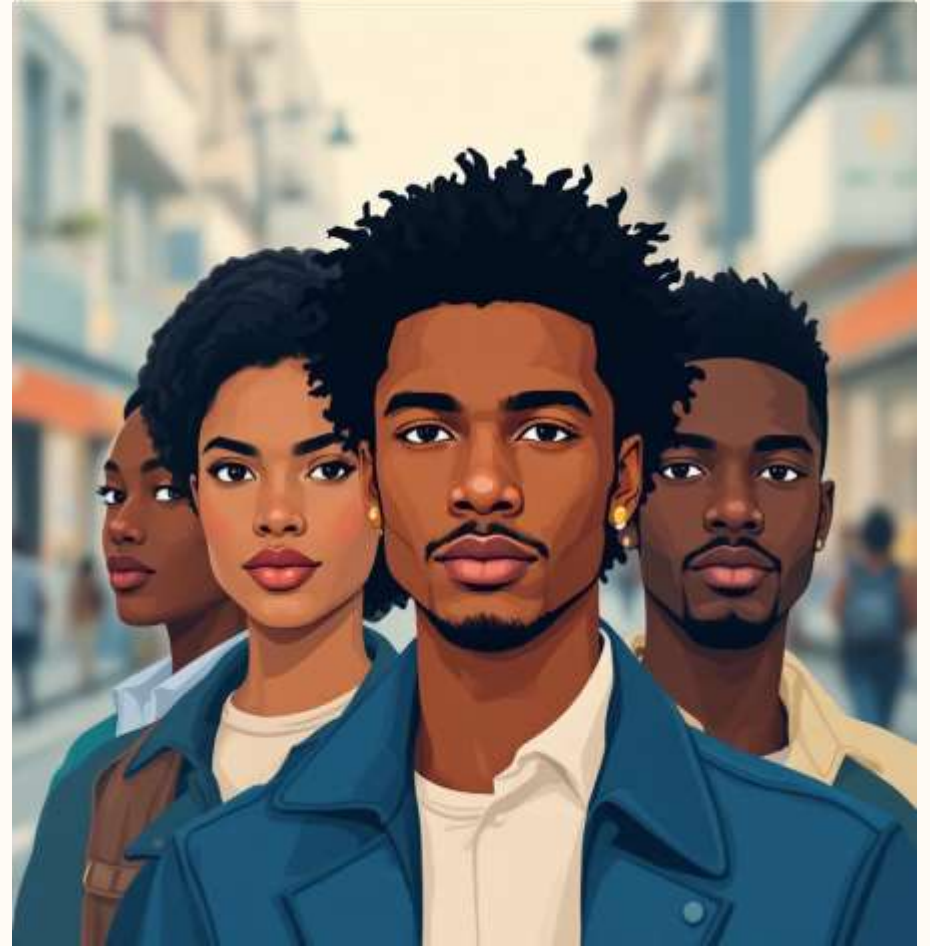
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Executive Summary: Context & Challenge

- Ethiopia's population is over 70% youth (under 30), yet they are largely excluded from formal political leadership and decision-making.
- This exclusion fuels a democratic deficit, instability, and hinders progress.



Youth face significant political, economic, legal, and security barriers to meaningful participation.

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Executive Summary: Response & Purpose



Adapted Roadmap

Adapts the East Africa Youth in Politics Roadmap to Ethiopia's context



Strategic Framework

Provides a phased framework for youth empowerment, moving from marginalization



Built on Experience

Leverages NIMD's Democracy Academies (EDAC/EDAW) and EVLA's network.



Three Phases

Foundation, Acceleration, and Consolidation over five years



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Value for Key - Stakeholders



Government & Policymakers

Framework to institutionalize youth voices, stabilize governance, and promote inclusive democracy.

Political Parties

Pipeline of skilled young leaders and tools (e.g., Youth Participation Scorecards) for internal democracy.

Donors & International Partners

Measurable, risk-aware, and sustainable investment in democratic resilience.

Civil Society & Youth

Shared roadmap to coordinate efforts, amplify youth voices, and dismantle participation barriers.

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5-Year Phased Roadmap Overview

1

Year 1: Foundation & Mobilization

Build structures, research, launch pilots, secure quick wins.

2

Years 2-3: Acceleration & Advocacy

Scale capacity-building, institutionalize youth voice, raise public profile.

3

Years 4-5: Consolidation & Sustainability

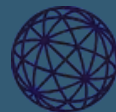
Institutionalize reforms, shift to monitoring, secure long-term sustainability.

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Ethiopia: Context & Problem Statement

Youth (70%+ of population) are underrepresented in political office and party leadership.

High youth unemployment, especially in urban areas, creates frustration and vulnerability.

Ethnic polarization and weak civic space limit safe, cross-regional youth engagement.

Digital divides and gender inequalities further marginalize young women and rural youth.



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Existing Foundations: EVLA & NIMD

NIMD's Academies

Implemented Ethiopian Democracy Academy (EDAC) and Democracy Academy for Women (EDAW) for over six years.



Young Leaders Cohort

Built a cohort of young leaders familiar with democratic principles and multi-party engagement.



EVLA Emergence

— The Ethiopian Visionary Leaders Association (EVLA) emerged as a key alumni-driven institution.



Nationwide Scale

The National Action Plan scales these successes into a nationwide, structured political participation agenda.



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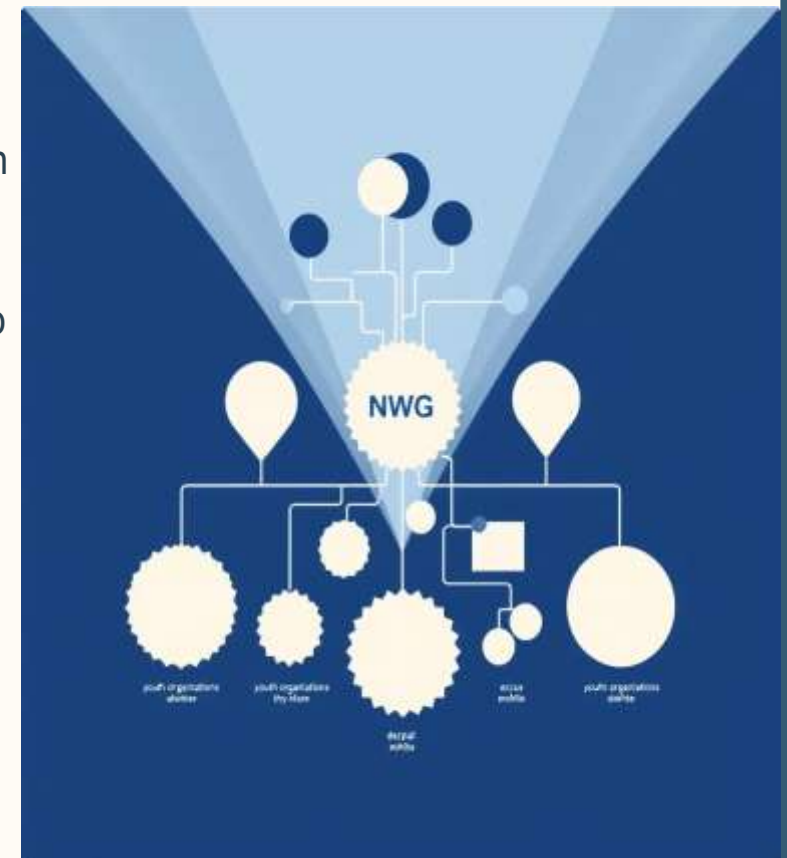
Governance Structure: National Working Group (NWG)

The Ethiopia National Working Group (NWG) leads and coordinates the Action Plan's implementation.

Initial composition: Malindi Conference alumni, EVLA members, expanding to youth CSOs and university unions.

The NWG elects a National Coordinator to represent Ethiopia in the Regional Steering Committee (RSC).

Core functions: Implementation oversight, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and alignment with the regional roadmap.



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Phase 1: Foundation & Mobilization (Year 1)

Networks & Governance

Formalize NWG, develop documents, launch membership drive.

Tech & Communications

Establish platforms, branding, pilot SMS voter info, rapid-response protocol.



Legal & Policy Review

Baseline survey, barrier mapping, engagement with NEBE/AG.

Civic Education

Needs assessment, curriculum development, pilot workshops.

Economic Empowerment

Research financing models, advocate for Youth Fund, integrate fundraising.

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Phase 2: Acceleration & Advocacy (Years 2–3)



Legal & Policy Advocacy

National campaigns, policy briefs, lobby parties for youth quotas.



Civic Education & Mentorship

Regional 'Democracy Schools', national mentorship, civic education campaigns.



Economic & Safety

Intensify Youth Fund advocacy, private sector partnerships, security training.



Inclusive Governance

Advocate for Youth Advisory Councils, intergenerational dialogues, National Youth Summit.

Objective: Execute large-scale, evidence-based advocacy and expand capacity-building

Phase 2: Acceleration & Advocacy (Years 2–3)

In this critical phase, our objective is to execute large-scale, evidence-based advocacy campaigns and significantly expand capacity-building initiatives nationwide. We move beyond pilot programs to drive institutional reforms.



Legal & Policy Reform



Civic Education



Economic Empowerment



Safety & Security



Inclusive Governance



National Networking

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Driving Change: Legal & Policy Advocacy



We will launch national campaigns to push for priority policy reforms, directly influencing legislation and party structures to ensure youth representation.

National Policy Campaigns

Launch campaigns on youth electoral quotas and campaign finance reform.

2

Youth-Centered Policy Briefs

Draft and submit **5+ briefs** to parliamentary committees and ministries.

3

Lobbying for Representation

Advocate for **3+ parties** to embed youth clauses and quotas in their statutes.

Our target is to influence at least one major policy, ensuring youth voices are heard and acted upon



Empowering Future Leaders: Civic Education & Mentorship

This phase focuses on building the skills and networks of young leaders through education and direct mentorship, fostering a new generation of politically engaged citizens.

- Roll out regional 'Democracy Schools' for aspiring youth candidates across all regions.
- Launch a national mentorship program pairing **50+ young leaders** with senior politicians and experts.
- Run nationwide civic education campaigns using radio, TV, and youth ambassadors, reaching **2M+ citizens**.
- Targets include training over **300 youth** and establishing **50+ active mentorship pairs**.

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Foundations: Economic Empowerment & Safety

We aim to remove financial barriers to political participation and ensure the safety of young activists, fostering an environment where youth can thrive politically without fear.



Fund Advocacy

1

Intensify advocacy for the Youth Political Participation Fund.

Private Sector Partnerships

2

Collaborate with banks and telecoms for entrepreneurship grants.

Campaign Finance Training

3

Hold workshops on budgeting and fundraising for youth candidates.

Security Training

4

Scale up digital and physical safety strategies, including online hate countering.

Launch the **#SafeYouthPolitics** media campaign and build community support circles for victims of intimidation.

Inclusive Governance & Stronger Networks

This phase focuses on embedding youth voices within government structures and expanding collaborative networks, ensuring their sustained influence on policy and decision-making.

1

Youth Advisory Councils

Advocate for councils within key government bodies.

2

Intergenerational Dialogues

Institutionalize annual dialogues with senior political actors.

3

National Youth Summit

Host Ethiopia's first National Youth in Politics Summit.

4

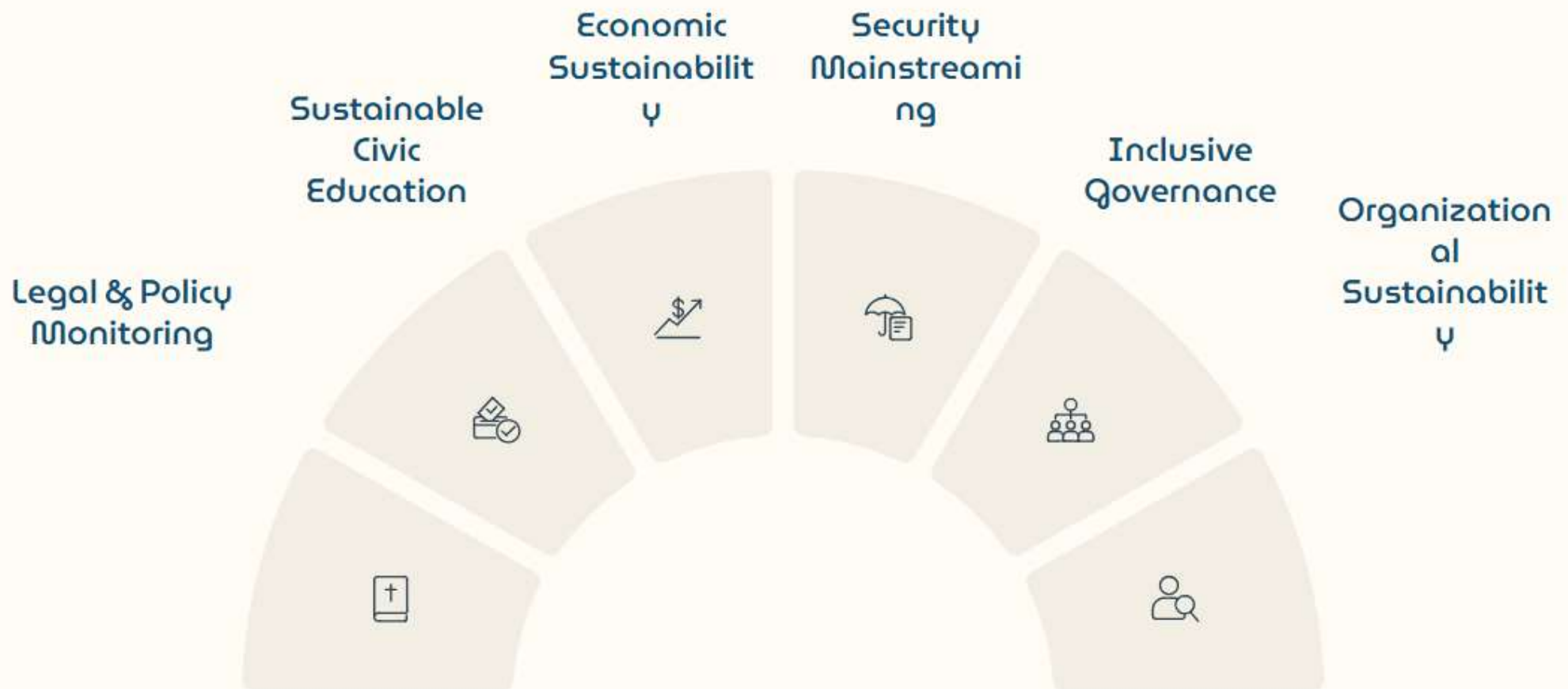
Strengthen Chapters

Expand EVLA regional chapters and partner with student unions.



Phase 3: Consolidation & Sustainability (Years 4–5)

The final phase focuses on solidifying the gains made, ensuring long-term sustainability, and transitioning from active advocacy to oversight. This secures a lasting legacy of youth participation.



Ensuring Accountability: Legal & Policy Monitoring

In this phase, we shift focus to rigorously monitoring the implementation of youth-related policies and reforms, holding institutions accountable and promoting transparency.

Implementation Monitoring

Track all youth-related laws, policies, and party reforms for effective execution.

Annual Scorecards

Develop and publish an annual 'Youth Political Participation Scorecard'.

Public Accountability

Share scorecards with media and the public, grading institutions on youth inclusion and transparency.



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