



12th November 2021

LINE UP LIVE UP (LULU) STATE IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIA

BACKGROUND

The Federal Government of Nigeria in recognition of the existing gaps and vulnerabilities with out-of-school children, has taken steps to address these challenges by setting up At-Risk Children's Programme (ARC-P), which is designed with aim to **'comprehensively address cross-cutting concerns of at-risk children and young adults, thereby providing them with a life of dignity'**. In view of this, the Federal Government through the Office of the Vice-President, is partnering with UNODC and other stakeholders to integrate UNODC's **"Line Up Live Up" (LULU)**, sport-based, life skills training programme into the ARC-P strategy. Using sport-based life skill training to enhance the resilience of children to violence, crime, drugs as well as violent extremism will significantly help in strengthening participation in and effectiveness of the ARC-P.

2. Estimated 10.8 million men and 3.4 million women reported past drug use in Nigeria. According to a European Union (EU) funded report survey, an estimated 14.3 million people (aged 15 and 64 years) had used drugs, excluding alcohol & tobacco (2017) while 14.4% (range 14% - 14.8%) of population in Nigeria used drugs (2017). Global annual prevalence of drug use estimated at 5.6 % (2016).

3. Line Up Live Up - UNODC's evidence-informed and sports-based life skills training curriculum - has been designed as a unique tool that transfers the accumulated expertise of the United Nations and other partners in implementing life skills training for crime and drug use prevention to sport settings. Through the Line Up Live Up programme, sports coaches, teachers and others working with youth in sports settings can target valuable life skills, such as resisting social pressures to engage in delinquency, coping with anxiety and communicating effectively with

peers, through a set of interactive and fun exercises. The training programme has been implemented in twelve countries across the world, ranging from Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East to Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. The core life skills selected for the LULU programme are based on the important role it plays in strengthening young people's resilience, promoting tolerance and respect, and reducing the probability of their engaging in risky behaviours. These life skills include:

- i. **Coping with stress and emotions**
- ii. **Critical thinking**
- iii. **Decision-making and problem solving**
- iv. **Effective communication and relationship skills**
- v. **Refusal skills**
- vi. **Self-awareness and empathy**

5. The ARC- P team, in collaboration with UNDOC has successfully trained of 20 coaches from five States (namely Gombe, Ekiti, Sokoto, Kaduna and Borno State) and 4 Federal monitoring coaches, with the view to commencing the training at State level. Gombe State has already begun, with training community-based youth facilitators who have been engaged by the State as trainers, mentors and monitors for out-of-school children and youth within the 11 Local Governments within that jurisdiction.

6. The focused methodology has been adopted to encourage the female gender to participate, both as trainers and beneficiaries during the role out of the exercise, thereby countering the narrative that only the male gender are involved in sports, while also ensuring that the female out-of-school category of beneficiaries are able to benefit from the training.



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