



Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme

Brochure





Overview

The Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme is designed in line with UNFPA's mandate to ensure that every young person's potential is fulfilled. And it also aligns with the United Nations Youth Strategy (2030) to, 'increase impact and expand global, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity'.

UNFPA Ghana launched the Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme in 2018 and has since contributed to developing the capacities of young people between the ages of 18-30 years, to become great leaders and make an impact on their communities and countries at large. The Fellowship identifies and attracts young, innovative change-makers who are graduates of Ghanaian tertiary institutions and who positively impact their communities.

These identified change-makers are then taken through training and skills-building after which they exit the fellowship and take up various academic, entrepreneurial and professional ventures.



Objectives

- To create opportunities within UNFPA Ghana and its various technical teams to find innovative and efficient ways to accelerate the achievement of the Three Transformative Goals of UNFPA – zero preventable maternal mortality; zero unmet needs for family planning; and zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices.
- To help young leaders hone their skills in innovation and leadership.
- To provide young leaders with the skills needed to become successful in the job market or as entrepreneurs.
- To engage and empower young people to be gender-sensitive in their approaches to decision making, while targeting sustainable development.
- To demonstrate a commitment to youth-centred programming by UNFPA.

Core Leadership Topics

- Paradigm on Leadership
 - Types
 - Styles
- Paradigm In Governance and Accountability
- Leadership Change and Management
- Organizational Culture and Leadership
- Leadership Ethics, Values
- Leadership Principles and Practices
 - Corporate Governance
 - Public Governance
 - NGO/CSO Governance
 - Local Governance
- Public Policy Formulation and Analysis

Components of the Fellowship

SPACE TO INCUBATE

To help advance the objectives of the Fellowship, an ultra-modern collaborative space, The Orange Loft, was built and tailored to suit the needs of the Fellows providing them the space for online and in-person training sessions, providing Fellows a creative space to innovate, an online station to discuss issues as well as a recreation space to facilitate team bonding through play. The Loft presents a serene atmosphere, which has been a great support to developing and implementing innovative activities that have helped address socio-cultural issues affecting women and girls, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MENTORSHIP

The Fellowship has in place a mentorship component that is designed to facilitate professional knowledge transfer and exposure for the Fellows. Fellows are attached to high level professionals to build their capacities and provide guidance on their career paths. Mentors who have availed themselves and served in this capacity include Ambassadors, Heads of UN Agencies, Heads of Public and Private institutions amongst others. Fellows have benefitted immensely from this sharing of unique experiences and direct access to such personalities.

POLICY AND STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The programme is designed in line with UNFPA's mandate to ensure that 'every young person's potential is fulfilled', and the United Nations' Youth Strategy (2030) to 'increase impact and expand global, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency, and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity'. The Fellowship also aligns with the priority areas of the Ghana National Youth Policy (2010 & 2022-2023), which advocates for the training of young people in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), gender mainstreaming, networking and partnership, mentoring, and reproductive health and rights for young people.

TRAINING/CAPACITY BUILDING

Fellows undertake professionally coordinated training sessions covering areas such as Research, Reporting, Proposal Development and Concept Note Writing, social media and Networking, Business Model Canvas Development, Data Visualization and Presentation, Human-Centred Design and Tech Innovations in the COVID-19 era, Public Speaking, Conferencing and Logistics Planning, Gender Equity in Innovation. Soft Skills training such as Data-Driven Decision Making, Emotional-intelligence, Web and app development, Innovation, Business Modeling, and Digital productivity tools. The Fellowship provides participants with training on the future of work and entrepreneurship, and employability skills.

DEPLOYMENT TO UNITS AND INTERNSHIP

Fellows are assigned to units within the Country Office to gain hands-on experience with the work of UNFPA. In addition, Fellows undertake a mandatory one-month internship with other UN agencies, CSOs/NGOs, public and private institutions.



Recruitment & Eligibility Criteria

Through an online call for applications, the Programme targets graduates aged 18 –30 years from tertiary institutions in Ghana. Youth leaders, persons living with disability, young women, vulnerable and marginalised young people are encouraged to apply so that ‘no young person is left behind’. The Fellows are selected via a rigorous selection process. The applicant must be:

- Aged between 18 – 30 years
- A graduate of a tertiary institution.
- Able to commit to the Fellowship duration fully (one year), on-site at the UNFPA Ghana Country Office, Accra. Fellows withdrawal before Nine months in the Fellowship will not be awarded the Fellowship Certificate.
- Proactive and possesses strong interpersonal skills
- Proficient in English (working knowledge of English) – important for general communication purposes. All application materials must be submitted in English).
- Passionate about Leadership, Sustainable Development, Peace and Human Rights to drive change in all sectors including Social Entrepreneurship which includes agribusiness, innovation, and artificial intelligence (AI) and demonstrate a desire to make a difference in their community
- Demonstrate interest and dedication to development issues and passionate about contributing towards Ghana's aspirations on Agenda 2030
- Demonstrate affiliation with youth organization/network, volunteer or work experience, in areas of UN and UNFPA's mandate.

YoLe Fellowship Programme Outline



Period

October 2025 – September 2026

Month / Period	Programme Activities	Cross Cutting Activities
March–September	Application and Selection	
October	Welcome Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onboarding Session (Ground Rule, Orientation) Enrollment Session (Mandatory Courses, ID Card Processing and Security Clearance)	
October – January	Foundation Courses on Leadership and Innovation (Practice and Policy Overview) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocol and Diplomatic Etiquette Leadership, Participation and Engagements Policy Analysis & Practices (Formulation, Implementation, Tracking & Reporting) Life Skills/Soft Skills for Leadership and Career Development/Advancement Health Innovations and Programming IT, AI and Technology for Growth and Development ICPD, SRHR, Gender & GBV, FP & Maternal Health, Population and Develop, WYPS (Women and Youth Peace and Security) Advocacy & Movement Building and Social Change Processes and Tools Joint Graduation and Induction	Coaching & Mentorship on Leadership with Experts in Chosen Fields
January – April	Practicum Placement – Deployment to Units in UNFPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adolescent and Youth Development Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit Gender and Human Rights Unit Population and Development Unit Operations Unit (HR, Finance, Procurement) Office of the Deputy Rep Office of the Rep (M & E, CBD) 	YoLe Debates and Peer Learning Sessions
May	Placement in UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes	

Month / Period	Programme Activities	Cross Cutting Activities
June – July	<p>Track Placements</p> <p>Diplomatic Corps British, Canadian, Danish, Swiss, Dutch, American</p> <p>UN & Multi-laterals UN, WB, AfDB, EU Commission, IFS, IMF</p> <p>Bi-lateral Agencies GIZ, JICA, KOICA, USAID, Global Affairs Canada, FCDO</p> <p>Public Sector Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Health / GHS NDPC, National Peace Council, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources</p> <p>Private Sector Banks (Fidelity, Access, Prudentia, Data etc.), Telcos (MTN, Telecel etc.), Comms and Media, Agri-Business, Tech and Innovations, Productions, Social Enterprise</p> <p>CSO Partners PPAG, Plan International, World Vision, Hope for Future Generations, Youth Advocates Ghana, Action Aid, AfriYAN</p>	<p>Coaching & Mentorship on Leadership with Experts in Chosen Fields</p> <p>YoLe Debates and Peer Learning Sessions</p>
August	<p>Leadership Journeys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In The Shoes of Achievers (ITSOA) • Experiential Learning • Public Speaking Assignment Presentations • Support to UNFPA Units 	<p>Fellowship Project & Thematic Assignments and Presentation</p> <p>Practical Appreciation work (Group or Individual)</p>
September	<p>Exit Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowship Experience Review • Support to Units • Exit Interview and Fellowship Experience Report • Graduation • Exit Fellowship 	

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