



NYSC- Policy Advocacy Lab (N-PAL)

Programme Design and Structure

The NYSC - Policy Advocacy Lab (N-PAL) will combine *scale (Digital Policy Advocacy Academy)* with *depth (Innovation Lab)* in a single, integrated pipeline to reach NYSC corps members.

Target Participants

- Serving NYSC Corps Members.
- Age range: 20 - 30.

Programme Architecture, Component and Coordination

Component 1: Digital Policy Advocacy Academy

This includes a large cohort of graduates (**2,000 per cycle**) who will be onboarded onto a Learning Management System (LMS), drawing from the large-scale onboarding model used in youth leadership programming.

We will adopt the current YLDP for undergraduate courses on the LMS for the NYSC corps members. The courses include the following;

S/N	Module	Description	Course Facilitator
1	Self Leadership	This module will take participants on a journey of self-mastery & discovery. Participants will learn the importance of each dimension of self-leadership - time management, emotional intelligence, etc. At the end of this session, participants can take ownership of their life goals and are equipped to lead change.	Amabelle Nwakanma, Director of Programmes and Partnerships, LEAP Africa
2	Transformative Leadership	This module introduces participants to transformative leadership- engaging others ethically to generate positive and lasting change. Participants will also learn about the key attributes and roles of transformative leaders in driving social change. At the end of this session,	Osarume Akenzua

		participants will have learned how to use transformative leadership to challenge the status quo	
3	Ethics & Values	This module will help participants recognize what values they stand for and why. More importantly, it will improve their personal decision-making skills, make them question the kind of leaders the continent needs, and shed some light on the importance of being persons of integrity if they want to bring change to Africa. At the end of this session, participants are guided to identify and define their top values and subsequently translate them into action.	Kehinde Ayeni, Executive Director, LEAP Africa
4	Diversity, Tolerance, & Inclusion	Through this module, the participants will be exposed to the different vulnerable groups in society and the factors that influence them. Additionally, they will learn to dispel myths about many categories, such as ethnicity, culture, gender, age, disability, and religion. At the end of this module, participants will be equipped with the knowledge they need to design inclusive community change projects that break down barriers around the tolerance and inclusion of vulnerable groups. They will also develop their conflict management skills and communication tactics.	Amabelle Nwakanma, Director of Programmes, LEAP Africa
5	Problem- Solving	In this module, the participants are introduced to several methods for using critical and analytical thinking to address complicated societal issues. By the end of this module, participants will be able to assess difficult challenges, conduct research, make judgments, use teamwork, and create innovative solutions to these problems.	Ahmed Umar, Manager, LEAP Leadership Institute
6	Civic Education 101	This module brings the YLDP participants' attention to their roles as Nigerian citizens. It equips the participants with basic civic education that will enable them to understand their rights and roles in building the Nigeria of their dreams. At the end of this session, the participants will be able to demand accountability from the government and, more importantly, identify their responsibility to commit to the nation's development - as opposed to leaving it all to political leaders.	

7	Advocacy 102: Enabling Youth Voices - From Hype to Action	This module will introduce participants to tips on seeing social media campaigns to create real-time change. Participants will be familiarized with the history of leaders who have advocated for change successfully. At the end of this session, participants will be familiar with the Constitution and will be able to identify and differentiate bills, laws, and policies.	
8	Community Organizing	In this module, participants learn organizing practices and how to manage and relate with people with similar interests and purposes to create change. They will learn to evaluate a community's needs, develop action plans, and carry out community initiatives. Participants will also learn how to enable people to mobilize community resources to solve problems in their community. At the end of this session, participants will have the skills needed to manage people, mobilize them to lend their voices to implement social change, and understand the dynamics of people, power, change, tactics, and timeline.	
9	Sustainable Development Goals: The Goals, The Targets, and Your Role	This module exposes the participants to the global goals, their targets, and the importance of achieving them before 2030. It also explains how their everyday decisions and attitudes can affect the lives of people around the world. By the end of this session, participants will learn their roles in achieving the global goals.	
10	Public Policy	This module will expose the participants to the key processes and persons involved in policy formulation. Participants will learn the importance of stakeholder mapping and consultation in creating social change. At the end of this session, participants will be able to understand the role policy formulation and implementation play in improving the performance of existing systems, ensuring efficient response to the country's "wicked" problems, and attracting actors that contribute to socio-economic growth.	

Component 2: Innovation Lab

An important and key component of this programme is the Innovation Lab. This entails the (a) **Policy Reform and Advocacy Track** and (b) **Civic Tech and Governance Track**, where



participants refine their ideas for advocacy engagements and produce and deploy contextually relevant civic tech solutions in their communities. 75 participants (NYSC Corps Members) from the programme with the most policy-reform-relevant, advocacy-compliant, and civic-tech solutions project ideas will be funded to implement their projects in their communities.

The Policy Reform and Advocacy Track

This track will focus on policy drafting, reform proposals, and institutional engagements. Key outputs include;

- Policy briefs development and dissemination.
- Advocacy Campaigns and Policy Convenings/Dialogues.
- Stakeholder engagement and government relations.

The Civic Tech and Governance Track

This track will focus on solution-building, pilot deployment, and technology-enabled governance improvements. Key outputs include;

- Civic Tech solution developed and launched.
- Dashboards created and successfully launched.
- Prototypes created and implemented.

Component 3: Mentorship (Live Sessions)

This component delivers high-touch mentorship through rigorous, practical, and experiential 1-week live sessions designed to accelerate learning and ensure participants can apply what they're learning in real time. Rather than generic coaching, these sessions are tailored to participants' project needs based on the track they are on. See the topics below based on tracks;

1. Policy Reform and Advocacy Track Topics:

- a. Understanding Public Policy and Institutions: *How to identify policy gaps, review existing policies, and develop practical reform proposals.*
- b. Policy Analysis and Problem Definition:
- c. Advocacy Strategy and Social Accountability: *Designing issue-based advocacy campaigns, setting clear objectives, and using evidence to influence policy change.*
- d. Stakeholder Mapping and Power Analysis: *Understanding power dynamics, identifying key actors, and building effective relationships with government institutions and decision-makers.*
- e. Policy Communication and Brief Writing: *Learning how to translate research and community issues into concise, persuasive policy briefs and advocacy messages.*

2. Civic Tech and Governance Track Topics:

- a. Civic Technology and Digital Governance: *Understanding how technology can improve governance, public service delivery, citizen participation, and transparency.*



- b. Human-Centred Design and Problem Solving: *Learning how to design digital tools based on the real needs of citizens, communities, and public institutions.*
- c. Data Systems, Dashboards, and Evidence Use: *Using data collection, dashboards, and visualization tools to track problems, support advocacy, and improve governance outcomes.*
- d. Prototype Development and Pilot Testing: *Developing, testing, and refining practical tools such as apps, platforms, dashboards, and digital reporting systems.*
- e. Digital Inclusion, Ethics, and Accountability: *Exploring digital rights, privacy, accessibility, and how to ensure civic tech solutions are safe, inclusive, and equitable.*

Component 4: **Programme Support**

This component provides on-the-ground, physical programme support through structured field engagement and periodic visits by the Implementing Team to select NYSC Corps members. The purpose is to strengthen implementation, ensure participant well-being, improve accountability, and provide hands-on troubleshooting to help Corps Members deliver their projects effectively within their Place of Primary Assignment (PPA) and host communities.

Component 5: **Seed Grant**

Seed grants of \$500 each will be awarded to the 75 highest-scoring proposals, enabling the NYSC Corps members to implement policy advocacy reforms and civic tech solutions in their communities. The goal is to translate promising ideas into measurable outcomes, build participants' implementation capacity, and generate scalable community solutions. Seed support may fund:

- Grassroots advocacy campaigns.
- Policy dissemination and stakeholder engagement.
- Community pilot initiatives.
- Evidence generation activities.

NB: To manage the sincere, effective, and timely use of seed grants, funding will be made in 2 tranches of 70% (First tranche) at the beginning of project implementation, and 30% (Second Tranche) midway through the project implementation, with a clear commitment to providing an endline report.