

# Global Consensus Statement on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement

## Reporting for the Accountability System

### Questions and responses:

1. Organization Name: NCD Child
2. First respondent's name: Laura Lewis-Watts
3. First respondent's email address: laura.lewis-watts@sickkids.ca
4. First respondent's position: Project Manager, NCD Child Secretariat
5. Second respondent's name: Victoria Watson
6. Second respondent's email: v.watsn@gmail.com
7. Second respondent's position: Youth Voices Committee chair
8. How would you categorize your NGO? Other: Global coalition of individuals championing the rights and needs of children, adolescents, and young people who are living with or at risk of developing non-communicable diseases
9. What is the geographical reach of your organization? Global
10. How would you describe your organization's work? Check all relevant activities: Advocacy, Research, Programming and community outreach

### Section 2: Overview

11. Please describe how your organization is implementing MAYE (no more than 350 words). Where have you done well, and why? Where are you struggling most, and why?

NCD Child is implementing MAYE within both its leadership structure and across its organizational strategy and programmatic activities.

As a global multi-stakeholder coalition, the organization is composed of a governing

council and a secretariat. NCD Child is committed to the statement's definition of MAYE, and is dedicated to ensuring that the organization is led by a mutually respectful partnership between youth and adults wherein power is shared, youth contributions are valued, and young people's ideas and perspectives are integrated into all aspects of the organization's work. To achieve this, NCD Child's governing council includes four permanent youth positions, and the youth who fill these roles equitably and equally participate in all of the organization's activities, from chairing committees, contributing to the design and delivery of advocacy activities, events, and the strategic plan, to being a part of executive leadership (i.e. Chair). By doing so, the organization effectively subverts the conventional power structures that impede youth leadership by ensuring that youth members are treated the same as adult governing members and given the same leadership and contribution opportunities, and have their input valued equally among all other governing council participants.

NCD Child's 2020-2022 strategy includes a pillar on Youth Leadership, which holds the organization accountable to pursuing programmatic and advocacy activities that strengthen capacities and support the professional development of youth advocates as a pathway to scale their meaningful participation in global, regional, and national NCD spheres. As a part of this strategic pillar, NCD Child maintains a large online community for youth, by youth, which focuses on extending leadership opportunities, engaging youth in ongoing real-time dialogue, and supporting international knowledge translation on NCD issues specific to youth in each country. NCD Child also consistently works with a cohort of young advocates and engages them in strategic advocacy in the global and regional sphere, including organizing youth-led advocacy side events at the WHA and UNGA. Bi-annually, NCD Child young advocates are given the opportunity to lead program development and event activities at the Global NCD Forum organized by NCD Alliance. Young people are voluntary participants in these activities, and given safe space to voice their ideas and shape advocacy priorities and recommendations that are shared, from contributing directly to drafting recommendations to be shared at the UN to writing their own advocacy tool-kit to support other young leaders engage in NCD discourse and grassroots action.

While the organization effectively upholds the definitions of MAYE, more work can be done to adequately extend information and promote transparency across our community of youth and advocates. NCD Child's governing council and secretariat is dedicated to communicating and extending knowledge to young people across our network and organization however more can be done to ensure that the organization's messaging, communications, and information is age-appropriate and accessible so that more youth can be informed and engaged in our advocacy efforts.

12. To what extent do you believe your organization's work reflects the definitions and principles of the statement?

NCD Child's work fully reflects the definitions and principles of the statement, from being rights-based to safe for youth participants to advocate through our platforms and programmatic activities.

13. Where is your organization making the most progress? Provide an example.

NCD Child is making the most progress in (1) ensuring that all young people have a right, and ability, to participate on equal terms with other stakeholders on NCD matters which impact their lives; and (2) being respectful of young people's views, backgrounds, and identities. Between 2016 - 2018, NCD Child developed its own Youth Engagement Checklist which provided the organization baseline standards and guidance that NCD Child would be required to follow across all internal and external activities that engage youth. The document has since prevented NCD Child from engaging in any tokenistic actions and ensured that all young people are given the space, information, and respect required to support their engagement either as Governing Council members or as external youth leaders active in NCD Child's events and advocacy activities. More work is needed to ensure that young people are given remuneration and/or acknowledgement for their contributions to the organization's efforts and to ensure their personal safety when engaging in our work.

### **Section 3: Assessing progress on specific aspects of improving MAYE**

14. Does your organization have protection policies, protocols and mechanisms in place to protect young people and ensure their safety? [Principles 3, 5; Checklist strategy 9]

- a. Yes
- b. **No**

15. If yes, please describe and/or provide links to the policies, protocols and mechanisms here. (We urge you to share links because concrete examples are needed by our community.)

16. Does your organization have additional protection mechanisms for adolescents under age 18?

No

17. Does your organization currently have a mechanism in place for receiving feedback/complaints/concerns from young people? [Principles 2, 3; Checklist strategy 3]

- a. Yes
- b. No

18. How does your organization respond to feedback? (Please check all actions that apply.)

- We respond to feedback on a case by case basis
- We have dedicated staff to respond to feedback
- Other

While we actively solicit feedback from youth as a part of event and/or programmatic post-mortems, we don't have formal and consistent mechanisms for soliciting feedback and/or complaints and concerns from young people (i.e. having an HR representative that is separate from the Governing Council or secretariat, having formal feedback surveys distributed annually to monitor and evaluate our youth engagement efforts).

NCD Child solicits feedback as a part of post-mortems via email to target youth participants, and regularly gathers feedback/insights from youth who are a part of our community through the online Youth Voices Community, which aims to serve as a youth-led platform that is accessible and safe for all. The feedback/insights gathered through the latter mechanism are generally informal and event/document/opportunity/issue specific.

19. Does your organization have protocols, policies, and/or mechanisms in place to ensure the equitable engagement of marginalized young people? [Principle 4; Checklist strategy 10]

Yes

No

20. N/A

21. N/A

22. Please indicate the approximate percentage of your organization's programmes and projects which focused on young people in 2019. [Principle 4; Checklist strategies 1, 4, 5]

Percentage of programmes and projects focused on young people in 2019:

100%

23. Please describe the frequency of participation by young people in your organization's activities which focused on young people in 2019. [Principle 4; Checklist strategies 1, 4, 5]

Participation in design of programmes that affect them: Often

Participation in the implementation of programmes that affect them: Often

Participation in the monitoring of programmes that affect them: Rarely

Participation in the evaluation of programmes that effect them: Rarely

24. Please describe the type of support for young people's engagement that your organization currently provides.

Strengthening young people's capacity: often/always

Strengthening adult's capacity to work with young people: rarely/never

Using understandable, respectful and accessible language and communication methods for young people, including translation or interpretation services for young people:

sometimes

Providing direct technical support for their initiatives and projects: sometimes

Fostering connections with broader networks: often/always

Mentoring: often/always

25. To what extent are young people represented in decision-making bodies within your organizational structure? [Principle 1; Checklist strategies 1, 2]

Partially

26. If you answered "Fully" or "Partially" to question 26 please briefly describe how young people are selected to participate in decision-making bodies.

NCD Child is governed by an elected Governing Council. The Council which serves as the organization's governing body, charged with establishing policies and strategies that support NCD Child's mission and goals and that advance the integrity, effectiveness, and sustainability of activities and initiatives of NCD Child. At least four seats on the Governing Council are reserved for youth representatives, who must be 30 years of age, or under, at time of their nomination.

The Governing Council includes an Executive Committee, which acts on behalf of the Governing Council in between meetings of the council, ensures implementation of Governing Council decisions, and provides direction on the operations of the NCD Child Secretariat. The Executive Committee includes the elected position of Youth Representative.

27. If you answered no representation... (N/A)

28. Does your organization partner with youth-led orgs and/or networks?

Yes

29. If you answered no (N/A)

30. If you answered "Yes" to question 29, what type of agreement does your organization have in place with your youth partners? (Please check all types that apply.)

- sub-contract
- contract
- MOU
- Informal agreement

31. Do you financially compensate the young people or youth-led initiatives with whom you collaborate for their time?

Never

**Commented [1]:** From my recollection this is how we have solidified partnerships/engagements with youth-led orgs i.e. YPCDN. Largely informal and/or event-based.

32. What enables your organization to financially compensate young people for their time?  
(Please check all relevant options.)

- NA

33. What hinders your organization's ability to financially compensate young people for their time? (Please check all relevant options.)

- lack of donor requirement/encouragement
- limited organizational mandate to compensate

34. What types of financial support does your organization provide to young people?

- payment of expenses related to participation

35. To what extent does your organization expect to strengthen its MAYE work in 2020?

Significantly

36. Please, elaborate on your answer to the question 36.

Youth Leadership is one of NCD Child's strategic plan pillars to be prioritized between 2020-2022. As a part of this, the organization will be working diligently to scale and strengthen its youth engagement and activities around youth leadership professional development all in alignment with the NCD Child Youth Engagement Checklist and the Global Consensus Statement on MAYE. NCD Child will be implementing activities to equitably strengthen how young people from all regions and backgrounds participate in the organization's work and to strengthen their individual advocacy, policy, and research capacities through the NCD Child Young Leaders Program which will be launched pending donor approval.

37. Did you have any problems in completing the questions in the survey?

No.

#### **Section 4. Supporting Organizations to Advance MAYE**

38. Aside from financial resources, what support does your organization need to fulfil your commitment to MAYE?

- guidance on developing and strengthening feedback mechanisms
- examples of organizational policies
- how-to guides