NIGERIA 2050:

Child Foresight Analysis for Futures Literacy and Intergenerational Equity



OSPRE
Office for Strategic Preparedness & Resilience
(National Early Warning Centre of Nigeria)

SEAL OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

unicef
for every child



THE CHALLENGE:

Protecting Nigeria's demographic dividend in an era of rising risks

Nigeria's children and young people represent a critical national asset, accounting for over half of the population and central to the objectives of the National Development Plan 2026-2030 in the short- to medium term and the Nigeria Perspective Plan (Agenda 2050) over the long term. However, they are increasingly exposed to overlapping risks, including climate change, insecurity, economic shocks, rapid technological change, and demographic pressures. If unaddressed, these risks could undermine Nigeria's ability to realise its demographic dividend.

The Nigeria 2050: Child Foresight Analysis for Futures Literacy and Intergenerational Equity demonstrates how child-centred foresight can strengthen anticipatory, inclusive, and future-oriented governance. By translating long-term insights into actionable policy recommendations, the initiative supports the government in anticipating emerging risks and opportunities through to 2050 and in positioning Nigeria's young population to contribute meaningfully to sustainable national development.

Partnering for results

The Child Foresight Analysis is an initiative of the Anticipatory Governance and Foresight Capacity (AGFC) Programme of the Office of the Vice President, implemented through the Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience (OSPRE), in collaboration with UNICEF.

The initiative is steered by a multistakeholder Technical Working Group comprising key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government, development partners, civil society, academia and think tanks, and the private sector. This structure ensures coordinated leadership, technical rigour and inclusive participation, to harness collective intelligence for the translation of foresight insights into actionable policy and implementation pathways.

Making a difference

Expected outcomes from the initiative are:

- Advance the AGFC Agenda by demonstrating the value of strategic foresight as a practical tool for anticipating risks, aligning policies, and guiding long-term decisions.
- Generate actionable insights to inform the design and implementation of the Federal Government-UNICEF Nigeria country programme for 2028-2032, focused on improving child outcomes.
- Demonstrate operationalisation of commitments under the UN Declaration on Future Generations and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Elevate youth voices in policy processes, build futures literacy, and strengthen agency for meaningful participation in shaping Nigeria's long-term development trajectory.

Roadmap to action

Conceived as a one-year initiative, the Child Foresight Analysis is structured around five interlinked and sequenced phases designed to move from evidence generation to policy action. The process places strong emphasis on institutionalisation, with the resulting policy outcomes embedded within the mandates and planning processes of key MDAs in coordination with other relevant stakeholders.

Progress so far

Scoping: Initial scoping laid a clear strategic direction for the foresight analysis through targeted consultations with relevant stakeholders to jointly define the research questions. The process deliberately incorporated the perspectives of children and young people, ensuring the analysis reflects their lived realities and future aspirations. This foundational phase culminated in the completion of the **Inception Report** in September 2025.

Scanning: this phase identified key trends and emerging risks affecting children and young people. Analysis drew on national and global literature, expert consultations, media and social trend monitoring, and applied the STEEP (Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political) framework to assess long-term implications. Findings were synthesised and documented in the **Horizon Scanning Report**, finalised between October and December 2025.

Scenario planning: Three high-level, participatory workshops validated scanning findings and produced four future scenarios—Business as Usual, Collapse, Disciplined and Transformed. These scenarios highlight plausible futures, key risks and opportunities, and strategic policy choices for Nigeria's children and young people. Outputs were consolidated in the **Scenario Building Report**, completed in March 2026.



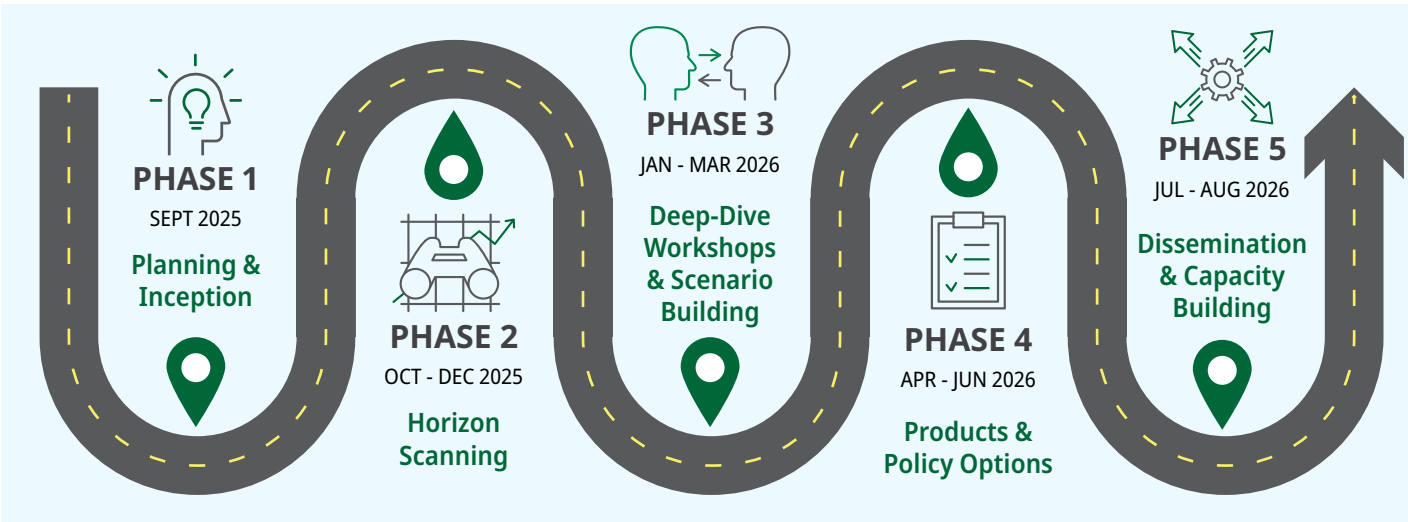
Next steps: From Foresight to Policy Action

POLICY GAPS ANALYSIS

(APRIL–MAY 2026)

Building on the scenarios and strategic insights from the Child Foresight Analysis, a policy gaps analysis will be undertaken to assess Nigeria's readiness to deliver positive outcomes for children and young people by 2050. The study has revealed six strategic policy areas: transformative education; youth livelihoods and the digital economy; institutional trust and child-centred governance; peace and security; natural resource management and climate resilience; and mental health and social wellbeing. Existing policies and implementation frameworks in these areas will be reviewed to identify constraints to implementation and opportunities for reform, to strengthen intergenerational equity and long-term impact.

ROADMAP TO ACTION



POLICY IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

(JULY 2026)

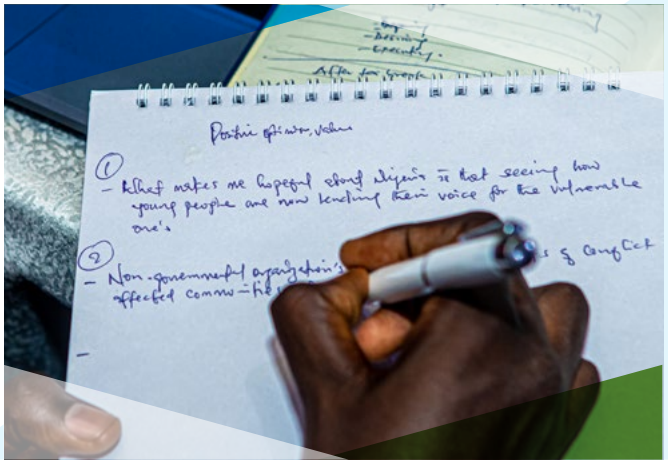
Findings from the policy gaps analysis will feed into a targeted action plan for policy implementation. Working with key actors, this process will produce a clear action plan outlining priority reforms, institutional responsibilities, sequencing, and coordination mechanisms.



HIGH-LEVEL ENDORSEMENT AND FORESIGHT COMPACT

(JULY–AUGUST 2026)

The policy action plan will be presented to His Excellency, the Vice President, including or culminating with the signing of a **Child Foresight Compact** by key actors. The commitment will signal intergenerational stewardship and child-focused anticipatory governance within government systems, strengthening accountability and enabling coordinated implementation aligned with national development priorities.



CAPACITY BUILDING

(SEPTEMBER 2026)

A targeted capacity-building for key actors, including children, will strengthen futures thinking and anticipatory governance, building leadership engagement and institutional readiness.

KEY ASKS FOR ACTION

1. PROVIDE HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP AND ENDORSEMENT:

Endorse the Nigeria 2050: Child Foresight Analysis and steer leadership in the implementation of the Child Foresight Compact, signalling commitment to anticipatory governance and intergenerational equity, aligned with Nigeria's long-term aspirations.

2. MANDATE INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION ACROSS MDAS:

Direct relevant Departments and Units to actively participate in policy action planning and provide institutional support.

3. SUPPORT ACTIONABLE POLICY REFORM AND COORDINATION:

Enable implementation by supporting the adoption of the action plan, clarifying institutional roles, strengthening coordination, and prioritising reforms across the strategic policy areas critical to children's outcomes by 2050.

4. INVEST IN CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY:

Support targeted capacity building across relevant units and functions, to strengthen futures literacy and anticipatory governance, with necessary resourcing, ensuring that foresight capabilities and practices are sustained beyond the life of the initiative.

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