

Global partnership in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for curbing youth unemployment and restiveness in North-East, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study was concerned with the techniques for curbing youth unemployment and restiveness through global partnership in Technical Vocational Education and Training for achieving sustainable development goals 2016-2030 in North-East Nigeria. As the survey research design was adopted, four specific objectives and four null hypotheses guided the study. The study population was 468 subjects, consisting of 282 Social workers and 186 Vocational guidance counselors in six states of the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The entire population was used as the sample for the study because of its small size. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire titled - Curbing Youth Unemployment and Restiveness through Global Partnership in Technical Vocational Education and Training Questionnaire (CYURGPTEVTQ), validated by three experts with a Cronbach alpha correlation coefficient in the high category. The researchers and two research assistants administered the instrument. Mean and Standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while student t-test statistics were used to analyze the null hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance ($P = 0.05$). The study showed that youth unemployment was the critical factor generating community restiveness. Based on the findings, jobs should be created, and youths should be equipped with relevant skills, attitudes, and knowledge through TVET to curb youth unemployment and restiveness.

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1. Introduction

Youth unemployment is one of the most severe socioeconomic obstacles facing North-East and Nigeria. It has even become much more worrisome in recent years. Unemployment, both educated and uneducated, has changed from the previous position of prolonged unemployment and misemployment to one in which graduates of tertiary institutions nearly lose hope before getting a first job, if at all. At the beginning of this millennium, the employment crisis emerged as Nigeria's most challenging issue, particularly in North-East Economies. The continuing global economic slowdown and uncertain economic prospects have created a global economic landscape. The situation in the Northeast and Nigeria as a nation was worsened by the huge presence of the military in the political sphere. The Nigerian economy since independence became terrible after about 30 years of military dictatorship, which also marked a period of corruption in the system (Hassan, 2013). This led to the collapse of most of the country's social infrastructure and productive sectors, resulting in unemployment, a high crime rate, social exclusion, underemployment, poverty, and a high debt burden. Unemployment describes the condition of people without jobs (Hetschko et al., 2014; Okafor, 2011). Therefore, youth unemployment in Nigeria is not a recent phenomenon.

However, is an increasing phenomenon of youth restiveness, cultism, armed robbery, and prostitution, which are consequences of unemployment and vices (Jawadi et al., 2021; Nwagbara, 2007; Speziale, 2014).

The scourge of unemployment has affected almost all nations of the world in different dimensions (Innocent, 2014; John & Morufu, 2013; Kayode et al., 2014). Youth unemployment and its rising wave of crime and insecurity are significant social problems affecting the youth and development of North-East and other parts of Nigeria for a very long time (Adebayo, 2013). Notably, it is not difficult to conclude that the high unemployment rate among the Northeast youths has contributed tremendously to the high rate of poverty and insecurity. In recent times, there have been notable adverse social, economic, and political developments in the North-East, a consequence of youth unemployment, particularly exemplified by increasing militancy, terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery, prostitution, and political instability.

Skill acquisition for youth, employment opportunities, and good governance are ways of curbing youth unemployment (Igbo & Ikpa, 2013). Restiveness among children globally, Nigeria, and particularly in the Northeast, has become a behavioral pattern leading to global issues. Youth restiveness shows man's negative side of social development. This negative social development is unfortunate and has become one of the many security challenges facing men in contemporary society. Most of the time, lives and properties worth millions of Naira have been lost due to restiveness by restive youths. Human society is simple and complex (E. E. Chukwuemeka & Aghara, 2010). Because of this, individuals and groups have their complexities, needs, aspirations, hopes, goals, opinions, views, and values, which could be social, economic, religious, psychological, or political. However, due to these factors, there is bound to be restiveness among different groups, especially youths.

Youth viewed youth as neither adolescents nor children characterized by excessive energy that needs to be exerted, which, if not guarded, is a channel into negative tendencies (Ndu, 2000). The United Nations General Assembly and World Bank defined the youth as aged 15 to 24 (Adewuyi, 2008). In Nigeria, people under 30 years are considered youths because they can participate in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). Youth restiveness has been a device used by the youth to get what they want from the relevant authority. Restiveness might result from high unemployment, illiteracy, bad governance, poor child upbringing, and poverty, among others (E. Chukwuemeka, 2006). Therefore, providing a means of curbing unemployment and restiveness through global partnership in TVET for achieving SDG 2016 – 2030 in North-East Nigeria is very pertinent.

TVET encompasses programs that provide participants with skills, knowledge, and attitudes that enable them to engage in productive work, adapt to rapidly changing labor markets and economies, and participate as responsible citizens in their respective societies. Youth have been known to be more likely the source of security challenges to the community if left without doing anything in the society. Therefore, the present trend in TVET is that Education will equip its graduates with skills in areas of their trade. Young people, particularly secondary school leavers in industrialized nations, go through TVET, which prepares them for the world of work and thus forms one of the most significant investments for sustainable societal development (Avis, 2018; Balogun, 2013; Rosina et al., 2021). TVET has a major role in curbing unemployment and restiveness in Nigeria, particularly in North-East. This is obvious because TVET can help people learn skills to get jobs and become self-reliant. Most importantly, candidates with vocational training can find work in various states, federal government organizations, academic institutions, and private companies. Hence, TVET gives individuals the skills to live, learn and work as productive citizens in a global society.

The theoretical framework of this study was based on the skills acquisition theory assumes that skills development is the distinction between "Knowing that" and "Knowing how" (Kirkwood & Price, 2014; Lyon, 2015). He also stated that a person goes through at least five stages of knowledge of specific tasks and ways of decision-making as he acquires and improves his skills. The five stages are novice, advanced beginners, competencies, proficiency, and expertise. In the novice stage, the individual has some general ideas but is inexperienced in learning the rules. In the advanced beginner stage, the performance of an individual improves to a relatively acceptable level. In the competencies stage, the learner is personally involved with the task and begins to notice more than

one option from which one will be chosen. In the proficiency stage, the learner starts to understand his task but still thinks analytically about his action. In the last stage, the expert stage, the author maintained that they know what to do based on understanding the task. An expert has so much experience with the task and the skills to do the task on his part. However, the author also explains that practice is required for the learner to maintain the knowing-how. He emphasized that the expert gradually loses his expertise without practice, making practice perfect. It is important to say that this theory is relevant to this work because TVET allows youth to practice the required skills while in training. This also paves the way for learners to follow the stages to acquire the necessary skills needed for employment by the government or private organization or remain self-reliant, hence, curbing youths unemployment and restiveness for achieving SDG 2016 to 2030 in the North-East, Nigeria.

Diverse socioeconomic and political challenges at various levels facing the North-East and the country are not excluded. These diverse socioeconomic and political challenges might have adversely affected the sustainable development of these zones, including the high rate of unemployment they are presently facing (Galea & Abdalla, 2020; Kreyenfeld & Andersson, 2014; Ubulom & Enyoghasim, 2012). Current media reports and personal observations showcase armed robbery, terrorism, kidnapping, raping, and destruction of lives and properties in North-East Nigeria. The issue of restiveness in the zone is of great concern to the North-East states, the Nigerian government, and religious leaders. Many people have been killed, kidnapped, and raped, properties worth millions of Naira have been destroyed, and churches and mosques have been bombed in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states. This is seen not to be religious.

Someone will imagine who are the perpetrators of these evil acts. But the security report indicates that the suicide bombers are between 12 and 30 years old. The challenges facing the Northeast and the Nation are how youth unemployment and restiveness can be curbed. Against this background, this paper sought to determine the causes and techniques for curbing youth unemployment and restiveness in North-East Nigeria. The study aimed to examine the techniques for curbing youth unemployment and restiveness through global partnership in TVET for achieving SDG 2016 – 2030 in North-East Nigeria. The specific objectives were to: (1) Ascertain the causes of youths unemployment in the North-East; (2) Determine the ways of curbing youths unemployment in the North-East; (3) Ascertain the causes of youth restiveness in the North-East; and (4) Determine the ways of curbing youths restiveness in North-East.

2. Method

2.1. Research design

A survey research design was adopted for the study. Survey research design ensures data collection from a large number of subjects being a proper representative of the population. The plan was considered appropriate for the study because the opinion of the vocational guidance, counselors, and social workers was very relevant in providing quality information.

2.2. Participants

The Population of the Study was 468 subjects, which consisted of 282 social workers and 186 vocational counselors drawn from the six states of the North-East geopolitical zones comprising Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe State. The study's entire population was used as the sample because of the small size. The study was conducted in the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria, comprising Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States. The choice of this area resulted from prevalent unemployment and security challenges that disturb the area.

2.3. Data collection tools

The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled Curbing Youths Unemployment and Restiveness Through Global Partnership in Technical Vocational Education and Training Questionnaire (CYURGPTVETQ). The Questionnaire was made up of two parts. Part (A) covered general information about the respondents, while part (B) collected information to answer research questions and test hypotheses. However, part (B) was divided into four sections (1-4). Section 1 covered the causes of youth unemployment with 5 statement items. Section 2 covered the ways of curbing youth unemployment with six items. Section 3 covered the reasons for restiveness

with nine items, and Section 4 covered the tracks of denying youth restiveness with seven items. For all the Sections, the response pattern was a two-point rating scale of (Yes) or (No), respectively.

Three experts validated the instrument, two in the guidance and counseling department and one in the science education department, all at Taraba State University, Jalingo. The validates made useful comments, and corrections the remarks and corrections suggested were effected to improve the quality of the Questionnaire both in structure and contents.

The instrument's reliability was established using the Cronbach Alpha formula to determine the internal consistency. The instrument was administered to 25 social workers and 15 vocational guidance counselors in Benue State, North Central Nigeria. Their responses were used to calculate the reliability, which yielded a coefficient of 0.88, an indication of reasonable internal consistency of the instrument. Benue state was chosen for the reliability test because of its similar characteristics with the study area in terms of Security challenges.

2.4. Research procedure

The research instruments were administered to the respondents by the researchers with the help of two research assistants. The two research assistants were trained on the methods of administration. The two research assistants worked with the zones' social workers and vocational guidance counselors. The respondents responded on the spot, and 468 copies were retrieved immediately. Thereby ensuring a 100% retrieval rate.

2.5. Data analysis

The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation for answering research questions and a t-test for testing the null hypothesis at a 0.05 level of significance. The decision rule was that any mean score of 2.50 and above was rated accepted, and any mean score of 2.49 and below was considered rejected. In testing the null hypothesis using a t-test, where the t-calculated is less than the t-tabulated, the null hypothesis was rejected, but when otherwise, the hypothesis was accepted.

3. Results and Discussion

The result of the descriptive analysis was presented as follows:

3.1. Ascertain the causes of youths unemployment in the North-East

What are the causes of youth unemployment in North-East Nigeria? Table 1 show mean and standard deviation of social workers and vocational guidance counselors on the causes of youth unemployment in the Northeast (N = 468, N1 = 292, N2 = 186).

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation of social workers and vocational guidance counselors on the causes of youth unemployment in the Northeast

S/No	Item Statement	X_1	SD_1	X_2	SD_2	X_g	SD_g	Decision
1	Rapid growing of population especially school leavers.	3,10	.71	2.98	.80	3.04	.76	A
2	Selectivity of job available, location, posting.	3,25	.74	2.91	.98	3.08	.86	A
3	Lack of manpower planning in the educational system.	2.95	.85	2.56	1.02	2.76	.94	A
4	Inappropriate school curricula.	3.13	.76	2.87	.95	3.00	.86	A
5	High level of corruption	3.10	.87	2.75	1.02	2.93	.95	A

X_1 is mean of social workers, SD_1 is standard deviation of social workers, X_2 is mean of vocational guidance counsellors, SD_2 is standard deviation of vocational guidance counselors, X_g is grand mean of respondents, SD_g is grand standard deviation of respondents, and A is agree.

Data in Table 1 revealed that the social workers and vocational guidance counselors who responded to all the five items had their mean values ranging from 2.76 to 3.08. This indicated that the respondents agreed that all five items were causes of youth unemployment in the Northeast. The standard deviation ranged from .76 to .95, which shows that the respondents were close to the mean

and opinion of one another in their responses on the causes of youth unemployment in North-East Nigeria.

3.2. Determine the ways of curbing youths unemployment in the North-East

What are the ways of curbing youth unemployment in North-East Nigeria? Table 2 show mean and standard deviation of social workers and vocational guidance counselors on the ways of curbing youth unemployment in the Northeast (N = 468, N₁ = 282, N₂ = 186).

Table 2. Mean and standard deviation of social workers and vocational guidance counselors on the ways of curbing youth unemployment in the Northeast

S/No	Item Statement	X_1	SD_1	X_2	SD_2	X_g	SD_g	Decision
1	Provision of skill acquisition programs for youth.	2.73	.87	3.13	.87	2.93	.93	A
2	Provision of employment opportunities.	2.81	1.00	3.08	.92	2.95	.96	A
3	Good governance.	3.10	.71	2.98	.80	3.04	.76	A
4	Appropriate school curricula.	3.13	.76	2.87	.95	3.00	.86	A
5	Implementation of school guidance and counseling.	3.10	.87	2.75	1.02	2.93	.95	A
6	Equal distribution of natural resources.	3.40	.50	2.84	.97	3.12	.74	A

X_1 is mean of social workers, SD_1 is standard deviation of social workers, X_2 is mean of vocational guidance counsellors, SD_2 is standard deviation of vocational guidance counsellors, X_g is grand mean of respondents, SD_g is grand standard deviation of respondents, and A is agree.

Data in Table 2 showed that both the social workers and vocational guidance counselors who responded to all six items had mean values ranging from 2.88 to 3.12. This indicated that the respondents agreed that all six items were ways of curbing youth unemployment in the Northeast. The standard deviation ranged from .76 to .96, which shows that the respondents were close to the mean and opinion of one another in their responses on the ways of curbing youth unemployment in North-East Nigeria.

3.3. Ascertain the causes of youth restiveness in the North-East

What are the causes of youth restiveness in North-East Nigeria? Table 3 show mean and standard deviation of social workers and vocational guidance counselors on the causes of youth restiveness in the North-East (N = 468, N₁ = 282, N₂ = 186).

Table 3. Mean and standard deviation of social workers and vocational guidance counselors on the causes of youth restiveness in the North-East

S/No	Item Statement	X_1	SD_1	X_2	SD_2	X_g	SD_g	Decision
1	Unemployment among youths.	3.09	.93	2.75	.88	2.92	.91	A
2	Political instability.	2.95	.92	3.35	.62	3.15	.77	A
3	High level of poverty.	2.81	1.00	3.08	.92	2.95	.96	A
4	High level of corruption	3.03	.86	2.89	.90	2.96	.88	A
5	Improper child upbringing.	2.73	.87	3.13	.87	2.93	.93	A
6	Influence of peer group.	3.03	.65	3.11	.93	3.21	.79	A
7	High level of illiteracy.	3.20	.69	2.86	.95	3.03	.82	A
8	Lack of proper security	3.28	.68	2.82	1.05	3.05	.87	A
9	False teaching in worship places (Churches/Mosques).	2.84	1.06	3.38	.67	3.11	.87	A

X_1 is mean of social workers, SD_1 is standard deviation of social workers, X_2 is mean of vocational guidance counsellors, SD_2 is standard deviation of vocational guidance counsellors, X_g is grand mean of respondents, SD_g is grand standard deviation of respondents, and A is agree.

Data in Table 3 revealed that both the social workers and vocational guidance counselors who responded to all nine items had mean values ranging from 2.92 to 3.21. This indicated that the respondents agreed that all nine items were causes of youth restiveness in the Northeast. The

standard deviation ranged from .77 to .96, which shows that the respondents were close to the mean and opinion of one another in their responses on the causes of youth restiveness in North-East, Nigeria.

3.4. Determine the ways of curbing youth's restiveness in North-East

What are the ways of curbing youths' restiveness in North-East Nigeria? Table 4 show mean and standard deviation of social workers and vocational guidance counselors on the ways of curbing youth restiveness in the Northeast (N = 468, N₁ = 282, N₂ = 186).

Table 4. Mean and standard deviation of social workers and vocational guidance counselors on the ways of curbing youth restiveness in the Northeast

S/No	Item Statement	X_1	SD_1	X_2	SD_2	X_g	SD_g	Decision
1	Provision of employment opportunities.	3.30	.85	2.86	.86	3.08	.86	A
2	Campaigning against youth restiveness.	3.13	.76	2.87	.95	3.00	.86	A
3	Provision of formal Education to the youths.	2.70	1.01	3.00	.72	2.85	.87	A
4	Provision of skill acquisition for youths.	2.95	.92	3.35	.62	3.15	.77	A
5	Giving monthly allowances to unemployed youths.	2.73	.87	3.13	.87	2.93	.93	A
6	Teaching citizens fear of God through religious leaders.	3.10	.71	2.98	.80	3.04	.76	A
7	Good governance.	3.40	.50	2.84	.97	3.12	.74	A

X_1 is mean of social workers, SD_1 is standard deviation of social workers, X_2 is mean of vocational guidance counsellors, SD_2 is standard deviation of vocational guidance counsellors, X_g is grand mean of respondents, SD_g is grand standard deviation of respondents, and A is agree.

Data in Table 4 revealed that the social workers and vocational guidance counselors who responded to all seven items had mean values ranging from 2.85 to 3.15. This reveals that the respondents agreed that all seven items were ways of curbing youth restiveness in the Northeast. The standard deviation ranged from .74 to .93, which indicated that the respondents were close to the mean and opinion of one another in their responses on the ways of curbing youth restiveness in North-East Nigeria.

Hypothesis 1 is there are no significant differences in the mean scoring of the responses of social workers and vocational counselors on the causes of youth unemployment in North-East Nigeria.

Table 5. t-test analysis of the mean scoring of the responses of social workers and vocational counsellors on the causes of youth unemployment in the North-East.

Status	N	Mean	Std Deviation	Std Error Mean	df	t-cal	Sig.	Decision
Social Workers	282	3.11	.79	0.51	466	4.13	.002	R
Vocational Counselors	186	2.81	.95	.55				

N is number of respondents, Std is standard deviation, df is degree of freedom, t-cal is t-calculated, Sig. is significant value, and $P < 0.05$, R is rejected.

Table 5 shows a P value of .002, less than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicated that there is no statistically significant difference in the mean scoring of the responses of the social workers and vocational counselors on the causes of youth unemployment. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant difference between the two groups of respondents on the causes of youth unemployment in North-East, Nigeria, was rejected.

Hypothesis 2 is there is no significant difference in the mean scoring of social workers' and vocational counselors' responses on how to curb youth unemployment in North-East Nigeria.

Table 6. t-test analysis of the mean scoring of the responses of social workers and vocational counselors on the ways of curbing youth unemployment in the Northeast

Status	N	Mean	Std Deviation	Std Error Mean	df	t-cal	Sig.	Decision
Social Workers	282	2.97	.83	.11	466	2.51	.011	A
Vocational Counselors	186	3.03	.89	.05				

N is number of respondents, Std is standard deviation, df is degree of freedom, t-cal is t-calculated, Sig. is significant value, and $P > 0.05$, A is accepted.

Table 6 shows a P value of .011 which is greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates that there is no statistically significant difference in the mean scoring of the responses of the social workers and vocational counselors on ways of curbing youth unemployment in the Northeast. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant difference between the two groups of respondents on ways of curbing youth unemployment in North-East, Nigeria, was accepted.

Hypothesis 3 is there are no significant differences in the mean scoring of the responses of social workers and vocational counselors on the causes of youth restiveness in North-East Nigeria.

Table 7. t-test analysis of the mean scoring of the responses of social workers and vocational counselors on the causes of youth restiveness in the Northeast.

Status	N	Mean	Std Deviation	Std Error Mean	df	t-cal	Sig.	Decision
Social Workers	282	3.00	.85	.10	466	2.84	.007	R
Vocational Counselors	186	3.04	.87	.07				

N is number of respondents, Std is standard deviation, df is degree of freedom, t-cal is t-calculated, Sig. is significant value, and $P < 0.05$, R is rejected.

Table 7 shows a P value of .007, less than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicated that there is no statistically significant difference in the mean scoring of the responses of the social workers and vocational counselors on the causes of youth restiveness. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant difference between the two groups of respondents on the causes of youth restiveness in North-East, Nigeria, was rejected.

Hypothesis 4 shows no significant differences in the mean scoring of social workers' and vocational counselors' responses on curb youths' restiveness in North-East Nigeria.

Table 8. t-test analysis of the mean scoring of social workers' and vocational counselors' responses on curbing youth restiveness in the Northeast.

Status	N	Mean	Std Deviation	Std Error Mean	df	t-cal	Sig.	Decision
Social Workers	282	3.04	.80	.55	466	4.12	.002	R
Vocational Counselors	186	3.00	.83	.51				

N is number of respondents, Std is standard deviation, df is degree of freedom, t-cal is t-calculated, Sig. is significant value, and $P < 0.05$, R is rejected.

Table 8 shows a P value of .002, less than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicated no statistically significant difference in the mean scoring of the responses of the social workers and vocational counselors on ways of curbing youth restiveness. Therefore, the hypothesis of no

significant difference between the two groups of respondents on ways of curbing youth restiveness in North-East Nigeria was rejected.

The result of this study on the causes of youth unemployment was agreed upon because it was found that growth in the population of school leavers, corruption, inappropriate school curricula, and selection of job available increases the rate of youth unemployment. This is in line with work, which identifies three major causes of unemployment: insecurity, poor electricity, for industries to function well and employ youths, and acquiring unrelated skills, among others (Adegoke, 2015).

The result of findings on the ways of curbing youth unemployment were agreed because it was found that skills acquisition program for youths, good governance, equal distribution of natural resources, appropriate school curricula, and implementation of school guidance and counseling plays vital roles in curbing unemployment. This is in agreement with the work who opined that entrepreneurial development is a stimulus to economic growth, employment generation, and empowerment (Hassan, 2013).

The result of findings on the causes of youth restiveness was agreed because it was found that unemployment among youths, high level of poverty, improper child upbringing, high level of illiteracy, and corruption was among the factors that generate youth restiveness. Youth restiveness may be caused by several factors, including idleness, which is the devil's workshop, and dissatisfaction of the people and reprisal (E. Chukwuemeka, 2006).

The result of this study on ways of curbing youths' restiveness was agreed upon because it was found that providing unemployment opportunities, campaigning against youth restiveness, good governance, and provision of formal Education to the youths helps seriously in curbing youths' restiveness. These findings of the present study agree with the work who carried out a study on causes, effects, and ways of curbing youths' restiveness and found that counseling could be an effective way of curbing youths' restiveness in Nigeria (Chujor & Kennedy, 2014; Igbo & Ikpa, 2013).

This research has some limitations. First, the instrument used in the study was a questionnaire. Research that uses one instrument without any other instrument can potentially result in incomprehensive data, and the data collected is not actual. Second, research has not paid attention to cultural aspects, which is likely that culture also contributes to the problems in the research location. A more comprehensive research design considering the subject's vital aspects is recommended for further research.

4. Conclusion

There is a very close relationship between youth unemployment and restiveness. The high rate of restiveness, as exemplified in terrorism, kidnapping, prostitution, armed robbery, raping, and destruction of lives and properties, has a relationship with unemployment. Unemployment can trigger and as well serve as a security threat. If not adequately controlled, youth unemployment and restiveness will bring a bad image to the country. Therefore, government and other stakeholders should find a way to confront this situation before it goes out of hand. As a result of the inability of the government to create jobs for graduates, school leavers generate unemployment and restiveness. Hence, the government should devise a way to end this menace. Suggestions for action include: Job creation through adequate funding from the government, employment agencies should employ qualified youth not based on years of work experience only, and the government should pay allowances to employ children to reduce the consequences of youth unemployment. Youths should be equipped with the necessary skills, attitude, and knowledge to fit into any organization or remain self-reliant through Technical Vocational Education and Training. Hence, there will be peace and coexistence in North-East Nigeria.

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