GRASSROOTS STRUCTURE IN MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS
FIFA member associations are entitled to receive FAP funding provided that they employ a technical director who is in charge of youth and development programmes.

- Each member association should therefore have a technical director (TD) who is responsible for all technical matters within the association.

- The technical director oversees all technical sub-units within his department. He also maintains a close working relationship with FIFA, the respective confederation and any other relevant overseas federations or organisations with technical, exchange and development programmes.

- Grassroots football structure therefore falls under the responsibility of the technical director.
ROLE OF GRASSROOTS STRUCTURE WITHIN THE TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

• To monitor the implementation of the grassroots development plan
• To organise grassroots tournaments and festivals
• To organise FIFA grassroots coaching courses
• To conduct local refresher courses and grassroots seminars
• To liaise with decentralised department at regional and local levels
• To supervise the overall programme throughout the country
• To report to the technical director
The department may include:

- Head of department/grassroots manager/national grassroots coordinator
- Members of the association
- Representatives of government bodies (Ministries of Sports and Education)
- Coach-educators/P.E. teachers/parents
- Representatives of women’s football

_The base of the structure is formed by schools and clubs._
It is important to ensure that the technical department is appropriately staffed by suitably-qualified individuals who are capable of implementing the agreed programmes thereby ensuring the promotion, growth and success of the grassroots development plan.

THE GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL MANAGER/COORDINATOR:

Among the other staff working in the grassroots structure, the role of the grassroots manager/coordinator is essential to the success of the programme. His responsibility is to look at all the aspects of the various grassroots activities:

- Organising festivals and tournaments
- Developing grassroots structures in schools, communities and clubs
- General coordination of activities
- Drawing up of calendar of activities
- Setting up meetings with regional and local representatives
- Maintaining regular contact with schools and clubs
- Training and updating grassroots coach-educators
1. Simple organisation of a grassroots unit within the technical department

- This type of organisation is common in small countries
- The technical director usually acts as the grassroots manager/coordinator
- The technical director can also be assisted by a few technical managers
EXAMPLES OF TECHNICAL DEPARTMENTS’ ORGANISATION

2. TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT WITH 3 SUB-UNITS

CEO

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

GRASSROOTS & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
COACH EDUCATION
WOMEN’S FOOTBALL

3. TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT WITH AN ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

GRASSROOTS & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
COACH EDUCATION
ELITE FOOTBALL
This type of structure necessitates more qualified personnel
The responsibilities of each person are clearly defined
Teamwork is essential for the proper implementation of activities in each sub-unit
The annual technical programme is properly established
Some associations that are well advanced in their development plans may implement decentralised structures at regional and local levels, with regional and local managers responsible for running the overall process.
WITHOUT AN EFFECTIVE GRASSROOTS STRUCTURE IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT THE LONG-TERM GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN