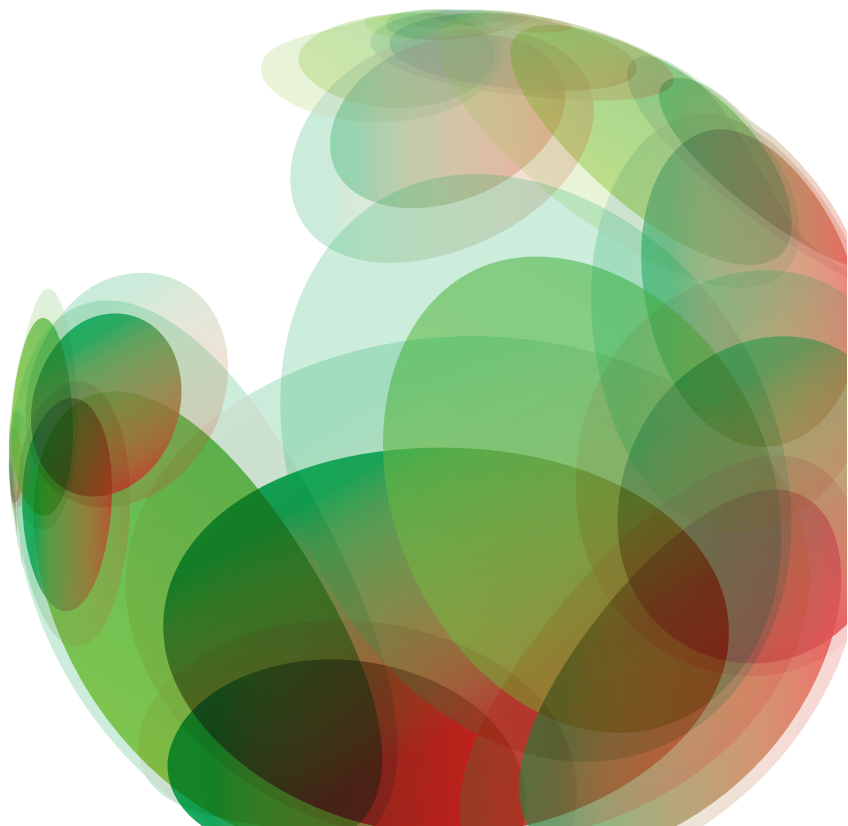




Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Information and Culture
Office of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs

AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY





Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Information and Culture
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AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

POLICY DEVELOPING ORGANIZATION:

Office of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs

25 August 2014

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ANSF	Afghan National Security Forces
ANYP	Afghanistan National Youth Policy
BPHS	Basic Package of Health Services
CAH	Child and Adolescent Health
CBT	competency based training
CSO	Central Statistics Organization
DMoYA	Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs
GBV	gender-based violence
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NGO	non-governmental organizations
NPP	National Priority Programme
TVET	technical and vocational education and training
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

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**MESSAGE FROM
DR SAYED MAKHDOOM RAHEEN**
MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND CULTURE

In the name of God who created wisdom and the soul

Dear youth of Afghanistan!

Thanks be to God that, with the cooperation of those civil society organizations, Ministries, sectoral government offices and UN agencies who work, one way or another, for youth, the first ever National Youth Policy is being developed and approved by the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

This policy is based on international standards, developed using good and reliable sources, and is based on deliberations on youth employment, education, higher education and training, health, participation and sports, clearly identifying appropriate interventions.

We believe that implementing the National Youth Policy, which further strengthens serious and strong coordination between the relevant entities, will change the present condition of the country's young people.

The role of committed, intelligent and educated youth in formulating this policy was critical, and with their comprehensive and active participation they will help the responsible entities implement this policy properly.

The policy will be implemented through a five year strategy; it is therefore important that you, the educated youth of Afghanistan, vigorously help the responsible entities in developing this strategy.

I express my gratitude to the ministries and relevant entities, civil society organizations and UN agencies for their support in the policy development process.

I wish you success and good luck.

Dr Sayed Makhdoom Raheen



**MESSAGE FROM
TAIMOR SHAH ISAAQZAI**
DEPUTY MINISTRY
OF YOUTH AFFAIRS,
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND CULTURE

In the name of God who created wisdom

Dear committed and educated youth of the country!

I am grateful that, through joint effort and cooperation, the first National Youth Policy has now been developed. This important national document was endorsed by the Cabinet on 24 August 2014.

The National Youth Policy contains a comprehensive consideration of youth participation at every level and accurately characterizes their role in important national processes.

During the past 13 years, our beloved youth celebrated immense achievements for their country in the spheres of politics, society, culture, art, science and sports. By systematically implementing the National Youth Policy, vast opportunities for building youth capacity, increasing their participation, and ensuring they have input in important developments will be assured.

I thank the relevant government entities, civil society organizations, international organizations, and especially Mr Sayed Mustafa Sayedi, the Policy and Programmes Director at the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs, for his untiring effort and creativity and his vital role in developing this important national document.

We hope to see further successes for Afghanistan's youth and wish them the best of luck.

Taimor Shah Isaaqzai

PREFACE

1

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The establishment of the current administration, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which laid the foundation of a free, independent and democratic country following years of political and social unrest, was a turning point in the history of Afghanistan. From its establishment to the present, the government has endorsed laws, regulations, acts and policies within the framework of the Constitution to address the needs of and issues faced by citizens.

In the past decade, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) has provided youth with significant opportunities for growth and development in various areas such as health, education, employment and political participation. However, not all young women and men have benefited and much more needs to be done to meet their needs.

Afghanistan's population is among the fastest growing in the world. The annual rate of population change and growth is 2.03 percent annually (CSO, 2014). Based on the Central Statistics Organization's (CSO) 2014 estimates, 63 percent of Afghanistan's 27.5 million people are under the age of 25 and those between 15 and 24 years of age comprise 17 percent of the population. Examples from other countries have shown

that with a commitment to making youth the focus of development and poverty reduction, a sizable youth population can be turned into a demographic dividend.

Afghanistan is soon to enter its Transformation Decade (2015–2024).¹ It is therefore critical that GoIRA invest in youth strategically and intentionally in order to widely utilize their potential capabilities in the work of the state.

Youth have benefited from national laws and policies in the sectors of education, culture, sport, rural development and reconstruction, but three decades of civil unrest deprived a generation of this country of education and nurturing of their talents, and also dismantled the foundations of an able national government which could provide services to different segments of society, especially to youth. Yet, the small-scale programmes which have been planned or are to be implemented by GoIRA and non-governmental organizations cannot meet the growing needs of the country's youth in the long term.

For this reason, the Office of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs (DMoYA) has developed the first ever Afghanistan National Youth Policy (ANYP) to ensure that investments in youth benefit them equally and lead to their development.

The aim of the ANYP is to systematically meet the needs of youth through an inclusive approach, involving all relevant governmental and non-governmental entities, and to design and implement short-, medium- and long-term strategies and programmes to develop youth talents, skills and potential in the economic, social, cultural and political spheres. The ANYP is designed to lead to sustainable change in the lives of young people at different levels and to address the lack of coordination between sectors involved in youth development.

¹ At the Kabul and Lisbon Conferences in 2010, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Afghan Government agreed that full responsibility for security would be handed over to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) by the end of 2014 when Afghanistan will enter the Transformation Decade (2014–2015).

PURPOSE

2

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The ANYP was designed and developed in line with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), the National Priority Programmes (NPPs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is intended to serve the following purposes:

- a Acknowledge youth as a critical group for Afghanistan's development and poverty reduction;
- b Identify fundamental needs of youth and provide the legal framework and strategic guidelines for sustainable youth development;
- c Identify gaps and shortfalls in existing policies and programmes of both public and private sectors for youth and provide a joint framework for addressing these gaps;
- d Acknowledge the distinctive and complementary role of government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and youth organizations in youth development and to provide a joint framework for common goals;

- e Strengthen coordination between the various government and non-governmental organizations involved in youth related issues;
- f Provide a framework for designing and implementing assessment and monitoring mechanisms to amend and support youth related programmes and interventions;
- g Provide opportunities for political, economic, social and cultural participation of youth and invigorate youth at the national and sub-national levels;
- h Include youth development priorities in the main policies and programmes of government;
- i Improve coordination among relevant government entities, international organizations and NGOs for effective and sustainable political, economic and social youth development;
- j Build effective capacity of youth by meeting their needs;
- k Provide and support appropriate and decent employment to youth for their economic and social development.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF



The decision to develop the Afghanistan National Youth Policy was based on the understanding of youth needs and abilities in bringing peace, development, and social and economic growth in post-war Afghanistan. The priorities of this policy mainly focus on the economic and social rights and needs of youth at national and sub-national levels.

The ANYP is based on the tenets and precious values of Islam and principles of human rights, economic and social justice, social morality, solidarity, patriotic sentiment and national development. Today's youth are the future leaders of the country; this necessitates the development of a policy to empower them to realize their full potential.

Development and positive change in the lives of young people will lead to progress and development for Afghanistan. The development and progress of our nation depends on the education of our youth. The ANYP is consistent with the realities of population growth and attempts to utilize youth energy for sustainable development and progress of Afghanistan.

The extent of economic progress depends on the understanding and knowledge of the country's young workforce who contribute to national economic growth. Given the national priorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other commitments to make Afghanistan a prosperous, stable and progressive country, youth must be identified as driving agents in the Transformation Decade. On the other hand, non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions must focus on national development objectives through strategic investments in youth. Accordingly, the ANYP recognizes the valuable role of non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions, particularly youth organizations, in the development of youth.

The ANYP offers guidelines for invigorating youth to empower them as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations to address existing problems such as human rights abuse, poverty, unemployment, social injustice and insecurity. The objectives of this policy will be met when high ranking officials and other influential legal personalities consider youth development both a priority and a social responsibility, and develop operative strategies for implementing the ANYP.

Youth development should be prioritized and placed at the forefront of national educational, economic and social development programmes. In the ANYP, youth are considered drivers of Afghanistan's economic progress, and future builders of the country.

Youth who have been deprived of an education and have received the least benefits from social and economic development should be considered in Afghanistan's national development programmes such as the National Priorities Programmes, and provided with comprehensive support. The ANYP prioritizes youth who have been deprived of their rights, and those who currently live under conditions that deprive them of their rights and social responsibilities.

It addresses this economic and social deprivation of youth through better planning.

To achieve the stated goals of this policy, joint inter-sectoral and cross-sectoral efforts, including governmental agencies and civil society organizations and the private sector, are essential. Service provision for sustainable development of youth requires coordination in programmes and decision making in both the public and private sectors, and procedures for monitoring and evaluation must be developed.



The values and principles of the ANYP specify government responsibilities in youth development and growth. The ANYP values specify the principles and rules that govern how programmes are designed and developed.

These values and principles are as follows:

A VALUES

The ANYP is consistent with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The peoples of Afghanistan have religious beliefs and rich cultural traditions, modes of social togetherness and ethics. Afghan youth must be nurtured based on religious values, including peace, justice and brotherhood. The values enshrined in the ANYP are as follows:

- 1 Preservation of and respect for national identity;
- 2 Based on the Constitution, respect for the human dignity, religion, human rights, culture and political views of others;
- 3 Provision for social justice;
- 4 Based on Article 22 of the Constitution, equal rights for youth;
- 5 Based on Articles 43, 44, 46, and 47 of the Constitution, empowerment of youth and adolescents;
- 6 Active political, economic and social participation;
- 7 Commitment and sincerity towards the Constitution of Afghanistan; and
- 8 Protection of Afghanistan's religious values and cultural heritage.

B PRINCIPLES

The principles of the ANYP are developed based on existing accurate information about government structures and the responsibilities of governmental and non-governmental organizations for youth social and economic development. The policy is underpinned by the values enshrined in the Constitution and the MDGs. Based on laws, GoIRA will provide financial and moral support to governmental and non-governmental organizations that design and implement programmes for youth within the framework of these principles. The ANYP promotes the meaningful involvement of young people in all social, economic and political processes that affect their lives.

The fundamental principles are as follows:

1 **Equity:**

- a The ANYP shall be implemented for all young men and women without discriminating between them.
- b The ANYP shall specify the rights and responsibilities of youth to receive just and equitable access to resources.
- c Relevant government entities shall promote special programmes to address the problems of vulnerable and the disadvantaged young people, including unemployed youth, drug addicts and young persons with disabilities.
- d Young men and women shall be the direct beneficiaries of all programmes which are designed and developed for them.
- e The ANYP defends the fundamental and civil rights of young people. The ANYP takes the basic measures through the relevant government institutions and independent civil society institutions to restore and monitor the rights of young people. The government is responsible for providing development opportunities for migrant Afghan youth and defending their rights.

2 **Participation:**

- a Young people's rights and responsibilities in decisions which affect their lives in any way shall be recognized.

3 **Implementation and coordination:**

- a The ANYP shall be implemented under the leadership and management of the Ministry of Information Culture and Youth

in cooperation and coordination with relevant government agencies, youth and civil society organizations, the private sector and other national and international development organizations.

- b The Provincial Information, Culture and Youth Directorates will lead and manage the implementation of the ANYP, strategies and programmes at the provincial level in close collaboration with provincial and district Governors.
- c Implementation at the national level will be overseen by a high level commission chaired by Second Vice President, with its membership comprising the ministers and directors of relevant government entities and two authorized representatives from civil society organizations.

4 **Coherence:**

- a The ANYP enjoys the support of the GoIRA. Governmental agencies and civil society stakeholders ought to share youth related programmes and strategies for social and economical development of youth with the Ministry of Information and Culture.
- b All youth related programmes by government and independent entities ought to be in line with the goals, objectives and priorities of the ANYP.
- c Components of youth development programmes should promote the values of peace, public security, political stability and equity and economic empowerment.
- d Programmes based on the priorities and principles of the ANYP will receive technical and other necessary support from the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth Affairs.



- e The relevant government agencies should implement targeted programmes to improve the social and economic condition of youth in rural areas and mobilize necessary financial and human resources for execution of programmes.

The ANYP defines ‘youth’ as a person who is between the age of 18 and 35; however, the policy also provides guidelines for adolescents (those between 12 and below 18 years of age). In particular, the government identified adolescents’ education and health needs as this is a critical time of transition towards the youth phase of life.

Childhood is defined based on the physical, mental and psychological changes which prepare a person for maturity. According to the laws of Afghanistan, ‘childhood’ is divided into three phases: ‘

- a Undiscerning minor from 0 to below 7 years.
- b Discerning minor, from age 7 to 12 years, and
- c Adolescents or juveniles, from age 12 to below 18 years.



Under Afghan criminal law, minors are children between the complete ages of 7 and 13 years. Under Afghan labour law, a ‘juvenile’ has completed the age of 14, but has not completed 18 years of age.

The intervention areas in the ANYP have been developed based on youth needs, and are described below.

6.1 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Development, education and technical and vocational training institutions of government and non-governmental organizations must provide wider employment opportunities for young people in a coordinated manner based on national development programmes in human resources management and labour market programmes.

The government must prioritize the following guidelines for sustainable and safe employment opportunities for youth, and develop a holistic and multi-dimensional strategy to address youth unemployment:

- Address limited employment opportunities and lack of labour market data and research, particularly the lack of information disaggregated by gender and age on labour force and employment.
- Create a favourable policy environment and remove bottlenecks for decent job opportunities for young people with a focus on the following sectors: agriculture and livestock, rural development, information technology, mining, transport and tourism, trade and industry, and the construction of dams.
- Provide job opportunities in the public sector and transparency in employment.
- Promote sustainable youth entrepreneurship by increasing young people's access to finance, and increasing financial literacy and business skills.
- Promote public works programmes for disadvantaged youth including seasonal employment.
- Develop a demand driven, coordinated and inclusive national technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system.
- Promote public private partnerships between the education and private sectors to more closely align school curricula with market demands.
- Promote work experience opportunities for youth through formal and informal apprenticeships, including public and private internship programmes.
- Expand youth specific employment services and career education, including through the establishment of youth job centres.



- Promote decent employment opportunities for Afghan youth abroad and develop specific programmes for their reintegration.
- Bring necessary amendments in labour and civil service laws to provide employment opportunities for young persons with disabilities in government.
- Increase young people's awareness of their rights as workers, and create a young workers' committee within the National Labour Union.

6.2 ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH HEALTH

Young people have specific health needs and adolescent and youth health services should be mainstreamed into the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS). The Ministry of Public Health's National Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) Policy (2009–2013) and its associated CAH Strategy cover children and adolescents up to 18 years of age. This policy should be revised and clear evidence-based

policy and strategy guidelines for youth and adolescents in line with how these groups are defined in this policy should be developed. The following steps should be taken in the development of a youth and adolescent health policy:

1 Adolescent and youth health rights

- a Develop a health strategy for youth and adolescents.
- b Provide youth with access to health counselling.
- c Raise public awareness on the adverse effects of early marriage.
- d Promote awareness and education on the advantages of adequate spacing between births through communities and media.
- e Promote an effective system of birth registration and national identity cards, and civil registration of marriages in line with national laws.
- f Promote public awareness on chronic and epidemic diseases including HIV and AIDS.

2 Drug addiction

- a Raise young people's awareness of the adverse effects of substance abuse.
- b Increase youth friendly treatment facilities for drug addicted youth and their access to drug prevention services at the national and local level.
- c Develop unified programmes to cope with narcotics and addiction, and to find alternative solutions.

- d Promote Islamic education among youth and adolescents to prevent addiction and use of alcoholic drinks, drug and other substance abuse.

3 Adolescent and youth mental health

- a Promote research on the state of adolescent and youth mental health in Afghanistan.
- b Improve the quantity and quality of youth friendly mental health care services and referral systems.
- c Build public awareness of and sensitivity to common mental health issues including depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

4 Gender-based violence

- a Build public awareness regarding the harms and prevention of family based violence.
- b Enforce the law to bring justice to victims of violence.
- c Sensitize and educate legal enforcement entities on violence and ways to protect victims of violence.
- d Sensitize and educate health workers and executive officers on various kinds of violence.
- e Provide youth friendly and safe environments for victims of gender based violence.



5 Healthy lifestyles

- a Mainstream education on hygiene, nutrition, and the health benefits of physical exercise in formal and non-formal education.
- b Promote public awareness on healthy lifestyles.
- c Provide accessible and youth friendly recreation and sports facilities.

6.3 EDUCATION, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)

Educational infrastructure in much of Afghanistan, especially in its rural areas, needs qualitative and quantitative improvement. The government and non-governmental sectors must jointly provide more facilities, with easy access to education and TVET, especially for girls and young women. All stakeholders in education, including

government, non-governmental organisations and the private sector, should adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1 Promote Islamic education services.
- 2 Increase opportunities for quality education in secure environments for disadvantaged adolescents and youth, particularly those with disabilities and young women and girls in remote rural areas.
- 3 Build the management capacity of relevant government entities in the education sector.
- 4 Build a standardized educational system throughout the country, which is flexible, participatory, and religiously and culturally educative.
- 5 Improve the quality and accessibility of TVET by:
 - a Supporting formal and informal TVET programmes based on the Afghanistan National Qualification Framework (ANQF) requirements in general and the TVET regulatory board in particular.
 - b Improving youth access to TVET institutions with a special focus on rural youth, young women, youth with disabilities and prisoners.
 - c Establishing a competency based training (CBT) system of occupational standards for youth and issue them certification
 - d Establishing essential coordination networks between sectors providing vocational and technical education based on market demand.

- 6 Include adult education in the mainstream in order to provide universal access to Islamic education and TVET.
- 7 Create an enabling environment for the private sector in order to promote investments in education and public-private partnerships.
- 8 Raise public awareness regarding the advantages of education, technical and vocational education and training.
- 9 Promote informal education which supports Islamic values and general public interest.
- 10 Encourage lifelong learning opportunities to keep pace with the changing work environments brought about by technological change.
- 11 Provide more opportunities for higher education, particularly for rural youth and young women and build the capacity of students for higher education

6.4 PARTICIPATION

Youth participation in the political, social and economic structures and at the decision making level is a key area of the ANYP. Youth participation, in general, extends over all issues which positively or negatively affect youth empowerment. It is essential for youth to be social and economic co-partners for society's development, and thus an intrinsic part of decision making processes from the very beginning at both national and sub-national levels. Their viewpoints on programmes, especially those developed for them, should be kept in mind by the government and civil society organizations during design, implementation and evaluation.

The ANYP identifies the following guidelines for meaningful, inclusive and active youth participation:



- Build the civic potential of youth through religious and civic education and promote youth leadership capacity building programmes, and promote civic education programmes at schools, religious seminaries and universities.
- Involve youth in the development and implementation of policies and programmes at the national and sub-national levels.
- Encourage and support participation by youth representatives in political, social and economic decision making processes.
- Pay more attention to youth serving in executive positions of government.
- Involve young people in traditional and local processes of dispute resolution.
- Support and expand the media space for youth voices and issues.

- Promote the structural expansion of youth councils to village and town levels and promote sustainable relations between rural and urban youth.
- Design mechanisms to collect young people's views and concerns on national and youth related issues.
- Strengthen youth-led organizations and networks at national and sub-national levels.
- Promote and support youth volunteerism towards preserving vital national interests.
- Encourage dialogue among youth, government and civil society organizations at the national and sub-national levels.
- Develop mechanisms for youth participation in all sectors.
- Raise awareness of youth rights amongst the relevant government officials, civil society organizations, religious scholars, tribal elders and youth.
- Raise parental awareness regarding the rights of youth and adolescents to express their views on issues relevant to them.
- Provide opportunities for youth, especially young women, at schools and higher education institutes to participate on issues such as the educational environment based on the valuable national culture and traditions.
- Create formal posts for youth affairs advisors to senior government officials for consultation regarding youth development.



6.5 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Many of the challenges and problems youth face can only be tackled through coordinated efforts by all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and the private sector. The ANYP interventions on cross-cutting issues are as follows:

1 **Gender equity in line with religious values**

Equal rights and empowerment of young women for societal development should be strictly observed. Young men and women should have legally equal opportunities for developing their talents and personalities, and be able to use resources so that they actively participate in social, economic, cultural development. The following guidelines on policy interventions should be considered:

- Protect and support human rights.
- Government and civil society organizations should prioritize and mainstream youth rights in development programmes.

- Strengthen coordination on gender related issues amongst all relevant sectors.
- Promote training on youth equal rights and empowerment in schools, higher education institutions and at workplaces.
- Build the working capacity of girls and young women to empower them to take on executive positions and participate in government matters.
- Expand youth rights programmes in areas affected by conflict and provide opportunities for political, social and economic participation, particularly for women.
- Engage in a joint effort with tribal elders and religious scholars to support and protect youth rights including those of young women and girls.
- Involve young women and girls in the process of developing policy and programmes at national and sub-national levels.
- Provide more support for organizations working to develop the capacity of young women and girls.

2 Bringing peace and security

Lasting peace and security are the most important needs of the people of Afghanistan. Peace and security can provide sustainable youth development opportunities. Young people play an important role in bringing peace and security.

Government, political parties and civil society organizations should consider the following policy interventions when implementing programmes for peace and security:



UN Photo/Helena Mulkers

- Promote civic education for youth at risk of radicalization.
- Involve youth in the process of building national unity, peace and security.
- Develop opportunities for youth participation with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to secure their localities.
- Promote the participation of youth in local processes of conflict resolution.
- Address youth complaints and ensure social justice for them.
- Raise youth awareness regarding their rights and entitlements.
- Develop national programmes to mobilize youth for bringing peace and security to the country.
- Provide expanded opportunities to help reintegrate youth into a peaceful society and restore their civil rights.



3 Sports promotion

Sports play a critical role in promoting health, unity and recreation. Afghan government and non-governmental organizations should adhere to the following points regarding the promotion of sport and its infrastructure:

- Promote the value of exercise and spirit of healthy competition among youth and adolescents.
- Develop a National Adolescent and Youth Sports Policy.
- Promote inclusive and culturally sensitive access to sports and recreational facilities for youth and adolescents, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- Support integrated sports programmes which use sports as an entry point for priority youth issues including health, drug addiction, youth employment and peace building.

- Encourage private sector investment in sports.
- Promote and preserve traditional Afghan sports among young people.
- Create and develop infrastructure for sports at national and sub-national levels.

4 Environmental sustainability

Decades of conflict, poverty and high rates of population growth have devastated Afghanistan's environment and undermined the wellbeing of rural dwellers, of whom about 90 percent rely directly on natural resources for their livelihoods. Deforestation and illegal logging present major threats to rural livelihoods, particularly those who depend on forests for firewood and revenue from the export of pistachios and almonds. Decreased forest cover and soil erosion have increased flooding which regularly devastates agricultural lands and settlements.

Rural-to-urban migration due to drought and a lack of income opportunities, and the return of 5 million refugees, of whom many resettled in urban areas, has put a heavy burden on urban water and waste management systems.

All stakeholders should promote and support the active participation of youth in preserving and rebuilding Afghanistan's environment through the following measures:

- Promote awareness on environmental issues and practices amongst youth through curricula in schools, religious seminaries and universities.
- Promote green industries and develop the skills of young women and men to take up green jobs.



- Support youth organizations which work for environmental sustainability and appreciate youth who work hard to protect the environment.
- Involve the media in disseminating information on environmental issues and best practices for environmental preservation.
- Encourage and reward local communities and youth groups to adopt sustainable income generating practices.
- Support disaster risk reduction and preparedness amongst communities at risk of natural disasters.
- Enable Afghan youth to take on climate action and climate justice concepts and strategies as part of the Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Afghanistan National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA).

- Work with the growing Afghan youth movement on nature and outdoor programmes in mountains, practical action, environmental restoration and rehabilitation.
- Support youth to participate in national and global days for forests, soil, water, environment, peace-making, climate and biodiversity.
- Create a high level committee on environmental preservation between government and civil society organizations.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK



The following framework has been developed to coordinate and implement National Youth Policy and to monitor the associated government implementation strategy:

7.1 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- a **Implementing entities:** Governmental entities involved in the implementation of the ANYP are: the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs of Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Hajj, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Counter-narcotics, Central Statistic Organization, Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Reform and Civil Service Commission and General Directorate of Sports and National Olympic Committee, and other relevant government entities.

- b **Role of civil society organizations:** Civil society organizations at the national and sub-national level play a critical role in implementing the ANYP. Youth-led civil society organizations will nominate two authorized representatives to the national Oversight Policy Implementation Commission and two representatives for each Provincial Policy Oversight Implementation Commission. Civil society organizations will coordinate their activities in ANYP priority areas through the above mentioned two Oversight Commissions and the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs at the national and sub-national levels.

7.2 NATIONAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION OVERSIGHT

Implementation at the national level will be overseen by a high level National Youth Policy Implementation Oversight Commission ('Commission') chaired by the Second Vice President, with members comprising relevant government representatives and including two from youth-led civil society organizations. The Commission will coordinate the implementation of the ANYP at the national and sub-national levels.

The Government entities will report to the chairperson who will provide direction to improve performance. The Commission will report to the Cabinet meeting.

- a **Commission Regular Meetings:** To oversee the implementation and coordination of National Youth Policy, hear reports and issue directives, the Commission will meet quarterly.
- b **Commission Secretariat:** The Ministry of Information and Culture will provide secretarial support to the Commission.

- c **Internal Mechanism:** The Commission will develop and approve an internal mechanism for its internal operation procedure.
- d **Secretariat Terms of Reference:** The Commission's Terms of Reference will be specified in the internal operation procedure.

7.3 SUB-NATIONAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION OVERSIGHT

Implementation at the sub-national level will be overseen by a Provincial Policy Implementation Oversight Commission chaired by the Governor, with representatives from local government entities and two representatives from civil society. The Commission has overall responsibility for implementing and coordinating the ANYP at the provincial and district levels.

The provincial governors will hear the reports of district governors and will provide direction to improve performance. The Provincial Commission will report to the National Youth Policy Implementation Oversight Commission.

- a Provincial Commission Regular Meetings: To oversee the implementation and coordination of National Youth Policy, hear reports and issue directives, the Provincial Commission will meet monthly in the Office of the Governor.
- b Provincial Commission Secretariat: The Provincial Directorate of Information and Culture will provide secretarial support to the Provincial Commission.

7.4 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO RELEVANT ENTITIES

Governmental departments must consider ANYP priorities when presenting their programmes to the Ministry of Finance for allocation of ordinary and development budgets.

7.5 BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR OVERSEEING ENTITY

Based on the priorities of the ANYP, the Office of Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs as the overseeing entity for policy implementation and coordination should prepare its ordinary and development budget as a budgetary unit within the Ministry of Information and Culture.

7.6 POLICY IMPACT ANALYSIS

The impact of the policy will be analysed annually, based on indicators set out in the National Youth Strategy. If necessary the ANYP impact analysis will be revised after the policy and strategy have been approved.

7.7 POLICY ISSUANCE

This policy will be effective one month after its approval by the Cabinet.

Office of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs
2014

