Factsheet: Ecuador

Last update: 11 June 2014

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

Both the National Youth Policy (2012) and Youth Law (2011) consider youth to be those aged between 18 and 29 years old.

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

- **Youth Development Index**: 0.44 (131 out of 170 countries. Year: 2013)
- **Literacy Rates**: Male (15-24) % - 98.83%, Female (15-24) % - 98.82% (Both sexes (15-24) % - 98.83%)
  
- **Net Enrolment Rate**: Secondary School - 74.03%
  
- **Prevalence of HIV**: Male (15-24) % - 0.3%, Female (15-24) % - 0.2% (Year: 2013)
  
- **Tobacco Use**: Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey - 28.60%
  
**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

The Ecuadorian Youth Law (2011) aims to protect the rights of youth aged 18 to 29 and to ensure the full development of youth as strategic actors in the country. The law is founded on the principles of equality; non-discrimination; participation; favourable treatment; responsibility (state, society and family). The national youth policy (2012) focuses on nine policy areas including education, work, health, housing, culture, and participation, each of which are associated with indicators and performance measures. Article 39 of the Ecuadorian Constitution (2008) states that the government will guarantee and promote the young people’s rights (ex. health, housing, freedom of expression and association) through policies, programmes, institutions and resources. The National Plan for Good Living – 2013-2017, aims to reverse the growing trend of youth unemployment.

**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

**VOTING AGE**

Compulsory voting from 18-45 years. Voting is voluntary from 16-18 years, over 65 years.

- **Majority Age**: 18
- **CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**: Minimum age: Adolescents, 12 to 15 years of age, are not imputable under criminal law, but are liable for their actions. Source: Code of Children and Adolescents of Ecuador (2003)

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

- **Prevalence of HIV**: Male (15-24) % - 0.3%
  
- **Tobacco Use**: Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey - 28.60%
  
**BUDGET & SPENDING**

- **GDP PER CAPITA**: USD 6002.89 (Year: 2013)
- **HDI**: 0.724 (Year: 2013)
- **GINI**: 46.57 (Year: 2012)

**CORRUPTION PERCEPTION**

- **Press Freedom**: 33.16 (95 out of 180 countries.

**POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010**

- **Male (15-24) %**: 98.83%
- **Female (15-24) %**: 98.83%
  
- **Net Enrolment Rate**: Secondary School - 74.03%
  
- **Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment**: 20%

- **UN Child Rights Periodic Report (1996)**:
  
- **Inter-Parliamentary Union**: Source:
  
- **Commonwealth Youth Programme**: Source:
  
- **WHO**: Source:

- **Transparency International**: Source:
  
- **Reporters Without Borders**: Source:

- **World Bank**: Source:

- **UNESCO**: Source:

- **World Bank**: Source:

Last update: 11 June 2014
The Ministry for Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) led the inter-ministerial committee that formulated the national youth policy (2012). Although its focus is on the whole life cycle, the MIES is the government ministry with primary responsibility for youth and youth policy. The Minister of MIES is president of the National Council for Children and Adolescents (to become National Council for Equality between Generations): an inter-ministerial and inter-agency body with responsibility for ensuring that youth obtains the rights enshrined in the constitution.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

The Ecuadorian Youth Law (2011) states that “young people are entitled to participate in all matters which interest or affect them, especially in the design and evaluation of policies, actions and programmes” directly or through constituted organisations. The National Youth Policy (2012) aims to promote and strengthen the right of participation and public and political representation of youth. However, Ecuador does not have a national youth organisation or association that acts as a platform for youth involvement in decision-making.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

The Agenda for Equality of Youth (2012) states that there are no mechanisms for measuring and budgets of the actions of the institutions of power. According to the World Bank, Ecuador spent 13.28% of its government expenditure and 4.36% of its GDP on education provision in 2012.

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Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

**YES**

The Agenda for Equality of Youth (2012) states that there are no mechanisms for measuring and budgets of the actions of the institutions of power. According to the World Bank, Ecuador spent 13.28% of its government expenditure and 4.36% of its GDP on education provision in 2012.

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Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

**NO**

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What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

**UNCLEAR**

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

No Data

Source: World Bank
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

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PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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