

Factsheet: Eritrea

Last update: 28 April 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

While Eritrea does not have a youth policy, the 2012 economic outlook report by African Economic Outlook describes youth as being between the ages of 15-24.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **21**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Entirely indirectly elected.

Upper House **--**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Unicameral.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	--	XX
Female	18	--	XX

No data for marriage with parental consent. Women aged 16-18 who are pregnant or have given birth to a child at the age of 16 may be granted dispensation to marry without parental consent. Homosexual acts illegal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Elections were expected to take place in 2001 but have been postponed indefinitely. Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [US Library of Congress](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

12

Minimum Age
Children between the ages of 12 and 15 are not subject to the ordinary penalties applicable to adults, nor shall they be kept in custody with adult offenders. Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report \(2012\)](#)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 543.82

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.351

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)
182 out of 187 countries.

GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

18

166 out of 177 countries.
Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

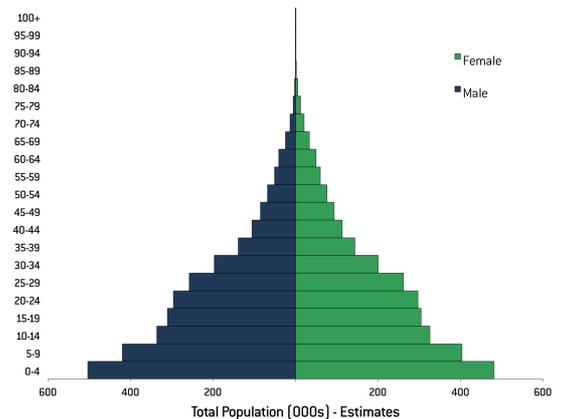
PRESS FREEDOM

84.83

180 out of 180 countries.
Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.27

163 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

93.25%

Both sexes (15-24) %

94.55% **91.91%**

Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

25.81%

Both sexes %

28.37% **23.17%**

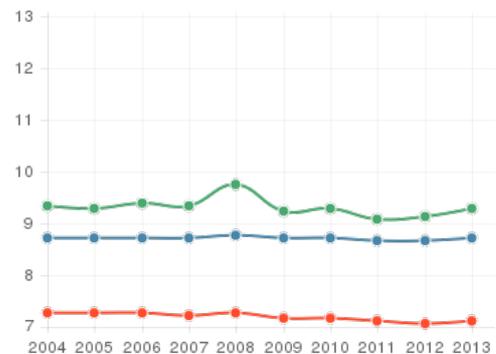
Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.2%

Male (15-24) %

0.2%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

6.60%

Both sexes (13-15) %

7.80%

Male (13-15) %

4.60%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

Eritrea has no youth policy. According to [Rahel Weldeab](#) (2010), the lack of youth policy "means that government ministries and offices are not obliged by policy to dedicate their work specifically to benefit the youth." The constitution of Eritrea mandates that all citizens must complete national service. As described by [Weldeab](#) (2010), this typically starts after the completion of high school or college, meaning that Eritrean society is highly dependent on its youth for its national defense and reconstruction. Youth are unable to possess full rights as citizens (ex. voting) until the completion of this service. According to an article by [Antje Diekhans](#) in July 2013, the military portion of this service is often for an indefinite amount of time.

Is there a national youth policy?

NO

Eritrea concentrates on [employment policies](#). The lack of an overall youth policy has been criticised.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

BUDGET & SPENDING

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

There is no governmental authority that is responsible for youth. As described by [Weldeab](#) (2010), government agencies that deliver programmes to youth often do so without a specific youth strategy in mind. In some limited cases, government bodies such as the Ministry of Health have sought the input and assistance of youth in the design of their programmes. In one instance, the Ministry partnered with the [National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students](#) (NUEYS) because of their success with grassroots HIV/AIDS awareness and condom use campaigns.

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

NO

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students](#) (NUEYS) is a national youth organisation with the mission to "cultivate and produce capable youth by promoting and strengthening Eritrean youth in all aspects of national, regional and international development processes". Its main functions are: (1) Advocacy and Lobbying, ensuring youth needs and issues are raised with decision-makers, and; (2) Service Provision, temporarily providing services to youth that are in scarce supply, such as establishing and running youth health centres around the country.

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

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

No documentation could be found online regarding youth spending in Eritrea.

According to the [World Bank](#), Eritrea spent 2.13% of its GDP on education in 2006, but does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

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

UNCLEAR

youth programming?

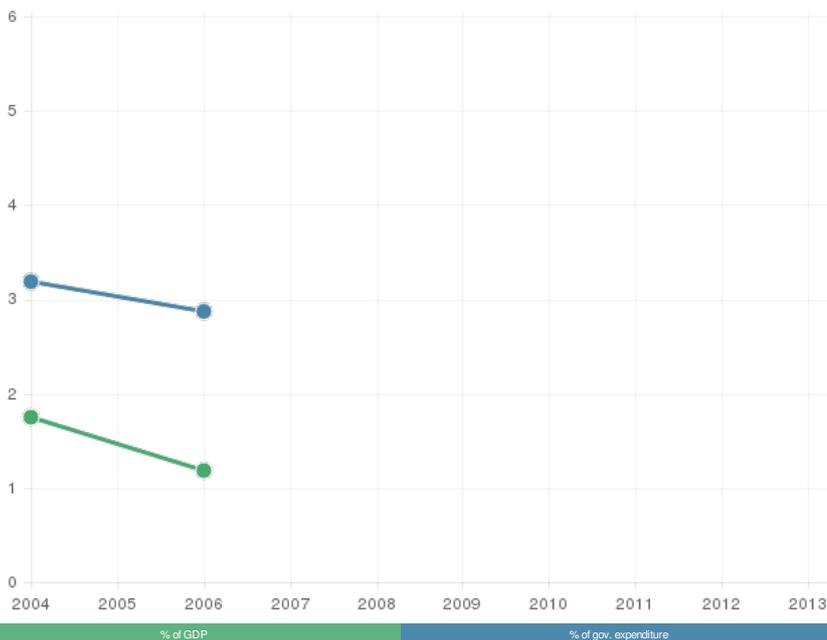
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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



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

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)
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PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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