Factsheet: Saudi Arabia

Last update: 21 April 2014

Definition of Youth

The youth chapter of the Ninth Development Plan (2010–2014) of Saudi Arabia defines youth as 15-24 years old.

Candidacy Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Consultative Council is appointed by the King, with a minimum age of 30.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upper House</th>
<th>---</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marriageable Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without Parental Consent</td>
<td>With Parental Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The youth chapter of the Ninth Development Plan (2010–2014) of Saudi Arabia defines youth as 15-24 years old.

Situations of Young People

Youth Development Index

- 0.56 (103 out of 170 countries).

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

Literacy Rates

- 99.34% (Both sexes: 15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: UNESCO

Net Enrolment Rate

- 91.55% (Secondary School) %

Year: 2013

Source: UNESCO

Situations of Young People

Prevalence of HIV

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Year: No data.

Source: World Bank

Tobacco Use

- 14.90% (Male: 15-24) %

Year: 2005

Source: WHO

Policy & Legislation

Between 2009-2013, the Ministry of Economy and Planning partnered with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a national youth strategy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The National Youth Strategy Project received $1,182,720 and aimed to “enhancing participation of youth in national development processes.”

The ninth development plan 2010-2014 includes a youth chapter focusing on issues such as sport, health, education, culture, women and involvement in society. It includes specific objectives, targets and policies for youth development with financial commitments listed.

Public Institutions

Is there a national youth policy?

NO

Saudi Arabia is developing a youth policy. The ninth development plan (2010-2014) has a youth chapter.

Budget & Spending

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?
According to the development plan 2010-2014 youth chapter, the General Presidency for Youth Welfare is the government agency responsible for coordinating youth sports and social activities in over 107 towns and villages through 123 government facilities. This includes sports cities, youth hostels, sport centres, stadia, gymnasia and public squares. It liaises with government bodies and departments, particularly the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Culture and Information. It focuses on sports and social activities.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

While youth participation in societal, community, economic and employment spheres is referenced throughout the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014), no formal structures exist to realise this.

In a survey referenced in Saudi Arabia's Youth and the Kingdom's Future (2011), 63% of youth respondents said the Saudi government should “give young people increased access to decision-making processes and policy implementation at local level”, 58% believed the government should create “local youth councils for effective participation in society.”

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

The Chapter on Youth Development in the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014) details the expenditure relating to youth:

Under the Ninth Development Plan, the financial requirements for implementing the programmes and various activities of the youth sector (the General Presidency for Youth Welfare) amount to SAR 7.2 billion.

According to the World Bank, Saudi Arabia spent 19.3% of its government expenditure and 5.6% of its GDP on education provision in 2008.

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

**YES**

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

**NO**

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

**SAR 7.2 BILLION**

**USD 1.9 BILLION**

According to the World Bank, Saudi Arabia spent 19.3% of its government expenditure and 5.6% of its GDP on education provision in 2008.

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

Source: World Bank

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**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

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