

Factsheet: Syria

Last update: 8 June 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The [youth policy study](#) (2009) notes that Syrian laws define youth as between 15-25 years, however discrepancies exist and "youth" remains legally and socially poorly defined.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **25**
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

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

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

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

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) notes that child marriage occurs from 13 years. No data for marriageable age with parental consent. Homosexual acts illegal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA, Thomson Reuters](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report](#) (2002)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

7

Minimum Age
From 7 - 15 years old, cannot be sentenced to penalties for acts committed, but may be subject to special reform measures.
Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report](#) (2002)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.62

95 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

96.35%

Both sexes (15-24) %

97.11% **95.55%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

69.10%

Both sexes %

69.04% **69.17%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

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Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

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

24.50%

Both sexes (13-15) %

31.90%

Male (13-15) %

18.90%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

According to the [youth policy study](#) (2009), in 2008, the Government of Syria began working on a national youth policy to form the basis for the "Five-Years Development Plan." It is noted that this would "define structures, activities, procedures and a budget for young people." The process included a national situational analysis on youth, and was supported by UNICEF, UNFPA and national partners, through a national committee. However, the status of the youth policy process is unclear given the [civil conflict beginning in 2011](#).

The [Syrian Constitution](#) (2012) provides basic education for all and allows for numerous freedoms and rights. However, the ratification of the constitution is [controversial](#) and has [been criticised](#).

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Is there a national youth policy?

UNCLEAR

Syria does not yet have a national youth policy, but development is underway. A [2009 study](#) has details.

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 2065.54

Year: 2007

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.648

Year: 2013

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

GINI

35.78

Year: 2004

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

20

159 out of 177 countries.
Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

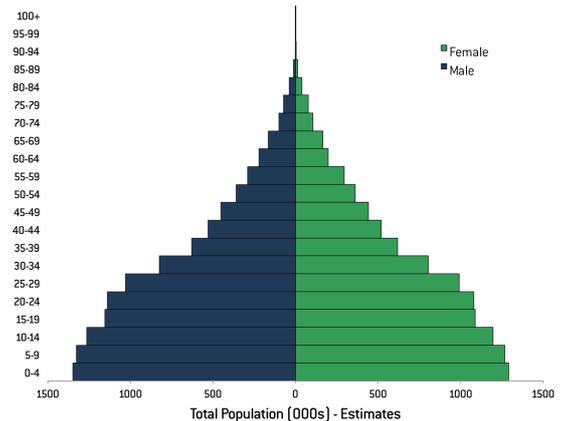
PRESS FREEDOM

77.04

177 out of 180 countries.
Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



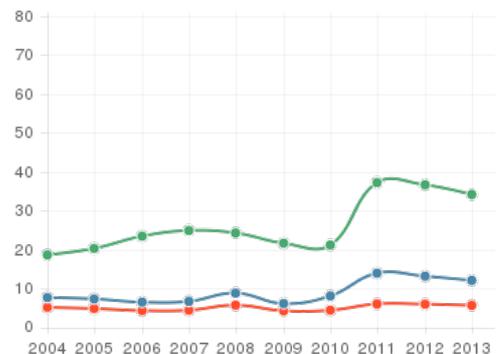
SYR

Source: [United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division](#)

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

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 May 2014).

BUDGET & SPENDING

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

According to the [youth policy study](#) (2009), the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs (SCFA), which reports directly to the Prime Minister, has the aim of "promoting the status of the Syrian family and enhancing its role in the human development process." Its responsibilities include young people, and the SCFA was one of the partners in the development of the national youth policy.

The [Revolutionary Youth Union](#), the youth wing of the [ruling Ba'ath Party](#), had the task of coordinating the youth policy across government ministries, although is not a government institution.

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

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [youth policy study](#) (2009) describes the [Revolutionary Youth Union](#) as the youth wing of the ruling Ba'ath Party, which has 1.2 million members, with 4200 local branches. It operates with the support of the Ba'ath Party leadership and State, with an "educational and political" mandate. It [continues to support the Government](#) throughout the civil conflict.

The Syrian Youth Federation is also noted in the [youth policy study](#) (2009). The [official Facebook Page](#) suggests support for the Syrian opposition, and the current functioning role of the Federation is unclear.

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

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

No documentation on the budget for youth in Syria could be found online. According to the [World Bank](#), Syria spent 19.18% of its government expenditure and 5.13 % of its GDP on education provision in 2009.

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

UNCLEAR

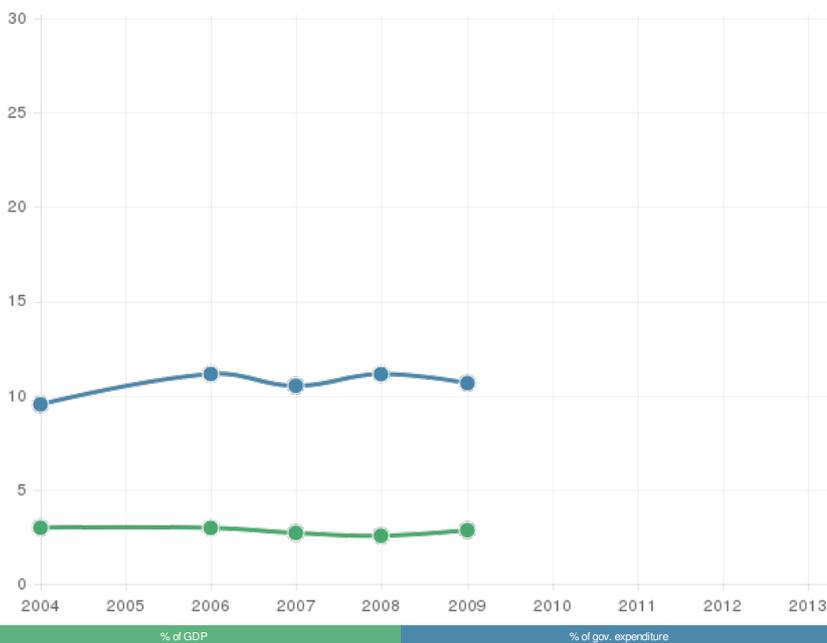
youth programming?

UNCLEAR

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

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Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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