**Factsheet: United Arab Emirates**

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

No clear definition of youth exists in the United Arab Emirates. A National Youth Conference in 2010 targeted young people aged between 11-25 years.

**CANDIDACY AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Conditions vary in each of the seven Emirates. Half of the National Council is appointed, and the other half is indirectly elected.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**MARRIAGEABLE AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<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>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While UAE is based on Sharia law, a minimum age for marriage exists. Homosexual acts illegal, with punishment including the death penalty. Source: UNSD, ILGA, UNICEF Report (2011)

**VOTING AGE**

25

Parliament is half indirectly elected, and half appointed. Minimum age is 25 to be eligible for the Electoral College. Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**MAJORITY AGE**

21

Source: Civil Code (1986)

**CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

7

Minimum Age

Source: Criminal Law of United Arab Emirates (1987)

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

0.65

80 out of 170 countries.

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**LITERACY RATES**

99.43%

Both sexes (15-24) %

99.10%

Male (15-24) %

99.61%

Female (15-24) %

Source: UNESCO

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

Secondary School

Source: UNESCO

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**PREVALENCE OF HIV**

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Male (15-24) %

Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: World Bank

**TOBACCO USE**

19.50%

Both sexes (15-19) %

25.20%

Male (15-19) %

13.20%

Female (15-19) %

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

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

**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

No overarching youth policy or plan exists across the seven federal Emirates of the UAE. One of the strategic objectives of the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare (GAYSW) is to develop “the youth sector according to community needs.” The Authority focuses on youth centres, youth associations, clubs, youth camp, youth awards, and the National Youth Conference. While the Authority has responsibility to “implement Government’s policy on Youth Sector and create action plans and projects to realize it”, no such plans can be found online. Youth are included in the national development plans of Emirates, such as the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030 (2008), which includes a strategic aim to equip youth with the skills needed to enter the workforce.

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

No national youth policy.

**GDP PER CAPITA**

USD 43048.85

Year: 2014

Source: World Bank

**UNDP**

0.818

Year: 2014

Source: UNDP

**GINI**

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Year: No data.

Source: World Bank

**CORRUPTION PERCEPTION**

70

25 out of 177 countries.

Source: Transparency International

**PRESS FREEDOM**

36.03

118 out of 180 countries.

Source: Reporters Without Borders

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
The Ministry of Culture, Youth & Community Development has national responsibility for youth, however the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare (GAYSW) is noted as "the supreme body responsible for the welfare of youth and youth activities." This includes responsibility for the youth sector, and in supporting youth to "utilize free time, improve creative skills, deepen national identity principles, instill loyalty, belonging and voluntary work sense." The GAYSW has offices in three of the Emirates, however, its mandate across the other four is unclear.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

No national youth organisation or association exist within the United Arab Emirates. A National Youth Forum, organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth & Community Development, took place in 2010 and according to the ICICP UAE summary, included "over 2,000 students and sought to promote cultural awareness and creativity among young Emirati citizens." It is unclear whether such Forums have taken place since. According to the official Facebook Page of the GAYSW, the UAE hosted the Arab Youth Development Forum 2014, which focused on the Post-2015 development agenda.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

No documentation on the budget for youth in United Arab Emirates could be found online. The World Bank does not calculate spending on education as a percentage of government expenditure or GDP for United Arab Emirates from 2000.

**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 May 2014).

**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

Visit our library for further reading:
Documents about United Arab Emirates