The 2014 Afghanistan National Youth Policy (ANYP) defines youth as those between 18 and 35 years, however also provides guidelines for adolescents between 12 and 18 years.

**Definition of Youth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marryable Age</th>
<th>Candidacy Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opposite Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without Parental Consent</td>
<td>Lower House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Upper House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Same Sex</strong></td>
<td>Voting Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without Parental Consent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Situation of Young People**

- **Net Enrolment Rates**
  - Both sexes (15-24): 27.02%
  - Male (15-24): 39.08%
  - Female (15-24): 14.48%

- **Literacy Rates**
  - Both sexes (15-24): --
  - Male (15-24): 16%
  - Female (15-24): 4%

- **Tobacco Use**
  - 9.8%
  - Male (15-24): 13.1%
  - Female (15-24): 3.2%

- **Prevalence of HIV**
  - 0.1%
  - Male (15-24): 0.1%
  - Female (15-24): 0.1%

**Youth Policy & Legislation**

The Afghanistan National Youth Policy (ANYP) (2014) was approved in August 2014, according to a Facebook post by Counterpart International, which supported a consultation process that included civil society, government and youth.

The policy is based on eight values, including: “Preservation of and respect for national identity”; “ Provision for social justice”; “Protection of Afghanistan’s religious values and cultural heritage”.

Areas of key policy intervention are youth employment, health, education & training, and participation. Cross-cutting issues include gender equity in line with religious principles, peace and security, sports, and environmental sustainability.

Oversight is provided by a National Youth Policy Implementation Oversight Commission, chaired by the Second Vice President.

Is there a national youth policy? **Yes**

Afghanistan recently approved its first ever national youth policy in August 2014. A youth strategy is being developed.
Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

Yes

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

Unclear

While there are several indications of a national youth council in Afghanistan, there is no formal information available on its role, capacity or structure. The 2014 national youth policy aims to “promote the structural expansion of youth councils to village and town levels and promote sustainable relations between rural and urban youth” as a key policy intervention, and the Ministry of Information & Culture’s strategy section describes that a “nation wide youth council has been established and the grounds for the studies [sic] of hundreds of youth have been provided by the deputy ministry”, however there is no information beyond this.

YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the 1392 National Budget (2013-2014), the Ministry of Information & Culture received an operational budget of AFN 837 million (USD 15.4 million). It is unclear how much of this is allocated specifically to the Office of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs.

The World Bank lists no data on public spending on education in Afghanistan since 2000.

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

Footnotes

1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)

2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequality. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)

3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)

4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means the lowest. (Reporters Without Borders)

5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)