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DEFINITION OF YOUTH
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CANDIDACY AGE
Lower House: 21
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (Partially appointed)
Upper House: --
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (Unicameral)

MARRIAGEABLE AGE
Opposite Sex
Male: 0
Female: 0
XX

Same Sex
Male: 0
Female: 0
XX

Without Parental Consent

With Parental Consent

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX
0.36
145 out of 170 countries.
Year: 2013
Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES
73.18%
Both sexes (15-24) %
75.55%
Male (15-24) %
70.84%
Female (15-24) %
Year: 2015
Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE
Secondary School
---
---

Both sexes %
---
---

Tobacco Use

Prevalence of HIV
0.2%
Male (15-24) %
0.4%
Female (15-24) %
Year: 2013
Source: World Bank

36.10%
Both sexes (13-15) %
34.00%
Male (13-15) %
36.60%
Female (13-15) %
Year: 2010
Source: WHO

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

The National Youth Policy is the guiding instrument for the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) and its partners. It focuses on eleven themes including socio-cultural development, economic development and employment, and education. The Government of the Gambia committed to securing the resources required to deliver the policy from international partners and the national budget. In 2008, the Gambia signed the African Youth Charter. A Children’s Act from 2005 brings together all laws relating to children and sets out their rights and responsibilities. The national development strategy emphasises commitment to the National Youth Service Scheme and the National Youth Council. A Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (2012) outlines policy initiatives designed to promote youth employment.

POLICY & LEGISLATION

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PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Last update: 19 October 2014
The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) is responsible for the overall administration, development, promotion and regulation of youth and sports policy. Its mission is to deliver excellence in youth and sports development through entrepreneurship, employability, leadership and participation in sports. The MOYS has implementation agencies including the Department of Youth and Sports, National Youth Service Scheme, and the National Youth Council. The MOYS strategic plan 2010-2014 outlines nine priority goals and an action plan for achieving these.

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

YES

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

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

No documentation on the budget for youth in The Gambia could be found online. According to the World Bank, the Gambia spent 21.26% of its government expenditure and 4.07% of its GDP on education provision in 2012.

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).

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

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The National Youth Council (NYC) describes itself as an autonomous body. Its composition, functions and structure are aligned to the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS). The NYC was set up in 2000 following an act of parliament, to advise the Gambian government on youth matters. The MOYS website states that the NYC aims to mobilise and organise youth for their empowerment and transformation into productive citizens, able to contribute to national development. The Daily Observer (2013) reports that the NYC includes representatives from regional youth committees.

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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