Factsheet: Ghana
Last update: 11 June 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

According to Ghana’s national youth policy (2010), youth is defined as those between 15-35 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>Upper House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-- XX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-- --</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No data for marriage with parental consent. No specific legislation for female homosexual acts, which are legal. Male homosexual acts illegal. Source: UNSD, ILGA

VOTING AGE

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

12

A minor is defined as a person below eighteen years of age. Source: Constitution of Ghana (Amended) (1996)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.6

96 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

90.60%

Both sexes (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

51.48%

Secondary School

Year: 2006

Source: UNESCO

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.3%

Male (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: World Bank

0.4%

Female (15-24) %

TOBACCO USE

12.50%

Both sexes (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

14.10%

Male (13-15) %

10.60%

Female (13-15) %

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

Ghana adopted its latest national youth policy in 2010, focused on youth empowerment.

Source: World Bank

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

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The theme of the National Youth Policy of Ghana (2010) is ‘towards an empowered youth, impacting positively on national development’. The policy covers 19 areas, including:

- Education & Skills Training;
- Youth in Modern Agriculture;
- Gender Mainstreaming;
- Youth in Conflict Prevention & Peace-Building;

Key stakeholders include the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the National Youth Council (now called the National Youth Authority), youth associations, and international development partners. It is to be implemented through an action plan outlining timeframes and budgets. The 2014 Budget Statement mentions that an action plan and youth law are slated for 2014. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Ghana is a signatory of The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015.

BUDGET & SPENDING

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

UNCLEAR

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

GHS 10.2 MILLION
USD 3.7 MILLION

According to the 2014 estimates for the budget of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, “Youth Services” will be allocated GHS 10.2 million (USD 3.7 million). According to the World Bank, Ghana spent 24.38% of its government expenditure and 5.54% of its GDP on education provision in 2010. It spent 8.14% of its GDP on education in 2011, but the World Bank does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The National Youth Authority (NYA), formally called the National Youth Council (NYC), is an agency within the Ministry of Youth and Sports that is responsible for coordinating and facilitating youth development activities in Ghana. Established in 1974, its mandate is to “ensure the empowerment of the Ghanaian youth”.

Its Annual Workplan for the NYA - 2014 lists key activities and projects that will be undertaken, such as building a new database of youth groups, training youth workers on prevention of substance abuse, and organising a Presidential Youth Dialogue.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

It is unclear what youth representation structures exist at the national level. According to a 2012 profile on youth and civic participation, youth and student groups were organized under the Federation of Youth Associations in Ghana (FEDYAG). However, the group has no online presence, and no indication that it is still in operation.

Ghana is a member of the Commonwealth Youth Council, however its membership is not through a youth representation structure, but rather the National Youth Authority (NYA), a governmental agency within the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

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