Factsheet: Lebanon

Last update: 8 June 2014

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

According to Lebanon's 2012 youth policy, youth is defined as aged 15-29 years old.

**CANDIDACY AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Minimum Age (15-24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**MARRIAGEABLE AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Minimum Age (15-24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rates</td>
<td>99.09% Both sexes (15-24)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNESCO

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

The Document of the Youth Policy in Lebanon (2012) outlines policy recommendations in five areas:

- Demography and migration;
- Labour and economic participation;
- Education and culture;
- Health;
- Social integration and political participation.

The document was endorsed by the Lebanese Council of Ministers, however as noted on the Youth Forum website, the endorsement does not mean it can be directly implemented. As such, the Youth Forum also created a technical and legal review of the youth policy (2012), which identifies where new legislation or implementation mechanisms are needed to action each recommendation.

**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

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

Source: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).
A January 2010 e-newsletter of the Youth Advocacy Process (YAP) describes the genesis of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which is responsible for youth affairs in Lebanon. Formed in 2000, it inherited youth from the Ministry of Education. In 2009, the ministry established a department for youth, apart from sport, with a special focus on youth development and policy issues. As described in the 2012 youth policy, the ministry works in partnership with the Youth Forum on Youth Policies, and had helped lobby the Lebanese Council of Ministers to adopt the policy.

The Youth Forum for Youth Policy is comprised of youth NGOs and the youth wings of political parties. It is recognised by the Lebanese government via Decree No. 80/2007. It aims to influence decision-makers through its youth policy recommendations, monitor the endorsement of the youth policy, as well as its implementation and evaluation. The Youth Forum is the result of the cumulative work of its predecessor, the Youth Advocacy Process (YAP), which began in 2000 as a network of youth NGOs in collaboration with UNESCO and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

While the Ministry of Finance provides some information relating to Lebanon’s national budget, it is not possible to determine the budget spent on youth. According to the World Bank, Lebanon spent 7.11% of its government expenditure and 2.20% of its GDP on education provision in 2012.

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