Factsheet: Myanmar

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The Child Law (1993) defines youth as those between 16-18 years, however no definition of youth is applied consistently.

There are two apparently parallel processes underway to develop a national youth policy. One was initiated in 2012 by the Myanmar Youth Forum and is led by the newly formed National Youth Congress - both youth-led. The other was initiated by UNFPA, whose country representative is quoted saying that “[a 2014 visit of Princess Mary] confirms that we are on the right track in working closely with the Government of Myanmar to develop a youth policy.” How these processes relate and interact is not clear. According to an ActionAid blog, it seems - at least in part - controversial, with a youth activist stating that “the National Youth Congress was recently informed by a UN agency […] that they themselves initiated a youth policy process” but that they “will not feedback on any youth policy that is not an outcome of a participatory and engaging process.”

There are two apparently parallel processes underway to develop a national youth policy. One was initiated in 2012 by the Myanmar Youth Forum and is led by the newly formed National Youth Congress - both youth-led. The other was initiated by UNFPA, whose country representative is quoted saying that “[a 2014 visit of Princess Mary] confirms that we are on the right track in working closely with the Government of Myanmar to develop a youth policy.” How these processes relate and interact is not clear. According to an ActionAid blog, it seems - at least in part - controversial, with a youth activist stating that “the National Youth Congress was recently informed by a UN agency […] that they themselves initiated a youth policy process” but that they “will not feedback on any youth policy that is not an outcome of a participatory and engaging process.”

There are two apparently parallel processes underway to develop a national youth policy. One was initiated in 2012 by the Myanmar Youth Forum and is led by the newly formed National Youth Congress - both youth-led. The other was initiated by UNFPA, whose country representative is quoted saying that “[a 2014 visit of Princess Mary] confirms that we are on the right track in working closely with the Government of Myanmar to develop a youth policy.” How these processes relate and interact is not clear. According to an ActionAid blog, it seems - at least in part - controversial, with a youth activist stating that “the National Youth Congress was recently informed by a UN agency […] that they themselves initiated a youth policy process” but that they “will not feedback on any youth policy that is not an outcome of a participatory and engaging process.”

There are two apparently parallel processes underway to develop a national youth policy. One was initiated in 2012 by the Myanmar Youth Forum and is led by the newly formed National Youth Congress - both youth-led. The other was initiated by UNFPA, whose country representative is quoted saying that “[a 2014 visit of Princess Mary] confirms that we are on the right track in working closely with the Government of Myanmar to develop a youth policy.” How these processes relate and interact is not clear. According to an ActionAid blog, it seems - at least in part - controversial, with a youth activist stating that “the National Youth Congress was recently informed by a UN agency […] that they themselves initiated a youth policy process” but that they “will not feedback on any youth policy that is not an outcome of a participatory and engaging process.”
The Department of Social Welfare within the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is responsible for youth issues, though the Situation Analysis of Children (2012) was co-published by UNICEF and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. The Department of Social Welfare implements both preventive and protective measures, including the establishment of youth centers and voluntary night schools for primary education as preventive measures and the establishment of youth development centers as protective measures.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

In the context of the struggle between the army-backed government and the opposition movement, there are several organizations claiming to represent all young people of Myanmar. Among them are the Myanmar Youth Forum, the National Youth Congress, and the National Youth Network.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

No documentation on youth spending could be found online. According to the World Bank, Myanmar spent 0.77% of its GDP on education in 2011, but does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

**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 August 2013).

**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

Visit our library for further reading:
Documents about Myanmar