**Factsheet: Nicaragua**

Last update: 5 June 2014

### DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The national youth policy (2004) of Nicaragua defines youth as between 18-30 years.

### CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td>Partially elected by other means.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper House</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td>Unicameral.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opposite Sex</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same Sex</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum Age

Between 13-18, children are subject to educational measures, however those 15-18 may be imprisoned. Source: Child and Adolescents Code of Nicaragua (1998).

### DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The national youth policy (2004) of Nicaragua defines youth as between 18-30 years.

### SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

#### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

- **Index:** 0.62
- **Rank:** 91 out of 170 countries.
- **Source:** Commonwealth Youth Programme

#### LITERACY RATES

- **Male (15-24):** 91.62%
- **Female (15-24):** 89.65%
- **Source:** UNESCO

#### NET ENROLMENT RATE

- **Secondary School:** 45.44%
- **Source:** UNESCO

#### PREVALENCE OF HIV

- **Male (15-24):** 0.1%
- **Female (15-24):** 0.1%
- **Source:** World Bank

#### TOBACCO USE

- **Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey:** 25.10%
- **Source:** WHO

### SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

#### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

Minimum Age

Between 13-18, children are subject to educational measures, however those 15-18 may be imprisoned. Source: Child and Adolescents Code of Nicaragua (1998).

### POLICY & LEGISLATION

The national youth policy (2004) aims “to improve the quality of life of youth, social inclusion, the acquisition of their emancipation, the development of potential and contribution to the advancement of the country.”

The policy outlines priorities under six key objectives: Employability; Education; Health; Participation; Culture & Sports; Prevention of Violence. The guiding principles of the policy are youth participation, gender equality, equity & rights, and intergenerational relations.

The 2014 policy is closely integrated with the National Development Plan 2012-2016 which focuses on economic development, employment, enterprise and technology. It contains specific policies for young people focusing on social mobility, employment & enterprise, and rights & responsibilities.

### 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

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

NIO 25.3 MILLION USD 932,083

According to the 2014 Budget, the total budget for the Ministry of Youth (website currently unavailable) is NIO 25.3 million (USD 932,083).

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)

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Ministry of Youth (website currently unavailable) was created in 2013, and according to an article on 21 February 2013, absorbed responsibility for youth affairs from the Youth Institute (INJUVE). Its functions are listed as including recreation, culture, education, health, entrepreneurship and youth participation.

A National Commission on Youth (CNJ) was established in a 2003 law as an inter-agency body, and is noted as being responsible for the implementation of the national youth policy (2004). However, the current status of the CNJ is unknown.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The National Youth Council of Nicaragua (CJN) is described as the representative body for Nicaraguan youth. Established in 1992 by Law No. 392 (Article 23), CJN is mandated to work with municipal and regional councils and to represent NGOs working with youth. Representatives from the council are also members of the National Commission on Youth, which was consulted in the creation of the national youth policy (2004). The CJN’s website contains recent posts, as does the official Facebook Page, but there is limited information about CNJ’s current activities.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the 2014 Budget, the total budget for the Ministry of Youth (website currently unavailable) is NIO 25.3 million (USD 932,083).

According to the World Bank, Nicaragua spent 26.41% of its government expenditure and 4.57% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

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