Factsheet: South Africa

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

South Africa’s National Youth Policy, as well as its National Youth Commission Act and its Integrated Youth Development Strategy (draft 1, 2), defines youth as 14 to 35 years of age.

CANDIDACY AGE

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

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Partially appointed and by other means.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

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

Source: UNSD, ILGA

VOTING AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

Minimum Age

From 10-14 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 10 cannot be held responsible for their actions.


SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.58

100 out of 170 countries.

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

99.02%

Both sexes (15-24) %

98.65% Male (15-24) %

99.39% Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

68.77%

Secondary School

Both sexes %

57.96% Male %

64.57% Female %

Year: 2005

Source: UNESCO

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

4.0%

Male (15-24) %

13.1%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: World Bank

TOBACCO USE

24.00%

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

Both sexes (13-15) %

29.30% Male (13-15) %

20.10% Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The National Youth Commission (NYC) Act (1996) established the NYC as the statutory body responsible for youth policy. It was replaced by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), established by Act No. 54 of 2008. The Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS) (draft 1, 2) seeks to streamline youth economic development, integrating policies such as the National Industrial Policy Framework (NIPF) with the National Youth Policy. It is also linked to the National Youth Service Policy Framework, which promotes youth volunteering as a way for youth to contribute to development, build skills and develop abilities. Both the NYP and IYDS (draft 1, 2) are influenced by the National Youth Development Policy Framework 2002-2007. In 2009, South Africa also ratified the African Youth Charter.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?
The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) is the main government agency responsible for youth. It advocates for the mainstreaming of youth development in all governmental spheres at the policy level, and delivers services; implementing and facilitating youth development programmes. The National Youth Policy states that the Youth Desk in The Presidency is responsible for coordinating youth development, however as of the date of this Fact Sheet, the Youth Desk is not listed on the website of The Presidency.

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

YES

The South African Youth Council (SAYC) was founded in 1997 and is an autonomous, non-partisan umbrella association for youth organisations. According to its 2010 report South African Youth Council: Towards a Coordinated and Integrated Youth Development, it is governed by a National Executive Committee comprised of Provincial Chairpersons and Secretaries. SAYC represents youth in forums including the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC), the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), and the National Skills Authority (NSA).

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

YES

The 2013 National Budget for the Presidency states that the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) will receive ZAR 393 million (USD 40 million) for 2013/14. According to the World Bank, South Africa spent 19.20% of its government expenditure and 5.98% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

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

ZAR 393 MILLION
USD 40 MILLION

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

YES

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

Visit our library for further reading:
Documents about South Africa