Factsheet: South Sudan

Last update: 8 June 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The Sudan Tribune on 29 August 2013, defined youth, according to the 2008 Sudan Housing and Population Census, as between 18-35 years. Youth consist of 70% of the South Sudanese population.

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

POLICY & LEGISLATION

According to a UNICEF press release on 10 July 2012, a series of consultations have been completed to, “provide input to the revision of the existing policy document that was developed prior to the independence of South Sudan, 9 July 2011.” This national consultation, entitled “Youth LEAD”, resulted in a full report (2012) and a summary version (2012). According to Voices of Youth, this will become a baseline study for the new national youth policy, which revises the policy of 2006-2007.

The youth report (2012) notes that a revised youth policy was due in 2012, however no updated version can be found online. A press release on 29 August 2013 states that the updated version will focus on youth unemployment.

The youth policy is under revision. A 2013 youth report (longer) exists but employment figures are missing.

Is there a national youth policy?

UNCLEAR

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

The Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports (MoCYS) is responsible for youth affairs and the national youth policy, promotion of youth activities and projects, youth services, youth organisations, youth centres and hostels, youth sport activities, and developing policies on youth development. According to the *Youth Unemployment Briefing* (2012), the Ministry of General Education and Instruction has a unit responsible for youth education, and a dedicated Youth Directorate exists within the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

A South Sudan Youth Forum is mentioned online, as having existed since 1983 and being a national platform for youth councils and youth NGOs. However, there is no recent online activity, nor further mention of the Forum in governmental or international agency reports. It is therefore unclear if the Forum is still currently active.

According to an article on 4 December 2013, “youth are not organized into youth governing body to raise their issues to the government” and there is a “lack of platform for exchange of best practice.”

BUDGET & SPENDING

No documentation on the budget for youth in South Sudan could be found online. The World Bank does not calculate spending on education as a percentage of government expenditure or GDP for South Sudan since 2000.