Factsheet: Syria

Is there a national youth policy?

UNCLEAR

Syria does not yet have a national youth policy, but development is underway. A 2009 study has details.

The Syrian Constitution (2012) provides basic education for all and allows for numerous freedoms and rights. However, the ratification of the constitution is controversial and has been criticised.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Thomson Reuters Foundation notes that child marriage occurs from 13 years. No data for marriageable age with parental consent.

Homosexual acts illegal. Source: UNSD, ILGA, Thomson Reuters

Lower House

25

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Upper House

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Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Uncertain.

Male  18  --  XX

Female  18  --  XX

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SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.62

95 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

96.35%

Both sexes (15-24) %

97.11%  95.55%

Male  (15-24) %  Female  (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

69.10%

Both sexes %

69.04%  69.17%

Male %  Female %

Year: 2012

Source: UNESCO

Tobacco Use

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

24.50%

Both sexes (13-15) %

31.90%  18.90%

Male (13-15) %  Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or education?
According to the youth policy study (2009), the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs (SCFA), which reports directly to the Prime Minister, has the aim of "promoting the status of the Syrian family and enhancing its role in the human development process." Its responsibilities include young people, and the SCFA was one of the partners in the development of the national youth policy.

The Revolutionary Youth Union, the youth wing of the ruling Ba'ath Party, had the task of coordinating the youth policy across government ministries, although it is not a government institution.

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

YES

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

UNCLEAR

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The Syrian Youth Federation is also noted in the youth policy study (2009). The official Facebook Page suggests support for the Syrian opposition, and the current functioning role of the Federation is unclear.

Has documentation on the budget for youth in Syria could be found online. According to the World Bank, Syria spent 19.18% of its government expenditure and 5.13% of its GDP on education provision in 2009.

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Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

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