THE
NATIONAL YOUTH
POLICY OF
SOMALILAND

January, 2010
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1. Abbreviations

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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Community Service Organisation</td>
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<td>ESSP</td>
<td>Education Sector Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female Genital Mutilation</td>
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<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender Based Violence</td>
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<td>GER</td>
<td>Gross Enrolment Rate</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
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<td>ICNYP</td>
<td>International Council on National Youth Policy</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information Communication Technology</td>
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<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Person</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Office</td>
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<td>MDG’s</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
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<td>MoYS</td>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Sports</td>
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<td>MoF&amp;SD</td>
<td>Ministry of Family and Social Development</td>
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<td>MoHAL</td>
<td>Ministry of Health and Labour</td>
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<td>NFBF</td>
<td>Non Formal Basic Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Government Organisation</td>
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<td>OVC</td>
<td>Orphans and Vulnerable Children</td>
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<td>PLWHA</td>
<td>People Living With HIV or Aids</td>
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<td>RoSI</td>
<td>Republic of Somaliland</td>
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<td>SNEA</td>
<td>Somaliland National Education Act</td>
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<td>SNEP</td>
<td>Somaliland National Education Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOLNAC</td>
<td>Somaliland AIDS Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>STI/STD</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Infections / Sexually Transmitted Disease</td>
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<td>TB</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td>TVET</td>
<td>Technical &amp; Vocational Education and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS</td>
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UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF  United Nations International Children Fund
NYEAP  National Youth Employment Action Strategy
YEN  Youth Employment Network
2. The Minister’s Statement

As the Minister of Youth and Sports, I am pleased and gratified to present the National Youth Policy of the Republic of Somaliland. This National Youth Policy is a product of broad consultations with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and young people in the regions of Somaliland.

The National Youth Policy seeks to equip all stakeholders involved in youth development, namely the government ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, the community leaders and above all, young men and women with a long-term vision for youth development, a guiding principles and a set of priority themes and strategic interventions.

The NYP envisions a society where all Somaliland young men and women are secure and confident and have a strong sense of identity and loyalty to their peaceful and prosperous nation, and its Islamic values and culture. It also envisions that they are protected and have equal opportunities to participate in all democratic processes while having unlimited access to educational, employment, sporting and social opportunities.

The NYP aims at inculcating the young people with awareness of, respect for and an active commitment to the principles and values of Islam and the country’s constitution and culture; promoting an integrated, holistic and coordinated framework which creates opportunities and the proper conditions for young people to empower themselves and develop their full potential, creating new mechanisms that ensure more effective collaborative and coordination between all youth development stakeholders, including government ministries, international development agencies, Somaliland civil society and private sector, the wider community and young people, fostering the active participation and leadership of young men and women in community and national life, giving recognition and visibility to the contributions and unique assets of young people, and infusing in the young people a spirit and sense of patriotism, care and respect for the Republic of Somaliland.

I am confident that National Youth Policy will infuse strong personal, moral and ethical values amongst young people, whilst at the same time, affording them the opportunity to be dynamic, competitive and resourceful partners in the socio-economic development of Somaliland. The National Youth Policy is a call for action. To succeed, it must have the active participation and support of entire society – from the government and non-government organizations, the private sector, the broader community, and to the young people themselves. All of these groups must collaborate and cooperate together through the framework provided by the National Youth Policy to enhance the contribution and resources that young people bring to national development.
The Somaliland NYP is integrated with all concerned ministries involved. It is apparent that in order to give young people possibilities to a positive development there is a need for cooperation between different actors, both on national and international level. What is important is not the production of NYP document, but how key role players participate in its implementation and monitoring.

The MOYS is extremely grateful for the support provided by the stakeholders who have taken part in the policy formulation process. We are confident that the policy will set a positive and successful direction for the development of all young men and women in Somaliland.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Mr. Mohamoud Said Mohamed

Minister for Youth and Sports
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

With some 70% of Somaliland population (estimated at 3.7 million) aged below 30 years, the young people clearly comprise a substantial part of Somaliland population. In spite of the fact that the future of Somaliland is the youth, the youth population have not been afforded the opportunity to develop their full potential, and access the opportunities that enable them to grow, develop and prosper as fully engaged, responsive and productive citizens. The young people by virtue of their vulnerability and other constraints find themselves relegated to the margins of society and are unable to benefit from the available opportunities and policy dispensations offered by our democracy.

This National Youth Policy is declaration of commitment that Somaliland gives to its youth population is setting and meeting the priorities and development needs of its young men and women. The Somaliland youth policy defines objectives, strategies, concrete steps, target groups, key role prayers and implementation mechanisms. It clearly defines the role of the young people in society and the responsibility of our society to the young people.

The National Youth Policy (NYP) 2010-2015 is part of a global trend of formulating youth policies that addressed the changing conditions of young population in the 21st century. As countries worldwide engage in a process of developing/renewing youth policy, the National Youth Policy 2010-2015 seeks to contribute both to the particular needs and circumstances of Somaliland’s youth, and the global youth community.

This National Youth Policy represents a declaration and commitment by the Republic of Somaliland with respect to its intentions regarding its priorities, directions and practical support for youth development over the next five years.

This National Youth Policy recognizes that the young men and women of Somaliland face immense challenges in every aspect of their lives. Equally this policy seeks to acknowledge that young people are a significantly underutilised, under recognized and under respected resource that needs to be mobilized for their positive contribution and creativity for community and national development. Hopefully this policy is the beginning of that process.

The National Youth Policy (NYP) is based upon a three-year process made possible through the cooperative efforts of the ministry of Youth and Sports, UNICEF, the International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP), a wide range of civil society organizations, relevant line ministries, the young people themselves, the private sector and the media. These parts gathered together in a variety of settings to express their opinions, share their aspirations and creatively brainstorming about the future of the youth. Such consultation and dialogue among
key stakeholders was the foundation for the development of NYP, since the role of stakeholders is imperative throughout the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases.

In adopting Somaliland’s first National Youth Policy, the Government of the Republic of Somaliland not only acknowledges the value and significance of its young people but also draws on international experience which clearly demonstrates the fundamental need for a comprehensive and holistic national youth policy providing a framework and focus for youth development by all stakeholders.

1.2. **Purpose and Rationale**

There are challenges for Somaliland young people and there are a lot of factors affecting youth, such as limited access to education, training, limited employment opportunities, poor housing conditions and political and administrative institutions are dominated by people above 40 years of age. A large proportion of the young population (including their parents) have in Somaliland comes from rural areas entering the work force within the country and abroad with limited education and marketable skills.

Despite the fact that young people are a majority of the population and that they are viewed as a resource; youth policy has not high on the agenda and there has not been a youth policy in terms of unified document and specific policies or programmes to address the needs of young men and women has not been developed and there is an overlap and weak cooperation among government ministries and organisations.

Thus, the need to develop youth policy for improving the possibilities to influence, education, work and living conditions for young people, was imperative. To this end, the current national youth policy represents the way that the Somaliland government envisions the future of its society and, particularly that of youth.

The National Youth Policy is specifically aimed at closing the identified gaps, addressing the challenges and recommending new measure to improve and accelerate implementation thereby making major stride in the development of young people by ensuring that they assume their rightful place in building prosperous and democracy in Somaliland. The NYP is an important investment for the future and a struggle for young people for survival, cultural and social production, the building of a nation, industrialization, ecological reform, social justice, development and democracy.

This policy is prepared for the entire Somaliland youth sector, with the intention of closing the identified gaps, strengthening the existing interventions, introducing new ones, shedding those that have not worked, enhancing the quality of the services rendered, extending coverage and increasing impact. In future it provides a basis for review of key achievements and emerging trends in the field of youth development by reflecting on the role of youth, those responsible for provision of their services, and key social support systems.
As a strategic document, the policy will consequently offer a set of policy priorities and recommendations as way forward in order to turn the general concept of youth development into action thus ensuring that young men and women realize their full potential whilst contributing to the overall development of society at large.

Through the National Youth Policy, the government declares the importance of the active involvement of young people in national development, demonstrating the distinctive and complementary roles of all government ministries, the non-government sector and youth groups in youth development; providing a framework with common goals for development and promoting a spirit of co-operation and co-ordination.

The rationale of the National Youth Policy 2010-2015 is thus to:

- Ensure that all young men and women are given meaningful opportunities to reach their full potential, both as individuals and as active participants in society;
- Identify gaps in the Somaliland youth development and the current policy and propose strategic policy interventions designed to fill them, thus speeding up further development of youth;
- Define the targets of the proposed youth development interventions;
- Address the major concerns and issues critical to young men and women and give direction to youth programmes and services provided by government and non-government organizations;
- Address the needs of the youth with special focus on key priority areas;
- Ensure mainstreaming of youth development in programmes run by different key role players;
- Position policy implementation in the context of institutional responsibilities and processes;
- Sensitise the government institutions and civil society toward youth development and acknowledge the initiatives of young men and women, and enabling the government to give priority to youth development and display its commitment to national youth development through the creation of appropriate policy implementation mechanisms and the allocation of sufficient resources;
- Encourage an understanding amongst the young men and women of the processes of governance and provide opportunities for their participation in national, regional, and local programmes, thus enabling them to play a positive role in development; and
- Provide justification for the development of National Strategic Plans to describe the role of all agencies in youth development and particularly the design and development of programmes they can undertake to achieve the goals and objectives of this policy and in providing a foundation and direction for the National Youth Action Plan. in ensuring that government authorities work in a cooperative and harmonious manner when designing and delivering programmes and services which address youth development needs.
1.3. **Priority Areas:**

The core areas of the National Youth Policy are twelve themes chosen as priority strategy areas, each with specific strategic objectives and key priority interventions, namely:

1. Education and Training
2. Employment Creation, Economic Participation and Poverty reduction
3. Healthy and Quality Lifestyles
4. Youth Participation and Citizenship
5. Gender Equity and Empowerment of Young Women
6. Security and Peace
7. Justice and Juvenile Delinquency
8. Environment
9. Sports and Recreation
10. Information Technology & Globalisation
11. Arts and Culture
12. Immigration and Diaspora.

The National Youth Policy of Somaliland also highlights a set of rights and responsibilities for young men and women in Somaliland.

The National Youth Policy envisages that new thinking and structures will be required to ensure effective implementation of recommended strategies and interventions. It proposes the development of a national youth action plan to elaborate ‘what, who, how and when’ details.

1.4. **Youth Definition**

This National Youth Policy is focussed on young Somalilanders who are aged 14 to 35 years old. These years represent that significant stage in life when most young people move from childhood to adulthood, from school to work, from dependence to independence. It is a period which requires special interventions to ensure these transitions are positive and that each person is able to reach their potentials.

This National Youth Policy also acknowledges that the age group of 14 to 35 years old are not a homogenous group. Young people in Somaliland experience different circumstances and opportunities depending on their socio-economic status, gender, abilities and geographic location. While this Policy seeks to provide a vision, framework and set of critical interventions that targets all young people in the 14 to 35 year age, it is recognised that certain groups of young people deserve special attention, namely nomadic youth, young people with disabilities, unemployed young people, vulnerable young people, internally displaced young people, out of school young people and orphans.
1.5. **Historical Considerations**

Somaliland represents a country in post-conflict recovery. The war for sovereignty (1982 - 1991) had a devastating impact on the economy and physical infrastructure of Somaliland and affected the lives of all residents. The war led to the deaths of tens of thousands of Somalilanders, and a massive displacement of people internally and the dispersal of refugees across the face of the globe. The country endured almost total destruction of infrastructure including youth & sports facilities, communications, schools and public health facilities.

Since declaring its independence in 1991 and separating from the rest of Somalia, the country has despite international recognition begun to prosper and redevelop. It has established a stable political democracy, functioning administrative institutions, growing educational and health services, an active civil society and a developing private sector.

While Somaliland has achieved stability and peace, the civil war in the south and central regions of Somalia has lead to a massive influx of Somalis which impacts dramatically on the country’s economic recovery.

1.6. **Current challenges for the development**

Somaliland currently experiences a range of major developmental challenges which hinder the social, political and economical development of the country, including –

- **Weak public governance institutions** – The majority of public institutions struggle with inadequate financial, human resources, an outdated administrative and operational mechanism.
- **Poor diversity in the economy, high inflation and limited investment sources** – resulting in a massive unemployment and under employment situation.
- **Limited public infrastructure** – due to the destruction of so many facilities during the civil war and inadequate national budget.
- **Fragile environment** – due to poor environmental management, continuing drought and desertification, plants use for charcoal(fuel) made Somaliland environment vulnerable and fragile
- **Extensive khat (chewing) addiction** – which causes social problems and financial misuse resulted by cash flow out of the country that exceeds the annual national budget.
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDP’s)** – currently one person in five is either an IDP or a returnee. Such people are living on the margins of society, with limited resources and employment opportunities.
- **Limited access and use of public services** – major amount of young people do not attend secondary schools and use of public health facilities also limited.
- **Gender bias and stereotyping** – cultural, social, biological and economic barriers hinder gender equality.
• **Extent of poverty** – the per capita income of Somaliland citizens is too low both in urban and rural areas.

An understanding of the above developmental issues and possible responses is fundamental to this national youth policy. The young men and women represent the most vulnerable group in terms of these issues.

### 1.7. Policy Context

This National Youth Policy of Somaliland is influenced by a number of international and national policies and declarations including –

- **The Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland** – the constitution contains 130 articles which outline the political and governance structures of Somaliland, as well as the rights, freedoms and duties of all citizens.
- **Somaliland National Education Policy (SNEP) and Somaliland National Education Act (SNEA)** – these documents provide a comprehensive overview of directions for the development of the educational sector in Somaliland. They specifically provide a framework for the democratic and effective management of the education system, and are the legal basis for the protection and advancement of key rights (enshrined in the aforementioned constitution) in the education sector.
- **Juvenile justice Act** – in April 2007, the upper house and the lower house of Somaliland parliament passed an Act in line with UNCRC to provide favour to the best interest of the child including children in conflict with the law.
- **National gender policy** – in early 2009, national gender policy was formulated to support framework for social equity or equality to the roles, responsibilities, rights and obligations.

Secondly, this National Youth Policy reflects the direction of a variety of international declarations and documents spanning 45 years that have stressed the importance and given directions regarding the development of specific youth policies. Key documents include –

- **The World Programme of Action for Youth to Year 2000 and Beyond (1995)** – which emphasized the importance of integrated national youth policies and indentified the ten critical areas regarding policy and strategy development for young people, namely education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure time activities, young women and participation. Later, the UN added five new areas – globalisation, ICT, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and intergenerational issues.
- **Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (1998)** – by Minsters of Youth which emphasised the need to formulate comprehensive and cross-sectoral national youth policies.
• **African Youth Charter (2006)** – a statement by the Assembly of African Union which stated the need for every African country to develop a national youth policy, and their essential elements. This statement also outlined the rights and duties of young people.


Finally, this Policy responds to the thrusts of several key international development statements that are relevant to youth development and protection, namely –

• **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** – this Convention is the most universally accepted human rights instrument in history. The CRC is a globally agreed upon set of non-negotiable standards and agreements. It spells out the basic human rights for all children – without discrimination. It emphasises that all children have the right to survival; to develop to their fullest; to protect from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family culture and social life.

• **Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s)** – In September 2000, world leaders attending a United Nations Millennium Summit, committed themselves to this global development agenda. The MDG agenda focuses on the issues fundamental to this national youth policy including combating poverty, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and gender discrimination.
2. VISION STATEMENT, GUIDING PRINCIPLES & STRATEGIES

2.1. Vision Statement

The statement below is a summary of the intended outcome for Somaliland society and its young people through implementation of the national youth policy:

“
A society where all Somaliland young men and women are secure and confident and have a strong sense of identity and loyalty to their peaceful and prosperous nation and its Islamic values and culture. They are protected and have equal opportunities to participate in all democratic processes while having unlimited access to sporting, social, educational and employment opportunities.”

2.2. Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles express the critical core values upon which the national youth policy’s goals and recommended interventions are:

Islamic faith – Respect and observance of the values and truths embodied in Islam and the teachings of the Quran.

Sovereignty of Somaliland – loyalty and commitment to the sovereignty, independence, constitution and unity of the Republic of Somaliland;

Respect for and pride in the identity, culture and traditions of Somaliland – appreciation and pride in the history, culture and language of Somaliland;

Good governance – adherence to the highest standards of accountability and transparency by all involved with youth development services, programs and resources;

Mutual accountability, respect and tolerance – encouragement of attitudes of responsibilities, respect and tolerance by all stakeholders in youth development;

Gender equality – as expressed in the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland – ‘the rights, freedoms and duties laid down in the Constitution are to be engaged equally by men and women some for matters which are specifically ordained in Islamic Shari’a’. This National Youth Policy promotes a gender inclusion approach to youth development and champions actions for
the elimination of all forms of bias, discrimination, stereotyping and violence against young women;

**Youth participation** – strong commitment to processes where young people influence and share control and responsibility for any decision, strategies and plans that affect them. This National Youth Policy views young men and women as vital stakeholders in the development of Somaliland;

**Youth empowerment** – strong commitment to processes and actions which enable young men and women to participate fully, responsibly and effectively in national and community life in Somaliland;

**Respect for the environment and sustainable practices** – respect and acknowledgement of the fragility of Somaliland’s natural environment and the need to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs;

**Inclusiveness of minority and marginal groups** – commitment to non discrimination and access by all Somaliland young people, especially those from minority groups and disadvantaged circumstances, to youth development services, programs and resources and

**Participation and collaboration** – obligation by all stakeholders in youth development – government ministries, civil society organisations, international development agencies, private sector and young people – to cooperate and collaborate to ensure maximum positive outcomes for Somaliland’s young men and women.

### 2.3. Policy Goals

Goals are National Youth development aspirations which are converted to strategies and interventions. They are broad and qualitative statements intended to summarise the outcomes that Somaliland hopes to achieve for its young men and women. This National Youth Policy has adopted six goals, namely –

1. To develop in young people an awareness of, respect for and an active commitment to the principles and values of Islam and the country’s constitution and culture.
2. To promote an integrated, holistic and coordinated framework which creates opportunities and the proper conditions for young people to empower themselves and develop their full potential.
3. To create new mechanisms that ensure more effective collaboration and coordination between all youth development stake-holders, including government ministries, civil society, international development agencies, the private sector, the wider community and young people.
4. To foster the active participation and leadership of young men and women people in community and national life.
5. To give recognition and visibility to the contributions and unique assets of young people.
6. To infuse in young people a spirit and sense of patriotism, care and respect for the Republic of Somaliland.
3. PRIORITY THEMES & STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

This National Youth Policy of Somaliland seeks to provide a direction and framework for all institutions committed to youth development. Young Somalilanders face immense challenges, but also unlimited opportunities. The target priority areas and the specific interventions for each area seek to provide starting points for an integrated and comprehensive response to their challenges and opportunities. The priority areas of the NYP are:

1. Reinforcing education and skills development;
2. Fostering employment creation and economic development;
3. Promoting healthy lifestyles;
4. Enhancing youth participation and citizenship;
5. Promoting gender equity and empowering young women;
6. Security and Peace;
7. Ensuring justice and Juvenile Delinquency;
8. Protecting the environment;
9. Sports and Recreation;
10. Information Technology & Globalisation;
11. Arts and Culture;
12. Immigration and Diaspora.

The strategies of each of the above priority areas and specific priority interventions for each strategy are presented below.

3.1. Reinforcing Education and Skills Development

Overview

The Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland states the fundamental importance of education “the State shall pay particular attention to the advancement, extension and dissemination of knowledge and education as it recognises that education is the most appropriate investment that can play a major role in political, economic and social development.”

The words of the Somaliland National Education Party (1999) are still relevant today —“The people of Somaliland value education because they know that stability cannot be maintained without education ... Somaliland can never progress adequately without education for development, that parents will not see their sons and daughters develop to their full potential without education for individual growth, and that ethical principles will not be installed in youth without more moral education...Somalilanders believe education can be a very useful experience...”
and lead to spiritual, economic, cultural and other benefits...When the gift of education is given, a person is provided many valuable benefits- a healthier life, an understanding of his or her culture and heritage, a moral foundation, skills for the nation-building, tools for peace development, capacities to make a living, ability to communicate, opportunity to reach one’s potential, and hope for the future. However, the reality is that a minority of young people are able to experience a full and rewarding educational experience. The principle that every young Somalilander has the right to education irrespective of gender, age, origin, location, social status and physical ability needs fostering.’

The Ministry of Education has facilitated expansion and improvement in the education and training system in recent years. However, much still needs to be done to ensure all young people receive an adequate educational start in their lives.


The critical issues in education and training include:

- Teacher quality and poor remuneration
- Curriculum quality
- Limited educational opportunities for nomadic young people
- Need for facility renewal and upgrade
- Educational accessibility by young people with disabilities
- Role of student councils
- Educational strategies for school dropouts especially girls
- Low enrolment in NFE
- Gender imbalance in teaching staff
- Low level of awareness of parents about importance of education
- Poor communication between teachers and pupils
- Lack of career education and counselling
- Education for disadvantaged communities
- Shortage of vocational training schools and teachers
- Tuition fees for primary education
- Low financial investment in education
- Low female enrolment, attendance and retention in education – cultural discrimination
- Conducive environment and retention of students

Strategic Objective 1:

INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION BY MAKING EDUCATION MORE APPEALING AND MORE READILY AVAILABLE TO ALL.
Key Priority Interventions:

1. Improve public funding of education by increasing percentage of public expenditure including teacher’s salary.
2. Ensure free primary and secondary education for all students.
3. Set targets for increasing the percentage of qualified/trained teachers.
4. Set access targets for secondary education (a gross enrolment rate of 25% by 2011).
5. Ensure the most disadvantaged young people (IDPs, Orphans, Minorities, disabilities and poor children) receive educational inputs (e.g. experienced and well qualified teachers)
6. Enhance opportunities for teacher in service training and incentives for teachers working in difficult social and / or geographical environments.
7. Provide specialist and technical support for schools to admit young people with disabilities.
8. Encourage curriculum diversity and development that respects rural nomadic lifestyles and equips rural young people to function in the rural economy.
9. Introduce boarding school and mobile schools / teachers and secondary education through broadcasting for nomadic populations.
10. Encourage private educational initiatives.
11. Increase the number of high education institutions (universities) to reflect the demands from the secondary school graduates
12. Improve the livelihood of school teachers through income promotion
13. Build appropriate schools for children with special needs like PWDs
14. Improve the school environment and facilities to meet approved standards in safety and health and taking into consideration culture sensitivities (for instance make sure that girls toilets are not adjacent to boys toilets as girls would avoid using them)
15. Reduce tertiary education fees to the minimum affordable/payable amount
16. Set a clear strategy for the graduate students e.g. national civil service (voluntarism), skill development and job creation
17. Continuous orientation of parents to the child enrolment in the education
18. Special consideration to disadvantaged children

Strategic Objective 2:

Devise strategies for improving the gender balance in school attendance and retention, and teacher recruitment.

Key Priority Interventions:

1. Set targets for increasing the percentage of qualified/trained female teachers in secondary and TVET education.
2. Instigate capacity building program to enable female teachers to fulfil a role model function for girl students.
3. Design curriculum that is equally relevant for females as males.
4. Develop school environments that are female friendlier and safer for young women.
5. Encourage schools to adopt more appropriate teaching hours.
6. Instigate media campaigns targeting parents and religious community and political leaders regarding the importance of educating both genders

**Strategic Intervention 3:**

EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET).

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Expand the network of technical/trade training institutions throughout Somaliland.
2. Encourage greater involvement of the private sector in supporting and resourcing or investment of TVET.
3. Set student access targets for TVET.
4. Link technical / trade training to local labour market opportunities and needs.
5. Support to technical equipment for the technical/vocational education and training
6. Mainstream technical/vocational education into the formal education
7. Diversify the skills of the TVET education
8. Provision of enough technical vocational training schools.

**Strategic Intervention 4:**

EMPOWER THE NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN SOMALILAND AND EXPAND IT IN ALL THE REGIONS

**Key priority interventions:**

1. Establish structure for the NFE
2. Help NFE teachers through trainings, facilities and enough payment
3. Develop curriculum for the NFE
4. Awareness for prospective students of NFE
5. Provide/expand adequate working hours for NFE schools
6. Encourage rural communities to the non-formal education

3.2. *Fostering Employment Creation and Economic Development*

**Overview**

The widespread unemployment that prevails in Somaliland is the main expression of poverty. Young people in particular, suffer disproportionately in terms of access to meaningful unemployment. The need for job creation initiatives was the most common request by young people during the consultation phase.
Article 20 of the Constitution states—“All able citizens have a right and duty to work. The State shall, therefore, be responsible for the creation of work and facilitating of the skills training of employees”.

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Lack of marketable skills
- Lack of National Youth Employment Strategy
- Lack of employment counselling and placement services
- Lack of career guidance in education institutions
- Gender bias, stereotyping and discrimination
- Lack of youth specific employment counselling
- Lack of income generation training opportunities
- Lack of loan scheme for self employment activities
- Limited economic activity sector
- Limited skills and training opportunities
- High inflation
- Migration of young people out of the country
- Limited mobilisation of the Diaspora as an economic investment source
- Lack of youth centers for counseling and employment promotion.

Strategic Objective 1:

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACTION STRATEGY (NYEAS).

Key Priority Interventions:

1. Learn from international best practice in terms of youth employment creation.
2. Adapt as a framework for the NYEAP the structure as advocated by the Youth Employment Network (YEN), a group convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Director General of the International Labour Organisation and President Of The World Bank, namely,
   - Employability – investing in education and vocational training for young people and improving the impact of those investments,
   - Equal Opportunities – giving young women the same opportunities as young men;
   - Entrepreneurship – making it easier for young people to start and run businesses; and
   - Employment Creation – placing employment creation at the centre of macroeconomic policy.
3. Promote and support youth self employment as a job option (see Strategic Objective 2).
4. Initiate projects to explore youth employment and training opportunities in specific sectors – ICT, farming (animal and crop farming), fisheries, arts and crafts.

5. In cooperation with ministry of health and labour, ILO, design and implement a job creation program in general based micro-enterprise development, alternate land use, cultural on tourism and heritage assets.

6. Explore ways to improve connection between education and training institutions and the local labour markets (see Strategic Objective 3 below).

7. Target school drop outs through programs that will link them more effectively with the labour market.

8. Identify and promote opportunities for Diaspora giving and investments that specifically targets youth employment opportunities.

9. To learn what resources we have in our country

10. Government must identify macro-economic policy allocation for the youth.

11. Initiate project to explore youth employment and training opportunities in specific sectors like Garbage, livestock production and export, salt production

12. Sectors like Garbage, livestock production and export, salt production

13. formation of national trade union

14. To mobilize Diaspora and connect them together and recommend to create special ministry like other countries depending to the abroad remittance

**Strategic Objective 2:**

**PROMOTE YOUTH SELF EMPLOYMENT AS A JOB OPTION.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Build upon best practice around the globe, design and implement a Youth Self Employment Initiative that involves –
   - promotion and awareness programs;
   - appropriate training courses;
   - school and TVET enterprise schemes;
   - creation of youth loan fund;
   - mentoring arrangements; and
   - Youth enterprise networking clubs.
   - Build youth network through out the country
   - Creation of income generation activities.

**Strategic Objective 3:**

**CREATE LINKAGES BETWEEN EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKETS.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Establish school based career counselling services.

2. Support school / local business networking and partnerships.
3. Research and monitor local labour market needs.
4. Develop criteria for employment.
5. Develop criteria for job descriptions.

**Strategic Objective 4:**

**PROMOTE AWARENESS OF LABOUR LAWS.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Develop an initiative to inform community, business sector and young people about labour laws especially as it relates to decent employment.
2. Campaign for the elimination of all discrimination in the labour market especially as relates to gender and other biases.

**3.3. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles**

**Overview**

Healthy and quality lifestyles are major issue for young people in Somaliland. They also desire to be active participants in design and implementing a positive healthy lifestyle program.

The key health issue for young people during the consultation phase was khat addiction followed by concerns about HIV/AIDS and malnutrition. Khat addiction is one of the country’s major challenges. While HIV/AIDS infection is considerably lower than Somaliland’s African neighbours, the country’s porous borders heightens its potential to greatly affect the most productive component of the population, namely young men and women.

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Cost of health services
- Lack of gyms and fitness centres
- Limited fitness opportunities for women
- Low budget investment
- High rates of proven curable diseases – diarrhoea, respiratory infections, tuberculosis
- Limited health promotion, education and prevention programs
- Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS
- High malnutrition levels
- Lack of school nutrition programs
- Violence against young women including sexual violence
- Limited awareness of preventative health measures
- Inaccessibility of health services
- Lack of current and conclusive data, research and analysis on youth health issues
Strategic Objective 1:

Enable all young people to be able to access information, education, counselling and support services in the areas of youth health priorities.

Key Priority Interventions:

1. Create a youth health service that provides preventative health support in the form of information, education and counselling services in such areas as reproductive health, drug abuse, sexual abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.
2. Enhance health and nutrition feeding initiatives within schools.
3. Generate improved strategic information and data about youth health status and challenges.
4. Improve access of health services to nomadic youth and other disadvantaged youth populations.
5. Raise awareness and promote initiatives that seek to reduce FGM, domestic violence, forced early marriage, rape and other forms of gender based violence against young women.
6. Create/establish physical exercise in schools and local communities.
7. Raise awareness of youth on healthy life styles
8. Include healthy styles topics in the national education curriculum
9. Ensure recruitment of medical professionals in the ministry of health and labour, pharmaceuticals and laboratories.
10. Public health hospitals and centres should be prioritized according to the working hours than the private centres
11. Quality control Act of medicine must be initiated
12. Increase awareness rising for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases.

Strategic Objective 2:

Campaign to reduce khat chewing and smoking dependency and other substance abuse
**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Use media campaigns, religious people, traditional leaders and peer education programs to raise awareness of the hazards of khat and other drugs.
2. Advocate to pass legislation and by laws to limit khat chewing and smoking.
3. Ban smoking and khat chewing in all educational, youth and sporting institutions.
4. Create affordable rehabilitation and detoxification centres.
5. To campaign and promote to increase the national sales tax on the Khat and the other drugs to utilize this income for development working hours according to civil service Act or labour code should be adopted.
6. Regulation of drug abuse to restrict consumption of khat in the workplace.

**Strategic Objective 3:**

PREVENT AND CONTROL THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS AND MITIGATE AGAINST THEIR SOCIAL IMPACTS.

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Fully endorse and support the Joint UN Team on AIDS (UNAIDS) work plan, and strengthening the work of the Somaliland’s AIDS Commission.
2. Regularly gather, analyse and disseminate information about the HIV and AIDS epidemic.
3. Target the most at risk populations with high quality prevention, treatment and core services.
4. Upgrade training of youth health service providers to work efficiently with the most at risk populations.
5. Campaign against the stigma and discrimination that young people living with HIV and AIDS suffer.
6. Review, amend, enact and enforce Anti discrimination legislation.
7. Strengthen awareness, capacity and advocacy skills amongst NGO’s, local government, religious, political and community leaders regarding greater HIV prevention and support.
8. Develop school and non formal education curriculum support materials and services.
10. Simplify and encourage marriage.
11. Educate basic conduct of islamic faith.
12. Matrimonial simplifying programs/agents.
3.4. **Enhancing Youth Participation and Citizenship**

**Overview**

Young Somalilanders expressed a strong desire for greater involvement in community and national life. All major international declarations relating to youth development stress the need for a national environment that enables young people’s active participation and leadership.

This National Youth Policy considers that civic education and awareness of citizenship is a fundamental process in developing young people to become more active participants and contributors to Somaliland’s development.

**The critical issues for this priority area include:**

- Limited youth participation in opportunities
- Lack of youth representation in political structures
- Lack of civic education programs in curriculum
- Lack of volunteerism / community services ethos
- Recognition of, and respect for youth contribution
- Recognition of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Recognition of African youth charter
- Intergenerational relationships
- Importance of building national patriotism
- Youth rights and responsibilities
- Cultural restrictions on participation
- Lack of youth self mobilization and self awareness to their fundamental rights

**Strategic Objective 1:**

**Strengthen the awareness of young people and the wider community regarding active and responsible citizenship.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Strengthen school curriculum relating to citizenship and Islamic values education
2. Encourage initiatives which engage young people in the practice of mutual respect and tolerance, including gender equality.
3. Provide forums and training opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills.
4. Identify and implement programs and actions that build national patriotism.
5. Develop and implement values education/citizenship component of the school curriculum.
6. Create community opportunities for the discussion by young people of civic/citizenship issues.
7. Strengthen the media coverage of themes related to citizenship.
8. Support youth programs that strengthen the principles and practice of active citizenship by young people in community and national life.

9. Build upon the experiences of Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Bahrain and introduce a Youth Parliament program in Somaliland.

10. Utilise religious and cultural gatherings to promote the principles and priorities of citizenship. Creating strong citizenship so it may reduce the youth migration.

11. held competitions of poets and other literature on patriotism

**Strategic Objective 2:**

Provide practical support for young people to actively participate in community and national life.

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Encourage and support programs that encourage and offer community service, volunteerism, and youth peer support.

2. Encourage youth representation at all levels of government, non-government and community decision making –
   - use of youth advisory panels;
   - reduction in the age of parliamentary representation;

3. Instigate an annual National Youth Awards Program that recognises the contribution of young people to community and national life.

4. Extend the Small Grants Scheme of UN and international organization to encourage more youth designed initiatives.

5. And led youth community projects. Creating strong citizenship so it may reduce the youth migration

### 3.5. Gender Equity and Empowerment of Young Women

**Overview**

Article 36 of the Somaliland Constitution states – ‘The rights, freedom and duties laid down in the Constitution are to be enjoyed equally by men and women save for matters which are specifically ordained in Islamic Shari’a’ and, ‘The Government shall encourage, and shall legislate for, the right of women to be free of practices which are not contrary to Shari’a and are not injurious to their person and dignity.’

This National Youth Policy underlines this commitment as experienced in the Constitution and set to contribute to the elimination of gender bias, stereotyping and discrimination that young women may feel in terms of education, employment, health and recreation.

The critical issues for this priority area include:
• Gender discrimination bias and stereotyping
• FGM, FGC and early marriage and not properly selected marriage.
• Gender imbalance in education
• Limited female representation in parliament and government ministries
• Limited and secure or protected female recreation spaces.
• Lack of secure or protected female recreation spaces
• Gender based violence
• Limited knowledge to the roles and responsibilities of men and women enshrined in the Islamic personal law
• Domestic violence

**Strategic Objective 1:**

**Identify and focus on specific actions which empower young women enjoying their rights to health, recreational, educational and employment opportunities.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Research the gender inclusiveness of national policies and practices related to health, recreational, educational and employment opportunities.
2. Instigate specific initiatives to strengthen the participation of young women in –
   - health services;
   - secondary and tertiary education;
   - sport and recreational activities; and
   - Employment.
3. Implement fully the national Plan of Action for the Prevention and Management of Gender Based Violence (GBV), and its aim to minimise GBV prevalence by 15% by the year 2015.
4. Legislate against FGM practices and recommend proper marriage.
5. Perform Debates at District, Regional and National levels on gender issues
6. Implement Awareness raising {targeting Community and Duty bearers}
7. Advocacy on gender issues  [Parents and Government Institutions]
8. Develop youth structures and institution to respond to gender based violence victims and ensure case monitoring systems
9. hard punishment to rape offender with accorded aggravating circumstance
10. payment of effective remedy (tort) entitled to herself, psycho-social counselling and social reintegration to the victim by giving assistance

**Strategic Objective 2:**

Create specific structures and services to provide young men and women with greater participation in community life.

**Key Priority Interventions:**
1. Create a Young Women’s Advisory Council.
2. Develop a network of young women’s resource centres throughout Somaliland.
3. Encourage greater participation of women in parliamentary and public life
4. Increase of family life schools in the villages, districts of the country.

### 3.6. Peace and Security

**Overview**

Young people understand the fundamental need to achieve security and peace in Somaliland, and express strong desires to be active participants in the peace building efforts.

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Limited employment opportunities
- Lack of international recognition for Somaliland
- Boredom of khat addiction
- High inflation
- Drug and substance abuse (khat, alcohol, glue’s living)
- Land dispute
- Clan conflict
- Dispute over the limited resources like water, grassing
- Struggle to power by politicians
- Social structure and discrimination

**Strategic Objective 1:**

**Create opportunities for young people to contribute to peace building and stability.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Involve young people in a process of designing and implementing sustainability of peace programs.
2. Provide alternative training and employment programs targeting adolescent and youth in conflict with law.
3. Involve young people in a campaign to promote international recognition of Somaliland.
4. Develop appropriate school curriculum related issues of security and peace
5. Proper application of citizen ID card for reference as security measure
6. Induce youth to fully observe the law and order and cooperate with the police
7. Provide trainings to the young people on peace, security and conflict management
8. Respect for IDPs
9. Youth involvement in the decision making
10. Speed up of registration of light weapons
11. Promote of youth community policing
12. Induce non-violence approaches demonstrations

3.7. Justice and Juvenile Delinquency

Overview

Articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) provide guidance regarding the treatment of young people in conflict with the law. This National Youth Policy specifically calls for the implementation of a Juvenile Justice Act.

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Requirements of the CRC
- Children and adult people together in prisons
- Rehabilitation services
- Poor prison conditions
- Lack of street children rehabilitation centres
- Improve recreation facilities and equipments
- Lack of monitoring of the application of juvenile justice Act by the duty Bearers

Strategic Objective 1:

Implement appropriate legislation and rehabilitation measures regarding juvenile delinquents.

Key Priority Interventions:

1. Implementation of Juvenile Justice Act law No. 36
   - Establish youth reform and rehabilitation centres.
   - To improve quality of child/youth friendly facilities in police stations and prisons.
   - Participation and support of MoYS
   - Document all youth/child in conflict with law and victims
   - Develop programs to support victims.
   - Establish environmental protection umbrella and if it is existing to be empowered
   - Create procedures to guide Juvenile Justice
   - Rules, ethical guidelines and procedures to provide guideline for law enforcement agents towards young people in conflict with law
   - Specific rehabilitation to the juvenile offenders rehabilitation through Islamic conducts orientation and teaching inside the rehabilitation centers
   - documentation of all youth/child in conflict with law and victim and provide psycho-social counseling
   - Provision of public lectures and continues trainings on the field of Somaliland legal system including juvenile justice to the youth offenders
Without prejudice to the provisions of the panel code, Punishment of juvenile cases shall not include death, life imprisonment or imprisonment of a period exceeding 15 years.

Provide series trainings for judges, prosecutors and other court officials in the areas of the youth development.

### 3.8. Environment

**Overview**

Article 18 of the National Constitution calls for the state to ‘give a special priority to the protection and safeguarding of the environment, which is essential for the well being of the society and to the care of the natural resources’

While Article 34 calls upon all citizens to exercise their duty “to care for, protect and save the environment”

Sustainable development and the environment is a growing concern of young Somalilanders. The consultation process strongly endorsed the need for more focus and activities related to climate change, soil degradation, water conservation, charcoal use, deforestation, recycling, plastic bag elimination, heritage protection and other environmental preservation activities. Young people recognise and understand issues like overgrazing and unchecked soil degradation and the resultant reduction in the capacity of the land to support increasing human needs.

**The critical issues for this priority strategy area include** –

- Charcoal production and tree destruction
- Effect of climate change and global warming
- Lack of environmental studies in schools
- Destructive behaviours towards environment
- Environmental degradation
- Plastic bag plague
- The strong national interest by young people in the environment
- Sea contamination
- Air pollution and Ozone layer depletion
- Soil erosion
- Still no alternative source to charcoal.
- No exact study to the effect by climate change in Somaliland.
Strategic Objective 1:

ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG SOMALILANDERS.

Priority Interventions:

1. Enhance school curriculum in regard to environmental education.
2. Introduce teachers in service trainings relating to environmental education and project work.
3. Develop youth media campaigns to promote environmental awareness and action by young people.
4. Actively promote through the media sustainable habits and behaviours by young people.
5. Promote and support environment clubs, hobbies and pastimes by young people
6. Pastoralist and agrarian training in environmental production practices
7. To develop community based awareness campaign to reduce unnecessary environmental practices
8. Rebuilding historical places and sites.

Strategic Objective 2:

ENCOURAGE THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES.

Priority Interventions:

1. Initiate special days, events and awards that encourage and celebrate youth involvement in sustainable development and environmental projects.
2. Encourage young people in the promotion of community environmental practices.
3. Foster youth community service and volunteer initiatives based on environmental protection and enhancement.
4. Provide opportunities for young people to be represented at MENA and international youth environmental events.
5. Organise regular national and regional youth forums on sustainable development and the environment.
6. Foster alternative job creation initiatives within the areas of recycling, plastic bag alternatives, reforestation and heritage conservation.
7. Create or establish an environmental protection umbrella and if it is existing to be empowered
8. Add some kind of trainings in the curriculum that allows the young people to participate in the increase of the green and clean in the environment.
9. Create a task force for the protection of the environment
3.9. **SPORT & RECREATION**

**Overview**

Sport and recreation are vital in providing young people with opportunities to socialise, build social connectedness, counter boredom, spend their time productively, develop character and learn new skills and teamwork. However, such opportunities and accompanying infrastructure are very limited in Somaliland. There are limited sponsored government youth centres. Inadequate sporting facilities and programs are similarly limited, especially for young females.

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Limited of knowledgeable referees, coaches and skilled players
- Limited youth specific entertainment and sporting facilities
- Limited female outlets for socialising and sports
- Gender bias, stereotyping and discrimination in sports.
- Limited sports options for young people with disabilities
- Lack of public parks and beaches
- Lack of outdoor youth spaces and parks
- Lack of support on sports federations’ empowerment.
- Lack of Beaching skills in a national wide
- No international sport relation with world so far
- Lack of community readiness and understanding of sport importance
- Limited sports materials and equipments for the promotion of sport activities
- No sports and recreational areas in the town plan of major cities of Somaliland
- Poor conduct by some players and teams which leads to affray based hostility between groups and villages.
- No applicable rules and regulations for the sports to control the ethics and conduct of the player.

**Strategic Objective 1:**

**Design and implement a Youth Sports and Recreation Strategy which enhances access, equity and opportunity for young Somalilanders.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Multiply the opportunities for young women and men to engage in a diverse range of sports and sporting competitions including soccer, basketball, volleyball and athletics.
2. Instigate a Youth Centre Development Program which sees the number of government sponsored youth centres be increased.
3. Instigate an honour incentive and remuneration system for national sports system achievers, in contrast to set a fine and punishment system those who breaks the rules
4. Support the development of a network of young women resource centres throughout Somaliland.
5. Develop public beach spaces.
6. Instigate media awareness programs to raise awareness amongst parents and community and religious leaders of the importance of recreational and sporting programs to the personal development of both young men and women.
7. Provide greater support and direction to youth and sports centres to enable them to become more friendly and conducive to young people with special needs.
8. Devise and plan efforts for the chances of being engaged in the international sport activities.
9. Mobilize the community to the significance of the sports and include PE subjects in the curriculums.
10. Create administrative rules of conduct to ensure smooth implementation of the sports and preserve security and stability.
11. Holding sports tournaments in all appropriate periods.
12. To conduct interregional, regional and national tournaments.
13. Inter-ministerial cooperation should be strengthened like ministry of education and ministry of youth & sports.

3.10. Information Technology & Globalisation

Overview

This National Youth Policy encourages initiatives that will help young people to benefit from the information technology sector and the global opportunities available through ICT.

ICT is an integral part of young people’s lives and it has the capacity to enhance their social, recreational, cultural; and economic opportunities. Today’s young people are more technically aware, comfortable and equipped than their parents and teachers. The job creation potential of this sector is very evident in Somaliland. Somaliland can boast of the best and cheapest cellular network in Africa and the proposed optic cable installation will expand the ICT potential and create significant employment. ICT’s ability to provide relevant training and employment opportunities and connect young people to the global world.

Globalisation is defined as the many economic, political, technological and social processes, innovations and changes that are increasing the interconnections of the world.

The critical issues for this priority strategy area:

- Youth ICT advantage and expertise
- Lack of ICT Policy
- Lack of ICT focus in school curriculum
- ICT access is limited in schools, public places and rural areas.
- Significant job creation potential of ICT
- Internet – Link to wider world, impact on traditional culture.
- Popularity of radio programs and youth broadcasting.
- Imitation of foreign culture
- ICT addiction.
- High costs for ICT courses
- Training (not standardized)
- Lack of awareness for ICT
- Lack of gender balance of ICT
- ICT professional females are limited and are not considered in the recruitment procedures.
- No Act of ICT
- Lack of well ICT professionals

**Strategic Objective 1:**

**Develop ICT as a key focus in School Curriculum Reform.**

**Priority Interventions:**

1. Develop appropriate curriculum for teaching of ICT at all levels of education.
2. Develop and implement a plan for equipping schools with appropriate ICT.
3. Encourage formation of ICT clubs
4. Order internet service providers (ISP) to restrict pornography websites.

**Strategic Objective 2:**

**Focus on ICT as a key Youth Job Creation Area.**

**Priority Interventions:**

1. Undertake in cooperation with ILO a study of the ICT sector regarding job creation development.
2. With private sector support and develop new appropriate TVET training options related to ICT.
3. Encourage youth self employment initiatives related to the ICT sector.
4. Create internet centres within youth centre facilities.
5. To reduce the training cost
6. To build public ICT training schools
7. To enhance our ICT training in line with international standards so as to be recognized worldwide.
8. Equip youth recreational centres with (ICT)
9. target youth ICT professionals
10. Use ICT responsibly and promote these values in work and home life
11. Increase awareness of the ICT digital divide
12. Quality control of ICT

3.11. Arts & Culture

Overview

Somaliland has a distinctive culture and the National Constitution calls for the State to “promote the arts and the modest culture of the society whilst at the same time benefitting from the knowledge of other world societies. Literature, the arts and indigenous sorts shall be specifically encouraged whilst Islamic behaviour is observed’.

The critical issues for this priority strategy area –

- Distinctive culture
- Heritage sites
- Negative imported influences
- Limited cultural infrastructure.
- The impact of war on culture
- The influence of media on culture
- Urbanization
- Cultural conflict to the Islamic religion to some points or aspects
- Lack of encouragement of positive culture and arts practice
- Lots of art materials on hand production
- Acculturation of pastoralists and agrarian to foreign processed goods instead local cultural available goods
- Adaptation to western marriage style which is too expansive

Strategic Objective 1:

Enhance the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of young people regarding Somaliland Culture.

Priority Interventions

1. Foster school and community opportunities for learning and expressing cultural traditions
2. Explore and develop employment projects relating to the field of traditional arts and culture.
3. Foster an appreciation and awareness of local arts and cultural activities.
4. Foster the creation of local libraries.
5. Enhance the country’s basic cultural infrastructure (cultural centres, theatres, museums) and make accessible and affordable.

6. Establish a Somaliland cultural and heritage centres & website targeting young people in the Diaspora.

7. Identify companies for partners in new arts & culture projects.

8. Somali Arts & Culture courses should be incorporated in Curriculums of Schools and Universities.

9. Establish Somaliland Culture and Art Channel (television) to learn diversity community.

10. Effective and strict observation of Somaliland press law by the prosecutor to control negative influence of media to the culture and morality.

11. Mobilization of community leaders, elders and religious leaders to promote positive side of Somaliland culture and arts.

12. Held annual arts and cultural festival that meet throughout variety styles.

13. Promote application of traditional arts like food, clothes, shelter and utilities.

3.12. Immigration & Diaspora

Overview

Somaliland continues to experience significant out immigration of its youth population, fleeing poverty and lack of employment. Many are illegal immigrants who take extreme risks to reach their dream of a better life. Most are young people, who represent a continuing ‘brain drain’ for the country. The root causes of this continuous immigration need confronting, and relate specifically to interventions of the many above problems.

The compatriots in the Diaspora represent a significant asset resource and opportunity for Somaliland’s reconstruction. The Somaliland Diaspora is committed to assisting their home country. Most send remittances back to their country. A large number of Diaspora visit Somaliland annually. Mobilisation of the Diaspora resource, both in terms of technical skills and financial contribution, needs coordination and a specific strategy. However, with this asset comes the challenge of accommodating possible new values that the Diaspora compatriots and their offspring naturally have adopted through their years of life in Western countries.

The critical issues relating to immigration and Diaspora include:

- Underlying root causes of illegal immigrants
- ‘Brain drain’
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Diaspora
  - technical and financial resources and networking opportunities
  - Potential inappropriate investment and erosion of culture, value and religion
    potential inappropriate investment and erosion of culture
- Opportunities for better global linkages and networking
• Search for better life
• Influence among the young people
• Under employment
• Corruptive recruitment process
• Absence of effective employment policies
• Present negative image from society due to non-recognition

**Strategic Objective 1:**

**FOCUS ON ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS.**

**Priority Interventions:**

1. Implement the National Youth Employment Action Strategy (NYEAS).
2. Develop labour market relevant technical and vocational education and training options. This should include capacity building such as career planning for young people as well, such as developing CV, conducting successful interviews.
3. Engage young people in designing alternative futures.
4. Set up a “Centres for Youth” where they can come and seek advice.
5. Establish “Transparent Jobseeker Centres” where job adverts are published and jobseekers can come and search it so to avoid hidden and corruptive recruitment processes.
6. Use the media to raise awareness on the dangers of illegal immigration as well as to promote Somaliland and existing opportunities.
7. Awareness rising among the parents/friends/and relatives to suspend financial assistance to the immigrating youth.

**Strategic Objective 2:**

**MOBILISE THE RESOURCE CAPACITY OF THE DIASPORA.**

**Priority Interventions:**

1. Convene an annual conference of the Diaspora with a focus on youth development initiatives, where Diaspora members should also provide a real picture of life in Diaspora so to avoid unrealistic dreams of Somaliland youth.
2. Encourage young Somaliland members of the Diaspora to return back to Somaliland to utilise their newly acquired skills in short and long term projects.
3. Introduce exchange programs/internships to educate Somaliland youth and enable them to return with skills to Somaliland.
4. Promote the National Youth Policy Development Fund (see below) to the Diaspora and encourage them to contribute.
5. Create a Somaliland youth website that targets young Somalilanders both in country and part of the Diaspora.
6. Start international media programs that promote Somaliland and spread it to Diaspora to attract more investment and visitors.
7. Prepare a documentary on the tragedy of deadly immigration attempts.
8. Set up fundraising centres in the Diaspora to assist repatriation.
4. PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS

The Somaliland National Youth Policy is a vision and framework for the development of all young Somalilanders. However, it is recognised that there are nine groups of young people who require additional focus to ensure their maximum benefit from the planned interventions, namely:

- Nomadic youth;
- Orphans and vulnerable youth;
- Young people with disabilities;
- Young people living with aids (PLWA);
- Young women and girls;
- Young unemployed;
- Marginalised young people;
- Out of school young people; and
- Internally displaced young people.
5. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION & COORDINATION

This National Youth Policy is based on the principle of partnership and collaboration – “obligation by all stakeholders in youth development – government ministries, civil society organisations, private sector and young people – to cooperate and collaborate to ensure maximum positive outcomes for Somaliland’s young men and women”.

Based upon these beliefs this National Youth Policy recommends:-

1. Upon approval of the National Youth Policy by the Government of Somaliland, a National Youth Action Plan be formulated which elaborates the “what, who, how, and when?” details.

2. The Somaliland National Youth Organisation (SONYO) is recognised as National Youth Umbrella Organization.

3. Youth Focal Points is appointed in all government ministries. This is a person who can focus on coordinating the response of the ministry to the specific needs and issues of young people.

4. A National Youth Development Fund be created that can attract, manage and allocate funds contributed from government, international aid groups, private sector and the Diaspora. Such a fund should be managed by independent Board comprising respected Somaliland citizens. The key function of the Fund would be to respond to initiatives related to the priority intervention of the National Youth Policy. Young people need to be represented on the Board.

5. Establishment of a National Youth Policy Monitoring Task Group. The purpose of this Group would be to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Youth Policy. Young people need to be prominent members of this body.

Finally, it is recommended that the life of this National Youth Policy is six years, and prior to its termination, the formulation process be reinitiated so the Policy can be updated.

All young people in the Republic of Somaliland enjoy the citizen rights and duties as outlined in the National Constitution. Article 8 of the National Constitution states clearly that “all citizens of Somaliland shall enjoy equal rights and obligations before the law, and shall not be accorded preference on grounds of colour, clan, birth, language, gender, property, status, opinion etc”.

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Finally, it is recommended that the life of this National Youth Policy is six years, and prior to its termination, the formulation process be reinitiated so the Policy can be updated.
6. **RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

This National Youth Policy further advocates that all young people irrespective of their age, gender, ability, socio economic status or geographic location have a right to enjoy –

- Their youthfulness free from all forms of violence, war, abuse, exploitation and degradation;
- Meaningful education and employment opportunities;
- Good health; and
- Participation in decision making about issues that affect their lives

Equally, this National Youth Policy calls upon young men and women to exercise responsibility and commitment to building a more peaceful, prosperous and inclusive Somaliland. This can be achieved by young people through –

- Respecting Islam and the teachings of the Quran;
- Honouring the unity, tradition, and culture of Somaliland;
- Acknowledging gender and human rights;
- Pursuing self development to the best of their abilities;
- Respecting law and order and the property of other citizens;
- Seeking healthy lifestyle choices;
- Supporting vulnerable and marginalised members of society and opposing discrimination of all forms;
- Protecting and preserving the environment; and
- Participating actively in positive community and national development.

Finally, this National Youth Policy calls upon all Somalilanders to –

- Respect the contribution of young people in community and national development;
- Act as positive role models to young people; support the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, emotional and physical wellbeing of young women and men;
- Provide equal opportunities to young people irrespective of their gender;
- Assist young people to reach their full potential; and
- Encourage young people’s active involvement in all spheres of community and national life.

Young people in Somaliland live in a time of incredible change. They are a significant and most valuable segment of society, but are most vulnerable in terms of employment, health, violence and globalisation.
7. CONCLUSION

Throughout the formulation stage of this National Youth Policy, these young men and women articulated clearly the barriers they perceived which prevented their full and creative contribution to the rebuilding of Somaliland, namely –

- Limited provision of youth friendly and relevant services in the critical areas of education, employment, health and recreation;
- Lack of respect by adults for their ideas and contributions;
- Discrimination and societal division due to gender and clan;
- Lack of youth participation in policy development and implementation;
- Political exclusion;
- Poor cross-sectoral planning and implementation of youth services;
- Non prioritisation of youth issues in key government ministries; and
- No specific youth policies and legislation.

Yet their willingness to contribute not just their insights and ideas to policy development, but their practical involvement is making Policy become reality was an inspiration. Their unique assets, creativity and energy need mobilising.

Hopefully, this National Youth Policy will raise the profile of understanding the needs and aspirations of young men and women in Somaliland and their potential contribution in community and national life.

Above all, it is hoped that this National Youth Policy will serve as an instrument of unifying all sectors of society in the development of young men and women.
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