
**VANUATU
NATIONAL
YOUTH
POLICY**



Contents

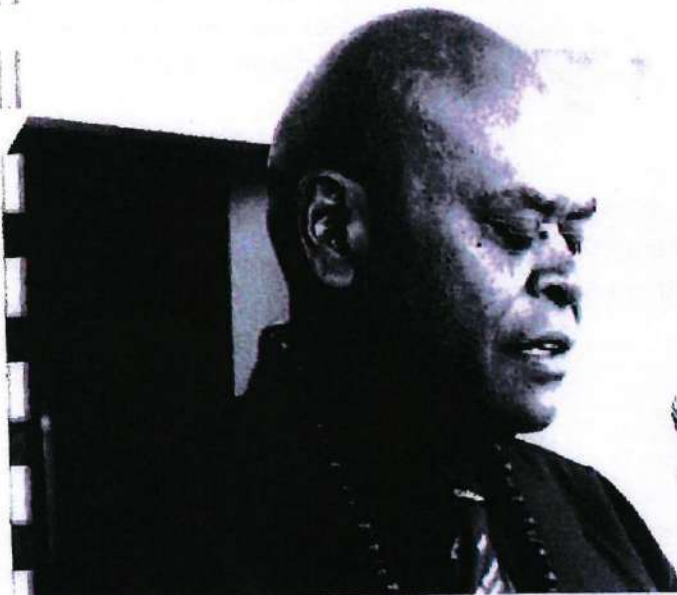
Page	Page
Endorsement message from Minister.3	Key Policy Interventions.....23-29
Endorsement message from DG- Ministry for Youth Development & Sport4-5	Target 1: Youth Economic Empowerment.....24
Message from Youth President.....6-7	Target 2: Youth Education & Training.....25
Acknowledgement8	Target 3: Health & Well-being.....26
Background.....9-10	Target 4: Civic Engagement.....27
Why develop a youth policy?.....11	Target 5: Sector Strengthening.....28
What is youth participation?.....11	Target 6: Art, culture, music, sport & leisure.....29
Policy Statement.....12	Implementation strategy & M&E Framework.....30
Purpose.....13	ANNEX 1: Youth Strategy Incorporation.....31-33
Vision.....14	Annex 2: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child.....34-37
Context and Guiding Principles.....15	
Cross-cutting issues.....16-18	
Inclusive and Rights-Based Approach.....17	
Youth-Centred.....17	
Ownership.....17	
Evidence-Based.....18	
Creating an Enabling Environment.....18	
National Commitment.....19	
Vanuatu National Youth Authority Act20	
Global Commitment.....21	
Priority Areas.....22	
Equip.....22	
Enable.....22	
Empower.....22	

Endorsement message *from Minister*

As Minister responsible for Youth Development & Sports I am delighted to witness the completion of the updated National Youth Policy (2019-2024). Youths make up more than 60% of Vanuatu's population and it is timely that we commit more effort into understanding and finding out ways that we can help develop our young people. Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP 2016-2030) focusses significantly on being inclusive and involving young people in facets of development, particularly in the Social, Environmental and Economic arena. The intention of the National Government has been quite explicit with the Enactment of the Youth Authority Act paving the way for establishment of the Youth Authority, a Statutory Body created with the intention of solidifying commitment to developing the youth sector. Youths need to be properly education, skilled and able to find employment easily within the country, and a powerbase for national development.

As State Minister currently responsible for the youth sector I call upon my colleagues in other Government Ministries, Development Partners (both National, Regional & International), Provincial and Area Council Authorities, Communities and respective family groupings, to work with us implement this policy as a way of safeguarding the future of our young people and the proper development of Vanuatu.

Youths are the backbones of any national development. They are the nation's strength; their characteristic energy and capabilities support the body polity. They also form a sensitive age group that harbours dreams for important social change. The development of Vanuatu is fully dependent on the abilities of our youth and they must be positively utilized in all areas of development.



MP. Willie Pakoa Saitearoto, Honourable
Minister of Youth Development & Sports



Endorsement message from Director General

From its humble beginnings during its inception in 2004 the Ministry of Youth Development & Sports has come a long way to solidifying national commitment to Youth Development through this National Youth Policy (2019-2024). The new National Youth Policy (2019-2024) responds to Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP 2016-2030) which confirms youth as an essential component in the national development process, particularly in being inclusive, Socially, Environmentally and Economically.

The National Youth Policy (2019-2024) replaces the current policy which ran from 2012 and set to expire in 2022. The National Youth Authority Act passed by National Parliament in 2018 provided the basis for this policy committing the Ministry of Youth Development & Sports to:

- Institute a clean and manageable framework to guide and enhance the delivery of youth development and program services through sector wide partnerships approaches at all levels of participation; and
- To provide coordination, direction and support the development of youth programs in Vanuatu; and
- To establish higher standards of youth development programs in all youth related service delivery including training pathways for out of school youths; and

- To improve the participation of youths in youth development programs, national platforms and services; and
- To support and encourage excellence, leadership and innovative performance of youth service providers through capacity building programs, incentives and research; and
- To initiate, design, coordinate, evaluate and monitor all programmes aimed at integrating the youth into the economy and society in general.

The National Youth Policy (2019-2024) signals a new era in youth development and runs parallel to the Vanuatu National Sports Policy which also runs from 2019 to 2024. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that it is high time we do justice to the Youth Sector and we need to '**...put our money where our mouth is...**'.

While the challenge remains immense I am confident and excited about bringing youth development nationally to the next level.

**“ WE DARE TO DREAM...
PLEASE JOIN US MAKE IT REAL! ”**

Endorsement message *from Director General*

**WE DARE TO DREAM...
PLEASE JOIN US MAKE IT REAL!**

A huge thank you to all our partners and friends within Government, Development Partners, Private Sector, Civil Society, Volunteer Sending Agencies, and individuals who have helped us so much along the way.

**FINALLY, ALL GLORY TO THE
ALL-MIGHTY GOD FOR EVERYTHING.
HAPPY 40TH VANUATU INDEPENDENCE!!**


Henry Vira
Director General,
Ministry of Youth Development & Sports



Endorsement message *from Youth President*

On behalf of the Vanuatu National Youth Council, I am excited to present the Vanuatu National Youth Policy 2019-2024. This policy builds on previous documents which provided a strategic platform for youth to recognise their rights and responsibilities. The revised plan is ambitious but captures the voice and essence of what young people want their future to be and a map to achieve it.

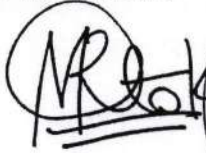
Young people actively contribute to the resilience and future of their communities by inspiring change, innovating solutions and encouraging progress. The youth of Vanuatu are an asset worth investing in, but they also need to have a voice and be heard about their future. Widespread consultation was conducted throughout Vanuatu with over 777 stakeholders consulted of which 69% were youth to inform this document. The youth voice was strong and clear and resulted in a policy that has been developed with the youth of Vanuatu at its centre.

We need to recognise that we cannot progress without partnering with our youth to ensure that they are empowered and supported to build a better world for themselves and their community. It is abundantly clear that through partnering with youth, supporting them to stand up for themselves whilst providing foundational frameworks for their collective ability to thrive, will ensure sustainable development for everyone.

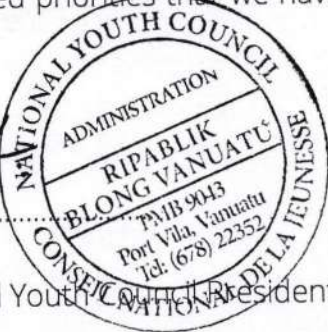
Endorsement message *from Youth President*

We also need to be committed to strengthening our youth capacity to meet the demands on a provincial, national, regional and international level. Our young people are not only the leaders of the future but also our leaders of today. Vanuatu youth are eagerly stepping up to represent themselves and their communities. Youth in Vanuatu are also facing challenges including accessing decent work, education and health care. We need to support young people to navigate the road to adulthood by working and engaging with them in partnership. This strategy aims to tackle some of these issues and provide the tools for young people to thrive.

I would like to acknowledge all the people and organisations that contributed to this document and I am excited to see the changes that will take place as a result. This document contributes to our interconnected priorities that we have as a nation and I am excited that youth are a part of the movement.



Morry Ruben
Vanuatu National Youth Council President
2016-2020



Acknowledgement



This Ministry of Youth Development and Sports acknowledges the contribution of many individuals in all 6 Provinces and 2 Municipalities, including civil and Government Agencies that have resulted in the development this policy. The Ministry wishes to convey its upmost gratitude to:

- The Vanuatu National Youth Council Executive and Secretariat for conducting a thorough consultation on this policy to ensure young people's voices and development challenges are captured to shape the key thematic areas of this policy;
- The current and former Directors, Director Generals and Staff of the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports including current and former Presidents of the Vanuatu National Youth Council who have initiated the consultation of this policy;
- The UNFPA, Pacific Leadership Program (PLP), Oxfam Vanuatu, the Australian Volunteers International (AVI), the Volunteer Serves Abroad (VSA) for providing Technical and Financial support for consultation and development of this policy;
- The Youth Livelihood Network consisting of all NGOs working with Young People including the Vanuatu Society for Disable People
- Relevant line Ministries and departments of the Government of Vanuatu for their inputs and continued support;
- Representatives from all 6 Provincial and 2 Municipal Governments Councils and Area Councils for their participation and contribution in the consultation process and inputs;
- Individuals and communities across all provinces of Vanuatu for sharing their concerns for youth development issues and inputs that shapes the outcome of this policy; and
- The ongoing dedication, collaboration and assistance, of agencies and organizations working towards the advancement of Youth Development Vanuatu is also gratefully acknowledged.

Background

Youth in Vanuatu account for about one third (or 80,132) of the total population (272,459) according to the 2016 Post-Cyclone Pam Mini Census[1]. Young people have immense potential to contribute to national development, and deserve opportunities in which to grow, learn and actively participate as citizens and members of their communities; “young people can only make their communities more productive and resilient if they have the opportunity to become better educated, healthier, express their voice and engage in useful work.”[2]

The Vanuatu National Youth Policy 2019-2024 provides an integrated and overarching framework for the development of youth in Vanuatu. The policy recognises the transition of young people to adulthood as an important one and recognises young people as a valuable resource for the development and empowerment of Vanuatu. This updated Youth Policy is the second document to define the guidelines for promoting the advancement of young people.

The first Policy set the foundation about how to define youth in Vanuatu including the definition of the age-group; youth are defined as a person who is between the age of 12 and 30.[3] With such a broad age-definition comes a wide range of opinions and values from youth about youth. Youth are not a homogenous group but need to be seen as diverse and their opinions and voices sought accordingly.

With the introduction of the Youth Authority Act 2018 and the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals for the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the previous youth policy, Youth Development Policy 2012-2022, required an update to be aligned with new legislation. New priorities have arisen for youth development which this policy aims to reflect.

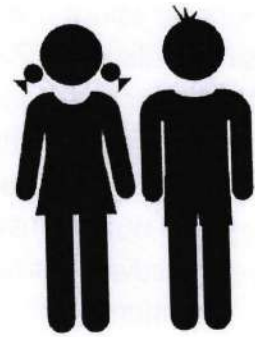
The updated Policy will require regular review and will conclude after a shorter timeframe of 5 years instead of 10 years. The Policy is informed by national, regional and international guiding principles of which some are listed below;

- National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) People’s Plan 2030
- Youth Authority Act 2018
- Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014- 2023
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
- Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes

[1] This figure is based on the most recent Post-Pam Mini Census (2016) for the age bracket 15-29 years of age. Therefore, youth from 12-14 and of 29 years of age are not accounted for in this total. [2] United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF Pacific), 2011 [3] (Ministry of Youth Development, Sport and Training, 2012
4) For more information about the consultation results please see; (Vanuatu National Youth Council, 2017)

Background...

With the introduction of the Youth Authority Act 2018, the youth voice has become firmly embedded in decision-making processes surrounding youth. The President of the Vanuatu National Youth Council (VNYC) is part of the composition of the Authority, alongside other influential and Ministerial positions. The President of the VNYC is mandated as the representative of youth in Vanuatu.



69%
were youth

As well as the introduction of the Youth Authority (as outlined in the Youth Authority Act 2018), extensive consultation with stakeholders has taken place to inform the various youth-focussed documents including the Youth Policy. Consultation was held throughout Vanuatu with over 777 stakeholders giving their voice and opinions of which 69% were youth.



Over 777
Stakeholders
consulted

The youth voice was strong and clear and resulted in a policy that has been developed with the youth of Vanuatu at its centre. The Policy is based not on the perceived needs of young people, but on real-life needs that was documented during the consultation process.[4]

- 1. Youth Economic Empowerment Policy
- 2. Child Protection Policy
- 3. Staff Manual of the Youth Authority
- 4. M&E Framework

Additional policy documents will need to be developed further to support the National Youth Policy;



Why develop a youth policy?



A youth policy is a visible way for the government to recognise the importance of young people in the community and the contributions that young people make to society.

This policy has been developed to raise awareness of issues affecting young people and as a reminder to elected representatives that young people need to be heard. Having a youth focussed document allows us to respond to the needs of young people in all decision-making and planning processes.

What is youth participation?

Successful youth participation is about producing opportunities for young people to be involved in influencing, shaping, designing and contributing to policy and the development of services and programmes. Honest participation relies on open, honest and clear communication and on listening to what young have to say about issues that impact them by:

- **Considering their views**
- **Communicating clearly and widely to young people**
- **Not re-wording youth responses**
- **Allowing everyone to have their say- in their own way**

For participation to be successful, young people must:

- Be informed ●
- Have a say on outcomes ●
- Organise themselves ●
- Make decisions to be involved ●
- Be involved in consultation and reviews ●

Policy Statement

- 1 Create an environment where young people will have opportunities to be involved, learn and develop and have a sense of wellbeing.
- 2 Encourage participation of young people in decision-making and in planning for youth social, cultural, economic and service needs.
- 3 Provide a future direction for government and local communities to identify and address the issues affecting young people's participation in community life and celebrating their achievements.

Purpose

The Vanuatu National Youth Policy was designed and developed in line with a variety of national, regional and international considerations combined with a widespread consultation with both youth and stakeholders. The resulting Policy is intended to serve the following purposes;

- **Identify the needs of youth according to youth**
Provide policy, legal framework and strategic guidelines for sustainable youth development according to the needs and visions of young people working from a knowledge and strengths-based approach.
- **Youth development as a governmental priority**
Strengthen the coordination between government departments and other actors to work together for the betterment of youth in Vanuatu.

Purpose ...

- **Acknowledge youth as an important asset for the sustainable development of Vanuatu**

By acknowledging youth as a resource, it will encourage the active participation of all young people in society and allow young people to realise their own potential.

- **Encourage young people to exercise their rights and duties**

Young people have incredible potential and they need to be promoted within society and amongst young people themselves

- **Recognise the interconnected priorities of government and other youth actors**

Youth development requires a joint framework to work towards a common goal in youth development

“The policy demonstrates the will and concern to develop the capacity of young people to mobilise them in support of their own development as well as the development of their communities.”

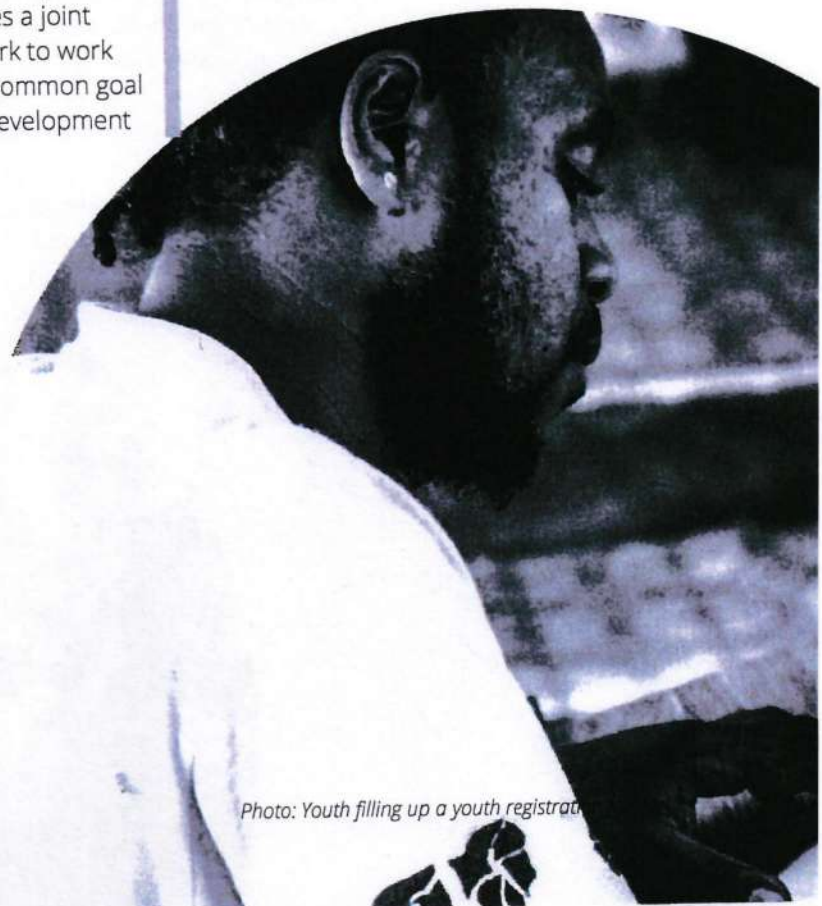


Photo: Youth filling up a youth registration form

Visión

A **vibrant youth culture** in which youth are **empowered, innovative** and **actively participate** in decision making and **sustainable livelihoods**.

Vibrant youth culture: Youth is the stage of life between childhood and adulthood – youth culture is the totality of youth lifestyles, values and practices, and must be uplifted and recognized as a vital part of society

Empowered: Youth have the self-determination and capacity to improve their own situation ensuring wider social and economic inclusion

Innovative Youth can adapt, and problem solve in new and creative ways with the resources available to them

Youth are motivated and included, enabling them to express themselves and become social change leaders

Actively participating

Youth are self-reliant and can manage their resources to best support their communities and lifestyles

Sustainable livelihoods



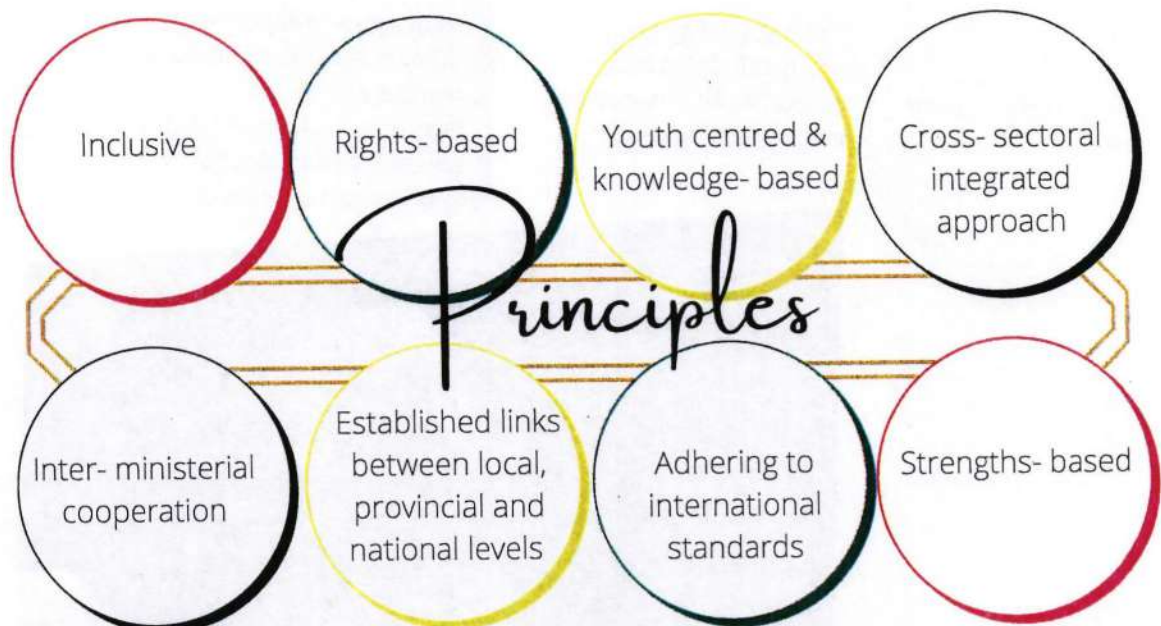
Photo: *Young people preparing for a cultural performance*

Context and Guiding Principles

The Policy has been informed by the below principles. Youth development should be prioritised and place at the forefront of educational, economic and social development programmes.

To achieve this policy, joint inter-sectoral and cross-sectoral efforts, including government agencies and civil society organisations and the private sector are essential.

The Youth Policy is a statement of the intent and willingness of the state of Vanuatu to develop the capacity of youth.



Cross-cutting issues

Representation

To consider and engage the youth voice and perspectives as the foundation of decision-making and policy formulation.

To support and encourage environmental sustainability, support disaster risk reduction and preparedness

Environmental sustainability

Inclusion

To engage and collaborate with marginalized youth, youth at risk, young people with disabilities, and young people with diverse gender orientations and sexual identity.

To ensure human rights are integrated into the core of our work to effectively contribute to sustainable development.

Human Rights

Gender equity

To be guided by gender equity principles that reflect the importance of mainstreaming gender.

To design and implement policy in alignment with local realities and issues, diverse cultural and linguistic contexts and traditional knowledge and practice.

Culture and local knowledge



Photo: A group of young boys making music using local materials during a music training session with Tio - Masevo Island

Cross-cutting issues...

Inclusive and Rights-Based Approach

Respect, protection and promotion of the rights of youth is critical – for both youth themselves and for their stakeholders. Young people have the right to full participation in the community and society within which they live and there needs to be a commitment to facilitating inclusive mechanisms to fully demonstrate this right. In many cases this involves prioritising excluded and marginalised youth through programming and services.

Youth-Centred

Working for youth as beneficiaries, engaging with youth as equal partners, and supporting youth as leaders to drive their own development. All youth work is based on the needs and interests of youth. Recognition of youth agency through their talents, skills and capabilities is supportive of an asset-based approach to youth empowerment, and towards the ability to change their own lives. Furthermore, public recognition of the achievements of youth, youth workers and youth stakeholders are essential to foster a strong and thriving youth culture.

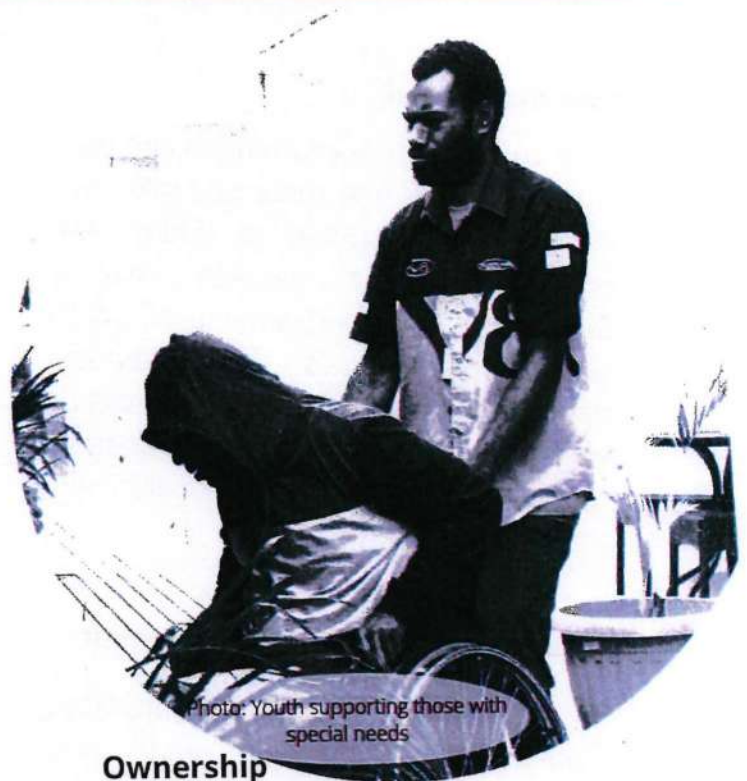


Photo: Youth supporting those with special needs

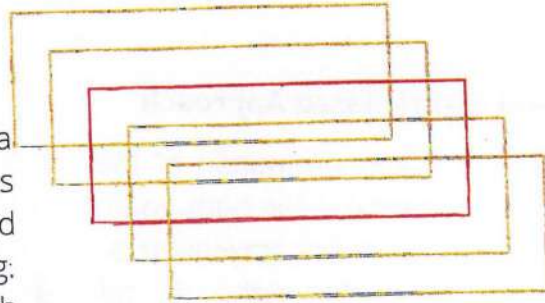
Ownership

The unique governance structure of the youth councils from area level to provincial and national levels provides the opportunity for meaningful youth participation leading to ownership and self-management. When youth councils and young people own and drive social and economic activities positively responding to their identified needs, they inevitably increase self-confidence and self-sufficiency, and strengthen social cohesion and participation in society at large.

Cross-cutting issues...

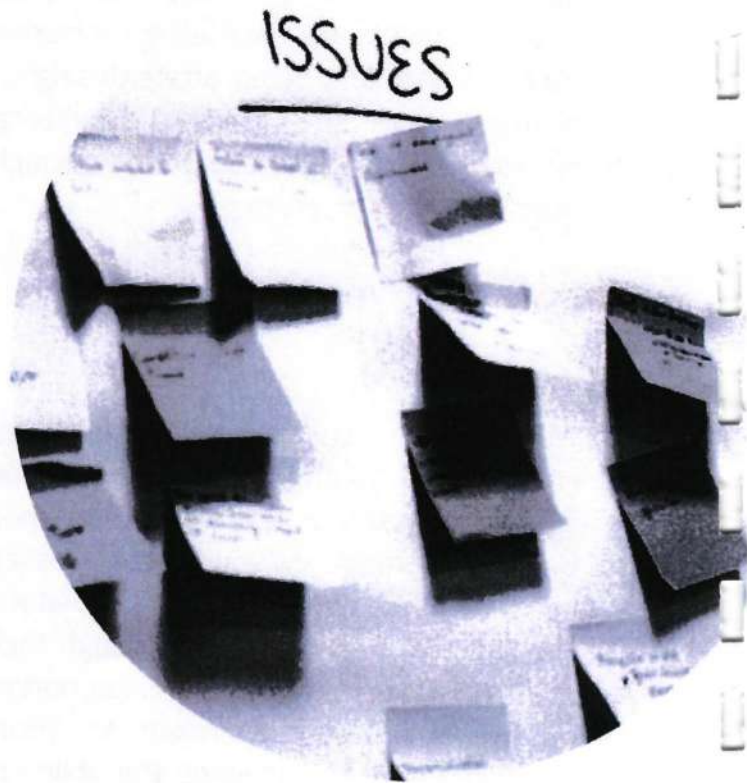
Evidence-Based

Relevant and timely information and data is key to supporting successful initiatives and partnerships, and to inform and enhance ongoing decision making. Evaluation and improvement of youth sector programmes and services depends on developing key indicators on youth, and strengthening registration, monitoring and evaluation capacity and mechanisms.



Creating an Enabling Environment

VNYA takes the role of supporting coordination, innovation and policy development to foster an environment in which youth can thrive. This requires a multi-pronged approach to working with all sectors and youth stakeholders to ensure youth-sensitive policies and services. VNYC will develop strategic partnerships through networking and meaningful engagements to cooperate and share information, with a particular focus on influencing policy development to create the space for youth to be heard.



National Commitments

National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2030)

The National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2030) is linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal targets. The NSDP provides the planning and deliverable framework for all Ministries and their associated agencies which require annual reporting against the set targets in the Annual Development Report (NSDP). The NSDP tracks achievements as well as the NSDP objectives. Youth are specifically targeted;

NSDP Alignment:

Society 2: Quality Education

SOC2.1 (Ensure every child, regardless of gender, location, educational needs or circumstances has access to the education system)

SOC2.4 (Increase higher education opportunities, including technical and vocational training and skills)

Economy 1: Stable and equitable growth

ECO1.9 (Promote financial literacy and consumer empowerment)

Economy 4: Create jobs and business opportunities

ECO4.5 (Increase the number of decent, productive employment opportunities particularly for young women and men and people with disabilities)

Society3: Quality healthcare

SOC3.1 (Ensure that the population of Vanuatu has equitable access to affordable, quality health care through the fair distribution of facilities that are suitable resourced and equipped)

SOC3.3 (Promote healthy lifestyle choices and health seeking behaviour to improve population health and wellbeing)

SOC4.7: (Encourage participation in physical activities and develop a safe and inclusive sports system that serves as a vehicle for community cohesion, education, health, leadership and fair play)

Society 4: Social inclusion

SOC4.6 (Provide opportunities, support and protection services for youth and children as valued members of society)

Society 6: Strong and effective institutions

SOC6.4 (Strengthen national institutions to ensure they are cost effective and well-resourced to deliver quality public services)

(SOC6.5: Strengthen local authorities and municipal institutions to enable decentralised service delivery)

Vanuatu Youth Authority Act 2018

This legislation was introduced in 2018 and provides a framework and foundation for working for and with young people. Part of the purpose of the Act is to establish an Authority which will steer the future directions of young people in Vanuatu.

The Youth Authority is responsible for establishing partnerships and institutional cooperation to ensure the better implementation of the strategies of the Youth Policy. The institutional cooperation enables synergies of resources to be utilised effectively, avoiding duplication of services and enhancing sectoral cohesiveness.

Youth policy differs from other public policies in the way that it touches upon many policy areas. It is therefore essential to find ways of involving different ministries and government agencies in the youth strategy implementation and monitoring framework. Functions of the authority are as follows:

7. Functions of the Authority

The Authority has the following functions:

- a) To coordinate and decide on matters of policy development and procedure and to provide advice to the Government on matters pertaining to youth and
- b) To provide policy and technical advice and strategic directions to the Provincial Governments and Municipal Governments on matters pertaining to youth; and
- c) To ensure the participation of youths and their access to national and international youth development programs at all levels; and
- d) To support and promote individual youths and stakeholders on innovative and sustainable efforts to advance equitable youth development work in Vanuatu; and
- e) To initiate, encourage and facilitate research and study into improving assessment of youth development programs; and
- f) To establish standards for youth development programs and re-enforce and monitor the level of services offered to youth by Government and non-profit organisations; and
- g) To monitor the execution of National Youth Development Policy and Strategy at all levels; and
- h) To provide any such reports as may be requested by the Minister from time to time; and
- i) To comply with any lawful directions of the Minister; and
- j) Such other functions as are conferred on the Authority by this Act or any other Act

Global Commitment

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Vanuatu is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Kazan Action Plan. As part of this undertaking, Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016 to 2030 sets related targets that the Vanuatu National Youth Policy seeks to operationalise.



Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014- 2023

The Pacific Youth Development Framework has been specifically developed for youth in the Pacific and provides a strategic direction for youth priorities in the Pacific area. Four high-level development outcomes for youth have been determined as regional priorities;

- More young people secure decent employment
- Young people's health status is improved
- Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making
- More young people participate in environmental action

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [1]

[1] See Annex 2 for more information

Vanuatu has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC), which covers the civil and political rights of under 18 year olds. Articles two (non-discrimination), three (the best interest of the child), twelve (respect for the views of the child) and twenty-three (rights of children with disabilities) are all relevant to ensuring the voices of young people are heard within decision-making processes.

Priority Areas

Youth are not a homogenous group. In Vanuatu, 12 to 30 years is the generally accepted age range for youth' or 'young people'. This is the age range adopted by the Ministry for Youth Development and Sport, according to the Youth Authority Act 2018. This definition is more extensive than what the United Nations or other countries have adopted to define youth.

This age range reflects our local context, but we do want to highlight that within this range, it is further broken down into smaller groups; 12-18 year olds, 19-24 year olds and 25-30 year olds. The rationale is to reflect the difference in life stage between the groups. A more detailed explanation for each group is provided below;

Equip (12- 18 years - old)

During these formative years, it is crucial to develop policy that is protective of their life-stage and yet equips them with the skills and knowledge to take the next step into adolescence. This age-group is also protected and upheld by the UNCROC so any policy formulation needs to consider this vital Convention. The focus for this group is;

1. Accessible, compulsory and standardised education
2. Developing leadership skills
3. Building their voice and confidence
4. Understanding about civic engagement

Enable (15- 24 years- old)

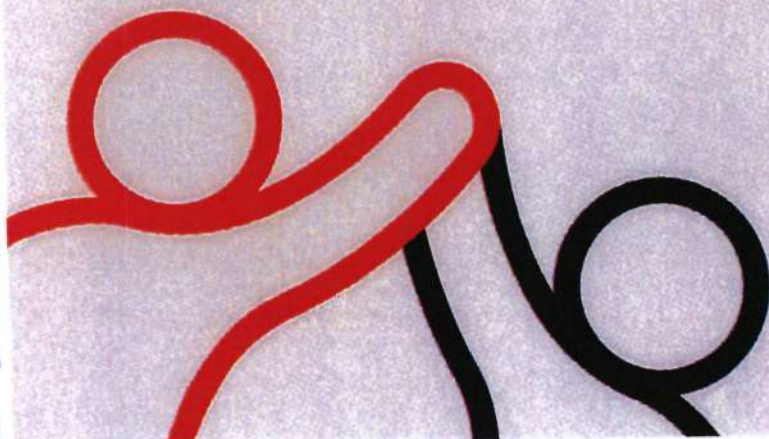
Young people in this age-group need to be able to use the skills and knowledge that they have developed to make decisions about their next step into adulthood. Policy formulation for this age group needs to be reflective of their voice. These young people need to be enabled to make decisions about their future. Often these young people have progressed to tertiary education or employment and have taken their leap into adulthood. The focus for this group is;

1. Tertiary education and employment opportunities
2. Using their voice and leadership skills in their community
3. Actively participating in civics

Empower (25-30 years -old)

This group of young people are empowered with the skills and knowledge to be leaders not only within the youth space but also within their communities. This age bracket also reflects the average age in Vanuatu where young people start thinking about starting their own families or might already be parents. We want to support and acknowledge this age group before they step out of the youth age. We need this group to be leaders and in the driving seat of their lives. These are our youth workers and community leaders. The focus for this group is;

1. Advanced employment opportunities
2. Empowered to be leaders
3. Actively participating in their community
4. Supported in their family planning



Key Policy Interventions

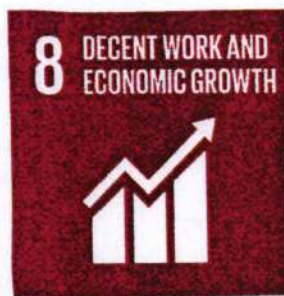
The National Youth Policy seeks to support the goals and aspirations defined by the Sustainable Development Goals, NSDP, UNCROC through progression of the following targets:



Strategic Objective 1:

Education & Training:

Youth have increased ability, knowledge and skills through capacity development in the transition to adulthood.



Strategic Objective 2:

Economic Empowerment:

Youth have increased opportunities to participate in inclusive economic development through decent employment and entrepreneurship.



Strategic Objective 3:

Health & Wellbeing:

Youth have improved health and wellbeing status, including physical and psychosocial health, through access to information and services.



Strategic Objective 4:

Civic Engagement:

Youth are empowered through a strong sense of identity, to build their own relationships and actively participate in society as citizens.



Strategic Objective 5:

Youth Council & Sector Strengthening:

VNYC Secretariat, Office North, national, provincial and municipal youth councils are effective and representative fostering a strong and resilient youth



Strategic Objective 6:

Art, culture, music sport & leisure:

Young people are involved with activities that enhance their wellbeing and cultural connections

Key Policy Interventions...



Youth Economic Empowerment

Outcome:

Youth have increased opportunities to participate in inclusive economic development through decent employment and entrepreneurship

The Key Issues:

- Lack of job opportunities, particularly in rural areas
- Lack of policy and legislative frameworks to support youth in business and decent employment
- Limited skills and business development opportunities provided by service providers
- Inaccessibility of loan schemes and capital for young entrepreneurs
- Lack of financial literacy skills

Activity areas may include:

- Educational, advice and empowerment programmes around starting a business
- Mentoring
- Funding and lending options
- RSE
- Training opportunities
- Partnership opportunities in the productive sector

Strategic Objectives for 2024:

- 1.1 **Advocate increased apprenticeship and government employment programs**
- 1.2 **Encourage and support sustainable economic initiatives** for youth through social entrepreneurship and innovation
- 1.3 **Promote an enabling policy and regulatory environment** for young entrepreneurs to access business development support, start-up capital, subsidies, grants and awards that support them to be more competitive in inclusive economic development)
- 1.4 **Advocate improved infrastructure development** for increased access to markets and opportunities for expansion of enterprise
- 1.5 **Advocate the development of employment policies** that promote decent, fair and gainful work opportunities. The full empowerment of youth and their capacity is based on achieving results under all of these areas as they are inextricably linked.

Key Policy Interventions...



Youth Education & Training

Outcome:

Youth are empowered through learning opportunities and skills development, and have strengthened cultural identity and relationships in the transition to adulthood.

The Key Issues

- Fee barriers for secondary level formal education leading to high number of drop out and push out youth with low literacy levels
- Limited formal curricula focus on preparing students for employment or instilling an entrepreneurial mindset, and a skills mismatch when students attempt to enter the workforce
- Limited access to non-formal and accredited education institutions and programs to cater for youth not in formal education, and also graduates requiring further skills development
- Limited platforms and avenues for youth talented in creative arts and cultural pursuits
- Lack of youth participation and representation in decision making fora including community disaster management processes.

Strategic Objectives for 2024:

2

- 2.1 Ensure integrated curriculum development** incorporating civic education, good governance, leadership, family life education, life skills, entrepreneurship and employability skills in formal education
- 2.2 Support non-formal and accredited training programmes for capacity development** in civic education, cultural heritage, leadership, vocational skills, literacy and advocacy, including promotion of community-led traditional knowledge and cultural heritage transmission
- 2.3 Advocate the establishment of job counselling centres**
- 2.4 Support music, arts and cultural programs and platforms** to showcase youth talent and support the development of creativity and innovation
- 2.5 Advocate volunteerism and youth participation in disaster management and national, regional and international events**

Activity areas may include:

- Compulsory education from 6 until 16 years-old (normalising and prioritising education)
- Subsidized education
- Career advice
- Career-ready toolkits

Key Policy Interventions...



Health & Wellbeing

Outcome:

Youth have improved health and wellbeing status, including physical and psychosocial health through access to information and services

The Key Issues:

- Limited access to information on key health issues impacting youth
- Increased incidence of substance abuse and unsafe sexual and reproductive health practices
- Lack of counselling services available to youth
- Inadequate sports facilities, equipment and coaching

Activity areas may include:

- National health awareness campaigns
- Introduction of specific youth clinics and youth focussed health services
- Better monitoring and reporting (gather baseline health data around youth-specifically- teenage pregnancy/ NCDs, suicide)
- Health programmes delivered through schools (diet, exercise, wellbeing strategies)

Strategic Objectives for 2024:

3

- 3.1 Advocate for and support youth to access youth friendly health services** including counselling throughout Vanuatu
- 3.2 Support information, education and communication (IEC) initiatives and peer education approaches**
- 3.3 Encourage youth participation in physical activity** and support sports for development through inclusive sports facilities and programs
- 3.4 Encourage youth participation in diverse church-based initiatives** promoting youth spiritual development and social cohesion .

Young people should be informed on how to live a healthy life and then given the opportunity to participate in the promotion of public health. They, with the support of health centres etc, can work to present and reduce the contamination of diseases, improve basic conditions of health and cooperate in the implementation of health promotion strategies. Create inter-dimensional approach to health

Key Policy Interventions...



Civic Engagement

Outcome:

Youth are empowered through a strong sense of identity, to build their own relationships and actively participate in society as citizens.

The Key Issues:

Lack of youth participation and representation in decision making opportunities including community disaster management processes.

Strategic Objectives for 2024:

4

- 4.1 **Support and advocate for civic education training** including good governance and justice
- 4.2 **Encourage youth access to land and ecological awareness initiatives**
- 4.3 **Advocate for youth participation in disaster management**
- 4.4 **Facilitate and coordinate youth leader participation** in national, regional and international events

Activity areas may include:

- Focus on leadership development
- Civil service awareness campaigns

Key Policy Interventions...



Sector Strengthening

Outcome:

VNYA, VNYC Secretariat, Office North, national, provincial and municipal youth councils are effective and representative fostering a strong and resilient youth sector

The Key Issues:

- Inefficient registration system (limited number of youths registered)
- Non-diversified funding sources lead to dependency and periods of latency when funding is not available
 - Non-democratic and non-representative youth councils (particularly at Area level)
 - Lack of understanding of roles and responsibilities of youth council members, and with Secretariat
 - Limited resources to be effective across a province due to high cost of communication and transportation

Activity areas may include:

- Designated youth spaces and centres available in every province
- MoUs with local councils, municipalities and decision-making bodies to ensure youth representation
- Having youth representatives on boards and organising committees to ensure a youth "voice" is heard;

Strategic Objectives for 2024: Internally:

5

- 5.1 Strengthen organizational capacity** through effective policies, procedures and systems, and human resource development
 - 5.2 Ensure increased financial and technical resources and capacity building** to support all levels of the organization
 - 5.3 Enhance the registration data system** to improve efficiency and accessibility of data for key stakeholders
- Externally:**
- 5.4 Improve communication and networking** at provincial level and with partners and stakeholders to improve coordination of the youth sector
 - 5.5 Support youth sector research** and the development of indicators to measure context specific youth development
 - 5.6 Support the establishment of the National Youth Authority**
 - 5.7 Promote opportunities for the recognition of youth workers and the professionalization of youth work**

Key Policy Interventions...



Art, culture, music, sport, leisure & Spiritual wellbeing

Outcome:

Young people are involved with activities that enhance their wellbeing, cultural heritage and spiritual connections.

Key issues:

- Young people less involved with traditional art, handicrafts and culture
- Lack of access to sport and leisure equipment or resources
- High levels of youth unemployment
- Lack of spiritual upbringing and guidance

Activity areas may include:

- Utilising Youth Councils in the provinces to plan and deliver sporting and cultural events;
- Collecting data on youth engagement in sport, physical education and physical activity;
- Investigate pathways for youth volunteers assisting in staging and organisation of sports events to progress through training and capacity building to qualified officials;
- Using youth "Change Champions" as advocates for inclusion and equity issues in sport.
- Encouraging youth businesses in art and handicrafts.
- Promote youth development, spirituality and christian values through church-related activities

Strategic Objectives for 2024: Internally:

6

- 6.1 Greater dialogue within Ministry for Youth Development and Sport between Youth and Sport departments** through regular communication and consultation
- 6.2 Increased resources to provincial Ministry officers** for youth, culture and sport programmes
- 6.3 Youth Centre and Sport Facility stocktake** to understand the current availability and standard of youth centres and sport facilities in the provinces
- 6.4 Greater dialogue within Ministry for Youth Development and Sports with Vanuatu Christian Council and members of guidance in all facets of Youth Development**

Externally:

- 6.4 Improve networking** between partners and stakeholders to provide art, handcraft, music and culture activities especially involving the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs
- 6.5 Support research** to understand the current involvement of youth in sport, art or music
- 6.6 Advocate for youth committees and councils**
- 6.7 Encourage the development of platforms** to showcase youth creativity and talent
- 6.8 Promote music, arts and cultural programs** contributing to youth development

Implementation strategy & M&E Framework

For the National Youth Policy to be responsive to emerging issues, needs and priorities, it is proposed that the Policy be reviewed every 3 years in alignment with the Ministry for Youth and Sport Development Corporate Plan cycle or earlier in changing operational environment demands re-evaluation. Central to the development and the success of the National Youth Policy is the need to work collaboratively with the Youth Authority, as the mandated agency for youth, will oversee the coordination and monitoring of implementation of the Policy.

The Ministry for Youth and Sport Development will be a key agency for implementing the National Youth Policy through collaboration and cooperation with the Youth Authority. An implementation Strategy should be developed with 6 months of approval of the Policy by the Council of Ministers. The Implementation Plan will be coordinated by the Youth Authority and the Ministry for Youth and Sport Development working closely with key implementing agencies and partners previously detailed.



Photo: Young people sharing ideas during the Youth-Co-Lab summit in Port Vila

ANNEX 1: Youth Strategy Incorporation

Strategic objective:	Mainstreaming:	Institutional Strengthening:	SDG Alignment:	NSDP Alignment:	Youth Act:
<p>1. Education & Training: <i>Youth have increased ability, knowledge and skills through capacity development in the transition to adulthood.</i></p>	<p>Compulsory education from 6 until 16 years-old (normalising and prioritising education) Subsidized education Career advice Career-ready toolkits</p>	<p>Qualifications authority Ministry for Education & Training Tertiary education providers- agriculture etc Youth centres Secondary schools</p>	<p>SDG4: Quality Education: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>Society2: Quality Education SOC2.1 (Ensure every child, regardless of gender, location, educational needs or circumstances has access to the education system) SOC2.4 (Increase higher education opportunities, including technical and vocational training and skills)</p>	<p>2(c) to establish higher standards of youth development programs in all youth related service delivery including training pathways for out of school youth; and</p>
<p>2. Economic Empowerment: <i>Youth have increased opportunities to participate in inclusive economic development through decent employment and entrepreneurship.</i></p>	<p>Educational, advice and empowerment programmes around starting a business Mentoring Funding and lending options RSE Training opportunities Partnership opportunities in the productive sector</p>	<p>Youth challenge Young Entrepreneur council Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p>	<p>SDG8: Decent work and economic growth: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. SDG9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.</p>	<p>Economy1: stable and equitable growth ECO1.9 (Promote financial literacy and consumer empowerment) Economy4: Create jobs and business opportunities ECO4.5 (Increase the number of decent, productive employment opportunities particularly for young women and men and people with disabilities)</p>	

ANNEX 1: Youth Strategy Incorporation...

Strategic objective:	Mainstreaming:	Institutional Strengthening:	SDG Alignment:	NSDP Alignment:	Youth Act:
<p>3. Health & Wellbeing: <i>Youth have improved health and wellbeing status, including physical and psychosocial health, through access to information and services.</i></p>	<p>National health awareness campaigns Introduction of specific youth clinics and youth focussed health services Better monitoring and reporting Health programmes delivered through schools</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Local health clinics Schools</p>	<p>SDG3: Good health and wellbeing: ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing at all ages</p>	<p>Society3: Quality healthcare SOC3.1 (Ensure that the population of Vanuatu has equitable access to affordable, quality health care through the fair distribution of facilities that are suitable resourced and equipped) SOC3.3 (Promote healthy lifestyle choices and health seeking behaviour to improve population health and wellbeing) SOC4.7: Encourage participation in physical activities and develop a safe and inclusive sports system that serves as a vehicle for community cohesion, education, health, leadership and fair play)</p>	

ANNEX 1: Youth Strategy Incorporation...

Strategic objective:	Mainstreaming:	Institutional Strengthening:	SDG Alignment:	NSDP Alignment:	Youth Act:
<p>4. Civic Engagement: <i>Youth are empowered through a strong sense of identity, to build their own relationships and actively participate in society as citizens.</i></p>	<p>Focus on leadership development Civil service awareness campaigns</p>	<p>Partnering with local councils, municipalities and other decision-making bodies</p>	<p>SDG11: Sustainable cities and communities: Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<p>Society4: social inclusion SOC4.6 (Provide opportunities, support and protection services for youth and children as valued members of society)</p>	<p>2(d) to improve the participation of youths in youth development programs, national platforms and services;</p>
<p>5. Youth Council & Sector Strengthening: VNYC Secretariat, Office North, national, provincial and municipal youth councils are effective and representative fostering a strong and resilient youth sector.</p>	<p>Designated youth spaces and centres available in every province MoUs with local councils, municipalities and decision-making bodies to ensure youth representation</p>	<p>VNYA, VNYC, Ministry for Youth Development and Sport</p>	<p>SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<p>Society6: strong and effective institutions SOC6.4 (Strengthen national institutions to ensure they are cost effective and well-resourced to deliver quality public services) (SOC6.5: Strengthen local authorities and municipal institutions to enable decentralised service delivery)</p>	<p>2(d) to improve the participation of youths in youth development programs, national platforms and services;</p>
<p>Target 6: Art, culture, music, sport, leisure and spiritual wellbeing: <i>Young people are involved with activities that enhance their wellbeing, cultural heritage and spiritual connections.</i></p>	<p>All young people are involved with an activity that enhances their wellbeing, cultural heritage and spiritual connections.</p>	<p>VNYA, VNYC, VASANOC, VNESC, individual sporting organisations, handicraft association, music groups, churches</p>	<p>SDG3: Good health and wellbeing: ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing at all ages</p>	<p>SOC1: Vibrant cultural identity SOC4: Social Inclusion ECO3: Strengthen rural communities</p>	

Annex 2: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child...

Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty that recognises the human rights of children, defined as persons up to the age of 18 years. The Convention establishes in international law that States Parties must ensure that all children—without discrimination in any form—benefit from special protection measures and assistance; have access to services such as education and health care; can develop their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential; grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding; and are informed about and participate in, achieving their rights in an accessible and active manner.

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance.

Article 4: States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognised in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation.

Article 6.2 States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

Article 12.1 States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

Article 13 The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.

Article 17 States Parties recognise the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international source, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual, and moral wellbeing and physical and mental health.

Annex 2: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child...

Article 23.1 States Parties recognise that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

Article 24.1 States Parties recognise the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

Article 24.2 States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:

- a) To diminish infant and child mortality;
- b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;
- c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, *inter alia*, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;

d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal care for mothers;

e) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents;

f) To develop preventative health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.

Article 27 States Parties recognise the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development

Article 28.1 States Parties recognise the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular;

- a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;

Annex 2: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child...

b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;

c) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means;

d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children;

e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rate.

Article 29.1 States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to;

a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;

b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilisation different from his or her own;

d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

e) The development of respect for the natural environment.

Article 31.1 States Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

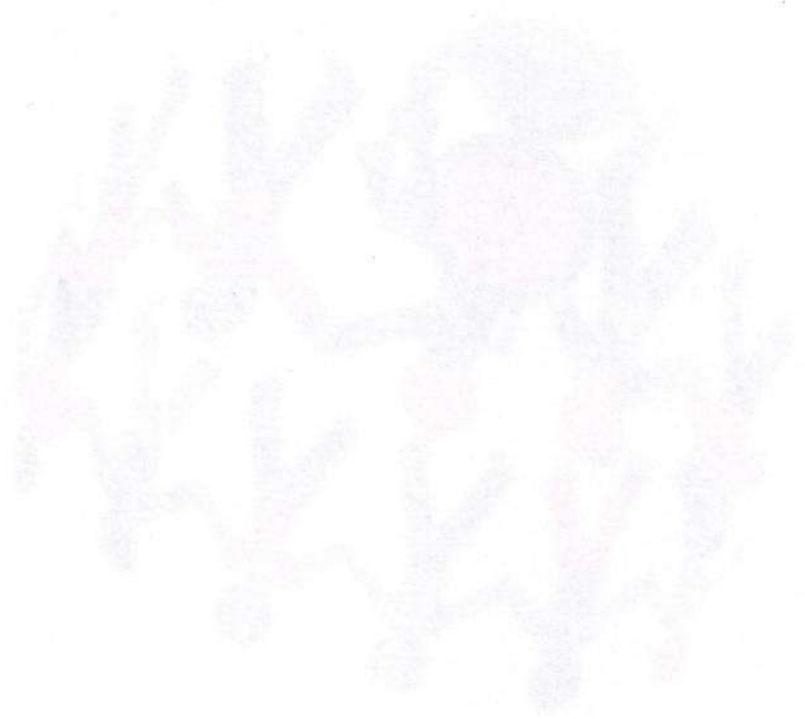
Article 32 States Parties recognise the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

2. States shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall in particular;

Annex 2: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child...

- a) Provide for minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment;
- b) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment;
- c) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article.





The following information is provided for your reference:
The details of the project are as follows:
The results of the study are as follows:

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