



FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA



# The National Youth Policy of The Federal Government of Somalia

*"Youth are change makers for development and stability"*



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## Minister's Message

Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Federal Government of Somalia is honored to successfully accomplish the National Youth Policy as the process was initiated in 2010 and its development has been going on for last seven years. When Peace and Life Government (Nabad iyo Nolol) comes to power, the process has been resumed and accelerated to fruitfully complete the development of the National Youth Policy.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is also honored that a National Policy developed for the youth has been presented to a functioning cabinet ministers for the first time in the history and it is a historic event accomplished by the FGS that a National Policy for the Youth is in place for the first time.

### **The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the FGS is thankful to:-**

1. Ministries of Youth and Sports of the Federal Member States of the Federal Government of Somalia.
2. Benadir Regional Administration and the Benadir Youth Organization.
3. Umbrellas and the Independent Somali Youth Organizations.
4. Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments and Somali Religious Leaders.
5. And other relevant ministries.

Throughout the process of setting the National Youth Policy to involve them in the consultative meetings and data collection that they have well contributed.

We also extend our gratitude to UNFPA and MERCY CORPS/USAID who supported the development of the National Youth Policy.

### **The objectives of National Youth Policy are:**

1. Enhance the capacity and knowledge development of the young people to enable them to access the services they need.
2. To foster a sense of patriotism in young people to become tomorrow's growth agents while cultivating them a sense of personal development and the security of the country to stimulate stability and better living standard.
3. To support youth participation in development opportunities for all and all levels – local, national and international.

### **Likewise, the key priority interventions include:**

1. Strengthening Education and Skill Training
2. Employment Creation
3. Economic Participation, and Poverty reduction
4. Healthy and Quality Lifestyle
5. Protection and Guidance for Youth
6. Justice and law
7. Terrorism
8. Migration
9. Unemployment
10. Environmental Protection
11. Youth participation and leadership and etc.

Finally, after a long coordinated efforts, we successfully concluded the development of the National Youth Policy in a meeting attended by all stakeholders (The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the FGS and Ministers of Youth and Sports of the Federal Member States, former MPs and some representatives from the civil society) held in Baidoa, the provisional capital city of South-west State of Somalia, the policy was approved in Garowe, capital city of Puntland State.

**Thank you!**

**Hon. Khadija Mohamed Diriye**  
*Minister of Youth and Sports of the  
Federal Government of Somalia*



# 1. Introduction

The widespread problems faced by Somali youth, which include: unemployment, insecurity, radicalization and extremism, forced irregular migration, lack of quality education and vocational training, health services, etc.

Acknowledging that Somali youth are unable to realize their rights and access the basic services they need.

Considering that there was no clear policy which reflects the needs and aspirations of Somali youth and that it is important to develop policies that endeavor to address the issues affecting young and creating opportunities for the youth to reach their maximum potential.

## The Ministry of Youth and Sports decided

- To develop a national youth policy that guides on youth issues fully reflects the needs of young people and services they need to be delivered
- This policy should be the basis for all programs to help young people
- In order to be easier for all government institutions to collaborate on basic services that young people need to improve their lives and their futures, this policy would be established

The Ministry began to hold consultation meetings and data collection to investigate the youth problems so as to prepare information that could be used in the development of a national youth policy which would reflect the needs of young people and the services they need. The objectives of National Youth Policy are:

- To design strategies and policies that are effective, can be maintained, and have a degree of flexibility in the development of youth
- Enhance the capacity of the ministries involved in the development of young people to be able to access the services they need
- To promote knowledge development of young people to enhance their future growth
- To foster a sense of patriotism in young people to become tomorrow's growth agents
- To support youth participation in development opportunities for all and all levels – local, national and international

- To create space and opportunities for young people to discuss their own issues and voice their concerns and aspirations
- Promoting young people's participation in decision-making processes at all levels

The consultation meetings were held with various organizations such as the

- Banadir Youth Organization
- Independent Youth Organizations
- Religious leaders
- Youth special needs organizations
- Civil service organizations
- The National Women Organization
- University Student Unions
- Social service providers (Line ministries)
- State governments (Ministries of Youth and Sports)

The information came from those meetings we will detail in the next section this policy report.

## 1.1 Background

According to the Population Estimation Survey for Somalia (PESS) carried out between October 2013 to March 2014, out of the total population of 12.3 percent, 45.6 percent of the Somali population was below the age of 15 and 81 percent was below the age of 35, which reveals a youthful population.<sup>1</sup> Desirable changes in state development thus directly relate to how we develop and empower the youth who are the potential productive labour force and the agents of change.

The large youthful population has been vulnerable to various national problems, including violence, immigration, and terrorism. In terms of security and the prolonged civil wars, the youth have been exploited by clan agendas and terrorist groups like Al-Shabaab whose name can be translated to "Youth" to bear the sense of belonging among the youth. These groups recruit, use, abuse and kill Somali young people. Many young people have not been educated and been excluded from governance, peace building and state building. The youth need to become active citizens and be provided with necessary services by the government to be protected from vulnerability

<sup>1</sup> Population Estimation Survey for Somalia. United Nations Population Fund, 2014.

and radicalization activities and to lead positive productive youthful life.

Somali youth have not been afforded the opportunity to develop to their full potential and access the opportunities that enable them to grow, develop and prosper as fully engaged, responsive and productive citizens. During the civil war and stateless decades, the youth didn't get the opportunities to improve their wellbeing or access quality education which is applicable to the needs of their country. This will make them vulnerable to the overflowing problems in the environment they lived in like violence, immigration, terrorism, illiteracy, exclusion from the governance system, peace building operations and specific obstacles to Young women include early marriage, lack of decision-making power on family planning and family preference of educating boys than girls.

This National Youth Policy is an affirmation of commitment from the Federal Government of Somalia to its youth population that it is setting and meeting the priorities and development needs of its youth both men and women. The national youth policy defines objectives, strategies, actual steps, target groups, key government institutions which will play vital roles in implementation mechanisms. It defines the role of the youth in their country and the responsibility of our society to its youth.

The National Youth Policy (NYP) 2017-2021 is part of a global movement to formulate policies specifically targeting young people to address the changing circumstances in which they find themselves. As countries worldwide engage in a process of developing/renewing youth policy, the NYP 2017-2021 pursues to promote both the particular needs and circumstances of the Somali youth and the universal youth community.

This NYP signifies a declaration and commitment by the Federal Government of Somalia with regard to its intentions concerning its priorities, directions and concrete support for youth development over the next five years by setting the priorities and meeting development needs of both the female and male youths. The NYP defines objectives, strategies, actual steps, target groups and key government institutions that will play a vital role in implementation mechanisms. It also defines the role and responsibility of the youth in their country

and the responsibility of society to its youth. The NYP recognizes that both female and male Somali youth face enormous challenges in every facet of their lives. Similarly, the NYP also recognizes that the youth have been considerably underutilized and have not received their rightful share of the available national resources. The NYP also seeks to facilitate the youth's positive contribution and creativeness for communal and national development.

The National Youth Policy is based upon a two-year progression made possible through the compliant efforts of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, civil society organizations, relevant line ministries, the youth – university students, NGOs, intellectuals, the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and the media. Consultation meetings were conducted and its objectives were to collect concrete information and hear from the youth themselves to express their sentiments, share their objectives and ingeniously devising the future of the youth in Somalia. Such consultations with the key stakeholders were the basis for the development of National Youth Policy since the role of sponsors is vital all the way through the design, formulation, implementation, reviews, monitoring and evaluation phases.

The development of this National Youth Policy for Somalia not only recognizes the value and significance of its youth but is an effort to craft policy which visibly shows the ultimate need for youth and providing a framework and focuses for youth development by all stakeholders. Finally, the below issues and objectives were derived from the consultation meetings held and youth representation was given importance.

## 1.2 Purpose and Justification of this Policy

Somalia youth face many challenges and there are a lot of factors affecting youth, such as limited employment opportunities/unemployment, violence and insecurity, low education quality, corruption and injustice, and political and administrative institutions dominated by adults in which youth are underrepresented. A large proportion of the youth population in Somalia comes from rural areas (pastoralists and agro-pastoralists) and are moving to the urban areas (cities) when the quality of their livelihoods degraded due to famine and droughts which also affected the national economy since

their production was vital. These youth have limited education and marketable skills for entering the work force within the country and overseas.

Regardless of the fact that youth are a majority of the population and that they are seen as a potential labor force, there is no existing youth policy or operational documents to address the needs of youth in a long term manner and there are an overlap and weak collaboration between government ministries and organizations towards the development of youth. Therefore, the need to develop a youth policy that influences and improves the quality of education and training, employment and living standards for youth is a top priority. That is why this national youth policy represents the way that the federal government of Somalia foresees the future of its people and, mainly that of youth.

The NYP is explicitly intended to close the gaps, address the challenges and recommend the new measure to improve and accelerate implementation thereby making major strides in the development of young people by ensuring that they assume their rightful place in building a prosperous and democratic Somalia. The NYP is an important investment for the future, protection, and endurance of youth, countering violent extremism and terrorism, peace building and conflict resolution, country rebuilding, improvement of productivity, reinforcement of health services, democracy and elections, ecological reform, encouragement and cultural protection, social justice, and development.

The NYP will offer a set of strategic priorities and commendations as a way forward in the overall concept of youth development converting into actionable points hence ensuring that youth realize their full potential, at the same time contributing to the development of their country.

The Federal Government of Somalia declares the significance of the active participation of youth in state development, establishing the unique and parallel roles of all government ministries, the civil society organizations and youth groups in youth development.

## **The Goals of the National Youth Policy 2017-2021 is therefore to:**

The overall goal of the policy is to promote youth participation in all sphere of development to ensure they attain their full potential.

The objectives of the policy are:

- Identify gaps in the Somalia youth development and the current policy and propose strategic policy interventions designed to fill them, thus speeding up further development of youth
- Sensitize and guide government institutions and civil society toward youth development and acknowledge the leadership of young men and women in developing youth-led initiatives – initiatives led by and for youth in partnership with governments at all levels and civil society
- Create a proper condition for youth to participate in democratic processes in the country
- Support initiative and programs that empower youth to be an active citizen
- Identify challenges and constraint faced by Somali youth that impedes progress
- 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; and
- Encourage an understanding amongst the regional and district administrations to develop a plan of action to enable them to play a positive role in strategic objectives of this national youth policy

### **1.3 The Main Areas of Focus**

The main areas of the NYP include seven priority thematic areas, each with specific strategic objectives and key priority interventions, namely:

1. Strengthening education and skills development;
2. Raising employment creation and economic development;
3. Security and Peace
4. Promoting healthy lifestyles;
5. Protection of Youth
6. Improving youth participation and citizenship
7. Justice and reintegration of youth in conflict with the law



The Somali NYP also highlights a set of rights and responsibilities for Somalia's youth.

## 1.4 Description of Youth

This National Youth Policy focuses on the Somali youth between 15 and 40 years old. This age group represents the significant stage in life when transitions to different statuses and environments – from childhood to adulthood, from school to work, from dependence to independence – take place. It is a population group that needs special attention and interventions to ensure these transitions are smooth and meaningful for each and every young person in Somalia.

Somalia youth 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 15 to 40 year age group, it is recognised that certain groups of young people deserve special attention, namely youth with disabilities; youth living with Aids ; orphans and vulnerable youth; marginalized youth; internally displaced youth; nomadic youth; and unemployed youth;

## 1.5 Historic Reflections

The freedom that Somalia got in 1960 came after a long struggle and bloodshed , and many freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for the nation to get freedom, while at the time Africa a fierce battle for freedom from the European colonizers referred to as the "freedom revolution in Africa".

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1943, 13 young people from overseas were selected to represent the party called SYC (Somali Youth Club) or association of the people of Somalia, which later became Somali Youth Association of SYL (Somali Youth League), in May 1947, which formally took the name SYL. July 1, 1960, the two Somali governments got freedom and joined to form the Republic of Somalia. A bloodless Coup led by armed forces followed where military came into power and built a government that was led by a 25-member Revolutionary Council. Problems arose in the government and military attacks against some of the clans ensued which led to the formation of

groups based on families which finally resulted in the state out of the country collapsing into a civil war which continued for a long time.

Young people were the most troubling part of the fighting, up to date they are used for terrorist acts. This policy is to treat the problems facing young people to become full participants in the development of their community.

## 1.6 Current challenges hindering development

Somalia currently experiences a range of issues that are hindering the development of the country socially, economically, and politically. These issues need to be considered since credible responses are fundamental to the development and protection of the youth emphasized in the NYP. The Somali youth represent the most vulnerable group to these issues.

- **Fragile public institutions** – The majority of public institutions are facing scarce financial and human resources. Due to the prolonged civil war, the government facilities are devastated and reconstruction is needed
- **Climate change and environment destruction** – Somalia experiences recurrent climate challenges, including drought, floods, and desertification. Excess use of natural resources and charcoal for fuel and overall poor environmental management has led to the poor environment
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's)** – currently two persons in five are either an IDP or a returnee. Such people are living on the margins of society, with limited resources and employment opportunities
- **Radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism** – The Somali youth are among those who suffered from radicalization and violent extremism activities due to their vulnerability resulting from low level of education, unemployment, and the fact that during the prolonged civil war the only employment available was being an insurgent
- **Patriarchal structures**-providelimitedopportunity for young women to partake in decision making (community, family planning, higher education, full employment). Traditional norms such as FGM increases infant and maternal mortality or life long health issues. In summary, a large proportion of the people (girls and women) can't develop to

their full potential, do not fully contribute to the labor force/ economic development and increase demand for reproductive health care Hence hindering development

## 1.7 Policy Setting

The NYP of the Federal Government of Somalia is influenced by a number of international and national policies and declarations, including the Professional Constitution of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Somali National Education Policy. Furthermore, the NYP reflects the direction of a variety of declarations and statements that indicate the importance of and given instructions about the development of specific youth policies, including the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, the African Youth Charter, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Sustainable Development Goals and the first Global Forum for Youth Policies and the Baku Commitment to Youth Policies.



## 2. Policy Vision, Guiding Principles & Goals

### 2.1. Policy Vision

The statement below is a summary of the vision as a result of the implementation of the NYP:

“Realization of a Somalia society where all its youth men and women met their basic needs then became confident with a strong sense of identity and loyalty to their peaceful and prosperous nation and its Islamic values and culture. A country where the rights of Youth are protected and have equal opportunities to participate in all democratic processes while having unlimited access to education, health, social, employment opportunities and sporting”.

### 2.2. Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles express the critical core values upon which the NYP goals and recommended interventions are derived. It is obligatory to observe, safeguard and admit these guiding principles to achieve the vision of the NYP. These guiding principles are:

- Islamic faith
- Sovereignty of Somalia
- Respect for and pride in the identity, culture, and traditions of Somalia
- Good governance and respect for Human Rights
- Youth participation and leadership
- Youth empowerment and engagement
- Protection of environment, land and sea
- Inclusivity regarding youth development
- Gender Equality
- Comprehensive adopting a holistic approach

### 2.3. Policy Goals

The National Youth Policy goals are investing and empowering the youth population by in-depth analysis of their needs, to ensure participation and collaborative interventions on youth issues. It will also focus on developing wide-ranging programs to unite the different institutions delivering services to youth to attain the intended results in social, economic and political development. This National Youth Policy has adopted seven goals, namely –

The NYP has adopted the following seven goals, namely;

- a. To strengthen effective collaboration and coordination between all youth development stakeholders to achieve desired concrete youth development.
- b. To nurture the active participation and leadership of young women and men, and youth organizations in the duties and responsibility of both individual and national development.
- c. To infuse in youth patriotism and prepare them to be responsible citizens that care for their families and communities and value Human Rights and Gender Equality principles.
- d. To support young people, youth groups, and youth organizations that require special attention, especially young women, youth with disabilities, etc, to ensure they have access to equitable opportunities for development to their full potential.
- e. To stand for national unity , respect for diversity and prepare a tailored made intervention respectively.
- f. To encourage active participation of the youth in activities for re-building the country.
- g. To ensure coordination and mainstreaming different policies serving the youth.



### 3. Priority Themes and Strategic Interventions

This NYP of Somalia seeks to provide a direction and framework for all institutions committed to youth development. Young Somalis faces immense challenges, to start solving these challenges the priority areas of the NYP are:

1. Strengthening education and skills development;
2. Raising employment creation and economic development;
3. Security and Peace
4. Promoting healthy lifestyles;
5. Protection of Youth
6. Improving youth participation and citizenship
7. Justice and reintegration of youth in conflict with the law

#### 3.1. Strengthening Education and Skills Development

##### Overview

“Lack of education is a lack of light” the popular saying went. Since the 1991 civil war, a lot of extreme damage has been felt in terms of education infrastructure, the central government’s ability to deliver social services especially education, However, since the collapse of the last central government all youth have experienced a lack of access to education which has led to problems of violence and equality across the Somali community. In education, there are two confounding factors, first many children, and young people participated in the conflict or fled to seek refuge elsewhere, thus education was no longer accessible, for this reason, governmental educational institutions collapsed in 1991. It is due to this lack of access to education that millions of children have grown up illiterate which led to many problems, The second confounding factor is poor-quality education, which affected all areas, in education since the quality declined significantly during this era and this has been inherited in the present. Both of these factors shall be discussed in the remaining unit.

The critical issues in education and skill training include:

- Quality of teacher 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
- Shortage of vocational training schools and teachers
- Investment in education and Role of student councils
- Educational strategies for school dropouts especially girls
- Low enrolment in Non-Formal Education
- Lack of career education and counseling
- Education for youth with special needs

##### Strategic Objective 1:

Increase Accessibility and Student Participation by Making Education More Engaging And More Readily Available to All.

##### Key Priority Interventions:

1. To unify the curriculum they teach in private schools and the public to improve quality.
2. To promote and improve the quality of education in schools and universities, teachers, teacher training to produce young professionals and academics.
3. To increase the number of teachers who have been certified (attended required teacher training courses).
4. To improve and rehabilitate the existing schools and educational institutions and build new ones.
5. Promoting education by increasing the state budget to pay teachers’ salaries.
6. Provision of accessible secondary education (to increase the level by 35% percent in 2021).
7. To ensure that all vulnerable youth (poor, IDPs, marginalized groups and orphans) receive the education they need.
8. Promoting educational opportunities for teachers.
9. Encouragement of education for youth with disabilities and support their needs.
10. Monitoring the quality of education in private schools.

11. Establishment of boarding and mobile schools to ensure that youth in the rural areas have access to basic education.
12. Promote equal access to education for boys and girls
13. Provide for specific reintegration programs for girls that dropped out due to family pressure, early marriage, early motherhood, etc.
14. Provide special measures for girls to attain higher education, encourage curriculums and school material that doesn't reinforce gender stereotypes, sex education, sexual harassment policies for students and teachers etc.
15. Build schools for youth with special needs such as the mentally handicapped children.
16. Develop awareness programs so parents know the importance and benefits of education.
17. To seek subsidy for free education program by the help and collaboration of the international community such as the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, United Nations, Arab League and other international organizations interested to support Somalia.
18. Promote student-led organizing within the schools to encourage youth leadership.

### **Strategic Objective 2:**

**Empower the Non-Formal Education Sector(NPE) and Expand It in all the Regions of Somalia**

#### **Key priority interventions:**

1. Develop high-quality curriculum for the NFE.
2. Establish national structure for the NFE.
3. Awareness for prospective students of NFE.
4. Building the capacity of NFE schools and teachers through training, facilities such as the One Stop Youth Resource Centres.
5. Encourage rurally and urban communities to expand non-formal education.

### **Strategic Objective 3:**

Expand Opportunities for Technical/Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

### **Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Expand the system of technical/Vocational training institutions throughout all regions in Somalia.
2. Setting sex-disaggregated student enrollment targets for TVET annually and seeking small business investment programs so that they contribute more in the market.
3. Encourage greater involvement of the private sector in supporting and investing in TVET.
4. Assist linking technical / vocational training to local labor market opportunities and needs.
5. Support to technical equipment for the technical/vocational education and training to produce qualified technicians.
6. Improve the quality and diversify the skills of the TVET education schools.

## **3.2. Raising Employment Creation and Economic Development**

### **Overview**

The high unemployment rate in Somalia is the main expression of poverty. After analyzing and considering the results of the consultation meetings, unemployment has been identified to be one of the main challenges Somalia suffers. When the Somali regime collapsed in 1991, people awaked up to a situation where all the government institutions ceased to exist and the unemployment cycle started to affect everyone. The statelessness and the prolonged civil war produced 70 to 80 percent unemployment among the youth. This critical situation led to mass migration abroad of the productive young population seeking better opportunities.

The need for job creation initiatives was the most common request by young people during the consultations.

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Lack of National Youth Employment Strategy
- Lack of Labor Act enforcement
- Nepotism and corruption
- Lack of youth centers for counseling and employment promotion

- Limited income generation opportunities and economic activity sector
- Limited skills and training opportunities
- High inflation rates
- Encourage and mobilize the Somali Diaspora as an economic investment source

### Strategic Objective 1:

Promote the Development of Labour Act.

#### Key Priority Interventions:

1. Developing and enforce the Labour Act that promotes equal opportunities for young men and women.
2. Developing active labour market policies attuned to the Somali context.
3. Promote the business sector to play their role in youth employment and creation of opportunities.
4. Campaign for the elimination of nepotism and corruption in the labour market.

### Strategic Objective 2:

Promote Youth Employment Creation Led by the Government

#### Key Priority Interventions:

1. The government must develop a gender responsive youth employment strategy to plan the creation of yearly employment.
2. The Private sector should take their part for job creation and employment of youth.
3. Youth should be given employment in all government agencies military, NISA, and Police so their energy is utilized towards security, stabilization and nation rebuilding efforts.
4. The government should recruit the right people for its positions regardless of his/her clan, gender ,or where they belong to.
5. The education quality must be reviewed and boosted.
6. Create a youth income (income generation).
7. The international organizations and the United Nations should play a big role in the employment creation for youth and reduce a large number of expatriates for the country positions.
8. Young men and women should be allowed and encouraged to become ministers,

parliamentarians, directors, ambassadors, officials and advisors.

### Strategic Objective 3:

Promote Youth Self Employment as A Career Alternative.

#### Key Priority Interventions:

1. Promotion and organize awareness programs on employment and labour market.
2. Provision of appropriate training courses for the needs of the labour market.
3. Enhance TVET schools.
4. Create of income generation and investment activities through the launch of a gender responsive youth loan fund for start-up their own businesses.
5. Create platforms, systems for self-employment i.e. SME and informal sector support, entrepreneurship programmes, credit schemes etc.

### Strategic Objective 4:

Create Linkages Between Education, Training Institutions, and the Local Labour Markets.

#### Key Priority Interventions:

1. Ensuring the education curriculums is relevant to respond the needs of the country. (courses should be applied instead of more theoretical).
2. Establish school-based career counseling services.
3. Establish and maintain a robust labour market information system to inform trades and occupation training in the TVET system.
4. Preparing a platform and linkage between employers and education institutions.
5. Research and monitor local labour market needs so that youth base their education discipline choice in line with the areas where the need is high.
6. Provide equal opportunities for young women and men, and offer incentives to encourage employers to employ young qualified women.
7. Develop gender responsive recruitment/ human resources strategies.
8. Increase the capacity of local government and its partners to undertake labour market assessments



### 3.3. Peace and Security

#### Overview

The youth are aware that it is fundamental to achieve security and peace in Somalia and express strong desires to be active participants in the peace building efforts. However, when the safety and security of young people are not guaranteed, many of them can be brainwashed, radicalized and used for violent and criminal activities organized by groups who take advantage of the youth vulnerability.

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Inadequate employment opportunities
- Youth radicalization
- Violent extremism and terrorism
- khat addiction
- High inflation
- Drug and substance abuse (khat, alcohol)
- Clan based conflict
- Resource-based disputes(water and grassing)
- Politicians quest for power
- Societal structure and discrimination

#### Strategic Objective 1:

**Create Opportunities For Youth To Contribute To Peace Building And Stability.**

#### Key Priority Interventions:

1. Fully involve young women and men in peace and state-building processes from the early planning stages, all the way to its implementation and monitoring.
2. Deliver alternative training, employment, rehabilitation and reintegration programs targeting youth in conflict with the law.
3. Involve youth in a campaign to counter violent extremism and terrorism.
4. Develop appropriate school curriculum and course related issues of security and peace.
5. Application of national ID card for reference as security measure.
6. Encourage youth to fully observe law and order and support the law enforcement agencies.
7. Provide training to the youth on peace building, conflict resolution, security and countering violent extremism.

8. Respect and include IDPs.
9. Engage young women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.
10. Create registration process for light weapons
11. Promote the participation of youth in community policing.
12. develop safe spaces for youth in rural and urban areas.

### 3.4. Promotion and Strengthening of health and quality lifestyle

#### Overview

Good health and quality of life for the Somali youth is important for them to participate and play a crucial role in sustainable state-building. The most significant issues raised during consultations were khat addiction often followed by HIV/AIDS and malnutrition. Although HIV/AIDS is low in relation to the neighboring countries, there is fear of an increase in the prevalence since the country's borders are open and unprotected. This will pose a threat to the youth who are the labor force and the future of the nation

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Cost of health services is high
- Inadequate sexual reproductive health services that are youth friendly
- Limited health promotion, education and prevention programs
- Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS
- Insufficient budget and health investment
- High rates of proven curable diseases – diarrhea, respiratory infections, tuberculosis
- High malnutrition levels
- Lack of school nutrition programs
- Limited awareness of preventative health measures
- Violence against young women including sexual violence
- Negative social and cultural norms
- Inaccessibility of health services
- Limited health services to nomadic people and internally displaced persons
- Rise of gangs and drop out e.g. street children.
- Risk and effect of HIV/AIDS prevalent
- Drug and khat abuse

- Detrimental traditional practices (FGM)
- Poor hygiene and sanitation practices
- Inadequate qualified health specialists
- Insufficiency of gyms and fitness centers in Somalia
- Absence of fitness opportunities for female youth

### **Strategic Objective 1:**

**Enable All Young People are 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 counseling services in such areas as reproductive health, drug abuse, 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 to health services to nomadic youth populations.
5. Promote the empowerment of women to increase their decision-making power in regards to reproductive health and access to justice.
6. Raise awareness and promote initiatives that reduce all forms of violence against women and girls including FGM, domestic violence, sexual offenses.
7. Create/establish physical exercise in schools and local communities.
8. Include healthy style topics in the national education curriculum.
9. Ensure recruitment of medical professionals in the health institutions and the ministry of health.
10. Public health hospitals and centers should be prioritized according to the working hours than the private centers.
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.
13. Create urban and rural spaces for youth to access information, training, and other services.

### **Strategic Objective 2:**

**Prevent and Control the Spread of HIV/AIDS and Mitigate Against The Societal Impacts.**

#### **Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Fully endorse and support the Joint UN Team on AIDS (UNAIDS) work plan, and strengthening the work of the Somali National AIDS Commission.
2. Regularly gather, analyze 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 formal and nonformal education curriculum support materials and services.
9. Strengthen and support youth peer education programs and networks:
10. Simplify and encourage marriage.
11. Educate basic conduct of Islamic faith.

### **Strategic Objective 3:**

**Campaign To Lessen Khat Chewing And Smoking Addiction And Other Substance Abuse**

#### **Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Use media campaigns were religious and traditional leaders, poets participate in peer education programs to raise awareness of the hazards of khat and other drugs.
2. Advocate for 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 centers.

5. To campaign and promote to raise 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.

### 3.5. Protection and Safety of Youth

#### Overview

Somalia experiences significant emigration of its youth population, fleeing poverty and lack of employment opportunities. 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' from the country. The root causes of this continuous emigration need interventions to address these problems.

Widespread unemployment, violence, and poor judgment with emotional immaturity, has forced many young people to migrate and seek asylum in a foreign nation for their search of better future. 50% of these young Somali migrants are believed to die during illegal migration.

Sports and recreation are very important factors for youth since this provides opportunities to socialize, build social connections, counter boredom, spend their time productively, develop character and learn new skills and teamwork. They also shape mental and physical wellbeing of the youth. There are limited sponsored government youth centers. Inadequate sporting facilities and programs are similarly limited, especially for young females.

Youth radicalization and violent extremism are the challenges facing young people and the country in general. Protection and safety of youth from the harm of extremism is crucial through the collaboration and coordination between governmental agencies, civil society, the international community and the youth themselves.

The environmental destruction is a rising alarm for the realization of sustainable development. The consultation process strongly endorsed the need for more focus and activities related to climate change, soil degradation, water conservation, charcoal use, deforestation, plastic bag elimination, heritage

protection and other environmental preservation activities

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

#### Migration

- Underlying root causes of illegal immigrants
  - Lack of employment opportunities
  - Brain drain influence
  - Lack of market research before investing – a large number of start-ups fail in a short period of time
  - Influence among the youth
  - Unfair recruitment process
  - Absence of effective employment policies
  - The youth's perception of life in the western countries (Quest for better life)
  - Lack of patriotism

#### Sports and Recreation

- Gender bias, stereotyping and discrimination in sports
- Limited sports and recreation facilities or centers  
Partial types of sport tournaments
- Limited sports options for youth with disabilities
- Lack of community enthusiasm and understanding of sport importance

#### Environment

- Effect of climate change and global warming
- Destructive behaviors towards environment
- Charcoal production and tree destruction
- Soil erosion

#### Strategic Objective 1:

**Focus on Alternative Options for Youth to Reduce Immigration.**

#### Priority Interventions:

1. Develop National Employment policy and its plan of action.
2. Develop labor market relevant technical and vocational education and training options.
3. Engage youth in designing alternative potentials.
4. Set up a "youth friendly Centers - Youth Clubs" where they can come and seek advice.
5. Use the media to raise awareness on the dangers

of illegal immigration as well as to promote existing opportunities in Somalia.

6. Awareness rising among the parents/friends/and relatives to suspend financial assistance to the immigrating youth.

### **Strategic Objective 2:**

**Encourage the Diaspora to Invest in their Country.**

#### **Priority Interventions:**

1. Organize a yearly conference of the Diaspora with a focus on youth development initiatives, where Diaspora members should also provide a real picture of life in Diaspora.
2. Encourage youth members of the Diaspora to return back to Somalia to apply their newly acquired skills in short and long term projects (mentoring local youth to duplicate what is in the west).
3. Develop exchange programs/internships to educate Somalia youth and enable them to return with skills to their country.
4. Start media programs that promote Somalia and spread it to Diaspora to attract more investment and visitors.
5. Prepare a documentary on the tragedy of deadly immigration attempts.

### **Strategic Objective 3:**

**Empower A Youth Sports And Recreation Strategy Which Enhances Access, Equity And Opportunity For Somali Youth.**

#### **Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Strengthening sports and restarting the interregional, regional and national tournaments for both male and female athletes.
2. Reinforcement of arts, music, and the Somali culture.
3. Increase the opportunities for young women and men to engage in a diverse range of sports and sporting competitions including soccer, basketball, volleyball and athletics.
4. Support the development of a network of youth resource centers.
5. 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.

6. Provide greater support and direction to youth and sports centers to enable them to become more friendly and conducive to young people with special needs.
7. Create safe spaces for sports in urban and rural areas.

### **Strategic Objective 4:**

**Enhance Environmental (Land And Sea) Knowledge And Awareness Among Somali Youth.**

#### **Priority Interventions:**

1. Youth should support government agencies assigned to the rescue and protection of the environment.
2. Preparation of an environmental protection training.
3. The engagement of young people to visit projects in other countries to study.
4. Organize events where youth gather to share the knowledge and awareness of environmental protection.
5. To support the sanitation and garbage collection from local governments and companies to keep our cities clean.
6. Establish umbrella for NGOs working to strengthen environmental protection.

### **Strategic Objective 5:**

**Encourage The Active Involvement And Leadership By Young People In Environmental Initiatives.**

#### **Priority Interventions:**

1. Enhance school curriculum in regard to environmental education.
2. Conduct media campaign jointly led by youth and media outlets to promote environmental awareness.
3. Appropriate training for pastoralists, fishermen, farmers and all the people of Somalia to increase their productivity while protecting our environment to achieve sustainable development.
4. To promote public awareness campaign based

practices to reduce environmental damage.

5. To produce clear procedure on charcoal production and encouraging other forms of environmental friendly energies.
6. Building and protecting historic sites.

### 3.6. Improving Youth Participation and Citizenship

#### Overview

Youth in Somalia have demonstrated a commitment to participate in community and national affairs. All International declarations related to youth development are dedicated to the need to create an environment to enable young people to participate in the lead.

The critical issues for this priority area include:

- Limited youth participation 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
- 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:

Establishment Of Effective Support Towards Active Youth Participation In Social And National Issues

#### Key Priority Interventions:

1. Encourage and support volunteering programs and supporting among the youth.
2. Encourage the representation of young women and men in different levels of government and non-governmental and community councils decision is reached.
3. Creation and use youth advisory councils.
4. Promote the inclusion of young women and men in Parliament and other political and governance participation.
5. Promote and secure micro grants from United Nations (UN) agencies and international organizations to inspire youth.
6. Utilise religious and cultural gatherings

to promote the principles and priorities of citizenship.

7. Provide forums and training opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills.

#### Strategic Objective 2:

Strengthen The Awareness Of Youth 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. Identify and implement programs and actions that build national patriotism.
4. Develop and implement values education/citizenship component of the school curriculum.
5. Create community opportunities for the discussion by young people of civic/citizenship issues.
6. Strengthen the media coverage of themes related to citizenship.
7. Support youth programs that strengthen the principles and practice of active citizenship by young people in the community and national life.
8. Build upon the experiences of other countries and introduce a Youth Parliament program in Somalia.
9. Create and approve the National Youth Council for Somalia.
10. Create strong citizenship so it may reduce the youth migration.
11. Organize competitions of poets and other literature on patriotism.

### 3.7. Justice and Youth Conflict with the Law

#### Overview

Among the Somalia, youth are those in conflict with the law who take part in various crimes including terrorism, rape, murder, robbery, theft, piracy and gang-related. Youth age bracket is a sensitive time with high level of energy available that needs to be used. This situation could lead the youth falling victim

of those want to take advantage of their vulnerability and use them in organized crime, violent extremism, and terrorism.

The National Youth Policy encourages the establishment and enforcement of a system where the youth offenders are sent to rehabilitation centers instead of prisons, help them becoming better people and support the reintegration of the young offender into their community. It also proposes the establishment of the Juvenile Act.

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

- Types of the crimes and exploitations
- Poor prison conditions
- Requirements of the CRC
- Rehabilitation services
- Children and adults together in prisons

**Strategic Objective 1:**

**Implement Appropriate Legislation Regarding Youth And Juvenile Offenders.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Development and enforcement of Youth and Juvenile Justice Law.
2. Reform and make the police stations and prisons a youth friendly environment (separating adult and child inmates).
3. Develop programs to support victims.
4. The law enforcement personnel (security forces) must learn the basic human rights of a free citizen and also a prisoner to avoid acts of violation.
5. Youth detainees are bound to be treated with compassion and dignity receiving services they needed in prison.

**Strategic Objective 2:**

**Establish Rehabilitation Facilities Where Youth Offenders Learn Skills And Help Them Transform To Become Mature In Terms of Vision and Effort.**

**Key Priority Interventions:**

1. Establish a Reform of youth and rehabilitation centers.

2. The youth offenders will participate and support volunteers during the period at the rehabilitation center.
3. In counseling (counseling) for youth offenders to examine and observe what is the root cause and their compelling and physiological status.
4. In the rehabilitation centers should be a place of transforming youth offenders and their service needs become available such as education, health, and skill training.
5. Constant awareness campaigns should be made to advise youth on what is good for their lives and avoiding acts and criminal activities that may affect their future negatively.



## 4. Priority Target Groups

The National Youth Policy is a vision and framework for the development of all youth in Somalia. Furthermore, it is recognized that there are seven groups of youth who require additional emphasis to ensure their maximum benefit from the planned interventions, namely:-

- Young people with disabilities
- Young people living with AIDS (PLWA)
- Orphans and vulnerable youth
- Marginalized young people
- Internally displaced young people
- Nomadic youth
- Young unemployed





## 5. Policy Implementation & Coordination

The National Youth Policy is based on the principle of cooperation and collaboration – “a must for all stakeholders in youth development – government ministries, civil society, the private sector and young people – to collaborate and work together to ensure the best result in the development of young men and women”.

### The NYP recommends:

1. Upon approval of the National Youth Policy by the Federal Government of Somalia, a National Youth Action Plan is to be formulated which elaborates the “who does what, how, and when?”.
2. Establish National Youth Council, formed by young men and women, to participate in the implementation of the policy and will be the bridge connecting youth and development stakeholders.
3. To nominate Youth Focal Points in all government ministries with the mandate of coordination of the activities of each ministry service to the profession to youth.

This policy term is for five years, which will strive to achieve the objectives and measuring how the critical issues under the seven thematic areas were achieved. Prior to its termination, the formulation process will be reinitiated so the Policy can be updated. At the end of the policy period, policy reviews will be made and new data collection and consultations will be conducted to find a new policy that focuses the needs of the time.



## 6. Rights and Responsibilities of Youth

This National Youth Policy further sponsors that all youth regardless of their age, gender, ability, socioeconomic status or geographic location have a right to enjoy.

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

Similarly, this National Youth Policy appeals upon youth both men and women to exercise responsibility and commitment to building a more peaceful, prosperous and inclusive Somalia. This can be achieved by youth through.

- Respecting and learning Islamic religion
- Reinforcing the unity, non-harmful tradition, and culture of the people and the country of Somalia;
- Avert the radicalization and acts of violent extremism and terrorism
- Respecting law and order other citizens and their property
- Supporting vulnerable and marginalized members of youth and opposing discrimination of all forms
- Protecting and preserving the environment

Lastly, this National Youth Policy appeals to all citizens of Somalia to:

- Encourage the contribution of young people in community and national development
- Provide equal opportunities to young people irrespective of their gender
- Assist young people to reach their full potential
- Encourage young people's active involvement in all spheres of community and national life

Somalia youth live in a time of improbable change. They are an important and most valuable sector of society, but are most susceptible in terms of employment, health, violence and violence extremism/terrorism.



## 7. Conclusion

Throughout the formulation and researching stages of this National Youth Policy for the Federal Government of Somalia, the youth both men and women expressed the challenges they face and their observed needs which prevented their full and creative contribution to the rebuilding of their country.

### This include:

- Limited provision of services that are priorities for youth such as education, training, employment, and Health
- Lack of admiration by adults for the ideas and contributions of the Youth
- Discrimination and societal division due to clan system and gender
- No specific Youth policy and legislations to guide the development of young people in Somalia
- Key government ministries have no prioritized agenda of youth issues
- Political exclusion of youth
- Youth are voiceless in the implementation of the delivery of services for youth development
- Lack of youth participation in policy development for government institutions (they are not represented in the policy consultations) and implementation (Government arms didn't best utilize the potential resource – Youth)

Hopefully, this National Youth Policy will raise the profile of understanding the needs and aspirations of youth both men and women in Somalia and how their possible contribution to the community and national life.

Most of all, it is hoped that this National Youth Policy will serve as a tool for linking all sectors of society in the development of young men and women in Somalia.

