



Afghanistan 2014:

A Generation Speaks

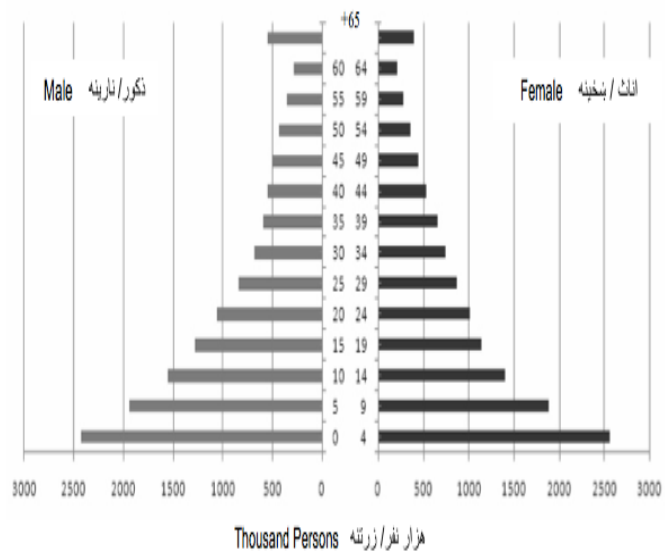
Executive Summary of a Participatory Youth Survey 2013



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Development programmes in Afghanistan have often ignored the voices of young people. Afghanistan has one of the world's **fastest growth rates at 2.8%**, and **two thirds of the country (63%) is under the age of 24**, yet the policies that shape their future are being formulated with little understanding of who the youth are, or what they want. **This research finds that many young people in Afghanistan, especially young women, feel under valued by society, marginalised and excluded from decision making at both a political and domestic level.**

The stakes are high: 2014 – the Transition Year – will see the complete transferral of security responsibility to Afghan security services, and the election of a new President. A combination of political uncertainty, poor economic performance and Afghanistan's conspicuous **youth bulge** increases the likelihood of prolonged conflict and instabilityⁱⁱ. **Now, more than ever, national and international stakeholders must bridge the gap between youths and national policy.** The first steps have been taken. In 2013, Afghanistan's Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs has worked with UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF to design the country's first National Youth Policy.



Afghanistan's demographic structure and the youth bulge (Source: CSO 2012/2013)

However, detailed research on Afghan youths has been sporadic and, until now, a consolidated assessment of their status, attitudes, and aspirations has not been undertaken. *Samuel Hall* was commissioned to undertake an in-depth stocktaking exercise of youths in Afghanistan and to provide robust, evidence-based recommendations to support youth-sensitive programming within the broader framework of the policy process. This study has two objectives:

- To present an assessment of the state of youth in Afghanistan in key sectors such as education, employment and health; and,
- To provide recommendations to aid the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs to create youth programmes on the basis of this information.

For full details about the research, including the methodology, see:

Samuel Hall Consulting (2013). "Afghanistan's Future in Transition: A Participatory Assessment of the Afghan Youth", research commissioned by DMoYA, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF; Kabul, 2013.

EDUCATION

Education policy has led to increasing levels of literacy and school enrolment, but the education system is not equipped to prepare young people for the realities of the Afghan labour market. Youths consider education to be a gateway to a brighter future, but an increasing number of students want to study abroad, rather than in Afghanistan, due to a lack of university places and the benefits of a higher quality of education overseas.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

- **Enrolment and literacy continue to rise:** 84% of respondents are literate.
- **The gap between rural and urban literacy is closing:** 79.8% and 77.7% respectively are literate with schooling.
- **Educational achievement is highly valued as dropout rates for students drop drastically at each level of schooling:** 65.1% of males and 41.5% of females who went only to primary school say that they dropped out. This is consistent in both urban (58.1%) and rural (56.0%) settings surveyed. Drop out rates at university level are almost zero.
- **Gender inequalities persist in Kandahar:** 62.3% of surveyed girls are illiterate without schooling.
- **Young Afghans are ambitious.** 26.2% of the respondents want to become a doctor, 14.8% a teacher and 14.6% an engineer. **Currently these ambitions are limited by a lack of places at university.**
- **Some are frustrated by the lack of learning opportunities** abroad: many young people aspire to study overseas but there are few public funds available for them. 174 respondents had studied in neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran as refugees. The majority of those who had studied abroad in the sample were males living in urban areas.
- **Few scholarships are available for those wishing to study abroad:** Only 5 respondents had received scholarships from the Afghan government, while 5 others had received scholarships from other institutions and governments of foreign countries. 87% of those who had gone abroad had paid for it themselves or through their families.
- 71% of young Afghans think that education will help them find a job, but **there are limited career opportunities in Afghanistan**, which could lead to an eventual *brain drain*. 61% of youths who attended a technical training course were unable to find employment.
- When asked how the government was working to help young Afghans, only 30.5% mentioned government efforts around education.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- **7.9 million** children in Afghanistan are in schoolsⁱⁱⁱ
- **45%**^{iv} is the ratio of girls to boys in secondary education
- **39% of youths were literate** in 2007 (53% men and 24% women). Urban populations (63%) had higher literacy rates than rural (33%) and Kuchi (12%) populations^v
- **85%** of people in Afghanistan think that men and women should have **equal access to education**^{vi}
- Primary-school dropout rate is **54.6%**^{vii}
- **50%** of high school graduates in 2011 were **unable to attend university** due to lack of places^{viii}

EMPLOYMENT

The services sector in Afghanistan will shrink after the 2014 transition of security responsibility. We ask: *how will a radically rebalanced economy address the employment expectations of a new generation?* Currently, it does not. Up to 700,000 young people complete secondary school each year, but a weak economy leads to vulnerable employment and many young people are forced to work in unpaid positions with no job security^{ix}. If there are no jobs in Afghanistan, ambitious young people may seek opportunities in foreign countries.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

- With a limited number of career options, **Afghanistan is not an attractive labour market for young people**. The level of employment among respondents is low: only 28.7% mentioned having one or more jobs, with significant differences across provinces surveyed and gender. Kandahar, Herat and Kabul have the highest levels of employment for young males.
- **Youth employment is characterized by a high level of job insecurity, low quality of employment and difficult labour market transition** - only 23.5% of the youths in the surveyed provinces who have a job said that they had salaried employment.
- Young people surveyed secure jobs in urban-based service roles like retail trade, construction and education, rather than agricultural employment. Consequently, **employment in the sample surveyed is higher in urban areas (31.7%) than rural areas (23.5%)**.
- The growing appeal of the services sector leaves the Afghan workforce vulnerable to high levels of unemployment should the services ‘bubble’ collapse post-2014.
- **Young people surveyed have limited access to information about job opportunities**. Three quarters (74%) get career information from their families and friends, which promotes nepotism, restricts career options and limits economic diversification.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- **Youth** under the age 25 show a **higher rate of unemployment** than the population overall (7%): 10% for men and 15% for women^x
- This figure rises to 45% if the inactive population is taken into account^{xi}
- **75%** of employed women work as “unpaid family workers”^{xii}

| | Unemployed | | |
|------------|------------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total |
| Badakhshan | 86.6% | 91.3% | 88.9% |
| Herat | 13.5% | 98.8% | 56.1% |
| Kabul | 54.1% | 83.6% | 68.9% |
| Kandahar | 14.5% | 97.6% | 56.0% |
| Kunduz | 80.2% | 89.3% | 84.7% |
| Balkh | 60.2% | 71.8% | 65.9% |
| Nangarhar | 71.2% | 93.9% | 82.5% |

- The **Afghan labour market is unable to absorb the rising numbers of educated young people**, or to meet their career expectations. Only 28.7% of surveyed youths were employed. Badakhshan and Kunduz exhibit markedly higher unemployment rates (88.9% and 84.7%, respectively).
- Women are much less likely to find employment than men. **39.2% of men are employed compared to only 10.2% of women**. In conservative provinces such as Kandahar the figure drops to 2.4%.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

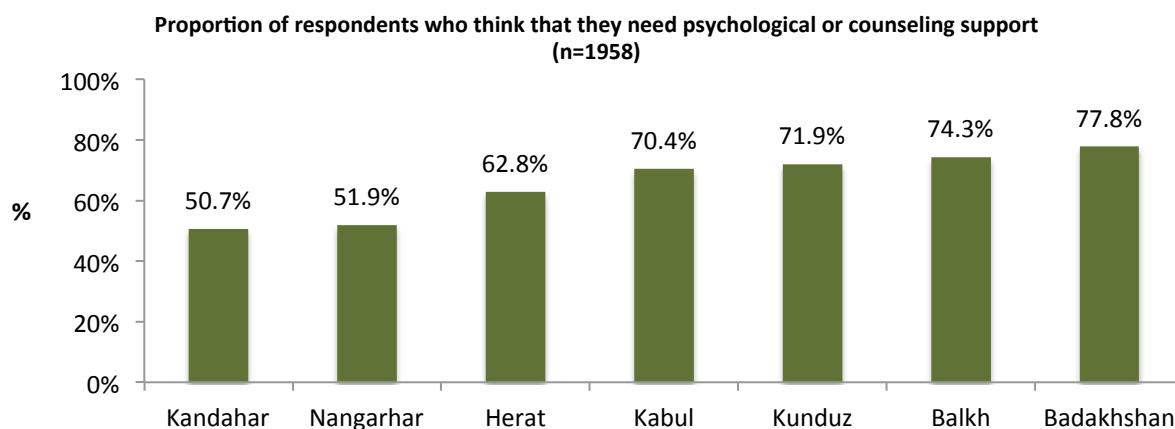
Health indicators in Afghanistan are slowly improving, but youths are particularly vulnerable in two areas: mental and reproductive health. Mental health is poorly understood in Afghanistan and the health system is not equipped to identify or treat symptoms of mental problems. Poor reproductive health indicators are exacerbated by limited contraceptive use, a high fertility rate and limited access to health facilities, and are directly linked to levels of education.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

- **The health sector is poorly equipped to deal with mental health problems.**
- Demand for mental health treatment exceeds the supply of trained doctors and mental health facilities. **More than half of surveyed youth think that they need psychological counselling or help**, although few receive it - 75% of young people interviewed in Kabul want counselling or support, but only 12% received any.
- There are **only 50 trained psychiatrists** in Afghanistan, and only 1% of doctors' training involves mental health^{xix}.
- **62% of women in Kabul have no information about reproductive health issues**, and still rely on their mothers for advice about sexual health – 1 in 5 women. Despite efforts, NGOs have had little impact: only 1% say that they received information on these issues from NGOs.
- **Better education results in better health behaviour:** fertility is lower, contraceptive use is higher and educated women are more likely to give birth with a skilled attendant present (figures provided in later section).
- Domestic commitments for women pose a hurdle for accessing labour markets and attending education institutions. Women are more likely to have children than men at any given age – 55% of 22 year old women have had a child, compared to only 28% of men.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- **10% of young women between the ages of 15 and 19 have already had a child**; an additional 4% are pregnant^{xiii}
- The **fertility rate is high – 5.1**^{xiv}
- 27% of married 20-24 year old women in rural areas and 18% of those in urban areas had a live birth by age 18^{xv}
- Just **36.4% of urban women and 18.4% of rural women reported using contraception**^{xvi}.
- Only 27.7% of 15-24 year olds have heard of AIDS^{xvii}
- 67.7% of people in mental health survey showed symptoms of depression^{xviii}.



MEDIA USE

Afghan youths are voracious consumers of modern mobile and internet technology and actively participate in online communities and membership groups. The growing use of modern media – especially among the urban youth – provides a powerful channel for communication both to spread information about careers and healthcare, and to widen youth networks. However, the poor penetration of internet coverage in rural areas means that many young people will not be reached by these communication initiatives.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

- **Mobile phone use is high** in urban (96%) and rural (93%) areas, **but internet use varies significantly** by location – 51% urban and 24% rural.
- Young people are much more likely to access the internet than the previous generations – 18.3% compared to 7.2%.
- Internet users are active on social networking sites - 71% of internet users access Facebook.
- ‘Political’ Facebook groups are popular - “Afghanistan” has 24244 members, “Afghan youth movement for national unity,” 2304, “Anti-corruption movement of Afghanistan,” 2571.
- The internet is also used heavily for news (47%), e-mail (43%) and for online chatting (30%).
- However, **the spread of internet use is still an urban phenomenon**. Internet use in rural areas remains very low among men and women. In Badakhshan 11% of young men and 2.5% of young women access the internet, which severely limits the transmission and flow of information into rural hinterlands.
- **Gender differences in internet usage are notable – 23% of men and 11% of women access the internet**. The differences are particularly pronounced in Kunduz (39%:17%), Balkh (33%:17%) and Kandahar (5%:0%).

Providing information about healthcare to young women could be better achieved through television and radio, as young women spend more time listening to radio and watching television than young men (30.5% and 42.3% vs. 17.8% and 31.4%, respectively).

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- **17.1 million** mobile subscribers and 1.08 million internet users in Afghanistan in 2012^{xx}
- **7.2%** of the population access the **internet**^{xxi}
- **85%** of the population live within mobile coverage areas^{xxii}
- **80%** of Afghans own a radio, **71%** own a mobile, **52%** a television and **12%** a computer^{xxiii}
- Television usage is higher in urban areas than rural (91% vs. 38%)^{xxiv}
- Young people almost **trust TV as much as mullahs** on religious issues – 29% and 35% respectively^{xxv}

Comparison between youth and general access to communication technologies (ownership)

| | Badakhshan | Herat | Kabul | Kandahar | Kunduz | Balkh | Nangarhar | Total | NATIONAL ^{xxvi} |
|-----------------|------------|-------|-------|----------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|--------------------------|
| Radio | 88.9% | 65.2% | 73.2% | 92.8% | 89.5% | 88.6% | 74.5% | 79.1% | 80% |
| Mobile | 94.7% | 96.1% | 92.6% | 95.2% | 98.6% | 94.8% | 93.8% | 94.4% | 71% |
| TV | 82.6% | 85.5% | 81.3% | 65.6% | 89.5% | 88.6% | 74.5% | 81.2% | 52% |
| Computer | 37.7% | 55.1% | 36.9% | 7.7% | 59.5% | 52.4% | 35.6% | 39.7% | 12% |

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES, ATTITUDES & ASPIRATIONS

Young Afghans are the most potent agents for change in Afghanistan, but strong feelings of nationalism, interest in politics and a desire to help rebuild Afghanistan are undermined by a sense of disenfranchisement. At a time of transition, the exclusion of young people is dangerous, especially if youths seek alternative means of expressing frustration like riots or protests.

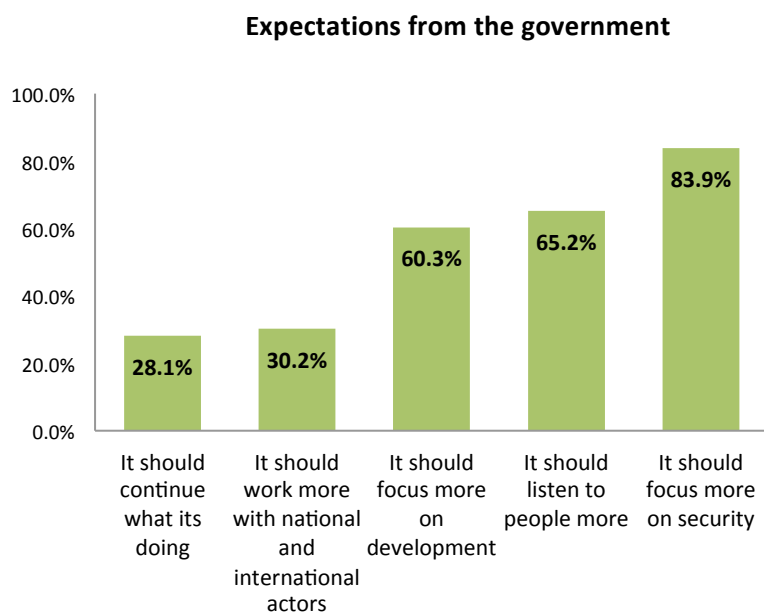
KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

Most surveyed youths are deeply patriotic and proud to be Afghan:

- 92% of youths say that they are proud to be Afghan. 40% of youths consider themselves to be *Afghan* rather than a particular ethnicity.
- In spite of poor employment opportunities, the limited number of university places, and poor healthcare infrastructure, 72% of Afghan youths would not accept foreign nationality if were offered to them.

Young Afghans are critical of the way that the government is run:

- Only 28% feel that the government should continue as it is now. The majority (72%) think that it should not continue in this way.
- 40% of respondents feel that the Afghan government does not value their opinions.
- Of this number, approximately 63% thinks that the government does not implement youth policies.
- 65% think that the government should listen to people more.
- 21.6% of youths surveyed think that the government does not listen to youths' political opinions or integrate them into policy.



Youths are particularly concerned at the way the government is handling security in Afghanistan and expect greater levels of support from the international community:

- 84% of surveyed youths think that the government should focus more on security.
- Most respondents (57%) think that the security situation has stayed the same or gotten worse.
- 63% of respondents expect the international community to commit more financial resources to Afghanistan, and **51% expect a greater deployment of foreign military forces** – in contradiction

with the current set-up of Transition, indicating a gap between perception and reality that may hit youths harder than the rest of the population as their lives has been largely shaped by the past decade of international presence in Afghanistan.

Youths are highly motivated and politically conscientious. Disenfranchisement could push youths away from mainstream political engagement towards insurgent or extremist groups:

- 65% of youths surveyed are interested in politics, but a significant majority (80.9%) are not involved with any of today’s political parties, advocacy groups or youth associations.
- 85.6% of the youths interviewed say that they will cast a vote in the next election.

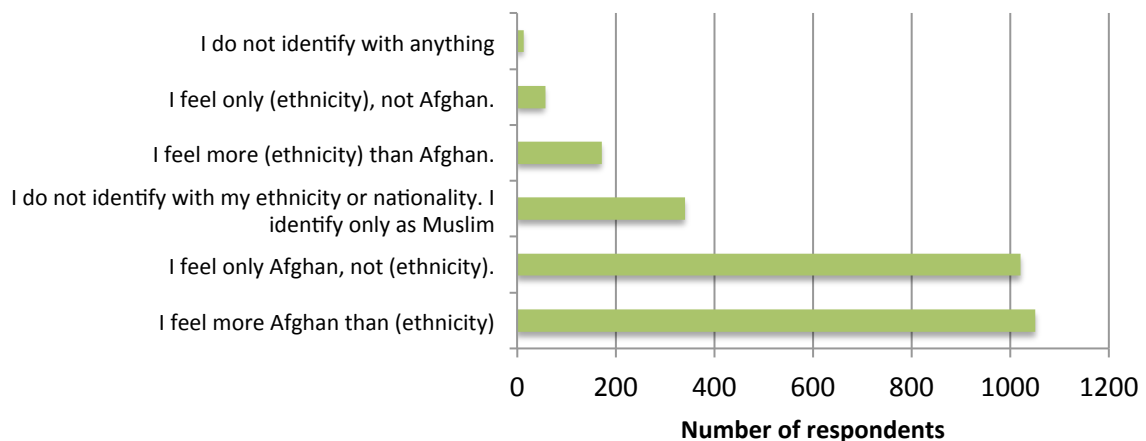
Government efforts to address problems facing youths are largely unrecognized. This is both symptomatic of, and conducive to, their sense of neglect:

- Only 17.3% of people think that the government has done anything to improve employment opportunities.
- Just under a quarter (23%) of youths are aware of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs.

Youths feel strongly that they have an important role to play in shaping Afghanistan’s future and are prepared to play an active part in reconstruction and development:

- 63% of youths surveyed say that they can play a role in improving security in Afghanistan.
- 70% think that they can do this through education and the transfer of skills or knowledge.
- 45% say that they can help through participating in community work.

Nationalism among youth in Afghanistan



- Notably, 67% say that the best way for young people to improve security is through supporting the government and the military. However, **only 1.2% of youths are prepared to join the army to improve security showing a disconnect between youth and law enforcement agencies.**

In spite of these concerns, many Afghan youths remain resolutely optimistic about the future:

- 71% of surveyed youth believe that their quality of life will improve in the next ten years.
- Three quarters (75%) think that it will be easier to work, travel and live anywhere in Afghanistan.
- 66% think that there will be more opportunities to find work.

GENDER AND PROTECTION

Young women in Afghanistan face additional challenges to those outlined above. Drawing on available literature and findings in this study, we note that:

The Afghan labour market cannot provide enough employment for the new tranches of educated young women:

- Men are still notably more likely to find employment than women. The male labour force participation rate is 86% compared to only 47% for women^{xxvii}.
- 97% of are employed in vulnerable labour^{xxviii}.
- Female employment is highest in the public sector – 21% of civil servants are women^{xxix}. This has yet to trickle down to the private sector, which remains impervious to female employment.

Displacement increases women's economic vulnerability:

- IDP males “earn between 23 and 47 times more than female IDPs”^{xxx}
- Only 18% of displaced women have *tazkeras* (national ID cards), versus 83% of men^{xxxi}

Young Afghans tend to have much more liberal views than previous generations with regards to gender equality, but traditional attitudes are deep seated:

- 17.9 is the mean age of young women's first marriage^{xxxii}.
- 91.5% of women (84.8% urban/ 93.0% rural) believe a husband is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances^{xxxiii}.
- A survey of women in Kabul found that only 17% travel alone^{xxxiv}.

The level of violence against women is high, yet, women are less likely than men to seek help from the police than men:

- 52.4% of women suffer from physical violence, 73.9% suffer from psychological violence and 17.2% from sexual violence^{xxxv}.
- Women are less likely to turn to the police for assistance than men – 54% and 70% respectively.
- Women are as frightened of a group of teenage boys as they are of unknown armed men and barking dogs – 91%^{xxxvi}.

Although the number of women at university has increased, the gap between the number of male and female students has widened over the last 5 years:

- In 2012 there were 48032 more men than women, while in 2007 the gap was smaller – 32073.
- Only 19% of students at university are women.

Levels of education are directly correlated to a number of important health indicators:

- Girls with a higher education have a markedly lower fertility rate than girls with no education – 2.8 compared to 5.3 respectively^{xxxvii}.
- Only 1 in 5 women with no education use contraception, compared to 38% of women with at least a secondary education^{xxxviii}.
- Women with no education are far less likely to give birth with a skilled attendant than women with at least a primary education – 20% and 57% respectively^{xxxix}.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Action is needed to address the issues identified in this report. Below we outline specific recommendations to support the design of a National Youth Strategy.

1. To the Government of Afghanistan

1. Develop a rigorous information management system for youths:

- Establish and promote a universal working definition of 'youth';
- Ensure that future data in Afghanistan is based on this definition;
- Define youth sensitive indicators in healthcare, education, employment, media use, and political engagement;
- Consolidate existing databases from the Central Statistics Organization (CSO), government departments, UN agencies and non-governmental organization.

2. Build institutional capacity for data collection, management and analysis:

- Create a dedicated office for Youth Management Information Service (YMIS);
- Emulate the Government's Health Management Information System (HMIS), and Education Management Information System (EMIS).

3. Conduct qualitative and quantitative research into youth-related topics within key sectors:

- Monitor voting intention and levels of political participation and activity;
- Explore 'soft' issues like attitudes towards democracy, human rights and gender equality;
- *Urban Youth Study*: examine situation of urban youth today to determine how to combat dependence on service industry (which will be hard-hit by international departures).
- *Rural Youth Study*: explore the status of youth in rural areas. In particular focus on access to media and use of the internet and mobile technology.

4. Increase communication and publicity-generating activity among young people:

- Capitalise on increasing mobile and internet coverage to publicise DMOYA's activities;
- Continue to use traditional communications media such as radio and television in order to reach remote areas and women;
- Create national dialogue forums online using social media networks. Encourage debate among youths about central development and governance issues;
- Sponsor youth-based activities, organisations or high profile sporting events to promulgate DMOYA's 'brand'.

5. Increase DMOYA's physical footprint in public facilities and institutions:

- Conduct career seminars in schools and universities;
- Provide or coordinate youth counselling and support services in schools, universities and health facilities.

6. Encourage youth participation in governance:

- Establish a youth parliament;
- Create youth ambassadors for DMOYA to act as spokespeople and sources of information;

II. To the Government of Afghanistan, UN agencies, humanitarian & development actors

1. Support the development of a Youth Management Information System (YMIS):

- Provide funding and strategic support for the creation of an information management system;
- Provide training and on-going technical support for dedicated information management officers.

2. Targeting the Youth – by groups – to tailor youth-sensitive programming in Afghanistan:

- Addressing the urban-rural divide
- Adopting gender-focussed strategies for youth-sensitive programming
- Integrating the socially and economically (dis)advantaged,
- Migrants and the displaced,
- The potential leaders of tomorrow.

3. EDUCATION: Focus on preventing dropouts from the formal education system and capitalizing on bilingual and multi-lingual skills to enhance national integration:

- *National School Re-Integration Programme*: map out of school children, at risk schools, targeting marginalized communities through Mobile Schools, awareness building among families with children dropouts, improving education infrastructure;
- *Harmonizing Higher Education Programme*: bridge public/private university split, defining labels following international standards.
- *Access to Education through New Technologies Programme*: capitalizing on creative initiatives such as mobile learning tools, to support formal and informal schools, review of text-based mobile services to improve private sector education initiatives.
- *National Study Abroad Scholarship Competition* as part of a nationally led initiative.

4. TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT: Address the lack of jobs and quality of jobs for educated and non-educated youths:

- *Employment Service Centres for Youth (ESCY)*: re-energize and reinforce ESCs with a built-in Youth Department;
- *Youth Internship Placement Programme* to be first pilot tested for urban youth;
- *Volunteering for Afghanistan Programme*: foster sense of ownership and participation, as well as build skills and provide a medium for dialogue between youth of different backgrounds, provide incentives for volunteerism;
- *Foster Private Entrepreneurship for Youth*: beyond vocational training encourage creativity, support the creation of a Youth Business Forum (YBF) to link youths from different provinces with markets;

5. HEALTH: Improve knowledge around reproductive health issues and enable mental health treatment:

- *Youth Mentoring and Psychosocial Support Programme*: mentorship schemes targeting youth left out by child protection and adult services;
- *Awareness and Access to Health Care Facilities for Marginalized Youth*: sensitize health staff to marginalized youth and invest in training for sub-staffed sectors.

6. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & CULTURE: Provide support for and an environment allowing youth participation:

- *Enabling Environments for Civic Engagement Programme:* community service, internship programmes with local government, dialogue with elders to bridge generational gap.
- *National & Provincial Youth Cultural Panels:* with cultural exchanges between and within provinces to better understand the variety and wealth of each other's local and regional cultures and practices; inclusion of Arts and Culture in the syllabus.

III. Implementation Mechanism to be supported by donors

1. Mainstreaming of youth needs in national programmes:

- All Ministries/Departments of the Government of Afghanistan will make identifiable allocations in their budgets for youth development programmes;
- One Ministry should be chosen as a partner to the Department of Youth Affairs, to support DMOYA with implementation capacity beyond its current coordination role;
- Set-up of a National Committee on Youth Policy and Programmes to review programmes on youth with sub-national representatives in 34 provinces, composed of elected members (70% youth and 30% teachers, community leaders and civil society leaders to promote integration of youth within the broader society);

2. Provision of funding for youth-sensitive national programmes:

- A *National Youth Development Fund* will be created through contributions from international donors, NGOs, private and public sector contribution:
 - To be managed by a consortium of UN agencies
 - At a later stage, the fund will be handed over to the National Committee on Youth Policy and Programmes but will stay independent from the Government of Afghanistan for increased autonomy and neutrality
 - This fund will focus on education, employment, health and civil society
- Contributing to *an on-budget mechanism for earmarked youth interventions* to be implemented by the Government of Afghanistan through its key Ministries
- Capacity building within the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs

3. Further research required

- *Sector-wise in-depth studies* with a longitudinal lens – in and after 2014 – can help capture the impact of transition on youth in various sectors;
- *Best Practices in Youth Empowerment:* this study finds that there are existing youth organisations, the problem being the lack of joint activities to raise their voices.
- *Urban Displaced Youth in Kabul:* A Samuel Hall research with a Technical Working Group composed of UNHCR, IOM, ILO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, and ACBAR. This research is the first comprehensive survey of Urban Displaced Youth (15-24 years) in Kabul conducted with a representative sample of 2,000 youth in the Fall 2013 that will serve as a baseline on Urban Displaced Youth in Kabul city. The report will be made public in 2014 as part of Samuel Hall's Urban Studies Research programme.

*IV. Summary of Recommendations for the National Youth Strategy:
15 Youth-Sensitive Programmes for Afghanistan*

| No. | Programme Area | Programme Name |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | EDUCATION | Youth Management Information System (YMIS) |
| 2 | | National School Re-Integration Programme |
| 3 | | Harmonizing Higher Education Programme |
| 4 | | Access to Education through New Technologies Programme |
| 5 | | National Study Abroad Scholarship Competition |
| 6 | TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT | Employment Service Centres for Youth (ESCY) |
| 7 | | Youth Internship Placement Programme |
| 8 | | Volunteering for Afghanistan Programme |
| 9 | | Foster Private Entrepreneurship for Youth |
| 10 | HEALTH | Youth Mentoring and Psychosocial Support Programme |
| 11 | | Awareness & Access to Health Care Facilities for Marginalized Youth |
| 12 | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & CULTURE | Enabling Environments for Civic Engagement Programme |
| 13 | | National & Provincial Youth Cultural Panels |
| 14 | FUNDING | National Youth Development Fund |
| 15 | | On-budget mechanism for earmarked youth interventions |

These recommendations are detailed in the full report Samuel Hall Consulting (2013). "Afghanistan's Future in Transition: A Participatory Assessment of the Afghan Youth", research commissioned by DMoYA, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF; Kabul, 2013.

NOTES

- i CSO (2013), *Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2012-2013* – Central Statistics Organization, Kabul.
- ii World Bank (2004) *The Devil in the Demographics: The Effect of Youth Bulges on Domestic Armed Conflict 1950-2000*
- iii CSO (2012), *Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2011-2012* – Central Statistics Organization, Kabul.
- iv MDG report final p. 26
- v NRVA 2007/8, p.66
- vi The Asia Foundation (2011), *A Survey of the Afghan People*, p.7
- vii <http://www.undp.org/content/afghanistan/en/home/countryinfo/>
- viii The World Bank (2013), *Higher Education In Afghanistan*, p. 19
- ix Samuel Hall Consulting/ILO (2012), *Time to move to Sustainable Jobs: Study on the State of Employment, June 2012*. See also Samuel Hall (2011), *Commercial Law Needs Assessment, commissioned by GIZ in May 2011*; Samuel Hall (2011) *Economic Assessment and Labour Market Survey of Balkh, Baghlan, Kandahar, and Kunduz, commissioned by Mercy Corps in November 2011*; with, respectively, samples of 621 medium-sized companies (in Balkh, Kunduz, Takhar, and Badakhshan) and 1350 employers and employees from the main urban centers of Balkh, Kunduz, Baghlan, and Kandahar provinces.
- x NRVA 2007/8, p. 27-28
- xi NB: our survey design did not distinguish between inactive and unemployed in the same fashion.
NRVA 2007/8, p. 26
- xii NRVA 2007/8, p.32
- xiii Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2013), p. xxi
- xiv Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010, p. 40
- xv Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2013), p. 88
- xvi Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010, p. 57
- xvii Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2013), p. 142
- xviii 2002 CDC Mental Health Survey in Afghanistan, as reported in Cardozo, Barbara Lopes ; Bilukha, Oleg O.; Crawford, Carol A. Gotway; et al., *Mental Health, Social Functioning, and Disability in Postwar Afghanistan JAMA*. 2004;292(5):575-584, pp. 575, 578
- xix The World Health Organization (WHO) (2006), *WHO – AIMS Report on Mental Health System in Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan*, p.2
- xx USAID and Internews (2012), *The State of Telecommunications and Internet in Afghanistan – Six Years Later (2006-2012)*, p. 9
- xxi Ministry of Communication and Information Technology: <http://mcit.gov.af/Content/images/Eng%20-%20Internet%20Users.png>
- xxii USAID (2012), “Apps for Afghanistan”, *Frontlines*, Sept-Oct. 2011, <http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/frontlines/youth-mobile-technology/apps-afghanistan>
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- xxiv Asia Foundation (2012), *Afghanistan in 2012: a survey of the Afghan people (2012)*, p.172-173
- xxv Altai Consulting (2010): *Afghan Media in 2010*, p.145
- xxvii NRVA 2007/8, pp. xviii
- xxviii NRVA 2007/8, pp. 32 and 27
- xxix Central Statistics Organization (2012) *Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2011-2012*, p.24
- xxx Samuel Hall/NRC/IDMC/JIPS (2012) *Challenges of IDP protection in Afghanistan: Research study on the protection of the internally displaced in Afghanistan*, p. 8
- xxxi Samuel Hall/NRC/IDMC/JIPS (2012) *Challenges of IDP protection in Afghanistan: Research study on the protection of the internally displaced in Afghanistan*, p. 8
- xxxii NRVA 2007/8, p.iv
- xxxiii Specifically, for any of the following reasons: if she goes out without telling him, neglects the children, argues with him, refuses sex with him, burns the food or wears inappropriate clothes.
Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2013), p. 137
- xxxiv Samuel Hall (2012) *The Challenge of Becoming Invisible: Understanding Women’s Security in Kabul*, p. 12
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Samuel Hall. Contacts

info@samuelhall.org

www.samuelhall.org

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