

# POLICY BRIEF

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## National Youth Policy



Centre for Environmental  
Policy and Advocacy



**UTVIKLINGSFONDET**

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### **Background**

The National Youth Policy was adopted in 2013 to enhance youth development and empowerment by creating an enabling environment for youth to effectively contribute to national development. The policy aims to facilitate mainstreaming of youth issues in various development initiatives as it provides a framework with guidelines on facilitation of youth programmes and services. The policy also links to other national and international policies and legal frameworks.

### **Youth profile**

The policy defines youth as persons from age 10 to 35 regardless of any physical, cultural and socio economic factors. Currently, 40 % of Malawi's population are youthful and are a recognized social entity.

In Malawi, youth are vulnerable in the following:

- Unemployment
- Early marriage and teenage pregnancy
- HIV and AIDS and STIs
- Smoking, drug and alcohol abuse
- Inadequate technical and vocational training centres
- High level of adolescent fertility

### **Policy goal**

The goal of the National youth policy is to create an enabling environment for young people to develop to their full potential in order to contribute to contribute significantly to personal and sustainable national development.

### **Policy objectives**

The overall objective of the policy is to provide a framework that guides youth development and implementation of youth programmes that contribute to their welfare. Specific objectives include:

- Guide policy makers on issues relating to young people

- Mainstream youth development in national development
- Guide adequate allocation and prudent use of resources to youth programmes and provide monitoring and evaluation guidelines for the programmes
- Advocate for active youth participation in policy and legislation development processes
- Mainstream gender equity and equality in youth programmes
- Provide institutional framework for coordination and implementation of youth programmes

### **Rights and responsibilities of the youth**

The policy indicates that every youth is entitled to the right to participate in decision making processes, good health, quality education, social and economic services and decent employment opportunities.

On the other hand, youth have the following responsibilities:

- Participating in environmental conservation activities
- Actively participate in development processes, undertake initiatives for their own economic development and work hard for personal, community and national development
- Participate in community self help projects
- Advocate for policies and legislations promoting youth development
- Respect for public and private property
- Attend and observe school rules and regulations

### **Role of adults**

The policy outlines the roles of adults as including:

- Providing for physical, mental/spiritual and economic well-being of the youth
- Working with youth in development programmes
- Accepting the youth and their contribution in society and supporting youth creativity, innovation and initiatives
- Ensuring the provision of quality education
- Promoting youth participation in decision making processes
- Assist and promote young people's access to land
- Ensure sustainable investments for young people

### **Policy priority areas**

Recognising the wide range of issues affecting the youth the following are some of

the priority areas for action:

### **Youth participation and leadership**

The policy aims at increasing youth participation in development initiatives through:

- Creating an enabling environment for establishment of youth structures
- Capacity building for youth and technical and financial support for their institutions
- Development of youth participation guidelines for all stakeholders
- Creation and strengthening youth participation and decision making platforms
- Youth volunteerism and internship programmes
- Youth representative in UN delegations and relevant international meetings

### **Youth Economic empowerment**

The policy aims at creating more and decent jobs for all youths in all sectors through:

- Promotion and support of training facilities and establishment of community based skills training programmes
- Establishing and promoting agricultural youth clubs and cooperatives
- Youth participation in agricultural activities by providing them incentives e.g. tax exemption
- Modernization of agriculture to attract youths
- Access to productive land and youth tailored information on agriculture
- Self-employment training for youths with disabilities
- Establishment of a Youth Development Fund to facilitate easy access to credit for young entrepreneurs
- Provision of conducive business environment and linking labor markets and education and training
- Institution of incentive schemes for employers to invest in the skills development and on the job training for employed and unemployed youth

### **Education for youth**

The policy objective is to improve formal and non-formal education and training for young people through:

- Allocation of resources to improve quality of education
- Establishing literacy and numeracy programmes for out of school youth
- Enforcing adherence to minimum standards of quality education for public and privately owned schools
- Teaching career subjects that promote good citizenship

- Encouraging school feeding programmes in schools
- Compulsory free primary education

### **Youth and science, technology and environment**

The policy objective is to promote recognition and award to innovations in science, technology and sustainable management of the environment. This will be achieved through:

- Youth involvement in climate change programmes and creation of programmes in environmental conservation that will ensure their participation
- Youth trainings in technologies that aid in conserving the environment
- Youth organizations are supported in environmental programmes
- Youths are involved in environmental policy processes
- Mainstreaming environmental and climate change in youth programmes

### **Implementation mechanisms**

In implementing the policy, vulnerable youth groups will be prioritised. In addition the responsible department, NYCOM and relevant district structure will be capacitated implement the policy.

### **Roles and functions of key stakeholders**

Ministry of Youth and Sports: as a lead government agency, the ministry will facilitate youth development and promote their active participation in development by providing direction to government and other stakeholders on mainstreaming youth issues, guide and monitor youth related policy processes, manage information on youth programmes and formulate and review the policy.

National Youth Council: NYCom is a statutory institution of the youth sector and will contribute towards youth empowerment and development by coordinating and promoting activities of youth organizations.

Private sector: The private sector will provide opportunities in employment, training, and mentorship and credit facilities to youth, support infrastructure for youth programmes and promote entrepreneurship and vocational development.

Non Governmental organizations and Community based organizations: These will advocate for issues affecting youth, initiate credit schemes, mobilize and provide

resources for youth programmes, integrate youth concerns in programming and offer opportunities to youth.

Faith based institutions, traditional authorities and socio-cultural groupings: These will support moral, social and economic development of the youth through advocacy and provision of relevant services.

Development partners: These will support youth programmes, conduct advocacy on youth issues, mainstream youth issues in their programming and support and facilitate the sector working group on youth and sports

Developed and designed by:



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