MONGOLIA

Concept Note

Youth Situation Analysis Mongolia

May 2024

Content

Background

Today's youth, comprising 1.8 billion individuals aged 10-24, are the largest generation in history. Predominantly located in developing nations, where their numbers will continue to swell, they are uniquely positioned to drive progress and inspire change. The global youth development has been on the rise, albeit at a modest pace. From 2010 to 2018, the worldwide average score for youth development increased by 3.1%, with improvements in five out of six key areas. Additionally, 156 of the 181 countries (86%) included in the index improved their scores over this period. Singapore ranked highest in youth development, while Chad had the lowest score.[1]

Youth populations are pivotal in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to their potential to drive social, economic, and environmental change. Young people contribute significantly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by offering innovative solutions, advocating for policy shifts, and holding governments accountable. The UN recognizes their crucial role in implementing the SDGs and ensuring governments are responsive to their needs. As critical thinkers, change-makers, innovators, communicators, and leaders, the youth hold the transformative potential to shape a better world by 2030, provided they are empowered with the necessary skills and support.[2] The active engagement of youth is essential not only in implementing the SDGs but also in shaping these frameworks and ensuring their success through innovation, advocacy, and participation. The integration of youth into these processes is crucial because many SDGs directly affect young people's lives, including education (SDG 4), decent work (SDG 8), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and climate action (SDG 13).[3] Their involvement can accelerate progress across multiple goals simultaneously due to their interconnected nature.

The United Nations Youth Strategy, known as Youth2030, was launched by the Secretary-General to empower young people worldwide. This strategy aims to fully engage young individuals in realizing their potential and participating actively in various global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The strategy is a commitment by the UN to enhance its engagement with youth and incorporate their insights and ideas into its work, supported by a high-level steering committee led by the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.[4]

Mongolia's youth population, defined as those aged 15-34, constitutes a significant portion of the national demographic, representing about 34.9% of the total population as of 2022.[5] This demographic is recognized as pivotal in shaping the country's future, influencing socio-economic development and political processes.

The government has developed an ambitious development plan, outlined in Mongolia's Vision 2050, to transform the nation into a leading Asian country by mid-century. This plan focuses on comprehensive social, economic, and environmental reforms aimed at enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. The strategy seeks to create a sustainable economy with a strong middle class, reduce poverty, promote green development, and advance education and gender equality. Structured in three phases and continuing until 2050, the plan addresses both immediate and future needs, aligning

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[1] The Commonwealth. Global Youth Development Report 2020. https://youth-development-index.thecommonwealth.org/assets/pdf/global-youth-development-report-2020.pdf

[2] United Nations. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals-Youth and SDG. https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/youth/

[3] United Nations. Sustainable Development Goals: 17 Goals to Transform our World. https://www.un.org/en/exhibits/page/sdgs-17-goals-transform-world

[4] United Nation. Youth Strategy 2030-Working with and for Young People. https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf

[5] Mongolia National Statistic Office. Mongolian Statistical Yearbook 2022. https://www.1212.mn/en/statistic/file-library/view/69493902

with global trends and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to ensure broad-based, inclusive growth and development.[6]

Additionally, the Government of Mongolia has enacted the Law on Promotion of Youth Development[7] to guide multisectoral policies, strategies, and programs aimed at youth development, aligning with Vision 2050. Furthermore, the Government has established a high-level governance structure, the 'National Youth Council,' under the auspices of the Prime Minister to oversee the progress of youth development initiatives in the country.

The 2023 Global Youth Development Index rates Mongolia at 0.77, marking an improvement over previous scores. This indicates progress in youth development within the country. Mongolia ranks impressively in youth health and well-being at 39th and even better in political and civic participation at 24th among 183 countries, showcasing significant strides in these areas. Nonetheless, challenges persist in education, employment and opportunity, and equality and inclusion, where Mongolia is ranked 96th, 173rd, and 179th, respectively. These rankings highlight critical areas needing focused evaluation and the development of innovative strategies to enhance youth development initiatives in Mongolia.[8]

Youth are recognized as a driving force for change in achieving the SDGs in Mongolia, a recognition that is integrated into the cross-cutting priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027. These priorities span three broad strategic directions: Human Development and Well-being, Green, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth, and People-centred Governance, Rule of Law, and Human Rights.[9]

Rational for the Youth Situation Analysis

The Youth Development Index update for 2023 indicates that Mongolia is making progress in youth health and political participation. However, challenges remain in education, employment, and opportunities. Insights and recommendations from the youth situational analysis will help refine policies, enhance programmatic actions, and ensure that Mongolia's developmental strategies align with the needs and potential of its young population. This guidance will enable government institutions, the United Nations, development partners, private sector, and civil society organizations to prioritize actions and allocated resources more effectively that address key youth development needs, accelerating progress toward the SDGs by 2030.

Purpose

The purpose of the Situation Analysis on Youth Development in Mongolia is to establish a comprehensive understanding of the youth development situation in line with the Global Youth Development Index and the key disparities affecting youth development. It aims to assess the present and anticipate the future conditions for youth progress in Mongolia. This analysis will serve as a vital resource for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), government entities, and development partners to guide and prioritize their planning, management, and advocacy efforts. Specifically, the focus will be on enhancing support for the most vulnerable and marginalized youth groups who are often overlooked in health, social, economic, educational, and cultural policies, and initiatives.

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[6] Mongolia Vision 2050: https://vision2050.gov.mn/eng/index.html
[7] Government of Mongolia. Law on Promotion of Youth Development.2018
[8] The Commonwealth. Global Youth Development Index Update 2023. https://thecommonwealth.org/publications/global-youth-development-index-update-report-2023
[9] United Nations Mongolia. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027) Mongolia | United Nations in Mongolia

Specific Objectives

Specific Objective 1: Health and Well-being of Youth: To assess the current situation and impact of risk behaviors on the health outcomes of youth aged 15 to 34 years, focusing on how alcohol use, unsafe sex, and drug use contribute to both immediate health issues and long-term health consequences, and to develop targeted interventions aimed at promoting healthier practices among this demographic to reduce the prevalence of premature death and chronic health conditions later in life.

Specific Objective 2: Education of Youth: To assess the current education status of youth 15-34 year and identify the socio-economic barriers to educational access and quality for vulnerable youth groups, including girls, street children, rural youth, and those with disabilities, and to identify effective strategies that enhance educational participation and improve quality education and skills for youth.

Specific Objective 3: Employment and Opportunity for Youth: To assess the current situation of youth employment programs, including internships, micro-loans, and entrepreneurship initiatives, in enhancing job security and career development opportunities for young people, particularly in regions/provinces severely impacted by economic instability and high youth unemployment rates.

Specific Objective 4: Political Participation of Youth: To assess youth political participation and its impact on social and economic inclusion and to identify the most effective mechanisms for enhancing youth engagement in political processes to reduce social exclusion and intergenerational tensions.

Specific Objective 5: Civic Participation of Youth: To assess the youth's engagement in civic initiatives and activities on social integration and conflict prevention among youth, by assessing the correlation between the levels of youth participation in civic processes and the incidence of social exclusion and violence within diverse communities.

Study Domains

The study will concentrate on five key domains of youth development as outlined in the Youth Development Index. The following are preliminary research questions, though not exhaustive, intended to guide the research design and protocol:

A. Health and Well-being:
1. Assessment of Healthcare Access and Quality:
   - How does access to healthcare influence the overall well-being of youth in different provinces (Aimaqs)?
   - What are the disparities in healthcare quality, and how do they impact the health outcomes of young populations?
2. Health Risks and Outcomes Among Youth:
   - What are the predominant causes of mortality among youth aged 15 to 34, and how do these vary across different regions and cultures?
   - How do risk factors such as alcohol, unsafe sex, and drug use correlate with reduced life expectancy and other health outcomes in youth?
3. Domestic and Sexual Violence Impact:
   - How do experiences of domestic and sexual violence affect the mental and physical health of youth?

- What preventive measures and support systems are most effective in mitigating the impacts of violence on youth?
4. Mental Health Challenges and Measurement:
   - What are the main challenges in measuring mental illness in youth, and how can these be overcome?
   - How do mental health issues, whether drug-induced or not, impact the long-term well-being of young individuals?
5. Long-term Implications of Youth Health Behaviors:
   - To what extent do the health behaviors and experiences of youth predict their health outcomes in adulthood?
   - What are the economic implications of the health issues that originate in youth, including those related to violence and mental health?
6. Promotion of Healthier Practices:
   - What strategies are most effective in promoting healthier practices among youth to prevent premature death and disease?
   - How can these practices be integrated into existing health education and public health policies?

B. Education

1. Access and Quality of Education:
   - How does access to quality education vary across different regions/Provinces, and what factors contribute to these disparities?
   - What is the relationship between the quality of education and long-term outcomes for youth, such as health, employment, and social participation?
2. Impact of Digital Literacy:
   - How does experience with digital technology influence educational outcomes for youth?
   - What role does being a digital native play in enhancing educational engagement and opportunities?
3. Barriers to Educational Participation:
   - What are the major barriers preventing certain groups (girls, street children, rural youth, youth with disabilities) from accessing education?
   - How do economic burdens on households affect educational participation among youth in developing nations?
4. Effectiveness of Second Chance and Adult Education Programs:
   - How effective are second chance and adult education programs in improving literacy rates and educational attainment for youth who initially miss out?
   - What are the key factors that make these programs successful, and how can they be implemented more widely?
5. Role of Non-Formal and Vocational Training:
   - How does vocational and non-formal training contribute to youth development compared to traditional secondary and tertiary education systems?
   - What are the outcomes for youth who participate in vocational training versus those who pursue more formal educational paths?
6. Gender Disparities in Educational Opportunities:
   - What specific challenges do girls and young women face in accessing education, and what strategies have been effective in overcoming these challenges?
   - How do educational outcomes for girls and young women compare to their male counterparts in similar socio-economic contexts?

C. Employment and Opportunity

1. Assessment of Employment Opportunities for Youth:
   - How do employment opportunities for youth compare to those for other age cohorts in various regions/Provinces?
   - What factors most significantly impact the ease or difficulty of young people entering the workforce?
2. Impact of Education and Training on Employment:
   - To what extent do education and training programs align with the current job market demands for youth?
   - How effective are existing educational programs at equipping youth with the skills needed for successful employment?
3. Job Security and Quality of Employment:
   - What are the characteristics of the jobs typically available to youth, particularly regarding job security, benefits, and contract duration?
   - How does the prevalence of short-term contracts and minimal benefits impact the long-term career prospects and financial stability of young workers?
4. Barriers to Youth Entrepreneurship:
   - How does limited access to credit affect youth entrepreneurship and what alternative financing models could support young entrepreneurs?
   - What are the challenges and successes of micro-loan programs and youth-targeted entrepreneurship initiatives?
5. Regional Variations and Effectiveness of Employment Programs:
   - Which regional/provincial youth employment programs (such as internships, apprenticeships, and micro-loans) have been most successful, and why?
   - How can successful elements of these programs be adapted and implemented in different regional contexts to improve youth employment rates?
6. Long-term Impact of Economic Fluctuations on Youth Employment:
   - What has been the long-term impact of the global and or national financial crisis on youth employment in different economies?
   - How resilient are youth employment sectors to economic shocks, and what measures can enhance this resilience?

D. Political Participation

1. Youth Empowerment and Political Engagement:
   - How does the sense of empowerment among youth influence their participation in political activities?
   - What factors most significantly contribute to feelings of empowerment among young people in different political environments?
2. Impact of Youth Political Participation on Governance:
   - How does the political participation of youth affect the levels of corruption and the effectiveness of governance in the country?
   - What role does youth engagement play in the success of development programs within their communities?
3. Challenges Facing Youth in Political Life:
   - What are the primary barriers to political participation faced by youth, particularly in the wake of global financial crises and their socioeconomic impacts?

- How do these barriers differ across countries with varying levels of economic development and political stability?
4. Strategies to Enhance Youth Political Participation:
   - What are the most effective strategies to promote political participation among youth, both above and below the voting age?
   - How can government and NGOs foster a more inclusive political environment for marginalized youth groups to enhance social integration?

5. Intergenerational Relations in Politics:
   - How do perceptions of young people by older generations impact youth involvement in politics?
   - What initiatives can bridge the generational divide and promote greater trust and collaboration between younger and older citizens in political processes?
6. Data Collection and Analysis of Youth Political Participation:
   - How has data collection on youth political participation improved, and what impacts have these improvements had on understanding and enhancing youth involvement?
   - What methodologies or technologies can further improve the quality and frequency of data collection on this topic?

E. Civic Participation

1. Measurement Challenges in Civic Participation:
   - What are the most effective methods and indicators for measuring civic participation among youth?
   - How can existing indicators be improved or new ones developed to better capture the essence and impact of youth civic engagement?
2. Impact of Civic Engagement Programs:
   - What are the differences in outcomes between youth who participate in civic engagement programs and those who do not?
   - How do various civic engagement programs, such as volunteering or skills-building initiatives, influence the job readiness and social skills of youth?
3. Motivation and Participation:
   - What motivates young people to participate in civic activities, and how can these motivations be leveraged to increase engagement?
   - How does intentional and motivated participation in civic activities affect the personal and social development of youth?
4. Regional Variations in Civic Engagement:
   - How do the interests and community engagement activities of youth vary regionally/provincially?
   - What cultural, social, or economic factors influence these regional differences in civic participation?
5. Role of Modern Technologies and Platforms:
   - How do new technologies and platforms, like social media, affect the civic participation of youth?
   - What role do activities like sports, music, and arts play in fostering civic engagement among different youth groups?
6. Designing Effective Civic Engagement Surveys:
   - What are the best practices for designing surveys or focus groups to study civic participation among youth?

- How can these tools be adapted to reflect the diverse ways in which young people engage with their communities?

Methodology and Scope of Analyis

The Situation Analysis of Youth Development in Mongolia will employ a mixed-method approach to address the specific objectives of the study comprehensively. This approach will include desk-based research to review existing laws, policies, programme and research reports, and international standards pertinent to youth development. Additionally, the analysis will incorporate the examination of secondary data from national surveys and administrative programme data that are relevant to the specific focus areas of the analysis. To further enrich the understanding and address gaps in existing data, key informant interviews will be conducted with policymakers from relevant government agencies, the United Nations, and other development partners. This methodology ensures a robust and thorough exploration of the state of youth development in Mongolia, enabling targeted and effective policy recommendations.

Stakeholder Participation

Youth is a cross cutting issue across different sectors and multiple government and development partners contributing to youth development in Mongolia. Therefore, opionion on the key stakeholders contributing to youth development will contribute to the five thematic domains of Youth Situation Analysis. The followings are the provsional list of key stakeholder while the complete list and specific division of each stekholder can be specified at the detail design of the study.

1. Ministry of Education and Science (MoEdS)
2. Ministry of Health (MoH)
3. Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MoLSP)
4. Ministry of Economic Development (MoED)
5. Ministry of Digital Development and Communications (MoDDC)
6. National Youth Development Council
7. Parliament Standing Committee on Social Protection
8. National Statistical Office (NSO)
9. World Bank
10. European Union
11. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
12. United Nations Resident Coordinator
13. Election Committee
14. UNICEF
15. UNFPA
16. UNDP
17. UNFAO
18. ILO

Estimated timeline of study

Description	Suggested deadline	Responsible
Preparation phase		
Development and approval of TOR	May 15	UNFPA and UNYG

Recruitment of the consultants	15 June	UNFPA	
Preparation of documents	15 June	UNFPA and UNYG	
Stakeholder mapping	15 June	UNFPA and UNYG	
Coordination with MoLSP as lead Gov partner	15 June	UNFPA	
Design phase			
Develop Study Protocol, Matrix, and Tools	20 June	Team of Consultants	
Presentation of study design to UN and MoLSP	21 June	Team of Consultants	
Data Collection and Analysis and Report			
Desk review	5 July	Team of Consultants	
KII	15 July	Team of Consultants	
Analysis and draft report	31July	Team of Consultants	
Submission of the first draft report	31July	Team of Consultants	
Finalization of Report			
Feedback to the draft report	9 August	UNFPA and UNYG	
Validation workshop	12 August	Team of Consultants UN-FPA and UNYG	
Submission of the final report	16 August	Team of Consultants	
Cleared and accepted the final report	20 August	UNFPA	
Dissemination of the findings to stakeholders	25 August	Team of Consultants UN-FPA and UNYG	

Composition, Roles, and Qualification of Study Team

The study is envised to be conducted by a team of experts inline with the study thematic domain. A qualified and experienced international consultant will lead the consultant team while a team of four national consultants who will be responsible for each domain Health and Well being, Education, Employment, and the last one for political and civic engagement of youth.

The following are the methodological roles of experts in the study.

International Consultant - Leading Expert:

- **Design and Oversight:** Develop the study design protocol, including the research matrix and tools align with the global standards and local context.
- **Data Collection Leadership:** Lead the desk review, secondary data analysis, and overall primary data collection process. Closely work with the national consultant to guide the documents available only in Mongolian.
- **Analysis:** Lead the analysis of the study and closely guide the national consultant to contribute to the analysis.
- **Reporting:** Lead the study development process and closely guide the national consultant to contribute to the report to align with the international standards
- **Dissemination:** Lead the dissemination of study to a wider stakeholders.

National Consultants (Health and well-being, Education, Employment, Political and Civic Engagement): Under the direct supervsion of lead consultant, the national consultants for thematic domains will be responsible for the followings:

- **Design of the study:** Contribute to the study design.
- **Desk review and KIIs:** Cary out the desk review, secondary analysis and KII of relevant skeholders of the thematic domain.
- **Analysis:** Conduct the analysis of thematic domain as per the study analysis guide.
- **Reporting:** Draft the report of thematic domain and contribute to the overall study report.
- **Dissemination:** Contribute in preparation and conducting the dissemination workshop presenting the results of study.

Duration and working schedule

The consultancy period for the Situational Analysis on Youth in Mongolia, estimated to be 45 non-consecutive days, is scheduled from 15st June 2024 to 25 August 2024. The details time allocation for each member of study team is follow:

Consultant	Estimated Days
Lead Consultant (Will work remotely)	45 Days
National Consultant (Health and Well-being)	25 Days
National Consultant (Education)	25 Days
National Consultant (Employment)	25 Days
National Consultant (Participation)	30 Days

Deliverables

1. Inception Report: Study design protocol along with the study matrix and
2. Draft Report
3. Final Report and Presentation
4. Facilitating the dissemination meeting

Management Arrangement of Study

The consultant team will be recruited by UNFPA as per the UNFPA Individual Consultant Procedure. The Consultant Team will closely with the UNFPA Adolescent and Youth Program Officer and will be guided by UNYG at the different stages. Menawhile, the UNYG will facilitate and coordinate meetings with the key stekholders.