Analytical Report of the National Youth Survey

Towards A National Strategy for Iraqi Youth

Executive Summary

February 2011

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Important Note:

Ideas and perceptions included in this document express the authors' opinion and not necessarily the UNFPA formal position.

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Acknowledgment

Preface

Iraq conducted NYS in cooperation with UNFPA and the PAPFAM of the League of Arab States. NYS provided statistical indicators on various characteristics of young people and their knowledge, attitudes, and practices. NYS was conducted within the efforts of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) to compile and draft a national strategy for youth. The preparation of a youth strategy requires an analysis of these results to clarify the views and attitudes of young people towards life issues and problems they face and analyze their relationship to each other, and to develop recommendations aiming at strengthening the pace for the advancement of youth.

The analysis provided in this report is based on the framework of the World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY) which has been increasingly utilized in many countries particularly developing countries. Since youth is a demographic group with special dynamic needs that requires careful development process, it has been realized that a theoretical framework is essential key to develop the methodology of analyzing NYS data on the basis of multi-dimensional approach instead un-dimensional descriptive approach. Therefore, WPAY was adopted as a basis for the core dimensions of the analysis and in developing the policy actions directed to Iraq youth.

The analysis of youth issues was presented in three themes; the first covered "Youth and Human Development". This dimension included analysis of the demographic characteristics, demographic window, education, labor market, economic activities, child labor and poverty across youth. This theme provided also an analysis on youth health, public health, reproductive and sexual heath as well as nutritional behavior. The second theme included analysis on "Youth and Society". This dimension presented analysis and recommendations in regard to family relations, participation in decision making, domestic violence, youth perceptions towards political participation, gender, human rights, national identity and community participation. This theme included also analysis on youth and security, migration as well as youth and ICT.

The last theme presented the views of the researchers in regard to the "Policy Intervention". This theme included the needed interventions to improve the situation of Iraqi youth within a national strategy. The researchers presented a draft framework for youth strategy on the basis on the analysis including strategic objective indicators as well as policies and procedures of intervention.

While we realize that the national strategy is an outcome of a long participatory process of all stakeholders including relevant ministries, civil society, nongovernmental actors, and private sector and most importantly youth themselves, we believe that this report constitutes a relevant basis to launch the national participatory dialogue on the national youth strategy as soon as possible.

Executive Summary

Introduction

Youth mainstay of every society; they are energy-producing force, but who are at the same time a source of grave danger when it does not have the jobs and opportunities for a decent life. Youth are the tools and makers of change if provided with enabling environment for psychological and mental maturity and sound physical wellbeing which offers employment opportunities, participation and security. Yet young people are the source of many of the risks when they find themselves in an environment crowded with agents and the threat of violence, unemployment and marginalization. In this context, MoYS started a process to launch national dialogue towards developing youth strategy in Iraq. Within this framework, the CSO, MoYS and KRSO along with the MoCY-KRG and in cooperation with UNFPA and PAPFAM launched a national survey on Iraqi Youth and Adolescence (NYS2009). The sample of the survey comprised some 6,492 completed household interviews distributed along all Iraqi governorates. This resulted in completed interviews for some 15,087 persons in the age group 10-30 years. Data collection took place during the period from 25/3-13/4/2009. The main objective of NYS is to collect quantitative information on the knowledge, perceptions and practices of adolescents and youth 10-30 years. NYS is a vital step especially after the political and social changes that Iraq is witnessing since 2003. NYS aimed to create a comprehensive database comprising educational, practical, health, social and psychological characteristics including disabilities. NYS included also statistics on youth and ICT; and it shed lights on youth participation, civil rights, citizenship and the security situation.

The results of the survey showed the higher rate of married females in comparison with their male counterparts; and that most of the youth do live in independent housing units mostly owned by their households. The percentage of educational enrolment is high among both genders, although it is a bit higher for males than females. The percentage of educational dropout among youth aged 15-24 years is higher compared to their counterparts in the age group 10-14. The desire of not to continue education was the main reason behind dropout. The data revealed that about half youth own mobile phones, although the percentage is higher among males compared with females. The results also revealed that less than a quarter of youth were employed at the survey time, and this figure is doubled among the youth aged 25-30 years. The percentage among males reaches around five times of the corresponding females. Some 13% of the employed youth are not satisfied with their jobs.

About 90% of youth expressed their good state of health and about half of them said they do not eat fast food, especially among females. Three out of every four young person's reported their satisfaction about themselves at the present time and more than half of them feel happy, while three out of every five feel optimistic. This percentage is higher among females compared with their males' counterparts. A very low rate of sports practicing among youth, only one out of every eight persons go to sports clubs and

forums, and that the percentage of female youth is very low. About one half of youth stated that the reason behind such a low percentage was the lack a nearby club. The results of the survey certified that the researched had complete knowledge and awareness of the signs of maturity, and that the percent of knowledge among females was higher than that among the males.

The survey did not illustrate any differences between males and females concerning the ideal age for marriage. It also confirmed that the decision to use family planning means was a joint decision between husband and wife. It was also proved that the awareness of the researched of the sexually-transmitted diseases, including the immunodeficiency virus and the AIDS is still below the necessary level; and that around 86% of those who know about AIDS believe that the infected person must be isolated. As to those who predict a probable increase in the percentage of AIDS sufferers, they have rationalized that with the lack of or weak commitment to the ethical and religious values.

NYS revealed that the television is the most important media that youth turn to. About 80% want to watch social films while one fifth of them read, half of the latter group read books, and around 43% read magazines. NYS stated that youth believe that political organizations are the most important organizations. About three out of every five young people stressed that respecting of the others' rights is considered one of his most important duties of a citizenship. It was also observed that women's participation in the elections was less compared with their males' counterpart. Around 63% of males and 75% of females conveyed that women in general occupy the same social status as men. The majority of young people reported the necessity that both men and women must jointly take all family decisions. In addition, about two thirds of young people stated that terrorist operations constitute the main cause behind the unstable security, while some two out of five believe that occupation forces are the main reason. In addition, youth believe that development reconstruction operations are one of the vital steps needed to stabilize the situation in the country.

Characteristic of Iraqi Youth

Iraqi youth are similar to their counterparts in the Arab region in terms of perceptions, behavior and aspirations; although there are some differences in their knowledge and awareness due to the socioeconomic and political environment surrounded them which was characterized by wars, crises and conflicts. The analysis confirms that what has been indicated by the report of the Secretary General of the United Nations on the follow-up to World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2007) applies to the situation of young people in Iraq: "It is though that the youth present have many features and benefits, they face economic environment and complex social and rapid development in the context of globalization which is imposing restrictions interfere with the national policies, at the time did not have when all countries the means to manage their integration into the global economy and provide social and economic opportunities to their citizens. Youth are exposed to vulnerability as a result of their lack of knowledge and skills necessary to adapt to a new economic and social environment.

Required Interventions

In order to address the challenging issues related to youth; it is quite important to make relevant identification and analysis of their problems, and adopts out-of-box approach in the development of potential interventions. We suggest an approach that starts from the obligation to provide opportunities for youth, involvement in the community to exercise their rights and obligations, and to provide opportunities to enable young people to prepare themselves for next stages of their lives through adopting the concept of empowerment and not support and care for - to achieve an optimal balance between what the state wants from youth and what they want themselves.

The National Youth Survey (NYS2009) provided an extensive database that allowed extracting important quantitative indicators on the issues of concern to young people, including their attitudes and behavior. In addition, the information provided by different statistical surveys as well as the efforts made by the MoYS constitute a sound basis for developing youth policies and strategies based on evidence extracted from the field to make recommendations and provide lessons learned about the basis for the development of youth policies and strategies.

The analysis of NYS2009 indicated a number of findings concerning Iraqi youth which require a comprehensive and well articulated youth strategy in Iraq due to demographic and institutional considerations as follows:

Demographic Consideration

The analysis stressed on the importance of utilizing the upcoming demographic window. The analysis indicated that Iraq will face demographic window within a decade. This requires prioritizing youth as a human capital to equip them with the needed knowledge and skills and widen their participation in employment, increase their productivity and achieves substantial reduction in the economic dependency, otherwise will lose this golden opportunity to improve the livelihoods of Iraqi people. The demographic window is a shift in the population due to lower fertility rates, turning the society made mainly of children and young people and their dependents to a society in which working-age population and production of any larger group. The rate of economically active population (15-64) years exceeds the rate of dependent population (below 15 and above 64 years). The percentage of youth in the age group 15-29 years is 28% of the total population, according to estimates in 2006 and this means that there are 8 million young people; a number can be increased in light of the high fertility. Can be expected to lead the young age structure to ensure the survival of the absolute number of births was up, even assuming low fertility rate. The existence of such a large proportion of young people in Iraq (demographic window) is an opportunity for economic growth provided that sound social and economic policies are developed and implemented.

Institutional Considerations

The institutional factors are represented in the institutional setup of the formal and informal institutional concerned with youth issues, including tools, structures, policies

and the linkages and relationship with youth themselves. The analysis noted the following challenges which require direct interventions to accelerate some sort of national youth strategies and policies. In particular, the analysis indicate the following notes:

1. The absence of comprehensive national policy-oriented sector led to limited impact services provided to youth on their wellbeing and future aspirations.
2. Diversity and lack of coordination across the institutions that provide services for young people has led to fragmented efforts. There is a need to create a strategic framework of interdependent and complementary goals and objectives dealing with the concerns and aspirations of youth.
3. The absence of political and economic stability in Iraq, and the fear of the future that makes a lot of young people change to in anxiety and concern.
4. Lack of employment policies to absorb increasing unemployment among youth.
5. Absence of a policy or strategy for young people in Iraq, may be inferred or developed.
6. The difficulty of identifying the attitudes, behavior and practices of Iraqi youth with the great changes of political and economic realities and social situation in Iraq along with the poor strategic planning framework in the country.
7. Poor community participation and weak contribution of civil society institutions in formulating youth public policies.

Future Trends and Policies

On the basis of the quantitative analysis, we suggest a framework for a Youth Strategy. The proposed strategy is a set of ideas and principles, plans and programs that address the reality of Iraqi youth and their interests, in order to make positive changes, through specific objectives, channeled through certain tracks and scientific directions to be achieved. It is based on a number of fundamental principles and designed in a way that could easily be monitored and evaluated.

Elements of Required Youth Strategy

The analysis indicated the importance of identifying youth age limits since different needs are identified for different age groups. The analysis indicated the necessity to identify a unified definition of the category of younger age and especially at the national level. The study noted that the diagnosis of a uniform at the national level for the age group younger, which could hinder the goal to create a conceptual framework for the strategy and policies required both has tended attitudes, knowledge and practices of young people.

1. **The proposed vision of the strategy is:** "Iraqi youth are educated, aware and active, linked to national identity and culture; enjoying civil, political, social and economic rights, coping with global scientific progress and contributes to the building and development of his own society"
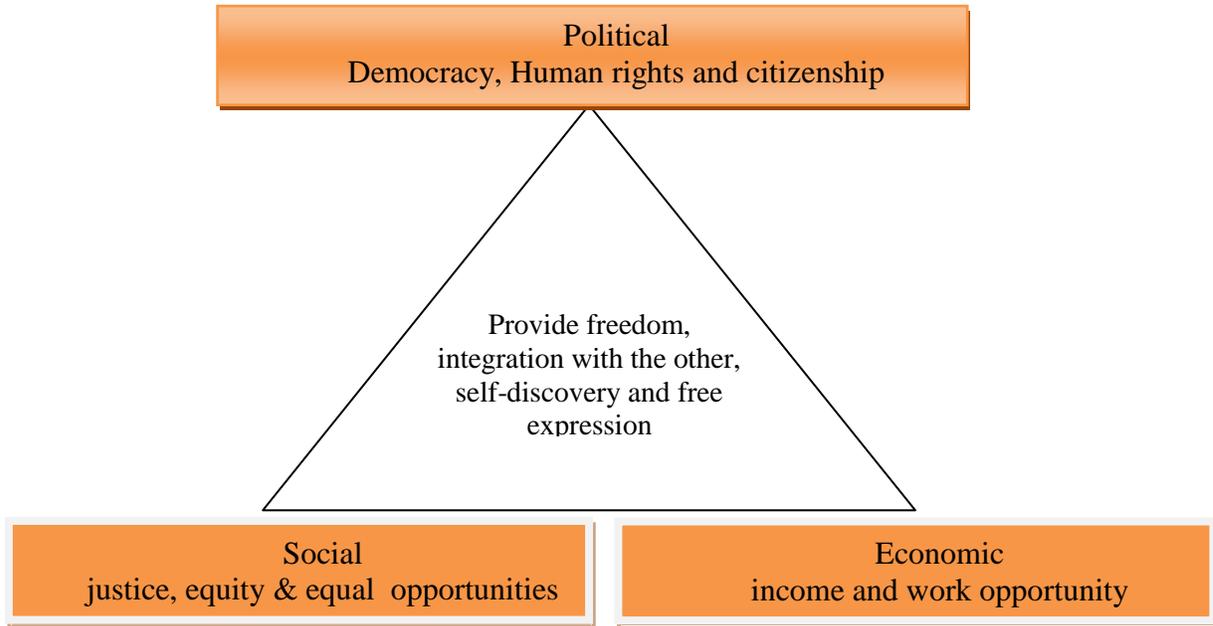
2. **Strategic approach.** The analysis proposed to adopt a strategic perspective of youth empowerment which is based on political, social and economic dimensions; linked to each other to achieve the integration of youth in their community away from the negative attitudes, deviation and extremism.

Empowerment Approach

According to the results of the analysis, we propose to adopt the empowerment approach in dealing with youth strategy. Coupled with the concept of empowerment of youth issues since 2001 through the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Youth Year 2000 and beyond, and since then the concept of youth empowerment has became a central pillar for developing youth policies and strategies. The analysis propose to adopt the League of Arab States definition of empowerment in developing Iraq's National Youth Strategy which states that empowerment is the process of formation, development and employment of youth capacity for the production and distribution of life chances from the rights of young people and commitment to equal opportunities for all segments, especially among males and females for the liberation of will to expand the options and initiatives that allows participation in the various fields. The fact that the essence of participation is a positive contribution in decision-making to determine the type and level of life chances possible and desirable for young people in areas of economic, social, political and cultural, and starting from family to state institutions and civil society organizations.

Three Dimensions of Youth Empowerment

 The **political** empowerment of youth for being respected in regards to the practice of democracy and enjoyment of citizenship and human rights. Opportunities for political empowerment depend on the ability of government, political parties and civil society organizations to provide opportunities for young people to political participation. Political empowerment, includes political activities that symbolizes the contribution of young people and their role in the framework of the democratic system in order to influence government decision-making process, and deepen their sense of loyalty and belonging to the nation and develop a sense of national duty and accepts the obligations with understanding the rights and active political participation. The **economic** dimension of empowerment provides opportunities for young people's development depending on the extent of government and the private sector investment to adapt the social and economic institutions and political decisions to meet the needs of young people. It is determined by the essence of the **social** dimension to enable the concepts of equal opportunity, equity and bridge the gaps both between young people themselves, or between them and members of their community. This requires efforts to support the youth rights and interests in all areas and support the balanced relations across generations.

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                      │              Political              │
                      │  Democracy, Human rights and citizenship │
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                                    /    \
                             Provide freedom,
                           integration with the other,
                            self-discovery and free
                                  expression
                                  /        \
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Social	Economic
justice, equity & equal opportunities	income and work opportunity

Guiding Principles

The proposed youth strategy should be based on the following principles

1. **Human principle.** In line with Iraq's constitution, the strategy should enhance the dignity of young people, and empower them to enjoy a life of dignity, peace and security, and should seek to provide a standard of living adequate for the growth of physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, and will be built on non-discriminating approach between young men and women on the basis of class, language, minority, religion and sectarian.

2. **Educational Principle;** The strategy should focus on fostering the care and education for young people, and the emphasis on nurturing good society (family, school, university, community) and to connect youth national issues, and enable them to play an active and positive role in the maintenance of national unity, and help them to organize themselves into entities that allows them to express themselves, and to participate in making decisions that concern them.

3. **Development Principle;** The strategy should aim to integrate youth within the objectives of comprehensive development to provide equity and equal opportunities to empower both males and females and across different ages and within rural and urban communities.

4. **The Principle of Development and Change;** The strategy should aim to create the change in the perceptions, behaviors, attitudes and practices of youth to positively contribute to the development of Iraqi community.

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Objectives of the proposed Youth Strategy

According to the analysis of the survey data and other information sources, we propose that the youth strategy to seek achieving the following objectives

1. Strengthening the role of youth in the production through upgrading education, preparing young people for the challenges of the labor market, and accelerate the process to keep pace with the evolution of information technology
2. Expanding the role of youth in society, and enhance their contribution to security and stability, and open channels of real participation, and entrench the principles of good citizenship and enjoyment of civil rights.
3. Neutralize the physical and psychological health risks exposed to young people, and expand cultural and social interests (e.g encouraging the exercise of sport).
4. Emphasizing the national identity of young people through the development of cultural and artistic orientation and change the negative attitudes and behavior to avoid negative impacts of ICT and media openness.

Scope of Proposed Strategy

According to the conclusions of the analysis made, we propose to follow the World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY) in coordinating the vision, approach, principles and objectives of the strategy as follows:

1. **Youth and Production**
   Improve education, prepare youth for labour maker challenges, increase employment opportunities of decent work and accelerate youth integration with ICT environment.

2. **Youth and Health**
   Face the health and physical challenges and deal with psychological risks which youth are exposed to.
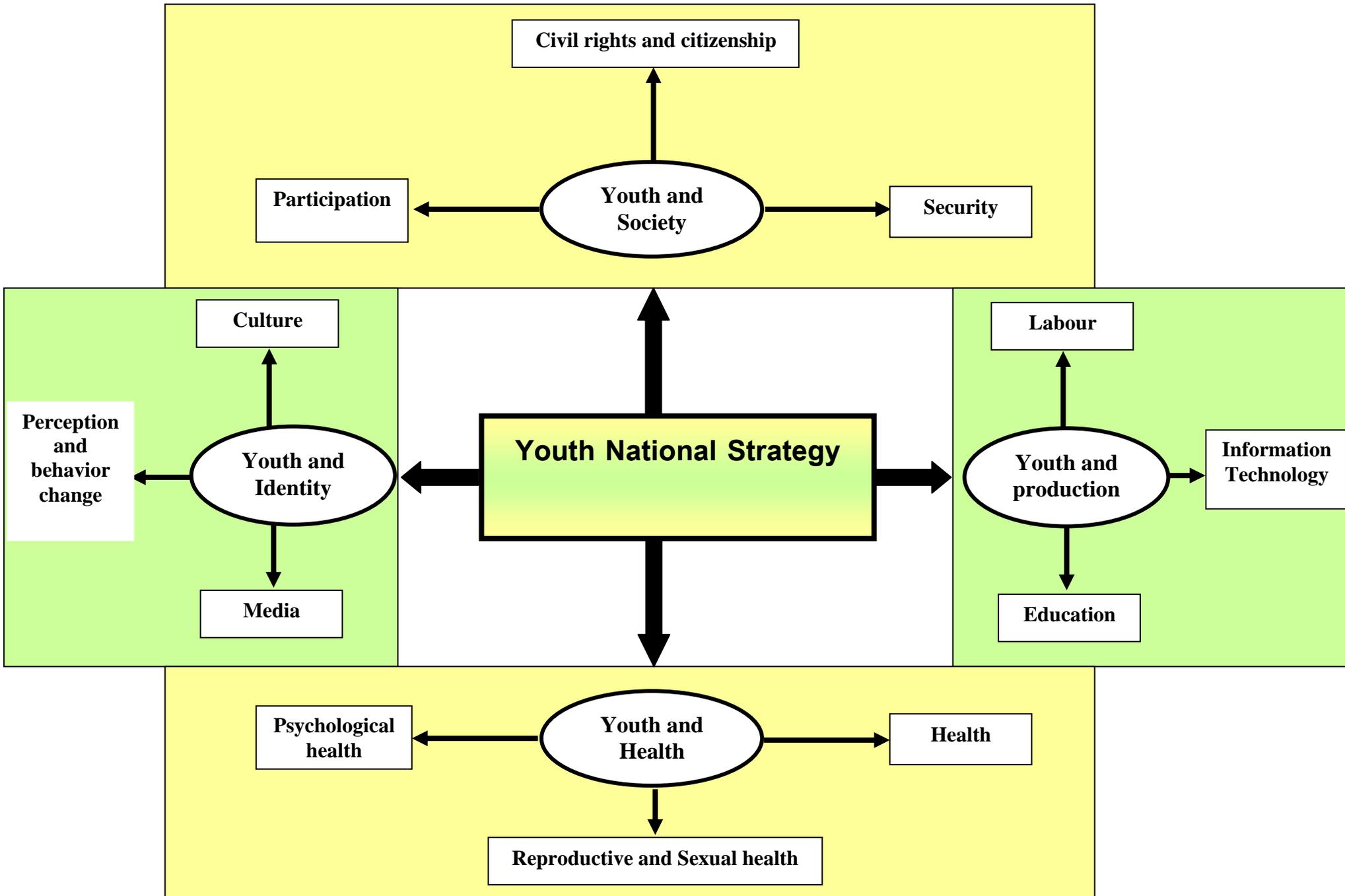
3. **Youth and Society**
   Increase the role of youth in the society, increase youth participation to provide security and stability, enhance principles of citizenship, and civic values and civil rights across youth.

4. **Youth and Identity**
   Activate the role of mass media in enhancing identity, expand youth cultural interests and change negative attitudes and behaviors.

5. **Institutional structure for the incubator of youth policies**
   Strengthen the institutional capacity to provide enabling environment to design and implement youth policies and plans.

Civil rights and citizenship

Participation

Youth and Society

Security

Culture

Labour

Perception and behavior change

Youth and Identity

Youth National Strategy

Youth and production

Information Technology

Media

Education

Psychological health

Youth and Health

Health

Reproductive and Sexual health

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First- Youth and Production

1- Improve educational attainment and prepare youth for labor market challenges

Why youth dropout?

The quantitative analysis indicated willingness of youth to continue higher education, they have positive perception towards education as means of empowerment for labour market needs; adverse Iraq-specific conditions (e.g war; security, etc) didn't show a main reason for dropouts; personal, family and institutional reasons form the main cause of youth dropouts. For example the quantitative analysis indicated the following family and personal reason: parents' wish, economic reasons, joining labour market, economic independence, etc. There are substantial discrepancies across gender in regard to the dynamics of education perception at both family and personal levels.

About half of the educational difficulties that youth face are related to the educational institution such as imbalance of educational opportunities including the workload for teachers and availability of educational equipment and facilities, particularly in the rural areas. The analysis showed also weak role for the educational institutions in providing counseling for adolescents and youth.

Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Level of improvement of educational enrollment among youth	• 46% of youth (10-30) are enrolled (50% for males and 40% for females)
Level of improvement of educational attainment among youth	• 40% are without certificate • 20% of youth (15-24) did not attend schools

Suggested Interventions
- Increase age of compulsory education
- Apply compulsory education strictly
- Increase educational enrollment
- Encourage youth to continue education through:
  1. Decrease educational cost
  2. Suggest educational systems that allows for combining work and education

3. Address the problems that faces youth in the preparatory stage which dismisses youth from schools

- Encourage parallel education
- Improve quality of education
- Reduce workload per teacher
- Pay more attention in terms of quantity and quality for girls schools
- Pay more attention in terms of quantity and quality for schools in the rural areas.
- Encourage families to support their children to continue their education
- Develop educational systems that encourage innovative thinking, personal initiatives, right awareness, participation, gender approach, and health awareness.
- Organize long term educational campaigns on the culture of non-violence for all and raise awareness across youth through targeting parents, teachers, educational supervisors, health care centers, and utilizing media in these campaigns.
- Implement awareness programs for parents on the importance of education and encourage community responsibility for educational process.
- Provide financial and institutional support for youth organizations and other civil society organizations providing non-formal education.

2- Improve the opportunity of getting decent work

The quantitative analysis showed that youth do not enjoy decent work. The occupational structure of youth labour indicates low productivity, unfair work conditions, and dismissal wage levels particularly for females. Furthermore the results of NYS indicated that youth in general do not value their work and lack the willingness to improve their work conditions. A variety of reasons were indicated to the situation of youth in the labour market amongst; low wages, type of work, involuntary work, impact of unemployment on youth acceptance to stay in bad jobs, etc.

Suggested Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Youth employment rate	• 25% of youth are employed • About one third of not working youth are willing to work (42% for males and 28% for females) • 30% of youth supported child labour (before 15 years)
Youth unemployment rate	• 21% of females and 23% of males 15-24 years are unemployed • 33% of youth intending to migrate are to find job

	opportunity (17% for females and 47% for males)
Youth poverty rate	• 22% of youth 15-24 years are poor (2007)
Change youth work style	• 25% of youth work in the public sector (most of them are females), and 38% work in the private sector (mostly males).

Suggested Interventions
- Make clear linkage between educational policies, employment policies and investment projects guided by the government
- Encourage the private sector to employ youth and make sure that the private sector applies labor law and social security.
- Transfer of appropriate technology for production and the needs of young people's work and their rights.
- Expand the ownership base through small cooperatives and companies for the mobilization of financial savings and empower small individual youth projects to compete in local markets.
- Pay more attention to training and rehabilitation of young people and interest in training and education to meet the transformational changes in the labor market.
- Remove all kinds of discrimination between young men and women in employment.
- Develop or modify the laws and systems of work to allow labour mobility.
- Promote capacity-building programs to empower the poor and unemployed youth.
- Develop labour market information system.
- Develop and implement a training program for young men and women on the basis of the actual needs of the labor market, after the analyzing the actual need of employment.
- Design and implementation programs for training new graduates on the management of small scale loans.
- Urge the trade unions and civil society organizations concerned with issues of young people to work on the provision of training opportunities and skills in leadership and organization of work.
- Develop a flexible work systems that respond to the needs of young people, male and females and implement actions to reduce child labor
- Protection systems for poverty alleviation among young males and females.
- Monitor the relationship between wage levels and rates of inflation and periodic amendment of the minimum wage.
- Control of informal labor markets to reduce the exploitation of child labour, and conduct studies and periodic surveys on the needs and requirements of the labor market.

3- Accelerate the process of young people to cope with the evolution of information technology

Increase the opportunity of access internet

Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Rate of internet usage among youth	• 13% of youth use internet (18% for males and 8 for females) • 35% of youth can use computers • Among those not using internet 60% due to lack of skills and 45% lack of computer • About 50% have mobile phones (males as much as double of females)
Rate of computer and internet knowledge among youth	• 65% of youth do not use computers (71% for females against 59% for males)
Rate and duration of using internet	• Average hours of using internet are 8.3 hours per week, and average daily use is 1.2 hours. • Among those using internet, 9% of females use internet coffees against 54% for males • Among those using internet, 76% of females use internet at house against 53% for males. • Among those using internet, 26% of females use it in the educational institutions against 17% for males.
Distribution of internet use by purpose	• Among internet users, 47% use it for recreation, 45% for study and 39% for social communications. • 60% of youth indicated lack of monitoring of internet use

Suggested Interventions

- Increase early education on computer skills in educational institutions.
- Ensure computer literacy among employees in all sectors.
- Widen the potential places to access internet particularly for females.

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- Linking research methods and study in schools and universities using the internet.
- Conduct of official business and school related activities via the internet (e-government).
- Promote the spread of knowledge among young people using the computer (forums, cafes, etc.)
- Facilitate young people's access to computers.
- Expand the use of the internet in the workplace.
- Expand the use of the internet in educational institutions.
- Adopt the Ministries of Education and Higher Education of new textbooks that integrate new technologies.

Second- Youth and Health
Address the health, physical and psychological risk facing youth

Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Percentage of youth suffering from health problems, and modalities of personal health care	- 94% of youth do not suffer from health problems. - 48% of youth get good food and supplement to keep their health, 34% adopt cleaning themselves and 14% avoid medication without prescription of doctors.
Rate of knowledge of reproductive health	- 50% of youth do not know symptoms of reproductive health
Rate of knowledge of sexual diseases	- More than 30% of youth do not know about STDs. - Among those know about SMTs, three quarters knew AIDS only. - Rate of unmeant needs for SDT knowledge is 48% - 65% of youth do not know centers for diagnosing SDTs - 79% of those identified AIDS as SDTs indicated that prevention of infection is to avoid sex.
Distribution of sources of sexual knowledge for youth	- Among those identified AIDS as SMT, 79% new about it from TV against 27% from educational institutions. - 35% of females 12-30 years can discuss sexual matters with mothers, 26% with sisters, 23% with husband, and 28% with a friend. - 59% of youth indicated that they can discuss sexual

	matters with a friend from the same gender, 22% with brothers/sisters and 11% with wife. • 42% of those new RH learned about that from friends against 25% from educational institutions and 25% from parents.
Rate of positive awareness of health risks	• 89% of youth support medical check before marriage. • 43% of married females 12-30 years refers to private clinics for pregnancy or sexual problems against 28% refer to hospitals and 24% consult mothers. • 79% of pregnant youth sought health care • 85% of pregnant youth females prefer delivery at hospital against 13% midwives. • 71% of pregnant young females indicated their willingness to visit hospital to make checkup after delivery and 94% to check their babies. • 86% confirmed that breastfeeding is the best method for babies nutrition • 67.5% said the liquefaction water unsuitable for drinking and the respondents used several methods to address that among which boiling water pollution (47.4%) and the use of chlorine (23.6%) or grain sterilization (37.8%). • Preferred age for the first baby is 22 years.
Rate of awareness of unknown health risks	• 30% of youth believe that marriage among relatives has health risks of genital problem • 31% of young females asserted that the tuberculosis vaccine should be taken the first year of the baby's life and (63.1%) affirmed the polio vaccine.
Impact of tendency of high fertility	• On the average youth believe that ideal number of children is 4. • About one fifth of young female prefer five children • Percentage of married youth using contraceptive measures is 19%.

Rate of awareness on family planning	• 27% of youth do not know any method of family planning • 68% of youth knew pills as family planning method and 29% indicated other methods.

Suggested Interventions
- Increase the educational efforts to raise awareness of health through school-based programs, radio, television, and press.
- Publicizing the importance of and procedures for reproductive and public health awareness.
- Awareness of the importance of sexual health
- Increase the number of primary health care centers
- Activating the role of primary health care centers in health education
- Activating the role of educational institutions in the health education

Third- Youth and Society
1- Expand the role of youth in the society, and enhance their contribution to their security and stability
Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Percentage of security and instability related risks	• 39% of youth viewed war is a source of concern and 19% indicated painful events. • 5% are scared of kidnapping and displacement • 68% were forced to work in their residence region due to security reasons • 20% of youth indicated sectarian as a risk and 19% indicated crime
Percentage of optimistic youth	• 60% of youth are optimistic
Participation in enhancing security	• 50% of youth joining security forces indicated the reason to participate in security status
Percentage of stability factors	• 53% indicated reconstruction and elimination of poverty is a main factor of stability against 46%

	indicated the efficiency of security forces, and 20% indicated national severity.
Distribution of youth tending to migrate by reason	• 33% of youth intending indicated that seeking job is the reason against 26% to escape from the situation (35% for females) and 15% to seek refugee status (27% in the rural areas against 10% in the urban). • 2.7% of youth started the migration process.
Percentage of returning youth who were integrated	-
Percentage of youth exposed to personal threat	• 14% of youth are exposed to personal threats.
Percentage of youth who support using violence to solve problems	• 62% of youth did not support using violence to solve problems • 49% of youth believe law prevents violence, 30% for religion, 29% for family growing and 7% for the role of education institution. • 68% of youth do not support parents physical abuse against children (73% for females and 64% for males) • 18% heard about Child Rights Convention (CRC) • 35% believe that law prevents VAW against 40% family education and 37% for religion

Suggested Interventions
- Start reconstruction to absorb unemployment and prepare for development and enhance peaceful dialogue.
- Improve services particularly in the rural areas.
- Awareness of the role of youth in enhancing security by means other than military: social, educational and cultural.
- Promote a culture of dialogue and non-violence and peace among the youth forums and cafes.
- Activating the role of the media, especially television broadcast in promoting the culture of peace.
- Awareness campaigns about the long-term culture of non-violence behaviors to all segments of society to educate young people (parents, teachers or specialists, and social welfare centers).

2- Deepen principles of citizenship and the concepts of civil rights among youth

Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Percentage of knowledge of right mentioned in the constitution	• 40% of youth believe that Iraqis are equal before law. • 62% of youth indicated that respecting citizens rights is a duty for all citizens • 47% believe that defending country is a duty of citizenship.
Percentage of youth enjoying political rights	• 70% of youth participated in the elections • 40% believe that participation in the political parties contribute to achieving their aspirations
Percentage of youth who accept the other	• 62% of youth agree to make dialogue with others who are different from them • 80% do not feel any discrimination against them due to gender, political position or personal behavior. • 48% of youth have friends from other relogions
Percentage of youth who can express their views freely	• 75% of youth indicated that they can express themselves freely (81% in the urban areas against 70% in the rural areas)

3- Expand the role of youth in society and open channels for their participation

Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Percentage of youth intending to participate	• 27% of youth do not have interests in social issues. • 41% of youth do not trust political work • 29% of youth do not participate in unions • 34% believe that political parties are important in the political life. • 72% believe political participation is a right.

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	• 41% indicated that family do not allow for political participation.
Percentage of participation in civil society organizations	• More than 50% of youth indicated the importance of civil society organization in youth development • 25% believed that the most important civil society organizations are the political organizations, 25% religious organizations and 10% sport institutions.

Suggested Interventions

- Create an annual award for the most active and organized young people in serving their community.
- Educate young people on the necessity of participating in civil society organizations.
- Opening of schools during the holidays for non-governmental organizations to carry out programs for young people to develop and support voluntary youth summer pools for the development of participatory skills and capabilities.
- Promote the development of funds to support young people to secure economic opportunities and respond to their needs and protect them from loss and delinquency.
- The respective responsibilities of the ministries concerned, through open door policy (at least two hours per month) for young people to listen to their suggestions and ideas for their presentations (this can be achieved by e-mail), and the appointment of persons responsible for youth communication processes.
- Raising the awareness of young people about the rights of persons with disabilities in society.
- Include the socially excluded people in the work of youth organizations.
- Promotion of education for different types of disabilities and behavioral commutation of sentences to young people with disabilities.
- Promote the principles of democracy in decision-making processes on issues of concern to young people (to enable them to participate in decision making through processes of democratic representation in the election and the referendum, etc.).

Fourth- Youth and Identity
1- Activate the role of media to enhance identity

Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Distribution of media sources in enhancing identity concepts	• 87% of youth watch TV , 56% listen to radio, and 49% read newspapers and 50% follow internet.

Percentage of youth participating in media activities	• 10% of youth intend to participate in media activities, amongst 30% in sports activities, 40% express opinion and 34% in program preparation.
Percentage of awareness of youth against negative values	• 80% of youth prefer watching social movies • 92% watch space channels • 88% watch local TV channels • 80% prefer local radio channels

2- Increase the interest in cultural concerns

Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Percentage of youth intending to creative thinking	• 41% of youth identified success as an objective in life, 25% to find partner, 25% to find job, 11% do not have any objective.
Percentage of youth who have the reading habit	• 20% of youth have reading habit (24% femaleas and 19% males) amongst 51% read books and 43% magazines • 80% of youth read on cultural and social issues • 79% of youth do not read at all.
Percentage of youth enjoying free time	• 34% of youth intend to go to cinema during free time (if available), 37% intend to visit theater
Percentage of youth who have cultural habits	• 70% of youth do not have any cultural interests • 15% have interest in writing poem and 10 drawing
Percentage of youth attend youth forums	• 13% of youth attend youth forums mostly in the urban areas. • Those not attending indicated due to lack of availability (46%), and tradition (32% most of them are females) • 37% of youth attending youth forums indicated that its values is average to good against 13% very good • 43% of urban youth indicated unmet needs of establishing your forums for females against 30% in

	the rural areas.
Percentage of youth practicing sports	• 30% of youth prefer football, amongst more than 50% practice it in the public areas.
Percentage of youth prefer early marriage	• 29% of married rural youth got married before the age of 17 years • 69% of married urban youth got married at the age 21-24 years. • 37% of female youth got married at 18-20 years, 20% at 21-23 years • More than three quarters of youth believe wife should be younger than husband
Percentage of youth suffering from family problems	• Three quarters of youth do not suffer from family problems • Those suffering from family problems indicate income as a reason of problems (11%) and housing density (5%), against 15% for family disintegration
Percentage of youth who have strong ties with close relatives	• 79% of youth indicated good relationship with fathers against 90% with mothers, 83% with brothers and sisters, 70% with close relatives and 19% with husband. • 25% of youth consult mothers for family problems, 15% for father and 9% for friends.

3- Perceptions and Behaviors Change

Selected Indicators

Indicator	Baseline in 2009
Percentage of positive perception towards women	• 69% of youth believe that a woman is not less than man • 87% agree that family decisions should be taken by wife and husband jointly • 71% believe woman can take leadership role • 30% believe political work should be for men only • 57% support woman work

Percentage of change in the negative perception towards woman	• 66% do not agree that woman and man can work in the same place • 56% agree that woman cannot take decisions related to her life • 92% agree that women should take approval from father, brother husband before doing any action • 39% agree that the husband has the right to beat his wife if she did not obey his orders • 62% agreed to kill the female if she violated the honor of the family • 67% disagreed that the woman has the right to kill her husband if she caught him committed to adultery. • 80% rejected that woman can travel without Mahram (relative male accompany)
Percentage of misinterpretation of religion towards women rights	• 40% of youth believe in the family education as a factor to prevent VAW through re-distribution of powers inside the household. • 37% believe that religion is the dominant factor

Suggested Interventions

- Purification of the public culture from the effects of social and cultural backgrounds based on the principle of discrimination.
- Develop policies based on the principle of justice and equality, is the essence of citizenship, not ethnic, cultural and sexual bias.
- Implementation of reforms in the educational curricula to include human rights education, which promote the values of civil society, voluntary work, peaceful solutions to conflict and violence, gender equality, promote the values of peace and solidarity among the members of the society and a culture of citizenship, tolerance and dialogue as an alternative to violence, exclusion and marginalization.
- Encourage the development effort to build systems of intellectual, cultural and scientific approaches for young people who should be also aware of the effects of globalization.
- Review of current empowerment training programs to view empowerment as a comprehensive process that includes professional technical as well as psychological and cultural content.
- Utilize youth centers and forums in emphasizing self confidence through implementing comprehensive programs that professional, recreational and psychological support for youth.