

**Republic of Fiji**

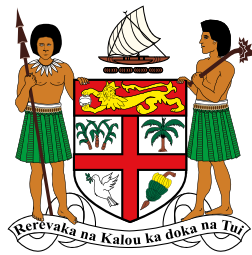
**Ministry of Youth and Sports**



# **Fiji National Youth Policy 2023 – 2027**

**Inclusive and sustainable growth through a safe,  
healthy, respected, skilled and empowered youth**





**Republic of Fiji**

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## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	6
<b>1.1 Definitions</b> .....	6
<b>1.2 Background</b> .....	6
<b>1.3 Situation Analysis</b> .....	8
<b>1.3 Target Youth Groups</b> .....	9
<b>1.4 Relevant laws and policies</b> .....	11
<b>2. Vision, mission and guiding principles</b> .....	11
<b>2.1 Vision</b> .....	12
<b>2.2 Mission</b> .....	12
<b>2.3 Guiding principles</b> .....	12
<b>3. Key policy areas: Outcomes, objectives and strategies</b> .....	13
<b>Policy area 1: Health and wellbeing</b> .....	13
<b>Policy area 2: Education, skills and employment</b> .....	17
<b>Policy area 3: Safety, protection and justice</b> .....	19
<b>Policy area 4: Environment, climate change and disaster risks</b> .....	22
<b>Policy area 5: Participation and empowerment</b> .....	23
<b>Policy area 6: Inclusion and non-discrimination</b> .....	25
<b>Policy area 7: Strengthening the enabling environment for youth</b> .....	27
<b>4. Implementation, coordination and management of the Policy</b> 28	
<b>4.1 Multi-Sector Coordination Committee</b> .....	28
<b>4.2 Institutional arrangements</b> .....	28
4.2.1 National Level .....	28
4.2.2 Sub-national Level: Divisional and Provincial Levels.....	29
<b>4.3 Review, monitoring and evaluation of the Policy</b> .....	29
<b>5. Effective Date</b> .....	
<b>DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2027</b> .....	31

## Foreword

The Republic of Fiji Islands today is a contemporary and inclusive nation through an exceptional administrative restructuring across Government accompanied with considerable steady investments in public infrastructure, services, education and health. As an Island nation, Fiji has tremendous potential that is yet to be fully realised. With improving institutions and infrastructure, increased international positioning and recognition and a large number of young people, the Fijian Government is committed to developing conducive policies that provides tactical support systems and programmes focused at meeting the socio-economic needs of Fiji's youth and strengthening social inclusion.

The Fiji National Youth Policy 2023-2027 (**'Policy'**) has been developed foremost to serve as a blueprint to provide guidance and direction for the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other relevant Government ministries and departments to operate collaboratively towards achieving key strategic priority areas for all youths in Fiji. The Ministry of Youth and Sports being the lead agency tasked with developing the full potential of Fiji's youth is committed to delivering impactful programs and services to combat ongoing issues faced by youths today. The Ministry of Youth and Sports recognises that it cannot achieve this alone but a collective Government approach through corporation with other ministries and relevant organisations is vital. Implementing this Policy will involve a diverse range of programmes in key areas such as health and wellbeing; education, skills and employment; safety, protection and justice; environment and climate change; participation and empowerment; inclusion and non-discrimination; and strengthening the enabling environment for youth. In developing policies and programmes and in allocating the necessary resources, the Ministry of Youth and Sports will focus on relevant key strategic areas outlined in this Policy. Through this, the Ministry of Youth and Sports will ensure efficient, effective and sustainable socio-economic and cultural development of youths.

Youth play an integral role in the decision making process and their potential as key agents for social change, innovation and future leadership is recognised by the Fiji National Youth Policy. This Policy ensures the involvement of delegates from the Fiji Youth Council in the Multi-Sector Coordination Committee which will oversee the implementation of the Policy and report on its impact. The Policy does not offer quick fixes but seeks to develop the capability of youth as part of a long term strategy and provides a holistic vision of Fiji where all youths are healthy, respected, safe, included and empowered. It reaffirms the Government's and the Ministry of Youth and Sports' commitment to ensure that young people develop the confidence, resilience and skills they need to evolve and develop as productive citizens. Fiji's youth have much to offer and through them the future sustainability and stability of Fiji will be safeguarded.

## Acknowledgements

The development of the Policy was attainable through the contributions of key development partners, line ministries, non-government organisations and individuals. The Ministry of Youth and Sports acknowledges the funding support provided by UNICEF in the series of consultation and validation meetings and in securing the services of an expert policy consultant. The following line ministries and organisations were helpful in the consultation process; Ministry of Forestry, Fiji Police Force, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Waterways, Ministry of Economy (Climate Change Division), Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Employment Productivity and Industrial Relations, Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Ministry of Rural Maritime, Fiji Corrections Service, Republic of Fiji Military Forces, UNICEF Pacific, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji National Sports Commission, Fiji Girl Guide Association, iTaukei Affairs Board, YMCA, Reproductive & Family Health Association of Fiji, Methodist Church of Fiji, Alliance for Future Generation, Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption, University of the South Pacific Student Association, Fiji Muslim Women League, Nadroga District Council of Social Services, Youth-Central, and Men Empowerment.

The support and contribution of the following line ministries and non-government organisations in the Policy validation process was instrumental; Department for Social Welfare (Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights Pacific Office, Fiji Youth Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, the following Ministries and Agencies provided valuable feedback during the Policy action plan validation workshop; Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Ministry of Forestry, Fiji Police Force, Ministry of Waterways & Environment, the Fiji National Sports Commission and the Fiji Youth Council.

Special gratitude goes to those individuals that were primarily involved in the development of the Policy from its early stages to its completion. In particular, Talei Cama (UNICEF Pacific Office), Kirsten Anderson (Coram International), Philip Hereniko (Ministry of Youth and Sports Director), Ravinesh Lakhani (Ministry of Youth and Sports Senior Coordinator Research and Data Analytics), Kavinesh Sami (Ministry of Youth and Sports Manager Knowledge Management) and the staff of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Knowledge Management Unit – Olivia Tawaqa, Niumai Savui and Eastern Division- Iliesa Marawa. We also appreciate the technical support received on the Policy action plan by Kolianita Alfred (UNICEF Pacific) and comments received from Ronesh Prasad (UNICEF Pacific).

Finally, a special vote of thanks goes out to the respective former and current Permanent Secretaries of Youth and Sports – Jone Maritino Nemani and Rovereto Nayacalevu for their active guidance, contribution and leadership and to the Minister of Youth and Sports - Honourable Jese Saukuru for his influential support in recognising the importance of this Policy.

## List of Acronyms

<b>CSO</b>	: Civil Society Organisations
<b>CBO</b>	: Community Based Organisations
<b>DEIA</b>	: Duke of Edinburgh International Award
<b>FBO</b>	: Faith Based Organisations
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	: Human immunodeficiency virus/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>ICT</b>	: Information Communication Technology
<b>LGBTQI</b>	: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex
<b>MSCC</b>	: Multi-Sector Coordination Committee
<b>MYS</b>	: Ministry of Youth and Sports
<b>NCD</b>	: Non-communicable Diseases
<b>NDP</b>	: National Development Plan
<b>NEET</b>	: Not in education, employment or training
<b>NGO</b>	: Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NYP</b>	: National Youth Policy
<b>SRH</b>	: Sexual and reproductive health
<b>STI</b>	: Sexually transmitted infection
<b>TB</b>	: Tuberculosis

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Definitions

### Youth

The Policy defines 'youth' as persons aged between 15-35 years. This is wider than the definition used by the United Nations, which defines youth as those between 15 and 24 years. The reasons for adopting this wider age range is that young adults up to 35 years of age actively participate in youth programmes and that Fijian social and cultural perceptions dictate the status of youth as being broader than the definition used globally.

However, the MYS and other key Government ministries, departments and agencies recognise that the needs of youth at the older and younger age ranges differ and undertake to target programmes and resources to meet the unique needs of youth at different ages and life stages. In particular, for certain programmes, it may be advisable to sub-divide the category of youth into those aged 15 – 24 years, and those aged 25 – 35 years.

### Youth in vulnerable situations

Youth in vulnerable situations include those youth who are: experiencing mental health issues; living with a disability or learning difficulty; experiencing homelessness; involved in the criminal justice system; disengaged from family and school; experiencing chronic economic and social disadvantage; geographically isolated with difficulty accessing services; migrants or refugees; pregnant and/or parenting; those experiencing substance misuse issues; those with caring responsibilities; and those who identify as LGBTQI+.

## 1.2 Background

The Policy sets out the Fijian Government's agenda and priorities from 2023 to 2027 in relation to youth. The Policy establishes an inclusive, binding and accountable framework which will provide direction and guide and monitor the development agenda and progress of youth in Fiji. Recognising the multi-sector nature of youth development, it takes a whole-of-Government approach, bringing together key Government ministries, departments and authorities to work in a coordinated way, toward achieving strategic goals for Fiji's youth.

The Policy was developed to ensure alignment with other key policies and initiatives, including the MYS Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027, the NDP 2017 – 2036, the Fiji Youth Declaration 2019, and was informed by international and regional standards, frameworks and best practice on youth and youth policy. The Policy recognises the need for partnership and collaboration at all levels and aims to work closely with youth networks and the CBOs, NGOs, FBOs and other development partners who work with youth and on the issues affecting them. The Policy is embedded within the unique Fijian context and is aligned to its national, regional and global commitments.

In developing the Policy, the MYS considered inputs from range of key stakeholders including Government ministries, departments and agencies, along with key non-government bodies and organisations and youth. The MYS is mandated to develop and implement youth and sport policies and establish a conducive policy environment that provides strategic support systems, initiatives for personal development, character building, sports policy implementation and community-based youth-led programmes.

The development of the Policy was heavily informed by a series of consultations involving 234 representatives from youth organisations, key Government ministries and agencies



and NGOs. Consultations were carried out in Suva, Nadi, Labasa, Levuka, Rotuma and Lakeba from November 2019 to February 2020. A re-validation process on the policy was also conducted across the 4 divisions (West, North, East and Central from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023) which was attended by NGO's, FBO, Government Ministries and agencies with a total of 182 representatives.

As a strategic document, the Policy sets out seven priorities to effectively, efficiently and sustainably realize youth development that is relevant to the Fijian context and will ensure that youth realize their full potential and contribute to national socio-economic and cultural development. The seven strategic priorities include:

1. Health and wellbeing	All youth in Fiji are able to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and wellbeing, and to the conditions and facilities necessary for good health and wellbeing, including quality, youth-friendly health services, and inclusive information, services and support.
2. Education, skills and employment	All youth have access to suitable and quality formal and informal education and to employment opportunities that equip them with the knowledge, attitudes and life skills to become self-sufficient, fulfilled, active and engaged members of their communities, to pursue their goals and contribute to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural development of Fiji.
3. Safety, protection and justice	All youth are safe from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and harassment and have access to a youth-friendly and human rights-compliant justice system.
4. Environment, climate change and disaster risks	All youth are supported and empowered to participate equally in actions and initiatives to address environmental issues and are informed to adapt and respond to climate change and other disaster risks within their communities, drawing on local practices and traditional knowledge.
5. Participation and empowerment	All youth have the knowledge, skills and inclusive spaces to actively and meaningfully participate and contribute to dialogue (youth and sports development and diplomacy), policy development and planning, implementation and service delivery, within their communities and in educational and other institutions.
6. Inclusion and non-discrimination	Youth-sensitive policies, laws, frameworks, mechanisms and structures in Fiji are inclusive of all youth, including youth in vulnerable situations and marginalised youth.
7. Strengthening the enabling environment for youth	A comprehensive policy, legislative and institutional environment exists in Fiji to ensure that all youth are supported and empowered by effective frameworks and evidence-based programmes and services.

This Policy is aligned to the core goals of Fiji's NDP:

**Inclusive socio-economic development** to ensure that all socio-economic rights in the Constitution are realised. Inclusivity will be at the centre of growth and development, and the benefits of prosperity will be spread as widely as possible to improve the social well-being of all Fijians. No one will be left behind regardless of geographical location, gender, ethnicity, physical and intellectual capability and social and economic status; and

- **Transformational strategic thrusts** – game changing forward-thinking policy shifts to expand our development frontier and support the vision of transforming Fiji. New and emerging growth sectors will be nurtured, connectivity within and to the outside world will be improved, new technologies will be embraced, productivity will be maximised, human capital will be accelerated, and green growth will be a key guiding principle.

### 1.3 Situation Analysis

Fiji has a large and growing youth population, with 62 per cent of its 884,887 population<sup>1</sup> aged under 34 years; the percentage of youth as part of the overall population increased from around 20 per cent in 1996 to 35 per cent in 2017.<sup>2</sup> In particular, the urban population is dominated by those aged 15 to 44 years.<sup>3</sup>

The growing youth population has huge potential to help drive the Fiji Government’s aim to achieve inclusive socio-economic growth over the next 20 years. However, in order to harness this potential, and to ensure that the rights of all youth are realised, it is necessary for stakeholders to strengthen the enabling environment through partnerships and coordinated action aimed at ensuring a safe and healthy youth population that is properly skilled and empowered to participate in the economy, political structures and communities.

Limited data exist on the youth population in Fiji, with available data often outdated and typically disaggregated into different age bands that do not necessarily align with the country’s definition of youth. Nonetheless, according to existing evidence and the views and experiences of youth, as captured in the Fiji’s National Youth Declaration 2019, the following priority issues can be identified (further details are provided throughout section 3, below):

- Youth in Fiji do not have good access to **SRH information and services**. Limited access to SRH information and services has contributed to significant rates of **teenage pregnancy** and exposure to **HIV infection and other STIs**;
- There are very limited data available on the **mental health** of youth in Fiji. However, there appears to be high prevalence of mental health issues, including suicide and attempted suicide;
- Persistent **communicable diseases**, including typhoid, tuberculosis and vector borne diseases continue to affect youth in Fiji;
- The burden of **NCDs** has reached crisis level in the Pacific, including in Fiji. ‘Lifestyle’ factors associated with the rise in NCDs include poor diet, limited physical activity and alcohol and tobacco use – factors that appear to be significant and worsening problems among youth;
- A significant proportion of morbidity among youth is due to **injuries**, particularly self-harm, road injury, drowning and violence;
- Youth are disproportionately affected by **poverty and homelessness**, which remain key challenges;
- **Youth unemployment** is quite high in Fiji and many youths are employed in informal, seasonal or temporary work, which lacks legislative protection and the opportunity to progress and further their skills;

<sup>1</sup> Fiji Bureau of Statistics, *2017 Population and Housing Census, Release 1: Age, sex, geography and economic activity*, 5 January 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Republic of Fiji, *5-year and 20-year National Development Plan*, November 2017, section 2.1.

<sup>3</sup> Fiji Bureau of Statistics, *2017 Population and Housing Census, Release 1: Age, sex, geography and economic activity*, 5 January 2018.

- There appears to be a mis-match between the **skills and qualifications** of youth and the economy, which many youths working in jobs that do not match their education;
- **Health and economic crises** such as the COVID-19 pandemic, likely affect youth disproportionately, given their higher unemployment rates and slower uptake of employment during the post-pandemic recovery;
- While a number of forums and groups exist in Fiji to enable youth to **participate** in their communities and at the national and regional levels, it is unclear how inclusive these forums are, particularly of youth in vulnerable situations and marginalised groups;
- Rates of gender-based **violence**, violence against adolescents in the home (in particular, corporal punishment) and sexual violence appear to be quite high;
- Data are limited, but there is some evidence of **trafficking and exploitation** of youth;
- Youth who experience crimes have limited **access to justice** and there is no specialised justice system for youth (including those under 18 years) in conflict with the law;
- The effects of **climate change and disaster risks** expose youth to increased risk of disease, disruption to water and food supplies and insecure housing and exacerbate protection risks; and
- There are certain groups of youth who are more vulnerable to risks and threats and who risk being left behind and exposed to **discrimination**, including young women, youth with disabilities and LGBTQI+ youth.

### 1.3 Target Youth Groups

This Policy promotes the development of all youth by emphasizing inclusiveness and targeting interventions to the following sub-groups as indicated:

**Rural and maritime youth:** Specifically address the issues of access and availability of goods and services and the creation of opportunities and livelihoods for rural and maritime youth.

**Urban and peri-urban youth:** Specifically address the issues of access and availability of goods and services and the creation of opportunities for urban and peri-urban youth.

**Female youth:** Promote gender equality and empowerment of young women in all youth development sectors as enshrined in the 2014 National Gender Policy and related legislation and provide an enabling environment and concrete opportunities that ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of young women in society.

**Male youth:** Provide an enabling environment for male youth that are tailored to their needs, ensuring their full, effective and meaningful participation in society.

**Youth with disabilities:** Ensure opportunities for education (formal and informal), including technical-vocational training, and participation in the development of legislation, policies and programmes that affect them, in line with international standards and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018.

**Youth in schools:** Ensure equal access to quality education and training at all levels, with emphasis being placed on primary and secondary education and ensuring that dropout rates are reduced, and retention is enhanced.

**Out-of-school youth:** Develop and implement programmes and projects that will be of benefit to this category of youth for self-employment and wealth-creation, and for the labour market.

**Youth in tertiary institutions:** Provide access to tertiary education for youth and facilitate access to educational loans, entrepreneurship and education targeting a broader range of tertiary institutions, including public and private institutions. The Policy places emphasis on enhancing tertiary qualifications and transferrable skills that are suited to the needs of the labour market and that assist youth to transition to the labour market.

**Youth in formal and informal employment:** Create opportunities for youth to formalise work and self-employment.

**Youth in agriculture and fisheries:** Provide support to enable youth to engage in agriculture and fisheries to improve food security and livelihoods.

**Unemployed youth:** Address the negative impact of unemployment on youth and the challenges / barriers unemployed youth face.

**Youth who are NEET:** Provide clear interventions that meet the needs of youth who are NEET in relation to entrepreneurship training, appropriate numeracy and literacy as a means of promoting access to economic opportunities.

**Youth who have never been to school:** Provide clear interventions that meet the needs of the youth that have never been to school, such as survival and life skills, basic numeracy and literacy training as a means of empowerment.

**Youth affected by STIs and/or HIV/AIDS:** Address both those at risk of STIs and HIV/AIDS and those living with HIV by identifying measures that can help prevent HIV infection among youth, to help youth live positively with HIV, and to reduce related stigma and discrimination.

**Youth vulnerable to NCDs:** Recognise the rise in NCDs and address key risk factors among youth, including overweight and obesity, alcohol and drug use and low physical activity.

**Youth vulnerable to or experiencing mental health conditions:** Recognise the rise in poor mental health outcomes among youth and prevent and respond to poor mental and mental health conditions among youth.

**Youth-headed households:** Support youth-headed households, through ensuring access to relevant interventions, including those contained in the Social Protection Policy.

**Youth at risk:** Ensure access and availability of guidance and counselling programmes and other relevant services to youth in conflict with the law, youth who are at risk of or who have experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, those who face discrimination, those without family support networks, those with substance abuse issues and street-connected youth.

**Migrant youth:** Collaborate with relevant national stakeholders providing protection and assistance to migrants to ensure that the right of youth migrants rights are realised.

## 1.4 Relevant laws and policies

This Policy is guided by the following legislation, policies and frameworks:

### ***International and regional***

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966
3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979
5. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984
6. Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
7. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families 1990
8. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance 2006
9. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006
10. UN World Programme for Action on Youth 1995
11. Youth 2030: The UN Youth Strategy
12. Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (Declaration of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth) 2019
13. Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014 – 2023

### ***National***

14. Constitution of the Republic of Fiji
15. Juvenile Act 1973
16. Fiji Sports Council Act 1978
17. Family Law Act 2003
18. Child Welfare Act 2010
19. Domestic Violence Act 2009
20. Mental Health Act 2010
21. National Employment Centre Act 2010
22. Employment Relations Act 2007
23. Community-based Corrections Act 2018
24. Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018
25. People's Charter for Change, Peace and Progress 2008
26. National Sports Policy 2011
27. National Gender Policy 2014
28. National Reproductive Health Policy 2014
29. National Green Growth Framework 2014
30. Non-Formal Education Policy 2014
31. National Wellness Policy 2015
32. The National Development Plan 2017 – 2036
33. MYS Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022
34. Fiji Youth Declaration 2019

## 2. Vision, mission and guiding principles



## 2.1 Vision

A Fiji in which all youth are healthy, respected, safe, included and empowered to reach their full potential and meaningfully engage in and contribute to the civil, political, economic, social and cultural growth of the nation.

## 2.2 Mission

To ensure that youth develop the knowledge, skills and resilience through an inclusive and rights-based enabling environment and active, meaningful participation in decision making processes at all levels to reach their full potential and contribute to sustainable growth and to happy, healthy and culturally inclusive communities.

## 2.3 Guiding principles

The National Youth Policy is underpinned by the following principles and core values:

- (a) **Rights-based:** The principles and standards of international human rights law provides the overall framework and guidance for the implementation of the Policy and the Policy recognises the need to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights of all youth.
- (b) **Strength-based:** The Policy will be based on the principle that an empowered, respected and supported youth is a strength to Fiji and is key to advancing inclusive civil, political, economic, social and cultural growth.
- (c) **Holistic, cross-sectoral and coordinated:** The Policy views youth issues not as a series of disconnected issues or problems, but as requiring solutions that are holistic and integrated; it recognises the need for innovative solutions, supported by multi-sector Government and other stakeholders within the national, regional and global context.
- (d) **Diversity and inclusion:** The Policy recognises and celebrates diversity among Fiji's youth population; it acknowledges that different youth have different needs and that there is a need to ensure inclusion within communities, institutions and services of diverse young people.
- (e) **Evidence-based:** The Policy's themes, outcomes and strategies must be informed by evidence of need and evidence of effectiveness and impact of strategies and programmes.
- (f) **Innovation and adaptation:** The Policy recognises the potential of youth in developing independent paths of thinking and action, and the need to ensure that policies and programmes are capable of being adapted to suit the unique needs of all youth and support innovation.
- (g) **Ownership and participation:** It is crucial that the Policy is informed by the views of youth, including those from marginalised groups, and the recognition of the importance of youth participation in all stages of youth policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- (h) **Sustainability:** The Policy recognises the importance of environmental and social sustainability and the promotion of green and blue growth.

- (i) **Cultural embeddedness:** The Policy is embedded within the diverse social and cultural structures of Fiji and recognises that the cultural diversity of Fiji provides a strong basis for the positive development of youth.
- (j) **Equality and Equity:** The value of equal opportunities and equitable distribution of resources is recognised, and the Policy aims to address structural inequalities and empower all youth in Fiji.
- (k) **Transparency and Accountability:** The Policy shall promote transparency and accountability among institutions and organizations involved in youth development.
- (l) **Governance and Integrity:** The Policy and all other policies aligned to it will at all times apply and implement the principles of good governance and integrity in both youth and sports development.

### 3. Key policy areas: Outcomes, objectives and strategies

This section outlines outcomes, objectives and strategies for each priority area. It will ensure the inclusion of youth development in the sectoral and national development plans.

#### Policy area 1: Health and wellbeing

##### The situation

##### Sexual and reproductive health

- **Contraceptive prevalence is low and knowledge of SRH also appears to be quite low:** according to a 2008 Survey, among respondents aged 15 – 49 years, 93 per cent had heard of a male condom and 49 per cent had heard of a female condom. Of these respondents, 47.5 per cent had ever used a condom, and only 2.6 per cent had used a condom during their last sexual intercourse and only 21.8 per cent had used one during their first sexual intercourse.<sup>4</sup>
- The 20-29 and the 30-39 age groups together accounted for over 77 per cent of all **HIV infections** reported in 2015.<sup>5</sup>
- The rate of **pregnancy in adolescent girls** aged 15-19 years has fluctuated between 20-40.1 per 1000, with a reported rate of 40.1 births per 1000 in 2014. In 2015, the adolescent birth rate was 36.2 per 1000 girls aged 15-19 years, representing 6 per cent of total deliveries.<sup>6</sup> Significant legal restrictions limit young women’s access to abortion.<sup>7</sup>

##### Mental health

- According to administrative health data, rates of **youth (10 – 24) suicide** rose between 1990 to 2015, and young men aged 20 – 24 were disproportionately affected.

<sup>4</sup> See 2008 Second Generation Surveillance Surveys of HIV, other STIs and Risk Behaviours in Fiji, in Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 21.

<sup>5</sup> Fiji Global AIDS Response Progress Report, 2016  
[http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/FJI\\_narrative\\_report\\_2016.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/FJI_narrative_report_2016.pdf) [05.06.17]

<sup>6</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 25.

<sup>7</sup> Section 172-174 of Penal Code of Fiji prohibit unlawful performance of abortions, except in the case of a threat to the life of the pregnant woman.

- **Limited access to mental health care** remains a significant challenge in Fiji, with only one psychiatric facility (at St Giles hospital) in the whole country.<sup>8</sup> There is also a lack of trained mental health professionals and allied mental health care workers.<sup>9</sup>
- **Social stigmatisation of mental illness** is also a challenge,<sup>10</sup> as is the lack of priority given to mental health concerns among youth and the lack of data.<sup>11</sup>

#### Communicable diseases

- **Typhoid**, which is facilitated by faecal contamination of food and water is becoming more common, particularly in rural areas. Incidence is particularly high among adolescents and young people: the 10 – 24 year age group has a higher incidence of typhoid than any other age group.<sup>12</sup>
- **Tuberculosis (TB)** is a continuing health problem and hospital admissions indicate that infections are highest among young people (15 – 34 years) and unemployed (of which young people are a significant proportion).<sup>13</sup>
- **Climate change and extreme weather** increase the threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases and affect access and supply routes to sources of health care as well as water supply and sanitation infrastructures (see priority 4, below).

#### Rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and risk factors

- According to the 2015 Global School-Based Health Survey (involving pupils aged 13 – 17 years), 49 per cent of all pupils reported having **consumed alcohol before 14 years**, and 17 per cent reported that they had consumed alcohol within the 30 days before the implementation of the survey.
- More than half of all pupils (57 per cent) reported that they had **used drugs before the age of 14 years**. 15 per cent of pupils reported having consumed tobacco within the previous 30 days. Anecdotal evidence suggests an increase in abuse of substances such as glue sniffing, homemade alcohol consumption and kava usage.<sup>14</sup>
- National data on **nutrition** in Fiji are limited and outdated: however, according to the National Nutrition Survey from 2004, 6 per cent of adults were underweight, 32 per cent were overweight and 24 per cent were obese. At the same time, Fiji is experiencing significant rates of malnutrition among young people. The 2004 National Nutrition Survey reported the prevalence of anaemia in 15-24 year olds to be high, particularly among young women, at 36.9 per cent overall (29.2 per cent for males, and 44.4 per cent for females). The 2004 National Nutrition Survey also showed about 47 per cent of the population consumed less than the minimum

<sup>8</sup> Singh S, Chang O, Funk M, Shields L, Andrews A, Hughes F, Sugiura K, Drew N. WHO Profile on mental health in development (WHO proMIND): Fiji. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2013. Available at: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85325/1/9789241505659\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85325/1/9789241505659_eng.pdf) [05.06.17]. p. 4.

<sup>9</sup> Singh S, Chang O, Funk M, Shields L, Andrews A, Hughes F, Sugiura K, Drew N. WHO Profile on mental health in development (WHO proMIND): Fiji. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2013. Available at: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85325/1/9789241505659\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85325/1/9789241505659_eng.pdf) [05.06.17]. p. 5.

<sup>10</sup> WHO Country Cooperation Strategy for Fiji 2013-2017, p. 14.

<sup>11</sup> Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014-2023, A coordinated approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific

<sup>12</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 26.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 20.



daily energy recommendation (1850 Kcal), indicating that some sections of the population do not have enough food to eat.<sup>15</sup> Results of the 1993 and 2004 National Nutrition Surveys indicate a shift in preference from nutritious traditional vegetables and fruits to more introduced and imported varieties.

- There are limited recent data on **physical activity levels** among young people in Fiji. While team sports are played widely in Fiji and children appear to engage in physical activity at school, the level of participation reportedly declines in mid-adolescence.<sup>16</sup>

### Injuries

- It was estimated in 2015 that deaths due to road accidents affected 9.38 per 100,000 in 15-19 years and 19.97 per 100,000 in 20-24 year olds.<sup>17</sup> A research project published in 2016 found one in four injuries in the Fiji Injury Surveillance in Hospitals database occurred among youth.<sup>18</sup>

### Financial poverty and housing

- **Financial security and suitable housing** are key determinants of health. According to the latest data (from 2013 – 14), 28.1 per cent of the population are living below the national poverty line. Children and adolescents are particularly affected by poverty: 61.1 per cent of persons aged 0 – 24 were living under the national poverty line in 2013 – 14. Poverty is particularly pronounced in rural areas (though the significant incidence of poverty in peri-urban areas has also been noted<sup>19</sup>) and in the Northern Division – a region characterised by lack of investment in infrastructure, services and markets.<sup>20</sup>
- It has been estimated that there are at least 2,000 young people in Fiji who are **homeless**, the majority of whom are homeless youth who have escaped violent domestic situations or have been forced into homelessness by unemployment, urbanisation/migration in search of work or teenage pregnancy.<sup>21</sup>

### Outcome

All youth in Fiji are able to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and wellbeing, and to the conditions and facilities necessary for good health and wellbeing, including quality, youth-friendly health services, and inclusive information, services and support.

### Objectives

- (a) Access to quality, inclusive health information and services to ensure the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all youth;
- (b) Comprehensive, youth-friendly, gender-sensitive sex and relationships education, information and services for all youth;

<sup>15</sup> See Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 21.

<sup>16</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 21.

<sup>17</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 28.

<sup>18</sup> See Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 29.

<sup>19</sup> See Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 29.

<sup>20</sup> See analysis in UNICEF Pacific, Situation Analysis of Children in Fiji, 2017, page 114.

<sup>21</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 17

- (c) The highest attainable standard of mental and physical health for all youth through the prevention and treatment of risk factors linked to non-communicable diseases (mental health issues, drug and substance abuse and overweight and obesity); and
- (d) Access to the key determinants of health for all youth, including financial security and adequate housing.

### Strategies

- **Youth-friendly health services:** Ensure accessible, affordable, confidential, quality, inclusive youth-friendly health services in all areas, to provide information, awareness-raising and basic service provision on the full range of youth health issues, including the provision of support and services to young mothers and families, and confidential counselling services and mental health treatment services;
  - **Sexual and reproductive health services:** Ensure availability and access to inclusive, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services for all youth that is evidence-based, non-biased, non-discriminatory and is tailored to the needs of the individual;
  - **Health promoting education institutions:** Develop and strengthen national curricular for primary and secondary schools that focuses on primary health knowledge and positive care practices, including basic hygiene practices and the need to develop and sustain a health environment;
  - **Comprehensive sexuality education:** Ensure that quality, age-appropriate, evidence-based, scientifically accurate comprehensive sexuality education is included in the national curriculum for all primary and secondary schools and in tertiary institutions, based on human rights standards and integrating a strong gender perspective, addressing socialised gender roles and stereotypes, patriarchal attitudes and unequal power dynamics between girls and boys and men and women;
  - **Communications and community mobilisation:** Develop communications and community mobilisation programmes, including in schools, technical-vocational programmes and higher education institutions, and through community groups and community leaders to: raise awareness of and destigmatise mental health issues; raise awareness of the health impacts and other harms caused by substance abuse and promote help-seeking; encourage youth to make healthy choices in nutrition; and raise awareness of safety to prevent accidental deaths;
- Skills building for positive mental health:** Build skills of youths through community awareness-raising and school, university and technical-vocational programmes (through quality guidance and counselling services) in the prevention and management of mental health conditions, including promoting resilience, managing stress, developing coping mechanisms, and accessing support;
- **Youth-friendly drug and alcohol rehabilitation programmes:** Ensure the development / strengthening of and access to youth-friendly drug and alcohol rehabilitation programmes across the country;
- Enforcement of tobacco and alcohol laws:** Strengthen monitoring and enforcement of penalties for businesses who breach laws on the sale of tobacco and alcohol to minors;

- **Disincentivise harmful consumption:** Support fiscal disincentives to the consumption of high sugar and high fat food and drinks and alcohol and tobacco, and incentivise consumption of nutritious, locally grown foods;
- **Promote physical education and wellness:** Strengthen physical education and wellness programmes in and outside schools and universities and develop sporting facilities across the country; and
- **Ensure access to social protection:** Ensure access to social protection system and safety nets for youth in need, including measures to ensure access to adequate housing.

## Policy area 2: Education, skills and employment

### The situation

- The **youth unemployment** rate in Fiji (among 15 -35 year olds) was 3.6 per cent in 2019, which is above that of the working age population as a whole (2.6 per cent).<sup>22</sup> It is likely that one of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic will be widespread unemployment of youth (and other population segments).
- Many young people in the Pacific engage in **informal, seasonal or temporary work** which does not enable them to further their skills. The informal sector also lacks legislative and union protection and conditions can be poor.<sup>23</sup> Urban drift, particularly among young people, has led to higher unemployment rates in urban areas and has also contributed to shortfalls in rural areas of workers for agriculture and food production.<sup>24</sup>
- The data indicate that there may be a **mis-match between the skills and qualifications** of youth and the economy: among working youths, around 40 per cent were employed in a job that did not match their educational level, leading to migration to pursue employment opportunities abroad, contributing to 'brain-drain'.<sup>25</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted, in 2014, that the education system in Fiji is not well adapted to the needs of the community or labour force, contributing to unemployment among school leavers.<sup>26</sup>
- The Special Rapporteur on the right to education found, following his mission to Fiji, that although **technical colleges** were of a reasonable quality, they should become wider in coverage and student intake, and noted that their collaboration with industry was weak, with companies preferring to hire employees from abroad based on the perceived low skills of local workers.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Data retrieved from Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census, 2017.

<sup>23</sup> Investing in Youth Policy, *Sharing good practices to advance policy development for young people, 2011, page 41.*

<sup>24</sup> ILO, *Youth employment brief: Pacific Island Countries* (2013), available at: [http://www.youthmetro.org/uploads/4/7/6/5/47654969/youth\\_employment\\_policy\\_brief\\_pacific\\_islands\\_count ries.pdf](http://www.youthmetro.org/uploads/4/7/6/5/47654969/youth_employment_policy_brief_pacific_islands_countries.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 19.

<sup>26</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Fiji, 13 October 2014, CRC/C/FJI/CO1-2, para. 59(c).

<sup>27</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education on his mission to Fiji, 22 May 2016, A/HRC/32/37/Add.1, para. 92.

## Outcome

All youth have access to suitable and quality formal and informal education and to employment opportunities that equip them with the knowledge, attitudes and life skills to become self-sufficient, fulfilled, active and engaged members of their communities, to pursue their goals and contribute to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural development of Fiji.

## Objectives

- (a) Formal and informal education curriculums are accessible through a range of methods (including online and virtual formats) and match the jobs market, equipping youth with the necessary 'soft skills' / transferrable skills to succeed;
- (b) A range of pathways exist for youth to successfully transition into the labour market, including programmes and facilities for youth to promote entrepreneurship and technological innovation; and
- (c) Youth enjoy just and favourable conditions of work, including safe and healthy working conditions, a wage that ensures an adequate standard of living and equal pay for work of equal value.

## Strategies

- **Strengthen education curriculum to enable 'soft skill' development:** Improve the education curriculum and teaching in primary and secondary schools and in tertiary institutions and 'second chance' education so that it provides youth with: 'soft skills' / transferable skills and knowledge and skills for the jobs market through stronger leadership, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving; and knowledge and skills in becoming well rounded and engaged citizens, including in self-care; parenting and care-giving; inclusion; cultural education; and human rights;
- **Ensure alignment between education curriculum and employment market:** Ensure, through review and consultation with business leaders and economists, that the curriculum in secondary school, higher education institutions and technical-vocational institutions is aligned to local, national and global job markets;
- **Provide youth scholarships for higher education:** Ensure access to higher education institutions through scholarships for youth, particularly for youth in vulnerable situations who may face barriers or challenges accessing higher education, including specific scholarships to encourage youth into technology-related fields;
- **Strengthen practical skills through careers guidance:** Strengthen careers education and guidance in secondary schools, including through the development of practical skills in job seeking and entrepreneurship;
- **Strengthen and develop virtual delivery of education:** Further develop innovative means to deliver formal and non-formal education to youth remotely (including through virtual means), to ensure that youth can access education in emergencies (including pandemics and environmental disasters), and to improve access to a range of education opportunities for rural and maritime youth;
- **Ensure range of pathways for youth to enter workforce:** Ensure that a range of pathways and programmes exist for youth to transition to the workforce,

including apprenticeships, technical-vocational education, non-formal education, higher education and linkages with the private sector and ensure that all pathways provide youth with quality skills that are relevant to the labour market – programmes should be accessible to all youth;

- **Ensure day care is available to enable young women into the workforce:** Ensure that affordable, quality day-care services are available across the country to enable young women to participate in the labour force, and that the barriers to women and in particular single mothers to accessing the labour market are known and addressed;
- **Develop innovation among youth:** Develop accessible innovation hubs and strengthen support to small business enterprises to support and mentor youth, particularly in technology-related fields, including through peer mentorship, in entrepreneurship and job sourcing and creation, including through training, financing schemes and mentorship programmes;
- **Develop labour market social protection programmes:** Develop labour market social protection programmes for youth, including public infrastructure programmes, particularly targeted at income generation in rural and maritime areas; and
- **Strengthen links to youth diaspora:** Build and strengthen linkages with the youth diaspora to support the development of targeted youth programmes in education, employment and entrepreneurship.

### Policy area 3: Safety, protection and justice

#### The situation

##### Gender-based violence

- While there are limited data, it is clear that gender-based violence<sup>28</sup> is an issue in Fiji. According to a survey carried out by Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre in 2013, 64 per cent of ever-partnered women had experienced **physical and / or sexual violence from an intimate partner** within their lifetimes.

<sup>28</sup> Gender-based violence is, according to the UN Declaration on Violence Against Women, any act of violence that “results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”: Article 1, UN General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 20 December 1993, A/RES/48/104. A recent resolution extended this definition to include violence occurring in online spaces, and notes the economic and social harm caused by gender-based violence: UN General Assembly, *Accelerating Efforts to Eliminate Violence against Women: Engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls*, 12 July 2017, A/HRC/RES/35/10, para. 3.



- Violence against women and girls is driven by a range of inter-connected factors, though at the root is the low socio-economic status of women and social norms that reinforce gender inequality in Fiji society.<sup>29</sup> The link between violence against women and girls and discrimination and structural gender inequality has been recognised globally.<sup>30</sup>

#### Violence and abuse of adolescents

- A 2008 Child Protection Baseline Study found that 72 per cent of parents admitted to **using violent discipline against their children**, including hitting, smacking and pinching children or pulling or twisting their ears. Of the children aged 16–17 who participated in the study, 37 per cent stated that they had experienced violence from an adult in their household in the past month.<sup>31</sup>
- Of the children aged 16–17 years old who participated in the 2008 Child Protection Baseline Study, 11 per cent of girls and 7 per cent of boys reported being **touched in a way that made them feel uncomfortable** within the past month, with most incidents taking place at school, and the majority (74 per cent) perpetrated by other children rather than by an adult.
- According to child protection Police data, in the period 2011- 15 there were a total of 14,052 **sexual offences** reported to police involving minors. In addition, a number of sexual offences were committed against disabled young people, the majority of these were against young females.<sup>32</sup> However, these data are likely to be an under-representation, due to barriers in reporting these cases, particularly if they involve a perpetrator within the family.<sup>33</sup>
- According to recent data reported by the National Substance Abuse Advisory Council, schools in Fiji recorded over 6,000 cases of **bullying** in 2019.<sup>34</sup>

#### Trafficking and exploitation of young people

- Data on trafficking and exploitation in Fiji are very limited, and there is a need for more research into this area.<sup>35</sup> However, over the past five years, human traffickers have exploited domestic and foreign victims in Fiji, including the **exploitation of women and children to sex trafficking and domestic**

<sup>29</sup> Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, *The Incidence, Prevalence and Nature of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Fiji*, 2001, page 18.

<sup>30</sup> UN General Assembly, *Accelerating Efforts to Eliminate Violence against Women: Engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls*, 12 July 2017, A/HRC/RES/35/10, para. 3.

<sup>31</sup> UNICEF, *Protect me with love and care: A child protection baseline report for Fiji*, 2008.

<sup>32</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 28.

<sup>33</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 28.

<sup>34</sup> 'Horrorific viral video reveals 'crisis' of school bullying in Fiji', *The Guardian*, 10 March 2020, available at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/10/horrific-viral-video-reveals-crisis-of-school-bullying-in-fiji>

<sup>35</sup> ECPAT, *Fiji country overview: a report on the scale, scope and context of the sexual exploitation of children*, June 2019

**servitude**, some utilising ICTs, such as websites and smart phone applications, to identify and exploit victims.<sup>36</sup>

- The practice of **children living away from home** with extended family members remains common in Fiji and can place adolescents at risk of exploitation and abuse.

### Youth justice

- Youths face barriers **accessing the justice system**, particularly in more rural and maritime areas in which services are more limited. As a result, rural women frequently rely on, or are coerced into, traditional justice systems that are based on notions of reconciliation, rather than justice or protection for victims of violence.<sup>37</sup>
- There are limited available data on the incarceration of children and youth or of **children and youth in the justice system** more generally. However, it is reported that juveniles and minors represent 0.7 per cent of the total Fiji prison population. It is noted that children, in particular (those under 18 years), are entitled to special protections and rights when they come in conflict with the law.

### Outcome

All youth are safe from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and harassment and have access to a youth-friendly and human rights-compliant justice system.

### Objectives

- (a) Prevention of and effective responses to all forms of gender-based violence, and access to suitable, affordable and inclusive support and justice for victims;
- (b) Prevention of and effective responses to all forms of harassment, bullying, violence, abuse and exploitation of youth, particularly youth in vulnerable situations, and access to suitable and inclusive support for victims;
- (c) Access to quality legal information, advice and representation for youth throughout Fiji across all criminal and civil matters; and
- (d) Access to a justice system that respects the human rights of children<sup>38</sup> and youth victims / witnesses and those who come into conflict with the law that prioritises diverting children and youth out of the formal criminal justice system to rehabilitative, community-based programmes and measures.

### Strategies

- **Carry out community mobilisation programmes to address gender-based violence:** Carry out community mobilization campaigns with partner organizations and NGOs and education initiatives including healthy relationships education in order to combat gender stereotypes and prevent gender-based violence in all forms towards all youth;

<sup>36</sup> US Department of State , 2019 trafficking in persons report: Fiji: <https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/2010805.html>

<sup>37</sup> AusAid, Fiji country report, 2008: [https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/ResVAW\\_Fiji.pdf](https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/ResVAW_Fiji.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> Those under the age of 18 years.

- **Strengthen legal responses to gender-based violence:** Strengthen access to and implementation of legal responses to all forms of gender-based violence, and provide training and support service providers, including police officers, social workers, village heads, religious leaders, community leaders and key NGOs on referring and responding effectively to cases of gender-based violence and violence against youth, including working with vulnerable groups of youth;
- **Strengthen connection between non-formal and formal violence responses:** Foster connections between non-formal / traditional and formal justice systems in cases of violence, especially in rural areas, provide training and sensitisation to community leaders on responding to cases of violence and ensure adequate coverage of trained and skilled social workers and police in rural and maritime areas;
- **Provide parenting programmes:** Provide parenting programmes and other prevention programmes for parents / carers to aimed at strengthening families and preventing violence, abuse and neglect in the family;
- **Ensure educational institutions are free from bullying:** Ensure safe and child- and youth-friendly formal and informal educational institutions, through the implementation of programmes to prevent and respond to all forms of bullying and harassment;
- **Develop legal literacy and access to justice:** Develop the legal literacy of youth, through increasing access to legal information, advice and representation for youth in conflict with the law, youth victims and also in a full range of civil law matters (family law, education and employment law, anti-discrimination, welfare law and so on); and
- **Develop community-based options for youth in conflict with the law:** Ensure that a range of community-based pre-trial (diversion) and sentencing options exist for youth in conflict with the law in order to minimise the use of detention.

#### Policy area 4: Environment, climate change and disaster risks

##### The situation

- Fiji is exposed to **adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters**, including cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, floods and tsunamis. Natural disasters such as drought, flooding and cyclones have impacted **food security** particularly in rural and maritime areas of Fiji.<sup>39</sup>
- Recently, the Covid-19 **pandemic** exposed Fiji, like many countries in the world, to impacts on health, employment and other services, including education.
- Climate change and extreme weather increase the threat of communicable and non-communicable **diseases** and affect access and supply routes to sources of health care as well as water supply and sanitation infrastructures. Climate change can also exacerbate **protection risks** for young people, by uprooting families and leaving young people living in poor accommodation and unsafe conditions.
- **Pollution** from a range of sources and challenges and challenges in providing quality solid waste management across the country has affected air and water quality, creating public health risks and impacting on food security, tourism and trade.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Fiji Adolescent Health Situational Analysis 2016, page 21.

<sup>40</sup> See Government of Fiji, *National Solid Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2011 – 2014*.



## Outcome

All youth are supported and empowered to participate equally in actions and initiatives to address environmental issues and are informed to adapt and respond to climate change and other disaster risks within their communities, drawing on local practices and traditional knowledge.

## Objectives

- (a) Youth are supported and empowered in the development and implementation of initiatives to protect, preserve and improve the environment, to address climate change and environmental issues; and
- (b) Youth have the skills and knowledge to champion climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience to other disaster risks in their communities, with the support of community leaders and other stakeholders.

## Strategies

- **Ensure youth participation in climate change and environmental issues:** Provide accessible platforms and establish procedures allowing for consultation and participation of youth in Government and industry decision-making, policy development and implementation of programmes aimed at addressing climate change and environmental issues at the local, national, regional and international levels;
  - **Support youth-led initiatives:** Support and empower young people to participate in and develop a range of innovative initiatives to address environmental issues, including clean-up campaigns, planting of trees and mangroves, waste management initiatives and so on. Initiatives could be integrated into existing youth programmes, including sports events;
  - **Develop skills of youth in climate change and disaster risks:** Skills development, through formal and non-formal education institutions and programmes to provide youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to adapt and respond to climate change and other disaster risks, including epidemics / pandemics and other health emergencies;
- Enhance youth knowledge of traditional practices:** Incorporate traditional knowledge and practices into accredited courses aimed at developing knowledge and skills of youth in climate change adaptation and disaster risk response; and
- **Ensure access to information:** Ensure accessible information is available in a range of formats (including through information and communication technology) for youth on disaster risks and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

## Policy area 5: Participation and empowerment

### The situation

- Youth in Fiji have the opportunity to be engaged in a range of national, regional and international forums and initiatives. However, it is unclear **how inclusive and meaningful** these participation platforms are and to what extent the views and

perspectives of youth are actioned by Government and incorporated into policies and programmes.

- The extent of **engagement in participation platforms by youth in vulnerable situations** or marginalised youth (e.g. young persons with disabilities, LGBTI+ young people, young people living in rural and maritime locations and so on) is not known. However, measures exist, including at registration, for the MYS to ensure that platforms are inclusive in nature, and gender balance is a pre-requisite for registration. All programs and deliverables should be made accessible to all youth and should promote the concept of 'reaching and enriching the unreached' (this is, vulnerable or marginalised groups of young persons, including those with disabilities, LGBTQI+ youth, youth living in rural and maritime locations and so on).

### Outcome

All youth have the knowledge, skills and inclusive spaces to actively and meaningfully participate in and contribute to dialogue (youth and sports development and diplomacy), policy development and planning, implementation and service delivery, within their communities and in educational and other institutions.

### Objectives

- (a) Existing and new youth forums are in place through financial, educational and technical support to ensure meaningful participation for youth, including the most vulnerable and marginalised populations of youth, so that their views are represented effectively at local, national, regional and international levels;
- (b) Youth are supported and empowered to participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of national policies and plans affecting them, including this Policy;
- (c) Youth are supported and empowered to engage in global interactions and networking between peoples through people to people exchanges, including through sports and cultural diplomacy;
- (d) Youth are free and supported to engage in diverse cultural and religious practices and supported to develop knowledge of human rights and values of tolerance and inclusiveness in order to build and strengthen social cohesion; and
- (e) Youth have the skills, knowledge, information and motivation to participate effectively in youth forums and engagement initiatives, including the Fiji Youth Council and other avenues at the local, national, regional and international levels.

### Strategies

- **Ensure support for youth associations:** Strengthen financial, educational and technical support from Government for youth associations, empowering them to fully engage in designing, implementing and evaluating national policies and plans affecting them;
- **Strengthen participation of youth in existing forums:** Strengthen the full, meaningful and effective participation of youth in existing political and policy forums at all levels, and ensure the inclusion of youth in rural and maritime areas in political processes and national forums, including the Fiji Youth Council;

- **Develop guidance on inclusion of youth with disabilities:** Develop guidance and training on inclusion of youth with disabilities and other marginalised youth in youth forums;
- **Encourage youth participation in culture and religious activities:** Encourage youth participation in cultural and religious activities, ensuring that they have the freedom to decide whether and on what basis to participate in religious and cultural practices, and ensure youth develop an understanding of the diverse cultures in Fiji;
- **Encourage youth participation in arts and culture:** Encourage youth participation in contemporary expressive arts, culture, music, film production and bands as a medium for the dissemination of important information, knowledge and wisdom, including identifying opportunities to progress the youth development agenda and putting into place necessary arrangements at government to government level to facilitate this;
- **Establish community service programmes:** Establish community service programs for youth to promote volunteerism such as Duke of Edinburgh International Award (DEIA) and institute a reward system to recognise outstanding community service among youth at the National Level;
- **Recognise youth participation in sports:** Implement a system to recognise youth participation in sports and recreational activities at all levels and effectively contribute to the implementation of the National Sports and Recreational Activity Policy;
- **Strengthen youth diaspora engagement:** Strengthen youth diaspora engagement and sense of national identity through cultural and sports diplomacy; and
- **Develop youth skills in participation:** Develop education curriculum to include skills necessary for youth to effectively and meaningfully engage in political processes and participation forums at all level.

## Policy area 6: Inclusion and non-discrimination

### The situation

Groups of vulnerable and marginalised youth in Fiji are being left behind their peers, and limited data exist to understand the extent and nature of exclusion among many vulnerable groups of youth. **Young women** are underrepresented in the workforce and have a higher unemployment rate,<sup>41</sup> and data suggest that enrolment in vocational courses is divided along traditional gender roles: boys study automotive engineering, welding or carpentry whereas the majority of female students enrol in catering and tailoring courses.<sup>42</sup> There is also a gender-pay gap, and young women earn around one-third less than men, pointing to labour market constraints and highlighting the untapped potential of women. Young women are also particularly vulnerable to family and intimate partner violence, and young women with disabilities are particularly at risk (see above). **Youth**

<sup>41</sup> Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014-2023: A co-ordinated approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific, 2015.

<sup>42</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education on his mission to Fiji, 22 May 2016, A/HRC/32/37/Add.1, para. 86.

**with disabilities** in the Pacific 'face many entrenched cultural and physical barriers to full participation, as well as exclusion from communities, education and the workplace', resulting in high levels of poverty among people with disabilities and their families.<sup>43</sup> Many **men who have sex with men and transgender people** have reported severe experiences of stigma and discrimination, including being talked about by others, suffering verbal abuse and very high levels of physical abuse: 30.3 per cent in one survey had been physically hurt in the last six months.

### Outcomes

Youth-sensitive policies, laws, frameworks, mechanisms and structures in Fiji are inclusive of all youth, including youth in vulnerable situations and marginalised youth.

### Objectives

- (a) Youth-sensitive laws, policies and programmes are inclusive of all youth, including youth in vulnerable situations and marginalised youth;
- (b) Social and cultural norms support inclusion of marginalised youth and youth in vulnerable situations in Fiji communities; and
- (c) Barriers are removed for youth in vulnerable situations in health, learning and employment opportunities, sporting and cultural programmes.

### Strategies

- **Ensure robust legal framework to address discrimination:** Ensure robust anti-discrimination provisions are included in youth-sensitive laws and policies and ensure that youth have knowledge of anti-discrimination provisions and remedies;
- **Ensure inclusion reviews of youth-sensitive laws:** Ensure all youth-sensitive laws, policies and operational strategies / plans are subject to a systematic review to ensure that they are inclusive of marginalised youth and youth in vulnerable situations;
- **Implement programmes to address harmful social norms:** Implement programmes that address harmful social norms around gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability and ethnicity;
- **Review educational curriculum and materials:** Review education curriculum and materials to ensure that material that presents gender, disability and ethnicity-related stereotypes are removed;
- **Ensure inclusive environment for youth with disabilities:** Ensure learning and employment opportunities are inclusive of youth with disabilities; and
- **Ensure young women enter male-dominated fields:** Develop programmes, including mentorship programmes, to encourage young women into male-dominated learning and employment opportunities.

<sup>43</sup> Pacific Disability Forum, Disability in the Pacific: <http://www.pacificdisability.org/About-Us/Disability-in-the-Pacific.aspx>

## Policy area 7: Strengthening the enabling environment for youth

### Outcome

A comprehensive policy, legislative and institutional environment exists in Fiji to ensure that all youth are supported and empowered by effective frameworks and evidence-based programmes and services.

### Objectives

- (a) Ensure accountability for achieving results for youth through a strong policy, law and implementation framework for youth;
- (b) Ensure resources are effectively allocated to implement youth laws, policies, strategies and plans;
- (c) Strengthen the evidence base on youth, including through improved data collection and monitoring and evaluation systems, and improved reporting of data and access to data to ensure that programmes are effective and targeted; and
- (d) Ensure effective and inclusive multi-sector coordination on youth policy and programmes.

### Strategies

- **Review and strengthen legal framework for youth:** Carry out a review of youth law and policy to identify gaps and make a development plan to ensure a comprehensive framework is in place;
- **Analysis of youth budget:** Calculate the Government's 'youth budget' and the extent to which it is having an impact on youth outcomes, ensuring sufficient and effective allocation and public expenditure on youth programmes;
- **Coordination of administrative data on youth:** Improve the coordination and reporting of existing Ministerial data on youth, with a view to creating key indicators aligned to national, regional and global indicators, and a central repository for data on youth;
- **Improve youth evidence base through survey and other research:** Conduct periodic surveys and research on the status of youth on a regular basis and ensuring that youth are specifically captured in existing household surveys (disaggregated by different age groups, e.g. 15 – 18; 19 – 24; and 25 – 35 year age brackets) to generate information for policy development and planning sector programmes;
- **Conduct assessments of youth programmes:** Conduct regular impact assessments of the youth programmes and initiatives to measure success and cost-benefit, understand what works to achieve key goals and make changes accordingly;
- **Improve cross-sectoral coordination:** Improve cross-sectoral coordination on youth issues through the re-establishment of the Multi-Sector Coordinating Committee (see section 4, below);

- **Ensure partnerships to support youth development:** Strengthen existing and develop new partnerships and arrangements at bilateral, regional and international level to support youth development;
- **Development of youth-friendly hubs:** Develop youth-friendly hubs across the country as 'one stop shops' for the needs of youth, including through online resources, a telephone line and other communication and information technologies; and
- **Establish Fiji Youth Council:** MYS to establish the Fiji Youth Council through an open and transparent process and provide inputs and support to the Council to ensure its effective functioning. The Fiji Youth Council will be the central platform to harness the voice of all Fijian youths for government and stakeholders' interpositions.

#### 4. Implementation, coordination and management of the Policy

Implementation of this Policy will take a multi sectoral approach involving all stakeholders in youth development at National, Divisional, and Provincial levels. These include Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organisation (CSO), Development Partners, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), the Private Sector, Youth Organisations, organisations working with persons with disabilities, Churches, Youth and Community groups. The success of the Policy will depend on programme/project formulation, implementation, co-ordination, monitoring, evaluation and resource mobilization.

##### 4.1 Multi-Sector Coordination Committee

Implementation of the Policy and reporting on its implementation and impact will be overseen by the National Youth Policy Multi-Sector Coordination Committee (MSCC), which was established in 2012. The Committee is Chaired by the Permanent Secretary of MYS and will include senior delegates from a range of Ministries, NGOs, FBOs and the Fiji Youth Council as set out in its Terms of Reference.

Sub-committees or working groups may be established when needed to focus on the specific policy areas identified in this Policy.

The role of the MSCC will be to:

- Coordinate the implementation (including raising awareness) of the Policy with key line-ministries and other partners;
- Monitor the implementation of the Fiji National Youth Policy and Action Plan, in accordance with the Monitoring and Evaluation framework [to be developed];
- Report in Cabinet on the implementation of the Policy on a yearly basis; and
- Carry out a review of the Policy two and a half years into its implementation and recommend any changes or adjustments necessary.

The Secretariat will convene meeting of the MSCC every quarter; meetings of the policy sub-committees will be carried out every two months.

##### 4.2 Institutional arrangements

###### 4.2.1 National Level



- a) MYS: The MYS shall be responsible for leading the coordination of the implementation of the Youth Policy and facilitate research and resource mobilization for implementation.
- b) Other Line Ministries: Other line ministries and statutory institutions shall play a vital role by implementing programmes on youth development in line with the provisions of the National Youth Policy and their respective mandates. This includes identifying opportunities to progress the youth development agenda and putting in place necessary arrangements at government to government level to facilitate this.
- c) Development Partners: Development Partners shall provide technical, financial and logistical support for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Policy.
- d) Private sector: The Private Sector shall play a vital role in the successful implementation of the National Youth Policy through the provision of employment opportunities, financial services, training, internship and apprenticeship for entrepreneurship development.
- e) Civil Society Organisations: The Civil Society shall play a critical role in the creation of enabling environment for the implementation of the National Youth Policy through the provision of financial and business services, training, advocacy and monitoring implementation of the policy.
- f) Multi-Sector Coordination Committee (MSCC): The Multi-Sector Coordination Committee (MSCC) shall coordinate and monitor and ensure effective implementation of the National Youth Policy.

#### 4.2.2 Sub-national Level: Divisional and Provincial Levels

In line with the Decentralization Policy, appropriate existing structures at the Province level will support the implementation of the National Youth Policy.

- a) MYS: The MYS will be responsible for implementation and monitoring of Youth Development programmes.
- b) Other line Ministries: Other line ministries will play a vital role by implementing programmes on youth development in line with the provisions of the National Youth Policy and their respective mandates.
- c) Civil Society Organizations: Civil society shall play a critical role in the creation of enabling environment for the implementation of the National Youth Policy through the provision of financial and business services, training, advocacy and monitoring implementation of the Policy.
- d) Divisional and Provincial Youth Development Councils: The Divisional and Provincial Youth Development Councils shall coordinate and monitor implementation of the National Youth Policy.

#### 4.3 **Review, monitoring and evaluation of the Policy**

MYS, in partnership with key stakeholders, shall develop a Costed Action Plan and a Monitoring and Evaluation framework to support the implementation of the Policy.

The National Youth Policy should be assessed in accordance with all guidelines and will be reviewed during its third year (that is, two and a half years into its implementation) or as and when deemed necessary by MYS. The review will identify progress and policy areas in which insufficient progress has been made; and barriers and bottlenecks to implementation. Recommendations will be made and, if required, the Policy and / or the costed action plan will be revised. Additionally, recommendations will be made as to how barriers and bottlenecks to the implementation of the National Youth Policy and its Action Plan should be addressed. An evaluation of the outputs, results and impacts of

the National Youth Policy and Action Plan will be carried out in the Policy’s final year (2027). This evaluation will inform the development of the next National Youth Policy.

### 5. Effective Date

This Policy is effective from the date of signed endorsement in section 6.0 below.

### 6. Approved by

Honourable Jese Saukuru  
Minister for Youth and Sports

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date







## Fiji National Youth Policy

### DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2021 – 2026

This Action Plan was developed to support the implementation of the Fiji National Youth Policy 2021 – 2026 (NYP); a strategic document that takes a whole-of-Government approach, bringing together key Government Ministries, Departments and Authorities to work in a coordinated way toward achieving strategic goals for Fiji's youth. The NYP and Action Plan were designed in alignment with the National Development Plan 2017 – 2036. The NYP was developed through a collaborative process led by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS), which considered inputs from a wide range of key stakeholders including Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, along with key non-government bodies and organisations and youth, who were involved in a number of consultation events across the country to inform the NYP's development.

#### **Development of the NYP Action Plan**

Development of the Action Plan followed a thorough and comprehensive review of actions listed against key priority areas in the National Development Plan 2017 – 2036 and a series of other key Ministerial Operational and Strategic Plans. Key activities that aligned with the priorities, objectives and strategies in the NYP were identified and compiled. Some of these activities were incorporated directly into this Plan. Others were adjusted in order to add a youth dimension or action to an existing planned activity. A small number of additional activities were included where necessary to address gaps in which no existing activity was identified to support the implementation of the NYP objectives and strategies.

#### **Structure of the NYP Action Plan**

The purpose of the Action Plan is to provide a framework for operationalizing the priority objectives and strategies set out in the NYP. As primary duty bearers for youth, the focus of the Action Plan is on Government institutions; though it is noted that, in order to implement certain activities contained in the Action Plan, non-Government actors may be engaged, including non-government organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), Faith-based organisations (FBOs) and the private sector.

The Action Plan sets out a number of key milestones and corresponding outcome indicators against the NYP's objectives, which can be used to benchmark progress in relation to the seven priority areas. In addition, the Action Plan sets out the following:

- Key activities;
- Timeframes within which the activities will be carried out;
- Key outputs expected from these activities;
- Output indicators to measure completion of activities; and
- Responsible agencies for implementing the activities.

### **Monitoring outputs and outcomes**

The Action Plan includes a framework for monitoring the Action Plan on two levels:

- (1) Output indicators are included as a way to measure the extent to which an activity has been completed (e.g. *how many training sessions have been carried out? How many people have been provided with community mobilization / awareness-raising interventions?*).
- (2) Outcome indicators are included to measure the impacts of multiple activities on improving outcomes of youth. For each broad objective under the priority areas, a milestone and corresponding outcomes indicator is included. These indicators are broader and aim to measure whether activities have achieved improved outcomes for youth (e.g. *has youth unemployment been lowered? Has obesity among youth reduced?*). Data to measure outcome indicators will be available through routine survey and Ministerial / sector administrative data.

Being a longer-term, multi-sector Action Plan, it does not set out specific targets for the activity outputs or outcomes. It also does not contain a detailed costing for activities. It is expected that the activities within the Action Plan will be incorporated into the yearly Strategic and Operational Plans of each responsible Ministry and budgeted for in each fiscal year.

### **Coordination and reporting**

Implementation of the NYP and Action Plan and reporting on its implementation will be overseen by the National Youth Policy Multi-Sector Coordination Committee (MSCC). The Committee is Chaired by the Permanent Secretary of MYS and will include senior delegates from a range of Ministries, NGOs, FBOs and the Fiji Youth Council as set out in its Terms of Reference.

Each Ministry involved in implementing activities in the Action Plan will report on its progress to the MSCC at their quarterly meetings, using the output indicators and any targets that have been developed in relation to these activities. The MSCC will compile these reports into a yearly Cabinet submission on the NYP and Action Plan.

Outcome indicators will be measured twice: during a review of the Policy two and a half years into its implementation phase; and shortly before the expiry of the NPP and Action Plan, in order to measure progress in terms of broad outcomes for youth.

## Priority 1: Health and wellbeing

Expected outcome	Specific objectives	Milestones and outcome indicators <sup>44</sup>
<p>All youth in Fiji are able to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and wellbeing, and to the conditions and facilities necessary for good health and wellbeing, including quality, youth-friendly health services, and inclusive information, services and support.</p>	<p>(a) Access to quality, inclusive health services to ensure the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all youth</p> <p>(b) Comprehensive, youth-friendly, gender-sensitive sex and relationships education, information and services for all youth</p>	<p><u>Milestone</u>: Increased access to quality, inclusive youth-friendly health services. <u>Indicator</u>: Percentage of youth with unmet need for health information / services.</p> <p><u>Milestone</u>: Improved coverage of quality sex and relationships education, information and services for all youth. <u>Indicator</u>: Percentage of youth with unmet need for family planning services.</p>
	<p>(c) The highest attainable standard of mental and physical health for all youth through the prevention and treatment of risk factors linked to non-communicable diseases (mental health issues, drug and substance abuse and overweight and obesity)</p>	<p><u>Milestone</u>: Decrease in NCD risk factors among youth <u>Indicator</u>: Prevalence of overweight and obesity among youth.</p>
	<p>(d) Access to the key determinants of health for all youth, including financial security and adequate housing</p>	<p><u>Milestone</u>: Decrease in youth poverty. <u>Indicator</u>: Percentage of youth living below national poverty line.</p>
Activities	Key Outputs	Output Indicator
<p>1.1. Develop and deliver adolescent- and youth-focused components and training packages in pre-service and in-service training initiatives for health workers, in line with best practices.</p>	<p>1. Adolescent- and youth-specific modules developed and delivered to: Community Health Workers; multi-disciplinary teams; mental health and</p>	<p>Number of adolescent- and youth- developed and delivered.</p>
		Responsible Agencies
		<p>Lead: MHMS</p>

<sup>44</sup> Data against all indicators should be disaggregated by age band (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35), gender, ethnicity, disability and economic situation in order to measure equity issues toward reaching youth milestones.

		drug rehabilitation services; and clinical teams. 2. Adolescent Care Services (ACS) package developed and implemented.	Adolescent Care Services package developed and implemented.	
1.2. Develop best practice youth- and adolescent- principles within health service standards and monitoring systems.	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Adolescent- and youth- focused principles integrated into monitoring systems for health systems and services.	Number of health monitoring standards that integrate adolescent- and youth-focused standards.	Lead: MHMS
1.3 Establish health promoting programmes in schools.	2021 – 2023	Health promoting programmes established in schools.	Number of schools with health promoting programmes.	Lead: MHMS and MEHA
1.4 Strengthen sexual and reproductive health education in primary and secondary schools, ensuring that it is rights-based, age appropriate, scientifically accurate and consistent with best practices.	2021 – 2026 and beyond	Evaluation and strengthening of the Life Education programme in secondary schools and extension of the programme to primary schools piloted and evaluated.	Number of secondary and primary schools providing Life Education.	Lead: MEHA Partner: MHMS
1.5 Develop and implement community mobilisation programmes in schools, technical-vocational centres and higher education institutions aimed at destigmatising mental health issues and raising awareness of prevention of poor mental health and substance abuse.	2021 – 2026	Community mobilisation programmes developed and implemented.	Number of programmes developed and implemented; Number of schools, technical-vocational centres and higher education institutions implementing mobilisation programmes	Lead: MYS and MEHA

1.6 Develop modules on resilience, coping mechanisms and stress management into life skills training programmes in primary and secondary schools, technical-vocational centres and universities.	2021 – 2022	Programmes on resilience, coping mechanisms and stress management developed and delivered.	Number of programmes developed and implemented.	Lead: MYS and MEHA
1.7 Strengthen legal and fiscal framework for disincentivising consumption of unhealthy food and enforcement and prosecution for non-compliance of tobacco and alcohol laws.	2021 and beyond	Fiscal disincentives to reduce consumption of unhealthy food and drink introduced. Breaches of tobacco and alcohol laws are investigated and, where necessary prosecuted. Youth have access to youth-friendly drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.	Fiscal policy introduced; Number of investigations and prosecutions for violations of tobacco and alcohol laws.	Lead: MHMS, MOJ and MofEconomy
1.8 Ensure youth-friendly drug and alcohol rehabilitation programmes and services across the country.	2021 and beyond	Youth are engaged in and access health promotion initiatives targeting NCDs.	Number of youths accessing drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.	Lead: MHMS
1.9 Ensure youth participate in an have access to health promotion initiatives targeting NCD prevention, including nutrition policies.	2021 – 2026	Youth are engaged in and access health promotion initiatives targeting NCDs.	Number of health promoting programmes involving youth, targeting NCD risk factors.	Lead: MHMS Partner: MEHA, MAG, FPF
1.10 Strengthen physical education infrastructure, awareness and programmes for youth.	2021 – 2026	Youth are engaged in physical activity in and outside of school.	Number of sporting infrastructure upgraded / built; number of programmes developed for schools and outside of schools; Number of youth accessing physical education / sports facilities, by gender.	Leads: MEHA, MYS and Fiji Sports Commission



1.11 Develop awareness raising and community mobilisation programmes aimed at delivering safety advice to prevent deaths caused by accidents (driver safety, water safety etc.), and roll these out nationally.	2021 – 2025.	Community awareness raising initiatives focusing on youth implemented.  Blue Light Programme implemented to improve skills and knowledge to prevent accidents.	Number of community awareness-raising initiatives focused on youth implemented; Percentage reduction in youth deaths caused by accidents, by gender.  Number of youth participating in Blue Light Programme.	Lead: MHMS and FPF Partner: Ministry of ITaukei Affairs
1.12 Ensure youth have access to adequate social protection initiatives.	2021 – 2026 and beyond.	Youth are empowered through access to, where required, the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Food Voucher Programme for pregnant mothers, Housing Assistance Relief Trust, Housing Authority Social Housing Policy and Rural Housing Assistance.	Number of youth in need supported by: Poverty Benefit Scheme, Food Voucher Programme for pregnant mothers, Housing Assistance Relief Trust, Housing Authority Social Housing Policy and Rural Housing Assistance.	Lead: MWCPC

**Priority 2: Education, skills and employment**

<b>Specific Objectives</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Milestones and outcome indicators<sup>45</sup></b>
All youth have access to suitable and quality formal and informal	(a) Formal and informal education curriculums are accessible through a range of methods (including online and virtual	<u>Milestone</u> : Improved acquisition of 'soft skills' among youth.

<sup>45</sup> Data against all indicators should be disaggregated by age band (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35), gender, ethnicity, disability and economic situation in order to measure equity issues toward reaching youth milestones.

<p>education and to employment opportunities that equip them with the knowledge, attitudes and life skills to become self-sufficient, fulfilled, active and engaged members of their communities, to pursue their goals and contribute to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural development of Fiji.</p>	<p>formats) and match the jobs market, equipping youth with the necessary 'soft skills' / transferrable skills to succeed.</p> <p>(b) A range of pathways exist for youth to successfully transition into the labour market, including programmes and facilities for youth to promote entrepreneurship and technological innovation.</p> <p>(c) Youth enjoy just and favourable conditions of work, including safe and healthy working conditions, a wage that ensures an adequate standard of living and equal pay for work of equal value.</p>	<p><u>Indicator:</u> Proportion of youth completing formal and informal education with 'soft skills' components.</p> <p><u>Milestone:</u> Increase in number of youth successfully transitioning into labour market.</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Proportion of youth who are in employment, by type of employment.</p> <p><u>Milestone:</u> Increase in wages and improved conditions of work among employed youth.</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Average hourly earnings among youth compared with the general employed population.</p>
<b>Activities</b>		
<p>2.1. Develop and integrate 'soft skills' (leadership, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving) and life skills (parenting and care giving; inclusion; financial literacy; cultural education; human rights) into the curriculum in primary and secondary schools, technical-vocational and tertiary education, Agriculture Technical Centres, NEC programmes, Juvenile Rehabilitation and Development Centre and 'second chance' education.</p> <p>2.2 Strengthen and further develop innovative means of delivery of education and skills through increased development and use of virtual and online platforms and</p>	<p><b>Time</b></p> <p>2021 – 2026 and ongoing</p> <p><b>Key Outputs</b></p> <p>Soft skills and life skills is incorporated into curriculum at primary, secondary, tertiary, technical-vocational and second chance education levels.</p>	<p><b>Output Indicator</b></p> <p>Number of educational institutions integrating soft skills and life skills into curriculum, by type of soft skills / life skills covered;</p> <p>Number of students receiving soft skills and life skills education, by type of skill (and by gender)</p>
<p>2.2 Strengthen and further develop innovative means of delivery of education and skills through increased development and use of virtual and online platforms and</p>	<p>Virtual / online and mobile modes of delivery provide access to continuing education and skills to youth.</p>	<p><b>Responsible Agencies</b></p> <p>Lead: MEHA, MCTTT, MAG, MWCPA and MYS</p> <p>Partners: MEPIR, MCTTT, NEC, NCSMED</p> <p>Leads: MEHA and MYS</p> <p>Partner: MIC</p>

mobile programmes targeting youth.			Number of education providers with access to new virtual / online / mobile modes of delivery; Number of youth accessing education and skills training through ICTs and mobile programmes.	
2.3 Strengthen careers guidance and practical skills in job seeking and entrepreneurship among youth.	2021 – 2026	Establish certified careers guidance counsellors in secondary schools, technical-vocational education and tertiary education. Develop online careers information for youth.	Number of secondary schools, technical-vocational education and tertiary education with certified guidance counsellors. Availability of online careers guidance platform.	Leads: MYS and MEHA
2.4 Upgrade and develop Youth Training Centres	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Youth training centres developed and upgraded	Number of Youth Training Centres developed and upgraded;	Lead: MYS Partner: MOIT
2.5 Ensure a range of programmes are available to enable youth to transition into the workforce and promote entrepreneurship.	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Youth training centre programmes strengthened to ensure a range of programmes for youth to enter the workforce and entrepreneurship.	Number of programmes strengthened and developed; Number of youth enrolled in programmes.	Lead: MYS Partner: MCTTT
2.6 Strengthening and upgrading of technical colleges and tertiary institutions to provide relevant and quality training and education to	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Technical colleges and tertiary institutions are upgraded and provide a	Number of technical colleges and tertiary institutions upgraded / developed.	Lead: MEHA, MYS and HEC



<p>youth to enable them to develop skills and knowledge to enter into the workforce, and ensure access to all youth to higher education through the provision of scholarships.</p>		<p>range of relevant programmes for youth. Scholarships available for youth, with explicit allocation for youth in vulnerable situations.</p>	<p>Number of new programmes offered. Number of scholarships awarded; number of scholarships awarded to youth in vulnerable situations.</p>	
<p>2.7 Establish graduate and trainee programmes for youth through partnerships between secondary schools, technical-vocational centres and higher education institutions with private sector and Government partners, including specific programmes that encourage youth into technology-related fields.</p>	<p>2021–2023</p>	<p>Graduate trainee programmes established for youth.</p>	<p>Number of graduate trainee programmes established.</p>	<p>Lead: MEHA, MYS and HEC</p>
<p>2.8 Develop income generating opportunities for youth who rely on social protection or subsistence activities.</p>	<p>2021 – 2023</p>	<p>Income generating programmes developed for youth relying on social protection or subsistence.</p>	<p>Number of programmes developed. Number of youth engaged in programmes.</p>	<p>Leads: MEPIR, MAG and MWCPA</p>
<p>2.9 Ensure youth have access to mentorship opportunities and to grants and loans for the development of business skills and ideas, including in technology-related fields.</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p>	<p>Business mentorship opportunities and grants and loans are provided to youth to develop business skills and ideas.</p>	<p>Number of business mentorships provided to you. Number and amount of business grants and loans provided to youth.</p>	<p>Lead: MCTTT and MEPIR Partner: RBF, NCSMED</p>

2.10 Increase access to economic opportunities for all youth, in particular female youth through the provision of affordable and safe daycare placements.	2021 – 2026 and beyond	Sufficient quality daycare placements are available across the country to enable youth to access economic opportunities.	Number of new daycare placements available. Number of youth accessing daycare placements.	Lead: MEHA Partners: MEPIR and MWCPCPA
<b>Priority 3: Safety, protection and justice</b>				
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>				
<b>Specific Objectives</b> All youth are safe from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and harassment and have access to a youth-friendly and human rights-compliant justice system.	<p>(a) Prevention of and effective responses to all forms of gender-based violence, and access to suitable, affordable and inclusive support and justice for victims.</p>			<b>Milestones and outcome indicators</b> <sup>46</sup> <u>Milestone:</u> Reduction in rates of gender-based violence among youth of all forms. <u>Indicator:</u> Proportion of female youth who experience physical, sexual or psychological violence by an intimate partner.
	<p>(b) Prevention of and effective responses to all forms of harassment, bullying, violence, abuse and exploitation of youth, particularly youth in vulnerable situations, and access to suitable and inclusive support for victims.</p>			<u>Milestone:</u> Reduction in rates of harassment, bullying, violence, abuse and exploitation among youth. <u>Indicator:</u> Proportion of youth who experience physical and sexual violence.
	<p>(c) Access to quality legal information, advice and representation for youth throughout Fiji across all criminal and civil matters.</p>			<u>Milestone:</u> Increased access to legal information, advice and representation among youth. <u>Indicator:</u> Proportion of criminal cases involving accused youth in which quality legal representation is provided.

<sup>46</sup> Data against all indicators should be disaggregated by age band (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35), gender, ethnicity, disability and economic situation in order to measure equity issues toward reaching youth milestones.

Activities	Time	Key Outputs	Output Indicator	Responsible Agencies
3.1. Develop and implement community mobilisation campaigns with partner organisations to combat gender stereotypes and prevent youth gender-based violence (GBV).	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Community mobilisation campaigns developed and implemented across the country to prevent gender-based violence.	Number of community mobilisation programmes implemented.	<p><b>Milestone:</b> Increase in the use of community-based measures for responding to children and youth in conflict with the law.</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Proportion of all youth who are charged with a criminal offence who are referred for diversion.</p> <p>Lead: MWCPCA and FPF</p> <p>Partners: FPF, MEHA and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, MYS</p>
3.2 Strengthen implementation of legal responses to GBV through development / strengthening of service delivery protocols, guidelines and referral protocols for police, prosecutors, health care workers, education institutions and other service providers.	2021 – 2023	Service delivery protocols and referral protocols are in place to ensure key service providers respond effectively to all cases of GBV.	Number of service delivery protocols and referral protocols in place.	<p>Lead: MWCPCA</p> <p>Partners: MOJ, FPF, Judiciary, MEHA, MHMS</p>
3.3 Develop / strengthen and implement pre- and in-service training on response protocols and best practices for responding to and supporting youth victims of gender-based violence for police, judiciary, prosecution, health care, education staff, physical education facilities and providers, local leaders and key NGOs, CSOs and FBOs.	2022 – 2025 and beyond	Training packages / modules developed for responding to youth victims of GBV and integrated into pre- and in-service training for police, judiciary, prosecution, health care, education staff and local leaders.	<p>Number of training packages developed.</p> <p>Number of training sessions implemented.</p>	<p>Lead: MWCPCA</p> <p>Partners: MOJ, FPF, Judiciary, MEHA, MHMS, Fiji Sports Commission</p>

<sup>47</sup> Those under the age of 18 years.

3.4 Develop / strengthen and implement parenting programmes to encourage positive parenting and discourage violence, abuse and neglect by parents and carers.	2021 – 2026 and beyond	Parenting programmes are available and accessed by parents and carers, including youth parents / carers.	Number of parenting programmes implemented.	Lead: MWCPCPA Partners: MEHA and FPF
3.5 Develop and implement policies, including prevention programmes and reporting and response protocols, in primary and secondary schools, youth training centres, tertiary education institutions and informal education settings to address all forms of bullying and harassment.	2021 – 2026 and beyond	Policies are in place and implemented to prevent and address bullying and harassment in informal and formal education institutions.	Policies are in place and implemented to prevent and address bullying and harassment in education institutions.	Lead: MWCPCPA and MEHA Partner: MYS
3.6 Develop legal information resources, including an online resource, aimed at providing accessible legal information for youth in all matters concerning them.	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Website is developed providing accessible legal information and referrals for youth. Legal resources are developed and disseminated to youth.	Website is developed and accessed by youth.	Lead: MOJ and Legal Aid Commission
3.7 Ensure legal advice and representation through extending legal aid provision for youth in criminal and civil matters.	2021 – 2025 and beyond	Legal aid offices are extended to provide advice and representation to youth in criminal and civil matters.	Number of youth engaged with the law provided with legal advice and representation (by type of case).	Lead: Legal Aid Commission
3.8 Develop a protocol setting out a rights-based process for referral between community-based and formal justice systems in cases of violence.	2021 – 2023	Protocol is developed setting out a process for referral between community-based mechanisms and formal justice institutions in cases of violence against youth.	Protocol is in place and implemented.	Lead: MOJ and Legal Aid Commission

3.9 Strengthen community justice mechanisms to ensure that they are accessible to youth by providing training to police, prosecutors, judges and community leaders on the protocol (see 3.8).	2023 – 2025 and beyond	Community leaders are trained in delivery of youth-friendly justice.	Number of community leaders provided with training on delivering youth friendly justice.	Lead: MOJ and Legal Aid Commission
3.10 Strengthen and extend community-based rehabilitative measures, including Blue Light Fiji, Yellow Ribbon, Matua programme and others for youth in conflict with the law.	2020 – 2025	Community-based rehabilitative measures in place to increase youth diversion, community-based sentencing and after care, reducing the use of custody for youth in conflict with the law.	Number of new community-based rehabilitative measures; Number of locations with community-based measures; Number of youth in conflict with the law enrolled in community-based programmes.	Lead: MOJ and FCS  Partners: MYS, MEHA, FPF

#### Priority 4: Environment, climate change and disaster risks

Specific Objectives	Expected Outcomes	Milestones and outcome indicators <sup>48</sup>
All youth are supported and empowered to participate equally in actions and initiatives to address environmental issues and are informed to adapt and respond to climate change and other disaster risks within their communities, drawing on local practices and traditional knowledge.	(a) Youth are supported and empowered in the development and implementation of initiatives to protect, preserve and improve the environment, to address climate change and environmental issues.  (b) Youth have the skills and knowledge to champion climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience to other disaster risks in their communities, with the support of community leaders and other stakeholders.	<u>Milestone:</u> Increased number of youth-led initiatives on climate change and environmental issues. <u>Indicator:</u> Percentage increase in youth-led initiatives on climate change and environmental issues. <u>Milestone:</u> Increase in number of youth with skills and knowledge in climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience to other disaster risks.

<sup>48</sup> Data against all indicators should be disaggregated by age band (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35), gender, ethnicity, disability and economic situation in order to measure equity issues toward reaching youth milestones.



Activities	Time	Key Outputs	Output Indicator	Responsible Agencies
4.1. Promote and support youth participation in Government decision-making, policy development and implementation of programmes aimed at addressing climate change and environmental issues, through development and strengthening of processes and platforms for engagement, including a youth symposium.	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Platforms and processes are in place to enable youth to participate in Government decision-making about climate change and environmental issues.	Number of platforms and processes for youth engagement in climate change and environmental issues; Number of youth engaged in processes and platforms.	Lead: MYS, NDMO, MFF, and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs  Partners: MWE and MAG
4.2 Support youth participation in the development of a range of innovative initiatives to address environmental issues, climate change and disaster risks.	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Youth are supported to develop a range of innovative initiatives to address environmental issues, climate change and disaster risks.	Number of youth supported to develop initiatives, and type of initiative.	Lead: MYS, NDMO, MFF and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs  Partners: MWE, MAg
4.3 Provide skills development for youth in climate change and disaster risk adaptation and response through formal and non-formal education, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge and practices into accredited courses aimed at developing knowledge and skills of youth in climate change. adaptation and disaster risk response	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Implementation of climate change, environmental issues and disaster risks into curriculum in schools, youth training centres, tertiary institutions and informal education.	Number of new courses / modules on climate change, environmental issues and disaster risks; Number of youth completing courses / modules on climate change, environmental issues and disaster risks.	Lead: MEHA, MYS, HEC, NDMO, MoEconomy and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs  Partner: MWE

4.4 Develop accessible information on climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental issues and disaster risks in a range of formats (including through information and communication technology).	2021 – 2023	Web-based and other resources are available and accessed by youth on climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental issues and disaster risks.	Number of resources produced and number of resources accessed by youth.	Lead: MYS, MWE, NDMO and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Partner: MIC
<b>Priority 5: Participation and empowerment</b>				
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>				
<b>Specific Objectives</b>				
All youth have the knowledge, skills and inclusive spaces to actively and meaningfully participate and contribute to dialogue (youth and sports development and diplomacy), policy development and planning, implementation and service delivery, within their communities and in educational and other institutions.	(a) Existing and new youth forums are in place, through financial, educational and technical support to ensure meaningful participation for youth, including the most vulnerable and marginalised populations of youth, so that their views are represented effectively at local, national, regional and international levels.			<b>Milestones and outcome indicators</b> <sup>49</sup> <u>Milestone:</u> Increased youth involvement in forums at local, national, regional and international levels. <u>Indicator:</u> Percentage increase in number of youth involved in youth groups and forums.
(b) Youth are supported and empowered to participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of national policies and plans affecting them, including this Policy.		(c) Youth are supported and empowered to engage in global interactions and networking between peoples through people		
<u>Milestone:</u> Increased involvement of youth in policy design, implementation and evaluation. <u>Indicator:</u> Percentage increase in the number of policies, strategies and plans developed with meaningful engagement of youth.				

<sup>49</sup> Data against all indicators should be disaggregated by age band (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35), gender, ethnicity, disability and economic situation in order to measure equity issues toward reaching youth milestones.



	<p>to people exchanges, including through sports and cultural diplomacy.</p> <p>(d) Youth are free and supported to engage in diverse cultural and religious practices and supported to develop knowledge of human rights and values of tolerance and inclusiveness in order to build and strengthen social cohesion.</p> <p>(e) Youth have the skills, knowledge, information and motivation to participate effectively in youth forums and engagement initiatives, including the Fiji Youth Council and other avenues at the local, national, regional and international levels.</p>	<p><u>Milestone</u>: Increased youth involvement in community service and cultural programmes.</p> <p><u>Indicator</u>: Percentage increase of youth involvement in voluntary and cultural programmes.</p>		
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Key Outputs</b>	<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies</b>
5.1. Provide financial, educational and technical support to youth associations to ensure meaningful participation of all youth in a range of different platforms and issues.	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Youth associations are supported to engage youth in a range of issues.	<p>Number of youth associations provided with financial support (and amount of support).</p> <p>Number of educational and technical initiatives provided to youth associations.</p>	<p>Lead: MYS</p> <p>Partners: MWE, MAg, MWCPC, MEHA and MCTTT, MofEconomy</p>
5.2 Develop guidelines and implement training for youth associations to enable them to be more inclusive of youth in vulnerable situations and youth in rural and maritime areas.	2021 – 2023	Guidelines are in place and training is developed and provided to youth associations to enable more meaningful participation by youth in marginalised situations and youth in rural and maritime areas.	<p>Guidance developed.</p> <p>Number of training sessions provided to youth associations.</p>	<p>Lead: MYS</p> <p>Partners: Ministry of iTaukei Affairs</p>
5.3 Support youth in rural and maritime areas to participate in national forums, including the Fiji Youth Council.	2021 – 2026 and beyond	Youth in rural and maritime locations are provided with funding to participate in national forums and events.	Number of rural and maritime youth supported to engage meaningfully in	<p>Lead: MYS</p> <p>Partner: Fiji Sports Council</p>

<p>5.4 Establish and support participation avenues for youth to engage meaningfully in youth-focused policy and programme development, monitoring and evaluation.</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p>	<p>Youth are supported to meaningfully engage in policy and programme development, monitoring and evaluation related to youth.</p>	<p>national youth platforms. Number of initiatives to engage youth in youth-related policy and programme development, monitoring and evaluation. Number of youth engaged in initiatives (disaggregated by gender, age, disability, location etc.).</p>	<p>Lead: MYS Partners: MEHA, MHMS, MWCPA, MCTTT, MAG, MWE, MOJ, FPF, MEPIR and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs,</p>
<p>5.5 Support youth to engage in global interactions and networking, including cultural and sports exchanges, to promote sports and cultural diplomacy.</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p>	<p>Youth are supported to engage in cultural and sports exchanges and diplomacy.</p>	<p>Number of youth supported in international cultural and sports exchanges.</p>	<p>Lead: MYS, MEHA and MOFA</p>
<p>5.6 Support youth to engage in diverse cultural and religious practices in educational institutions and the community to develop an understanding of the diverse cultures of Fiji.</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p>	<p>Youth are supported to engage in diverse cultural and religious practices in educational institutions and the community.</p>	<p>Number of youth are supported to engage in diverse cultural and religious practices.</p>	<p>Lead: MYS, MEHA and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs</p>
<p>5.7 Develop community service initiatives and support youth to engage in community service.</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p>	<p>Community service initiatives are developed and youth are supported to engage in these initiatives.</p>	<p>Number of youth involved in community service initiatives.</p>	<p>Lead: MYS, FPF, MWCPA</p>

5.8 Develop information, including on an online portal, to provide information on youth participation opportunities and forums and encourage youth participation in these forums.	2020 – 2022	Develop web portal and accessible resources to provide information and encourage youth participation.	Website developed and number of youth accessing website. Number of information resources produced.	Lead: MYS and MIC
5.9 Develop resources and include components on youth participation and civic skills into the curriculum in primary and secondary schools, youth training centres, tertiary institutions and non-formal education.	2021 – 2023	Modules and resources on civic education and participation skills are developed and integrated into curriculum in formal and non-formal education institutions.	Number of modules and resources developed; Number of institutions implementing modules and using resources on participation; Number of youth completing modules.	Lead: MYS, MEHA, HEC

**Priority 6: Inclusion and non-discrimination**

<b>Specific Objectives</b>		<b>Expected Outcomes</b>		<b>Milestones and outcome indicators<sup>50</sup></b>	
Youth-sensitive policies, laws, frameworks, mechanisms and structures in Fiji are inclusive of all youth, including youth in vulnerable situations and marginalised youth.		(a) Youth-sensitive laws, policies and programmes are inclusive of all youth, including youth in vulnerable situations and marginalised youth.		<u>Milestone:</u> New youth-sensitive laws and policies comply with international standards on non-discrimination. <u>Indicator:</u> Percentage of new youth-sensitive laws and policies that comply with international standards on non-discrimination.	
		(b) Social and cultural norms that support inclusion of marginalised youth and youth in vulnerable situations in Fiji communities.		<u>Milestone:</u> Increase in extent of community members with beliefs supportive of inclusion.	

<sup>50</sup> Data against all indicators should be disaggregated by age band (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35), gender, ethnicity, disability and economic situation in order to measure equity issues toward reaching youth milestones.

		<p><u>Indicator:</u> Percentage increase in beliefs supportive of gender equality.</p> <p><u>Milestone:</u> Increased in number of youth in vulnerable situations engaged in health, learning, employment, sporting and cultural programmes.</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Percentage increase in number of youth with disabilities in education and employment.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>6.1 Ensure anti-discrimination provisions are included in all youth-sensitive laws and policies that comply with international standards.</p> <p>6.2 Ensure the website and legal information resources for youth contain accessible information on anti-discrimination law and remedies (see activity 3.6, above).</p> <p>6.3 Develop and implement a process for ensuring that all youth-sensitive laws, policies and operational strategies / plans are subject to a systematic review to ensure that they are inclusive of</p>	<p><b>Time</b></p> <p>2021 – 2026 and ongoing</p> <p>2021 – 2023</p> <p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p> <p><b>Key Outputs</b></p> <p>All youth-sensitive laws and policies have anti-discrimination provisions.</p> <p>Website and legal information developed for youth contains accessible information on anti-discrimination law and remedies.</p> <p>Review process is in place and implemented.</p>	<p><b>Output Indicator</b></p> <p>Number of youth-sensitive laws and policies developed with comprehensive anti-discrimination provisions.</p> <p>- (see 3.6)</p> <p>Review process implemented in relation to new youth-sensitive laws, policies and operational strategies / plans.</p> <p><b>Responsible Agencies</b></p> <p>Lead: MOJ</p> <p>Partners: Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission and MYS</p> <p>Lead: MOJ</p> <p>Partners: MEHA, MIC and Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, FPF</p> <p>Lead: MOJ</p> <p>Partners: Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission and MYS</p>

marginalised youth and youth in vulnerable situations.				
6.4 Ensure that harmful norms relating to gender, sexual orientation and gender identity are included in the development of community mobilisation programmes (see activity Review process implemented in relation to youth-sensitive laws, policies and operational strategies / plans (see activity 3.1 above).	2021 – 2026 and ongoing	Community mobilisation programmes address harmful norms relating to gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.	-(see 3.1 above)	Lead: MWCPA
6.5 Carry out a review of the education curriculum and materials in primary and secondary school and ensure materials presenting gender stereotypes are removed and replaced with materials supporting gender equality.	2021 – 2023	Review of education curriculum carried out and gender stereotypes removed and replaced.	Review and updating completed.	Lead: MEHA Partner: MYS, MRMD
6.6 Carry out an assessment on barriers to education and employment opportunities for youth with disabilities and develop a roadmap to address these barriers	2021 – 2023	Assessment completed and roadmap developed and adopted, with key actions and responsible agencies.	Assessment completed. Roadmap adopted.	Lead: MYS, MEHA and MEPIR Partners: MWCPA
6.7 Develop programmes, including mentorship programmes, to encourage young women into male-dominated learning and employment opportunities.	2021 – 2023	Programmes are in place to ensure young women enter male-dominated learning and employment opportunities.	Number of programmes developed in involving number of young women.	Lead: MYS, MEHA, HEC, MAg and MEPIR
<b>Priority 7: Strengthening the enabling environment for youth</b>				



Specific Objectives	Expected Outcomes				Milestones and outcome indicators <sup>51</sup>
A comprehensive policy, legislative and institutional environment exists in Fiji to ensure that all youth are supported and empowered by effective frameworks and evidence-based programmes and services.	(a) Ensure accountability for achieving results for youth through a strong policy, law and implementation framework for youth.	(b) Ensure resources are effectively allocated to implement youth laws, policies, strategies and plans.	(c) Strengthen the evidence base on youth, including through improved data collection and monitoring and evaluation systems, and improved reporting of data and access to data to ensure that programmes are effective and targeted.	(d) Ensure effective and inclusive multi-sector coordination on youth policy and programmes.	<p><u>Milestone</u>: Increased proportion of government budget allocated to youth programmes and activities.</p> <p><u>Indicator</u>: Increase in proportion of government budget allocated to youth programmes and activities.</p>
7.1 Carry out a review of youth law and policy to identify gaps and make a development plan to ensure a comprehensive framework is in place.	2022 – 2023 (review) and beyond	<p><b>Key Outputs</b></p> <p>Gap analysis of youth law and policy is developed and plan developed to address gaps.</p>	<p><b>Output Indicator</b></p> <p>Gap analysis and plan completed; Number of recommendations adopted / implemented.</p>	<p><b>Responsible Agencies</b></p> <p>Lead: MOJ and MYS</p>	
7.2 Develop a process for yearly calculation of the 'youth budget', as a component of the Annual Budget Strategy to ensure that youth programmes and services are adequately resourced.	2021 – 2026 and beyond	<p>Youth budget calculated yearly and adjustments made to ensure that youth programmes and services are adequately resourced.</p>	<p>Yearly calculation of youth budget completed.</p>	<p>Lead: MofEconomy</p>	

<sup>51</sup> Data against all indicators should be disaggregated by age band (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35), gender, ethnicity, disability and economic situation in order to measure equity issues toward reaching youth milestones.



<p>7.3 Ensure youth is captured and sub-categorised (at least by 15 – 19; 20 – 24; and 25 – 35) in the design and implementation of all national household and other surveys (Census, DHS, GSBS, HIES, MICS, NNS, Agriculture Survey etc.), disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, socio-economic circumstances, disability, LGBTQI+</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p>	<p>Survey data are collected on youth (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35) as part of implementation of standardised national household surveys.</p>	<p>Youth data is captured in implementation of household surveys.</p>	<p>Lead: FBS Partner: MYS</p>
<p>7.4 Ensure youth is captured and sub-categorised (at least by 15 – 19; 20 – 24; and 25 – 35) in all key administrative data collection systems (health, education, social welfare, justice etc.).</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p>	<p>Data collected on youth (15 – 19; 20 – 24; 25 – 35) in all key administrative data collection systems.</p>	<p>Number of administrative data collection systems that capture youth data.</p>	<p>Lead: MYS Partners: MHMS, MEHA, MOJ, FPF, MEPIR and MWCAPA</p>
<p>7.5 Conduct regular impact assessments of the youth programmes and initiatives to measure success and cost-benefit.</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond.</p>	<p>Youth programmes subjected to regular impact assessments.</p>	<p>Number of impact assessments on youth programmes.</p>	<p>Lead: FBS and MYS</p>
<p>7.6 Develop key indicators on youth aligned to national, regional and global indicators, and a central repository for data on youth.</p>	<p>2021 – 2023</p>	<p>Central repository for data on youth developed and available to public.</p>	<p>Data repository created.</p>	<p>Lead: FBS and MYS</p>
<p>7.7 Re-establish and convene regular meetings of the Multi-Sector Coordinating Committee</p>	<p>2021 – 2026 and beyond</p>	<p>MSCC established as a multi-sector body to oversee development and implementation of youth policy and programmes.</p>	<p>MSCC meets every quarter; MSCC yearly reports produced and disseminated</p>	<p>Lead: MYS</p>

7.8 Develop and pilot youth friendly hubs in a number of locations as 'one stop shops' for the needs of youth, including through online resources, a telephone line and other communication and information technologies	2022 – 2025	Youth hubs are developed and piloted in a number of locations.	Number of youth hubs developed (by location).	Lead: MYS
7.9 Establish the Fiji Youth Council and provide inputs and support to the Council to ensure its effective functioning.	2021 – 2026 and beyond	Fiji Youth Council established and engaged in youth policy and programme development and implementation.	Fiji Youth Council convenes regular meetings and contributes to youth policy development and implementation.	Lead: MYS



