



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

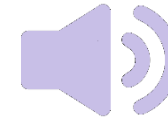


YOUTH
AT
HEART

Partos – Maart, 2023

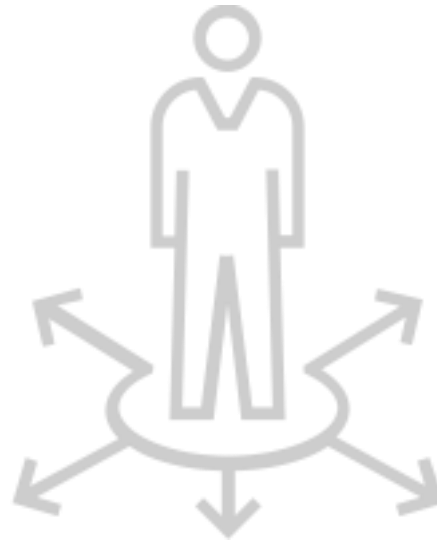


**IN SOME M-E/AFRICAN
COUNTRIES, OVER 75%
OF THE POPULATION IS
BELOW THE AGE OF 30**

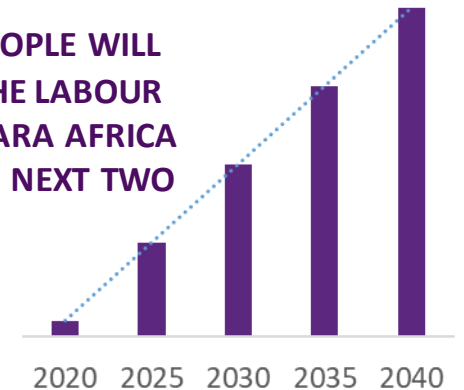


**MORE YOUNG PEOPLE DEMAND THEIR
PLACE IN POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

**14.2% EMPLOYMENT DECLINE IN 2020
FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN NORTH
AFRICA, COMPARED WITH THE NON-
PANDEMIC SCENARIO**



**20 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE WILL
EXPECTEDLY ENTER THE LABOUR
MARKET IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA
EACH YEAR OVER THE NEXT TWO
DECADES**



**EDUCATION HARDLY IMPROVES
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH ON THE
LABOUR MARKET**

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES



WORSENERD DUE TO COVID-19

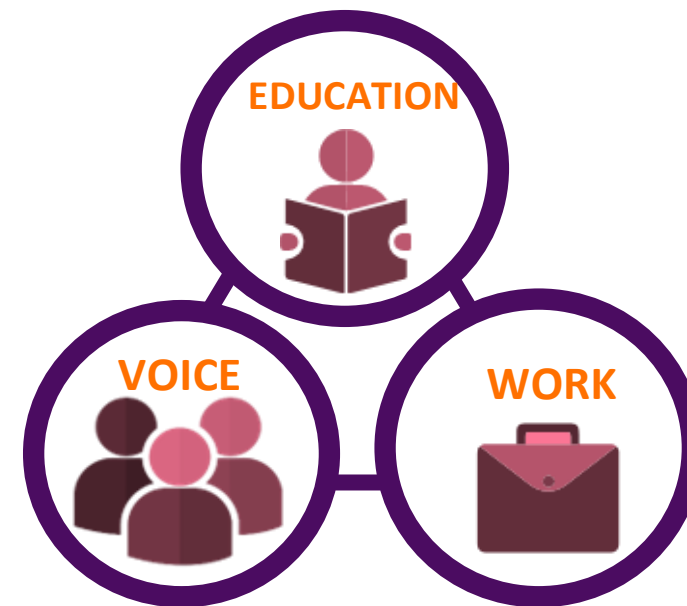
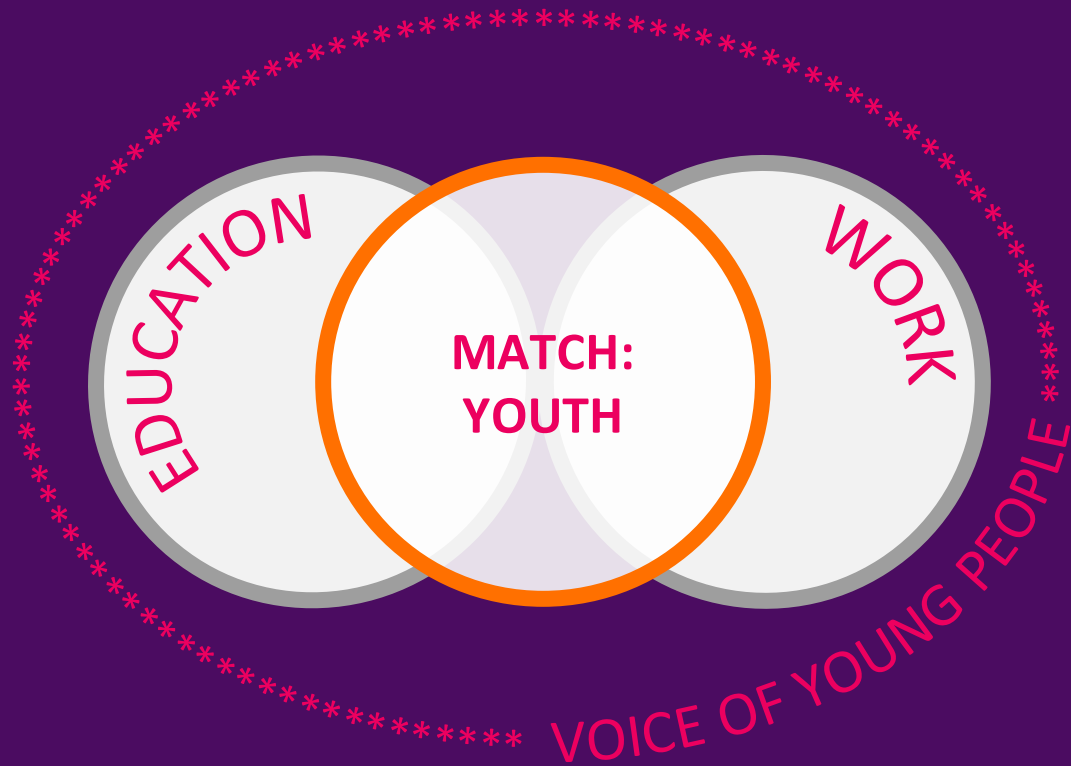


**87% OF AFRICAN CEOs ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
THE AVAILABILITY OF WORKERS WITH RELEVANT
SKILLS ON THE LABOUR MARKET**





YOUTH **AT** HEART



We focus on bridging the gap between knowledge and skills that youth learn in education and the needs of the labour market. Meanwhile we strengthen young people's voices.

The Youth at Heart approach is closely related to policy objectives in the areas of human rights, civic space, climate action, SRHR, peace & security, etc.

Core Youth at Heart programmes



Youth, education and work



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

- Coordinate Youth at Heart strategy implementation, through e.g. the Youth Working Group (HQ) and Youth Focal Points Network (Embassies);
- Provide instruments to support integration of youth in policies and programmes, e.g. through Youth Advisory Committee, MYP Toolkit, Y@H Principles, Virtual Conferences & online platform www.youthatheart.nl;
- Youth diplomacy
 - Bilateral: discussing challenges and opportunities for young people in our dialogues (with young people as leaders and partners)
 - Multilateral: influencing UN policies & programmes as well as EU external action (e.g. NDICI and Team Europe Initiatives)



The Youth at Heart Principles

- ✓ Presented during Youth at Heart virtual forum, Nov 2020
- ✓ Signature event with 75+ organisations involved: boosting the movement investing in prospects of young people, with young people!



PRINCIPLE 1

Build a more relevant, sustainable and effective enabling environment for education and work systems for young people, that recognise their rights and will.

1. Prioritise inclusive access to education as a means of and to social justice, enabling the participation of young people in society and the exercising of their rights.
2. Ensure education systems respond to changing job markets and demand, providing young people with the key skills that will ensure their employability such as soft skills, critical thinking and adaptability.
3. Invest in and create inclusive access to digital tools and learning systems that will support the education and skills development of young people, ensuring that they will not get further left behind by advancements in technologies.
4. Private sector and governments should take responsibility for the creation of decent work for young people by creating opportunities such as; paid traineeships and mentoring, and access to finance for all young entrepreneurs.

PRINCIPLE 2

Involve young people at all levels in decision making processes that will affect their lives.

1. Partner with young people as leaders and experts at all stages of policy making, including the follow up and review of policy implementation to ensure accountability.
2. Create inclusive platforms and shared safe spaces (both digital and physical) for young people to inform policies and programmes that impact their lives.
3. Address structural and legal barriers, and negative perceptions of young people that prevent the participation of young people in decision making processes, ensuring opportunities to engage young people are widely accessible and adapted to their specific needs.
4. Invest in youth-led initiatives and programmes that are working to promote and ensure more accountable, responsive and inclusive governance at local and national levels.

PRINCIPLE 3

Partner with young people to build a better, more resilient world for all generations.

1. Ensure young people's knowledge and insight inform crises response and recovery efforts at all levels.
2. Partner with and trust young people to participate and lead response and rebuilding efforts, providing adequate resourcing and support to strengthen their capacities and the impact of their work.
3. Invest in youth-led initiatives that are the forefront of responding to Covid-19 and particularly those organisations that provide support to the most marginalised and vulnerable youth.
4. Recognise the negative impact Covid-19 has on young people's wellbeing and mental health and provide ongoing psychosocial support to young people through formal interventions and programmes.

Meaningful Youth Participation Toolkit



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

- The MYP Toolkit offers resources and inspiration to MFA and Embassy staff to meaningfully engage with youth in design and implementation of policies, programmes and strategies
- Youth were involved in crafting the Toolkit
- Toolkit was launched during the 'One Year Youth At Heart' 22 November
- An MYP course is in the making, and will become available early 2022 (via the Academy)

Meaningful Youth Participation is to be intrinsically motivated to listen to the voice of youth and to act on it – staying far away from tokenism, decoration or manipulation!

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Essentials of Meaningful Youth Participation

WHY

Countries in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and North Africa have very young populations. Much can be achieved if we gear policies and interventions towards the specific challenges and opportunities of the youth.

For that to happen, we need to make sure youth voices are heard and integrated. Young people can tell best what works for them after all. This is why strengthening voices of youth is one of the central ambitions in the Youth at Heart strategy.

HOW

If you are working for the MFA - either in The Hague or at an Embassy or representation office you have the opportunity to engage youth in the dialogue about policy or programmes that are of direct relevance to them.

MYP has no blueprint. Meetings, interactive discussions and consultations and the use of technology, such as Radio, SMS, Social Media platforms or online surveys, can enable you to incorporate larger cohorts of youth voices in your policy or programmes. This requires a well-thought outreach strategy to target the right young people. In some cases, one-time consultative Focus Group Discussion-meetings (Consult-level) may suffice. Youth Advisory Committees, as the one established at HQ level, enable collaboration with youth over a longer period of time (Collaborate level). Several Embassies have already started to develop specific programmes geared towards youth empowerment (Empower-level). The Civic Space Fund provides opportunity to finance such activities.

The MYP toolkit will support you in determining how you can best approach MYP in your own context and theme.

WHAT

Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP) is about ensuring that young people have the opportunity to be involved in processes of decision making on policies, strategies and programmes that affect them.

This implies working with youth as leaders, partners and beneficiaries and listening to what matters most. Our aim is to take their views, concerns and suggestions into account in developing or implementing our policies, strategies and programmes.

Did you know that?

Incorporating youth voices in your policy or programme...

- ✓...leads to more effective & accountable policies & programmes
- ✓...reduces the generational gap & enhances intergenerational justice
- ✓...empowers involved youth socially, civically & economically

What's in it for you?

You get to enrich your understanding of the dynamics that need to be addressed by the policy, strategy or programmes based on first-hand information about the challenges and opportunities young people face. You will enhance your understanding of strengths of proposed policy, strategy or program, as well as potential flaws in it.

You benefit from creative and out-of-the-box ideas which will make your work more effective & relevant with regards to youth.

Reader's Guide

The MYP toolkit was put together with great care by the team for Youth, Education and Work. The background information as well as suggestions for tools and methods will guide you in making sure youth voices are heard in relation to matters that are relevant to them.

The MYP toolkit consists of five parts and takes about 40 minutes to read. It is not a blue print rather an inspiration and guidebook.

Part A serves to develop a basic understanding of why it is a central ambition of the Ministry. **How** it will benefit your work & what MYP is.

Part B serves to deepen your understanding of the Do's and Don'ts of organizing, mobilizing & including youth.

Part C serves to provide you with practical examples, tools, methods & resources to apply meaningful youth participation in your work.

Part D serves to provide you with practical tools & methods to measure the outcome and level of youth participation and to deepen your understanding of how it benefits all.

Part E provides sources & background information.

Ministry Staff

In your position, MYP will most likely be applied within the Policy Cycle, during Policy preparation, formulation, execution or evaluation. Your role can also be to monitor incorporation of youth voices at policy implementation level across your portfolio.

Embassy Staff

In your position, MYP will most likely be applied within the Policy and/or Portfolio Cycle, during portfolio analysis, (multi-annual) planning, or execution. It may be worthwhile identifying opportunities to support youth empowerment programmes. In any position, it's important to distinguish between different roles & mandates:

- ✓ Incorporating youth voices in own programming, e.g. annual plan cycle, events, policy dialogues;
- ✓ Stimulating others/implementing partners to incorporate youth voices (e.g. in tendering). Different roles can be applied in different sorts of programmes;
- ✓ Directly facilitate/finance/support youth-led programmes or specific youth engagement programmes (e.g. from Civic Space Funds);
- ✓ Addressing youth issues in diplomacy, e.g. address cultural barriers in wider society

Support

The MYP toolkit is developed by the MFA team for youth, education & work, in collaboration with colleagues & youth.

We are available for support in using the MYP toolkit. You can contact us via: team-JOW@minbuza.nl

Tailored MYP training for ministry & embassy staff can be provided upon request

YOUTH AT HEART

www.youthatheart.nl



YOUTH
AT
HEART

The Youth Advisory Committee

- With the YAC we're fulfilling the ambition to involve young people as leaders, partners and beneficiaries more and better in the creation, implementation and monitoring of policies
- The YAC consists of 10 members; 9 from the focus regions
- Committee was launched by the Minister during the 'One Year Youth at Heart' event on 22 November
- In cooperation with the Dutch National Youth Council (NJR)



Salim (27) Algeria



Kevin (26) Burkina Faso



Grace (23) South Sudan



Mahmoud (27) Egypt



Pelemo (19) Nigeria



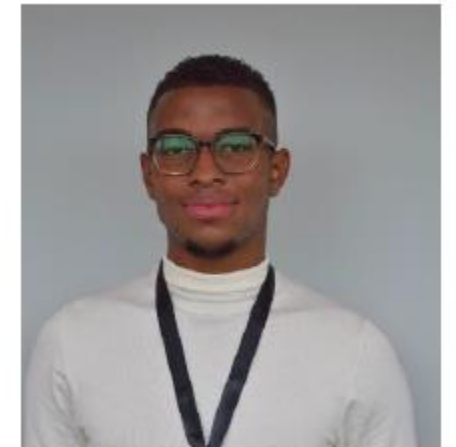
Sinan (23) Jordan



Daisy (25) Uganda



Khadija (26) Morocco



Kevin (20) Netherlands

What can you do



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

- ✓ Make sure NL efforts and diplomacy match the young reality!
- ✓ Good way to 'brand' NL and connect with youthful society
- ✓ The youth agenda provides opportunity to connect development programmes to diplomatic efforts
- ✓ Make use of the Meaningful Youth Participation toolkit
- ✓ Consider setting up your own youth advisory board / sounding board
- ✓ Include youth perspectives in your multi-annual country strategies
- ✓ Make use of instruments out there, such as PSD toolkit & Civic Space Fund to fund initiatives

The HQ team for Youth, Education and Work is there for support and cooperation!



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YOUTH
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Thank you!

www.youthatheart.nl