

Cooperation for Peace and Development (CPD)

19 Days of Activism on Prevention of Abuse and Violence against Children and Youth in Afghanistan (1-19 November)

Resolution

19 November 2013

From population perspective, Afghanistan is a young country in the world and based on statistical data, 68 percent of its population is youth under age of 25. Since a decade, Afghan youth, despite of access to limited resources, have shown progress in many fields and contributed in our country's promotion internationally. In spite of endeavors of Afghan government, international community and Civil Society Organizations, Afghan children and youth still face variety of problems that must be addressed by the government.

Cooperation for Peace and Development (CPD) has been working for promotion of children and youth rights and believes that legal investment on Afghan children and youth and taking all possible measures to solve their problems is the key to a prosperous Afghanistan. We think that the main problems of Afghan children and youth are as follows:

1. Education and Higher Education:

- Quality of education in the schools and universities is not as expected and there is need to make further efforts to improve it according to international standards. Besides other factors, low number of professional teachers is also exacerbating the situation and therefore, teacher training program should be expanded to the entire country in order to invest on young generation of Afghanistan.



- Although much has been done in education sector since a decade, but still many Afghan children and youth have not access to primary, secondary and vocational education and the government must provide the opportunity of learning for Afghans in the insecure areas of the country through reopening of the closed schools and establishment of new ones in order for guarantying the stability and prosperity of Afghanistan.
- Administrative corruption is a big hurdle towards development of education sector that directly affect Afghan youth. Elimination of bureaucracy and digitalizing the education system and application of e-governance could be resulted in fast positive changes.
- Since years, we have been witness of extensive frauds in University Entrance exams and therefore, authorities must seriously pay attention to the issue through creation of a transparent mechanism, according to which the students are evaluated based on their talents and competencies.
- Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) should allocate scholarships based on merit and talents through a transparent mechanism without any discrimination paving the way to all Afghan youth to pursue their education outside the country.

2. Youth and Unemployment: Youth as the biggest potential for social change, face serious level of unemployment in Afghanistan. According to Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MLSAMD) around 800000 Afghan youth are unemployed and in consideration to rapid growth in the work force, working opportunities are getting less. If the problem is not solved, more youth will be engaged in addiction to narcotics, illegal migration, smuggling etc and therefore, we request the Afghan government to put an end to unemployment of Afghan youth.



3. Narcotics: Almost one million Afghans, most of them youth, are addicted to narcotics and the main reasons are unemployment, migration, poppy cultivation and production and easy access to narcotics. Government must save the society especially youth and children from this killing phenomena.

4. Placement of Youth in Armed Forces: Although government tries to not place youth under 18 in armed forces, but still, ANA (Afghan National Army) and ANP (Afghan National Police) have persons of such age category. Armed opposition also place youth in their troops and therefore, we strongly request government and armed opposition to not utilize youth forces in the armed conflicts.

5. Youth and Migration: According to United Nations' data, Afghanistan is one of the countries with high number of refugees. Many Afghan youth commit illegal migration to enjoy better living circumstances and for this purpose, accept many miseries even on the cost of their lives. Government must prevent illegal migration of youth and offer them work opportunities inside the country from one hand and pave the way for legal migration of Afghans in agreement with the international community from other hand, so that Afghan migrants living in any foreign country enjoy equal rights as nationals of the host country.

6. Finalization and Implementation of National Youth Policy: Ministry of Information and Culture should take practical steps to finalize National Youth Policy and pave the way for its implementation.

7. Youth and Elections: Political participation of youth must be ensured in the future of Afghanistan. Youth must actively take part in 2014 presidential elections marking their future themselves and cast their vote for those having excellent and practical programs for the country and nation especially for youth.



8. Youth and Manufacture Sector: Government must pave the way for Afghan youth (girls and boys) to take part in country's economic development through providing working opportunities in public and private manufacture sector.

9. Youth and Socio-cultural Problems: Afghan youth face variety of problems including no permission to girls to go to schools, no involvement of youth in decision making processes, no right to choose the spouse, high dowry and marriage expenses, family violence, forced and early marriages etc; the government must take appropriate measures to prevent and solve youth problems.

10. Special Allocation for Youth in the National Budget: Many Afghan ministries were failed to spend over 50% of their development budget last year that affected the whole nation especially youth and children. From other side, proper budget allocation in the National Budget for sectors involved in youth and children affairs in accordance to their real needs is a must and its utilization must also be monitored throughout the fiscal year.

