

Policy Brief

Sectoral Action Plan on Youth Sensitive Budgeting

Background and Objectives

In recent years, concerned ministries have made considerable efforts to integrate youths into economic activities and to maximize youth potential through youth-centric policies and interventions. These policies and interventions are frequently region-specific and tailored to the specific needs of a particular cohort of youth. On a national level, however, youth continue to face challenges such as low quality education, limited employment opportunities, informal employment and low wages, limited access to reproductive and essential healthcare, and incidents of gender-based violence. These have occurred as a result of incomprehensible policies and a lack of coordination among implementing authorities. In addition to escalating pre-existing challenges, such as unemployment, NEET, crime, early marriages and domestic violence, an ageing workforce, the COVID-19 pandemic has created

new ones for youth: stagnation in education (Human Capital Development) and the uncertainty of future (Livelihood). To mitigate the pandemic's challenges and reap the demographic dividend, youth should be prioritized in the budgetary process. Youth sensitive budgeting can be

especially beneficial for ensuring equitable resource distribution and equal opportunity for youth from all regions of the country. Tackling the aforementioned challenges requires a concerted effort, sound planning, and effective implementation,

which may be addressed by a Sectoral Action Plan for Youth Sensitive Budgeting. As a sequential progression of the SANEM-AAB 2020 Collaboration, where a Youth Budget Framework was constructed to implement the youth-sensitive budgeting in Bangladesh, SANEM and ActionAid Bangladesh have worked to develop a Sectoral Action Plan on Youth Sensitive Budgeting.

Pre-pandemic constraints: Unemployment, NEET, crime, early marriages and domestic violence, an ageing workforce

The pandemic related constraints: Stagnation in education (Human Capital Development) and the uncertainty of future (Livelihood)

Tackling these issues requires a concerted effort, sound planning, and effective implementation.

What is a Sectoral Action Plan?

“A sectoral action plan is essentially an action plan designed for each of the key priority sectors (education, employment, income, health, poverty and domestic violence) under two broad themes (Human Capital Development and Livelihood).”

Objectives

- To mitigate the challenges hindering youths' development and realizing future potential through the implementation of the agenda of the Youth Budget Framework.
- To achieve the broad economic, social and national objectives by recommending applicable and specific goals to be attained annually, by 5 years and by 10 years.
- To strengthen implementation and overcome institutional barriers by raising accountability of ministries/divisions through means of measuring progress and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

In broad terms, the Youth Sectoral Action Plan may facilitate....

- Greater access to education and employment-oriented educational outcomes for the youth
 - Development of qualities, competencies and skills required to contribute towards the productivity and growth of the economy
 - Inclusion and active participation of young people in decision-making processes
 - Employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for young people
 - Health and wellbeing of youth
 - Engagement of youth in community development
 - Prevention of gender-based violence and inequality
- Steps of Youth SAP (Sectoral Action Plan)

Methodology

The plan outlines objectives in line with the challenges faced by the youth under two broad themes: Livelihood and Human Capital Development.

Under Livelihood and Human Capital Development are the following key areas of priority:


Human Capital Development

 Education

 Health

Livelihood

 Employment

 Poverty and

 Income

 Domestic Violence

This plan draws on the National Youth Policy 2017 and the National Plan of Action for Implementation of National Youth Policy 2017 developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and maps the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh to support the development and wellbeing of young people.

Furthermore, national policy and planning documents, including the 8th Five Year Plan, Vision 2021, National Education Policy (NEP) 2010, National Skills Development Policy (NSDP) 2011, National Women Development Policy (NWDP) 2011, The Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy (2016), Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy (2015), have also been reviewed and consulted setting the broad objectives of the Youth Sectoral Action Plan.

As a central component of the plan, some gaps and areas in need of improvement have been identified in the existing policies which hinder the development of appropriate and meaningful services for young people.

The Youth Sectoral Action Plan also incorporates the priorities of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined for the youth and resonates with the vision of youth development as outlined through the detailed targets and indicators of SDG.

It specifies a list of indicators for measuring progress along each of the objectives. The indicators for the objectives have been developed through a detailed review of youth and adolescent-specific international frameworks and strategies.

The plan identifies the lead ministries which will coordinate the activities and strategies across and within various sectors, divisions, organizations, youth representatives and other stakeholders to ensure the proper implementation of the proposed programmes.

The list of ongoing youth-specific projects included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of Bangladesh for the FY 2021-22 are incorporated in the plan to highlight the initiatives that have already been undertaken by the government in favour of youth development.



Framework of Youth SAP

Components of the Sectoral Action Plan	Tools/Resources to Address each Component
Applied Approach	Desk Review—Analyses of ADP, SDGs, International NAPs
Background and Overview	Desk Review—National budget, National Action Plans
Key Issues and Priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desk Review – National policy documents 2. Qualitative Data—KII for planning and targeting of plan
<p>Strategy and Action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Thrusts 2. The Action Plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desk Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals-Desk Review; FGD/KII • Indicators- Desk Review of national plan and policy documents; International NAPs • Actions-Desk Review • Suggested Projects-Analyses of ADP • Implementation Phase-Desk Review/ Responsible Ministries
Constraints and Risks	Desk Review
The SAP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Conclusion	Developed SAP



Sectoral Action Plan (Example)

Theme	Sectors	Objectives	Key Indicators	Lead Ministries	Ongoing Projects/Programs	Requirement of New Project	Monitoring and Evaluation		
							Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Human Capital Development	Education	1.1 Establishing an inclusive education system that leaves no one behind (in line with SDG 4)	Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education; Secondary and Higher Education Division	Primary Education Stipend Program (PESP); Secondary Education Stipend Project (SESP); School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas; SHARE (Supporting the Hardest to Reach through Basic Education) Education Programme; Stipend for Disabled Students	Quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education; Developing the curriculum for students with disabilities	Assessing the proper disbursement of the stipend programs, Management of the school feeding program	Assessing the management of stipend and school feeding programs, Assessing the intersectionality curriculum	Assessing the structural soundness of the existing programs;

Recommendations

- Adoption of a Youth-focused, Comprehensive and Long-term Action Plan for Education and Health
- Enabling Institutions for Effective Implementation and Monitoring
- Building a Business Environment Conducive to Decent Jobs for the Youth
- Investment in Research
- Including Skills Development Programmes under Formal Education
- Ensuring Easy Access to Resources for Youth:
- Projects for Youth from Lagged behind districts
- Social Protection for Vulnerable Group of Youth
- Affordable Mental Health Service
- Awareness regarding SRHR
- Enabling Proper Environment for Youth with Special Needs
- Establishment of Support Centers for Domestic Violence Victims

This document is jointly developed by ActionAid Bangladesh and SANEM. The Sectoral Action Plan for Youth Sensitive Budgeting team has been led by Dr Selim Raihan. The team members are Eshrat Sharmin, Syeda Tasfia Tasneem, Omar Raad Chowdhury, Shafa Tasneem, and Nabila Tasnim from SANEM. From ActionAid Bangladesh, the contribution by Nazmul Ahsan and Iqbal Hossain is acknowledged.

About ActionAid

ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to further human rights for all and defeat poverty. We believe everyone has the power within them to create change for themselves, their families and communities. ActionAid is a catalyst for that change.

ActionAid works in over 45 countries across the world with more than 15 million people. We have a 'bottom up' approach to decision making. Our secretariat is located in Johannesburg, South Africa with hubs in Asia, The Americas and Europe too.

We believe that we can only achieve our goals by working collaboratively-locally, nationally and globally- with people in poverty, our supporters, partners, and peers. We are more powerful and effective when we work together.

About SANEM

SANEM, launched in January 2007 in Dhaka, is a non-profit research organization registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms in Bangladesh. It is also a network of economists and policy makers in South Asia with a special emphasis on economic modeling.

SANEM aims to promote the production, exchange and dissemination of basic research knowledge in the areas of international trade, macro economy, poverty, labor market, environment, political economy and economic modeling. It seeks to produce objective, high quality, country- and South Asian region-specific policy and thematic research. SANEM contributes in governments' policy-making by providing research supports both at individual and organizational capacities.

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