



# TONGA NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY & STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION 2021-2025



Prepared by the  
Ministry of Internal Affairs, Youth Development Division  
Government of the Kingdom of Tonga

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

FBO	Faith Based Organizations
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MICS	Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
NCD	Non-communicable diseases
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPC	The Pacific Community
YDD	Youth Development Division
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

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## I. Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Youth Development Division acknowledges and would like to recognize all stakeholders who have contributed information or attended consultations to share information, reports and data. Your contribution and commitment to working together towards the development of the first complete National Youth Policy 2021-2025 and Strategic Plan of Action is not only encouraging but also refreshing.

There are certain Government Ministries and departments, Local Government bodies, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), faith based organizations, community based groups, development partners and private sector organizations that have played a major role in this great achievement by supporting and confirming alignment of the Policy to their existing vision and goals taking into account the findings of the comprehensive consultations with the wide reaching audience in respect of youth and their needs and aspirations through existing programs and services. Indeed much of what has been achieved is a result of the commitment to truly supporting, empowering and enlightening our youth appropriately so that they realize their full potential, resilience and capabilities.

Regional and International agencies that have also contributed to the achievements of the policy include UNESCO, UNFPA and The Pacific Community (SPC). Support from these relevant stakeholders is greatly appreciated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Youth Development Division and the Ministry looks forward to continuing these partnerships and further forming new partnerships, which will be crucial to the next stage of progress in implementing the Policy and realizing youth's most urgent priorities reflected herein.

This document is a result of collective technical support and efforts funded through the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States, UNFPA, The Pacific Community (SPC) and the Government of Tonga.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Youth Development Division looks forward to building on its existing partnerships with the continuous communication and cooperation that has led to this result as we collectively pursue a healthy, productive, fruitful and happy youth in Tonga going into the future.

## II. FOREWORD



To God be the glory, for the great things he hath done!

It is with great honor and pleasure that I present the first complete Tonga National Youth Policy together with its Strategic Plan of Action 2021-2025.

With effective collaboration between government ministries, non-government organizations, sectorial government offices, private sectors, development partners, community-based groups, faith-based organizations, youth groups, schools and the young people of Tonga, the first complete **National Youth Policy** for Tonga is being developed, with its **Strategic Plan of Action 2021-2025**.

This Policy was derived from, and thus based upon, the interwoven of youth's voices – needs and aspirations, societal, national and international values, principles and standards, developed using valid and reliable sources. It was formulated through inclusive, participatory and evidenced-based approaches.

This is a huge milestone for Tonga and it speaks the thoughts and hearts of youth and reflects their 'real value', place and state in Tongan Society today. It also sets direction for youth development activities in Tonga, and brings together youth stakeholders to work towards achieving its vision for *"a healthy, productive, fruitful and happy lives for youth in Tonga"*.

Implementing this Policy will further strengthen network of relations and cementing coordination between and amongst relevant entities. In so doing, there is a stronger tendency to enable the transformation of the situation of youth to achieve a much better one than the previous. Specifically, this will enable change in the situation of youth from a state of struggling to survival mode, towards a healthy, productive, fruitful and sustainable state of beings which may eventually make them become responsible citizens therefore, achieves the *Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025's national vision, of "a progressive Tonga supporting higher quality of life for all"*.

This policy will be implemented through a four year strategy and so, it is important that youth vigorously help the responsible entities to see this effectively implemented.

It is my sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders and youth of Tonga, for their support in the policy development process and, as the Hon. Minister of the responsible Ministry for youth development, I wish to encourage everyone to work together and support this Policy. Let us influence each other with our positive thinking and attitudes, and make sure the voices of our youth, are put into practice to achieve the *Sustainable Development Goals 2030's* theme, to make sure *'no one is left behind'*.

Respectfully,



Hon. Vatau Mefi Hui

Hon. Minister for Internal Affairs



### III. Introduction

The Kingdom of Tonga's youth is defined as individuals, being both males and females, aged 15-34. They make up one third of the country's total population amounting to almost 32,000 people<sup>1</sup> and are undisputedly regarded as the Kingdom's greatest asset representing the future of Tonga.

In 2007, the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga in its recognition of the challenges and issues faced by youth in Tonga adopted the National Youth Strategy (2007-2012) initially under the Ministry of Training, Employment, Youth and Sports (MOTÉYS) at the time. The National Youth Strategy was further reviewed and known as the National Youth Strategy 2014-2019 becoming the first national guiding document to address the identified challenges and issues faced by youth at the time so that the young population of Tonga could look forward to a better future and the fulfilment of their aspirations and needs. This current National Youth Policy and its Strategic Plan of Action 2021-2025 not only further enhances the Government's commitment to youth development and growth in Tonga but is an updated account of the National Youth Strategy targeting issues and priorities that youth face today to provide them with the mechanisms and opportunities they need to ensure their wellbeing contributes meaningfully to the society, economy and sustainable development in Tonga.

The key priority areas relating to youth in 2014 continue to remain valid in 2021 with slight changes. Notwithstanding this, the key areas affecting youth development and which is reflected in this National Policy puts emphasis on the importance of youth's health and wellbeing in their development and growth; recognizing the impacts of alcohol and other drugs on youth; acknowledging the challenges faced by youth in employment, the barriers to social protection for youth; and the weak enabling environment that allows collaboration amongst youth stakeholders and other relevant key players in effectively addressing the current issues and challenges faced by youth.

The Policy recognizes that youth's living with disability and vulnerable youth groups including but not limited to unemployed youth, school drop-out youths, LGBTQI youths and youths living in the rural areas and more remote islands cuts across all the priority areas identified. As such, while they are not specifically mentioned in each priority area, they will be monitored for every priority outcome.

Despite the focus of the Policy on the youth of Tonga, there is recognition that intervention may need to start at adolescence, which is defined as individuals aged 10-19. Data has shown that by some measures, adolescence is the healthiest period in the life-course, however, it has also proven to mark a period whereby the first manifestations of issues which can have life-long effects occurs.<sup>2</sup> In other words, adolescence is a time of heightened risk-taking, independence, seeking and experimentation. In light of this and the fact that the half mark of the age definition for adolescence also falls within the youth definition, the Policy also recognizes that period of time in its efforts to addressing youth development and growth issues in Tonga.

The development of this Policy took an inclusive, participatory and evidence-based approach with consultations commencing in 2018 covering the four main island groups of Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai and 'Eua. Final consultations recently covered the remote island group of the Niuas in late 2020. The delay in completing consultations is attributed to the impact of the global pandemic of COVID-19 that also

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<sup>1</sup>Kingdom of Tonga, Tonga Department of Statistics, 2016 Population and Housing Census

<sup>2</sup>2019 Tonga MICS 2019: Snapshot of Key Findings

affected Tonga despite there being no reported cases to date. The approach included a series of consultations with youths and community groups, Government Ministry Departments and Agencies, NGOs and CSOs, private sectors, FBOs and development partners.

To ensure effective implementation of the Policy, a Strategic Plan of Action has been developed as part of this Policy with realistic key outputs and actions relating to the identified priority areas which key stakeholders have contributed to and mutually agreed to work towards. The Strategic Plan of Action has re-affirmed that everyone has a role to play in improving and developing the lives of youth in Tonga and the concerted and collaborative efforts needed from all relevant stakeholders and at every level of society including the youth themselves. As such, youth inclusion and participation in the development phase of the Policy has always been encouraged and welcomed.

This document summarises concisely and presents the current policy statement on youth issues, needs and aspirations in the Kingdom of Tonga and is supported by a Strategic Plan of Action 2021-2025 providing potential solutions in addressing those issues, needs and aspirations.

Effectively, the Policy recognizes the current status of youth in Tonga and the potential they possess in contributing to the development of the country. In that light, the policy strives to enhance the youth's holistic development and growth to becoming healthy, productive, fruitful and happy members of the society who will in turn make significant contributions in driving the long term sustainable development aspirations of the country.

Tonga's commitment to its youth is reflected at national, regional and international levels. At the regional level, these include:

- SPC Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014-2023
- Pacific Youth Council
- Pacific Plan and various Pacific Islands Forum Communiques

At the Commonwealth:

- Commonwealth Youth Council
- Commonwealth Youth Parliament
- Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2006-2015

Tonga is also committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015 and to implementing a more inclusive sustainable and empowering human development outcome by strengthening its commitments to SDG 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 10 (Reducing Inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnership for Goals). Further to the following

- UN International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1994
- ILO Conventions 2016 (especially No. 111 and No. 182)
- Declaration and Program of Action on the UN World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, March 1995
- UNGASS on the Implementation of the Outcomes of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD +5), Hague, February 1999
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

- UNGASS on the Implementation on the Outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, May 2000
- SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway 2014

This Policy further supports the Government to achieve its commitments and reporting obligations of which some include the UPR and Forum Leaders Meetings.

#### **IV. TONGA'S STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK 2015-2025**

This Policy is consistent with Tonga's Strategic Development Framework 2015 – 2025 (TSDF II) which is guided by 7 National Outcomes contributing to the high level impact of "A more progressive Tonga supporting a Higher Quality of Life for All". The Policy is most consistent with National Outcome C for 'a more inclusive, sustainable and empowering human development with gender equality'. This policy is not only a mechanism for achieving this National Outcome but also conveys the youth in Tonga's vision of how they would like to see themselves, what they aspire to be and what they want to achieve. In turn, it also incorporates what the Government foresees for the youth in Tonga, the values that will define their character and integrity and the principles that will enlighten them to transform their aspirations and abilities to opportunities. The TSDF further supports this policy through Outcome 2.1 improved collaborations with and support to civil society organizations and community groups, Outcome 2.2 closer partnership between government, churches and other stakeholders for community development, Outcome 2.3 more appropriate social and cultural practices, Outcome 2.4 Improved education and training providing life time, Outcome 2.5 Improved health care and delivery systems (universal health coverage), Outcome 2.6 stronger integrated approaches to address both communicable and non-communicable disease and Outcome 2.7 better care and support for vulnerable people, in particular the vulnerable and disabled.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Government of Tonga, Ministry of Finance and National Planning 2015, Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025

## V. YOUTH ISSUES IN THE KINGDOM OF TONGA

The United Nations officially defines youth as those between the ages of 15 and 24. However, in the Tonga context and which may also be the case to some of its neighboring south pacific countries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has determined that youth in Tonga will include those that are beyond the age of 24 years as social and cultural perceptions dictate this. In many cases, young adults up to the age of 34 actively participate in youth programs whether in their communities and church. Some are aged in their 30s before living independently from their parents or other relatives and in other instances about 80% of individuals, both male and female, are not married until they are 34 years of age.<sup>4</sup>

The high fertility rate in Tonga with 4.1 children per woman<sup>5</sup> contributes to the relatively large proportion of children and young people. A Situational analysis on youth in Tonga identifies that with such a young population, there is bound to be an increase in demand for basic services such as health and education. Adolescence and youth will require adequate opportunities to work and continue education as they transition to adulthood and independence. Without these, they stand a high risk of becoming disengaged and entering into unhealthy and anti-social behavior such as delinquency, alcohol abuse, drugs or other crimes. It has been recognized that family and social institutions including the Church play a vital role in providing a healthy and enabling community environment for our young people.

The Tongan society has undergone a rapid social, economic and cultural transformation in the last 50 years. Such changes are bound to impact the general population with the young population most at risk. While this has caught the attention of the Government, the young people continue to be challenged with various issues socially, economically and politically. A common theme shared throughout the community consultations in the development of this Policy is that urgent action is required to immediately invest in the spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, economic and social health of the young people in Tonga.<sup>6</sup>

The following issues have been identified as the most urgent for Tonga's youth today. Naturally, they require the attention of the Government, NGOs, CSOs and development partners together with the allocation of adequate resources for tackling them.

### ***A The health and wellbeing of the youth's body, mind and soul***

Young people have diverse biological, social, emotional and psychological health needs some of which contest one another and some are obvious and visible while others are indistinct and unclear in nature. These health issues, capabilities and life skills awareness must be urgently elevated as key priorities. In so doing, they must be urgently addressed, understood, enhanced and sustained, should we truly aspire for a healthy, happy, trustworthy, productive and fruitful youth.

A glance at some of the issues that currently threaten the health and wellbeing of the young population include NCDs. The 2015-2020 National Strategy for Prevention and Control of NCDs identified that 99% of the adult population is at risk of NCD in Tonga. It further acknowledged that NCDs in adults are impacted by factors taking place at fetal development and early childhood that establishes the pathway for NCD risk throughout a person's lifetime. Such factors include nutrition and maternal diabetes. NCD impact on

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<sup>4</sup>Kingdom of Tonga, Tonga Statistics Department, 2019, Tonga's Youth: Analysis of the situation of youth people based on the 2016 Population and Housing Census

<sup>5</sup>Kingdom of Tonga, 2012, Demographic and Health Survey

<sup>6</sup>Hoponoa, L, 2018, Report on the First Tonga National Youth Policy 2019-2023

maternal and perinatal outcomes includes anemia in women of reproductive age (15-49) which has increased from 18.7% in 2010 to 21.3% in 2016.

The Adolescent birth rate is high and has increased from 27% (DHS 2012) to 32% (MICS 2019). The target is 10%. Unmet need for family planning is at 44.9% in the age group 15-19 and use of contraception has decreased and found to be particularly low in the same age group with 28.4% (DHS 2012) compared to 25.2% (MICS 2019). There are 14% of girls aged 15-19 that have a sexual partner 10 or more years older. Young women age 15-24 report being sexually active in the last 12 months 3 times less (15%) than young men of the same age (57%) and young men are more likely to report having more than one sexual partner in the last 12 months both in the age group 15-24 and in age group 15-49. While HIV prevalence is low and stable, STI prevalence is high with 18.9% women in age group 15-24 and 23.6% women in age group 15-49 (MICS 2019).

Despite there being some achievements at national level such as the strategic prioritization of NCDs by Government through its TSDF II, reduction in the prevalence of low levels of physical activity (STEPS 2014) and having the necessary data in place in the areas of population, health, nutrition and risk factors that determine the major disease burden in Tonga( DHS 2012, STEPS 2017 and MICS 2019) which drives the current initiatives, programs and services by the relevant stakeholders, there remains critical challenges and gaps in those initiatives, programs and services that require strengthening and improvement.

Some of those gaps and challenges include the lack of data to inform stakeholders in the areas of mental and emotional health despite it being a critical part of the holistic development and growth of the young population; the social and cultural barriers affecting comprehensive and necessary life skills and capability programs being implemented in schools and communities and the lack of coordination between the necessary support structures that have the potential to shape the development and growth of the young population starting from families, communities, the churches, schools and ultimately the government.

The health and wellbeing of the young population relies on numerous factors as there is a holistic outcome expected, however, the Policy attempts to address the most immediate issues identified through proposed key outputs and actions including the critical roles that parents, physical activities such as sports and youth participation in the decision making process have in enhancing growth and development.

### ***B Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD): addiction and effects on youth***

Alcohol and other drugs and its effects on youth are the second priority issue that poses challenges and concerns at all levels of Tonga society. Specifically, a robust supply to match a socially constructed demand and current patterns of consumption of alcohol and other drugs in Tonga are prone to engender man-made disasters in the family, peer group, church, school, community and the nation as a whole.

Relevant data under this heading shows a major difference between young men and women and their consumption of alcohol, kava and tobacco with a much greater percentage of males participating in these unhealthy substances compared to females. There are 40% men compared to 11% women that smoke tobacco; 37% men compared to 9% women that drink alcohol; and 49% men compared to 1% women consume kava in the age group 20-49. For those in the age group 15-19, 47% boys compared to 3% girls smoke tobacco and 32% boys compared to 2.3% girls drink alcohol. There is lack of data on the actual number of drug users in Tonga, however with the number of court cases involving illicit drugs reported

almost every week reflects there is indeed an increase in the use of drugs in Tonga including methamphetamine.

For every person with a drug or alcohol abuse problem, an average of 3 others are directly affected financially, socially and with impacts on physical and psychosocial health. These impacts are not new but are a growing problem in Tonga. Children who grow up with an alcoholic caregiver are at greater risk for having emotional problems than children whose parents are not alcoholics or drug addicts. The harm caused to young people and families from illicit drugs also contribute to NCDs later in life. Some even become victims of violent activities which heightens fear among young people and feeling of insecurity in their communities especially in the urban areas.

There are a few initiatives in place such as the establishment of the Tonga Police Drug Enforcement Taskforce, the increase of the drinking age from 18 to 21 years and the alcohol and drug abuse counseling services provided by the Salvation Army. Despite this, there remains a high demand for more prevention and response initiatives to address the impacts of this society wide issues which is growing and having detrimental effects on the young population of Tonga.

Government Ministries, non-government organizations, and relevant youth sectors must develop a meaningful and purposeful, holistic, inclusive and multi-dimensional strategy to address AOD supply, demand, consumption and harm.

The Policy provides the platform through its proposed key outputs and actions to addressing these identified issues.

### ***C Youth Employment***

Youth participation in paid employment can play a critical role in their growth, development and sense of identity. It can also support a family's financial position and generally financial security. Ultimately, it can contribute to the national economic growth. Lack of employment opportunities, support structures to assist youth in the early stages will have negative impacts on youth's growth, development and health.

In the 2016 Census of Population and Housing report, 63% of the total population 15 years and above were found to be economically active with only 36.6% that receive paid income out of which 45.2% males and 28.4% females. The data reflects a relatively high proportion of young women and men in the age group 15-34 who are not in employment or currently undergoing education or training with 44.5% young women compared to 34.5% young men. Youth Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) is highest in the remote island of the Niuas with 50% men compared to 42.5% women. NEET rate is much higher for youth with a disability compared to those with no disability at 58.2% disabled females compared to 53.8% disabled males and 44.2% females without a disability compared to 34.1% males without a disability.

Development, education and technical and vocational training institutions of government and non-government organizations must provide a wide range of employment opportunities for young people. There is a need for various support structures at all levels of society to assist young people during the early stages of their participation in employment. This, indeed, must be grounded in an inclusive, holistic and coordinated effort which should be based on national development programs in human resources management, labor market programs, the association between market demands and education, vocational and technical training programs and the Government Priority Setting.

The Government and non-government organizations must develop a meaningful and purposeful, holistic, inclusive and multi-dimensional strategy to urgently address youth employment that should include but not limited to the following (i) lack of employment opportunities; (ii) youth unemployment; (iii) factors that hinder youth active participation in both formal and informal employment sector, including gaps in employment services and education, training and vocational curriculum and their association.

The policy provides key outputs and actions that have the potential to improving the gaps and barriers identified under this issue.

#### ***D Social Protection and Accountability for Youth***

Social Protection and accountability issues for youth has identified the urgent need to eliminate gender based violence, the need to strengthen programs and services for returning deportees and residents and the building and sustaining of peace and security as fundamental ingredients of sustainable youth development.

Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young girls in Tonga with more girls at 10.1% compared to boys at 2.4%. This is considered child marriage and a violation of human rights having the potential to compromise the development of girls and highly resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation with less education and poor vocational training which underpins the gendered nature of poverty (MICS 2019). Other statistics of concern include 13% girls compared to 4% boys in the age group 15-19 feel discriminated on the basis of gender; 26% children in the age group 5-17 engaged in child labor; children in the age group 10-14 experience violence discipline with physical at 79.4% and psychological at 73%; and lastly, the most affected age in physical violence are the 15-17 year old women with 16.9% in the past year and most affected age in sexual violence are the 20-24 year old women with 4.6% in the past year compared to 10.6% in their lifetime.

Equal rights, obligations and empowerment of young girls and women for societal development must be strictly observed. Young men and women should have legally equal obligations and opportunities for developing their capabilities, talents and personalities. It is essential to utilize key resources to enable young people to actively participate in family, peer group, social, educational, economic, cultural and political development.

Most in the society perceive returning deportees as a threat to the social fabric of the Tongan society. Returning deportees normally bring with them their lived experiences which are naturally picked up by other members of the society if not channeled properly especially the young population. Upon their arrival in Tonga, they encounter many challenges and while some cope well with these, others struggle and end up developing their own coping mechanisms which often pushes them outside the normative models. From the returning deportee's point of view, they often feel that they are being stigmatized, dislocated and pre-judged. They often feel physically in the Tongan system but out of place in terms of cultural values acquired abroad. Consequently, the adverse effects of the interplay of two major points of views (Tongan and Western) are evidenced in many criminal activities wherein returning deportees are involved. Returning deportee's issues can only be tackled through coordinated and all-inclusive efforts and commitment by relevant government ministries, non-government organizations, private sectors and key international agencies.

Peace and Security are crucial variables in the development and success of any human endeavors. Lasting peace and security are the most valuable conditions and needs of the young people of Tonga. Specifically, peace and security are fundamental ingredients that can enable the achievement of sustainable youth development.

The Policy recognizes these immediate social issues and proposes key outputs and actions to address them.

***E        Enabling environment at national level to mainstream youth issues among key stakeholders***

Many challenges, issues and problems youth face can only be tackled through coordinated and all-inclusive efforts and commitment by relevant government ministries, non-government organizations, private sector and the community based groups. As such, there must be an enabling environment at national level in order for all relevant stakeholders to perform in. Ultimately, the key is to construct a partnership amongst these core stakeholders through providing an integrated work plan and capacity building programs and services to empower those who are with adolescents and youth. In so doing, exceptional programs, services and support for youth including those living with disabilities, at risk and vulnerable can be designed and implemented.

Decades of social, economic and political tensions, poverty, high rates of population growth, and intensified conflict at all levels of Tonga society all have positive and adverse effects on the orchestrating of young people's development and growth.

Adverse effects arise when young people's mental, social, emotional and biological needs are not met; specifically they struggle to cope with everyday stresses and challenges. For those youths who struggle the thought of making positive contributions to the ecological environment in which they live and to the preservation of the natural environment does not occur to them. They are instead focused on their own survival.

Urgent action is required to combat climate change before its impact becomes an inevitable condition of young people's continued existence. Land erosion in many parts of Tongatapu and the outer islands is significant. This is due to the lack of proactive response to the destruction of the natural habitats, including the construction of a foreshore to alleviate erosion. Additionally, the illegal fishing and over-harvesting of certain species in the ocean and the over-utilizing of chemical and pesticides in commercial agricultural farming have directly contributed to the destruction of living things in the ocean and on land.

Rural-to-urban migration due to economic and educational opportunities have put a heavy burden on urban infrastructure, particularly the electricity, water management system, and also increasing traffic which results in more air and noise pollution.

All relevant youth stakeholders must promote and support the active participation of youth in the preservation of the environment through rebuilding Tonga's national environment.

The policy has developed key outputs and actions that aim to strengthen and improve the enabling environment for all relevant stakeholders to be better placed and able to effectively design and implement the necessary services and programs to addressing youth issues at national level.

## **VI. TONGA NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**

### **A. VISION**

Healthy, productive, fruitful and happy lives for all youth in Tonga by 2025

### **B. MISSION**

To enhance the health, well-being, productivity, fruitfulness and happiness of all youth in Tonga by:

- 1) Grafting a deliberate and intentional personal growth and development initiative for all young people, and covering all contexts;
- 2) Enabling the body, mind and soul of all young people with key knowledge, wisdom and skills so that they:
  - a) can know who they truly are;
  - b) can cope well with everyday stresses and challenges;
  - c) can make informed decisions and appropriate choices;
  - d) can perform productive and fruitful work;
  - e) can maximize their potentials; and
  - f) able to make positive contribution to their communities.
- 3) Constructing quality youth-friendly services and programs and community based support structures for all young people; and
- 4) Creating an enabling environment conducive to learning and underpinned with love and care, which will in turn, enable young people to fulfill their immediate, instant and direct needs and aspirations.

### **C. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

The policy proposes a set of agreed priorities and guidelines for government and youth stakeholders to support youth in their development and growth with a view to initially meet their needs and aspirations and also realize their own goals. It proceeds to construct goals which are justified, meaningful and purposeful and it is governed by respecting, dignifying and honoring the youth's realities. When those goals are intentionally, strategically and effectively implemented it is anticipated that youth's situation will be significantly improved and sustained.

### **D. POLICY GOAL**

The goals of the National Youth Policy are as follows:

- a) Identify ill-constructed and misleading perceptions in youth's realities and prioritize these for urgent action that will result in novel conceptions of society and their pace in it for the youth;
- b) View and treat youth as a potential required to be fulfilled and not a problem which needs to be fixed;
- c) Recognize the pivotal value and place of youth in Tonga's holistic development, including poverty reduction and environmental sustainability;
- d) Understand fundamental needs and aspirations of youth and construct a referral pathway to facilitate youth's access to key services, legal frameworks and strategic guidelines for sustainable growth, development, achievements and civic participation;
- e) Make known gaps and shortfalls in existing policies, laws, services and programs of both the government and non-government sectors for youth and construct a joint framework to address these gaps;
- f) Acknowledge the distinct and complementary role of all youth sectors in youth growth and development and provide a framework for common goals;
- g) Maximize cooperation and collaboration between various government, non-government, and international organizations involved in youth issues;
- h) Develop a qualitative framework that will be employed to measure the standards to be achieved by the government, non-government organizations, and private sectors who have provided youth programs and services;
- i) Integrate youth developmental priorities into the government priority setting;
- j) Establish effective partnership that will be required among relevant government ministries, international agencies, and non-government organizations for sustainable political, moral, economic, cultural, and social youth development;
- k) Enhance the capacity of youth through enabling their capabilities and meeting their needs and aspirations; and
- l) Provide appropriate activities and decent employment for youth both in the formal and non-formal sectors to ensure they can optimize their economic, social, and moral development.

## **E. STRATEGY**

The Policy is youth-led but community, nationally and globally connected. The Policy is drawn from (i) the voices of young people, adults, and professional who have participated in the community consultations; (ii) young people's lived experiences and realities - needs and aspirations as represented in academic literatures and developmental reports; (iii) Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025 (TSDF II), Government Priority Setting (GPS) 2019/20-2021/22; and iv) the Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030 (SDG)

To achieve partnership between the policy, youth needs and aspirations, societal standards, TSDF II, Government Priority Setting and SDGs, requires promoting and adopting innovative ways of knowing, thinking, acting and relating to others.

The decision to establish the Tonga National Youth Policy was premised on the understanding of youth dynamism and capabilities. Youth hold tremendous potential to enact positive changes at all levels of Tongan society. They, therefore, possess distinctive energy which needs to be aptly channeled and utilized in order to enhance youth's reliability, productivity and fruitfulness. From a communication stand

point, youths are the most active users of information technology and they are twice as connected as previous generation.

## F. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### 1. *The Policy is to ensure Equity whereby:*

- a) It is to be implemented for young men, women and others without discrimination or stigma;
- b) It shall specify the rights and obligations of youth to receive just and equitable access to resources, programs, services and community support structures;
- c) Relevant government ministries and non-government organizations shall promote programs and services to address the deeper causes of the challenges faced by the vulnerable young people including young people who are loitering around with no specific life goal, unemployed youth, drug addicts, returning deportees and youth living with disabilities;
- d) All youth shall be the direct beneficiaries of all programs and services which are designed and developed for them.

### 2. *Participation and engagement of youth is very crucial whereby:*

- a) Youth rights and obligations to take part in the decision-making process which affects their existence and life journey in any way or form shall be understood and performed;
- b) Youth rights and obligations are to shape a positive and sustainable future consistent with the understanding that the best person to make necessary positive and sustainable change in their lives are the youth themselves

### 3. *Implementation and coordination are vital to measure the success of the policy whereby:*

- a) It shall be implemented under the leadership and management of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in close collaboration with relevant government ministries, youth and civil society organizations, churches, community-based organizations, private sectors and other key national and international development agencies;
- b) The Youth Development Division in the Ministry of Internal Affairs will take lead in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Policy, strategies and programs in partnership with the relevant government ministries, sectors at the community and non-government organizations and international level.

### 4. *Coherence and establishing good relationships must be ensured whereby:*

- a) The Policy will accept and promote the support of all relevant stakeholders. Relevant government ministries and non-government stakeholders should share youth related programs, services and strategies for the growth, development and achievements of youth in Tonga;
- b) All youth related programs and services by government and non-government entities need to be aligned with key policy guidelines, preventions and interventions already recognized under the policy;
- c) Components of youth growth and development programs should promote the values of positive culture including the 4 core values of respect, humility, nurturing relationships and loyalty, the love of truth and peace, love of public safety and security, political stability and

- equity, economic empowerment and engagement in the building and sustaining of a healthy natural environment;
- d) All programs and services based on the priorities recognized under this policy shall receive technical and other necessary support from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and relevant partners;
  - e) Relevant government ministries and non-government organizations will partner to implement targeted programs and services to improve the psycho-social, economic and political conditions of youth people in the rural areas and outer islands and mobilize necessary financial and human resources for executions of programs and services.

## **G. PRIORITY POLICY OUTCOMES**

In order to achieve “Healthy, productive, fruitful and happy lives for all youth in Tonga by 2025”, the Tonga National Youth Policy proposes the following five (5) priority outcomes

1. The health and wellbeing of the youth’s body, mind and soul
2. Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD): addiction and effects on youth
3. Youth Employment
4. Social Protection and Accountability for youth
5. Enabling environment at national level to mainstream youth issues among key stakeholders

Youth living with disabilities and vulnerable youth groups are considered cross-cutting to the five (5) priority outcomes.

## **H. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Youth Development Division will play the leading role of coordination, monitoring and providing advisory services in respect of this Policy. The implementation of the Policy requires the engagement of all sectors and all government agencies at both national and local levels. Each sector and agency concerned with the outcomes of the Policy must dedicate appropriate human, financial and material resources and are expected to play a leading role in achieving the outcomes applicable to their respective sector.

## **I. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Monitoring and evaluation are critical for measuring the progress towards its identified vision of achieving a “Healthy, productive, fruitful and happy lives for all youth in Tonga by 2025”. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Youth Development Division, subject to other directions of Government, will use its existing committee, the Youth Steering Committee, which is currently chaired by the CEO, Ministry of Internal Affairs and members including CEOs and Directors of all relevant government ministries, non-government organizations, civil societies, Faith Based organisations and development partners to closely monitor the implementation of the Policy, play an advisory role for directing interventions and report to Parliament annually through the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is the intention of the Youth Development Division to

establish a National Advisory body which may maintain the members of the Youth Steering Committee but with the Honorable Minister for Internal Affairs as the Chairperson. The Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Youth Development Division in its cabinet reports, annual reports and other reports or forums will inform the nation on the progress of the Policy outcomes. Such reports will highlight progress and achievements on implementing the Policy; providing information about recurrent and emerging youth, and draw attention on the needs of having a greater impact in achieving the policy outcomes. The key performance measures will incorporate (i) The SDG targets; (ii) International Conference on Population and Development priorities; (iii) Systematic collection and analysis of applicable and appropriate sex-disaggregated data; and (iv) Linking national plans, Tonga Strategic Development Frameworks, policies and legislation to international and regional commitments such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ILO Conventions, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway.



TONGA NATIONAL YOUTH  
STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION  
2021 – 2025



## VII. POLICY OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIONS

### Policy Outcome 1:

The health and wellbeing of the youth's body, mind and soul

#### *Key Outputs and Actions:*

- 1.1 Strengthen awareness on health obligation and rights for youth and their accessibility to health services and programs**
  - 1.1.1 Develop a comprehensive health strategy for youth that aligns with their obligations and rights
  - 1.1.2 Improve and strengthen the quantity and quality of youth friendly health care services support structures and effective and efficient referral pathway system
  - 1.1.3 Health programs and services for youth are mainstreamed into the basic health, education, social, moral (religious), adolescent sexual and reproductive health, mental and psychosocial programs and services available
  - 1.1.4 Increase and sustain youth's obligation and rights to themselves, others and the natural environment
  - 1.1.5 Promote and raise public awareness of the chronic and epidemic diseases, including NCD, RMNCAH, STIs-HIV
  - 1.1.6 Raise awareness of the adverse health and social effects of systems in which youth are a part, particularly those that they are not conducive for the orchestration of their whole person (*Tangata Kakato*)
- 1.2 Improve youth health both mentally and emotionally**
  - 1.2.1 Promote action-research and encourage data collection and sharing based on exploring the value, place, and state of youth health particularly mental and emotional health in the society
  - 1.2.2 Improve and strengthen youth mental and emotional prevention creativities
  - 1.2.3 Strengthen and continue awareness raising regarding the crucial role of mental and emotional health in the development of the whole person (*Tangata Kakato*)
  - 1.2.4 Integrate mental and emotional health topics and issues into all youth programs, services and school curriculum, through reviewing mental and emotional health topics, strategies and the methods of teaching those issues.
- 1.3 Promote healthy lifestyles for youth and physical activities through sports**
  - 1.3.1 Develop mainstream education segments to address hygiene, nutrition and the health benefits of physical exercises in formal education and in the communities
  - 1.3.2 Review and improve how healthy lifestyles are taught at school and in all youth programs and services

- 1.3.3 Promote public and youth awareness of healthy eating at all levels of Tongan society
- 1.3.4 Support and encourage accessible and youth friendly recreation and sport facilities
- 1.3.5 Develop and sustain integrated sports programs at all levels of the society and utilize them as an entry to prioritize youth needs, aspirations and challenges
- 1.3.6 Encourage investment in youth sports talents through developing the necessary support structure to enable them to take full advantage of the opportunities

#### **1.4 Encourage and promote Life skills and capabilities programs for youth**

- 1.4.1 Promote action-research and encourage data collection and sharing based on exploring the value, place and state of adolescents and youth life-skills, livelihood skills and capabilities in the society
- 1.4.2 Improve and strengthen the quantity and quality of youth's life-skills and capabilities through prevention initiatives enabling youths with key knowledge, wisdom, skills and experience on how to gain authentic understanding of their true self and also know-how to cope well with everyday stresses and challenges
- 1.4.3 Increase public and youth awareness of the chief role of life-skills and capabilities in the process of making informed decision and right choices
- 1.4.4 Strengthen young people life-skills and capabilities of how to build and sustain good relationship with others, including persons in power (including parents, caregivers and elders)
- 1.4.5 Support the ongoing review of the education curriculum with particular attention on how life-skills and capabilities topics are taught and make appropriate recommendations. Also support the Tonga Family Life Education

#### **1.5 Strengthen existing parenting guides based on best practices and lessons learnt**

- 1.5.1 Promote action-research and data collection and sharing based on exploring the value, place and state of how parents and caregivers raise their children in the Tongan society
- 1.5.2 Improve parents and caregivers awareness of different parenting models
- 1.5.3 Establish and sustain community support structures at all levels of Tongan society to assist parents and caregivers where necessary

#### **1.6 Promote the active participation of youth in social, economic, political environment to ensure they are part of the decision making process in matters concerning their life and future**

- 1.6.1 Enhance young people's capabilities to become key agents in the making of a more progressive and sustainable Tonga aligned with the National Priority setting
- 1.6.2 Establish and encourage youth leadership capacity buildings at all levels of Tongan society, through enabling them to acquire sufficient knowledge, wisdom and skills with respect to how to better lead and steer themselves as well as leading the journey of other youths

- 1.6.3 Construct and enforce innovative peer education programs at all levels of the society, particularly to enrich their civic capabilities through religious, cultural and civic education and enforce civic education programs in the family, youth group, school, church, post-secondary institutions, and community
- 1.6.4 Foster participation by youth representatives in political, religious, social, economic and professional decision making processes through enabling them to have an opportunity to serve in executive positions in the village and on constituency councils even in the government ministries and with other relevant youth organizations
- 1.6.5 Promote, foster and engage youth participation in the development and implementation of policies and programs in the family, school, church, community and the national level.
- 1.6.6 Strengthening support structure and process in the family, youth group, school, church, community and at the national level to enable youth to tell and share their stories without concealment
- 1.6.7 Establish and sustain youth councils in the village and at constituency levels and in the town areas and promote sustainable relationships between rural (including outer islands) and urban youth councils
- 1.6.8 Support and establish ongoing talk sessions (*talanoa*) amongst youth, parents/caregivers, church leaders, community leaders, government and non-government organizations at the community and national level to ensure that young people are given the opportunity to share their concerns, challenges, problems, needs and aspirations with no agenda in an open, loving, caring and peaceful environment.

**Stakeholders:**

Ministry of Internal Affairs (Youth Development Division, WAGED, Social Protection and Disability, Employment Division, Policy & Planning, Sports) Ministry of Health, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Tonga Department of Statistics, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Police, Ministry of Education and Training, Public Service Commission, Parliament, Disability Organisations , Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Media, Tonga National Church Leadership Forum, Tonga National Council of Churches, Talitha Project, Tonga National Youth Congress, Tonga Youth Employment Enterprise, Tonga Family Health Association, Tonga Youth Leaders, UNFPA and other Development Partners.

## Policy Outcome 2:

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD): addiction and effects on youth.

### *Key Outputs and Actions:*

- 2.1 *Promotion of multi-dimensional strategies to address Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) supply, demand, consumption and harm***
  - 2.1.1 Promote action-research based and encourage ongoing data collection and sharing on the association of adolescents and youth with AOD, including petrol and glue sniffing
  - 2.1.2 Improve and strengthen the quantity and quality of AOD prevention initiatives, interventions programs and services, user friendly treatment facilities at the community and national level and also strengthen current programs and activities
  - 2.1.3 Review how AOD issues are taught at school and all youth programs and services and integrate new AOD topic where necessary
  - 2.1.4 Review current AOD legislations especially on adolescents and youth, and urgent action required to develop legislation to address petrol and glue sniffing
  - 2.1.5 Develop an integrated framework, programs and services to cope with narcotics and addiction and find alternative solutions to combat the growing AOD supply, demand, consumption and harmful outcomes.
  - 2.1.6 Run a national youth camp twice a year where youth AOD national talk sessions (*talanoa*) are encouraged to address the successes, achievements, problems and challenges in work being done on AOD at all levels of the society.
  - 2.1.7 Provide ongoing media awareness programs on the adverse effects of AOD upon the development of the youth's whole person (*Tangata Kakato*)

### **Stakeholders:**

Ministry of Internal Affairs (Youth Development Division, WAGED, Social Protection and Disability, Employment Division, Policy & Planning, Sports) Ministry of Health, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Tonga Department of Statistics, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Police, Ministry of Education and Training, Public Service Commission, Parliament, Disability Organisations , Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Media, Tonga National Church Leadership Forum, Tonga National Council of Churches, Tonga National Youth Congress, Tonga Youth Employment Enterprise, Tonga Family Health Association, Tonga Youth Leaders, Community Youth Councils, UNFPA and other Development Partners.

## Policy Outcome 3:

### Youth Employment

#### *Key Outputs and Actions:*

#### **3.1 Build youth capacity on employment opportunities and encourage youth enterprises**

- 3.1.1 Improve youth's general attitude towards both formal and informal employment
- 3.1.2 Conduct action-research and encourage data collection and sharing particularly to identify key factors that limits youth's active participation in the formal and non-formal employment
- 3.1.3 Strengthening the current youth specific employment services and career education, including the current youth job center
- 3.1.4 Strengthening the current youth entrepreneurship programs by increasing youth's access to finance and possible aid funds, improving financial literacy and business knowledge and skills as well as developing a support structure to assist the business growth
- 3.1.5 Encourage and increase public and private partnership between education and private sectors through reinforcing the alignment between school curricula with market demands

#### **3.2 Promote and strengthen youth employment programs**

- 3.2.1 Increase work experience opportunities for youth through formal and informal apprenticeship, including public and private internship programs.
- 3.2.2 Provide job opportunity in the public and private sectors and enforce transparency in employment
- 3.2.3 Promote public works programs for youth with specific attention to vulnerable youth groups
- 3.2.4 Encourage and strengthen the current demand driven, integrated and coordinated national technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system

#### **3.3 Improve regulatory framework and legislation on employment opportunities for youth**

- 3.3.1 Support current and existing initiatives in relation to labor and civil service laws to employment opportunities for all young people including youth with disabilities in government and non-government sectors.
- 3.3.2 Address limited employment opportunities and lack of labor data and research, particularly the lack of information disaggregated by gender and age on labor force and employment
- 3.3.3 Improve young people's awareness of their obligations and rights as workers and construct a support structure to assist their immediate needs where necessary

- 3.3.4 Promote and encourage a favorable policy environment and remove bottlenecks for decent job opportunities for youth with a focus on the following sectors: agriculture and livestock, fishing, rural development, art and craft, poetry and music, hospitality and tourism, trade and industry, construction, traditional sailing, information technology, seasonal working schemes and sports.

**Stakeholders:**

Ministry of Internal Affairs (Youth Development Division, WAGED, Social Protection and Disability, Employment Division, Policy & Planning, Sports) Ministry of Health, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Tonga Department of Statistics, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Police, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, Ministry of Fisheries, MAFF, MEIDECC, Ministry of Infrastructure, Public Service Commission, MPE. Parliament, Disability Organisations , Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Media, Tonga National Church Leadership Forum, Tonga National Council of Churches, Tonga National Youth Congress, Tonga Youth Employment Enterprise, TBEC, WISE, Tonga Family Health Association, Tonga Youth Leaders, UNFPA and other Development Partners.

## Policy Outcome 4:

### Social Protection and Accountability for Youth

#### *Key Outputs and Actions:*

#### **4.1 Measures are in place to eliminate gender based violence and user friendly social services are in place for youth victims/survivors**

- 4.1.1 Improve the general public and youth's awareness of gender based violence, harm and broader implications and human rights and obligations
- 4.1.2 Enforce the law to bring justice to victims of violence and hold perpetrators accountable.
- 4.1.3 Support the sensitization and education of legal enforcement entities on violence and establish strategies to protect victims of violence and re-educate perpetrators.
- 4.1.4 Improve and strengthen programs, services and support for the perpetrators
- 4.1.5 Build and strengthen capacities of those who are working in youth programs and services on gender based violence and human rights
- 4.1.6 Integrate and improve adolescents and youth awareness regarding their obligation and rights for their own protection, safety, growth and the safety of others.

#### **4.2 Strengthen and promote existing programs and services for returning deportees and residents**

- 4.2.1 Strengthening and assisting the current programs, the community-based support structures and capacity building programs for returning deportees and residents and to guarantee their sustainability
- 4.2.2 Building and strengthening partnership for common purpose to rethink the legal, moral and human rights status of the partnership between the Government of Tonga and international Governments relating to those who have been deported back to Tonga.
- 4.2.3 Review relevant frameworks in relation to returning deportees and how they are to be integrated back into communities and the society.
- 4.2.4 Develop multi-sectorial and cross-sectorial approaches and strategies, through orchestrating an integrated work plan, programs and services to address returning deportees and residents issues at all levels of Tongan society
- 4.2.5 Review programs and services for the returning deportees and residents, including the methods employed by professional workers to inform their professional practices.

### **4.3 Building and sustaining peace and security as fundamental ingredients that enable the achievement of sustainable youth development**

- 4.3.1 Raise public awareness regarding the centrality of peace and security conditions for the personal growth and development of youth people and the achievement of their whole person (*Tangata Kakato*)
- 4.3.2 Develop family, peer group, school, church, community and national programs through directly involving and mobilizing youth to participate in the building and sustaining peace and security, including their active participation in the process of conflict resolution at all levels of the society
- 4.3.3 Review peace and security topics and issues in the school curricular and extra-curricular activities and all youth programs, including the ways in which they have been taught and promote civic education for all youth.
- 4.3.4 Develop opportunities for youth to participate in the government ministries, non-government organizations and relevant community groups and services, particularly to secure youth engagement and commitment
- 4.3.5 Review current legislation and develop appropriate provisions to encourage youth roles in sustaining peace and security
- 4.3.6 Support current initiatives to develop juvenile court and prison procedures appropriate for youth

#### **Stakeholders:**

Ministry of Internal Affairs (Youth Development Division, WAGED, Social Protection and Disability, Employment Division, Policy & Planning, Sports) Ministry of Health, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Tonga Department of Statistics, Ministry of Justice (FPLAC, Justice Sector Support Program), Ministry of Police, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, Ministry of Fisheries, MAFF, MEIDECC, Ministry of Infrastructure, Public Service Commission, MPE. Parliament, Disability Organisations , Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Media, Tonga National Church Leaders Forum, Tonga National Council of Churches, Tonga National Youth Congress, Tonga Youth Employment Enterprise, Talitha Project, TBEC, WISE, Tonga Family Health Association, Tonga Youth Leaders, WCCC, TNCWC, MFF, UNFPA and other Development Partners.

## Policy Outcome 5:

Enabling environment at national level to maintain youth issues among key stakeholders

### *Key Outputs and Actions*

#### **5.1 Encourage multi sectorial and cross sectorial cooperation and collaboration to reflect at national level the scope of engagement and coordination on the implementation of youth programs and services**

5.1.1 Establish, nurture and sustain effective partnership of all relevant youth stakeholders

5.1.2 Develop an integrated work plan, programs, and services for all relevant youth stakeholders

5.1.3 Improve and sustain good relationships between and amongst all relevant youth stakeholders

5.1.4 Strengthen and support accredited government and non-government youth organizations, including programs and services.

#### **5.2 Improved knowledge on economic, social, political and environmental challenges and its impact on youth**

5.2.1 Increase awareness on environmental issues and practices amongst youth through family, community groups, religious institutions, school curriculum, government ministries, non-government organizations and private sectors programs.

5.2.2 Strengthen the partnership between key youth stakeholders with village councils and the 18 constituency councils to improve the quantity and quality of capacity building programs based on climate change and its impacts.

5.2.3 Review environmental sustainability topics and issues in the school curriculum as well as in all youth programs and services, including the ways in which they have been delivered

5.2.4 Promote green industries and develop the skills of young women and men to take up green jobs and also support green initiatives

5.2.5 Empower youth to support resilience, disaster risk reduction and preparedness at all levels of the society

### **Stakeholders**

Ministry of Internal Affairs (Youth Development Division, WAGED, Social Protection and Disability, Employment Division, Policy & Planning, Sports) Ministry of Health, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Tonga Department of Statistics, Ministry of Justice (FPLAC, Justice Sector Support Program), Ministry of Police, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, Ministry of Fisheries, MAFF, MEIDECC, Ministry of Infrastructure, Public Service Commission, MPE. Parliament, Disability Organisations, Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Media, Tonga National Church Leadership Forum, Tonga National Council of Churches, Tonga National Youth Congress, Tonga Youth Employment Enterprise, Talitha Project, TBEC, WISE, Tonga Family Health Association, Tonga Youth Leaders, WCCC, TNCWC, MFF, UNFPA and other Development Partners.