



MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



SAMOA YOUTH POLICY 2026-2031

Cast the Net Anew - Toe Timata le Upega

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AFFAIRS

*Cast the Net Anew
Toe Timata le Upega*

SAMOA YOUTH POLICY 2026-2031

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Hon. Moefaauouo Julius Ah Kui Tafuna'i
Minister Responsible for Youth
Ministry of Family and Social Affairs

FOREWORD

“Cast the Net Anew – Toe Timata le Upega” reflects our shared responsibility to renew our commitment to the young people of Samoa and to create fresh pathways of opportunity, leadership, and hope for the future.

Samoa's young people are one of our nation's greatest strengths. They carry the energy, creativity, resilience, and leadership that will shape the future of our country. For this reason, now is the right time to renew our national approach to youth development and ensure our policies respond to the changing realities, aspirations, and challenges facing young people today.

The journey from childhood to adulthood is a critical period. It is a time when young people seek education, training, employment, identity, and purpose. Yet many continue to face barriers, including unemployment, limited access to skills development, social and health challenges, environmental pressures, low participation in decision-making, and growing risks such as violence and substance abuse.

This Policy reflects the Government's determination to respond with practical action. It is grounded in the belief that youth are not a problem to be managed, but a powerful force to be nurtured, empowered, and supported.

In recognition of the importance of youth development to Samoa's future, Government establish a **dedicated Youth Division** under the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs from **July 2026**, to strengthen leadership, coordination, programmes, partnerships, and outcomes for young people nationwide.

Through stronger partnerships with families, villages, communities, churches, civil society, the private sector, and development partners, we aim to create real pathways for young people to succeed and contribute fully to Samoa's social, economic, cultural, and civic life.

We are equally committed to strengthening youth voice and leadership through the establishment of the **Samoa Youth Advisory Committee**, ensuring young people have a direct platform to help shape the decisions that affect them and the future they will inherit.

With more than half of Samoa's population made up of young people, investing in youth is investing in the future of our nation. We must equip them with the knowledge, skills, values, and opportunities needed to thrive, while preserving the Samoan identity, language, culture, and values that define us.

Our heritage teaches us that collective progress is achieved when everyone has a place and a purpose. In the same spirit, this Policy is a call for all sectors of society to work together so that no young person is left behind.

“Cast the Net Anew – Toe Timata le Upega” is therefore both a vision and a challenge: to think differently, to act boldly, and to widen the opportunities available to our youth.

Together, let us build an enabling environment where every young person in Samoa can realise their full potential, lead with confidence, and help shape a stronger, safer, and more prosperous nation.

Hon. Moefaauouo Julius Ah Kui Tafuna'i
Minister Responsible for Youth
Ministry of Family and Social Affairs



Loau Donina Vaa
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Family and Social Affairs

CEO Message

Under the leadership of Hon. Moefaaouuo Julius Ah Kui Tafuna'i, Minister Responsible for Youth, the Samoa Youth Policy 2026–2031: “Cast the Net Anew – Toe Timata le Upega” provides an important framework to guide coordinated action for the development of Samoa’s young people over the next five years.

This Policy comes at a critical time. Young people continue to face changing opportunities and challenges across education, employment, wellbeing, leadership, and community life. A clear and practical policy response is therefore essential to ensure that youth development remains a national priority.

The Ministry is committed to supporting the successful implementation of this Policy through effective coordination, strong partnerships, evidence-based planning, and accountable delivery. Through the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, there will be important opportunities to strengthen specialised support and improve service coordination for youth nationwide.

The Policy is also supported by broader national investments that strengthen pathways for young people, including continued commitment to Early Childhood Development (ECD) and district-level opportunities through the 20% District Development Programme allocation for GEDSI initiatives.

The establishment of the Samoa Youth Advisory Committee is another positive step, ensuring youth perspectives help inform planning, policy, and future decision-making.

The focus now must be on implementation—turning policy commitments into practical outcomes for young people, families, districts, and communities across Samoa.

When youth rise, Samoa rises. I look forward to working with all partners and stakeholders to help deliver the vision of this Policy and create lasting opportunities for the next generation.

Loau Donina Vaa
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Family and Social Affairs

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BOSA	Business of Salafai Organization	MSR	Ministry of Sports and Recreation
CBO	Community-Based Organisation	MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
CCCS	Congregational Christian Church of Samoa	MFSA	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs
CEDD	Community Economic Development Division	MWTI	Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
CS	Community Sector	NEET	Not in Employment, Education and Training
DBS	Development Bank of Samoa	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
DDA	District Development Authority	NPCED	National Policy on Community Economic Development
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	NPGE	National Policy on Gender Equality 2021-2031
FBO	Faith-based Organisation	NPPWD	National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2031
ECE	Early Childhood Education	NYP1	National Youth Policy 2006-2010
GoA	Government of Australia	NYPII	National Youth Policy 2011-2015
GoS	Government of Samoa	NYPIII	National Youth Policy 2025-2030
KPA	Key Priority Area	PPD	Policy and Planning Division (MFSA)
KSO	Key Strategic Outcome	PYDF	Pacific Youth Development Framework
LEEP	Labour and Employment Export Program	SAME	Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters
LJS	Law and Justice Sector	SBH	Samoa Business Hub
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	SCCI	Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry
MCIL	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour	SFA	Samoa Faafafine Association
MCIT	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	SFHA	Samoa Family Health Association
MEC	Ministry of Education and Culture	SNYC	Samoa National Youth Council
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning	SRCS	Samoa Red Cross Society
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	SUNGO	Samoa Umbrella Non-Government Organisation
MJCA	Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration	SVSG	Samoa Victim Support Organisation
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	YO	Youth Organisations
MOF	Ministry of Finance	TCM	Trade Commerce and Manufacturing
MOH	Ministry of Health	TSM	Temporary Special Measure
MPMC	Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet		

KEY POLICY DEFINITIONS

Youth

There are various definitions of the youth at National, Regional and International levels.

The United Nations - Youth is a person between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

World Health Organisation - Defines an adolescent as any person between the ages of 10 and 19 and young people as individuals between ages 10 and 24 years.

Samoa's Young Offenders Act 2007 defines adult as anyone older than 17 years of age, while the *Infants Ordinance 1963* defines infants as being under 21 years of age.

However, for this policy, in line with government directive, the definition for youth adopted for this Policy remains 18 to 35 years of age. The underlying principle is to harmonize these diverse definitions and respond to the socio-cultural context that creates opportunities for the holistic development of the youth. Concurrently, the term youth is used interchangeably and intended to have the same meaning as young people.

Youth Development

The policy shall ascribe to the description of youth development as the process of providing opportunities that support young people acquire knowledge, skills, competencies, and the right attitudes needed to realize their potential for optimum productivity through adolescence to adulthood. It is about young people becoming active members of society, contributing to national development, fostering positive relationships, and building their leadership strengths. Youth development should be well coordinated and programmed to empower the youth.

Youth Development Mainstreaming

It is a deliberate process of integrating youth development issues into all programmes, projects, and activities across all institutions, private and public, at the National, Local, and Community levels. It should be all-inclusive, all-embracing of needs, concerns, and requirements of youth throughout all programmes and activities during all phases of programme development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. It would be part of the development mainstreaming to integrate youth development activities into all stages of institutional and organizational development plans, and that includes public and private interventions.

Youth Empowerment

It creates choices in life, youth are aware of the implications of those choices, make an informed decision freely, act based on that decision and accept responsibility for the consequences for those actions. Empowering young people means creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which young people can act for themselves. These enabling conditions include:

- ▶ an economic and social base,
- ▶ political will, adequate resource allocation, and supportive legal and administrative frameworks,
- ▶ a stable environment of equality, peace, and democracy; and
- ▶ access to knowledge, information, skills, and a positive value system.

Youth Participation

The method of actively involving young people in processes, institutions and decisions that affect their lives. It is about ensuring that young people are actively engaged and have a real influence in making decisions that affect them. Youth participation must be deliberate and conscious enough to ensure that young people are not only represented but are contributing to real discussions, agreeing to resolutions, and taking actions leading to outcomes that benefit them and society at large. Thus, there should be no dealing with issues relating to the youth without their involvement.

Cast the Net Anew Toe Timata le Upega

Executive Summary

The **Samoa Youth Policy 2026–2031: “Cast the Net Anew – Toe Timata le Upega”** is a renewed national commitment to place young people at the centre of Samoa’s future development.

Young people are one of Samoa’s greatest national assets. They bring energy, creativity, resilience, cultural identity, leadership potential, and innovation. The opportunities created for them today will shape the strength of Samoa’s economy, communities, culture, and national resilience tomorrow.

This is one of the most important investments Samoa can make

The Policy recognises that successful youth development begins long before adolescence. It is built on the foundations established through **Early Childhood Development (ECD)**, where children first develop learning readiness, confidence, values, emotional security, and social connection. Strong investment in ECD creates better pathways into schooling, youth development, employment, and leadership.

While many young people are contributing positively to family, village, church, education, employment, sport, and community life, many others continue to face serious and evolving challenges. These include unemployment and underemployment, limited access to skills and enterprise pathways, mental health pressures, substance abuse, youth offending, climate-re-

lated insecurity, unequal opportunities, and limited participation in decisions affecting their future.

If these challenges are left unaddressed, the cost will be borne not only by young people, but by families, communities, public systems, and the national economy. If addressed strategically, Samoa can unlock the full potential of a generation ready to lead, create, serve, and build.

This Policy provides a practical roadmap for **2026–2031** to empower young people as leaders, workers, innovators, entrepreneurs, environmental stewards, and active citizens. It affirms that youth are not a problem to be managed, but a powerful force to be enabled, supported, and trusted.



The vision of the Policy is: **Empowered inclusive development for resilient youth as agents of positive change shaping a more sustainable Samoa for all.**

To realise this vision, the Policy is built around six strategic priority areas:



1. Youth Voice, Governance and Leadership

Strengthening youth participation in governance, leadership, community planning, and national decision-making.



4. Youth for Environmental Sustainability

Supporting youth leadership in climate resilience, biodiversity protection, sustainability, innovation, and environmental stewardship.



2. Youth Education and Economic Empowerment

Improving education outcomes, TVET access, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, digital skills, employability, and pathways to decent work.



5. Law Enforcement and Drug Use Awareness

Preventing offending, violence, anti-social behaviour, and harmful substance use through education, partnerships, and evidence-based interventions.



3. Youth Health and Wellbeing

Promoting physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and mental wellbeing through prevention, healthy lifestyles, recreation, and responsive services.



6. Institutional Coordination and Youth Mainstreaming

Strengthening systems, accountability, partnerships, financing, data, and whole-of-government delivery for youth outcomes.

The Policy recognises the importance of strong institutional leadership and recommends continued consideration of specialised youth support arrangements through the **Ministry of Family and Social Affairs**.

It also acknowledges the establishment of the **Samoa Youth Advisory Group** as an important step in strengthening youth voice, leadership participation, and engagement in national development matters.

The Policy further recognises the important role of districts and communities. It encourages effective use of the **20% District Development Programme allocation for GEDSI initiatives** to support locally led youth projects, inclusion programmes, livelihoods, wellbeing activities, and targeted opportunities for vulnerable youth.

Implementation will require a whole-of-society approach involving Government, villages, district councils, churches, schools, civil society, youth organisations, development partners, private sector leaders, and families. Youth development is a shared national responsibility.

By 2031, Samoa seeks to achieve:



An empowered youth generation means a more prosperous Samoa.

This Policy is both a roadmap and a call to action. It challenges all sectors to widen opportunity, remove barriers, invest with purpose, and believe in the ability of young people to shape the nation's future.

*Cast the Net Anew
Toe Timata le Upega*



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1. Progress to date

The National Youth Policy 2011-2015 (NYP) continued the momentum of progress made under the first NYP 2006-2010 (NYP1). The five objectives were building knowledge on youth development, improving access to TVET, second chance education and support for economic development initiatives. In addition, improved health and wellbeing were prioritized together with strengthened family relationships, community networks and sector partnerships for enhanced social protection.

Key youth development areas from the initial national youth policy have been updated as priority issues that require targeted interventions through various economic and social development focused programs. The mainstreaming of all issues pertaining to youth has taken on a greater sense of urgency seen in the growing call for youth inclusion in governance decision making platforms. The lack of progress around entrepreneurship training and skills development around growing your own business and creating self-employment opportunities for youth with a focus on financial literacy and entrepreneurship is a significant consideration going forward.

The review of the NYP 2011-2015 noted that while there have been achievements contributing to some of the identified priority outcomes, they were part of other work rather than intentionally coordinated

implementation of the Policy. The implementation mechanisms including coordination arrangements, resourcing, partnerships, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks were not in place and awareness of the NYP was limited. The absence of a timely mid-term and end of Policy Review limited the ability to gauge progress, achievements, challenges and lessons. The transitioning of the MFSA's work and functional structure to a thematic-based approach away from the youth target group focus also contributed to the challenges.

While the Community Sector Plan 2024-2028 sets out clarity for youth development targets and outcomes for the next four years within the Community Sector, it is critical that a roadmap towards mainstreaming youth rights, voices, interests and activities across all other 14 sectors be set out. A strategic approach for advancing the mainstreaming process is included herein.

Youth target age groups vary in different dimensions and extent from an international, regional and national sector level scope. The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs from its initial national youth policy to now is using the 18 – 35 youth cohort age group, supported by the 'Samoa Youth Monograph 2020 and Samoa Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2021 indicating ¼ of the national population are in the 18 to 35 age cohort.

Samoa Population

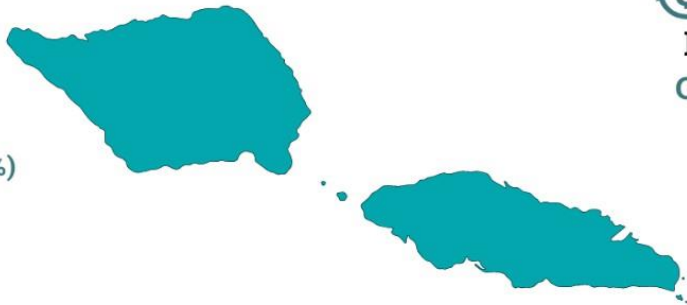
Total Population

205,557

0-14yrs: 79,079 (38%)

15-64yrs: 114,929 (56%)

65+: 11,373 (5%)



Low-Middle

Income Country

GDP: USD\$3,745.56

Population
Median Age
22 Years

Residency

Upolu: 78%

Savaii: 22%

Upolu includes Manono & Apolima

Gender Distribution



Male: 51%

Female: 49%

Disability



Approx. 2.6%

5yo+ have a disability

Religion



100%

Religious

Youth Population



79,079

0-14 Years

48,203

15-29 Years



38%

less than 15
years old

Education

Highest Attained Education

Primary

Male: 38% | Female: 28%

Secondary

Male: 46% | Female: 50%

Qualifications



55%

15yo+ hold qualifications

School Levels



ECE
Primary
Secondary
Tertiary

Youth Literacy Rate

97.6% | 91.7%
English | Samoan

Employment



56.6% Inactive

43.4% Active

Male: 28% | Female: 15.4%



Male dominated
construction industry



Female dominated
education industry



Unemployed youth
dominate domestic
duties & caretaking.

Health



High teen
pregnancy rates



At risk of mental
health & suicide



High risk for NCD
and obesity

Figure 1. Population Demographics.

2. Strategic significance

2.1 Population Demographics

Refer to Figure 1 on page 2.

2.2 Vision

'Empowered inclusive development for resilient youth as agents of positive change shaping a more sustainable Samoa for all.'

2.3 Mission

To inspire and empower youth in their quest to develop themselves, lead youth centric development and achieve their aspirations and reach their full potential for a prosperous future and improved human development outcomes for all.

2.4 Policy Objectives

- ▶ To enhance the participation and voice of the youth in all levels of governance, community development, decision-making and elevate their sense of ownership of policies and programs shaping their future.
- ▶ To enhance youth employability and active participation in the labour market by equipping youth with the necessary education, abilities and skills for their learning and development and for meaningful employment, entrepreneurship opportunities and livelihood empowerment.
- ▶ To create awareness and initiatives on well-being/wellness and positive health attitudes as a prerequisite to making smart choices that address issues that can impact negatively on physical, emotional, social, environmental and spiritual wellbeing.
- ▶ To shape climate policies, protect biodiversity and equip all citizens with the necessary knowledge and skills to be active stewards of our environment.
- ▶ To build evidence about what works best to prevent and reduce youth offending and drug use and what is needed from national and community driven approaches; and raise awareness of evidence-based approaches and programmes that both youth and communities can implement to reduce offending.
- ▶ To strengthen the institutional framework and regulatory frameworks to support the coordination and implementation of youth development interventions that would facilitate effective mainstreaming and management of youth development.

2.5 Desired Policy Outcome

Empowered young people who possess information, knowledge and skills that enable them to seize opportunities, be proactive agents of change and take responsibility in making a meaningful contribution to sustainable and inclusive development initiatives and strategies that foster resilience.

2.6 Values and Principles

- ▶ **Inclusivity**
Guaranteeing equitable access to opportunities and resources for all community members, irrespective of their background or status, fostering diversity and representation.
- ▶ **Equality**
Making impartial and just decisions that affect all individuals within the community equitably, promoting fairness and justice.
- ▶ **Human rights**
Safeguarding the rights of every community member to express their grievances and avail themselves of essential services, ensuring dignity and respect for all.
- ▶ **Empowerment**
Facilitating community members to steer their own development trajectories and engage in decision-making processes, fostering autonomy and agency.
- ▶ **Resilience**
Cultivating the ability of communities to anticipate, absorb, and rebound from shocks or shifts, while embedding sustainability at its core.
- ▶ **Partnership**
Engaging in collaborative endeavors with stakeholders to tackle multifaceted social and economic challenges, with sustainability as a guiding principle.
- ▶ **Good Governance**
Overseeing community affairs with integrity, accountability, and transparency, fostering sustainability at every level.
- ▶ **Leadership**
Empowering community members to drive strategic development initiatives, while upholding accountability and sustainability as fundamental pillars of progress.
- ▶ **Accountability**
Ensuring that all individuals, including leaders, are held responsible for their decisions and actions that impact community development.
- ▶ **Effectiveness**
Pursuing excellence and achieving high-quality outcomes in all sector operations, ensuring that our efforts make a meaningful difference in the community.
- ▶ **Efficiency**
Executing initiatives with timely and judicious resource allocation, maximizing the impact of our actions while minimizing waste and inefficiencies.
- ▶ **Fa'a Samoa principles**
Integrating culturally appropriate methodologies, grounded in the values of communal love and the principles espoused by Christianity. These principles and values play a pivotal role in cultivating the community spirit that defines the sector's essence, including:

- **alofa (love)** – love for the community means taking actions that impact positively on the community and its people.
- **faa-kerisiano (Christianity)** – leveraging Christian principles and values is key to promoting and addressing community and social development issues.
- **fetausia'i (caring for each other)** – acting together and in collaboration with each other to address critical issues affecting community development, especially responding to critical issues of the most vulnerable groups, families and individuals.
- **va tausi / va tapuia (relations)** – being mindful of each other's relational space and belongings in the community in ways that foster mutual respect and joint efforts.
- **puipuiga (protection)** – community development is about protecting the community, its people and (physical, natural, human, and cultural) resources.

2.7 Linkages

The rights, contributions and needs of youth are cross-cutting, requiring the attention of all sectors. Development is interlinked and aligned vertically from the global to the national level, as well as horizontally, across all sectors of Samoa's economy; this is critical to mainstreaming the interests of youth. The different levels and components of the policy and legislative framework relevant to youth development are set out below.

GLOBAL	REGIONAL	NATIONAL
UN Sustainable Development Goals All 17 Goals are relevant to youth but Goals 1,3,4,5,8,10,13 and 16 are of particular importance given the prioritised outcome areas for this Policy.	Pacific Plan 2018 Regional development Plan and platform for resource mobilization. The planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability for sustainable development is a country-led endeavor.	Samoa 2040 Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021/2022 – 2025/2026
SAMOA Pathway SIDS Accelerated Modality of Actions 2014 Guide for sustainable development of small island developing states recognising the limitations faced by SIDs.	Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014-2023 Developed as a platform and catalyst for increased investment in youth.	National Policy on Gender Equality and Advancement of Women's Rights 2021-2031 National Policy on Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021 -2031
UN CEDAW UN CRPD UN CRC	Pacific Leaders Declaration on Gender Equality Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2018-2030	Community Development Sector Plan ▶ Education Sector Plan ▶ Health Sector Plan ▶ Environment Sector Plan ▶ TCM Sector Plan ▶ Law and Justice Sector Plan
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995	Pacific Platform for the Rights of People with Disabilities	National Youth Employment Plan 2016-2020
		Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Act 1993

3. Persistent challenges affecting our youth

3.1 Low youth participation in decision making and governance processes

Notwithstanding the National Inclusive Governance Policy 2021-2031 which is focused on increasing the voice, participation and representation of traditionally marginalised populations including youth in governance, decision-making and leadership, many of the youth-facing initiatives have yet to be resourced and implemented. A critical first step in youth development is mainstreaming their rights and interests across all sectors based on a robust analysis of the sector from a youth lens. Data is not yet available on young people

occupying leadership roles or governance positions including *matai* titles or heads of organizations or businesses. The access of youth to institutional systems and structures of governance to enhance their effective participation in public policy and platforms to address their needs remains problematic. For the youth to make informed decisions and participate fully in governance and other decision-making processes, there must be free flow of accurate and reliable information.

3.2 Low skills levels, skills mismatch and high unemployment

Of the 86,090 young population aged 10-35 years, 96% (82,762) are reported in the 2021 National Census as having attended school while 4% have not. Of those who attended school, 55% (45,342) reached secondary schools, 25% dropped out at primary level, 14% attended tertiary, 3% reached TVET and 161 finished at ECE level. The Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS) 2022 echoed those findings, noting that the majority (77.9%) of young people aged 15-24 left school before graduating with only 18.9% completing.

Despite the availability of (fee) free public-school education, 3.2% of youth have never attended school. The continuing high numbers of early school leavers does not augur well for their abilities to gain decent employment and/or become entrepreneurs. While there has been a decrease in the youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate (16.4% in 2012 and 13.4% in 2022) and the Youth NEET (Not In Employment, Education or Training) from 35% in 2012 to 30% in 2022, youth employment as a component of total employment has increased in that decade. In 2012, 39.9% of the total

unemployed of Samoa were young people, however in 2022 it has risen to 47.6%, highlighting the urgent need to invest in the design, resourcing and delivery of quality employment and entrepreneurship programs.

In 2021, thirty four percent (34%) of 15-35-year-olds worked as employees, employers, self-employed, volunteers or in agricultural activities. The majority (31%) of the economically productive undertook domestic duties and twenty seven percent (27%) were studying or training. Seven percent (7%) were looking for work while 202 were unable to work due to disabilities or illness. The majority (64%) of youth in domestic duties are female and men looking for work outnumber women by 60%. Of those working, the majority (35%) are in the agricultural and fisheries sector, 16% work in services and sales, 12% are professionals with only 4% in management roles.

Key activities across the different country policies and plans include establishing a national strategy for youth employment, implementing programs for

youth employment and business ownership (including in semi-commercial farming) increasing access to financial services, second-chance education and TVET programs towards job readiness and competencies for starting and running businesses. The main components for economic empowerment of young people have been identified and some aspects have been implemented. The main challenge is drawing these together into coherent programs with different components geared towards the specific barriers faced by young people through-out Samoa. The general barriers to business establishment include (i) access to affordable financing/start-up capital (ii) knowledge and skills in the core area of proposed business e.g. farming, sewing, etc., (iii) core competencies for running a business, e.g. planning, financial literacy, budgeting, marketing, managing staff, etc., (iv) need for ongoing business mentoring, coaching and support.

The quality of human resources in any society has a direct correlation with its socio-economic development. Thus, education and skills training of young people is an investment for the development and progress of Samoa. Second-chance education and job skills trainings informed by the specific needs of youth, as

part of a broader coherent program of support for unemployed and underemployed youths are critical. Emphasizing evidence-based program design, the interventions need to address the barriers to services and root causes of the issues. The training and generally, education must be focused not only on quantity but also, quality, providing hands-on experiences. Thus, a program to support youth into establishing and running successful business may include components of (i) providing seed-funding or support to access affordable credit financing (ii) training in specific areas of business (iii) business management skills training programs (iv) business mentoring/coaching. Given the diversity of circumstances for different youth depending on location, existing abilities, programs are best designed at the district level. Thus, a program for economic empowerment of youth in rural Savaii will be designed having regard to the realities of existing barriers and realistic opportunities in that context, and is likely to differ to an initiative for youth jobs or businesses in the urban Upolu districts. The localized context-specific approach also ensures that the needs of the most vulnerable are properly understood and support provided is relevant and meaningful.

3.3 Poor Health and Wellbeing outcomes

Young people in Samoa share the same challenges as the older population relating to the increasing burden of life-style diseases including diabetes, obesity, hypertension etc. In addition to these, the notable health challenges for youth include mental health and well-being with suicide rates continuing to be high and risk factors not addressed. The high levels of violence inclusive of gender-based violence and the absence of quality therapeutic services or programs, means that mental health continues to be a priority.

Data available on the health of young people from the Youth Monograph and Family Life Education Strategic Pathway to Accelerating Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcome and the Situational Analysis on Children and Women is as follows:

- ▶ A majority of pregnant women in Samoa give birth in the presence of a skilled health professional (83 %) and in a health facility (82 %), but significant coverage gaps remain, especially in rural areas.
- ▶ At 27 per cent, Samoa's contraceptive prevalence rate is the fourth lowest in the PICTs region. 35 per cent of married women have an unmet need for family planning.
- ▶ Even though HIV/AIDS prevalence is low in Samoa, rates for sexually transmitted infections are very high, especially among people below the age of 25 years. Chlamydia, which if left untreated can lead to blindness (in infants born from mothers with Chlamydia) and sterility, is most prevalent among youth, with 40.7 per cent of 15 to 24-year

olds infected. This indicates that the underlying behavioural risks for HIV transmission are also high.¹

- ▶ Estimated 16.4% of the Samoan population has been diagnosed with a moderate to severe mental disorder.²
- ▶ Youth are particularly vulnerable to adverse health consequences from risky behaviours such as cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption.³
- ▶ 60% of school children aged 13–15 indicated that they had attempted suicide – by far the highest rate in the PICTs group – suggesting that mental health is a serious problem among Samoan adolescents.⁴
- ▶ In addition, there is a high prevalence of risky behaviours amongst adolescents and youth in Samoa. A School-Based Survey estimated that three in five adolescents aged 13 to 16 years have had sexual encounters (57 per cent), with two in five not using any method of birth control (43.9 per cent) and seven in ten engaging in risky sexually behaviour (73.4 per cent), it is estimated many adolescents and youth are exposed to risks of gender-based violence (GBV) in Samoa.

- ▶ Although youth-specific sexual violence data is limited, it is estimated that 46.4 per cent of women have experienced sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse from a partner. Samoa's prevalence of GBV, notably higher than the global average of lifetime prevalence of violence, against women and girls at 35 per cent presents a risk to young women and adolescent girls, particularly young women, who are disproportionately affected by sexual violence.

The health and wellbeing of the youth is essential for their growth and development. Thus, the health status of the youth impacts directly on their contribution to productivity. Very recently, health issues such as sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, mental health, sports, leisure and recreation relating to youth has become a major concern for development. While some of these conditions occur naturally, others are a function of lifestyle behaviours.

3.4 Unprecedented Environmental issues

Five key drivers that are causing environmental change for Samoa are the increasing population, climate change, economic and technological development, global economics and geographic constraints, and culture values and traditions. These have led to environmental pressures for Samoa, such as land use, climate variability and disasters, resource use, consumption and waste generation, agriculture and rural development, and invasive species.⁵ The report focuses on four thematic areas – (i) natural environment, (ii) built environment, (iii) atmosphere, climate and disasters; and (iv) environmental governance,

using over 50 indicators. The overall state for Samoa is Fair (52%). Only 7% of the indicators were in good state. When assessing each of the thematic areas, most were in transition except for the atmosphere, climate and disaster management, where the state was poor with one indicator in good state. While many of the recommendations were specific to indicators but much of the big picture recommendations can be seen through a youth sector lens. There is a benefit in understanding and tracking community-based and driven projects. This will provide a holistic picture of all environmental projects, outcomes and achievements throughout the country.

1 Suleiman, "Global AIDS Response Progress Report 2016."

2 Samoa Ministry of Health and Core Review Committee, "ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES National Operational Guidelines Samoa – 2023."

3 SBS, Youth Monograph

4 WHO Western Pacific, "SAMOA-WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022."

5 Samoa State of Environment Report 2023, SPREP and MNRE Samoa

While there is yet to be age-disaggregated, youth specific data or references in the Environment Sector Plan and Climate Change policies, the importance of their voices and contributions have been spotlighted at the highest level. Young people and youth organisations are active in climate change and environment related activities not only as part of delegations to international meetings but also local actions to address different challenges in-country. Our youth have told us of their desire to engage in environmentally sustainable projects. Youth driven initiatives to raise awareness of the public and promote the importance of environment conservation and sustainable management of resources is a way to mobilise our youth. Effective awareness programmes must also be tailored towards building and complementing the understanding and knowledge of the communities in environmental protection and governance, and to nurture the ongoing interest amongst the younger generations.

Studies have indicated that the direct consequences of climate change disproportionately affect children and young individuals due to their ongoing psychological, physical, social, and neurological development. The Boe Declaration on Regional Security reiterates that climate change remains the foremost threat to the livelihoods, security, and well-being of the Pacific people.⁶

Negative environmental sustainability practices have a direct and indirect impact on the cost of production. This in turn affects the type and levels of industrial employment and dwindles opportunities for entrepreneurship development for which the youth have the most to lose. Thus, environmental sustainability is not only a concern for the youth but also a necessary ingredient for sustainable livelihoods.

3.5 Drug Abuse and Youth Violence

Crimes against people and crimes against properties are on the rise. Drug and traffic offences are also increasing. Sexual crimes are on the rise but remain largely unreported to the relevant national authorities including the police. There is a need to improve reporting, data collection and management of all crimes.⁷ This NCPP 2023/24-2027/28 is in response to Samoa and its Law and Justice Sector (LJS) needs for crime prevention and consequently improved and sustained law and order and justice. It is aligned to the National Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Prevention Framework, international human right principles, as well as best practices locally, regionally and globally. It is guided by the Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS) 2021-2026, LJS Plan 2020/21–2024/25, and other key relevant national policies, plans and strategies.

The critical priority areas of the LJS as outlined in its sector plan are as follows:

- Children and youth and the law and justice system, including restorative justice.
- Unregulated supply and sale of locally made vodka.
- Gender-based violence and prevalence of sexual offending
- Role of village councils, communities, churches, schools, families and parents in crime prevention
- Accessibility to justice and awareness, including enforcement of laws – both formal and custom

Stakeholders and community consultations that informed the development of a National Crime Prevention Policy/Strategy noted some emerging themes that were reflective also of issues raised by the youth in their consultations to inform this policy; namely:

- Increasing incidence of criminal activities or crime (across all forms/types of crime) in Samoa over the years. Concerns were raised with the increasing use of drugs and other related crimes in Samoa.

⁶ <https://www.forumsec.org/2018/09/05/boe-declaration-on-regional-security>

⁷ Samoa National Crime Prevention Policy and Strategy 2023/24-2027/28 – Nov 2023 (DRAFT)

- The improper use of technology (and especially social media) is being cited as a medium or vehicle for increasing incidence of crimes, especially cyber bullying, verbal assaults, defamation and others.
- The underlying main causes of crimes (according to those consulted) include lack of education, idleness (especially youth), anger (not able to control it), alcohol and drug abuse, increasing poverty and hardships, greed, breakdown of values, family and social orders, and erosion of local governance mechanisms and value systems (at the village, church and family levels).

Some of the solutions proposed for crime prevention included:

- ▶ Increasing penalties for crime committed including revisiting the way penalties are determined.
- ▶ Improving law enforcement
- ▶ Strengthening the legislative framework for crime prevention
- ▶ Improving governance in residential places where there is lack of traditional governance oversight.
- ▶ Strengthening local governance institutions (families, church, ali'i ma faipule, etc.) and
- ▶ their roles in crime prevention, justice and law and order.
- ▶ Clarification of human rights (Aia tatau) and its relation to conflicts between individualism and collectivism.
- ▶ Formalise and standardise tulafono a nu'u (faiga fa'avae or i'ugafono) across all villages.
- ▶ Scale up targeted crime prevention programs and initiatives especially in risky areas and places.
- ▶ Scale up crime soft prevention measures such as educational programs, awareness, family services, and others.
- ▶ Strengthen the role of local and non-governmental organisations in crime prevention.
- ▶ Consideration of mental health and its relationship and confirmation of crime.
- ▶ Consideration of alternative sentencing (particularly for young offenders and minor offences and to avoid prison overcrowding).
- ▶ Strengthening the education and school system response to crime prevention especially early stages of child education

3.6 Cross Cutting Issues and Youth Development Mainstreaming

Samoa has yet to fully articulate and modernize its youth development system including updating the coordination and institutional arrangements to be catalysts for unleashing the potential of its young people to help accelerate Samoa's progress. Growing knowledge and capacity in youth development is critical to the design of youth programs that are relevant and responsive to young people's needs. This includes having systems and capacities to produce data and statistics on youth. Access to sustainable resourcing and funding for youth development programs as well as opportunities for partnerships will need to be identified and mapped out.

Awareness and capacity building for youth, youth organisations and stakeholders on funding avenues and beneficial partnerships will strengthen implementation abilities.

Cross-cutting issues generally deal with acceptable principles that enhance human development and protection. It must be integrated and mainstreamed through all stages of policy formulation to ensure that desired goals are achieved. The concerns surrounding youth development and progress are multi-faceted and multi-dimensional and thus require collaborated and

well-coordinated solutions. A multi-sectoral approach is the most effective strategy for dealing with youth problems. Hence, issues such as gender, disability, social protection, vulnerability, climate change and other social exclusion factors should not only be viewed as cross-cutting but need to be consciously mainstreamed into all interventions to achieve the desired results.

This means applying a youth mainstreaming lens that ensures:

- ▶ youth-centric institutions and processes in development planning within and across all sectors to realise equitable development for youth and society.
- ▶ youth participation in all spheres and levels of development planning, without which, positive and equitable outcomes for youth are not possible.
- ▶ Acknowledging the implications of intergenerational relations among youth and adults, and young people's potential and capacities in designing, developing and delivering policies and plans for them.

4. POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

4.1 Youth Voices and Participation in Governance and Leadership

Policy Objective

To enhance the participation and voice of the youth in all levels of governance, community development and decision-making, and to elevate their sense of ownership of policies and programs shaping their future.

Strategies

- ▶ Revitalisation of district development and community responsibilities for youth development and the promotion of programmes aimed at building community co-existence and empowered youth relations.
- ▶ Implementation of sustained sensitisation and awareness creation campaigns and programmes aimed at educating the youth on Youth related policies and programmes.
- ▶ Collaborate with youth on the design and promotion of pro-youth programmes and policies at all institutions and levels, including political parties; and at village, district and national levels
- ▶ Promotion of the inclusion of mentorship, coaching, guidance, and counselling across public and private institutions at all levels.
- ▶ Institutionalisation of structures and systems to ensure effective participation and representation of youth, particularly young women and young PWDs at all levels.
- ▶ Implementation of measures that promote youth participation in governance and decision-making, at the village and Fono Faavae levels with a targeted focus on young women and young persons with disabilities (PWDs).

4.2 Youth Education and Economic Empowerment

Policy Objective

To enhance youth employability and active participation in the labour market by equipping youth with the necessary education, abilities and skills for their learning and development and for meaningful employment, entrepreneurship opportunities and livelihood empowerment.

The youth, being the base of the labour force requires the acquisition of the necessary skills and attitudes that enable them to participate fully and meaningfully in the economic transformation and the national development agenda of our country. This calls for bold and sustainable strategies to achieve the development of human resources and intellectual capital of our youth. Economic empowerment of the youth focuses on putting in place mechanisms and structures that facilitate

development of capacities and opportunities for the youth, including young women and young PWDs, to enable them to participate meaningfully. The aim being to promote economic independence and prosperity of the youth. In view of this, measures should be taken to improve institutional capacities for innovative skills transfer and utilisation, including green skills, access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT). It also includes measures such as innovative skills transfer, business development assistance, rural development and poverty reduction initiatives, establishment of active labour market support systems, accelerated job creation. It also includes broadening youth participation in sports and cultural activities as a means of promoting positive values, behaviour and advancing their economic development.

Strategies:

- ▶ Promotion of local economic development initiatives for youth in alignment with District Development Planning
- ▶ Promotion of entrepreneurship education at all levels of education and the development of business skills for self-employment and employability for all young persons
- ▶ Promotion of implementation of youth enterprise programs and pathways for jobs schemes, and the enhancement of placements and partnerships for business development of young people
- ▶ Facilitation of youth access to advanced technical and vocational education for innovative skills and technologies
- ▶ Accessibility to regular labour market services that highlight the needs of the youth, young PWDs and young women
- ▶ Promotion of youth participation in climate action, environmental issues and “greening” of education, including TVET
- ▶ Implementation of livelihood interventions towards ensuring the independence of young persons in vulnerable situations

4.3 Youth Health and Wellbeing

Policy Objective

To create awareness and initiatives on wellbeing/ wellness and positive health attitudes as a prerequisite to making smart choices that address issues that can impact negatively on physical, emotional, social, environmental and spiritual wellbeing.

The ability of our youth to participate in our national development is significantly dependent on good health. This policy objective therefore seeks to implement measures that meet the health needs of the youth. This includes measures that make available information that promote healthy lifestyles and informed healthy behaviour among young people. It involves strengthening social support systems and collaboration between key stakeholders to address issues of substance abuse, mental health and stress. It is about promoting all levels of wellness, emotional, intellectual, financial, occupational, physical, social and spiritual. It includes the promotion of leisure and recreational activities as part of normalising healthy living habits and reducing the risk of illness. It is equally important to ensure that safe spaces, mentorship and coaching facilities are provided as essential to improving the health and wellbeing of all youth, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

Strategies

- ▶ Advocate for the provision of adequate funding for youth responsive health services in the national budget to ensure universal access by all young people
- ▶ Increase collaboration and partnerships with youth on health services and programmes that are informed by youth and lead by youth advocates
- ▶ Ensuring parity and accessibility in service delivery in all health centres to all young people
- ▶ Implementation of public education programmes around adolescent health
- ▶ Implementation of mechanisms to improve access to mental health services especially those targeted at substance abuse and addiction rehabilitation
- ▶ Implementation of effective sexual and reproductive health structures and systems easily accessible and beneficial to all young persons
- ▶ Promotion of inclusive sports, fitness and wellness lifestyles through recreational activities at all levels

4.4 Youth for Environmental sustainability

Policy Objective

To shape climate policies, protect biodiversity and equip all citizens with the necessary knowledge and skills to be active stewards of our environment.

The effects of climate change on our young people deserves special attention. Youth make up a significant portion of our population. Our young people are more susceptible to the consequences of existential threats, as they are expected to live longer, and climate risks will keep rising unless addressed. The human development agenda for young people in the Pacific region includes education and skills development, health and well-being, employment and livelihoods, civic engagement, gender equality, environmental sustainability, culture identity, and peace and security.⁸ It is well documented that targeted interventions aimed at climate change adaptation, together with future-focused skills development planning to address insecurities around economic identity, spatial identity and cultural identity, can build resilience among youth to existential threats of climate change. Some efforts have been made to empower our young people to contribute to course correction on fossil-fuel-dependent growth and better adaptation. However, these efforts are far from situated in a comprehensive human development context which is critical to Samoa's overall development given

the demographics. The following strategies can support the youth sector in contributing to solutions to alleviate the impacts of climate-induced risks, while prioritizing youth well-being.

Strategies

- ▶ Link youth engagement and meaningful participation in climate action to national policymaking, implementation and monitoring in a way that recognizes their diverse experiences and realities
- ▶ Leverage opportunities for youth representation in the village and district context, and create platforms for their voices to be heard in community decision-making as it is the youth that will be at the frontline of climate change losses and damage
- ▶ Support flexible, future-focused capacity building that recognises both the prioritisation of building knowledge and skills development; and the importance of a dedicated national youth advisory body
- ▶ Increase advocacy for educational investments and reforms that prioritise climate resilience, cultural preservation, and skills development relevant to the evolving needs of our youth
- ▶ Supporting adaptability through digital transformation.

4.5 Law enforcement and drug use awareness

Policy Objective

To build evidence about what works best to prevent and reduce youth offending and drug use and what is needed from national and community driven approaches; and to raise awareness of evidence-based approaches and programmes that both youth and communities can implement to reduce offending.

The National Crime Prevention Policy⁹ underlines the importance of crime prevention – that 'prevention is best' for community and personal safety, wellbeing and security, sound economic growth, and prosperity. It is a prerequisite for ensuring social cohesion and for reducing victimization, conflicts, social and economic disorders, and for an effective law and justice system. Crime needs to be prevented and in doing so, it contributes towards reducing the long-term costs on our law and justice system. Crimes against persons and

⁸ The Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014–2023, Pacific Community

⁹ Samoa National Crime Prevention Policy and Strategy 2023/24-2027/28 (DRAFT)

property remain on the rise as well as drug offending, so we must improve our data collection, reporting and management of all crimes with a focus on what can work best to address youth offending.

Strategies

- ▶ Engage with police and wider Law and Justice sector to Develop a tracking system/database (young offenders and re offenders)
- ▶ Advocate and implement a Youth led awareness campaign on harmful effects of all alcohol and drugs
- ▶ Build relationships with the Judiciary and those engaged in the work of the Alcohol and Drug Courts to implement response measures that are informed by data and evidence from the courts
- ▶ Work with the education sector, police and youth in conducting awareness programs in schools about laws on youth crime prevention
- ▶ Support community engagement awareness programs that are aimed at anti-drug initiatives and prevention of youth violence
- ▶ Advocate for the establishment of a Community Legal or Justice Legal Centre with dedicated youth workers

4.6 Institutional framework for coordination of youth development interventions and mainstreaming

Policy Objective

To strengthen the institutional framework and regulatory frameworks to support the coordination and implementation of youth development interventions that would facilitate effective mainstreaming and management of youth development.

Effective and efficient youth development are functions of a comprehensive framework using an institutional arrangement of stakeholders with clearly defined roles and responsibilities aimed at ensuring that policies and programmes are well-coordinated, and concerted actions are harmonised for the achievement of desired results. There has to be collaborative interfacing of development planning and implementation with clear intervention points. Effective youth development is facilitated by a strong, efficient and well-structured institutional framework at all levels. It requires setting professional standards for personnel and institutions working in the youth development sectors and establishing mechanisms to ensure compliance. It is important to implement specific projects and programmes that are devoid of duplications but are integrated and interconnected with strong mainstreaming mechanisms.

Strategies

- ▶ Establishment of mechanisms at all levels to support youth mainstreaming and coordination of implementation activities
- ▶ Harmonisation of all youth development activities and mapping of funding avenues or mechanisms for successful resource mobilisation
- ▶ Establish or strengthen the MFSA information management systems and monitoring and evaluation frameworks for youth-led/focus development programs, for national and international reporting purposes
- ▶ Collaboration with relevant institutions for the alignment of all policies and programmes in line with the National Youth Policy and a related Communications Plan
- ▶ Facilitation of the incorporation of youth development indicators in the national census, surveys, and related data to facilitate diverse analysis of all cross-cutting youth related issues
- ▶ Strengthen the youth focus of the GEDSI funds across all District Development Plans
- ▶ Implement ICT and Digital Programme Trainings for Youth

5. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Implementation and Coordination

To prevent policy failures, a comprehensive cost Implementation Plan will be developed to facilitate policy implementation. The Implementation Plan focuses on activities required for the operationalization of the key policy objectives and their strategies. It details the timeframes for carrying out the activities with collaborating institutions. Since youth development issues are multi-sectoral in nature, it is expected that the implementation arrangements would ensure coherence and cooperation among institutions. Implementation will require a significant demonstration of political commitment and the dedication of leadership by all stakeholders at all levels. Government will strengthen partnerships and networks among all state agencies, the private sector, development partners, community sector, non-governmental organisations, faith based and civil society organisations for the effective implementation of this Policy.

For the purposes of strategic leadership and effective coordination, the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs which is responsible for youth development is the ultimate trustee and lead agency for this Policy document and will provide policy oversight to implementation. It will oversee the establishment of the Samoa Youth Advisory Board and ensure that the Community Sector Advisory Committee are informed of implementation outputs and that youth policy objectives remain aligned to the strategic outcomes of the Community Sector Plan.

In view of this, MFSA as key focal point will establish any new reporting lines and strengthen existing ones to ensure a seamless flow of information throughout the period of implementation. It will also provide an

effective institutional framework for collaborating and coordinating all activities of stakeholders involved in the implementation of youth programmes. The MFSA will oversee the harnessing, promotion and supporting systems of government, development partners, and promoters of youth programmes within the national, district and community levels of Samoa.

The coordination will place emphasis on the harmonisation of activities and programmes of both state and non-state actors. Effective implementation of the National Youth Policy requires the collective efforts and collaboration of Government Ministries and Agencies, Youth Organisations, Educators, the Private Sector, Development Partners, Community Leaders, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Youth Advocates, Families and parents for the implementation of the specific policy strategies and activities.

Generally, the implementation process will include the development of implementation plan and related MEL that details strategies, activities, targets, responsibilities, performance indicators, timelines as well as financial and non-financial resource requirements. The coordination and implementation will employ stringent approaches such as youth-oriented programming, youth mainstreaming, sustainability, professional delivery, knowledge acquisition, show of evidence and skills transfer. The Implementation Plan will be subject to formative (quarterly, mid-year) and summative (annually) reviews. The detailed Costed Implementation Plan is attached as Annex A.

5.2 Resource Mobilisation

The endorsement of this Policy inherently includes a commitment to mobilize resources and partnerships for its implementation. Potential funding sources and resources which may be explored include:

- ▶ Sectors with existing youth-focused/led activities to resource them from existing funding allocations including direct service delivery or indirect through partnerships with NGOs. Through the NYP, youth specific data, technical advice and perspectives are provided to ensure program relevance and quality. Furthermore, the MFSA and Community Sector provides linkages to youth communities and districts as frontline implementation partners and beneficiaries.
- ▶ For any activities, look to the reallocation of sectors and ministries funding outputs and activities with more specific allocation for youth.
- ▶ Forging partnerships with District Councils for localized programs across the different policy outcome areas. Funding for Youth District Programs to be sourced from the annual District Development Funds.
- ▶ Encourage Outsourcing of service delivery to the youth sector, private sector and civil society organizations.
- ▶ Seek technical and financial support from relevant development partners and agencies (DFAT, NZ MFAT, JICA, China Aid, UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, UN Women, etc.) as well as regional organizations (SPC, PIFS, etc.) for the implementation of this policy using the budget support apparatus.
- ▶ Provide ongoing/annual technical and financial assistance to the SAMOA YOUTH TASKFORCE to continuously build their capacity and respond to their responsibilities under this policy and/or TOR.
- ▶ Exploration of other funding avenues and/or partnerships.

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

The Samoa National Youth Policy hinges on the principles of integration, collaboration, cooperation and mainstreaming. Thus, the MEL will be anchored on partnerships at the national, sector, district and community level inclusive of government agencies and institutions, development partners, private sector, NGOs, CBOs and other stakeholders, including the youth. The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan seeks to ensure that relevant oversight mechanisms and decision makers have the right tools to make well-informed and evidence-based decisions. It is annexed to the Policy (see Annex B). A baseline assessment will need to be carried out at the beginning of the implementation and integrated into the M&E Framework to make it easier to track and report progress and share learnings with others for continuous improvement. This will be followed by subsequent research which will collect disaggregated data on youth development to measure progress in specific areas of the youth policy.

The MFSA will put in place a mechanism to receive and collate progress updates from implementing agencies and provide a comprehensive annual status report to all stakeholders. It is expected that sustained implementation will produce the desired results. However, as a living document, it must stand the test of time in

context and content, thus, it may be reviewed based on the exigencies of the time, including any major changes in policy, laws, regulations and shifts in national development focus.

THE MEL PLAN PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT:

- ✕ How monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be undertaken at key points in line with the NYPs implementation plan;
- ✕ Who is responsible for M&E tasks; and
- ✕ How the evidence generated by M&E will be shared to drive learning and improvements.

MEL PROCESSES INCLUDE:

- ✕ Annual Planning and Budget Review processes
- ✕ Annual Reviews of the Sector and Policy
- ✕ Mid-term and Final Review
- ✕ Review of individual programs
- ✕ Monthly meetings of the CDS Steering Committee and governance committees of other Sectors
- ✕ Quarterly Progress Reports to the National Committee on CEDAW for young women
- ✕ Quarterly meeting of Sector Coordinators Forum

7. IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Samoa Youth Policy 2026–2031

Toe Timata le Upega - Cast the Net Anew

The endorsement of the Samoa Youth Policy 2026–2031 marks an important national commitment to invest in young people as a strategic priority for Samoa’s future prosperity, resilience, leadership, and social wellbeing.

The immediate task is now to translate policy ambition into visible results. This requires a clear implementation roadmap, phased delivery, strong institutional ownership, measurable outcomes, and sustained

partnerships across Government, districts, villages, churches, civil society, the private sector, development partners, and youth themselves.

Young people are not only beneficiaries of policy—they are partners in nation-building. The success of this Policy will depend on how effectively Samoa creates pathways for youth voice, skills, employment, wellbeing, inclusion, and leadership over the next five years.

Five-year Implementation Phases

PERIOD	FOCUS	KEY DELIVERABLES
2026–2027	Establishment & Early Delivery	▶ Youth Division operational, Youth Advisory Committee launched, baseline data established, first programmes underway
2027–2028	Expansion & Access	▶ District outreach expanded, employment and enterprise programmes scaled, stronger inclusion initiatives
2028–2029	Quality & Partnerships	▶ Improved service quality, stronger NGO/private sector partnerships, capability building, systems strengthening
2029–2030	Mid-Term Review & Acceleration	▶ Independent mid-term review completed, priorities refreshed, accelerated delivery in high-impact areas
2030–2031	Sustainability & Evaluation	▶ Final outcomes measured, lessons captured, next Youth Policy developed

FOUNDATION (2026)

- ▶ Youth structures established
- ▶ Advisory Group operational
- ▶ Baseline data completed
- ▶ Budget & workplan approved
- ▶ National launch

EXPANSION (2027–2028)

- ▶ National programmes scaled nationwide
- ▶ District youth delivery strengthened
- ▶ Skills / TVET / digital pathways expanded
- ▶ Wellbeing initiatives mainstreamed
- ▶ Stronger partnerships
- ▶ Annual reporting

TRANSFORMATION (2029–2031)

- ▶ Strong youth leadership in governance and economy
- ▶ Improved jobs and enterprise outcomes
- ▶ Healthier & safer youth
- ▶ Greater inclusion & resilience
- ▶ Sustainable youth systems
- ▶ Final policy evaluation

Strategic Analysis

PHASE 1 – FOUNDATION (2026)

The first year focuses on putting the machinery of delivery in place. Without clear structures, leadership, staffing, baseline data, and resourcing, implementation risks delay or fragmentation. This phase establishes the institutional platform needed for long-term success.

PHASE 2 – EXPANSION

Once systems are in place, the second phase focuses on scaling visible programmes and taking delivery beyond central government into districts and communities. This includes youth employment pathways, entrepreneurship support, digital and TVET skills, wellbeing programmes, and stronger local partnerships.

PHASE 3 – TRANSFORMATION (2029–2031)

The final phase aims to deliver measurable national outcomes: stronger youth leadership, better employment outcomes, healthier and safer young people, stronger inclusion, and sustainable systems that continue beyond the life of the Policy.

This phased approach ensures Samoa moves from policy endorsement to practical results in a disciplined and realistic manner.

Immediate Implementation Priorities (2026–2027)

PHASE 1: JUL–DE 2026

- Operationalise youth functions
- Confirm staffing & mandate
- Activate Youth Advisory Group
- Approve budget & annual plan
- National policy launch
- Establish baseline indicators
- Begin flagship programmes

PHASE 2: 2027

- District youth outreach
- Employment & enterprise initiatives
- TVET / digital skills rollout
- Wellbeing & prevention programmes
- Inclusion initiatives
- First annual report
- Review and refine delivery

District Delivery Model

A key strength of this Policy is localisation. National progress will depend on local action.

The Policy supports effective use of the 20% District Development Programme allocation for GEDSI initiatives to help fund district-led youth projects, leadership programmes, livelihood initiatives, wellbeing

activities, inclusion measures, and opportunities for vulnerable youth.

This creates a direct pathway for youth development benefits to reach villages and communities across Samoa

Key Success Enablers

For implementation to succeed, five enablers are essential:

1. Leadership
2. Resourcing
3. Coordination
4. Data & Accountability
5. Youth Participation

Without these enablers, progress will be slower and less sustainable.

Monitoring Milestones

Period	Checkpoint
2026	Youth structures operational
2027	First annual review completed
2029	Mid-term policy review
2031	Final evaluation and next policy pathway

The Samoa Youth Policy 2026–2031 must now move from endorsement to sustained delivery. Through committed leadership, realistic resourcing, coordinated partnerships, and disciplined implementation over five years, Samoa can unlock the full potential of its young people and build a stronger, safer, more inclusive, and more prosperous future.

Cast the Net Anew – Toe Timata le Upega

ANNEX A

Implementation Plan: Samoa Youth Policy 2026-2031

Costed Implementation Plan. Prepared for policy implementation, planning, budgeting, and partner mobilisation.

Budget Summary

Policy Priority Areas	Year 1 2026/2027	Year 2 2027/2028	Year 3 2028/2029	Year 4 2029/2030	Year 5 2030/2031	Total	Total + 10% Contingency
Youth Voice and Participation in Governance and Leadership	250,000	370,000	370,000	370,000	370,000	1,730,000	1,903,000
Youth Education and Economic Empowerment	350,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	2,250,000	2,475,000
Youth Health and Wellbeing	375,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	2,275,000	2,502,500
Youth for Environmental Sustainability	640,000	640,000	640,000	640,000	640,000	3,200,000	3,520,000
Law Enforcement and Drug Use Awareness	430,000	480,000	480,000	480,000	480,000	2,350,000	2,585,000
Institutional Framework for Coordination of Youth Development Interventions and Mainstreaming	640,000	640,000	640,000	640,000	640,000	3,200,000	3,520,000
TOTAL	2,685,000	3,080,000	3,080,000	3,080,000	3,080,000	15,005,000	16,505,500

Notes

The grand total budget for implementation of the Community Sector Plan 2024/2025–2027/2028 is \$220,695,000, inclusive of \$204,000,000 allocated to District Development Plans.

The total estimated cost of implementing the Samoa Youth Policy, including contingency, is \$16,505,500, representing approximately:

- 13.4% of the overall Community Sector Plan budget
- 12.4% of the allocation to District Development Plans

The youth cohort aged 18–35 years represents approximately 25% of Samoa’s population, estimated at 51,390 persons.

This equates to:

- \$321 per youth over the five-year policy period
- Approximately \$64 per youth per year

Policy Implementation Arrangements

- Theme:** Cast the Net Anew – Toe Timata le Upega
- Vision:** Empowered and inclusive development for resilient youth as agents of positive change, shaping a more sustainable Samoa for all.
- Mission:** To inspire and empower youth in their quest to develop themselves, lead youth-centred development, achieve their aspirations, and reach their full potential for a prosperous future and improved human development outcomes for all.
- Desired Policy Outcome**
- Empowered young people who possess the information, knowledge, and skills that enable them to seize opportunities, be proactive agents of change, and take responsibility in making a meaningful contribution to sustainable and inclusive development initiatives and strategies that foster resilience.

Priority Area One: Youth Voice and Participation in Governance and Leadership

Policy Objective

To enhance the participation and voice of youth at all levels of governance, community development, and decision-making, and to elevate their sense of ownership of policies and programmes that shape their future.

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
1.1	Revitalisation of district development and community responsibilities for youth development, and promotion of programmes that build community co-existence and empowered youth relations	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SUNGO; Samoa Youth Taskforce; Fono Faavae; Development Partners	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	250,000	Annual estimate
1.2	Promotion of pro-youth programmes and policies across institutions and at village, district, and national levels, including political parties	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	NUS; SUNGO; Samoa Youth Taskforce; Fono Faavae; Sports Bodies; Youth Organisations; Development Partners	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	Annual cost
1.3	Implementation of sustained awareness and sensitisation campaigns aimed at educating youth on youth-related policies and programmes		X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SUNGO; Media Partners; Samoa Youth Taskforce; MOH; Education Sector; Ministry of Sports and Recreation; Development Partners	0	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	280,000	Annual estimate
1.4	Collaborate with youth on the design and promotion of mentorship, coaching, guidance, and counselling across public and private institutions	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SUNGO; Samoa Youth Taskforce; Sports Associations; Education Sector; NPSO (Samoa Chamber of Commerce); MCIL; Ministry of Sports and Recreation; Development Partners	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	250,000	Annual cost

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
1.5	Institutionalisation of structures and systems to ensure effective participation and representation of youth, particularly young women and young persons with disabilities, at all levels	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SBS; Samoa Youth Taskforce; NUS/ USP; Fono Faavae; Development Partners	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	250,000	Annual estimate
1.6	Implementation of measures that promote youth participation in governance and decision-making at village and Fono Faavae levels, with targeted focus on young women and young persons with disabilities		X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SUNGO; Samoa Youth Taskforce; Fono Faavae; OMB; Political Parties; Development Partners	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000	Annual estimate

Priority Area Two: Youth Education and Economic Empowerment

Policy Objective

To enhance youth employability and active participation in the labour market by equipping youth with the necessary education, capabilities, and skills for learning, development, meaningful employment, and livelihood empowerment.

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
2.1	Promotion of local economic development initiatives for youth aligned with District Development Planning	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Youth Organisations; Village Councils; Samoa Youth Taskforce; Fono Faavae	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	Annual estimate
2.2	Promotion of entrepreneurship at all levels of education	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	NUS; Samoa Youth Taskforce; Fono Faavae; Education Sector; Youth Organisations	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	Annual estimate
2.3	Development of business skills for self-employment and employability for all young persons		X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SUNGO; Samoa Youth Taskforce; SBH; Education Sector	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000	Annual estimate

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
2.4	Promotion and implementation of youth enterprise programmes and pathways-to-jobs schemes, including placements and partnerships for business development	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SUNGO; Samoa Youth Taskforce; SBH; Education Sector; NPSO (Samoa Chamber of Commerce); MCIL	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	250,000	Annual estimate
2.5	Facilitation of youth access to advanced technical and vocational education for innovative skills and technologies	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Samoa Youth Taskforce; NUS/ USP; TVET Providers; Fono Faavae	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	Annual estimate
2.6	Accessibility to regular labour market services that respond to the needs of youth, young persons with disabilities, and young women			X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SUNGO; Samoa Youth Taskforce; SBH; Education Sector; NPSO (Samoa Chamber of Commerce); MCIL	0	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	Annual estimate
2.7	Promotion of youth participation in climate action, environmental issues, and greening of education, including TVET		X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SUNGO; Samoa Youth Taskforce; SBH; Education Sector; Environment Sector; NPSO (Samoa Chamber of Commerce)	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	100,000	Annual estimate

Priority Area Three: Youth Health and Wellbeing

Policy Objective

To promote positive health and wellbeing outcomes for youth by addressing the social, behavioural, and environmental factors that influence healthy lifestyles, resilience, and equitable access to quality services.

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
3.1	Strengthen youth-responsive health promotion programmes addressing nutrition, physical activity, sexual and reproductive health, and prevention of non-communicable diseases	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	MOH; NGOs; Youth Organisations; Schools; Development Partners	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	375,000	Annual estimate

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
3.2	Expand access to youth-friendly counselling, psychosocial support, and mental health services, including outreach and referral pathways	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	MOH; Faith-Based Organisations; NGOs; Youth Networks	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	Annual estimate
3.3	Deliver prevention programmes addressing alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and risky behaviours through schools, communities, and media platforms	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	MOH; Police; Media Partners; Schools; NGOs	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	375,000	Annual estimate
3.4	Promote safe recreation, sport, arts, and community participation initiatives that support youth wellbeing and social connection		X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Ministry of Sports and Recreation; Village Councils; Youth Organisations	0	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	300,000	Annual estimate
3.5	Improve service access and tailored support for young women, young persons with disabilities, and vulnerable youth groups	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	MOH; NGOs; Disability Organisations; Women's Groups	125,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	725,000	Annual estimate

Priority Area Four: Youth for Environmental Sustainability

Policy Objective

To empower youth as leaders and active participants in environmental stewardship, climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development.

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
4.1	Strengthen youth participation in national climate action, adaptation planning, and environmental governance processes	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Environment Sector; Youth Organisations; Development Partners	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	Annual estimate
4.2	Support youth-led community resilience, conservation, and biodiversity initiatives across villages and districts	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Village Councils; NGOs; Youth Networks	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	750,000	Annual estimate

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
4.3	Expand green enterprise, circular economy, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for youth	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	MCIL; SBH; Private Sector; TVET Providers	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	625,000	Annual estimate
4.4	Build climate awareness, disaster preparedness, and environmental education through schools and communities	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Schools; Disaster Sector; Media Partners	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	575,000	Annual estimate
4.5	Promote digital innovation and youth solutions that strengthen sustainability and climate resilience outcomes	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	ICT Sector; Universities; Innovation Hubs	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	750,000	Annual estimate

Priority Area Five: Law Enforcement and Drug Use Awareness

Policy Objective

To strengthen prevention, awareness, rehabilitation, and community safety measures that reduce youth offending, violence, substance misuse, and related social harm.

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
5.1	Deliver sustained awareness campaigns on the prevention of violence, crime, alcohol abuse, and drug use among youth	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Police; MOH; Schools; NGOs; Media Partners	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	400,000	Annual estimate
5.2	Strengthen early intervention, counselling, and referral services for at-risk youth and affected families	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	MOH; NGOs; Faith-Based Organisations; Community Providers	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	Annual estimate
5.3	Support rehabilitation, reintegration, and second-chance pathways for youth offenders and vulnerable young people	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Police; Justice Sector; NGOs; TVET Providers	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	Annual estimate

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
5.4	Expand school and community prevention programmes focused on resilience, life skills, and healthy decision-making	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Schools; Youth Organisations; NGOs	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	375,000	Annual estimate
5.5	Improve national data, research, and evidence systems relating to youth offending, drug use, and prevention outcomes	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SBS; Police; Justice Sector; Research Institutions	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	375,000	Annual estimate

Priority Area Six: Institutional Framework for Coordination and Mainstreaming

Policy Objective To strengthen national systems, governance arrangements, partnerships, and accountability mechanisms for coordinated youth development implementation across Samoa.

Ref	Strategic Objectives, Strategies and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Facilitating Agency	Implementing Partners	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total	Budget Description
6.1	Establish and maintain national coordination mechanisms to oversee implementation of the Samoa Youth Policy	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Government Ministries; Samoa Youth Taskforce; Development Partners	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	625,000	Annual estimate
6.2	Strengthen policy mainstreaming of youth priorities across government planning, budgeting, and service delivery systems	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	MOF; PSC; Line Ministries; SBS	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	625,000	Annual estimate
6.3	Develop integrated youth data, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems to support evidence-based decision-making	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	SBS; ICT Sector; Research Institutions	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	625,000	Annual estimate
6.4	Build institutional capability, workforce skills, and implementation capacity across lead and partner agencies	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	PSC; Training Providers; Development Partners	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	625,000	Annual estimate
6.5	Mobilise partnerships, innovation, and financing opportunities to sustain long-term youth development outcomes	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Family and Social Affairs	Private Sector; NGOs; Development Partners; Financial Institutions	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	700,000	Annual estimate

ANNEX B

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING PLAN

SAMOA YOUTH POLICY 2026-2031

Priority Area One: Voice Youth and Participation in Governance and Leadership

Policy Objective: To enhance the participation and voice of the youth in all levels of governance, community development, decision-making and elevate their sense of ownership of policies and programmes shaping their future

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Means of Verification	Who	When
Number of district and community programmes design initiatives including nationwide consultations on policies and Programmes that include youth as a target	50 initiatives targeting 10,000 youth including vulnerable youth and YWD	0	Programmes reports and Monitoring reports	MFSA Fono Faavae SUNGO Samoa Youth Task-force	Bi-annual
Number of programmes delivered and aimed at building community co-existence and empowered youth relations through the Village Councils and Fono Faavae Mechanisms	50	0	DDA Reports and Programmes Reports	MFSA Fono Faavae SUNGO Samoa Youth Task-force	Bi-annual
Number of youths led awareness creation and outreach campaigns aimed at issues, policies and Programmes for the youth and about youth	10	0	Communication Reports and Monitoring reports of any multimedia/campaign tools	MFSA Samoa Youth Task-force	Monthly and Annual Reviews
Proportion of seats in Village Councils and Fono Faavae held by Youth	25%	0	District Committee Reports OCLA reports	District Committee OCLA MFSA	Annual
Number of Youth completing Leadership Programmes	500	0	Programme reports and disaggregated completion rates	MFSA Fono Faavae SUNGO Samoa Youth Task-force	Annual

Priority Area Two: Youth Education and Economic Empowerment

Policy Objective: To enhance youth employability and active participation in the labour market by equipping youth with the necessary education, abilities and skills for their learning and development and for meaningful employment and livelihood empowerment

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Means of Verification	Who	When
Number of youths involved in local economic development initiatives and programmes	10,000	0	Programmes reporting and monitoring	MFSA Fono Faavae Samoa Youth Task-force	Bi-annually
Number of Youth who have completed any certified entrepreneurship training	5,000	0	Programme Reports and monitoring Evaluation from Participants	MFSA Implementing partners SBH Samoa Youth Task-force	Quarterly Post programme
Number of Youth who have completed any certified business development training	5,000	0	Programme Reports and monitoring Evaluation from Participants Small Business Incubator Reports (without walls)	MFSA Implementing partners SBH Samoa Youth Task-force	Quarterly Post Programme
Number of Youth accessing and completing certified trade and vocational training	1000	0	Education Sector Annual Reports SQA Annual reports NUS Annual Reports Programme Reports	MFSA Education sector Implementing partners Samoa Youth Task-force	Annually
Proportion of Labour Market services that result in formal employment opportunities for youth	25%	0	MCIL Reports Trade and Commerce Sector Plan Reports Private Sector Tracer studies	MFSA Trade and Commerce Sector SBH Chamber of Commerce as lead NPSO	Annually
Number of TVET programmes that have a climate action component that targets youth participation	5	0	Programme Reports Site Visits Sector Reports	SAMOA YOUTH TASK-FORCE SBH Education Sector Environment Sector NPSO (Samoa Chamber of Commerce)	Annually

Priority Area Three: Youth Health and Wellbeing

Policy Objective: To create awareness on wellbeing/wellness and positive health attitudes as a prerequisite to making smart choices that address issues that can impact negatively on physical, emotional, social, environmental and spiritual wellbeing

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Means of Verification	Who	When
Proportion of youth accessing and using health services	15,000	TBC	Health Sector Reports Health Service providers reports	MOH SFHA MFSA Samoa Youth Task-force	Quarterly
Number of Service providers offering health services that recognise youth-specific needs and ensuring parity in accessibility to all young people inclusive of the most vulnerable and YWD	20	0	Service provider tracking on scope of services Health Sector Private Sector	MFSA Samoa Youth Task-force MOH SFHA	Annually
Number of education sector programmes on health and wellbeing with a focus on the importance of adolescent health	30	0	Programme Reports Sector Reports	NGOs MFSA Samoa Youth Task-force MOH SFHA Education Sector	Quarterly
Number of youths who participate and complete any mental wellness programme including any alcohol or other drugs programme	5,000	0	Programme Reports Sector Reports	NGOs MFSA Samoa Youth Task-force MOH District Hospitals Mental health and Addiction service providers like Salvation Army and Goshen Trust SFHA Education Sector Law and Justice sector	Quarterly and Annually

Number of youths accessing sexual and reproductive health youth-friendly services	5,000	0	Programme Reports Health Sector verification reports	NGOs MFSA Samoa Youth Task-force Health Sector Education Sector SUNGO Family Health Association Private Health Practitioners SAMOA	Quarterly and Annually
Number of youths participating in positive recreation activities at community, village and district level	20,000	0	MFSA Fono Faaave Reporting Village Council reporting MSR reporting	Health Sector Ministry Sports and Recreation SAMOA YOUTH TASK-FORCE Youth Organisations Fono Faavae Village Councils Sports Bodies FBO CBO	Quarterly and Annually

Priority Area Four: Youth for Environmental Sustainability

Policy Objective: To broaden inclusion and ensure youth perspectives, especially youth from vulnerable communities, are integrated into national strategies and action plans that shape climate policies, protect biodiversity and equip all citizens with the necessary knowledge and skills to be active stewards of our environment

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Means of Verification	Who	When
Proportion of climate change initiatives with a mandated Youth representative to reflect the realities of youth for environmental sustainability.	80%	0	Environment Sector Reports Climate Change programme/ project reporting District Committee Reports DMO reporting	MFSA SUNGO SAMOA YOUTH TASK-FORCE Fono Faavae Youth Organisations Education Sector Environment Sector NGOs DP's	Annually

Proportion of seats in Village Councils and Fono Faavae that are dedicated to youth for environmental stability decision making as they are at the frontline of climate change damage and losses	80%	0	District Committee Reports Environment Sector Reports Climate Change programme/ project reporting DMO Reporting	MFSA SUNGO SAMOA YOUTH TASK- FORCE Fono Faavae Youth Organisations Education Sector Environment Sector NGOs DP's	Annually
Number of cross-sectoral programmes and processes youth participate in where they are meaningfully engaged in nationwide responses for climate change action and preservation which reflect the evolving needs of the youth	14	0	All Sector reporting District Reporting Environment Sector Reports Climate Change programme/ project reporting DMO Reporting	SAMOA YOUTH TASK- FORCE Fono Faavae Youth Organisations All Sectors MNRE NGOs DP's	Annually
Number of youths reached through digital transformation initiatives that help build adaptability and resilience	5,000	0	All Sector reporting District Reporting Environment Sector Reports Climate Change programme/ project reporting DMO Reporting	SAMOA YOUTH TASK- FORCE Fono Faavae Youth Organisations All Sectors MNRE NGOs DPs	Quarterly

Priority Area Five: Law Enforcement and Drug Use Awareness

Policy Objective: To build evidence about what works best to prevent and reduce youth offending and drug use and what is needed from national and community driven approaches; and raise awareness of evidence-based approaches and programmes that both youth and communities can implement to reduce offending

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Means of Verification	Who	When
Established and monitored tracking system of young offenders	End of 2026	Not currently in place	System set up as well as access protocols System reporting	Youth Organisations SAMOA YOUTH TASK- FORCE MFSA Law and Justice Sector MPPC, NGOs, MJCA DPs	Quarterly and Annually from 2027

Number of youths led nationwide campaigns that say no to all kinds of violence and drugs	3	1	Annual campaign and multi-media material and reports	SAMOA YOUTH TASK-FORCE MFSA Fono Faavae Sports Bodies Youth Organisations Law and Justice Sector MPPC NGOs Media Partners DP's NOLA SFA SVSG	Annually
Number of forums/workshops with the Judiciary and those engaged in the areas of Alcohol and Drug working to help resolve the challenges of youth offending	4	0	Workshop reporting and outcomes statements with targeted activities	SUNGO MFSA NGOs Samoa Youth Task-force Law and Justice Sector MPPC MJCA Judiciary SVSG	Quarterly and Annually
Number of awareness programmes in schools about laws on youth crime prevention	20	0	Programme reporting and participant evaluation reporting	Education Sector Law and Justice Sector MFSA SAMOA YOUTH TASK-FORCE Youth Organisations Fono Faavae MPPC Village Councils DP's	Quarterly

Number of youth focused crime prevention programmes delivered in the communities	50	0	Programme reporting and participant evaluation reporting	Education Sector Law and Justice Sector MFSA SAMOA YOUTH TASK-FORCE Youth Organisations Fono Faavae MPPC Village Councils DP's	Quarterly
Priority Area Six: Institutional framework for coordination of youth development interventions and mainstreaming Policy Objective: To strengthen the institutional framework and regulatory frameworks to support the coordination and implementation of youth development interventions that would facilitate effective mainstreaming and management of youth development.					
Indicator	Target	Baseline	Means of Verification	Who	When
Coordinated focal mechanism at MFSA is set up to coordinate all activities that support youth at all levels of society	2026	Exists but not coordinated like a dedicated youth focal hub	MFSA Reports	MFSA Implementers Youth/YOS Public Administration Sector MOF Ministry Sports and Recreation SAMOA YOUTH TASK-FORCE SBS Fono Faavae DP's	Quarterly and Annually
Strengthened Information Management system on all matters related to youth development	2026	Exists but needs more disaggregated data	MFSA Reports Sector Reports	MFSA SBS Public Administration Sector MOF SAMOA YOUTH TASK-FORCE Fono Faavae DP's	Bi-annually

Samoa Youth Taskforce fully operational with a clear TOR noting roles and responsibilities and related work plan that is extracted from the Costed Implementation Plan	Early 2026	0	MFSA Reports	MFSA Implementers	Quarterly and annually
Number of Youth Organisations receiving development support including ICT programme support	10	1	Sector Reports NGO Reports	MFSA NGOs DPs	Annual
Percentage of sectors with Youth Profile or Research including age-disaggregated/ youth specific data and YWD data	80%		MFSA Sector Reports	MFSA All Sectors	Annual
Number of digitally enabled youth services or products	60	0	Sector Reports Programme Reports	MFSA MCIT All Sectors NGOs DPs	Annual
Communications Plan in place for SYP and its Implementation Plan along with ongoing awareness activities	2026	0	Media Platforms Analytics Reports	MFSA DPs All Sectors NGOs	Bi-annually
Completed review of all legislation pertaining to Youth in light also of the strong call for review of age cohort currently adopted by SYP 2026-2031.	2030	0	All sectors and country reporting including reporting against our international commitments	MFSA DPs All Sectors NGOs	One-off