

**Key Findings from Puntland Background Paper
for
National Human Development Report 2011
Empowering Youth for Peace & Development**

Stakeholder Workshop

**Garowe, The Puntland State of Somalia
26 September, 2011**

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Kaalo
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Transitional challenges facing Puntland

- ❑ **Weak governance system and inadequate financial and human resources**
- ❑ **Limited public infrastructure and Limited access to public services**
- ❑ **Fragile environment** – due to poor environmental management, recurring drought and desertification.
- ❑ **Extensive khat addiction** –(5 – 20 % of the population addicted) causing a financial flow out of the country which is exceeding the annual State budget.
- ❑ **The uncertainty over the federal system** – due to containing war and instability in the South and Central regions of Somalia.
- ❑ **Extent of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's)**
- ❑ **Large youth population (78% below the age of 30) and massive youth unemployment and under employment**
- ❑ **Gender bias, stereotyping and discrimination** – cultural, social, biological and economic barriers hinder gender equality.
- ❑ **Puntland national youth policy is a milestone** but the success lies in how well it is implemented and integrated with national development strategy

State and Peace Building in Puntland

- ❑ State and peace building efforts have been characterized by a complex interplay of the roles of traditional leaders, politicians, intellectuals and members of the Diaspora,
- ❑ Traditional conflict management structures and the modern system of governance worked in a complimentary way that provided for the application of law and order.
- ❑ Three critical ingredients for peace and reconciliation process include - political leadership with vision; a committed bureaucracy to catalyze and turn the vision into reality; and a hard-working population
- ❑ However peacemaking in Puntland will continue to be haunted by the clan factor since democratic institutions do not necessarily conform to customary law and basic clan social structures, and has to be taken into consideration at all times when discussing politics and development in Puntland.

Potential Drivers of Conflict

- ❑ **Persistence of widespread poverty and unemployment** makes it easier to recruit the young into militias
- ❑ **Regional disparities** between under-developed/inaccessible (nomadic areas) versus privileged regions
- ❑ **Inequality among culturally defined clan groups** - growing grievances among fishing community over illegal fishing & dumping of waste – threatened livelihoods forcing people towards piracy
- ❑ **Piracy both as consequence and driver of conflict**
- ❑ **Competition for declining natural resources** Land disputes due to lack of well defined property right, huge annual deforestation due to charcoal extraction, environmental disaster beyond the limit of carrying capacity
- ❑ **The looming youth bulge and youth multiple exclusions** – if not addressed timely will lead to outbreak of conflict – a key factor corroborated by recent popular uprising in Arab world

National Youth Survey 2010 in Puntland :

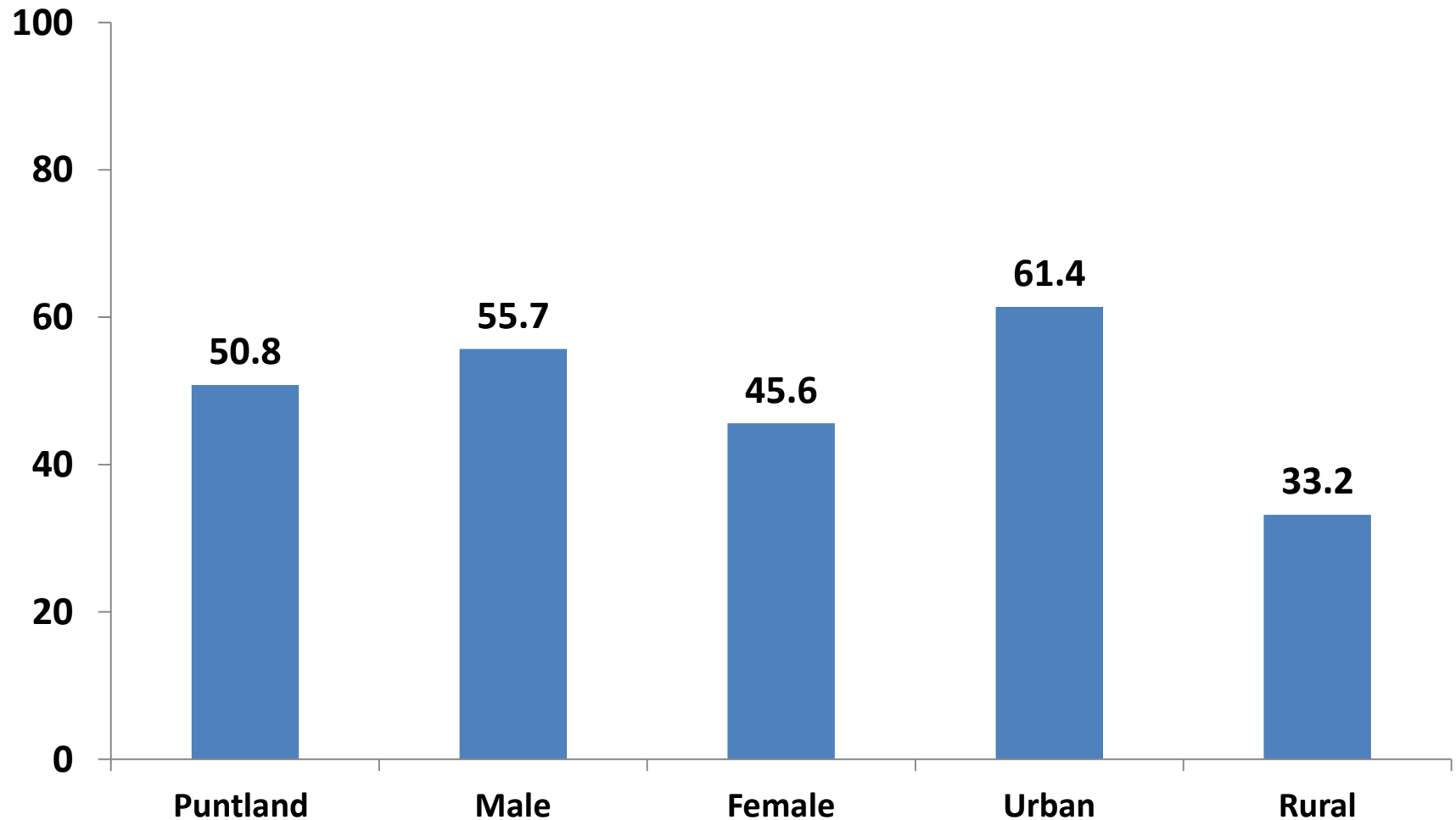
Selected findings

- ❑ **Sample Survey of 1084 youth** using pre-structured questionnaire
- ❑ **Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)** separately administered for Young men, Young Women, Adult/elder groups
- ❑ **Key Informant Interview (KII)** with Government officials, Religious leaders, Civil society /NGOs, Business community , Academia

Looming Youth population and youth crisis

- ❑ The proportion of young people below 30 years is over 78 %
- ❑ Share of youth (14-29 years) in total sample population was 39 %
- ❑ Youth voices were not heard in the decision making processes
- ❑ Youth are expected to obey political and religious community leaders.
- ❑ Youth face multiple exclusions – inappropriate and inadequate education & skill , lack of employment opportunities , lack of outlet to express thier needs and aspirations, legacy of past violence
- ❑ Youth are considered only as part of the problem but not part of the solution; they are historically excluded from the peace and reconciliation processes.
- ❑ Traditional customs, norms and fragmented nature of the legal system do not provide a sound basis for the resolution of gender issues.

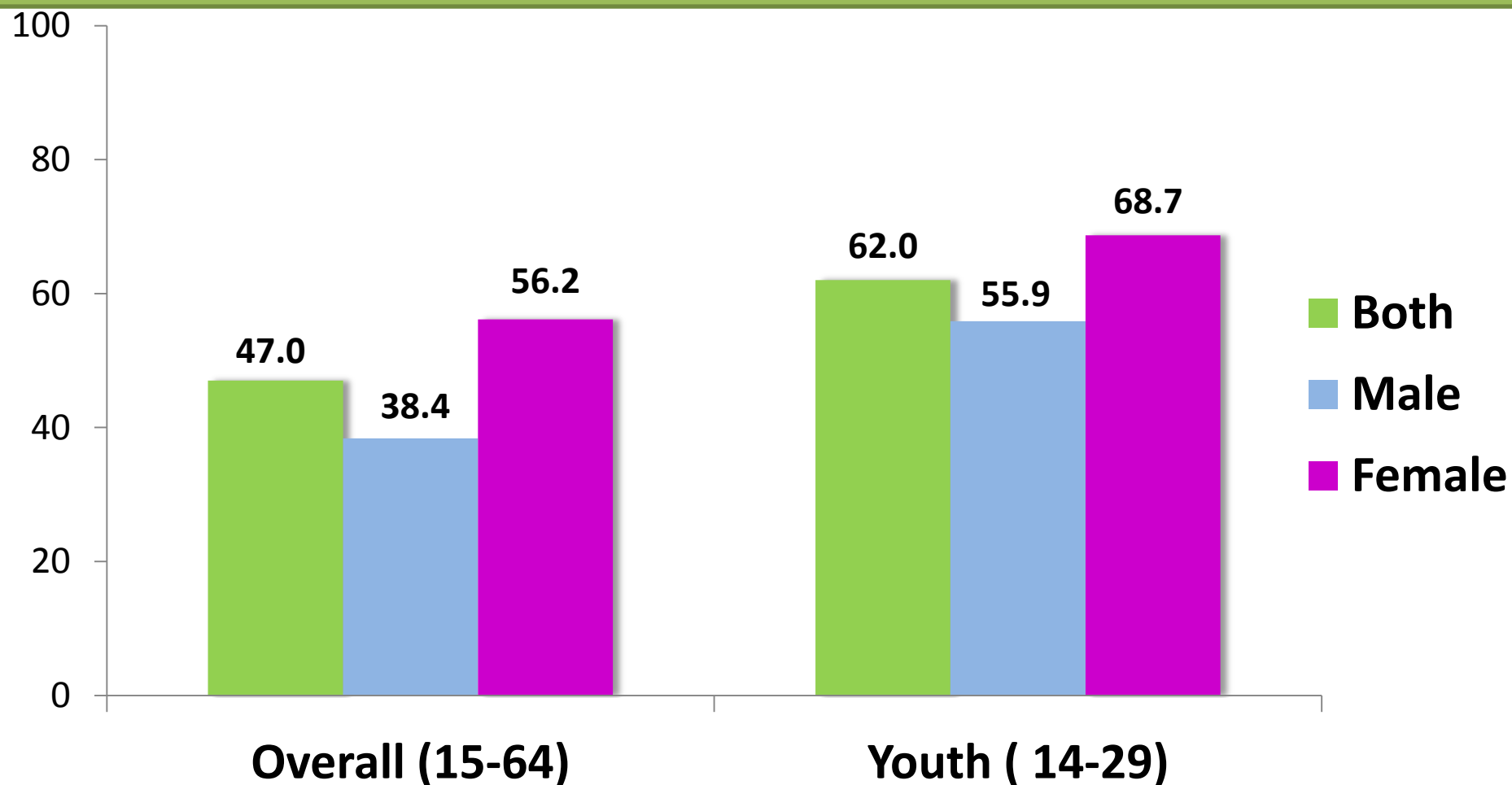
Literacy rate among youth population (14-29)



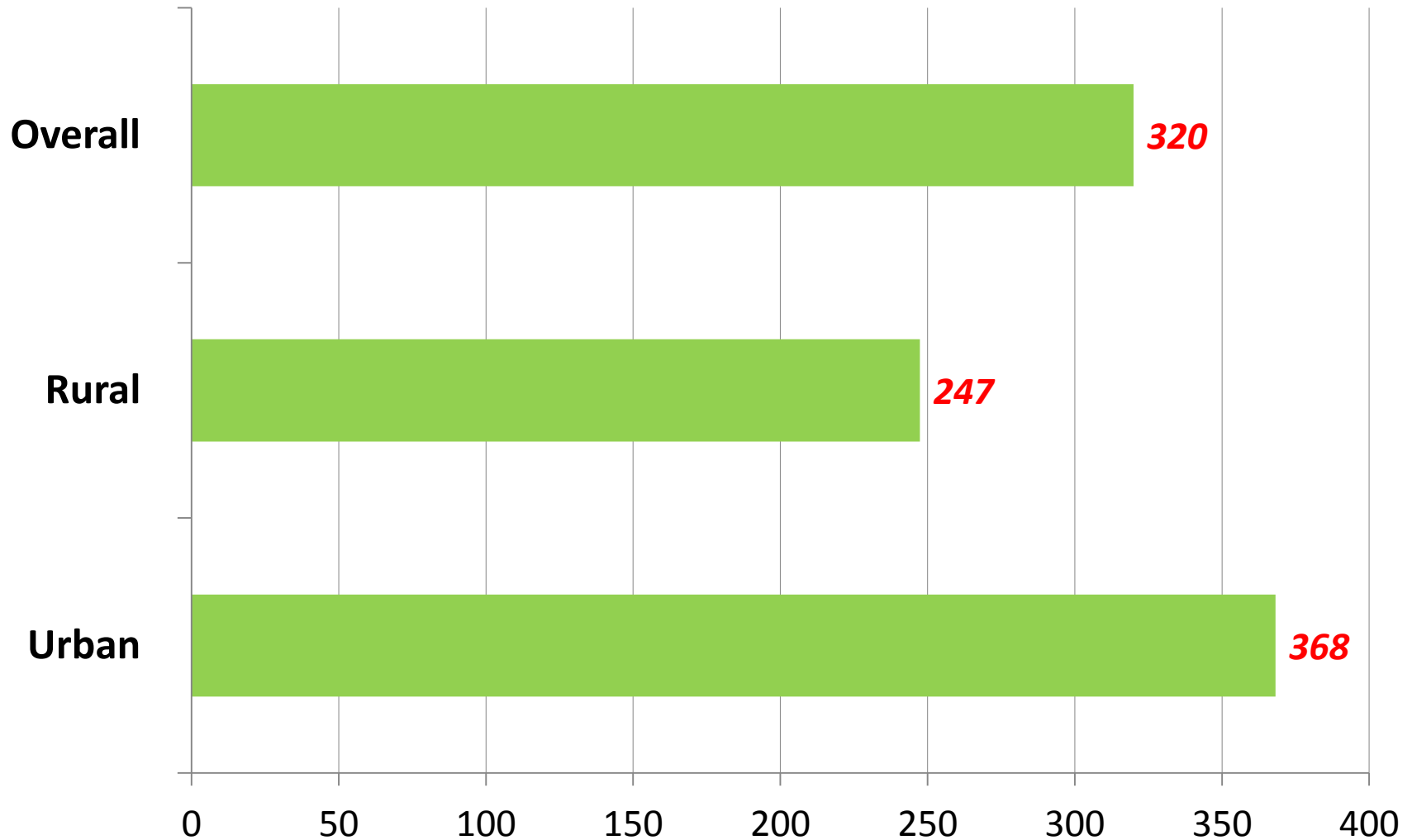
Unemployment rate of economically active population

Overall unemployment (15-64) = 47 %

Youth unemployment (14-29) = 62 %



Per capita annual income (US\$/year)



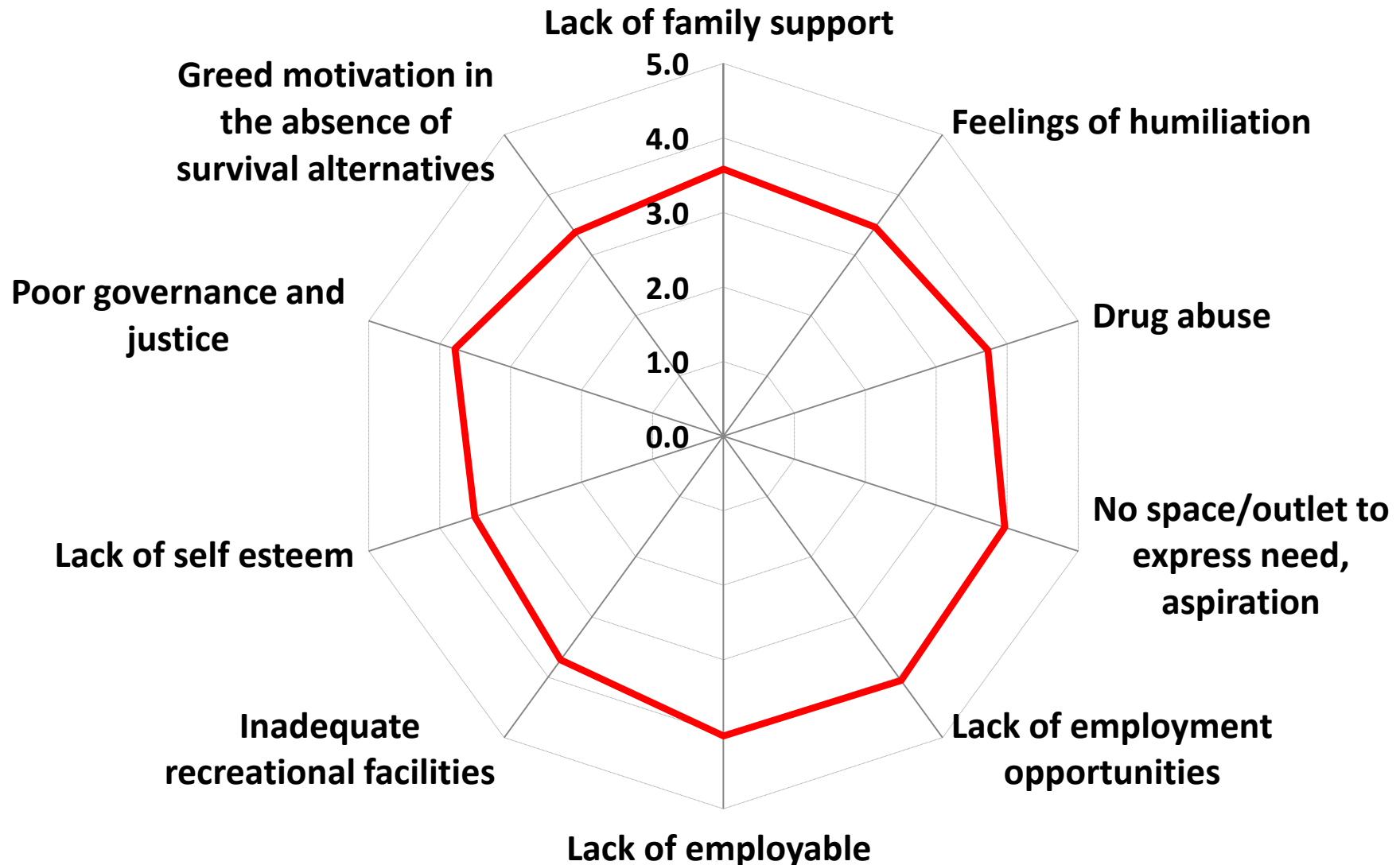
Youth opinion toward deprivation & response strategies

Mean score (strongly agree =5; agree=4; undecided=3; Disagree=2; Strongly disagree=1)

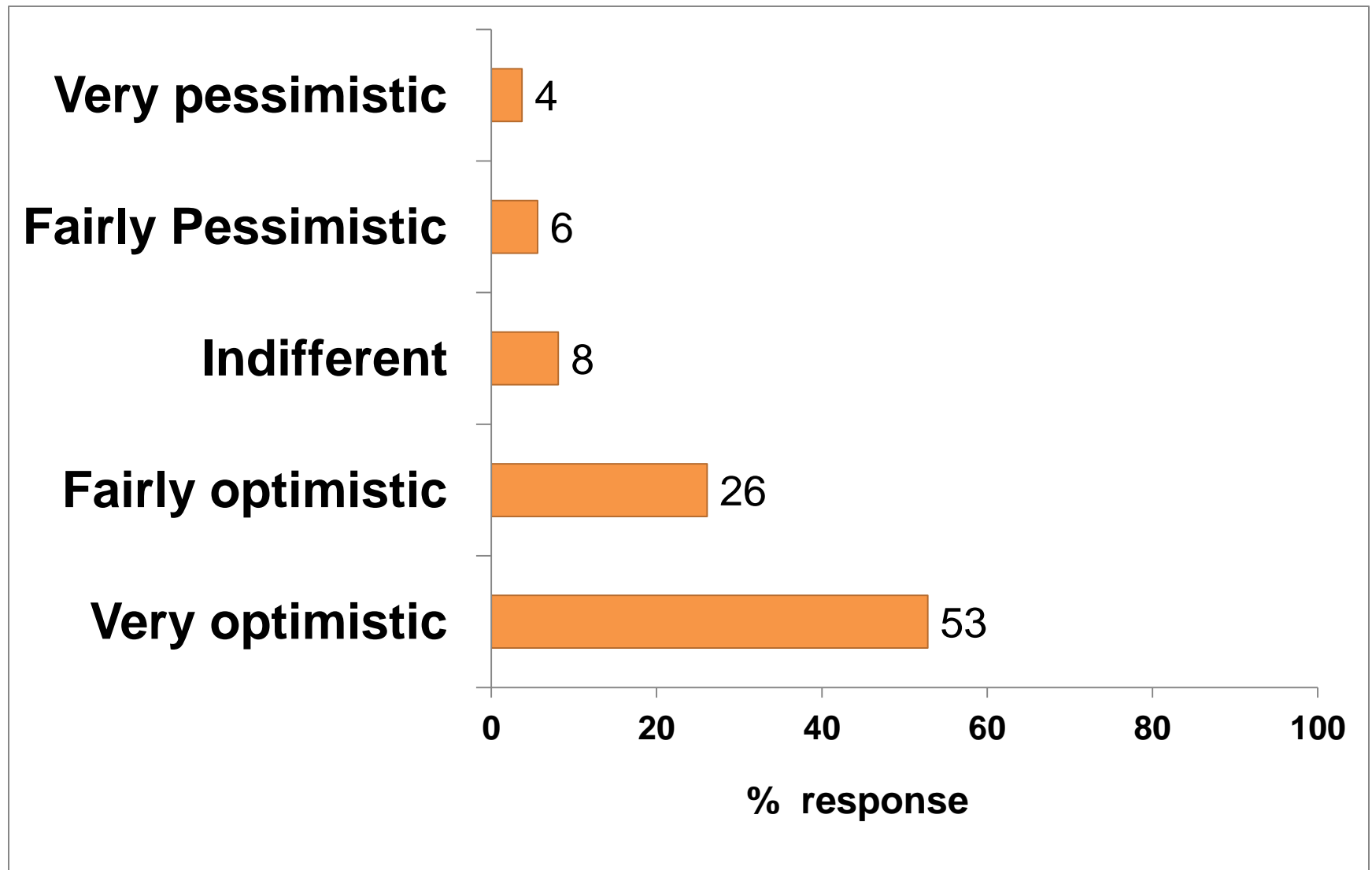


Youth Frustration Index & underlying causes

Overall Mean score = 3.7 out of 5



How optimistic are you about your future prospects?



Youth Priority Needs & Suggestions



Program of action prioritized by youth during consultative workshop

- ❑ **Inclusive quality education:** - National Curriculum for the whole education system and adopt it; demand driven TVET for the youth, counseling and mentoring school programs
- ❑ **Youth participation and leadership development** - youth should participated in development, capacity building for Youth Organizations
- ❑ **Disarmament , security and peace building** - rehabilitations of piracy, clan-militia returnees; educate child soldiers; develop alternative and employment opportunities;
- ❑ **Sustainable livelihoods & youth employment** - **through “**
 - **employability** of the youth through investing in education and vocational training,
 - **equal opportunities** – giving young women the same opportunities as young men;
 - **entrepreneurship skills** – making it easier for young people to start and run businesses; and
 - **employment creation** – placing employment creation at the centre of macroeconomic policy
- ❑ **Health** - training more health workers; developing health centres; Connecting together; increasing national budget for health; waste management ; Clean water
- ❑ **Sustainable environment:** reduction /termination/avoiding of plastic bag usage; reduction of charcoal use; update youth how to cope with climate change;
- ❑ **Gender: awareness of HIV /stigma reduction;** develop HR policy for the youth
- ❑ **Youth Centers:** public – establishment of libraries; Multipurpose Youth centres ; Sports/competitions; Youth employment opportunities; Business skill training; Seed grants

Thank you.