

FACT SHEET: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

THE CHALLENGE

As noted in the 2013 World Development Report, jobs are the main driver of development. Unfortunately, some 200 million people worldwide—including 75 million under the age of 25—currently do not have jobs. The high rate of youth unemployment around the world and the difficulty of creating enough quality jobs for young people are urgent concerns of policy makers, employers, donors and civil society organizations. Nonetheless, the international community still knows fairly little about the impact of youth employment interventions because only a few programs have undergone rigorous evaluations. This scarcity of knowledge and evidence on youth employment initiatives has been particularly pronounced in the Middle East and North Africa as well as Sub-Saharan Africa. In order to address the challenge of youth employment, more knowledge as well as better targeted and informed investment is needed.

THE INITIATIVE

In order to address these challenges, the World Bank established the *Global Partnership for Youth Employment* (GPYE) in 2008 to build and disseminate evidence on youth employment outcomes and tested methods to improve them, with a special focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

To achieve these objectives, the Partnership's work focuses on three areas:

Research and learning

Develop new knowledge about the problems facing young people in their transition to work and about “what works” to increase their employability prospects. The partnership supports in-depth country studies, city and community appraisals, Africa and MENA regional program inventories, and impact evaluations.

Policy dialogue

Promote effective policy dialogue by convening a broad range of stakeholders to raise awareness and share knowledge about youth employment issues and policies. By organizing national, regional and international learning events, GPYE brings together policymakers, donors, the private sector, NGO's and youth consultative groups to engage with each other to better understand the needs of youth on the ground and discuss potential solutions that draw on the strengths of each stakeholder group.

Local engagement

Support technical assistance to local governments, innovative pilot projects, and capacity-building for stakeholders from the public sector and civil society. The partnership places particular emphasis on the role of cities to address youth employment and on strengthening monitoring and evaluation.

PARTNERS

The World Bank, the Arab Urban Development Institute, International Youth Foundation, Understanding Children's Work, and Youth Employment Network

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- **Improved understanding of the employment challenges facing young people and the community-based assets that can be utilized to address these challenges** Rapid community appraisals and other country- and city-level studies in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Rwanda, and Senegal have informed community-based partnerships that help young people reach their employment potential.
- **Better-informed policy dialogue and improved evidence base on youth needs and what works in youth employability programs** The International Youth Foundation's mapping and analysis of life skills programs in the MENA region identified typologies and essential elements of life skills programming in order to improve and scale up such programs in the region. UCW's country-level research reports provide an overview of child labor and related issues in specific national contexts which informs policies around these issues.

- **Stronger results-based focus among youth practitioners in MENA and Africa, as well as more rigorous learning from youth employment programs** The GPYE has engendered a better understanding and use of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) techniques, including rigorous impact assessments, thanks to Partnership-supported M&E capacity building efforts and the development and dissemination of a new M&E Guide targeted at youth employment practitioners. Also YEN's Youth Employment Inventory (YEI), a comprehensive database of over 400 youth employment interventions worldwide, improves impact evaluations of youth employment interventions and strengthens the basis for evidence-based project planning, management and monitoring.
- **Increased commitment to youth employment by municipalities in the Middle East** In Lebanon, AUDI and IYF have created a multi-stakeholder alliance in the Al Fayhaa Union of Municipalities (Tripoli, Al Mina, and Baddawi) to create a model for public-private partnerships on youth employment at the municipal level from which other cities can learn. AUDI is currently replicating the same model in Tunis, Tunisia.
- **Greater engagement of policymakers and other donors** Through regional learning events in Amman, Nairobi, and Washington DC the GPYE has engaged key stakeholders from public, private, civil society, and donor organizations to share research and lessons learned and to promote policy dialogue around youth employability.

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