

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

THE CHALLENGE

The 2007 World Development Report, *Development and the Next Generation*, underscores the challenges facing the international community to measure the impact of youth interventions, given how few of these programs have undergone rigorous evaluations. This scarcity of knowledge and evidence on youth-focused programs can undermine the credibility of even the most promising efforts. Such deficits in youth employability programs have been particularly pronounced in a number of regions around the world, including the Middle East and North Africa as well as Sub-Saharan Africa.

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 proven methods to improve them, with a special focus on Africa and the Middle East. The partnership comprises the International Youth Foundation (IYF), the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI), Understanding Children's Work (UCW) and the Youth Employment Network (YEN).

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

Research and learning

Build new knowledge to better understand the problems facing young people in their transition to work and on "what works" to increase their employability. For example, the partnership supports in-depth country studies, city and community appraisals, 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, policymakers, donors, the private sector, NGO's and youth consultative groups can engage with each other to better understand the needs on the ground and discuss potential solutions.

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 puts particular emphasis on the role of cities to address youth employment and on strengthening monitoring and evaluation.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- **Improved understanding of the local situation and the employment challenges facing young people** as a result of several country- and city-level studies, for example in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Rwanda, and Senegal.
- **Better-informed policy dialogue and more context-specific program designs for youth employability programs** due to GPYE studies and assessments. For example, in Senegal, findings from the "*Private Sector Demand for Youth Labor in Ghana and Senegal*" study informed a cross-sector youth assessment and were incorporated into the International Youth Foundation's youth employability programming in the country.
- **Stronger results focus by practitioners in MENA and Africa, as well as more rigorous learning from youth employment programs.** The GPYE has promoted a better understanding and use of monitoring and evaluation, as well as rigorous impact assessments, thanks to partnership-supported capacity building efforts, an active community of practice with over 500 members, and a new M&E Guide targeted at youth employment practitioners.

(continued)



- **Increased commitment to youth employment by municipalities in the Middle East.** For example, 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.
- **Greater engagement of policymakers and other donors.** For instance, a regional learning event and policy dialogue organized in Amman, Jordan helped articulated local priorities on youth employment and was followed by a Rapid Community Appraisal. This needs assessment, in turn, provided the basis for a large-scale youth employability initiative supported by the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development and USAID.

PARTNERS

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

CONTACTS

The International Youth Foundation (GPYE Secretariat)

Hannah Corey, Program Manager

h.corey@iyfnet.org

The World Bank

Kevin Hempel, Consultant, Social Protection & Labor

khempel@worldbank.org

Mattias Lundberg, Senior Economist

mlundberg@worldbank.org

For more information, please visit our website at www.gpye.org and sign up to be placed on the distribution list.

