

THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON
DECENT JOBS FOR YOUTH



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



CASE STUDIES ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN FRAGILE SITUATIONS

ILO UNDP UNHCR



We are the first-ever comprehensive U.N. system-wide effort to promote youth employment worldwide and a core means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Partners include several agencies, funds and programmes of the U.N. system, and a growing number of stakeholders from the government, private sector, civil society and beyond.



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INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places decent work at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive development, and recognizes youth as critical agents of change. Empowered young women and men play a vital role in preventing conflicts and ensuring sustainable peace. Young people are at the forefront as innovators, entrepreneurs, leaders, activists and positive agents of change, and they need the recognition and support of governments, UN agencies, civil society and private sector partners.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes youth as “critical agents of change”

The **Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth** recognizes the potential of young people, as well as the challenges that they face in relation to jobs and employment. Approximately 70.9 million youth are currently unemployed, and even having a job is no guarantee of an exit from poverty. Around 160.8 million youth in emerging and developing countries live in extreme or moderate poverty, despite being employed; this means that 39 per cent of employed youth in emerging and developing countries are living in extreme or moderate poverty¹. Millions of people, including youth, are on the move either within their own country or across national borders due to situations of fragility, crisis and conflict.

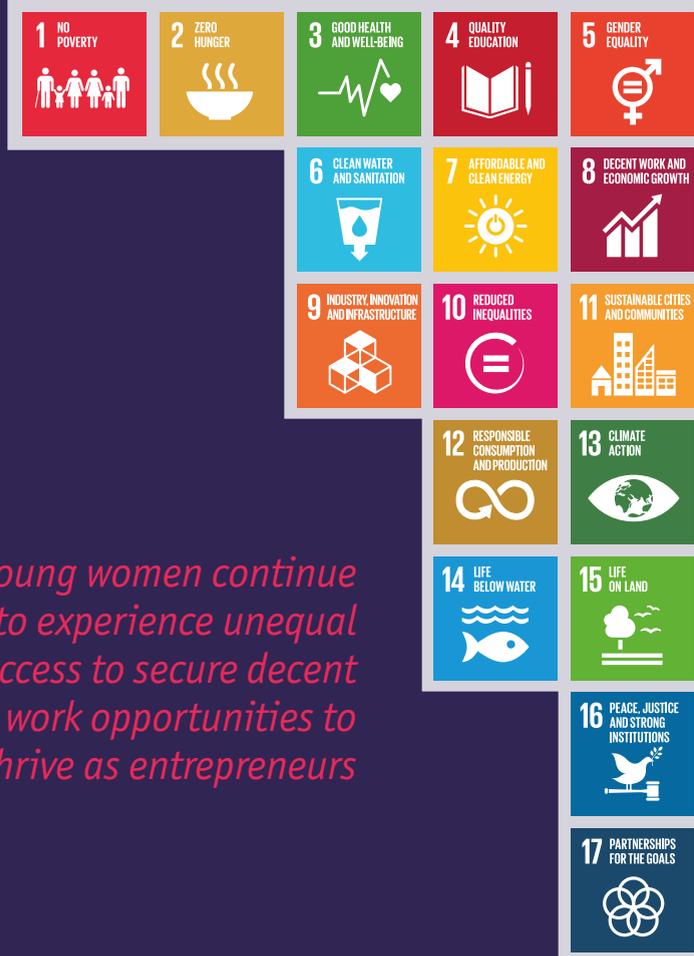
SOURCE: *ILO Trends Econometric Models, 2017.*

¹ Extreme poverty = less than US\$1.90 per capita per day; moderate poverty = between US\$1.90 and US\$3.10 per capita per day. ILO World Employment Social Outlook: Trends for Youth 2016.

Conflict disrupts every aspect of life and creates additional barriers for young people who are disproportionately affected by unemployment and low quality jobs. Limited opportunities for decent work prevent youth from properly transitioning into adulthood and exacerbates political, social and economic exclusion. Investing in youth employment in fragile and conflict situations is therefore a priority for boosting labour market outcomes, and decent living situations, for some of the world's most vulnerable young people. Young women continue to face barriers to securing decent employment and opportunities to thrive as entrepreneurs. Young women's access to resources, including land and loans, may be restricted, and young women continue to shoulder an unequal share of unpaid care work, due to the persistence of traditional gender roles. Investing in youth employment in fragile and conflict situations is therefore a priority for advancing societies towards peaceful and inclusive development.

Young women continue to experience unequal access to secure decent work opportunities to thrive as entrepreneurs

In recognition of this situation, this publication collects some examples of best practices from around the world, showcasing innovative approaches to youth employment that helps to build peace and resilience in fragile and conflict affected situations.



TRAINING OF DEMOBILIZED EX-COMBATANTS IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT IN DRC

This ILO project trained the first wave of demobilized ex-combatants from the eastern DRC in entrepreneurial and cooperative management. This complemented vocational training (11 trades chosen by the beneficiaries according to their interest) covered by three partner organizations: the National Institute for Professional Preparation (INPP), Caritas and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This project helped to change the behaviour of the ex-combatants to promote peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and socioeconomic development

This project helped to change the behaviour of the ex-combatants to promote peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and socioeconomic development. They learnt to be involved in community work strengthening social cohesion; this is in stark contrast to their previous engagement with armed groups, which they often or nearly always joined due to poverty and lack of livelihoods. Strengthening cooperatives, enterprise development and community activities were conducted while the demobilized soldiers were still in the Centre for Preparation and Reintegration, which promoted social cohesion, peace and community values in the young ex-combatants.

The project results consisted in (a) adapting and reproducing training materials; (b) training and upgrading trainers; and (c) training demobilized ex-combatants and helping them to identify and develop viable business ideas.

About 70 percent of beneficiaries have a very low level of education; indeed, in many cases, they are almost illiterate because they never could attend school due to conflict. The project therefore must adapt to the minimal capacities of the

beneficiaries. Thus, the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) manuals are simple and show drawings, a pedagogical method that has greatly facilitated instruction. The SIYB training prepared the young ex-combatants to better receive the qualifying trainings in their chosen trades. Better understanding of concepts such as saving, cost and income – for example, in the course of cutting and sewing – can better engage the learner in vocational training because it affords a clearer idea of how to manage a profitable occupation.

The SIYB training increased participants' interest in starting small enterprises. Participants' plans for self-employment and employment are clearer and more diverse. The entrepreneurial capacity of the ex-combatants must be verified in the reintegration phase. The demobilized trainees will still need accompaniment and support to help them reintegrate into their places of origin and the capacity of local structures to follow up needs to be stronger.

Participants with their training manuals.
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CONNECTING RWANDAN YOUTH WITH RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Rwanda recognizes youth employment and inclusive growth as critical steps toward eradicating extreme poverty and improving livelihoods. Unemployment in Rwanda is most prevalent in urban areas and affects young people (16-35 years) more than adults. Rwanda's government

The Programme aims to enhance national capacities in order to promote employment-intensive growth to mainstream youth employment into programmes and budgets. The direct beneficiaries are male and female rural and urban youth, including out-of-school youth, graduates and less educated persons between the ages of 16 and 35. The objectives are skills development, decent employment opportunities and quality livelihoods in urban and rural capacities.

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