



Youth Employment Network

The time for youth is now

Over the next decade, one billion young people will enter the global labour market, the largest age cohort ever to reach employment age. They are the next generation of workers, entrepreneurs and leaders. **They are our future.**

Globally, youth make up 25 per cent of the world's working age population with 90 per cent of them living in developing countries. The youth unemployment rate is nearly three times higher than the adult unemployment rate. For those youth who have been able to find jobs, half of them are considered working poor, earning less than USD 2 per day.

The time has never been more urgent than now to invest in young people!



Photo: Sven Tordin

Who is YEN?

YEN (Youth Employment Network) is a partnership of the UN, ILO and the World Bank set up after the Millennium Summit in 2001 to find new and durable solutions to the youth employment challenge. The network is a global platform whose goal is to prioritize youth employment on the development agenda and to exchange knowledge on effective policies and programs to improve employment opportunities for youth. It is a service provider focusing on policy advice, innovative pilot projects, knowledge sharing, and brokering partnerships. YEN makes use of its core agency partners know how and resources and ensures youth participation in delivering its services.

YEN is managed by a permanent secretariat hosted by ILO offices in Geneva, Switzerland, Dakar, Senegal and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Support to YEN is currently provided by the Swedish International Development Agency, the Danish led Africa Commission, UNIDO, the World Bank, UK Department for Work and Pensions, International Olympic Committee and Accenture Consulting.



Photo: Tom Platon

What does YEN do?

1 Advice

Key product: Lead Country Network

YEN's flagship program is a network of policymakers from countries across the globe who have committed to prioritizing youth employment on national policy agendas. Central to the Lead Country Network is a benchmarking exercise whose goals are to raise capacity to monitor youth employment outcomes and to serve as a launching point for analyzing what is driving these trends. The exercise also provides targets for which to aim for. Annual Lead Country meetings and reports serve as peer review mechanism for learning and sharing.

2 Evaluate

Key product: Evaluation Clinics

YEN's Evaluation Clinics provide technical and financial support to policymakers and practitioners to help them conduct rigorous evaluations of their programs and policies. The Clinics teach key strategies for designing and conducting impact evaluations through analysis of live evaluation case studies. The resulting body of knowledge attempts to answer burning questions on what works and doesn't work in youth employment.

3 Innovate

Key product: Youth-to-Youth Fund

YEN believes youth should be given the opportunity to articulate their needs and to become active partners in implementing employment generating programs. In this spirit, a Youth-to-Youth Fund was launched in the Mano River Union (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) in 2008, making a concrete offer to youth-led organizations to contribute to employment generation while simultaneously teaching youth project management skills. In 2010, the Fund began offering grants to youth organizations in East Africa (Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya).

4 Broker partnerships

Key product: Marketplace

The **YEN** Marketplace is an online space for the global youth employment community to exchange or offer innovative ideas, best practice, expertise and advice, as well as collaboration and partnership. The marketplace is the central location from which YEN carries out its partnership brokering and information exchange activities. The online platform features:

- Smart note competition: offering an award to the best project idea
- Ask an expert: access to specialist knowledge
- Discussion forums: exchange ideas and information



Photo: Piotr Malinowski

How to join the Network?

There are several ways to benefit from YEN's services :

- Youth employment projects interested in conducting an impact evaluation can apply to receive technical and financial assistance from YEN.
- Youth led projects in West and East Africa can apply to receive funding through the Youth-to-Youth Fund.
- Government Ministries or Agencies responsible for youth employment can sign up to become a member of the Lead Country Network.

To stay up-to-date on recent developments at YEN including calls for proposals, email us or sign up to YEN's newsletter at our website.

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