



International  
Labour  
Organization

## Work4Youth: THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ILO

Although the youth employment crisis is easing, at least in terms of global trends, recovery is not universal and many young women and men remain shaken by changing patterns in the world of work.

The global youth unemployment rate remains well above its pre-crisis level of 11.7 per cent (in 2007); an estimated 73.3 million youth were unemployed in 2014. Overall, two

in five economically active youth are either unemployed – or they are working but still living in poverty. In 2013, more than one-third of employed youth in the developing world were living on less than US\$2 per day. The irregularity of work, as well as the lack of formal employment and social protection, continue to affect youth in developing countries.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

**Partners:**  
The MasterCard  
Foundation

**Beneficiary countries:**  
Global (36 countries  
in all regions)

**Timeframe:**  
2011 – 2016

**Budget:**  
USD 14,600,000

### THE RESPONSE

The “Work4Youth (W4Y)” project is a public-private partnership (PPP) between the ILO and The MasterCard Foundation, established in 2010 to improve data collection and knowledge on youth employment, with a view to helping the ILO better guide constituents in shaping effective policies and programmes on youth employment in 36 countries worldwide.

It aims to achieve this goal by improving the knowledge base on the challenges young people face in their labour market transitions at national, regional and global levels, and by identifying and disseminating good practices in policies and programmes. The project helps participating countries bridge their knowledge gaps on the specific characteristics of youth in the labour market in such areas as financial inclusion, wages and earnings, and other conditions of work.

It also supports them in the development or review of youth employment policies and programmes that are designed to ease the transition of young women and men to decent work.

By the end of its five-year timeframe, the project will have produced:

- A total of 56 surveys in 36 countries;
- A global database containing data and indicators from the surveys;
- A global database of information on youth employment policies;
- Six reports synthesizing regional employment and transition trends for young people;
- Two “Global Employment Trends for Youth” publications (in 2013 and 2015);
- Five thematic global reports on key issues relating to the transition of young people to decent work;
- Two global research symposia on original academic research stemming from school-to-work transition surveys (SWTS) data sets;
- A series of thematic briefs addressing specific questions on the youth labour market.



## RESULTS

Through global and country level action, the W4Y project reaches out to:

- Policy-makers, practitioners, researchers, the media and public at large, through the dissemination of information and good practices on youth labour market challenges;
- Leaders and policy-makers through five global and regional forums on decent work for youth;
- National labour market institutions in 36 countries through improved knowledge on youth labour market transitions and capacity building in the area of labour market information analysis;
- 156,000 young women and men involved in SWTS in 36 countries.



*"Vocational training linked to job creation is imperative if we are to safeguard the future by giving our youth the capacity to handle effectively that responsibility that will inevitably fall to them one day."*

Aung San Suu Kyi,  
at the 101st Session of  
the International Labour  
Conference

*"The MasterCard Foundation is proud to partner with the ILO to provide accurate and timely youth employment and education data to policy makers around the world as they seek to tackle the challenge of youth employment."*

Deepali Khanna,  
Director of the Youth  
Learning Programme  
of the MasterCard  
Foundation



## Partnerships and Field Support Department (PARDEV)

International  
Labour Organization  
4, Route des Morillons  
CH-1211 Geneva 22  
Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 799 7309  
Fax +41 22 799 6668  
E-mail: [ppp@ilo.org](mailto:ppp@ilo.org)  
[www.ilo.org/ppp](http://www.ilo.org/ppp)

## BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

The MasterCard Foundation values innovation and achievement. Its constant challenge is to explore, test and create scalable solutions to poverty.

By successfully promoting financial inclusion for young people in developing countries, the Work4Youth project addresses the Foundation's objectives. The partnership between The MasterCard Foundation and the ILO will dramatically increase the global knowledge base on how young people transition from education to stable employment, and create tools to inform youth employment policies and programmes worldwide.