



International
Labour
Organization

↑ DECENT JOBS
FOR YOUTH

**SUPPORTING THE
GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR
DECENT JOBS FOR YOUTH
IN THE SAHEL**

Investing today in the employment of young people means investing in the present and future of our societies.

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder

Youth unemployment is a matter of great concern around the world. Responding to this challenge will require new, more relevant skills and employment policies that promote the creation of decent jobs and address skills mismatch. Giving youth a better start in the labour market is a key priority for many countries.

LATEST GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS FOR YOUTH (2020)

68 MILLION
YOUTH ARE
UNEMPLOYED
WORLDWIDE

126 MILLION
ARE WORKING, BUT
LIVING IN EXTREME OR
MODERATE POVERTY

The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth supports innovative and evidence-based actions on youth employment, furthering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also promotes results-oriented investments that create both immediate benefits and deliver positive, sustainable impact for young people everywhere.

<https://www.decentjobsforyouth.org/>

2 OUT OF **5**



Almost 2 out of 5 economically active young people are without work or working but impoverished

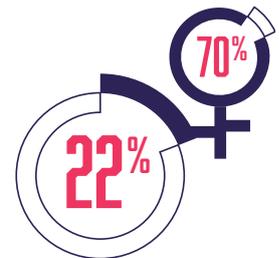
3X
MORE LIKELY

Youth between the ages of 15 and 24 are three times more likely than adults aged 25 and older to be unemployed

3 OUT OF **4**



3 out of 4 young people are in informal jobs



Around 22% of young people are NEETs (neither employed nor in education or training programmes) and almost 70% of those are female

THE LINK BETWEEN YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND QUALITY APPRENTICESHIPS

Countries with well-functioning apprenticeship systems have lower youth unemployment rates. Apart from providing a solution to youth unemployment, quality apprenticeships can benefit jobseekers and workers of all ages who, due to changes in the labour market or job requirements, find themselves in need of retraining or upskilling.

ABOUT QUALITY APPRENTICESHIPS

Quality Apprenticeships are a unique form of technical vocational education and training, combining **on-the-job training** and **off-the-job learning**, which enable learners from all walks of life to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies required to carry out a specific occupation. They are **regulated** and financed by laws and collective agreements and policy decisions arising from **social dialogue**, and require a written contract that details the respective **roles and responsibilities** of the apprentice and the employer; they also provide the apprentice with remuneration and standard social protection coverage. Following a clearly defined and structured period of training and the successful completion of a **formal assessment**, apprentices obtain a **recognized qualification**.

BENEFITS OF APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are of critical importance in addressing the youth employment challenge. Over the years, the ILO has been involved in numerous initiatives to support apprenticeship programmes and has promoted the concept of a quality apprenticeship system, in particular, given the key role they play in:

- Facilitating the transition to employment
- Matching skills supply to fast-changing labour market demands
- Increasing productivity and promote sustainable enterprises
- Enabling a cost-effective form of vocational education and training delivery
- Promoting stronger coordination between the worlds of education and work
- Strengthening dialogue with social partners

TACKLING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE SAHEL REGION

The Youth Employment project in the Sahel Region operates under the aegis of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth. It is funded by the Government of Luxembourg for 2.5 years and aims to improve the creation of and access to decent work for young people through enhancing regional cooperation with focused attention on:

RESEARCH



New knowledge products that aim to influence positively youth employment policies and strategies

CAPACITY BUILDING



Knowledge sharing events based on key thematic areas of work to disseminate knowledge and good practices

CONCRETE ACTIONS



A pilot programme on quality apprenticeships linked to the key elements of the ILO approach to quality apprenticeships is implemented in Burkina Faso

EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM THE PROJECT



Better job opportunities and prospects for young people through new knowledge generated on what works for youth employment



Strengthened capacity of institutions to design and implement integrated responses to youth employment policies and programmes



Development of knowledge products and tools for practitioners on how to implement and/or strengthen quality apprenticeships



A new model of quality apprenticeship system is developed in Burkina Faso

TO ACCESS THE PROJECT WEBSITE

<https://www.ilo.org/employment/Whatwedo/Projects/youth-employment-sahel/lang--en/index.htm>