



# DECENT WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Youth Employment Network



## Youth Employment Network (YEN) Newsletter, January 2006

### News Flash

#### **Georgia and Turkey set to become Lead Countries of the YEN**

In a letter to ILO Director General Juan Somavia, Lado Chipasvili, Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, expressed Georgia's interest in joining the Youth Employment Network. Mr. Chipasvili stated that he was looking forward to working closely with the YEN to address its youth employment challenge.

Furthermore the Turkish Minister of Labour and Social Security, Murat Basesgioglu has also communicated his country's desire to join the Network. Turkey is set to become the 19<sup>th</sup> Lead Country of the YEN.

#### **ILO annual jobs report says global unemployment continues to grow; youth now make up half those out of work**

The number of people unemployed worldwide climbed to new heights in 2005, as robust economic growth failed to offset an increase in people seeking work - especially among the vast and growing legion of jobless youth, the International Labour Office (ILO) said in its annual Global Employment Trends report.

The report showed that despite 4.3 per cent global GDP growth in 2005, only 14.5 million of the world's more than 500 million extreme working poor were able to rise above the US\$1 per day, per person poverty line.

In addition, in 2005, of the more than 2.8 billion workers in the world, 1.4 billion still did not earn enough to lift themselves and their families above the US\$2 a day poverty line - just as many as 10 years ago, the ILO said.

The ILO report shows that the jobs crisis was acute among the young, aged between 15 and 24. These make up half the world's unemployed and are three times as likely to be out of work as adults.

The ILO says this is "troublesome" given that the group makes up only a quarter of the world's working population.

These figures becomes even more acute at a regional level where in Asia those between the ages of 15 and 24 make up a fifth of the workforce, but half the unemployed.

In Sri Lanka, younger workers are six times more likely to be unemployed than older ones.

## **‘Work Ahead’ Conference draws the development community together to discuss decent work and poverty reduction**

The [‘Work Ahead’](#) conference held in Saltjobaden, Sweden on 24-25 November 2005 focused on the link between jobs and poverty reduction, stipulating that the creation of decent work was the most effective strategy to combat poverty. The conference proposed solutions to the challenges of labour markets in developing countries, including integrating employment into the centre of economic policy, removing obstacles to entrepreneurship, and devoting special attention to the needs of Africa.

The Conference also addressed the vulnerable position of youth in the labour market. YEN High-Level Panel Rapporteur Allan Larsson presented the youth specific concerns to the participants and outlined key aspects of the YEN strategy. Larsson also emphasized the need for support noting Sweden’s role in having contributed the key seed resources to establish the YEN. Concluding comments by Sweden’s Minister for Development Cooperation Carin Jämtin reflected a commitment to young people and the work of the YEN: ‘Concerted efforts must be made to improve opportunities for young men and women in the labour market...The Youth Employment Network set up by the United Nations, the World Bank and the ILO deserves broad support.’

[Speech by Allan Larson](#)  
[Chair’s Summary by Carin Jämtin](#)

### **New YEN Working Paper Series Launched**

The first publication in the Series, entitled [‘Youth employment promotion: A review of ILO work and the lessons learned’](#) has recently been released. The

text, with a preface by ILO Executive Director José Manuel Salazar, chronicles the history of ILO work on youth employment.

The study’s principal aim, according to its author David H. Freedman, is to ‘review ILO activity and messages on youth unemployment and youth employment policy.’ The text analyses both the effectiveness and consistency of the ILO’s work, focusing on the period since the first ILO convention in 1970, when the organization developed more focused youth employment initiatives. Through an examination of ILO policy and messages on youth employment, the author identifies gaps in research and offers suggestions for further work.

The publication is the first in the YEN Working Paper Series. With the aim of identifying comparative advantages amongst the YEN core partners in order to strengthen the YEN work plan, similar studies will focus on the World Bank and the UN.

### **Expert Group Meeting on Youth Development Indicators held at UN Headquarters in New York, December 12 to 14, 2005**

Organized by the United Nations Programme on Youth, the [Expert Group meeting](#) served as a forum to study indicators used by the UN system assessing youth development, as a follow up to General Assembly [resolution 60/2](#). Resolution 60/2 requested the establishment of a ‘broad set of indicators’ to assess the World Programme of Action on Youth, a comprehensive plan implemented in 1995.

The meeting featured a wide range of indicators used to monitor different aspects of youth development. The ILO’s Employment Trends team presented recommended labour market

indicators used to monitor youth development, emphasizing that examining youth unemployment rates in isolation (as measured by the current MDG indicator on youth employment, the unemployment rate of 15 to 24 year-olds, by sex) does not give a satisfactory picture of the labour market situation faced by youth. The ILO therefore proposed a broader range of indicators, including: the ratio of youth to adult unemployment; the youth share of total unemployment; youth employment to population ratios by sex, and youth labour force participation rates (broken down into the age groups 15 to 19 and 20 to 24).

These proposed indicators were well received by the Group and will be included in the [UN's World Youth Report](#) 2007, alongside other youth indicators submitted by UN agencies, which ranged from globalisation and HIV-AIDS to quality of life studies. The Report will be issued at the occasion of the Commission for Social Development in February 2007.

### Core Partner Activities



#### **UNOWA releases report on linkages between youth unemployment and insecurity**

The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) released a report on 01 December 2005 entitled '[Youth Unemployment and Regional Insecurity in West Africa.](#)' In addition to documenting the youth employment challenges facing the region, the report proposed twenty-six recommendations, including supply and demand side interventions, infrastructure investments, involvement of the private sector,

collaboration with development agencies in post-conflict situations, and issues related to gender equality.

One of the recommendations specifically calls for the creation of a YEN regional unit in West Africa, which would function as a regional focal point for youth employment and work closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Youth and Development Centre in Burkina Faso. The unit would help coordinate the recommendations of the report. The YEN Secretariat is exploring the feasibility of setting up such a unit to be hosted by UNOWA in Dakar.

#### **UN and Swedish Youth Organizations to launch project to increase youth participation in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PSRPs)**

The UN Programme on Youth and the National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations (LSU) are sponsoring a project entitled '[Tackling Poverty Together.](#)' The project will train and guide youth in the implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategies in seven countries, namely Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The first workshop was held in Ndola, Zambia in October 2005; the second is planned for February 2006 in Uganda.

The first workshop in Ndola saw youth groups from the participating countries develop their strategic plans; the second will serve as a forum to discuss progress towards implementation.



#### **Stocktaking update**

Following November's [call for submissions](#) for the World Bank's Global Stocktaking of youth

employment interventions, the YEN has received over 90 submissions from youth organisations. This number shows strong interest in the issue of youth employment by youth organisations and more importantly their commitment to the challenge through the development of practical programmes and policies.

This project, under the framework of the YEN and funded by the BMZ, is an opportunity for youth organisations at the international, regional and national levels to input practically into a global youth employment tool. By showcasing successful examples of youth led and youth driven employment related projects, youth organisations can effectively demonstrate the value of involving young people in policy-making processes.

The YEN anticipates that these submissions-- best practice templates on youth employment-- can be made available through the YEN to youth organisations around the world.

This process will also sensitise youth to the work of the YEN, encouraging them to contribute to the development and implementation of National Action Plans on youth employment (NAPs) being undertaken by their respective governments.

**Special thanks go to Zurab Khamashuridze of the Scouts, who co-ordinated this project during his 3 month secondment to the YEN Secretariat. Thanks also go to the member organisations of YEN's Youth Consultative Group, Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) and the YES Campaign as well as the many individual youth organisations for their support and assistance in the provision of submissions.**

## **Youth at World Bank Nigeria**

The World Bank in Nigeria has established a youth committee to aid in implementing the country's National Action Plan on youth employment (NAP).



## **Child Labour and Youth Employment Linkages**

How does child labour affect employment prospects when children grow older? Is child labour itself exacerbated by the poor state of the job market for youth? What options are there of turning a 17-year-old doing hazardous work – which makes him a child labourer – into an employed teenager with a reasonably decent job?

These and similar questions provide the backdrop to a new project on “Child Labour and Youth Employment Linkages” that has been launched by the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

In its initial one-year phase, project activities will focus on the integration of child labour concerns in youth employment national action plans and similar policy frameworks, hazardous work of adolescents, and career counselling for working children. Much of the work will be concentrated on Brazil, Indonesia – both among the lead countries of YEN – and the United Republic of Tanzania, although some activities may be extended to other countries as well.

The project will be implemented in close collaboration with YEN, ILO's Youth Employment Team (YET), and other ILO units concerned.

### **South Korean government and ILO to sign new partnership agreement; strong focus on youth**

In this new agreement, due to be signed at the end of February, the South Korean government will provide US\$770,000 for programmes aimed at increasing technical exchanges between the Korean Government and ILO.

The fund will also help create jobs for Asian youth in the region, improve their working conditions and establish training programmes.

South Korea is to host the ILO's 14th Asian Regional Meeting between August 29 - September 1, 2006 in its largest port city of Busan.

### **News from Lead Countries**

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The newly formed YEN-DRC National Committee held a National Workshop on youth employment on 07 December 2005 to sensitise stakeholders to the issue, determine inputs to, and develop a strategic plan for the implementation of a NAP for the DRC. This meeting was held in partnership with the Congolese government and representatives of the ILO, UNDP, and World Bank offices in the country. At the workshop, Alice Mirimo Kabetsi, the head of the YEN-DRC National Committee, thanked representatives of the Congolese government and the international community for their support during a crucial moment in Congolese history.

The YEN-DRC committee is currently seeking support from international organizations and donor committees with regard to NAP development and financing, based on their proposal.

Kabetsi also emphasized the importance of youth input throughout the NAP formation process. Congolese youth currently represent more than sixty percent of the total population.

#### **Jamaica**

YEN Lead Country partners the Jamaica Employers Federation (JEF) recently launched its Young Entrepreneurs' Association (YEA) in January 2006. The YEA was formally launched by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Honorable P.J. Patterson.

The YEA is geared to increasing the survival and success rate of young and youth-owned business in Jamaica through an environment where young entrepreneurs can support and inspire one another in growth, balance and success. The will provide its members with an opportunity to learn from one another's experiences and take advantage of peer support and mentorship as they grow their businesses.

#### **Rwanda**

A final draft of a National Action Plan was submitted to the UN in late October 2005. The five-year Plan of Action focuses on the YEN policy entry points of Employment, Employability, Entrepreneurship, and Equal Opportunities. The plan was developed through a collaborative process involving a broad range of partners including youth, the Ministry of Labour, the World Bank, and the UN.

#### **Sri Lanka**

More than one thousand young people have already registered with JobNet, an online resources guide that helps young people seeking employment. Created by the Ministry of Labour in collaboration with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the ILO, JobNet has organized job

fairs throughout the country in partnership with the National Youth Service Council, at which representatives from both the private and state sector have distributed information on employment opportunities. The network is also interested in holding a workshop in 2006 to advise youth on entry into the world of work.

Additionally, the established working groups are continuing to make efforts towards the formation of the country's NAP with the help of youth employment studies currently in development.

[YEN Sri Lanka Website](#)

## **Syria**

A youth employability strategy chaired by Her Excellency, First Lady Mrs. Assad, has recently been launched. The strategy, known as SHABAB (Strategy Highlighting and Building Abilities for Business), aims to ensure that Syrian youth are guided and enabled to find employment in business. SHABAB will explore solutions to build an entrepreneurial and business oriented young workforce particularly in the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector. Mrs. Assad has established a framework for a comprehensive range of school-to-work transition policies and programmes for young Syrians. Youth Employment Teams in urban and rural communities throughout Syria will carry out these programmes at a grassroots level, bringing together local partners from education, training, local government and business to help young people into employment in business.

Additionally, the ILO, in partnership with the Syrian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, is carrying out a School to Work Transition Survey (SWTS) to determine the ease or difficulty of young people's transition from school-to-work-life. This research will assist the SHABIB initiative in tailoring the design

of its interventions to the needs of Syrian youth.

The ILO anticipates introducing its Know about Business entrepreneurship training package and its Start and Improve Your Own Business programme into Syria in 2006 as part of its further support to the Government of Syria.

## **News from around the globe**

### **Bhutan**

Bhutan released its second National Human Development Report (NDHR) on 11 November 2005. The report, developed in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and national NGOs, focused on the issue of youth unemployment, currently a critical issue across the country. The report indicated that while unemployment was low on the whole, youth were disproportionately affected. It advised that a series of measures on several fronts would be necessary to combat the problem. During the report's launch, Ms. Yanki Wangchuk, the Finance Secretary and Chairperson of the National Steering Committee, reflected that while youth remained at risk, considerable progress had been made in other areas of the Bhutanese economy.

### **Ghana**

The ILO is implementing a three billion cedis (330,000 USD) project to create jobs for young people. The five-year project falls under the ILO's Employment Intensive Investment Policies and Programmes (EIIPP), an initiative that helps create jobs through labour intensive public works strategies. The programme has been implemented successfully in other countries in West Africa.

has also featured interviews with exemplary business and entrepreneurs.

## **Niger**

The Ministry of Labour has recently expressed an interest in collaborating with the YEN. The YEN Secretariat is currently in consultation with representatives in Niamey. Representatives from the government are also working with the ILO in order to implement employment strategies.

## **Romania**

At the 2005 UN World Summit in New York, discussion between the ILO Director General Juan Somavia and Romanian President Mr. Traian Basescu highlighted the issue of youth employment and the Youth Employment Network. The YEN has since encouraged Romania to join the network as a Lead Country.

## **Vietnam**

The Vietnamese National Action Plan on youth employment is undergoing a review process this month by government committees. The National Committee of Youth in Vietnam (NCYV) is also sponsoring a publication assessing the country's plan for youth development for the next five years.

In other news, the NCYV, together with the Vietnam Youth Association and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, have organized a National Award to the most successful farmers in Vietnam in order to inspire young people into agricultural work. The award will be broadcast on a television program entitled 'Topic Program.' 'Topic Program' recently featured a segment on youth employment that included interviews from members of the ILO and the Ministry of Labor Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). The program

## **Zimbabwe**

The Ministry of Youth Development and Job Creation has released a Youth Employment programme for Zimbabwe. The draft report outlines the labour market situation in Zimbabwe and calls for the implementation of a National Action Plan. The YEN Secretariat, in consultation with the government and ILO representatives, is determining what support the Ministry may need.

## **News from the YEN Secretariat**

### **“International Conference on Decent Work in Response to Crises”**

At the conference held at ILO headquarters on 17 and 18 November 2005, the YEN drew attention to its proposal on '[Youth Employment and Collective Security](#)' that was commissioned by its High Level Panel in 2004 and for which the YEN is currently identifying implementation partners. YEN representatives also highlighted the necessity of empowering and involving youth in policy making and programmes as a route to break the cycles of poverty, social exclusion and violence, especially in a post-conflict period.

The YEN drew an important link to the work of [UNHCR](#) in helping to provide training and employment opportunities for vulnerable youth both during and post-conflict.

### **Thanks Craig!**

Thanks go to Craig Raphael from USA, and a current student of Oberlin College in Ohio, who interned with the YEN from December 05 to January 06. He assisted with the YENs communications activities including producing the YEN newsletter and building a database of

YEN contacts. Craig we wish you all the best with your study year in Sevilla, Spain.

### **ILO Youth Employment Team formed**

The YEN Secretariat is looking forward to working with Giovanna Rossignotti, who has been appointed to lead the ILOs youth employment team and programme under the Employment Sector Executive Director José M. Salazar. The team, still in formation, will work to develop a coherent and integrated ILO response to the youth employment challenge. This will further strengthen the ILOs role in provide technical support to YEN Lead Countries.

### **News from YEN Partners**

#### **Rotary Club International President steps up NAP support internationally**

Rotary Club International President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer and Rotary Club officials plan to meet with YEN representatives including Gabriel Minder in April to discuss ongoing Rotary support of youth employment initiatives.

Senior Rotarians have committed to provide support to NAPs in seven countries, namely Colombia, Germany, Senegal, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, and the UK. This support has been pledged in the form of youth mentoring, trusteeship of local youth organizations, promotion of entrepreneurship, and funding. Rotary clubs also continue to support specific youth business initiatives in Cartagena, Colombia, and the UK via a YEN/Youth Business International/Prince of Wales Trust partnership.

#### **YEN Partners IYF / IADB feature in Financial Times on youth employment.**

The annual Financial Times supplement “Investing in Young People” this year included an opinion piece by Enrique Iglesias, the former President of the Inter-American Development Bank and current board member of YEN partner IYF.

Mr Iglesias focussed on the work of the IDB in expanding youth training opportunities. He highlighted of its most dynamic initiatives, a multi-year, multi-sector partnership between the IDB’s Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) and the International Youth Foundation.

The programme, called entra 21, is on target to benefit about 17,000 unemployed youth across Latin America and the Caribbean through a model training initiative, and is already placing nearly half of those youth in jobs, using their IT skills.

#### **World Economic Forum acknowledges Young Global Leaders**

The Forum for Global Leaders, an initiative of the World Economic Forum (founded by Klaus Schwab), named two hundred men and women under the age of forty as their 2006 ‘Global Leaders’ on 9 January, 2006. Each year, the WEF picks a different set of leaders from the global community in order to provide ‘a platform for collective brainstorming and entrepreneurship in the global public interest.’ The leaders range from heads of business and civic organizations to artists and journalists.

The YEN enjoys a working relationship with the related [Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship](#), an organization providing “a global platform to promote social entrepreneurship.” This is particularly in relation to their focus on

succession and increasing solidarity and mentoring for youth.

### **Canadian Youth Business Foundation goes from strength to strength**

The [CYBF](#), a member organization of YEN partner Youth Business International, was recently awarded a \$1 million grant from the province of Alberta. The grant adds to the list of successes of the organization, which has helped more than fifteen hundred young entrepreneurs in Canada to start their own businesses. CYBF is currently running a major marketing campaign aimed at promoting entrepreneurship amongst young Canadians aged 18 to 34.

### **European Youth Week survey shows unemployment as top youth concern**

European Youth Week, sponsored by the European Union, was held from 05 to 12 December. In addition to meeting with EU officials, youth representatives also addressed the European parliament. The week coincided with the release of a new [Eurobarometer survey](#). The Eurobarometer revealed that, according to youth, the three highest priority areas of the EU should be unemployment (52%), fighting poverty and social exclusion (45%) and maintaining peace and security in Europe (30%). Other responses indicated that education was the most valuable skill needed to obtain a job. The Eurobarometer is a standard survey conducted by the European commission in all EU-member states.

### **News from the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign:**

#### **School re-established in earthquake-devastated region of Pakistan**

On 18 December 2005 the YES Network in Pakistan completed the reestablishment of a school in a remote mountain village of Pakistan. The

village had been devastated by the massive earthquake of 08 October. The project was carried out in collaboration with Pakistan National Youth Service volunteers, who assisted with the mobilisation of local youth in the reconstruction process. PNYS volunteers also formed a functional committee to establish resource centres throughout the region. These centres will provide opportunities for youth to participate in rebuilding efforts, aiming to include young women, thus far have been a hugely untapped resource. Young women were active participants in the reestablishment efforts and related activities; they are the first generation in their communities who have actively participated in community development.

The project was initiated under the leadership of YES Country Coordinator Ali Khan, who has also recently been selected as a lifetime [ASHOKA](#) fellow. An organization that supports outstanding social entrepreneurs around the world, ASHOKA elects “extraordinary individuals with unprecedented ideas for change in their communities.”

### **YES global summit to be held in Kenya**

The YES Campaign’s [Biennial summit](#) will be held in Nairobi on 13-16 September 2006. The summit will focus on ‘identifying markets and building capacity for youth to serve those markets.’ The summit will also provide an opportune moment for developing strategies to address critical livelihood issues, particularly in Africa.

YES invites both individual youth participants and youth organizations to participate.

## News from Youth

### Youth Caucus participates at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

A youth caucus supported by youth leaders and NGOs around the world played an integral role at the [World Summit on the Information Society](#) held in Tunis, Tunisia on 16-18 November 2005. The summit served as a follow up to the first WSIS held in Geneva in 2003. The youth caucus aimed to monitor previous policy engagements and reach out to marginalized youth, as well as expand National Youth Campaigns and showcase youth projects. They succeeded on several fronts, including a renewed commitment to support 'ICT-based youth employment and entrepreneurship.'

### Youth Portal Website launched in Peru

The A.C.S (Asociacion de Comunicadores Sociales) Calandria Research Center in Peru has recently launched a [youth portal website](#) that provides resources for youth and a platform by which youth organizations, governments, NGOs and other agencies can communicate and share information. The site also includes relevant information on youth employment in Latin America.

## Press round up

**14/11/2005**

Channel News Asia, Singapore  
[Singapore ratifies ILO convention on minimum working age for the young](#)

**10/11/2005**

International Herald Tribune  
[From Paris, Baywatch and bombers](#)

**12/12/2005**

Scoop.co.nz, New Zealand  
[Alliance supports moves to scrap youth rates](#)

**25/01/2006**

Finfacts (Ireland)  
[Global unemployment continues to grow, youth now make up half those out of work; Number of jobless stood at 191.8 million at the end of 2005](#)

## Calendar

### [44th session of the Commission for Social Development](#)

8-17 February 2006, New York

### [Mediterranean Development Forum \(MD5\)](#)

Beirut, April 7-9, 2006

### [Sixteenth ILO American Regional Meeting](#)

2-5 May 2006, Brasilia, Brazil

### UN-HABITAT [World Urban Forum](#)

June 19-23, 2006, Vancouver, Canada

### [ECOSOC High Level Segment- "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals](#)

29 June to 31 July, 2006, Geneva

### [Fourteenth ILO Asian Regional Meeting](#)

29 August to 1 September 2006, Busan, Republic of Korea

### [YES Campaign Biennial summit](#)

13 to 16 September 2006, Nairobi, Kenya

We welcome both feedback and contributions. We would like to hear from you at [YENetwork@ilo.org](mailto:YENetwork@ilo.org) and encourage you to share this Newsletter with colleagues and friends.