



The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth



The youth employment crisis represents a huge decent work deficit for societies worldwide and one of the main challenges of our time.



Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have the unique opportunity to work together to scale up action on youth employment and tackle this crisis head on.



-- Guy Ryder
ILO Director-General

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The Objective

The youth employment crisis has become a stubborn reality in most countries and in all regions. It has resulted in increased vulnerability of young people, from higher unemployment and lower quality of jobs to longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions and increased detachment from the labour market.

While this crisis cannot be dissociated from the overall employment deficit, youth employment is of vital importance from an economic and societal perspective and requires massive and coordinated action.

The **Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth** is the most inclusive and comprehensive response to the

youth employment crisis today. **It aims to facilitate increased impact and expanded country-level action on decent jobs for youth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, the dissemination of evidence-based policies and the scaling up of effective and innovative interventions.**

By envisioning a world in which young women and men have greater access to decent jobs everywhere, the Global Initiative has become a cornerstone for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and particularly for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on “sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

The Origin

In October 2014, the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) selected youth employment as a prototype for an issue-based initiative that applies the key elements of the post-2015 development agenda identified by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), while supporting “fit-for purpose” efforts by mobilizing the capacity of the United Nations system and operationalizing global partnerships.

The HLCP supported the establishment of a time-bound inter-agency Task Team, open to all HLCP members, to develop and launch the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for

Youth. Under ILO lead, the following entities of the United Nations worked collaboratively throughout 2015 to develop the Strategy of this Global Initiative: FAO, ITC, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNRWA, UN-WOMEN, UNWTO, WIPO, the World Bank Group and (ex officio) the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth.

On 18 November 2015, after a positive review process, the UN CEB endorsed the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and complimented it as a template for assisting member states implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Strategy

To scale up action in support of youth employment, the strategy of the Global Initiative includes the following inter-connected elements:

▶ **A strategic multi-stakeholder alliance**

The alliance will be set up by leveraging the convening power of the United Nations system, its overarching policy frameworks and its multiple and diverse partners. It will bring together major actors of youth employment, including national institutions, the private sector, the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, representatives of academia, representatives of the social partners and youth organizations. It will be an umbrella forum for global advocacy and will raise existing activities on youth employment to a higher level of action and impact.

▶ **Expanded and scaled up regional and country level action on decent jobs for youth**

The Initiative will promote and monitor multi-pronged, scalable and innovative interventions through broad partnerships and joint action. This element will respond to national development priorities, support United Nations country programming and be implemented through broad multi-stakeholder partnerships under the leadership of United Nations Country Teams.

▶ **A knowledge facility on decent jobs for youth**

The knowledge facility will promote the sharing of knowledge and experience, capacity building and peer learning, including through South-South and triangular cooperation mechanisms. It will support the testing and evaluation of policy packages, encourage the development and implementation of innovative strategies and broadly disseminate evidence, guidelines and tools for the replication of effective and scalable youth employment responses.

▶ **Funding modalities and resource mobilization**

The Initiative will mobilize resources from domestic sources as well as existing and fresh funds to support innovative actions with potential for wide replication and high impact in selected countries. Resources management will be based on the criteria of efficiency, cost-effectiveness, accountability and transparency.

The Global Initiative will be guided by a series of principles such as the respect for human rights and the application of international labour standards, the promotion of gender equality, and a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral approach to ensure that youth in different contexts and situations, benefit from coordinated support.



Next Steps

The next steps to launch and implement the Global Initiative over the next 18 months.



JANUARY 2016

Launch of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth

Establishment of the strategic multi-stakeholder Alliance

Establishment of two regional partnerships

Three-year operational roadmap

A guidance note for country-level action

Launch of scaled up action at country level

Development of the knowledge facility

Pilot a capacity development programme

Kick-off of thematic and/or sectoral work

Dissemination of evidence on innovative and effective youth employment interventions

Development of a resource mobilization strategy

JUNE 2017

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