An ILO Youth Employment Project funded by The MasterCard Foundation

Youth Employment Programme
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Work4Youth
Improving decent work opportunities for youth through knowledge and action

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The single most critical element of the global jobs crisis is the struggle faced by youth. At the end of 2010, there were an estimated 75.1 million young people in the world struggling to find work. Of the world’s more than 195 million unemployed, nearly 40 per cent were youth aged 15 to 24. In many countries, this grim unemployment picture is aggravated by the large number of youth engaged in poor quality and low paid jobs with intermittent and insecure work. Many youth are poor or underemployed: more than 150 million of the world’s working poor, or 28 per cent of all young workers worldwide, live on less than the equivalent of US$1.25 per person, per day.

**Work4Youth (W4Y)**

A new partnership between the ILO and the MasterCard Foundation has been formed to address this crisis and promote decent work for young women and men. The “Work4Youth” project aims at improving youth employment policies and programmes through better knowledge of the youth employment challenge at national, regional and global levels, as well as through the application of good practices.

The project will support participating countries in bridging the knowledge gap of youth labour markets – including areas relating to financial inclusion, wage and earnings and other conditions of work – and youth employment policies and programmes that efficiently ease the transition of young people to decent work.

**Beneficiaries**

Through global and country level action, the W4Y Programme will reach:

- 300 million policymakers, practitioners, research institutions, media organizations and the public at large, through dissemination of information and good practices on youth employment challenges;
- Leaders and policy makers through 10 global and regional forums on decent work for youth;
- National labour market institutions in 28 countries through improved knowledge on youth labour market transitions and capacity building in the area of labour market information analysis;
- 120,000 youth involved in school-to-work transition surveys (SWTS) in 28 countries.

**Expected Outcomes**

W4Y will support the formulation and implementation of a broad range of national policies and programmes on youth employment. The labour market and good practices information collected will contribute to the national and international development agendas, and be present globally and regionally, from the review of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, to meetings of the G20, ILO’s International Labour Conference, and various Regional Conferences. A global communications campaign will ensure constant visibility for youth employment issues and efficient dissemination of key policy messages and good practices.

**Expected Outputs**

The project will produce:

- 56 national surveys conducted in 28 countries,
- A global database developed and constantly updated with the data and indicators of the surveys,
- A global database of information and good practices on youth employment policies and programmes developed and constantly updated,
- 10 reports synthesizing regional employment and transition trends for youth, covering five regions and published twice in each region (beginning 2013 and 2015),
- Two Global Employment Trends for Youth published in 2012 and 2014,
- Five thematic global reports on key issues relating to the transition of young people to decent work published by end of 2015,
- Report on MDG and decent work for youth released in 2015,
- A global campaign on decent and productive work for youth completed by 2014.