

## Newsletter

2014 - 2015

The ILO's Work4Youth (W4Y) Project is a global partnership between the ILO and The MasterCard Foundation.

### Editorial:

Dear colleagues and friends,

We hope that you, like us, will be excited to see what we have achieved over the last two years as we were able to transform our ambitious research agenda into concrete deliverables. Some of the highlights:

- We have partnered with national statistics offices in **35 countries** to run **50 school-to-work transition surveys**. The surveys have served as the basis for innovative research on issues of youth labour market transitions.
- The **Work4Youth Publications Series** now numbers 30 reports, and counting.
- We have organized **19 national workshops** and **four regional** ones. We encouraged our tripartite constituents to openly discuss options for policy and programmatic solutions to overcome the national challenges of creating quality jobs for youth.
- The second W4Y-supported edition of the **Global Employment Trends for Youth (2015)** was launched in October to a whirlwind of media interest.
- A first **W4Y Call for Papers** was issued to spread the word to academia and the research community on the analytical potential of the school-to-work transition surveys. Selected papers were presented at the first W4Y *Research Symposium* in February 2015.
- Exciting **thematic reports** have deepened our knowledge on issues such as youth in informal employment, youth employment in the context of rural development and how education relates to labour market results, including the topic of qualifications mismatch.

And we are not done yet! It will be our great pleasure to continue to put forth innovative data and analysis and to engage with policy makers as we enter our fifth and final year of the W4Y project.

We invite you to look further into our achievements as outlined in this Newsletter, and please do not hesitate to contact the W4Y team if you would like additional information on any report or activity.

The Work4Youth Team:

Sara Elder, Valentina Barcucci, Rosemary Boamah, Marcelo Cuautle Segovia, Yonca Gurbuzer, Marco Minocri, Marco Principi



### News and events:

**Publications update:** The W4Y Publication series now includes more than twenty **national reports** summarizing the findings of the School-to-Work Transition Surveys (SWTS) and presenting policy implications. The series also includes **regional reports** synthesizing regional youth labour market trends, **thematic global reports** and **technical briefs**. All publications are available for download [on our website](#).



**Thematic reports:** To date, three thematic reports have been produced to investigate timely issues of relevance to youth employment from the global perspective offered by the SWTS. The highlights include:

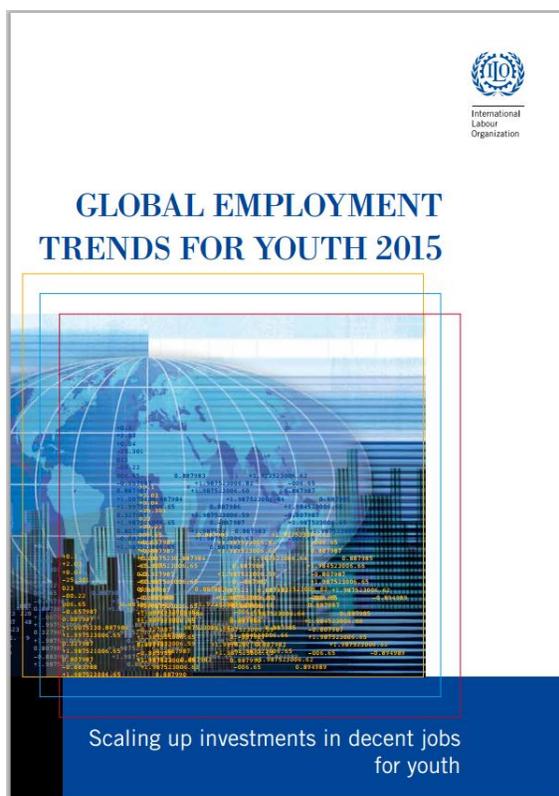
- **Youth and informal employment:** With three-quarters of young workers currently engaged in informal employment, the report highlights the unfortunate link of income generation to informal work in the majority of developing economies.
- **Youth and rural development:** While confirming some blurring between rural and urban areas in terms of sectoral distribution of employment, the report concludes that many countries – especially the low-income countries – have a long way to go in the diversification of rural economies beyond agriculture and petty trades and even further in building the capacity of rural labour markets to generate decent employment opportunities for young people. [See blog](#).
- **Is education the solution to decent work for youth in developing economies?** This report shows that youth with post-secondary education living in middle and low-income countries have a much higher chance of finding a decent job than those with only secondary or primary education. Yet still in low-income countries, education level alone is not enough to ensure a better labour market outcome for youth. [See press release](#).

**Country summaries:** With a second survey round now completed in many of the target countries, results are being summarized in short W4Y country summaries. The first reports were prepared on sub-Saharan African countries in advance of the regional conference, but remaining countries will be added shortly.

**Technical briefs:** The series of W4Y Technical briefs is intended to answer very specific research questions around the issue of youth employment through an analysis of the School-to-Work transition surveys (SWTS) from 28 low- and middle-income countries.

The two briefs to date focus on:

- Does the work-study combination among youth improve the transition path?
- What does NEETs mean and why is the concept so easily misinterpreted?



**Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015: Scaling up investments in decent jobs for youth :** Issued in October, the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015 provides an update on key global and regional youth labour market indicators and trends, focusing both on the continuing labour market instability and on structural issues in youth labour markets. The report offers valuable lessons learned on “what works” for youth employment and on emerging practices in policy responses. Ideally, these will shape future investments in youth employment, as countries continue to prioritize youth in their national policy agendas.



**Regional Workshop: What works to boost labour demand for youth - the role of structural transformation:** This regional workshop (Livingstone, Zambia 21-23 October 2015) brought together representatives from governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations from ten Sub-Saharan countries (Benin, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone,

South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Zambia) as well as experts and practitioners in the area of agricultural diversification. [Read more](#)

---

### Regional Conference for Eastern

**Europe and Central Asia:** The W4Y Regional Conference on Labour Market Transition of Young Women and Men in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Geneva, 28-29 April 2015) brought together representatives of governments, employers' organizations and trade unions from ten countries in the region to discuss youth employment challenges in the region and share experience on effective policy measures and programmes. [Read more](#)



**Research Symposium:** The W4Y Global Research Symposium (Geneva, 3-4 March 2015), showcased the winners of the first W4Y Call for Papers on labour market transitions of young women and men in developing countries. The event included researchers from leading research institutions and development practitioners who engaged in discussions on topics of innovative research based on the SWTS. [Read more](#)

---

### Regional Conference for Asia and the

**Pacific:** The findings of the regional report on "Labour market transitions of young women and men in Asia and the Pacific" were presented in Bangkok on 21-22 May 2014. Representatives of governments, employers' organizations and trade unions from six countries where the SWTS were conducted, discussed the main challenges youth face in the region, where informality and vulnerable employment are the reality for the vast majority of young workers. [Read more](#)



---

### Regional Conference for sub-Saharan

**Africa:** The first W4Y regional conference took place in Addis Ababa on 3-4 December 2013. The report on "Labour market transitions of young women and men in Sub-Saharan Africa" was presented to constituents from the eight countries where the school-to-work transition surveys (SWTS) were conducted and good practices in youth employment interventions were presented. [Read more](#)



**An update on the ILO's School-to-Work Transition Survey (SWTS):** The SWTS is the core of the W4Y project and the basis for all resulting research. A first round of surveys was implemented between 2012 and 2013 in 28 countries, and a second round took place between 2014 and 2015, primarily in the same countries but adding also six new ones. [Check the progress report for each W4Y target country](#)

---

**School-to-Work Transition Survey (SWTS) micro data files:** The SWTS were carried out in more than 30 countries between 2012 and 2015. The micro data files and questionnaires are made available for download on the [W4Y website](#).

---

**ILOSTAT Database**

- Country Profiles
- Find data
- Map
- Download
- Statistical briefs
- Tools
- Definitions
- Help

**YouthSTATS**

Welcome to **youthSTATS**, a global database on youth labour market indicators produced by the ILO Work4Youth (W4Y) Project and Understanding Childrens' Work (UCW). The database includes a comprehensive set of labour market indicators on young people between the ages of 15 and 29 years in the developing world. Data have been tabulated from an inventory of over 150 micro data files of household surveys run in over 70 countries.

**Population**

- Working-age population
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage and school attendance status
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage and labour market status
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage and education
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage, school attendance status and labour market status
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage, school attendance status and education
- Working-age population distribution
  - by sex, age and geographical coverage
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage and school attendance status
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage and labour market status
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage and education
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage, school attendance status and labour market status
  - by sex, age, geographical coverage, school attendance status and education

**Labour force**

**Employment**

**Unemployment**

**Persons outside the labour force**

**Rural / urban areas**

### Databases: YouthSTATS and YouthPOL

Reliable national statistics on youth labour markets are now made available thanks to the W4Y's [YouthSTATS](#) database. The database, hosted on the ILOStat database, includes a comprehensive set of indicators on young people aged 15-29 year in the developing world. SWTS data are included as well as data tabulated from national household surveys in more than 50 countries.

[YouthPOL](#) is an on-line inventory of youth employment policies and legislation. It provides policy makers, researchers and practitioners with relevant up-to-date information on policy responses for youth employment in more than 50 countries covering five regions. An initial review of YouthPOL (cited in the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015) concluded that the majority of the existing measures focus on skills development and, to a lesser degree, on labour market policies. A first comparative analysis of policies for youth employment in the Asian and Pacific region is [available here](#).

---

**Country level work:** W4Y has partnered in Malawi with the STED project (Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification), a global technical cooperation project funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The result of this collaboration is WIL, an initiative developing a **Work Integrated Learning** model to bridge the gap between the theoretical training provided by the national system and the practical skills required by the labour market. The WIL targets the agriculture sector, and the horticulture sub-sector in particular, with a pilot strategy that can later be expanded to

other sectors. The main output of this initiative is a training curriculum that will strengthen key skills areas in vegetable production, including seedling nursery establishment, cultivation, post-harvesting, and supply-chain management. The leadership of the WIL intervention lies with Malawi's constituents and the National TVET Authority. The project is mostly implemented through a series of consultations and inclusive work-sessions, and national partners are responsible for the coordination of significant parts of the work-plan. This is one of the major strengths of the WIL approach, which is generating increasing interest to scale-up the initiative once the pilot is completed.

### Blogs:



[4 things you should know about NEETs](#), by Sara Elder



[How Youth Move to Work in Rural Communities: New Evidence](#), by Chris Johnston

### Watch:

Working poverty remains main concern for young people in Sub-Saharan Africa - an interview with Sara Elder, W4Y Coordinator



Highlights of the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015

Making the move from school to work in Malawi and Zambia



### Forthcoming:

- The second W4Y Call for Papers has been issued in partnership with the Institute of the Study of Labour (IZA). The selected papers will be discussed at the second W4Y Global Research Symposium to be held during the first quarter of 2016.

### Sample of forthcoming publications:

- It runs in the family: Intra-household correlations in labour market outcomes, November 2015
- Labour market transitions of young women: A gender analysis of the ILO school-to-work transitions surveys, January 2016.
- Financial inclusion of youth: Evidence from the ILO school-to-work transition surveys, January 2016.

**Stay tuned to check what's coming next!**



W4Y Website



Twitter



Facebook



Email



YouTube

*Copyright © 2015 ILO Work4Youth, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

w4y@ilo.org

[Unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)