

Youth employment in Sub-Saharan Africa:

an assessment of existing interventions

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- **Purpose = to use framework from Global Inventory to analyze interventions in 4 SSA countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia & Burkina Faso.**
- **Limitations on inventory:**
- **(1) non-targeted interventions to boost overall demand for labor = excluded;**
- **(2) inventory limited to post-school interventions.**
- **NB. Difficulties in applying this framework to interventions covered by 4 papers not written with this purpose in mind.**

The framework – see Table 1 on p.24

1. Making the labor market work better for young people.
2. Improving chances for young entrepreneurs.
3. Skills training for young people.
4. Making training systems work better for young people.
5. Programs to counteract isolation of disadvantaged young people.
6. Improving labor market regulations to benefit of young people.
7. Programs for overseas employment of young people
8. Comprehensive multiple-service approach.
9. Other (e.g. voluntary national service programs).

Tanzania

- No real evaluation. Outcomes rather than impact.
- → judgement re quality of interventions = almost impossible.
- Table 3 shows 7 programs with strong positive impact (3 entrepreneurship, 3 training, 1 life skills).
- 30% = youth-specific, only one = rural-specific, small % oriented towards disadvantaged .
- Emphasis on youth unemployment (urban).
- BUT unemployment % = highest among most educated, who ultimately do better in the labor market (Kondylis & Manacorda) → more programs for disadvantaged needed?
- K & M also show importance of overall demand for labor.

Ethiopia

- **Not a full inventory – only 12 case studies.**
- **Again no real evaluations, 5 completely unevaluated.**
- **2 impressive looking interventions in skills training, which help with career planning & job placement, but most look doubtful.**
- **A higher proportion oriented towards disadvantaged but no rural-specific programs.**
- **Policy preoccupation again may be with youth unemployment, much higher in urban areas and among more educated.**
- **Bias against young people in labor market = exclusion from wage employment, over-representation in UFW. Strong effect of overall demand for labor (Getachew & Kallaur).**
- **General structural conditions more important than school-to-work transition issues?**

Burkina Faso

- **A thorough inventory – see Table 9, 28 interventions.**
- **A lot of evaluations, but again no measurement of impact, only outcome.**
- **Among interventions with strong positive impact = several public works programs, 2 entrepreneurship projects & one literacy+ project.**
- **Minority of projects = oriented towards disadvantaged, youth-specific or rural-specific.**
- **Again maybe because of concern with urban unemployment, rising with level of education.**
- **Eventually (Parent shows) more educated get better jobs and rate of return on education = high**

Uganda

- **Overview of youth employment policies, rather than inventory, can't be analyzed in same way.**
- **Main doubt = re diagnosis that problems in youth labor market due to mismatch between content of education & pattern of demand → policy prescription to vocationalize secondary education.**

Conclusions

- **Framework = useful? Draws attention to gaps, eg wage subsidies, adult literacy, training systems, labor market regulations?**
- **Situation with evaluation = deplorable.**
- **Large % of youth-specific programs = focused on urban youth, while real youth employment problems = UFW in rural areas. Youth unemployment rates vary directly with education, & more educated end up doing much better. Few rural- or disadvantaged-specific programs (other than gender-related).**
- **Policies to boost overall demand for labor & increase quantity & quality of education may do more for young people than the curative interventions summarized in this paper.**