

Conference

Boosting youth employment in Africa: What works and why?

Tuesday 30 May 2017,

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bezuidenhoutseweg 67, The Hague, the Netherlands

Programme

- 09:00-10:15 **Session 1. Understanding youth employment in Africa: the problem, priorities and strategies**
- 10:15-10:45 Coffee/tea break
- 10:45-13:00 **Session 2. Youth employment programs in practice**
- 10:45-11:15 **2a. What works in boosting youth employment: lessons from a systematic review**
- 11:15-12:00 **2b. The daily reality of the majority of youth in Africa**
- 12:00-13:00 **2c. Youth employment programs in practice: successes and challenges**
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-15:30 **Session 3. Country youth employment strategies in Africa**
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee/tea break
- 16:00-17:30 **Session 4. Closing panels: What do these experiences teach us? How to put these lessons into practice and policy?**
- 4a. Session with youth participants**
- 4b. Panel with the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the European Commission**
- 17:30 Closing and drinks

Co-chairs: Prof. Isa Baud, Chairperson of INCLUDE

Prof. Lemma Senbet, Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)

Moderator: Prof. Roel van der Veen, Chief Scientist, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

09:00-10:15 **Session 1. Understanding youth employment in Africa: the problem, priorities and strategies**

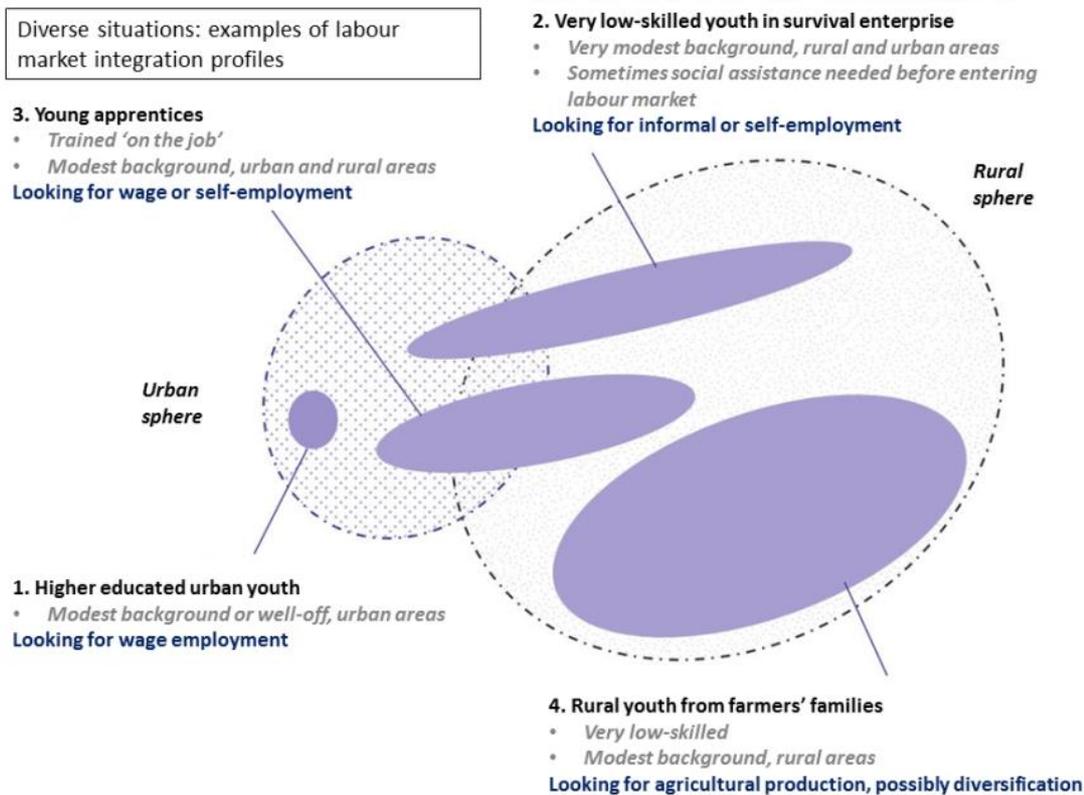
- Opening by Minister Lilianne Ploumen for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
- Keynote address by Dr Louise Fox, Chief Economist at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Keynote address by Ginette Nzau Muteta, Coordinator Jobs for Youth in Africa at the African Development Bank (AfDB)

In this session we identify the nature of the problem of youth employment in Africa and examine short and long-term opportunities to boost productive employment for large numbers of young people. Which sectors have the highest employment potential for youth? What is the skills and education level of young African people? What specific constraints do they struggle with in finding employment or starting a business? Dr Louise Fox, world expert on youth employment, analyses Africa’s youth employment challenges and priorities and presents key questions for country level policy makers to develop evidence based strategies that fit a country’s specific context. Ginette Nzau Muteta, coordinator of the Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy of the African Development Bank, explains the Strategy’s goal to create 25 million jobs and to positively impact 50 million youth over the next decade (2016-2025). What are the key pillars and strategies towards this goal? What implementation challenges does the AfDB meet?

10:15-10:45 Coffee/tea break

10:45-13:00 **Session 2. Youth employment programs in practice**

This session reviews practices and experiences in ongoing youth employment programs. To understand these practices it is important to acknowledge different types of youth with different aspirations and needs. The large majority is rural youth with little education who are working on the family farm.



10:45-11:15 2a. What works in boosting youth employment: lessons from a systematic review

- Susana Puerto Gonzales, ILO, Coordinator Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth

The ILO/World Bank systematic review on interventions to improve the labour market outcomes for youth analysed more than 100 studies on Training, Entrepreneurship Promotion, Employment Services and Subsidized Employment Interventions in 31 countries. In this session the ILO coordinator of the study explains the lessons learned from the review and how ILO uses the lessons in practice and in policy advice to for example the African Development Bank, national governments in Africa as well as international donors. This presentation will tell us that many past programs had modest impact at best. Programs are more likely to have impact when they have a comprehensive approach: programs should not only address skills and education constraints (supply side) but also create employment opportunities (demand for youth labour). In addition, multiple services are needed tailored to individual youth's needs. Programs should engage with youth for a longer term and include a mentoring process. Finally, programs must be based on performance contracts for service providers.

11:15-12:00 2b. The daily reality of the majority of youth in Africa

- Carol Njeri Gathogo is a member of the Ndumberi Dairy Cooperative Society Kenya and has 7 dairy cows and a coffee plot
- Francis Arinaitwe is youth leader. He was selected to join The MasterCard Foundation Youth Think Tank, a group of young people who conduct qualitative research to better understand the economic challenges facing African youth
- Meredith Lee, deputy director of the Youth Livelihoods program of the Mastercard Foundation

The majority of youth in most African countries live in rural areas, have limited education and are at a great distance from the labor market. In this session a young farmer and youth researcher explain what this means for youth's daily lives and livelihoods. These experiences are put in a broader context by the deputy director of the Youth Livelihoods Program of the Mastercard Foundation (MCF), one of the largest private foundations working on youth employment in Africa. MCF commissioned youth livelihoods diaries research to better understand the behavior, income, and activities of the majority of youth living in rural areas. The Invisible Lives study documents how rural young people pursue "mixed livelihoods" to generate income, combining temporary and seasonal work in the informal and formal sectors by working for themselves and others, in household agricultural production, and on social and reproductive activities, such as cleaning, cooking, and looking after children. Support networks are critical for young people, not only in the form of advice regarding where to look for and how to find employment, skills development, and business guidance, but also proving instrumental in accessing financial resources.

In this session, [five key take-away messages of the Invisible Lives Study](#) are presented. Meredith Lee explains MCF's call for [fundamental shifts](#) in the approach to skills building, access to finance and entrepreneurship. "International development programs favor skills training for formal sector careers over training that can be applied to multiple jobs in the informal sector. The result is that their efforts fall short of reaching the millions of unreached youth on the continent who engage in mixed livelihoods." A video clip on the Invisible Lives Study can be found [here](#).

12:00-13:00 2c. Youth employment programs in practice: successes and challenges

A large variety of youth employment programs exist, targeting different groups of youth: rural and urban, youth at a great distance to the labor market and youth already integrated in the market. In 3 parallel sessions implementers of programs that cover multiple countries and differing contexts, share their approach, key factors for success and challenges faced. Questions to be addressed include:

- How does a program approach or intervention combine training for employability (supply) with job creation or increasing economic opportunities (demand), and how does the program connect youth to employment opportunities?
- What type of training is provided (TVET, soft skills, internships, apprenticeships, business training, etc)
- How is private sector engagement designed and implemented?
- What are the most important success factors in the policy and enabling environment and what struggles do implementers face in practice?
- Can the program be scaled-up?

Session A	Session B	Session C
Agriculture	Agro processing and non-farm employment	ICT
Australia room	Van Kleffens room	Max van der Stoel room
Moderator: Karin Nijenhuis (INCLUDE)	Moderator: Désiré Assogbavi (OXFAM/INCLUDE)	Moderator: Dennis Arends (INCLUDE)
	<i>With translation facilities</i>	
<u>Ken Lohento</u> , Coordinator Policies, Markets and ICT Program, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)	<u>Roy van der Drift</u> , Coordinator SNV- Opportunities for Youth Employment Program (OYE) in Rwanda, Tanzania and Mozambique	<u>Mamadou Biteye</u> , Managing Director-Africa Regional Office, The Rockefeller Foundation: digital jobs in Egypt, Kenya, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa
<u>Fred Frimpong</u> , Coordinator MASO/Youth Forward Ghana, Solidaridad: next generation cocoa farmers	<u>Almoktar Allahoury</u> , CEO, CIPMEN and Founder SahelInnov: a network of incubators supporting start-ups in 7 Sahel countries	<u>Agnes Kinga</u> , Manager Segments, Safaricom Kenya
		<u>Bart Leijssenaar</u> TUNGA, linking software developers in East Africa to customers in Europe

13:00 -14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30 **Session 3. Country youth employment strategies in Africa**

When governments define national ambitions and priorities in promoting youth employment they must deal with two key factors: on the one hand the education and skills level of the youth and their access to finance and land, on the other hand the economic opportunities for job creation in the country. Ideally, ambitions and strategies are informed by a solid country level analysis. This session discusses the policy choices and priorities in six countries in Africa. The panelists discuss ambitions and important implementation lessons.

<p>Session A</p> <p>Van Kleffens room</p> <p>Moderator: <u>Annelies van den Berg</u> (MFA, NL emb. Benin)</p> <p><i>With translation facilities</i></p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Senegal</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Amadou Lamine Dieng</u>, Directeur Général de l'Agence Nationale pour la promotion de l'emploi des Jeunes (ANPEJ), National Rural Youth Employment Policy • <u>Yaye Touti Diop</u>, implementation officer youth agribusiness support services, Integrated Country Approach Programme, Food and Agricultural Organisation </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Benin</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maureen Ayite</u>, founder Nanawax, boutiques in Cotonou, Dakar, Abidjan and Kinshasa Brazzaville • <u>Remco van Hees</u>, manager Afokantan Benin Cashew, a cashew factory with 70+ employees • <u>Esther Droppers</u>, regional coordinator Africa, CNV Internationaal • <u>Annelies van den Berg</u>, senior policy officer Food and Nutrition Security , NL Embassy in Cotonou, Benin </td> </tr> </table>	Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Amadou Lamine Dieng</u>, Directeur Général de l'Agence Nationale pour la promotion de l'emploi des Jeunes (ANPEJ), National Rural Youth Employment Policy • <u>Yaye Touti Diop</u>, implementation officer youth agribusiness support services, Integrated Country Approach Programme, Food and Agricultural Organisation 	Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maureen Ayite</u>, founder Nanawax, boutiques in Cotonou, Dakar, Abidjan and Kinshasa Brazzaville • <u>Remco van Hees</u>, manager Afokantan Benin Cashew, a cashew factory with 70+ employees • <u>Esther Droppers</u>, regional coordinator Africa, CNV Internationaal • <u>Annelies van den Berg</u>, senior policy officer Food and Nutrition Security , NL Embassy in Cotonou, Benin
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15:30-16:00 Coffee/tea break

16:00-17:30 **Session 4. Closing panels: What do these experiences teach us? How to put these lessons into practice and policy?**

In the closing sessions youth and policy stakeholders reflect on the lessons learnt today and how they will use the main outcomes as input into national and international policy processes.

4a. Session with youth participants

- Maureen Ayite, founder Nanawax, Cotonou, Dakar, Abidjan and Kinshasa Brazzaville
- Carol Njeri Gathogo, member of the Ndumberi Dairy Cooperative Society Kenya
- Francis Arnaitwe, youth leader and member MasterCard Foundation Youth Think Tank Uganda
- Mark Odong, founder Agriquery solutions Uganda
- Jean Bosco Nzeyimana, Founder & CEO, HABONA Ltd
- Eniola Edogameh, intern Next Economy Programme, Nigeria
- Regis Umugiraneza, co-founder CARL group and leader Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum
- Toyosi Oyebanji, youth coach and coordinator Next Economy Programme, Nigeria

Youth are invited to share their conclusions of the conference. What changes should policy makers and program implementers make to meet their needs and aspirations?

4b. Panel with the African Development Bank, the African Union and the European Commission

Policy stakeholders indicate which lessons they learned today. What “game changers” can be identified for policy to boost youth employment at scale in Africa? How will the lessons feed into the preparations for a renewed partnership between the EU and Africa to be discussed at the EU Africa Summit in November 2017 in Abidjan?

- Prudence Nonkululeko Ngwenya Sigwane, Head of Human Resources and Youth Division, African Union Commission
- Ginette Nzau Muteta, Coordinator Jobs for Youth in Africa at the African Development Bank Group
- Representative of the European Commission (tbc)
- Hans Docter, Director Sustainable Economic Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

17:30 Closing and drinks