

# A MULTI-DONOR RESEARCH INITIATIVE

**BOOSTING  
DECENT  
EMPLOYMENT  
FOR AFRICA'S  
YOUTH**

'Boosting decent employment for Africa's youth' is a three-year multi-funder partnership between **IDRC, INCLUDE and ILO**, under the umbrella of the **Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth**. This initiative aims to support cutting-edge research projects in the following key thematic priority areas:

- » Enhancing soft and digital skills for youth;
- » Fostering effective work-based learning programmes and mentorships;
- » Tackling gender constraints that hold women back; and
- » Identifying strategies for boosting the demand for labour.

On this basis, and leveraging existing evidence and innovations, the selected research projects will investigate what works to address these priorities in specific country contexts, taking into account the structure of the economy, the quality of the education system, and the fragility to conflict, among other things.

This in-depth empirical research will be complemented by a **series of evidence synthesis papers** released each year in the course of the initiative, as well as a **series of knowledge sharing events** to foster cross-country learning and dialogue.

## A SERIES OF EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS PAPERS

As part of the 'Boosting decent employment for Africa's youth' research initiative, a **series of four evidence synthesis papers** will be published by the end of 2019. Led by INCLUDE, these stocktaking studies will synthesize relevant literature, identify important case studies, highlight potential knowledge gaps, and elaborate lessons learnt, as well as propose new directions for policy, research and practice in the following four domains:

- » **Theme 1: Work-based learning schemes (WBLs)**
- » **Theme 2: Sustainable job creation**
- » **Theme 3: Gender barriers and constraints on the labour market**
- » **Theme 4: Employment creation in fragile contexts and host communities**

Ultimately, together with the in-depth empirical studies, they will provide key insights, practical guidance, and tools to help policymakers and practitioners realize large-scale positive change.

**For specific questions please contact:**

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#Africa  
#DecentJobsForYouth



The first round of evidence synthesis papers will look for answers to the following questions in some of the key areas relevant to youth employment in Africa, such as:

### Theme 1: Work-based learning schemes

- What are the different forms of WBL schemes and mentorship models for youth currently in operation?
- How do social dimensions – gender, race, age, religion, education, etc. – affect the accessibility of WBL schemes by young people and how can the accessibility of schemes be improved?
- What are the perceived benefits of such schemes for the private sector and youth and how can incentives be strengthened?
- What factors, incentives or policies encourage greater participation by the private sector (multinational companies, but also micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) in WBL schemes?

### Theme 2: Sustainable job creation

- What are the constraints on economies to develop sectors with strong job creation potential for youth?
- What are the private sector's challenges and needs in order to create and sustain job opportunities, particularly in the context of the future of work?
- What works and what is needed for the private sector to scale up job opportunities?
- What are the types and characteristics of interventions that support youth employment in the region sponsored by different actors? What are the factors that determine their positive or negative outcomes?

### Theme 3: Gender barriers and constraints on the labour market

- What are the sectors that create job opportunities for young women? Are these different from those that create job opportunities for young men?
- What are the additional barriers, challenges and constraints that hold young women back from the labour market? What are the proven solutions for tackling these issues?
- What are the trajectories of young working women? Are they able to move up in terms of earnings and decent working conditions? And if so, what are the determinants of those successful trajectories?
- What type of policies and programmes – including social protection programmes and care policies – can improve young women's employment outcomes?
- What are some of the social and gender norms that reinforce gender inequalities and how can they be tackled?

### Theme 4: Employment creation in fragile contexts and host communities

- What are the characteristics of the labour market in countries facing economic and social fragility? How are they different from non-fragile contexts?
- Are the youth employment strategies used in fragile context any different from those used in non-fragile contexts? What are the similarities, what are the differences?
- What are the examples of strategies used in (successful) programmes addressing job creation and income generation in fragile context and for both refugees and host communities?
- How does the quality of work play out in the employment/peacebuilding connection?
- How can a focus on decent work strengthen the impact of youth employment programmes on peacebuilding?



## Partners



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International Development Research Centre  
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**INCLUDE**

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES



**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
DECENT WORK**



### About INCLUDE

INCLUDE was conceived in 2012 by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote evidence-based policymaking for inclusive development in Africa through research, knowledge sharing and policy dialogue. Since its establishment, INCLUDE has supported more than 20 international research groups to conduct research on inclusive development and facilitated policy dialogues in Africa and the Netherlands.