



International  
Labour  
Organization

## ► Scaling up decent jobs for youth



The ILO has the directive, breadth of know-how and global network of constituents and partners needed to scale up youth employment sustainably, and to address the many decent work deficits young people face today. This programming note focuses on our work in promoting productive employment and decent work for youth in four key areas prioritized by the EU and its Member States:

**Digital  
economy**



**Green  
economy**



**Rural  
economy**



**Fragile  
situations**



The ILO's mandate and expertise can impactfully contribute to the achievement of the priorities set within the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and particularly to the priority areas on supporting education and human development, and boosting jobs.

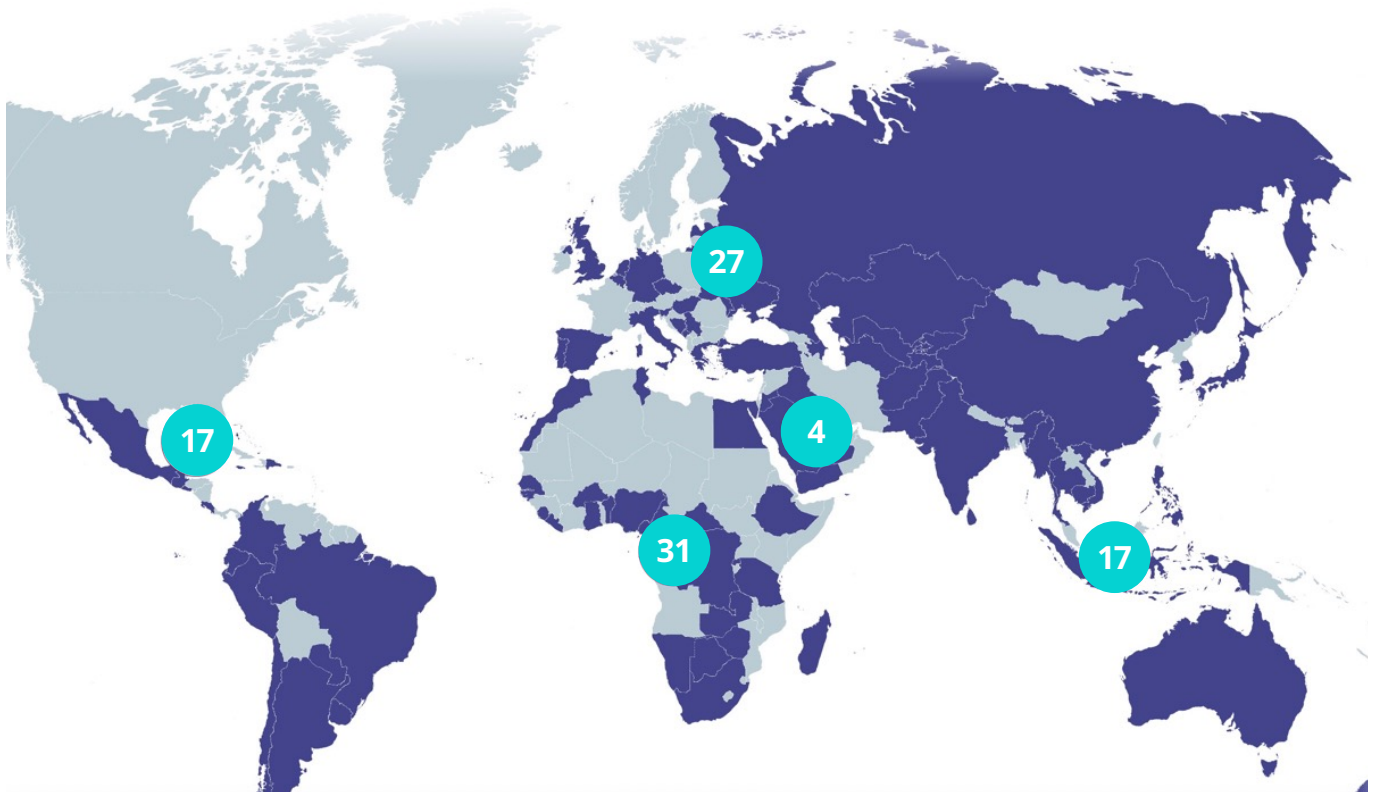
### Our key strengths

- **A strategic framework for action on youth employment to guide our pathway to 2030:** ILO constituents adopted the [Youth Employment Action Plan](#) (2020-2030), which offers a human-centred approach to strengthen people's capacities, promote sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and to strengthen work-related institutions. Specific attention is given to conflict-sensitive and peace-responsive approaches to youth employment in fragile contexts.
- **Unrivalled knowledge of what works, and what does not:** With more than 100 years' experience, spanning 90 countries, we have a wealth of knowledge on youth employment. Examples include: the world's largest [knowledge platform](#) on national employment policies to promote jobs for youth; the [YouthForesight](#) learning and engagement platform; and pioneering research, such as our [statistical analyses](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on youth employment, the Youth & COVID-19 [survey](#), and our [report](#) on creating digital jobs for young refugees and youths in host communities.
- **The tripartite approach needed to scale up jobs sustainably:** ILO is the only tripartite UN agency. Our ability to bring together government, employer, and worker representatives so that they can agree on a practical way forward for world of work issues is essential for developing and implementing effective youth employment strategies. In 2022, the tripartite partners began negotiations to develop a new instrument for the establishment and promotion of Apprenticeships, which through on-the-job and off-the-job learning will enable young people to acquire the competencies and recognized qualifications needed to succeed in the world of work.

- **The technical expertise and experience to design end-to-end solutions:** We have extensive expertise across all the critical areas for promoting youth employment, from advice on gender-responsive employment policies and strategies to skills development, labour market programmes, enterprise development, social protection, workers' rights, gender equality and inclusion. This includes expertise in both formal and informal employment, across different sectors, such as digital, green and care, as well as emerging fields such as the gig economy.
- **A rights-based approach to the promotion of youth employment:** We promote respect for human rights and the application of international labour standards relevant to the promotion of decent jobs for young people. We have the know-how to help our partners translate these frameworks into actions on the ground, with a special focus on gender equality and intergenerational equity.
- **On-the-ground support and long-standing relationships in over 70 countries worldwide:** Our network of field offices in 76 countries not only provides valuable contextual insights, but also has well-established relationships with government agencies, especially Ministries of Labour, workers' and employers' organizations and other local and regional stakeholders, enabling us to take concerted country-level action.
- **A global network of over 90 major development and implementing partners, committed to boosting the quality and quantity of jobs for youth:** Led by the ILO, the UN Decent Jobs for Youth is a global initiative to scale up action and impact on youth employment. 95 organizations contribute to the initiative's goal, including 21 UN entities, governments, social partners, youth and civil society organizations, the private sector, and regional organizations, such as the governments of Spain and the Netherlands, as well as the African Union Development Agency - NEPAD, Microsoft, and the European Youth Forum.

## Global experience and insights

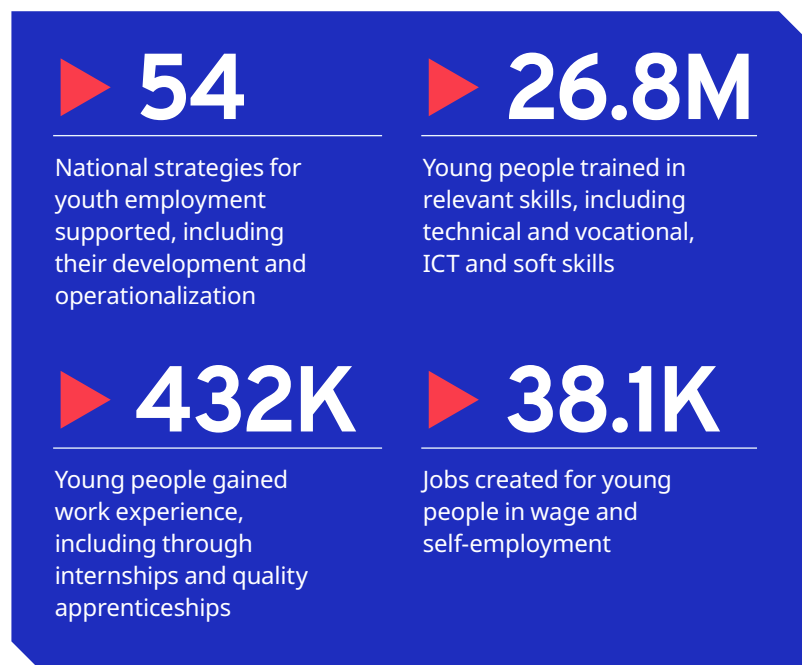
The ILO has supported national youth employment strategies in more than 90 countries worldwide, providing us with valuable insights and experience of what works in different contexts.



See our [ILO Employment Policy Gateway](#)

## A track record of delivering results

### a) Key achievements over the last 5 years, demonstrating ILO's leadership and influence



### b) The ILO's impact across selected priority areas - Examples

Areas	Project example - summary	Results
<b>Digital economy</b> 	<b><i>Boosting Decent Jobs and Enhancing Skills for Youth in Africa's Digital Economy</i></b> Launched in 2021, the programme is helping young people acquire digital skills, linking them to supply chains, and enabling public and private employment service providers to adapt to new technologies. The programme is currently running in six African countries.	In Nigeria, the ILO, in collaboration with the Nigerian Youth SDGs Network, is providing digital skills training and job-matching support to young Nigerians whose livelihoods were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants include young persons with disabilities and young women. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
<b>Green economy</b> 	<b><i>Green enterPRIZE</i></b> Five ground-breaking Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs have been launched to equip young people with adequate skills for the green economy. The programmes will help develop the skills for expanding renewable energy and climate-smart agriculture in selected countries.	These training programs have been rolled out at 30 TVET institutions across Zimbabwe, reaching over 1,200 technical students and nearly 800 business students. A national green business challenge supported entrepreneurship and decent job creation amongst young people. The ILO is exploring the replication of the <i>Green enterPRIZE</i> in other African countries, as well as in other continents. ( <a href="#">Details</a>   <a href="#">Video</a> )
<b>Rural economy</b> 	<b><i>The Local Employment Partnership (LEP)</i></b> Convened by the Territorial Commission for Consultation and Collective Bargaining of Moldova, a social dialogue platform of government, trade unions and employers' organizations, LEP brought together public and private partners to advance job creation and the transition into the formal economy for local people in vulnerable situations, especially young people.	Piloted in the Cahul region, a rural area with the highest rate of inactive youth in Moldova (25%), the LEP reached 600 youth NEETs (neither in employment, education or training). 282 of them registered as unemployed and are benefiting from active labour market measures. The partnership has created 135 jobs, 20 start-ups and 2 cooperatives. Additional small businesses and jobs are in the pipeline. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
<b>Fragile situations</b> 	<b><i>Creating Decent and Environmentally Responsible Jobs for Young People in Haiti</i></b> The ILO supported the creation of decent and environmentally responsible jobs for disadvantaged young people in Cité Soleil, an area with severe environmental vulnerabilities. The programme focused on environmental management and the promotion of youth employment in the garment industry. Half of the beneficiaries were women.	The project provided tailor-made training for young people in a demand-driven programme for the apparel sector. The existing factories generate nearly 60,000 jobs, one of the few sources of formal employment in Haiti. In addition, 250 young people from poor socio-economic backgrounds were trained in eco-occupations and 320 trained for jobs in the garment sector. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )

## Comprehensive, integrated support across the policy cycle

Types of support		Project example and partners	Summary
Rapidly diagnosing the challenges and opportunities		<b>Work4Youth and Youth ILOSTAT</b> Partner: Mastercard Foundation	This long-standing partnership seeks to understand young people's career paths and their transition from education into employment, including the challenges and opportunities to acquire a stable and satisfactory job. It also captures the perspectives of employers, identifies the obstacles to balancing labour supply and demand, and offers action-oriented recommendations. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
		<b>Rapid diagnostic tools on the impact of COVID-19 on youth employment</b> Partners: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the ILO developed rapid assessment <a href="#">guidelines</a> to capture the employment impacts and propose a set of policy recommendations. About 50 countries benefitted from this initiative, which often included a unique focus on youth employment, as is the case of El Salvador. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
Strategic advice from policy formulation to implementation		<b>Strengthening the capacity of governments and youth employment stakeholders in Nigeria in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes promoting decent jobs for youth</b> Partners: UNDESA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund	The ILO supported the review and launch of the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan (2021-2024) and provided technical advice to accelerate its participatory implementation. Furthermore, capacity development in measuring the results of youth employment interventions was provided to 48 key youth employment stakeholders. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
Developing effective solutions	▶ Developing enabling policies	<b>EC/ILO Technical Assistance Facility for a Youth Guarantee in the Western Balkans</b> Partners: the European Commission and the European Training Foundation	The ILO is providing policy, programming, and training support to enable Western Balkan states to guarantee employment support to every young person under the age of 30 who is not employed, nor in education or training. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
	▶ Matching supply and demand	<b>Decent Employment for Youth in Cambodia (DEYII)</b> Partners: UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	DEYII is improving the soft, life, green and digital skills of young Cambodians, focusing on four key sectors: tourism, agriculture, construction and manufacturing. It aims to directly benefit over 170,000 youths (50% female) and create 3,000 jobs. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
	▶ Building capacity of institutions	<b>Skills for Prosperity in South-East Asia</b> Partner: the United Kingdom government	Working in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, the programme is facilitating the review and reform of the countries' skills development and TVET system strategies and policies. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
	▶ Innovating for systems' change	<b>ILO Skills Innovation Facility</b> Partners: Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Alliance 8.7, UN Resident Coordinators Offices, Islamic Development Bank	Launched in 2020, the ILO Skills Innovation Facility supports innovation to tackle the most pressing challenges in skills development and lifelong learning. The facility has attracted over 560 innovative applications from nearly 100 countries. The winning innovations are currently implemented in Zimbabwe, Brazil, Ecuador, Cambodia and Comoros. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
	▶ Working across the Humanitarian-Development and Peace Nexus	<b>Sustaining Peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas (Liberia)</b> Partners: Peacebuilding Fund, FAO & WFP	In line with ILO Recommendation 205, the project aimed to sustain peace by tackling two interlinked root causes of grievances and conflict in Liberia: insufficient participation of youth in local dispute resolution and lack of youth employment and livelihood opportunities. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
Scaling up solutions with partners		<b>Decent Jobs for Youth</b> Partners: 95 in total including governments, UN entities, NGO partners, youth-led organizations and the private sector	Decent Jobs for Youth is the global initiative to scale up action and impact on youth employment in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This platform catalyses partnerships, collaboration and coordinated action on youth employment, grounded in evidence-based strategies. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
Evaluating impact		<b>Taqeem Initiative: What Works in Youth Employment</b> Partners: IFAD, Silatech & Jacobs Foundation	Taqeem developed a critical mass of evaluation expertise in the Middle East and Africa, and the evidence base to improve employment policies for women and young people, particularly in rural areas. ( <a href="#">Details</a> )
Building global knowledge		<b>Bi-yearly Global Employment Trends for Youth</b>	The ILO's 2020 edition of this flagship report focused on the impact of technological advances on youth labour markets ( <a href="#">Details</a> ). The 2022 edition will focus on youth employment potential in the care, green, blue, digital and creative economies.

Want to know more?  
Get in touch

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