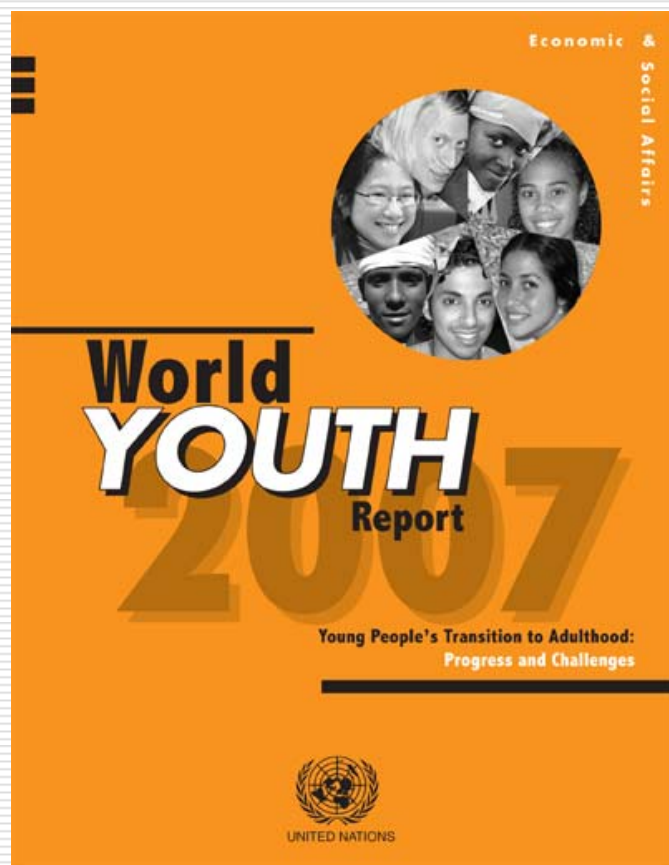


World Youth Report 2007



Young People's Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- ❑ Highlight key aspects of youth development in various world regions, focusing on both progress and challenges
- ❑ Assess the evidence of youth determination to break out of their difficulties
- ❑ Highlight what is required from stakeholders to enable youth make successful transitions
- ❑ Collate relevant indicators

World Regions addressed

- ❑ Asia (Ch.1)
- ❑ Sub-Saharan Africa (Ch.2)
- ❑ Latin America (Ch.3)
- ❑ Middle East and North Africa (Ch.4)
- ❑ Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (Ch.5)
- ❑ Small island developing States (Ch.6)
- ❑ Developed market economies (Ch.7)

Key issues addressed

- Youth in the context of globalization
- Socioeconomic and political change
- Labour market constraints and unemployment
- Poverty and social exclusion
- Socio-cultural constraints to participation—especially for young women
- Substance abuse, sexuality, intravenous drug use, HIV/AIDS
- Inequality of opportunities
- Migration and its consequences

Youth: Demographically significant

REGION	Number ('000)	%
World	1,193,060	17.6
Africa	197,793	20.4
Northern Africa	40,464	20.5
Western Asia	42,409	19.2
Asia	737,797	18.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	104,748	18.1
Europe	99,024	13.0
Northern America	48,405	13.8

Core messages

Youth are a powerful force and resource

- Young people have benefited from increased national and international investments in education, health and other key areas of human development
- Many are in a better position than previous generations to contribute to development

Youth are eager to succeed!

- Regardless of where they live, youth show a common determination to escape from the conditions that tie them down in poverty and exclusion
- To escape, many youth in developing regions, have taken to international migration in search of greener pastures
- Youth predisposition to engaging in conflict must be seen in the light of limited opportunities

A generation of volunteers – even in poverty

- ❑ Around the world youth are active volunteers in their communities
- ❑ Volunteering enables youth to gain skills and connect with their communities
- ❑ Volunteering is a waiting stage for a more favourable labour market;
- ❑ Both poor and rich volunteer; but poorer youth at a disadvantage

Obstacles and challenges abound

- ❑ Many are structural or the result of national economic, political, social and cultural factors
- ❑ Many, esp. girls, still lack access to adequate and quality education
- ❑ Although higher proportions than ever have achieved high levels of education, youth are 3 times as likely as adults to be unemployed
- ❑ Young women and youth from lower socioeconomic backgrounds experience particular difficulties regardless of where they live in the world

Obstacles and challenges contd.

- ❑ Intravenous drug use, unprotected sexual activity with increased vulnerability to STDs, HIV and AIDS
- ❑ Alcohol use and precocious sexuality, early pregnancy and related risks
- ❑ Migrant background youth face special challenges

Obstacles and challenges contd.

- ❑ Globalization and rapid processes of change and adjustment have intensified poverty
- ❑ Changing nature of work, shrinking demand for workers and less secure forms of employment affect youth especially
- ❑ Changing labour demands mean changing educational needs – Being qualified today does not keep youth qualified for tomorrow's market
- ❑ Inequities in society and the failure to address youth concerns can affect social stability

Recommendations

- ❑ Ensure that education curricula is relevant to changing needs of the job market
- ❑ Primary education is essential but NOT enough!
- ❑ Scale up investment in education to improve the content, quality, accessibility and availability of education, including non-formal education and the use of ICT
- ❑ Address special needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including youth with disabilities
- ❑ As private education opportunities grow, so must state programmes to ensure quality

And:

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- ❑ Ensure early intervention to discourage the practice of tracking girls into traditionally female occupations to help open up new areas of study and employment for young women
 - ❑ Provide vocational training and guidance to support active participation of girls and young women in the labour market
 - ❑ Addressing youth unemployment will require policies to improve overall macroeconomic context
 - ❑ Economic growth alone is no guarantee for job creation

Further:

- ❑ Provide opportunities for youth to remain connected to their communities
- ❑ Ensure specific consideration of youth in all policy planning and implementation
- ❑ It is important to provide “second chances” for those who have fallen through the cracks
- ❑ Ensure that youth benefit from their first chances through accessible and affordable opportunities is more cost effective
- ❑ Provide leisure activities to offer a positive outlet for young people’s energies and frustrations as well as an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and skills

A fundamental guide to policy makers -

- ❑ Youth are not just waiting for the benefits of development to be handed down to them
- ❑ They want to play a role in that quest through employment, political and social participation
- ❑ The cost of not engaging this population in development is too high
- ❑ We must engage youth for the welfare of our societies, as a whole