

UN YOUTH FLASH

Vol. 7, No.9, September 2010

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the United Nations Programme on Youth to keep you informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. You are encouraged to use and forward the information below to other networks. This update is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and from youth organisations around the world.

In this issue:

Focus: Youth Unemployment

News from the UN and other international organizations

Youth in Action

Publications

Calendar of Events

Focus: Youth Unemployment



In 2009, 81 million young people were unemployed, the highest number ever recorded. From 2007 to 2009 the youth unemployment rate rose by 1.1 percent, which represents 7.8 million young people becoming unemployed globally. These alarming figures were presented on 12 August 2010, the day that not only the International Year of Youth was launched, but also the International Labor Organization's report "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2010". The report is the first such to be written during a global economic crisis and it highlights the difficult situation many young people are facing today.

Some of the main findings of the ILO report are:

- The youth unemployment rate is projected to increase to 81.2 million in 2010, before declining slightly in 2011 to 78.5 million
- The global youth unemployment rate is projected to decrease to 12.7 per cent in 2011

- Young women have greater difficulties of finding jobs compared to young men. The gender gap between unemployment rates of young men and women is 0.3 percentage points, and has remained unchanged since 2007
- More than 20 percent of the youth labour force in Middle East and North Africa were unable to find jobs in 2008
- In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa where poverty rates are among the highest in the world, an average of 1.0 and 2.2 million young people respectively are expected to enter the labour market every year during the period of 2010-2015

The current situation shows us that there is a lot to be done to reverse the current unemployment trends. When a young person faces challenges of finding employment in the beginning of life it might have devastating and permanent effects on future employment opportunities. Being unemployed means that you lose out of valuable experience, lack possibilities of saving and lack opportunities to build yourself a sustainable living. For a young person these effects can hamper any progress to become an independent individual and to enter adulthood. Being unemployed may also lead to increased vulnerability, social exclusion and poverty which in turn could increase antisocial behaviour. For the country as a whole, having a big group of individuals left outside the labour force means a great loss in government revenue from taxes that could be spent on social security systems, and it might also mean greater government spending for remedial services.

Through our facebook consultation last month we asked young people about their experience with employment opportunities in their communities. Many of the replies that we received support the facts above. The comments outline the difficulties faced by young people in finding work and described their frustration at how young people, and especially young women, were discriminated in the job market. Lack of experience and a lack of trust from employers in young persons, were among some of the believed obstacles for young people to successfully enter the job market. When having attained a degree in higher education the problems persist. Many of the young people participating in the consultation felt that their education was not always linked to the job market requirements, forcing them to take additional courses after graduating.

On the positive side, the consultation showed that young people are more determined than ever to find new and innovative ways of creating new employment opportunities and finding possibilities to build relevant experience. With the increase of social online communication tools, the possibilities to share experiences, create online capacity building platforms, entrepreneurship courses, career counselling and networking opportunities has provided new forums for young people to develop their skills and to connect with possible future employers.

With five years left to reach the Millennium Development Goals, the importance of youth employment cannot be over emphasized. The first MDG is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and one of its targets is to "achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people". The current trends show that a lot of work still needs to be done if we are to reach the MDGs.

If you want to find out more about the situation of young people's employment opportunities, go to our facebook page (www.facebook.com/UNyouthyear). Through the facebook page you can also participate in this month's consultation "What are you doing to ensure a successful progress of the MDGs?" You may receive ideas for initiatives that make a difference in your community, or find a forum that might help you to develop new skills.

To find more activities taking place throughout the Year and to get inspiration on what you can do in your

community, please visit our calendar of events at: www.social.un.org/youthyear.

[Back to top](#)

NEWS FROM UN OFFICES

(Find out more about the work of United Nations system organizations on youth issues at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/agenda.htm>).

UNAOC: PLURAL+ 2010 Youth Audience Award

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organization for Migration are calling on youth from all over the world to vote before November 1st for their favorite video from the PLURAL+ 2010 Youth Video Festival finalist entries.

Participating videos express young people's thoughts, experiences, questions and suggestions on migration, diversity, integration, identity and social inclusion, highlighting their realities as well as ideas on developing a peaceful coexistence in diverse cultural and religious contexts. Recognizing youth as powerful agents of social change, PLURAL+ aims to ensure youth engagement in these important issues both at local and global levels by mainstreaming their voices through a variety of media platforms and distribution networks around the world.

Youth up to 25 years of age are invited to visit PLURAL+ website for further information on how to watch the videos and vote for the Youth Audience Award at <http://www.unaoc.org/pluralplus/>

UNESCO: Vanguardia Iberoamericana Forum 2010 (26-30 November 2010, Argentina)

Organized by Espacio Vinculación A.C. (EVAC), the Vanguardia Iberoamericana Forum 2010 will take place in the framework of the Summit of Head of States from Ibero-America and provide young leaders with an opportunity to share their opinions and strengthen their networks. For the fourth consecutive year, EVAC has invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to participate in the selection of young participants from Latin America. UNESCO National Commissions are responsible for the nomination of one national delegate by 7 October.

For more information please visit www.espacio.com.mx or send an email to b.alcalde@unesco.org

UNESCO: Developing a joint follow-up mechanism of youth events:

In the framework of the International Year of Youth, UNESCO has suggested and is leading an interagency effort to establish a joint follow-up mechanism of key youth-related events. As such it would strengthen synergies and the accountability of both the participants and the organizers. Based on preliminary input by the Interagency Network on Youth Development, UNESCO has reviewed 56 meetings and clustered their outcomes/recommendations. The initiative was presented in the 5th World Youth Congress in Istanbul (August 2010) and, jointly with the UN Programme on Youth, in the World Youth Conference (Mexico, August 2010).

For more information, send an email to g.elkhoury@unesco.org

UNESCO: European Athletics (EA)-UNESCO Young Leaders Forum (26-30 July 2010, Spain)

UNESCO and EA jointly organized a Young Leaders Forum, from 26 to 30 July 2010, in Barcelona, Spain, alongside the European Athletics Championships. In line with the objectives of the 2010 International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, the Forum aimed to promote youth civic engagement and athletics to young people, particularly towards the development of leadership through

sport in community action. With the support of UNESCO, the European Athletics Association has now launched an online community of young leaders. The online platform will enhance communication and support exchange of pilot projects.

For more information, email n.mclennan@unesco.org or m.kypriotou@unesco.org

UNPY: Youth delegates to the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

This year the UN Programme on Youth (UNPY) is expecting around twenty Member States to be sending youth delegates to the United Nations General Assembly. These include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. While in New York the youth delegates will attend the General Discussion of the Third Committee and arrange side events on issues relevant to youth. For Member States wishing to include youth delegates in their official delegations, the next opportunity will be for the Commission on Social Development (CSocD) in February next year.

To read more about the 2010 youth delegates please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ga65.htm> For more information about the youth delegate programme please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm>

World Bank: check out the new Youthink! Website:

Youthink!'s vision is to be an interactive space for all youth to learn the latest on development, share ideas and find ways to get involved. The website now has a brand new look and lots of new features. Youth are encouraged to contribute their ideas, comments and opinions. The goal of the new site is to make participation easier for young people.

For more information, please visit <http://youthink.worldbank.org>, or www.facebook.com/worldbank.youthink. You can also send an email to youthink@worldbank.org

[Back to top](#)

YOUTH IN ACTION

AEGEE (The European Students' Forum) goes Beyond Europe

AEGEE-Europe has just completed the first part in its flagship project 'Beyond Europe', in which a group of European and South African students visited India on a Case Study Trip. They met organizations such as ActionAid, Salaam Baalak and Joining Hands in order to discuss the role of young people in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Another group of students (Europeans and Indians) will be travelling to Cape Town (South Africa) in October for the next study trip.

For more information, please visit their website www.projects.aegge.org/beyondeurope or view their blog at www.cstindia.wordpress.com.

Creation of the United Nations Youth Association of Tunisia (UNYAT)

The UNYAT has been successfully launched on August 28th 2010 with the aim to inform young Tunisians about the benefits of the United Nations and increase their awareness on current major issues such as Climate Change, Global Peace and epidemics. UNYAT is planning to implement activities, such as seminars and scientific meetings, and also contribute to spread and create studies and academic

research about Youth and the United Nations system.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unyta.org/>

The 11th University of Youth and Development has been celebrated in Mollina, Spain : Youth of the world stand together to demand recognition as key actors for development

On September 13th, an opening message was delivered by Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Secretary-General, recognizing young people as key actors of the MDGs and insisting on their involvement in order to contribute to the empowerment of youth. This University, created in 2000, brings together representatives of youth organizations and movements around the world to promote youth participation in decision-making processes and elaboration of cooperation policies for Integral Global Development.

For more information, visit <http://universityonyouthanddevelopment.org> or send an email to press@uyd.me.

Youth of the world stand together to demand recognition as key actors for development

The University on Youth and Development has demanded that world leaders make a clear strategy towards youth and a sincere commitment to achieve the MDGs. Young people present at the University are now calling out for Heads of States continue support for youth through political recognition and funds toward progress within developing countries, the UN system and youth organizations. Just a few weeks ago, ministers and officials from all over the world met at the World Youth Conference 2010 in Mexico where they recognized the clear link between achieving the MDGs and investing in young people, and requested the UN General Assembly strengthen the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. The University, focusing on sustainable development and participation, has trained hundreds of youth leaders from all over the world in the framework of the International Year of Youth "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding" proclaimed by the United Nations.

For more information on the University on Youth Development, go to: <http://www.uyd.me>

Campaign "Make Noise for the Millenium Developemnt" Goals, Bihar, India.

Jaago Yuva Abiyan (Wake Up Youth Campaign) is a social campaign advocating for youth leadership in development, particularly in the achievement of the MDGs. On September 18th, the local NGO directed a Global Action together with the Population Foundation of India and Vijeta Samaj: "Stand Up, Take Action: Make Noise for MDGs 2015". Making noise by any possible way during the march, activists called upon the youth to achieve the MDGs and promote social development.

Call for urgent action by the Aichi International Youth Conference on Biodiversity, Aichi, Japan.

The representatives of youth from 66 countries gathered in Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 23 to 27 August 2010 for The International Youth Conference on Biodiversity 2010. This conference was a preparatory event for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10), scheduled to take place in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010. This conference aimed to encourage youth to learn more about biodiversity, discuss the upcoming meeting and establish a network for future actions. The youth group presented a statement expressing serious concern for the continuing loss of biodiversity and called upon the global leaders to act on reducing pressures, promote sustainable use of biodiversity and protect associated traditional cultures.

For more information, visit: http://www.biodic.go.jp/biodiversity/youth/call_e.html.

Armando Paz launches a contest for Central American youth on 'How would you build peace in your country?' – Applications until October 15th.

Armando Paz is an NGO created after an initiative of the Organization of American States and the Trust

for Americas with the financial support of USAID. Armando Paz aims to build a culture of peace in Central America by preventing violence between youth thanks to social dialog, arts and the media. The NGO will launch a contest opened to youth from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama under the theme "How would you build peace in your country?". The winners will be invited to a youth forum in their country.

For more information, please visit www.armandopaz.com

MOVE presents Rural School Project #1 - Cambodia

MOVE for autism is an association composed of students 18 and under who specialize in dance, acting, costume design, technical support, community service, directing, and management. The association not only promotes awareness and raises funds for rising issues, but is an effort that provides the generations of today and tomorrow with an example of brotherly responsibility. MOVE now launches its new project consisting of building a school in Cambodia.

For more information, visit: <http://www.jpmove.webs.com>

[Back to top](#)

PUBLICATIONS

(For UN documents on youth, visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library.htm>).

La participación de las juventudes hoy: La condición juvenil y la redefinición del involucramiento político y social. Federico M.Rossi

This book analyzes the creation of new forms and spaces of participation for and by young people. Studying a vast range of different forms of participation, based either in developed or developing countries, micro and macro case studies are used to consider the individual, organizational and societal dimension of youth political participation.

For more details, please visit: <http://www.prometeolibros.com/MainSite/Libro/participacion-de-las-juventudes-hoy-la/federico-m-rossi/IdLibro415865>

Investing in your country's children and youth today: Good policy, smart economics (World Bank)

The Children and Youth Unit at the World Bank has released a new publication to emphasize the importance of investing in children and youth. Complementing traditional arguments of demographics and human rights, the note provides an economic rationale to focus on the young generation. It argues that policymakers should treat public expenditure on children and youth as a public investment that generates returns to society through higher economic growth, reduced social cost, and increased quality of life for all. The note further emphasizes that under-investments in children and youth are difficult to reverse later in life and that the price for society is high.

The note can be downloaded at: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCY/Resources/395766-1187899515414/Note-Investing_Countrys_CY_Aug_2010.pdf, or for more information, please contact: khempel@worldbank.org.

Release of the Women's Refugee Commission's report.

The report, entitled Starting from Scratch: The Challenges of Including Youth in Rebuilding Southern Sudan is based on an assessment in June 2010 to identify youth needs, challenges and opportunities, extract lessons learned from existing programs and document the demand for skills in the Southern

Sudanese labor market. The assessment sought to establish how training and education programs could be designed to better suit the demands of the local economy and accommodate needs of specific sub-groups of youth. The goal is to promote greater attention to context-appropriate, market-driven educational and skills-building programs for young women and men. This field assessment was part of the Women's Refugee Commission's global research and advocacy project that aims to increase the scope, scale and effectiveness of educational and job training programs for displaced, conflict-affected young people aged 15-24 years.

For more information, please see www.womensrefugeecommission.org/programs/youth.

September 2010 Issue of Population and Health InfoShare available online!

Population and Health InfoShare is an electronic library of material submitted by partner organizations working in less developed countries. InfoShare features documents and upcoming events on reproductive and child health, HIV/AIDS, and population. The current issue contains many issues relevant to youth, including 2 surveys among young people in Egypt and India conducted by the Population Council, as well as a number of detailed studies on child mortality undertaken by the Umea Centre for Global Health Research. Also, a manual on best practices from Pathfinder International on reaching MDGs 4 and 5 is included, and a number of interesting reports from the Population Council on vulnerable adolescents and domestic violence.

To subscribe to the newsletter, please visit: www.phishare.org/subscribe

[Back to top](#)

CALENDAR OF YOUTH EVENTS

The United Nations Programme on Youth is pleased to announce the recent launch of its online **Calendar of Events** for youth-focused and youth-led activities organized by the UN system, Governments, NGOs and youth groups. The Calendar serves as a central database of youth-related activities taking place in the spirit of the International Year of Youth. Posting and searching activities is simple and takes only minutes.

To view the Calendar and to post information, please visit: <http://social.un.org/lyyevents>.

[Back to top](#)

SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the UN Youth Flash, please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm>.

SUBMISSIONS

To have your input considered for the next issue of the UN Youth Flash, write to us at youth@un.org. Submissions must not exceed 150 words, and must be received no later than **15 October, 2010**.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please visit: <http://www.un.org/youth>, or email us at youth@un.org.

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Disclaimer

[DID YOU KNOW THAT: Youth are defined by the United Nations
as between the ages of 15 and 24. **]**