



Global Youth Development Trends

Regional Expert Group Meeting

Development Challenges for Young People

UNCC Bangkok, 28-30 March 2006



Objectives of the meeting

Increase knowledge on the social-economic situation of young people in Asia.

Identify possible policy and programme interventions.

Collect inputs to the World Youth Report 2007.



How the report will be organized: 7 regions

- 1) **East, South and South-East Asia**
- 2) Eastern Europe and CIS countries
- 3) Latin and Middle America
- 4) Northern, Southern and Western Europe, North America, and Developed Oceania
- 5) Small Island Developing States
- 6) Sub-Saharan Africa
- 7) West Asia and North Africa



Per region

- 1) Introduction youth development on all 15 priority areas
- 2) In-depth review of 4 topics

Topics for Asian Region:

- Globalization
- Urbanization
- Education
- Information and Communication Technologies



Global Youth Development Trends



15 priority areas identified for youth development (15-24 years old)

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Hunger and poverty
4. Health
5. Environment
6. Drug abuse
7. Juvenile delinquency
8. Leisure-time activities
9. The situation of girls and young women
10. Participation in decision-making
11. Globalization
12. ICT
13. HIV/AIDS
14. Armed conflict
15. Intergenerational relations

Education



Education – The Good News

The “best-educated generation” ever:

- Since 1995, more children than ever complete primary school
- Four out of five eligible youth are in secondary education
- Some 100 million youth currently in tertiary education

Education – The Bad News

Large differences globally:

- 130 million children currently not in school
- 133 million youth are illiterate
- Large gender differences
- Large differences between groups of countries
- Concern about the quality of education

Employment



Employment

- 88 million young people were out of work in 2004 (up from 58 million in 1995)
- Youth unemployment has a lasting impact on a young life
- Youth are almost half of the world's unemployed
- Globalization forces young people to become increasingly competitive internationally

Unemployment Trends (2003, %)

Western Asia & North Africa	25.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	21.0
Transition Economies	18.6
Latin American & Caribbean	16.6
Southeast Asia	16.4
South Asia	13.9
Industrialized economies	13.4
East Asia	7.0
Globally	14.4 (88 million)

POVERTY



Youth in Poverty

- 1) < \$1/day: 200 mln youth (18%)
- 2) < \$2/day: 515 mln youth (**45%**)
- 3) Youth experience dynamic form of poverty
- 4) Age based discrimination → poverty
- 5) Investments in youth should be scaled up

Poverty Trends (2002, millions)

	<1US\$/day	<2US\$/day
South Asia	84.1	206.1
East Asia and the Pacific	46.5	150.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	60.7	102.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	11.1	27.2
Europe and Central Asia	4.1	18.2
Middle East and North Africa	2.0	12.1
Total	208.6	515.1

Globalization



Youth and Globalization

Two views:

- 1) Benefits young people: they are quick adapters
- 2) Hurts young people: they are being exploited

Increased migration (urban and abroad), rural areas unattractive for youth

Young people come closer together: local issues become global issues vice versa:
glocalization



Information and Communication Technologies

ICT and Youth

- 1) Internet, instant messaging, cell phones, online gaming, chatting and global television influence youth culture
- 2) Influence (transnational) youth activism
- 3) Changes in socialization process → new opportunities for youth leadership
- 4) ICT accelerates Globalization process
- 5) Poses new educational challenges and opportunities
- 6) Challenge of the digital divide

HIV/AIDS



HIV/AIDS

- 10 million young men and women live with HIV/AIDS
- 5,000 to 6,000 young people get infected every day – 2 million new cases in 2004
- Gender imbalance in infection rates
- >95 percent of all infections among young people through unsafe sex,
- In some regions: young IDUs and MSM

Youth living with HIV/AIDS

(millions, 2003)

Sub-Saharan Africa	6.2
Asia	2.2
Latin America & Caribbean	0.7
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	0.6
High-income countries	0.2
North Africa & Middle East	0.1
Total	10

October 2005: General Assembly Review of the World Programme of Action on Youth

Outcomes



Resolution adopted 6 October

- 1) Scale up investments in youth
- 2) More youth participation on all levels
- 3) Develop integrated youth policies
- 4) Youth employment central objective of development strategies
- 5) Five new issues officially adopted
- 6) Develop youth development indicators
- 7) Draft World Youth Report 2007

THANK YOU



Youth at the United Nations
www.un.org/youth

