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World **YOUTH** 2007 Report

**Young People's Transition to Adulthood:
Progress and Challenges**



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United Nations publication
Sales No. E.07.IV.1
ISBN 10: 92-1-130257-9
ISBN 13: 978-92-1-130257-8
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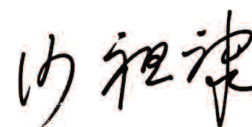
Printed by the United Nations, New York

More than ten years after the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, it is clear that opportunities for young people have expanded in all world regions. However, major constraints persist. Youth around the world are presented with challenges and opportunities that are similar in many respects; however, the attendant dimensions and implications of these challenges and opportunities and the required policy interventions differ from one geographical and economic area to another.

In acknowledgement of these differences, the World Youth Report 2007—Young People’s Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges adopts a regional approach, highlighting the distinctive circumstances faced by young people living in each part of the world as they struggle to deal with issues of universal relevance. Each substantive chapter includes an overview of selected youth development challenges and constraints, focusing particularly on obstacles and opportunities relating to employment, education, poverty, and health (including HIV/AIDS), as well as area-specific socio-economic phenomena.

The Report highlights the unique aspects of youth development in various regions but emphasizes that young people the world over are ultimately constrained in their efforts to contribute to their own development and that of their communities by the absence of adequate opportunities to participate fully in the broader process of development. Priority must be given to enhancing the role of youth in all areas of social and economic development; this not only benefits young people themselves, but also fosters a sense of community and promotes national and international development.

The theme of International Youth Day 2007—Be Seen, Be Heard: Youth Participation for Development—resonates in the pages to come. In drawing attention to the obstacles and opportunities young people encounter in all regions of the world, this Report effectively lays the groundwork for identifying and designing policy interventions that will offer youth the chance to be seen and heard.



SHA ZUKANG
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Acknowledgements

This Report was produced through the collaboration of United Nations staff, experts and young people.

The World Youth Report 2007—Young People’s Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges represents a collaborative effort in which a number of experts, organizations and individuals—including young people—have participated.

The staff of the United Nations Programme on Youth, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, were responsible for the preparation of the report. Johan Schölvinck, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, and Sergei Zelenev, Chief of the Social Integration Branch, provided overall leadership and a review of the report as a whole.

Special gratitude goes to the consultants and specialists who provided textual and technical inputs for individual chapters. These individuals include Julio Carrion, University of Delaware, United States; Francis Chigunta, University of Zambia; Gaspar Fajth, UNICEF; David Gordon, Townsend Centre for International Policy Research, University of Bristol; Patricia Gordon, private consultant, London; Agnes Hars, KOPINT-DATORG Economic Research Institute, Budapest; S.T. Hettige, Social Policy Analysis and Research Center, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Graeme Hugo, National Center for Social Applications of GIS, University of Adelaide; Nader Kabbani, American University of Beirut; Om Mathur, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi; Mark J. Miller, University of Delaware, United States; Mansour Omeira, American University of Beirut; Ernesto Rodriguez, CELAJU-Latin American Center on Youth, Montevideo, Uruguay; Penelope Schoeffel, independent social development consultant, Sydney; Youfa Wang, Center for Human Nutrition, Department of International Health, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland; and Jonathan J.H. Zhu, City University of Hong Kong. Although many of the submissions from the consultants have been revised or expanded to bring them in line with the theme of the report, the contributions of the consultants and specialists have been invaluable in shaping the final publication.

The report also builds upon background papers presented at various meetings organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development in 2006, including the Regional Expert Group Meeting on Development Challenges for Young People in Asia, hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok from 28 to 30 March; and the Capacity-Building Workshop on Youth Development in Africa, hosted by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 June. Joop Theunissen played a key role in the conceptualization and organization of these meetings on youth and development.

Within the United Nations Secretariat, the core team charged with preparing the major inputs for the report included Fred Doulton, Anke Green, Charlotte van Hees, Peggy L. Kelly, Emily Krasnor, Julie Larsen, Jane Lowicki-Zucca, Girma Mulugetta, Eric Olson, Julie Pewitt, Patience Stephens, Makiko Tagashira and Sergei Zelenev. Inputs were also received from Samina Anwar, Irene Javakadze, Magdalena Krawczyk, and Dania Röpké. The United Nations Volunteers programme office in New York provided a number of examples of volunteerism in sub-Saharan Africa (see boxes 3.3–3.7). The staff of the United Nations Programme on Youth, led by Patience Stephens, the Focal Point for Youth, undertook the challenging task of arranging and integrating the voluminous and diverse pieces of information from various background papers, weaving them into a coherent story on the progress and challenges of young people around the world, and coordinating the production of the final report.

Emma Dumlaga, Sylvie Pailler, Julie Pewitt and Dolores Vicente provided invaluable inputs and substantive editing of the report.

The World Youth Report 2007: Young People’s Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges also reflects the input of youth. The United Nations Secretariat is thankful to those young people and youth-led organizations that, through their contributions, have enabled us to see and reflect youth issues through the lenses, perspectives and experiences of young people themselves.

A special acknowledgement goes to the production team, including the editors, Ms. Terri Lore and Ms. Isabella Burns, and the design and layout by Ms. Diana de Filippi and Ms. Nancy Watt Rosenfeld, for their patience and dedication and for their assiduous work against tight deadlines to produce this report.

Deep gratitude also goes to all those who submitted designs, photographs and other contributions to be considered in the design of this volume.

Unless otherwise indicated, the following country groupings and subgroupings have been used in this report:

Asia: China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Macao Special Administrative Region of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam;

Sub-Saharan Africa: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Réunion, Rwanda, Saint Helena, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe;

Latin America: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela;

Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Yemen;

Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

Small island developing States: American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cook Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, French Polynesia, Grenada, Guam, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Montserrat, Nauru, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago;

Developed market economies: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The following *abbreviations* have been used in the report:

ANSEJ	Algerian National Agency for the Support of Youth Employment
AUV	African Union Volunteers
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESL	English as a second language
EU	European Union

GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	gross domestic product
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICT	information and communication technologies
ILO	International Labour Organization
INJAZ	a Junior Achievement programme (Middle East/North Africa)
NAYOU	National Association of Youth Organizations in Uganda
NEET	not in employment, education or training
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PADEP	Peace and Development Programme (of ECOWAS)
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSE	Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of Britain
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAR	Special Administrative Region (of China)
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WAYN	West African Youth Network

Technical Note

In this publication, unless otherwise indicated, the term “youth” refers to all those between the ages of 15 and 24, as reflected in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. The term “young people” may be used interchangeably with the word “youth” in the text.

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Diego Goldberg/PixelPress/UNFPA, from the exhibition “Chasing the Dream, youth faces of the Millennium Development Goals” (www.chasingdream.org): pages 135, 139.

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- Laura Little: page 231
- Ella Bryant: page 232
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TakingITGlobal: cover and page ix.

UN/DPI Photo Library: cover and pages x, xiii, xiv, 8, 10, 22, 41, 45, 46, 67, 72, 77, 82, 89, 114, 140, 154, 158, 165, 169, 170, 200, 227.

UN/DSPD staff: cover and pages i, vii, viii, xi, xiv.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface iii

Acknowledgements iv

Explanatory Notes v

Overview xv

Introduction xxxv

Youth development: progress and challenges in an evolving global context xxxv

Organization and scope of the Report xxxix

Chapter 1

Asian Youth in the Context of Rapid Globalization 1

The demographic context: numbers matter 2

Youth participation in education 4

Formal education 5

Vocational and technical education 13

Quality issues 13

The impact of globalization 16

Aspects of inequity in access to education 17

Rural youth 17

Young women 18

Youth with disabilities 19

Indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities 20

Youth participation in the labour market 21

Unemployment, underemployment and the poor quality of work 22

Urbanization and related issues 25

The impact of globalization and urbanization on youth culture, values and social lives 26

The role of risky personal behaviour 27

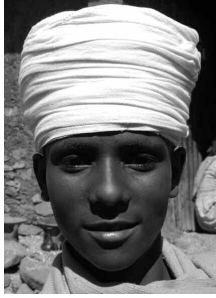
Youth migration: opportunities and challenges 31

International student migration 34

Consequences of migration 35

Summary and conclusions 38

References 41



Chapter 2

Latin American Youth in an Era of Socio-Economic and Political Change 46

- Changing economic and demographic context 47
 - The repercussions of economic change 47
 - Changing population dynamics 47
 - Education: continued exclusion despite major gains 49
 - Rising unemployment and declining wages 55
 - The prevalence and severity of poverty 57
 - Non-monetary dimensions of poverty 58
- On the move: migration as a coping strategy 60
 - Internal migration 60
 - International migration 62
- Weak political participation: apathy or the absence of an enabling environment? 65
- Summary and conclusions 73
- References 75

Chapter 3

Overcoming the Barriers of Poverty: Challenges for Youth Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa 78

- Youth: a major resource in a changing demographic context 80
- Implications of a challenging economic environment 83
- Poverty: the effects of recession, adjustment and liberalization policies of the 1980s and 1990s 84
- Education: despite progress, there is much yet to be done 89
 - Difficulties in educational access for young women 93
- Employment: poor education and limited jobs underlie youth unemployment 96
- Health: various diseases, including HIV/AIDS, constrain youth development 98
 - HIV/AIDS 99
 - Other causes of illness, disability and death 101
- Armed conflict: lingering effects on youth poverty and welfare 101
- Overcoming the challenges: youth, Governments and other stakeholders respond with new determination 103
- Summary and conclusions 110
- References 111



Chapter 4

Labour Market Participation among Youth in the Middle East and North Africa and the Special Challenges Faced by Young Women 114

- The unemployment gap between youth and adults 116
- Factors limiting opportunities for economic participation among youth 117
 - Demographic factors 117
 - The failure to translate educational gains into gainful employment 120
 - Macroeconomic, policy and other constraints 124
- The situation of disadvantaged youth 126
 - Youth in conflict situations 126
 - Added challenges for youth with disabilities 127
- Young women and the labour market: progress and remaining challenges 128
 - The role of the family 128
 - Marriage, childbearing and early workforce departure 129
 - Progress in women's education is unmatched by opportunities 130
- Summary and conclusions 133
- References 135

Chapter 5

Tackling the Poverty of Opportunity in Small Island Developing States 140

- Youth: a considerable force in small island developing States 141
- Education: high enrolment rates but persistent problems with quality and retention 144
- Unemployment 146
 - Quantifying youth unemployment 146
 - Causes of youth unemployment 148
- Poverty 149
- Migration 151
 - Internal migration 151
 - International migration 152
- The impact of social change 156
- Health and related challenges 157
 - Sexuality and teenage pregnancy: a problem of alarming dimensions 157
 - HIV/AIDS 160
 - Non-communicable diseases 161
 - Suicide 162
 - Crime 162
- The situation of girls and young women 163
- Summary and conclusions 164
- References 166



Chapter 6

Labour Market Challenges and New Vulnerabilities for Youth in Economies in Transition 170

- Between two worlds: youth employment and the legacy of State socialism 172
- Socio-economic transition 173
- The persistence of youth unemployment and underemployment 176
 - The challenges of finding a new job 177
 - Forms of employment 179
 - Underemployment 181
 - Disadvantaged youth in search of livelihoods 181
 - Changing patterns of education and labour market prospects 182
 - Wages 185
- New vulnerabilities: substance abuse and the spread of HIV/AIDS among youth 185
 - The transmission of HIV/AIDS among young injecting drug users 188
 - Consequences for the lives of young people 189
- Combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and confronting injecting drug use among youth: prevention and treatment 190
- Summary and conclusions 193
- References 196

Chapter 7

Opportunities for Youth Development in Developed Market Economies: an Unequal Playing Field 200

- Education: opportunities and performance are unequal within and between countries 202
- Information and communication technologies: an important complement to education but one with unique challenges 206
- Employment: with diminishing opportunities for work, youth stay in school longer or engage in volunteerism 207
 - The complex role of education 209
 - Implications for youth poverty 213
- Health: many old health challenges ease, but new risks threaten the welfare of youth 215
 - Lifestyle: accidents and alcohol affect the lives and well-being of young people 215
 - Sexuality, pregnancy and reproductive health 217
 - Obesity and related chronic diseases 218
- Migrant youth in developed countries: the bottom of the inequality ladder? 219
- Implications for social integration and youth participation 223
- Summary and conclusions 224
- References 227



Chapter 8

Ensuring Youth Development around the World: the Way Forward 232

- Education 236
- Employment 238
- Poverty 240
- Health 242
- Rights of girls and young women 243
- Youth participation: a key to fundamental change in youth development 244
- References 246

Statistical Annex

Introduction 249

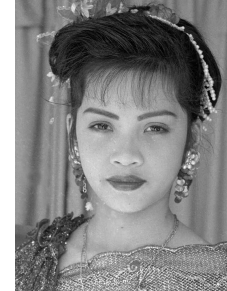
Annex tables

1. Youth population indicators, 2007
2. Youth that have ever been married as a proportion of the total population (most recent data available)
3. Youth literacy rates (most recent data available)
4. Gross primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment ratios, 2004
5. Net primary and secondary enrolment ratios, 2004
6. Primary to secondary school transition rates (most recent data available)
7. Youth labour force participation rates, 2005
8. Youth unemployment indicators (most recent data available)
9. Youth living in poverty (most recent data available)
10. Indicators of youth undernutrition and shelter deprivation (most recent data available)
11. Youth access to sanitation and water (most recent data available)
12. Leading causes of death among youth aged 15-24 years (most recent data available)
13. Premarital sexual behaviour and condom use among youth (most recent data available)
14. Precocious sexual behaviour and condom use at first sex among youth (most recent data available)



Tables

- 1.1 The youth population in Asia and its subregions, 1960-2050 **2**
- 1.2 Global and regional estimates and projections of the youth labour force, 2005 and 2015 **4**
- 1.3 Gross primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment ratios in selected Asian countries, by sex, 2004 **6**
- 1.4 Highest educational attainment of young females in selected Asian countries **9**
- 1.5 Graduates by sex and field of education in selected Asian countries, 2004 or most recent data **19**
- 1.6 Unemployment trends in Indonesia by level of education, 1994-1998 **24**
- 1.7 Age at first sexual experience for young women in selected Asian countries **27**
- 1.8 Percentage of males and females aged 15-19 years who drink, smoke or use drugs, selected countries in Asia **29**
- 1.9 Migrants from Asia arriving in Australia between 1996 and 2001 **32**
- 1.10 Women as a proportion of international labour migrants, selected labour-sending Asian countries **33**
- 2.1 Estimated and projected youth population in Latin America, 1950-2015 **48**
- 2.2 Average number of years of education completed by different age groups in urban areas, selected Latin American countries **50**
- 2.3 School attendance among urban youth in Latin America by sex, age group and per capita household income quintile, 2005 **52**
- 2.4 Educational "report card" for Central America and the Dominican Republic, 2007 **54**
- 2.5 Gender-disaggregated unemployment rates for selected age groups in Latin America **55**
- 2.6 Proportions of workers engaged in low-productivity occupations in Latin America, by age and sex **56**
- 2.7 Poverty and indigence among selected age groups in Latin America, by sex **58**
- 2.8 Age distribution of internal migrants in selected Latin American countries **61**
- 3.1 Size and share of the youth population in sub-Saharan Africa, 1980-2015 **80**
- 3.2 Size and growth of the youth population in Africa and its subregions, 1980-2015 **81**
- 3.3 Estimates of youth living with monetary poverty and inadequate nutrition in selected countries of sub-Saharan Africa **86**
- 3.4 Percentage of households with no electricity and with no access to water within 15 minutes of the home, ranked in ascending order based on lack of access to electricity for all households **88**
- 3.5 Percentage of household members aged 16-20 years who are attending school, by urban/rural residence and sex, selected countries in Africa **90**
- 3.6 Distribution of young women with regard to their decision-making roles in households: selected countries in Africa **94**
- 3.7 Percentage of young women aged 15-24 years who did not complete primary or secondary school because of marriage, pregnancy or the inability to pay, selected countries in Africa **95**
- 3.8 Indicators of youth participation in the labour force: sub-Saharan Africa **97**
- 4.1 Middle East and North Africa: subregional configurations used in this chapter **115**
- 4.2 Population statistics for the Middle East and North Africa, 1960-2005 **118**
- 4.3 Indicators of youth participation in the labour force: Middle East and North Africa **119**
- 5.1 Youth as a percentage of the total population in selected small island developing States **142**
- 5.2 Youth unemployment in selected Pacific small island developing States **148**
- 5.3 Poverty in selected Pacific small island developing States, in ascending order **150**
- 5.4 Total population of selected small island developing States and the share living abroad **155**
- 5.5 Youth fertility in selected small island developing States **159**
- 6.1 Youth unemployment rates in economies in transition, 1993-2003 **176**



- 6.2 Estimated numbers and proportions of people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and the CIS **186**
- 7.1 Mathematics proficiency among students in developed countries according to Programme for International Student Assessment standards **203**
- 7.2 Indicators of youth participation in the labour force: developed economies and the European Union **208**
- 7.3 Share of youth who are unemployed in selected developed countries, by sex **212**

Figures

- 1.1 Youth as a proportion of the total population in Asian subregions, 1950-2050 **3**
- 1.2 Trends in net primary enrolment **7**
- 1.3 Rates of transition from primary to secondary education for selected countries, 2002-2004 **11**
- 1.4 Percentage of trained teachers in primary education and in lower and upper secondary education, selected countries in Asia **14**
- 1.5 Student-teacher ratios in primary and secondary education in selected countries in Asia **15**
- 1.6 Youth, adult and total unemployment rates in Thailand, 1990-2004 **23**
- 1.7 Proportion of female sex workers who are teenagers or under the age of 25, selected sites in Asia **28**
- 1.8 HIV-infected population in Indonesia by age, November 2000 **29**
- 1.9 Recent Indonesian internal migrants as a proportion of the total population, by age and sex, 1990-1995 **32**
- 1.10 International students by region of study, 1975-2004 **34**
- 1.11 Mobile students by region of origin, 1999 and 2004 **35**
- 1.12 Remittances to selected Asian countries, 2004 **37**
- 2.1 Rates of internal migration for different age groups in selected Latin American countries **60**
- 2.2 The female proportion of internal migrants in 12 Latin American countries, by age group **62**
- 2.3 Share of youth among Latin American and Caribbean migrants in the United States, by sex, 2004 **64**
- 2.4 Level of interest in politics among Latin American youth aged 18-24 years, 2004 **66**
- 2.5 Support for and satisfaction with democracy among Latin American youth aged 18-24 years, 2004 **68**
- 2.6 Level of trust in key political institutions by age, 2004 **69**
- 2.7 Political participation in Latin America by age group, 2004 **70**
- 2.8 Political participation in Latin America: percentage of respondents claiming to have contacted State officials, by age, sex and educational level, 2004 **71**
- 2.9 Political participation in Latin America: percentage of respondents claiming to have worked for a political party, by age, sex and educational level, 2004 **71**
- 2.10 Political participation in Latin America: percentage of respondents claiming to have worked for or donated money to another group, by age, sex and educational level, 2004 **71**
- 2.11 Political participation in Latin America: percentage of respondents claiming to have signed a petition, by age, sex and educational level, 2004 **71**
- 2.12 Political participation in Latin America: percentage of respondents claiming to have participated in a public demonstration, by age, sex and educational level, 2004 **71**
- 2.13 Political participation in Latin America: percentage of respondents claiming to have participated in an illegal protest, by age, sex and educational level, 2004 **71**
- 3.1 Secondary school enrolment by world region, 2000 and 2004 **92**
- 3.2 Pupil-teacher ratios for primary school in sub-Saharan African countries, 2005 **100**
- 4.1 Unemployment rates for youth aged 15-24 years and adults aged 25-64 years in selected countries of the Middle East and North Africa **116**



Figures (continued)

- 4.2 Youth aged 15-24 years as a share of the total population in subregions of the Middle East and North Africa **120**
- 4.3 Average years of schooling for those aged 15 years and above in selected countries of the Middle East and North Africa **121**
- 4.4 Unemployment rates by level of education completed for selected countries in the Middle East and North Africa **122**
- 4.5 Current and projected share of urban residents in the total population: Middle East and North Africa (percentage) **125**
- 5.1 Gross secondary enrolment rates in selected small island developing States, 2004 **145**
- 5.2 Youth unemployment rates in selected Caribbean small island developing States, 2004 or most recent year **147**
- 5.3 The likelihood of studying abroad: Which countries have the most or least students studying abroad? **153**
- 6.1 Per capita GDP and real GDP growth since 1989 in Eastern Europe and the CIS countries **174**
- 6.2 Changes in the Human Development Index (HDI) in Eastern Europe and the CIS, 1985-2003 **175**
- 6.3 Employment rate for youth in Eastern Europe (as a percentage of the population aged 15-24 years), 1996-2005 **178**
- 6.4 Economies in transition: gross secondary and vocational/technical school enrolment in selected countries, 1989-2003 **183**
- 6.5 Economies in transition: gross higher education enrolment in selected countries, 1989-2003 **184**
- 7.1 Percentage of young adults working full-time for the full year, by age and sex, selected countries **211**
- 7.2 Percentage of young adults in selected developed countries who are heads of household or their spouses, by age and sex, 1995-200 **214**

Boxes

- 3.1 Why do they choose to fight? **102**
- 3.2 The African Youth Charter: a regional commitment to youth participation in decision-making **104**
- 3.3 Benin: Scout Volunteers against HIV/AIDS **106**
- 3.4 Burkina Faso: Volunteers for Development **107**
- 3.5 Mozambique: attracting youth into districts **108**
- 3.6 Sierra Leone: Youth Engagement and Job Creation through Agriculture programme **108**
- 3.7 Tanzania: Partnership for Community-based Volunteering **109**
- 4.1 Promoting youth entrepreneurship in Algeria **123**
- 4.2 The empowerment of disadvantaged girls in rural Egypt **131**
- 7.1 The dropout challenge **205**
- 7.2 The transition to adulthood among migrant and non-migrant youth in the Netherlands: parental background plays an important role **220**
- 8.1 Recommended actions in core areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth highlighted in this report **235**