THE FACTS

1.2 billion people are aged between 15 and 24 years globally.

12% of employed youth live below the poverty line.

270 million youth are not in education, employment, or training.

30% of employed youth in low-income countries are underemployed compared with 8.9% in high-income economies.

23% of countries have gender parity in upper secondary education.

12% of employed youth live below the poverty line.

SCALE OF UNDP SUPPORT

UNDP expenditure on youth economic empowerment between 2015 and 2021 is estimated at around $866 million.

OVERVIEW OF UNDP SUPPORT

UNDP’s approach to youth economic empowerment:
- Increase employability
- Fostering demand for labour
- Create conducive policy environment

UNDP expenditure on youth economic empowerment:
- Africa: 43.0%
- Arab States: 24.5%
- Latin America and Caribbean: 8.0%
- Europe and Central Asia: 13.5%
- Asia and the Pacific: 11.0%
## CONCLUSIONS

### UNDP positioning
- Key player in youth economic empowerment
- Important role within the UN system and global agenda setting
- UNDP youth strategy is catalytic to mainstreaming youth agenda

### Internal coherence
- Global vision not yet integrated organization-wide
- Uneven implementation at global, regional and national levels

### Effectiveness
- Results achieved, mostly at smaller rather than larger scale
- Not enough attention paid to the enabling environment

### LNOB and gender
- “Leaving no-one behind”, gender equality and women’s empowerment mainstreamed
- Contributions to upstream changes limited

### Partnerships
- Strategic partnerships not sufficiently leveraged
- Governments and the private sector not fully mobilized

### Reporting
- Monitoring systems don’t adequately measure and demonstrate results achieved

### Innovation
- Global leader in promoting youth social entrepreneurship
- Challenges include accessing youth in hard-to-reach areas

### Resource mobilization
- Resource mobilization challenges not systematically addressed
- Limited and inconsistent resources allocated

### COVID-19
- Youth at the centre of UNDP’s COVID-19 response

### RECOMMENDATIONS
- Prioritize interconnection and synergies of youth economic empowerment interventions
- Detail UNDP’s programmatic approach towards youth economic empowerment
- Ensure organization-wide coherence
- Prioritize support that address the root causes of inequality
- Leverage strategic partnerships to foster youth empowerment
- Strengthen M&E practices on youth economic empowerment for results
- Formulate a resource mobilization strategy for youth empowerment