

Forum: Youth Assembly - Action Paper I

Issue: Measures to reduce the social gap due to increasing poverty and unemployment, amongst the youth, following the COVID-19 crisis

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INTRODUCTION



Youth unemployment during COVID-19¹

Following the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic back in 2020, it is no secret that the phenomenon has severely damaged the international economy altogether and left no social and economic activity whatsoever unscathed. Extremely prone to such economic and social effects brought on by the coronavirus pandemic is the adolescent workforce, in simple terms, commonly referred to as the youth, considerably more than any other age group.

A case-in-point is the massive increase in poverty along with youth unemployment in both less- and more-developed economies worldwide. Young women, whose economic activity and status have undeniably been impacted the most, have nevertheless been a focal point of such developments. Gender disparities aside, on a more general note, the pandemic has made it very challenging for young jobseekers to succeed in landing a job in the labor market, while thousands

¹ Munyati, Chido. "COVID-19 is Likely to Increase Youth Unemployment in Africa, This is How Business Can Mitigate the Damage." *World Economic Forum*, CNBC Africa, 5 June 2020, www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/covid-19-is-likely-to-increase-youth-unemployment-in-africa-this-is-how-business-can-mitigate-the-damage/.

of young citizens have been left in poverty and unable to take care of themselves and cover their own personal needs.

A further point to be taken into consideration is that the world has still not bounced back from the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2008, which also seriously damaged the world economy and brought about comparable changes for young people. Hence, it comes as no surprise that the current emergency is part-and-parcel with youth unemployment and poverty, given the way the above-named issue exhibits overwhelming similarities in how the current developments take shape.

What is more, it is a widely held belief that current rates are reflecting lockdown measures. Indeed, youth were particularly vulnerable to decreases in economic opportunities due to their overexposure to some industries and sectors that were particularly sensitive to lock-down procedures. As a result, their mental health and well-being have been constantly put on the line.

The so-called “lockdown-generation” has yet come to face an extraordinarily difficult situation created by the on-going complex and multifaceted crisis that will undoubtedly have long-lasting effects for years to come. For decades ahead, young people will be the ones who suffer the most from the pandemic’s economic consequences. Nonetheless, they are the backbone of every single country’s economy, in other words, their future –literally. Regrettably, policymakers’ relief efforts have failed to directly address them.

Therefore, in our committee session, it is of utmost importance to center young people in an effort to bridge social gaps that arise from the pandemic, particularly unemployment and poverty.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Social gap

A social gap is an economic or cultural disparity that leads to inequality among society's members.

Poverty

The term “poverty” describes the state or condition in which an individual or community is unable to satisfy their basic needs, for instance food (including water), shelter and clothing and in further analysis education, as well as healthcare. That is primarily attributed to the lack of financial resources, which are essential to maintain a minimum standard of living, resulting from a low level of income from employment.

Unemployment

Contrary to common belief, the term “unemployment” does not merely include “anyone who does not have a job”. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the unemployed are people of working age who are without work, are available for work, and have taken specific steps to find work.²

Youth³

Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence. That’s why, as a category, youth is more fluid than other fixed age-groups. Yet, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment, because ‘youth’ is often referred to a person between the ages of leaving compulsory education, and finding their first job. The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines ‘youth’, as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States.

Lock-Down⁴

A period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely because of a dangerous disease.

Labour Market⁵

A labour market is the place where workers and employees interact with each other. In the labour market, employers compete to hire the best, and the workers compete for the most satisfying job.

Remote-working⁶

A situation in which an employee works mainly from home and communicates with the company they’re working under by email and telephone.

² "Unemployment - Unemployment Rate - OECD Data." *OECD*, 2022, <https://data.oecd.org/unemp/unemployment-rate.htm>.

³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. "Definition of Youth." *un.org*, 23 Jan. 2013, www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf.

⁴ "Lockdown." *Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/lockdown>.

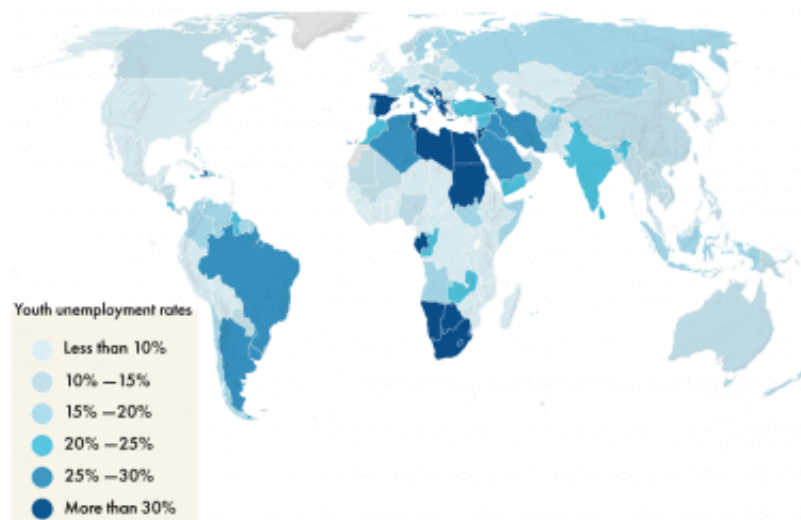
⁵ "What is Labour Market? Definition of Labour Market, Labour Market Meaning." *The Economic Times*, 14 July 2022, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/labour-market>.

⁶ "Remote Working." *Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/remote-working>.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Reasons that led to youth unemployment during COVID-19 crisis

In order to fully comprehend the significance of the current happenings, one must firstly grasp the causes of youth unemployment along with poverty. The question that arises; out of all age groups, why is the pandemic specifically targeting youth? After all, if we take a look at the comparison of employment rates between youth and older adults, it is abundantly clear that the youth is relatively disadvantaged in comparison to the rest of the population. Unfortunately, the coronavirus crisis has had a more severe impact on young people in the employment sector due to several factors. To start with, young workers tend to work more in sectors directly affected by the pandemic, such as but not limited to; retail, tourism, accommodation and food services. In addition, it is well known that they frequently lack protection and a steady, safe working environment, in the sense that they are more likely to hold temporary or informal employment and generally are more prevalent in less protected types of jobs, thus increasing the risk of losing their jobs. What's more, when it comes to firing personnel during a crisis, young employees would be the first to opt out due to their lack of company-specific knowledge and skills, as well as experience, rendering them the weak link. On the contrary, firing workers with more experience would lead to a dead end, since it would result in less productivity for the company



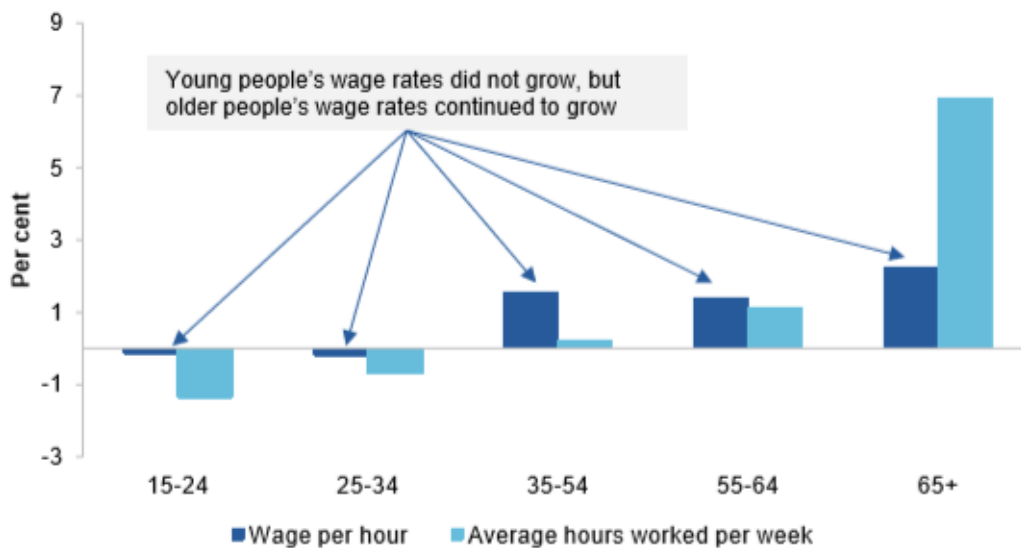
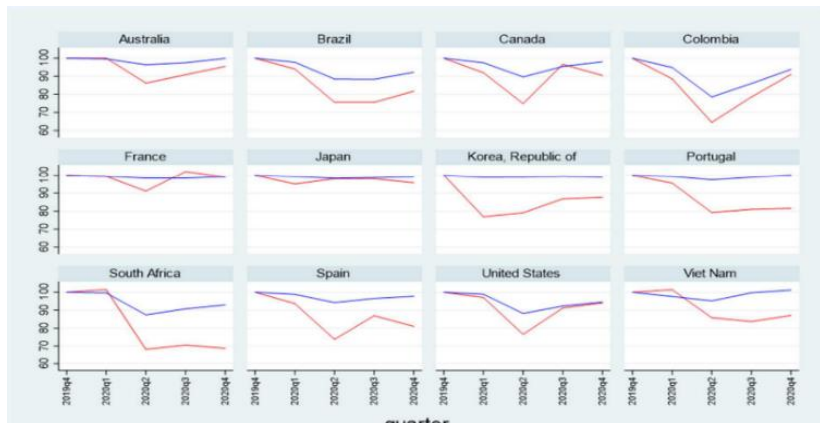
Youth unemployment rates worldwide. Source: World Bank, 2019.⁸

⁷ "An update on the youth labour market impact of the COVID-19 crisis." *International Labour Organization*, June 2021, www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/briefingnote/wcms_795479.pdf.

⁸ "Youth Unemployment: a Global Crisis." *Mercy Corps*, 4 Sept. 2020, www.mercycorps.org/blog/youth-unemployment-global-crisis.

and simultaneously decrease its output.

It is also evident that, in comparison to older workers, youths have recently suffered lower wage rates as a result of wage cuts. Specifically, research suggests that since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis (GFC), while wages have grown



Comparison of wage rates and average working hours by age (2008-2018). Source: The Productivity Commission⁹

for people aged 35 and above, they have declined for those aged 20 to 34. With regard to the COVID-19 impact on the global economy, the study makes the following comment: "Young people are likely to experience higher taxes during their working life, to recover the current cost of dealing with the pandemic." And thereby, the study concludes: "because of slower income growth, young people were not able to build their savings at the same rate as earlier generations."⁹

Unfortunately for them, young people in search of work during those difficult times have few job offers and a very poor success rate, while they must also compete with more experienced

⁹ Medhora, Shalailah. "The Lost Decade': Young People Getting Paid Less Now Than in 2008." Triple J, 29 July 2020, www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/young-people-getting-paid-less-than-before-gfc/12505140.

workers, which makes their job integration almost impossible. Last but not least, the age group under discussion has been heavily affected by school closures and restrictions on training opportunities (internships), which under normal circumstances are responsible for granting them a smooth transition between two vital stages of their development, namely education and employment.

With regard to education, during the pandemic, learning had been disturbed for several months and in some cases for over a year. And although learning gaps may occur only temporarily, there are other more serious effects in the context of education, in the long term. For instance, it is possible that students lose interest in attending (virtual) classes and become overwhelmed by difficulties, which leads to an increase in dropouts. Besides, there is substantial evidence that fewer children are attending school in numerous nations after the pandemic, such as the United States, where it is estimated that between March and October 2020, up to 3 million young people from disadvantaged homes might not have gotten any formal schooling.

All in all, after the enormous challenges brought on by the pandemic, young people find it challenging to live up to society's expectations and demonstrate their value in the workforce. The current youth unemployment rates worldwide can conclusively be reflected in: (1) overexposure to sectors mostly affected by the pandemic, (2) less protected, temporary, and informal employment, (3) lack of relevant experience, skills, (4) competition against older, more experienced workers, (5) disruption in education and training.

The alarming effects of unemployment on young people

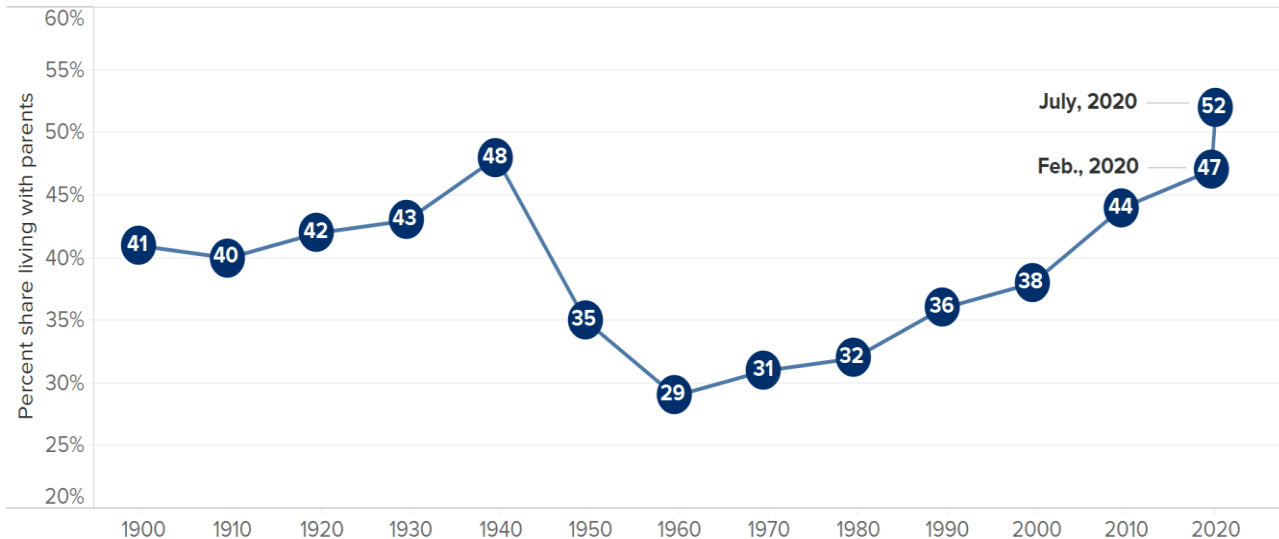
A shared human-experience by all people around the world that of in-person work, which offers workers a barrage of benefits, has always been taken for granted. However, COVID has turned the job industry upside down by forcing economies and businesses to resort to teleworking and additional digital tools to replace in-person work. Yet, not everyone has had the chance to gain from them. Access to the Internet and digital equipment, both of which are essential requirements for studying and working remotely, is not a given commodity for everyone. But either way, remote-working led to a decrease in working hours and a growth in youth inactivity.

Additionally, it had a detrimental effect on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. In other words, it resulted in the emergence of mental health conditions like anxiety and depression. What is responsible for the worsening of mental health is mainly on the one hand not having access to exercise, education, routine and social interactions and on the other hand the rise in financial instability, unemployment and uncertainty as for the near future. In addition to the serious financial pressures imposed by reduced wages as previously mentioned, the pandemic has highlighted housing instability for the youthful workers, both employed and unemployed.

A case-in-point is the report above that illustrates how the majority of young adults (aged 18-29 years old) moved back in with their parents during the pandemic in 2020 in the US. Furthermore, 1 out of 5, when asked, admitted to moving back in due to financial pressures. In any case, it is clear that this has been the highest rate since the Great Depression (global financial crisis, 1929-1939).

Living with parents

Since the pandemic began, the share of young adults living with their parents has risen to levels not seen since the Great Depression. (Percent of 18- to 29-year-olds in the U.S. residing with at least one parent in the household.)



SOURCE: Pew Research Center analysis of decennial census 1900-1990; Current Population Survey annual averages 2000-2019; Current Population Survey monthly files (PUMS)

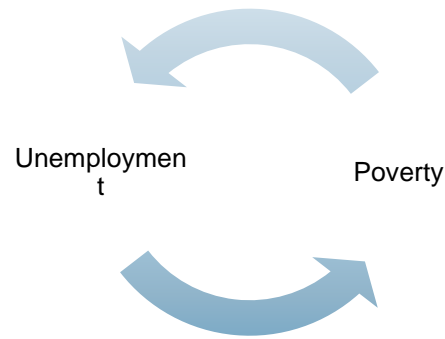
Number of young adults aged 18-29 who moved back in with at least one parent during the pandemic in the US. Source: Pew Research Center.¹⁰

Practically speaking, young working adults who were forced to switch to remote working were condemned to miss out on the advantages of a typical, physical office space, starting from even the simplest thing that can indeed be proven to be fruitful, for instance the interaction with the co-workers. The shift to telework has clearly shown to be a significant barrier for young people seeking to develop their sense of professional identity in a digitalized setting. If all of their work-related experiences are from the comfort of their house, it is unlikely that youth are going to acquire the abilities needed to succeed in the job market and build fulfilling careers.

¹⁰ Dickler, Jessica. "Pandemic Sends the Majority of Young Adults Back to Living with Mom and Dad." *CNBC*, 25 Sept. 2020, www.cnbc.com/2020/09/08/majority-of-young-adults-now-live-with-mom-and-dad-due-to-coronavirus.html.

Youth unemployment and poverty

Simply put, unemployment generates poverty through a loss of income. As a matter of fact, many young adults lose their income when they become unemployed, leaving them unable to cover their living expenses unless they receive financial support from family members. In the worst case, if they are unable to find other means of funding, this may result in the common aftermath of a poverty situation such as debt from borrowing money to meet their requirements, the use of savings, or even homelessness and malnutrition.



On the bright side, the youth usually have their family as a safety net as they are supposedly not completely independent financially unlike older age groups. In addition, according to a commonly accepted viewpoint, poverty and unemployment together form a vicious cycle. That is to say that poverty decreases the chances of landing a job, while unemployment increases the likelihood of poverty. Another thing to keep in mind is that youth is seen as a transitory period in people's lives during which they, among other things, become financially independent. It goes without saying that many young adults, many of whom struggle even in normal circumstances, find the aforementioned process difficult.

The pandemic, however, has intensified their hardship while also making it harder for them to get access to assistance. They are also deprived of the resources and training opportunities they need to get back on their feet and find new employment. In light of these issues, it is understandable why a large percentage of young adults tend to return back to their families during difficult times, after all.

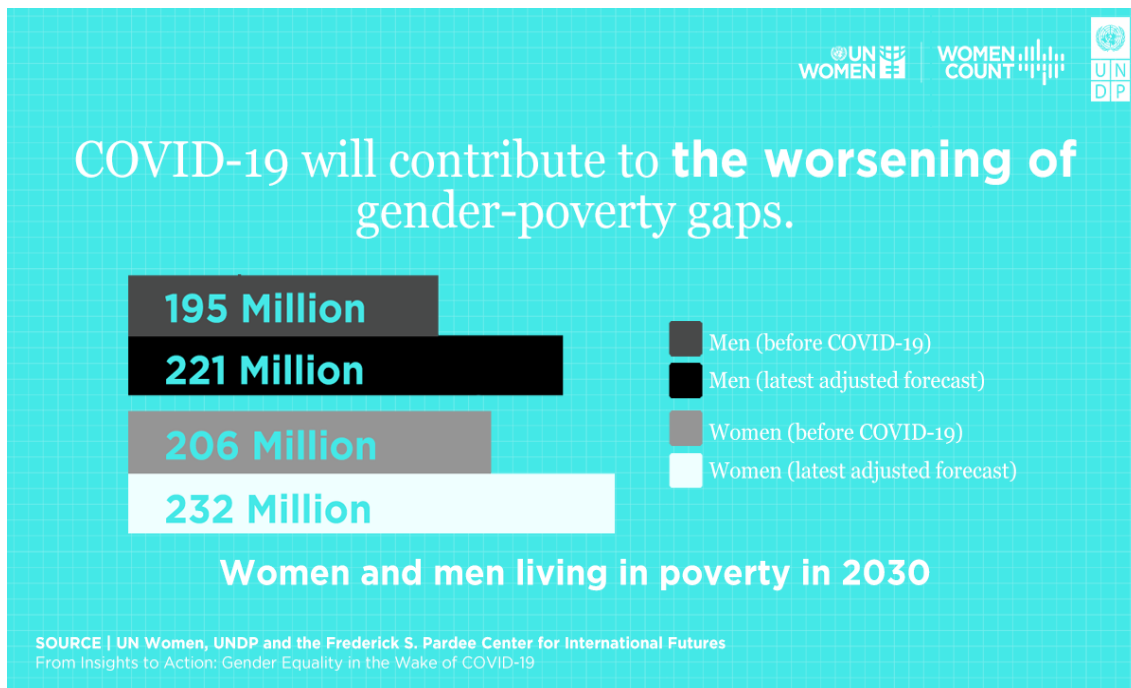
In conclusion, although young adults strive to make the transition from education to the workforce smoothly, they encounter additional difficulties during COVID times. Even while they often move forward with the help of their family, they frequently become caught in a cycle that continuously places them in either poverty or unemployment.

Youth female unemployment and poverty

It is an indisputable fact that crises never have gender-neutral effects. As a result, women are more severely affected by economic crises. And COVID-19 is the perfect illustration of the aforementioned statement. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that women and girls have experienced disproportionate socioeconomic effects of COVID-19. Furthermore, rates suggest that young women' unemployment rates have risen dramatically after the pandemic.

In a nutshell, that can be attributed to the fact that women generally earn less due to the gender gap, save less than men do, are more involved in the informal economy, receive less in social protection, are often forced to leave the labour market, due to suffering from unpaid care and domestic work, and finally due to the fact that most single-parent families are made up of women.

With regard to female poverty amongst the youth, women are also relatively disadvantaged in comparison to men. In particular, a Youth female unemployment rates (2008-2021). Source: World Bank¹¹ recent report estimates that by 2021, the pandemic would have put 96 million people in extreme poverty, out of which 47 million are women and girls. This brings the total number of women and girls living on less than \$ 190 to 435 million. The increase in poverty caused by the pandemic widens the



gender gap, which means that more women than men live in extreme poverty.

Poverty gender gap in regard to poverty rates worldwide. Source: UN Women, UNDP and the Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures¹¹

Undoubtedly, this has drawn attention to the poor economic security of women, who often earn less and hold jobs with weaker job stability than men, rendering them more vulnerable to job loss.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

South Africa

South Africa is the country with the highest youth unemployment rates after the pandemic. Young Africans are dealing with a number of shocks, such as disruptions to their education, training, and on-the-job learning; losses of employment and income due to redundancies and shortened work hours; and increased difficulty in finding high-quality employment. Significantly, they are also more sensitive due to high rates of youth working poverty, their overrepresentation in less protected industries, and the sectors that were mostly affected negatively by COVID-19. In addition, because of numerous school closings, young women are increasingly forced to balance both paid work and unpaid parenting and domestic chores. In terms of other vulnerable and disadvantaged youth, such as young people with disabilities or young refugees or displaced persons, they further face extra struggles on top of the existing difficulties that prevent them from obtaining education and prospects for decent employment.

Greece

According to figures from the European Statistical Office for November 2021, Greece regrettably has the highest youth unemployment rate in the EU. In fact, according to Eurostat data, Greece's youth unemployment rate—which is 39.1 percent—is substantially higher than the average and 10 points higher than second-place Spain. It is abundantly clear that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn that followed the memorandum requirements (programme for economic adjustment) in Greece have created the optimal conditions for long-term youth unemployment or, at the very least, the unprecedented exploitation of young people at work. Greece has unfortunately always had high percentages of youth unemployment and in cooperation with the European Union (EU) has conducted several efforts to address the topic at hand. Nevertheless, given the ongoing increase in unemployment rates, particularly among young people, following the pandemic, its efforts have sadly not been successful so far. After the pandemic, Greece sadly also has a place amongst the countries with the highest rates of youth poverty, with astonishingly high percentages of extreme poverty.

¹¹ "COVID-19 and Its Economic Toll on Women: The Story Behind the Numbers." UN Women, 16 Sept. 2020, www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women?gclid=Cj0KCQjw8uOWBhDXARIsAOxKJ2FZPRimcZj-MEwSWk-DyLN0skv0AJ7CdD4SNDpEhEN0Dpiz50YpGRQaArjTEALw_wcB.

EU (European Union)

The European Union (EU) has undoubtedly been a well-known stakeholder for placing emphasis on employment through its so-called European employment strategy that dates back to 1997. Now, when it comes to the present crisis, overall, the EU has set a number of Post-2020 targets, which according to the European Pillar of Social Rights of 4 March 2021 aim to “decrease the number of young people aged 15-29 who are neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs) from 12.6% (2019) to 9%” and “reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030”¹². Specifically, in regards to the youth, apart from the national employment policies (NEPs) of each European Member State, who, on the whole, responded to the issue quickly, the EU has launched a number of initiatives and programmes as part of its united approach to the issue, such as the reinforced Youth Guarantee¹³, the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)¹⁴ and the ALMA¹⁵ (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) initiative in 2021. Furthermore, the EU provides significant funding with the aim of supporting targeted initiatives and structural changes in youth employment, education, and training, since admittedly, in recent years, funding for young employment has emerged as a top priority in the EU budget. Examples of such include the NextGenerationEU¹⁶ and The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).¹⁷

OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

One international organization that has made a significant contribution to combating youth unemployment and poverty during COVID-19 is the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), whose role and impact can under no circumstances be ignored. In reaction to the current crisis, the OECD moved quickly to adopt drastic measures and policies and develop action plans with its 37 responding members. In fact, all of the governments in the OECD have implemented targeted measures to help them get through the crisis and into future recovery in the long-term. Policy responses include among others; (1) providing additional income support measures, (2) supporting work-based learning opportunities, (3) strengthening employment services for young people, (4) expanding mental health services, (5) guaranteeing young people have access to affordable, accessible homes.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/what-have-countries-done-to-support-young-people-in-the-covid-19-crisis-ac9f056c/#tablegrp-d1e370>

¹² "Employment Policy." *European Parliament*, www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/54/employment-policy.

¹³ "The Reinforced Youth Guarantee." *European Commission*, www.ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en.

¹⁴ "Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)." *European Commission*, www.ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1176.

¹⁵ "ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve)." *European Commission*, www.ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1549&langId=en.

¹⁶ "NextGenerationEU." *European Union*, www.europa.eu/next-generation-eu/index_en.

¹⁷ "European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)." *European Commission*, www.ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=325&langId=en.

Table: Dashboard of policy responses to support young people through the COVID-19 crisis.
Source: OECD Policy Questionnaire on Youth Policies (2021).¹⁸

ILO (International Labour Organization)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the UN, which was created in 1919 that brings governments, employers and workers representatives of 187 member States together, “to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men”.¹⁹ Therefore, it follows that it could not miss out on the opportunity to participate in the ongoing topic regarding youth unemployment and take up a major part in the resolution of such. It offers policy recommendations (Guide for the preparation of National Action Plans on Youth Employment) and operates a number of pertinent databases with information on youth employment statistics worldwide, legal frameworks, ongoing programmes, and lessons learned, such as the database on youth employment policies and legislation (YouthPOL). Additionally, it features an interactive platform for information sharing on “decent work for youth”. What’s more, a research guide on youth employment has been put together by the ILO library. On a more practical level, the ILO has recently introduced the Youth Employment Action Plan (YEAP) to “effectively make a difference in securing a better future of work for young people”²⁰ and pave the way to recovery after COVID-19.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1995	Adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) by the General Assembly
September 25, 2015	Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the General Assembly
2019-2020	74 th session on Policies and Programmes involving Youth

¹⁸ "What Have Countries Done to Support Young People in the COVID-19 Crisis?" *OECD*, 6 July 2021, www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/what-have-countries-done-to-support-young-people-in-the-covid-19-crisis-ac9f056c/#tablegrp-d1e370.

¹⁹ "Mission and Impact of the ILO." *International Labour Organization*, www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/mission-and-objectives/lang--en/index.htm.

²⁰ "YEAP Objective: To Effectively Make a Difference in Securing a Better Future of Work for Young People by Promoting a Human-centred, Pro-youth Job Rich Recovery from the COVID Crisis, and Beyond." *International Labour Organization*, 10 May 2022, www.ilo.org/emppolicy/areas/WCMS_844571/lang--en/index.htm.

December 19, 2020	General Assembly adopts Resolution on Policies and Programmes involving Youth, A/RES/74/121
January 31, 2020	WHO announces COVID-19 to be a Global Health Emergency
March 11, 2020	WHO declares COVID-19 a global pandemic
June 19, 2020	Human Rights Council adopts Resolution on Right to work, A/HRC/RES/43/7
July 2020	Launch of the Reinforced Youth Guarantee by the European Commission
2021-2022	76 th session on Policies and Programmes involving Youth
November 23, 2021	The Secretary General submits Report on the implementation of Social Development's resolution 57/1: Policies and Programmes involving Youth
March 4, 2021	European Commission's announcement of the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights
May 7, 2021	Participants to the Porto Social Commitment sign up to Post-2020 EU targets
September 15, 2021	Launch of the ALMA initiative in Straßburg
May 2022	Launch of the YEAP objective by ILO

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES INVOLVING YOUTH, A/RES/74/121²¹

²¹ "A/RES/74/121." *un.org*, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/422/54/PDF/N1942254.pdf?OpenElement>.

The General Assembly Resolution on Policies and Programmes involving Youth A/RES/74/121 that was adopted by the General Assembly on 18th December 2019 during its seventy-fourth session, targets, inter alia, youth unemployment and poverty. Specifically, given that many young people live in poverty, it acknowledges that one of the main difficulties that needs to be overcome is finding decent work and quality employment. It also discusses the significance of young people's health and wellbeing in terms of their ability to complete their education and take advantage of employment prospects. In the same vein, it highlights the necessity of developing and implementing a global plan for young employees as well as decreasing the percentage of NEET. It further urges governments to step up their efforts to address the high rates of youth unemployment and develop local and national youth employment programs to ease the transition from school to work.

Policies and Programmes involving Youth: Report of the Secretary-General, E/CN.5/2021/5²²

The aforementioned report was submitted on 23 November 2020 in accordance with the Commission for Social Development's resolution 57/1 (2002). Through a review of three youth-related theme issues, namely youth poverty alleviation, the digital global economy, juvenile justice, and youth and the law, it gives a status update on the implementation of the said resolution. Furthermore, particular attention is drawn to progress and developments in those three areas, along with the impact of COVID-19 on them. The report further examines research, policies, initiatives and programmes put forward by Member States and UN agencies in an effort to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

General Assembly/ Human Rights Council Resolution on Right to work, A/HRC/RES/43/7²³

During its forty-third session the Human Rights Council adopted this resolution on 19 June 2020 discussing the question of the Right to work. Needless to say that the resolution includes provisions regarding the youth given how important they are to the global economy and sustainability, as it is clearly outlined throughout the whole document. In a nutshell, the following observations are highlighted; safeguarding young workers against labour exploitation, reducing the high youth unemployment rates, establishing productive and decent work for young people, and highlighting the importance of equal opportunities, education, technical and vocational training amongst the youth.

²² "E/CN.5/2021/5." *un.org*, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/329/36/PDF/N2032936.pdf?OpenElement>.

²³ "A/HRC/RES/43/7." *un.org*, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G20/158/54/PDF/G2015854.pdf?OpenElement>.

General Assembly Resolution on Policies and Programmes involving Youth, A/RES/76/137²⁴

This resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2021 during the seventy-sixth session on Policies and Programmes involving Youth. Although quite similar to resolution [A/RES/74/121](#) in the sense that it includes some common clauses on the topics it touches upon, its significance cannot be overstated. Essentially, what is genuinely new and notable is that it does acknowledge the value of investing in inclusive, high-quality education and training for the long-term development of youth, including employment.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Generating new, high-quality employment opportunities for youth

As has been previously noted, the pandemic saw a sharp decline in job openings and vacancies, making it very challenging for young people to find employment in the labour market. However, the pandemic has simultaneously accelerated digitization and the development of new technologies to assist progress in the work environment. On the plus side, the current economic situation offers a great chance to rebuild economies in order to combat climate change and environmental damage and invest instead in sustainable and green economies. Therefore, it is appropriate to place clean tech jobs at the center of the recovery, since doing so would not only provide job opportunities for young people but also enhance their working circumstances by ensuring better job protection and safety in the workplace.

Developing scholarships and programmes for skill training

No one can deny the fact that skill-acquiring is an essential aspect of employment. Relevant stakeholders must therefore make investments to help youth develop the necessary skills to be both self- and publicly employable. In other words, both governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are obliged to each pay their fair share to assist young people in developing skills. They can accomplish this, for instance, by offering young people scholarships. By doing this, youth will be able to pay for their living expenses, thus reducing fear of housing instability and youth poverty. They can also carry out similar programmes in colleges and universities. Since many young people earn a living by doing more than two things, it is clear that no number of abilities is excessive. Overall, young people who learn new skills and turn those into sources of income, make more money and lead more comfortable lifestyles. As a result, they are also able to support others in achieving comparable statuses.

Investing in high-grade education at schools and universities

However self-explanatory it may seem, governments shall grasp the significance of investing in high quality education. Unfortunately, there are plenty of unemployed youths thanks to the

²⁴ "A/76/137." *un.org*, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/190/93/PDF/N2119093.pdf?OpenElement>.

inadequate funding of educational institutions, including schools and universities. Providing enough funding to educational institutions located all over the world and making those institutions freely available to young people everywhere, regardless of their socioeconomic level, is one targeted way to reduce youth unemployment. Furthermore, by providing institutions with the necessary tools, staffing, and resources supplying young people with the opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to be able to find employment will be made possible. This will also help remove financial barriers that prevent low-income students from enrolling in these institutions.

Boosting apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are known as an effective way to grant a smooth transition from school to work and from part-time to full-time work respectively. There is no doubt that the current apprenticeship systems need to be improved due to the fact that groups like women continue to face difficulties. Oddly, older workers are more likely to enroll in apprenticeship programs than younger ones. Hence, governments should implement a strategy to give employers more reasons to hire young people for apprenticeships, such as an additional monetary reward, since apprenticeships more often than not provide no pay.

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