

Youth unemployment

Written by Billion Temesghen



The continuing economic unpredictability and unsteadiness across the globe has exposed tons of young people to an extraordinary hardship. Unemployment, underemployment, socio-economic inequalities, poverty and exclusion and many other factors are and have been affecting the young generation, whose autonomy, dignity, well-being and access to rights are rapidly being worn away. As a result, a lot of countries around the world are risking not only producing a “lost generation” of disillusioned young people, but also undermining their political stability and social consistency, as well as their long-term competitiveness and development prospects in the global economic context. It is an undeniable truth that young people should be considered both as a key asset in the development of a country and they are the most vital subjects in a society to overcome the crisis. To advance and prosper, a country needs to reactivate intergenerational solidarity mechanisms and better political segment, social and economic power with the young generation. This definitely needs an improved support for and investment in young people through adequate policy choices and action.

If this is done then we could see an ensuring and smoother integration of young people into society through active citizenship, social dialogue, improved access to rights and sustainable employment. This notably requires strengthening youth policies and participation, fostering job creation, improving life-long learning opportunities and social protection, as well as stimulating youth entrepreneurship and building public-private partnerships between social partners.

All this could seem like an utopist vision of the world, but so long all of this will go on we might end up seeing worst scenarios than ever. Mainly because the economic collapse has implications far beyond the job market, since every aspect of daily life is to be wounded in so many ways. Having a big impact on everybody, especially the next generation, for the reason that if the economy slows down, they're the ones who are going to have the toughest time finding a job.

Around the world, a generation is coming of age and finding nowhere to work. Globally, one in eight young people will be unemployed this year, according to a recent report by the International Labour Organization. That

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