

## Provisional programme

# **Turbocharging youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa: a new approach**

**Sunday 20 – Wednesday 23 January 2019 | WP1658**

There is arguably no harder, or more urgent, global challenge in our world today than tackling youth unemployment. Current estimates are that governments need to create over a billion jobs in the next 12 years: that's a million a month in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa alone. And yet, there seems little consensus on how that will happen, even though governments have signed up to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the goal of full employment for all young women and men by 2030.

How to boost employment has been a central focus of the Wilton Park Youth Dialogues: powering the future, a series of dialogues held over the past two years exploring how best to harness the energy and imagination of young people, while ensuring that they are equipped with the education, skills and tools that will allow them to become resilient and thriving citizens in a challenging world.

Dialogues in South Africa and in Jordan in 2018 suggest that employment is a top priority for young people, affecting their sense of identity, their role in society, as well as being crucial for economic growth, prosperity and the prospects for peace.

However, it's clear that no single actor can solve the youth employment crisis. Working together to address this issue has never been more critical, both as a challenge and as an opportunity to harness the potential of the current youth demographic to deliver lasting positive change. The United Kingdom's Prime Minister recently announced that job creation will be at the 'very heart' of the UK's relationship with Africa, putting into sharp focus the question of where responsibility lies to ensure the future of work provides a decent living, is productive enough to contribute to sustainable growth and is environmentally friendly.

This Dialogue will look at how to build a new strategy, supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, for turbocharging youth employment in Africa. It will look at ways to work together and use evidence to economically empower young people, identifying what works, what doesn't work, global best practice and new ideas to advise government leaders how to create jobs at scale.

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### **In association with:**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK**



Department  
for International  
Development

**In partnership with the UK's Department for International Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark**

(Speakers invited and themes proposed \* denotes to be confirmed, ^ denotes expected to participate but not yet confirmed in this role)

## Sunday 20 January

1600

Participants arrive and refreshments available

1700-1800

### **Welcome and Introduction**

**Alison Hilliard**

Programme Director, Wilton Park

**Sharmila Nebhrajani**

Chief Executive, Wilton Park

**Thomas Rudebeck Eilertzen**

Global Youth Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Copenhagen

**Patricia Scotland**

Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Commonwealth Secretariat, London

1800

Reception followed by dinner hosted by:

**Sharmila Nebhrajani**

Chief Executive, Wilton Park

## Monday 21 January

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1030

### **1. New approaches: creating an eco-system for youth employment**

Youth unemployment and underemployment in Africa is a complex challenge to tackle. Without concerted action on youth employment, the international community is unlikely to ever achieve the agreed Sustainable Development Goal of 'full employment by 2030.' At the Wilton Park Dialogue that took place in South Africa in July, participants agreed that there was a need to invest in systems to support young people, which includes skills building, entrepreneurship, apprenticeships and better data in order to target interventions more effectively to create jobs for their youth populations. But what does a focus on systems mean for donors, practitioners, governments and young people themselves?

What new approaches are needed to create an eco-system that promotes youth employment? Does this require a new way of working and a new way of funding? How can different actors come together to create an enabling environment that unlocks jobs for youth, at scale, and how do we keep young people at the centre of this environment?

**Bill Reese**

Chief Executive Officer Emeritus, International Youth Foundation (IYF), Baltimore

**Knight Ganje**

Managing Director, H&G Advertising, Gaborone

**Ann Miles**

Director, Mastercard Foundation, Toronto

1030-1115

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1115-1230

## 2. Building the evidence for the next steps

There is widespread agreement on the need for better data to know 'what works' as well as what does not work in addressing the youth employment challenge. How can governments be equipped with the evidence and the technical capacity to boost the incomes of young people, particularly the vast majority that work in the informal sector? What new research initiatives can help and how? And how can young Africans be given a chance to generate new ideas on ways they can be supported into work and become the job creators of tomorrow? And, what can we learn from recent examples of governments and/or practitioners who have successfully implemented new initiatives based on adapting evidence of what works to their context?

### **Darren Welch**

Director of Strategy, Department for International Development (DFID), London

### **Ademola Olajide**

Representative, United Nations Population Fund, Nairobi

### **Riziki Assey**

Youth Think Tank Technical Assistant, Restless Development Uganda, Kampala

1230-1330

Lunch

1330

Briefing for Session 4 facilitators in the Library

1400-1530

## 3. Building the evidence for a systems focus: improving job readiness

Youth's job readiness can be a real constraint to hiring firms with young people's soft skills, hard skills and aspirations not always matching what is needed to grow African economies. Ensuring education and training better prepares young people for the changing world of work is key. So, how can education systems (different levels: secondary, TVET etc) and labour markets connect more effectively? What needs to change in the education system? What new thinking is there in preparing young people for jobs? How is private sector leadership changing the game in job readiness and what are some of the most effective models for private and public sector collaboration?

This session will focus on case studies for improving job readiness, looking at what works to get young people into jobs and keep them there.

### **Tapera Jeffrey Muzira**

Coordinator, Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy, African Development Bank Group, Abidjan

### **Tashmia Ismail-Saville**

Chief Executive Officer, Youth Employment Service (YES), Johannesburg

### **Ndung'u Kahihu**

Executive Director, CAP Youth Empowerment Institute (CAP YEI), Nairobi

1530-1600

Tea/coffee

1600-1730

## 4. World café: the digital economy as turbocharger

This session will look at how the rapid pace of technological progress can be leveraged to boost youth employment. The tech business sector has the potential to become an important and growing source for employment opportunities for youth, as well as driving change in other sectors. How can technology and training better prepare young people for the world of work? What innovations can we learn from and what do we know about taking innovation to scale? What examples are there of how this has worked and what lessons have been learnt? How can a technological innovation ecosystem for youth be created that supports young people's work aspirations by connecting and empowering at

scale? How do we ensure equality of opportunity for young people and technology and overcome the digital divide?

This session will have an opening speaker, followed by a world café where participants can move around to learn from different case studies in a dynamic format.

**Chris Locke**

Founder, Caribou Digital, Farnham

**Facilitators:**

**Tashmia Ismail-Saville**

Chief Executive Officer, Youth Employment Service (YES), Johannesburg

**Chris Maclay**

Head of Growth, Lynk Kenya, Nairobi

**Phillip Chikwiramakomo**

Head, Impact Solutions, Samasource, Nairobi

**Chris Locke**

Founder, Caribou Digital, Farnham

1730-1745

Tea/coffee

1745-1900

**5. Building the evidence for a systems focus: making the informal economy count**

As most young Africans will earn their livelihood in the informal economy in rural communities, what are the most important investments to help them reach their potential in these settings? How can young people in informal and/or rural enterprises be supported to become job creators?

From aspirations to assets, what works to maximise young people's profits and prospects in agriculture and how can employment opportunities for young people in particular be maximised in agri-food systems?

How to support young people in the informal sector, whilst also increasing the number of jobs in the formal sector? Are there examples of how this has worked that could be taken to scale? What needs to change now to bridge this gap?

**Chris Donohue**

Regional Director, East Africa, TechnoServe, Nairobi

**Rotimi Olawale**

Founder, Chief Executive Officer, JR Farms Nigeria Limited, Ilorin

**Ademola Adesina**

Expert, Youth Division, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa

1900

Reception followed by dinner

**Tuesday 22 January**

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1030

**6. Building the evidence: leaving no-one behind - economic empowerment of marginalised groups**

Young women are often not able to fully contribute to labour markets, whilst young people with disabilities frequently face enormous barriers to finding decent work. Young Africans on the move may also face additional challenges in finding decent work.

What are the transferable features of programmes that have demonstrated effectiveness

in ensuring that marginalised groups are included? How can we make sure programmes aimed at supporting girls and young women as they transition to work are safe and inclusive environments? What success has there been in getting young people with disabilities into work and how might this be scaled up? How can young Africans on the move be integrated into labour markets? How do governments/practitioners need to operate differently to meet the employment needs of young people in conflict-affected and fragile contexts?

**Mark Mapemba**

Intellectual Disability Self Advocate, Parents of Disabled Children of Malawi (PODCAM), Blantyre

**Abella Bateyunga**

Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Tanzania Bora Initiative, Dar es Salaam

**Miji Park**

Director of Programmes, Mercy Corps, Kampala

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1245

**7. What should a youth-centred, multi-faceted response to the youth unemployment crisis look like?**

How can young Africans be given the chance to generate ideas on ways that governments can support them to find and keep jobs? What are the forums for hearing their voices and their solutions? What do young people need to become Africa's changemakers and job creators? How can new policy research work in partnership with Africa's young people? This session will include Twitter digital youth input outside the conference room.

**Simotwo Zainabu**

Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer, Mashinani Hub, Nyamira

**Gerald Chirinda**

Chief Executive Officer, Tapiwa Capital, Harare

**Lawrence Muli**

Assistant Programme Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat, London

1245-1400

Lunch

1340

Briefing for Session 8 facilitators in the Library

1400-1445

Garden walk (meet in conservatory)

1500-1630

**8. Breakout groups: towards a response to the youth employment crisis**

Small groups focussing on key discussion themes to date.

What are the key barriers to a systems approach for youth employment? What changes need to take place to create an enabling environment where promising solutions can be taken to scale?

**Facilitators:**

**Perry Maddox**

Chief Executive Officer, Restless Development, London

**Layne Robinson**

Head of Social Policy Development, Commonwealth Secretariat, London

**Anita Tiessen**

Chief Executive Officer, Youth Business International (YBI), London

**Hugo Gorst-Williams**

Youth Team Leader, Department for International Development (DFID), London

**Helen Osborne**

Independent Consultant, Helen Osborne Advisory, London

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

**9. Feedback from breakout groups: building a response to the youth employment crisis**

This session will hear back from the breakout groups, looking at how to build a response to the youth employment crisis and working towards key recommendations.

1830

Reception followed by dinner

**Wednesday 23 January**

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-1030

**10. Working together to bring about change**

How can different actors work collaboratively to design a systems approach that brings about long term and sustainable change? How can young people be fully engaged in this process? How can we most effectively enable connections at community, national and international levels?

**Namita Datta**

Program Manager, Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE), The World Bank Group, Washington, DC

**Susana Puerto**

Senior Youth Employment Specialist, International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva

**Jeremy Lefroy**

Member of Parliament for Stafford; Founder and Co-Chair, Coalition for Youth Employment; Chair, Parliamentary Network for the World Bank and IMF, House of Commons, London

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1110

**11. Evaluation survey**

Completion of online survey.

1110-1300

**12. Towards a brighter future of work for young people: commitments and next steps**

Pulling together the evidence from the previous days' plenary sessions, as well as recommendations from the world café and breakout groups, this session will aim to outline just what a multi-faceted response to the youth unemployment crisis should look like. What more needs to be done? This session will consider what steps are needed to create a brighter future of work for young people, drawing on the recommendations and commitments made over the course of the event.

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

**This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.**

**This is an invitation only conference.**

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