

YOUTHMAP

SUMMARY OF SECTOR FINDINGS

EDUCATION

Trends

- Access to formal education a priority but poverty a major barrier.
- Primary access improved but secondary and tertiary access still limited.
- Quality, relevance, and value of formal education questioned.
- With the growing demand for technical skills, more young people are considering technical and vocational education as a viable alternative.
- Curricula strengthening and reform efforts underway.
- Stakeholders suggest incorporating practical skills at lower levels and links to private sector at higher levels.
- High dropout: poverty, cost, distance, conflict-related displacement.
- Non-formal, technical/vocational, and entrepreneurship training are viable alternatives, especially for dropouts.

Country-Specific Findings on Education	
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senegal has made great strides increasing access and completion at the primary level, but quality remains an issue throughout the entire education system.• Youth and key stakeholders believe the curriculum at all levels needs to be more practical and better aligned to labor market needs and opportunities. More career guidance, counseling services, and life skills training are also needed to help youth pursue productive career paths.• The demand for TVET programs exceeds the available supply.• Inadequate infrastructure is a persistent problem across all school levels, with rural areas especially under resourced.
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uganda has made significant progress in improving access to education with universal primary and secondary education.• However, key issues remain around quality of education and teachers, school completion rates, infrastructure, and the practicality of the curriculum.• While formal education is still highly respected in Ugandan culture, a paradigm shift is occurring with youth more open and positively inclined towards vocational training than their elders.

Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource deficiencies identified by participants include a lack of qualified teachers, infrastructure, and insufficient number of schools. • Participants indicated school fees and other support costs as major obstacles to accessing education. • Youth expressed concerns about growing corruption and sexual harassment of girls in schools. • Youth generally consider formal education to be a pathway to a better future. However, this conviction is undermined by factors such as poor quality, corruption, poor alignment with labor market needs, and concerns that formal education no longer guarantees employment.
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls outnumber boys at the primary level, but this situation changes drastically at the secondary level. • Approximately two-third of participants felt their education prepared them for work, with rural women on the mainland feeling the least prepared for work. In Zanzibar, however, women were more likely than men to say that their education prepared them for work. • Those that did not feel prepared identified technical skills as the necessary missing element. • Youth and employers both identified computer skills as essential for the job market. • Employers valued life skills highly but these were not identified by youth as critical. • Zanzibar teachers face a bias from parents who prefer teachers from the mainland.
DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education needs vary by region and quality of education was perceived to be limited supply across the country at all education levels. • The quality, relevance, and practicality of education and training need improvement in order to increase young people's chances of gaining employment in the private sector. • Access to education and training services for those living in rural areas, particularly isolated provinces, must improve. • More than 7 million children ages 5-17 are out of school, half of whom are girls. Barriers to education include distance, poverty, poorly trained teachers, and discrimination against females.
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers' perception of education system weaknesses included: curriculum too academic and does not prepare youth for workplace; little/no career guidance provided to students; few soft/life skills and entrepreneurship skills taught; exam leakages/cheating; and major gaps in vocational training. • Among barriers to quality education are high school fees, lack of school facilities (especially in rural areas), early marriage/pregnancy, and an overly theoretical curriculum. Although universal education is a goal of the government, the lack of resources, high opportunity costs to attendance, and cultural norms constrain the learning environment (with young rural women particularly affected). • In terms of skills development, youth most desire reading/writing (47%); technical and vocational training (37%); and computer skills (30%). Interestingly, only 8% of youth identified soft skills as a need; whereas employers noted a high demand for soft skills (particularly communication skills, teamwork and ability to learn quickly).

EMPLOYMENT/LIVELIHOODS

Trends

- High youth un/underemployment; few formal sector jobs.
 - Informal sector accounts for approximately 80% of African economies
- Growth sectors: financial services, hospitality, retail, tourism, construction/ manufacturing, agriculture, energy, ICT.
- Need to better understand skills mismatches by engaging both employers and training providers.
- Youth entrepreneurship opportunities are severely limited due to a lack of access to seed capital, high interest rates, corruption, and lack of training opportunities.
- Agriculture promising but negative perceptions among youth.
 - Except Senegal, where needed better guidance to get involved
 - Need to identify employment and enterprise development opportunities across agriculture value chains

Youth Perspectives

- Lack skills, career guidance and opportunities, support structures.
- Desire opportunities to gain experience.
- Frustrated with limited job security, exploitation, corruption.
- Enterprise development is desired but youth lack access to financing, business skills, and access to land.

Employer Perspectives

- Youth need both practical and soft skills, job experience.
- Youth lack commitment, do not stay in job for long haul.
- Mixed views of youth, but recognize they are important drivers of growth.
- Enthusiastic about working together to increase workforce capacity.

Country-Specific Findings on Employment/Livelihoods	
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young people's greatest employment challenges are the lack of formal sector jobs and the gap between youth skills and labor market needs.• Overall, job opportunities for youth are much more widely available and the opportunities accessible to youth are generally for low-level, unskilled jobs. To improve opportunities in the formal sector, participants suggested increasing the number and practicality of internships and establishing resource centers to connect job seekers and job recruiters.• Disparities in job and training opportunities between urban and rural areas are significant. In a recurring theme, participants speaking across all issue areas advocated for more resources in rural and remote areas.• The agricultural sector is Senegal's largest employer. Many youth expressed interest in farming and agriculture-related business and suggested providing more financial support, technical training, and resources for this sector.

Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the youngest country in the world with one of the highest unemployment rates in SSA, youth employment is expected to remain a challenge in the years ahead. However, Uganda also has assets and emerging industries that offer significant promise for youth employment if properly leveraged, including: agriculture, ecotourism, ICT, financial and banking sectors. With persistent food insecurity, youth were eager to participate in the agriculture sector. Ugandan youth demonstrate an entrepreneurial drive that is in itself a national asset. To maximize both emerging market opportunities and its young people's considerable energy, Uganda will need to address the institutional and cultural barriers that frustrate its young people's ambitions and hamper the country's growth (e.g., nepotism, corruption, lack of access to skills training, finance, and enterprise development support). Private sector companies are open to working with development partners to find ways to increase the capacity of their future workforce noting the challenge of finding qualified graduates and the need to provide on-the-job training.
Moz.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to formal employment is linked to socioeconomic status, political affiliation or party membership, power, and influence. Nepotism remains an issue. Participants pointed to a lack of viable training options to build their skills, and a deficiency of formal employment opportunities outside of Maputo. The main activities identified by youth employed informally were domestic labor for females and selling of goods or low-skilled labor for males. The challenges of informal employment according to participants are illegality, job insecurity, and low productivity.
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the employed youth participants, only 21% were formally employed, and only 4% reported that their income is sufficient to meet expenses. Youth accessed job information through various methods including social media, volunteering, directly from employers, and even through bribes. 10% of participants identified as self-employed. Employers felt that youth generally were not entrepreneurial, which contrasted with how many of the youth participants self-identified. Youth had mild interest in agriculture, but did not fully know the opportunities on the agriculture sector value chain. Urban youth were especially interested in the tourism sector. Positions in this field were understood to be designated for different genders.
DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 54% of participants were unsatisfied with their current employment situation with over 60% being employed in the informal sector. There is a gap between training/skills provided through the education system and those demanded by the job markets. Employers stated two main obstacles to recruitment including lack of technical skills and basic skills such as reading and writing. Participants reported hearing about employment and training opportunities from family and/or friends, television.
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall 63% of YouthMap participants are not working; 18% are self-employed; 7% are employed full time; and 62% of working youth reported that their income is insufficient. From employers' perspective, the top barriers to youth employment are high turnover among youth; lack of technical skills and lack of experience. Employers perceive youth to have overly high expectations for formal employment (e.g. high salary, company benefits), and are not committed to their entry-level positions – leading to high turnover rates.

Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findings highlight the constrained formal employment context for youth; nevertheless, they overwhelmingly desired formal sector jobs for the security and higher wages. According to youth, the top barriers to employment are lack of experience (37%); lack of relevant technical skills (26%); lack of basic skills/literacy/numeracy (25%); and companies not hiring (25%). There are clear mismatches in perception between employers and youth. Young women reported being in lower paying jobs than men and were more likely to not be paid at all. Economic considerations (i.e. family's short-term needs) win out over natural resource conservation, across regions.
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HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

Trends

- Access to information improved – but access and quality issues (especially in rural areas) as well as cost a primary barrier.
- High demand for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services – but need for youth-friendly services. Gap between knowledge and action.
- Factors influencing health-seeking behavior: cost of services; fear/embarrassment; stigmatization – especially pregnant teens.
- Youth pointed out negative risk factors: poverty, peer pressure, negative role models, alcohol abuse, illegal drug use, crime, and early pregnancy/marriage. Also popular culture that endorses negative choices (e.g. transactional sex for material goods).
- Education and financial stability key to family planning (FP).
- Youth need more specific guidance/services related to access to FP methods.

Country-Specific Findings on Health and Family Planning	
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access is a concern for all youth interviewed and major constraints for disabled youth or HIV-affected youth. Cost is the primary barrier for all youth accessing available health services. Beyond a strict issue of health service supply and demand, early marriage and early pregnancy continue to be a significant issue for youth across Senegal. While the government has tried to diminish negative behaviors by providing services and information, such services need to be increased, further decentralized outside the capital, and expanded to address the connections between poverty, unhealthy behaviors, and lack of services and resources.
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current efforts by the government and development partners are largely “outmatched” by Uganda’s large, sexually active youth population. Between low rates of contraceptive use and high rates of high-risk sexual activity, youth remain at significant risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV, and unwanted pregnancy – and are eager for more information on prevention and family planning. With 25% of Ugandan women nationally reporting their first sexual encounter was coerced, the issue of gender-based violence is of great concern. Interestingly, married youth and those with children are a particularly vulnerable population that has received less attention than other out-of-school youth because they often face limited mobility, reduced access to media, and limited autonomy. Availability of youth-friendly services is unacceptably low.

Moz.	N/A (not part of assessment scope of work)
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth participants felt that they do not live healthy lifestyles due to peer pressure, lack of confidence, poverty, and inadequate support structures. Youth identified that health services are available but that they are often not "youth-friendly." Radio, television, and newspapers were the most common sources used for health information. Stigma was a particularly large barrier in Zanzibar where unmarried youth felt unable to access health services.
DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High prevalence of risky sexual behaviors, especially among vulnerable populations (e.g., unprotected sexual intercourse, multiple partners, and prostitution). High risk of sexual assault and coercion by those in positions of power (ex. Sexually Transmitted Grades = STDs). Limited access to health care and particularly reproductive health care. Low level of knowledge about sexuality and reproductive health (e.g., unwanted or early pregnancies and abortion).
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% of all YouthMap participants use FP and SRH facilities versus 33% who use general health care. While 53% of youth said there were accessible health facilities for youth, 45% of rural youth and 29% of urban youth said these facilities were not youth friendly. Despite positive trend in terms of use of health facilities, disparities in quality and access remain. Barriers include: lack of specialized staff to help youth; judgmental language and treatment of youth; lack of confidentiality; youth uncomfortable to disclose health status; distance to health centers; and early marriage for rural youth. This highlights the need for health worker training, innovation in information sharing, and possible youth-led services. Radio (43%) leads among all groups as trusted source of health information, and there is also trust in television (23%) for information in general. Trust in NGOs as communication source is surprisingly low at 6%. Youth most commonly learn about healthy attitudes and behaviors through youth targeted radio broadcasts, TV, and friends and family. Gender based violence is rooted in traditional beliefs and cultural values. Transactional sex was commonly referenced in focus groups, reflecting desire for economic gain, social status, peer pressure, and income generation.

POLITICAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Trends

- Youth participants generally wanted to be more engaged in their communities and nations.
- Youth political engagement tended to comprise of voting. Youth who did not vote in the previous elections often expressed interest in voting in the next one. Despite voting, youth often felt disconnected from governance as they felt their interests were not represented and only courted for votes.
- YouthMap participants were more likely to participate in civic activities than strictly political activities. Participation in religious activities was the most common, followed by volunteering. Volunteering was seen by many youth as both a way to positively impact their community and as a way to gain essential work experience.
- Young people experienced barriers to decision-making and leadership structures primarily due to their age. This was compounded for young women. Youth felt adults don't always value the ideas of young people.

- Access to computers and Internet remains limited, especially in rural areas. Less than half of respondents were able to access internet at least once a week, but this varied greatly between urban/rural areas. Computer proficiency was a highly desired skill.
- Almost all youth at least have access to cell phones, if they do not own one. Youth are more likely to access the internet through their phones. Facebook tended to be the most used application. While phone use is primarily social, they are also comfortable using them for anonymous access to information, e.g., UNICEF’s U-Report.
- Despite rapid growth among the other mediums, radio is still the most used and trusted source of information followed by TV, which was less utilized in rural areas. Maintaining widespread use of radio through entertaining, context-relevant programming is essential to reaching young people. Likewise, young people are engaged through utilizing text messaging, and mobile social media should be explored if targeting youth in urban areas.

Country-Specific Findings on Political and Civic Participation	
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite distrust of politicians, the majority of participants planned to vote in the next elections. • Youth described the need to develop their towns and regions as more important to them than development at the national level. Although many declared their pride in being Senegalese, most youth considered contributing to the development of their communities and regions most important. • Participants were engaged in community, sports, social cultural and religious groups, volunteer work; and school clubs. • Participants and stakeholders alike were frustrated at the slow progress of peace negotiations in the Casamance region.
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the fact that youth represent over half of Uganda’s registered voters, the youth population is not respected as a political constituency to be respected. Instead, youth reported feeling marginalized and manipulated by their political leadership; dismissed by their elders; ill-served by the programs designed to serve them; and thwarted by nepotism and corruption. • Youth reported participating in the political process at the periphery, carrying out predetermined and limited tasks. They demonstrated little sense of being able to work the political system in their favor, yet continue to see political activity as a route to jobs and income. Youth are both the victims and perpetrators of political violence. • Despite feelings of disempowerment and discouragement, the issue of citizenship is of growing importance to Ugandan youth. They are eager to voice their opinions, engage in decisions that determine their futures, and seek a political process that includes youth as equals. • Many regarded civic engagement as a luxury they could not afford when meeting their own basic daily needs is an ongoing struggle.

Moz.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are still not part of the agenda of political parties – political parties remember them only to carry out mobilization during the electoral campaigns. Participants across all research locations shared desire to contribute to change by voting or by participating in the governance process; over 90% of all youth surveyed planned on voting in the next election. However, besides voting, most participants do not know of other opportunities for political participation. 97% of all participants believed that there is “some” or “a lot of” corruption in Moz. Over 90% of participants believed that people have the duty to carry out volunteer work in their communities. The two major barriers cited by the 48% of youth who are not civically engaged are lack of opportunities (40%) and lack of information (32%). More than half of youth are engaged in some sort of civic activity in their communities (e.g. religious, political, artistic, or social organizations, NGO campaigns, volunteer work). Youth reported disinterest in engagement opportunities in some organizations seen too close to political parties.
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 60% of participants volunteer in some way, including environmental activities and public health campaigns. Only half of participants voted in the previous election but 93% stated that they are planning on voting in the next election. Zanzibari youth felt especially restricted from taking leadership roles due to Shehia structures. Youth realize their voting power in advance of the 2015 elections and want to ensure the structures are in place to have their priority issues (e.g., unemployment) on the agenda.
DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people highly involved in civic activities through religious organizations. 56% of young people reported being involved in community activities through religious groups. Young people felt abused by politicians as they were used during elections, but soon after disengaged from the political process. Young people felt that there was limited freedom of expression. Young people want to be involved and contribute to the development of their communities and country, yet lack the tools and financial resources to support these actions.
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth political participation overall is low (37%), particularly among females (23%). Most who don’t participate say they just aren’t interested in politics, or have no time to do so. They also noted the lack of leadership and decision-making opportunities available to them. However, 84% plan to vote in next elections. More young men (89%) plan to vote than young women (79%), with significant disparities between regions. Religious activities make up the majority of civic participation (80% of young women; 72% of young men), but volunteering is relatively high at about 25% across genders. Youth note limited avenues for participation leading to apathy and disempowered from political affairs. There is also a knowledge and access gap for youth to engage politically and civically. As mobile phones can be used to disseminate health information, mobile platforms may also be leveraged to mitigate these challenges.

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