

State of Urban Youth Report 2012/13

YOUTH IN THE PROSPERITY OF CITIES

Backgrounder

This report makes heard the voices of young people in four cities of Accra, Bangalore, Cairo, and São Paulo in the developing world. It puts forth their perceptions and opinions regarding their quality of life and their access to resources, including education, medical care, urban services, employment, and municipal institutions.

Cairo, Egypt, is of interest as a focal point of youth engagement in the Arab world. Its Revolutionary Youth Coalition created greater awareness of the importance of public space (particularly Tahrir Square) and the role of social media in the mobilization of youth.

Bangalore, India, is often seen as a successful Asian example of business process outsourcing in information technology, taking advantage of a relatively well educated young population. More than 62 per cent of Bangalore's population is between 19 and 34 years old. Including over 15 year-olds, the proportion rises to 64 per cent. The workforce is predominantly aged 24 to 29. In the past, Bangalore had hardly any slums and almost all areas were equally well provided with basic amenities. This is not the case today and young people are very concerned about a deterioration that affects them deeply. Finally, 42 per cent of the population use public transport.

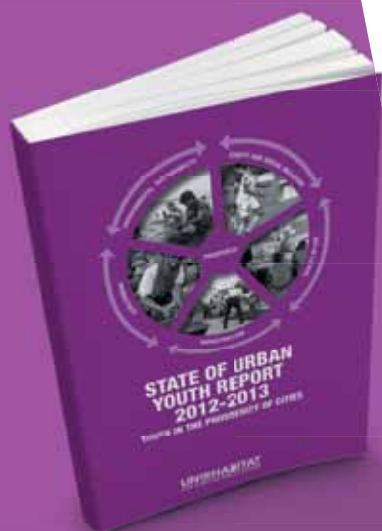
Accra, Ghana, is a youthful African city, mentioned as effective in creating youth employment. With an estimated population of 3.9 million, Accra is today one of the largest and fastest-growing cities in Africa, with an annual demographic growth rate of 3.3 per cent.

São Paulo, Brazil is an economic hub in South America that has experienced economic growth leading to greater prosperity, while still being plagued by high levels of inequality, violence and possessing a public education system that leaves many young people ill prepared for the job market. The Municipality of São Paulo is home to 1.8 million young people between 15 and 24 years of age, representing just over 16 per cent of the city's total population (11.2 million). The youth (15-24) unemployment rate stands at 17.8 per cent.

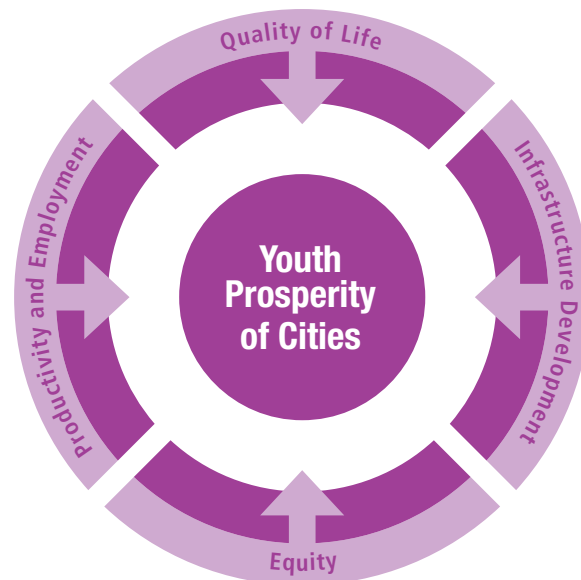
These four cities were not selected to be representative of all cities in the developing world. Rather, they provide a glimpse of the challenges and opportunities faced by young people in these and many other cities.

Findings from the field surveys

The conceptual framework adopted for the report views prosperity as possessing dimensions related to quality of life, economic productivity and employment, urban infrastructure and services, and equity. Importantly, these chapters brought attention to the personal perceptions that youth themselves hold of their living situation. In summary, the report argues that city governments should treat their young populations not as a problem and a burden, but as a resource and an opportunity to attain greater prosperity. The participation of young people in sustainable urban growth is also a sound investment in national development.



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Quality of Life:

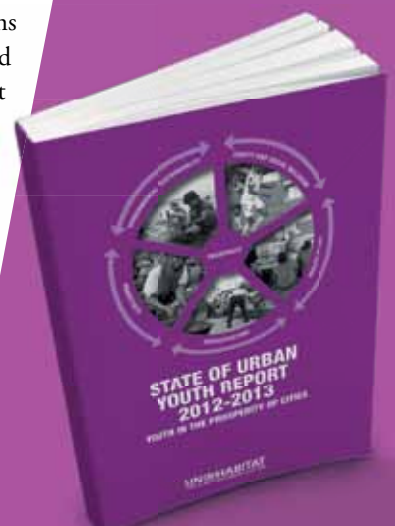
When asked about a range of factors contributing to their sense of prosperity several factors, including jobs, education, housing, and transportation stood out, Education was ranked as the most important factor, followed by meaningful employment and a decent income. Also considered important were safety to live and work freely without fear and a sense of equity. Youth in Cairo point to easy access to the internet as the second most important factor contributing to prosperity. Active participation in community affairs was consistently rated as the factor least contributing to urban prosperity, likely reflecting young people's lack of influence in local decision making. A striking finding is that, overall, only one out of every four young people surveyed opined that they are able to live and work freely without fear. In São Paulo, only 1 per cent of surveyed youth feel safe. Safety concerns are generally more prevalent among women.

Productivity and employment:

Youth population growth and current economic trends are producing a growing job deficit for young people and continue to present tremendous challenges for local and national policy makers. Youth unemployment rates remain near all-time highs, with the highest rates seen in North Africa the Middle East and some countries in Europe. Among young people, women often face added difficulties when seeking jobs because of gender discrimination. This gender gap is especially large in South Asia (34.1%), the Middle East (33.6%), North Africa (27.4%), and Latin America & the Caribbean (19.9%). Many of the surveyed youth (38%) see their city as neither making enough efforts nor committed to promoting economic productivity, with a larger proportion in older age groups saying so. A majority (64%) say their city does not have a long-term youth-focused plan. Corruption and lack of good governance were cited as the most important hindrance to youth contributions to economic productivity.

Infrastructure:

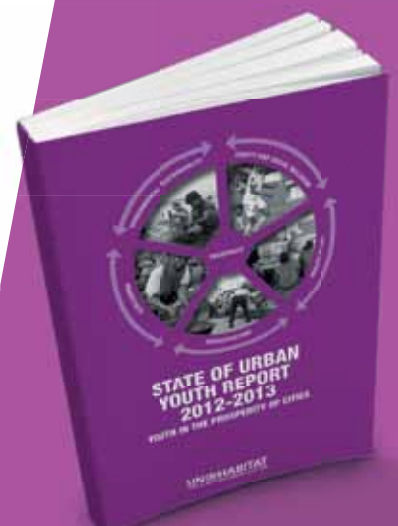
Urban prosperity requires a supportive physical infrastructure. Yet, no less than 75 per cent of the surveyed youth in Accra, Bangalore Cairo and São Paulo stated that the infrastructural resources in their city do not adequately support productive activities. More than 90 per cent of them see congested roads as a problem negatively affecting urban prosperity. They also view provisions that facilitate spatial mobility as being most important, followed by access to education and health services. Youth generally rated access to telecommunications and power favourably, but many agree that adequate sanitation is a problem. Of nine major infrastructural components, even the least problematic one (interruption of telephone lines) was cited by almost half of all respondents as having negative prosperity impacts. Overall, youth in the UN-Habitat study believe that the urban infrastructure in the cities where they live and work needs significant



improvement in order for them to attain greater prosperity. They perceive the high costs of living as the most undesirable outcome of underdeveloped urban infrastructure and they opined that the burdens of these deficiencies are disproportionately borne by low-income populations, whose communities are made more vulnerable.

Equity:

The UN-Habitat's field surveys revealed that youths in the four cities experience marginalization in the political, economic and social sphere. For example, a majority take the view that the main agency responsible for equitable development in their city is not transparent and the minority are not ably represented at the local government. Likewise, most do not discern sustained policies to reduce youth poverty or adequate protection of human rights. Youths cited lack of political will as one of the reasons for lack of effectiveness of youth equity initiatives. Only 23 per cent find that economic growth in their city promotes youth well-being, and they observed that the benefits of that growth are unevenly distributed, with advantages accruing primarily to those connected to politicians or born into wealthy families. Educational advantage is not seen as sufficient to overcome these inequities.



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MAIN FINDINGS AND MESSAGES

1. The Youth Bulge: The Demographic Dynamics

A rising youth population – what is generally known as the “urban youth bulge” – makes it imperative to address the various dimensions of urban youth against the broader background of prosperity. Youth are society’s most important and dynamic human resource. There are more people under the age of 25 today than ever, totalling nearly three billion – or half of humankind – of which 1.3 billion between ages 12 and 24. Most live in urban areas.

2. More Youth, More Youth Poverty

Urban areas in developing countries account for over 90 per cent of the world’s urban demographic growth, and it is estimated that as many as 60 per cent of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030, with most living in slums and informal settlements. Nearly 45 per cent of young people around the world— almost 515 million—live on less than two US dollars a day.

3. Fifty per cent youth unemployed, Large Numbers of “Working Poor”

Today nearly 90 million young people around the world are unemployed (47 per cent of the total number of unemployed) and an additional 300 million are “working poor”—i.e., in unskilled, insecure employment, and in unsatisfactory conditions. The vast majority work in the informal sector and live in slums. Indeed, 85 per cent of the new employment around the world is informal and slum-based, forcing young people into low-income jobs with little scope for advancement. The largest number of youth in this situation is in Africa.

Young people suffer disproportionately from low-quality employment with poor prospects – ‘dead-end’ jobs. They are more likely than adults to be among the working poor, i.e. low-paid employment. About 152 million young workers (more than a quarter) live in poor households (with per capita expenditure below USD1.25 a day)¹. *Young people account for 24 per cent of the world’s total working poor, compared with 18 per cent of all global employment.*

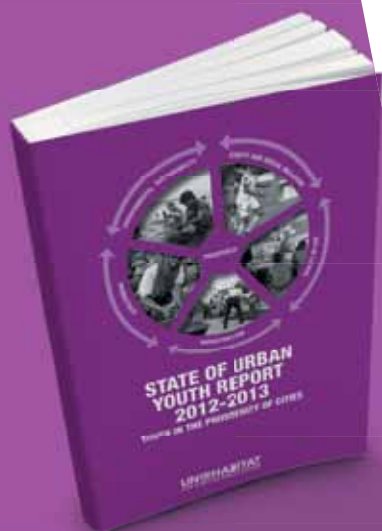
4. Fifty per cent of young people believe economic growth is not generating employment for them

The UN-Habitat Youth Survey shows that 52 per cent of respondents were positive about the ability of urban economies to generate employment for young people, except in Cairo where a large majority of respondents (96 per cent) took a negative view.

5. Education is the Key to Urban Employment Opportunities

Education is considered the key factor for equal opportunity and access to decent jobs. As many as 86 per cent of youth in the Survey say that local access to primary school is free and equitable but this proportion falls to 36 per cent for secondary school and is negligible when it comes to higher education. Now, this has serious implications for politics and policy-making — the operations of government, legal systems, and regulatory agencies, and indeed, of all the institutions that assign and enforce individual rights and mediate conflicts among citizens— is influenced by the distribution of political power (or influence, or ‘voice’) in society. Inefficiency or asymmetry of access to these institutions will perpetuate the institutional structures that preserve the interests of the most powerful to the detriment of large majorities of the population.

1. (ILO, 2010).



6. Sound Health and Education Infrastructure bring Quality of Life

Alongside education, the UN-Habitat Youth Survey points to health as the other main factor for human development and quality of life. This suggests that higher capital expenditure on health and education constitutes a sound development strategy and is one of the best uses to which cities can put their resources. Healthy children learn better and healthy adults work better— both being major assets to any city. Not unsurprisingly, education is regarded as the best way of gaining empowerment (‘agency’), reducing poverty and improving urban productivity.

7. Discriminatory Practices do not Promote Prosperity

A large proportion of the youths in multi-racial São Paulo (81 per cent) cited widespread discrimination based on race, ethnic origin or religion when it came to gaining opportunities to education and employment. However, in Accra (87.5 per cent), Bangalore (55.3 per cent) and Cairo (76 per cent) young survey respondents did not mention any such discrimination, and in all four cities, a significant majority (an overall 61 per cent) said there was no discrimination based on race, ethnic origin or religion.

8. Equity enhances the Productivity and Prosperity of Youth

Equity is perceived by young people as contributing to economy efficiency, which has a major role to play for the general well-being of any city. Equity also creates the conditions for individual capacity-building through quality education and skills, which in turn enhance individual ability for civic engagement, representation and participation in cultural and political life.

9. The benefits of urban Prosperity are not evenly distributed

A substantially large percentage of young people in the four sample cities find that economic prosperity is not evenly distributed across the various social segments of their age cohort.

10. As many as 75 per cent of young people rank unemployment, unequal access to education and corrupt institutions as constraints on shared urban prosperity

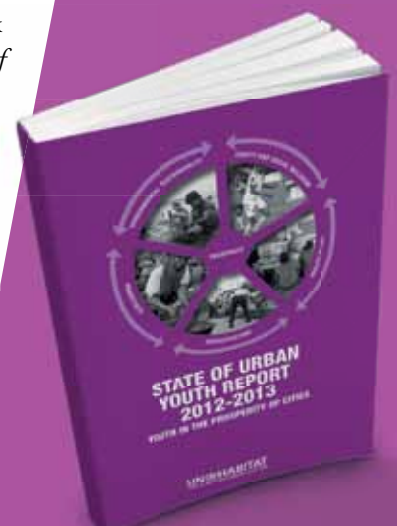
Survey respondents ranked the main existing constraints on shared urban prosperity as follows: *lack of employment*, which was ranked the highest in Accra (80 per cent) and Bangalore (72 per cent). In Cairo, the highest factor was *ruling elites’ control over public institutions* (76 per cent) whereas youths in São Paulo chose *unequal access to education*.

11. Physical and Knowledge Infrastructure

Adequate, well-managed infrastructure — improved water and sanitation, reliable and sufficient power supply, efficient transport networks and modern information and communications technology — contributes to wealth creation and prosperity in its various dimensions, such as raising quality of life and productivity. Cities with healthy, well-educated workforces are also more likely to be productive and competitive.

12. Over 50 Per cent Rank efficient Transport Infrastructure as Key to Prosperity

Over 50 per cent of respondents find that an efficient public transport system is essential for the proper functioning and prosperity of cities. Sustainable transport has brought huge benefits to a number of cities, enhancing their potential for shared prosperity. Apart from *facilitating mobility*, young respondents to the survey relate transport infrastructure directly and indirectly to six different outcomes: *economic growth; improved access to health and education; improved quality of life; improved slum conditions, reduced poverty; and reducing spatial disparities*.



13. Health, Education and mobility nurture Youth Prosperity

In all the cities except Cairo, the critical infrastructural factors contributing to urban youth prosperity are found to be “improving access to health and education” while the second most important factor is “facilitating mobility”.

14. Over 40 per cent believe Corruption and lack of Good Governance promote Inequality

Of the six factors interfering with urban prosperity, 42 per cent of young Survey respondents rank corruption and lack of good governance as the major impediments. Next to corruption, inefficient and ineffective government ranks very high, and more so in Latin America and Africa than in Asia and Arab States.

15. Knowledge and skill deficiencies hinder urban productivity

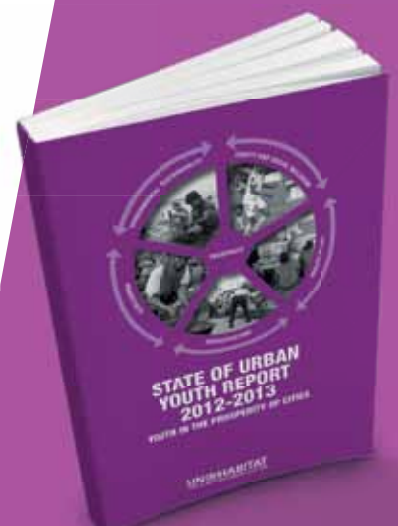
25 per cent of young people in the Survey rank lack of appropriate knowledge and skills development as the major impediment to youth’s contribution to urban productivity. Productive cities are gifted with an abundance of well-educated labour, sound infrastructure, mature financial markets, stable political systems and well-grounded market institutions, which are all based on appropriate knowledge and skills. In addition, urban productivity is generally linked to stable macroeconomic conditions and sound institutions.

16. Poor Democratic Culture and Unfair Market Practices undermine Equitable Development

Discriminatory practices, lack of democratic culture, inefficient, ineffective and corrupt political institutions tend to undermine equitable development. As a result, markets are not always the most equitable or most efficient means of resource allocation, since they tend to be systematically skewed to the detriment of young people from underprivileged backgrounds regardless of their potential.

17. Predetermined Circumstances Undermine Equality of Opportunity in Cities

The degree of inequity of outcomes (e.g., earnings and assets) that defines youth inequality in urban life is closely related to the unequal opportunities that occur in successive life stages. In this respect, the Survey confirms earlier findings that unequal access often begins in childhood and continues into youth and adulthood, perpetuating the disadvantage faced in the early years. Historical and generational determinants of inequitable youth opportunities and deprivation in different interconnected spheres of urban activity tend to perpetuate disadvantages across the whole extent of an individual’s life.



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POLICY ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Polymakers and researchers have shown increasing interest in young people's economic and political marginalization. The urgency of addressing its negative fall-out for society at large is reflected in the tone of titles that headline recent reports, including terms such as "crisis" and "disaster." This burgeoning interest is dominated by macro-economic concerns with security, often in relation to financial stability and liberalizing markets. Much less attention is given to essential local aspects of the creation of decent jobs, earning a living wage, and the training and education needed to obtain the skills required for those jobs.

Further, policy attempts to address the global economic crisis post-2008 have suffered from the incompatibility of austerity measures and job creation. A review of recent IMF reports indicates four main policy options among the 158 countries surveyed. Overall, 73 countries are considering wage bill cuts/caps, 73 are eliminating or phasing out subsidies (incl. for food and fuel), 55 are targeting social protection for the poorest, and 52 are expanding retirement age and/or limiting benefits. All of these policies have the effect of reducing employment, exactly when young people need decent jobs more than ever.

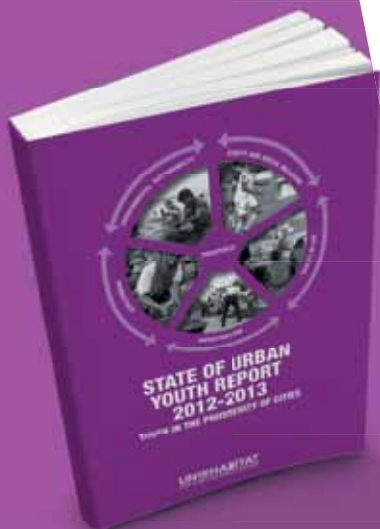
Recent reports, produced under ILO-auspices, contain numerous recommendations at various levels of specificity intended to create more job opportunities for young people. They include broad rubrics such as wage policies, working conditions, and job security as well as more specific measures such as the Technical and Vocational Education and Training framework endorsed by members of the African Union; thereby establishing a national regulatory authority to oversee professional market demands and guide career development paths for youth (Tanzania), as well as setting up a Youth Desk in key government offices (Ethiopia). Often overlooked in these and other recommendations is the obvious fact that place matters. Young people live in particular places, with their own distinct characteristics, requiring policies and programs that match local needs and priorities. Young people's own voices are insufficiently heard in the formulation of recommendations and the decision making processes regarding those policies and programs.

1. National and City-level Policies should confront the effects of structural change on skill requirements

Cities in developing countries should deal specifically with structural unemployment. This particular form of the more general problem of lack of labour demand arises from deep-seated obstacles or inefficiencies in urban labour markets (as opposed, for example, to a short-lived recession). Structural unemployment may result from mismatches between the characteristics of labour demand and supply in terms of necessary skill-sets, or from shifts in the structure of the urban economy (e.g., from manufacturing to services, or from low-skilled manual to highly skilled, knowledge-intensive occupations), which may require a combination of demand-side and supply-side policy responses.

2. The need for government policies

There is a need for government policies to specifically address youth unemployment and harness the potential of cities in favour of full and decent employment. National governments have both the powers and resources to act strategically with macroeconomic and legal frameworks that can enhance economic conditions and opportunities for young people.



3. Incentives and Policies to target Equitable Youth Employment

Policies including industrial and investment in economic infrastructure; tax and incentives, vocational training schemes employment and labour market regulations should aim at a more equitable labour market for urban youth.

4. Build Institutional and Policy Capacities of Municipalities to create Employment

Institutional capacity-building and a sharper municipal focus on urban economic development should be promoted through adequate mechanisms (e.g., involving unemployed young people in the household services sector). In this respect, efforts should be made to align the functions of government departments and agencies and to build cooperative relationships with regional and local authorities.

5. Build Complementary Strategic Partnerships with the Private Sector

Youth employment-enhancing policies should encourage municipal authorities to forge partnerships with the private sector to foster emerging job-creating social businesses.

6. Finance Formal and Vocational Training and Learning

A national urban policy should empower urban authorities to devise and deliver coherent strategies for sustained employment growth. In particular, formal and professional learning should be systematically connected, as in Germany where youth combine schooling with on-going work experience. Since municipal authorities are more familiar than national governments with local economic conditions, they could be more responsive to opportunities in their respective jurisdictions.

7. Build Policies for Equitable Youth Prosperity on Empirical Evidence

Policies looking to spread the benefits of urban prosperity to young people should be shaped by evidence as well as an understanding of economic trends and forces, emerging market realities and distinctive local assets and problems.

8. Municipalities should provide direct Business Support

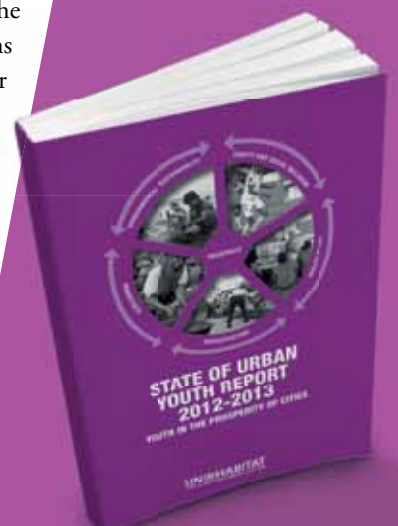
Municipalities can and should provide support to business, including new firms, in the form of suitable land, financial assistance as well as public works programmes and training schemes for the vulnerable age group that is youth. In low- and middle-income countries, municipal authorities should secure financial and technical support from central governments for financing infrastructure and services required to gain economic dynamism that creates employment for young people.

9. Invest in Technological Literacy, Numeracy and 'soft' skills

Expansion of the service sector generates demand for a variety of skill-sets. Literacy and numeracy skills have become more important, along with a range of 'soft' (i.e., interpersonal) skills such as communication, team-working and adaptability. Many (white collar) service occupations also require secondary and tertiary education because thinking ability and problem-solving are important. Manual workers have struggled to adjust to deindustrialisation and the new skill demands (and occasionally lower earnings) of the service sector, leading to large-scale structural unemployment in former industrial cities. Urban authorities should enhance technological skills through specific schemes.

10. Tackle Unemployment with Knowledge-intensive Business Services (KIBS)

Knowledge-intensive Business Services (KIBS) have been gaining increasing shares in urban economies these past few years. These include financial services, accountancy, computer services, the media, advertising, design, legal services, data processing, research, engineering and other forms of consultancy. They demand highly qualified workers, usually university graduates, the higher demand for which is inciting more and more cities to compete for talent through attractive amenities and diverse career opportunities. Cities are increasingly encouraging local higher education institutions to expand, as this can be a very effective way of attracting youthful talent from elsewhere in the country or abroad. Municipal authorities can support these efforts by providing land or additional student accommodation (a significant determinant in young people's choice of location for their studies).



11. Invest in Youth Apprenticeship Training

School leavers who are not academically inclined should be encouraged and given incentives to improve their vocational skills and qualifications. An alternative route to skills development is the apprenticeship system, whereby young people learn a trade and gain practical experience through a combination of 'on the job' mentoring and part-time 'off the job' training. Developing high level skills is vital for long-term career progress. Where youth unemployment is particularly high, it may also be appropriate to introduce a special employment subsidy to encourage employers to recruit young people.

12. Use Higher Education and improved Skills-Sets to raise urban Productivity

Intellectual resources (human intelligence, knowledge, skills, ingenuity) are increasingly important determinants of prosperity as they raise productivity and nurture innovation. The emphasis on high-calibre human capital also reflects greater mobility against a background of rising incomes, improved communications and more outsourcing or subcontracting of various business functions. Any city intent on sustaining economic prosperity will aspire to higher-level functions if it is to safeguard its specific comparative advantage. Consequently, cities must invest in advanced skill-sets that cut across industries, on top of more generic and versatile resources. Examples include software engineers, designers, scientists, senior managers, accountants, marketing experts, surveyors and management consultants.

13. Educational Strategies for Low-Skilled Youth.

Constraints on land and housing mean that considerable skills, physical resilience and use of personal networks are often required to gain access to urban labour markets. Evidence from developing countries suggests that young men are disproportionately represented in informal settlements because of the widespread poverty resulting from mass unemployment. For this reason, government funding will be required for both formal education, lifelong-learning and vocational training for these vulnerable youths, since equal opportunity is largely driven by access to education.

14. Build young people's Entrepreneurial Capabilities

Entrepreneurial abilities are an important skill-set. Young people who are unable to find conventional employment can alternatively start their own businesses and create jobs or livelihoods by becoming self-employed or forming new enterprises. Weak labour markets and lack of welfare safety nets tend to encourage this kind of entrepreneurship – it serves as a last resort for people who would ordinarily prefer formal jobs in the public or private sector. The more successful entrepreneurs recognise commercial opportunities where others do not, and position themselves to take advantage with whatever resources at hand and to full effect; but in low-income countries they will find that credit markets are weak and unable to face the risks typically associated with innovation. Informal entrepreneurs tend to use family and social networks to secure additional support and recruit extra labour when needed; however, this is hardly sustainable, and some form of public support becomes crucial.

15. Provide Physical and Knowledge Infrastructure

An important dimension of a productive city is the provision of trunk infrastructure for water, sanitation, power supply and access, which prevents the formation of slums. Investment in infrastructure can deliver major benefits for urban economic growth, prosperity, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and health.



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FOREWORD

by Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on the *State of Urban Youth Report 2012/13*

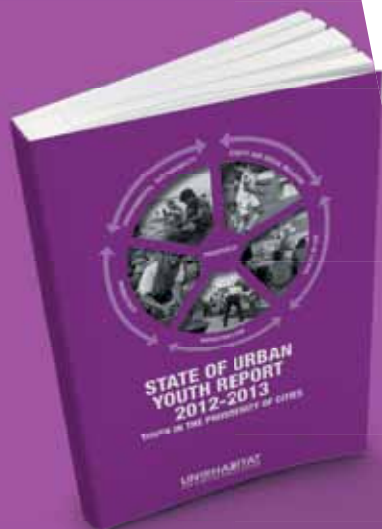
I am pleased to present the second *State of the Urban Youth* report focusing on *Youth and the Prosperity of Cities*. This Report builds on the 2010/11 edition, “*Leveling the Playing Field – Inequality of Youth Opportunity*” and its insights into the state of urban youth. Much like the findings of the previous report, this one provides further evidence of the fundamental importance of job oriented education to the development of urban youth.

At a time when the global economy is looking for paths to recovery and seeking innovative ideas to rejuvenate itself, young people may offer the best hope. The events of the Arab Spring demonstrated that youth can be a powerful social force for positive change. The unexpected nature of these events, point to an underlying problem that afflicts youth in all corners of our world. The question is, why, in an increasingly urbanised world, are young people underappreciated by many governments and not at the forefront of economic activity and innovation?

The increasing prominence of the youth bulge in most urban areas presents a unique opportunity, as they represent the most dynamic human resource available. Their numbers today are larger than at any point in human history. Yet this group suffers the most from urban unemployment and often feels that they lack equal access to opportunities. This is especially acute in developing countries, which have a relatively youthful population that must be mobilised to realise greater economic and social development goals.

Today, 90 million youth around the world are unemployed (or 47 per cent of the total number of unemployed) and an additional 300 million belong in the “working poor” category —they are in unskilled, insecure jobs and live in poor conditions. This Report takes a closer look at the condition of youth in major urban centres in four developing nations - Accra (Ghana), São Paulo (Brazil), Bangalore (India) and Cairo (Egypt).

The conditions of these cities, and the way they are perceived by young people, are seen as representative of those in their respective regions, and therefore provide a reasonable basis for policy recommendations focused on shared prosperity for urban youth. The four-city survey demonstrates that young people suffer disproportionately from poor prospects and low quality employment.



The developing world continues to feature the fastest growing numbers of youth unemployment and persistent rural-to-urban migration; if these young people are to realise their potential, they need innovative solutions that are anchored in local realities.

Survey outcomes suggest that educational and training systems must be better aligned with the current and future needs of young people. In this regard, it would be helpful to share experiences and to investigate alternative educational arrangements for the provision of basic literacy, job skills training and lifelong education. This Report is a step in that direction.

Young people in the survey want equity for better shared prosperity both for their own and their cities' benefit, and they regard education as the best way of bringing about a more equitable type of urban development. They point to other significant challenges like structural constraints and lack of a democratic culture in their respective cities. These are issues over which local authorities wield a degree of influence that puts them in the best possible position to take remedial action. Local authorities must also seek to mainstream youth issues into all aspects of their planning and operations policy areas.

The report recommends a better match between skills and labour markets through vocational training and with the participation of the private sector. 'Soft' skills matter more in service-oriented economies, young people in informal settlements need entrepreneurial abilities, and capacities must be better geared to knowledge-intensive business services.

With their typical dynamism and energy, young people can exercise a unique multiplier effect on urban prosperity: the more they are allowed to benefit, the more they can give back, for the overall good of the society.

"No nation can achieve prosperity unless it makes education one of its central concerns. Education brings honour, independence and freedom to a government and its people" - 16 year-old Supawat Yasothon province, Thailand.



Joan Clos

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-Habitat)



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YOUTH IN THE PROSPERITY OF CITIES

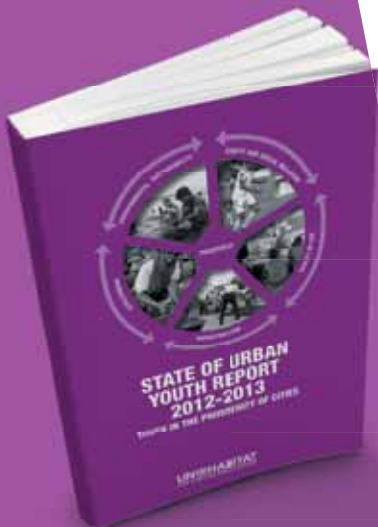
Youth are society's most important and dynamic human resource. There are more people under the age of 25 today than ever, totaling nearly three billion - or half of humankind - of which 1.3 billion are between ages 12 and 24. Most live in urban areas. Yet, nearly 45 per cent of young people around the world— almost 515 million—live on less than two US dollars a day.

The State of the Urban Youth Report 2012/2013 builds on the 2010/11 edition, “Levelling the Playing Field – Inequality of Youth Opportunity” and its insights into the state of urban youth. Much like the findings of the last report, this one continues to demonstrate the fundamental importance of education to the development of urban youth. Among the findings of the report is The Youth Bulge: The Demographic Dynamics.

A rising youth population – what is generally known as the “urban youth bulge” – makes it imperative to address the various dimensions of urban youth against the broader background of prosperity. Another finding is More Youth, More Youth Poverty. Urban areas in developing countries account for over 90 per cent of the world's urban demographic growth, and it is estimated that as many as 60 per cent of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030, with most living in slums and informal settlements.

KEY FINDINGS

- Youth population growth and current economic trends are producing a growing job deficit for young people and continue to present tremendous challenges for local and national policy makers.
- Nearly 90 million young people around the world are unemployed (47 per cent of the total number of unemployed) and an additional 300 million are “working poor.”
- Urban areas in developing countries account for over 90 per cent of the world's urban demographic growth, and it is estimated that as many as 60 per cent of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030, with most living in slums and informal settlements.
- Nearly 45 per cent of young people around the world— almost 515 million—live on less than two US dollars a day.
- Fifty per cent of young people believe economic growth is not generating employment for them
- Education, housing, health, transportation, meaningful employment and a decent income affects the quality of lives of young people.
- The benefits of urban Prosperity are not evenly distributed among large percentage of young people.
- As many as 75 per cent of young people rank unemployment, unequal access to education and corrupt institutions as constraints on shared urban prosperity



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- Adequate, well-managed infrastructure — improved water and sanitation, reliable and sufficient power supply, efficient transport networks and modern information and communications technology — contributes to wealth creation and prosperity in its various dimensions
- Corruption and lack of Good Governance promote Inequality
- Poor Democratic Culture and Unfair Market Practices undermine Equitable Development
- Youth inequality in urban life is closely related to the unequal opportunities that occur in successive life stages.
- Equity contributes economic efficiency and enhances productivity and prosperity of youth

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need for government policies to specifically address youth unemployment and harness the potential of cities in favour of full and decent employment.
- Policies including industrial and investment in economic infrastructure; tax and incentives, vocational training schemes employment and labour market regulations should aim at a more equitable labour market for urban youth.
- Build Institutional capacity-building and a sharper municipal focus on urban economic development should be promoted through adequate mechanisms (e.g., involving unemployed young people in the household services sector).
- Build Policies for Equitable Youth Prosperity on Empirical Evidence
- Municipalities can and should provide support to business, including new firms, in the form of suitable land, financial assistance as well as public works programmes and training schemes for the vulnerable youth.
- Tackle Unemployment with Knowledge-intensive Business Services and invest in Youth Apprenticeship Training
- Use Higher Education and improved Skills-Sets to raise urban Productivity

The findings from the State of the Urban Youth India 2012: Employment, Livelihoods, Skills also suggest that educational and training systems must be better aligned with the current and future needs of young people. The findings amply demonstrate that youth can not only discern developmental issues but may even be capable of suggesting innovative solutions to deep problems of development and growth. Of paramount importance is access to education and opportunities for acquiring skills. Young people are also quite clear about what makes a city safe and secure for the pursuit of occupations and livelihoods and what kind of an urban space they need to achieve prosperity in the context of sustainable urban development.

