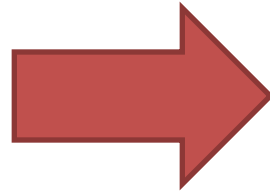


From
Addressing
**Youth
Employment
and Work
Challenges**



Promoting
**Youth
Economic
Citizenship**



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*International Seminar on Youth Social Inclusion in Latin
America and the Caribbean
San Salvador, 13th -14th October, 2015*



OVERVIEW

1. Goals vs Reality
2. Caribbean Dynamics of Youth Employment
3. Policy and Programmatic Responses
4. Rethinking the Approach

1. GOALS VS. REALITY (a)

SDG #8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive unemployment and decent work for all

- Declining youth unemployment (73.3m)
- 13% youth unemployment rate
- 36.7% of unemployed are youth¹

CYDG² #1: Education and Economic Empowerment: Enhance the Quality of Life and Livelihood Opportunities for All Adolescents and Youth

- 25% youth unemployment rate (8% Total)
- 38% of unemployed are youth
- 25% of CARICOM population are youth
- 30% Young Female UE Rate
- 20% Young Male UE Rate³

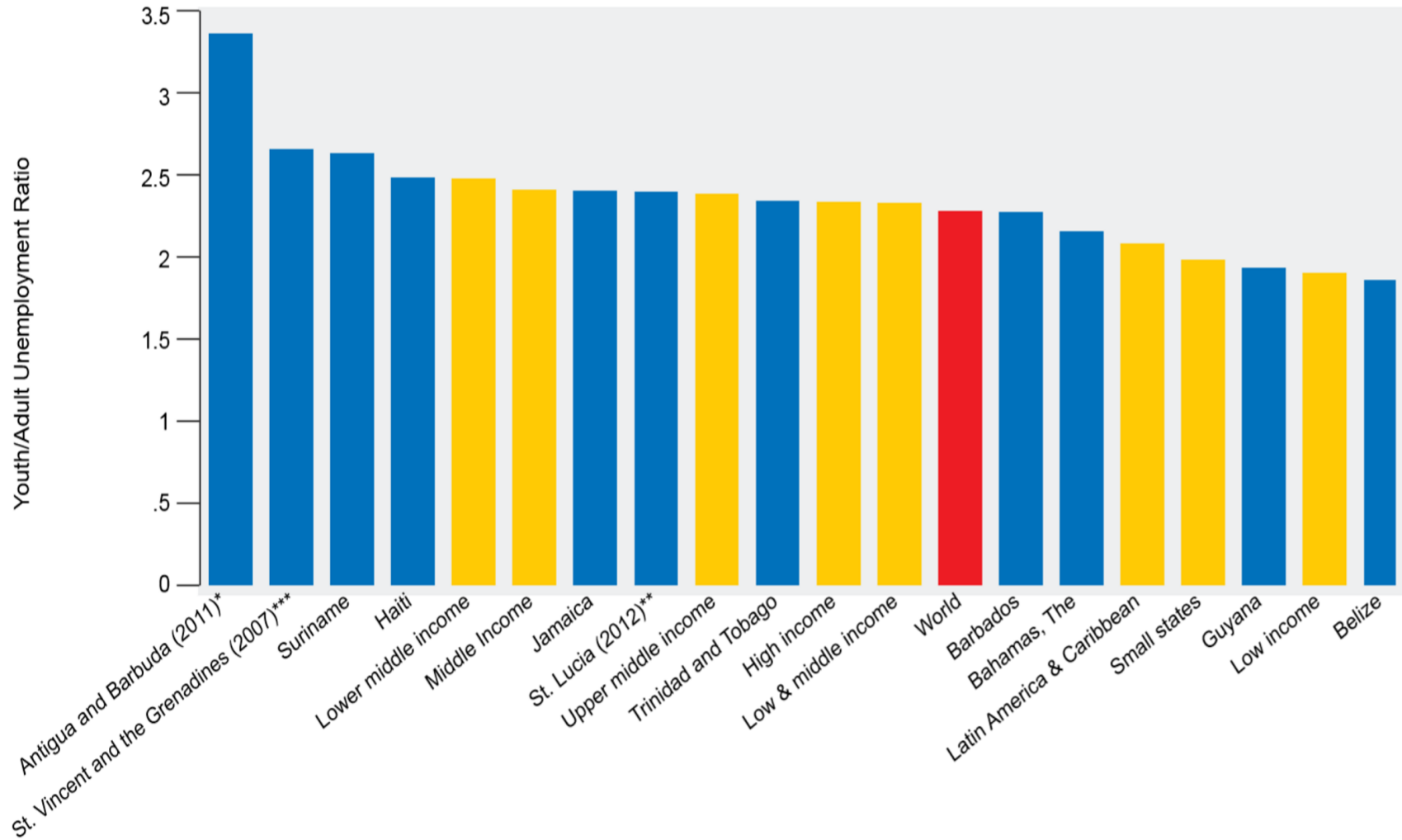
1. ILO (2015). *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015 Scaling Up Investments in decent jobs for Youth* Geneva, International Labour Organisation

2. CARICOM Youth Development Goals (CYDGs)

3. CDB (2015). *Youth Are the Future: The Imperative of Youth Employment for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean*. St. Michael, Barbados, Caribbean Development Bank.

1. GOALS vs. REALITY (b)

FIGURE 0.2: YOUTH/ADULT UNEMPLOYMENT RATIOS FOR SELECTED CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AND WORLD AVERAGE (2012)



Source (unless otherwise stated): World Development Indicators

* Sourced from 2011 Census of Housing and Population; ** Sourced from Labour Force Survey *** Sourced from Country Assessment of Living Conditions.

2. CARIBBEAN DYNAMICS OF EMPLOYMENT (a)

- Highly Indebted Small Economies
 - >100% GDP in 4 countries; >70% GDP in 5 countries
- High Dependence on Service Sectors
 - >75% share of employment
 - >65% GDP in many countries
 - 51% of Employed Youth are in Low-Skilled Service Positions
- Decline in Agricultural and Manufacturing Sectors (as well as vulnerability of sectors to disaster)

2. CARIBBEAN DYNAMICS OF EMPLOYMENT (b)

- High Migration and Dependence on Remittances
 - Negative net migration rates; high-skilled emigration
 - Dependence on family contributions (vulnerability and unsustainability)
 - Lack of Savings
- Improvements in Education Access; Concern about Quality
 - Gendered division of education
 - Industry relevance; values/soft skills?
- Large/Growing Informal Sectors
 - >50% Jamaican Economy
 - Limited data on Excluded Youth (NEETS)
 - 30% of young people in Barbados “did not want to work”
 - 8% of young unemployed in Barbados left because of low wages

2. CARIBBEAN DYNAMICS OF EMPLOYMENT (c)

- Psychological Distress
- Risky Behaviours
- Poverty and Poor Health Outcomes
- Costs to Governments and Countries

MOST VULNERABLE

- Inner-city Urban/Rural (Poverty)
- Youth with Fixed Abilities
- Young Women and Young Mothers
- Younger cohort of school-leavers (15-19yrs)
- Underemployed Youth (no data)

3. POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSES (a)

- In-keeping with ILO Decent Work Agenda
- POLICY and INSTITUTIONAL
 - 11 countries have Youth Policies and Government Ministry for Youth Affairs
 - Some have specific Youth Employment/Entrepreneurship Strategies
 - 11 countries with Labour Market/Employment Agencies
 - Financial and Technical Assistance from Regional and International Agencies
- PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIC APPROACHES
 - Short-Term Employment Programmes
 - Labour-Market Information Programmes
 - TVET/ Youth Service with Apprenticeship/Internship
 - Entrepreneurship as Panacea

3. POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSES (b)

- Grenada – on the job training
- St. Lucia – Short-Term Employment Program (STEP)
- The Bahamas – constituency development fund used
- Jamaica – JEEP; NYS,
- Barbados – training exists no short-term programme
- Dominica – skills training with job placement
- Trinidad and Tobago – several programmes but lack of coordination and collaboration
- CEBO – CARICOM
- Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative

RESULTS? TRACER STUDIES?

4. RETHINKING THE APPROACH (a)



“Young people’s right to be economic actors is acknowledged and they are supported by initiatives which build their capabilities to make positive choices related to education and training; use of financial services; employment and entrepreneurship. Economic citizenship promotes equitable financial inclusion, economic empowerment and the creation of sustainable livelihoods for all people.”

4. RETHINKING THE APPROACH (b)

- Preparedness to become productive and resilient economic actors, able to respond to changes in global and regional political economies [sustainable livelihoods; financial education; financial inclusion (savings, pensions; insurance) - CYFI]
- Rights-based approach to accepting economic inclusion of children and youth [participation; policies and research]
- Integrated Development Approach to mainstreaming youth policies [multi-sectoral government action]
- Regional Cooperation/Integration to increase economic access and scope of economic participation [policies; economic structure; LAC cooperation]

4.RETHINKING THE APPROACH (c)

- Youth Participation Index
 - Qualitative and quantitative documentation of where young people work and under what conditions
- Caribbean Research Platform on Youth Economic Citizenship
 - Review environment
 - Evaluate interventions
 - Feed Policy Formulation