S4YE launched in January a new series of short **“How-to Notes”** that provide quick step-by-step guidance for practitioners and policymakers designing youth employment programs. This series cover a range of youth employment-related topics identified in collaboration with S4YE partners and World Bank Group teams.

The first two issues were co-authored with the Mexico Youth Labor Market Inclusion (MYLMI) pilot team that developed an effective communication strategy and uses an SMS platform to target youth before they enter the labor market. The pilot focuses on generating evidence on interventions that promote the labor inclusion of low-income youth into formal quality jobs in strategic productive sectors. The MYLMI pilot is being implemented by the World Bank’s Jobs Group and the Government of Mexico in the state of San Luis Potosí.

These two How-to Notes which are available in English and Spanish provide practical insights from the MYLMI team. The **first issue** identifies four strategies that employment practitioners could implement when incorporating youth voice in their youth employment program design. The **second issue** outlines six steps for organizations to use SMS messaging as an instrument to integrate youth voice in their employment program.

In the coming months, the S4YE team will be working with operational task teams from the World Bank, IFC and with our partners on more How-To Notes on various practical topics of youth employment. **Please do reach out to us if your project team would like to share lessons and insights from your program.**
Employment Programs - Issue 1

Read more >> [English version]
Read more >> [Spanish version]

How To Design An SMS Outreach Strategy In Youth Employment Programs - Issue 2

Read more >> [English version]
Read more >> [Spanish version]

New Report on Skills

Social Protection & Jobs
Discussion Paper
No. 2103 | January 2021

Review of the Evidence on Short-Term Education and Skills Training Programs for Out-of-School Youth with a Focus on the Use of Incentives

Marguerite Clarke, Meghna Sharma, and Pradyumna Bhattacharjee
Short-term education and skills training programs are a popular way to meet the needs of unemployed, out-of-school youth by providing them with an opportunity to quickly acquire qualifications and skills that can lead to productive employment. This [new paper](#) reviews the global evidence to identify which programs are most effective at delivering results. Based on the findings, recommendations are offered for the future design of these training programs.

[Read more >> Review of the Evidence on Short-Term Education and Skills Training Programs for Out-of-School Youth with a Focus on the Use of Incentives](#)

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**S4YE-YBI Webinar**

**Supporting youth entrepreneurs during COVID:**
How YBI, Google and Accenture have designed a "Rapid Response"

On January 27th, S4YE co-hosted with our partner [Youth Business International](https://www.youthbusinessinternational.org) to discuss how their organization with support from [Google.org](https://www.google.org) and [Accenture](https://www.accenture.com), leveraged their 20 years of experience to rapidly respond to meet the needs of entrepreneurs across the globe through the [COVID-19 Rapid Response and Recovery initiative](https://www.s4ye.org/covid-19). The initiative has reached over 130,000 entrepreneurs during the pandemic, to help them protect their businesses.
During the session, Anita Tiessen, CEO of Youth Business International (YBI), focused on four key insights drawn from YBI’s work of supporting young entrepreneurs during COVID-19. She highlighted the importance of business pivots, the role of digital solutions, mentoring youth to build emotional resilience and inclusiveness in outreach. Marija Ralic, Lead of Google APAC from Google.org, shared how their organization is supporting non-profit organizations with grants, technology, and volunteers. Roshni Venkatesh, Global Giving Lead in Accenture, highlighted the Skills to Succeed initiative and the Sky’s the Limit project, (an innovative digital platform that connects young entrepreneurs with business professionals, to get the mentorship they need).

The engaging session was also joined by young entrepreneur Neelima Tippavajhala, Co-Founder and CEO of Cocotang, India, who has been supported by YBI member Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST). She shared the reality of how the pandemic has affected her business and how the support given by YBI and their partners have allowed her business to survive and thrive in the wake of COVID-19.

You can find full access to the presentation here and the full recording on our Facebook page.

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S4YE Private Sector Webinar

S4YE - Insights from the Private Sector Webinar Series

How Facebook And Association For Enterprise Opportunity Are Supporting Women-Owned Small Businesses In The Time Of COVID-19

The role of the private sector in advancing youth employment is crucial. S4YE’s ‘Insights from the Private Sector’ is an ongoing web series that facilitates dialogue between youth employment practitioners and private sector companies around the world. The team on January 13th hosted Arielle Gross Samuels, Head of Global Business Strategy and Engagement from Facebook, who shared her company’s commitment of $100 million to 30,000 businesses and equality programs. These initiatives have been achieved through global programs such as the #SheMeansBusiness and Blueprint project, which provide entrepreneurial women with the support to make valuable connections, share advice on using Facebook tools, and to further their digital marketing skills through the Facebook and Instagram platforms. Hyacinth Vassell, Industry Vice President of Innovation Engineering from the Association for Enterprise Opportunity shared the importance of addressing bias and stereotypes when designing economic programs.

You can find full access to the presentation here and the full recording on our Facebook page.
S4YE Partners Updates

Reflecting on J-PAL’s Jobs and Opportunity Initiative’s first year

Quality employment is one of the many ways people can graduate from poverty. In 2020, the problem of unemployment has only become more salient as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted and altered labor markets and livelihoods across the globe. In early March 2020, J-PAL launched the jobs and opportunity Initiative (JOI), with support from Google.org, to answer some of the most pressing questions related to employment facing policymakers, employers, and job seekers. Over the course of 2020, JOI has hosted three funding rounds and funded more than twenty projects.

Pabon in Bangladesh is demanding for social support for all

Young entrepreneurs have been hit hard by the Covid crisis in Bangladesh. Many had to close their businesses because of the lockdown. This has a major impact on many youth entrepreneurs’ families since many start their business with money they have saved themselves or with family support. Empower Youth for Work has highlighted these issues in their recent published blog which shares the personal story of a local youth entrepreneur in Bangladesh.

Read more >>

You Don't Want To Miss This!

S4YE is coming up with a new Knowledge Note on Jobs for Youth with Disabilities

Youth with disabilities are among the poorest and most marginalized of the world’s youth. There are between 180 and 220 million youth with disabilities worldwide. S4YE with the World Bank Global Disability Advisor’s team will be launching soon a Knowledge Note which will showcase how practitioners can design programs to include youth with disabilities in jobs.

In the News

- Global Youth Survey for the World Youth Report 2021: Improving Youth Wellbeing and Mental Health - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Youth Solutions Report 2020 - United Nations Youth Solutions Program
- Creating a World where Young People Thrive - Generation Unlimited
- The urgency and opportunity to return to learning - World Bank
- Considering an adaptive learning system? A roadmap for policymakers - World Bank
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