

June 2021

UNHEARD VOICES: YOUNG PEOPLE'S STORIES OF STRUGGLE, HOPE, AND RESILIENCE IN A COVID-19 AFFECTED ECONOMY



PUBLISHED BY ACTIONAID DENMARK IN COLLABORATION WITH ACTIONAID BANGLADESH,
ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL KENYA, ACTIONAID MOZAMBIQUE AND ACTIONAID TANZANIA

actionaid

**Unheard voices: Young people's stories of struggle,
hope, and resilience in a COVID-19 affected economy**

**COVID-19 effects on Economic Opportunities and
Decent Work for Youth (EODWY) in Bangladesh,
Mozambique, Kenya, and Tanzania – June 2021.**

Written by Claudia Pompa.

Published by ActionAid Denmark in collaboration with
ActionAid Bangladesh, ActionAid International Kenya,
ActionAid Mozambique and ActionAid Tanzania.

This research study was done in collaboration with
young people in Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania
and national researchers from the four countries.

The conceptualisation and the implementation of the
research study was overseen by the Working Group under
the Global Programme on Economic Opportunities and
Decent Work for Youth (EODWY).

The publication has been financed by the Danish Ministry
of Foreign Affairs as part of the Strategic Partnership Agreement
between DANIDA and ActionAid Denmark (2018-2021).

Photographers: Afroza Aktar Jui, Arifur Rahman, Charles Ezequiel,
Ecton Inácio, Imran Mohammed Abdallah, Jane Mulungi,
Katia Machavula, Magdalena Gisse, Maksudur Rahman Joha,
Malyun Ibrahim, Mrittonjoy Sangaptu, Naomi Lapana,
Neusa Sululu, Njeri Joan, Osvaldo Mandlhate, Rahma Mwita,
Shuli Akter, Joy Sardar, Tamanna Tanjin and Zuwena Nyundo.
Layout by Leo Scherfig.

FOREWORD

This study forms part of the Global Programme on Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for Youth (EODWY), which is a thematic programme under the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark (DANIDA) and ActionAid Denmark. The overall objective of the Global Programme on EODWY is to contribute towards improved employment opportunities and decent working conditions for young people in developing countries.

When COVID-19 hit the world in early 2020, the EODWY programme working group decided to examine the effects the COVID-19 global pandemic had on young people living in exclusion and poverty in the countries covered by the programme, namely Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania. We wanted to investigate the extent to which government programmes and policies responded to the needs of this particular group of already vulnerable young people. In addition, we wanted to humanize and personalize the lack of political assistance that these young people received.

It was important that young people play a real part in conducting the study. If we want to understand the effect the pandemic has had on young people, young people need to be integral to guiding the direction of the survey and in collecting testimonies from their peers. Indeed, they have been. Young people from different circumstances and livelihoods have joined together in national youth reference groups to advise on which sectors and contexts to portray and how to portray them. Young people have been trained in research methodology and research ethics and have thereafter undertaken the collection of testimonies. These testimonies are dire reading. We knew from the onset that young people were among those hardest hit by the socio-economic collapse following the pandemic. Now we have put faces and names to some of these young people. The testimonies also show the resilience and strong determination of young people to make a living despite incredible challenges.

This study report is the result of the combined efforts of these young people, the groups of national consultants analysing policies and programmes, and the ActionAid study working group, composed of colleagues in ActionAid Bangladesh, ActionAid International Kenya, ActionAid Mozambique, ActionAid Tanzania and ActionAid Denmark. We have received invaluable advice from colleagues in our organisations and in the General Secretariat of ActionAid International and from the ActionAid Training Center TCDC.

Our gratitude goes to Claudia Pompa, our consultant, who has guided with firmness, care for detail, compassion for the young people participating, and a strong sense of pride in her deep knowledge and high skills. Thank you for taking on the task with such energy and conviction and for your flexibility to adapt to the varied and difficult contexts in which the study was conducted.

On behalf of the EODWY COVID-19 study working group (ActionAid Bangladesh, ActionAid International Kenya, ActionAid Mozambique, ActionAid Tanzania and ActionAid Denmark)



Astrid Coyne-Jensen
Senior Programme Manager, IPP, ActionAid Denmark

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report owes credit and thanks to all those who supported the research and participated in the interviews.

Thank you to the EODWY Working Group for their strategic direction, support, and guidance throughout the research process. Special thanks to Astrid Coyne-Jensen, Senior Programme Manager (IPP), ActionAid Denmark; Dorte Nita Simonsen, Project Assistant, ActionAid Denmark; Nazmul Ahsan, Manager, Young People, ActionAid Bangladesh; Hatem Ali, Deputy Manager, ActionAid Bangladesh; Fridah Ndoro, Youth Employment Entrepreneurship and Inspirator, Global Platform Kenya; Mario Machimbene, SPA Project Office, ActionAid Mozambique; Davis Lumala, Public Accountability & Youth Engagement Manager, ActionAid Tanzania and Elias Mtinda, Livelihoods and Resource Mobilisation Manager, ActionAid Tanzania.

Thanks to Claudia Pompa, international consultant, who managed the research project, provided ongoing technical and content support at the local and international level, and drafted the report.

Thanks to the national consultants for their input and support conducting the policy analysis and managing the field research. These include Md. Mujibur Rahman (Bangladesh); Deborah Mwise (Kenya); Pedro Pinheiro and Tinie Vaney from PIN3 and Augusto Sixpence and Carvalho Cumbi from CSK Consultoria e Serviços (Mozambique); and Onesmo Olungurumwa, Shilinde Swedy, and Neema Olle Ndemno from the East African Human Rights Institute (Tanzania).

Thanks are due to all ActionAid colleagues who provided valuable support throughout the research process: Sesheeni Joud Selvaratnam, International Programme & Policy Lead, ActionAid Denmark; Katherine Robinson, Global Youth Advisor, ActionAid International; Joseph Madzwamuse, ActionAid Youth Working Group; Ana Alcalde, Programmes and Global Engagement Director, ActionAid International; Rachel Noble, Research Advisor, ActionAid International; Anne Jellema, Director, Resource Mobilisation & Innovation, ActionAid International; Baishali Chatterjee, International Project Manager, ActionAid International; Trimita Chakma, Consultant, ActionAid International; Neelanjana Mukhia, ActionAid International; David Archer, Head of Participation and Public Services, ActionAid International; Sara Ezra Teri, Programs Director,

MS TCDC; Lisbeth Petersen, Head of International Programme & Policy, ActionAid Denmark; Julie Koch, International Director, ActionAid Denmark; Dorte Tietze, Senior Programme Manager, ActionAid Denmark; Anu Kuusisto, Senior Programme Manager, ActionAid Denmark; Karen Jørgensen, Senior Programme Manager, ActionAid Denmark; Lars Koch, Policy Director, ActionAid Denmark; Ulrik Norup Jørgensen, Head of Communication & Public Relations, ActionAid Denmark.

We would also like to thank Philip Kilonzo, Head of Programs and Policy Advocacy, ActionAid Kenya; Daniel Odinga, Governance and Operations Coordinator, ActionAid Kenya; Lucy Ojiambo, National Coordinator – Policy, Governance and Youth Empowerment, ActionAid Kenya; Gaspar Stefane, Executive Director, ActionAid Mozambique; Márcia Cossa, Program Coordinator, ActionAid Mozambique; Filipe Sambo (in dear memory), Tax Justice and Governance Manager, ActionAid Mozambique; and Jovina Nawenzake, Head of programs and Policy, ActionAid Tanzania.

Our deepest appreciation also goes to all the young people who participated in the interviews and by doing so helped us gain valuable insights into the complexities of economic opportunities and decent work for youth.

We would also like to acknowledge all youth researchers for their commitment and dedication in collecting stories from their respective communities and for their team efforts in making the study a success.

- **In Bangladesh:** Arefin Zaman Nasha, Susmita Sultana, Mohammad Ami Hasan Shariar, Shorna Akter, Fariha Siddika Anamika, Md. Ujjal Miah, Tamanna Tanjin, Md. Torikul Islam Ontor, Redoun Satter, Afroza Khatun, Refat Jahan Node, Md. Niaz Morshed, and Safar Ahned.
- **In Kenya:** Malyun Ibrahim, Michael Kirunyu, Jilan Ishmael, Kadzo Esther, Naomi Lapana, Moses Thurair, Njeri Joan Lydiah Wangui, and Lilian Panasei Pamita.
- **In Mozambique:** Osvaldo António Mandlate, Denise Matusse, Ecton Inácio, Nadia Armando, Neusa Sululu,

Maria Jorge Maunze, Erica Pedro Simamngo, and Kátia Pedro Machavula.

- **In Mozambique**, we would also like to acknowledge our following partners: Eulália Chivite from the Conselho Cristão de Moçambique Cabo Delgado (CCMCD); Adelaide Américo from LRP 8 at the Comité Diaconal Envagélico de Moçambique (CODESA); Pilatos Matusse from LRP 3 at the Núcleo Académico para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (NADEC); Arménio Langa from the Conselho Cristão de Moçambique Gaza (CCM Gaza); Olga Macupulane from the Associação para Promoção e Desenvolvimento da Mulher (MALHALHE); Fernando Augusto from the Associação Moçambicana para a Cidadania Activa (AMOCA); and Aly Caetano from the Movimento Activista Moçambique (MAM)

- **In Tanzania:** Zuwena Nyundo, Mohamed Hassan Abdallah, Imran Mohamed Abdallah, Magdalena Gisse, Vicent Uhenga, Jane Mulungi, Rahma Mwita, and Charles Ezekiel.

Thank you to Hana Binder for her assistance with copyediting and to Leo Scherfig for the design and layout.

ACRONYMS

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
EODWY	Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for Youth
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labour Organization
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
NEET	Not in Employment, Education, or Training
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPA	Strategic Partnership Agreement
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Acknowledgements	4
Acronyms	6
Executive Summary	8
The Policy Response	8
Key Findings	9
Recommendations	12
1. Introduction	13
Study purpose and audience	13
2. Methodology	14
Data collection methods	14
Policy analysis	15
Data analysis	16
Limitations	16
3. Context	17
Bangladesh	17
Kenya	18
Mozambique	19
Tanzania	20
4. The Policy Response	22
Bangladesh	22
Kenya	22
Mozambique	22
Tanzania	23
5. Key Findings	24
Policy response	24
Education	28
Employment, decent work, livelihoods and income	32
Gender-based violence and reproductive health	43
Mental health	44
Access to services	45
6. Recommendations	46
Recommendations for governments and policymakers	46
Recommendations for donors	48
7. References	49

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt fiercely around the world. What started as a health crisis quickly turned into an economic one, leaving millions of people out of work. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an estimated 114 million jobs were lost in 2020, with a particularly strong economic impact on young workers¹. Youth tend to be overly represented in sectors that were more impacted by lockdowns, business closures, and economic slowdowns, obstructing their ability to access opportunities for income generation and decent work. Massive school closures and the inability of many students to transition to online or distance learning also raises questions about their educational future. Despite the efforts of governments and international agencies to reverse the impacts of the pandemic, most of the measures taken by these stakeholders neglect to take into account the multi-dimensional challenges the pandemic poses for young people and their specific needs².

Using policy analysis and individual case stories, this study explores the effects of COVID-19 on young people's lives in Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania, providing an overview of the context and government responses to the COVID-19 crisis by country. It analyses the effects of the pandemic on economic opportunities and decent work for youth, discusses the implications of these effects on young people, and provides recommendations to governments, policymakers, and donors.

For the collection and analysis of stories, youth researchers were engaged as part of the research design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination. They, in collaboration with ActionAid and local consultants, recruited youth participants for the research study. In total, 82 youth aged 18–35 participated in the interviews. Special attention was put on the distribution of genders, ages, geographic setting, and economic and educational backgrounds. Interviewees worked in a variety of sectors, including agricultural production; micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs); trading; and services.

The policy analysis section included a desk review of secondary data per country to understand how sensitive policies and pandemic-related government measures were to youth and gender, and what their effects were on economic opportunities for youth. National consultants

in each country were responsible for the policy analysis at the local level, producing a national report for each participating country.

The Policy Response

Bangladesh

Fast government response was paramount in controlling the pandemic in one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Bangladesh was able to capitalise on its previous experience responding to natural disasters and moved swiftly to try to control the spread of the virus while also providing assistance to poor and vulnerable populations such as food aid and cash relief. The government also put stimulus packages into motion to face the adverse effect of the pandemic³. Despite the government's rapid response, the country still faced challenges and its previous progress is threatened by the COVID-19 crisis, with some estimates forecasting a doubling of poverty levels and an increase of existing inequalities⁴.

The government has announced stimulus packages to mitigate the adverse effects of COVID-19⁵.

Kenya

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Kenyan government announced a raft of measures to be adopted, all of which had two primary areas of concern: the people's health and the economy. Policies were designed to ensure that people were not overly exposed to health risks, and that the economy would not be obliterated by the pandemic. Despite government efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus, containment measures faced several challenges including a lack of compliance with health protocols, curfews, and lockdowns. Additionally, Kenya's porous borders,

1) ILO (2021). ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Seventh edition

2) ILO (2020). Youth & COVID-19: Impact on jobs, education, rights and mental health

3) Bangladesh Bank (2021). Policy Measures of Bangladesh Bank in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

4) Kumar, B. and Pinky, S. (2020) Addressing economic and health challenges of COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Preparation and response

5) Bangladesh Bank (2021) Policy Measures of Bangladesh Bank in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

especially with Somalia and Tanzania, made it even harder for disease surveillance personnel to conduct appropriate track and tracing monitoring⁶.

Mozambique

The government's approach to the crisis was aimed at mitigating the effect of the pandemic on people's lives and livelihoods, including suspension of classes, limitations on events, mandatory implementation of preventive measures, and the adoption of tax and monetary policy measures to support the formal private sector in addressing the economic impact of the pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis comes at a delicate time for Mozambique and is already negatively impacting economic activity. It is anticipated that Mozambique will experience large external and fiscal financing gaps in 2021 in a context characterized by exposure to external shocks and limited fiscal space⁷.

Tanzania

Unlike other East African countries, Tanzania (both mainland and Zanzibar) had a unique approach to the COVID-19 crisis. As part of its legal framework, no single law or policy was enacted to guide the management of COVID-19 interventions. The state used existing health and disaster management laws and policies to manage and guide several COVID-19 responses. Unlike other countries, despite a slowdown in the economic growth rate, the country managed to avoid recession⁸. However, key sectors such as tourism and trade, both major contributors to gross domestic product (GDP) growth, have been severely hit.

Key Findings Policy Response

Policy responses to the pandemic varied across countries, highlighting the need for context-specific approaches. While some countries imposed stricter lockdowns, including curfews and cessation of movement heavily enforced by police, other countries implemented less-stringent measures such as limiting unnecessary movement of people from one region to another, banning all public gatherings, and school closures.

Policies and measures implemented lack a youth lens. This is particularly troubling since we know young people are disproportionately affected by the pandemic through disruption of education and training, employment and income losses, and greater difficulties in finding a job⁹. Young people participating in the study highlighted the lack of access to social protection systems, emergency support programmes, government funding schemes and tax reliefs.

Policies and stimulus packages focused mostly on the formal economy and on larger firms, missing opportunities to support key sectors and small businesses, which are critical to the economy and to employment creation for youth.

COVID-19 has meant significant job losses in sectors like hospitality and tourism, transportation, and MSME, which employ many young workers and women. These sectors have been some of the hardest hit, reporting severe declines in sales or coming to a complete halt with ripple effects to other sectors. Because of the nature and characteristics of businesses operating in these sectors – small-scale, operating informally, usually employing family members, and susceptible to economic shocks – they have not been able to benefit from incentives, cash injections, and tax reliefs. The progress of the stimulus for MSME has also remained slow due to bureaucratic red tapes^{10,11,12}.

Data from our research indicates that funds and assistance are not reaching the appropriate target groups, with the majority of youth reporting that they had not received any type of assistance from government or civil society organizations. The lack of support faced by youth is concerning considering the challenges they currently face and the long-term implications of the impacts of the pandemic for young people.

6) British Council (2017). Youth Employment in Kenya

7) World Bank (2020). World Bank Helps Mozambique Mitigate Impact of Covid-19 with a New \$100 Million Grant.

8) World Bank (2021). Tanzania Overview

9) ILO (2020). ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Fourth edition

10) Ibid.

11) World Bank (2021) Mozambique Economic Update: Setting the Strategy for Recovery

12) World Bank (2020). Tanzania Economic Update, Addressing the impact of COVID-19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education

School closures across countries are expected to have short-, medium-, and long-term effects, particularly for youth. The evidence from previous crises indicates that vulnerable populations face higher risks of school drop-out and reduced skills development, both of which increase income disparities over time. School closures are predicted to reduce learning-adjusted years of education across developing regions by one-third to one full year. This situation will likely lower future earnings and dent human capital¹³.

School closures are having a disproportionate impact on girls and young women. The situation threatens previous progress made in girls' education and gender equality in past years¹⁴. School closures have exacerbated girls' and young women's care responsibilities, limiting their learning time. Female participants across countries in our study echoed these trends in their interviews, highlighting how household responsibilities have impaired their learning opportunities.

School closures in developing countries have lasted longer than in developed economies, acutely affecting populations with limited access to infrastructure and technology such as Internet or computers. This has resulted in increased inequality not only between countries that can offer remote learning and those that cannot, but also within countries, between children who can access remote learning and those who cannot and is likely to increase the gender digital divide over time¹⁵.

The 'earn-to-learn dynamic' has been disrupted, further reducing future opportunities for youth. The inability of young people to continue their education can have long-term implications in income generation and working opportunities. At the same time, without work, access to education becomes out of reach. A key question for many young people will be how to circumvent this vicious cycle and ensure they have access to economic opportunities in the future.

Who returns to school, and when, remains a key question, with one priority being that girls and young women return to and stay in school. Safe openings in the short term and reducing pandemic-related gaps

or lags in education in the long term are both important challenges in the educational sector.

Employment, decent work, livelihoods and income

Increases in youth unemployment due to income losses and declines in work aggravate the vulnerabilities and challenges that young people face in labour markets. Young people who experience unemployment for long periods of time encounter fewer career development opportunities, lower wage levels, and poorer prospects for better jobs. Combined with limited access to financial assets, the situation puts young people at increased risk of falling into poverty when there is a sudden stop or decline in income¹⁶.

The hardest-hit sectors are those largely employing young people. Workers in these sectors are characterized by being young, urban, informal workers. Across the four countries in the research, young people tend to be employed in hospitality and tourism, transportation, food services, and in MSME or household enterprises. They tend to work informally, with women representing a higher proportion of informal workers. Economic shocks to these sectors mean urban poverty is likely to increase with a significant impact on women. This situation also raises questions about the ability of young people to transition out of poverty. Furthermore, because young people tend to be self-employed or work in MSME, often in the informal sector, they lack access to safety nets and are not able to benefit from support and relief programmes.

Women across the world and young women across countries in our study are experiencing a 'shecession,' which will likely have long-term effects. This term refers to an economic downturn where job and income losses are disproportionately affecting women more than men¹⁷. The situation is likely to lead to a decrease of

13) World Bank (2021) Global Economic Prospects

14) UNESCO (2020) Keeping girls in the picture

15) World Bank (2021) Global Economic Prospects

16) OECD (2020), Youth and COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Resilience

17) The New York Times (2020) Why Some Women Call This Recession a 'Shecession'

female participation in the labour market and increased vulnerability for women, further reducing opportunities available to them.

Young people and their households are using different coping mechanisms, often reducing food consumption. Families also expressed serious concerns about their ability to cover the cost of healthcare in case of sickness (particularly COVID-19). In other cases, young people have also reported that families are having to make difficult decisions, such as which children to send back to school and which ones to keep out of school due to their inability to pay for school fees for the time being.

Young women and girls disproportionately experience the burden of increased household responsibilities. Research findings suggest that restrictions and containment measures in place due to the pandemic have led to an increase in young women's unpaid care work. The increase in unpaid domestic and care work can have adverse consequences for young people's education, livelihoods, and health.

Family and personal savings have been decimated and the situation is leaving families in debt. There are concerns that loans will not be able to be paid due to lack of income and work, exposing young people and their families to further vulnerabilities. Young people are also concerned about their ability to pay for food, education, and healthcare in the future.

The situation has led to urban-to-rural relocation, putting increased pressure on rural populations. As income dried up, many young people decided to cut living costs by returning to their villages and seeking refuge with their families. Rural areas have been less exposed to the spread of the virus and households with agricultural incomes have been able to weather the crisis slightly better. However, questions remain as to how long the situation will remain as such and to what extent these households will be able to absorb and accommodate returning populations.

To be able to rebuild their livelihoods, young people are demanding access to education and training and the provision of financial assistance. Young people recognize that finding a job will be harder in the future, so rather than seeking work, they would like to create work. They also mentioned the need for an easier and more-streamlined process to access capital that would allow them to start a business.

Gender-based violence and reproductive health

Mirroring global trends, young women have experienced an increase in gender-based and domestic violence. Young girls are vulnerable to sexual and physical violence due to restrictions on movement, social isolation, and school closures. In several instances, young women reported that the economic impact of the crisis is increasing tensions in the home, leading to physical violence. Young participants also reported feeling unsafe due to a decline in public transportation, forcing them to wait for long hours either in the early morning or late at night.

Access to reproductive health is a key concern for young women. Pandemic-related disruptions in trade and supply chains around the world can affect stocks of sexual and reproductive supplies¹⁸. If this occurs during the COVID-19 pandemic the situation can have significant and devastating consequences for young mothers, putting their health at risk. Some participants also stated that the pandemic has delayed family plans, with women postponing planned pregnancies due to the economic situation.

Mental health

Youth are anxious and stressed about their future. Young people across countries reported high levels of anxiety and concern about what the future looks like and what opportunities will be available to them. Young people are not only worried about income and work but also about the effects of long periods of isolation on their social relations and on cultural norms.

Young people are also worried about how youth are perceived and the potential criminalization of poverty. In some regions, there have been reports of youth misconduct and petty crimes, often related to a

¹⁸ Plan International UK (2020) Implications of the COVID-19 crisis on girls and young women

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

lack of income and work. The situation can easily lead to a criminalization of youth and poverty, where those desperate to sustain themselves and their families are attacked for doing so.

Access to Services

Youth are not getting the support they need. Due to the nature of youth employment – often self-employed or informal – they are not able to benefit from emergency support programmes, government funding schemes, and tax relief measures.

Lack of information and bureaucracy act as barriers to access public funds. Many report not knowing about any programmes from which they could receive assistance. For the few who do know, bureaucracy and red tape act as strong deterrents to requesting support.

Recommendations

Governments and policymakers should:

- Apply, design, and implement policies with a youth lens.
- Scale up existing social protection programmes and re-purpose them to protect young people.
- Provide access to education and training, ensuring support for the most vulnerable.
- Ensure young people receive financial assistance.

Donors should

- Continue to adjust their strategies while maintaining current programming.
- Provide support to keep building the evidence based on what policy approaches work best for youth.

1. INTRODUCTION

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt fiercely around the world. What started as a health crisis quickly turned into an economic one, leaving millions of people out of work. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an estimated 114 million jobs were lost in 2020, with a particularly strong economic impact on young workers¹⁹.

In numerous ways, the pandemic has amplified many of the challenges faced by youth. Strict lockdowns imposed in many countries, economic slowdowns, and the closure of business are affecting youth labour markets across regions. Labour-intensive sectors with millions of low-paid and low-skilled young workers²⁰ have been dramatically affected. Young people (ages 15 to 35) represent the majority of workers in the wholesale and retail trade, hospitality and tourism, and food services sectors, which have been the hardest hit. Economies with high percentages of informal workers are particularly vulnerable to the shocks presented by the pandemic. Youth tend to be overly represented in the informal sector, which exacerbates inequalities and injustices experienced by those living in poverty and exclusion and further obstructs their ability to access opportunities for income generation and decent work.

Furthermore, massive school closures and the inability of many students to transition to online or distance learning also raises questions about their educational future, with fears that the current situation will leave thousands of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) in the short-term²¹.

Despite the efforts of governments and international agencies to reverse the impacts of the pandemic, most of the measures taken by these stakeholders neglect to take into account the multi-dimensional challenges the pandemic poses for young people and their specific needs²².

Study purpose and audience

This study explores the effects of COVID-19 on young people's lives in Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania with respect to income and employment opportunities. Although a lack of economic opportunities and decent work represent one of the many challenges and inequalities faced by young people, it provides a better understanding of the multi-dimensional challenges faced by youth.

The study seeks to answer the following questions:

- How has the pandemic affected economic opportunities for youth in the participating countries?
- How sensitive are COVID-19 measures to youth and gender differences and what has been their effect on income and decent work opportunities for young people in the four participating countries?
- To what extent have young people been able to access support from local or national authorities? Or from others? What does this support lack?

This report begins to answer these questions. The findings unveil a complex picture of how young people are coping with the realities and consequences of the pandemic and examines how policy and development interventions can best improve their livelihood opportunities.

The study outlines the evidence and provides recommendations to shape how future crisis management can be responsive to youth-specific issues and what measures can be taken to avoid exacerbating the exclusion and poverty experienced by many young people. It is aimed at programme managers, decision- and policymakers, and donors who seek out new ideas to address youth economic opportunities that can help build brighter futures for young people, especially those living in vulnerable situations. The report is also aimed at young people and youth activists and can provide evidence to be used in their advocacy for a more just economic system.

The report provides an overview of the context of each country and their respective governments' responses to the COVID-19 crisis, analyses the effects of the pandemic on economic opportunities and decent work for youth, discusses the implications of these effects on young people, and provides recommendations to governments, policymakers, and donors.

¹⁹ ILO (2021), ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work

²⁰ Low-skilled workers are typically defined as individuals who are occupied on Skill Level 1 (Low) – Elementary occupations under the International Standard Classification of Occupations. Elementary occupations involve the performance of simple and routine tasks, which may require the use of hand-held tools and considerable physical effort.

²¹ Kassid, S. (n.d), What About Us? Youth (Un)Employment In Times Of Covid-19

²² ILO (2020), Youth & COVID-19: Impact on jobs, education, rights and mental health

2. METHODOLOGY

This study includes a policy analysis by country and the collection and analysis of case stories. The stories are meant to inform the policy analysis and help provide nuanced and relevant recommendations for future action.

The study employed a context-sensitive and qualitative method approach. It drew on an appropriate mix of qualitative methods to better understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and economic opportunities for youth.

Data were collected between January and February 2021. The research team was responsible for the design of all research instruments, including interview questionnaires, consent forms, training guidelines, and others. The instruments were reviewed and approved by ActionAid.

Data collection methods

Collection and analysis of stories

For the collection and analysis of stories, a youth-led research approach was utilised. Youth researchers were engaged as part of the research design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination. Youth researchers were identified and recruited with the assistance of ActionAid's youth partner organizations and networks in each country.

Youth research teams in each country, composed of eight members in every country, participated in training prior to conducting the research. Training included administering the questionnaire, obtaining informed consent, data management, and storage and story development. Youth researchers were also part of an online group chat through a mobile platform where they could share data, photos, progress, and narration of findings.

These youth researchers in collaboration with ActionAid and local consultants recruited youth participants for the research study. The youth researchers administered a structured questionnaire that was designed to gather qualitative data regarding employment, decent work, livelihoods and income, coping mechanisms, and assistance received. Youth participants were interviewed individually. Each youth researcher, on average, interviewed two to three respondents. In Bangladesh, Mozambique, and Tanzania, questionnaires were

translated and adapted to local languages. Smartphones equipped with recording software were used for data collection, which ensured high-quality, consistent data collection and management. Participatory photographs, where respondents were asked to take a photo in their local communities, homes, or places of work, were also gathered using the smartphones.

Despite the relaxation of lockdown restrictions in all countries during the research period, youth researchers managed to visit and interview selected respondents while taking all possible precautions against COVID-19 transmission. Specifically, youth researchers used measures such as social distancing, use of masks, and hand washing while conducting interviews. ActionAid country offices and partner organizations supported youth researchers with all the necessary COVID-19 preventive measures.

Informed consent was obtained prior to the initiation of the interviews, giving each participant the opportunity to ask questions regarding the purpose of the activity, its benefits, and the potential risks associated with such an exercise. Interviews were recorded, with the consent of participants, in order to facilitate their analysis at a later stage.

Youth researchers were responsible for transcribing and translating interviews and turning them into stories. The stories were developed using a standardised template, to focus on the effects of the pandemic on youth livelihoods and income, coping mechanisms, and assistance received.

The age range of the youth used in this report

The UN defines youth as a “period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence.” It acknowledges that the definition of youth changes with circumstances, especially with the changes in demographic, financial, economic, and socio-cultural settings. While countries, organizations, and institutions use different age ranges to define youth, for the purposes of this report, we decided to define youth as individuals aged 15-35 years.

Why a youth-led research approach is important

Young researchers played a critical role throughout the research process. They were integral to conducting the data collection and helped the research team better understand the lived experiences of young people. Young researchers spoke the local language, knew the local culture and social norms, which helped them build a strong rapport with participants.

Sharing a common demographic background allowed interviewees to speak more freely and gave interviewers insight into the situation of young people that would not have been available to external personnel. In addition, interviewers not only developed their skills as researchers, but also gained valuable professional experience.

Profile of youth participants

In order to gain a better understanding of the effects of COVID-19 on economic opportunities for youth in the participating countries, the research used purposive sampling to account for various characteristics critical for marginalized young people in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas.

In total, 82 youth aged 18–35 participated in the interviews, of which 19 were from Bangladesh, 16 from Kenya, 23 from Mozambique, and 24 from Tanzania. A stratified sampling method was used to ensure that the data reflected the experiences of specific sub-groups, and to ensure that there was an appropriate balance of sampling between locations, gender, ages, ethnicities, etc. The youth participants were recruited through one-to-one engagement where the nature and purpose of the research were presented and those who were interested were asked to sign up. A balanced representation of men, women, age groups, and those in school and out of school was also ensured.

The economic and educational background of participants was taken into consideration. Participants' areas of work included agricultural production, MSME, trading, and services. In terms of education, the sample included participants with a primary level education as well as

secondary and tertiary level. Finally, the sample was divided between urban, peri-urban, and rural households to reflect the diversity of experiences of young people.

In Bangladesh, the research took place in the Dhaka, Chittagong, and Satkhira administrative regions or districts. The data collection process was conducted in Bangla. The research in Kenya took place in Nairobi, Kilifi, Isiolo, and Laikipia counties. The data collection process was conducted in English.

In Mozambique, the research took place in Maputo city and Maputo province as well as Gaza, Zambezia, Inhambane, Cabo Delgado, and Manhiça provinces. The data collection process was conducted in Portuguese and Chichangana. In Tanzania, research took place in Dar es Salaam, Pwani, and Arusha (in Tanzania mainland) and in Mjini Magharibi Unguja, Kusini Unguja, and Mkoa wa Kusini Pemba (in Zanzibar). The research was conducted mostly in Swahili.

Policy analysis

The policy analysis section of the study included a desk review of secondary data per country. The analysis was conducted by local consultants based on publicly available information, including official government documents such as COVID-19 guidelines, health policies, and laws; strategies, plans, disaster management policies, and laws; administrative statements; COVID-19 reports from various groups including youth groups; and media coverage. As part of the policy analysis, a desk review of specific country contexts was also conducted. The analysis focused on understanding how sensitive those measures were to youth and gender, and what their effects were on economic opportunities for youth.

In the context of this study, youth- and gender-sensitive measures are defined as those that seek to directly address the risks and challenges that youth and, particularly women, faced during the COVID-19 crisis, notably in terms of income and access to economic opportunities. Policies analysed included those that fall under the following categories: i) social protection, ii) labour markets, and iii) fiscal and economic measures. Social protection and labour market measures are defined

2. METHODOLOGY

as youth-sensitive if they target youth's economic security. Fiscal and economic measures are defined as youth-sensitive if they provide support to youth-dominated sectors of the economy, on the assumption that this is likely to protect youth employment and, therefore, youth economic security.

Across these categories, the analysis focused on measures taken by governments at the national and regional levels. Measures were classified by country, region, policy measure category, type, and sub-type. The sensitivity of measures also took into account different sectors and industries, e.g., formal and informal businesses, entrepreneurs, formal and informal workers, agriculture, tourism, garment production, and MSME, among others.

Analysis of the various policy responses to COVID-19 reflected the differences in participating countries' contexts with regard to the pandemic. This includes differing levels of integration of youth- and gender-specific sensitivity in pre-existing policies, as well as financial and administrative factors.

As part of the study, a national report for each participating country was produced. The findings and recommendations of those reports have informed the analyses presented as part of this report.

Data analysis

National consultants in each country were responsible for the policy analysis at the local level. The lead consultant, in collaboration with national consultants, conducted the analysis of the interviews and policies, including key findings and recommendations.

Young researchers were also included in the data analysis process. Selected representatives, drawn from the pool of youth researchers, from each country provided analysis of key findings and proposed recommendations for this report.

Limitations

As in all studies, research is subject to certain constraints that affect reporting. Self-reporting and answers to questions are necessarily somewhat limited because they rely on self-perception and differing attitudes and individual sentiments. The relatively brief period to conduct the research, the circumstances imposed by the pandemic, and the changing nature of the context also affected the number of young people we could reach and their lived realities.

This report includes the most significant findings from the policy analysis and stories collected related to employment, decent work, livelihoods and income, coping mechanisms, and assistance received. While the data we collected is in no way statistically representative, it can be indicative of broader trends taking place at the national and local level. Policy analysis at the country level, which can provide further details about the extent of the policy response, will be published in the future.

3. CONTEXT

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in various socio-economic indicators over the past decade. Sustained economic growth – based on strong domestic demand and supportive fiscal and monetary policy – has allowed the country to significantly reduce poverty rates, from 43.8% in 1991 to 14.8% in 2016²³. Increased private investment, political stability, government expenditure (including annual development programmes), and exports, as well as implementation of ongoing mega projects and high growth in remittance income have also added to a positive growth scenario. Progress on both social and economic fronts allowed Bangladesh to reach lower middle-income country status in 2015 and it is expected to graduate from the UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) list in 2026²⁴.

Services, industry, and agriculture remain the dominant sectors in the economy. The Bangladesh economy is dominated by the services sector, which accounts for 51.3% of GDP²⁵. The agricultural sector contributes 13.35% of GDP, with an estimated 40.62% of the country's labour force engaged in agriculture. Despite the long-term decline of the agricultural sector, reduction of arable land, and threats from climate change, the sector plays a critical role in ensuring food security for a growing population²⁶. Data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) show that the industrial sector contributes 35.3% of GDP. Manufacturing, a subset of the industry sector, accounts for 24.1% of GDP²⁷. This is mainly due to the growing



importance of the textile and garment sector, which has been playing a key role in the country's economy for years. The garment sector is not only important because of its economic contribution but also because it employs 4.4 million people, most of them women²⁸.

Yet, with a population of 163 million people – 63% of them living in rural areas – Bangladesh still faces challenges²⁹. Approximately 40 million people are still living below the poverty line, fuelling the debate about inclusive growth and the ability of the economy to generate growth for those entering the labour market each year. Moreover, if the country wants to capitalize on the progress made to date and expand its benefits to the wider population, investments in infrastructure and service provision will be key.

Youth in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is currently undergoing a demographic dividend, with people aged 15-35 years old representing one-third of the Bangladeshi population. In order to continue on a path of sustainable development it is important to take advantage of this demographic window of opportunity, which is expected to start closing in 2040³⁰.

Youth unemployment remains a key challenge in the country. Approximately 1.6 million people between 15 and 29 years old are projected to join the labour force every year over the next decade, increasing pressures on the labour market to generate enough jobs at a rate that can meet the growth of labour supply³¹. According to the BBS, while the official national unemployment rate is 4.2%, youth unemployment rate stands at 10.6%. The share of unemployed youth in total unemployment is 79.6%.

Youth unemployment in the country seems to be correlated with educational levels. The BBS indicates that young people with secondary level education experience the highest level of unemployment, at 28%. For those with tertiary level education, unemployment rate is 13.4%. NEET levels are also high in the country, with 29.8% of youth considered to be NEETs. Gender differences in NEETs are striking; the BBS reports that women represent 92% of youth NEETs. The figure seems to confirm the challenges of conventional gender roles, which dictate that women are responsible for household and childcare responsibilities in the country³².

23) World Bank (2021), Bangladesh Overview

24) Ibid.

25) Finance Division, Ministry of Finance Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (2020), Bangladesh Economic Review 2020

26) Ibid.

27) Ibid.

28) IFC (2021), IFC Insights – Safety First: Bangladesh Garment Industry Rebounds

29) World Bank (2021), Bangladesh Overview

30) BRAC Institute of Governance and Development and BRAC University (2018), Youth of Bangladesh Agents of Change?. Youth Survey 2018.

31) World Bank (2019), Addressing youth employment in Bangladesh: Insights on design from five programs implemented by PKSF

32) Khatun, F. and Saadat, S. Y. (2018), The Ignored Generation: Exploring the dynamics of youth employment in Bangladesh

3. CONTEXT

The high rates of youth unemployment have meant that young workers have been disproportionately exposed to lower-productivity and informal activities. Young people with low levels of education face additional challenges such as weak cognitive and non-cognitive abilities³³, insufficient work experience, limited access to seed capital for setting up new enterprises, and poor job-matching. On top of that, young women also face specific challenges related to household and care responsibilities, security considerations, and social norms that discourage their participation in the labour market³⁴.

In order for Bangladesh to achieve its development vision and be able to fully take advantage of the demographic dividend the country is experiencing, the creation of more and better income-generating opportunities for youth needs to remain a top priority.

Kenya

Kenya's strong economic growth over the past decade allowed the country to reach middle-income status in 2016. In 2019, Kenya's economy grew 5.7%, positioning the country as one of the fastest-growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sustained growth was possible due to a stable macroeconomic environment, positive investor confidence, and a resilient services sector³⁵. The government's long-term development plan – Vision 2030 – seeks to transform the country into an industrialized, middle-income country that provides a high quality of life for all its citizens by 2030. In order to accomplish this ambitious goal, the government has undertaken significant political, structural, and economic reforms. Enabling sectors that are critical to the country's growth include agribusiness, technology, energy, finance, health, transportation, and manufacturing³⁶.

Agriculture and horticulture represent one of the largest sectors of the Kenyan economy. The sector constitutes 34.1% of Kenyan GDP and employs 53.8% of the country's workforce³⁷. Unfortunately, a large-scale locust infestation, which started in early 2020, affected many parts of Kenya, especially the northeast. It had a negative impact on food security and growth of the agricultural sector in the country³⁸. The Kenyan tourism industry is characterized by its strength, resilience, and



competitiveness, which are unparalleled in the region³⁹. Despite political unrest in 2017, earnings in the sector increased by 20.3% and the number of international visitor arrivals increased by 8.1% in the same year⁴⁰. The sector continues to be a lifeline for many young people and women. It is estimated that the tourism industry contributes 1.1 million jobs to the Kenyan economy⁴¹.

Similarly, the growth of the service and digital economy has promoted growth in other sectors by accelerating the flow of information and resources. The service sector contributes 43.2% of GDP and employs 38.7% of the country's workforce. The technology sector is one of Africa's most vibrant and Nairobi is recognised as a technology hub with the capacity to foster and scale digital ecosystems. Vision 2030 recognises the sector as an engine for growth and the government recognises the importance of entrepreneurship, innovation, and digital solutions in promoting economic development⁴².

Unfortunately, despite sustained economic growth, poverty rates remain high. Figures show that an estimated 17.5 million Kenyans, out of a population of nearly 50 million, remain poor. Rapid population growth and high rates of urbanization also present economic challenges. The country's population growth averages 2.6% per year, with close to 2 million people unemployed and nearly 1 million young people entering the workforce each year⁴³.

33) According to UNESCO, cognitive skills include mental abilities that are used in thinking activities including reading, writing, and numeracy. Non-cognitive skills comprise personal traits, attitudes, and motivations.

34) Khatun, F. and Saadat, S. Y. (2018), *The Ignored Generation: Exploring the dynamics of youth employment in Bangladesh*

35) World Bank (2021), *Bangladesh Overview*

36) IFC (2019), *Creating Markets In Kenya: Unleashing Private Sector Dynamism to Achieve Full Potential*

37) Santander Trade (2021), *Kenyan Economic Outline*

38) World Bank (2021), *Kenya Overview*

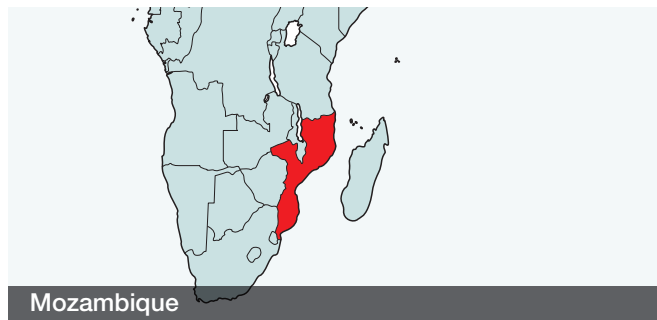
39) IFC (2019), *Creating Markets In Kenya: Unleashing Private Sector Dynamism to Achieve Full Potential*

40) Ibid.

41) African Travel and Tourism Association (2019), *Kenya tourism industry on growth path*

42) IFC (2019), *Creating Markets In Kenya: Unleashing Private Sector Dynamism to Achieve Full Potential*

43) Ibid.



Youth in Kenya

Kenya is a young country, with a youth population of approximately 10 million. Kenya is currently experiencing a youth bulge, with young people representing more than 20% of all Kenyans, providing the nation with a potential opportunity to boost its economic development. However, with nearly one million young Kenyans entering the labour market every year, the economy does not provide sufficient employment opportunities⁴⁴.

Youth unemployment is estimated to be as high as 39%, compared to the overall national unemployment rate of 9.3%⁴⁵. Furthermore, the 2013 Skills Toward Employment and Productivity Measurement Household Survey estimated Kenya's NEET rate for youth aged 15 to 34 years at 29%⁴⁶.

In this context, the informal sector is the last resort of most Kenyan youths, with workers between 18 and 35 years of age representing more than half of the informal workforce. In Kenya, 88% of jobs created in 2017 were in the informal sector, and Nairobi sees a monthly average of 1.1 million informal jobs performed⁴⁷. Informal sector work is mostly done without a formal contract structure and associated benefits, such as regular work schedules, standardized wages, and opportunities for career development.

The agricultural sector is the largest youth employer in the country. Due to high levels of informality in the sector it remains difficult to assess the number of young workers employed by the sector. The sector, characterized by low wages, climate unpredictability, declining crop productivity, and land scarcity, is considered undesirable by youth. Young people share the perception that agriculture is only for those who have been unable to find employment elsewhere. Lack of access to credit, land,

and social capital also pose a series of challenges for youth in the sector. However, as technological innovations continue to expand in the sector there are opportunities to increase productivity, decrease risk, attract investment, and hopefully attract young people back⁴⁸.

The service sector is the second-largest employer in Kenya. While there are little data reflecting the number of young people employed by the sector, tourism, trade, and the digital economy create considerable opportunities for youth both in the formal and informal sectors⁴⁹. The growing digital economy offers the most potential for young people entering the workforce and could, with the right changes, make a significant impact on the quality of the jobs that youths are able to secure.

Mozambique

The country is endowed with abundant natural resources, including vast arable land, water, energy, and mineral resources, as well as offshore natural gas. The country's strategic location and ties to regional economic engines such as South Africa highlight Mozambique's importance to the overall development, stability, and growth of the region⁵⁰. Agriculture, the extractive economy, and services are the key sectors driving economic growth in the country.

The agricultural sector represents 24.9% of the GDP and employs 71% of the population. However, the sector is characterized by low-productivity, subsistence-type production with limited value chains. Despite the significance of the sector, Mozambique remains a net food importer. The extractive sector represents 6.9% of the GDP. The growth of the sector is mainly due to large-scale coal exports. Other relevant products include titanium, graphite, gemstones, and especially natural gas produced from onshore fields. The service sector contributes approximately 53% to the GDP and employs 22% of the labour force. However, the sector is mainly composed of micro-scale businesses with small profits and few – if any – opportunities for saving and investing⁵¹.

After decades of sustained growth, the country faced an economic slowdown from 2016 to 2018 due to a decline

44) British Council (2017). Youth Employment in Kenya

45) British Council (2018). Next Generation Kenya: Listening to the voices of young people

46) World Bank, (2013). STEP Skills Measurement Household Survey 2013

47) Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2018). Economic Survey 2018.

48) British Council (2017), Youth Employment in Kenya

49) Ibid.

50) World Bank (2021). Mozambique Overview

51) Santos, A. (2018). 2018 African Economic Outlook Country Note Mozambique.

3. CONTEXT

in public and foreign direct investment. Economic growth had been largely driven by capital-intensive projects that failed to create sufficient employment. Additionally, the central and northern parts of the country were hit by two cyclones, IDAI and KENNETH, between March and April 2019, which also negatively affected the economy⁵². Moreover, the country is facing increased insurgency attacks in the centre and northern regions, where most of the poor population lives, adding not only fiscal pressures but also pushing more people into poverty due to displacement and limited access to public services⁵³.

With a large portion of the population living in poverty and mostly in rural areas, structural reforms are needed to ensure the provision of important public services such as education and health, that can in turn improve social indicators.

Youth in Mozambique

Mozambique is a young country, referring not only to its recent independence from colonialism, but also because more than 40% of the 29 million inhabitants are between 18 and 35 years old. According to data from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, of the total workforce, 64.7% are young people aged 15-34 years, with women representing 52.9% of the labour force⁵⁴. Yet, despite a young population, youth unemployment remains a key development challenge for the country.

Mozambique has one of the lowest youth development indexes in the world. The Youth Development Index – which measures young people's access to various services, including education, health and well-being; political and civic participation; and employment and opportunities – placed Mozambique in the 6th lowest position among 183 countries ranked in 2016⁵⁵.

Mozambique's economic growth has not translated into more employment, leading to a 40% youth unemployment rate. Unemployment rates are higher for rural youth than for those living in urban centres. Figures indicate that 12% of young people in the country have no formal education and 48% of youth have an incomplete primary education level. In total, 59% of young Mozambicans (15 to 24 years old) have not completed primary education⁵⁶.

Due to the limited opportunities provided by the formal sector, youth tend to look to the informal sector for income generating opportunities⁵⁷. A lack of education, poverty, and limited access to opportunities have created fertile ground for recruitment by insurgent groups in the centre and north of the country^{58, 59}.

The situation not only severely limits long-term prospects for youth but also raises questions about the country's ability to overcome poverty and inequality and achieve sustainable development.

Tanzania

One of the fastest growing economies in the world, Tanzania has in the past decade made remarkable strides on GDP growth. The country has maintained a strong macroeconomic outlook with GDP growth of 7.5% and single-digit, low and stable inflation, based on contributions from the construction, agriculture, tourism, and transport sectors⁶⁰.

In the 2018/19 fiscal year, the agricultural sector grew at the rate of 5.3%, mainly due to conducive weather conditions. Meanwhile, the construction sector attained a growth rate of 12.9% with infrastructure investments such as roads, railways, and airports. The two sectors continued to lead in economic growth among all sectors even in the first three quarters of 2020. Tourism is another major cornerstone of the Tanzanian economy. The sector contributes an average of 18% to GDP and

52) African Development Bank (2021). Mozambique Economic Outlook

53) World Bank (2021). Macro Poverty Outlook Mozambique

54) Ministério do Trabalho e Segurança Social (2020) Boletim Informativo do Mercado do Trabalho – I Trimestre 2020

55) The Commonwealth (2016). Global Youth Development Index and Report.

56) Education Policy and Data Center (2018). Mozambique: National Education Profile

57) <https://www.thebrenthurstfoundation.org/downloads/putting-young-africans-to-work-min.pdf>

58) VOA Mozambique (2020). Jovens de Nampula podem estar a ser aliciados por insurgentes de Cabo Delgado

59) Carta de Mozambique (2020). Insurgentes em Cabo Delgado: "Jovens que atacam aldeias cansaram de esperar por dias melhores", defende académica

60) Bank of Tanzania (2020). Annual Report 2019/20



is a source of revenue and employment for thousands of people including young workers. Tourism and transportation are significant sectoral drivers for growth. In Zanzibar, marine transportation plays a significant role in moving traders and tourists among the cities of Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam, and Tanga⁶¹.

On the surface, the future seems bright for the country's population of 58 million. However, the overall statistics mask the reality for many Tanzanians. Despite significant declines in poverty rates over a decade – from 34.4% in 2007 to 26.4% in 2018 – there are still 14 million Tanzanians living below the national poverty line⁶². Furthermore, a large proportion of the population is still vulnerable to falling into poverty, while approximately half of the entire population lives under the \$1.90 international poverty line⁶³. With nearly 66% of the population living in rural areas, access to services such as health and education and opportunities for non-farm employment remains limited. The perceived lack of opportunities in rural areas is pushing Tanzanians to move to urban cities and towns, increasing demands on municipal services to provide basic infrastructure and essential social services⁶⁴.

Youth in Tanzania

A youth-focused lens is essential in a country with one of the youngest populations in the world. Ten million Tanzanians are people between the ages of 15 and 24 years and the median age is 17 years. By 2050, the population under 25 is expected to reach 75 million⁶⁵. As

in much of the world, young people are most affected by unemployment and poverty, especially young women, who are less likely to be employed and are in lower-paid jobs with worse working conditions than are young men.

Most young people work in the agricultural or the informal sector. Youth, women, and children constitute 70% of the labour force in agriculture⁶⁶. Agriculture is primarily subsistence, with little emphasis on agribusiness and export. Many young people view the sector as a last resort rather than an avenue to growth.

Despite the growing unemployment crisis in Tanzania, the informal sector has provided enough space for youth to hone their skills and creativity in different working fields that require professional and non-professional labour inputs. Too often, young people who graduate from universities and fail to secure formal jobs in the government switch to the private and informal sectors to earn a living. According to the ILO, about four million Tanzanians are working in the informal sector, which comprises 22% of the country's total workforce. Furthermore, 96% of all enterprises are in the informal sector, which also provides 90% of all jobs in the country⁶⁷.

Many talented young people have also ventured into politics—vying for and securing political posts as legislators, ministers, and other top government positions. These positions have raised the profile of young leaders who have climbed the ladder toward the country's top leadership. At the same time, decision-makers have not yet adjusted their processes to allow young people's participation on a consistent basis, even when youth are the population affected by the decisions being made. Another barrier is young people's perception that "participating" in decision-making means just being at the table. Ultimately, these factors hold youth back from wielding influence and reduce their ability to affect their own future and that of their country⁶⁸.

61) OCGS (2019). Zanzibar Statistical Abstract 2018

62) The national poverty line is TZS 49,320 per adult equivalent per month. Approximately 26 million people (about 49% of the population) lived below the \$1.90 per person per day international poverty line. World Bank (2019) Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment

63) World Bank (2019) Tanzania's Path to Poverty Reduction and Pro-Poor Growth

64) Gwaleba, M. (2018) Urban Growth in Tanzania: Exploring Challenges, Opportunities and Management

65) Restless Development (2019). Annual Report Tanzania 2019

66) Position Paper and Strategic intervention areas on COVID-19, Tanzania Civil Society Directors' Forum, 2020, pg. 15

67) Tanzania Civil Society Director's Forum (2020). Position Paper and Strategic Intervention Areas on COVID-19

68) British Council (2016) Next Generation: Listening to the Voices of Young People Tanzania

4. THE POLICY RESPONSE

Bangladesh

Fast government response was paramount in controlling the pandemic in one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Bangladesh was able to capitalise on its previous experience responding to natural disasters and moved swiftly to try to control the spread of the virus while also providing assistance to poor and vulnerable populations such as food aid and cash relief.

To curb the spread of the virus after the first case was detected on 8 March 2020, the government declared a national lockdown from 26 March 2020 until 30 May 2020. After this date, economic activities resumed on a limited scale. Government policies to tackle the pandemic included both health and economic measures, such as a package of support programmes for vulnerable households through cash transfers and food programmes⁶⁹. More than 25 million families in 496 Upazilas across the country received food aid, while approximately five million families received cash assistance.

The pandemic severely disrupted economic activity in the country, affected by supply chain disruptions and the recession hitting the US and European countries, main export markets for Bangladesh. To counter the situation, stimulus packages for businesses in the formal sector were distributed to help them maintain employment levels in key sectors and regulatory requirements for firms were reduced. Limitations on movement remained in place until August 2020⁷⁰.

Despite the government's rapid response, the country still faced challenges in terms of medical supplies, scarcity of health care workers, testing, and tracking and tracing systems. Furthermore, preventative measures such as social distancing and stay-at-home measures pose significant challenges in the country's socioeconomic context, particularly for those living in densely populated areas with a high prevalence of shared facilities. The COVID-19 crisis is threatening the progress made by Bangladesh, with some estimates forecasting a doubling of poverty levels and an increase of existing inequalities⁷¹.

Kenya

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Kenyan government announced a raft of measures to be adopted, all of which had two primary areas of concern: the people's health and the economy. Policies were designed to ensure that people were not overly exposed to health risks, and that the economy would not be obliterated by the pandemic.

Over the last year, the Kenyan government focused most of its efforts on managing the effects of the pandemic. The government strategy focused on preventing, responding to, and containing the spread of COVID-19. The government established the National Emergency Response Committee on Coronavirus under Executive Order No. 2 of 2020, which was tasked with coordinating Kenya's preparedness and national response to the COVID-19 threat.

After the first case was reported in the country on 8 March 2020, the government began implementing precautionary measures to tame the disease. These measures included orders for people to work from home and avoid unnecessary movements. Other mandatory measures included the closure of schools, places of worship, and entertainment joints, as well as curfew enforcement and wearing of masks. Despite government efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus, containment measures faced several challenges including a lack of compliance with health protocols, curfews, and lockdowns. Additionally, Kenya's porous borders, especially with Somalia and Tanzania, made it even harder for disease surveillance personnel to conduct appropriate track and tracing monitoring⁷².

Mozambique

The Government of Mozambique's approach to the crisis was aimed at mitigating the effect of the pandemic on people's lives and livelihoods. Measures implemented

⁶⁹ World Bank (2021), Bangladesh Overview

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Kumar, B. and Pinky, S. (2020) Addressing economic and health challenges of COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Preparation and response

⁷² British Council (2017). Youth Employment in Kenya



Sanjuara, who runs her tailoring business, struggles to gain work during the economic crisis due to COVID-19.

included suspension of classes, limitations on the holding of public and private events, and mandatory implementation of preventive measures (such as wearing a mask and frequent hand washing with soap and water). On the economic front, measures included the adoption of tax and monetary policy measures to support the formal private sector in addressing the economic impact of the pandemic, including improving the conditions for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to access financial support and providing liquidity support to firms and the financial sector⁷³.

The COVID-19 crisis comes at a delicate time for Mozambique and is already negatively impacting economic activity. Growth expectations declined to -0.4% in 2020 from a pre-pandemic forecast of 4.3%. According to the World Bank, it is anticipated that Mozambique will experience large external and fiscal financing gaps in 2021 in a context characterized by exposure to external shocks and limited fiscal space⁷⁴.

73) Republica de Mocambique (2021) Balanço do Plano Económico e Social 2020

74) World Bank (2020). World Bank Helps Mozambique Mitigate Impact of Covid-19 with a New \$100 Million Grant.

75) World Bank (2021). Tanzania Overview

76) Ibid.

Tanzania

Unlike other East African countries, Tanzania (both mainland and Zanzibar) had a unique approach to the COVID-19 crisis. As part of its legal framework, no single law or policy was enacted to guide the management of COVID-19 interventions. The state used existing health and disaster management laws and policies to manage and guide several COVID-19 responses.

In general, Tanzania employed less-stringent measures such as limiting unnecessary movements of people from one region to another and banning all public gatherings, such as sports activities and meetings. The government also ordered the closure of schools and institutions of higher learning when the number of COVID-19 infections continued to rise.

The economic progress sustained over the past years has been challenged by the ongoing pandemic. Unlike other countries, despite a slowdown in the economic growth rate, the country managed to avoid recession⁷⁵. However, key sectors such as tourism and trade, both major contributors to GDP growth, have been severely hit. As the COVID-19 crisis continues into 2021 this could undermine the strength of the Tanzanian economy, putting pressure on the government for further reform⁷⁶.

5. KEY FINDINGS

Policy response

Policy responses to the pandemic varied across countries, highlighting the need for context-specific approaches.

The policy analysis conducted as part of this study shows that participating countries implemented a series of measures aimed at restricting movement and gatherings in order to curtail the spread of the virus. While some countries imposed stricter lockdowns, including curfews and cessation of movement heavily enforced by police, other countries implemented less-stringent measures such as limiting unnecessary movement of people from one region to another, banning public gatherings, and school closures. Overall, these countries are characterised by younger populations, economies with a sizeable informal sector, limited fiscal space, and weaker health and governance systems, all of which made them unable to afford extended lockdowns or mobilize resources at the appropriate level to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

The difference in responses – particularly when compared to more developed economies – highlights the importance of context-specific approaches. Interestingly, the type of containment measures implemented in many ways defined the type of policy tools implemented to respond to the pandemic. While some countries used a wide range of tools, including design and implementation of new policies, stimulus packages and laws to help protect citizens and boost the economy, as seen in Bangladesh, others relied on policies that were already in place and preferred to use pre-existing institutional frameworks to channel resources, as seen in Tanzania. The jury is still out about the effectiveness of lockdowns in saving lives in lower-income countries. Perhaps smarter policies focusing on the protection of vulnerable populations and isolation of the sick along with the provision of economic measures might be more effective and practical⁷⁷.

Young people are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. However, policies and measures implemented lack a youth lens.

Our policy analysis across countries suggests that most policies, measures, and stimulus packages that were designed, enacted, and implemented did not consider the specific needs of youth. Most of the policies implemented across participating countries focused on disease control

without including mechanisms to mitigate the effects of these policies and measures on young people's lives.

The policy analysis also found no evidence that young people were engaged as part of the policy design and implementation process, indicating a complete absence of youth voices at programmatic and policy levels in all countries that were part of the study. While the pandemic significantly strained policymakers' capacity to quickly respond to the changing needs of the population, the lack of a specific youth lens left vast portions of youth in a position of increased vulnerability.

This is particularly troubling since we know young people are disproportionately affected by the pandemic through disruption of education and training, employment and income losses, and greater difficulties in finding a job⁷⁸.

Despite the fact that all four countries have sizeable youth populations, the various policies and strategies adopted during COVID-19 interventions do not provide pathways with a special focus on youth economic opportunities. Likewise, the policy responses have failed to provide protection and a safety net for youth. Young people participating in the study highlighted the lack of access to social protection systems, emergency support programmes, government funding schemes and tax reliefs. The only notable exception is the Kazi Mtaani initiative in Kenya (see below).

Furthermore, most policies and government reports to date lack disaggregated data about the situation of youth and the socio-economic challenges they face. Likewise, there has been no emphasis on documenting and monitoring the possible negative impacts of COVID-19 interventions on young people, youth groups, and grassroots organizations where young people play a critical role.

Policies and stimulus packages focused mostly on the formal economy and on larger firms, missing opportunities to support key sectors and small businesses, which are critical to the economy and to

77) World Bank (2020). Tanzania Economic Update, Addressing the impact of COVID-19

78) ILO (2020). ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Fourth Edition



CLARÊNCIO – MOZAMBIQUE

Clarêncio lives in the city of Chibuto, Mozambique. He is 26 years old, married, and has a 7th-grade level education. He lives with his family, which has 11 family members (himself, his father, his wife, 1 brother, 2 sisters, 1 nephew, 3 daughters, and 1 son). His father is the main breadwinner and the person who is financially responsible for his family; however, Clarêncio also must contribute financially to the household.

Before COVID-19, Clarêncio used to work six days per week doing private construction work, including construction of masonry houses and other types of buildings, earning an average monthly income between 15.000 and 30.000 Meticaís (US\$213-420). With this income, Clarêncio was able to support his family and cover all basic household needs without needing external support or incurring debt.

His work and financial situation was quite affected by the restrictions that were implemented due to the pandemic. Stagnation in the construction sector left him without work for several months, doing odd jobs that allowed him to earn around 6.000 Meticaís per month (US\$85). Clarêncio reports that even his usual clients have no money to buy construction material, leading to a significant reduction in construction work.

Beyond his income reduction, his father, a miner in South Africa, had his job interrupted during the lockdown period. The household food consumption and related household costs have increased due to the increased amount of time spent at home by all family members. At the same time, Clarêncio has also experienced an increase in household responsibilities, especially taking care of the children, who are not going to school. In order to support his family, Clarêncio has used part of his savings.

Neither Clarêncio nor his family have received any support from government organizations or other organizations. He believes that if this situation extends for six more months, it will become unsustainable, and his family may need support with cash or food items. He thinks it is important that the government and other institutions create projects where young people can work or generate income. Furthermore, Clarêncio thinks that young people would benefit from access to technical schools for vocational training. This would allow young people to explore new and more income-generating opportunities for entrepreneurs.

5. KEY FINDINGS

employment creation for youth.

Our policy analysis also found that most economic policies, including stimulus packages, focused mainly on the formal economy, primarily benefiting large businesses and often neglecting businesses and workers operating in the informal sector, including youth.

In some cases, like in Mozambique, restrictive eligibility criteria meant that most small businesses did not benefit from fiscal measures introduced to support small firms, threatening business survival and jobs⁷⁹. In Bangladesh, small-scale entrepreneurs had a hard time accessing stimulus packages due to the lack of information about their status and difficulty meeting banking compliances. Consequently, a significant part of the stimulus package remained undistributed⁸⁰.

Similarly, in Kenya, the pandemic has affected small businesses more. Figures from the country show that larger businesses (100+ employees) were most likely to remain open, while micro businesses (0-4 employees) often closed due to lockdowns and restrictions. The make-up of the workforce is also important. In Kenya, businesses with a large proportion of female personnel have been disproportionately affected and they are 18 percentage points less likely to be open than firms with lower female employment⁸¹.

COVID-19 has meant significant job losses in sectors like hospitality and tourism, transportation, and MSME, which employ many young workers and women. These sectors have been some of the hardest hit, reporting severe declines in sales or coming to a complete halt with ripple effects to other sectors. Because of the nature and characteristics of businesses operating in these sectors – small-scale, operating informally, usually employing family members, and susceptible to economic shocks – they have not been able to benefit from incentives, cash injections, and tax reliefs^{82, 83, 84}.

Data from our research indicates that funds and assistance are not reaching the appropriate target groups.

The study interviewed more than 80 young people across all four countries. While the data we collected is in no way statistically representative, it can be indicative of broader trends taking place at the national and local levels. The

The Kazi Mtaani Initiative in Kenya

This programme was aimed at vulnerable workers who faced barriers to finding work opportunities because of policies enacted to contain the spread of COVID-19. The programme used a multi-phased approach to simultaneously increase young people's access to work and improve the communities in which it operated by using local labour and suppliers for community-minded public works projects. Kazi Mtaani had two phases: a smaller, short-term initial phase and a subsequent larger phase that undertook longer-term projects.

The first phase ran from April 29 to June 2, 2020 and engaged 26,148 young people living in informal settlements in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kiambu, Nakuru, Kisumu, Kilifi, Kwale, and Mandera counties. Projects included street cleaning, disinfection, garbage collection, and other cleaning-related community projects. The second phase began in July of 2020 and ran for six and a half months, employing more than 200,000 young people across 34 different counties. The projects required a mixture of skilled and unskilled labour, including road construction, sanitation facility improvement, park development, and other construction and repair projects in the communities where the initiative operated.

majority of youth reported that they had not received any type of assistance – cash or in-kind – from government or civil society organizations. The lack of support faced by youth is concerning considering the challenges they currently face and the long-term implications of the impacts of the pandemic for young people.

79) World Bank (2021) Mozambique Economic Update: Setting the Strategy for Recovery

80) New Age Bangladesh (2021) Slow disbursement of stimulus package hurts SMEs

81) World Bank (2020). Kenya Economic Update: Navigating the Pandemic

82) Ibid.

83) World Bank (2021) Mozambique Economic Update: Setting the Strategy for Recovery

84) World Bank (2020). Tanzania Economic Update, Addressing the impact of COVID-19



POLY – BANGLADESH

Poly is 30 years old and lives with her husband and daughter in the Sadar administrative region of the Satkhira district. Both she and her husband financially support their family.

Poly used to live in Dhaka with her family before the COVID-19 pandemic, where she worked as a tailor and had her own sewing machine. With the country locked down during the pandemic, her income decreased, and her husband's garment worker income was reduced to 60% of his normal salary. Eventually, her husband lost his job, prompting the family to leave Dhaka and move to their village home in Satkhira to reduce living expenses.

Compared to her workload in Dhaka, before the pandemic, Poly earns less working as a tailor in her village due to low wages and fewer orders. Before the pandemic, she worked 4-5 hours and earned 450 to 500 Takas (US\$ 5-6) per week. Currently, she earns 200 Takas (US\$2.35) per week and works 1-2 hours. During the pandemic, she needed to borrow money from a microfinance organization, which she has not been able to repay yet. She is also currently looking for another job. Poly and her family have not received any assistance from the government or any non-governmental organization during the pandemic.

Poly anticipates that her family will experience food insecurity if the pandemic continues. Her daughter's education was also disrupted due to the lack of computer and Internet service in the village, meaning that she has been unable to participate in the online classes taking place during the pandemic.

Poly has noticed other changes in her region due to the pandemic. For example, the youth of her community who were previously employed by various factories have returned to their respective village homes due to a lack of work. She said that the young workers in her village expect to go back to their previous workplace in the future.

Poly is considering several options to provide for her family and ensure that they are not as vulnerable in the future. One idea is to start her own small business. She has expressed interest in any relevant trainings and resources that may be offered by the government or non-governmental organizations.

5. KEY FINDINGS

Education

School closures across countries are expected to have short-, medium-, and long-term effects, particularly for youth.

The UN stated that COVID-19 has caused the “largest disruption of education systems in history”⁸⁵ and UNICEF reports that schools serving more than 168 million children globally have been completely closed for almost a full year. According to some estimates, 23.8 million children, adolescents, and youth from pre-primary to tertiary education might drop out of school due to the economic impacts of the pandemic, including 11 million girls⁸⁶. While it remains difficult to assess the long-term impacts of the pandemic on education, learning losses and increases in dropout rates are expected at all educational levels. Estimates suggest that 25% of students might fall below the basic level of proficiency needed to effectively and productively participate in society and in future learning opportunities⁸⁷.

All countries participating in the study introduced school closures to prevent the spread of the virus. While the measure was implemented to help contain the pandemic, it is important to recognise the decision will have short- and long-term effects not only for children and youth but also on future economic growth. In the case of Bangladesh, the country’s school closures impacted one of the largest student populations (second only to Brazil). The country also has one of the highest numbers of days of full school closures (198 days by February 2021)⁸⁸. Data from Kenya indicate that only 1 in 10 children have had access to their teachers during school closures, and that children in approximately 30% of households had not engaged in any learning activities⁸⁹. In all cases, schools were closed without a proper contingency plan for alternative learning for students, especially those from poor families residing in rural areas.

The evidence from previous crises indicates that vulnerable populations face higher risks of school dropout and reduced skills development, both of which increase income disparities over time. School closures are predicted to reduce learning-adjusted years of education across developing regions by one-third to one full year. The data show us that, on a global level, an additional year of schooling is usually associated with a 10% increase in wages. Over the next decade secondary school

completion rates are expected to decline by 30%, forcing young people to enter the labour market much earlier. This situation, combined with de-skilling due to prolonged unemployment, will likely lower future earnings and affect skills and knowledge development⁹⁰.

School closures are having a disproportionate impact on girls and young women.

Disruptions to education are expected to have a particularly detrimental effect on marginalised girls. According to UNESCO estimates, 11 million girls – from pre-primary to tertiary education – may not return to school once school closures are lifted. Other estimates put the number closer to 20 million girls⁹¹. The situation threatens previous progress made in girls’ education and gender equality in past years⁹². School closures have exacerbated girls’ and young women’s care responsibilities, limiting their learning time. Female participants across countries in our study echoed these trends in their interviews, highlighting how household responsibilities have impaired their learning opportunities.

The situation also put girls at risk of adolescent pregnancy, early and forced marriage, and violence. In Kenya, participants in our study reported significant increases in adolescent pregnancy and gender violence, associated with school closures and the lack of access to birth control during the pandemic.

School closures are increasing inequality within countries and deepening the digital divide.

Overall, school closures in developing countries have lasted longer than in developed economies, acutely affecting populations with limited access to infrastructure and technology such as Internet or computers. According to data from UNESCO, three-quarters of remote learning

85) United Nations (2020). Education during COVID-19 and Beyond. Policy Brief, August.

86) Ibid.

87) World Bank (2020). Simulating the Potential Impacts of the COVID-19 School Closures on Schooling and Learning Outcomes: A set of Global Estimates.

88) UNICEF (2021) COVID-19 and School Closures: One year of education disruption

89) World Bank (2020). Kenya Economic Update: Navigating the Pandemic

90) World Bank (2021). Global Economic Prospects

91) Malala Fund (2020). Girl’s Education and COVID-19

92) UNESCO (2020) Keeping girls in the picture



JORDÃO – MOZAMBIQUE

Jordão lives in the city of Chibuto in Gaza Province. He is 20 years old, unmarried, and lives with three brothers, one sister, and his sister's three children. He has another brother who lives in Eswatini. His parents are deceased.

His older brother, a street vendor, is the main breadwinner of the family but Jordão and two of his brothers also help support the family. The brother who lives in Eswatini sends money to the family when he is able to save some from his work as a locksmith.

Jordão attends night classes at the 9th grade level and works as a street vendor. Before COVID-19, Jordão earned a weekly income of around 780 Meticaís (US\$11), which allowed him to help cover family expenses, pay for his studies and personal expenses, and even build some savings.

His life and financial situation were deeply affected by COVID-19-related restrictions. His school closed and remote learning was implemented, with an increased homework load. Despite the many difficulties, Jordão managed to continue his studies and is using a small part of his income to buy the required exercise sheets. His weekly income is now approximately 200 Meticaís (US\$2.85) due to reducing his working hours to study, as well as fewer customers. With food prices increasing, Jordão and his brothers and sister struggle to sustain their life and have received financial help from relatives.

Jordão thinks that young people need food support and cash support from the government to be able to open small businesses, at least during the pandemic. Given his family's financial problems and difficulties with basic survival, some of his brothers who live at home are considering emigrating to South Africa or Eswatini in order to find better conditions.

5. KEY FINDINGS

solutions made available during the pandemic relied on online platforms. At the same time, 47% of all primary and secondary students were unable to access these platforms due to a lack of Internet connectivity at home⁹³. For marginalised populations, online learning is compounding existing inequalities; approximately 826 million students worldwide do not have access to a computer at home⁹⁴.

The digital divide also has a gender aspect. Many of the learners that lack access to Internet live in the least-developed countries, where the digital divide is rapidly increasing to the detriment of girls and young women⁹⁵. Girls and young women are also less likely to have access to digital devices than boys even in places with high mobile and Internet coverage⁹⁶.

The situation has resulted in increased inequality not only between countries that can offer remote learning and those that cannot, but also within countries, between children who can access remote learning and those who cannot and is likely to increase the gender digital divide over time⁹⁷.

In Mozambique, where only 7% of the population has access to Internet, online learning is not a viable option⁹⁸. School closures mean not only lost learning time for students, but also increased costs as students needed to buy exercise sheets every week to keep up with lessons. The country already experienced high rates of high-school drop-out before the pandemic and school closures may further affect retention rates. Education can make all the difference in opportunities for youth in a country where just 47% of the population has completed the first level of primary education, while only 20% has completed a full primary education⁹⁹.

In cases where schools were able to provide remote learning opportunities, the high cost of Internet and lack of access to smart phones or computers prevent students from accessing education. In Kenya, where the Ministry of Education provided access to multiple learning platforms, only radio was being used by a significant number of students (9% in rural areas and 10% in urban areas)¹⁰⁰. This can be somewhat explained by the lack of devices (television, computers, or smartphones) that are needed to access learning resources, a finding that was echoed by youth participating in our study.

The ‘earn-to-learn dynamic’ has been disrupted, further reducing future opportunities for youth.

Most young people that participated in our study mentioned the need to access paid work in order to pay for education; this is what we call the ‘earn-to-learn dynamic,’ which has been severely disrupted due to the pandemic. School closures not only affected access to education but also to work opportunities, which for disadvantaged young people are a precondition for schooling.

In Bangladesh, the use of private tutoring at primary school level is widespread and provides an important source of income for young people seeking tertiary education. Due to cultural and societal norms, the sector has a large proportion of female workers who find tutoring to be a reliable source of income that allows them to pay for their education and subsistence¹⁰¹. School closures and restrictions of movement and gatherings meant many young people lost their tutoring work and therefore, were forced out of pursuing education themselves. Across all countries in the study, young people participating in our study have reported that losses in work and income have put into question their educational future.

The situation poses a conundrum that is difficult to solve: the inability of young people to continue their education – as discussed before – can have long-term implications in income generation and working opportunities. At the same time, without work, access to education becomes out of reach. A key question for many young people will be how to circumvent this vicious cycle and ensure they have access to economic opportunities in the future.

93) UNESCO (2021) Connectivity: Making universal connectivity a reality

94) UNESCO (2020) COVID-19: A Global Crisis for Teaching and Learning

95) EQUALS Research Group (2019) Taking Stock: Data and Evidence on Gender Equality in Digital Access, Skills and Leadership.

96) Girl Effect and Vodafone Foundation (2018) Real Girls, Real Lives, Connected.

97) Ibid.

98) World Bank (2021). Mozambique Economic Update: Setting the Strategy for Recovery

99) Ibid.

100) World Bank (2020). Kenya Economic Update: Navigating the Pandemic

101) Pallegedara, A. and Mottaleb, K.A. (2018). Patterns and determinants of private tutoring: The case of Bangladesh households



SABEKUN – BANGLADESH

Sabekun is 18 years old and lives in the Sadar region of the Satkhira district in the Khulna division. She lives with her parents, younger brother, and elder sister. At the beginning of the pandemic, she was a second-year student in higher secondary school. Besides studying, she also provided tutoring, earning 630 Taka (US\$ 7) per week.

Her father, the family's main income-earner, is a banana seller. Sabekun's wages from tutoring helped supplement the family's income. The family was doing well with the income of two people. However, since the pandemic hit, her father's income has declined.



Before the pandemic Sabekun used to earn money through running private tuition. All of her three students dropped out due to the pandemic. Children are less interested in educational assistance as educational institutions are closed due to the lockdown. At present, she has no students and no income.

COVID-19 has caused significant financial hardship for her family and they have had to borrow money from relatives to meet their living expenses and are yet to repay the money. Sabekun's family was able to receive food items from a wealthy family in the area, as well as some food and hygiene supplies from an organization named HEAD. As the situation continues for a long time, it is difficult for Sabekun and her family to afford their basic living expenses; much less the cost of continuing her studies. Also, Sabekun is worried that the epidemic will delay her preparations for further professional training and job.

5. KEY FINDINGS

Who returns to school, and when, remains a key question.

The educational sector faces a double challenge. The short-term challenge is ensuring a safe re-opening of schools and reducing the drop-out rate, while a second challenge – a long-term one – relates to the ability to reduce losses in learning outcomes due to the pandemic¹⁰². In this context, who returns to school, and when, matters.

Data from the post-Ebola epidemic period shows that families who suffer the economic shocks associated with the outbreak were unable to afford to send their children back to school. Furthermore, during the crisis families needed children to help with economic contributions in order to pay for daily expenses¹⁰³. Young people participating in this study also reported that families are having to make difficult decisions, such as which children to send back to school and which ones to keep out of school due to their inability to pay for school fees for the time being.

One priority is ensuring that girls and young women come back and stay in school. Pre-COVID data show that girls' enrolment and attainment lag behind that of boys. Even in those cases where school enrolment is comparable between girls and boys, girls tend to enrol later and drop out more quickly, particularly in times of economic crisis, undermining their labour market prospects¹⁰⁴.

Employment, decent work, livelihoods and income

Increases in youth unemployment due to income losses and declines in work aggravate the vulnerabilities and challenges that young people face in labour markets.

Globally, the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on young workers. Data from the ILO estimate that one in six young people have stopped working due to the pandemic¹⁰⁵. Young people tend to be overly represented in non-standard employment such as temporary or part-time work, facing higher risks of income and work losses¹⁰⁶. Furthermore, the evidence from previous economic crises show that young people tend to suffer the most during times of recession. Young people are

often the “last in” and the “first out” — last to be hired, first to be dismissed.

The pandemic has significantly affected the opportunities of young people to access decent work¹⁰⁷, with many young people who participated in our research expressing their concerns about the long-term implications of this. Young participants reported significant reductions in hours worked and in their ability to access work, leading to substantial income losses. Young people have also reported that sales in micro or household business have been heavily impacted by the pandemic. In many cases, businesses have been forced to close or are barely surviving.

This situation is extremely concerning, as youth unemployment can lead to long-term ‘scarring effects,’ including lower pay, further unemployment, and declining overall health levels¹⁰⁹. The situation will likely aggravate the vulnerabilities and challenges that young people face in labour markets. Young people who experience unemployment for long periods of time encounter fewer career development opportunities, lower wage levels, and poorer prospects for better jobs. Combined with limited access to financial assets, the situation puts young people at increased risk of falling into poverty when there is a sudden stop or decline in income¹¹⁰.

¹⁰² World Bank (2021) Global Economic Prospects

¹⁰³ Malala Fund (2020). Girl's Education and COVID-19

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2020) Protecting and mobilizing youth in COVID-19 responses

¹⁰⁶ OECD (2020), Youth and COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Resilience

¹⁰⁷ As defined by the ILO, decent work provides a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection, prospects for personal development and social integration, and the freedom to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

¹⁰⁸ The MasterCard Foundation (2017) Invisible Lives: Understanding Youth Livelihoods In Ghana And Uganda.

¹⁰⁹ McQuaid (2017) Youth unemployment produces multiple scarring effects.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

Sector focus – MSME

The definition of what a business is can vary widely. Businesses run by young people tend to be associated with self-employment and are characterized by being small-scale and intermittent, usually employing family members, and being susceptible to economic shocks¹⁰⁸. Yet, they represent an important income-generating opportunity for millions of young people across the world. While MSME plays an important role in many economies, the industry has been severely affected by the impacts of the pandemic.



SIMON – KENYA

Simon lives in Nanyuki. Simon is 22 years old, married with two children. Simon, who has a secondary education degree, is the sole provider of his family.

Before COVID-19, Simon had a small farming business, mainly producing vegetables and poultry. He used to work for eight hours per day and his total income was dependent on the sale of his products; his profit was roughly 2,000 Kenya shillings per week (US\$20) depending on the market day. Simon employed four casual workers, either relatives or friends, to work on his farm. They were paid 250 Kenya shillings per day (US\$2.50). He raised 100 chickens, selling both chicken and eggs. His customers were mainly hotels, private schools, and local markets.

The pandemic has had a negative impact on Simon, with his weekly income reduced to 900 Kenya shillings (US\$ 9). Due to the high costs of food to maintain his poultry, he has been forced to reduce their numbers to 50. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Simon has not been able to employ anyone.

Food consumption in his family has also declined and it is hard for him to cover the costs of basic needs. Simon has not received any support from the government or any charitable organization.

Moving forward, Simon said he would apply for a loan to boost his business and employ young people in his community. He will continue to take agricultural courses to improve his agricultural knowledge. He would like to receive financial support for his business as well as training to gain entrepreneurial skills such as financial recordkeeping, marketing, and agricultural skills.

5. KEY FINDINGS



TATU - TANZANIA

Tatu, who is trained as a journalist, was born and raised in Kibaha. The 28-year-old entrepreneur decided to acquire new skills to help her family earn a living. Tatu produces and sells coconut oil, honey, and food spices, including tea and pilau masala.

Before the start of COVID-19, Tatu used to work 12 hours daily, earning 40,000 Tanzanian shillings (US\$17) daily selling coconut oil. However, when the pandemic hit, her business suffered. She earns at most 15,000 Tanzanian shillings (US\$ 6.4) a day. Various measures adopted by the government, such as travel restrictions and curbing social interactions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, have had a negative impact on her business.

Tatu is not alone. COVID-19 has also affected incomes and livelihoods of her family members. According to her, some of her relatives working in the informal are at risk of being exposed to the virus. Worse still, they cannot stay at home because doing so would negatively affect their livelihoods.

The coronavirus crisis has also disrupted the business activities in the local community where Tatu lives. Most of her peers, who were engaging in petty trade such as selling fried cassava and potato chips, have lost their jobs. Some of them have been forced to go back to the village since they can no longer sustain their livelihoods.

Tatu strongly believes that the government can draw up a plan to help youth-led communities by supporting their vulnerable businesses to help them recover from the economic shocks. According to her, authorities should support youth groups through training and financial support to rebuild their battered businesses. Such a move would make them resilient to future shocks while also contributing meaningfully to the country's economy.



GRACINDA – MOZAMBIQUE

Gracinda is 28 years old, with no formal education. She has three children and her husband is a farmer.

At the end of February 2020 Gracinda lived and worked in the city of Pemba, in Cabo Delgado. During the weekdays, Gracinda was living in the house where she worked as a domestic worker. On the weekends she went back to her own home in Ntutupue, 40 kilometres from the provincial capital, Pemba, where the children lived with their grandmother.

Before COVID-19 Gracinda worked nine hours a day for a weekly income of 935 Meticaís (U\$13). Due to the crisis, Gracinda was let go from her job. She decided to move back to Ntutupue and started to look for another job, but that turned out to be far from easy. Due to the lack of employment opportunities, Gracinda decided to start a small business as a vendor selling fruit from the family's "machamba" (agriculture farm), at the market in Pemba. Her weekly income dropped to 550 Meticaís (U\$7.8). In her view, the preventive measures declared by the government are a big barrier. While many people are selling things, there are few clients with enough money to buy. Now, Gracinda works more hours, earning less money.

Over the last three months, Gracinda has had to withdraw from her savings to cover living costs. Before the pandemic spending on food consumption in her household was stable. But now, she is spending a lot more money on food due to increases in prices without any increase in food consumption.

Gracinda's oldest daughter is in 5th grade. In 2020, classes were interrupted shortly after having started. Gracinda regrets that her daughter could not study normally; she says the measures introduced by the Ministry of Education "do not bring knowledge." Increased household responsibilities are also a concern for her. With the children at home during the day, responsibility for childcare has increased since the beginning of the crisis and most care is falling on Gracinda's shoulders.

Gracinda thinks that financial support for vulnerable groups would be the most important measure to minimize the effects of the COVID-19 on her social and work situation.

5. KEY FINDINGS



JAFARI – TANZANIA

Born and raised in the drought-hit Singida region, Jafari, who is the fourth in a family of seven children, was only able to attend primary education.

Jafari has since 2020 established a small shop in Dar es Salaam. He sells consumer goods to earn an income and meet his family's needs. Some of the products he sells include drinking water, soda, and processed juices. Moreover, to diversify his income he also provides mobile-phone charging services.

Before the pandemic, Jafari would generate up to US\$20 from his daily sales. After restrictions were put in place Jafari earned US\$8-12 per day. The situation forced him to close his shop for a while and seek casual labour opportunities in order to be able to buy products and maintain the business.

His situation is not unique. Jafari also mentioned that his sister, who is running a street kitchen, has also been badly affected.

Jafari is extremely concerned about the impact the pandemic has had on economic activity. Beginning almost eight months ago, his business ground to a halt and he has since not made any meaningful progress.

Jafari wants the government to support the business sector and industries affected by the disease. He urged development organizations and vocational training centers to work with the government to equip young people with transferable vocational skills so that they can establish their own businesses. Jafari is convinced these types of initiatives will help young people generate income for themselves and their families.

The hardest-hit sectors are those largely employing young people. Workers in these sectors are characterized by being young, urban, informal workers.

According to ILO data, 178 million young workers around the world were working in hard-hit sectors when the pandemic started. Furthermore, 77% of young workers are informal workers, with youth informal employment reaching 93.4% in Africa¹¹¹. In Bangladesh, 90% of the youth population is employed in the informal sector¹¹². Across the four countries in the research, young people tend to be employed in hospitality and tourism, transportation, food services, and in MSME or household enterprises. They tend to work informally, with women representing a higher proportion of informal workers.

In Tanzania, reports show that approximately one-third of workers in accommodation, food service, transport, and storage are working informally. Female representation in the sector is over 50%. While there are no official data about the number of layoffs in the tourism sector in Tanzania, tour operators have reported a large number of layoffs and revenues are forecasted to decline by 80%¹¹³. In Kenya, 30% of household-run businesses reported being temporarily closed. While the majority of them have plans to re-open, without appropriate support their survival is uncertain. Furthermore, long-term restrictions of economic activities can also have severe consequences on household-run businesses, which represent an important source of income to many¹¹⁴. Similarly, in Mozambique, income losses have been concentrated in sectors and areas where the poor and young people are predominant. The service sector – including retail, transport, restaurants, tourism, and personal service – reported a 60% overall reduction in

jobs. While the situation was consistent across provinces, it was more prominent in Manica, Cabo Delgado, Niassa, and Zambezia¹¹⁵.

Economic shocks to these sectors mean urban poverty is likely to increase with a significant impact on women. This situation also raises questions about the ability of young people to transition out of poverty. Furthermore, because young people tend to be self-employed or work in MSME, often in the informal sector, they lack access to safety nets and are not able to benefit from support and relief programmes.

The ‘shecession’ will likely have long-term effects on young women.

Women across the world and young women across countries in our study are experiencing a ‘shecession’ – an economic downturn where job and income losses are disproportionately affecting women more than men¹¹⁶. Young women have reported declines in work, income, and access to education while also being asked to shoulder the burden of domestic and care work. The situation is likely to lead to a decrease of female participation in the labour market and increased vulnerability for women, further reducing opportunities available to them.

111) ILO (2020). ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Fourth edition

112) ActionAid Bangladesh (nd) Investing on Young People: What does the Budget reflect?

113) World Bank (2020). Tanzania Economic Update, Addressing the impact of COVID-19

114) World Bank (2020). Kenya Economic Update: Navigating the Pandemic

115) World Bank (2021). Mozambique Economic Update: Setting the Strategy for Recovery

116) The New York Times (2020) Why Some Women Call This Recession a ‘Shecession’

5. KEY FINDINGS

Sector focus – Tourism

The tourism industry in Sub-Saharan Africa is an important source of work for many young people across the continent. The industry often provides first employment opportunities to thousands of unskilled young people – especially women – in rural and urban areas.

ZAINABU – TANZANIA

Zainabu, a 32-year-old single mother of two kids, lives with her extended family in Mafia, Zanzibar. As the sole breadwinner who works hard to ensure there is food on the table, Zainabu was hit hard by the pandemic.

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, Zainabu worked as a server at a hotel lodge close to her home. She received a monthly salary of around 230,000 Tanzanian shillings (US\$100). The lodge was a hub for foreign and domestic tourists, who brought in a lot of money to the local economy.

The situation abruptly changed during the pandemic. Tourists stopped visiting the island as governments across the world and also in Tanzania introduced travel restrictions in order to curb the spread of the virus. As a result, Zainabu lost her job and has since experienced financial difficulties.

As an alternative source of income, Zainabu started a small business weaving palm -frond roofing, traditionally used across coastal communities. While she was able to sell a few roofs, the income was not enough to sustain her family's growing expenses. To supplement her income, she also started selling doughnuts, which generated between 50,000 and 100,000 Tanzanian shillings (US\$20-40) in income.

Despite her many efforts, Zainabu still faces significant financial problems. In a desperate attempt to raise money, she sold some of her personal belongings including her radio. Zainabu is



not alone. The COVID outbreak has affected many young people who relied on the tourism sector – the cornerstone of the island economy – for income. Most hotels and restaurants have been forced to suspend operations, stop paying salaries, and lay off employees.

Zainabu believes that government and organisational support of young people through the provision of loans and entrepreneurship skills will help put them back on the path of economic development.



MUKHTAR – MOZAMBIQUE

Mukhtar lives in Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado province. He is 29 years old and has a secondary school education. Mukhtar is the main wage earner in his household, supporting his wife and two young children.

In February 2020, Mukhtar was working in the north part of the province, in Mocimboa da Praia district, where he had a full-time job as a waiter in the tourist industry. But unfortunately, due to the armed conflict in the north, he had to move to Pemba, where he quickly found another full-time job as a waiter in a local hotel.

When COVID-19 reached Mozambique and the government declared state of emergency, the tourist industry was hit hard. Mukhtar lost his job and

remained unemployed for more than four months. Mukhtar and his family had a hard time economically and socially. Income was severely reduced while consumer prices went up. Moreover, Mukhtar found it hard to sit at home every day without having anything useful to do.

However, when COVID-19 restrictions were loosened, the hotel where he worked before called him in and gave him a long-term contract, improving his economic and social situation. Mukhtar's weekly earnings are around 2,000 Meticaís (US\$28), including tips. The family manages its money very carefully, but Mukhtar's biggest worry is that he may be dismissed again or that the employer may reduce salaries due to having few clients.

Mukhtar and his family have not received any support from the government or non-governmental organizations. He recognizes that direct government support would not be easy in Mozambique. But he would like to see the government create more training opportunities and provide easier access to education so that young people will be better prepared for work when the crisis comes to an end.

5. KEY FINDINGS

JENCITA – KENYA

Jencita is a 24-year-old mother of a 7-year-old boy and the sole breadwinner for her son and her extended family, comprising seven members. Jencita has a diploma in business management and completed a short course on tour guiding. Currently, she lives in Nanyuki, Kenya.

Before COVID-19, Jencita was the founder of an organization called Mama Kenya Utamaduni Centre, located in Laikipia County. Her tourism business depends on both local and international tourists, offering entertainment through traditional music and traditional food. The business is seasonal; the months of April, June and August constitute the high/peak season and the other months are off-peak season. During the peak season, she works for 8-15 hours per day, depending on the flow of tourists. Jencita has taken advantage of social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram to market her tourist services. Mama Utamaduni had employed 25 youths doing a variety of work including storytelling, performing traditional dances, preparing meals, and leading nature trail walks.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, Jencita experienced a drop in her income due to border restrictions, which barred international tourists from coming into the country. Currently, Mama Utamaduni is not operational, and her employees are out of work. Jencita has been trying to get loans from banks and credit and saving cooperatives to boost the business. Despite her efforts, she has not been able to secure any funds.

Jencita is concerned about her financial situation, especially as the cost of food consumption in her family has increased. She feels the burden of taking care of her extended family, especially her parents



who are old and retired. Jencita has not received any external support. With schools now reopening, she is also concerned about being able to pay for her son's school fees. Jencita also reported an increase in gender-based violence in her community.

If the situation persists, she plans to find alternative sources of income either by starting a small business, like farming vegetables or even finding a job. According to Jencita, the government should support young people through the provision of funds or by training them in the technical skills required to grow their business. She is a strong believer in the importance of being self-employed and having entrepreneurship skills. She hopes that her organization will soon be operational; her plan is to try to get a loan from the county government tourism board to boost her business.

Young people and their households are using different coping mechanisms, often reducing food consumption.

Increases in the prices of food and household items have forced families across countries to adjust consumption and make difficult trade-offs. A large proportion of young people reported that their households were cutting down consumption of food, often to a single meal a day. Expenses were concentrated on food items with little to no money left for anything else.

In Mozambique, a net importer of food that relies heavily on third-party countries for agricultural imports, food prices experienced a significant increase in price. Data show an 8% increase in food prices year-on-year in August 2020. At the same time, 76% of urban households reported concerns about having enough food and 37% mentioned going a day without eating¹¹⁷. In January 2021, the year-on-year inflation rate in Kenya increased to 5.69%, the highest level since May 2020¹¹⁸. The expansion was related to higher food prices, on items such as white bread and cabbages. Survey data collected in Kenya show that 40% of household adults cut meals at least once a week in May and June 2020 and in 25% of households' children had to do the same. In 1 in 10 households, adults and children went an entire day without food. Female-head households were more affected than those headed by men¹¹⁹.

Families also expressed serious concerns about their ability to cover the cost of healthcare in case of sickness (particularly COVID-19).

Young women and girls disproportionately experience the burden of increased household responsibilities.

Research findings suggest that restrictions and containment measures in place due to the pandemic have led to an increase in young women's unpaid care work. While across countries young men have also mentioned increases in the time that they spend doing domestic and care work, it is clear that young women

are responsible for the bulk of the work. The increase in unpaid domestic and care work can have adverse consequences for young people's education, livelihoods, and health.

Several participants in our study mentioned feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and worried about the amount of responsibility they were facing, particularly those with school-aged children. In many cases, the increase in unpaid care work has negatively affected young women's ability to work as their time is now spent taking care of children, supporting them with remote learning, and providing care for other household members.

Family and personal savings have been decimated and the situation is leaving families in debt.

Many young people participating in the research reported relying on individual or family savings to be able to afford basic needs. Savings were mainly used as a safety net to buy food and, in some cases, pay for rent. However, the length of the crisis means most families have by now used up all their savings and are currently relying on support from other family members or loans. There are concerns that loans will not be able to be paid due to lack of income and work, exposing young people and their families to further vulnerabilities. Young people are also concerned about their ability to pay for food, education, and healthcare in the future.

The situation has led to urban-to-rural relocation, putting increased pressure on rural populations.

Declines in work and income have meant that young people have had to make drastic decisions, including in many cases, returning to their home villages. According to a survey conducted by the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics in May 2020, about 30.2% of people living in rented apartments and houses in Kenya were unable to pay their rent in April 2020. Further, only 41.7% of them could afford to pay rent on time. In the survey, people cited job losses and reduced earnings as some of the reasons why they could not pay their full rent on time or at all.

As income dried up, many young people decided to cut living costs by returning to their villages and seeking refuge with their families. This urban-to-rural relocation has been reported across countries, and while our data

117) World Bank (2021). Mozambique Economic Update: Setting the Strategy for Recovery

118) Statista (2021) Monthly inflation rate in Kenya from December 2019 to January 2021

119) World Bank (2020). Kenya Economic Update: Navigating the Pandemic

5. KEY FINDINGS



BANAMALI – BANGLADESH

Banamali left school at the age of 10 to help financially support his family. He is 26 years old and currently lives in the Dhaka district, originally coming from the Brahmanbaria district. Banamali has 10 family members, including parents, siblings, spouses, and his nephew, all of whom live together. Both Banamali and his elder brother are the main wage earners.

Banamali worked as a cobbler before the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting his elder brother in financially supporting the family. Before the pandemic, he used to earn about 2,000 Taka (US\$23) per week, working full days. Before the pandemic, he was able to have enough work; however, things have drastically changed since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Due to COVID-19, Banamali and his brother had to leave their workplace in Dhaka and went back to their village. Due to the nationwide lockdown, it became difficult for them to stay in Dhaka due to the cost of living. In the village, they lived with their family and were unemployed for some time. Banamali spent all his savings to cover the costs of living and received a loan from a microfinance NGO to support his family. He had to work gig jobs and got injured while doing road development work.

After the lockdown was lifted, Banamali returned to his workplace in Dhaka. He is working harder than ever to help his family get back to a stable position, but the number of customers has decreased. One of the various steps taken by the government in this pandemic was to close down educational institutions, which reduced the number of students and teachers who seek services like Banamali's. He currently works 12 hours a day and earns 1800 Taka per week (US\$21). His family has not received any help or assistance from any government or non-governmental organization. As a result, he and his family have been living in financial hardship. Even a few months of unemployment affected his wellbeing and his ability to financially support his family.

set is not statistically representative, it serves to highlight broader trends.

While the pandemic has affected all countries, urban areas have felt the effects of the economic shocks more prominently. Rural areas have been less exposed to the spread of the virus and households with agricultural incomes have been able to weather the crisis slightly better. However, questions remain as to how long the situation will remain as such and to what extent these households will be able to absorb and accommodate returning populations.

To be able to rebuild their livelihoods, young people are demanding access to education and training and the provision of financial assistance.

Loss of income and a lack of work opportunities result in young people experiencing high levels of financial and social distress. In this scenario, they are trying to determine the best ways to prepare for the future. Young participants across all countries highlighted the importance of having access to education and training, particularly related to entrepreneurship and business skills and vocational training. Young people recognize that finding a job will be harder in the future, so rather than seeking work, they would like to create work.

Along with access to education and training another key consideration is access to financial assistance. Young people in all countries mentioned the need for an easier and more-streamlined process to access capital that would allow them to start a business. Financial support for those most in need, including their families, is also a key concern for youth who have been left unable to cover basic needs.

Gender-based violence and reproductive health

Mirroring global trends, young women have experienced an increase in gender-based and domestic violence.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 reports have shown that violence against women and girls, especially domestic violence, has increased significantly. In Bangladesh, organisations reported a 50% increase in gender-based violence and in Tanzania, there was a 30% increase¹²⁰. In Kenya, calls to helpline 1195 rose from 86 in February 2020 to more than 1,100 in June 2020¹²¹. These resource constraints have exacerbated transactional sex and violence for young women in Nairobi. More than one-third (36%) of young women reported one or more transactional partnerships in the past year, with financial dependence on those relationships increasing since COVID-19 restrictions were enacted¹²².

Young girls are vulnerable to sexual and physical violence due to restrictions on movement, social isolation, and school closures. In several instances, young women reported that the economic impact of the crisis is increasing tensions in the home, leading to physical violence. Young participants also reported feeling unsafe due to a decline in public transportation, forcing them to wait for long hours either in the early morning or late at night. Interviewees have also reported increases in sexual harassment and assault.

Access to reproductive health is a key concern.

Reproductive health is another major concern for young women. In Kenya there has been a spike in unintended teen pregnancies, associated with school closures and the lack of access to birth control during the pandemic. Evidence from the Ebola epidemic shows that the strain on health services led to resources being diverted away from routine services such as pre- and post-natal care. Furthermore, disruptions in trade and supply chains around the world can affect stocks of sexual and reproductive supplies¹²³. If this is replicated during the COVID-19 pandemic the situation can have significant and devastating consequences for young mothers, putting their health at risk.

¹²⁰ Reliefweb (2020) New data shows a decrease in women being able to report incidents of domestic violence in fragile and conflict-affected countries

¹²¹ UN News (2020) We want justice for these girls': the Kenyan helpline for victims of gender violence

¹²² PMA (2021) Study reveals stark gendered social and economic impacts of COVID-19 for youth in Kenya

¹²³ Plan International UK (2020) Implications of the COVID-19 crisis on girls and young women

5. KEY FINDINGS

KELLY – KENYA

Kelly¹²⁴ is 28 years old and lives in Isiolo County, a semi-arid area located in the middle part of Kenya. Nelly is married and has two children.

Before the pandemic, Nelly was employed by a government agency as a clerk. She was also running her own business, a convenience shop, on a part-time basis, allowing her to make a weekly income of 20,000 Kenya shillings (US\$200). Apart from that Kelly is a member of a youth group that contributes money as savings and part of the money is used to buy and sell seedlings. Her husband was employed as well and hence, Nelly says they could both comfortably provide for their family.

Since the pandemic began, Kelly and her husband lost their jobs. She has therefore been relying on her shop for income. However, due to the increased household consumption costs she is not making any money. The youth group where she was a member also collapsed because of the strict COVID-19 measures and she lost her savings. Her mother was also laid-off from work but ventured into farming.

Kelly is experiencing gender-based violence from her partner; this has been an everyday norm for her especially because her husband lost his work and his frustrations from being idle at home trickle down to her. If the situation continues any further, Kelly is concerned that she will experience increased levels of violence from her partner.

Kelly has not received any form of assistance from the government or any charitable organizations. Ideally, she would like to receive financial support to restock her business. She also hopes her husband will be recalled back to work, putting an end to the violence at home.

On the other hand, some participants also stated that the pandemic has delayed family plans, with women postponing planned pregnancies due to the economic situation.

Mental health

Youth are anxious and stressed about their future.

Young people across countries reported high levels of anxiety and concern about what the future looks like and what opportunities will be available to them. In most cases, youth are worried about income and work, with many of them reporting that if the situation continues for another six months, they will not be able to cope.

Restrictions in movement, bans on gatherings, and

school closures have translated to drastic changes in young people's lifestyles, with many losing access to friends and support networks. Young people are not only worried about income and work but also about the effects of long periods of isolation on their social relations and on cultural norms.

Young people are also worried about how youth are perceived and the potential criminalization of poverty.

Young respondents also reported concerns about the perception of youth. In some regions, there have been reports of youth misconduct and petty crimes, often

¹²⁴ Due to safety and security, the name of the interviewee has been changed. She has been referred to an organization providing support to women who are suffering from domestic violence.



Niloy utilises his time to work due to school closures.

related to a lack of income and work. In Kenya, police brutality in enforcing curfews has been widely reported. In most cases, people were simply trying to return home or were desperate to find work. The situation can easily lead to a criminalization of youth and poverty, where those desperate to sustain themselves and their families are attacked for doing so.

the amount of paperwork usually required, long waiting times, and distantly located public offices all add to the burden of seeking help, often discouraging young people from doing so.

Access to services

Youth are not getting the support they need.

In the majority of cases across countries, youth reported not receiving help of any kind from government or civil society organizations. As discussed before, due to the nature of youth employment – often self-employed or informal – they are not able to benefit from emergency support programmes, government funding schemes, and tax relief measures.

Lack of information and bureaucracy act as barriers to access public funds.

Furthermore, there seems to be a widespread lack of knowledge about the public services or assistance that are available to youth. Many report not knowing about any programmes from which they could receive assistance. For the few who do know, bureaucracy and red tape act as strong deterrents to requesting support:

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

This study reviewed and analysed policy measures implemented across participating countries in order to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy analysis assessed how sensitive policies were to youth-specific challenges and their impact on livelihoods, income, and decent work for young people.

The findings of the study indicate that the large majority of policies and measures implemented are not youth sensitive. Measures focused on disease control and economic recovery but neglected to address the impact and effects they had on young people's lives. As a result, most of the young people who participated in our study mentioned experiencing significant disruptions in employment, work, or income-generating activities. Prolonged school closures and costs associated with accessing education also raised questions about the educational future of many young people, particularly women. Many youth have been left unable to meet their basic needs and that of their families. Loss of income and a lack of work opportunities combined with a lack of access to economic relief or stimulus packages means that young people are experiencing high levels of financial and social distress. In many cases, economic distress and the tensions that arise from the situation have led to increases in gender-based and domestic violence.

With uncertainties associated with the pandemic still affecting economies around the world, the future for young people looks bleak. However, it does not need to remain that way. Policies and programmes targeting youth and providing specific pathways to economic opportunities and entrepreneurship can take advantage of the youth bulge in these countries and ensure economies are set on a path of sustainable development.

The findings and recommendations in the study should therefore be used to inform advocacy efforts, strengthen the voices of young people, and articulate their needs to help policies better address young people's needs and the constraints that affect youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the midst of any crisis.

Recommendations for governments and policymakers

Governments and policymakers should apply, design, and implement policies with a youth lens.

The effect of policies and measures on young people has been an after-thought during the COVID-19 crisis. Young people need to be at the centre of policy design and implementation, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs considered. Design and implementation of comprehensive policies and incentives need to take into consideration young people in different sectors of the formal and informal economy. Governments at national and local levels should emphasise the involvement of young people and comprehensive consultation processes in designing policies that meet their needs. Engaging young people – as well as youth organizations – from the start sends a strong political message and ensures that programmes are actionable.

Furthermore, policymakers need to ensure policies and programmes are inclusive and target the most-vulnerable youth populations, including NEETs and rural youth. Young people are not monolithic, but are a very diverse group. Different categories of youth have different needs and require different support systems. Programme designers need to think about specific age groups, literacy and skill levels, employment sectors, and types of entrepreneurs when developing policies.

Scale up existing social protection programmes and re-purpose them to protect young people.

So far, social protection programmes have focused either on people who are part of the formal economy or on rural families. These programmes neglect vulnerable populations such as young people engaged in the informal economy in urban areas. Re-purposed programmes should consider including non-conditional cash transfers, food baskets, or suspension of basic utility payments and should re-consider some of the key conditionalities that these programmes are often subject to. Furthermore, expanding social protection programmes to young people who have experienced loss in income and work can also prevent the use of negative coping strategies, help youth avoid food insecurity, and offset increases in poverty.



Mariam, from Tanzania, owns a retail shop where she sells fruits and vegetables

Replicate best practices and lessons learned from different countries.

As countries continue to deal with the aftermath of the crisis, they need to develop mechanisms that allow them to identify, learn, and replicate from best practices across the world. The Kazi Mtaani initiative is a great example of labour market policy that can provide income relief through temporary work opportunities for unemployed youth while also providing valuable public work support in local communities. Furthermore, the initiative’s focus on informal workers working in close collaboration with local governments is another important lesson that can be incorporated in future efforts to target and support those most in need while ensuring the provision of public goods.

Provide access to education and training, ensuring support for the most vulnerable.

Ensuring young people can go back to school in a safe manner should be a priority. Young people are concerned about their educational future and economic prospects and understand that education can make a difference in that regard. The process for returning students to school should pay particular attention to retention rates; measures that both support students in their return and prevent dropping out are key.

Providing entrepreneurial and business training can also

help young people generate economic opportunities. While entrepreneurship training should not be seen as a panacea that will solve all livelihood problems, it could present a unique opportunity for young people to have access to valuable training, skills, and experiences that will be useful in their future working lives. Training in entrepreneurship and business skills needs to be highly contextualized and needs to incorporate the many lessons the sector has learned and developed over the years.

Ensure young people receive financial assistance.

As previously discussed, young people have been unable to access social protection systems, emergency support programmes, government-funding schemes, and tax relief measures. Access to financial assistance for young people – who are often also the main providers for their families – is paramount. Going forward, governments need to concentrate on simplifying requirements and reducing the red tape and bureaucracy that prevent young people from accessing stimulus packages, especially when those packages already exist.

Access to capital for those looking to start a business is also crucial. Young people have very specific ideas about the nature of the capital they would like access, with a frequent request for collateral-free, low-interest-rate

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

loans that could help them get started and/or grow their business.

Youth business, including those operating in the informal sector, should be supported by low-interest loans and subsidies while at the same time they should have better access to stimulus packages that are already being provided.

Protect young women and ensure their access to education and labour markets.

Young women across countries are facing increased levels of economic and social vulnerability, experiencing the worst effects of the pandemic. Policymakers need to ensure women's rights are protected and support mechanisms are in place to ensure they can return safely to education and to the workforce.

School systems need to make sure young women and girls have access to education and training. Governments should develop gender-responsive policies and data collection plans that will allow them to monitor enrolment, participation, and retention of students and identify ways to ensure young women and girls are returning to school and learning.

Improve access to ICT infrastructure and literacy.

Young people recognize the importance of not only having access to the Internet but also of ICT literacy. The high costs of data bundles and lack of devices (computers, smartphones, etc.) have in many cases affected access to remote learning and work opportunities. Narrowing the growing digital divide by improving access to affordable ICT infrastructure and ICT literacy is therefore important.

Recommendations for donors

Donors should continue to adjust their strategies while maintaining current programming.

Young people expressed their concerns that, during a time of crisis, donors often re-assess their strategies and cut back on programming that is often vital to the survival and resilience of local communities. The pandemic has forced many donors to evaluate their interventions and re-think future investments. However, making drastic cuts and changes in the middle of a crisis can often undermine the

ultimate goal: long-term sustainable development and a prosperous future for all.

Rather than cutting programming, donors need to support continuity to ensure that those most at risk and often not represented are targeted and reached by these interventions. Engaging local grassroots youth organizations as part of the process is also crucial.

Provide support to keep building the evidence based on what policy approaches work best for youth.

International donors and organizations should partner with and support national statistical offices and research institutes to collect and analyse data on the impact of the crisis on youth. Disaggregated data that take into account gender, different age groups, economic sectors, educational levels, and other indicators can help better track inequalities and inform decision-making.

Furthermore, the development and implementation of a youth-specific policy tracker that can monitor countries' progress in terms of youth-specific and youth-sensitive policy implementation would provide guidance for governments and policymakers on how to better design and implement policies with a youth lens. The pandemic has seen a plethora of trackers emerge, including those tracking economic, social protection, and health policy, among other. These trackers provide real-time updates about government responses on these issues around the world. They have allowed policymakers to learn from different initiatives, share best practices, and gather important data. However, currently, there is no global youth-specific policy tracker, meaning that important opportunities for learning and data collection that can help build the evidence are being missed and overlooked.

7. REFERENCES

- **African Development Bank (2021)**. Mozambique Economic Outlook. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/southern-africa/mozambique/mozambique-economic-outlook>
- **African Travel and Tourism Association (2019)**. Kenya tourism industry on growth path. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.atta.travel/news/2019/09/kenya-tourism-industry-on-growth-path/>
- **Bangladesh Bank (2021)**. Policy Measures of Bangladesh Bank in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Accessed June 2021 https://www.bb.org.bd/pub/special/covid19_policymeasures.pdf
- **Bank of Tanzania (2020)**. Annual Report 2019/20. Accessed April 2021 <https://www.bot.go.tz/Publications/Regular/Annual%20Report/en/2020123112264444.pdf>
- **BRAC Institute of Governance and Development and BRAC University (2018)**. Youth of Bangladesh Agents of Change? Youth Survey 2018. Dhaka, BRAC Centre
- **British Council (2018)**. Next Generation Kenya: Listening to the voices of young people. Accessed April 2021 — https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/h198_next_generation_kenya_a4_final_web.pdf
- **British Council (2017)**. Youth Employment in Kenya. Literature Review. Accessed April 2021 — https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5acf6e15e5274a76c13df985/NG_Kenya_Youth_Employment_in_Kenya.pdf
- **British Council (2016)** Next Generation: Listening to the Voices of Young People Tanzania. Accessed April 2021 — https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/tanzania_the_next_generation_report.pdf
- **Carta de Mozambique (2020)**. Insurgentes em Cabo Delgado: “Jovens que atacam aldeias cansaram de esperar por dias melhores”, defende académica. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.cartamz.com/index.php/politica/item/5791-insurgentes-em-cabo-delgado-jovens-que-atacam-aldeias-cansaram-de-esperar-por-dias-melhores-defende-academica>
- **EQUALS Research Group (2019)** Taking Stock: Data and Evidence on Gender Equality in Digital Access, Skills and Leadership. Geneva: International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- **Girl Effect and Vodafone Foundation (2018)** Real Girls, Real Lives, Connected. Accessed May 2021 — https://prd-girleffect-corp.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/GE_VO_Full_Report-compressed.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIWVYO5R6RMTXA2NA&Signature=ETdiMaBsj3weeBxUkCTfvC12Xcg%3D&Expires=1620295224
- **Gwaleba, M. (2018)** Urban Growth in Tanzania: Exploring Challenges, Opportunities and Management. International Journal of Social Science Studies, Redfame publishing, vol. 6(12), pages 47-60, December.
- **ILO (2021)**. ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Seventh edition Updated estimates and analysis. Accessed April 2021 — https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_767028.pdf
- **ILO (2020)**. Youth & COVID-19: Impact on jobs, education, rights and mental health. Geneva: ILO
- **ILO (2020)**. ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Fourth edition Updated estimates and analysis. Accessed April 2021 — https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_745963.pdf
- **International Finance Corporation (2021)**. IFC Insights – Safety First: Bangladesh Garment Industry Rebounds. Accessed April 2021 — https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/news_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/news+and+events/news/insights/bangladesh-garment-industry
- **International Finance Corporation (2019)**. Creating Markets In Kenya: Unleashing Private Sector Dynamism to Achieve Full Potential. Washington, DC: International Finance Corporation
- **Kassid, S. (n.d)**. What About Us? Youth (Un)Employment In Times Of Covid-19. World Future Council. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/covid19-what-about-us/>
- **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2018)**. Economic Survey 2018. Nairobi: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- **Khatun, F. and Saadat, S. Y. (2018)**. The Ignored Generation: Exploring the dynamics of youth employment in Bangladesh. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.
- **Kumar, B. and Pinky, S. (2020)** Addressing economic and health challenges of COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Preparation and response. J Public Affairs. 2020:e2556
- **Malala Fund (2020)** Girls Education and COVID-19: What past shocks can teach us about mitigating the impact of pandemics. Accessed May 2021 — https://downloads.ctfassets.net/0oan5gk9rgbh/6TMYLYAcUpjhQpXLDgmdla/3e1c12d8d827985ef2b4e815a3a6da1f/COVID19_GirlsEducation_corrected_071420.pdf
- **McQuaid (2017)** Youth unemployment produces multiple scarring effects. Accessed May 2021 — <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2017/02/18/youth-unemployment-scarring-effects/>
- **Ministério do Trabalho e Segurança Social (2020)** Boletim Informativo do Mercado do Trabalho – I Trimestre 2020. Accessed April 2021 — http://www.mitess.gov.mz/sites/default/files/documents/files/Boletim%20Informativo%20do%20Mercado%20do%20Trabalho%20I%20trimestre%202020_0.pdf
- **Ministry of Finance – Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh (2020)**. Bangladesh Economic Review 2020. Dhaka, Bangladesh Government Press
- **New Age Bangladesh (2021)** Slow disbursement of stimulus package hurts SMEs Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.newagebd.net/article/123416/slow-disbursement-of-stimulus-package-hurts-smes>
- **OCGS (2019)**. Zanzibar Statistical Abstract 2018. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.ocgs.go.tz/php/ReportOCGS/Zanzibar%20Statistical%20Abstract%202018.pdf>

7. REFERENCES

- **OECD (2020)** Youth and COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Resilience. Accessed April 2021 — https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=134_134356-ud5kox3g26&title=Youth-and-COVID-19-Response-Recovery-and-Resilience
- **Pallegedara, A. and Mottaleb, K.A. (2018)**. “Patterns and determinants of private tutoring: The case of Bangladesh households”. *International Journal of Educational Development*, Elsevier, vol. 59(C), pages 43-50.
- **Plan International UK (2020)** Implications of the COVID-19 crisis on girls and young women. Accessed May 2021 — <https://plan-uk.org/file/plan-uk-coronavirus-policy-briefingpdf/download?token=THR6Efm9>
- **PMA (2021)** Study reveals stark gendered social and economic impacts of COVID-19 for youth in Kenya. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.pmadata.org/news/study-reveals-stark-gendered-social-and-economic-impacts-covid-19-youth-kenya-0>
- **Reliefweb (2020)** New data shows a decrease in women being able to report incidents of domestic violence in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Accessed April 2021 — <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/new-data-shows-decrease-women-being-able-report-incidents-domestic-violence-fragile-and>
- **Republica de Mocambique (2021)** Balanço do Plano Económico e Social 2020. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.mef.gov.mz/index.php/documentos/instrumentos-de-gestao/plano-economico-social-pes/pes-2020/-42/1204--272/file>
- **Restless Development (2019)**. Annual Report Tanzania 2019. Accessed April 2021 — https://restlessdevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Restless-Development-Tanzania_-annual-report-2019.pdf
- **Santander Trade (2021)**. Kenyan Economic Outline. Accessed April 2021 — <https://santandertrade.com/en/portal/analyse-markets/kenya/economic-outline>
- **Santos, A. (2018)**. 2018 African Economic Outlook Country Note Mozambique. Accessed April 2021 — https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/country_notes/Mozambique_country_note.pdf
- **Statista (2021)** Monthly inflation rate in Kenya from December 2019 to January 2021. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1139807/monthly-inflation-rate-in-kenya/>
- **Tanzania Civil Society Director’s Forum (2020)**. Position Paper and Strategic Intervention Areas on COVID-19. Accessed April 2021 — <https://thrdc.or.tz/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/TANZANIA-CSOS-POSITION-PAPER-AND-STRATEGIC-INTERVENTION-AREAS-ON-COVID-19.pdf>
- **The Commonwealth (2016)**. Global Youth Development Index and Report. London: Commonwealth Secretariat
- **The MasterCard Foundation (2017)** Invisible Lives: Understanding Youth Livelihoods In Ghana And Uganda. Toronto: The MasterCard Foundation
- **The New York Times (2020)** Why Some Women Call This Recession a ‘Shecession’. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/09/us/unemployment-coronavirus-women.html>
- **UNESCO (2020)** Keeping girls in the picture: youth advocacy toolkit. Accessed May 2021 — <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374113?posInSet=1&queryId=409642d3-3a1e-4b3d-ab54-0f71a4a977ff>
- **(b) UNESCO (2020)** COVID-19: A Global Crisis for Teaching and Learning. Paris: UNESCO.
- **UNESCO (2021)** Connectivity: Making universal connectivity a reality. Accessed May 2021 — <https://gloaleducationcoalition.unesco.org/home/flagships/connectivity>
- **United Nations (2020)**. “Education during COVID-19 and Beyond.” Policy Brief, August, New York: United Nations,.
- **UNICEF (2021)** COVID-19 and School Closures: One year of education disruption. Accessed April 2021 — <https://data.unicef.org/resources/one-year-of-covid-19-and-school-closures/>
- **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2020)** Protecting and mobilizing youth in COVID-19 responses. Accessed April 2021 — https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/05/PB_67.pdf
- **UN News (2020)** We want justice for these girls’: the Kenyan helpline for victims of gender violence. Accessed April 2021 — <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/10/1075522>
- **VOA Mozambique (2020)**. Jovens de Nampula podem estar a ser aliciados por insurgentes de Cabo Delgado. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.voportugues.com/a/jovens-de-nampula-podem-estar-a-ser-aliciados-por-insurgentes-de-cabo-delgado/5321588.html>
- **World Bank (2021)**. Bangladesh Overview. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/bangladesh/overview>
- **(b) World Bank (2021)**. Kenya Overview. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kenya/overview>
- **(c) World Bank (2021)**. Mozambique Overview. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mozambique/overview>
- **(d) World Bank (2021)**. Tanzania Overview. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tanzania/overview>
- **World Bank (2020)**. World Bank Helps Mozambique Mitigate Impact of Covid-19 with a New \$100 Million Grant. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/22/world-bank-helps-mozambique-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19-with-a-new-100-million-grant>
- **(e) World Bank (2021)**. Macro Poverty Outlook Mozambique. Accessed April 2021 — <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/383301492188164250/mpo-moz.pdf>
- **(f) World Bank (2021)**. Mozambique Economic Update: Setting the Strategy for Recovery. Washington, DC: World Bank
- **(g) World Bank (2021)**. Global Economic Prospects. Washington, DC: World Bank



Forhad works in his home-based business after receiving small grant support from ActionAid.

- **World Bank (2020)**. Tanzania Economic Update: Addressing the impact of COVID-19. Washington, DC: World Bank
- **(b) World Bank (2020)**. Kenya Economic Update: Navigating the Pandemic. Washington, DC: World Bank
- **(c) World Bank (2020)**. Simulating the Potential Impacts of the COVID-19 School Closures on Schooling and Learning Outcomes: A set of Global Estimates. Washington, D.C., World Bank
- **World Bank (2019)**. Addressing youth employment in Bangladesh: Insights on design from five programs implemented by PKSF. Accessed April 2021 — <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/817911585631502879/pdf/Addressing-Youth-Employment-in-Bangladesh-Insights-on-Design-from-Five-Programs-Implemented-by-PKSF.pdf>
- **(b) World Bank (2019)** Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment. Washington, DC: World Bank
- **(c) World Bank (2019)** Tanzania's Path to Poverty Reduction and Pro-Poor Growth. Accessed April 2021 — <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tanzania/publication/tanzanias-path-to-poverty-reduction-and-pro-poor-growth>
- **World Bank, (2013)**. STEP Skills Measurement Household Survey 2013 – Kenya. Accessed April 2021 — <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/2226>

Inequality. This is the problem. We are bringing people together to create a common platform to create structural changes. In 45 countries, together with ActionAid, we struggle to strengthen human rights and end poverty.



www.ms.dk



@ActionAidDK



Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke



MellempfolkeligtSamvirke

**MELLEMFOLKELIGT
SAMVIRKE** **act:onaid**