The UN estimates that Africa’s 15 to 24 year old population is expected to grow by about 6,000,000 each year for the next decade.

7 out of 10 young workers are self-employed.

12% of youth are unemployed. Over 70% of young workers are underemployed.

60% of youth aged 15-24 have not gone beyond primary school.

Enhancing the productivity and income of youth is a key priority.

Young people with higher education are twice as likely to be unemployed as those with basic education.

Some key factors that constrain youth livelihoods:

- Skills mismatch
- Lack of information about opportunities
- Lack of access to credit

Lasting solutions:

- Provide evidence on what interventions work, what do not, and what is scalable.
- Uncover the barriers to school-to-work transitions.
- Foster an enabling environment that spurs youth-led innovations.
- Improve data collection and use.

For more information, please refer to Betcherman and Khan (2015), Youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa: Taking stock of the evidence and knowledge gaps, a scoping paper commissioned by IDRC and the MasterCard Foundation.