



Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth



Employment & Entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone




NATIONAL POPULATION


7,092 113

YOUTH POPULATION (15-35 YEARS)

2,794 883

39.4%

 1,317,985
47.2%

 1,476,898
52.8%

Source: PHC 2015

The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working age share of the population.


"A country with both increasing numbers of young people and declining fertility has the potential to reap a demographic dividend"

Investment in **Employment & Entrepreneurship** targeting both female and male youth is critical to ensure Sierra Leone can harness the demographic dividend. Engagement of youth in the formal or non-form sectors will bolster the capacity of the nation to fully utilize their skills and energies.

The lack of critical relevant skills limit the capacity of young people to take advantage of existing market conditions. As a pre requisite for economic growth it is key that there is a skilled labour force and convenient working conditions.

Employment status among youth (15-35 years)

 **53.4%** Employed

 **2.9%** Unemployed

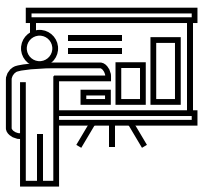
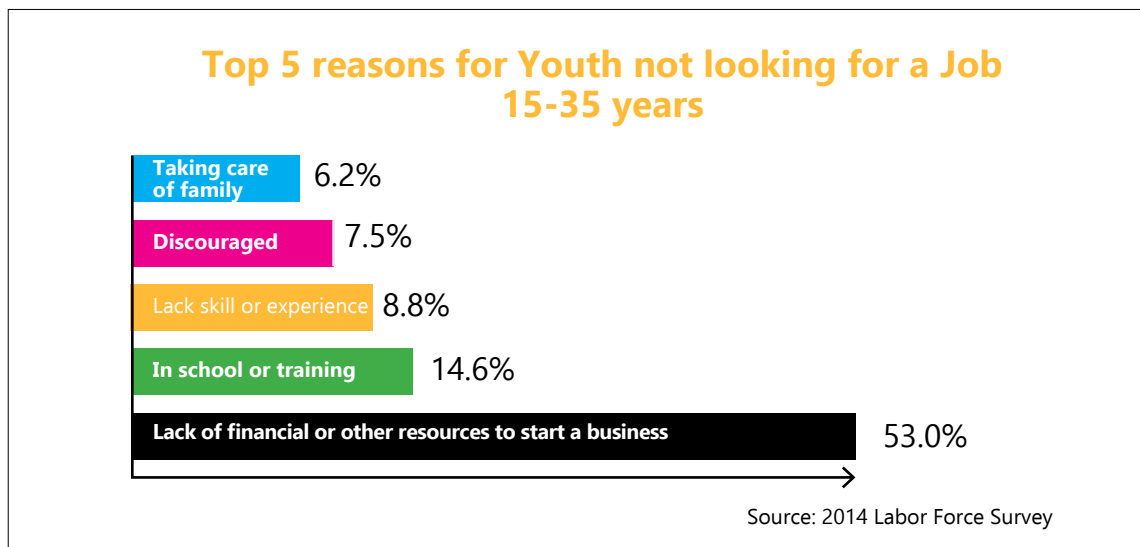
 **43.6%** Not in the labor market

Source: Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census (PHC 2015)

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Youth Shaping the future of Sierra Leone

Low skills levels and financial constraints result in difficulties for the youth in finding jobs in the formal sector ...



55%

of individuals in the working age population have never been to school

8/10

of individuals in the labor force have at most primary education

57%

of individuals in the working age population can neither read nor write

Source: 2014 Labor Force Survey

Key Actions to promote Employment & Entrepreneurship among Youth in Sierra Leone



- Develop and implement strategies aimed at **reducing the proportion of youth unemployed** by at least a quarter
- Improve **access to credit facilities** for youth
- Invest in sectors with **high job-multiplier effects**, including Information and Communications, Technology (ICT), manufacturing, agriculture and agroindustries in order to generate employment and spur inclusive growth
- Promote the **National Youth Service Scheme**

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