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# Youth and Workforce Strategy Development in Kosovo

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## Youth Segments

School Status	In School	Out of School
Age		
15-19	Secondary school	Early School Leavers (dropouts)
20-24	University	Unemployed youth

80-90%

100%



## Situation Analysis

- Estimated unemployment for youth ranges from 50% to 76%
- 25-40,000 new labor force entrants per year with only 3-4000 jobs
- 44% of young people are long-term unemployed
- 10 years for youth to move from school to permanent jobs
- 20% of the 160,000 unemployed youth are in extreme poverty
- Opportunities to find work abroad are decreasing
- School materials outdated or non-existent
- 10.8% leave school early
- 55% of youth have no or very little trust in municipal government
- Youth do not feel represented by politicians and have few avenues to influence policy.



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## Conclusion

Few social, economic, and political outlets exist for youth, increasing their vulnerability to negative influences (drugs, gangs, political/religious manipulation) and increasing the risk to Kosovo's stability.



## Assistance Objective 1: Youth Are More Productive and Engaged Members of a Stable Kosovo

### IR 1: Improved Capacity of Schools to Provide Relevant Skills

1.1: GoK Improves Planning, Management and Evaluation of the Education System

1.2: Communities and Schools Establish Functional Partnerships to Use Resources Effectively and Accountably

### IR 2: Increased Opportunities for Youth to Acquire Skills for Employment

2.1: Reduced Time of School to Work Transition

2.2: Improved Services to Link Youth to Available Jobs

### IR 3: Improved Youth Engagement in the Community

3.1: Increased Youth Participation in Constructive Processes

3.2: Youth Provide More Services for Their Communities



## Guiding Principles

- Focus on out of school, out of work youth
  - give them opportunity to exploit existing economic opportunities
- Flexibility:
  - to local community needs, the demands of the job market, and the needs and interests of local youth. Not a “one size fits all”.
- Local Solutions to Local Problems:
  - depend critically upon local resources
  - operate only where there are good conditions to create partnerships with the private sector, municipal governments, local NGOs, Youth Centers, community groups;
- Coordination:
  - Kosovo Private Enterprise Program
  - Skill Development for Young Leaders
  - Basic education program
  - Local government program
  - Business enabling environment program
  - Other donors and Government of Kosovo initiatives
- Innovative and Creative: in approach, as well as in outreach efforts



## How to respond?

Three broad goals corresponding to IR 1.1 and 1.2:

- Strengthening youth workforce development.
  - locally-relevant skill trainings that reflect the needs of the job market
  - transferable skills that improve employability across sectors
  - link the private sector to municipalities, training service providers, local communities to create sustainable partnerships
  - exploit synergies within USAID portfolio and align with other donor activities
- Empowering youth entrepreneurship.
  - focus on youth livelihoods
  - ongoing support and mentorship for youth businesses
- Reinvigorating youth engagement.
  - initiatives that reinvigorate a volunteer spirit, encourage youth civic advocacy, and assist young people to deliver services to their communities and become involved in solving local problems.



## What we hope to achieve

- Sustained local partnerships in place to improve employment outcomes for young people
- Youth actively engaged and off streets
- Better prepared workforce
- Youth possess skills to take advantage of existing economic opportunities
- New enterprises and new jobs created
- Youth unemployment decreases
- Youth contribute actively to their communities
- Youth are engaged in problem-solving, advocacy, and positive activities
- Inter-ethnic cooperation among youth improves



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**Thank you!**

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