YOUTH AT THE CROSSROADS: A GENERATION WITH UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

87% OF YOUTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

While more of today’s youth enjoy a better quality of life than ever before, poverty and inequality, massive numbers are being left out.

The world is experiencing an unprecedented youth unemployment bulge.

THE WORLD IS AT A CROSSROADS: WILL WE INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION?

Basic skills including literacy, numeracy and digital literacy

Life skills including critical thinking, communication and collaboration and creativity

Productive capacity including technical and vocational skills

Access to capital including savings, microloans and insurance

Relational support including peer support, mentors and business coaches

Ensure that all youth and adults have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship

Ensure that all youth and adults, both women and men, reach a proficiency level in literacy and numeracy sufficient to fully participate in society

Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

The real test of this pledge will be whether it has an impact on the most vulnerable children, who live and die unseen, unheard and uncounted.

THE WORLD IS A CROSSROADS; WILL WE INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION?

The Millennium Development Goals expire this year. World leaders are proposing numerous Sustainable Development Goals to guide development over the next 15 years, including the following goal indicators:

WE MUST INVEST IN YOUTH SKILLS AND VIABILITY, INCLUDING:

80% COULDN'T FIND WORK.

NEARLY HALF OF ALL THE WORLD'S YOUTH

621 MILLION

are not employed, in school or in training.

TODAY'S YOUTH ARE 3X MORE LIKELY TO BE UNEMPLOYED THAN ADULTS.

While many of today’s youth inhabit a world of unprecedented opportunity and possibility, millions more are being left out. They should be the future leaders, workers and citizens of their communities and nations. Unfortunately, too many of today’s youth are vulnerable to a life of poverty or violence.

There are more youth (ages 15-24) in the world today than ever before.

More than 120 million youth are not employed, in school or in training.

One key driver is lack of education and literacy. In nearly all developing countries, the highest unemployment rate is among people with a primary education or less.

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1 in 5 young people have not completed their elementary education.

Globally, there are 123 million illiterate youth, two-thirds of who are girls.

These youth are stuck at a crossroads where they are trying to choose their identity and place in society, but with little opportunity to reach their full potential.

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They may be the future leaders, workers and citizens of their communities and nations. Unfortunately, too many of today’s youth are vulnerable to a life of poverty or violence.

There are 1.2 billion people under 25 years old and 7 billion adults. The world’s population is growing by about 83 million people a year.

Nearly half of all the world’s youth are not employed, in school or in training.

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120 MILLION

Youth are not employed, in school or in training.

In 2013, 120 million youth entered the workforce but... COULDN'T FIND WORK.

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