

Youth Employment in the Pacific Island Countries

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Youth Employment Crisis

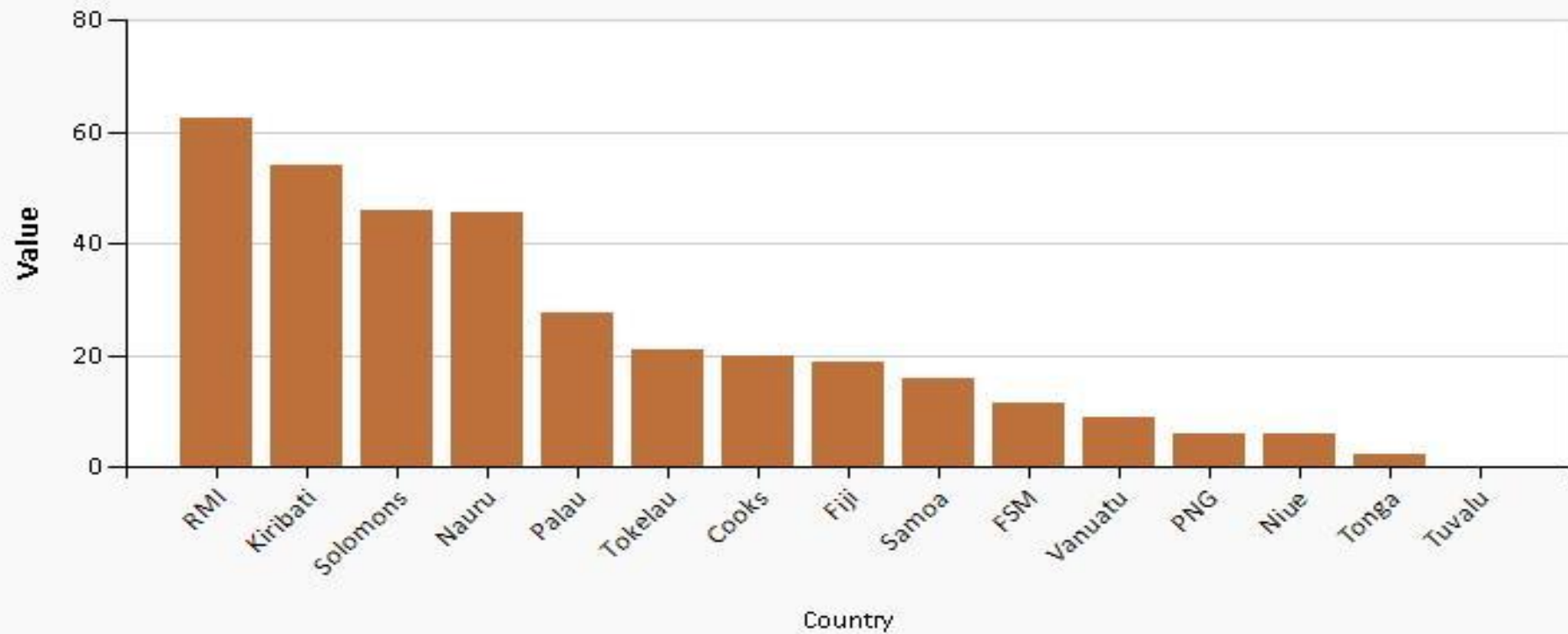
- ❖ 73.3 million unemployed young people (2014)
- ❖ 13% - 3 times higher adult unemployment rate
- ❖ Informality of jobs for youth:
 - Young working poor (2013): 169 million (less than \$2/day), 286 million (less than \$4/day)
 - Over qualification
- ❖ Average 19 months for school to work transition (Primary: Tertiary = 30:10)
- ❖ Needs 600 million jobs over 10 years

- ❖ ILO Call for Action (2012):
 - Economic policy to increase and create more jobs
 - LM policy for vulnerable youth
 - Education and training opportunities
 - Entrepreneurship and self employment
 - Labour rights for youth

Youth unemployment in the Pacific

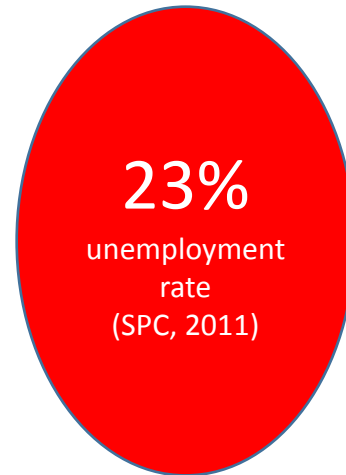
HD-Y-1.4 - Comparison of Latest Figures for each Country - Youth Unemployment (mf)

National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) www.spc.int/nmdi



Pacific situation

- Youth is still seen through a security lens rather than economic
- Youth Policies have strong component on employment /economic empowerment
- Youth dept/ministry remain relatively under resourced and isolated from economic development discussions and policy formulation.
- However, there are opportunities for MoY/DoY to intergrade youth priorities in provincial, municipal and national plans and programmes



- Young people are 4.5-6 times less likely to secure jobs relative to older workers (ILO, 2013)
- Steadily increasing youth population not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- High age dependency ratio and places enormous burden on the relatively small economically active population and limited national resources (SPC,2011).

Pacific mandates to address youth employment



Forum Leaders Communique - September 2011



Ministerial outcome statement – April 2013



Pacific youth's outcome statement (SIDS) – July 2013

"Its not easy being young in the labour market today" (ILO, 2013)



3rd Pacific Youth Ministers Meeting – December 2013

More young people have secured decent employment

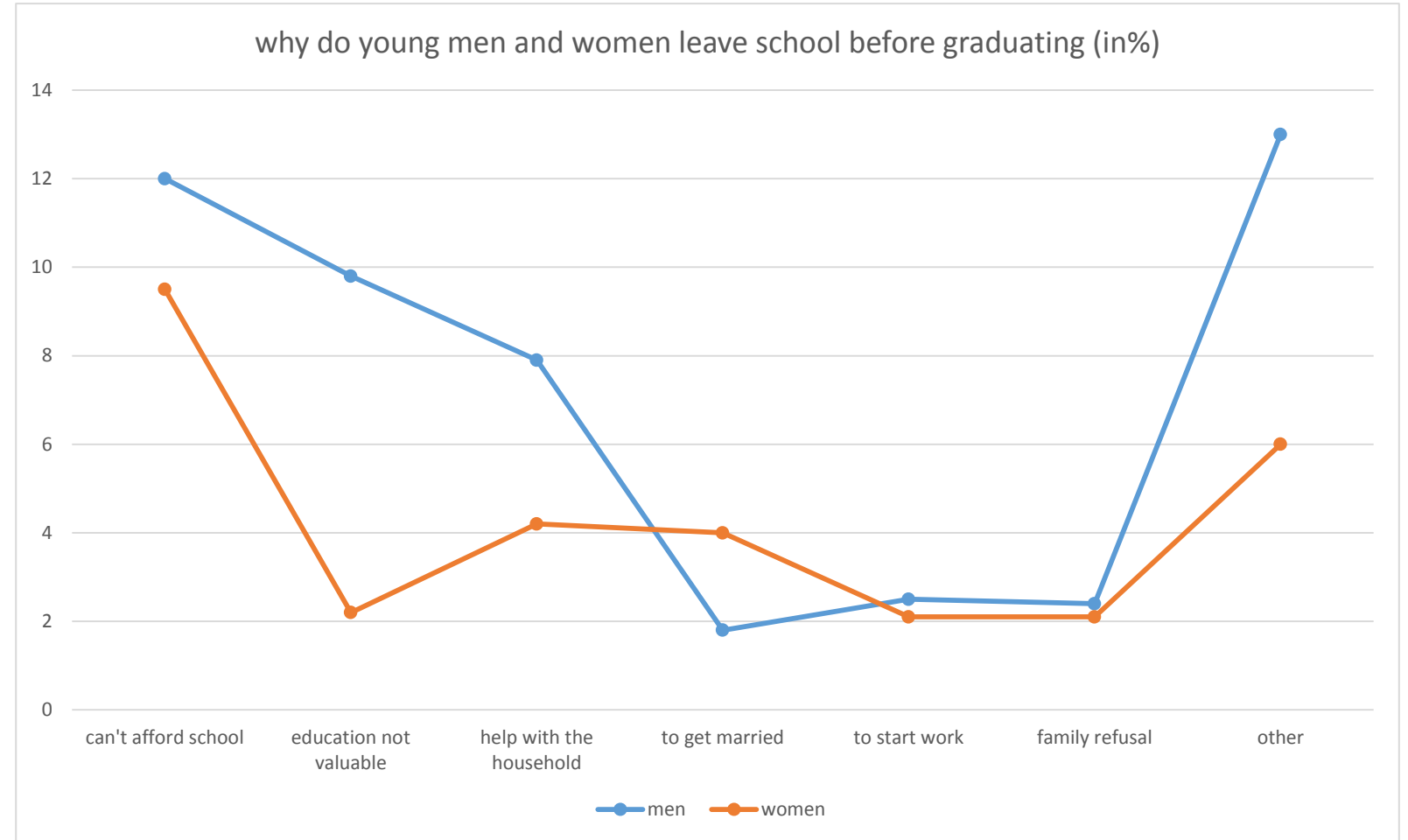
Young people have increased access to relevant **education and training**

More young people are involved in **entrepreneurship**

Youth **employment services** that connect young people to employment opportunities established

School to Work Transition Survey, Samoa (2013)

- Youths are defined as those between the ages of 15 and 29
- High rate of men drop-out in high school than women (58%:42%)
- Unemployed educated youth: Secondary graduates (39.9%), TVET degree holders (39%).



Samoa National Action Plan on Youth Employment

Enhance employability amongst young people through better alignment of skills and labour market-demand by 2020

- The education and training system is aligned to labour market requirements
- A system is in place for labour market training to provide relevant skills and experience leading to employment for young job-seekers
- Young people have access to career development services

Promote youth Employment opportunities through the development of village economies

- Incentives are in place to foster youth employment and job creation in rural areas at community level
- A system is established to promote youth entrepreneurship
- Create an enabling environment to better support and empower youth in the informal sector

ILO Programme: Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship Education:

Know About Business (KAB)

- Fiji – Secondary Schools
- PNG – Secondary Schools
- Pilot in Kiribati - KIT

Entrepreneurship Training:

Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)

- PNG – SBDC
- Kiribati - KCCI
- Vanuatu – VCCI
- Solomon Is – SIWIBA, Y@W
- Samoa - SBEC

Community Based Enterprise Development (C-BED)

- Solomon Is – Y@W, CSSI
- Kiribati - KiriCan

ILO Programme : Career Counselling

My Guide to Employment for young people in the pacific:

Part 1: Preparing to Find a Job

Part 2: Finding a Job

Part 3: Creating you own job

Part 4: Keeping a job

- TOT's completed: Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands
- TOT's in 2016: Solomon Islands, Fiji, PNG & Marshall Islands
- Adapted local version in Samoa

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_230942.pdf

Questions to youth leaders

- ❖ What should we do more?
- ❖ Among youth, who should be targeted?