

ENHANCING YOUTH LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMMES



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AFLATOUN
INTERNATIONAL

THE CHALLENGE



A major challenge for youth today is unemployment and under-employment. Globally, over 64 million youth are unemployed and 145 million young people that have jobs are still living in poverty [1]. The impact of this is even greater for **young women, who often experience gender discrimination or are not allowed to work.**

Additionally, youth unemployment has become a top policy concern for governments and civil society. Understanding more about how to create sustainable futures and livelihoods for youth worldwide is incredibly important. At Aflatoun we believe that this issue is caused by a gap in traditional education systems that fails to address the mismatch between supply and demand of skills.

Livelihood programmes contribute to filling this gap, and research highlights the genuine impact in key domains. The systematic review of youth employment interventions conducted by the ILO found that in particular, “entrepreneurship and skills training interventions yield positive results, on average, especially in terms of income gains”[2].

Additionally, employment programmes increase the likelihood of employment for participants by an average of 10 per cent, and, when combined with entrepreneurial promotion the impact rises to 24 per cent on average [3].

SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION: STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMES



These kinds of programmes enable youth to develop marketable skills and find sustainable jobs, or gain skills to set up and run successful businesses that in turn grow their income as well as their family's income.

The research shows that technical skills are not enough. Preparing youth to succeed in the labour market and in society requires social and financial education. Helping participants understand their impact, rights and how to handle their finances is critical knowledge to those navigating the labour market.



The creation of a livelihoods programme that includes SFE can contribute to 4 observable outcomes in children and young people:

1. Financial capability

The ability to manage and understand money improves young people's confidence and enables them to make responsible decisions about the use of monetary and non-monetary resources [4;5]. It helps them better navigate the challenges involved with learning to save, managing their own money, starting a business and managing the risks that might prevent them from achieving their goals.

2. Enterprise and employment readiness

Provides young people with tailored learning opportunities to help them secure a job or develop their small business. Transferable employment skills include communicating with potential employers and exploring gaps in the labour market.

3. Life skills

Increases awareness of healthy working environments, enterprises and role models. Young people become more aware of their rights, familiar with their strengths and weaknesses, and are introduced to new future ideas and potential new role models.

4. Gender sensitivity

Helps improve young people's self-confidence and raises awareness about fair jobs for men and women through social education. This results in more positive perceptions about enterprise.



OUR PROGRAMMES SUPPORTING YOUTH LIVELIHOODS



According to research from 40+ countries, Aflatoun International's social and financial education programmes can help young people to develop the required skills they need to successfully manage their involvement in livelihood programmes.

Aflatoun International has created two different sets of curricula that can be used as a part of livelihood programmes or stand on its own:



Aflateen: Social and Financial Education for Young People and Youth (ages 15-18)

Aflateen builds skills that provides youth with opportunities to engage with the community and market, encourages them to become innovators and change makers, and empowers them to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and inequality. In class they explore concepts such as age, gender, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic status and religion, as well as the key Aflatoun theme of financial education [6].

Alongside the Aflateen programme, the Aflateen+ programme has been developed, which focuses on gender equality and economic prosperity for girls and women, addressing issues faced by girls and women in developing countries.

AflaYouth: Social and Financial Education & Career Readiness Education for Youth (ages 16-24)

The aim of AflaYouth is to support youth as they transition from school to work life. Its social and financial content is tailored to the work environment and offers two tracks for youth to follow: employability skills or entrepreneurship skills. AflaYouth also provides guidance on how to create meaningful mentoring relationships

and host job fairs. An additional two supplements have been created on labour migration issues and agribusiness.

Examples of how Aflatoun’s curricula has been incorporated into livelihood programmes for youth:

Maso Project - Ghana

As part The Mastercard Foundation’s Youth Livelihoods project, we targeted young farmers by challenging them to go beyond subsistence agriculture and become commercial cocoa growers. The project ensured that students had the skills, tools and long-term support necessary to become successful cocoa farmers or entrepreneurs in the agricultural supply chain.



YES. Youth Employability and Stability - Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine

As part of the EU4Youth project and in collaboration with SOS Children’s Villages, Aflatoun developed an education programme on life skills and employability accompanied with coaching for young people. This project utilised the Aflateen curriculum.

SOURCES



[1] ILO's statistics on youth employment, available here.

[2] IDLO's systematic review and meta-analysis of youth employment interventions, available here.

[3] The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation funded systematic review based on Labour Market Programmes, available here.

[4] ILO-UNICEF, 2018, available here. FAO-UNICEF, 2016, available here.

[5] UNICEF, 2016, available here

[6] Shephard, Vijay & te Kaat (2017), available here.

