



*UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

**15.07.2016 – "On this World Youth Skills Day, let us renew our resolve to invest more in empowering young people. When we do, they can better advance the broader mission of the United Nations for lasting peace, sustainable development and human rights for all", says UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.**

Young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and continuously exposed to lower quality of jobs, greater labour market inequalities, and longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions. In addition, women are more likely to be underemployed and under-paid, and to undertake part-time jobs or work under temporary contracts.

That is why education and training are key determinants of success in the labour market. But unfortunately, existing systems are failing to address the learning needs of many young people, and surveys of learning outcomes and skills show that a large number of youth have low levels of achievement in basic literacy and numeracy. Skills and jobs for youth feature prominently in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) , and [SDG target 4.4](#) calls for a substantial increase in the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills.



*UN Photo/Shareef Sarhan*

[July 15 is World Youth Skills Day](#) , and the United Nations is observing the day with a special event on the theme of “ [Skills Development to Improve Youth](#) ”

[Employment](#) .” Understanding what works to support young people in today’s and tomorrow’s labour market through training and skills development is key to the achievement of the [2030 Agenda](#), and is at the center of this high-level event.

On this occasion Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon comments: *“Young people hold the key to society’s future advancement, yet too often they face barriers to their personal progress. More than 73 million are unemployed, making youth three times more likely than adults to be out of work.”*

*“Empowering young people through skills development strengthens their capacity to help address the many challenges facing society, including poverty, injustice and violent conflict. There is no better investment than helping a young person to develop their abilities.”* □