



Three points

- Still few evaluations in developing countries
 - Especially when we look at program types
- Supports misleading view among policy-makers of what works
- Design and implementation details matter a great deal



Youth Employment Inventory

- **Objective:** to build “live” database on interventions to improve the labor market situation of young people.
 - *What has been tried?*
 - *What works in terms of improving employment outcomes?*
- **Coverage:** Initial collection (2005/6) -- 289 programs from 84 countries. Identified through search for program documentation (websites, journals, reports, etc.)
- **Initial Outputs:** Synthesis report, 5 regional papers, meta-analysis, lessons learned paper, and database.
<http://www.yei-worldbank.org>



More evaluations in developing countries but still very limited

Region	Programs		Evaluations with control groups	
OECD	122	42%	42	58%
Latin America & Caribbean	68	24%	17	23%
East Europe & Central Asia	41	14%	12	16%
Sub Saharan Africa	29	10%	2	3%
South and East Asia & Pacific	21	7%	0	0%
Middle East & North Africa	8	3%	0	0%
Total	289	100%	73	100%



Quality of Intervention (QOI) and Quality of Evaluation (QOE)

QOI:

- 0 Negative or zero impact on LM outcomes (post-program employment and earnings)
- 1 Positive impact on LM outcomes but not cost-effective.
- 2 Positive impact on LM outcomes -- no evidence on costs.
- 3 Positive impact on LM outcomes and cost-effective.
- 99 Not enough evidence to make an assessment.

QOE:

- 0 No evaluation information available on outcomes or impact.
- 1 Information on gross outcomes, w/o net effects.
- 2 Net impact estimates on post-program employment and earnings but no cost analysis
- 3 Net impact estimates on employment and earnings with cost-benefit analysis.



Quality of evaluation seems to affect assessment of quality of intervention

	Non-positive impact (QOI=0)	Positive impact (QOI>0)	Total
Only gross outcomes (QOE=1)	9 (9%)	90 (91%)	99 (100%)
Net impacts with control group (QOE>1)	29 (40%)	44 (60%)	73 (100%)



Success rates do not vary much by type of intervention

Category of intervention	All programs with outcome evidence	Estimated percentage with positive impact and cost-effective
Making LM work better for young people	26	46%
Improving chances for young entrepreneurs	15	52%
Skills training for young people	58	44%
Comprehensive programs	65	40%
All programs	172	44%



Three more points

- Constraints specific to developing countries
 - Funding, capacity, evidence-based culture
 - Yet YEI suggests probability of positive impacts is higher in developing countries
- Broaden focus to include monitoring, process evaluations, evaluation “light”?
- Generalizability of results? – Current crisis
 - Across development levels?
 - In different parts of the cycle?



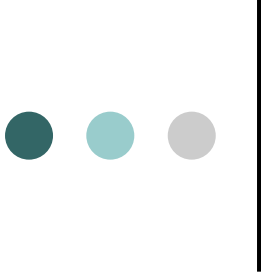
Meta-analysis: findings on determinants of positive LM impacts

- **Types of interventions:** no statistically significant differences
- **Quality of evaluation:** the better the QOE, the lower the probability of positive LM outcomes.
- **Level of development:** programs more likely to have positive impact in developing countries and transition countries than in developed economies.
- **Labor market flexibility:** increases the likelihood of positive LM outcomes (though magnitude is small).
- **Vintage:** program impacts have improved over time
- **Targeting:** programs targeting poor youth have higher probability of positive LM impacts than non-targeted programs.



The inventory highlights the need for better evaluations

- Knowledge of what works is incomplete
 - Even worse, policy-makers are overestimating the effectiveness of programs
 - Knowledge gap particularly serious in developing countries
 - Is there a way to implement an “evaluation light” methodology?
- Program success is far from guaranteed – only 35-45% of programs appear to have positive employment effect and are cost effective
- No major differences across types of interventions in terms of impact. Policy-makers should consider which type of intervention best addresses the problem of concern



But there are some positive conclusions to draw

- Interventions tend to be more successful in developing and transition countries than in advanced economies
- Targeting on disadvantaged youth can be an effective program design
- A learning process seems to exist -- recent programs are more likely to be successful
- Overall mediocre success rate is not an argument for not introducing youth programs ... but it highlights the need for (i) diagnosis of the obstacles, (ii) sound design and implementation, and (iii) monitoring effectiveness, adjusting programming as needed



What We Still Need to Know

- Much more about developing countries
 - Few studies with almost none in low-income countries
- Long-term impacts of programs
- General equilibrium effects
- Cost-effectiveness of programs
- Design and implementation features that lead to positive impacts