



2023 GLOBAL YEO SUMMIT THEME AND LEARNING AGENDA

The year 2023 will mark 4 years of a global pandemic that has accelerated existing inequalities and deepened many of our world's development challenges, slowing progress toward meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Unemployment and under-employment, the climate crisis, and challenges to our democratic systems disproportionately affect young people's social and economic mobility and well-being. Meaningful youth participation in the economy is increasingly difficult due to a myriad of factors that include lack of education, training, and entrepreneurial skills required to thrive in today's job market. Despite these challenges, young people continue to demonstrate their resilience, determination, and innovation in creating economic opportunities to realize their livelihood needs. Youth leaders, youth economic opportunity practitioners, and funders are adapting their priorities to this changing landscape and considering how to build resilient systems to better address youth's economic participation challenges.


Recognizing this reality, in 2023, the Global Youth Economic Opportunities (YEO) Summit theme is ***YEO Reimagined: Powering Youth-Led Action toward 2030***. This theme is focused on how the global YEO 2030 community can reimagine and build sustainable youth economic opportunities with and for young people in the decade of action. Our learning agenda for the Summit will delve deeper into critical emerging topics, including the growing demand for green skills, digital skills, and intergenerational programming; mental health; resilience; inclusion; mentorship for entrepreneurs; and private sector engagement, among others.

With the YEO 2030 initiative anchored in SDG 8, this year's agenda will explore how our collaborative efforts, with and for young people, can contribute to accelerate the achievement of SDG 8 by 2030.

Summit Learning Agenda and Technical Tracks

The 2023 Global YEO Summit's theme is supported by a strategic learning agenda and





three interconnected technical tracks designed to advance learning and collaboration, elevate youth leadership and voice, and create an impact for stakeholders in the youth economic opportunities sector. The Summit will also include cross-cutting topics on climate/green economy, mental health, digital economy, resilience, and youth inclusion.



1. Ready for the Global Workforce: How do we prepare youth for transition to the workforce and the demands of today's rapidly transforming global economy?



2. Livelihoods through Self-Employment: What kinds of skills, programs, and policies can prepare and support young people for self-employment, or entrepreneurship, in the growing gig, informal, and creative economies?



3. Global Context Matters: How will the future of youth economic opportunities be informed and shaped by systemic factors such as climate change, mental health, resilience, youth inclusion, ecosystem collaboration, and policy environment?

2023 Technical Track Descriptions and Sample Topics

Track 1: Ready for the Global Workforce

In a rapidly changing global economy, the *Ready for the Global Workforce* track is focused on how we can adequately equip young people with the skills, resources, and tools to transition to the workforce and realize decent employment. This track will emphasize three interrelated areas that are critical to advancing youth economic opportunities in a changing world of work: (1) green jobs, (2) career development, and (3) inclusive workplaces. The track will also include a focus on critical cross-cutting themes such as digital economy, mental health, and youth inclusion.

Sample Topics:

Green Jobs

- What are the best practices, tools, and resources employed to help **accelerate decent green jobs creation for youth?**
- What are examples of **platforms and institutions** that young people use to build





their skills in green jobs and access decent green jobs opportunities?

- How can we leverage **youth power** to scale **youth-led innovation** around green skills, green jobs, and green entrepreneurship? What are the examples of youth leading the fight against climate change through the creation of green jobs in different fields, such as sustainable agriculture?

Career Development

- What types of program models and practices most effectively **integrate career development** and **counseling activities** into education/skills training, are responsive to stakeholders (youth, employers, entrepreneurs, government, private sector), and result in young people getting and keeping jobs?
- How can educators and employment service providers most effectively partner with the **private sector** to ensure demand-driven services, opportunities for career development and guidance, and access to youth employment opportunities?
- What types of program models and practices most effectively **address barriers** to young people's career development (e.g., discriminatory hiring and promotion practices for internships, unpaid opportunities/apprenticeships)?
- How are young people **using peer-led models and practices** to most effectively support their fellow youth in their transition from school to employment and/or from self-employment to formal employment?
- How can we better support **young professionals to realize their aspirations** (e.g., work-life balance, career development goals) in work settings?

Inclusive Workplaces

- What are the best practices and resources that support recruitment, hiring, and retention of **marginalized youth** (e.g., young women, rural youth, LGBTQI+ youth, youth who are members of ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous youth, refugees/migrants) **and/or youth living with disabilities** as part of more inclusive workforce practices?
- What are the best practices in **hands-on applied learning** (internships, apprenticeships, etc.) that improve young people's chances for long-term employment? How do we adjust these methods and approaches to account for marginalized youth and/or youth living with disabilities?





- How can we create more inclusive workplaces for **entry-level professionals**?

Cross-Cutting Themes

- What are the **specific impacts of new automation and digital technologies on employment prospects for youth employment**? What have we learned about the **impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** on the digital divide? How are we working to **address the digital divide** and ensure that technological opportunity for some young people does not result in greater inequality for others?
- How can technology, in turn, help us better **understand youth's interests and capacities** to be the drivers of their own economic development and that of their communities in a changing global economy?
- How are workplaces applying **trauma-informed approaches and staff self-care** in their workforce development practices such as hiring and in conducting their activities?
- What are the specific country-level examples of programs or policies that are taking a **systems-based approach** to advance youth economic opportunities in a rapidly changing global economy?

Track 2: Livelihoods through Self-Employment

With the growth of the gig, informal, and creative economies, global trends indicate that more young people rely on self-employment for their livelihoods. This reality has enhanced the need for access to mentors, skills development, and youth-friendly financial products and services for young entrepreneurs to realize decent self-employment.

In 2023, we will examine the skills, programs, and policies that can prepare and support young people for self-employment or entrepreneurship in the growing gig, informal, and creative economies. This track will explore this topic by delving into two broad areas: (1) financial inclusion and (2) entrepreneurship. The track will also discuss cross-cutting topics such as mental health, climate change/green economy, digital economy, and resilience.

Entrepreneurship

- What types of **mentorship models, tools, and apprenticeship programs** can best support young entrepreneurs to build thriving and sustainable enterprises?
- What types of **program models and practices** most effectively support young





entrepreneurs to **mitigate entrepreneurial risks**?

- What types of **skills and assets** do young people need to be successful **social entrepreneurs**? How do we **measure success** for youth-led social entrepreneurship? How do we support **learning through failure** and **develop resilience** in young social entrepreneurs, especially in a rapidly changing environment?
- How can we support young entrepreneurs from marginalized groups and agro-entrepreneurs to **build thriving, climate-resilient, and sustainable enterprises**?
- How are young entrepreneurs using new **technologies** and **building their ventures in technologically focused fields**?
- What are the **viable green entrepreneurship opportunities** for youth? How do we support **skills development, incubation, and apprenticeships** for **youth-led green enterprises**?

Financial Inclusion

- How can we leverage **technology as a tool to lower costs, improve products, and enhance financial literacy and financial inclusion** for young entrepreneurs?
- What are specific country-/regional-level examples of programs or policies that **bridge access to finance barriers for youth (including marginalized youth) and advance financial inclusion** for young entrepreneurs?
- How can financial institutions **partner with youth-led and youth-serving organizations** to improve and expand youth-inclusive finance?
- What are examples of **innovative products or services** that expand access to finance for youth?
- **Cross-Cutting Themes**
- How might incubators, accelerator programs, and/or financial service providers **integrate mental health support** for entrepreneurs within their program activities?
- Can we **improve conditions and protections for young people** working in the **informal, gig, and creative economies**? What aspects of the formal economy can





be adapted for the informal, gig, and creative economies, and what policy changes would be needed to support these changes?

Track 3: Global Context Matters

Youth continue to be vulnerable to social, economic, health, and environmental shocks. The trends associated with a rapidly changing global economy—for example, reduction in formal wage employment—point to the inequalities in the economic opportunities space. A pertinent question is how we can support young people’s economic and social inclusion through youth programs and policies. This challenge is more acute when we consider the significant impact on economic opportunity of cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, conflict, and mental health.

In 2023, the Global Context Matters track will continue to explore how youth economic opportunities will be informed and shaped by systemic factors like climate change, mental health, resilience, youth inclusion, ecosystem collaboration, and the policy environment. This track will place a particular focus on two key topics: (1) youth affected by conflict and violence, and (2) localization and decolonization. This track will also incorporate critical cross-cutting topics such as youth inclusion and mental health.

Youth Affected by Conflict and Violence

- What strategies and approaches do **youth livelihoods programs** apply to **effectively navigate different types of conflict settings** (e.g., gang violence, violent extremism, racial conflicts, civil wars, and international armed conflicts)?
- What are examples of successful approaches different stakeholders use to collaborate effectively with governments and financial institutions to create a **supportive policy environment** for **increased self-employment and youth employment for youth refugees (including environmental refugees) and migrants**?

Localization and Decolonization

- What are **examples of successful strategies and approaches different stakeholders** use to **enhance localization efforts and change the power dynamics** in international development and humanitarian aid systems?
- How can **local youth-led and youth-serving organizations** be engaged in the global localization agenda efforts? What kind of **support do local youth-led and youth-serving organizations** need to take advantage of/be involved in the localization movement? How can these efforts and support further **the movement**





to **decolonize** international development?

- What **changes can funders make to localization efforts to enhance involvement** of local youth-led and youth-serving organizations from **marginalized populations** (e.g., young women, rural youth, LGBTQI+ youth, youth who are members of ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous youth, refugees/migrants) **and/or youth living with disabilities**?

Cross-Cutting Themes

- How can programs that work with youth (including youth engaging in remote work opportunities) **integrate mental health components where youth have the agency to opt in or opt out?**
- What are the best practices/program models for **meaningfully engaging young people** who participate in **research** (including remote research)? How can we enhance the **sustainability** of these practices and models?
- What approaches are the most effective and inclusive for meaningfully engaging **marginalized youth** (e.g., young women, rural youth, LGBTQI+ youth, youth who are members of ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous youth, refugees/migrants) **and/or youth living with disabilities in research?**
- How are we using **environmentally friendly technology approaches and tools** to advance youth economic programming inclusively?
- How **can we create a better ecosystem for youth economic opportunities?** What are examples of successful strategies different stakeholders use to **work effectively with governments to create a supportive policy environment** for increased youth employment and self-employment? What are the best practices for global stakeholders **to be accountable to youth through their programming and engagement?**
- What are the effective strategies and tools to offer key support for **marginalized youth (refugees, migrants) and/or youth with disabilities dealing with trauma**, while also supporting learning, reskilling, and economic opportunities?

