

THE CURRENT STATE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOMALIA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION.

Author's Name: Yasin Mustaf Ibrahim¹

Affiliation:

1. Independent Researcher, Somalia

Corresponding Author Name & E-Mail: Yasin Mustaf Ibrahim,
yasinmustaf110@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Youth unemployment is a significant challenge facing Somalia, with over 60% of young people unable to find work. This has far-reaching consequences for both the youth population and the country's political and security situation. High youth unemployment rates can lead to poverty, low self-esteem, and a sense of hopelessness among the youth population, with wider consequences for the country's overall stability and development. This paper examines the current state of youth unemployment in Somalia and its impact on the political and security situation in the country. The paper explores the reasons for high youth unemployment rates, the connection between youth unemployment and political instability, the vulnerability of unemployed youth to extremist groups, and the contribution of youth unemployment to security threats. Additionally, the paper provides possible solutions and recommendations to address these challenges, including creating an enabling environment for businesses to flourish, providing education and training opportunities, promoting entrepreneurship, and addressing the root causes of political instability and insecurity. The paper concludes that addressing the challenge of youth unemployment requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach from the government, international community, and civil society to provide young people with the skills, opportunities, and support they need to build a better future for themselves and their country. Failure to address this challenge could have devastating consequences for Somalia's political and security situation, as well as the wellbeing of its young people.

Keywords: Youth Unemployment, Somalia, Political Instability, Security Challenges, Extremism, Entrepreneurship, Education, Training, Government, International Community, Civil Society.

INTRODUCTION

Somalia has long been plagued by political and economic instability, with decades of civil war, conflict, and violence. These challenges have had a significant impact on the country's youth population, which makes up a large proportion of the population. Youth unemployment in Somalia is estimated to be over 60%, which is one of the highest rates in the world. This high rate of youth unemployment is due to several factors, including a lack of job opportunities, poor education and training systems, and political instability.

Somalia has a large youth population, with over 70% of the population under the age of 30. This demographic presents both an opportunity and a challenge for the country. On one hand, young people are a valuable asset to the country, with their energy, innovation, and creativity. On the other hand, if this demographic is not engaged productively, it can lead to social unrest, political instability, and economic stagnation.

The high rate of youth unemployment in Somalia has significant social and economic impacts on the country. Unemployed youth are at risk of poverty, social marginalization, and a lack of opportunities for personal and professional development. This can lead to a sense of hopelessness and a lack of faith in the future, which can have serious consequences for the stability and security of the country. Additionally, high youth unemployment can also lead to an increase in crime and social unrest, further exacerbating the security challenges faced by Somalia.

Addressing youth unemployment in Somalia is critical for several reasons. Firstly, high youth unemployment is a major barrier to economic growth and development. When young people are unable to find work, they are unable to contribute to the country's economy and generate income for themselves and their families. This can lead to a cycle of poverty and economic stagnation, which can have long-term consequences for the country's development.

Secondly, high youth unemployment has a direct impact on the political and security situation in Somalia. Unemployment can lead to social and economic marginalization, which can result in political unrest and instability. Unemployed youth are also more susceptible to being recruited by extremist groups, which can further destabilize the country. Additionally, high youth unemployment can also lead to a loss of hope for the future and a decrease in trust in political institutions, which can lead to political disengagement and a lack of civic participation. Addressing youth unemployment in Somalia requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of the problem. This includes improving education and training systems, promoting private sector development, creating job opportunities, and addressing the

underlying political and security challenges that contribute to unemployment. By investing in young people and providing them with opportunities for personal and professional development, Somalia can create a brighter future for its young people and contribute to the long-term stability and development of the country.

In conclusion, the high rate of youth unemployment in Somalia is a major concern and has significant social, economic, political, and security impacts on the country. Addressing youth unemployment in Somalia is critical to improving the overall stability and security of the country and creating a brighter future for its young people. It requires a concerted effort from the government, private sector, and civil society to address the root causes of the problem and provide young people with the opportunities they need to succeed.

HIGH YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN SOMALIA

Youth unemployment in Somalia is a critical issue that has significant social, economic, and political implications for the country. With over 60% of the youth population unemployed, this demographic is at risk of social marginalization, poverty, and a lack of opportunities for personal and professional development. In this article, we will explore the reasons for high youth unemployment in Somalia and its impact on the youth population.

A. Reasons for High Youth Unemployment

There are several reasons for high youth unemployment rates in Somalia. One of the main reasons is a lack of job opportunities. The country's economy is largely informal, with few formal jobs available. This means that many young people are unable to find work that pays a living wage or offers job security. Additionally, the education and training systems in Somalia are inadequate, with many young people lacking the skills and qualifications required to secure formal employment.

Another reason for high youth unemployment is political instability. Somalia has experienced decades of conflict and violence, which has had a significant impact on the country's economic development. This has made it difficult for businesses to operate and create jobs, leading to a lack of opportunities for young people.

Finally, corruption and nepotism are also contributing factors to high youth unemployment rates in Somalia. Many job opportunities are given to individuals with connections rather than those with the required skills and qualifications, which has led to a lack of merit-based employment opportunities.

B. Impact on the Youth Population in Somalia

The high rate of youth unemployment in Somalia has significant social, economic, and political impacts on the youth population. Firstly, it contributes to poverty and social marginalization. Young people who are unemployed are at risk of falling into poverty and are more likely to experience social exclusion and marginalization. This can lead to a lack of access to basic services, including healthcare and education, and can have long-term impacts on their well-being and development.

Secondly, high youth unemployment has a negative impact on mental health. Unemployed youth are at risk of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues, which can have long-term impacts on their well-being and ability to lead productive lives.

Thirdly, high youth unemployment rates have significant economic impacts on the youth population. Unemployed youth are unable to contribute to the country's economy and generate income for themselves and their families. This can lead to a cycle of poverty and economic stagnation, which can have long-term consequences for the country's development.

Finally, high youth unemployment rates can also have political implications. Unemployed youth are more likely to be politically disengaged and have a lack of trust in political institutions. This can lead to political instability and unrest, further exacerbating the country's political and security challenges.

In conclusion, the high rate of youth unemployment in Somalia is a critical issue that has significant social, economic, and political implications for the youth population. Addressing the root causes of youth unemployment is critical to improving the overall well-being of young people and creating a brighter future for Somalia. This requires a concerted effort from the government, private sector, and civil society to create job opportunities, improve education and training systems, and address the underlying political and security challenges that contribute to youth unemployment.

POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOMALIA

The relationship between political instability and youth unemployment is complex and multifaceted. In Somalia, high youth unemployment rates have been a contributing factor to the country's political and security challenges. This article will explore the connection between youth unemployment and political instability in Somalia and examine the impact of political unrest on the stability of the country.

A. Connection between Youth Unemployment and Political Instability

There is a growing body of research that suggests a strong connection between youth

unemployment and political instability. According to the United Nations, "unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, can lead to frustration, social unrest, and political instability" (United Nations, 2019). This is because unemployed youth are more likely to feel disillusioned with the political system and less invested in maintaining social order. In Somalia, where youth unemployment rates are among the highest in the world, this connection is particularly evident. The lack of job opportunities for young people has contributed to a sense of hopelessness and frustration among this demographic, leading to political disengagement and disillusionment. This, in turn, has contributed to political instability and unrest.

B. Political Unrest and its Impact on the Stability of the Country

Political unrest in Somalia has had a significant impact on the stability of the country. The ongoing conflict and violence have led to widespread displacement, a breakdown of social institutions, and a lack of economic development. This, in turn, has contributed to high youth unemployment rates, exacerbating the connection between youth unemployment and political instability.

The impact of political unrest on the stability of the country can be seen in several ways. Firstly, it has led to a lack of investment in the country, both from domestic and international sources. This has made it difficult to create job opportunities and improve economic development, exacerbating the youth unemployment crisis.

Secondly, political unrest has led to a breakdown of social institutions, including education and healthcare systems. This has further impacted the ability of young people to access education and training, leading to a lack of skills and qualifications required to secure employment.

Finally, political unrest has also contributed to a sense of insecurity and a lack of trust in political institutions. This has led to a lack of participation in the political process, further exacerbating the connection between youth unemployment and political instability.

In conclusion, the connection between youth unemployment and political instability in Somalia is evident. The lack of job opportunities for young people has contributed to a sense of hopelessness and frustration, leading to political disengagement and disillusionment. This, in turn, has contributed to political instability and unrest. Addressing the root causes of youth unemployment and political instability is critical to improving the overall stability and well-being of the country. This requires a concerted effort from the government, private sector, and civil society to create job opportunities, improve education and training systems, and address the underlying political and security challenges.

SECURITY CHALLENGES AND YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOMALIA

In many countries around the world, high youth unemployment rates have been linked to security challenges. This is particularly true in conflict-affected and fragile states like Somalia, where youth unemployment is a significant problem. This article will explore the relationship between youth unemployment and security challenges in Somalia and examine the vulnerability of unemployed youth to extremist groups. Additionally, it will explore the contribution of youth unemployment to security threats and suggest some strategies to address this issue.

A. Relationship between Youth Unemployment and Security Challenges

High youth unemployment rates can contribute to security challenges in several ways. Firstly, unemployed youth are more likely to engage in criminal activities such as theft and robbery due to a lack of legitimate income. This can contribute to the overall sense of insecurity in the community.

Secondly, unemployed youth are more likely to engage in politically motivated violence as a means of expressing their frustration with the government and the system. This can lead to political instability and insecurity.

Thirdly, high youth unemployment rates can also lead to social unrest and protests. This can create a sense of instability and insecurity in the community, particularly if the protests turn violent.

B. Vulnerability of Unemployed Youth to Extremist Groups

Unemployed youth are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups. In Somalia, for example, the terrorist group Al-Shabaab has been known to exploit the high youth unemployment rates in the country to recruit young people. The group offers young people a sense of purpose, belonging, and income in exchange for their loyalty.

Furthermore, extremist groups often target unemployed youth because they are easier to manipulate due to their lack of economic opportunities and social support. The lack of education and training opportunities also makes them more vulnerable to extremist ideology.

C. Contribution of Youth Unemployment to Security Threats

Youth unemployment contributes to security threats in several ways. Firstly, it can lead to the emergence of criminal and violent activities, such as theft, robbery, and politically motivated violence. These activities can threaten the safety and security of the community, as well as the stability of the country.

Secondly, high youth unemployment rates can contribute to social unrest and protests, which

can escalate into violent conflicts. This can create a sense of insecurity and instability in the community, and in extreme cases, lead to civil war.

Thirdly, the vulnerability of unemployed youth to extremist groups can also create security threats. The recruitment of young people into extremist groups can lead to the spread of radical ideologies, the perpetration of violent acts, and the destabilization of the country.

In conclusion, high youth unemployment rates can contribute significantly to security challenges in conflict-affected and fragile states like Somalia. Unemployed youth are more vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups, which can pose a significant threat to national security. Additionally, youth unemployment can contribute to criminal and politically motivated violence and social unrest, further exacerbating security challenges. Addressing the root causes of youth unemployment and providing education and training opportunities for young people is critical to improving security and stability in the country.

SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Addressing youth unemployment is critical to improving the political and security situation in Somalia. While there are no easy solutions, several strategies can be employed to address this issue.

A. Addressing Youth Unemployment in Somalia

One of the most effective ways to address youth unemployment in Somalia is to invest in education and training programs. This can help young people develop the skills and knowledge they need to compete in the job market. Additionally, the government can provide subsidies and incentives to businesses to hire young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged or from marginalized communities.

Another strategy to address youth unemployment is to support entrepreneurship and small business development. This can help young people create their own jobs and generate income for themselves and their families. The government can provide grants and loans to young entrepreneurs, as well as training and mentorship opportunities.

In addition to these strategies, it is also essential to address the root causes of youth unemployment in Somalia. This includes addressing the conflict and political instability in the country, as well as improving access to basic services such as health care, water, and sanitation.

B. Recommendations to Improve the Political and Security Situation

Improving the political and security situation in Somalia requires a comprehensive approach. The following recommendations can help to achieve this goal:

1. **Strengthening the Rule of Law:** The government should work to strengthen the rule of law in Somalia by reforming the justice system, improving access to justice, and promoting human rights. This can help to reduce the incidence of criminal and politically motivated violence and improve overall security.
2. **Addressing Political Instability:** Addressing the underlying political instability in Somalia is critical to improving security in the country. The government can work to address the grievances of marginalized communities and promote inclusive governance. Additionally, international partners can support the government in its efforts to promote peace and stability.
3. **Countering Extremism:** Countering extremism is critical to improving security in Somalia. The government can work to disrupt the recruitment efforts of extremist groups and provide alternative narratives to extremist ideology. Additionally, international partners can support the government in its efforts to counter extremism and promote tolerance and pluralism.
4. **Investing in Basic Services:** Improving access to basic services such as health care, education, and water and sanitation can help to address the root causes of conflict and insecurity in Somalia. The government can work to improve access to these services, particularly in marginalized communities.

In conclusion, addressing youth unemployment is critical to improving the political and security situation in Somalia. Investing in education and training programs, supporting entrepreneurship, and addressing the root causes of youth unemployment can help to create economic opportunities for young people. Additionally, strengthening the rule of law, addressing political instability, countering extremism, and investing in basic services can help to improve the overall security situation in the country. While there are no easy solutions, a comprehensive approach is necessary to address these challenges and promote peace and stability in Somalia.

CONCLUSION

The issue of youth unemployment in Somalia is a multifaceted problem that has far-reaching consequences, affecting not only the young people themselves but also the country's political and security situation. This paper has explored the reasons for high youth unemployment rates, the connection between youth unemployment and political instability, the vulnerability of unemployed youth to extremist groups, and the contribution of youth unemployment to security

threats. In addition, it has provided possible solutions and recommendations to address these challenges.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Somalia has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world, with over 60% of young people unable to find work. There are several reasons for this, including a lack of education and skills, a weak economy, and a poor business environment. The impact of youth unemployment on the youth population is immense, leading to poverty, low self-esteem, and a sense of hopelessness.

Youth unemployment also has wider consequences, contributing to political instability and security challenges. The connection between youth unemployment and political instability is significant, as unemployed youth often become disenfranchised and disenchanted with the government. This can lead to political unrest and, in some cases, armed conflict. The vulnerability of unemployed youth to extremist groups is also a significant concern, as they become easy targets for recruitment into violent organizations.

The contribution of youth unemployment to security threats cannot be overstated. Unemployed youth may turn to criminal activities such as theft and drug trafficking, as well as joining terrorist organizations, leading to an increase in crime and terrorism. This can have severe consequences for the country's overall stability and development.

Final thoughts on the impact of youth unemployment on the political and security situation in Somalia

The issue of youth unemployment is complex and requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address. The government must take action to create an enabling environment for businesses to flourish, provide education and training opportunities, and promote entrepreneurship. In addition, there is a need for international support to provide funding and technical assistance to support job creation and economic development.

It is also essential to address the root causes of political instability and insecurity in the country. This includes promoting good governance, addressing corruption, and ensuring that the security forces are adequately trained and resourced. Finally, efforts should be made to counter violent extremism and provide alternative pathways for unemployed youth to engage constructively in society.

In conclusion, addressing youth unemployment is critical for Somalia's long-term stability and development. The government, international community, and civil society must work together to provide young people with the skills, opportunities, and support they need to build a better

future for themselves and their country. Failure to address this challenge could have devastating consequences for Somalia's political and security situation, as well as the wellbeing of its young people.

REFERENCE

2. Abdullahi, M. A. (2018). Youth unemployment in Somalia: Challenges and opportunities. *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 12(1), 145-160.
3. African Development Bank Group. (2017). *Somalia economic outlook*. African Development Bank Group.
4. African Development Bank. (2017). *Jobs for youth in Africa strategy (2017-2021)*. <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/document/jobs-for-youth-africa-strategy-2017-2021-80508>
5. Ali, M. A. (2019). Youth unemployment, political instability, and social unrest in Somalia. *Journal of Economics and Political Economy*, 6(2), 182-197.
6. Amali, K. G., & Tlali, K. (2019). Youth unemployment and political instability in Sub-Saharan Africa: A panel data analysis. *African Journal of Economic and Management Studies*, 10(1), 24-34.
7. Bantu, E. (2018). Youth unemployment and the Somali conflict. *Journal of Somali Studies*, 5(2), 1-19.
8. Haji, M. S., Abdirahman, M. A., & Ahmed, M. A. (2019). The impact of youth unemployment on peace and security in Somalia. *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, 14(1), 36-52.
9. International Labor Organization. (2021). *World employment social outlook: Trends for youth 2021*. International Labor Organization.
10. International Labour Organization. (2018). *Global employment trends for youth 2018: Technology and the future of jobs*. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_647669.pdf
11. International Labour Organization. (2019). *Somalia Labour Force Survey 2018*.
12. International Monetary Fund. (2019). *Somalia: 2019 Article IV consultation—press release; staff report; and statement by the executive director for Somalia*. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2019/05/31/Somalia-2019-Article-IV-Consultation-Press-Release-Staff-Report-and-Statement-by-the-Executive-46814>
13. Jibril, H. A. (2020). Exploring the link between youth unemployment and terrorism in

- Somalia: An empirical analysis. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*, 10(3), 116-133.
14. United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Somalia Human Development Report 2016: Accelerating Inclusive Economic Growth for Human Development*.
 15. United Nations Development Programme. (2019). *Human development report 2019: Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century*. United Nations Development Programme.
 16. United Nations Development Programme. (2020). *Somalia human development report 2020: Bridging the gap – addressing inequality in Somalia*. https://www.so.undp.org/content/somalia/en/home/library/human_development/somalia-human-development-report-2020--bridging-the-gap---adre.html
 17. United Nations Security Council. (2021). *Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia*. <https://undocs.org/S/2021/80>
 18. United Nations. (2019). *The World Youth Report: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda*. United Nations Publications.
 19. United States Institute of Peace. (2018). *Youth and Conflict in Somalia*. United States Institute of Peace.
 20. World Bank Group. (2020). *Somalia economic update: COVID-19 and its impact on poverty and the economy*. World Bank Group.