



Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture

Youth Employment – Challenges and Way forward



Background

- Rwanda's definition of Youth – Persons 14 - 35 years old
- Proportion of Youth (14 – 35) is 40.2% of the total population (Population projections 2007 - 2022)
- About 200,000 youth attain working age every year



Youth employment Challenges

- Limited employability skills; vocational, business and or entrepreneurial – also mismatch between the skills that young people leave school with and those that employers are seeking
- Limited job opportunities versus the number job seekers
- Underemployment - 27.3% worked less than 40 hours a week in 2005
- Limited access to finance
- Lack a culture of savings among youth
- Limited data on youth employment status
- High illiteracy rate among youth (29.3%, EICV2)
- Limited experience especially with formal jobs
- Weak management capacity of youth cooperatives



On going initiatives

- Entrepreneurship capacity building to support self-employment
- Vocational skills including through TVET and apprenticeship model
- Access to financial services – savings mobilization, guarantee fund, financial literacy....
- Supporting cooperatives organization and strengthening
- Literacy programs and education for all
- IT capacity building
- Promotion of innovation among youth – through rewarding innovation
- Capturing of youth data in various surveys (EICV 3, Census etc)



Bottlenecks to the ongoing initiatives

- Scattered interventions with limited impact
- Limited data for effective response
- Limited resources for significant interventions



Way Forward

- Carry out a thorough assessment on the status of youth employment/unemployment
- Design a big integrated program addressing youth employment needs holistically
- The program to take care of all categories of youth across the country
- Create a basket fund where different players can pool resources to implement the program to increase the level of impact

