Families, Youth Employment and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Esuna Dugarova

United Nations Development Programme

16 May 2018, UNHQ New York
Youth employment and 2030 Agenda

• **SDG 8**: promote productive employment and decent work for all, particularly youth employment

• **Target 8.5**: achieve productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people (indicator: unemployment rate)

• **Target 8.6**: substantial reduction of the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training on young people (indicator: share of youth NEET).
Key questions

i. What is the role of family in promoting youth employment?

ii. How can family policies improve youth performance in the labour market?
Youth unemployment affects all regions and countries

Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force age 15-24), 2017

Source: ILO STAT
Transitions from education into work are increasingly difficult

Youth NEET, % – age 15-24, 2009-2016

Source: ILO STAT
Impact of family on youth employment: conceptual framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family structural variables</th>
<th>Family process variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• parental education and occupation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• household income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• socioeconomic status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• nationality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• location</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• family relationships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• parental aspirations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• family support (more influential in career development!)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: adapted from Whiston and Keller (2004)
Family policies and youth employment: key findings from evaluated empirical studies

1. Little linkage between family policies and youth employment.
   - Most policy interventions on youth employment fall under labour market and/or youth policies.

2. Where such linkage exists, lack of rigorous/systematic evaluations of policy interventions.
   - Main focus: (i) effectiveness of labour market policies on employment outcomes of youth; (ii) impact of family policies (e.g. family benefits) on reducing poverty, improving health and education.
## Evaluated family interventions for youth employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDGs</th>
<th>Family interventions</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| SDG 1 SDG 8 | • Employment assistance programmes (US interventions for young people leaving foster care)  
 • Conditional cash transfers (*Opportunidades* in Mexico) | Employment rates and earning levels          | Limited positive effects on youth employment outcomes, wages or intergenerational occupational mobility |
| SDG 5 | Conditional cash transfers (*Opportunidades* in Mexico)                                | Female labour market participation            | Positive impacts on increases in work for older girls                                         |
| SDG 8 | Conditional cash transfers (*Opportunidades* in Mexico)                                | Service sector employment                     | Shifts in youth employment from agricultural to non-agricultural employment                    |
Key messages

- More evidence is needed on the role of family in promoting youth employment and school to work transition.

- Important to make policy interventions to strengthen families and avoid intergenerational transmission of weak labour market attachment.

- Helping parents to have decent work would have positive effects on the well-being of their children and labour market outcomes.

- Youth should be incorporated in family policies as part of comprehensive sustainable development strategies.
THANK YOU!