



# NOPOOR POLICY BRIEF



no poor

Enhancing Knowledge for  
Renewed Policies against Poverty

No. 28

## SOCIAL PROTECTION: WHAT ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, NOR IN EDUCATION, NOR IN TRAINING?

May 2017

**François Joseph CABRAL**

Consortium pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale

The purpose of this paper is to assess the phenomenon of Senegalese young people who are neither in education, nor in employment, nor in training (NEET). It addresses the following questions: what is the extent of NEET ? What are the key drivers of this phenomenon ? What type of policy can be implemented to fight against it ?

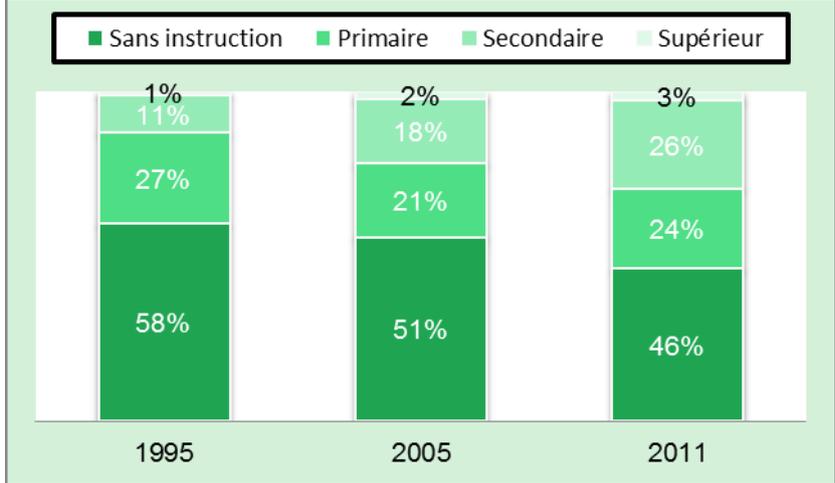
### INTRODUCTION

Due to low rate of youth employment over the past years, an interest for the situation of young people who are neither in education, nor in employment, nor in training (NEET) is growing in economic literature. Lack of skills, education or vocational training forces a high proportion of Sub-Saharan Africa youth to take low-paid jobs or non-paid jobs, most often in the informal sector. Moreover a growing proportion of African graduates from higher education can no longer be absorbed by the labor market.

This situation of youth unemployment has brought to light an increase of interest for the analysis of this category of young people who are neither in education, employment, or training, known under the acronym of NEET.

Figure 1 shows that the structure of Senegalese youth population is marked by the predominance of individuals without education at all, despite a decrease of their proportion over the 1995-2011 period.

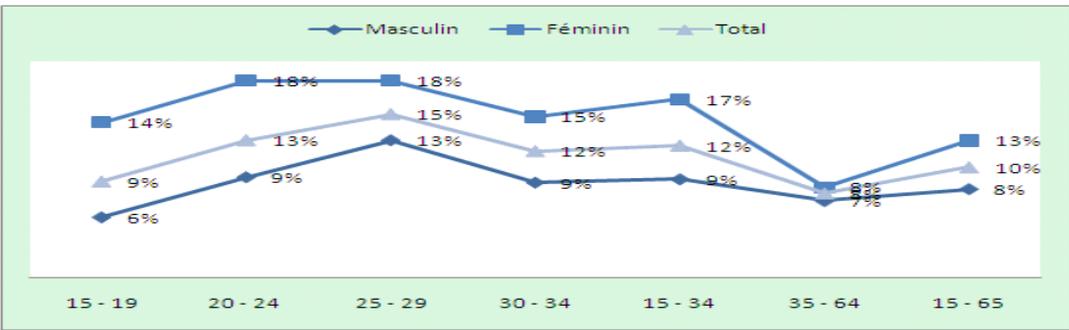
**Figure 1: Structure of the youth population based on the level of education**



Source: ILO, Diagnostic Study on youth employment in Senegal, 2013

Figure 2 shows that young people are the most hit by unemployment. It indicates that 15% of people aged 25-29 years were jobless in 2011, with 13% for young men and 18% for women. There rates are 6% to 10% higher than those of persons of 35-64 years.

**Figure 2: Evolution of the unemployment rate based on the age group and sex**



Source: ILO, Diagnostic Study on youth employment in Senegal, 2013

Figure 3 illustrates the difference between the unemployment rate and the NEET rate.

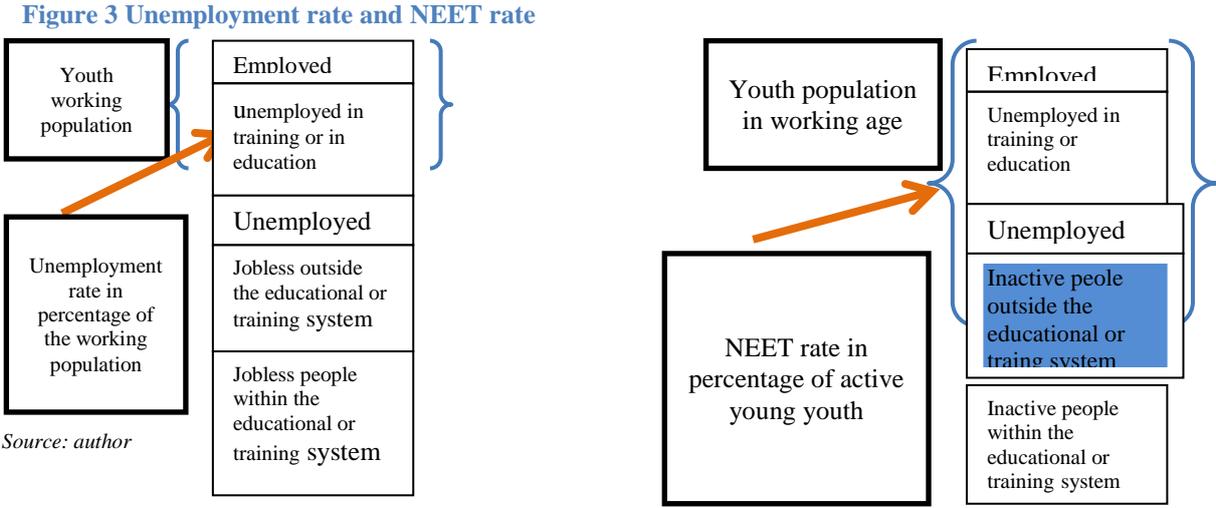


Table 1 gives the measurement of the NEET rate calculated according to the International Labor Organization (ILO) approach. It shows that 40.4% of the youth population – i.e. 4 young people on 10 - in Senegal are under NEET status. The 20-24 years old are more affected than other groups.. However, when this NEET status is extended to underemployment, then it appears that one young person on two is a NEET for all ages, except 15-19.

Table 1: NEET rates based on the ILO approach

Age	Neet rate under ILO approach	Neet rate extended to underemployment
15-19 old	29.2	37.5
20-24 old	41.4	50.3
25-29 old	40.1	51.9
30-34 old	35.5	50.1
<b>15-34 old</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>43.8</b>

Source: calculations by the author.

**Key factors of NEET status**

A binomial model is used to identify the key determinants of NEET status. It allows to estimate the probability for a young person to fall into NEET status. We suppose that this probability depends on some socio-economic factors. Apart the existence of a physical and mental disability for a young person, the factors which significantly affect the probability to belong to the NEET’s category are : the residence in rural areas, the youth gender, the age, the level of education, etc..

The probability to be a NEET is 21% higher for a young man in rural area than in an urban area. The risk is also relatively more important among women. However, if young women are relatively more exposed to the risk, the results reveal that young person that belong to households headed by women are less vulnerable. Probability to be a NEET decreases with the age. The level of education of the household head reduces significantly the probability of belonging to the NEET category. This vulnerability decreases as the head of the household is occupied compared to those who are unemployed.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

If elders, women and child are covered by a social protection system, this is not the case for youth category. As NEET category is being a big issue for policymakers in developing economies, targeting the youth population that belongs to households confined into the depth of poverty can be a strong tool in order to reduce the NEET youth population. That can be done by setting in place high labor intensity programs. This policy which would enable the Government to intervene directly on the labor market in order to stimulate job creation could drive a significant reduction of poverty and be a significant social protection policy oriented toward youth.

## RESEARCH PARAMETERS

A binomial model is used to identify the key determinants of NEET status. Targeting approach in order to reduce the proportion of young NEET persons among the population is also explored. The data used are the one of the household survey conducted in 2011 for Poverty Monitoring purpose in Senegal (ESPSII-2011). The youth age chosen are the ones aged between 15 and 34 years old.

## FURTHER READINGS

- Banque Mondiale. (2013). *Indicateurs de Développement*.
- Bureau International du Travail. (2013). *Tendances Mondiales de l'emploi des jeunes*. Genève.
- Banque Africaine de Développement. (2013). *Annuaire Statistique pour l'Afrique*.
- Bureau International du Travail. (2011). *Tendances Mondiales de l'emploi des jeunes*. Genève.
- Bureau International du Travail. (2012). *Tendances Mondiales de l'emploi des jeunes*. Genève.
- Bureau International du Travail. (2013). *Etude Diagnostique sur l'emploi des jeunes au Sénégal*.
- Bureau International du Travail. (2014). *Tendances Mondiales de l'emploi des jeunes*. Genève.
- Bynner, J., & Parsons, S. (2002). Social Exclusion and the Transition from School to Work: The Case of Young People Not in Education, Employment, or Training. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, pp. 289–309.
- Cabral F. J. (2017). "What are the key factors of young people not in employment, nor in education, nor in training phenomenon in Senegal ?", soumis à publication à la revue *Afrique contemporaine*.
- Chen, Y.-W. (2009). Once 'NEET', Always 'NEET'? Experiences of Employment and Unemployment of Youth Participating in a Job Training Program in Taiwan . *The 2009 Singapore Conference: Asian Social Protection in Comparative Perspective* . Singapore.
- Conseil d'Analyse Economique. (2013). *L'emploi des jeunes peu qualifiés* .
- Cuzzocrea, V. (2013). La catégorie des NEET : quel avenir? Italy: Council of Europe youth project.
- European Foundation. (2012). *Young people not in employment, education or training: characteristics, costs and policy responses in Europe*. Luxembourg.
- Furlong, A. (2007). The zone of precarity and discourses of vulnerability: NEET in the UK. *The Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, pp. 101-121.
- Inui, A. (2005). Why Freeter and NEET are Misunderstood: Recognizing the New Precarious Conditions of Japanese Youth. *Social Work and Society International online journal*.
- Organisation pour la Coopération et le Développement Economique. (2006). *Starting well or losing their way? The position of youth in OECD countries*. Paris.

- République du Sénégal. (2011). *Situation Economique et Sociale*.
- République du Sénégal ( 2013). *Stratégie Nationale de Développement Economique et Sociale*.
- Scottish Executive. (2005). *Literature review of the NEET group*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive Social Research .
- Williamson, H. (1997). Status Zero, youth and the ‘underclass s’: Some considerations”. *MacDonald R. (ed.), Youth, the “underclass” and social exclusion*. Routledge, London.
- Williamson, H. (2001, Winter 2000/Spring2001, pp. 6-8.). “From Tommy Butler’ to Tony Blair" A story of marginalised youth and public policy. *ESRC Youth, Citizenship and Social Change Newsletter*.
- Williamson, H. (2005). “Young people and social inclusion. An overview of policy and practice”. *Barry M. (ed.), Youth policy and social inclusion. Critical debates with young people*.
- Yates, S., & Payne, M. (2006). “Not so NEET? A critique of the use of ‘NEET’ in setting targets for interventions with young people. *Journal of Youth Studies*, pp. 329-344.D.

## PROJECT IDENTITY

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	NOPOOR – Enhancing Knowledge for Renewed Policies against Poverty
<b>COORDINATOR</b>	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Paris, France
<b>CONSORTIUM</b>	CDD The Ghana Center for Democratic Development – Accra, Ghana CDE Centre for Development Economics – Delhi, India CNRS (India Unit) Centre de Sciences Humaines – New Delhi, India CRES Consortium pour la Recherche Économique et Sociale – Dakar, Senegal GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies – Hamburg, Germany GRADE Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo – Lima, Peru IfW Kiel Institute for the World Economy – Kiel, Germany IRD Institut de Recherche pour le Développement – Paris, France ITESM Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey – Monterrey, Mexico LISER Luxemburg Institute of Socio-Economic Research – Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxemburg OIKODROM - The Vienna Institute for Urban Sustainability – Vienna, Austria UA-CEE Université d'Antananarivo – Antananarivo, Madagascar UAM Universidad Autónoma de Madrid – Madrid, Spain UCHILE Universidad de Chile – Santiago de Chile, Chile UCT–SALDRU University of Cape Town – Cape Town, South Africa UFRJ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil UNAMUR Université de Namur – Namur, Belgium UOXF-CSAE University of Oxford, Centre for the Study of African Economies – Oxford, United Kingdom VASS Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences – Hanoi, Vietnam
<b>FUNDING SCHEME</b>	FP7 Framework Programme for Research of the European Union – SSH.2011.4.1-1: Tackling poverty in a development context, Collaborative project/Specific International Cooperation Action. Grant Agreement No. 290752
<b>DURATION</b>	April 2012 – Septembre 2017, (66 months)
<b>BUDGET</b>	EU contribution: 8 000 000 €
<b>WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://www.nopoor.eu/">http://www.nopoor.eu/</a>
<b>FOR MORE INFORMATION</b>	Contact: Xavier Oudin, <a href="mailto:oudin@dial.prd.fr">oudin@dial.prd.fr</a> Delia Visan, <a href="mailto:delia.visan@ird.fr">delia.visan@ird.fr</a>
<b>EDITORIAL TEAM</b>	Edgar Aragon, Laura Valadez (ITESM) Heidi Dumreicher (OIKODROM) Xavier Oudin (IRD)  The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission.