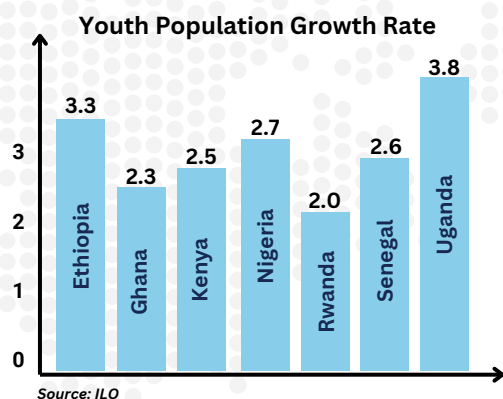


# Youth Employment In Africa



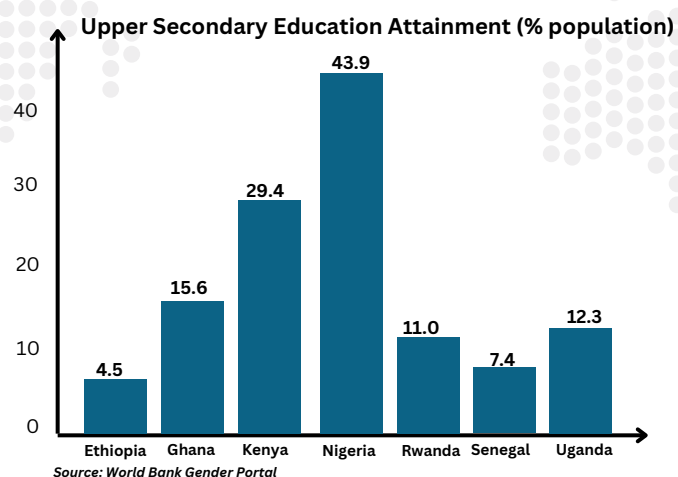
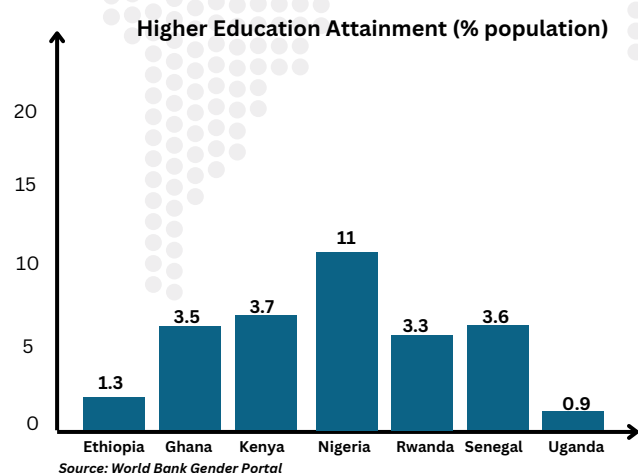
**Youth unemployment** in Africa is becoming increasingly worrisome. The International Labour Organisation (2023) estimates that over 72 million young people in Africa do not attend school, work, or receive any type of employment training. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 8 of providing decent work for all by 2030, African countries must develop measures to address youth unemployment and gender inequality. Many young people struggle with lack of decent jobs, widespread informal employment, therefore limiting their opportunities for economic stability and growth. Africa has the world's largest youth population, with over 400 million young people between the ages of 15 and 35. This presents significant prospects to drive economic growth, create jobs, and increase productivity.

## Youth Population Growth Rate

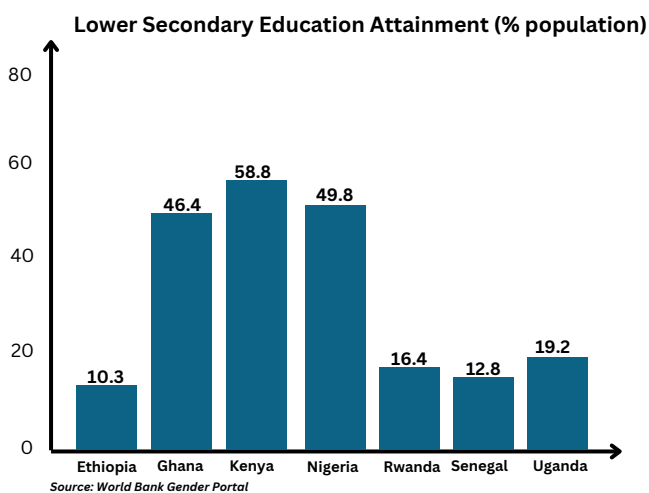
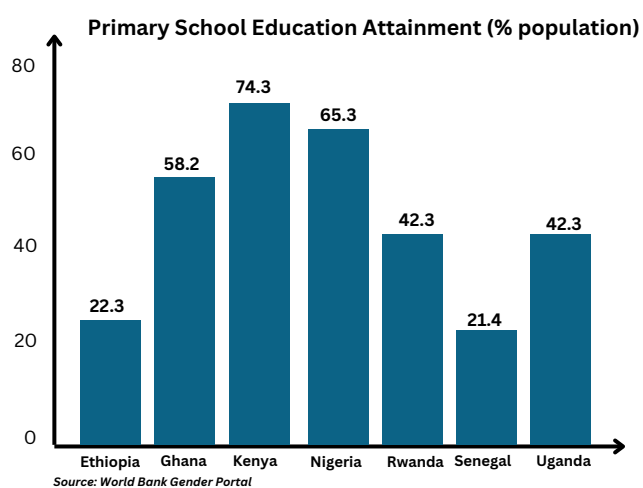


Africa is experiencing strong youth population growth, highlighting potential for future economic growth. However, it faces a challenge in educational attainment. The percentage of adults who have completed upper secondary education remains low. For instance, despite their high youth growth rates, countries like Ethiopia and Senegal, have educational attainment rates of 4.5% and 7.4%, respectively. This disparity highlights the importance of investing in education to ensure that Africa's young population can effectively contribute to the continent's socio-economic development.

## Education Attainment



While the region's youth labour force is growing rapidly, educational outcomes remain poor, with many youths not completing secondary school. This educational deficit hinders their ability to secure productive employment, contributing to high levels of underemployment and informal work. The interplay between a large young workforce and inadequate education systems worsens economic stagnation and limits opportunities for socioeconomic growth

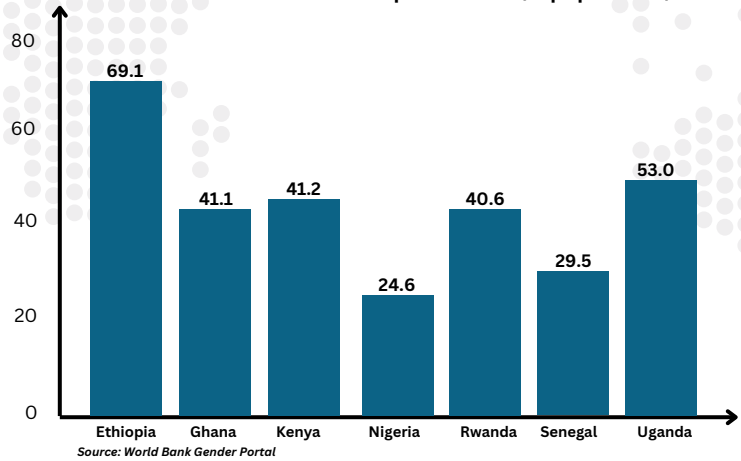


In Africa, educational attainment has a significant impact on the youth labour force and employment. Primary education completion rates have increased, although they are still inadequate. Many students continue to face barriers to transitioning to junior and upper secondary education due to socioeconomic challenges and limited resources. While higher education is expanding, a minority of people continue to have access to it, resulting in skills mismatch in the labour market. As a result, many African youth enter the labour force inadequately prepared, hence, contributing to unemployment, underemployment rates and a high proportion of informal workers.

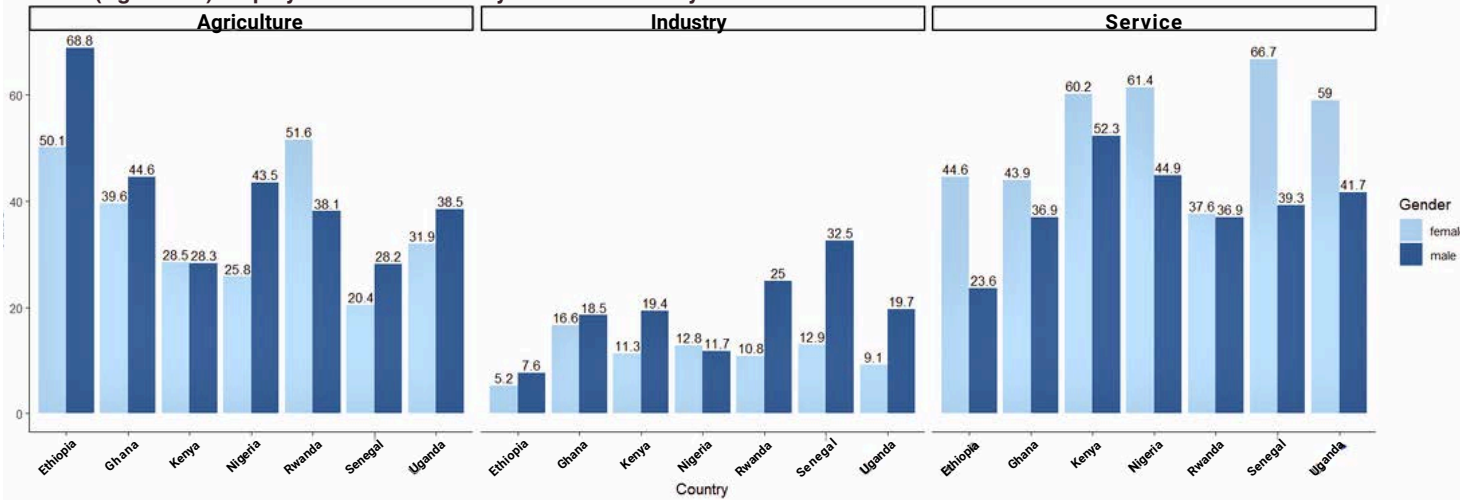
# Youth Employment & Labour Force Participation

Labour force participation rates are moderate, often due to activities in informal sectors. However, there are big differences between regions and genders. Women's participation can stagnate due to education opportunities, while youth unemployment can be a challenge due to rapid population growth.

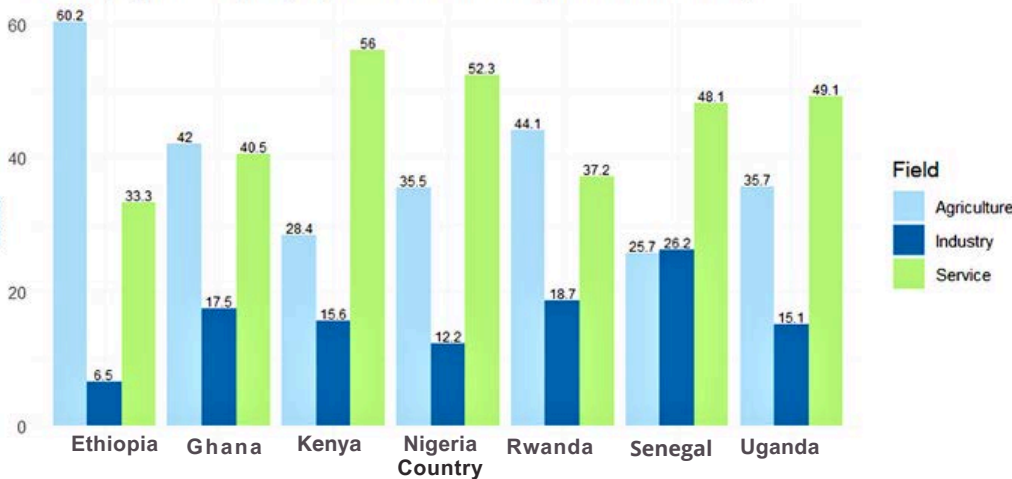
Labour Force Participation Rate (% population)



Youth (Age 15-29) Employment Distribution by Economic Activity and Gender



Youth (Age 15-29) Employment Distribution by Economic Activity



## Major issues across African Countries



Various countries have adopted national youth policies and employment strategies, but implementation is often hampered by insufficient funding and coordination.



The pandemic worsened employment challenges, leading to job losses, reduced working hours, and increased NEET rates.



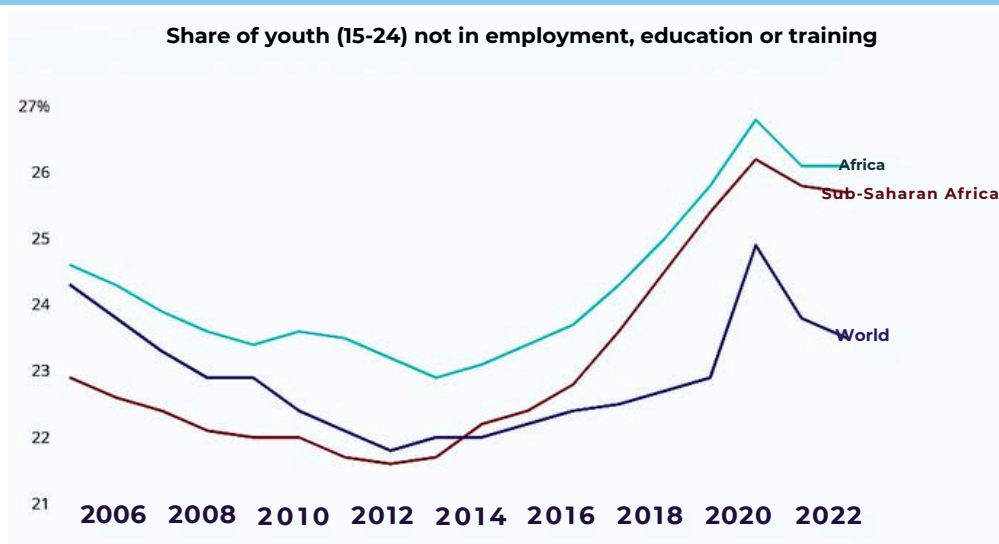
The consistent higher rates of NEET and informal employment among women compared to men highlights a significant gender disparity in employment opportunities.



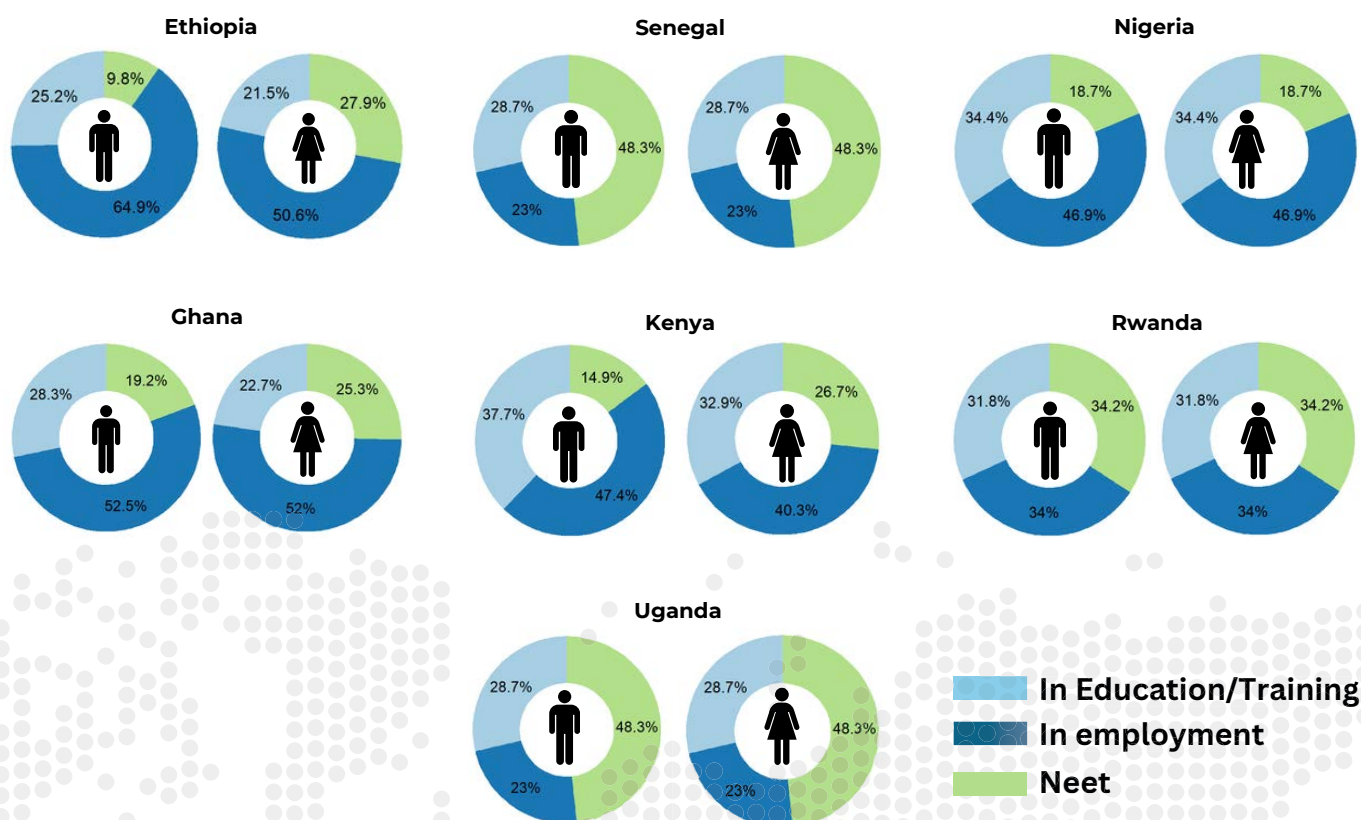
There is a common issue of inadequate monitoring and evaluation of youth employment policies. This hinders the development of effective, evidence-based interventions.

## Youth Not In Employment Education and Training (NEET)

Between 2005 and 2022, the share of youth (15-24) not in employment, education, or training (NEET) showed significant regional differences. While the global NEET rate decreased from 24.3% to 23.5%, Africa's rate fluctuated but ultimately increased from 24.6% to 26.1%. Sub-Saharan Africa saw a more pronounced rise from 22.9% to 25.7%, indicating a growing challenge in engaging young people in productive activities across these regions. Addressing this issue is crucial for harnessing the potential of the youth population in Africa.



Source: ILO



Source: ILO