



Youth Unemployment and Its Socio-Economic Implications in Afghanistan: a reflection analysis

Ahmad Nawid Noori

PhD Scholar

Department of Economics

Termiz State University

Abstract – This paper examines the socio-economic implications of youth unemployment in Afghanistan as well as its causes. Youth are very important stakeholders in any society. They are not only the future of Afghanistan, but also major stakeholders and a useful resource in nation building. However, available data show that youth unemployment is very prevalent in Afghanistan with far-reaching implications for the stability of the economy. Unemployment has a negative multiplier effect not only on the individuals involved but on the society as a whole. This paper identifies the main causes of youth unemployment in Afghanistan, which are: adoption of untimely economic policy measures, wrong impressions about technical and vocational studies, the neglect of the agricultural sector, poor educational planning, and a poor enabling environment, anchoring the explanation of the causes of this youth unemployment on neo-liberalism that created economic and social dislocations. The paper argues that many anti-social activities such as political thuggery, militancy, restiveness, and other social vices evident among the unemployed and jobless youth are real dangers to the stability of the country. Youth unemployment has been identified as one of the core causes of the rising level of social disorder and insecurity permeating the entire country of Afghanistan. The paper concludes that addressing the problem of youth unemployment must involve all stakeholders. Suggested from the analysis, therefore, are that effective policy measures such as re-prioritization of the agricultural sector, reformation of the educational system, and provision of an enabling environment that will drastically reduce unemployment and poverty should be adopted to eradicate the menace of youth unemployment.

Keywords: Afghanistan, Socio-economic, Youth, Unemployment

I. INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan, with its predominantly young population and considerable human and natural resource potential, has the capacity to achieve meaningful economic and social development (Hameed, & Khanam, 2023). However, the country has experienced persistent economic underperformance, widespread poverty, and limited employment opportunities, particularly among young people. Youth unemployment and underemployment have become major socio-economic challenges, affecting the livelihoods, well-being, and future prospects of a large proportion of the Afghan population. Decades of conflict, political instability, economic disruption, weak private-sector development, and limited investment have significantly constrained the country's capacity to generate sufficient productive employment.

For many years, Afghanistan's economy has been heavily dependent on agriculture, international assistance, small-scale trade, and informal economic activities (Aziz, 2021). The agricultural sector remains an important source of employment and livelihood, particularly in rural areas, but its productivity is constrained by inadequate infrastructure, limited access to modern technology and finance, water shortages, recurrent droughts, and insufficient access to markets. At the same time, the industrial and formal private sectors remain relatively small and unable to absorb the rapidly growing labour force. As a result, a large number of young Afghans enter the labour market every year without adequate opportunities for stable and decent employment (Zamani, 2024).

The unemployment problem in Afghanistan is particularly serious because of the country's demographic structure. A substantial proportion of the population consists of young people who require education, skills, and employment opportunities to participate effectively in economic development. However, many young people face difficulties in making the transition from education to employment. Even those with secondary or higher education may struggle to find jobs that correspond to their qualifications (Rahimia, 2022).

This situation contributes to underemployment, informal employment, low wages, and increased economic insecurity among young people. The prolonged conflict and political instability in Afghanistan have further aggravated the employment situation. Destruction of infrastructure, displacement of populations, disruption of businesses, restrictions on economic activities, and declining investment have reduced the number of available employment opportunities. In addition, the dependence of the Afghan economy on foreign aid has made employment and income generation vulnerable to changes in international assistance. When economic activities decline, young people are often among the first groups to experience job losses and reduced employment opportunities (Assadi, & Andaish, 2024).

Youth unemployment has consequences that extend beyond the economic sphere. Young people who remain unemployed for long periods may experience frustration, depression, social exclusion, low self-esteem, and a sense of hopelessness about their future. Persistent



unemployment can also increase household poverty and dependency, as unemployed young people are often unable to contribute financially to their families. In a country where extended family networks play an important role in social and economic life, the inability of young people to obtain employment can place considerable financial pressure on households. Furthermore, prolonged unemployment and limited economic opportunities may contribute to social instability. Young people without sustainable livelihoods may become vulnerable to various forms of exploitation, irregular migration, criminal activities, drug-related activities, or recruitment by armed and extremist groups. Although unemployment alone does not automatically lead to such outcomes, the combination of poverty, exclusion, insecurity, and a lack of future opportunities can increase the vulnerability of some young people to harmful activities (Saad, & Mobarez, 2025).

Youth employment is therefore a crucial issue for Afghanistan because young people represent an important part of the country's present and future labour force. They possess significant potential for innovation, entrepreneurship, productivity, and social development. Providing young Afghans with access to quality education, vocational training, entrepreneurship opportunities, finance, and decent employment is essential for reducing poverty and promoting sustainable economic development. The unemployment and underemployment situation also represents a considerable loss of human capital. When educated and skilled young people cannot find productive employment, the resources invested in their education and training are not fully utilized. Many qualified young people may consequently seek opportunities outside the country, contributing to the loss of skilled human resources and further weakening Afghanistan's development capacity. The persistence of this situation can create a vicious cycle in which low employment opportunities contribute to poverty, poverty limits access to education and skills, and inadequate skills further reduce employment prospects. Overall, youth unemployment in Afghanistan has become one of the country's most important socio-economic challenges. It affects not only individual young people but also households, communities, and the broader national economy (Moradi, 2023).

Addressing unemployment requires a comprehensive approach involving economic diversification, private-sector development, investment in agriculture and infrastructure, vocational and technical education, entrepreneurship support, and the creation of a stable environment for domestic and foreign investment. Greater employment opportunities would not only improve household incomes but also strengthen social stability, reduce poverty, and enable young Afghans to contribute more effectively to the country's long-term development. From the foregoing, it is evident that unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, represents a significant obstacle to Afghanistan's economic and social progress.

The socio-economic implications of unemployment therefore require urgent and sustained attention from policymakers, development organizations, the private sector, educational institutions, and other relevant stakeholders. The remainder of this paper examines the concepts and theoretical framework of unemployment, the distribution and nature of unemployment in Afghanistan, its major causes, its socio-economic implications, and possible strategies for overcoming the unemployment predicament in the country.

II. CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines unemployment as a situation in which persons of working age are without work, available for work, and actively seeking employment. However, measuring unemployment in Afghanistan remains challenging because of the large informal sector, seasonal agricultural activities, unpaid family work, and widespread underemployment (Adeli & Habibi, 2026). Consequently, conventional unemployment statistics may not fully reflect the actual extent of labour-market difficulties in the country. Unemployment can take different forms, including frictional, structural, cyclical, seasonal, disguised, and long-term unemployment. Frictional unemployment occurs when individuals are temporarily searching for employment or entering the labour market. In Afghanistan, however, limited formal employment opportunities can cause temporary unemployment to develop into long-term unemployment, particularly among young people and graduates. Structural unemployment arises from a mismatch between workers' skills and available jobs. This is particularly relevant to Afghanistan because many young people lack market-oriented technical and vocational skills, while the economy has limited capacity to generate suitable employment (Fazl & Sadiqi, 2025).

Cyclical unemployment is associated with economic downturns and declining demand for goods and services. In Afghanistan, economic instability, weak investment, reduced external assistance, and limited private-sector activity can negatively affect employment opportunities. Seasonal unemployment is also significant because of the country's dependence on agriculture, where employment and income fluctuate according to agricultural seasons and climatic conditions.

Disguised unemployment and underemployment are also important features of the Afghan labour market. Many workers, particularly in rural areas, engage in low-productivity agricultural or informal activities, while educated young people may accept temporary or low-paid employment unrelated to their qualifications. Such conditions indicate that the problem is not only the absence of jobs but also the lack of productive and decent employment (Muhammadi & Ahmadzai, 2023).



From a theoretical perspective, the classical theory attributes unemployment largely to labour-market and wage rigidities. However, Afghanistan's unemployment cannot be explained by wage factors alone, as limited investment, weak private-sector development, inadequate infrastructure, and economic instability constrain the demand for labour. The Keynesian theory, which emphasizes insufficient aggregate demand as a major cause of unemployment, is also relevant because low household incomes and weak purchasing power can reduce business activity, production, and employment (Berman, & Shapiro, 2011).

The human capital perspective further explains the importance of education and skills in improving employment outcomes. Although education and vocational training can enhance productivity and employability, their benefits remain limited when the economy lacks sufficient employment opportunities. Afghanistan therefore requires both investment in human capital and policies that promote private-sector development, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and productive investment. Overall, unemployment in Afghanistan is a multidimensional problem resulting from limited job creation, skills mismatches, economic instability, agricultural dependence, and the growing working-age population. Addressing the problem requires coordinated policies aimed at improving skills, expanding productive sectors, encouraging investment, and creating sustainable employment opportunities, particularly for young people.

III. METHODOLOGY

This paper adopts a qualitative analytical approach based entirely on secondary data. The study examines the causes of youth unemployment in Afghanistan and its socio-economic implications through a review and analysis of existing literature and documented evidence. Secondary data were collected from scholarly journal articles, academic papers, research reports, books, and publications of international organizations and other relevant institutions. The collected information was critically reviewed, compared, and synthesized to identify the major factors contributing to youth unemployment and to assess its economic and social consequences in Afghanistan. The study therefore relies on existing evidence rather than primary data collected through surveys or interviews.

1. Unemployment Distribution In Afghanistan

Unemployment in Afghanistan is unevenly distributed across different demographic and socio-economic groups, with young people being particularly vulnerable. The large proportion of youth entering the labour market each year places considerable pressure on the limited employment opportunities available in the formal and informal sectors (Stanikzai & Faye, 2024). Young people, particularly those with limited work experience and skills that do not

correspond to labour-market requirements, often experience greater difficulty in obtaining stable and productive employment

The unemployment situation also differs between urban and rural areas. In rural Afghanistan, employment is heavily dependent on agriculture, livestock, small-scale trade, and other informal activities. Employment opportunities are therefore strongly influenced by agricultural seasons, drought, access to land and water, and local economic conditions. In urban areas, young people are more likely to seek employment in government institutions, private businesses, construction, services, and other non-agricultural activities. However, the limited size of the formal economy means that many urban job seekers also depend on informal and temporary employment (Shahriar, & Raisa, 2021).

Educational attainment is another important factor influencing unemployment in Afghanistan. Young people with limited education often have difficulty obtaining stable employment because of inadequate skills and limited access to vocational training. At the same time, educated young people and university graduates may also experience unemployment because the economy does not generate enough professional and skilled jobs to absorb the growing number of graduates. Consequently, unemployment in Afghanistan affects both less-educated and educated groups, although the nature of unemployment differs between them. Gender is also an important dimension of Afghanistan's employment situation. Women face significant barriers to labour-force participation and employment, including restrictions on access to education and employment, social and cultural constraints, and limited availability of suitable employment opportunities. These factors contribute to a substantial gender gap in labour-market participation and reduce women's opportunities to obtain paid employment (Dasgupta & Bhatnagar, 2019).

Another important characteristic of unemployment in Afghanistan is the prevalence of underemployment and informal employment. Many individuals who are officially classified as employed work for limited hours, earn low incomes, or perform jobs below their level of education and skills. This is particularly common among young people who accept temporary, casual, or low-productivity work because suitable employment is unavailable. Therefore, unemployment statistics alone may not fully capture the extent of labour-market difficulties in Afghanistan. Overall, the distribution of unemployment in Afghanistan demonstrates that the problem is particularly significant among young people, women, individuals with limited skills, and workers in areas with few economic opportunities. Rural communities face considerable dependence on seasonal and low-productivity activities, while urban areas face increasing competition for a limited number of formal jobs. The combination of a rapidly



growing working-age population, weak private-sector development, economic instability, and limited productive employment opportunities has made unemployment a major socio-economic challenge for Afghanistan. The available evidence therefore suggests that addressing unemployment requires policies that consider the different characteristics of the labour force. Expanding vocational and technical education, strengthening agricultural productivity, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting private-sector investment, and creating inclusive employment opportunities are essential for reducing unemployment and improving the livelihoods of Afghanistan's population (Leao & Kar, 2018).

2. Causes Of Unemployment In Afghanistan

The traditional theories of unemployment discussed earlier provide a useful framework for understanding the causes of unemployment in an economy. However, the unemployment situation in Afghanistan cannot be adequately explained by a single theoretical perspective. It is the result of a combination of economic, educational, demographic, social, political, and institutional factors. Among the major causes are weak economic growth, inadequate educational and vocational planning, limited private-sector development, dependence on low-productivity agriculture, inadequate infrastructure, political and economic instability, and restrictions on labour-market participation. These factors are closely interconnected and have collectively constrained Afghanistan's capacity to generate sufficient productive employment (Rahmani & Taeab, 2026).

3. Poor Educational and Skills Planning

A major factor contributing to unemployment in Afghanistan is the mismatch between the education system and the requirements of the labour market. Although access to education has expanded over the past decades, many young people enter the labour market without the technical, vocational, entrepreneurial, and practical skills required by employers. The emphasis on formal academic qualifications without sufficient practical and employment-oriented training can contribute to a mismatch between the supply of labour and the demand for particular skills. The problem is particularly important for university and secondary-school graduates. Each year, increasing numbers of young people seek employment, but the formal economy does not create jobs at a sufficient rate to absorb them. Consequently, educated young people may remain unemployed for extended periods or accept informal, temporary, low-paid employment unrelated to their qualifications. This represents an inefficient utilization of human capital and reduces the potential contribution of education to economic development (Baseri, 2018).

The development of technical and vocational education is therefore particularly important. Vocational training in

areas such as construction, agriculture, information technology, renewable energy, mechanics, handicrafts, health services, and other market-oriented occupations can improve employability and provide opportunities for self-employment. Education and economic planning should consequently be better coordinated so that the skills produced by educational institutions correspond more closely to the needs of the Afghan economy (Yar & Noori, 2024).

4. Weak Private-Sector Development

The limited development of the private sector is another major cause of unemployment in Afghanistan. A large proportion of economic activity takes place in small-scale and informal enterprises, while the formal industrial and business sectors remain relatively limited. Many businesses face difficulties obtaining finance, accessing markets, acquiring reliable electricity and infrastructure, and operating in an uncertain economic environment. The limited capacity of private firms to expand means that employment opportunities grow more slowly than the labour force. Young people consequently depend heavily on a small number of formal positions in government, established businesses, and development organizations. When these opportunities are insufficient, unemployment and underemployment increase. Strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, improving access to credit, reducing unnecessary barriers to business development, and encouraging entrepreneurship are therefore essential components of an effective employment strategy (Yar, & Hajinejad, 2023).

5. Limited Development and Productivity of Agriculture

Agriculture remains one of the most important sources of livelihoods in Afghanistan, particularly in rural areas. However, agricultural employment is frequently characterized by low productivity, seasonal work, limited irrigation, inadequate technology, poor access to agricultural inputs, and weak market linkages.

Climate-related challenges, including drought and water scarcity, can further reduce agricultural production and employment. Rural workers who depend heavily on agriculture may therefore experience periods of unemployment or underemployment when agricultural activities decline. The development of irrigation, agricultural technology, storage facilities, processing industries, and market access could increase productivity and create more stable employment throughout rural areas. Inadequate Economic and Physical Infrastructure: Poor infrastructure is another significant constraint on employment generation. Limited and unreliable access to electricity, transportation, telecommunications, water, financial services, and productive infrastructure increases the cost of doing business. High operating costs discourage investment and limit the ability of enterprises to expand. Inadequate infrastructure also restricts economic



integration between rural and urban markets. Producers may have difficulty transporting goods to markets, while businesses may face difficulties obtaining raw materials and distributing products. Consequently, investment in infrastructure is necessary not only for economic growth but also for expanding employment opportunities.

6. Political and Economic Instability

Political instability and prolonged conflict have had profound effects on Afghanistan's economy and labour market. Conflict has damaged infrastructure, disrupted markets, displaced workers, reduced investment, and discouraged the establishment and expansion of businesses. Economic uncertainty also makes it difficult for entrepreneurs and investors to make long-term decisions. Furthermore, Afghanistan's dependence on international assistance has made parts of the economy vulnerable to changes in external financial support. Reductions in aid and changes in international engagement can affect demand, public expenditure, business activity, and employment. A stable and predictable economic environment is therefore essential for encouraging investment and sustainable job creation.

7. Gender and Social Constraints

Gender-related restrictions constitute another important factor affecting Afghanistan's labour market. Women have historically faced significant barriers to education, employment, mobility, and participation in economic activities. Restrictions on women's access to employment and education reduce the effective size of the skilled labour force and result in the underutilization of a substantial part of the country's human capital. Greater access to appropriate education, vocational training, entrepreneurship, and safe employment opportunities for women would contribute to household income, human-capital development, and national economic productivity.

Demographic Pressure and Rural-Urban Migration: Afghanistan's relatively young population creates continuous pressure on the labour market. Large numbers of young people enter working age every year, increasing the demand for employment. When the rate of job creation is lower than the growth of the labour force, unemployment and underemployment inevitably increase. Rural-to-urban migration can further intensify employment pressures in urban areas. Young people who leave rural communities in search of better employment and education opportunities may arrive in cities without the skills, financial resources, or social networks necessary to obtain stable employment. This can increase informal employment and urban economic vulnerability.

Overall, unemployment in Afghanistan is the product of interconnected economic, educational, demographic, social, and political factors. The problem cannot be addressed through a single intervention. It requires simultaneous improvements in human-capital development, private-sector growth, agricultural

productivity, infrastructure, investment, and economic stability.

IV. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

The socio-economic consequences of unemployment in Afghanistan are substantial and extend beyond the individual loss of employment and income. Persistent unemployment affects household welfare, poverty, human-capital utilization, social stability, migration, and economic development. Unemployment and Personal Well-Being: Unemployment has significant consequences for the personal well-being of individuals, particularly young people who are unable to establish independent livelihoods. Prolonged unemployment may lead to frustration, loss of self-esteem, anxiety, social isolation, and a sense of hopelessness. Young graduates who have invested considerable time and resources in education may experience additional psychological pressure when they are unable to find employment corresponding to their qualifications.

Dependence on parents and other family members can also create financial and social pressure. In households with limited resources, unemployed young people may have difficulty contributing to household expenses and supporting other family members. Consequently, unemployment affects not only the unemployed individual but also the wider household.

1. Unemployment and Poverty

Unemployment is closely associated with poverty because employment provides one of the most important sources of household income. When individuals cannot obtain stable employment, their ability to meet basic needs such as food, housing, education, and healthcare is reduced. In Afghanistan, where many households already face significant economic vulnerability, prolonged unemployment can deepen poverty and increase dependence on family support, remittances, humanitarian assistance, or informal economic activities. The relationship between unemployment and poverty can also become self-reinforcing: poverty limits access to education and skills, inadequate skills reduce employment opportunities, and unemployment further increases poverty.

Unemployment and Social Problems

High levels of youth unemployment may contribute to broader social problems. Young people without stable employment and income may become more vulnerable to exploitation, irregular migration, criminal activities, substance-related problems, and recruitment by harmful or extremist groups. Unemployment should not, however, be regarded as an automatic cause of crime or conflict. Rather, the combination of economic deprivation, social exclusion, insecurity, and limited opportunities can



increase vulnerability to such outcomes. Persistent unemployment may also contribute to dissatisfaction with economic and political institutions. Where young people perceive that education and effort do not lead to meaningful employment, confidence in economic opportunities may decline, potentially increasing social frustration.

3. Unemployment and Economic Growth

Unemployment represents a significant underutilization of Afghanistan's human resources. Young people constitute an important part of the country's potential labour force, and their productive participation could contribute to economic growth through increased production, consumption, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

When large numbers of young people remain unemployed or underemployed, potential output is lost. Human capital accumulated through education and training is not fully utilized, while households have lower incomes and businesses face weaker demand. Consequently, persistent unemployment can reduce both current economic activity and the country's long-term growth potential.

4. Unemployment and Migration

Limited employment opportunities are an important factor influencing migration decisions. Young Afghans may seek employment, education, security, or better living conditions outside their communities or abroad. Migration can provide income and remittances for households, but large-scale migration of educated and skilled workers can also contribute to human-capital loss. The departure of skilled workers reduces the country's pool of professionals and entrepreneurs and may weaken the capacity of domestic institutions and businesses. Addressing unemployment can therefore contribute to reducing unnecessary migration pressures while allowing young people to contribute productively within Afghanistan.

5. Unemployment and Social Stability

Persistent youth unemployment can also affect social stability. Employment provides not only income but also social status, independence, purpose, and participation in society. When young people remain excluded from productive economic activity, social frustration may increase. For Afghanistan, where social and economic stability remains closely connected to livelihood opportunities, employment creation is therefore an important component of broader development and stability strategies.

V. OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

Reducing unemployment in Afghanistan requires a comprehensive strategy that combines human-capital development, economic diversification, private-sector development, infrastructure investment, agricultural

modernization, and policies that encourage inclusive participation in economic activities

Employment Generation through Educational and Vocational Reform: The education system should be more closely aligned with the requirements of the labour market. Greater emphasis should be placed on technical and vocational education, entrepreneurship, digital skills, and practical training. Educational institutions should work more closely with employers and productive sectors to identify skills in demand. Young people should be encouraged not only to seek salaried employment but also to develop entrepreneurial skills and establish small businesses. Technical and vocational institutions should receive adequate resources, equipment, and qualified instructors to provide market-relevant training. The objective should be to transform education from a system primarily focused on obtaining academic qualifications into one that also develops practical skills, employability, innovation, and self-employment capacity.

Creating an Enabling Environment for Private Investment A supportive business environment is essential for employment creation. The government and relevant institutions should improve access to finance, strengthen business services, reduce unnecessary administrative barriers, and provide reliable infrastructure.

Small and medium-sized enterprises should receive particular attention because they can generate employment at the local level and provide opportunities for young entrepreneurs. Access to affordable credit, business training, market information, and technology can increase the survival and expansion of small enterprises.

Reprioritizing Agriculture and Rural Development: Agriculture should remain a central component of Afghanistan's employment strategy. However, policy should move beyond traditional subsistence agriculture toward higher-productivity and market-oriented agricultural production. Investment in irrigation, improved seeds, agricultural machinery, storage, processing, transportation, and market access can increase productivity and generate employment throughout agricultural value chains. Agro-processing and rural industries can create additional jobs outside primary farming and reduce seasonal unemployment.

1. Promoting Economic Diversification

Afghanistan needs to diversify its economic base to reduce excessive dependence on a limited number of sectors and external sources of income. Potential employment-generating areas include agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing, construction, renewable energy, information and communication technologies, logistics, tourism where feasible, and small and medium-sized enterprises. Economic diversification can increase resilience to external shocks and create employment



opportunities for workers with different levels of education and skills.

Investment in Infrastructure: Improving infrastructure is essential for creating an enabling environment for employment and economic growth. Investment in electricity, roads, irrigation, telecommunications, water systems, and financial infrastructure can reduce production costs and increase private-sector productivity. Infrastructure investment also creates direct employment during construction and maintenance while generating indirect employment by making other economic activities more profitable.

2. Promoting Women's Economic Participation

Increasing women's participation in appropriate economic activities can contribute substantially to household welfare and national economic productivity. Policies should support women's access to education, vocational training, entrepreneurship, finance, and suitable employment opportunities. The productive participation of women should be viewed as an important component of human-capital utilization rather than solely as a social-policy issue rooted in a combination of inadequate employment creation, weak economic growth, skills mismatches, limited private-sector development, low agricultural productivity, inadequate infrastructure issue.

3. Strengthening Economic and Institutional Stability

Sustainable employment creation requires an environment characterized by economic predictability, institutional effectiveness, and security. Greater stability can encourage domestic investment, support business confidence, facilitate legitimate trade, and increase the willingness of enterprises to expand. Employment policies should therefore be integrated into broader economic-development strategies rather than treated as an isolated labour-market issue.

VI. CONCLUSION

Youth unemployment represents one of the important socio-economic challenges facing Afghanistan. The problem is rooted in a combination of inadequate employment creation, weak economic growth, skills mismatches, limited private-sector development, low agricultural productivity, inadequate infrastructure, political and economic instability, demographic pressure, and barriers to labour-market participation. The consequences of unemployment extend beyond the loss of wages.

Persistent unemployment can increase poverty, undermine personal well-being, reduce the utilization of human capital, encourage migration, and increase social vulnerability. At the macroeconomic level, unemployment represents a substantial loss of productive capacity coordinated and long-term approach. Educational and

vocational systems need to be aligned with labour-market requirements, while private-sector development, entrepreneurship, agricultural modernization, infrastructure investment, and economic diversification should be promoted. Greater opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups are also necessary to ensure that Afghanistan's human resources have important roles to play. A coordinated approach can create an environment in which young people acquire relevant skills, businesses expand, investment increases, and new because a large proportion of the country's working-age population is unable to contribute fully to economic production.

Addressing the problem therefore requires a coordinated and long-term approach. Educational and vocational systems need to be aligned with labour-market requirements, while private-sector development, entrepreneurship, agricultural modernization, infrastructure investment, and economic diversification should be promoted. Greater opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups are also necessary to ensure that Afghanistan's human resources are fully utilized. The responsibility for reducing unemployment cannot rest solely with the government. The private sector, educational institutions, local communities, development organizations, and international partners all have important roles to play. A coordinated approach can create an environment in which young people acquire relevant skills, businesses expand, investment increases, and new employment opportunities are generated.

Ultimately, Afghanistan's large youth population should be viewed not simply as a challenge to employment creation but as a major source of potential human capital. If young Afghans are provided with appropriate education, skills, finance, and productive employment opportunities, they can become important contributors to economic growth, poverty reduction, social stability, and sustainable national development.

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