
Youth Economic Opportunities and violence in Latin America and the Caribbean:
Unpacking the relationships and exploring solutions

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A policy priority

- OAS: Youth violence is the biggest challenge for social, political and economic stability in the region.
- The 5 highest homicide rates in the world are in LAC.
- 41 out of the 50 most violent cities in the world are in LAC.
- El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Brazil rank first in the world in terms of deaths from violence among young people: 77 out of 100 deaths among young men are caused by violence. Youth: victims and perpetrators and both.
- More than half of the youth population is affected by poverty.
- Unemployment rate (2015) -7%, amongst the youth -16%.
- 2/3 young workers employed in precarious jobs.
- + 20 million, 1/5 youth: NEET – poor groups & young women overrepresented.
A policy priority

• Does unemployment/lack of economic opportunities lead to violence? Is employment generation/economic opp a way to pull youth out of violence?

• **Policy options (and investments) made based assumption:** youth unemployment and lack of economic opportunities leads to violence SO: employment generation and economic opportunities = way to pull youth out of violence.

• **BUT:**
  NO robust evidence to back up this assumption.
Objectives of the session

- Unpack the relationship between YEO and violence
- Share innovations to address the high violence / low opportunities equilibrium in the region
Economic opportunities

- Reduces spatial mobility (Jobs, education)
- Discourages entrepreneurship: less clients; increases costs (extortion) & risks = less profitable.
- Stigma: Youth = violent Not hired by employers

No evidence
Innovations to address the high violence low opportunities equilibrium in the region:

- Glasswing Intl and Fusades: Social Inclusion through social Innovation - Margarita Beneke
- Fundacion Capital: Jovenes Activos – Veruschka Zilveti
Discussion and questions

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