

PEP research in action

Easing school to work transitions in Benin



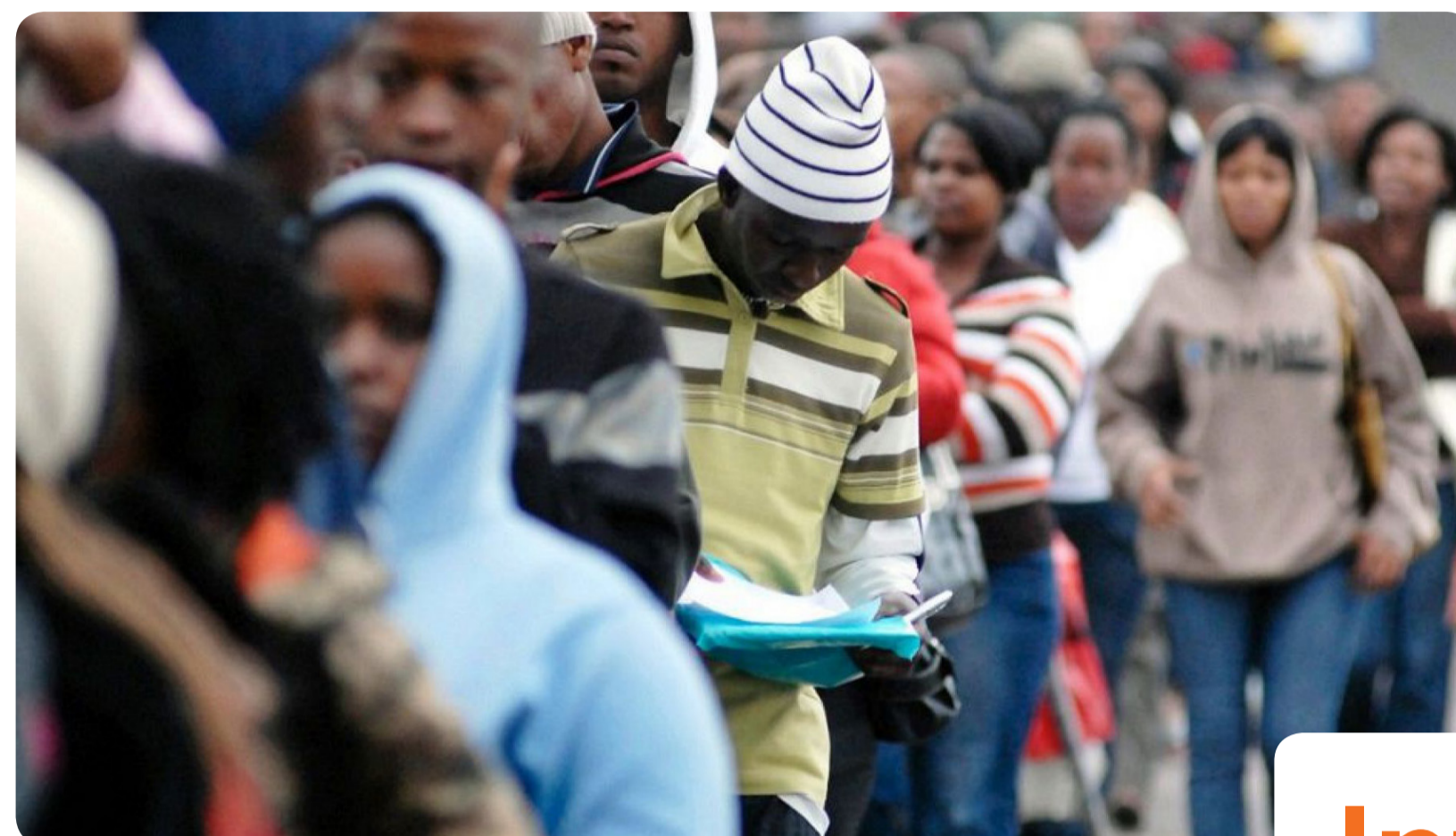
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INSAE, 2014: School-to-Work Transition Survey (SWTS)

- **Can take up to 4 years** for young people to find 1st job after leaving school
- In 2014, only 11% of youth aged 15-29 had completed their transition to the labour market
- **Main obstacles** to youth employment are lack of:
 - vocational and technical education
 - professional experience
 - job search assistance

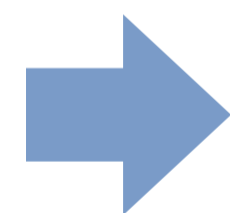


Recommendations for policymaking

- Youth employment interventions should be reoriented to **promote labour market experience alongside education, rather than after high school graduation.**
- **Additional measures are needed to support young women** who wish to enter the labour market.

Since 2007, several government initiatives (programs, agencies) introduced to reduce youth unemployment

Focus mostly on providing entrepreneurship education and work experience, but to **high school graduates**



Local PEP researchers investigate whether working before leaving school can help youth transition more easily into Benin's labour market

METHOD:

Multi-equation model within the counterfactual framework to evaluate data from the SWTS for 15 to 29 year-olds in Benin

"Working while studying" defined as work undertaken by students during and/or outside of the school season (evenings/weekends and holidays, respectively).

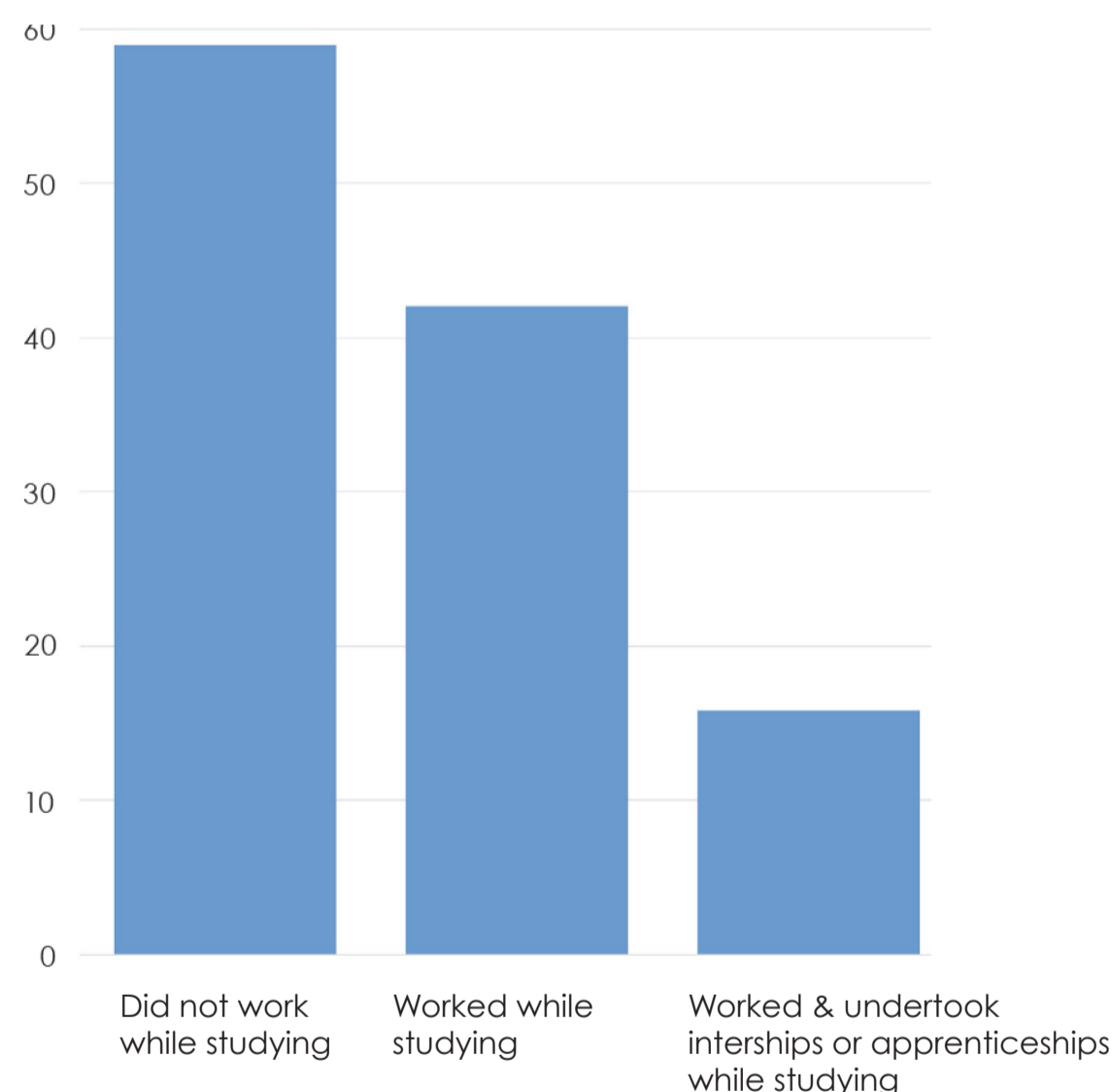
Findings

Working while studying eases and reduces the school-to-work transition

Especially:

- When working experiences are **combined with apprenticeships.**
- For youth who left school with **at least a secondary education.**
- **For men.** It was not found to make a difference to the duration of women's transition periods.
- If the work is undertaken **only during the summer break or holidays** (not evenings and weekends during the school year).

School-to-work transition durations for youth in Benin (months)



Informing national policy processes

2016-2018: Team consults with government ministries/agencies related to employment and education.

October 2017: After discussions with the PEP team, **the Minister of SMEs and Promotion of Employment (MPMEPE) sets up a policy discussion group**

- ▶ For PEP team to share/discuss findings with experts/advisors from:
 - Ministry of SMEs and Promotion of Employment (MPMEPE)
 - Ministry of Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education (MTFPAS)
 - Fund for Continuing Professional Development & Apprenticeship (FODEFCA)
- ▶ Discussions (ongoing) have already led to the **findings informing the revision of the "Technical Education and Vocational Training" policy (FODEFCA)**

August 2018: The Bureau of Analysis & Investigation of the Presidency invites team to share findings during a **special advisory meeting with high-level officials from FODEFCA, MPMEPE, and the National Agency for Promotion of Employment (ANPE)**

February 2019: team organizes PEP national policy conference

Attended by: ANPE, FODEFCA, MPMEPE, MTFPAS, Observatory of Employment and Training (ONEF), but also private sector, CSOs, NGOs and academia.

- ▶ Resulted in: **collective statement of the need and will to improve synergies between various state structures for employment, and with academia**

Research team

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PEP publications

Working paper 2019-03
Policy brief 184

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