

▶ Youth & COVID-19

Vulnerable segments of workers' groups

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► Covid-19 pushes young people in a trilemma

**1. DISRUPTS
EDUCATION AND
TRAINING**

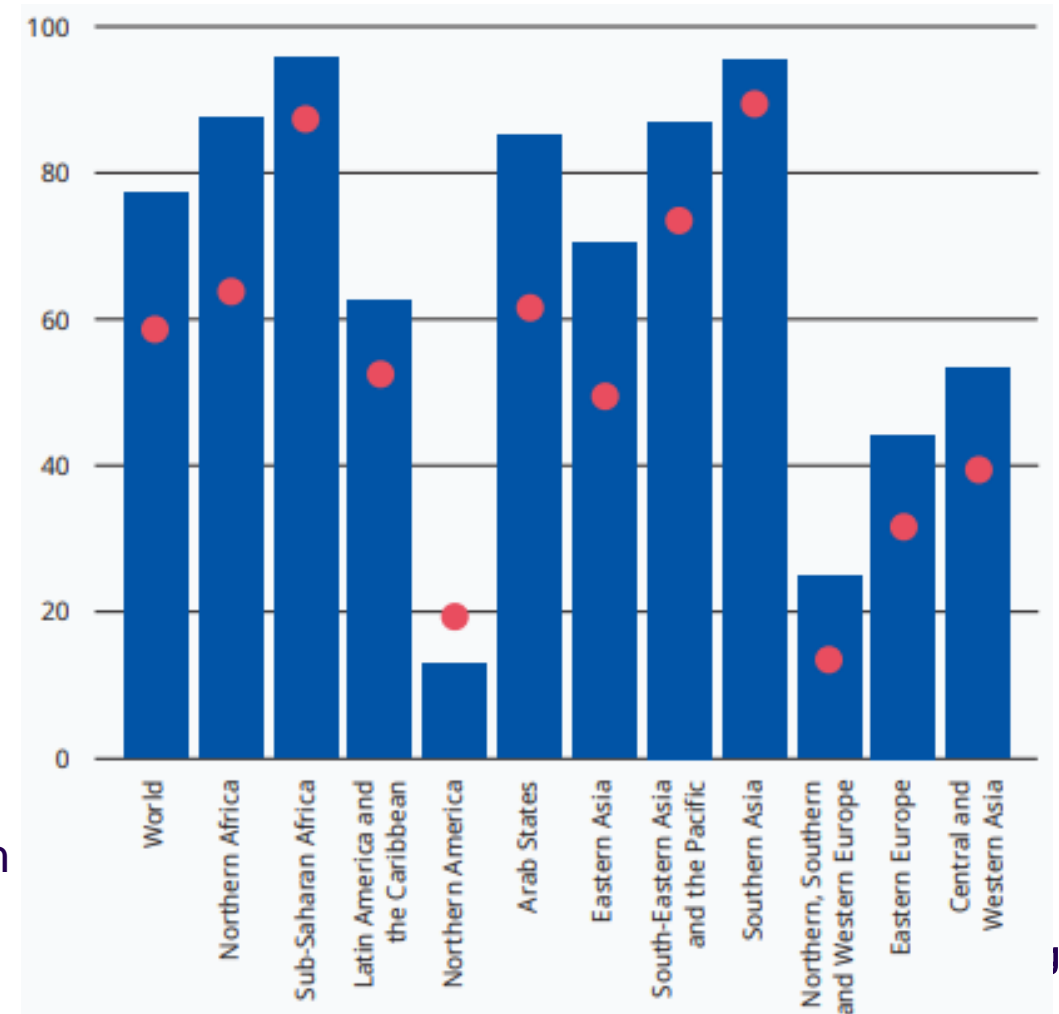
**2. INCREASED DIFFICULTIES
FOR YOUNG JOBSEEKERS TO
TRANSITION TO DECENT JOBS**

**3. JOB AND INCOME
LOSSES FOR YOUNG
WORKERS**

Before COVID-19 hit, 3/4 young workers were in informal employment

Highly susceptible to aggregate demand shocks/lockdown and contagion.

Lack of social protection, limited access to health-care services and no income replacement in case of sickness.



Source: [GET Youth 2020](#)

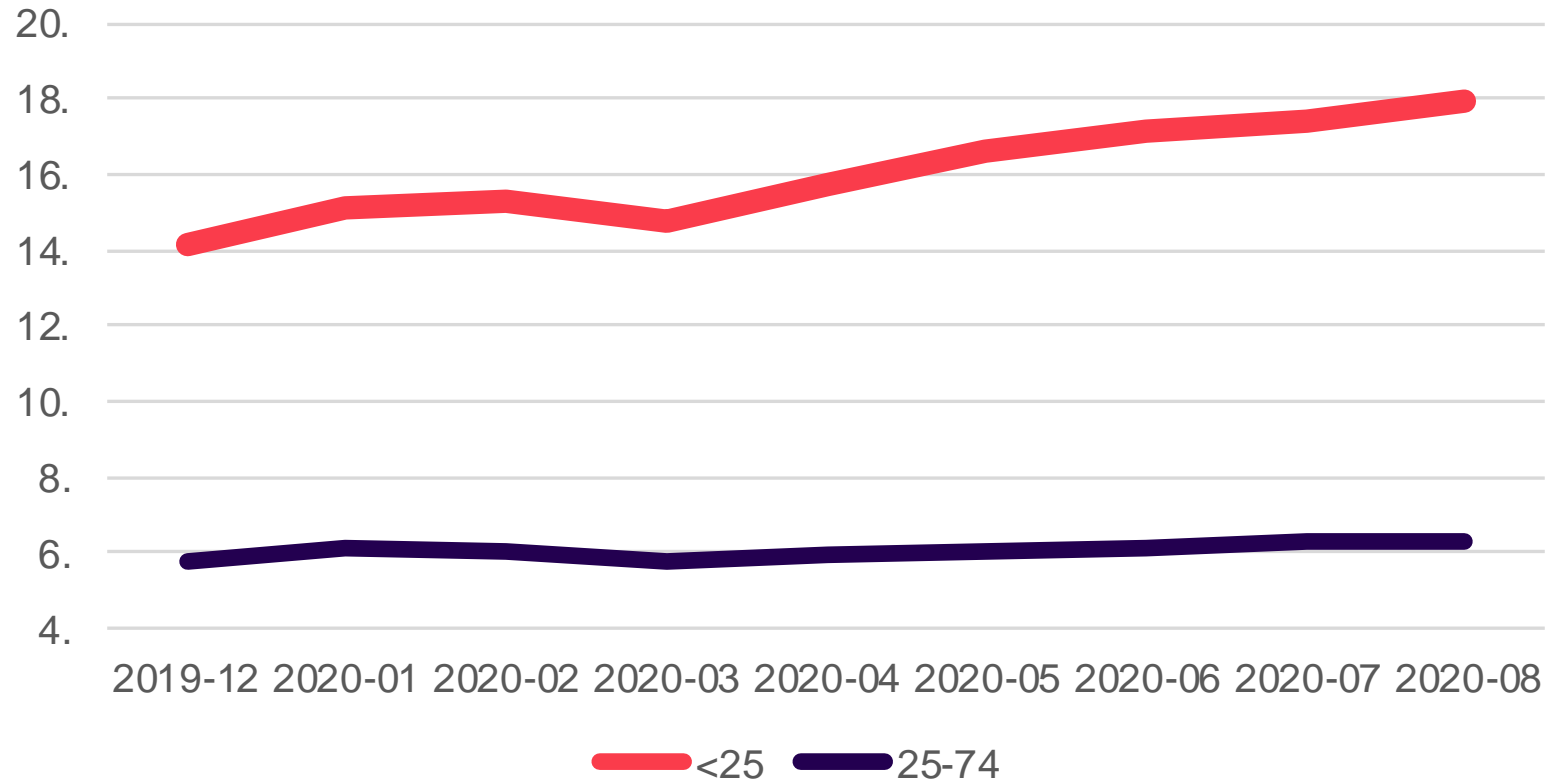
... And some 178 million youth were in the hardest hit sectors

- Young workers (15-24) concentrated in sectors heavily hit by the crisis (vis-à-vis 25+) (**3/4 of them were in the informal economy**)
- Broken value chains has led to significant impacts on the employment of young women; e.g. manufacturing (textiles).

Sector with high impact	Employment level (millions)	Youth employment share (%)	Participation of young women in YE (%)
Wholesale and retail trade; vehicle and motorcycle repair	74.8	17.5	41.7
Manufacturing	59.2	13.8	36.9
Real estate; commercial and administrative activities	16.4	3.8	43.8
Accommodation and food services	28.1	6.6	50.8

First registered impacts: Unemployment

Unemployment rates, EU 27



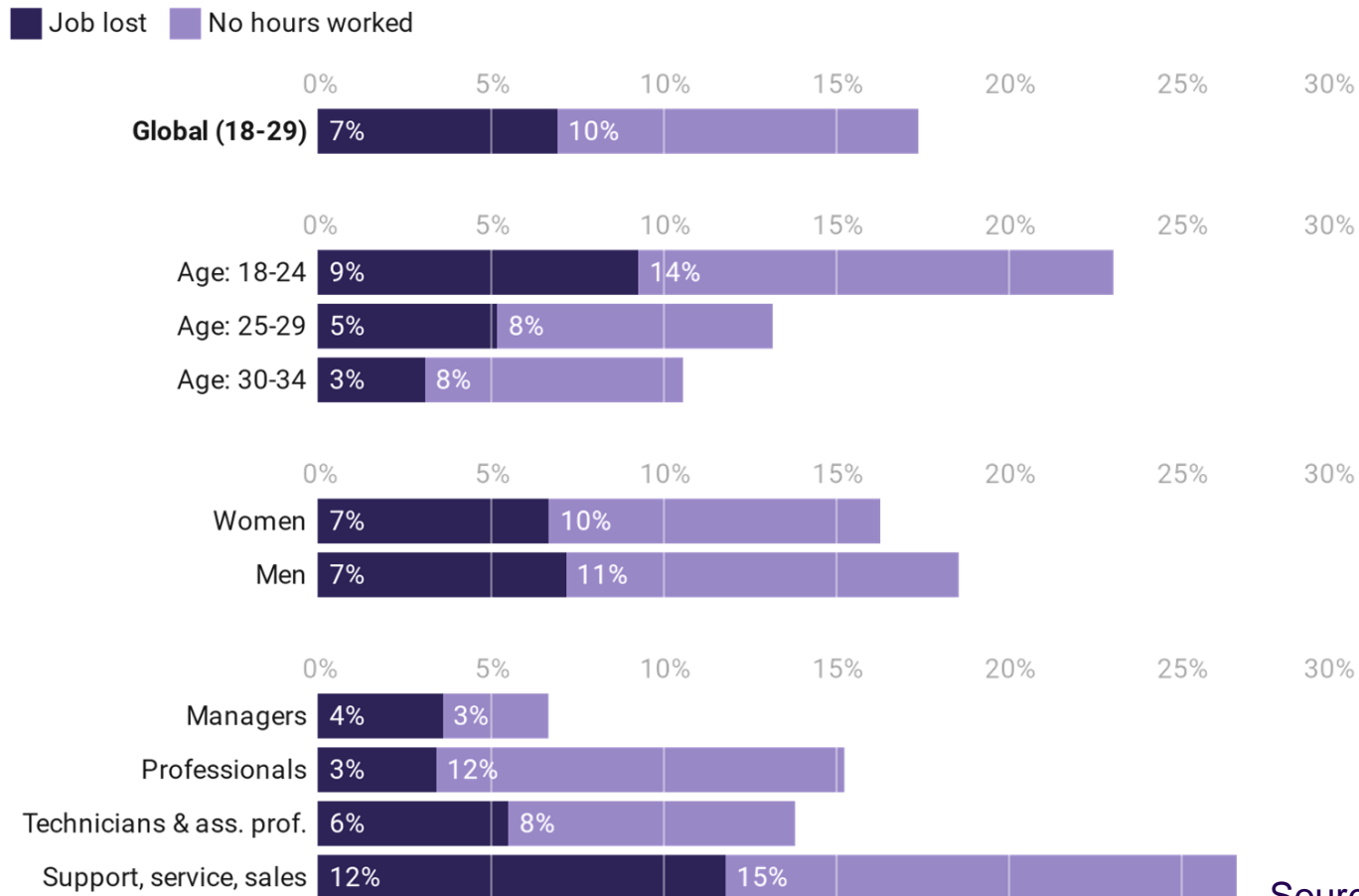
Lessons from the past

During the 2008 economic and financial crisis **long-term unemployment amongst young people:**

- Increased much faster than it did for adults; and
- Fell more slowly than youth unemployment rates once recovery began

One in six surveyed youth stopped working

Share of respondents who stopped working since the onset of the pandemic



Most vulnerable:

- Young people in support, service and sales jobs (27% stopped working)
- Younger workers aged 18-24 (23%)

One in two young workers reported a decrease in working hours. Overall, working hours decreased by 23%.

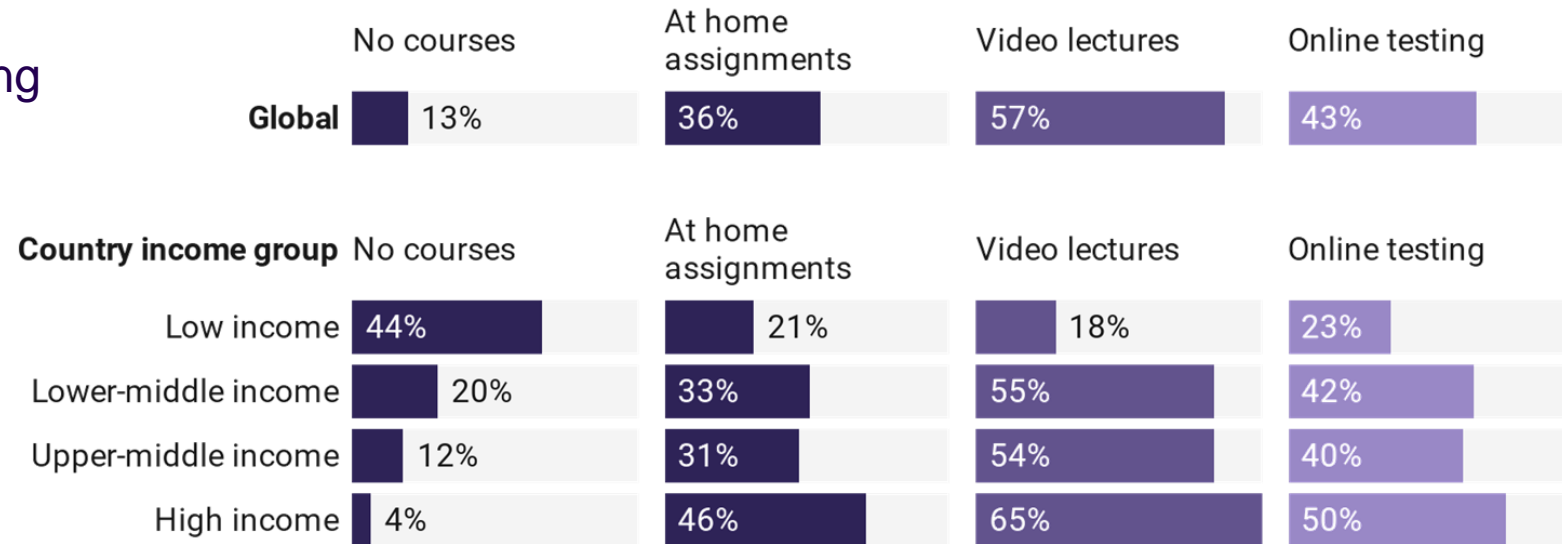
Incomes and productivity

- **Two out of five** (42%) youth experienced a reduction income.
- **Three out of five** (61%) youth reported a decrease in their (self-assessed) productivity.

Disruptions in education and training

- Nearly **one in eight** (13%) young people saw their education and training come to a full stop.
- Transition to online and distance learning more widespread among youth in high-income countries.
- Two out of three** (65%) young people report learning less than before the outbreak.
- Three out of five** (60%) young people report that their education might be delayed or fail.

Share of youth (18-29) exposed to alternative learning opportunities



Source: [Youth & COVID-19 report](#)

Widespread mental wellbeing risks where jobs or education were disrupted

- Globally, **one out of six** young people are probably affected by anxiety or depression.
- Lower average mental well-being levels for **young women as well as younger youth**.
- Risk levels for young people whose education or work has been disrupted **almost double** as high.

Possible/probable anxiety or depression according to the Short Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale



Towards Decent Work for Young People

Stimulating the economy and employment

- Countercyclical fiscal policies
- Economic and employment policies
- Investment in sectors that can absorb young workers (digital, green)

Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes

- Youth guarantees
- Investment in (digital) education and training
- Social protection, transfers
- Subsidised employment, targeted public works programmes
- Public employment services
- SME support

Protecting workers in the workplace

- Occupational health and safety (OSH)
- Psychosocial support measures
- Personal protective equipment

Relying on social dialogue for solutions

- Integrating young people in social dialogue mechanisms as response policies are designed
- Promotion of youth rights, incl. right to disconnect

A black and white photograph of four young people sitting in a field. From left to right: a man with short hair and a beard, a man with glasses and a beard, a woman with long hair wearing a scarf and holding a shovel, and a man wearing a beanie. They are all smiling or looking towards the camera. The background shows trees and a fence.

THANK YOU

ENGAGE: WWW.DECENTJOBSFORYOUTH.ORG

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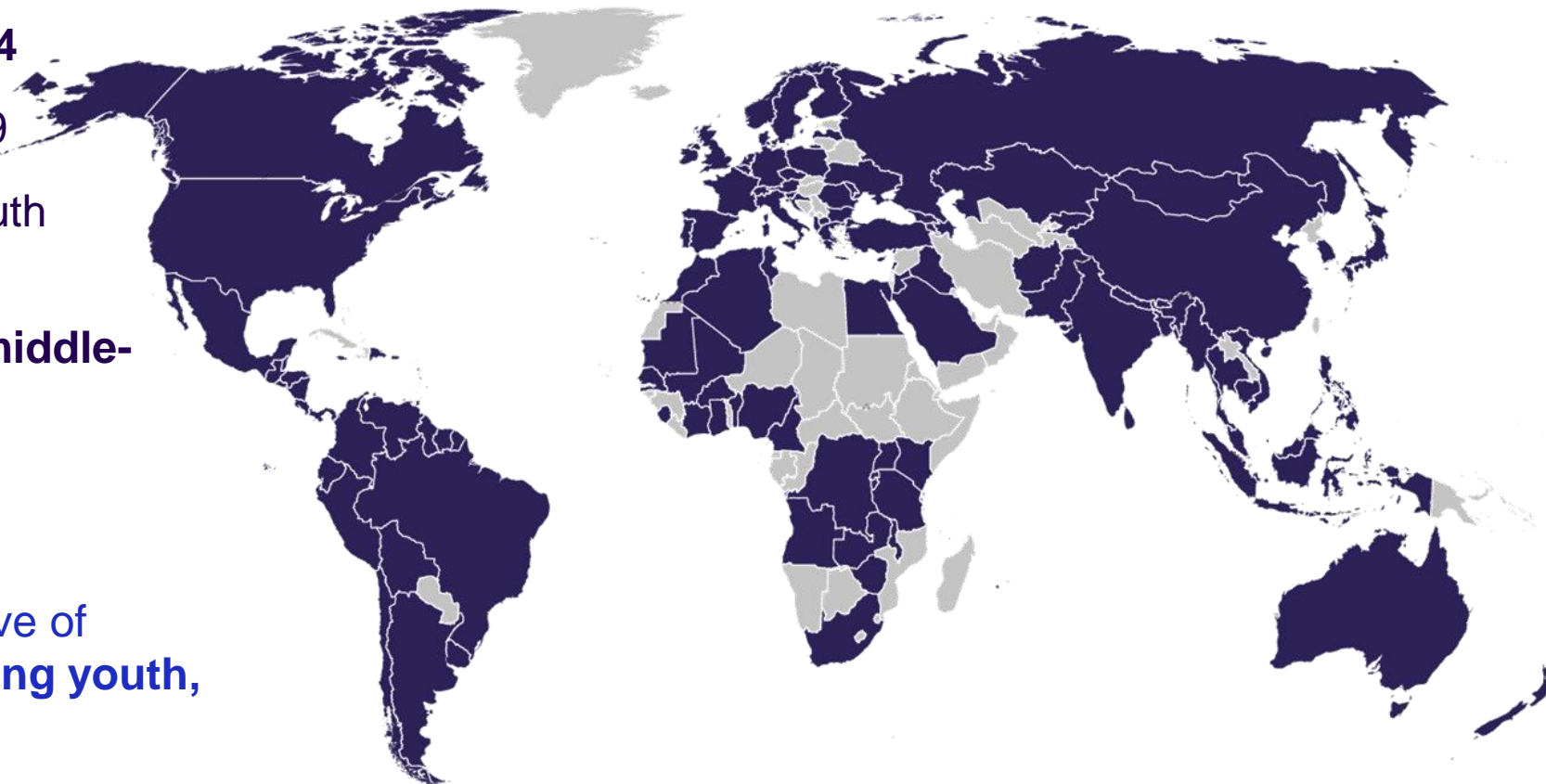
 **DECENT JOBS
FOR YOUTH**

▶ Youth & COVID-19 survey results – Additional slides



Global Survey on Youth and COVID-19

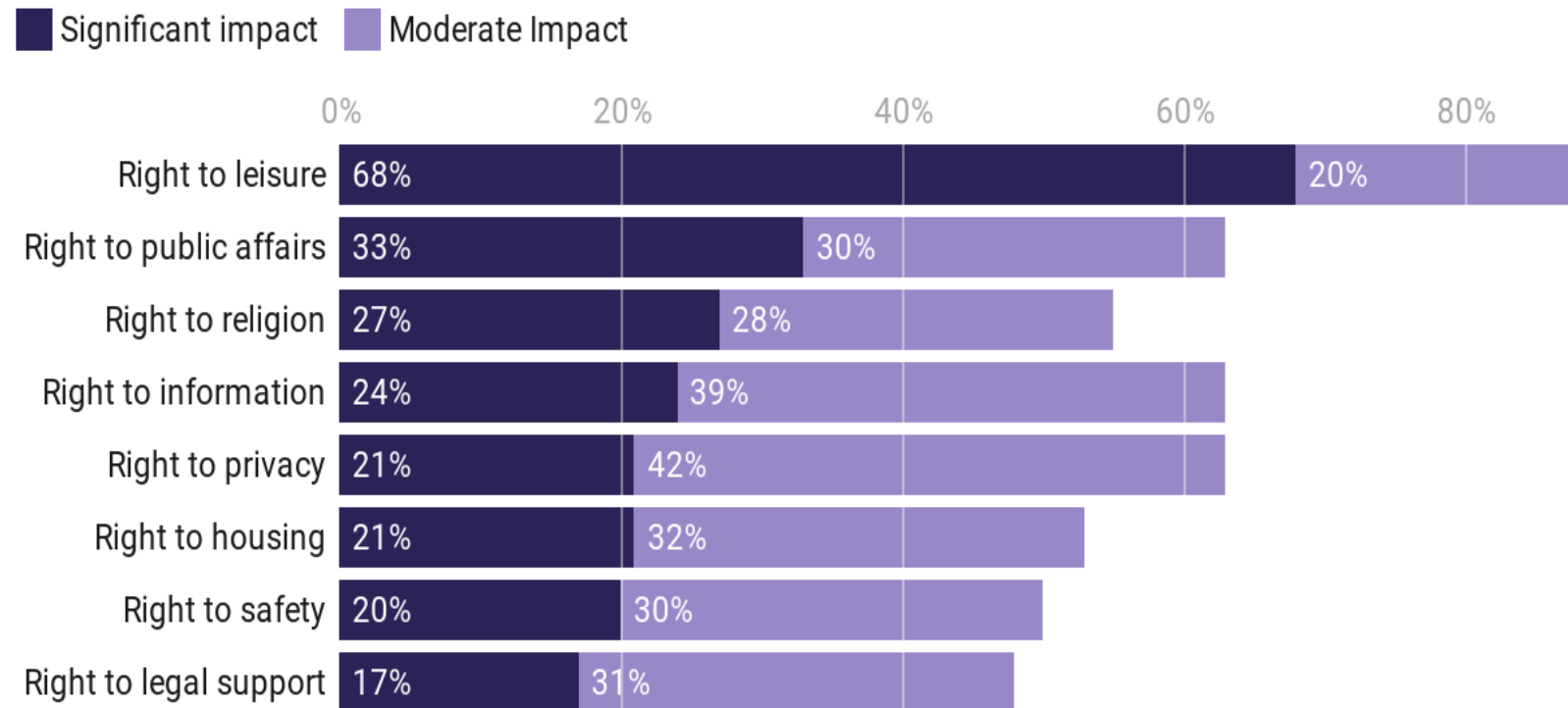
- **12,605** respondents aged **18-34**
 - **Young people** aged 18-29
- **112 countries**, a combined youth population of **1.47 million**
- Includes almost all **high- and middle-income countries**
- **Low-income countries** under-represented
- Survey population representative of **students and educated working youth, ages 18 to 29.**



Rights: “Stay-at-home” affected access to certain rights

- **One in three** young people noticed a significant impact on their right to participate in public affairs.
- **27%** experienced impacts on their right to freedom of religion or belief.
- Young people identifying as an ethnic, religious or other minority noted more pronounced impacts.
- Misinformation and fake news affected the right to access information for one in four youth.

Extent of impact on youth rights (aged 18–29)



Social activism: Young people want to help

- **Young people stayed at home**
- **Showed high levels of volunteerism (31%) and a willingness to donate (27%)**
- **“How did you help others?”**
 - Combatting misinformation
 - Sanitation and hygiene
 - Assisting elderly/disabled
 - Distributing food, protective equipment

Youth (18-29) level of social activism

■ High extent ■ Medium extent ■ Low extent

I stayed at home



I reached out to friends, family and other loved ones to find out how they are coping



I volunteered for initiatives to help others deal with the impacts of the coronavirus



I donated to charities working on the response to the coronavirus outbreak



Youth recommendations

I would create an **universal basic income** (at least temporarily), grant **subsidies for all businesses** (specially, the small ones) ensuring they have conditions not to fail and create strong mechanisms that discouraged workers' release. In the social aspect, I would encourage **free artistic online shows**, **free psychological appointments** online with specialists (reducing the psychological impact on the population) and create orientation and help services for quarantine **focused on the most vulnerable communities**.

-Cezário Victor D. M., 18, Brazil



[I would] encourage young people to **take advantage of staying at home to learn new skills** that will enable earn a living, be employable and become independent when the pandemic is over.

-Suubi Esther D., 22, Uganda

Youth recommendations

My advice is to **provide income, training and employment support** for young people in the community including for vulnerable people such as the elderly and disabled. I call on our authorities to implement **tracing and tracking** measures and provide free masks and sanitisers to allow people to go back to work safely.



-Ivy Tecla N., 26, Kenya



I am fighting against the **spread of misinformation and fake** news about COVID-19. I am telling my friends and family to be human and to spread love and kindness to our health and safety workers: our doctors, police, sanitation workers and any worker battling on the COVID-19 frontlines.

-Nikhat A., 29, India