



International Labour Office

A Global Perspective on Youth Employment

Dr. Sher Singh Verick

Senior Employment Specialist

ILO Decent Work Team South Asia

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Overview

- Why we should be concerned about **youth employment?**
- **Global trends** in youth unemployment
- **Policy response**

Youth – important today and in the future

- **Demographic dividend** has been an important factor driving development in the Industrial Revolution and East Asia
- **India** has the largest youth population – 66% of the total population is below the age of 35
 - In 2015, **one in every five** young people will be an Indian

Why should we worry?

- Young people are around **three times** more likely to be unemployed than adults
- Young people typically work in **insecure, unprotected jobs**
 - Advanced economies – **temporary, casual work**
 - Developing countries – **informal economy and casualization of formal sector**
- In some countries, **inactivity (NEET)** is a major challenge
- Isn't this just a '**rites of passage**'?

Why should we worry?

- Young people are **vulnerable** to poor outcomes in the labour market because
 - They (may) lack **education** and **skills**
 - They do not have **work experience**
 - They are unable to **search** for jobs
 - They do not have the **financial resources** to find employment
 - They are more likely to be in **precarious jobs**

Why should we worry?

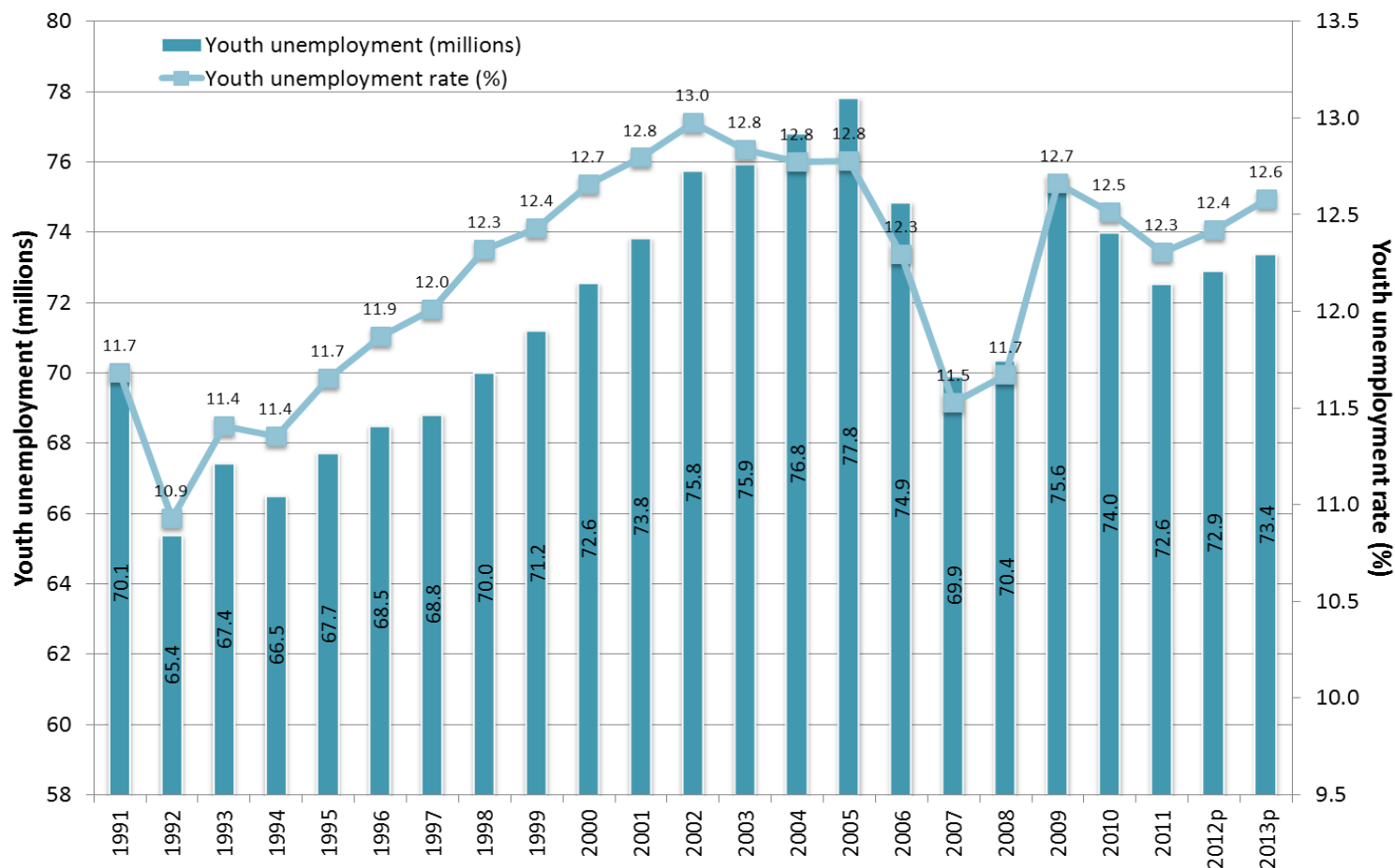
- Rising levels of youth unemployment/underemployment have **economic costs**
- **Social impact** of joblessness
 - Increased crime, mental health problems, violence, drug taking and social exclusion
- **Political implications**
 - Arab spring

Why should we worry?

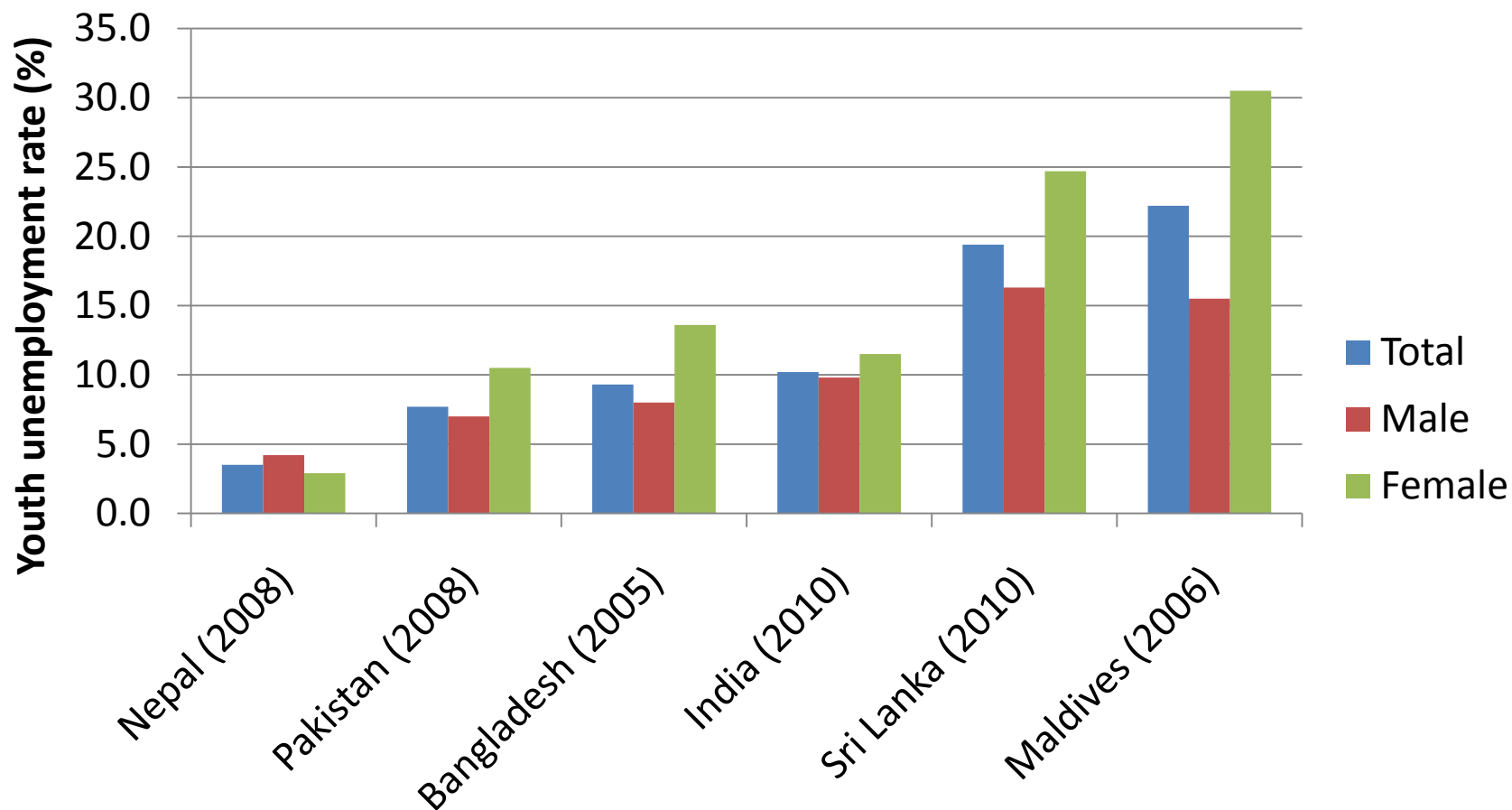
- Spells of **unemployment**, particularly long-term durations, can lead to **scarring effects** in terms of a higher likelihood of being unemployed later in life and a wage penalty
- Respond
 - **Prevention** through education
 - **Target and support** jobless/underemployed youth

Global youth unemployment

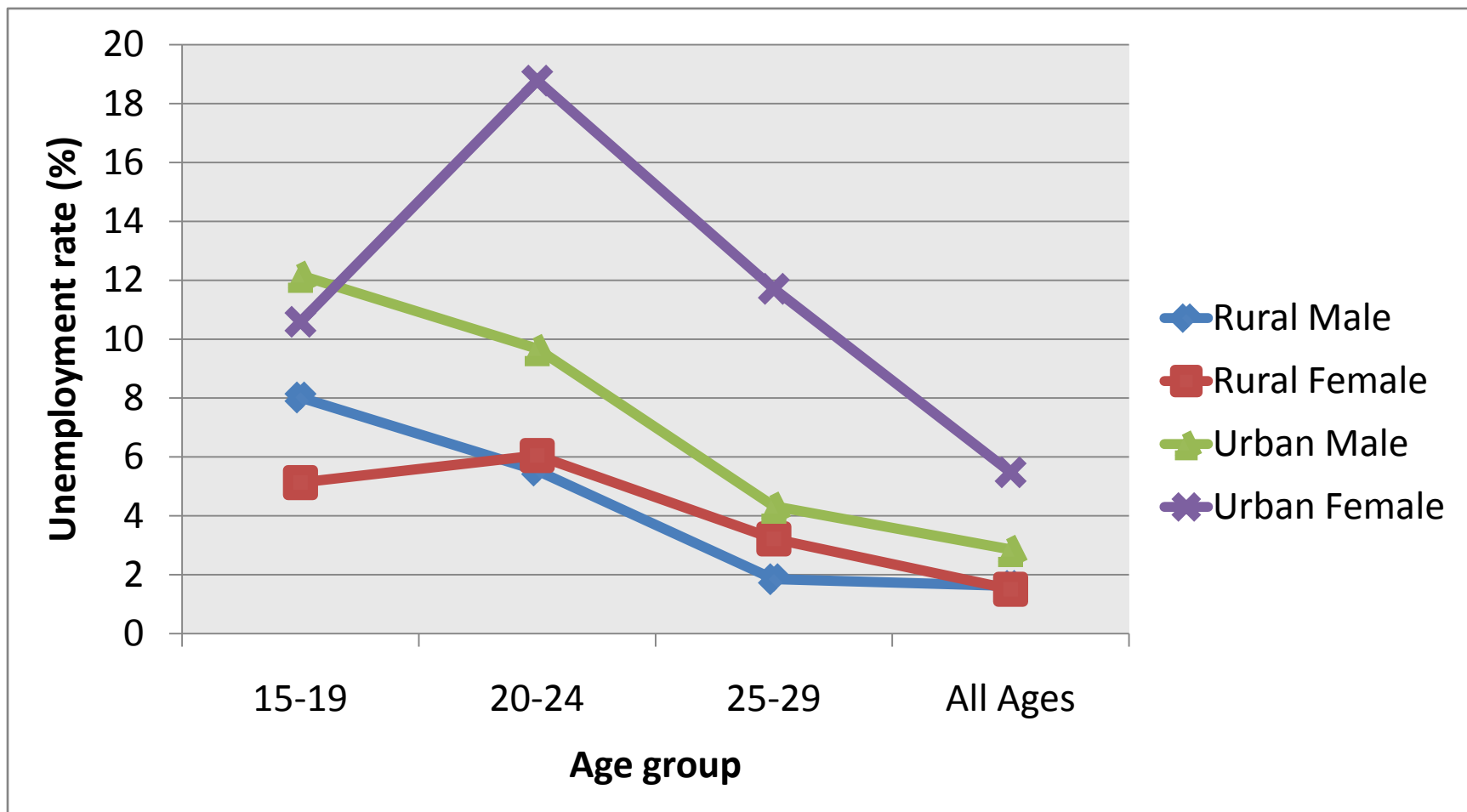
73.4 million youth unemployed



Youth unemployment in S Asia



Youth unemployment is high in urban areas in India (2009-10)



Policy areas

1. Stimulate demand and create jobs for youth through **pro-employment macroeconomic policies**
2. Invest in **education and training** to enhance employability and facilitate the school-to-work transition
3. Improve labour market integration of young people through targeted **labour market policies**
4. Provide career options to young people by supporting **entrepreneurship and self-employment**
5. Ensure that young people receive equal treatment and are afforded **rights at work**

Jovenes programmes in Latin America

- **Joven Programme** started in Chile in 1990 before moving to other LAC (Argentina, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay)
- Target youth from **low-income households** with **low levels of education** and **work experience**
- Consist of **training, work experience and JSA**
- **Evaluations** have shown that these programmes are successful in improving outcomes for participants



THANK YOU!