

Youth Covid-19 Quick Poll

by Lucha Lunako



Introduction and Background

The Youth Covid-19 Quick Poll by Lucha Lunako was conducted from 22nd May to the 9th June 2020. The poll took 2 minutes to complete and used under 1MB of data.

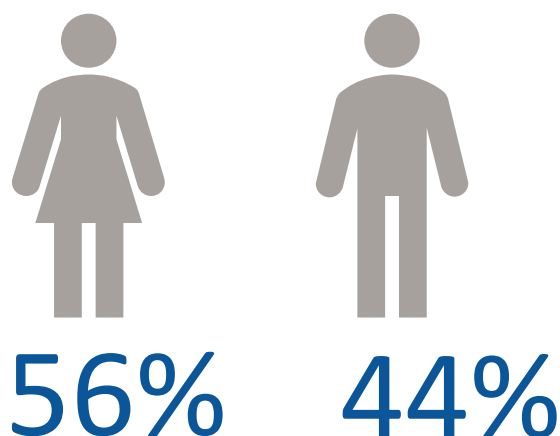
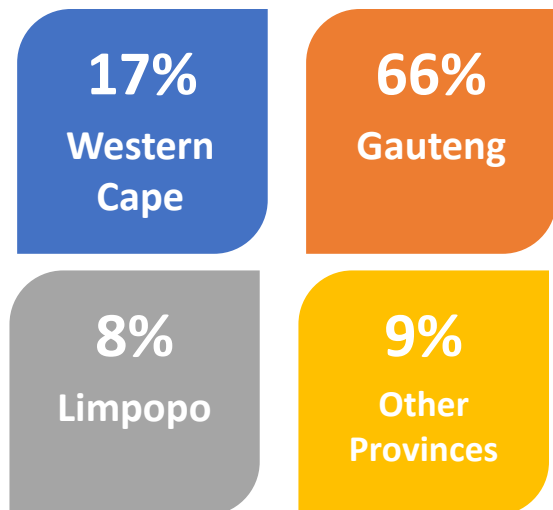
The main focus of the Quick Poll was to hear from young people aged 18-34 about:

- How have they been impacted by Coronavirus,
- How have they been impacted by the lockdown,
- How do they feel about the future.

814 young people completed the Quick Poll via Whatsapp with 66% of the respondents living in Gauteng, 17% from the Western Cape and 17% from the rest of the provinces.

A total of 56% female and 44% male respondents gave their feedback with a representation of 88% young African people, 5% young Coloured people, 5% young White people and 2% young Indian or Asian people participating. Given the participation demographics reported, this Quick Poll best represents young African people, both male and female, living in the province of Gauteng. However, many of the insights reported speak to the universal experience of young people across South Africa.

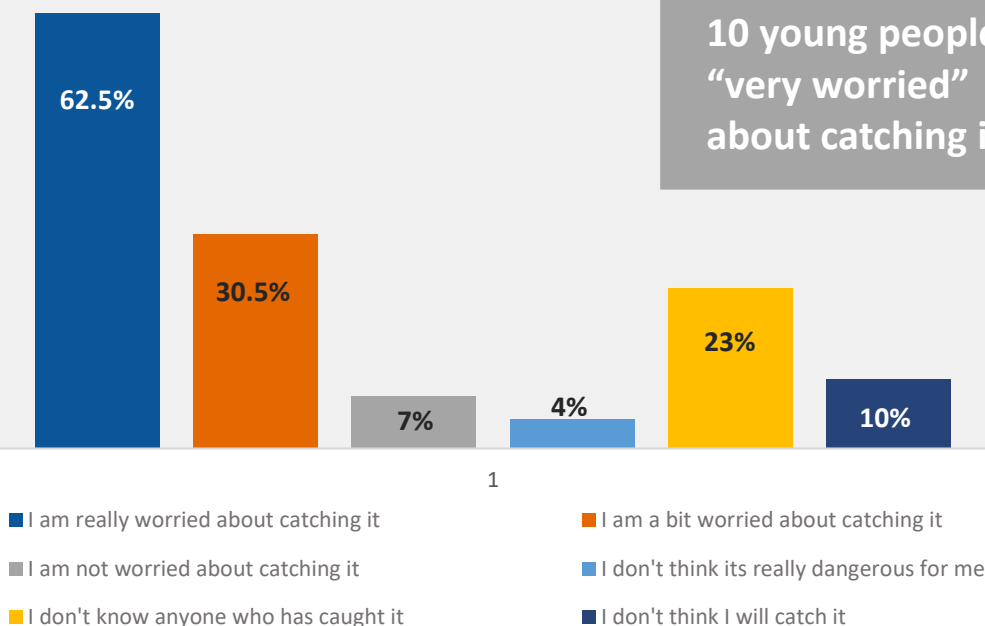
Survey Methodology involved allowing young people to select multiple statements in response to a question. This allowed a broad range of issues to be polled within only thirteen questions. Each of the multiple statements functioned as a standalone or yes-or-no question and the percentage outcome for each statement was generated by calculating the positive responses received by the 814 respondents. This explains why many of the graphs will show all the responses available across a theme and the percentages on the graphs will not add up to 100%.



1. How have young people been impacted by Coronavirus ?

How do you feel about catching Coronavirus?

Coronavirus has caught the attention of young people; more than 6 out of 10 young people are “very worried” about catching it.



62.5% of young people say they are “very worried”, 30.5% say they are “a bit worried” and only 7% aren’t worried about the virus at all. Hoping to avoid the virus, 87% of young people say they are wearing masks when going to the shops and 78% are social distancing while in public. Some extra effort is being made to avoid the virus, including 41% of young people taking flu medicine or vitamin C. However, 25% of young people acknowledged that their communities are still socialising outside their homes.

87%



I wear a mask

78%



I social distance

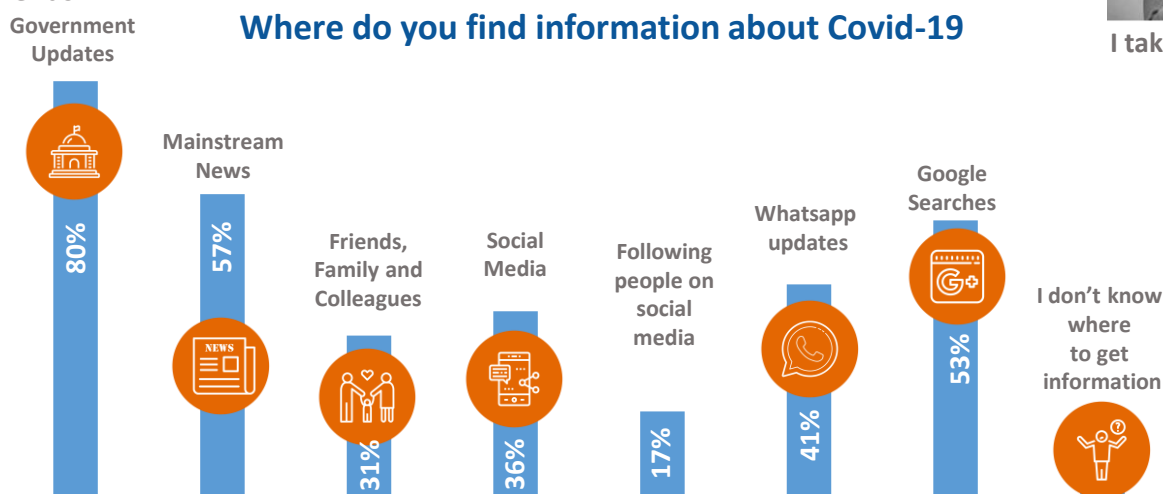
41%



I take vitamin C

Preferred news sources about the virus include the Presidential announcements for nearly 80% of young people, 57% of young people are also following mainstream media. Additional information is being provided by doing their own Google searches (53%), receiving Whatsapp messages (41%) and social media platforms such as Tiktok, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. (36%). Only 31% are getting their information by talking to family and friends.

Where do you find information about Covid-19



2. How have young people been impacted by the lockdown ?

69%

It was needed to protect people from the virus

52%

It is still needed so that lots of people don't catch the virus

23%

It has caused too many problems

12%

It has gone on too long

Was the lockdown needed ?

The lockdown has had a significant impact on young people, however, nearly 70% felt that the lockdown was the right choice at the time to protect people from catching the virus.

Is the lockdown still needed ?

Only 52% of young people felt that the lockdown was still needed. This means that for every person

young person feels that it is no longer justified. Many options were selected as reasons that the

lockdown was no longer necessary: 23% said it had caused too many problems, 12% that it had gone on too long, 7% that it was just not needed anymore, 6% felt the lockdown should just be cancelled. Many young people did not select any particular option, but it seems clear that while initially there was strong support for the lockdown, young people are questioning the purpose of the continued lockdown and this is very likely to impact on the way they respond to the regulations in the future.

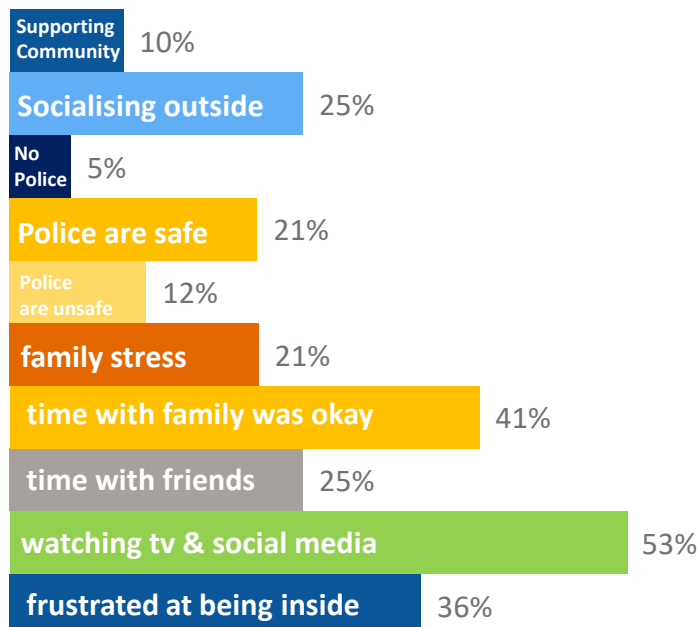


How did young people spend their time during the lockdown ?

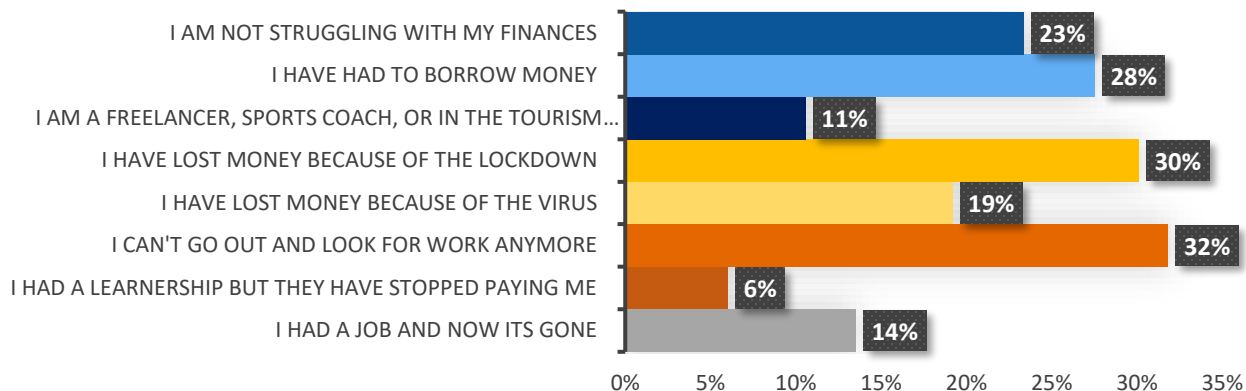
Time spent during the lockdown for young people was challenging for some with 35% saying they felt frustrated at having to be inside. When asked how they kept busy, 53% said they spent their time watching tv and on social media as well as connecting with friends (25%).

Some strain on family relationships was reflected with 21% saying that they found all the extra time with their family stressful, however 41% said they found the extra time "okay". A further 38% made no comment on family relationships at all which could be indicative of family relationships that are under strain as well.

Few people mentioned community policing, but for those that did, 21% said it made them safer, 12% said it made them feel unsafe and 5% said they did not think policing was necessary.



Financial Impacts of the Lockdown



In relation to the financial impacts of the lockdown, multiple options were made available for young people to select so that they were not limited to only one option. These results indicate the variety of reasons that young people feel they are worse off because of the lockdown. Resonance with these statement is an indication of the types of challenges young people are facing right now. It is interesting to note that while 19% felt they had lost money due to the virus, 30% felt that they had lost money because of the lockdown itself. 28% of young people admitted that they borrowed money as a result of the lockdown, which has put them deeper into debt. 32% said their finances have been impacted because they can't go out to look for work anymore. Whatever the reason, young people are experiencing financial challenges that will need to be addressed as they look to find ways to move into their futures post lockdown.



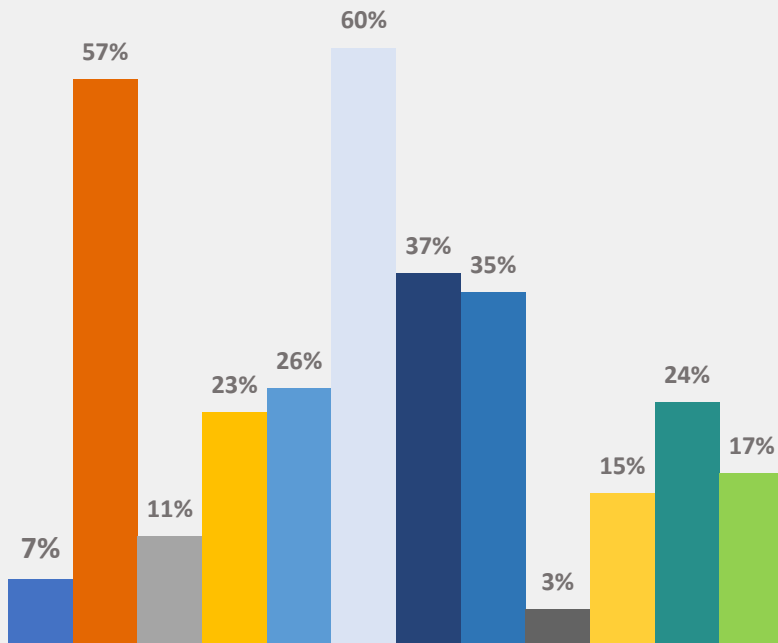
The largest financial impact for young people is that they can't go out to look for work anymore.

Food relief was felt by some to be an issue, while others felt it was not relevant for them. Some 35% of young people said that there is no food assistance in their communities, 24% said that they don't know where to find it and 21% said that it has not yet arrived. Nearly 10% said they had already received food assistance, and others had various reasons for why they had not yet received help. 33% of these young people polled said they were lucky to have enough food already. Given the high prevalence of students in this sample it is likely that the need and impact of food relief is understated and that further investigation is needed to determine how much of a factor this is among the youth in general.

Food Relief



3. What role does access to data and wi-fi play in young people's lives ?



- I have an old phone so I only use it for text messages
- I have a smartphone and it works for WhatsApp and social media
- I usually spend less than R100 on data every month
- I usually spend between R100 and R200 on data every month
- I usually spend more than R200 on data every month
- The price of data is too high
- I use my data mostly for WhatsApp and social media
- I might use my data for good online courses
- I don't want to spend my data on online courses
- I sometimes have access to wifi at work or at friends
- I never have access to wifi
- I always have access to wifi

Practically young people highlighted some tools that would be of use to them as they moved into their future. Many of these related to issues of connectivity and data. 60% of young people in this survey felt that the cost of data is too high. With money being tight 11% said they spent under R100 a month on data, 23% said they spent between R100 and R200 on data and 26% said they spent more than R200 on data. With 60% of these young people aware of what they spent on data, 40% did not know exactly what they spent on data but the overall sentiment was that it is a cost barrier in their lives.

Wi-fi was even more concerning with 24% saying they never have access to wi-fi, 17% saying they always have access to wi-fi and 15% saying they sometimes have access to wi-fi. 43% said that access to free data or wi-fi would help them move forward. Given the low availability of wi-fi, young people's reliance on data is unlikely to change, and the prohibitive cost of data will continue to play a role in how they are able to move forward into their futures.

When pressed on how they spent their data, 37% said that they spent it on Whatsapp and social media, but at the same time 35% said that they would be willing to spend their data on good online courses. In fact, 50% said that getting access to free online courses would help them move forward. So data is not solely viewed as a route to entertainment but also to empowerment as long as the online course is good. Only 3% expressly said they would not spend their money on online courses.

Data Spend - How Much

R100 or less



11%

R100 – R200



23%

R200 and more



26%

Not Sure



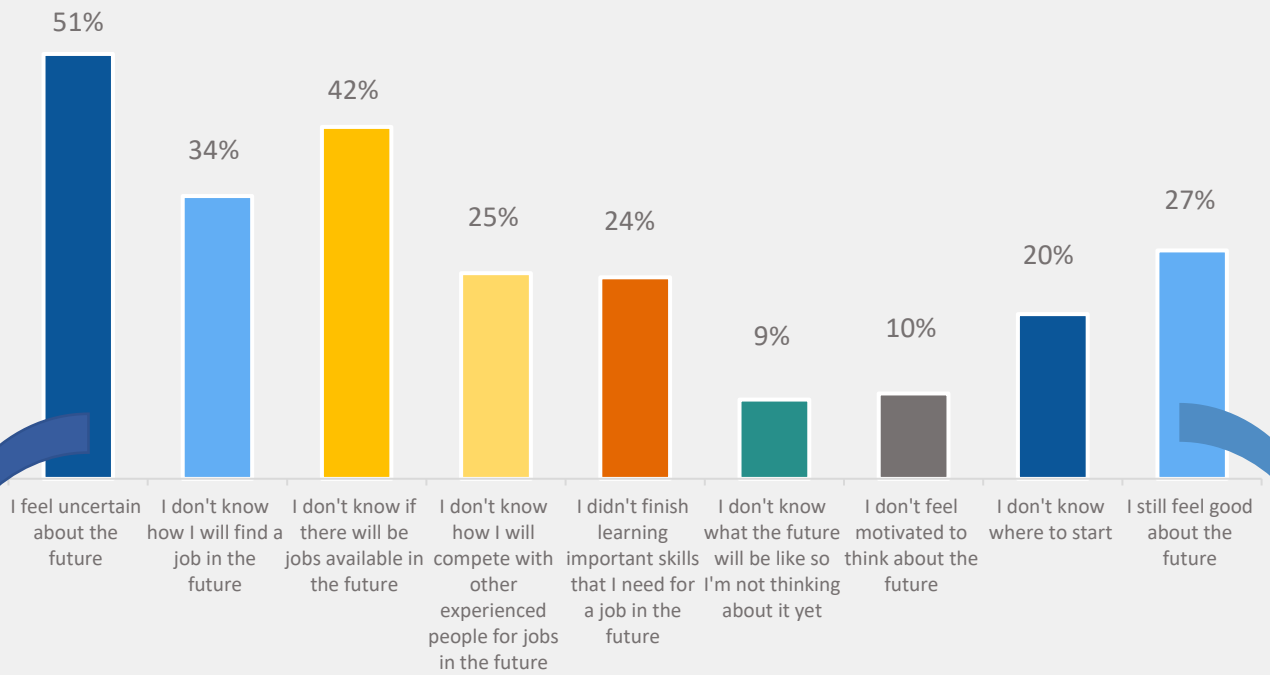
40%

Data Costs - Too High



60%

4. How do young people feel about the future ?



"I feel stressed that I can't plan anything (job, marriage, house, etc) for next year because of this pandemic."

In terms of perspectives of the future, over 50% agreed with the statement that they "felt uncertain about the future". Some said they were frustrated at not being able to plan, others said they just felt stuck. Jobs were of concern with some worrying about whether there would be jobs available in the future (42%) and even if there were jobs, young people were concerned about how they would find them (34%).

"I still have a hope that this will pass and I will continue achieving my goals and future."

"This lockdown and covid 19 makes one feel anxious about the future. Because u currently feel stuck and don't know whether u coming or going. It's very stressful."

Skills development was another theme that found resonance, 24% of young people said that they had not finished learning important skills that they would need for jobs in the future. Around 10% of young people were transparent enough to say that they feel demotivated about the future and that they were avoiding it.

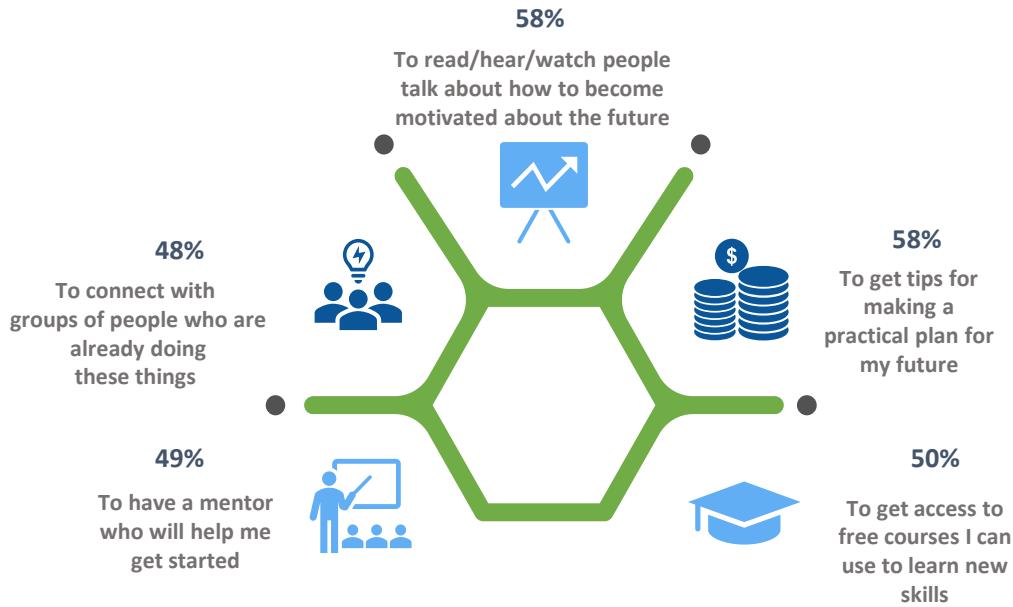
"I don't know what the future holds but I am remaining positive and hopeful, when I get more time I brainstorm ideas on what I can do and implement."

"I was supposed to finish my 6 months course in this month June and start looking for part-time work."

However, it was encouraging that 27% of young people specified that they still felt good about the future despite all the circumstances of 2020. References to preferring entrepreneurship to job searching is another indication that young people are aware that jobs might not be available in the future and that they are interested in providing their own solutions to these new circumstances.

"I'm not looking for a job in the future I'm looking to be an entrepreneur."

5. Practical ways to help young people move forward into their future



“Mostly having a mentor and experienced friends I can learn from.”

“I don't have access to further studies. I would like to find free courses.”

“Most of my data is spent on online teaching webinars. I'm studying online remotely. Free data would help.”

“I feel trapped, I'm young. I need to be out there studying, learning and enjoying life and making memories!”

“I don't afford data so I can't do anything on my phone unless my neighbor Hotspot me.”

Motivation for the future was something young people were interested in engaging around with 58% saying they would really like to read, hear or watch people talk about how to become motivated about the future (58%), as well as get practical tips for how to plan for their future (58%).

Connecting with people directly, either via a mentor (49%) or by connecting with groups of people who are already doing these things (48%) resonated with many young people as ways to get them moving forward. This could be done via Whatsapp groups and not necessarily via social media as only 29% of young people said that they would like to be invited to an on-line media event.

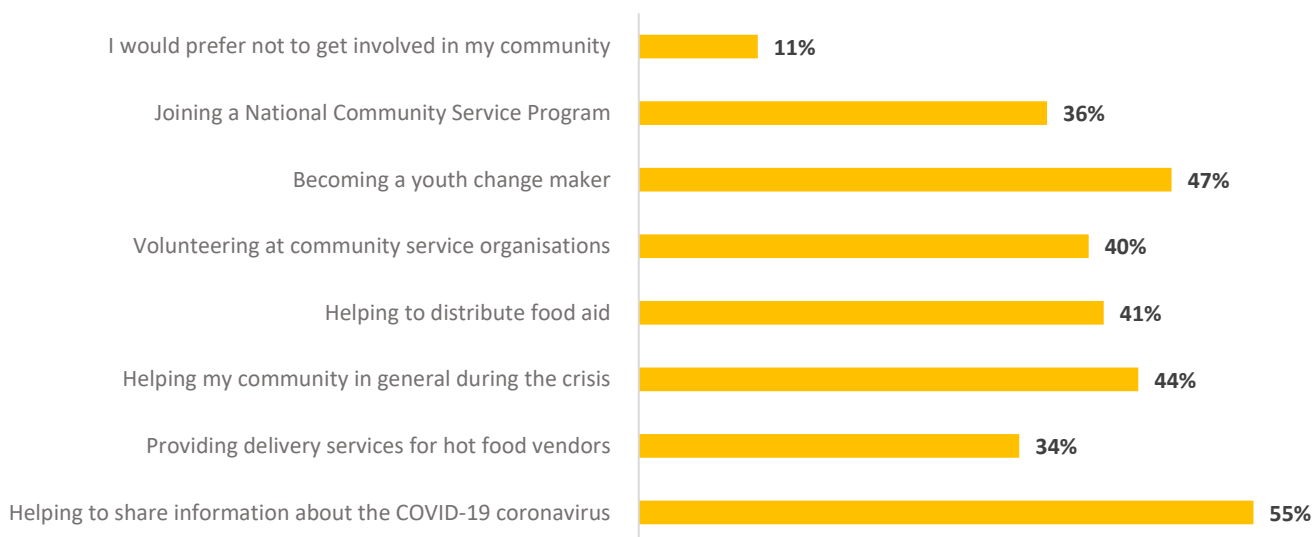
Young people are wanting to engage positively around their futures. They are open to a wide range of options as to how to move forward in their lives, but 6 out of 10 young people are saying that they need some practical help on how to move forward in various ways. Specifically, what they are asking for is to be able to connect with people or peers and to get practical advice that will motivate them towards their future.

6. Are young people interested in getting involved in their communities ?

Young people are also interested in being mobilised within their communities. 55% showed interest in sharing information about Coronavirus in their communities; 44% said that would be interested in helping within their community in general during the crisis; 47% showed interest in becoming Change Makers within their communities; 41% said they were interested in distributing food aid; 40% in volunteering with community service organisations; 36% in joining a National Community Service Programme; 34% in delivery hot food for vendors.

Only 11% said they would prefer not to get involved in their community. Given the wide range of options available, it seems that many young people would be interested in having some of these options made available to them in their communities.

Young people are saying that they want to be part of the solution, in many cases they want to BE the solution, they just need some practical help from those around them in order to be positively mobilised towards their futures and to positively impact their communities.



Five Key Take-Outs for Youth Development

Provide practical and meaningful solutions for real people

Acknowledge that **young people are facing a disproportionately more uncertain future** than those people who have had the time to develop skills and start on their careers. This means there needs to be a focus on **providing practical and meaningful content that provides tried and tested solutions** for moving young people towards their future. This is not about (only) providing technical skills, but is also about providing places to discuss and motivate young people around what the future looks like and what practical steps they can take to start or continue on their journey to a sustainable future.



Co-create solutions with young people

Continue to acknowledge and **appreciate the positive and proactive nature of young people and co-create solutions with them not for them**. Prototyping solutions with young people and following a learning-by-doing approach goes a long way to providing solutions that have been stress-tested by the people who need them most. This means getting their feedback much earlier in the process and finding out from them what interventions they would most value, and pursuing those things with them.



Financial solutions go hand in hand with any other solution

Be aware that many **young people have lost income and are saddled with student and other types of debt** and have now had to **borrow even more money** to survive. Financial solutions to these problems need to be developed in the form of part-time (potentially community based job opportunities) or mechanisms for debt relief.



Use low-cost engagement channels, avoid high data usage for content

Since data is so expensive for young people, focus on **providing content to them in formats that use less data ie. video content may not be that scalable**. Select platforms that use small amounts of data to deliver quality content so that young people can access quality content at low cost to them. **Find and support movements that are focusing on providing more affordable access to data and wi-fi for young people**.



Provide opportunities for Change Makers in their community

Invest and support **on-the-ground community-based opportunities** for young people that can **provide places for young people to be mobilised toward positive futures**. This is specifically relevant since nearly 50% of young people showed interest in becoming **Change Makers within their communities**. The COVID-19 crisis provides a unique opportunity to prototype this sort of community - intervention that could prove permanent into the future, and provide income to young people who might not have any other means of financial support.



Collaborating Partners



The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship is the first academic centre in Africa dedicated to advancing social innovation and entrepreneurship. It was established as a specialised centre at the UCT Graduate School of Business in late 2011, in partnership with the Bertha Foundation, a family foundation that works with inspiring leaders who are catalysts for social and economic change, and human rights. The Centre is now a leading academic centre in Africa.



M4Jam's gig technology platform uplifts communities, provides businesses access to informal markets and creates data assets. As leaders in the gig economy, we help South African businesses become agile and relevant in an increasingly disruptive environment by connecting them with local communities.



The Skills Empire team is led by highly talented and skilled professionals that are dedicated to building an ecosystem that drives empowerment with integrity. We pride ourselves in giving our clients service from the heart and our learners real work experience in preparation for real job opportunities.



At Simanye we are passionate about creating impact as well as driving profitable businesses – and we believe these things go hand in hand in our globalized world. Through our work we develop integrated and inclusive strategies that help your business grow. Given the current global context, high levels of global inequality, the strain on resources, and highly competitive markets; we believe that a revolution is here and that the future of successful business looks different. We can help you get there.

More about Lucha Lunako

youth have it



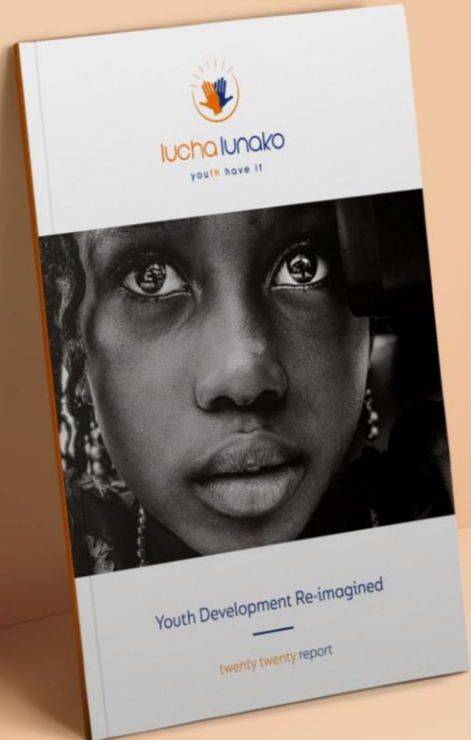
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youth have it

Youth Development Re-Imagined:

Our 2020 report demonstrates how together we can shift youth mindsets from surviving to thriving

[Download now](#)



At Lucha Lunako we believe that all people have innate value, are talented, and have a purpose to discover and enjoy. For this reason we developed the “Youth Have It”™ Framework that acknowledges that providing technical skills is not enough to truly support youth in their development. What is needed is a focus on foundational skills as well.

Read our Executive Summary at: <https://www.luchalunako.com/wp-content/uploads/Lucha-Lunako-Executive-Summary.pdf>



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