



▶ **Varieties of NEET:**  
Characteristics, determinants and  
implications for policy

Niall O'Higgins, ILO, Geneva

## ▶ Today:

- ▶ Introduction: A few words on the concept of Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- ▶ Key trends and characteristics – quite different for NEETs compared to unemployment
- ▶ Some implications for policy

# ▶ Introduction

# Who are the NEET (SDG indicator 8.6.1)?

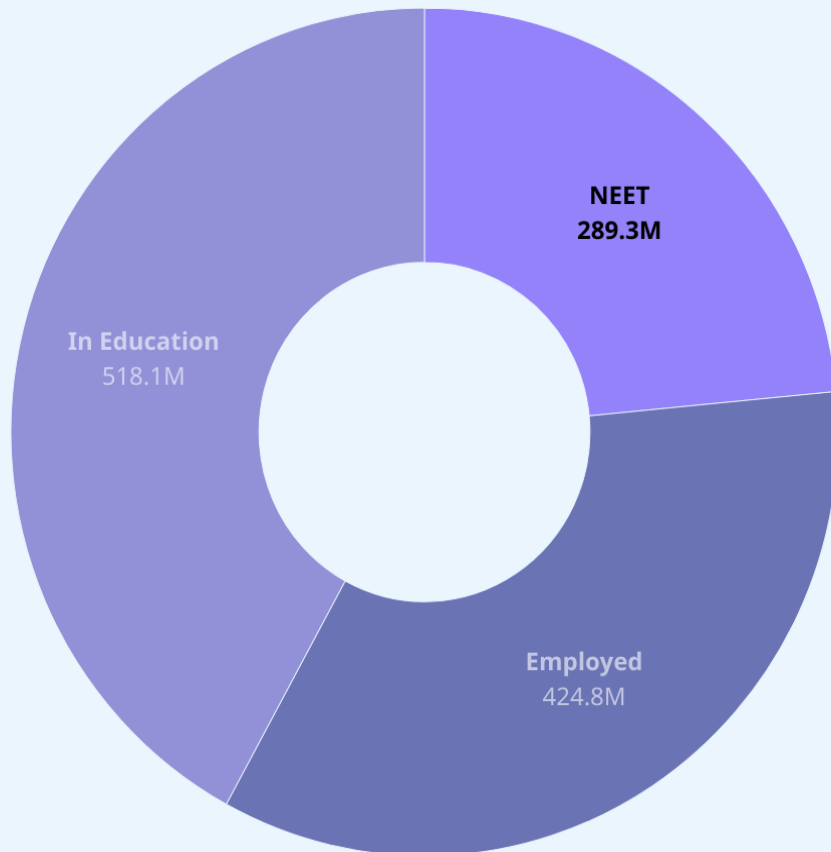
## NEET comprises

1. Young people who are **unemployed** (but who are not also in education);

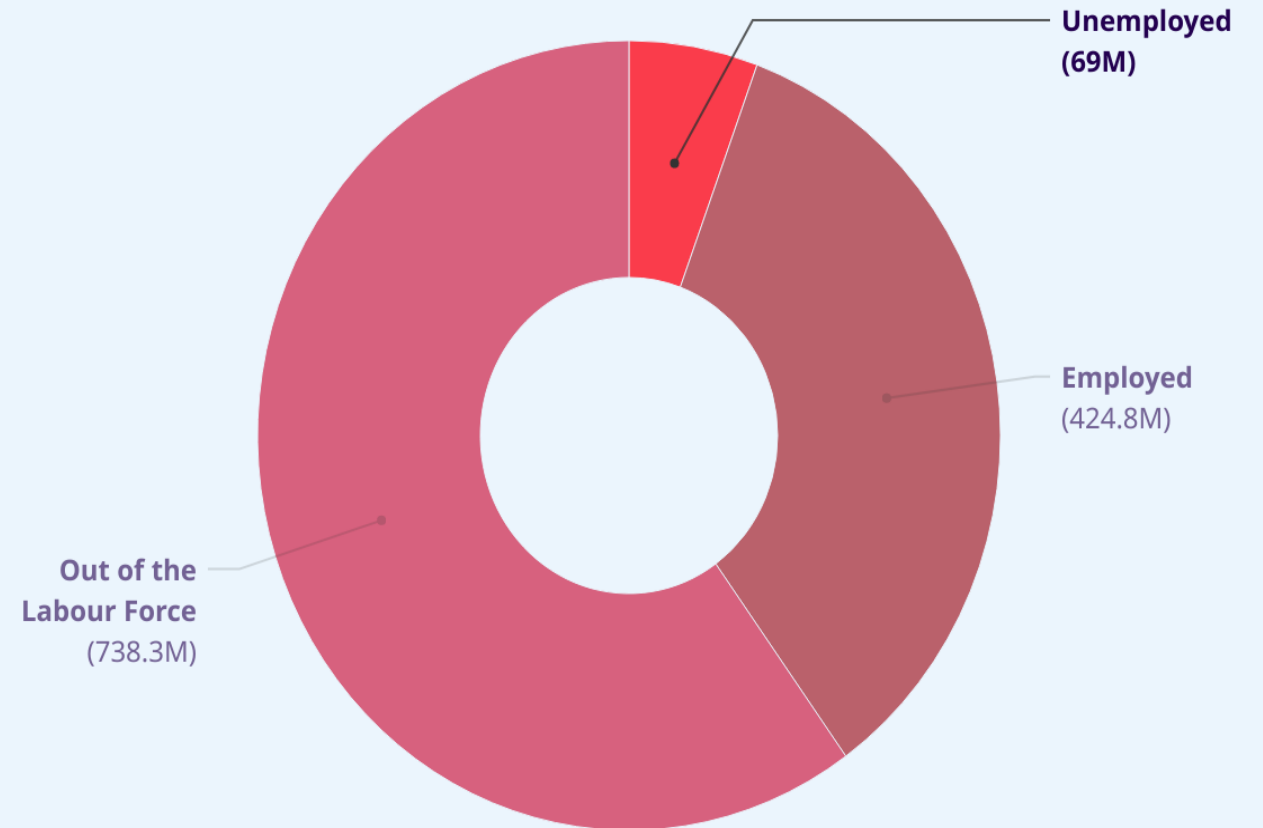
## AND

2. Young people who are **outside the labour force** (but who are not also in education)

## Youth Status 2022



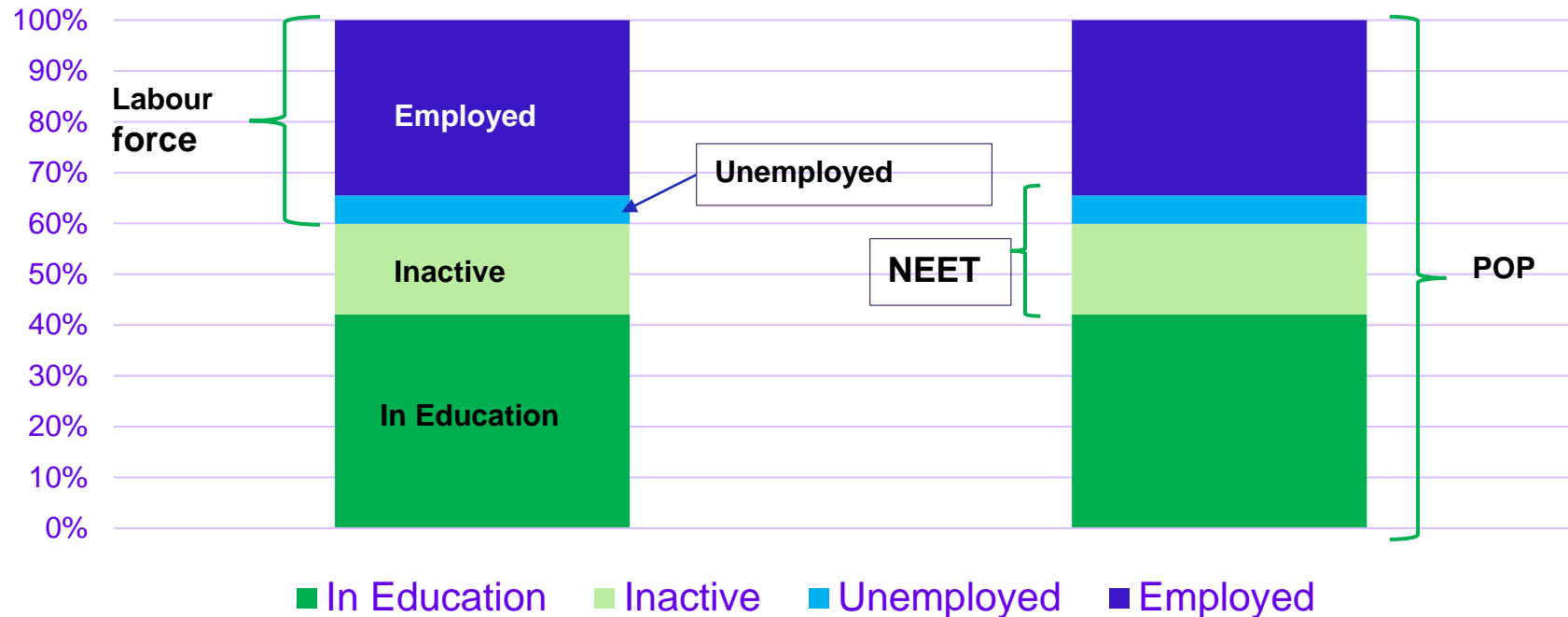
## Youth Labour Force Status 2022



# Global Youth (15-24) NEET rate and youth unemployment

**Unemployment rate =**  
 Unemployed/Labour force = 14.0%  
 (or 5.6% of young people)

**NEET Rate = NEET/Pop**  
 = 23.5% (of young people)



## ► And more specifically?

NEETs are very **heterogeneous**; How to categorise them? One approach (Eurofound):

### **In Labour Force ('Active')**

- Unemployed (& not in education)

### **Outside the Labour Force ('Inactive')**

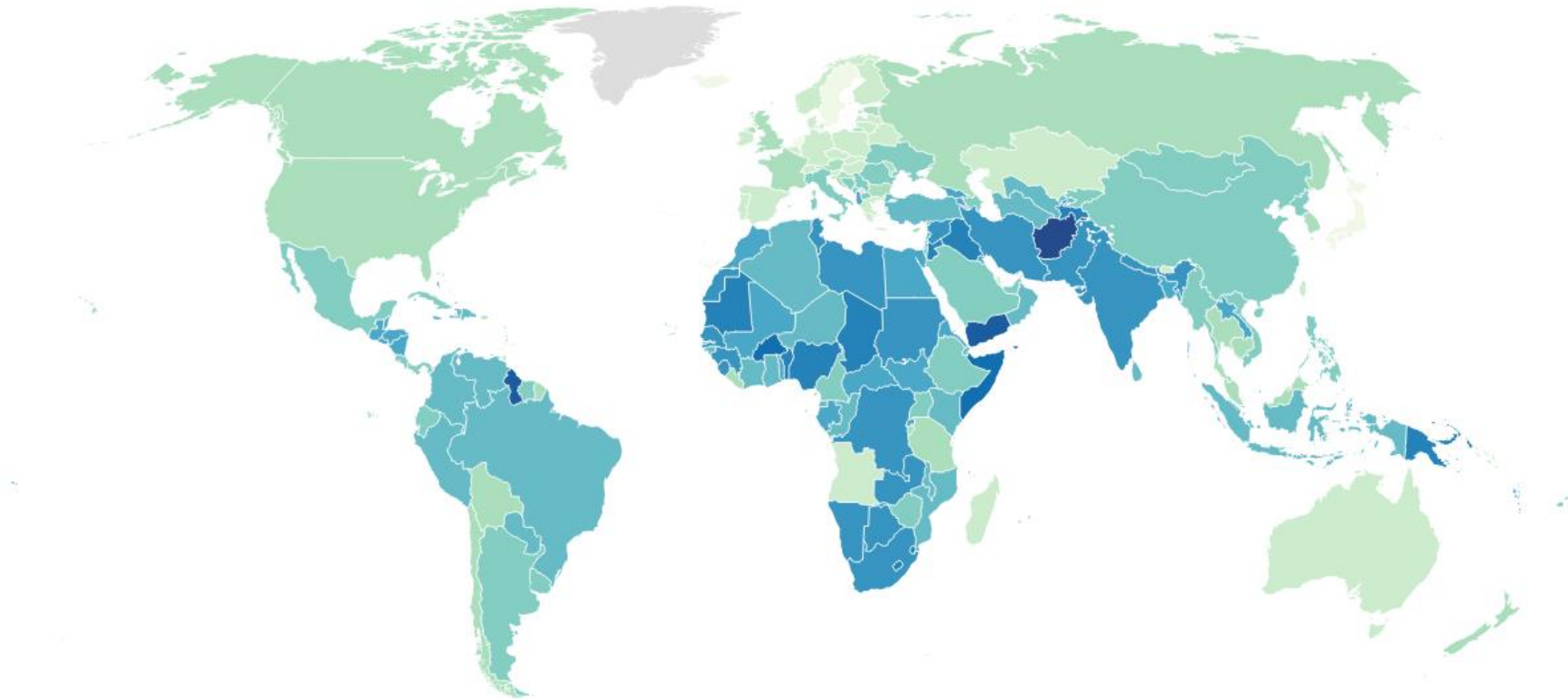
- Discouraged
- Family responsibilities
- Young people with disabilities
- Other (residual category)

# ▶ **Key characteristics and trends**

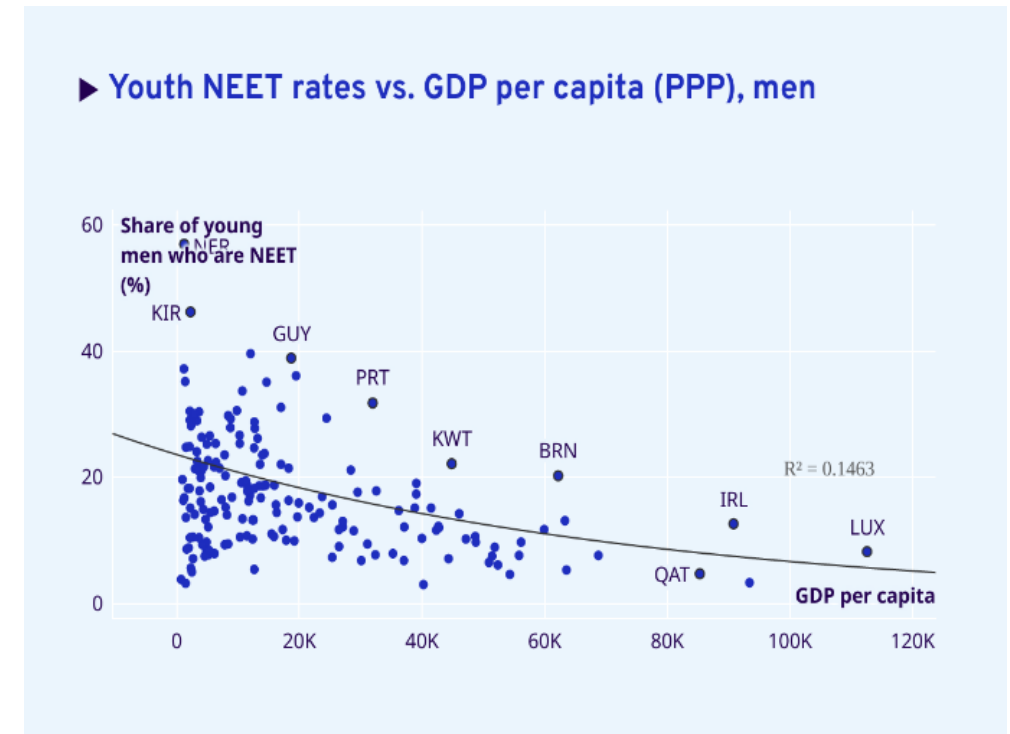
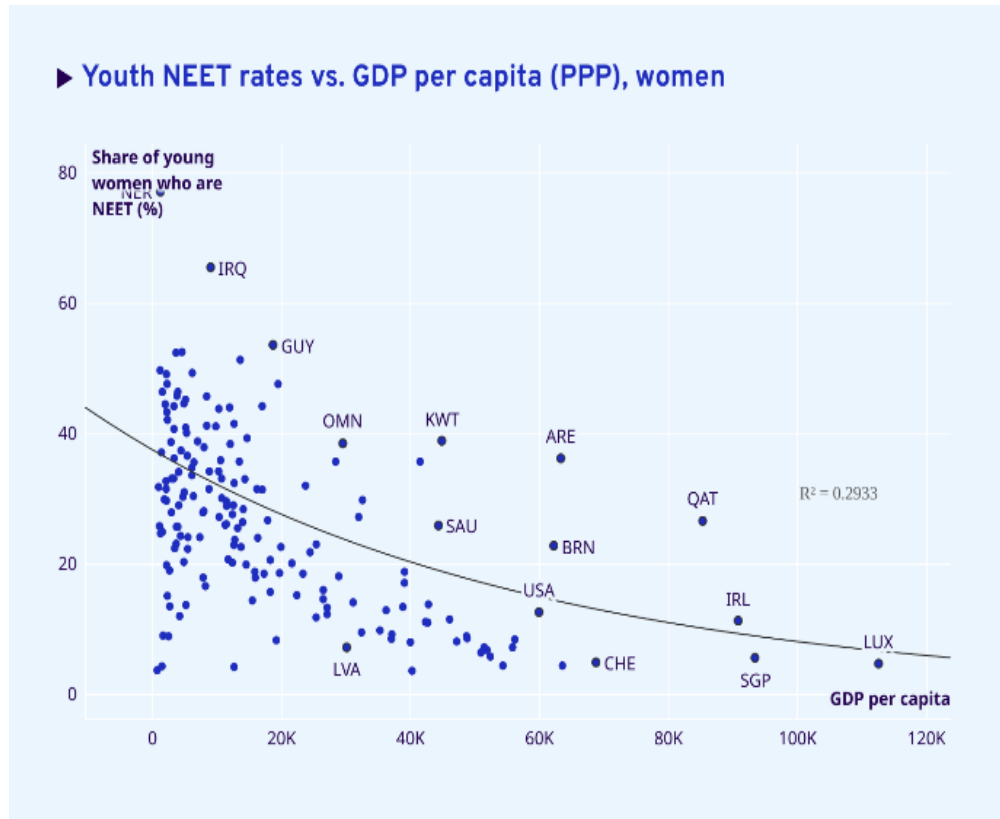


# NEET rates vary widely, but are higher in lower (-middle) income countries

## NEET rates 15-24, 2022

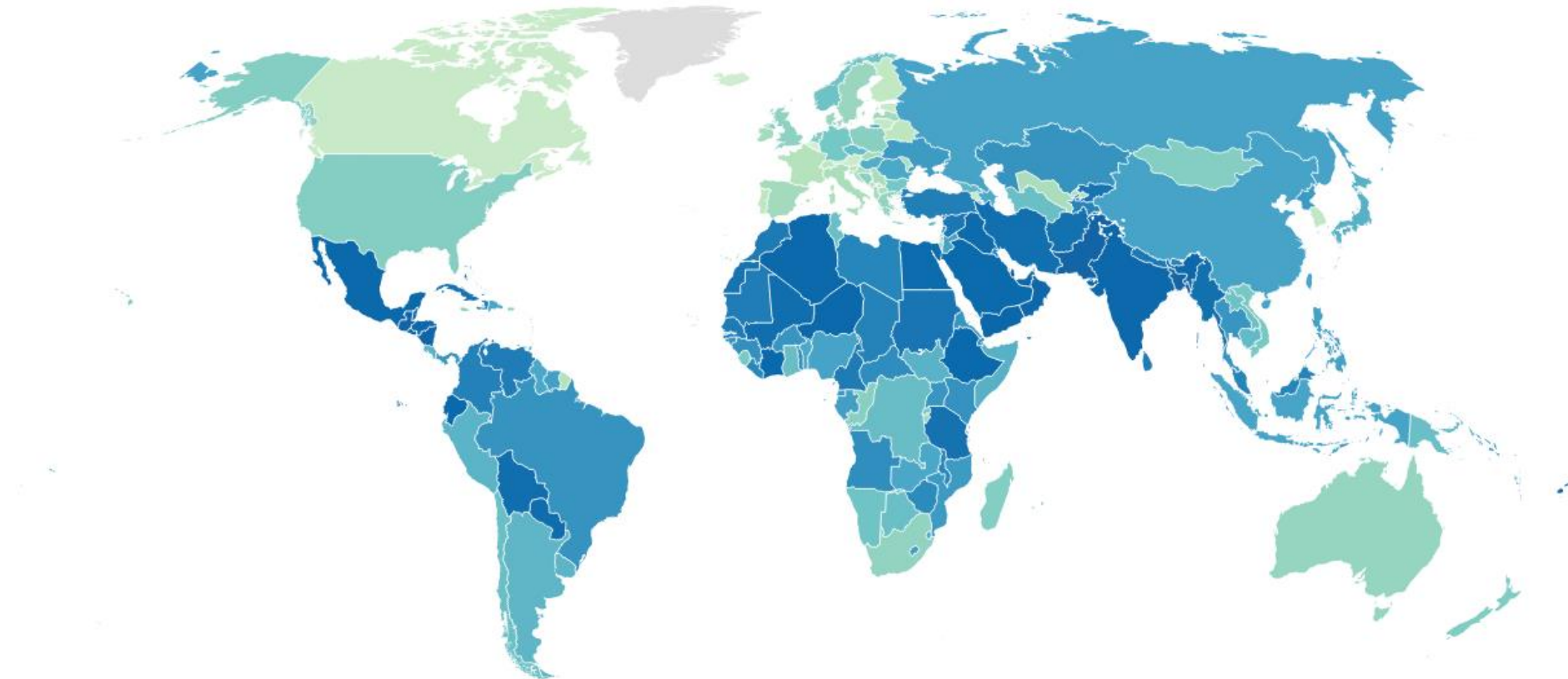


## Especially for young women

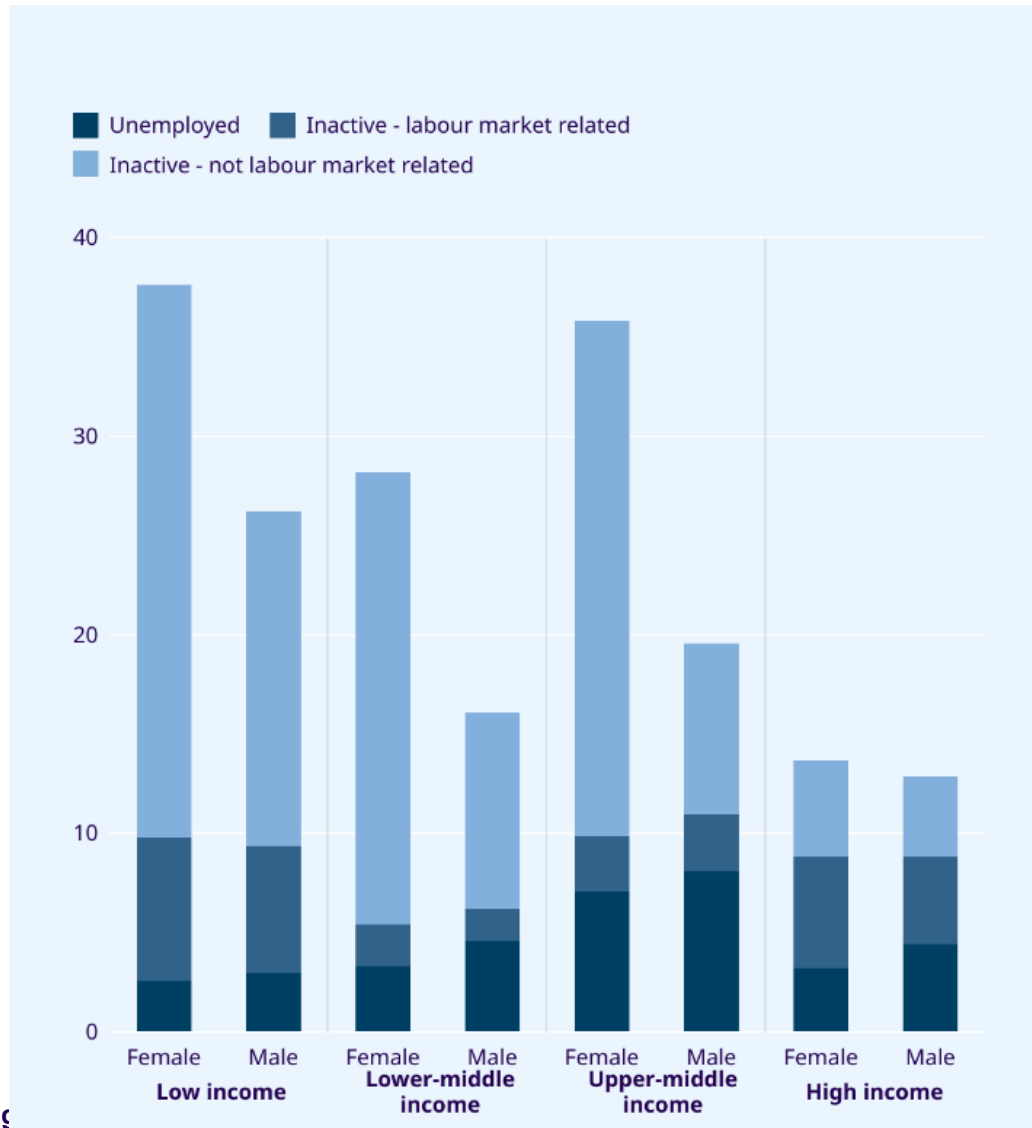


# Indeed, NEET rates are (almost) invariably higher amongst women than men, especially in lower(-middle) income

## NEET Ratio

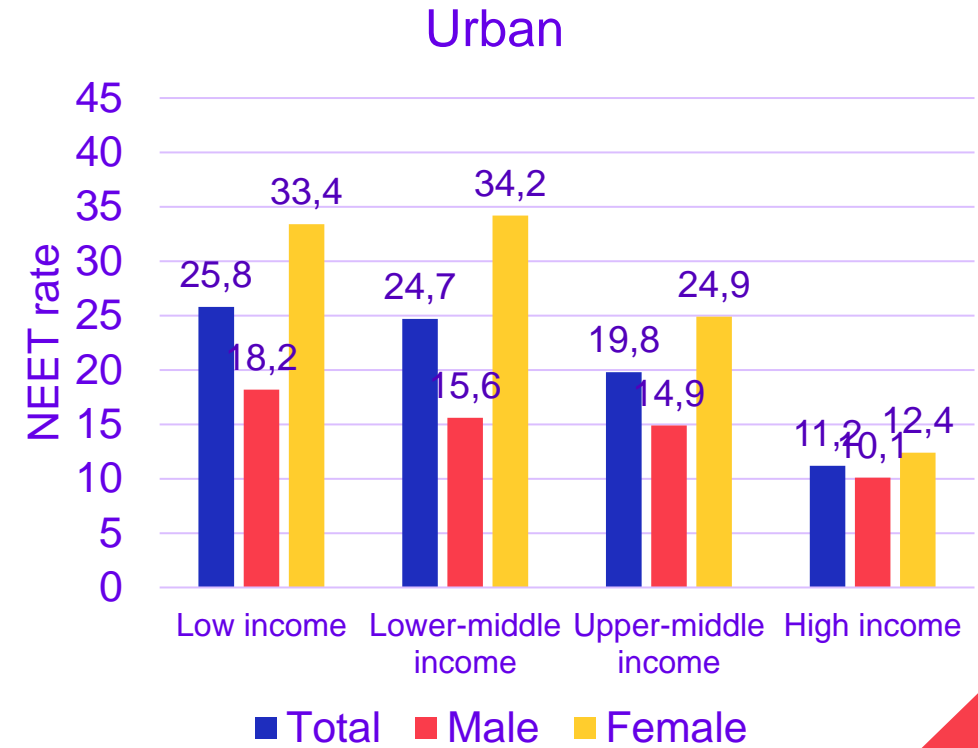
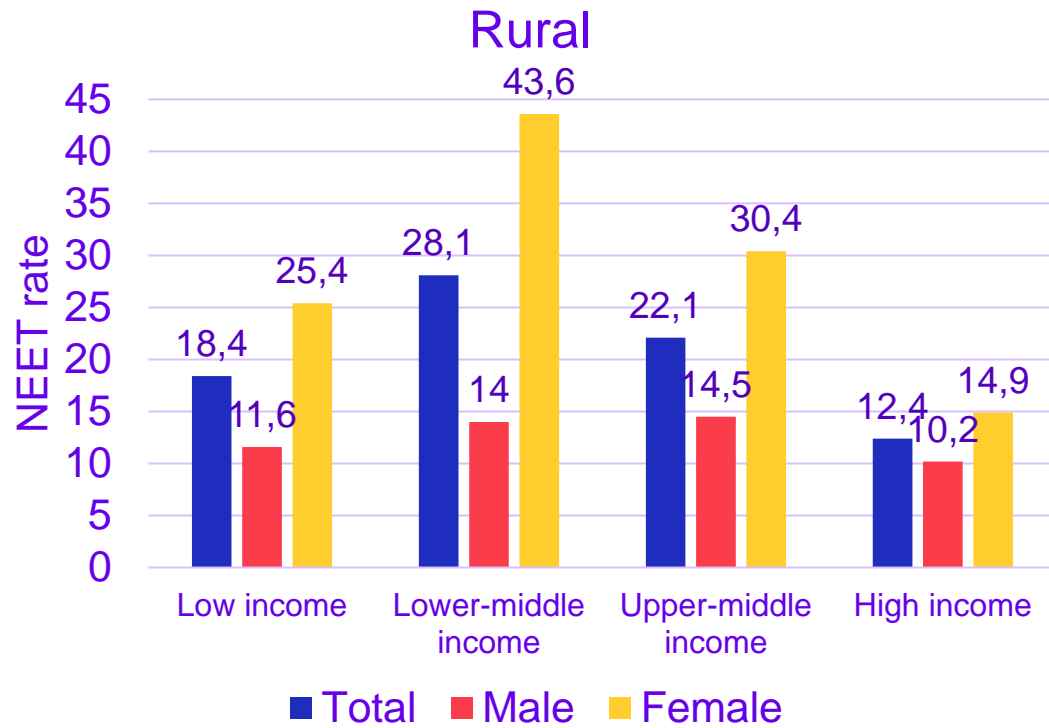


## & the underlying factors are different for young men and young women



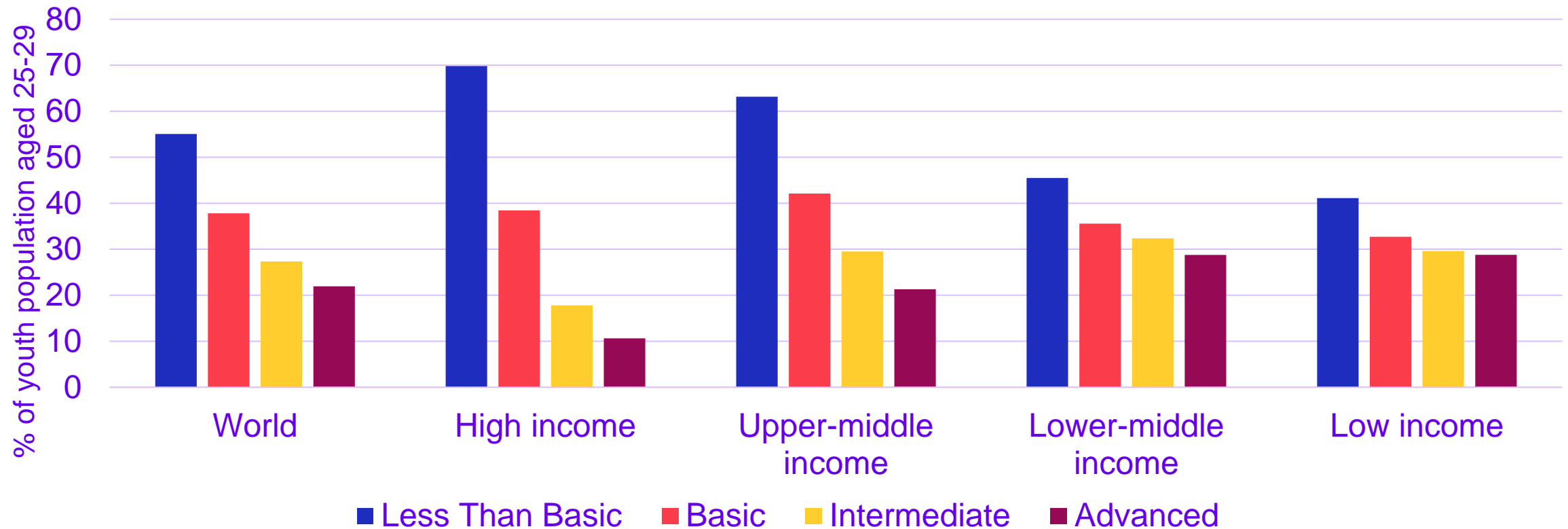
- Differences in **male NEET rates** generally driven by the (un)availability of job opportunities – NEET mainly unemployment or labour market related
- **Female NEET rates** also due to structural barriers to entering advanced education and/or the labour market – mainly inactivity

# NEET rates typically higher – and the gender gap wider - in rural areas



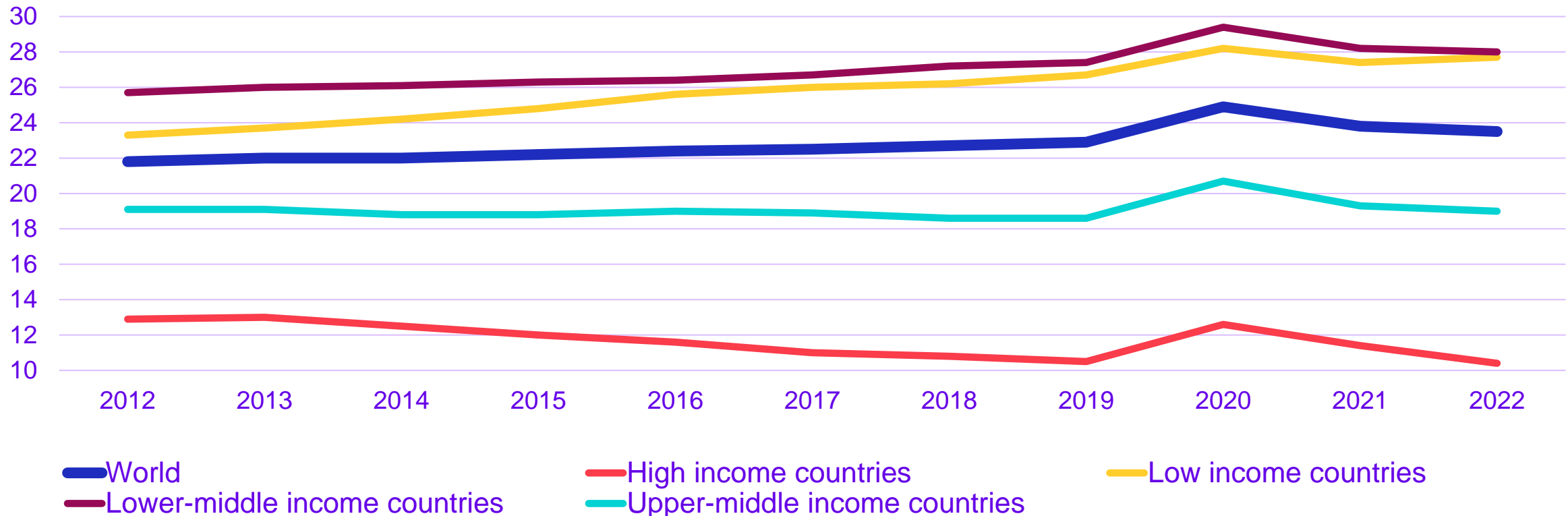
## NEET status is concentrated amongst the less educated

NEET Rates by education (aged 25-29), 2021, 151 countries

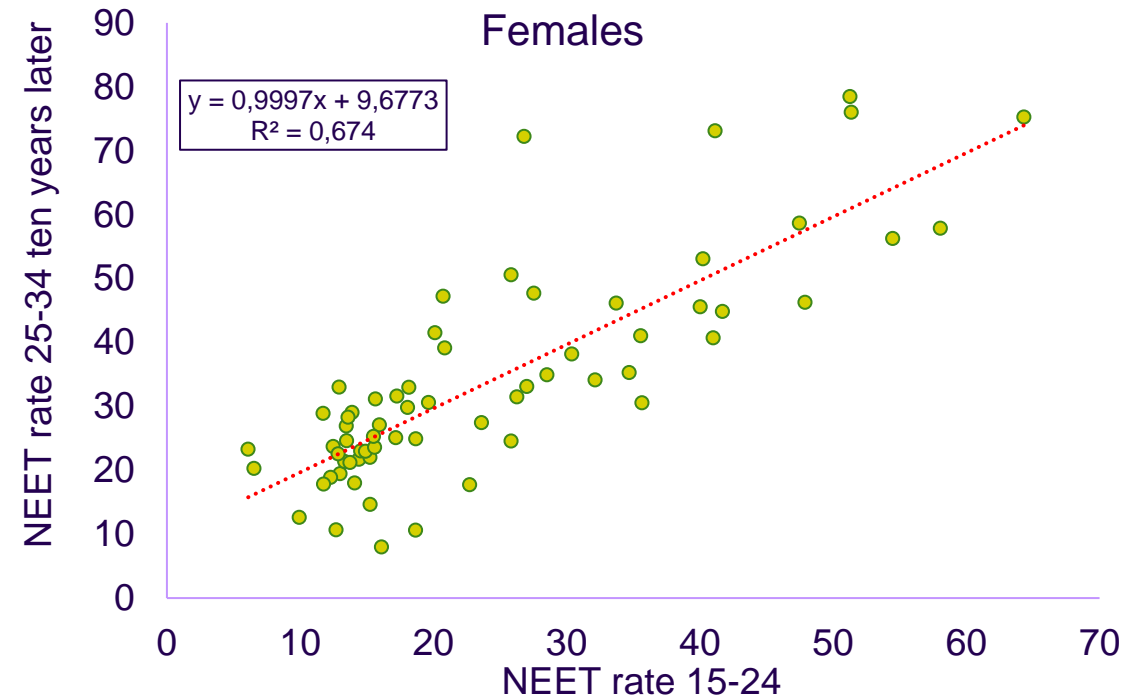
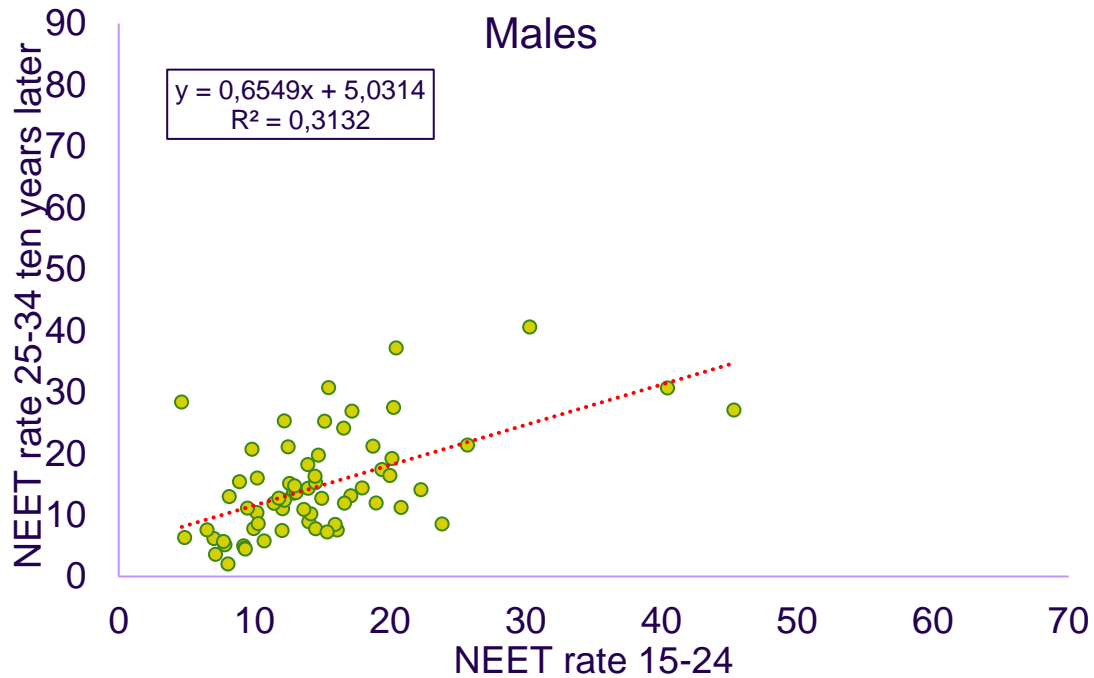


## Youth NEET rates – and the impact & recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic - vary widely

NEET rates (15-24)



## & NEET rates are persistent – especially amongst women





## ► There are a series of typical characteristics of policy relevance for NEET – typically rather different from the characteristics of youth unemployment

- NEET rates are (nearly) everywhere higher amongst young women
- NEET rates tend to fall as country income increases
- NEET rates are higher – and the gender gap larger – in rural compared to urban areas
- NEET rates tend to fall with rising individual educational attainment;
- There is strong evidence of persistence/scarring especially amongst young women
- Post-Covid NEET rates in low income countries are on the increase

# ► Implications for Policy



## Shift in policy focus from youth unemployment to NEET broadens the scope of interventions; implies also a shift in mindset

- Many more NEETs than young unemployed
- NEETs have quite different characteristics to the young unemployed
  - NEET rates higher for young women – and more generally, higher for more vulnerable groups of young people
- NEET rates can be reduced by increasing youth employment, but also by encouraging a return to education
- There needs to be greater policy focus on removing obstacles to entry to education and/or employment of vulnerable groups (especially young women)
- Outreach is also an important issue
  - Many ‘inactive’ NEETs would work if they could but who have given up looking due to the lack of adequate opportunities

## ▶ Which suggests that:

- Facing the 'NEET' challenge requires a broad-based approach
  - Young NEETs often face multiple simultaneous barriers to employment, education and training;
- Array of interventions must have, as its cornerstone, macroeconomic and sectoral development policies
  - But also also include educational grants, job search support, childcare availability, and re-entry programmes, employment support, training – according to local circumstances

## Moreover...

- Interventions need to be tailored to meet the specific characteristics and determinants of NEETs in specific contexts.
  - For example, attention needs to be paid to the various obstacles to educational and labour force participation that young women face in differing national contexts.
- European Youth Guarantee - example of a broad-based approach;
  - Establishing such a comprehensive framework is challenging both institutionally and financially;
  - Elements of the approach can be adopted;
  - The costs of not doing so are also substantial

## To know more...

- O'Higgins, N. et al. 2023. How NEET are developing and emerging economies? What do we know and what can be done about it? In D. Kucera & D. Schmidt-Klau (Eds.), *Global Employment Policy Review 2023: Macroeconomic policies for recovery and structural transformation*. ILO.
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