



ILERA AFRICA

10TH REGIONAL CONGRESS

3 – 4 APRIL 2024



SOCIAL PROTECTION, MIGRANCY AND THE INFORMAL ECONOMY IN AFRICA

Unravelling the challenge of youth unemployment in South Africa - a comprehensive analysis

Mr Frikkie De Bruin



INTRODUCTION

- Youth unemployment remains a persistent and critical issue in Africa and South Africa.
- The youth unemployment rate in Africa is extremely high, with 70-80% in most countries.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest youth unemployment rate in the world
- Young women face even higher unemployment rates than young men in most African countries.
- Youth unemployment is the Achilles' heel of most African countries.



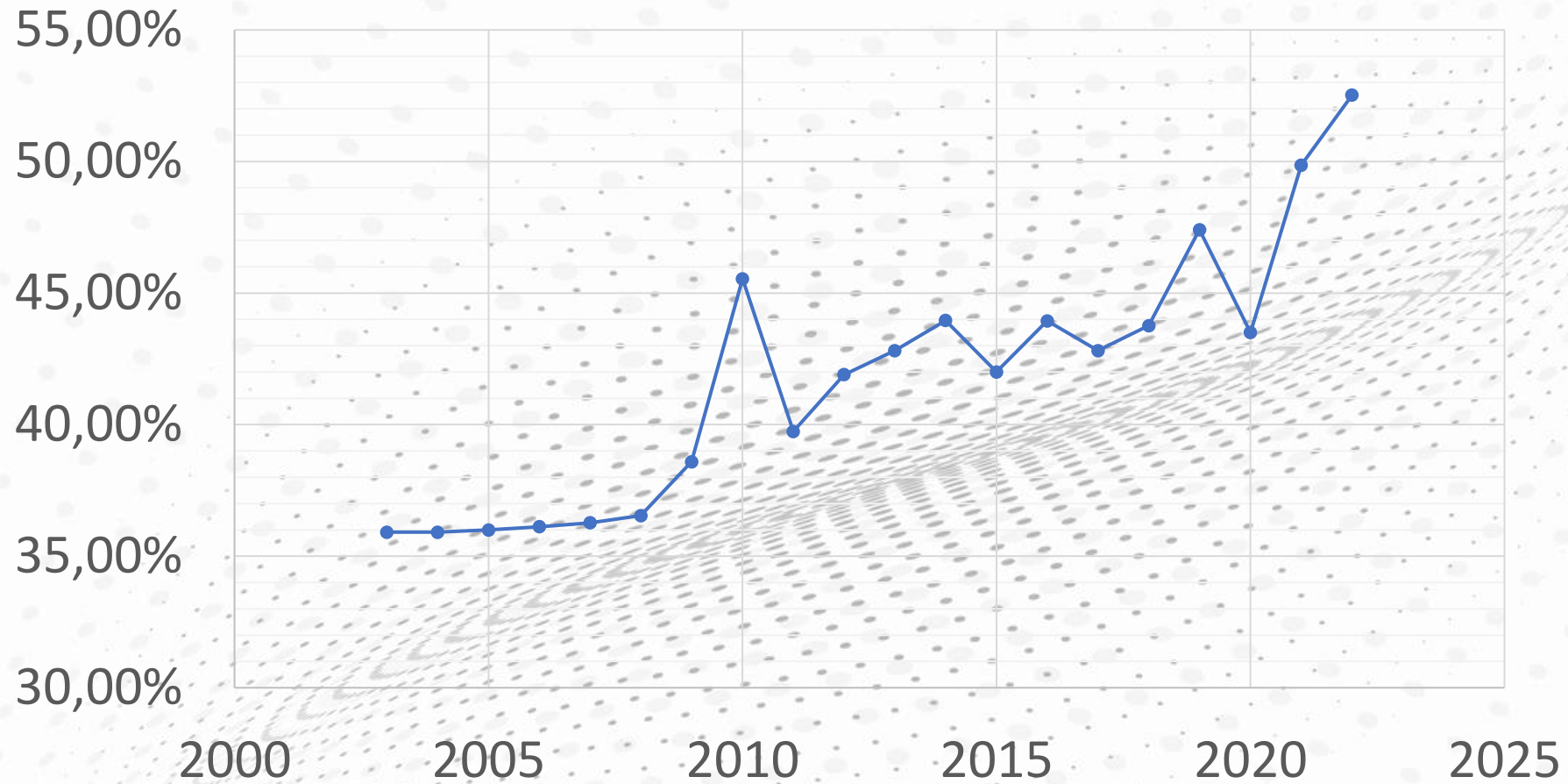
SOUTH AFRICA'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

- Youth unemployment rate was 46.5%, indicating that more than 46% of young people aged 15 to 34 were unemployed (StatsSA, 2023).
- High percentage of youth unemployment has negative repercussions
- Unemployment leads to poverty, social marginalization, and mental health issues for individuals
- Increasing crime rates, social instability, and a loss of economic production for society.

SOUTH AFRICA'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

- Despite the government's efforts, South Africa's youth unemployment problem remains a severe challenge.
- Unemployed youth (15-34 years) increased by 241 000 to 4,9 million in 2023.
- Youth Employed youth increased by 28 000 to 5,6 million in 2023.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN RSA 2003 – 2022



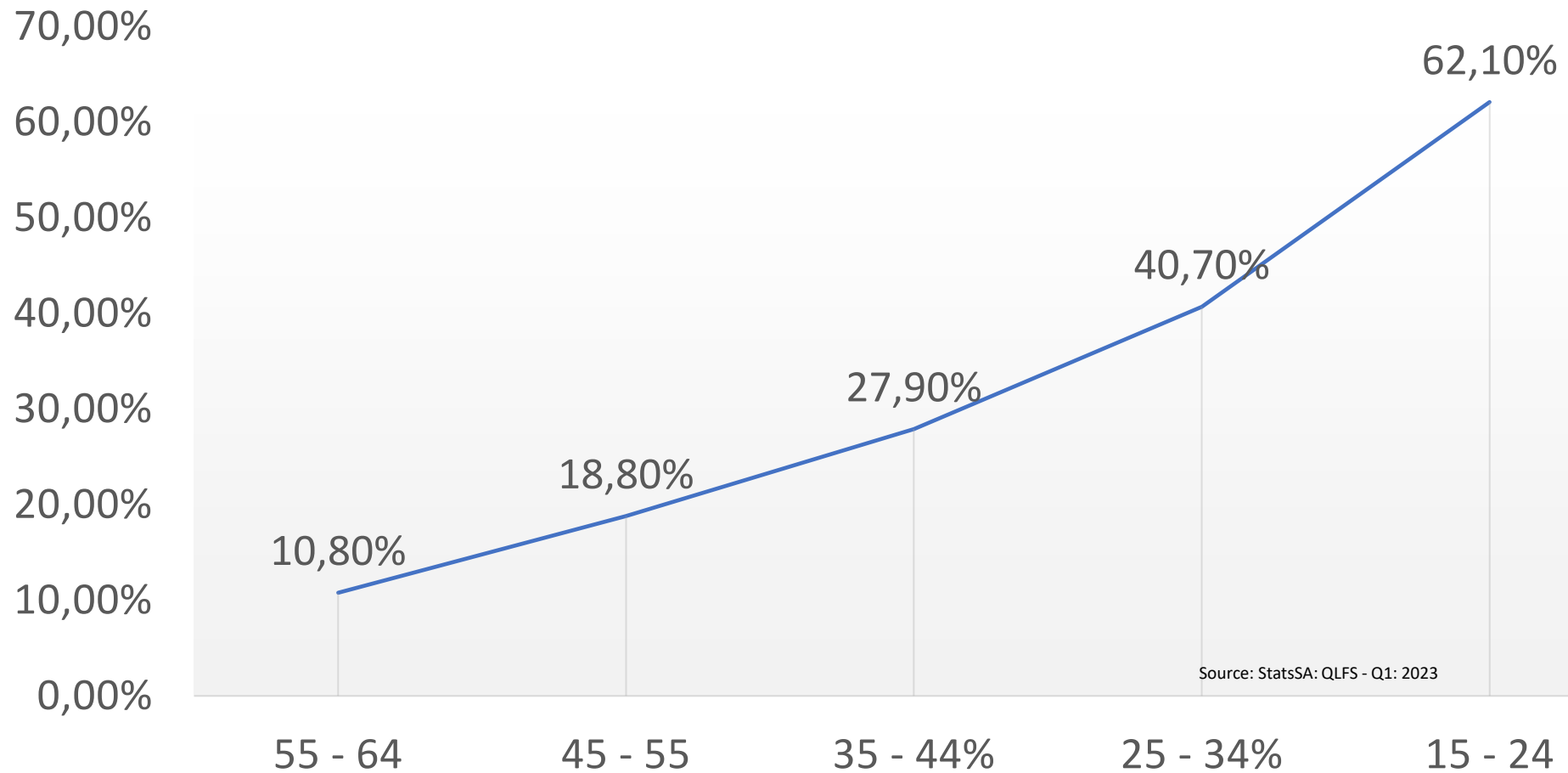
CAUSES & TRIGGERS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

- Great Recession following the 2007–2008 Global Financial Crisis, the rate of unemployment among young people aged 15–24 years has climbed above 60%.
- Youth Unemployment remained resistant to all efforts to bring it down.
- The outbreak of the COVID-19 2020-2022 worsened the youth unemployment rate increasing to 70%.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO UNEMPLOYMENT IN RSA

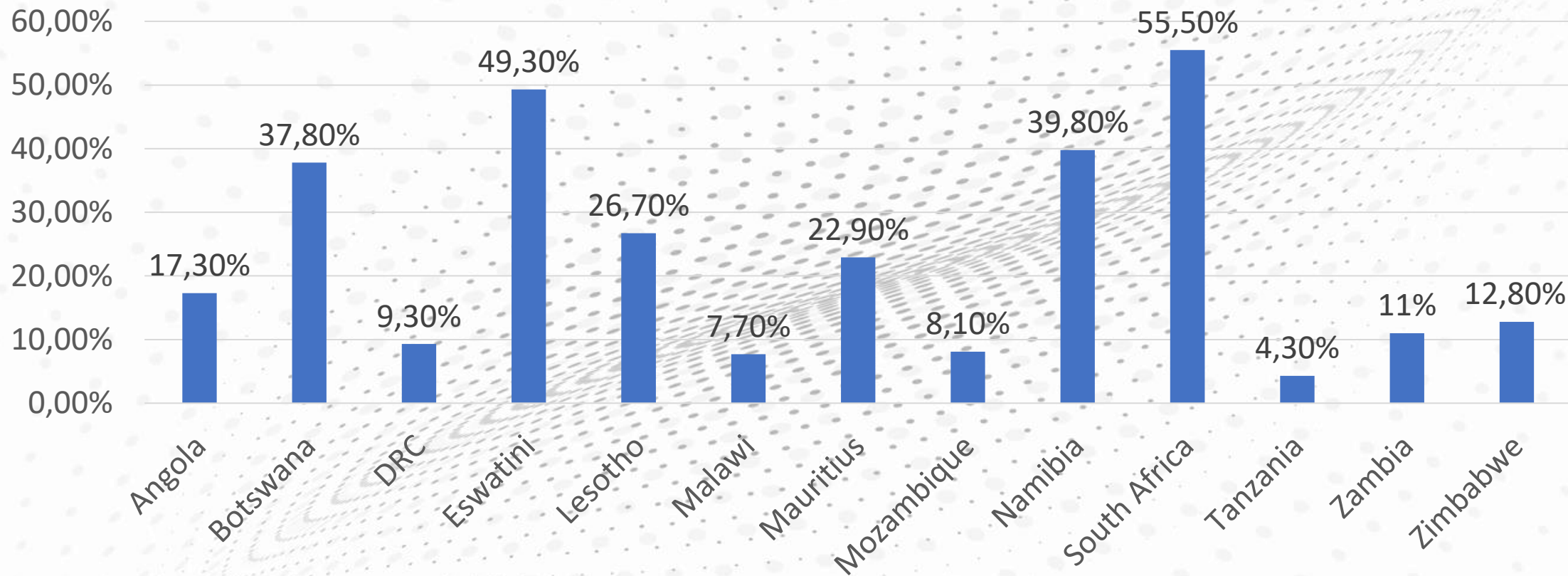
- Inadequate education and training for specific job roles
- The limited entrepreneurship skills.
- Mismatched labour supply and demand (skills and qualifications).

OVERALL UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE SADC REGION

Source: Statista 2023



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE SADC REGION

- South Africa had the highest youth unemployment rate in the SADC region for the ages 15 and 24 followed by Eswatini
- Despite SADC countries implementing several programmes to promote youth innovation, youth entrepreneurship, youth leadership and participation youth unemployment is increasing.
- The bulk of African youth do not have access to steady employment prospects
- One in every six of Africa's 420 million youth, aged 15 to 35, is a wage worker.

STRATEGIES TO REDUCE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

- Youth need to be provided with on-the-job learning and training
- On-the-job training for young employees benefits both the youth and the long-term success of the business
- Better skills imply better work, allowing for greater diversity and inclusion

STRATEGIES TO REDUCE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

- Employers who participate in youth employment programs can assist break the vicious 'no-job-no-experience' cycle
- Promoting entrepreneurship and SME development
- Fostering public-private partnerships
- Increasing the availability of industrial technical and vocational education



SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE SECTOR YOUTH INITIATIVES

- National Youth Policy 2020 – 2030
- Itukise Programme
- Youth Employment Service
- Presidential Employment Stimulus programme
- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)
- Presidential Youth Employment Initiative

CONCLUSION

- Youth unemployment remains a thorn in the flesh and a major problem in South Africa.
- Youth unemployment is a complex problem with no easy solutions. However, by taking steps to address the root causes of youth unemployment can add value to its reduction.
- Review of socio-economic policies and commitment to prioritise Youth employment is key.
- Effective and Efficient Youth programmes can lead to reduction in youth unemployment.



THANK YOU