



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



USAID EDUCATION: YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Youth gain the skills they need to lead productive lives, gain employment, and positively contribute to society.

USAID believes that education is a foundational driver of development, and fundamental to achieving self-reliance. When children and youth go to school and receive training in skills they can use in the workforce and to navigate life, they are able to build more hopeful and prosperous futures for themselves, their families, communities, and countries. USAID works in more than 50 developing countries to ensure that investments in education systems--from pre-primary to higher education--enable all children and youth to acquire the education and skills needed to be productive members of society.

EDUCATION THAT HELPS YOUTH GAIN EMPLOYMENT AND CONNECT TO JOBS

With 71 million young people unemployed worldwide in 2017, the lack of economic opportunity is a matter of worldwide concern. High youth unemployment has a negative effect on local economies, and the lack of a young workforce with the needed skills limits businesses' ability to grow and to contribute to higher economic growth. Furthermore, the changing world of work demands transferable, foundational, and technical skills to thrive in today's labor market.

In Africa alone, an estimated 440 million youth will enter the rural labor market from now until 2030.

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID

As part of education and training, youth need to learn about the world of work--what are the opportunities, how are they accessed, and what skills are required to be successful. USAID investments strengthens local education systems to ensure youth learn the foundational, technical, entrepreneurial, and other critical skills they need to obtain or create livelihoods to support themselves and their families, and prepare them to lead productive lives. Due to discrimination, crisis and conflict, and violence, many young people have missed out on opportunities to acquire skills and education for employment. USAID supports second-chance education programs to serve disadvantaged, marginalized, over-age, and out-of-school children and youth to build foundational skills. USAID also supports secondary education, technical and vocational training, and higher education programs that are relevant to youth and responsive to the needs of the labor market.

Half of the world's population is under 30. Youth can be a positive force for change—with meaningful employment, youth can contribute to a stable and strong workforce, global security and economic prosperity.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

In 2018, USAID programs enabled more than 311,000 individuals to gain new or improved employment by providing them with relevant training and necessary skills. Here are some examples:

- **Serbia** has a 40 percent youth unemployment rate. With a grant from USAID, Impact Hub Belgrade helps young entrepreneurs and startups attract potential investors. The Impact Hub's Launch Pad program gives young innovators the tools and skills they need to develop new products, validate their business models, and link them to regional and international investors. While the project ended in March 2018, participants raised \$230,000 in new investments from a mix of Serbian public sector and domestic and international private investors, and more recently an additional \$100,000 from Dubai's [Innovation Impact Grant Program](#).
- After years of conflict in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo**, many youth have not had the opportunity to meaningfully engage in education and employment. The Integrated Youth Development Activity (IYDA) supports Congolese youth through mentoring, coaching and other learning opportunities to establish their own economic activities. IYDA is also developing and delivering accelerated learning and vocational training programs in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.
- In the **Philippines**, ongoing conflict in the Mindanao region has led to wide displacement of residents, lack of essential services, and high rates of poverty and youth unemployment. USAID is working with the Government of the Philippines and local partners to give over 25,000 out-of-school youth in conflict-affected areas critical training and post-training support, helping them gain skills and find meaningful work, engage with their communities, and positively influence their peers.

CONTACT

E3: Office of Education

U.S. Agency for International Development
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 8th fl
Washington, DC, USA 20009

Phone 202-712-0000

Email: officeofeducation@usaid.gov