

Our World, Our Work



Our World, Our Work is a 10-year initiative, spearheaded by EDC, that seeks to accelerate youth employment and self-employment in the green and blue economies.



Youth Jobs +
Inclusive Green
Economies



The Opportunity

Our World, Our Work builds upon the growing commitment to climate action while addressing the employment crisis faced by large numbers of youth.

Governments and the private sector are now mobilizing to mitigate the impacts of climate change and grow green and blue economies.

This response is creating enormous opportunity for a **just, more inclusive, green economic transition**, offering the potential for massive employment creation, poverty alleviation, and a sustainable planet.

Young people, who will inherit the results of these efforts, deserve to be active participants in this transition.



The Challenge

Three major systemic barriers impede youth from fully participating in the transition to green and blue economies:

- 1. Misalignment of public and private sector responses, particularly at the local level:** Government-initiated climate reforms are slow to translate into action at the local level. Companies need the right incentives to grow high-potential sectors as well as a workforce with the skills needed for this massive transition.
- 2. Information asymmetry and the unavailability of locally contextualized data:** Many actors simply don't have the data to make informed decisions.
- 3. Relatively nascent demand for a greening economy:** The general public is slow to embrace climate action. Youth are the change agents that can mobilize their communities, their governments, and local businesses to boost the green and blue economies.

Our Reach

EDC will reach youth at all skill levels in response to labor market demands in the green and blue economies.

The initiative will concentrate on youth whose environments and livelihoods are most heavily impacted by climate change, with a strong focus on marginalized youth in low-income communities.

EDC will have a special focus on supporting young women who are underrepresented in STEM pathways and occupations.



EDC will support youth to develop the leadership skills necessary to drive innovation and change in their current and future roles as private and public sector leaders, innovators, and researchers.

The Solution

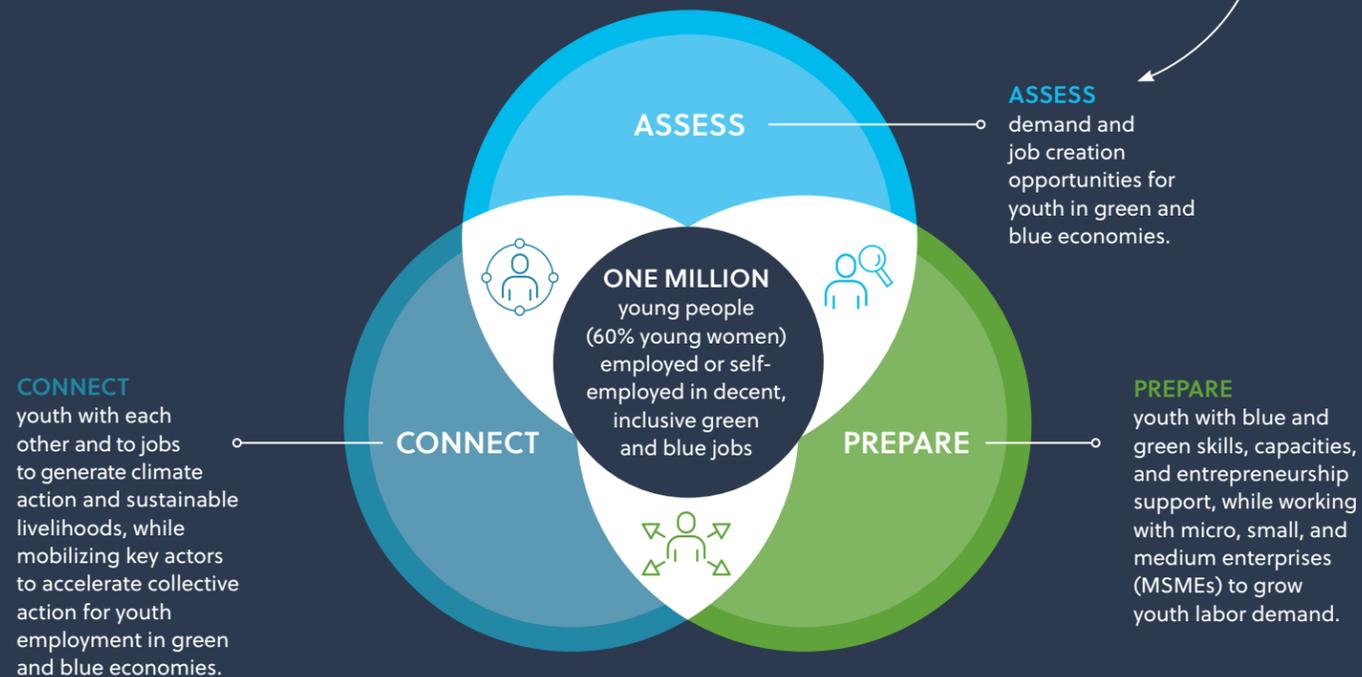
EDC will take a systems approach that puts youth at the center and engages government, the private sector, and civil society to enhance market-driven, sustainable livelihood opportunities and youth workforce systems change.

We will support youth to transition to green and blue jobs through two main pathways:

New jobs: Preparing youth for new wage or self-employment in emerging green or blue industries, such as renewable energy, circularity and recycling of waste, and electric vehicle manufacturing and service

Greening and blueing of existing jobs: Supporting youth to adopt practices and technologies that reduce climate or environmental impacts, such as climate-smart agriculture, sustainable fishing, regenerative forestry, retail services, and manufacturing

+ We will catalyze livelihood opportunities for youth in green and blue economies, taking a dynamic, three-pronged approach—Assess, Prepare, and Connect (APC)—to accelerate livelihood opportunities for youth.



+ **ONE MILLION**

Our goal is for 1 million young people (60% young women) between the ages of 18 to 30 to be employed or self-employed in decent, inclusive, sustainable green and blue jobs over the next 10 years.



Sector Priorities

EDC is undertaking robust global market research to prioritize sectors and occupations that offer youth the most significant potential for green and blue jobs while advancing gender equity, social inclusion, environmental protection, and climate action.

Demand for green and blue jobs is highly contextualized, even at a sub-national level. Many green job estimates are not sufficiently disaggregated within sectors or by target groups to be actionable for youth.

There are several sectors where green jobs are growing that offer significant potential for youth employment and self-employment. These sectors require specific technical skills acquired on the job or through technical education, vocational training, or secondary and university education. They also require a standard set of soft skills for the future, including critical-thinking, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills. Young women need additional support to ensure their access to and retention in training and job opportunities, especially in traditionally male sectors.

See chart on the next page →

We will offer tangible solutions that grow green and blue jobs for youth, such as:

- **Green youth labor market assessments**, co-facilitated by youth, to better understand the characteristics of the local labor market demand and supply so as to link trained youth with employment opportunities in green and blue sectors
- **Green occupational and skills catalogues** for national education systems and education institutions to align curriculum with emergent opportunities
- **Public and private green and blue youth alliances** to problem-solve and mobilize resources for green and blue economic growth at the local level
- **Green finance toolbox** that gives young entrepreneurs the boost they need to innovate new climate action solutions in high-potential sectors
- **Green jobs communications campaign** that showcases the market potential for going green while also being more inclusive of youth, women, and marginalized groups

Priority Industries	Green Job Growth Potential	Examples of Jobs for Youth
On-Grid and Off-Grid Renewable Energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments in clean energy will exceed USD \$2.4 trillion in 2022. • 37 million new jobs created by 2030. • Women are agents of change in off-grid clean energy access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar PV installer • Crane operator • Electrical assembler • Clean cook stoves sales agent
Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.6 billion people employed. • Food demand will increase by 20% over next 15 years. • Reduced food wastage (currently more than 1/3 of food grown) can increase jobs and reduce resource use. • Sustainable agriculture can reduce deforestation by nearly 50%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable aquaculture technician • Forest and conservation worker • Organic farmer • Food science technician • Agronomist • Urban gardening cooperative member
Green Buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USD \$24.7 trillion investment opportunity by 2030. • Growth in residential construction in emerging markets in Africa, East & South Asia, and the Pacific. • High-skilled or specialty-skilled jobs require specific training and certification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical engineer/energy efficiency expert • HVAC installer/indoor air quality consultant • Sustainable designer/ architect • Equipment operator • Plumber/water conservation expert • Green building project manager
Waste Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USD 410 billion/year market. • Potential for approximately 25 million employed in circular economy. • 80 countries with waste management in their Nationally Defined Contributions (NDCs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling sorter • Hazardous materials removal worker • Composting cooperative member • Organic fertilizer salesperson • Chemical technician • Truck driver • Eco-handicrafts producer
Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 370 million direct and indirect jobs (including women and youth). • Sector employment is sensitive to the high business risk associated with biodiversity. • Upgrading potential across different segments (agro-tourism, cultural tourism, cycling tourism, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable tour operator • Producer/retailer of cultural goods and handicrafts • Birdwatching tour guide • Scuba instructor • Restaurateur of locally sourced/vegetarian fare • Eco-taxi driver • Eco-lodge worker

Education Development Center (EDC) is a global nonprofit with a mission to advance lasting solutions to improve education, promote health, and expand economic opportunities worldwide. With a focus on vulnerable and underserved populations, EDC has worked in more than 80 countries since 1958.

Each year, EDC manages an average of **200** projects valued at **USD 173 million**, with support from USAID, the Mastercard Foundation, the World Bank, the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Bank of America, Hewlett Packard, Cisco, Google, and other public and private sector partners.

EDC's programs in youth workforce development, employment, and entrepreneurship have improved the livelihoods of over **4 million youth** worldwide.



Through the **Our World, Our Work** initiative, EDC will build on its success to meaningfully integrate young people into the blue and green economies and empower them toward climate action.



The USAID DRC Integrated Youth Development Activity



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For further information on the OWOW initiative please contact OWOW@edc.org.

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