



Our World, Our Work



Our World, Our Work is EDC's 10-year initiative to accelerate youth employment and self-employment in green and blue economies.



**Youth Jobs +
Inclusive Green
Economies**



EDC.ORG

The Opportunity

Globally, governments, businesses, educational institutions, and civil society are now mobilizing to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The stakes couldn't be higher: 1.8 billion young people, the largest youth population and workforce in history, are poised to enter a rapidly changing labor market that is being shaped by climate impacts, evolving technologies, and a global demographic shift.

At EDC, we see the enormous opportunity for a **just and more inclusive green economic transition**, offering the potential for massive employment creation, poverty alleviation, and a sustainable planet.



Our World, Our Work builds upon this growing commitment to climate action while addressing the employment crisis facing so many of the world's youth.

The Challenge

Climate change is redefining the future of work, urgently requiring new competencies and reshaping industries and entire communities.

The following gaps, at both national and subnational levels, hinder the just transition to youth-inclusive green and blue economies:

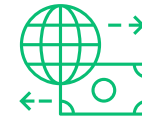
- 1. Limited coordination** between government, private sector, youth, and training institutions to assess labor market and training needs.
- 2. Inadequate market data** hinders the upgrading of skills, creates a supply and demand disconnect, and reduces productivity and investment.
- 3. Skills gaps for youth** that include the foundational transferable, STEM, and technical skills required for green and blue economies.
- 4. Insufficient access to financing** for youth and women-owned businesses to leverage young people's energy and creativity as agents of change.
- 5. The exclusion and further marginalization** of young people, including young women, due to global economic shifts. Social inclusion is essential for the most vulnerable youth, who are more likely to be undereducated, unemployed, and in unstable work in the informal economy.

Our Reach

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

We concentrate on youth whose environments and livelihoods are most heavily impacted by climate change, with strong support for marginalized youth in low-income communities.

EDC has a specific focus on supporting young women who are underrepresented in STEM pathways and occupations.



Confronting the climate crisis requires a workforce ready to power the economy of the future.



Photo: Programme de Formation Professionnelle et d'Insertion (PFPI), Senegal/Raymond Diop, AD Agency

The Solution

EDC's systems approach engages youth, government, the private sector, and civil society to enhance market-driven, sustainable livelihood opportunities and youth workforce systems change.

We do this by focusing on four key outcomes:

1. Strengthened green skills, youth workforce development programs and systems, and transition pathways
2. Increased demand for youth employment and self-employment in the green economy
3. Better knowledge, information, and data on green economy trends; employment demands; skill needs; and effective policies, practices, and programs for youth inclusion in the green economy
4. Strengthened awareness, policies, incentives, and financing for youth skills, workforce development, and employment generation in the green economy

How does EDC support youth in joining the green and blue economy?

NEW JOBS: We prepare youth for new wage employment 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 OF EXISTING JOBS: We support 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.

FOUR KEY OUTCOMES



Our goal is for 1 million young people (60% women) to be employed or self-employed in quality green and blue jobs over the next 10 years.



We offer tangible solutions to facilitate the growth of youth-inclusive green economies, in which participants act to conserve resources, protect the environment, and speed the transition to a low-carbon future.



INVESTIGATE

Conduct local and national green labor market and skills gaps assessments.

Convene stakeholders to disseminate labor market information and share innovative strategies and approaches to train and employ youth for green and blue jobs.

Assess the success and scalability of youth skills, workforce development, and sustainability practices for businesses, in which participants act to conserve resources, protect the environment, and speed the transition to a low-carbon future.

Conduct research on the link between green skills and climate mitigation and adaptation.

In the Philippines, EDC is developing localized labor market assessments to help communities identify green jobs and skills in a changing economy. EDC is also surveying more than 100 businesses to understand their emerging green practices and how youth can support employers to go green.



IMPLEMENT

Strengthen the capacity of education institutions to introduce new programs or to green existing programs.

Provide skilling, reskilling, and upskilling programs and transition pathways to work.

Connect youth to green labor markets.

Catalyze green innovation; self-employment; and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) financing in emerging green markets and for nature-based solutions.

Support MSME and larger companies to green their workforce and processes.

Mobilize youth champions and networks to drive demand for and implement sustainable products, services, and practices.

In Senegal, EDC is supporting technical and vocational and secondary schools nationwide to integrate work readiness and entrepreneurship skills development to prepare youth for the green economy, including in climate-smart agriculture.



INFLUENCE

Conduct communications campaigns, and organize high-visibility events and dialogues.

Support national stakeholders, taskforces, or coalitions to co-design national plans and road maps.

Elevate youth voice and action to address climate and environmental challenges.

Provide technical support to governments to strengthen policies, programs, regulatory environments, and incentives.

Sensitize and attract new and innovative types of investors and financing.

EDC is co-leading the development of a Global Coalition on Skills for a Green Future to mobilize governments, the private sector, civil society, and other actors to accelerate the development of the human capital needed to power the green transformation.

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 also advancing gender equity, social inclusion, environmental protection, and climate action.

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

Green jobs are growing in several sectors, which offer significant potential for youth employment and self-employment.

However, 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 transferable 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.

Priority sectors with green job growth potential include:



On-Grid and Off-Grid Renewable Energy



Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries



Green Buildings

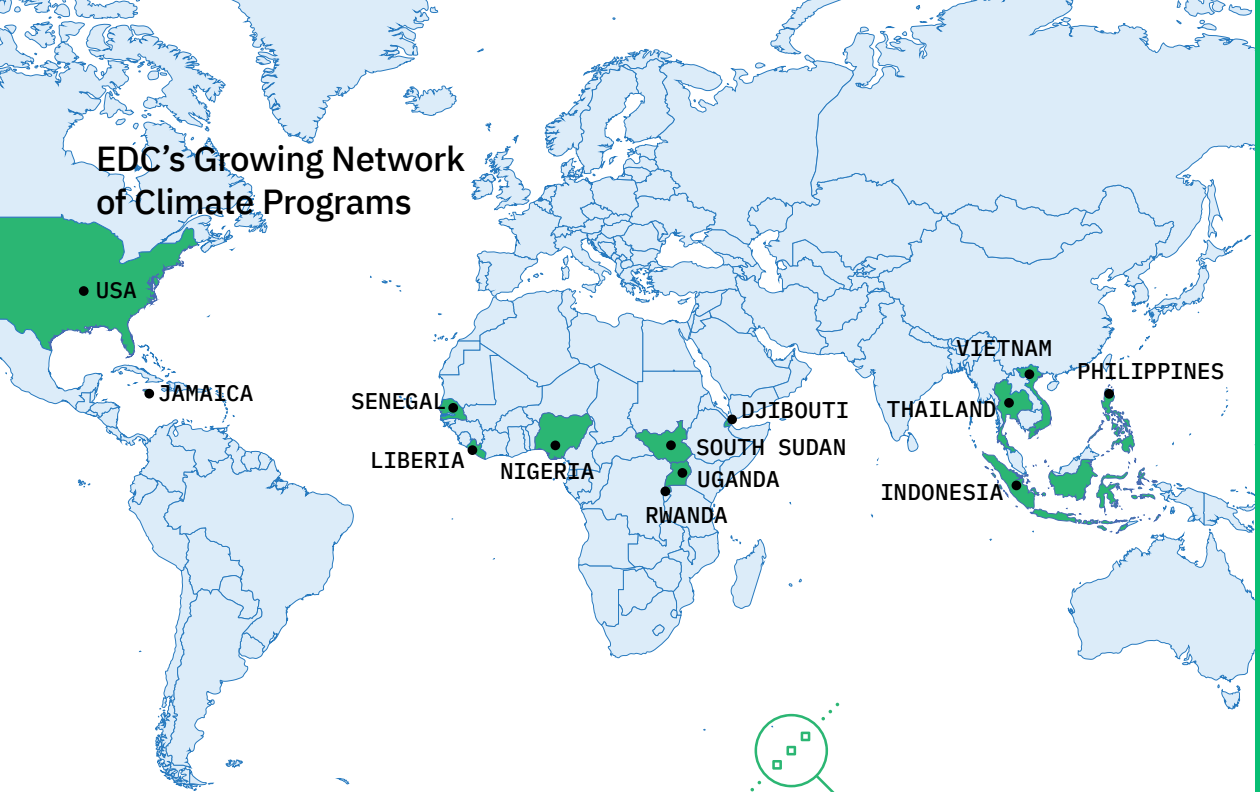


Waste Management



Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality

EDC's Growing Network of Climate Programs



ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECTS

USAID Philippines Opportunity 2.0

Community Empowerment for Racial and Environmental Justice in the Asia Pacific Region, Indonesia, and Philippines

Virtual First Jobs 3.0, South East Asia

Programme de Formation Professionnelle et d'Insertion (PFPI), Senegal

USAID Djibouti Youth Employment Activity

USAID Youth Advance, Liberia

USAID Youth Empowerment Activity, South Sudan

USAID Youth Empower Activity, Jamaica

NASA's Global Learning and Observations to Address the Environment (GLOBE) program (127 countries)



EDC supports 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.

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



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