



Green jobs for the future

Jobs for young people are a critical vehicle for their social, economic, and political inclusion. Investing in climate smart agriculture and clean energy technology provides opportunities to address challenges around youth unemployment, poverty and climate change. Many young people have the willingness and potential to tackle these problems and move our society closer to a low-carbon and climate resilient future.

The challenge

The effects of climate change create new poverty traps which particularly affect those in vulnerable groups, such as women, children and young people. Half of the world's population is under the age of 27, and most are living in developing countries¹.

Research shows that without appropriate adaptation measures, climate change will cause 100 million additional people to live in extreme poverty by 2030². These impacts disproportionately affect those in developing countries and also working in economic sectors reliant on natural resources and climate, such as food, energy and water³.

Urgent solutions are required to create employment opportunities for young people addressing climate adaptation and mitigation. SNV believes there is a pressing need and opportunity to align our work in both climate and opportunities for youth.

The opportunity

Climate change interacts with employment in several ways. Adaptation to climate change and measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions offer opportunities to create new jobs while increasing the resilience of existing ones. Climate action will stimulate investment and innovation



An SNV OYE project in Rwanda

in emerging products, as well as growth of innovative climate technologies and industries which are limited by slow progression of workforce skills. The development of youth skills for employment is an opportunity to respond to demand and facilitate the needed transition.

SNV's projects on youth employment development to date show there is great interest among young people to work in innovative, technology driven, climate smart industries, as well as to contribute to society through meaningful and sustainable work.

Currently, SNV has dedicated youth employment projects in 10 countries. In addition, we have 11 projects in nine countries that include a specific youth employment mainstreaming component.

Our approach

Maximising employment opportunities of climate action while reducing the negative impacts of climate change requires targeted skills, as well as employment programmes in the right places and industries. Countries must ensure their workforce can adapt to challenges and respond to the opportunities ahead.

SNV and youth employment

SNV's Opportunities for Youth Employment (OYE) approach provides young people with access to employment and enterprise development. We match young people, private companies and consumer markets with appropriate opportunities. Our approach is based on SNV's long experience in inclusive value chain development in the agriculture, energy and WASH sectors. We have created meaningful employment for at least 70,000 young people (40% of whom are women). We aim that by 2025 at least 500,000 young people will have benefited from the SNV OYE approach

SNV builds on our successful Opportunities for Youth Employment (OYE) approach to support youth employment for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It consists of four interrelated elements:

- A. Identify climate relevant businesses and industries
- B. The 'push, match, pull, enable' pathway
- C. Measuring and demonstrating results
- D. Communicating impact for empowering youth.

A. Identify climate relevant businesses and industries

Based on our extensive knowledge of local economies, we select businesses and industries that provide growth prospects for young people, with a specific focus on young women. Specific opportunities are identified in partnership with local stakeholders, based on climate change trends, hazards and opportunities in the target regions.



Sam Ocran took part in the GrEEn Business Plan Competition to scale up his poultry farm.

Green employment

Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities (GrEEn) aims to incubate at least 100 enterprises, creating lasting and meaningful employment for 1,500 people in green sectors in Ghana. SNV will work with authorities and private sector actors to develop local businesses and support climate resilient growth. We will also improve the employability and entrepreneurial skills of young people and migrant returnees and match them with realistic employment opportunities.

B. The 'push, match, pull, enable' pathway

To overcome systemic barriers, we go beyond training and develop realistic and meaningful employment opportunities for motivated young people. We provide practical skills training that enable young people to succeed in their career (push). They are then connected with real employment opportunities in a market sector of their choice. Through apprenticeships and tutoring they gain the technical skills they need to enter their chosen sector (match). After starting their career, participants continue to be coached, for example through peer mentoring. We also stimulate access to credit, such as by establishing youth savings and lending associations and supporting the development of governmental grant schemes (pull). Enable means creating lasting and inclusive results. We work with authorities and private sector actors to create a policy environment that stimulates sustainable growth and employment for young people.

C. Measuring and demonstrating results

In order to evaluate results and show our impact, not just on employment opportunities but also climate change adaptation and mitigation, we will build on SNV's institutional experience to integrate climate indicators into programme designs.

D. Communicating impact for empowering youth

SNV programmes will support youth climate change champions as well as awareness and outreach activities among targeted communities to promote and create opportunities, celebrate participants' successes, and help reduce constraints to meaningful youth employment in communities.

-
- 1 World Bank, Rural Youth Employment, 2017 (Definition youth, 15-24yrs as in SDGs)
 - 2 allegate, et al. (2016). Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty. World Bank.
 - 3 http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/WCMS_371589/lang--en/index.htm

Our experience

Opportunities for Youth Employment (OYE) | Zimbabwe and Zambia | 2019–2023 | €6M | SDC and SIDA

OYE Zimbabwe and Zambia seeks to improve the livelihoods and future prospects for 10,000 youth by creating green employment and enterprise opportunities in agriculture, energy and other related sectors. At least 50 percent are young women. The project aims to sustainably increase youth employment and incomes using the 'push, match, pull, enable' approach.



Incubating inclusive agribusiness – 2SCALE | multi-country | 2019–2023 | €15M | Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2SCALE offers a range of support services to private partners – companies and farmer groups – enabling them to produce, transform and supply quality food products for local, national and regional end-user markets, including Base of the Pyramid consumers. 2SCALE is an incubator programme that manages a portfolio of public-private partnerships (PPPs) for inclusive business in agri-food sectors and industries in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.



Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities – GrEEn | Ghana | 2019–2023 | €20M | European Union (EUTF)

Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana (GrEEn) is a four-year project contributing to addressing the root causes of irregular migration by supporting sustainable and climate-resilient local economies, green jobs and development in regions of departure, transit and return. GrEEn is being implemented in coordination with the Ghanaian Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (and other relevant ministries) alongside the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies of the two focal regions.



Opportunities for Youth Employment – Tanzania Central Corridor Phase Two | Tanzania | 2021 – 2024 | €2.7 million | SIDA and SDC

OYE phase two extends on the SDC and Mastercard Foundation phase one programme. It aims to directly impact 4,250 youth aged 18 to 30, and 15,300 indirectly, with 50% of them being female. The focus is on rural and peri urban Central Tanzania, and covers agriculture, energy and water sectors. OYE's P-M-P-E approach is applied to stimulate and create sustainable employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for targeted youth, in collaboration with key actors and stakeholders in Tanzania. The project also involves consolidation and scaling-up of innovative pilots tested during the previous phase (including solar-driven drip irrigation, agro-ecological farming, and e-platform development) for access to markets, agro-inputs, and digital extension services.



Cover photo: SNV GrEEn project, Ghana. Jane Akanzum was offered a job at EcoCENT factory following skills training as part of the GrEEn project

SNV is a not-for-profit international development organisation that makes a lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty by helping them raise incomes and access basic services. We focus on three sectors and have a long-term, local presence in around 24 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Our team of more than 1,300 staff is the backbone of SNV.

www.snv.org

For more information, contact:

Jean Muthamia-Mwenda, Global Lead for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, oye@snv.org

