Opportunities for Youth Employment

Investing in young people to acquire market-relevant skills, and develop their business and leadership abilities for meaningful employment.
Our focus

We connect young people to secure and meaningful employment; enable them to create sustainable employment for themselves and their community; and enhance the employment ecosystem to be more responsive to their needs.

The Challenge
Globally, there are 74 million young people unemployed between the ages of 15-24 representing 40% of global unemployment. This figure does not account for those working in the informal economy. At least 200 million young people globally work in insecure jobs, earning less than $2 per day.

With an increasing number of young people entering the job market, it is predicted that at least 600 million new jobs need to be created within the next 10 years to sustain this expanding labour force.

Yet many young people lack relevant market skills required for employment within the private sector – and there is a mismatch between the market supply and demand. Young people often lack the means required to start and grow their own businesses, and it is predicted that whilst 20% of young people have an ambition to start a business, only 5% actually do.

Many social, economic and cultural factors hinder progress for young people. Youth unemployment and underemployment can predispose young people to other social problems. Dissatisfied youth are often more likely than older generations to challenge their situation actively and become a socially destabilising force.

Our Solution
Acting as a facilitator between public and private sectors, we work alongside young people through an integrated approach, enabling them to acquire relevant market based skills and develop their own leadership competencies and capacities to access employment opportunities, and establish their own enterprises.

Integrating across existing and emerging agricultural, renewable energy and WASH value chains:

• We boost young people’s motivation to drive innovations and the growth of sectors and industries.
• We ensure that young women have equal access to development and employment opportunities, and ensure the financial and digital inclusion of all young people.
• We enhance youth ecosystems.

The Opportunity
SNV is working with public agencies and the private sector, developing meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for thousands of young people in developing economies.
“Opportunities for Youth Employment teaches me that I am not too young to build dreams.”
Mugiraneza Pamphile, Rwanda

Employment in Renewable Energy
Today, more than 1 billion people across the world do not have access to affordable and reliable energy and 2.5 billion people do not have access to clean cooking facilities. Yet with the development and introduction of new technologies, this is beginning to change.

The renewable energy sector represents huge potential to create employment and enterprise opportunities for young people. Young people embody energy, creativity and innovation - critical resources that will enable the growth of the renewable energy sector.

Through the production, promotion and distribution of new innovations and technologies, the fast emerging sector is becoming an increasingly attractive route for young people to gain meaningful and sustainable employment or self-employment opportunities.

Employment in Agriculture
Many young people see a sector which represents backbreaking labour, which lacks the opportunity for economic benefit and the potential for career advancement. The agricultural sector, however, offers huge potential for job creation for young people.

In Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, up to 70% of young people live in rural areas and half of the youth labour force works in agriculture. However, the agricultural sector will not be able to meet its potential for growth if it cannot increase its productivity and create opportunities for young people to integrate into existing and emerging value chains.

Young people can transform value chains within the agriculture sector both on and off-farm, by applying new technologies and climate smart approaches. They can provide a workforce that is particularly energetic, innovative and critical to the changes required to modernise agriculture and make it more sustainable.
1 **Workforce Development**

Connecting the demand from private sector employers with the supply of skills and ambition of young people

**Push factor**
Enabling young people to build relevant market skills, for (self) employment in the private sector

**Match factor**
Pairing and placing young people with private sector enterprises integrated into value chains

**Pull factor**
Sourcing private sector opportunities for (self) employment through job placement & training schemes

2 **Enterprise Development**

Building the entrepreneurial capacity of young entrepreneurs, growing businesses & creating secure jobs

**Incubation and training**
Developing business skills & supporting enterprise development

**1:1 Mentoring**
Mentoring from an experienced entrepreneur from the local business community

**Access to finance**
Start-up capital either as a loan or grant from a financial institution

**Access to networks**
Gaining exposure to customers & to new market opportunities

3 **Leadership Development**

Enhancing the capacity of young leaders to inform & lead solutions to address their own development challenges

**Personal**
- Self-awareness
- Leadership style
- Purpose & values

**Social**
- Developing others
- Shared purpose
- Problem solving

**Business**
- Strategic vision
- Innovation
- Driving results

**Action**
Transforming circumstances & communities
SNV Opportunities for Youth Employment

Creating inspiring opportunities in partnership with young people and local agencies, through our integrated four part approach.

4 Ecosystem development

Facilitating partners to create a connected & collaborative ecosystem that focusses on the needs of young people.

- Workforce development
- Enterprise development
- Leadership development
- Gender Equity
- Financial Inclusion
- Digital Inclusion

- Training providers
- Enterprise & Finance
- Local Government
- Private sector
Our Expertise

SNV is working with over 40,000 young people, and has a global track record of developing and delivering sustainable and effective youth unemployment solutions, in partnership with leading funding agencies.

Our Programmes

Working with a range of international and local partners, our programmes include:

> **OYE, Opportunities for Youth Employment**-
  MasterCard Foundation
  Building employment and enterprise skills in Agriculture and Renewable Energy in Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda.

> **P-GLR, Accountable Local Governance**-
  Netherlands Embassy
  Building skills of youth to lead initiatives and projects on governance, accountability, cultural mediation and conflict mitigation in Mali.

> **YAWWA | Youth, Advocacy, Women, Work and Alliances-USAID**
  Building skills and advocacy in Niger to boost women’s employment.

> **Opportunities for Youth Employment in Beira corridor-EU**
  Building employment and enterprise skills in Agriculture and Renewable Energy in Mozambique.

> **YES, Youth Employability through Enterprise and Skills Development-EU**
  Business and market relevant skills for youth in Uganda.

> **Creation and Consolidation of Youth Employment-Italian Peruvian fund**
  Developing youth opportunities in Agriculture in Peru.

> **Rural Youth Solar Project-Netherlands Embassy**
  Youth Renewable Energy enterprise development in Zimbabwe.

> **High Impact Tourism Training-EU**
  Vocational training for the tourism industry in Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal & Vietnam.

“Thanks to Opportunities for Youth Employment, I am proud to be a girl, I can now earn money and shape my life by myself.”
Musabyemariya Lilane, Rwanda

Our team

Led by our Global Coordinator for Youth, we have a dedicated, on-the-ground team encompassing expertise in youth employment, enterprise and leadership.

For further information
Youth@snvworld.org

40,000 youth in employment & enterprise projects
SNV is a not-for-profit international development organisation, working in Agriculture, Renewable Energy, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene. Founded in the Netherlands 50 years ago, we have built a long-term, local presence in 38 of the poorest countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Our global team of local and international advisors works with local partners to equip communities, businesses and organisations with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services – empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and guide their own development.

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