

# PATHWAYS TO GREEN JOBS



Save the Children supports young people to thrive and develop the skills to navigate a future that, as a result of the climate crisis, may be radically different from what they know today. We are helping to create a young workforce for a green economy, and supporting children and families to have strong, resilient livelihoods.

## GREEN SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S FUTURE JOBS

The world is changing. Countries are looking to rapidly decarbonize their economies to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis. This is leading to a massive shift into more circular and restorative economies, regenerative agriculture and greener jobs.

The green economy is an opportunity of a lifetime for young people. By 2030, about 25 million young people ages 15–29 are expected to be searching for employment or entering the workforce. Up to 60 million new jobs in the green economy could potentially be created by 2030. This presents huge opportunities for children and young people

across the globe. But how will those who are impacted by discrimination and inequality, who live in poverty or whose countries are most affected by climate change take advantage of this?

Save the Children aspires to help young people access new and green employment opportunities so they can contribute to the green economy and lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Building on decades of experience in youth employability programming and creating opportunities for youth to acquire the agency they need for financial gain, we are helping to create a young workforce with green skills for this greener economy.

By green jobs, we mean decent and inclusive paid work that aims to preserve or restore the environment, reduce harmful environmental damage, or help adapt to climate change. By green skills, we mean the knowledge and abilities that young people need to get green jobs, and make sustainable consumption and lifestyle choices.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN'S APPROACH

As the world adapts to climate change, we are adapting our programming to help children and youth respond to new challenges and prepare them for the green labor market. We equip young people with the sustainability mindset and foundational skills needed for green jobs and provide them with access to networks and opportunities. We encourage them to, and help them take, climate action.

### We prepare adolescents and youth to acquire the skills for future green jobs.

- We help young people understand the underlying factors contributing to climate change and its importance to sustainability, and support greenskilling in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), gender equity, and social and physical inclusion approaches.
- We support young people to develop life skills such as financial literacy, communications, critical thinking, self-control, working in teams, and positive concepts of themselves for a successful transition into safe and meaningful work.
- We work with employers and educators to chart potential career pathways, jobs and sustainable livelihoods in the green economy, and connect youth with role models who can inspire them.

### We collaborate and partner with private employers, governments and schools.

- We partner with the private sector to identify market demand and link youth ages 15-29 with green job opportunities. We also facilitate youths' entry into technical or vocational trainings for green jobs, life skills, entrepreneurship and innovation, and access to business development support.
- We support the procurement of and installation of green technologies such as recycling programs, solar energy, eco-friendly agro-businesses in communities with the full participation of youth and community members.

### We support advocacy activities and elevate children's voices on climate change issues that affect them.

- Children and youth are driving the climate change advocacy agenda. We provide the training, tools and opportunities they need to have a voice in policy decisions at national and international levels, and to hold governments accountable.



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

Save the Children is the first and only child-focused humanitarian and development NGO accredited by the UN's Green Climate Fund, bringing huge opportunities to support national governments at scale to respond and adapt effectively to climate change.

## WE ARE POSITIONED TO ACCELERATE YOUTHS' ENTRY INTO THE GREEN ECONOMY

Young people are agents for climate action and have the desire and agency to thrive in an inclusive and equitable future of green work. We will seek to drive their successful entry into decent jobs in the green economy, or to succeed in related self-employment.

As the world's largest independent children's rights organization, working in 120 countries, Save the Children is uniquely positioned for this commitment, as we have:

- Over 100 years of experience and expertise working with and for children, **young people and families**, a strong presence in countries and deep, long-held relationships with communities;
- Decades of experience in youth employment programs supporting children to move to adulthood with the transferable life skills and technical competencies needed to secure decent work;
- **Strong country-level networks** of private employers and technical/vocational educators who can connect young people with green jobs;
- The ability to convene stakeholders from different sectors to share evidence of best practices, and to influence policies and practices of governments and employers;

## EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK ON GREEN JOBS



In the **West Bank and Gaza**, we created opportunities for entrepreneurship, including green entrepreneurial activities, for over 8,000 young women;



In **Nicaragua**, we taught youth in coffee-producing communities about sustainable agricultural practices and green economic activities such as beekeeping;



In **China**, we developed a recycling robot in collaboration with software giant, SAP, to teach environmental awareness and digital skills;



In **Myanmar**, we support the Young City Shapers Campaign, which created Yangon's first plastic-free public city space.