

EDC'S WORK READINESS PROGRAM



EDC's Work Ready Now (WRN) delivers effective work readiness preparation to youth. We have integrated WRN into education systems at a national level and worked with local partners to meet the needs of out-of-school youth. Based on international standards, WRN helps young people in emerging economies develop the soft skills and work readiness skills needed to succeed in earning a living. Work-based learning is integrated into WRN to make learning come alive outside of the classroom and expose youth to real workplaces and employers. Youth develop confidence and a positive sense of self as they build relationships with employers and find meaningful and fulfilling first work experiences.

We customize our approach to best meet the needs of our youth and the existing education systems, integrating work readiness with literacy, numeracy, and work-based learning, as well as entrepreneurship programs. WRN is often accompanied by technical skills trainings based on real job opportunities. Employers recognize our WRN program graduates as better prepared for the workplace than other new employees. We offer a work readiness credential as a part of our package.

Core elements of WRN:

1 Building Skills Needed in Today's Workplace

WRN equips youth to tackle challenges in the world of work. Our youth gain positive attitudes, a willingness to learn, and the ability to model respectful behaviors, all of which make it easier for them to adapt to the workplace. Work exposure and experience in the real world provide opportunities for them to see and practice the skills that they learn in their WRN classes, such as communication, collaboration, customer service, and leadership. At the same time, youth receive technical training that enables them to build careers and businesses in response to local demand.

2 Preparing Youth for the Jobs of Tomorrow

No one can predict what the jobs of the future will look like—but we can prepare youth to navigate that reality. Our teaching methods and work-based learning activities enable youth to adapt to changing work environments in both formal and informal markets over time. Through WRN, youth develop critical-thinking skills and solve problems faced by local businesses and the communities where they live. These experiences promote the kind of innovation and entrepreneurialism necessary for economies to develop and for youth to succeed.

3 Scalable Solutions

WRN is flexible and adaptable for formal and non-formal education systems, national technical and vocational schools, and literacy and numeracy programs. It can reach hundreds of thousands of youth when incorporated into national workforce development systems. Additionally, EDC builds the capacity of local organizations and government agencies so they can continue to connect with local industry and deliver WRN after a project ends.

EDC & WORK READINESS:



OVER 15 YEARS
of experience



25 COUNTRIES



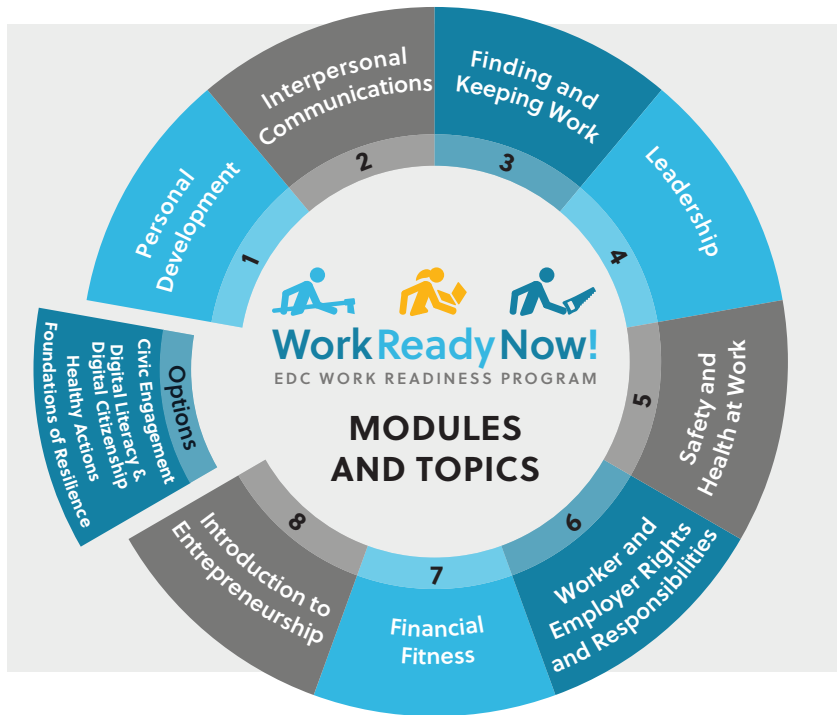
19 LANGUAGES



5 COUNTRIES
scaled WRN nationally
in education systems



500,000+ YOUTH
reached



WE ACCOMPANY OUR YOUTH



Youth succeed with support. We empower youth in their transition to work by facilitating linkages with thousands of small and medium enterprises in their communities. We also build local networks of youth and business coaches in both individual and group settings.

Youth update their CVs and personal development plans, continue work-based learning activities, and share their challenges and solutions as they grow their small businesses. This support helps them reach their long-term goals.



Work Ready Now curriculum:

Our customizable, standards-based work readiness curriculum is aligned with three internationally recognized work readiness frameworks that emphasize the skills needed in today's workplace. WRN is always localized. Training time: 70–120 hours.



Work-based learning activities empower youth to make informed career choices, develop relationships, and gain work experience. Simultaneously, employers gain skills in providing youth with practical learning experiences.



Youth participate in boot camps and business innovation challenges that spark creative thinking and problem solving to address community and business challenges.



Digital learning integrated with WRN provides youth with practice in digital skills, such as graphic design and creating brochures, using WRN concepts.



Through the Be Your Own Boss and GROW programs, youth start, build, and grow their own small businesses to meet the needs in their local market.



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Education Development Center (EDC) is a global nonprofit that advances lasting solutions to improve education, promote health, and expand economic opportunity. Since 1958, we have been a leader in designing, implementing, and evaluating powerful and innovative programs in more than 80 countries around the world.