



**PARTNERING WITH
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
TO SHAPE A MORE DEMAND-DRIVEN
AND AGILE WORKFORCE**



EDC

**Education
Development
Center**



IMPACT



37
countries

in which HEI supports have strengthened institutional and graduate workforce capacity



60%
female

instructor and youth participation in workforce development programs



1+
million
youth

in HEIs reached worldwide



2600+
HEI
instructors

trained in active learning, employability and technical skills, externships in the private sector, and enhanced certification





EDC REACH

Afghanistan
 Australia
 Bolivia
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Cambodia
 China
 Djibouti
 Ethiopia
 France
 Germany
 Ghana
 Honduras
 Hong Kong
 Indonesia
 Ireland
 Italy
 Japan
 Kosovo
 Laos
 Lebanon
 Liberia
 Myanmar
 Netherlands
 North Macedonia
 Pakistan
 Peru
 Philippines
 Rwanda
 Senegal
 Singapore
 Tanzania
 Thailand
 Turkey

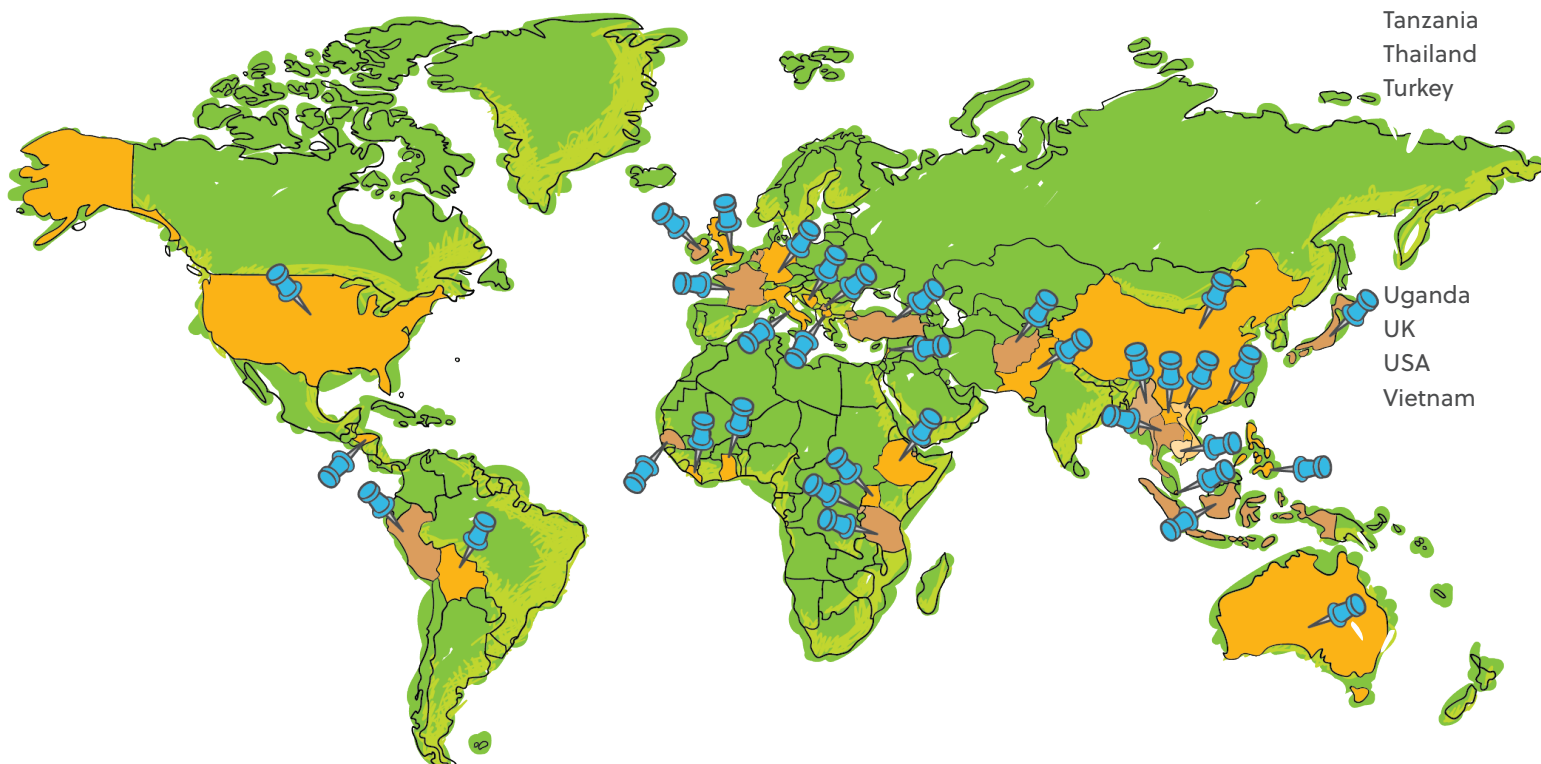
Uganda
 UK
 USA
 Vietnam

OVERVIEW

Higher education in emerging economies must respond to rapid change, including technological and environmental transformations in the world of work and the delivery of education, changing skills demands, gaps in equitable access to higher education, and global crises such as pandemics and climate change. Young people must be prepared for digital and green economies and be supported to become resilient and adaptable learners capable of meeting economic, social and environmental challenges, both now and in the future. ★

EDC reinforces the institutional capacity of HEI partners to deliver market relevant job skills for youth, resulting in successful entry points into the world of work. Our work:

- Strengthens institutional capacity to adapt to and integrate emerging innovations and priorities in digital and green development.
- Improves the quality of teaching and learning to strengthen the relevance and impact of higher education on new and better employment outcomes for youth.
- Prepares youth technically, socially and emotionally to be leaders at work and in their communities.
- Deepens engagement with the private sector and communities to ensure higher education is demand-driven and responsive to the needs and priorities of youth, parents and communities.



STRATEGIC APPROACH

Our evidence-based approach to higher education is youth-centred and builds on a deep analysis of the existing and emerging labor market landscape at regional, country, and community levels in each context.



Our interventions:

- Strengthen soft skills and resilience competencies as part of positive youth development
- Ensure curricula reflects market-driven realities and technical skills needs
- Promote gender equity and social inclusion for young women by working with partners to design and create access to nontraditional employment pathways in key growth sectors
- Provide supports to help youth understand how to navigate, collaborate and manage teams, clients and contracts in the gig economy
- Develop coaching and mentorship opportunities through youth-serving and youth-led organizations and peer development networks and as part of private sector engagement



We facilitate and strengthen collaboration between academic and private sector actors by:

- Tailoring curricula within HEIs to reflect the needs, gaps, and trends for employability as defined by industry and sector leaders
- Developing professional technical training led by sector technical experts and work-based placements for HEI instructors to update and upgrade critical technical skills
- Offering soft skills training and mentorship opportunities to managers and new hires as part of private sector engagement
- Providing work-based learning opportunities for youth to experience the world of work as part of their studies
- Establishing or Reinforcing Technical Skills Councils and Advisory Boards or Committees that increase knowledge and resource exchange between HEIs and the private sector to bridge gaps between theory and application



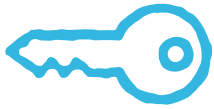
- Creating experiences for youth to apply digital and green skills through simulation exercises that build a portfolio of design products in collaboration with industry partners
- Strengthening the evidence base through rigorous data collection for informed decision-making



We foster inclusive and continuous learning by:

- Increasing the number of distance learning and blended learning solutions for instructors and learners in order to reduce interruptions due to conflict or crisis
- Ensuring quality, self-paced instructional improvement and career-building tools are available online through career centers or other public spaces that instructors, mentors, and youth can access easily
- Adapting all content and training materials to the most accessible technologies available in a given context and through a variety of analog or digital formats





KEY ELEMENTS



STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSIONALISM OF INSTRUCTORS AND YOUTH

EDC understands that to create a more productive and agile workforce, HEIs need:

- stronger collaborative relationships with the private sector that promote digital and green skills for new, emerging and gig economies
- greater access to training and coaching on how to leverage a variety of teaching and learning solutions using analog and digital technologies for face-to-face and distance learning, professional development, and continuous improvement
- resource supports for helping youth transition from school to work with leadership competencies, real-world experience, and adaptive mindsets

Work Ready Now (WRN), Be Your Own Boss (BYOB), & STEM Supports

- Adapt and integrate WRN, BYOB, and STEM curricula into HEI degree coursework
- Align curricula with relevant demand-driven skills needs of the digital and green economies
- Use a variety of participatory learning methods as part of youth-centered instruction
- Strengthen access to finance and start-up supports for youth entrepreneurship
- Introduce mental health for the workplace



Work-Based Learning through Private Sector Engagement

- Conduct youth-driven local labor market assessments to determine market demands
- Structure entry points to local labor markets for learners to become aware of the world of work and engage in workplace environments
- Strengthen support to HEI career development centers
- Ensure career centers are critical partners in preparing and recruiting youth for internships, apprenticeships, and job opportunities
- Analyze and use employer satisfaction survey data for continuous learner improvement
- Facilitate project-oriented learning with employers
- Increase work exposure through site visits, speaker series, innovation challenges, and boot camps that provide real-world entrepreneurial thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills



Professional Development & Certification

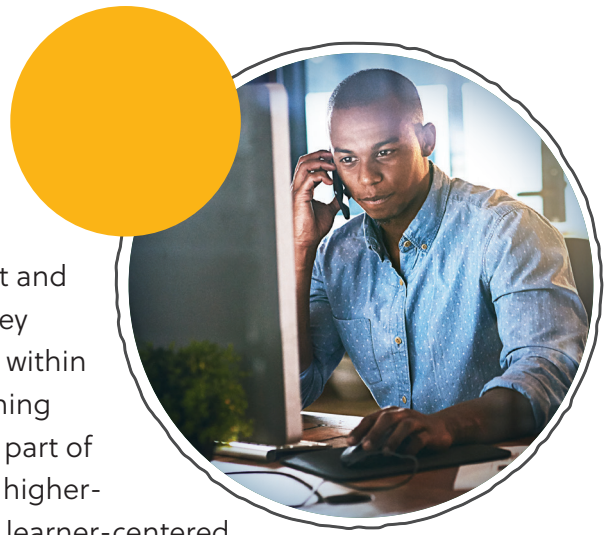
Training & Supports

- Facilitation skills and participatory learning approaches
- Instructional design
- Blended learning approaches for face-to-face and distance learning
- Finding, evaluating, and using online resources
- Gender equity and inclusion
- Learner-centered assessments

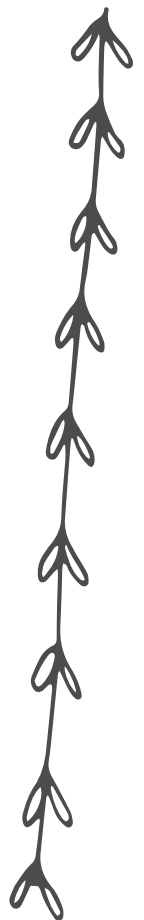


Certification

- Reinforcement and validation of key competencies within instructor training institutions as part of credentialing: higher-level thinking, learner-centered instruction, facilitation, and employability skills
- Using data for decision-making
- Human resources development






Skills2Work TRAINING MODULES FOR HEI INSTITUTIONS AND INSTRUCTORS





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