

Youth develop confidence and a positive sense of self as they build relationships with employers.

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.

EDC & WORK READINESS:



OVER 15 YEARS
of experience



25 COUNTRIES



19 LANGUAGES



5 COUNTRIES
scaled WRN nationally
in education systems



500,000+ YOUTH
reached

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, 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.

WRN Curriculum—Overview

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. Training time: 70–120 hours.

8 Foundational Modules

WRN consists of 8 foundational modules and a set of complementary modules for targeted content, such as civic engagement, digital literacy, Healthy Actions, Foundations of Resilience, and more.



Flexibility for Implementation

The modular format gives projects flexibility for implementation.

Adaption Process

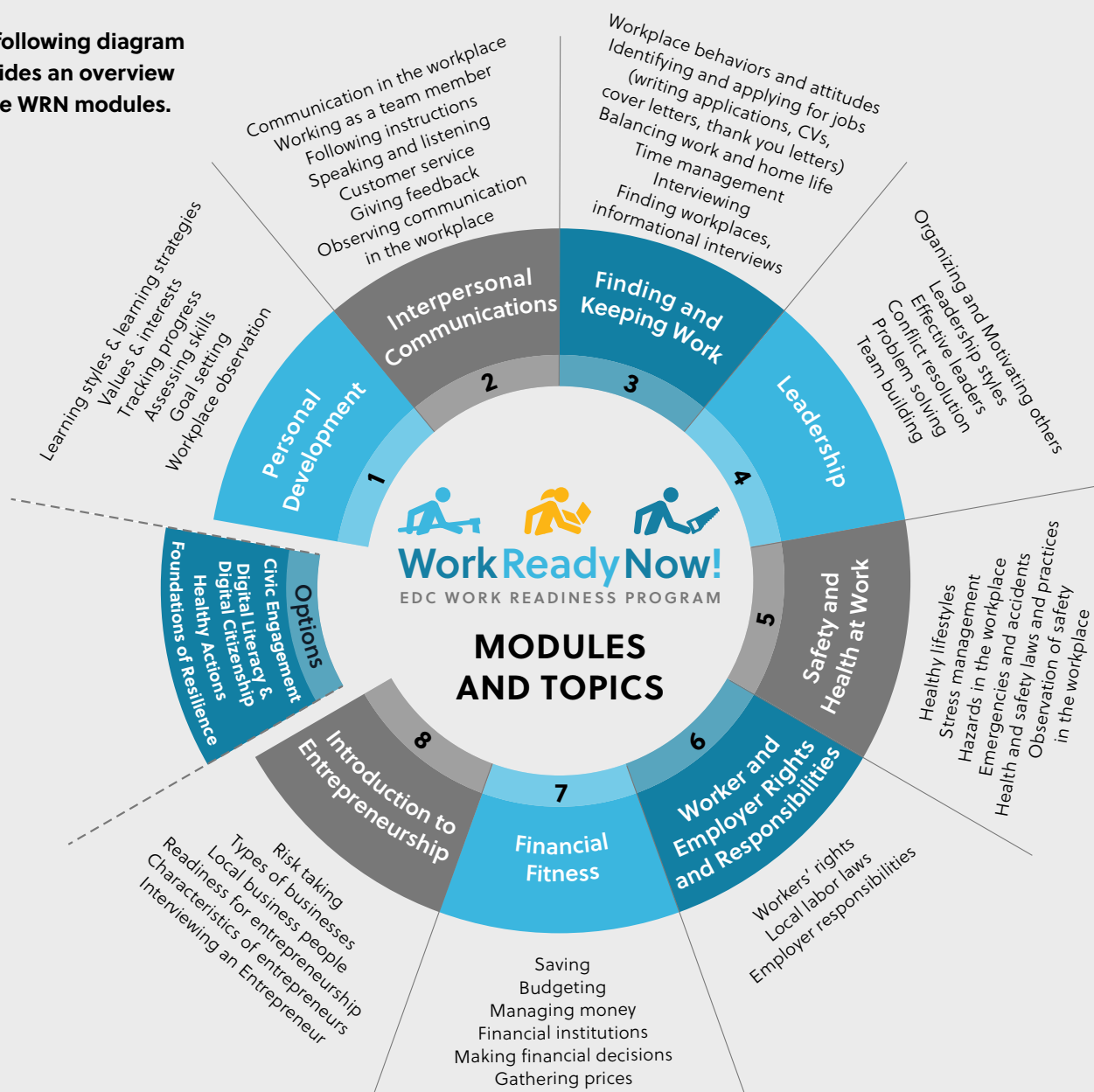
The curriculum always goes through an adaptation process. We involve local businesses and youth-serving partners to identify the modules and topics that are required for a particular context.



Local Environment

Examples and images always reflect the local environment.

The following diagram provides an overview of the WRN modules.





Work Ready Now program:

Beyond its top rated curriculum, the WRN program includes a set of hands-on activities that are adapted within each local economy and context.



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, 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.



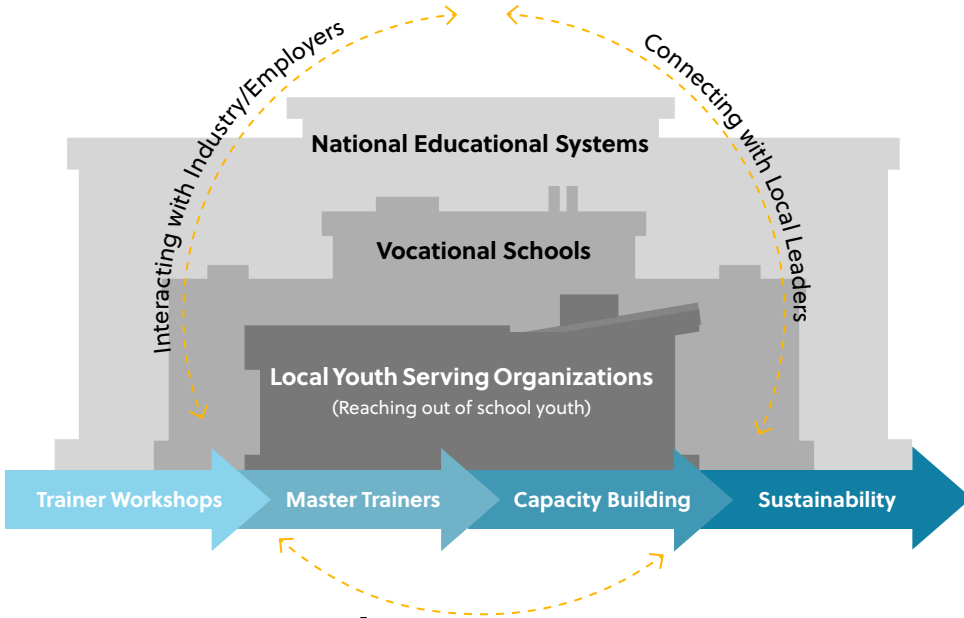
Aljirani Tigasan gained self-confidence in EDC's WRN program.

ONE AMONG THOUSANDS OF WORK READY NOW SUCCESS STORIES:

Preparing Youth for the Workplace

Aljirani Tigasan lives in Parang, Philippines, and dreamed of "becoming an effective policeman to serve [his] country", but he had to drop out of high school to help his parents. He describes that period in his life as "really hard" and "full of trials and problems". When he enrolled in EDC's WRN under USAID's Mindanao for Development (MYDev) program, he started to see life differently. With emotional tears, he explains, "I gained self-confidence and I will stand up for myself and my future family. The things I've learned are my tools [for life]." At 20 years old, Aljirani is pursuing his dream as a student of criminology studies and encourages other youth, "we need to have the determination to achieve our goals and dreams".

Designed for Scale and Sustainability



WE ACCOMPANY OUR YOUTH

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.

Impact in Rwanda

66%

of program graduates **found employment or started an income-generating activity** within 6 months of graduation.

97%

of program graduates (out-of-school youth) **met or exceeded employer expectations.**

85%

of the employers surveyed said that **program graduates performed better at work** when compared to other employees.

94%

of youth-led **businesses were considered to be running well** after two years.

Impact in Thailand, the Philippines, & Indonesia

In Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia, the AWARE II project engaged 460 private-sector partners to host students in work-based learning, collaborate with schools in innovation boot camps, and design technical classes with instructors. **The results:**

65%

of youth continued on to new **employment, new self-employment, or higher education.**

66%

of those youth who found new employment, **were hired full-time.**



The governments of Rwanda, Macedonia, Philippines, Senegal, and Djibouti have adopted EDC's WRN within their national secondary systems, alternative education systems, and/or technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems.



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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.