

Project Name: Empower Youth for Work (EYW)

Organization(s): Oxfam Novib

Dates of Implementation: April 2016-March 2021

Countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Pakistan

Partners: Oxfam, national partners (Bangladesh: Codec, RDRS, UCEP, Wave Foundation; Pakistan: Bargad, RDF, TIE; Ethiopia: RCDWO, HAVOYOCO, EDC; Indonesia: IBL, ADS)

Funder(s): IKEA Foundation

Website: <https://www.empoweryouthforwork.org/>

Project description: EYW is a five-year program designed to enable young people (especially young women) in rural climate-affected areas of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Ethiopia to seek and obtain economic independence. The project focuses on the effect of climate change, stimulating youth participation through human-centered design and innovation. EYW is a multi-stakeholder project that partners with governments, schools, and education institutes that ensures the project will be implemented and upscaled throughout their systems and networks. Engagement of local governments also ensures buy-in and continuation beyond the project.

EYW measures 3 long-term outcomes (and 9 to 11 short-term outcomes) every quarter.

1. Young women and men use their agency, soft and market-led technical skills
2. Young women and men benefit of new or improved employment or entrepreneurship opportunities
3. Enabling environment for young women and men's social economic empowerment promoted

Target Population: Youth (aged 15-29) from climate-affected areas with a 70:30 female-male ratio.

Results to-Date: By year 3, EYW has reached a total of **79,906** direct beneficiaries (60% young women 40% young men). During year 3, **28,853** young women and men were trained on the soft and technical skills required to pursue and retain decent work or self-employment. **2,423** young women and men gained new stable, fair and gender-equitable jobs or improved their existing jobs through access to finance and Business Development Services. **17,773** young women have directly benefited from interventions aimed at decreasing social restrictions, e.g. through a more equal distribution of unpaid care work, the prevention of Gender Based Violence, or improved access to Sexual and Reproductive Health facilities.

The EYW mid-term evaluation and midline surveys show increased confidence and decision-making power among the youth. It stressed the unique holistic character of the project, combining soft and technical skills trainings with economic activities and influencing, and validated the Theory of Change and the overall direction. It concluded that businesses were set up or upgraded and the surveys showed that technical skills enhanced the position of youth in the labor market. Solidarity among youth is felt when faced with traditional gender norms, enabling young women to attend meetings to discuss matters not usually discussed at home.

Interesting Features & Innovations:

-**14** innovation pilots were developed, including: The **Dual-apprenticeship Training Model** that involves both training institutes and agri-industry to develop a training program that benefits both apprentices and owners; the **Youth-led climate smart village pilot** that empowers young women and men living in climate vulnerable areas in Bangladesh; **Community-Based Tourism** that ensures natural resources are owned, managed and developed by local communities and youth in Indonesia.

-EYW enables **global-south-focused peer-to-peer learning** and knowledge exchange through E-Motive.

-EYW involves **Human-Centered Design (HCD)** partners to support the work of the country teams. HCD is a design and management approach that focuses on co-creation and develops solutions to problems by involving the human perspective in all steps of the problem-solving process.