Impact

Helping youth find pathways to sustainable livelihoods and civic engagement:

- In Haiti, over 11,000 youth have completed an EDC-led education and livelihoods program; 77% of youth from the most recent cohort passed the government certified vocational training exam.
- In East Timor, 2,000 rural youth have received training and mentorship. Program participants demonstrate greater work readiness and have more success in generating an income than their peers.
- In India and the Philippines, youth demonstrated an increase in positive assets such as constructive use of time, commitment to learning, and connections to family and community as a result of participating in EDC programs.
- In Somalia, to date 23 NGOs, businesses and government agencies list employment or work experience opportunities for registered youth through a job match program; EDC is piloting innovative audio programs on financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

Approach

More than 120 million young people worldwide lack basic education, have limited life and job skills, and are unengaged in governance and civil society. Helping young people find their way to meaningful employment and engagement in civic life will provide significant dividends to young people and their nations in the years and generations to come.

We believe that youth are assets to their communities and valuable contributors to the social fabric and economic life of developing countries. EDC assists with the development of youth policy; builds the capacity of youth-serving organizations; and engages youth directly in creating, implementing, and leading youth-focused programs.

We support formal and non-formal education programs and expand opportunities for participation in social activities that allow young people to express their views; gain organizational skills; and engage in healthy, constructive activities.

We promote livelihood strategies that combine real work experiences with access to knowledge and improved skills. We build linkages between employers and education and training providers to establish transparent, easy-to-access job information.
My Story: Musa

As a child bouncing from school to school, his parents not making school fee payments, Musa Hassan Dek never imagined all that change would lead to a brighter future. With social skills learned from meeting so many new people and work readiness skills learned through the Garissa Youth Project (G-Youth), Musa has changed his life for the better and is doing the same for his native Garissa, Kenya.

“This program helped me discover myself and have faith in myself,” says Musa of G-Youth, an EQUIP3 project. That was exactly what Musa needed upon his return to Garissa from Mombasa, where despite his education Musa spent a lot of idle time. He expected more of the same in Garissa, where many of his fellow youth have been idle.

Musa entered the G-Youth work readiness program, where he learned resume writing, interviewing skills, and how much he has going for him. Helping care for a baby left at Garissa’s Child Rescue Centre where he volunteered, Musa felt the need to give back to his community. Inspired by the story of Wangari Maathai, Musa helped launch the Garissa Environmental Movement, which now numbers almost 200. He also landed a job selling loans and accounts at Barclays Bank. Musa now has little idle time, which is just how he would have it.

EDC is the lead implementing agency of the Educational Quality Improvement Program 3 (EQUIP3): Learning and Earning for Out-of-School Youth. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), EQUIP3 helps countries engage and prepare out-of-school youth for their roles within the world of work, civil society, and family life.

• The EQUIP3 leader award conducts research, designs programs, and disseminates best practices and lessons learned.

• Associate awards are projects in the field funded by USAID Missions that target at-risk youth. To date, there are 13 active projects in 12 countries and regions: Eastern Europe, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Kosovo, Mali, the Philippines, Rwanda, Somalia, and the West Bank.