

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH



COMPLEX PROBLEM:

Nearly half of the world's billion-plus youth population is locked in a state of poverty due to unemployment, underemployment and an overall lack of economic opportunity. This reality has implications for both individuals and entire societies. The United Nations reports that countries with a youth population above 30 percent are at higher risk of violence and political or social unrest. With few opportunities, many youth are forced to migrate. These young people often fall victim to hazardous labor and human trafficking, or are lured into criminal activity and violent extremism.

INTEGRATED SOLUTION:

Because there is no simple solution to providing opportunities for upward mobility for the world's young people, Winrock takes a multi-layered approach. Around the globe, we partner with communities, businesses, educators and governments to help youth develop confidence and gain access to resources that enable them to transition to adulthood and careers.

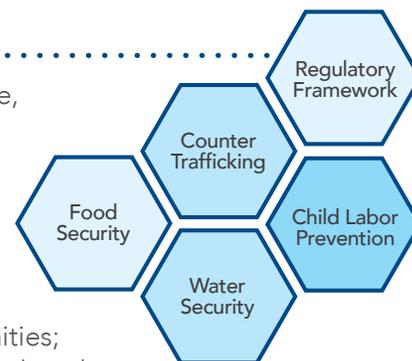




Creating an enabling environment

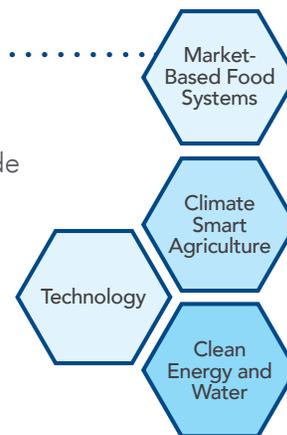
A critical factor in whether youth, especially the most vulnerable, are able to grow and thrive is the enabling environment. An effective enabling environment has many actors, and Winrock works with all of them, from individuals and families to communities and businesses to local and national governments. Our work helps:

- Raise awareness about promising markets, workforce development needs and non-exploitative labor opportunities;
- Offer relevant employment and self-employment training directly to youth and their households;
- Mobilize communities to address issues of child labor and human trafficking so that youth can avoid exploitative labor situations;
- Build capacity of service providers such as vocational training centers and financial institutions to increase youth access to services and business capital; and
- Assist governments as they devise and adopt youth-friendly laws and policies.



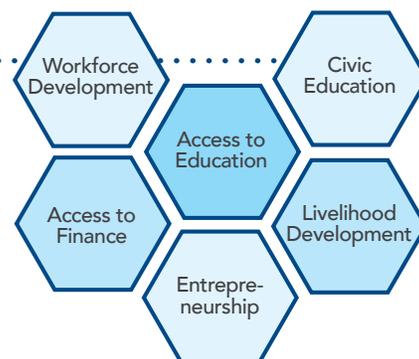
Expanding economic opportunities

Winrock's market-based approach to unlocking economic opportunity begins with an assessment of the demand for goods and services. With that knowledge, we then partner with established market actors to provide youth with the workforce skills, entrepreneurial literacy and professional networks they need to meet genuine demands and earn income.



Strengthening self-efficacy

To build a better future for themselves and their communities, young people need confidence to pursue education, training, careers and business opportunities. Winrock establishes safe spaces where youth can test new ideas and hone their skills. For example, model farm schools, innovation hubs and mentoring clubs offer important hands-on learning experiences while promoting interaction with role models and peers. Through these interactions, youth also gain life skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership.





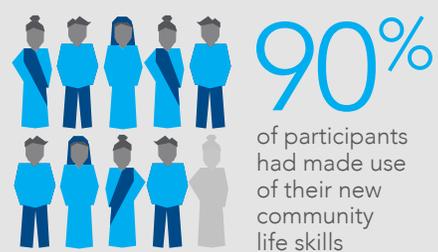
SUCCESS:



In Nepal, marginalized groups such as ethnic minorities, women and members of lower castes are regularly excluded from education and training opportunities. In response, Winrock combined literacy and life skills education with technical and vocational training to help 54,000 youth (81 percent women) hone their skills in high-value agriculture, while over 8,000 youth earned off-farm income. Three months after course completion, 83 percent of graduates had obtained jobs or started on a path toward self-employment.



In partnership with Kenya's government, Winrock helped 99,050 youth obtain identification cards. This allowed them to apply for training programs, jobs and loans. Winrock also helped mobilize youth to plant 1.2 million tree seedlings in a fragile watershed. In return, youth gained access to arable land they could use to jump-start their livelihoods.



After just a few months in Winrock's agriculture-focused women's empowerment course in Bangladesh, 90 percent of participants had made use of their new community life skills, more than 28,000 women had applied improved technologies or management practices, and 18,500 women had accessed credit for productive uses.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES:

Winrock's integrated solutions are rooted in the following principles:



Results-Focused

We measure our success in terms of impact by delivering direct, demonstrable results.



Human-Centered

Our solutions are developed and sustained by the people they are designed to serve.



Science-Based

We apply the best available science to solve development problems. When key evidence is missing, we conduct our own research to find it.



Market-Driven

Our solutions are rooted in long-term economic viability. We provide business training as well as access to markets and finance in the communities we serve.

Winrock's integrated solutions incorporate the following tools and processes:

Evidence

Research and Analytics

Data Visualization and Analysis

Capacity

Leadership Development, Training, Advising and Mentoring

Youth Development and Empowerment of Women and Girls

Shared Vision

Communications, Policy and Advocacy

Community Organizing

Partnerships

Coalition-Building

Public-Private Partnerships and Finance

