

A blue-tinted background image showing a group of people's hands reaching towards the center, with papers and sticky notes scattered around, suggesting a collaborative workshop or meeting.

# SKILLS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR **YOUTH** EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AREA OF GLOBAL DISTINCTIVENESS

# PROBLEMS WE'RE FACING

**1.8 BILLION**

people (under the age of 25) possess the potential to drive unprecedented social and economic progress (S4YE, 2015)



**3 out of 4**

of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) are *women*. They are also more likely to be unemployed in several regions (ILO, 2017)

**71 MILLION**

young people are unemployed (ILO, 2017)

**600 MILLION**

jobs are needed to absorb 71 million young people who are currently unemployed (ILO, 2015)

Our Area of Global Distinctiveness (AoGD) describes the results that we want to achieve for children and particularly for girls, the most important strategies we want to focus on as an organisation and the most important areas of work where we want to invest to build coherent, gender transformative programming.

The Skills & Opportunities for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (SOYEE) focuses on ensuring *that vulnerable and excluded young people, especially young women, are resilient and are actively engaged in decent work of their choosing, be it waged or self-employed.*

**What is our  
AoGD?**





# KEY INVESTMENT AREAS



Expanding and strengthening technical, entrepreneurial and life skills among vulnerable and excluded young people, especially young women



Promoting youth saving groups as a cornerstone for financial inclusion, resilience building and enterprise development



Working with public and private actors to enable women to compete in a 21st century labor market



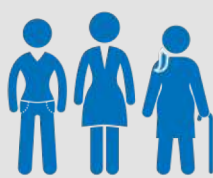
Expanding youth employment and entrepreneurship in emergencies

## OUR GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH



### Norms, Attitudes & Behaviours

- Support women's control of their income and assets, participation in training and decent work
- Work with the private sector to identify and address gender barriers
- Identify champions and mentors who can promote positive portrayals of young people and women as economic actors
- Create opportunities for young women and men to engage and practice life skills and adopt positive gender norms, attitudes and behaviors



### Social and Economic Assets and Safety Nets

- Promote peer support networks
- Support young women and men in network building
- Build bridges between the private sector and governments for training and job placement
- Give voice to young women and men to participate in labor market decision-making processes
- Developing youth- and gender-friendly financial services



### Policies, Laws & Budgets

- Influence finance ministries for resource allocation
- Generate, analyze and utilize sex-, age- and ability-disaggregated data
- Invest in gender-sensitive economic empowerment pathways that are accessible in fragile settings
- Monitor and enforce occupational health, safety and decent work conditions

# WHAT WE WISH TO ACHIEVE

## 1 Young People

Build on and **develop market-driven, relevant skills**, and pursue opportunities for decent work of their choosing.

## 2 Families and Communities

**Adopt positive norms and practices**, and support young people, especially young women, to pursue skills development and take on decent work opportunities.

## 3 Civil Society

Work with young people to **promote opportunities for skills development & decent work**, and provide and support opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship.

## 4 Private Sector

**Commit to and provide decent work opportunities and appropriate financial services** to young people, especially young women.

## 5 Government

**Develop and enforce policies and regulations** that promote youth and gender-responsive, quality, market-driven skills development, and decent work.

## 6 Training Providers

**Provide quality, relevant and accessible gender- and youth-sensitive training** for youth employment and entrepreneurship.

## 7 Global Actors

**Establish and promote gender- and youth responsive policies, standards and regulations on decent work**, and involve young people, especially young women, in decision-making processes.

# BUILDING RESILIENCE



Development of transferrable and employability skills adapted to climate change and contextual vulnerabilities



Development of business plans that adequately prepare for recovery after disasters



Defining of employment modalities during emergency and rehabilitation contexts



Promotion of Village Savings and Loan Associations to support young people and their families to withstand shock and disaster

## GLOBAL INFLUENCING PRIORITIES

PRIORITY

1

**GIRLS &  
YOUNG  
WOMEN  
IN CRISIS**

Girls and young women's rights in crisis contexts are upheld and they benefit equitably from access to goods, service and opportunities for economic empowerment.

Stakeholders prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence against girls and young women in crisis contexts, in addition to prioritizing their economic empowerment and access to livelihood opportunities.

PRIORITY

2

**SAFE SPACES  
FOR GIRLS  
AND YOUNG  
WOMEN**

Plan International will contribute towards stronger knowledge and mechanisms to ensure the safety and empowerment of young women in and around the workplace.

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls.

We believe in the power and potential of every child. But this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it's girls who are most affected. Working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children.

We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood. And we enable children to prepare for – and respond to – crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge.

We have been building powerful partnerships for children for over 80 years, and are now active in more than 71 countries.



Plan International  
International Headquarters  
Dukes Court, Duke Street, Woking,  
Surrey GU21 5BH, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1483 755155

[info@plan-international.org](mailto:info@plan-international.org)

To learn more about our actions for children and young people, visit [www.plan-international.org](http://www.plan-international.org)

