Generation Unlimited
Connecting the world's 1.8 billion youth to opportunity
Today, 1.8 billion young people stand at the door of adulthood. They hold our shared future in their hands. Yet, across the globe, the bulk of young people, especially young women, have limited opportunity to shape their own futures. Nearly 260 million young people aged 15-24 are not in employment, education or training (NEET) — two-thirds of whom are young women. Further, 96.8% of young workers in developing countries have jobs in the precarious informal sector.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the deepening learning crisis and widened the global digital divide and skills gaps, particularly in low-income countries and for young women. Internet penetration rate is only 14 percent for women in the Least Developed Countries. Further, female job loss rates due to the pandemic were nearly twice that for males.

As countries shift to educational and economic recovery and “building back better,” there needs to be a focus on (re)skilling youth, especially young women, to prepare them for the transition to work.

Generation Unlimited (GenU) is the world’s first Public-Private-Youth partnership with a mission to skill and connect the world’s 1.8 billion youth to opportunities.

Since its launch at the United Nations General Assembly by the UN Secretary-General in 2018, GenU has reached over 220 million youth, with over 3000 partners, across 47 countries with skilling, employment, entrepreneurship, and social impact opportunities.
Pathways to Opportunity

GenU skills and connects young people to opportunities for entrepreneurship, employment and social impact which contributes to SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13 and 17.

To prepare youth for the world of work and active citizenship, GenU focuses on developing the skills and mindsets required for success and well-being. Once young people have the skills, GenU connects them to employment, entrepreneurship and social impact opportunities via career guidance, job-tech, internships, volunteering and apprenticeship programs.

With both the world of education and work becoming increasingly digital, it is imperative that disadvantaged young people have access to the internet to take full advantage of the educational and employment solutions and opportunities that are available.

Kateryna, 16, Druzhkivka, Ukraine.
By 2025, the aim is to reach 300 million youth (at least 50% women) with opportunities in four impact areas: skills and employment, entrepreneurship, social impact and connectivity, with cross-cutting focus on digital and green skills & solutions.

GenU will contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) via scalable initiatives for young people, particularly young women, with a focus on 21st century skills for the evolving nature of work including transferable skills, digital skills, and job skills for future-fit sectors such as climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy. Further, GenU will pioneer measurement work with experts to assess the long-term impact of skilling, employment, entrepreneurship and social impact opportunities on the lives of young people.

SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT
- Skill youth for improved employability
- Create pathways from skilling to certification to career guidance & jobs
- Connect youth to mentorship, internship & employment opportunities

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- Build entrepreneurial mindsets & skills
- Enable young people to start ventures through mentorship, incubation, and access to finance and networks
- Support an enabling policy environment & ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship

SOCIAL IMPACT
- Empower young people as agents of change online and offline including through large-scale
- Volunteer, civic engagement and social impact programs
- Youth-led campaigns

CONNECTIVITY
- Connect schools, communities, and young people to the internet through the Giga project and zero-rating data
- Scale open-source software through the Digital Public Goods Alliance

+ 300 Million
+ 65 Million
+ 30 Million
+ 125 Million

Hun, 16, Rattankiri, Cambodia.
Frank, 16, Mangochi, Malawi.
Partnering with youth as leaders and change-makers

GenU is committed to engaging young people as equal partners and harnessing their ability to drive purposeful action and create unique solutions to the world’s biggest problems. Special emphasis is on empowering the most marginalized youth including girls and young women, young people with disabilities, young migrants and refugees and those who are poorest. The dynamic Young People’s Action Team of over 50 youth leaders and its worldwide youth network guides the partnership. Further, GenU is constantly reviewing and updating ways to engage and mobilise youth by:

- elevating youth voices by enabling youth to self-organize as advocates and providing them with the platform to be heard both online and offline to affect programs and policy change.
- supporting youth leadership via mentorship, training and access to resources, and participation of youth in GenU governance and staffing at global and local levels.
- fostering youth action by co-creating initiatives with young people, investing in youth-led solutions and partnering with youth-led organizations to advance GenU’s mission.

In line with GenU’s 2022-2025 Strategy, programming will particularly focus on the most marginalized, including young migrants and refugees, young people with disabilities, and especially young women. Adolescent girls will acquire market-relevant education and skills including STEAM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), and will be equipped for jobs in the digital and green economies. Young women will be supported as leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs. They will have access to apprenticeships and internships in non-traditional sectors and female mentors and role models, and they will be matched with jobs that go beyond traditional gender roles and meet their aspirations. GenU programs will also support policy change and positive social norms to enable equality of opportunity and choice for young women, so they can fulfill their potential while helping to drive economic and social progress in their communities, countries and our world.

Youth Voice
Youth Leadership
Youth Action
Youth Powered Impact

Enabling equality of opportunity and choice for the most disadvantaged, especially young women

Bharti, 20
Rajasthan, India.
Passport to Earning is a global digital platform for training, certification and employment, co-founded by Accenture, Microsoft and Dubai Cares, which aims to benefit 10 million young people, especially young women, in 15 countries by 2025. It builds on the success of the Learning Passport (led by UNICEF and Microsoft) identified by Time Magazine as one of the 100 best inventions of 2021.

Yoma, highlighted by former Chancellor Angela Merkel as a key innovation in the EU’s new Digital 4 Development Hub, is a youth-driven online marketplace that matches young people with individualized learning pathways, community engagement and job opportunities based on their aspirations and psychometric profile. Yoma engaged 2.2 million youth in 2021 and will engage 3 million in 2022.

Girls’ Education Skills Partnership
In collaboration with GenU as a strategic partner, the UK launched this public-private partnership in March 2022 to provide skills training for adolescent girls to help them gain sustainable employment and livelihoods. The initiative has mobilized £20 million so far from the UK government and businesses and will scale up existing programs such as GenU’s Passport to Earning program and will also implement a Challenge Fund, managed by GenU, to catalyze additional resources.

GenU Sahel was launched by the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy for Youth and the GenU CEO in November 2021. The initiative will align programs and investments – including across UN agencies - and strengthen partnerships with the private sector to connect 100 million Sahelian youth – at least 50% young women – with skilling, employment, entrepreneurship and social impact opportunities, with focus on digital and green economies.

Global Youth Agriculture Network will provide young people, especially young women, with skills and tools to become agripreneurs and strengthen agri-food systems, leveraging the power of technology. Specifically, the program will leverage KUZA, a successful mobile-first micro-learning platform and business model that skills agripreneurs, equips them with digital tools that do not need internet connection and connects them to a platform/marketplace where they can trade agriculture inputs, goods and services.

Examples of GenU’s global and regional Public-Private-Youth initiatives:

ImaGen Ventures Challenge calls on youth to create viable business solutions to contribute to achieving the SDGs. Reaching over 25 million young people in 43 countries, it has provided access to skills in leadership and entrepreneurship for the most marginalized youth.

Global Volunteer Initiative with 12 million active volunteers in 40 countries, enables young people to be agents of change and develop future-ready skills via purposeful action on a range of issues - from climate change to gender-based violence to mental health to emergency response.

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YuWaah (GenU India) was launched as a catalytic multi-stakeholder Public-Private-Youth-Partnership to: 1) engage 300 million young people as change leaders; 2) equip 200 million young people with the skills they need for the future; and 3) build pathways to jobs/entrepreneurship opportunities for 100 million young people by 2030. Since its launch in November 2019, Yuwaah has reached 20 million young people with 21st century skills, entrepreneurship, and career guidance with government and more than 100 partners including PwC, Microsoft and the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF). With PwC, Yuwaah aims to upskill 300 million youth – including at least 150 million girls/young women - over the next ten years through a digital ecosystem. As part of this ecosystem, the global digital skilling program, Passport to Earning, is being piloted to reach marginalized youth with skills and opportunities, with a focus on young women. In response to the country’s COVID-19 crisis, Yuwaah has ignited a pan-India movement of millions of “Young Warriors” who help combat COVID-19 by sharing essential resources, promoting vaccinations, and facilitating safe, online spaces for young people to talk about their struggles and challenges.

GenU Bangladesh is being steered by government ministries, UN agencies, presidents of industry associations representing more than 4000 national businesses, Civil Society Organizations and youth representatives and will reach 17 million young people, including young women and Rohingya refugees, with skills and employment opportunities by 2024. A key initiative in the GenU portfolio is digitization and scale-up of the Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) with BRAC, UNICEF, ILO, and private sector partners. The ALP is a proven best-practice apprenticeship model that provides training opportunities for disadvantaged youth, especially adolescent girls who are out-of-school and vulnerable to child marriage, and helps bring them back to the learning ladder and obtain the skills they need for decent livelihoods. GenU also aims to replicate this successful model in other countries.

GenU Kenya has been progressing under the leadership of H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta – a global GenU Leader – and is providing a platform to better coordinate and align programs and support their scale up through Public-Private-Youth partnership. Through its network of public, private and youth partners, GenU Kenya is working to promote entrepreneurship and equitable access to employment opportunities as well as modernization of the curriculum, digital learning, and ICT skills development for 30 million young people (including at least 15 million girls/young women) by 2030. An example of a Public-Private-Youth initiative in the GenU country portfolio is Yoma, a global GenU program and digital marketplace that is being adapted for the Kenya context to provide youth, including young women, with learning, earning and social impact opportunities.

GenU Brazil launched 1MiO in October 2020 to engage the private sector and other partners to provide one million learning, training and employment opportunities for young people by the end of 2022, in particular for the most vulnerable, including Afro-descendants, indigenous, young people with disabilities, and those from poor neighborhoods. The initiative is led by the Government, with UNICEF, ILO, Itaú Social, Fundação Unibanco, Fundação Roberto Marinho, United Way and young leaders. The flagship component of 1MiO is the digital platform [http://1mio.com.br](http://1mio.com.br) that enables companies to announce opportunities and young people to access them. More than 100 multi-sector partners have joined, providing over 100,000 youth with employment opportunities. This innovative model has significant potential to be replicated across Latin America and in other regions of the world.
Sample of GenU’s Leaders, Champions, Board and Global Leadership Council
Sample of GenU’s Partners

Private Sector

Governments

UN Agencies

Partnerships

Civil Society

International Financing Organizations
How You Can Drive Impact

Join our Public-Private-Youth Partnership

GenU is building on the momentum of early success by leveraging its extensive Public-Private-Youth coalitions across nearly 50 countries. To maximize impact, GenU is seeking partners across sectors to co-create, innovate and deliver programmes at a global scale.

Here is how you can get involved.

Corporations
Amplify your company’s purpose by partnering with us to provide technical, financial, in-kind and staff resources to co-create and scale initiatives and contribute to sustainable youth-powered impact.

Governments
Channel your investments, particularly on the youth agenda, through this effective PPYP so you can leverage GenU’s youth, private sector, UN agency, international financial institution, host government and civil society partners to realize your development agenda and align your investments with those of others to catalyze greater impact.

Foundations
Multiply the impact of your investments, by funding relevant GenU initiatives and combining forces with GenU partners to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Youth
There are many ways for youth to get involved and share their time, expertise and networks. Opt-in to GenU youth programmes, get equipped to champion youth issues and solutions or get involved in co-creating and implementing solutions.