



Graduate Women International (GWI)

# World Youth Skills Day 15 July 2023

"GWI's advocacy and projects dovetail with the 2023 World Youth Skills Day theme for a transformative future. Empowering young women with skills and knowledge is the key to unlocking their potential. Today, let us invest in the education, training, and mentorship of young people, equipping them with the tools they need to thrive, innovate, and lead positive change in our global society".

Patrice Wellesley-Cole, GWI President

## What is World Youth Skills Day?

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. The Day aims to emphasize the need for developing and enhancing the skills of young people to address the growing global youth unemployment crisis and foster economic growth. The Day provides an opportunity to recognize the potential and abilities of young individuals and advocate for policies and programmes that support their skill development alongside creating dialog between young people and training institutions, employers, and policymakers.

The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2023 is **Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future**. It highlights the essential role that teachers, trainers and other educators play in providing skills for youth to transition to the labour market and to actively engage in their communities and societies.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 621 million young people aged 15-24 years old are not in education, employment or training (NEET). 30% of young women are NEETs - while for young men it's 13%.
- 1 in 4 of the world's young people are on track to learn the skills they need to get a job - either through education, employment or training.
- 600 million is the number of jobs that need to be created over the next 15 years to meet youth employment needs.
- 69 million additional teachers will need to be educated and trained in the coming years to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 by 2030.

source: UNICEF, ILO and World Economic Forum

## How does education make a difference in the transition to the labour market for women and girls?



Women who want to work have a harder time finding a job than men. This problem is particularly marked in Northern Africa and the Arab States, where unemployment rates for women exceed 20%.



Hence, it is crucial for women and girls to have access to education in order to acquire the necessary skills to enter the workforce. The negative impact of prolonged unemployment is especially noticeable for women and those who have limited educational prospects.



Therefore, it is urgent to give access to qualitative education given by skilled teachers to the youth. New skills, knowledge and development of their leadership will provide them with keys to transform their future.

GWI thanks intern, Salomé DELSAUX, for her contributions to this infographic

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On World Youth Skills Day and everyday, GWI's vision is that all women and girls worldwide will attain education beyond secondary school. Since its creation in 1919, projects and programmes have been undertaken to empower women and girls, increase their safe access to quality education, and raise awareness about barriers girls and women face in education.



### GWI's actions related to World Youth Skills Day



GWI has developed various programmes to help women expand their field of competence, such as the Membership Marketplace programme. This is based on peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and connection.

In 2023, Japanese language courses are being organised, and previously, courses to improve skills such as *Information and Communication Technology Literacy* took place.

GWI is also the founder of the Teachers for Rural Future programme, that supports young women from rural Uganda to become qualified secondary school teachers and ambassadors for girls' education.

A huge number of girls are not enrolled in schools and this is partly due to a lack of women teachers. GWI's goal is to help women to become qualified and skilled secondary school teachers.

*"Equipping young people with quality education, training and skills is essential. This World Youth Skills Day reminds us that teachers stand at the forefront of this great global effort".*  
UN Secretary-General António Guterres

## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Connection to World Youth Skills Day



### SDG 4: Quality education

Ensure equal access to all young women to affordable quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university. Investing in education and skills training, creates a brighter future for women and girls worldwide, building a more prosperous and equitable communities for all.



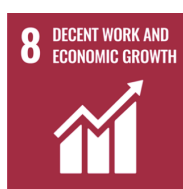
### SDG 5: Gender equality

Quality Technical and Vocational Education and Training is a tool to allow young women to obtain the skills they need to enter the labour market and make a positive impact in their communities.



### SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

Investing skills for young people reduces skills gaps and inequalities and provides vital tools to succeed in the workforce, creating sustainable societies with less inequality.



### SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. This can only be achieved by providing qualitative training and education to the youth.



## What can you do for youth on World Youth Skills Day?

### Advocacy Idea

Financially support activities and civil society organisations that manage programmes for youth to develop new skills and enter the labour market.

Investment in Technical Vocational Education and Training, broadband connectivity, and digital skills are necessary to attain the goals.

### Advocacy Idea

Raise awareness within your local communities about youth unemployment.

Promote the importance of providing young people with appropriate skills, tools and resources so that they can transform their future.

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