



Rethinking Access to Quality Education to Promote a Sustainable Economy

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

In today's world, we have greater access to information than ever before. Yet, a significant portion of the global populace has limited access or none at all. Humans thrive when they can learn and grow. This is why SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Investing in education is essential to achieve SDG 8 and promote sustained, inclusive and economic growth. Placing an emphasis on education improves our ability as a society to provide full and productive employment and decent work for all.

For example, promoting equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education increases the number of individuals who possess the necessary skills for employment and entrepreneurship. Additionally, emphasizing sustainable development, global awareness, and inclusivity throughout education will encourage sustainable progress and opportunities for all in the economy. By supporting and implementing development-oriented educational policies, we strengthen the workforce and stimulate the growth needed for a prosperous future.

Progress towards these goals has fluctuated over the years. Most notable is the impact of COVID-19, which exposed the inequalities embedded within our education and economic systems. Students in resource-scarce communities were not equipped with the proper tools to shift to a remote learning environment, which remains out of reach for over 500 million students. Vocational skill efforts also became stagnated for those looking to enter or re-enter the workforce. Additionally, the pandemic created some of the worst economic conditions since the great depression, with over 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy alone losing or at risk of losing their livelihoods.

While the negative impact of COVID-19 is evident, it has encouraged us to rethink how we can increase access to quality education and create decent work for all. Our rapidly evolving world allows for advanced solutions within both our education system and global economy.



Your Challenge


What can your company do to improve educational programs and initiatives that better prepare individuals for roles within a sustainable economy? Barriers to quality education hinder progress on SDG 8. Therefore, your solution should promote inclusion and access, and provide a direct link to improved economic output. Contemplate which economic sectors are best suited to accommodate sustainable growth and an influx of prepared workers. Further, consider how your company can utilize technology and innovation to meet these goals. Work on a solution (product, service or other) that your company could deliver, build the business case and prove that it will work, with impact!

SDG 4 and 8 at a Glance...

Be sure to explore these goals further!

Further resources to get started: [SDG 4](#) | [SDG 8](#)


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QUALITY
EDUCATION



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

BEFORE COVID-19


PROGRESS TOWARDS
**INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY
EDUCATION WAS TOO SLOW**




OVER 200 MILLION CHILDREN WILL STILL BE OUT OF SCHOOL IN 2030

INEQUALITIES IN EDUCATION ARE EXACERBATED BY COVID-19

IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES,
CHILDREN'S SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE IS




79% IN RICHEST
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS




34% IN POOREST
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS


COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



SCHOOL CLOSURES KEPT
90% OF ALL STUDENTS OUT OF SCHOOL
REVERSING YEARS OF PROGRESS ON EDUCATION

REMOTE LEARNING REMAINS
OUT OF REACH FOR
AT LEAST
500 MILLION STUDENTS





ONLY 65% OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
HAVE BASIC HANDWASHING FACILITIES
CRITICAL FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

BEFORE COVID-19

GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS SLOWING DOWN



2.0%
GDP PER CAPITA GROWTH
(2010-2018)

1.5%
GDP PER CAPITA GROWTH
(2019)



**DURING THE PANDEMIC
1.6 BILLION WORKERS
IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY
RISK LOSING THEIR LIVELIHOODS**

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



THE WORLD FACES THE WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION

GDP PER CAPITA EXPECTED TO DECLINE BY 4.2% IN 2020

TOURISM IS FACING UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS WITH COVID-19 2020 SCENARIOS



COVID-19 COULD CAUSE THE EQUIVALENT OF 400 MILLION JOB LOSSES IN SECOND QUARTER OF 2020