

# YOUTH READY

---

## for work, for life

### The Purpose

There are more youth alive today than ever before and 87 per cent of them live in developing countries. They face tremendous obstacles to finding work and transitioning safely and successfully to adulthood. Globally, youth make up about 17 per cent of the total population, but 40 per cent of the unemployed population. In Africa, they make up more than 80 per cent of the unemployed population. Today, one in four youth – over 350 million – are not in school, not employed and not in training.

Youth are in a life stage characterized by the search for an identity, place and purpose in the world. They are the future leaders, workers, and citizens of their communities and nations, but too many lack the skills to participate and contribute to society through work or service. Their assets and creative energy are at risk of being underused or channeled into destructive activities. Unemployed, out-of-school and idle, millions of youth have a negative sense of their future and are at risk for early pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide or participation in gangs, militias, trafficking groups and extremist.

Youth Ready is a new project model being developed by World Vision to bring hope to such youth. Youth Ready projects prepare out-of-school, unemployed, functionally illiterate youth for work and for life by providing second chance literacy learning, life skills training and livelihood preparation and support. It is an evidence-based, holistic, cross-sectoral approach to youth development that prepares adolescents and youth for economic opportunities and to contribute to the wider good and care for others as active, engaged citizens.



### The Model

Youth Ready is informed by and aligned with principles of Positive Youth Development, youth workforce development good practice and the World Vision Youth Livelihood and Empowerment Theory of Change. Youth Ready projects are structured around a framework called the “Viability Journey” – a two-phased sequence of learning activities and skills development for youth who are organised into mutually supportive and accountable peer cohort groups. Through a mix of training, activities, peer support, mentoring, linkages, internships, seed capital and scholarships, Youth Ready projects prepare youth to succeed both at work and in life.

## Viability Foundations

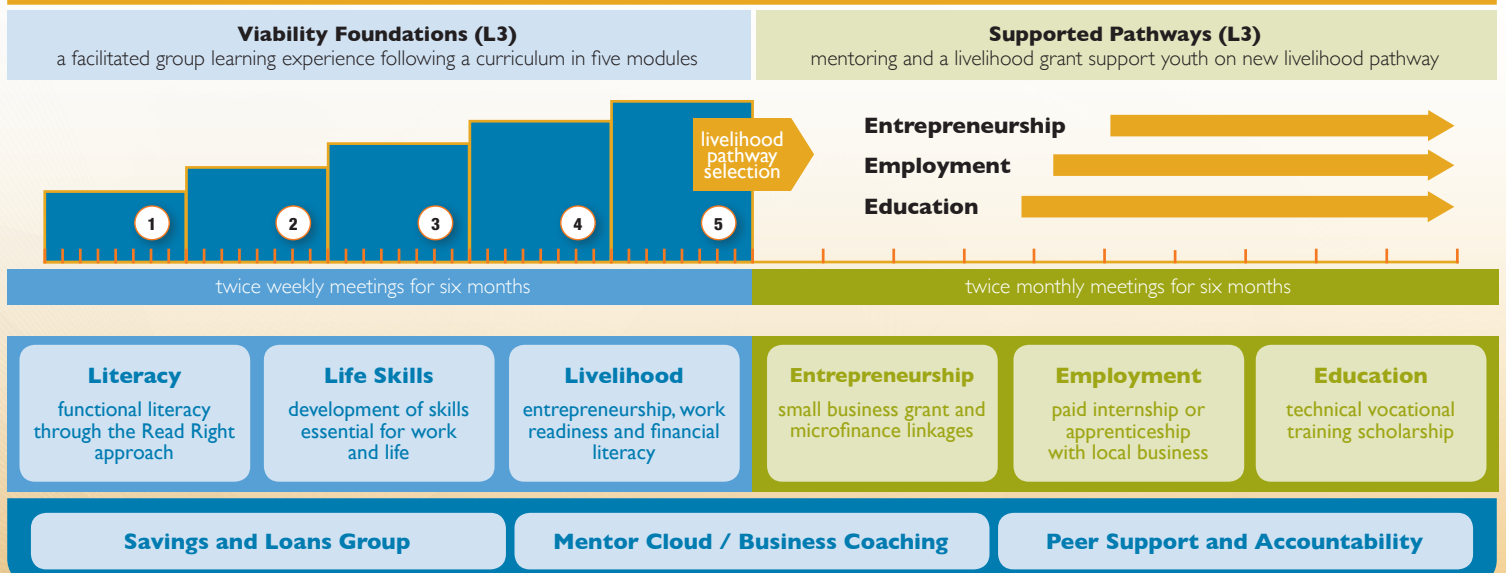
In the first phase of the *Viability Journey*, youth participate in a facilitated group learning experience using a unique curriculum developed in partnership with Aflatoun and Read Right. A group that meets three hours twice a week can complete this phase in about six months. Progress is measured through 21 competency-based assessment activities called “milestones” that demonstrate new skills. Learning activities are arranged into five modules:

- 1. Who I Am, Who We Are** focuses on positive identity, relationships, developmental assets, selecting adult mentors and establishing group bylaws and leadership.
- 2. Words and Money** focuses on financial literacy, budgeting and money management, savings and spending. The group forms a World Vision Savings Group and also begins regular Read Right literacy learning activities.
- 3. Ready for Employment** focuses on developing job acquisition and work-readiness skills like writing a CV, interviewing effectively, appropriate workplace behavior and communication, customer service and safety.
- 4. Ready for Entrepreneurship** focuses on business modeling and planning, cognitive analysis for problem-solving and decision-making, running profitable and legal businesses, and managing debt and risks.
- 5. Ready for Citizenship** focuses on valuing diversity and equality, dealing with conflict peacefully, community service, and completing and presenting individual livelihood pathway plans.

## Supported Pathways

In the second phase, activities provide accompaniment and access to youth as they launch forward on a livelihood pathway of their own design. This pathway may include one or more components of entrepreneurship, employment or education. The group meets less often, but continues to provide peer support. Adult mentors and business coaches continue to support the youth as they launch new businesses, seek employment, or return to school. Livelihood Pathway Grants support youth with seed capital for young entrepreneurs, wage support for internship and apprenticeship opportunities for young employees, and scholarships to offset tuition for those who choose to attend an institution that provides technical vocational education and training (TVET).

## One Year Viability Journey



### Contact:

Aaron Ausland | Youth Viability and Livelihood Senior Specialist  
Education and Life Skills | World Vision International  
E-mail: [Aaron\\_Ausland@wvi.org](mailto:Aaron_Ausland@wvi.org)

[www.wvi.org/education](http://www.wvi.org/education)  
[www.facebook.com/WorldVisionInternational](https://www.facebook.com/WorldVisionInternational)  
[www.twitter.com/WorldVision](https://www.twitter.com/WorldVision)