

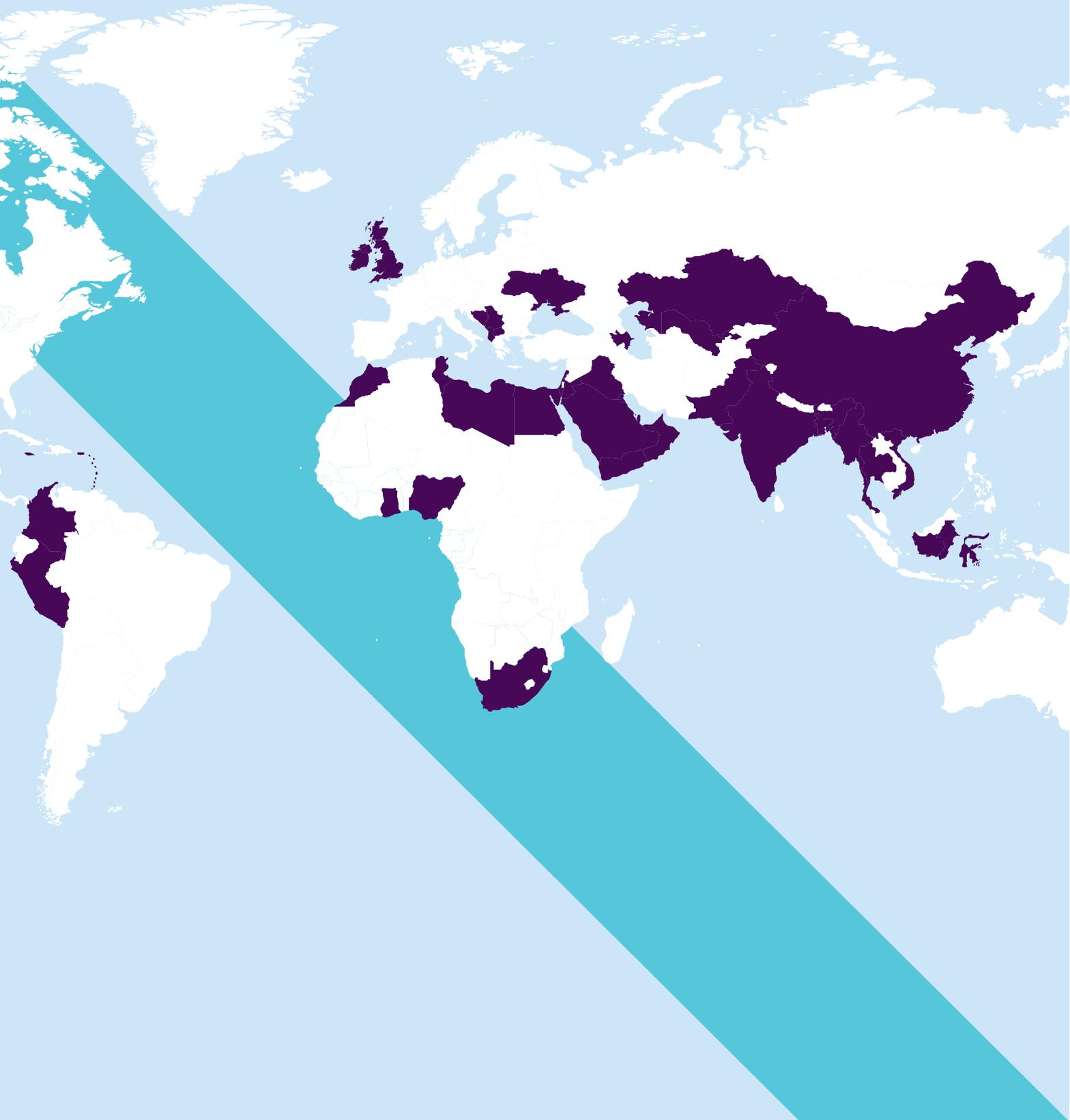
THE BRITISH COUNCIL'S WORK IN SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/skills-employability>

OUR GLOBAL REACH

We work globally in a wide range of countries, including China, Egypt, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa and Vietnam. The map below indicates countries we have recently worked with to enhance skills development and employability.



OVERVIEW

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

OUR SKILLS WORK:

- Supports economic development and the stability of developing, post-conflict and fragile states
- Improves the prospects of young people to pursue employment opportunities
- Creates opportunities for individuals to broaden their horizons and be equipped with the skills needed in today's global and multicultural world of work

We do this by encouraging closer links between education, employers and policy makers in the UK and the countries we work in. We bring international agencies, governments and skills organisations together to share challenges and solutions for their education and training systems. We continually develop our work through piloting different approaches to raise the profile and quality of skills development globally.

WHY OUR WORK IS IMPORTANT

In countries around the world, youth unemployment and skills gaps are threatening the growth of economies, the stability of societies and the wellbeing and prospects of individuals.

Never before have there been so many young people on the planet: 1.8 billion people are aged 10 to 24. That's up from 721 million people aged 10 to 24 in 1950 (UNFPA, 2014).

Yet,

The youth unemployment situation is common to all regions in the world and is happening despite improvements in average educational attainment.

In 2016 it was estimated that 71 million young people aged 15 to 24 were looking for, but were unable to, find employment (ILO, 2016).

- Governments, international organisations and donor agencies find technical education and skills training to be among the most effective interventions to improve the employment prospects for young people and to minimise skills gaps.
- The importance of skills development and employability has been recognised in the Sustainable Development Goals. These will have a profound effect on government policy and ambition until 2030. Global Goals 4 (Quality Education) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) give a prominent role to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in achieving a new sustainable development agenda.

'By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship'. Sustainable Development Goal 4, Target 4

- High quality and relevant skills provision is fundamental for building inclusive and prosperous societies. This has been emphasised in a vast number of reports and initiatives by major international organisations and governments. G20 members have repeatedly stated their commitment to investing in skills to enhance the employability and adaptability of individuals in today's increasingly globalised and changing world.
- Many countries have identified skills development as a strategic objective and are stepping up investments in technical skills. China, India, South Africa, Vietnam, Jordan and the UK are among the countries that have adopted new skills strategies and policies over the past few years.

OUR AREAS OF ACTIVITY

- Influencing people, policy and practice
- Promoting mobility, exchange and partnerships
- Building capacity

Our work is informed by how the UK skills sector continues to build on its long history of innovation in addressing its skills challenges and priorities. Engagement with and access to UK skills expertise is at the heart of our approach.



INFLUENCING PEOPLE, POLICY AND PRACTICE

In Nepal, we are delivering a four-year EC funded project to contribute to TVET sector reform. It aims to do this by enhancing the quality of TVET provision, testing innovative Public-Private Partnership approaches in three key economic sectors (agriculture, construction and tourism), and enhancing the role of the Nepal Government in TVET.

In Thailand, we brought together the Office of the Vocational Education Commission (OVEC) and UK skills expertise to embed entrepreneurial skills in the Thai vocational education curriculum. A delegation of teachers from Thailand visited Scotland where they were trained in the development, delivery and assessment of entrepreneurship integrated into TVET. This UK-Thai collaboration resulted in new entrepreneurship curriculum for Thai vocational colleges that will build a workforce with greater entrepreneurial skills.

PROMOTING MOBILITY, EXCHANGE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Our Leadership Exchange Programme connects College Principals and senior managers from South Africa and China with their equivalents in the UK, to share and develop approaches to management and leadership.

To improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people, the British Council brought together organisations in Morocco, Scotland and Wales to share expertise. Developing innovative approaches and a new pre-employment course for disadvantaged youth led to vastly improved outcomes and success rates. Piloted simultaneously in three partner countries, the course was the first of its kind in Morocco and is being rolled out nationally.

We are supporting an inventive partnership between the Isle of Wight College in the UK and KSD TVET College in South Africa. Part of the partnership project has involved business students in both colleges using technology to discuss the marketing sector in each country and share their business plans. The colleges reported that their students have a more enterprising and positive attitude as a result of taking part.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Across five countries in the Middle East and North Africa, we are working with HSBC and UK organisation Spark + Mettle to deliver a new programme named Taqaddam. This programme increases young people's employability skills, self-confidence and self-esteem.

In Egypt, in partnership with Shell, we trained more than 4,500 young people in entrepreneurship and business skills. More than 500 have since gone on to set up their own businesses.

In Iraq, in collaboration with UNESCO, we are delivering a large-scale project to build the management skills of 100 senior participants and over a thousand teachers, instructors, and trainers from TVET institutions. Funded by the EC and implemented under a wider national TVET reform programme, this work builds on our previous project on improving the quality and relevance of TVET in Iraq.

OUR OFFER



SKILLS POLICY AND RESEARCH

Policy is an integral part of our work. Through seminars, study tours and policy events, we create opportunities to share experience, lessons and good practice from the UK and explore important global skills priorities. Working with partners, we produce and share research and reports to inform policy and strategy. Our policy knowledge and expertise enables us to support national policy reform and contribute to international policy debates.

INTERNATIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIPS

We bring together and support International Skills Partnerships between organisations from the UK and overseas that deliver real, sustainable change through skills development projects. This change can be scaled-up to support national education systems and improve the life chances of hundreds of thousands of young people.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION EXCHANGE

We provide a dedicated space for skills practitioners and leaders from the UK and overseas to share experience and good practice through our online magazine 'Vocational Education Exchange'. By sharing approaches from around the world, we aim to support innovation and international collaboration.

LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Our Leadership Exchange Programme brings leaders and senior managers from TVET institutions overseas to interact with their UK counterparts. Participants develop new approaches to management and leadership, share good practice and expertise, and build cross-cultural solutions to on-going challenges.

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY

Through providing International Technical Assistance and consultancy, we combine our knowledge of UK and international good practice with our understanding of local circumstances to develop targeted solutions. We deliver education and skills reform projects across the globe, including in emerging economies and post-conflict and fragile states.

SKILLS PILOTS AND APPROACHES

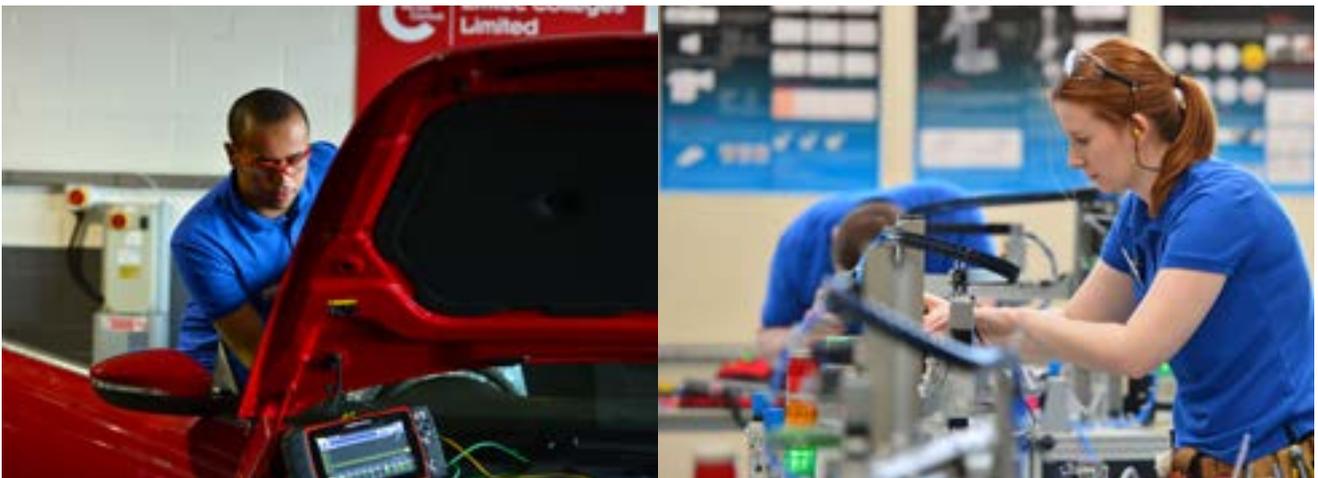
We test and deliver different approaches to skills training which are designed to support the employability of young people. The training is often delivered as part of our policy and systems reform work, so that we understand what works best in different contexts. Alongside this we have developed flexible training offers to promote global employability skills. This includes *Intercultural Fluency* training and a free online course on the skills needed to succeed in the global workplace.



THE STORY SO FAR

Through our work we have:

- Brought together more than 100 International Skills Partnerships
- Supported over 40 policy dialogues
- Worked with partners in over 50 countries
- Reached over 103 million people
- Influenced national skills policy in numerous countries
- Improved the employment prospects of young people



CONTACT US

For more information about the British Council's Skills work, visit our website

www.britishcouncil.org/education/skills-employability
or contact us at skills@britishcouncil.org

