

# TERTIARY EDUCATION & SKILLS (TES) UMBRELLA TRUST FUND

The World Bank is setting up a new Umbrella Trust Fund focused on Tertiary Education and Skills (TES). The TES Umbrella Trust Fund aims to **prepare youth and adults in low- and middle-income countries for the future of work and society**, by improving access to relevant, quality, equitable, and resilient education and training.

The vision of the TES Umbrella Trust Fund is to move towards an **integrated tertiary education and skills ecosystem**—leveraging new technology, smart financing, and flexible pathways.

The TES Umbrella Trust Fund will help to address:



## THE CHALLENGES FACING TERTIARY EDUCATION AND SKILLS SYSTEMS

- The **changing nature of work**—accelerated by **the COVID-19 pandemic**—has prompted more focus on digital, advanced cognitive, and socioemotional skills, but over 2.1 billion adults struggle with basic literacy and numeracy.
- **Lack of skilled workforce** is an increasing bottleneck for employers: 23% of firms in low- and middle-income countries cite workforce skills as a major constraint to operations.
- With **barriers to equitable and inclusive access**, enrollment in tertiary education remains low in low-income countries, despite high returns, and learning has been **disrupted by COVID-19**.
- The **quality, relevance, and affordability** of TES institutions **varies considerably** within and across countries.



## THE OPPORTUNITIES INHERENT IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AND SKILLS SYSTEMS

- **Tertiary education and skills systems are a driver of major development agendas**, including human capital, climate change, youth and women's empowerment, and jobs and economic transformation.
- **These systems can transform countries' development trajectories** by building the skills base for greener jobs and the digital economy.
- **COVID-19 propelled faster adoption of digital technologies**, including remote learning and artificial intelligence, in education and training delivery.

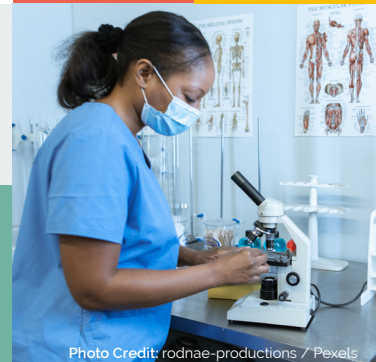


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## AN INTEGRATED AND EXTENDED REACH TO ACHIEVE HIGHER IMPACT

With a US\$5 billion portfolio of tertiary education and skills training investments in over 50 countries, the World Bank is uniquely positioned to **develop new insights and innovative approaches** combining country, regional, and global knowledge and data, as well as facilitate **strong coordination of fundraising efforts**. The World Bank is **seeking new partners**—bilateral agencies, private foundations, and private sector companies—who would like to **leverage their investments**, and **achieve higher impact** on the global tertiary education and skills development agenda, by combining their contributions and engaging with each other through the governance of the TES Umbrella Trust Fund.

## STRUCTURE OF THE TES UMBRELLA TRUST FUND

TES PILLARS	TES ACTIVITIES	OUTCOMES
<p><b>PILLAR 1</b> Higher Education</p> <p><b>PILLAR 2</b> Formal Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)</p> <p><b>PILLAR 3</b> Youth and Adult Learning</p>	<p>The World Bank develops and disseminates Global Public Goods</p> <hr/> <p>The World Bank provides Country and Regional Support</p>	<p><b>01</b>   Advanced 21st century skills and employability</p> <p><b>02</b>   Intensified research, innovation, and adaptation</p> <p><b>03</b>   Greater equity and inclusion</p> <p><b>04</b>   Stronger foundations of governance, financing, and quality assurance</p> <p><b>05</b>   Improved use of transformative technological tools</p>

### RECENT RESOURCES FOR POLICYMAKERS AND PARTNERS ON TERTIARY EDUCATION AND SKILLS

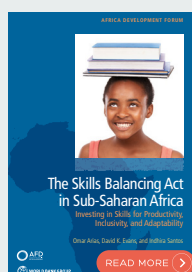
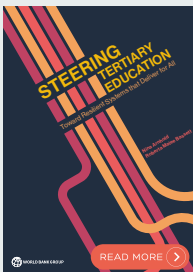


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## THE SCALE OF POTENTIAL TES IMPACT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH WORLD BANK PROJECT EXAMPLES:

### AFRICA

The Africa Centers of Excellence (ACE) Projects (US\$580 million) support 70+ centers in 20 countries in Africa, so far having trained 14,000+ Masters and PhD students (30% women) in sciences.

### BANGLADESH

The Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP) (US\$190 million) improved training quality and employability of 700,000+ trainees, increasing female enrollment by 540%.

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Youth Development Project (US\$25 million) trained 38,000+ at-risk youth (60% women) in vocational and life skills, producing positive impacts on formal employment and earnings.



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