



YouthCan! IN A NUTSHELL

YouthCan! is a global initiative that supports young people who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it, on their journey to decent work and independent life. By mobilising employees, activating their networks and providing expertise, corporates are making a measurable impact in the lives of young people around the globe whilst efficiently working to reduce youth unemployment. Through YouthCan!, corporates are able to reinforce their Corporate Social Responsibility and become direct actors, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



The risk of labor market and social exclusion is especially high for young people at risk of losing parental care or who have already lost it. They lack support networks and positive role models, employability skills training and work experience. Young people, who grow up without the care of their families, often leave the care system ill-equipped to compete effectively on the labor market. Many of them are unemployed, pursue precarious employment conditions and are exposed to a high risk of poverty.

60 % of young people leaving SOS Children's Villages' family-based care programmes are self-reliant. One of SOS Children's Villages' strategic ambitions is to raise this number to 90 % by 2030.

The objective

YouthCan! follows the successful [GoTeach](#) global partnership model of SOS Children's Villages - Deutsche Post DHL Group and aims to:

- **Create direct opportunities for young people**, empowering them through training, mentorship and work experience, to better transition into stable employment;
- **Build** an action-centred **practitioners network** of existing and new corporate partners, to visibly increase the measurable impact of corporate partnerships on youth unemployment and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- **Create evidence-based research** that can be shared to improve youth employability practices on national and global level;
- **Inspire** and invite other global and local actors to replicate the model.

Digital Platform

In the frame of this project, SOS Children's Villages also offers **YouthLinks**, a digital platform through which young people and mentors can connect, share materials, create networks and support each other. Based on Facebook Workplace, this tool helps us reach young people from remote communities, while breaking geographical and time barriers. The corporate partners will be able to digitally connect with the young people, supporting them online via chat, videoconferencing, online calls, and sharing materials to better prepare them for the job market.



Who benefits from this initiative?

- The initiative is developed for **young people between 15-24 years** of age who are currently participating in SOS programmes. When possible, young people from local communities and other child care organisations will also be offered the opportunity to join the initiative. Each country will be able to adapt the age group within this range and offer opportunities to young people in the upper age group;
- Experience has shown that **employees of the corporate partners** are more motivated and loyal towards the company after participating in such programmes. In addition, technical skills such as presentation and mentoring skills are improved. The volunteers get an insight into future generations and a deeper knowledge of the society that surrounds them, contributing to opening their mind-set;
- By partnering with YouthCan!, **corporates** are able to reinforce their CSR and presence not only in their home country, but also abroad, strengthening new markets. They will become direct actors, contributing to the achievement of the **SDGs**. Corporates also get visibility in an innovative project, joint communication materials from all partners and data reports provided by our digital platform.

How can you contribute to YouthCan!

- Giving your **employees** the opportunity to take an **active part** in the initiative through volunteering opportunities and time.
- Facilitating mentors and guides for the young people in our programmes, providing **expertise** and core competence;
- Becoming part of formulating the global initiative **YouthCan!** and its way forward.



Providing **resources** to the programme in the form of:

- Volunteers'/ employees' time, sharing of opportunities for apprenticeships, workplace exposure to youth;
- Financial resources for the management of the platform, enabling it to grow and reach more young people in more countries;
- Connecting and giving access to **networks of individuals** and other organizations to increase the visibility of **YouthCan!**;
- Giving SOS programmes an **insight into the labour market** in the country, so we can ensure that our initiatives stay relevant, be it on blue or white collar level;
- Contribute with different experience on **CSR practices**;
- Provide **career opportunities for youth** involved in the programmes, matching the needs of the youth and capabilities of the corporates in the countries.



In a nutshell, our corporate partners lend us their employees for a variety of activities to support the young people in our programmes, while evidently and measurably contributing to the SDGs. The activities are jointly developed by our local counterparts to ensure accuracy and relevance for the current labour market trends. Tools for joint planning and recommendations for successful activities will be shared.

For engaging with us please contact: youthcan@sos-kd.org