

# EDUCATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## EDUCATION IS KEY TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Education is critical for achieving effective, sustained climate action. At the same time, climate change is adversely impacting education outcomes. As the largest financier of education and the largest multilateral funder of climate action in the developing world, the World Bank seeks to harness the power of education for climate change mitigation and adaptation.



## WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

- **Education is the single strongest predictor of climate change awareness.** Mainstreaming climate education will change mindsets and behaviors on climate—not just for students but also for their parents, communities and governments. This will also help foster better preparedness and resilience to climate shocks among entire populations.
- **At the same time, the climate crisis is adversely impacting education access and learning.** Extreme weather events, made more frequent and severe by climate change, jeopardize schooling, learning and wellbeing. These impacts are disproportionately borne by poorer students.
- **Investments in education can play a huge role in building climate resilience and advancing climate mitigation and adaptation.** Climate change education gives young people greater awareness of climate risks and more access to tools and solutions for addressing these risks and managing related shocks. Technical and vocational education and training can also accelerate a green economic transformation by fostering green skills and innovation. Greening education infrastructure can help mitigate the impact of heat, pollution, and extreme weather on learning, while helping address climate change.



## WHAT IS THE WORLD BANK'S APPROACH TO EDUCATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

- 1 **Mainstream climate education for mindset and behavior change,** which will spur climate action and foster better preparedness and resilience to climate shocks.
- 2 **Foster green skills for a transition to a more sustainable future,** by building in-demand skills for a greener economy at all education levels, but especially in upper secondary and post-secondary education.
- 3 **Support research and innovation,** through dedicated research grants and training of graduate students and academic staff on technologies, processes and policies contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 4 **Invest in 'greening' education infrastructure,** by building or rehabilitating for green designs, climate-resilient materials and energy efficiency.
- 5 **Strengthen community resilience to climate's impacts on education,** by empowering families to recover faster and with fewer impacts on their schooling when facing climate-related shocks.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

**NIGERIA:** The [Nigeria Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment](#) (\$500M) is supporting school-based life skills training for girls that will cover issues on climate change. This includes raising awareness and teaching adaptation approaches and skills to respond to climate change. The project also encourages social and behavioral change by supporting student-led community activities to increase climate change awareness.

**VIETNAM:** The [Vietnam University Development project](#) (\$301M) is directly fostering scientific research in the areas of renewable energy, energy engineering, environmental and climate change, and high-tech agriculture. The project is supporting the creation of interdisciplinary research groups, and collaboration on research and technology transfer with national and international institutions, industry and government agencies.

**BANGLADESH:** The [Multipurpose Disaster Shelters Project](#) (\$375M) is constructing and retrofitting schools to serve as cyclone shelters, to reduce the vulnerability of the coastal population to natural disasters. The project has constructed or rehabilitated over 1,000 shelters and 550 kilometers of emergency access roads.

