

Evaluating and embedding green principles into TVET in Sri Lanka



People 1st and the British Council worked together to address the global importance of environmental conservation and sustainability through incorporating eco-friendly principles, referenced as “green” principles, into technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes in Sri Lanka.

Background

Sri Lanka is among the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots. It is also among the 10 most countries affected by climate change. Extreme weather events including droughts and floods, intensify competition for resources, increased human activities threaten the survival of many species and fast disappearing natural habitats continue to lead to devastating consequences on its natural environment.

With these impacts of climate change, it is important for businesses and education to adopt sustainable business delivery and education to develop right skills in supporting sustainability in business delivery. The Sri Lankan government identified this demand and was keen on benchmarking their current national standards in skills training and education.

Our solutions

We supported the state skills sector to adopt green standards and practices to become globally compliant and industry relevant by aligning TVET programmes with environmental principles.

Our solutions included:

- Mapping to understand the current green principles embedded in the skills curriculum and occupational standards in selected sectors. This included benchmarking to UK and international standards and a gap analysis in standards and frameworks.
- Proposing areas for policy and strategic intervention to strengthen the adoption of green principles into skills provision
- Capacity building through an online professional development programme for teachers and trainers. The programme involved two stages: online knowledge training and hands-on skills training. The goal was to create a network of master trainers capable of disseminating green education across TVET institutions.
- A comprehensive Code of Practice tailored to Sri Lanka's context. This code provided guidelines for integrating green skills into curricula across different education levels.

Outcome

The intervention has helped to foster a culture of sustainability in Sri Lanka's education system. By equipping educators with the knowledge and skills required for green education and by providing clear guidelines for institutions, it has developed the capacity to embed and practice green principles in education and training and created a sustainable and scalable approach. Moreover, the skills sector has been supported to stay industry relevant in facilitating the transition for young people from education to employment with specific knowledge on green principles, contributing to a more sustainable future.