

COUNTRY CONTEXT:

Ghana:

In Ghana, WUSC programming focuses on strengthening the capacity of partner organizations in the Greater Accra Region. This region is experiencing fast population growth and the emergence of new peri-urban areas. This trend presents both opportunities and challenges to youth economic empowerment, as many young women are not well equipped with the skills and knowledge to engage with burgeoning economic opportunities. WUSC volunteers working in a variety of roles will support partner organizations such as Council for Technical and Vocational Educational Training (COTVET), Savanna Institute for Innovative Finance (SAIIF), Association of Building & Civil Engineers of Ghana (ABCDGE), and Artisanal Association of Ghana (AAG) to address these challenges and opportunities in Ghana.

Malawi:

In Malawi, WUSC programming focuses on strengthening the capacity of partner organizations in the central and southern regions of the country, each of which have young populations and a high concentration of poverty. Owing in part to a weak formal labour market, entrepreneurship offers one of the most promising pathways for the employment and empowerment of young women in Malawi. WUSC volunteers will work with partner organizations such as mHub, Associated Center for Agro-based Development (ACADES), and National Youth Council of Malawi (NYCOM) to develop gender-responsive approaches, and opportunities for entrepreneurship for youth, including locally viable durable solutions for young refugees.

Sri Lanka:

In Sri Lanka, WUSC programming focuses on supporting organizations based in and around Colombo, particularly those with branch offices in the northern, eastern, and southern regions. Youth unemployment rates remains high in the country, especially among young women and rural youth. Program volunteers will work with partner organizations such as Lanka Impact Investment Network (LIIN) and Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) to strengthen the youth employment and social enterprise ecosystems to enable improved and more inclusive employment related services for youth, in particular young women.

Vietnam:

In Vietnam, WUSC programming will support organizations primarily based in Hanoi, but with programming that is national in scope, working to strengthen the employment and entrepreneurship ecosystems in the country for marginalized young women. Over the past 30 years, Vietnam's political and economic reforms have contributed to impressive socio-economic progress in the country; however, marginalized groups continue to face numerous barriers in securing meaningful employment. WUSC volunteers will work with partner organizations such as Vietnam Association of Community Colleges (VACC), Institute for Development and Community Health (LIGHT), and Women's Initiative for Start-ups and Entrepreneurship (WISE) to support market-driven skills development and strengthen the ecosystem that supports women-led social enterprise start-ups, particularly for ethnic minorities and internal migrants.