



# Industrial Workers Go Digital

## Strengthening Digital Skills for Young Women in Quảng Nam, Vietnam

### Background

Vietnam is experiencing rapid development in its digital sector. 80% of the population has a smartphone (according to various studies). The Ministry of Information and Communications aims to continue supporting this increase. The Information and Communications Technology sector is expanding, and provides new opportunities. However, workers are not sufficiently trained to meet these needs. This is even more pronounced for low-skilled workers, creating a growing digital gap between those who are able to acquire these skills and those who are too far away.

Indeed, digital skills are a key factor for economic and social integration and empowerment of youth. Disparities in access to digital skills learning are therefore a factor of social inequalities. Moreover, inequalities in access to digital skills are rooted in entrenched social inequalities. Access to digital skills is lower in rural areas, and women tend to have less access than men, due to traditional gender norms that confine them more to care and domestic life.

### Project Activities

In addition to strengthening young women's digital skills in the rural area of Quảng Nam province, the Industrial Workers Go Digital (IWGD) project also aims to strengthen civil society organisations in building digital skills and awareness among youth to accelerate an inclusive digital transformation in Vietnam.

The project targets young people before they migrate to work in industrial zones (IZs), by working on digital education with school teachers in Nam Giang district, so that young students in formal schools in the district are better educated on information and technology through improved digital education curriculum and extracurricular activities. Nam Giang district is one of the 62 poorest districts of Vietnam, with a poverty rate of 44.34%. It is also one of Quảng Nam's mountainous districts with the largest number of young people moving to work in IZs.

### Project objectives

Strengthen young women's digital skills in the rural area of Quảng Nam Province before and after joining the labour force in the industrial zones to improve their prospects for a better education and access to decent work.

### Key project figures

- Project duration: 04/2024 - 04/2027
- Project location: Tam Ky city, Nam Giang district and Dien Ban district, Quang Nam province
- 500 young migrant workers in industrial zones of Quảng Nam.
- 350 students of Quang Nam vocational training school in Tam Ky and To Huu high school in Nam Giang.
- 250 young ethnic minority women from the Cotu and Gie-Trieng ethnic groups in Nam Giang.
- 60 government officials and mass organisations.
- 30 staff of the Women's Union of Quang Nam province.
- 30,000 industrial workers in the province.

IWGD also deals with informal education among ethnic minority communities, to ensure that young women have strengthened digital capacities before joining the labour force in the IZs.

Meanwhile, the project is engaging with workers (mostly women) in the IZs of Dien Ban district (a district with high concentration of IZs), in collaboration with the Women's Unions, ensuring that young migrant IZ workers strengthen their technical skills and gain confidence through the improvement of social and digital skills and networking capacities.

The Women's Union will strengthen their digital capacity building when their members become trainers after joining the Training of Trainers course. In the meantime, digital content will be better integrated in the formal and informal education, and generated in high schools in Quảng Nam province.



### EXPECTED RESULTS

- **Result 1:** Students at high schools and Quang Nam vocational school learn information technology better through improving the teaching and learning of information technology subjects and extracurricular activities
- **Result 2:** Young ethnic minority women in the community have their digital capabilities enhanced through free online training courses before joining the workforce in industrial zones.
- **Result 3:** Young workers in industrial zones, including female workers, have increased technical access and confidence through improvement of social, networking and digital skills.
- **Result 4:** Digital capacity and facilitation skills of Provincial Women's Union officials are enhanced; at the same time, digital content is better integrated into curricula and supplementary courses in high schools in Quang Nam province.



**Intersectional Approach:** The project takes a "gender and development" approach, i.e. it will be aware of the power dynamics in digital education of men and women targets. Emphasis will be placed on empowerment opportunities provided by digital technologies, while remaining vigilant about online gender-based violence. This is why the gender approach also intersects with a youth and inclusive approach, since the aim is to make vulnerable young men and women actors in their own education and empowerment

**Technical Partner:**



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**FUNDED BY:**



*'This publication was co-funded by the European Union and the French Development Agency . Its contents are the sole responsibility of GRET and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and the French Development Agency'.*

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