Module 4: Towards green jobs and a green economy
What will you learn in this module?

What is the green economy and what are green jobs?

How can a transition to a green economy help address issues relating to occupational air pollution?

How can a just transition be achieved to ensure no unintended consequences?
What is the green economy and what are green jobs?
The green economy is an economy that is *low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive.*
“Green jobs

Decent jobs that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

ILO 2016"
Green transition and job implications

Source: Making the “Green Transition” work for labor markets
Socio-economic considerations of a transition

- What are new technologies that are required for the transition?
- What are new regulatory frameworks and economic incentives for the transition?
- Do environmental drivers > socio-economic drivers for the transition?
- What are new skills that are required for the transition?
- Who gets left behind in the transition?
Inclusive green jobs

Prisoners trained as Solar Cell Technicians integrated with career and soft skill development support

Profits re-invested into:
1) Technician Training at Prisons
2) Additional support services to solar technicians

The Social Solar Company is contracted by Clients to install Solar PV Units and deliver O&M Services (Revenue Generation)

Ex-Prisoners employed as Technicians by the Social Solar Company

Trained Prisoners employed as Technicians for Installation, O&M of Solar PV Units at Prisons
How can a transition to a green economy help address issues relating to occupational air pollution?
Green transitions in transport

What do green transitions look like?
• Shift to EV mass transit, taxis, tuktuks, and motorbikes

What are relevant policies?
• Promote walking and cycling
• Promote mass transit e.g. through subsidised fares
• Raise costs of private vehicle ownership e.g. higher parking fees, and end fuel subsidies

What are the challenges for informal transport workers?
• E.g. tuktuks and jeepneys
• Are vehicle costs affordable?
• Do drivers have the maintenance skills?

Who else will get benefits?
• Benefit to other outdoor workers e.g. street vendors and street sweepers
Green transitions in agriculture

Key source of agricultural emissions: Agricultural burning e.g. post-harvest stalks or for harvesting of cane sugar

Agricultural workers: Most of these workers in Asia are informal

Dealing with Agricultural waste

- Composting, using biodigesters, ploughing to deal with agricultural waste products
- Providing skills training and opportunities to monetise these techniques e.g. selling compost

Sustainable agriculture

- Ensuring more sustainable agriculture with fewer chemicals

Shifting cost burden

- Contract farmers often bear the cost
- Shifting cost burden to large agricultural conglomerates
How can a just transition be achieved to ensure no unintended consequences?
Challenges for a just, green transition

Blanket rules
- E.g. Rules on age of vehicles can hit those who rely on those vehicles for their income e.g. taxi drivers, delivery drivers

Top-down edicts or regulations hit workers hardest
- E.g. Philippines mines closures caused job losses creating vulnerability in communities

Informal jobs
- How to encourage a green transition in those sectors?
- What are the incentives?

Structural drivers of inequality need to be addressed
- To aid a just transition
- E.g. education, skills, financial literacy and access to loans, and bureaucratic paperwork
Towards an inclusive green transition

**Address structural causes of inequality**
that undermine people from obtaining a ‘decent’ working life.

**Worker empowerment**
Civil society e.g. labour unions to educate workers whether formal or informal of their rights.

**Shared goals for environmental sustainability**
All stakeholders, including policy makers, employers and workers, to agree on their shared goals for environmental sustainability.

**Incentive and financial structures**
that are accessible to all
- E.g. South Africa subsidies for public transport but not taxis.
Key messages

The green economy is low carbon, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

Green jobs are not only better for the environment but also provide better working conditions.

Informal workers need to be brought to the table in the green transition to ensure a just transition – otherwise they may be excluded or harmed by the process, losing their livelihoods in the process.
Relevant resources

• Bulmer, Elizabeth Ruppert; and Rutkowski, Michal. 2021. “Making the “Green Transition” work for labor market,” World Bank Blogs.


Relevant resources

Podcasts:

• SEI Asia podcast: [Intersectionality and air pollution in the world of work](#)
• SEI Asia podcast: [Informal workers in the just transition to a green economy](#)