



# GLOBAL SOLUTIONS SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

## Develop Student Workforce Skills

**Apply by November 25<sup>th</sup> for the Spring 2023 Cohort to lead a team at your academic institution**

The Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge (GSSC), is a virtual business competition that connects students in the United States, Jordan, and Iraq on binational teams to virtually collaborate through the design thinking process during eight weeks to create a sustainable business concept to a real need in their community related to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Binational teams engage via Zoom and Slack, developing problem solving skills and global competencies. Binational teams submit a business concept and video pitch. At the culminating event, the Virtual Global Business Expo, the top five teams present their pitch live to a panel of judges comprised of professionals in entrepreneurship where the three finalists' teams are provided a small grant to further develop their prototype.

Provide relevant, hands-on learning through project based virtual exchange that models the modern workplace

### Program Components

Facilitator Training

Global Solutions

Sustainability Challenge

Virtual Global Business Expo

### Program Timeline

**November 25, 2022:** Application Deadline

**January 2023:** Facilitator Training

**February – April 2023:** Eight Week Challenge (Specific dates TBD)

**April 2023:** Virtual Global Business Expo (Exact date TBD)

**To participate in the program, facilitators must apply on behalf of their students and institutions.**

#### Selected facilitators will:

- Form and lead a team from their institution;
- Participate in professional development training;
- Partner effectively with their co-facilitator in the US, Jordan or Iraq;
- Lead the team's virtual and in person collaboration through the provided curriculum.

#### Facilitators are provided:

- Certificate of participation;
- CEU for facilitator training;
- Honorarium of 350 USD;
- Challenge Stipend to use for technology and supplies.



To learn more  
and apply visit  
[www.irex.org/  
globalsolutions](http://www.irex.org/globalsolutions)

*The challenge is supported by the Stevens Initiative, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, with funding provided by the U.S. Government, and is administered by the Aspen Institute.*

*The Stevens Initiative is also supported by the Bezos Family Foundation and the governments of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.*



Stevens  
Initiative



## Incentives for Students

After completing the Challenge, students will:

- Receive a certificate of participation
- Become alumni of the US Department of State (afforded unique opportunities to apply for professional development and grants)
- Receive electronic YES Badges to add directly to LinkedIn / CV for: Critical thinking and creative problem solving, cross cultural communication, virtual collaboration, empathy, adaptability, entrepreneurship
- Finalist team members will receive opportunity to participate in an optional virtual professional development course from a university in the United States

“Strengthening a soft skill is one of the best investments you can make in your career, as they never go out of style.”

*LinkedIn Learning Editor  
Paul Petrone*

“Global Solutions was truly an eye-opening experience and my gateway to a whole new perspective of the world. My participation in virtual exchange allowed me to communicate and make connections and I learned about entrepreneurship and how to work together as a team on solving a global problem.”

*Student, Iraq*



“The Global Solutions Program strengthened my ability to discover solutions to global problems, strengthened my cross cultural communication skills, how to use global applications such as Slack and Zoom and improved my ability to speak.”

*Student, Jordan*



“My involvement with the Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge gave me the ability to participate in a group effort that opened not only borders but our perceptions of other cultures. The skills I gained throughout the Challenge helped me secure a job within a sustainable business.”

*Student, United States*



Stevens  
Initiative

