



# PARTICIP

Partenariat pour l'Insertion via les  
Compétences impulsées par le secteur privé



The PartICIP programme is driving youth empowerment in Mali by enhancing long-term employability through dual vocational training, co-developed with the private sector and local authorities. Implemented from June 2023 to May 2027 across Sikasso, Mopti, Timbuktu and the district of Bamako, it aims to equip 4,000 young people, 40% of them women, with practical skills and direct pathways into high-potential economic sectors including mining, construction, agriculture, agri-food processing, hospitality and catering, fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development.

## CONTEXT

Mali is currently navigating a complex and multidimensional crisis spanning security, political instability and socio-economic challenges, that severely limits opportunities for youth integration. The existing vocational training system remains largely theoretical, centralised and disconnected from the realities of the job market. In response, the PartICIP programme offers a systemic and forward-looking solution, centred on decentralised governance, strong private sector engagement, diversified vocational pathways and a conflict-sensitive approach tailored to the local context.

## SDGs & RELEVANCE FOR SWISSCONTACT

PartICIP actively contributes to SDGs 4, 5, 8 and 17 by expanding access to relevant, employment-oriented vocational training for young people, with a strong focus on empowering women. Through meaningful collaboration with the private sector and local communities, the programme strengthens the alignment between training and labour market needs, while promoting inclusive, decentralised governance of the vocational training sub-sector, fully in line with Swisscontact's mission and strategic priorities.

## PARTICIP: CO-BUILDING THE SKILLS OF TOMORROW

Funded by the Swiss Cooperation and implemented by C2D and Swisscontact, the PartICIP programme is shaping the future of vocational training in Mali by equipping young people with market-relevant skills and fostering inclusive economic growth.

## COUNTRIES/REGIONS

Mali: Bamako, Mopti, Timbuktu and Sikasso

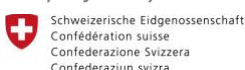
## DURATION

2023 – 2027

## EXPECTED IMPACT

- **4,000 young people, 40% of them women**, will be trained and sustainably integrated into the labour market through dual vocational training programmes co-developed with the private sector to meet real market needs.
- **Governance of vocational training will be shared and decentralised**, led by local authorities with active support from the private sector, ensuring long-term ownership and impact.

A project by the



Direction du développement  
et de la coopération DDC

Implemented by



## WHAT MAKES THIS PROGRAMME UNIQUE?

PartICIP stands out for its innovative, multi-sector approach. Unlike conventional programmes, PartICIP is built on a **robust and structured partnership with the private sector**, which is actively engaged from programme design through to implementation. Businesses and professional organisations play a central role in identifying skill needs, hosting young trainees, and tailoring training content to real market demands.

It expands the offering to high-potential professions such as agriculture, mining, construction and hospitality, going beyond traditional trades to open new pathways for youth employment. Its adaptability to fragile contexts, through conflict-sensitive management and the use of innovative tools like **mobile training units and a digital platform**, ensures greater accessibility, even in remote and underserved areas.



### PARTNERS

The programme is based on close collaboration between national authorities, regional councils, the private sector and training providers. Public institutions provide strategic guidance, regions coordinate local implementation, while companies and professional organisations help to tailor training to market needs. Local training centres and providers are responsible for delivering the training and supporting young people.

### APPROACHES

The main objective of these approaches is to promote the sustainable professional integration of young people in Mali by establishing a relevant, inclusive and decentralised vocational training system that responds directly to labour market needs through:

- **Dual approach geared towards employability**

PartICIP combines classroom-based theoretical instruction with hands-on company-based training. This model enables young people to acquire practical, market-ready skills that reflect the real demands of employers.

- **Decentralised and participatory governance**

The programme strengthens the project management capacities of regional councils by placing them at the centre of vocational training planning, coordination and monitoring. This locally anchored approach ensures responsiveness to regional realities and fosters strong ownership.



### SUCCESS FACTORS

- **Strategic public-private partnership**  
Close collaboration between local authorities, government technical services and economic actors ensures that training and integration are co-managed with a shared vision, fostering ownership and long-term impact.
- **Active involvement of the private sector**  
Companies and professional organisations play a hands-on role in identifying skill needs, co-designing training programmes and hosting young people in the workplace, ensuring that training remains aligned with real market demands.
- **Dual approach focused on employment**  
By alternating theoretical instruction with practical experience, the programme enables young people to acquire tangible skills and transition smoothly into the labour market, boosting their immediate employability.



### TARGET GROUPS

Young women and men aged 15 to 35 who have obtained at least a basic education diploma.

- **Structured partnership with the private sector**

Companies, cooperatives and professional organisations are engaged throughout the process, from identifying skill gaps and designing training programmes to hosting trainees and evaluating outcomes. This collaboration guarantees the relevance, quality and sustainability of the training offer.