Local Vocational Training (LVT) develops and implements market and employment oriented basic-level training courses aimed at improving skills, employability and, potentially, income of women and men from disadvantaged communities.

The training courses are taking place in selected locations throughout Mon and Kayin States for around 3,000 people between the ages of 18 and 45. Currently, training courses are offered in Bilin, Thaton, Mawlamyine, Thanbyuzayat and Ye townships in Mon State, as well as Hpa-An, Hlaingbwe, Myawaddy, Thandaunggyi and Kyainseikgyi townships in Kayin State.

LVT is a component of the Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP) which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and is implemented by a consortium led by Swisscontact, a Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is the focal ministry for VSDP, and LVT works closely with the Mon and Kayin State Governments in the implementation of training. LVT implements selected courses in the Government Technical Institute (GTI) and Government Technical High Schools (GHTSs) in Mawlamyine and Hpa-An.

The first main phase of the VSDP started in September 2014 and lasts until January 2018. Two further main phases are foreseen, each with a duration of four years.
LVT engages occupational practitioners as instructors. The training of these skilled practitioners focuses on training methodology and pedagogy, and is closely linked to customised training and learning material. After completion of the training, these LVT instructors are assigned to work in different LVT venues across the two states. By January 2016, a total of 85 LVT instructors have been trained.

Our Instructors

LVT courses aim to connect disadvantaged communities with existing labour market needs as far as this is possible. At present, the courses we offer are:

**Types of occupations**

LVT engages occupational practitioners as instructors. The training of these skilled practitioners focuses on training methodology and pedagogy, and is closely linked to customised training and learning material. After completion of the training, these LVT instructors are assigned to work in different LVT venues across the two states. By January 2016, a total of 85 LVT instructors have been trained.

**Our Instructors**

LVT engages occupational practitioners as instructors. The training of these skilled practitioners focuses on training methodology and pedagogy, and is closely linked to customised training and learning material. After completion of the training, these LVT instructors are assigned to work in different LVT venues across the two states. By January 2016, a total of 85 LVT instructors have been trained.

**Our Partners**

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) works with Swisscontact in implementing LVT at the field level. The cooperation has been ongoing since the start of the Program implementation in September 2014.

Swisscontact cooperates with EDNA Myanmar to support LVT graduates. EDNA Myanmar provides “Entrepreneurship Education and Enterprise Development” in nine locations where LVT is implemented.

Swisscontact also works with a local training provider, Infostar Computer and Business Centre (ICBC) in Mawlamyine to train young people as sales clerks.

**Types of occupations**

LVT courses aim to connect disadvantaged communities with existing labour market needs as far as this is possible. At present, the courses we offer are:

**Beautician**

Our beautician will be able to apply all basic practical skills of beautification common in Myanmar – i.e. various kinds of haircuts, shampooing, blow-drying, different kinds of hair colouring, hair curling, hair straightening, hair repair and treatment, various facials, common hair buns, and makeup for daily and specific occasions.

**House Wirer**

Our house wirers will be able to wire domestic buildings. They will have a good understanding of the basic elements of electricity, the instruments and tools needed, and all necessary safety requirements, and can apply these to planning, quantity estimation and techniques of wiring a house in conformity with local electrical standards.
Tailor

Our tailors will have the basic knowledge and skills to measure and draw patterns for commonly made clothing for children, women, and men, and subsequently cut, stitch and sew these patterns. They will be able to undertake basic maintenance of the tools and equipment used for tailoring.

Rural Mechanic

Our rural mechanics will be able to undertake basic repair and maintenance of machines used in rural areas. They will understand the basic functions of diesel generators, water pumps, motorcycles, brush-cutters and solar panels, and be able to diagnose and repair common problems of these machines, including oil systems faults, fuel problems, electrical problems, and other common faults found with these machines.

Mason

Our masons will be able to use the different masonry equipment and tools. They will understand and be able to implement the basic techniques of measurement and ground preparation, cement-mixing, brick- and block-laying, scaffolding, wall and floor plastering. They will become familiar with the organization of a construction site and will be able to comply with the basic health and safety procedures.

Plumber

Our plumbers will be able to use the tools, equipment and materials for plumbing. They will systematically understand and be able to implement the main processes of installing water supplies, bathrooms, toilets, sinks, guttering, and drainage in a house. They will work with different types of pipes, plan installations, as well as learn how to cut and join, level. They will also be able to install different lines such as the water-supply, the distribution, the soil, and the waste line.

Sales Clerk

Our sales clerk will understand the importance and details of personal skills and appearance, product knowledge and awareness, and customer-first behaviours for sales situations. They will be able to apply smart sales techniques and manage a workplace and sales successfully. They will obtain relevant background knowledge and skills about organizations that sell products or services. They will become familiar with the overall competitive business policy and management expectations of employers.
Life skills for learners

In addition to the technical skills, LVT provides two hours of life skills training during each of the 12 week-long training. The life skills training includes topics such as job application and CV writing, healthy living, personal development, basics of business management, gender in the workplace and safe migration.

Post-training support for graduates

As most of the LVT graduates live in rural environments with few employment opportunities, LVT has started to organise post training support for graduates in 2016. This post-training support includes networking the graduates with potential employers in Myanmar and offering other specific support to individual graduates, based on their needs. LVT course related Government departments are consulted to facilitate employment for graduates. Specific support will be offered though EDNA Myanmar for those wanting to start their own business.

Results up to January 2017

The component implemented five batches of training (pilot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th batch) since 2015 and has trained 2,016 graduates. Mason, plumber and sales clerk courses have started in late 2016 whereas the other courses have been implemented since the pilot training in May 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Course</th>
<th>Number of Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beautician</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Wirer</td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Mechanic</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailor</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumber</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Clerk</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,016</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outlook for 2017

Until the end of Phase 1 of VSDP in January 2018, LVT will continue with the implementation of existing training courses to reach the target of 3,000 disadvantaged people. LVT look into indentifying other occupations which are suitable for the implementation of short vocational training courses in Mon and Kayin States. In addition, post-training support provided for LVT graduates will be implemented.

What our beneficiaries say...

“After completion of the training in July 2016, I opened my own beauty salon in my home town. The shop has been open for over one month and I already earned over 400,000 MMK (about 300 USD) in that first month. I have never expected that I would be able to earn that much money as I don’t have much working experience. I am very thankful to Local Vocational Training, because it equipped me with all required skills and helped me to stand on my own feet.”

LVT Beautician Graduate, Nway Nway Oo, Myawaddy Township, Kayin State.

“My instructors help me to get some work experience in the field of house wiring after 12-weeks of the training. I can work in my home town and I have regular income now. Courses from Local Vocational Training are good for the people who want to start their dreams.”

LVT House Wirer Graduate, Lwin Naung Latt, Mawlamyine, Mon State.