About VSDP

The Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP) is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It is implemented in Myanmar by a consortium led by Swisscontact (Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation) in collaboration with INBAS (Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market and Social Policy). VSDP has four interlinked components: Hospitality Training (HT), Local Vocational Training (LVT), Dual Apprenticeship, and Policy and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE).

Overall Goal

To contribute to improved livelihood opportunities for women and men in targeted areas and occupations in Myanmar.

Planned Outcomes

Women and men in targeted areas and sectors have better skills and are more empowered because of skills development, skills certification and recognition, as well as labour market support measures. Key public, private and civil society actors are increasingly collaborating, delivering and shaping an inclusive skills development system that addresses market demand for skilled labour.

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Program Durations

VSDP 1 - 01 February 2014 to 30 April 2018
VSDP 2 - 01 May 2018 to 30 April 2022

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The Local Vocational Training (LVT) component, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, focuses on improving the competencies of disadvantaged women and men in line with the demands of the existing labour market, and building up national training providers to deliver training in Southeast Myanmar. The component is also expanding its activities, both geographically and in terms of occupations, to include a stronger focus on self-employment. Implemented in Mon State, Kayin State and Tanintharyi Region, the training courses will focus on occupations that provide employment, self-employment and income opportunities for disadvantaged women and men. Additional longer courses will also be held at the Government Technical Institutes and Government Technical High Schools. The target is to support training to 8,000 women and men from disadvantaged backgrounds in these occupations, and improve the entrepreneurship skills of aspiring entrepreneurs and local enterprise owners to establish and manage their own micro-enterprises. As part of its approach, the LVT component builds the capacity of practitioners by giving them relevant practical experience and ensuring alignment of their technical skills with the curricula and training materials. It also provides them with the necessary skills to deliver training to women and men from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Hospitality Training (HT) component, in collaboration with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, focuses on providing vocational skills training in selected hospitality occupantions across tourism destinations in Myanmar, and the institutionalisation of the training approaches successfully piloted in VSDP 1. The HT component’s target is to train 5,200 women and men from disadvantaged backgrounds and 1,800 hotel line staff in selected hospitality occupations, in cooperation with hotels located in mature tourism destinations (Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Bagan) and emerging tourism destinations (Mawlamyine, Hpa-An and Myeik). The component cooperates with locally-owned training providers, who will increasingly assume responsibilities for training delivery in mature tourism destinations. As part of its training approach, the HT component increases the capacity of hotel supervisory staff by improving their technical abilities, as well as providing them with the necessary skills to deliver training to beneficiaries from disadvantaged backgrounds and hotel line staff.

The Policy and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) component is cross-cutting in its approach; strengthening sub-national collaboration between different stakeholders engaged in skills development, whilst simultaneously facilitating measures to support the labour market.

The component also focuses on stakeholder engagement at national level, and strengthening the support given to the National Skills Standard Authority (NSSA), under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, on skills testing and certification. Additionally, the component builds upon the experience of VSDP 1 to engage with national and regional stakeholders, providing contributions to coordination, labour market support, and policy-related dialogue and input on skills development.