

## Promoting Market Oriented Skills Training in the Great Lakes Region

*December 2012 – November 2015*

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The first phase of the 12-year program aims at supporting the Government's efforts to improve access, quality and relevance of the TVET system. The main focus is on qualitative improvement of TVET provision, enhanced accessibility for the most socio-economically disadvantaged and vulnerable segments of the rural population in Western Province, and access to more diversified training opportunities. Special attention is given to capacity building of the three categories of key stakeholders involved in an effective TVET system at central and decentralized levels – central and local authorities, local TVET providers, and local enterprises - in order to ensure impact and sustainable development of a demand-driven TVET system, which is managed and monitored in a win-win partnership.

The program's overall goal is to contribute to increased employment and income generation for the rural population in the Great Lakes Region by improving their access to quality and labour market oriented vocational training. The three years project will work at different sections of the Rwandan TVET system, with a special focus on non-formal and informal vocational training at the provincial, district and sector levels. It will apply a holistic and integrated approach to its development through four outcomes.

The first outcome consists of increasing access for the rural population in the Western Province, especially the disadvantaged target groups and women, to more diversified TVET services. This will be achieved through the construction and equipment of one VTC in each of the five targeted districts<sup>1</sup> and through support to non-formal and informal training providers in infrastructure rehabilitation and/or extension, as well as upgrading with appropriate equipment and tools. In addition, the project will promote the development and implementation of short-term vocational training projects in line with specific local realities and which correspond to the demand of the local economy.

Outcome two consists of strengthening the quality and relevance of vocational training, through the development of competency-based curricula in collaboration with the private sector, as well as the corresponding teaching/learning and assessment materials. Given the target population, the focus will be on curricula which lead to level 1 and 2 qualifications of the Rwandan TVET Qualifications Framework (RTQF). In addition, the project will support the pedagogical and technical occupational training of trainers in the Western Province, in collaboration with the IPRC West.

The third outcome consists of developing the institutional and organizational capacity of key stakeholders in the Western Province, enabling them to play their roles in a labour market oriented TVET system. Under this outcome the project will ensure systemic impact, lasting change and sustainable development of a demand-driven TVET sector, by facilitating joint management and monitoring of the TVET system by the relevant stakeholders: TVET providers (IPRC West, VTCs and TSSs), private sector (PSF, sector based cooperative unions, federations and confederations, etc),

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<sup>1</sup> Karongi, Rutsiro, Ngororero, Nyamasheke and Rusizi

and local TVET authorities. For this, the project envisages establishing a stakeholder platform for TVET and promoting formal partnerships between TVET institutions and the private sector. In addition, the project focuses on institutional and human resource capacity building of these three categories of key stakeholders.

Outcome four consists of strengthening the national and regional harmonization process of curricula, examination and certification to promote citizens' mobility within and between countries and to facilitate their lifelong learning. Within the implementation process of the RTQF, and in line with the project's focus on promoting the design of short-term competency-based market-oriented training modules, the project will design, implement and test a RPL/E mechanism that allows experienced and newly trained workers to validate their competencies and "partial qualifications". The results of this pilot and lessons learned may lead in a second phase to necessary adaptations of the system and to a scaling-up at national level. Also, the project will promote the development of a common framework for recognition of occupational qualifications at lower levels between Rwanda and Burundi.

Major partner organizations and institutions for project implementation will be WDA and its "decentralized" unit in the Western Province, the IPRC of Kibuye, private sector representatives at central and local levels (the Private Sector Federation (PSF), the Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA)), as well as the district and sector authorities.

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