

Improving the Quality and Attractiveness of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Lebanon (QuA-VET)

Multilevel Support for Better Employability in Lebanon

The background

Lebanon faces numerous political, economic and social challenges. Up until the civil war, the country was one of the most important commercial and financial centres in the Middle East. The vocational training system was well organized by regional standards: Skilled workers were trained with good practical competencies and the reputation of vocational education and training among the population was comparatively high. This tradition was not maintained after the war ended. Today, the vocational education and training system is almost exclusively limited to school-based training, with limited practical experience. In the National Social Development Strategy of Lebanon of the Ministry of Social Affairs, improving the employment situation in the country is envisioned as one of five objectives. However, the Lebanese labour market is currently characterised by a very low employment rate and a high influx of foreign workers (including refugees). For several years now, the level of economic growth has not been sufficient to absorb the growing supply of labour, namely young workers, especially amid the economic and financial crisis, the spread of COVID-19 and the repercussions of the Beirut explosion in August 2020.

The need for improvement

Against this background, improving skills that increase the productivity level of workers—and ultimately companies—is an important prerequisite for a stronger absorption of the labour supply, an increase in productivity and ultimately the achievement of stronger, lasting growth and creation of more and better jobs. However, Lebanese vocational training institutes and schools cannot currently fulfil this role. The low labour market orientation of national Technical and Vocational

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Education and Training (TVET) is manifested in the fact that graduates generally do not work in the occupations for which they were trained, often enter the informal sector or even remain unemployed for a long time after graduation. In addition, there are insufficient intermediary services.

Our approach

The project “Improving the Quality and Attractiveness of TVET in Lebanon (QuA-VET),” supports the Directorate General for Vocational and Technical Education (DGVTE) and individual employers to align vocational education and training with the needs of the Lebanese economy, in sectors showing sustainable employment potential.

To that aim, the project focuses on the following three areas of intervention: Increasing the cooperation between state vocational training institutions and the private sector through establishing school advisory boards, strengthening the human resources of the ministry of education and implementing new practice oriented TVET programmes in maintenance of manufacturing machinery health inspection and food safety in cooperation with employers.

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