

# Skills Development for Youth Employment – SKYE

## Promoting need-based Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and youth employment in Nigeria

### Challenge

Over 43 per cent of the potential working population in Nigeria is either unemployed or underemployed. Potentially, 19 million young Nigerians entered the labour market over the past five years, however, only 3.5 million new jobs were created in the same period. The lack of employment and income-generating prospects is fuelling internal migration from rural areas to economically prosperous urban centres like Lagos, and driving migration to other countries, particularly to the EU countries. One contributing factor to the lack of employment and migration is the poor quality of the curricula, teaching and learning materials, teacher training and equipment in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system. TVET is not highly regarded in Nigeria, and entering the technical field is seen as socially inappropriate for young women. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, more Nigerians have lost their job. Reports from Nigeria’s National Bureau of Statistics show that the country’s economy contracted by 6.1% year on year in the second quarter of 2020. The gaps between disadvantaged groups and gender-based disabilities in education, employment, and the economy have grown even wider as a result of the rising unemployment rate.

### Our Approach

The “SKYE – Skills Development for Youth Employment” project uses a multi-level integrated approach to employment promotion aimed at improving the prospects of gainful employment for Nigerian youth aged between 15 and 35 and for returnees in selected sectors of the economy. At the macro level, SKYE supports the improvement of the regulatory and systemic framework conditions for technical and vocational education, that is aligned with labour market needs, training and skills as well as labour market integration measures in Nigeria. At the meso level, it strengthens the corresponding institutional and human capacity development (HCD) of intermediary organisations. As part of its mandate, SKYE supports the efforts to develop or adapt and deliver measures for



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Implementing Organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Nigeria - Abuja, Adamawa, Edo, Enugu, Lagos, Ogun, and Plateau
Political Partner	Nigerian Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning
Duration	May 2018 to September 2023
Financial volume	€ 51.9 Million (€ 49.2 Million BMZ / € 2.7 Million SDC)

formal TVET and non-formal skills acquisition as well as labour market integration in response to prevailing labour market needs. In the process, the project focuses on cooperation with various stakeholders at the implementation stage, from the Government, private sector and civil society. SKYE will achieve these through five priority areas.

**1. Policy and public-private dialogue:** Establishing institutionalised permanent processes of dialogue between the public and private sector, at the state and federal levels, and improving the prerequisites for the general regulatory and systemic conditions of TVET.

**2. Capacity building for intermediary organisations:** Support for increased capacities at intermediary organisations, both within the government agencies and the private



Female beneficiary at a skills training event, Abuja (left) and Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo State and delegation on a study tour in Germany (right).



Tobias Wolfgarten  
Head of Programme  
[skye@giz.de](mailto:skye@giz.de)

*Excited youth beneficiaries at a P.O.P skills acquisition training, Edo (left) and male beneficiary undergoing skills training, Abuja (right).*

sector. As a result, the intermediary organisations will be able to offer the target group employment facilitation services, provide higher-quality TVET services, and strengthen evidence-based policymaking.

**3. Improvement in the quality of TVET in selected economic sectors:** Develop new technical and vocational training standards and improve existing standards in agriculture, construction, manufacturing and other sectors. For certain standards, selected teachers, instructors and in-company trainers will be trained in applying the new curricula and teaching and learning materials.

**4. Promotion of innovative pilot models:** Support the development and implementation of innovative models in the formal and non-formal TVET, by involving individual companies or business membership organisations in non-formal skills acquisition.

**5. Support for active labour market measures:** Support employment promotion structures and the establishment of a system of active labour market measures at the federal and state level. This includes supporting efforts to place people in jobs and internships, holding career fairs, establishing job centres and career counselling services attached to civil society and other active labour market policy measures.

## Impact in Numbers...

From May 2018 to August 2022, SKYE and its implementing partners empowered over 26,149 Nigerians with vocational skills in different areas including agriculture, construction, fashion, ICT, and hospitality. Female beneficiaries accounted for over 37 per cent of the total number of beneficiaries. Over 4,381 of the total number have gained employment. In agriculture skills training alone, SKYE trained 15,396 beneficiaries. Women accounted for over 40 per cent (7,063) of the total number. In one of the public-private partnerships, SKYE brought together the Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB) from the public sector and SLOT

Systems from the private sector to establish a partnership to train youth on Mobile Phone and Laptop Repairs. In the one-year pilot phase, 100 youths have been trained. Of these, 90 trainees graduated in July 2022. SKYE is also collaborating with LASTVEB and Siemens Energy Limited to set up a TVET Centre of Excellence for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in Ikorodu. The centre will produce highly skilled industry technicians by providing modern and practice-oriented TVET in the field of mechanical and electrical engineering.

## ...and in Stories

Faithful Esise is a student of the Auchi Polytechnic in Edo state. Due to ongoing strike action in Nigerian tertiary institutions, she has had to stay home from school. She has used the opportunity to enrol in the training on POP ceiling installation organised by GIZ and Edojobs, to ensure she masters a handcraft that would earn her a stream of income, even outside her professional discipline.



*"I see this training as an opportunity to learn a relevant skill I can use to start my own business. I am very grateful to GIZ because they continue to promote employment*

*opportunities for young people like me. This training has opened my eyes to the possibilities of even becoming an employer of labour!"*

For additional information:

Website: [www.skyenigeria.net](http://www.skyenigeria.net)

Twitter: @skyenigeria

Facebook: @skyenigeria

Instagram: @skyenigeria



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Registered office: Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

GIZ-SKYE Nigeria,  
20 Haile Selassie Street,  
Asokoro District, Abuja  
Phone +234 (0) 805 529 9996  
[skye@giz.de](mailto:skye@giz.de)  
[www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

Author: Tobias Wolfgarten

Layout: Ayotunde Razaq

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Addresses of the BMZ offices: BMZ Bonn  
Dahlmannstraße 4  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T: +49 (0) 228 99 535-0

BMZ Berlin  
10963 Berlin, Germany  
T: +49 (0) 30 18 535-0

[poststelle@bmz.bund.de](mailto:poststelle@bmz.bund.de)