

Skills Development for Youth Employment – SKYE II

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

Challenge

A country with 230 million people, Nigeria has a severely strained economy and a rate of unemployment or underemployment of more than half of the working population. Despite the lack of employment opportunities in the formal sector, there is also a shortage of qualified labour. Furthermore, the informal sector is vast. This has resulted in huge proportions of young people being out of work and migrating from rural areas to cities like Lagos for better opportunities, or even leaving the country altogether.

One major reason for the ongoing job crisis and migration is the inadequate provision of needs-based Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Additionally, the reputation of TVET is very low in Nigeria, leading young people to pursue academic careers, even though these offer limited prospects for employment. Moreover, cultural norms discourage young women from pursuing technical careers.

This prevailing situation has led to a severe shortage of skilled labour for Nigerian companies, hampering their growth and development, and limiting their capacity to expand and innovate. Without enough qualified workers, businesses struggle to meet the demands of a strained, yet evolving market. Addressing this issue is crucial for boosting economic growth and fostering a thriving business environment in Nigeria.



Our Approach

Following the success of its initial phase from May 2018 to September 2023, the ‘Skills Development for Youth Employment’ programme (SKYE II) aims to promote TVET and youth employment to enhance economic development in Nigeria. Essentially, the goal is to improve Nigeria’s economy by establishing structures that increase the number of skilled workers and pilot developed training standards.

Firstly, the programme supports the government in gathering labour market data to enable evidence-based policymaking. Secondly, SKYE II supports the improvement of formal TVET in selected economic sectors. Thirdly, the programme provides support in the development and implementation of Active Labour Market Measures, including job matching, career counselling, advisory services and short-term trainings.

Essentially, the development and implementation of TVET standards aligned with business needs are pursued, alongside the strengthening of dialogue between the public sector and companies. The programme supports TVET initiatives to meet current job demands. Throughout, SKYE II collaborates closely with government, private sector, and civil society groups. Gender, inclusion, and organisational development are cross-cutting themes across five focus areas:

Policy and Public-Private Dialogue: promote collaboration between government and businesses to discuss policies and exert joint efforts to improve employment prospects.

Improve the quality of TVET: establish cooperation between TVET schools and the private sector through cooperation arrangements to improve the quality of training by implementing developed TVET standards and getting training organisations ready to deliver good quality training. Furthermore, the programme facilitates “dual” training models in which students learn both in the training centre and the company to prepare for the requirements of the labour market.

Employment Promotion: establish job centres to assist youth in securing employment while improving the quantity and quality of active labour market measures offered through partners.



Sustainable structures for TVET staff and career advisors: facilitate the inclusion of additional demand-driven, practical and gender-sensitive teaching and learning content for the training of TVET staff.

Cooperation with business sector: enhance participation between private companies and TVET institutions to improve the transition from school to the workplace.

Impact in Numbers...

From May 2018 to December 2023, SKYE collaborated with over 85 partners, including private institutions, ministries and government agencies. SKYE has trained 1,686 trainers and managers to enhance TVET. SKYE has empowered 30,289 Nigerians with vocational skills, spanning various sectors like agriculture, construction, film industry, fashion, and ICT. In addition, the programme established 3 pilot, state-of-the-art training centres in Abuja, Kogi, and Enugu. A focus of SKYE's work is on gender sensitivity, with female beneficiaries accounting for over 46% of the total trained individuals. This commitment to inclusion extends to employment outcomes, with over 7,017 people (3,176 women) finding jobs through the interventions. In the agriculture sector, SKYE has trained 21,509 beneficiaries, of which over 40% are women. Additionally, the programme has facilitated impactful public-private partnerships. It brought together the Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB) and SLOT Systems to train youth in Mobile Phone and Laptop Repairs. During the one-year pilot phase, 100 youths underwent training, with 90 successfully graduating.

...and in Stories

The SKYE programme collaborated with Edo State government and Edo State Skills Development Agency (Edojobs) on the establishment of five job centres in rural Edo and the upgrading of two job centres in Benin City,

Imprint

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered Office:
Bonn and Eschborn

GIZ-SKYE Nigeria,
20 Haile Selassie Street,
Asokoro District, Abuja

Phone: +234 (0) 805 529 9996
Email: skye@giz.de
Internet: www.giz.de

September 2024

with a total of 7 job centres developed, renovated or/and equipped. These job centres give youths access to job counselling, job placements, trainings on soft skills, CV writing, interviews etc. The former Governor of Edo state, His Excellency Godwin Nogheghase Obaseki, who was present at the opening ceremony stated, *“This is a very proud moment for us in Edo. We consider our relationship with GIZ crucial to building the job skills of our youth and making them eligible for any job, both in Nigeria and internationally.”*



Mercy Ehiwario, a single mother of five from Lagos State, defies gender stereotypes by excelling in mobile phone and laptop engineering. Through collaboration between GIZ, LASTVEB, and SLOT Foundation, she underwent comprehensive training and became proficient in phone repair. *“I now generate an income that sustains my family and I am also able to train other aspiring young women who want to learn this mobile phone repair trade and improve their future prospects,”* says a beaming Mercy.

Project name	Skills Development for Youth Employment – SKYE II
Commissioned by	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Implementing Organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Nigeria - Abuja, Edo, Enugu, Lagos, Ogun, and Plateau
Political Partner	Nigerian Federal Ministry of Budget, and Economic Planning
Duration	November 2023 to October 2026
Financial volume	€ 29 million (€ 23.6 million BMZ / € 5.4 million SDC)

Responsible:
Britta van Erckelens

Text & Layout:
Ayotunde Razaq

Photo Credits:
GIZ/Nigeria