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# Support to TVET in Sierra Leone

## What is TVET and for whom are the interventions designed?

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is concerned with the acquisition of knowledge and skills that are relevant for the job market. Among others, the project on TVET in Sierra Leone will support individual students and teachers, as well as the efforts of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), the National Council for Technical, Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA) and the Teaching Service Commission (TSC). In this context, the project on TVET is a GIZ-delegated component of the comprehensive EU-GoSL 'Support to the Education Sector in Sierra Leone' programme under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme, jointly funded by BMZ and EU.

Additionally, the economic and employment situation was heavily influenced by the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in early 2014, which led to business closures and increasing unemployment. To take on these challenges, the Government of Sierra Leone has already implemented various measures on TVET:

In 2001 the NCTVA was established by an Act of Parliament, with the aim of making quality assurance an outstanding feature in education and training in Sierra Leone. Currently, NCTVA is endeavouring to fulfil the tasks of its mandate as required.

This especially reflects in procedural challenges while conducting practical TVET examinations and among others is due to lack of equipment and tools at the training institutions and in the area of certification of its examinations. Additionally, a TSC was launched in August 2016 but is not yet fully operational.

## Context

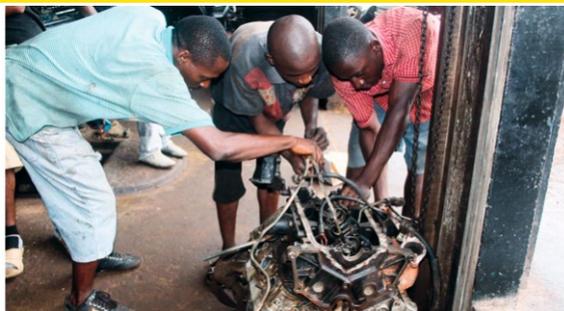
Sierra Leone has made a remarkable recovery since the end of the war in January 2002. Increased security, political stability, sustained economic growth, and effective restoration of public services, including education are results of this process. However, the economy is dominated by agriculture and limited by a small market. Youth unemployment is still prevailing and many young people neglect education or are unable to continue it in the formal mode due to demographic, social and economic reasons.

## Project Implementation Structure

GIZ is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with the implementation of the 'PPP Fund for Mano River Union Countries' to foster decent employment, increase income and improve working conditions for the local population. The programme engages in development partnerships with the private sector in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. Through the action 'Support to TVET in Sierra Leone', BMZ and the EU put together their efforts via a joint co-financing to contribute to equitable access to quality learning in Sierra Leone.



Left: Government Technical Institute – Refrigerator workshop repairing refrigerator  
Right: Conforti – Hair dressing dept – native hair knitting



Left: Milton Margai College of Education and Technology kitchen dept – finished products of pie and plain cake

Right: Government Technical Institute – checking engine machine

## Objective

The project's overall objective is to improve management and delivery of technical and vocational education in Sierra Leone. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) it aims at creating marketable skills for TVET graduates and at preparing them to enter the job market immediately upon graduation. Furthermore, it will strengthen the ability of the TVET education sector to adequately cater for the large number of unemployed young people, with a focus on establishing TVET as reputable and expedient education path.



## Approach

Education is one of the focal sectors of the EU cooperation with Sierra Leone for the period 2014-2020 (11<sup>th</sup> EDF). The EU programme to support the education sector aims to contribute to equitable access to high quality learning in Sierra Leone, in line with national education policies and targets. Specific objectives are: (1) strengthening education system management to support better teaching and learning; (2) improving the quality of teaching and learning; (3) improving management and delivery of technical and vocational training; and (4) improving equitable access to secondary education. The TVET-related component of the programme is implemented by GIZ, jointly co-financed by the EU and BMZ.

The project entails the following four main activities. Apart from technical support, the project also focuses on providing adequate equipment at partner institutions.

1. A **diagnostic study of the TVET sector in Sierra Leone** will be carried out to map relevant stakeholders, verify service capabilities and collect data on employment and economic activities in selected districts. Core skills areas according to the demand of employers will be identified and the outcomes of the study will provide the basis for improvement and further development of a legal and institutional framework for TVET. The results will also guide the concrete planning and design of all subsequent interventions.
2. A **skills certification programme** for at least three occupational areas will be created and implemented in at least two districts. In close cooperation with NCTVA and with support from TVET institutions, polytechnics, the private sector and other stakeholders, a consensus-based certification programme will be developed. Through coaching, direct capacity building and training, the project builds the technical skills and the ability to sustain the new certification programme.
3. An **in-service teacher training** will be implemented. The syllabus will be modular and based on competence-based standards and assessment. Among others, it will include modules on pedagogy, teaching methods, curriculum development, assessment of students, guidance and counselling, soft skills training and occupational practice. In order to maintain sustainability, a fast track qualification initiative for master trainers (Training of Trainers) will be carried out.
4. A **communication platform** will be established in order to provide and make adequate data on TVET and related information accessible and to strengthen the communication among TVET stakeholders. To make the platform more attractive, private companies and recruitment agencies will be involved.

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