

Qualifications and Employment Perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities in Ethiopia Programme (QEP)

Special Initiative Displaced Persons and Host Countries

The challenge

Ethiopia's history of welcoming people that are displaced from their home country goes back a long time. Today, the country is home to more than 800,000 refugees, making it one of the largest host countries in Africa. However, just like their Ethiopian hosts, refugees face insufficient employment and income prospects. An important reason for this is the limited access to vocational training that opens a pathway into employment. Existing vocational training opportunities often lack practical relevance or do not prepare people for self-employment.

Our approach

The programme builds on Ethiopia's commitment to refugee inclusion. The country is part of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Ethiopia's Refugee Proclamation from February 2019 is an expression of the country's intention to include refugees into existing structures. QEP supports Ethiopia's efforts in refugee inclusion and moves towards a development-oriented long-term approach of including refugees, while supporting their Ethiopian host communities.

GIZ has been working in the field of vocational training in Ethiopia for many years. On behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and in cooperation with the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS), the programme creates inclusive vocational training and employment opportunities for refugees and Ethiopians across the country: in Addis Ababa, Somali region, Benishangul-Gumuz region, Gambella region and Tigray region. The programme is co-financed by

Project name	Qualifications and Employment Perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities in Ethiopia (QEP)
Commissioned by	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	Ethiopia: Addis Ababa, Somali region, Benishangul-Gumuz region, Gambella region and Tigray region
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partner organisation	Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS)
Duration	12/2017 – 12/2023
Budget	EUR 21.32 Mio. including EUR 3.87 Mio. contribution by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)

the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and contributes to the Special Initiative *Displaced Persons and Host Countries*.

QEP's approach encompasses the following areas of action:

- Improving the quality of vocational training**
 Existing training programmes are adapted to the needs of the local labour market in order to increase employment relevance. Curricula of existing training programmes are revised. Moreover, providing technical and soft skills trainings to vocational trainers enhances the quality of their teaching. It also offers them the tools to manage a class composed of refugees and Ethiopians. To improve training conditions, facilities are equipped with tools, machines and



L. to r.: Refugee working in an agricultural business group in Gambella region; Joint business group putting into practice their business idea at a newly established entrepreneurship centre at Ethiopia's first inclusive vocational college; Former vocational training graduate gaining in-company work experience

learning materials. This contributes to job market-oriented vocational training for refugees and Ethiopians.

- **Broadening access to vocational training**

Public vocational colleges are expanded towards inclusive vocational colleges where refugees and Ethiopians learn together in the same classroom. In remote regions and in refugee camps, the range of employment-related vocational training is increased, such as in the field of solar installation and maintenance. Thus, more refugees and Ethiopians receive trainings, which create a tangible prospect for employment. Cooperation networks between public vocational colleges and refugee training centres are created to promote inclusion and common standards of training.

- **Creating pathways into employment**

At inclusive vocational colleges, entrepreneurship centres are established to foster an entrepreneurial culture in the vocational training system. Joint businesses composed of refugees and Ethiopians benefit from comprehensive entrepreneurship trainings, start-up support and coaching. Regional Urban Job Creation Agencies support business groups in developing their products and services to establish themselves on the market. Partnerships between public vocational colleges and private companies enable entry-level employment and a first work experience for refugees and Ethiopians.

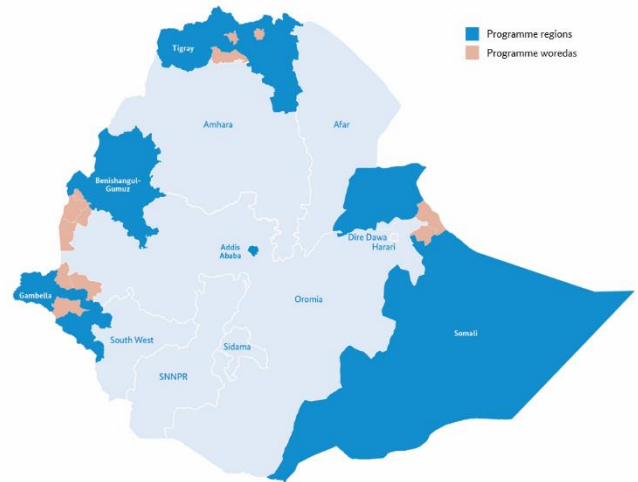
- **Strengthening key actors for the implementation of Ethiopia's Refugee Proclamation**

The awareness of key actors (e.g. MoLS and Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS)) on the inclusion of refugees in the vocational training system is expanded. To support the systematic inclusion of refugees in vocational training and employment, the key actors' coordination and implementation capacities are enhanced. These measures contribute to bringing into action Ethiopia's Refugee Proclamation in the sectors of vocational training and employment.

- **Laying the foundations for training, employment and (re-)integration through psychosocial support offers**

The offer of psychosocial support for people affected by conflict is expanded. Individual and group counselling services, such as peer-mentoring approaches, are introduced.

Referral mechanisms to provide more specialised support are strengthened, specifically for victims of gender-based violence. To structurally anchor psychosocial services in the Ethiopian vocational training system, counsellors are trained to provide basic psychosocial support.



Regions of programme implementation: Addis Ababa, Somali region, Benishangul-Gumuz region, Gambella region and Tigray region.

Our achievements

- Across the five regions, more than 410 vocational trainers have participated in technical and soft skills trainings of trainers enhancing the quality of their teaching.
- In total ten public vocational colleges in Addis Ababa, Benishangul-Gumuz region and Somali region were expanded to inclusive vocational colleges. These institutions lay the foundation for joint learning of thousands of refugees and Ethiopians.
- More than 400 newly established partnerships between local companies and public vocational colleges enable graduates to gain in-company work experience.
- More than 4,800 refugees and Ethiopians could secure an entry-level employment after completing a technical training.
- The programme is considered as a flagship project for the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Ethiopia.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices: Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Qualifications and Employment Perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities in Ethiopia Programme (QEP)
Hisham Complex (5th floor), Kazanchis Area,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Phone: +251 115 571 851; +251 929 499 111
Fax +251 115 506 006
tobias.erbert@giz.de
www.giz.de/en/worldwide/65859.html

As at

February 2023

Photo credits Abinet Shiferaw: page 1 (centre and right)
LWF: page 1 (left)

Text Tobias Erbert

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Co-funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)

In cooperation with Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS)