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Ministry of Planning and
Economic Development

Employment Promotion Programme

TVET and Dual Studies



→ BACKGROUND

Sierra Leone remains one of the least developed countries in the world, ranking on place 182 out of 189 on the Human Development Index (2020). High rates of underemployment as well as unemployment represent a constraint to the socioeconomic development and pose a risk to the political and social stability of the country. Youth and women in rural areas of Sierra Leone are particularly affected. 60% – 70% of the working population classify as working poor, meaning that despite their employment, the household falls below the poverty line (ILO 2019).

The economy in Sierra Leone is generally weak and not very dynamic; it is mainly characterised by agricultural production of a few raw materials, such as oil palms, rice, coffee and cocoa, with little value added in the country. At the same time, the level of education in Sierra Leone is also still very low and there is a mismatch between supply and demand in the labour market. The lack of basic education and skills, as well as practical and quality technical and higher education and training, has a negative impact on productivity, self-employment and entrepreneurship, and thus on the potential for creating new jobs.

Against this background, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), co-financed by the European Union, is supporting the fourth phase of the Employment Promotion Program (EPP IV). The programme is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The main partner on the national level is the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. The fourth phase of EPP is aiming to sustainably improve the employment and income situation of youth in agriculture and in micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). EPP applies a multi-pronged approach that strengthens the employability of young people, employment opportunities in the private sector, and the institutional system of vocational education and training.

EPP FIELDS OF ACTION:

1. Skills Development:

The skills development component designs and implements labour market oriented training modules in life skills, business skills and labour market integration measures for youth in the four target districts.



2. TVET and Dual Studies:

The TVET component improves the preparation of young people for the demands on the labour market through the integration of practical experiences in their training and the demand-oriented adaptation of the VET system.



3. Agricultural Value Chain Development:

Value chain promotion activities aim at increasing production, quality of produce and ultimately employment in selected value chains, namely cocoa, coffee, rice and vegetables.



4. Private Sector – Business Loop (B-Loop):

As one of the core interventions to support MSMEs, entrepreneurs are trained in business related skills such as record keeping, marketing and customer relationship. A subsequent advanced B-Loop track supports promising entrepreneurs in their further growth efforts.



5. Private Sector – Facility for Growth (F4G):

This intervention aims to further develop established micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises through financial and in-kind support.



Student at the GIZ-supported St Joseph Vocational Institute in Lunsar, Sierra Leone, gardens inside the school's student-built greenhouse.



→ TVET AND DUAL STUDIES

Focus of the new project phase of the Employment Promotion Programme is the support of the development and institutional strengthening of the vocational training system in Sierra Leone. The aim is to increase the employment opportunities of graduates through increased demand-orientation of vocational training to the requirements of the private sector. For this purpose, 3 points are addressed:

Student at the GIZ-supported St Joseph Vocational Institute in Lunsar, Sierra Leone, uses a power sander to buff imperfections out of an iron gate she is building with other students.



1. Building an effective training partnership with the private sector: the aim is to improve the demand orientation of training by integrating practical work experience into the Sierra Leonean vocational training system.



2. Strengthening the governance of the vocational education sector: Improved institutional capacities will contribute to higher quality and labour market relevance of TVET in the medium term.



3. Enhancing the quality and service of vocational education and training by improving the learning environment, developing new and/or revising existing curricula and professional preparation of teachers.



→ EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The TVET and Dual Studies component aims to:

- Training of 5,000 young people in basic employment related skills and competencies
- Piloting a dual apprenticeship concept in collaboration with private companies, reaching 500 young people, 50% of whom are women
- Development and quality control of a National Qualification Framework (NQF) which regulates quality standards for TVET institutions and harmonizes requirements in collaboration with national stakeholders
- Increase in the number of vocational students taking part in vocational school courses by 25%, with a special focus on women and school leavers
- Training of 250 vocational school teachers 50% of whom are women in didactical and technical training
- Construction / renovation and equipment of up to 5 vocational schools

Student at the GIZ-supported St Joseph Vocational Institute in Lunsar, Sierra Leone, marks measurements for wood that he and other students are using to build tables and chairs as part of a carpentry skills development program.



→ GIZ IN SIERRA LEONE

GIZ has been working in Sierra Leone since 1963 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). GIZ supports Sierra Leone on behalf of the German Government ever since in the areas of employment promotion, value chain development, infrastructure development, regional resource governance and health system reform.



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