

# Qualification and Employment Prospects for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Ethiopia (QEP II)

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 940,000 refugees, making it one of the largest host countries in Africa. Furthermore, internal conflict as well as adverse effects of climate change have resulted in more than 4.5 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). However, just like the host communities, refugees and IDPs 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 and IDP inclusion. The country is part of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) as well as a signing party to the Kampala Konvention for the protection and assistance of IDPs. Ethiopia's Refugee Proclamation from February 2019 is an expression of the country's intention to include refugees into existing structures. QEP II supports Ethiopia's efforts in refugee and IDP inclusion and moves towards a development-oriented long-term approach of including refugees and IDPs, while supporting their host communities. GIZ has been working in the field of vocational training in Ethiopia for many years. On behalf of the German Federal 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, IDPs

and Ethiopians across the country: in Addis Ababa, Somali region, Benishangul-Gumuz region and Tigray region. The programme is co-financed by the European Union and contributes to the Special Initiative *Displaced Persons and Host Countries*.

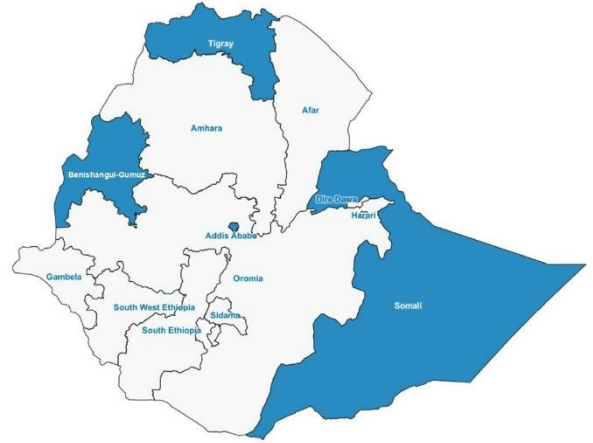
Project name	Qualification and Employment Prospects for Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities in Ethiopia (QEP II)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	European Union (EU)
Project regions	Ethiopia: Addis Ababa, Somali region, Benishangul-Gumuz region and Tigray region
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partner organisation	Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS)
Duration	11/2023 – 10/2027
Budget	EUR 22.45 Mio. including EUR 10.25 Mio. contribution by the European Union (EU)



QEP II's approach encompasses the following areas of action:

- **Implementation of the refugee proclamation**  
As part of the first project phase, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was concluded between MoLS and the Ethiopian Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS). The partners are being supported in establishing coordination formats that support the implementation of the Refugee Proclamation (and the forthcoming legislation on IDPs) in the vocational education and training sector. Thereby inclusive vocational education and employment measures are anchored in the partner system.
- **Expansion of access to vocational training**  
Established inclusive vocational colleges will be further supported and access for refugees and IDPs will be expanded. Vocational training measures in areas with high employment potential, including agriculture and other environmental and climate-related sectors, are further developed. The programme is thus responding to the increased demand for skilled workers in future-oriented sectors such as climate, energy and information technologies in Ethiopia.
- **Creating pathways into employment**  
Entrepreneurship centres are being set up or expanded at inclusive vocational colleges to promote the start-up culture in the vocational training system. Business groups made up of refugees, IDPs and members of host communities benefit from comprehensive start-up training, start-up assistance and mentoring. Regional employment promotion agencies support business groups in developing their products and services to establish themselves on the market. Partnerships between companies and vocational schools are established to facilitate the career entry of vocational school graduates.
- **Strengthening social cohesion**  
Extra-curricular activities, such as sports and cultural events and psychosocial counselling, are used to strengthen social cohesion between the different target groups in the vicinity of the vocational school. These measures are intended to strengthen personal resilience and reduce social conflicts between the groups. This ultimately leads to fewer drop-outs and facilitates the transition to employment.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector**  
In Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray, IDPs and their host communities are being trained for jobs in the water, sanitation

and hygiene (WASH) sector. The skills they learn will help meet local demand for the installation, reconstruction and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. Access to safe drinking water will also help to improve the learning experience at the inclusive vocational colleges and ensure a higher quality of education.



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

## Achievements from the first project cycle

- More than 430 vocational trainers have participated in technical and soft skills trainings thereby enhancing the quality of their teaching.
- 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 for thousands of refugees and Ethiopians.
- More than 430 newly established partnerships between local companies and public vocational colleges enable graduates to gain in-company work experience.
- More than 6,100 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.

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Qualification and Employment Prospects for Refugees, IDPs  
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Metro Hospitality Building (8<sup>th</sup> floor), Kazanchis Area,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
pierre.jaubert@giz.de  
www.giz.de/en/worldwide/65859.html

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Text Pierre Jaubert

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