

# Skills Development for Youth Employment – SKYE II

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

## Challenge

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 lack of qualified labour. Furthermore, the informal sector is huge. This has led to more young people being out of work and moving from rural areas to cities like Lagos for better opportunities, or even leaving the country.

One major reason for the ongoing job crisis and migration is that there is no adequate vocational education and training (TVET) provided. In addition, the reputation for TVET is very low in Nigeria. This leads to youth striving for an academic career, even though with little perspective to lead to employment. Furthermore, cultural norms discourage young women from pursuing technical careers.

The prevailing situation has led to a severe shortage of skilled labour for Nigerian companies, and this hampers the growth and development of these companies, limiting their capacity to expand and innovate. Without enough qualified workers, businesses struggle to meet the demands of an 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 'SKYE II – Skills Development for Youth Employment' programme aims at promoting needs-based Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and youth employment in Nigeria to enhance economic development in Nigeria. Essentially, the goal is to improve Nigeria's economy by putting structures in place that help increasing the number of skilled workers, and piloting of developed training standards. Firstly, this will be achieved through the development of vocational education and training (TVET) standards that are aligned with the needs of businesses and by strengthening the dialogue between public sector and companies. Secondly, training is provided to teaching and management staff in training institutions to enable them to deliver better training quality. Thirdly, job centres are established, and their staff is being trained to provide youth with job facilitation and training. Finally, the government is supported to gather labour market data to enable evidence-based policy making. The programme supports vocational education and training programmes to meet current job demands. Throughout, SKYE II collaborates closely with government, private sector, and civil society groups. It focuses on four main areas:

1. **Public-Private Dialogue:** We facilitate collaboration between government and businesses to discuss policies and exert joint efforts to improve employment prospects.
2. **Quality of TVET:** We improve the quality of training by implementation of developed standards and get training organisations ready to deliver good quality training. Furthermore, we facilitate “dual” training models in which students learn both in the training centre and the company to get ready for the requirements of the labour market.



**3. Employment Promotion:** We establish job centres to assist youth in securing employment.

**4. Gender and Social Inclusion:** We advise government and relevant institutions to ensure everyone has equal access to opportunities, regardless of gender or background.

## 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, SKYE established 3 pilot, state-of-the-art training centres in Abuja, Kogi, 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 SKYE's interventions. In agriculture alone, SKYE has trained 21,509 beneficiaries, of which over 40% are women. Additionally, SKYE 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 from the programme.

## ...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,

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 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
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