



REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Rwanda, Burundi and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are characterized by high population growth with 48% under 15 years, slow economic growth and low alternative job opportunities outside agriculture. With an average annual population growth of 3.15%, youth is adding to an already high population density of up to 490 persons per square kilometer in Rwanda and 386 in Burundi. According to the FAO, around 90% of the region's people generate their income in the agricultural sector mostly as subsistence farmers. The dependence on agriculture combined with a strong population growth creates pressure on the available farmland. The region share similar challenges regarding unemployment due to a weak private sector, little industrial development, non-adapted Technical and Vocational Education systems, as well as lack of clear qualification frameworks. To overcome these challenges, the three countries have prioritized the promotion of vocational training in their respective development strategies (EDPRS 2 for Rwanda, CLSP 2 for Burundi and DSCR 2 for DRC).



In spite of the marked improvements in labour-market efficiency over the last five years, the number of off-farm jobs created in Rwanda, estimated at 104'000 annually, has not expanded in tandem with the number of job seekers joining the labour market each year (approximately 200'000). Source: Youth and Women Employment program document, UNDP, 2014

Vocational training and employment promotion is a priority of the Swiss cooperation strategy for the Great Lakes 2013-2016 and will remain a priority in the strategy 2017-2020. To support Governments' efforts in the region, Switzerland decided to launch a 12-years program to **promote market oriented skills training in the Great Lakes region (PROMOST)**.

PROMOST is aligned with the three countries' policies and priorities; they have all demonstrated a strong interest in benefitting from Swiss expertise in this field. A number of regional analyses have stressed the need for market responsive training and employment for youth, not only because of the right to education, but also because it is a way to build and strengthen regional security, peace and economic development.

❖ **Key results for the piloting phase in Rwanda (2012- 2015)**

- In Rwanda, five Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) were built in five districts, equipped and handed over to the government and are operational;
- 61 modules were developed for level 1 and 2 for seven priority trades and they were validated by the Ministry of Education. 83 trainers were trained on how to use the modules;
- 20 non-formal Micro Training Providers were supported to rehabilitate and furnish their workshops with adapted equipment to provide quality and innovative training opportunities;
- 557 students were trained during 1 year in the 5 VTCs, among them 122 women/girls, 1806 students enrolled and passed a 3 to 6 months vocational training and 46% of them already secured a job in their trained occupation;
- In Burundi and in Democratic Republic of Congo, feasibility studies were conducted and program extension is under preparation.



PROMOST was planned as a regional program, but started as a pilot phase (2012-2015) in the Western Province of Rwanda, which is the poorest and the most affected by genocide. This first phase was used to learn from and use the experience to extend the project to the other countries.

The choice to pilot the program in Rwanda was also motivated by the country's commitment to TVET and its updated policies and strategies, the aim being to allow the implementing partner to generate a maximum of results and learnings in three years. The program's approach is two-fold:

- Support the formal TVET system in order to increase access to TVET for 9-year Basic Education school leavers;
- Promote informal TVET providers offering trainings to the rural population who didn't have the opportunity to follow a proper formal education and is excluded from the formal TVET system (e.g. ex-combatants, orphans, demobilized soldiers, school drop outs and women).

The objectives read as follows:

- **Increase access**, especially for disadvantaged groups and women, to quality market oriented skills trainings opportunities (construction and equipment of five public Vocational Training Centers (VTC) in the Western Province, rehabilitate non formal training providers);
- **Develop quality training programs** in line with labour market needs and better qualified teachers and trainers (development/adaptation of competence based curricula within Rwanda's technical qualification framework, training of trainers);
- **Develop institutional and organizational capacity** of the public and/or private training centers of the Western Province as well as the private sector;
- **Harmonize the process of curricula, examination and certification** to promote citizens' mobility within and between countries and to facilitate their lifelong learning.



In 2015, an external evaluation validated the directions taken and the achievements and recommended a second phase with an emphasis on training of trainers, private sector involvement in vocational training and skills development. **The Phase II (2016-2018) will consolidate** results in Rwanda and expand the program to South Kivu in 2016 and to Burundi in 2017.

Implementing partner: Swisscontact has been selected through an international tender. Swisscontact is a Swiss non-profit organization with internationally recognized expertise in TVET and private sector development.



FIGURES AND STATISTICS

(Budget of the Regional cooperation in millions of Swiss francs)

Bilateral Cooperation in East and Southern Africa (2016)	183
Bilateral Cooperation in the Great Lakes (Rwanda, Burundi, DRC) (2016)	28.5
Vocational Training Program	
Current Phase (02.2016-01.2019)	16

(March 2016)