



## ***Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC***

### ***Promoting Market Oriented Skills Training in the Great Lakes region (PROMOST)***

The great lakes region of Africa has the highest population density and the lowest level of urbanization in continental Africa. In Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC, subsistence agriculture remains the backbone of the economy employing the majority of the workforce. Due to poor infrastructure and weak market linkages, agricultural productivity and commercialization remain however below their potential hampering the sector to be a veritable driver for economic growth. In recognition of these constraints, the governments of the three countries have adopted strategies and policies in order to modernize the agriculture sector, increase its productivity and develop markets. At the same time, the governments are aware, that economic development also needs high investments in off-farm activities to increase employment and income.

While a whole range of policies are necessary to attain these objectives, the reform of the Education system plays a crucial role. Indeed, the development of human capital plays a pivotal role in a country's social and economic development. As of a matter of fact both governments have declared skills development in general and TVET in particular as one of their top national priorities. For a fast economic growth, fair and equitable distribution of income, the development of a competent and open economy, it is crucial to build a demand-driven, flexible, integrated and high quality TVET system.

In this regard and based on its long and solid partnership with both countries, Switzerland launched a program to promote market oriented skills training in the Great Lakes region (PROMOST) in 2012. The program has first been started in Rwanda but shall be extended to Burundi and the Eastern of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With an overall goal of contributing towards increased employment and income generation for the rural population through TVET, PROMOST uses a holistic and integrated approach. It particularly targets the increasing number of young people graduating from the 9 Years Basic Education in order to provide them with options for further education and training which allows their employability.

PROMOST extends over a term of 12 years and has been scaled up in 4 phases of three years each with an overall budget of CHF 9'437'605.

**The first phase** aims at supporting the Government's efforts to improve access, quality and relevance of the TVET system with a focus on qualitative improvement of TVET provision, enhanced accessibility for the most socio-economically disadvantaged and vulnerable segments of the rural population, and access to more diversified training opportunities. The project will address as well capacity building issues of the main stakeholders, namely the Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centers (IPRC), the local enterprises and micro training TVET providers (MTPs).

**In 2013**, a particular focus was put on the construction and equipment of one VTC in each of the five targeted districts in the Western Province (Karongi, Rutsiro, Ngororero, Nyamasheke and Rusizi). Competency-based curricula are being developed in Partnership with the Private Sector (PSP), especially on level 1 and 2, and training of trainers (TOT) supported jointly with the Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centre (IPRC of the Western Province in Rwanda). Finally, the institutional and organizational capacity of the private sector, TVET providers and local TVET authorities is being developed to strengthen the partnerships between these three key stakeholders.

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Given Switzerland's expertise in TVET, a Swiss organization (Swisscontact) with internationally recognized expertise in technical and vocational training has been selected in an international tender process and is responsible for the regional implementation of the program.

With the present engagement, Switzerland reaffirms its longstanding support to the African Great Lakes population and is convinced that with joint efforts the targeted regions shall gain a competitive and diversified economy and offer to the rural population new jobs and appropriate income.