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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

**E+E** | Economy and Education

# Interlinking BE and VSD for Labour Market Integration and Economic Development

SDC «How to do» Note

April 2023

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## Purpose of the how-to-do note on BE and VSD

1. SDC's willingness to address the needs of young people through a more integrated approach to BE and VSD
2. Entry point for reflection: challenges faced by different "target audiences" and types of solutions
3. Attention! No "ready-made solutions"
4. Document = starting point for institutional reflection!
5. Relative "typology" (variable according to contexts - no fixed nomenclature - wide variety of programmes)



## Rationale for strengthening BE-VSD linkages

high "learning poverty rate" of  
10 yr old children

**53%** overall  
**87%** in Sub-Saharan Africa  
*(World Bank 2019)*

Completion of lower secondary  
education is low

**41%** in Sub-Sahara Africa  
**65%** in West-Asia  
*(UNESCO 2021)*

**1%** of youth enrolled in formal  
VET programmes in Sub-Saharan  
Africa and Southern Asia  
*(UNESCO 2021)*

**Continued strong inequalities**  
between  
Rich <> poor  
Women <> men  
on all educational levels  
*(UNESCO world inequality database)*

- Exclusion from life-long learning
- No access to decent jobs
- No qualified workforce and limited development

**Therefore**, strong  
need to strengthen  
linkage between BE  
and VSD

SDC is one of few  
development  
agencies who  
engage at  
the interlinkage of  
BE & VSD



# Inspiration from the Swiss education system

## Swiss education and training system

- added value to SDC's engagement
- not a model, but source of inspiration for a strong interlinkage of BE and VSD/VET
- achievements of long development processes

### Strong public compulsory education system that is free for every child

Equitable and inclusive access to free quality basic education

### Permeability in the education system

- ▶ Various educational pathways possible
- ▶ Recognition of non-formal education opportunities and linkage to formal education system

### Strong orientation towards labour market needs

- ▶ Public and private partners for dual vocational skills development
- ▶ Combination of BE and vocational skills
- ▶ Vocational orientation in compulsory schooling
- ▶ Vocational, occupational, educational and career guidance services

### Alternative basic education for youth and adults

- ▶ Special BE catch-up programmes integrated in vocational education and training offers
- ▶ Bridge programmes

### Continuous coordination between educational levels

- ▶ Youth gradually acquire relevant skills and competences over time
- ▶ Vocational, educational and career guidance is available as part of lifelong learning at all education levels

### Active labour market measures

- ▶ Broad set of information, assessment, training, placement, and other measures to enhance labour market integration
- ▶ Upskilling and reskilling services



## Strengthen the interlinkages

### Focus

All levels of education including the formal and the non-formal, and governance

How can we support the continuum between basic education, vocational training and the world of work?

### Approaches for all

- "Permeability" ...holistic and coordinated sector policies, structures, governance and policies [solution 1](#)
- Access to quality and relevant basic education [solution 2](#)
- Vocational orientation and career guidance [solution 4](#)

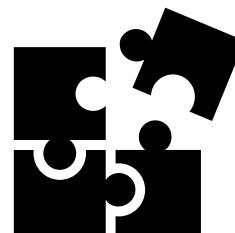
### Approaches for specific target groups

- Catch-up education and foundational skills in VSD [solution 3](#)
- Programmes de transition [solution 5](#)
- "Second Chance" programmes (with pre-vocational train.) [solution 6](#)
- *Programmes combining foundational skills & VSD* [solution 7](#)



## Challenge

**WEAK PERMEABILITY OF THE  
SYSTEM  
and  
NON-ALIGNED PROGRAMMES**



## Potential Solution

**HOLISTIC AND COORDINATED  
SECTOR POLICIES, GOVERNANCE,  
STRUCTURES**

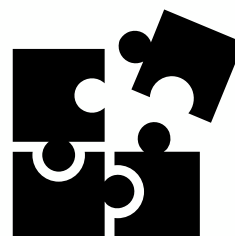
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## Challenge

LEARNERS WITH BASIC  
EDUCATION

....BUT weak foundational skills



## Potential Solution

Relevant quality  
compulsory education

2

Catch-up education and  
foundational skill in VSD

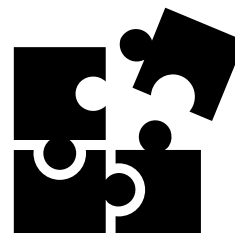
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## Challenge

**LEARNERS WITH BASIC  
EDUCATION**

....BUT make uninformed and  
wrong choices



## Potential solution

**Vocational orientation and  
career guidance**

4

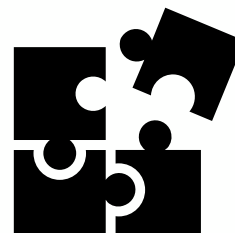




## Challenge

## Potential Solution

LEARNS WITH OR WITHOUT  
BE (LATE DROP OUT) WITH  
DIFFICULTIES TO TRANSITION  
TO POST-COMPULSORY (15-  
18 ans)



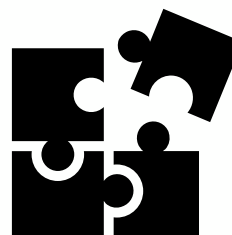
**BRIDGE PROGRAMS**

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## Challenge

LEARNERS WITHOUT BASIC  
EDUCATION



## Potential solution

**"SECOND CHANCE"**  
**(WITH PRE-VOC ELEMENTS)**  
*YOUTH (ABOUT 12-15)*

6

**PROGRAMMES COMBINING  
FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS  
AND VSD**  
*YOUTH 15+ AND ADULTS*

7



**Thank you!**