

## VOCATIONAL YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION

**Global challenges** – Global relationships are becoming more and more visible on the labour markets and in the professional world. In our networked global economy there is competition for business locations, investments, skilled workers and jobs. In order to achieve and maintain competencies for the ever-changing labour markets, employment-aged young people and adults are in need of continuous local offers of vocational training.

**DVV International** has been working for over fifty years at the interface between development cooperation and adult education with the support of our 25 regional and national offices. We build sustainable structures of youth and adult education worldwide in more than 30 countries. To this end, we cooperate with more than 200 local and regional partners. Our expertise is also based on the competencies of the approximately 900 VHS (*Volkshochschulen* – adult education centres), the largest providers of adult education in Germany. Vocational education is one of our core issues worldwide.

### Low education, low job chances

Globally, 781 million young people and adults can neither read nor write – more than 60 percent of them are women. Around 200 million people are unemployed, a trend which is increasing. Young people are particularly affected by unemployment. An estimated 71 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are unemployed. And yet, worldwide, only three percent of young people participate in vocational training. In development cooperation countries, the share is as low as one percent. Poverty, a lack of job and life perspectives and migration are among the effects of a lack of education and unemployment. Not only the individual is affected, mostly it is whole families.

In many newly transitioning and developing countries, several negative factors – the local labour markets, educational structures and economic conditions – are combined: Difficult access to education and a lack of vocational training meet a weakly developed local private economy which offers hardly any job opportunities. Unskilled employment with low incomes is the result, mostly in the form of occasional work in the so-called informal economy, for example in the street trade, micro-handicrafts or small-scale farming. In Latin America more than half of the people work in

the informal economy; in South and South East Asia about 70 percent; and in sub-Saharan Africa up to 90 percent of the working population.

### Vocational training – our approach

Vocational training facilitates the path to employment, opens job opportunities, connects to technological development and improves income. In our understanding, vocational education and training is not just about formal training in a company, deciding factors are above all the needs and labour-market-oriented offers for non-formal, company-independent education, informal learning as well as literacy and basic education. A comprehensive vocational training, as exemplified by the German dual system, is unthinkable in most development cooperation countries because of the insufficient basic framework conditions.

We understand vocational training as a bridge to the labour market, which provides people with comprehensive competencies and abilities for employability, for social participation and personal development. In our partner countries we offer formal and non-formal vocational training, especially for vulnerable groups. Local, long-term partnerships ensure the success of our on-the-spot-training.

Our needs and work-oriented programmes and measures in the field of vocational education and training are key to improving life prospects, for competitiveness and for sustainable development.

### Measures and fields of action

DVV International and its partners provide

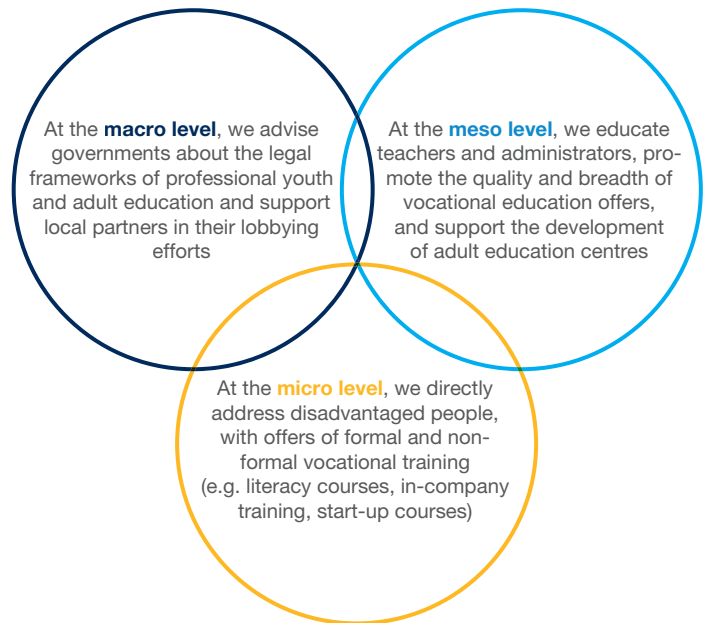
- Vocational education and literacy
- Job preparation and employability
- Non-formal and formal professional qualification
- Business start-up courses
- Strengthening of teaching and administrative staff
- Support for setting up and expanding training centres
- Advice on political and legal frameworks

### Demand-oriented, structural support measures

We focus our education programmes on local labour market demand and the individual educational needs of the people. The range of our courses and qualification offers is as large as the professions and competencies that can be acquired. The certification of participants in our educational activities is adapted to the different education systems of our partner countries.



In addition to the educational offers which are aimed directly at the course participants, DVV International also strengthens the competencies and capacities of teaching and administrative staff through training programmes. In addition, we also help our partners build and expand local education centres. At the state level, our work contributes to the improvement of political and legal framework conditions in the partner countries. We advise, among other things, in the area of the recognition of previously acquired skills and abilities as well as for the development of national legislation and training structures.



### Participation, employability and economic growth

Vocational training and qualification provide positive, directly measurable results for people, the labour market, the economy and society. Newly acquired skills and competencies lead to improved employability, income generation, more entrepreneurship and business start-ups, and thus to economic growth.

In addition to these direct results, vocational education and training has an indirect effect on the health and personal well-being of people. This includes an increase in self-awareness, resilience and the ability to solve problems. Support for women strengthens gender equality and opens up enormous employment potential. Literacy and basic education enable many people first to participate successfully in vocational training, to gain access to information about the labour market, and to increase the chances of remaining in a job once one is found. This also applies when people in cooperatives want to organise in order to open up new prospects to secure employment.

Lack of perspectives for jobs are among the most important factors for migration, especially among young people. Our experience shows: Vocational education makes a difference for the individual, for the community, for the economy – for society.

## DVV International in practice

Examples of our measures and programmes.

### Middle East – Prospects for refugees and local inhabitants

Unemployment and lack of prospects are the biggest challenges for the predominantly young population in the region. In Gaza and in the West Bank, economic development and personal development are severely restricted by the occupation. In Jordan, the challenge is the work with refugees.

In **Gaza**, we train hearing-impaired unemployed young people in what is known as *food production*. The goal is to supply food to kindergartens and schools. The measure includes different training modules – learning how to handle large kitchen utensils, for hygiene and safety, for creating healthy menus and for designing and producing packaging. An accompanying study shows the success of our measure and the potential for an expansion in Gaza.

Our programmes in **Jordan** focus on the integration of refugees into the local labour market and on the conflict-free coexistence of Jordanians and refugees. To this end, we work closely with the Jordanian adult education centres, universities and ministries. The measures promote, in particular, women's start-ups and job prospects for women. Our educational offers include topics such as health, reading and writing skills, self-marketing, ICT skills, business start-ups and the learning of artisanal skills. In our training programmes we train adult educators and prepare them for the special challenge in working with refugees.

### Adult education in prisons

In **Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Belarus and Bolivia**, DVV International offers vocational training for prisoners in penitentiaries. Our measures in the area of vocational training and everyday competencies prepare the incarcerated for their social reintegration after release. We promote the establishment of long-term partnerships between the penitentiary system and civil society which can bring our educational work toward sustainable success. In this way we contribute to the protection of social and economic rights and the right to education of the incarcerated. We cooperate with vocational schools, expand the offer of vocational education, provide support in the area of didactic materials and strengthen the capacities of the teaching staff.



### Southern Africa – professional qualification and local development

In **South Africa and Mozambique**, DVV International engages particularly with young poorly-educated people who in this context are called NEETs (Not in Education, Employment and Training). At the forefront of our educational work are literacy and the promotion of employability. Our experiences from the project work have an influence on the educational policy framework of the countries.

In Mozambique, we develop innovative educational programmes to improve food security. Qualification programmes are being developed that provide skills to support production in rural areas, such as crafts and agriculture. Our literacy programmes are coupled with new learning materials for cooperative work in the dairy industry and to adapt technologies in order to achieve an increase in yield as well as higher income and better living conditions for smallholders and their family members. Our measures strengthen the marketing, efficiency and capacity of local cooperatives. The overall coordination and coordination through our programme further enhances the efficiency of the cooperation of the rural actors and supports the successful management of the cooperatives.

### Vocational training in South-East Europe

DVV International supports vocational schools and adult education providers in **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia** with offers for the unemployed and vulnerable groups. We support our partners, especially in programme development – by consulting, method selection, training of trainers and by supplying equipment and didactic material. Together with our local partners, we train the unemployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina for various occupations, for example in the areas of construction and mechanical engineering. In cooperation with the

state-run vocational school for geodesy and construction in Sarajevo, numerous vocational training measures (tilers, painters and dry-building workers) have been created which assure unemployed men additional, state-recognised qualifications and open the way to employment.

In **Macedonia** DVV International cooperates with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Centre for Vocational Education and Training and the Centre for Adult Education. Together, we are working on the development of the new national strategies for adult education and lifelong learning. The direct support of the Macedonian government through DVV International provides a lasting contribution to the development of the education system in Macedonia, strengthens the structures of vocational and general education of the country and facilitates access to education for all people.

### Qualification programmes in rural areas

In **Laos**, which is largely rural, there is a shortage of accessible, local vocational training opportunities. DVV International therefore focuses on the provision of vocational school teachers to structurally weak, remote villages. Within the framework of our measure, these *Mobile Teachers* carry out one-week training courses in the villages. The newly acquired professional skills concretely and directly improve the life situation of the villagers. The *Mobile Teachers* tailor their learning contents according to the individual needs of the local people. Together with the villagers, they choose subject matter from the fields of agriculture, small machine repair, construction and food processing. The teaching has very large portions of practical aspects. In this way, from the small, already well-educated vocational school target group, we are able to open up and expand access to vocational education and training for disadvantaged people.

#### DVV International

- ... encourages the vocational training of disadvantaged young people and adults
- ... reaches people around the world in urban centres and in under-served rural areas
- ... combines literacy and basic education with vocational education and training
- ... works cost-effectively and needs-oriented
- ... offers low-threshold, precise measures with short and medium-duration qualification possibilities
- ... contributes to the long-term, structural strengthening of partner countries



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#### IMPRESSUM

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