



Skills 21 – Empowering citizens

for inclusive and sustainable growth

AT A GLANCE

Implementing Ministry: Ministry of Education

PARTNERS:

Government of Bangladesh

- Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry Of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
- National Skills Development Council Secretariat
- Directorate of Technical Education
- Bangladesh Technical Education Board
- Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training

Employers Organizations

- Bangladesh Employers' Federation

Workers Organizations

- National Coordination Council for Workers' Education

Development Partner: European Union

Duration: January 2017 – December 2021

Geographical Focus: Bangladesh

BACKGROUND

Some two million people enter the Bangladesh workforce each year, however the capacity to provide skills training is limited. There is therefore a pressing need to help the country provide equitable and quality technical education capable of skilling and up skilling large numbers of people to meet market demands.

This requires qualified teachers and assessors, up-to-date institutional facilities and a market driven competency-based inclusive skills system. These steps are crucial for enhancing labour productivity as well as facilitating industrialization, trade and inclusive economic growth.

The EU-funded ILO-implemented Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform Project successfully implemented the reforms in the formal TVET system and set the foundation for the nascent National Skills Development System (NSDS) in Bangladesh. However, to successfully address the needs of the country's growing workforce, the system needs strengthening, promotion, adoption/adaption, and replication by stakeholders.

ACTIVITIES

The Project will take forward the achievements of the ongoing projects and address the next priority areas, in particular:

- Continuous strengthening and improving the quality of the TVET/skills development system, including development of a National Qualification Framework (NQF) that would ensure harmonization of qualification pathways across primary, secondary, technical and higher education
- Establishing a more conducive legislative, regulatory and institutional environment through improved governance and management of the TVET/skills development system including, inter-alia, developing the mechanisms and elements for a Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) in the TVET/skills development sector
- Improving access to and equity within the TVET/skills development system including through expanding the number of model TVET institutions for inclusive, environmentally conscious, quality and labour market-responsive skills development.

The project also aims to support collaboration between companies and relevant training providers to develop and implement demand-driven education and training programs.



Given the importance of labour migration in the Bangladesh economy, Skills 21 will provide inputs for creation of adequate opportunities to integrate a migration focus in the skills development system and assist in implementation of the policy for skilling returning migrants to support their reintegration as well as those aspiring to migrate so they are able to secure better paid work.

In addition, the project will help pave the way for the transition to a greener, more sustainable economy by providing skills for emerging occupations in green industries and mainstreaming environmental sustainability into the overall national skills development system.

ILO Country Office for Bangladesh

House # SE (G) 2, Road 140

Gulshan -1, Dhaka 1212

Tel. 09678777457, 55045008, Fax. +88 02 9883982

Email: dhaka@ilo.org