

Skills for Unemployed and Underemployed Labour

Country/Region: Bangladesh, South Asia

Timeframe/Status: Phase 1 (December 2011 – December 2014)

Needs: Around 40 million people in Bangladesh and 90% of the total female labor force are employed in the informal sector. Typically, workers have limited skills, and lack access to basic services such as education, health and safety nets. The country currently faces an annual labor force growth of almost 2 million people, which ideally should be absorbed by the formal TVET system. Despite considerable progress over the past years, the TVET system is far from a position to do so. Therefore, there is a huge need and demand for high quality short-term training programs which are geographically, economically and culturally accessible for disadvantaged people and which focus on sectors and skills needed in the private and informal sector. SkillFUL offers an opportunity to bridge this gap and contribute to policy dialogue with innovative skills development experiences.



Objectives: The overall objective is to contribute to increased employability and income of the poor in Bangladesh. The specific objective is to improve the skills based opportunities for sustainable income generation for the labor force in the informal economy.

- 20'000 young people – 40% women – are trained by 2014, and have a certified qualification.
- 40 public and private training institutions provide modern, competency based trainings.
- Adequate employment support services are established for job placement or to start in self-employment.

Target groups: Ultimate beneficiaries are 20'000 poor – 40% women – from Dhaka, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Sunamganj, Jessore districts, and 40 public/private training providers.

Focus / Activities: The intervention strategy strongly focuses on a multi-stakeholder approach with particular emphasis on the involvement of the private sector and articulation of project activities with the overall skills development system and landscape in Bangladesh.

- The sector/trades are being selected in a process involving experts of the particular geographic area, from the private sector, training providers, government representatives and target beneficiaries.
- Occupational experts will participate in a DACUM analysis to elaborate competency profiles and curricula.
- Competency profiles and curricula will be put out for a competitive tender in each area and both private and public training providers can hand in proposals for the delivery of the training.
- The training program will be implemented by re-trained instructors and monitored by the SkillFUL project management.
- A certification process which is recognized by the Government of Bangladesh mandated authority will be established which facilitates integration into the labour market.
- Job support mechanisms including job placements, business start-ups and informal labour market information systems will be established in close collaboration with training providers and private sector partners.

Human and Financial Resources: CHF 2 million by SDC (phase 1). EU: CHF 1.5 million, Swisscontact: CHF 400'000. Others (mostly in kind) CHF 100'000 equiv.

Results: Outputs of phase 1:

- Strengthened capacities of training providers
- 30 demand-based training packages developed
- Certification process established
- At least 20'000 poor people access training
- Employment support services (job placement, start-up support, etc.) are established and used
- Scale-up model for wider dissemination developed

Implementing agency: Swisscontact and public and private training providers. Partners: EU, Bureau of Manpower Education and Training (BMET), Technical Education Board (BTEB), CMES, private sector.