

**Enhancing the Capacity of Khartoum State, Sudan , in the Delivery of Pro-Poor
Vocational Training Services:**
**UNIDO's role in Vocational/Skills Training Services and Capacity Building in Youth
Entrepreneurship Development (YED) for Job Creation and Poverty Alleviation**

(Project Duration: March 2007 – 31 October 2010)

UNIDO's role in assisting the Government and the private sector in Sudan in addressing the demands for job creation and innovations in the vocational and skills development sector has been eminent for approximately 3 years. The technical, managerial and technology related assistance provided through an EU funded large scale development cooperation project with Khartoum State has yielded a number of concrete results which is giving the country an edge for developing their industrial human resources base for job creation and economic development . After a period of nearly 50 years, this is the first time that Sudan has set up four new major centres (VTECs), and has developed a vocational and technical curriculum and management system with full connectivity that reflect the industrial relevance and the needs of the SME sector. The VTECs included in the project are Hag Yousif, Souk El Mahali, Halfait El Muluk, Kerary ,and Khartoum I

This development process was put in motion by the Khartoum State with UNIDO's assistance, actively involving concerned agencies having a stake in the implementation process, including the industrial partners and the Employers Federation, along with the Dahl Group. This project has laid the foundation for a new system of vocational – technical training in Sudan, with a milestone for industrial training approaches using up-to-date equipment and IT approaches to prepare youngsters for helping Sudan to modernize its economy . Technical assistance has been provided for the construction sector, automotive, auto body and heavy equipment, ICT and electronics, metal and engineering sector, machining, refrigeration and air cooling, footwear and leather, hotel and food catering as well as health , social and community care . Related to these sectors, a number of study tours at several levels for managers , trainers and instructors to the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Bahrain, Egypt, Ethiopia and Austria were arranged

Considering the project objectives which can be divided in Component 1, i.e. Equipment and training levels in selected VTCs in Khartoum State are matching labour market needs and productive sector demands, while training facilities are accessible to main target groups (unemployed, youth women and IDPs), and **Component 2**, A significant share of young urban poor, particularly women, in Khartoum State's IDP areas has improved their skills for employability and entrepreneurial activities, the achievements of the project are quite significant. These show the synergetic links of the two integrated project components, i.e. addressing more the formal VTEC requirements and building blocs , and Component 2 , responding to the needs of Internally Displaces Persons (IDP) ,with a population of at least 1.7 million, living since 20 years in camps at the sub-urban outskirts of Khartoum State .

The project focus of the community based and technical training programmes in Component 2 are geared towards providing a combined programme for entrepreneurship

and skills training for immediate job creation. The IDP camps house many illiterate families, women and youngsters, brought into the project, and who are to be given technical and entrepreneurial skills ranging from repair work to construction plastering painting, crafting, leather processing, craft metal bending and henna tattooing .

It should be additionally noted that the synergies between Component 1 and 2 are being built by the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and /NGOs, training institutions, working in the IDP camps as project partners (31 in total) helped to raise awareness (through the REFLECT Method). They provide marketable skills training and prepare the youngsters ,both men and women, in their respective communities to qualify for entry into the new VTECs through information dissemination and conducting pre-vocational training on technical math, technical drawing and technical English.

The active participation, contributions and active engagement of international expertise (i.e. Castle College, Nottingham, UK, EDEXCEL/middle East, CIAST, Malaysia) and national professional agencies should be acknowledged for implementation . As the VTECs should be internationally accredited, the project gave high priority to the English language ,with ILC/UK as a project training partner. Agencies such as the National Council for Technical and Technological Education (NCTTE), the Supreme Council for Vocational Training and Apprenticeship, the Chamber of Commerce , The Sudanese Engineering Council, the Employer's Federation, the Workers Union, the management of the new VTECs, the Academe and the Khartoum State have had a major role in developing the ownership for the project and for imbedding the general framework for a demand-oriented modernized curriculum using the Competency-Based Training (CBT) approach to be combined with entrepreneurship development.

As for Component I , a total of 96 managers and administration staff for the VETCs were trained in several professional areas, including HRD (approx. 19 per centre), with a total of at least 175 highly skilled trainers . Taking into account that when all VTECs are fully operational, at one average training day using the CBT approach, each VTEC should have the capacity to at least training 800 trainees with a system of 4 training shifts per day.

As to the sustainability arrangements , and to demonstrate a strong ownership of project partners for the VTEC operations beyond the lifetime of the project, as well as the operational and staff costs of the centres , the Khartoum State Government has made a financial and budgetary yearly commitment (5 years) for further management training and maintaining the VTEC equipment. Within this context, it should be noted that the Khartoum State has established a Council for Vocational Training and Technical Education, which is headed by the Governor himself to ensure the sustainability of the project after UNIDO and the EU completed the project. For daily management of the operations the tasks of the UNIDO Project Management Unit which was set up for implementation have now been taken over by the Vocational Administration Unit (KSVTA) under the management of a State Minister, the High Commissioner for Human Resources Development . Overall, the Khartoum State Government's co-funding for the project has been two-thirds of the overall project budget, i.e. 22 million Euros in total; the EU contribution through UNIDO has been 11 million Euros .

Inez Wijngaarde, Project Manager, March . 2011