LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT (LKD) FACILITY
SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING ON PUBLIC PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Context

In order to find a decent job in a globalized world, young people need to develop a range of skills and knowledge that are typically gained through formal education and training. However, though enrolments in primary education have improved considerably, a large segment of the young population in the developing world faces major barriers to achieving this goal. Even those young people lucky enough to stay on at school are not developing skills that are demanded by employers. As a result of this situation and the overall failure of many developing country economies to create jobs for a growing population, young people continue to be marginalized in labour markets. Subsequently they have few opportunities to find decent formal employment that will lift them and their families out of poverty.

To address the pressing youth employment challenge, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and UNIDO have joined forces to engage global companies, as partners in training, in order to upgrade the quality of the vocational training system in developing countries, transfer the much needed professional know-how and technical knowledge, and strengthen the labor market linkages. At the same time, companies investing in developing countries will have increased access to skilled workforce at the local level.

Scope of intervention

Sida and UNIDO are working together on Public Private Development Partnership (PPDP) programs focusing on industrial skills development. These programs aim at: (i) establishing, in partnership with global manufacturing companies training academies for the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment; and (ii) expanding access of youth to job-oriented and demand-driven skills in the sectors of logistics and industrial maintenance of machinery.

Innovative features

Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach as such is not a new mechanism. Adding the “D” (Development) component to PPDP is a relatively new and innovative approach that stems partly from Millennium Development Goal 8 that calls for global partnerships for development. Private and public sectors as well as development agencies have realized that poverty reduction can’t be achieved by separating these three sectors.

PPDP in the context of industrial skills development and vocational training centers is a new approach. The private sector brings in equipment and know-how, the public sector contributes buildings and staff-time and the development partners provide the funding of the development objectives, linkages to the government and act as a neutral body bringing the different partners together.

Prospect for up-scaling

Taking into account the high potential for the expansion of such programs and their innovative PPDP approach, Sida and UNIDO decided to promote a learning and knowledge development (LKD) facility to serve as an industrial skills development resource.

The LKD facility project contributes to establishing efficient market oriented vocational training systems in developing countries by facilitating knowledge sharing and supporting a wider innovative approach for PPDPs in skills development. This will be achieved by following three outputs:

- Establishing a results-based learning and knowledge sharing platform for PPDPs;
- Providing management training in order to address structural constraints and required attitude/business change in vocational training;
- Expanding the PPDP skills training programme in (initially) heavy duty vehicles operations and maintenance to other countries in the developing world.

At a Glance

| TITLE | Learning and knowledge development (LKD) facility: A Sida-UNIDO industrial skills development resource |
| GOAL | To support knowledge development and best practices sharing for Public Private Development Partnership (PPDP) programmes focusing on industrial skills development in Africa and elsewhere and the effective participation of global manufacturing companies in the transfer of know-how and technology |
| DONOR | Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) Volvo, Scania, Festo, WordSkills Foundation, Selam Vocational Training Centre in Ethiopia, Swedish Academy for Training in Kurdistan, Sida, UNIDO |
| PARTNERS | |
| BUDGET | EUR 1,100 000 |
| STATUS | ongoing |
| DURATION | September 2012 – February 2016 |

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