The East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration (EASTRIP, US$293 million) was approved in October 2018 to address critical skills shortage in growing sectors including agriculture, energy, ICT, manufacturing, and transport in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania and to promote regional integration.

East African countries are experiencing rapid economic development*

- Ethiopia: 10%
- Tanzania: 6%
- Kenya: 5%

*averaging annually over the last decade

There is a shortage of specialized and technician level skills that could seriously dampen the industrialization and integration agenda if not addressed.

Industrial and service sectors increasingly contribute to GDP. The governments have embraced industrialization as part of the strategy for sustainable economic development and job creation. East Africa regional initiatives further add to the impetus by investing in regional transport corridors (such as northern corridor integration project (NCIP) and the central transport corridor) and sector markets, power pool, digital and telecom market, aviation, financial services, agriculture and labor markets.

The Ethiopian Railway Corporation (ERC) forecasts: FROM 2015 TO 2044:

- RAILWAY TECHNICIANS WILL BE NEEDED
  - 83,000

Regional demand for ICT skills also expected to increase:

- OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS:
  - 3.7X

African countries on average devote only 2 percent to 6 percent of education budgets to TVET, compared to 10 percent to 30 percent to higher education. Inadequate and often inequitable financing mechanisms for TVET undermine access, equity, and efficiency. Secondary TVET enrollment in Ethiopia was at 38 percent (2012), and Kenya at less than 2 percent (2009). Female enrollment in technology and engineering fields is especially low.

1 from 8,300 to 30,600 based on skills audit carried out for the NCIP in 2017
EASTRIP is designed to address challenges in skills shortage and mismatch, by providing technical, financial and industry partnership to increase the access and improve the quality of training programs in selected TVET flagship institutes and to facilitate regional integration by providing a regional platform to promote exchanges of policies and practices, students and faculty mobility and harmonization of standards and qualifications. EASTRIP follows the successful higher education ACE model but moving down the education ladder to focus on the training of technicians, as opposed to master and PhDs. EASTRIP highly emphasizes development impact and results and adopts the disbursement-linked indicators. A total of 16 TVET colleges in STEM fields have been selected based on government nomination, national priority, and objective selection criteria and rating by independent technical experts.

EASTRIP also supports a national component in each of the three countries and finances the development of policy and guidelines to facilitate student, graduate, and faculty mobility and industrial partnership and strengthen the capacity of national agencies responsible for the approval of occupation standards, model curriculum, and accreditation of TVET programs. At regional level, through a regional coordination unit – the Inter University Council of East Africa, the project will support the following:

- Harmonization of standards and mutual recognition of qualifications for priority occupations
- Facilitating staff and student mobility through exchange programs
- Regional project coordination and M&E.

**SUBCOMPONENTS**

**Component 1**
Strengthening selected Regional Flagship TVET Institutes for high-quality skills development in priority sectors

1. Strengthening governance and management
2. Institutionalizing industry links
3. Developing market relevant competency-based training programs
4. Training of TVET managers and teachers/trainers
5. Provision of key training facilities and equipment
6. Outreach and support for non-project national TVET institutes

**Component 2**
Creating national TVET enabling environments

1. Strengthening national TVET quality assurance and industrial partnership
2. Capacity building for TVET policy development and implementation
3. Promoting regional integration
4. Facilitating national project coordination, and M&E

**Component 3**
Enhancing regional collaboration in TVET and project coordination

1. Harmonization of standards and mutual recognition of qualifications for priority occupations
2. Facilitating student and staff mobility through exchange programs
3. Regional project coordination and M&E