

East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration (EASTRIP) Project

[Press Release](#) | [Project Information](#)

A **Regional World Bank operation** that aims to increase technical vocational education and training (TVET) programs in selected Regional Flagship TVET institutes and support regional integration in East Africa.

A **\$293 million International Development Association (IDA) credit and grant** to support the development and delivery of demand driven TVET programs for technician training in Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania in agriculture, transport, energy, manufacturing, tourism, and ICT sectors. The regional initiative promotes various school industry collaboration to transform the TVET institutes and support industry recognized short-term training. The overall goal is to support countries in developing mid-level specialized skills that can catalyze economic development, regional trade, and integration. EASTRIP supports 16 competitively selected public and private TVET institutions across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

This operation was **approved on October 30, 2018**, by the Board of Directors of the World Bank, the Financing Agreements were signed by November 02, 2018, and the Project became Effective on March 25, 2019.

Main features

Context Overview:

Various demand studies point to **skills gaps** especially mid-level technicians in priority and emerging sectors such as agriculture, energy, and ICT **in East Africa**. At the same time, **countries aspire to industrialize** and are undertaking various reforms to create conducive environment for investment and job creation. **Regional corridors of transport, energy, and ICT present unprecedented opportunities for the East African counties**, yet countries will not be able to harness these if skills shortage is not addressed.

TVET is the main vehicle through which post basic technical skills are developed, but the sector has serious bottlenecks in finance, quality and relevance. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) serves as the primary vehicle for developing post-basic technical skills. Nevertheless, the sector faces substantial challenges, including financial constraints and issues related to quality and relevance. Addressing these bottlenecks is crucial to ensuring that TVET can adequately meet the demands of the evolving job market and contribute to the overall economic development of the region.

Project Development Objective (PDO):	To increase the access and improve the quality of TVET programs in selected Regional Flagship TVET Institutes and to support regional integration in East Africa.
Implementation Agency:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-University Council for East Africa • Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Tanzania) • Ministry of Labour and Skills (Ethiopia) • State Department of Vocational & Technical Training, under the Ministry of Education (Kenya)
Interventions:	<p>Two main principles of EASTRIP are institutional autonomy and industrial linkage. EASTRIP supports each of the 16 competitively selected TVET colleges in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Strengthen private sector linkages 2) Develop demand driven short-and long-term specialty TVET Programs including joint programs with global leading institutions and industries 3) Staff professional development including attachment in industries 4) R&D through graduate tracer studies 5) Provision of the state of art training equipment and facilities 6) Regional and international exchanges <p>Support TVET policy development at national and regional levels</p>
Project Components:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening selected Regional Flagship TVET Institutes for high quality skills development in priority sectors 2. Creating national TVET enabling environment 3. Enhancing regional collaboration in TVET and project coordination
Direct Beneficiaries:	Students, TVET colleges, employers

Other highlights of the project

EASTRIP is making significant progress towards achieving its Program Development Objective (PDO). **The enrollment of students in formal certificate, diploma, and degree programs has surged to 24,172** from a baseline of 6,971, more than tripling the initial figure. Similarly, **enrollment in short-cycle industry-demanded programs has reached 10,000**, doubling the baseline value of 3,770. Notably, the average graduate employment rate within six months of graduation has risen from 47% to an impressive 67%, with the target set at 77%.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has **successfully developed over 367 accredited or industry-certified programs**. Recognizing the importance of industry collaboration, the Regional Flagship TVET Institutes (RFTIs) have established industry advisory boards and are now consistently monitoring graduate employment data. Nationally, comprehensive TVET strategies, encompassing financing, quality assurance regulations, and occupational standards, have been formulated.

At the **regional level**, EASTRIP has played a pivotal role in shaping **TVET integration**. This includes the creation of essential instruments such as the Policy Framework for Regional TVET Integration, Regional TVET Qualification Framework, 44 harmonized Occupational Standards, Regional Framework for Occupational Competence Assessment and Certification, and an implementation strategy for regional staff and student mobility. These initiatives have been embraced by the three benefiting countries and are already in effect.

The **EASTRIP regional platform** has evolved into a de facto hub for East African countries, facilitating the exchange of policies, lessons learned, and collaborative research. It serves as a united front for advocating and advancing skills development through dynamic TVET systems across the region.

Expected Results

By the end of the project, it is expected that RFTIs will have at least doubled the enrollment, and more than 75% of the graduates will secure jobs within 6 months of graduation. Further, the colleges will have sustained capacity to deliver market validated long term and short-term training programs. The flagship colleges will sustain the EASTRIP investments by adopting a market approach to training and having vibrant governance with members from industries and engage in a virtuous cycle of program development, implementation, and evaluation. At the national level, TVET policies will build on the success of RFTI reforms and will be reoriented so that TVET programs are demand-driven and public financing will be results based.

Additional resources

- [A few Sparks Can Light a Prairie Fire EASTRIP Contributes to Regional Integration and Excellence in TVET](#) | Blog | June 3, 2022
- [Youth in Tanzania Reach for the Skies to Make Their Dreams in Aviation Come True](#) | Feature Story | September 6, 2023
- [Preparing for Tomorrow: Developing Digital Skills in East African Youth](#) | Feature Story | June 26, 2023
- [Amid Rapid Changes in Science and Technology, a Program to Empower Teachers—and Students—to Improve Technical and Vocational Colleges in Eastern Africa](#) | Feature Story | June 20, 2023
- [Practical Skills and Hands-on Experience Mean Economic Transformation for East African Youth](#) | Feature Story | June 13, 2023