



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Agência Suíça de Desenvolvimento e Cooperação

Secretaria de Estado para Assuntos Económicos

Regional Programme Southern Africa RPSA

Swiss – South African Cooperation Initiative (SSACI)

Duration: 4 Years (November 2010
– October 2014, exit phase)

Budget: CHF 4,200,000.-

Implementing Agency: SSACI

Partners: SSACI, private sector
(Swiss and South African)

Project location: South Africa

Contacts

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Current Situation

For years, South African economy has identified a shortage of skilled personnel as one of the most serious constraints on the country's economic growth. At the same time, almost half of South Africa's young men and women in the 18-24 years age-group are unemployed because they lack the technical and vocational skills the labour market needs ("skills gap"). With the recent economic crisis, South Africa lost approximately 900'000 jobs; 70% of these jobs were occupied by young people.

SSACI is a Public Private Partnership in the area of vocational training between SDC and Swiss enterprises in South Africa. Registered in South Africa, SSACI provides financial and technical support to vocational skills training and job creation projects for out-of-school youths from formerly disadvantaged communities. 6200 youth have already graduated from SSACI's training (80% receiving a regular income), 650 small businesses have been assisted, 400 micro-enterprises created and more than 1300 new job created for young people.

Swiss Objectives

The current and last phase (2011 – 2014) of SDC's support to SACCII will add projects with a focus on green jobs and ensure that SSACI have a systemic impact on the South African institutions in the education and training sector.

SSACI has already positively influenced national policy on skills training and the provision of public training programmes with, for instance, the inclusion of workplace experience into core curriculum based and the adjustments to the regulations governing apprenticeship training and to government subsidies for such trainings.

What will change?

- Trained young people have acquired required skills and knowledge and remain in permanent employment and improve their income.
- Trained young people have acquired skills and knowledge relevant to green economy and apply these skills. The government adopts and scales up SSACI projects.
- The South African Government learns from SSACI's experience and modifies education sub-systems on the basis of SSACI's advice.