

MOVING LIBERIA FORWARD

SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)



The European Union (EU) is a longstanding partner and friend of Liberia. The EU has supported Liberia since 1973 through different channels. The support to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) focuses on developing TVET as a key priority for economic growth and transformation as part of a process of social inclusion and nation-building.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF TVET IN LIBERIA?

In Liberia, one third of the population is between 15 and 35 years old. It is estimated about a third of these young people are unemployed and most of those who are employed occupy low skilled and unskilled jobs. There is also a severe lack of qualified and trained young people with specific technical and professional skills in various sectors where the country is in dire need of human resources.

The state of skills development education is weak following years of infrastructural breakdown after the war and Ebola outbreak. Also, the training provided does not meet the demands of the labour market, and graduates have little chance of finding employment. Liberia, therefore, faces the challenge of improving the skills of its young people to join the labour force in the coming years for economic growth. To improve this, the EU is supporting the ongoing TVET sector reforms.

HOW DOES THE EU SUPPORT TVET IN LIBERIA?

The EU is supporting Liberia in developing a skilled workforce based on private sector demand. The goal is to increase employment opportunities for Liberian youth which will ultimately contribute to economic growth.

A strong emphasis is placed on developing a **New Generation of Vocational Trainers** capable of filling the gap soon to be left by the existing ageing instructor's workforce.



Through the **Youth Rising** project, the European Union seeks to strengthen the development of human and institutional capacities for implementation of a national TVET programme. It aims at improving infrastructure, the quality of TVET delivery and developing national regulatory and support institutions capacity to respond to a demand-driven TVET system.

At the government level, the project provides capacity development for the TVET system in Liberia at central and decentralised levels. At the central level, the focus is on building institutional capacity to develop and organise a framework for the provision of demand-driven TVET qualifications and competency-based curricula.

The project sets a strong focus on building the capacity of selected TVET public schools to generate revenue, thereby fostering autonomy in the context of low government financing capability in the short to medium term.

The EU support overall aims to:

1. Improve the quality, relevance and modernisation of TVET, by strengthening links with the private sector and by improving the governance, planning, management and delivery capacity at governmental and TVET provider levels through the promotion of equitable and gender-balanced access to TVET in target providers.
2. Ensure key state institutions are endowed with a robust technical base to support the effective governance, planning, management, oversight, and delivery of TVET.
3. Guarantee selected TVET providers are staffed with instructors, administrators and principles with upgraded skills, and infrastructure, equipment and systems are modernised with particular attention to the South East region.
4. Increased private sector involvement in the Liberian TVET system, including in curriculum development, governance and TVET delivery.
5. Ensure measures undertaken to foster enrolment and retention of female and vulnerable youth and people with disabilities are streamlined into TVET provider systems.

Through the Youth Rising Liberia project, the European Union is working with the Government to make TVET accessible to all. In addition to facilitating both human and infrastructure development, the project also promotes entrepreneurship and connects vocational education with the private sector in nine schools located in six counties, including Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Maryland and Bong Counties.

