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Visit to the inter-company training centre of the Saarland Chamber of Skilled Crafts

GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME
BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)

Federal state – partner country
Saarland - Benin

Title
Creating the basis for vocational optician training in Benin

In cooperation with the GIZ programme
Improving vocational training in Benin (ProFoP)

Financing arrangements

BMZ contribution	320.000 EUR
Saarland contribution	213.640 EUR

Duration
01.06.2024 - 31.12.2025

Responsible ministry
Ministry of Education and Culture (Saarland)

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



New career opportunities for women in Benin

Local situation

Benin faces numerous challenges. A lack of social protection and the unequal distribution of economic opportunities, income and wealth pose a challenge to the country's socio-economic development. In addition, vocational training lacks courses for modern job profiles and effective alignment with the needs of the labour market.
There is also currently no structured, formal training for the profession of optician in Benin. For the most part, eyeglasses are assembled from standardised individual components. There is little opportunity for people to obtain glasses customised to their needs, so it is difficult to meet individual requirements.

Cooperation arrangements

The Saarland Ministry of Education and Culture provides support to the implementation partner EFB-Entwicklungsförderung Benin e.V. and uses its structures in the education sector. There is also cooperation with BRILLEN ohne GRENZEN – Gudd-Zweck UG, the Development Service of German Optometrists (EDA) and the Technisch-Gewerbliches Berufsbildungszentrum 2 (TGBBZ 2) Saarbrücken. The partner in Benin is the municipality of Copargo in the department of Djougou, which already has a cooperation arrangement with EFB. The Ecole de Formation des Auxiliaires de Santé (EFAS) in Djougou is also a key partner in project implementation. Other cooperation partners include the Hôpital Saint Jean de

"Establishing a professional opticians' training course in Benin to enable the people of Benin to enjoy good eyesight in the long term is not only amazing, it's also an honour and a wonderful goal to aim for."

Reinhard Müller, project partner
owner Optik Müller Blaufelden, Saarland



Practice pieces for acquiring manual skills

Dieu de Tanguiéta, which has the task of supporting interaction between ophthalmology and opticians and their integration, and the Beninese Ministry of Secondary and Technical Education and Vocational Training.

What we are doing - and how

The aim of the project is to create a model for opticians' training in Benin using a training workshop in Djougou as an example. It places a special focus on strengthening the professional skills of women in rural regions, thereby strengthening also the role and image of working women. An information-gathering trip to Saarland, to be undertaken by Beninese partners working in administration, politics and (vocational) education, will provide an insight into training structures through visits to vocational schools, companies offering training, education providers and ministries. The German and Beninese partners will then work together to set up a training workshop in Djougou and develop a suitable curriculum for Benin.

Ten female applicants will be trained in aspects of business management. After a final test, six of the prospective women opticians will be given practical training by the EDA in Benin, as well as instruction locally in the use of equipment and the work of an optician. The trainees will receive continuous online support and training through the EDA and TGBBZ 2. This will cover aspects ranging from repairing and modifying glasses to explaining vision aids and test results to customers. The qualification includes a business management component, taught by the EDA, to enable the women opticians to run workshops themselves upon completion of the course. Once qualified, trainees can train up other opticians in these workshops and act as multipliers. The trainees will also be offered a two-day empowerment seminar on the subjects of women in vocational training and boosting self-confidence in the professional context.

Useful links

- Further information on the BLP:
  https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/132983.html
  https://bund-laender-programm.de/en
- TC project Improving Vocational Training in Benin
  https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/127152.html
- Development Service of German Optometrists (EDA) https://www.eda-information.com/en
- Brille ohne Grenzen - Gudd-Zweck UG
  https://www.gudd-zweck.de/gudd-zweck-aktionen/brillen-ohne-grenzen/
- EFB-Entwicklungsförderung Benin e.V.
  https://www.efb-benin.de/
- Technisch-Gewerbliche Berufsbildungszentrum 2 https://www.tgbbz2.de

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