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Vocational Skills Training at KAYEC

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



Federal state - partner country
Berlin - Namibia

Title
SkillUp Namibia – Strengthening Technical Skills, Economic Participation and Civic Education for Disadvantaged Youth

In cooperation with the GIZ programme
Promotion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ProTVET) III

Financing arrangements
BMZ contribution 147,000 EUR
Berlin contribution 96,280 EUR

Duration
01.01.2026 - 31.12.2026

Responsible ministry
Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises, Berlin

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



Creating Opportunities Through Accessible Vocational Training

Local situation

Namibia has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Africa. Unemployment among young adults is particularly high in urban poverty areas and is aggravated by insufficient school qualifications, low literacy levels and a lack of vocational prospects. Many young people leave the formal education system early without acquiring the basic qualifications needed for the labour market. Namibia's school system provides for eleven years of formal education. Those who do not complete these are denied access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres, meaning that disadvantaged youth in particular is systematically excluded from vocational training. In addition, the formal vocational training system in Namibia is characterized by high entry barriers, especially for youth with low levels of formal education or informal backgrounds. At the same time, there is a high demand for simple services in the construction and repair sector, which could be met by low-threshold qualification measures. Promoting gender equality is crucial to ensure inclusive access, address existing disparities, and unlock the full potential of all youth participants.

Cooperation

Cooperation partners on the German side are the State Office for Development Cooperation of the Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises of the Federal State of Berlin and the BGZ (Berliner Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit mbH) and it is prepared and supported by vocational school teachers from Berlin in

“SkillUp Namibia demonstrates how practical vocational training and international partnerships can create concrete prospects for disadvantaged young people. Training local teachers strengthens sustainable structures and enables a long-term impact beyond the project itself.”

Klaus Pellmann
Former Regional Coordinator
Regional Office for the Promotion of Industrial
Occupations in Developing Countries
of the Berlin Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family



Project Team SkillUp Namibia

cooperation with the Regional Office for the Promotion of Industrial Occupations in Developing Countries. On the Namibian side, the project is being implemented in cooperation with three established partner organisations: the non-profit training provider for practical vocational qualifications KAYEC (Katutura Youth Enterprise Centre), offering practical vocational qualifications in craft, technical, and life skills for disadvantaged youth, the vocational training school DAPP Namibia (Development Aid from People to People Namibia), providing courses in construction, administration, agriculture, and early childhood development and the civil society organization Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID), focusing on civic education and democracy promotion.

What we are doing - and how

This project aims to reduce the skills gap among young people in Namibia and to strengthen them through practical vocational training, entrepreneurial skills, gender equality and civic education – for a self-determined and socially engaged life.

The project builds on the positive experiences from the Capture I and II projects funded by the Berlin State Office for Development Cooperation, which focused on informal training of street vendors in Windhoek, Berlin’s twin city. The SkillUp Namibia project as a pilot aims to further develop and expand informal training approaches to a broader target group.

Train-the-trainer workshops will add methodological didactical approaches to teaching technical content,

with additional training in gender-sensitive didactics and pedagogical methods. Competencies in civic education and human rights will be developed to ensure holistic qualification of the trainers, and curricula for short-term vocational training courses will be adapted to local context and labour market needs. Practical short-term trainings in craft skills, supplemented by entrepreneurial competencies, will be conducted by KAYEC in Windhoek and DAPP in Outapi. Additional education offers and workshops will be implemented by NID, providing basic knowledge on human rights, democracy, and political participation. The impact of the measures will be monitored and evaluated, in order to develop perspectives for sustainable continuation (including financing strategies).

Useful links

- Information on the BLP:
<https://www.giz.de/en/projects/german-government-and-federal-states-programme-iii>
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
- GIZ programme “Promotion of Technical Vocational Education and Training (ProTVET) III”:
<https://www.giz.de/en/projects/promotion-technical-and-vocational-education-and-training-protvet-iii>
- [Berliner Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit mbH \(BGZ\)](#)
- [Berlin State Office for Development Cooperation](#)

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn | Germany
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Status March 2026

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