Description: The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (BMZ) Vocational Education and Training Partnership Programme (BBP) is implemented by sequa. Working in co-operation with independent business membership organisation (BMOs), the BBP promotes partnerships between German chambers and associations and similar institutions in developing partner countries of BMZ. In BBP projects, German BMOs mobilise their knowledge, expertise and vocational education and training centres to enhance vocational education and training activities in partner countries, improve the employability of individuals in those countries and enhance development co-operation.

Objectives: The BBP seeks to contribute to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction in partner countries by improving local vocational education and training systems.

Partners: BMZ established guidelines for BMO partnership projects that also apply to the BBP, but they are only available in German. BMZ decides which BBP projects receive funding on a case-by-case basis. Partners include chambers of crafts, industry and commerce and local craftsmen associations. Chambers of skilled crafts tend to serve as the main German partners. BBP projects can involve engagement with the public sector in partner countries.

How it works: The BBP promotes and supports partnerships between German chambers and associations and similar institutions in partner countries. BMOs' vocational education and training centres are equipped to offer practice-oriented apprenticeships that facilitate the direct transfer of knowledge and skills. BBP projects sometimes include engagement with public sector institutions, such as ministries of education, to improve conditions for vocational education and training. Projects run for approximately three years, with extensions depending on project evaluations. BMOs interested in contributing to BBP projects must fulfil BMZ’s eligibility criteria, including the production of a project proposal. Detailed information on how BMOs can prepare and submit proposals is available from sequa. BMZ and sequa carry out project evaluations of BMO candidates using various assessment criteria, such as capabilities.

Monitoring and evaluation: No monitoring and evaluation documents were found for the BBP or BBP projects.

Results: Twenty-six projects are currently being undertaken, with more in the planning stages. Fourteen projects are in Africa. No detailed information on specific project results or profiles were found.

Insights: By connecting German chambers and associations with similar institutions in partner countries, the BBP helps fill technical knowledge and information gaps while simultaneously enhancing vocational education and training. The programme’s ability to bundle the interests, influence and competencies of BMOs makes knowledge sharing more efficient, which in turn addresses certain economic and development issues facing partner countries.

Sources: