



PHOTO: CREDIT: USAID, East Africa Trade and Investment

# KENYA

## USAID EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS FOR YOUTH

### OVERVIEW

Youth represent a large and dynamic portion of Kenya’s population, with 80% of the current population below 35 years of age. USAID’s Employment Pathways for Youth program increases the responsiveness of Kenyan Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) institutions to labor market demands, creating opportunities for youth to gain employment in growing sectors like information technology, textiles, and pharmaceuticals manufacturing. To achieve this, we help TVETs deliver market-relevant instruction and build strong connections and feedback loops between TVET institutions and employers.

### GOALS

#### **Support TVET Institutions to provide industry-aligned training**

USAID’s Employment Pathways for Youth work closely with Kenyan TVET Institutions to adapt instructional practices to match employer demand. Leveraging lessons learned from the U.S. higher education system, Employment Pathways for Youth partners with a U.S.-based community college to apply successful strategies to the Kenyan context, including distance and hybrid learning approaches that expand the opportunity for technical training to students in need of flexible learning options. Employment Pathways for Youth support TVETs to develop and deliver soft-skills training and short courses on specific technical skills, resulting in graduates with more marketable skills.

## Establish pathways to sustainable employment for Kenyan youth

By building strong and sustained partnerships between TVET institutions and employers, USAID's Employment Pathways for Youth is creating a stronger ecosystem for technical training, ensuring that it remains responsive to labor market demands. Partnerships facilitated through USAID's Employment Pathways for Youth ensure that input from employers informs TVET instruction, and that TVET students receive opportunities for practical training with industry experts. The program also invests in strengthening career guidance and mentorship programs offered by TVETs, providing greater support for students as they navigate employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, and creating connections that directly link graduates with partner employers.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improved, market-relevant instruction for 16,000 students in Kenyan Technical and Vocational Training institutions in the counties of Kilifi, Machakos, Mombasa and Nakuru, focusing on underserved youth populations, including women, those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and youth who did not complete secondary education.
- Twenty-four partnerships established between employers and TVET institutions to facilitate improved pathways to employment.
- Development of short courses in growth sectors, such as information technology, textile manufacturing, or pharmaceuticals manufacturing.
- New and improved employment opportunities for students completing TVET training supported by USAID's Employment Pathways for Youth.

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:** USD \$8 million

**DURATION:** 2024-2029

#### ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Technical and Vocational Training Institutions in Kilifi, Machakos, Mombasa and Nakuru counties

#### KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

U.S. International University-Africa (USIU-Africa)

#### KEY PARTNERS

Edison State Community College ▪ Generation Kenya ▪ National Youth Bunge Association ▪ Ministry of Education ▪ County Government of Kilifi ▪ County Government of Machakos ▪ County Government of Mombasa ▪ County Government of Nakuru ▪ Industry leaders in the ICT, Textile and Pharmaceutical sectors

#### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER CONTACT

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