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## WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

**Life of Project:** 2016-2021

**Implementer:** Education Development Center (EDC)

### OVERVIEW

Djibouti's high rates of youth unemployment and rigid, supply-driven education and training systems are well known and documented. Because of its strategic location in the Horn of Africa, the Republic of Djibouti has the opportunity to shift from an uncompetitive economy with a high poverty rate to a hub of global trade and commerce with a modern economy. In a recent Vision 2035 exercise, Djiboutian leaders analyzed, among other factors, how development of a ready and qualified workforce is critical to private sector performance and inclusive growth.

### OBJECTIVES

The USAID Workforce Development Project aims to reduce unemployment in Djibouti by improving workforce readiness and competitiveness based on market needs. It seeks to stimulate and support a strong workforce development system, with public and private organizations working closely together to be better informed by and responsive to the real demands of a changing labor market.

### ACTIVITIES

To help strengthen the Djiboutian workforce to meet the needs of a modern labor market, USAID's Workforce Development Project will:

- Assess private sector needs for a ready and skilled Djiboutian youth workforce.
- Increase the capacity-building of the private and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) providers.
- Create a demand-driven technical and vocational curriculum.
- Provide technical training to Djiboutian youth to enhance their knowledge and skills.
- Promote awareness of gender equality laws and policies.
- Enhance entrepreneurship skills of targeted beneficiaries.
- Increase public and private sector coordination and collaboration.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- Enhance entrepreneurship skills of youth.
- Develop sustainable and productive linkages between technical and vocational education institutions and employment providers.
- Strengthen job placement, retention and advancement service.