

Education in Ethiopia

Despite the favorable policy environment, structure and system, there are gaps in the education sector that decrease the access and quality of education for youth, particularly in rural areas where primary school enrollment remains very low. Households with insufficient income and several children experience difficulty paying school fees and materials. This serves as a deterrent in school participation, with many children being forced to work in order to supplement the family income.

- MEDA's E-FACE Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)

E-FACE Education Support in TVET

The E-FACE Education Support programming targets working *youth aged 14-17*. The youth are offered educational support, regardless of when they began accessing education over the life of the project. This support also makes it a priority to target those who have not completed primary school, as well as those who may be struggling to join or stay in high school. The referrals to an education program include: short-term TVET training or joining a formal school program.

Technical and Vocational Education Training Linkage

The Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) is a short-term training program run by the Government of Ethiopia and other external organizations. TVET is designed to support working youth in gaining the necessary education to experience successful future employability.

E-FACE links youth with a TVET program of their choosing. Programs include hairdressing, automotive, baking and other areas of study. Courses take place over a two-month period, with subjects ranging from service-based careers to retail and entrepreneurial programs.

Once youth have completed the training, they prepare for internship opportunities with hotels, hairdressing businesses, mechanical shops and other enterprises. Training empowers youth with skills that will make them competitive in the Addis Ababa labor market and elsewhere in the country.

Participation in TVET leaves youth with life skills relevant for future endeavors.



Challenges faced by youth outside of the program

- Formal education takes years to complete, a commitment many engaged/working youth cannot afford to honor.
- Youth are extremely mobile depending on work availability, constantly moving between cities.
- Business owners and employers are not willing to allow their youth workers a whole year of education.

Through TVET ...

- Youth are government certified in their field of study and are employable throughout the country.
- Youth are securing permanent positions, leading to employment and livelihood security.

Accomplishments

E-FACE planned to target 300 working youth for linkage to TVET over the life of the project. To date:

- **531 youth** have graduated from TVET through E-FACE's support;
- **61% of graduates** now have full-time or part-time employment;
- **Some youth** have received awards and city-wide recognition for their **accomplishments**.