



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Training  
and Workforce Development



International  
Western Australia

# Bridges and Ladders:

the promise of  
Vocational Education  
and Training  
in Sub-Saharan Africa

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# Forces shaping education needs in Sub-Saharan Africa

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## Demographic

SAA is **young** - 50% of the population below **25** years old

**18 Million** high-productivity jobs needed until 2035

## Emerging Middle Class

GDP growing **5%**

**11%** (6 million households) will go from earning less than \$5000 per year to earning from \$5000 – \$20,000 by 2025

## Rapid Urbanisation

**15** cities account for **40%** of Africa's overall economic output

By 2050 **64%** will live in cities

## Use of Technology

**445 million** unique mobile subscribers up from **200 million** in 2010



Adapted from *The Business of Education in Africa*, Caerus Capital, 2017



## Opportunities in TVET

Qualified and engaged youth populations looking for viable options

Innovation and use of education technology in delivery models

Government led reform in skills qualification frameworks and accreditation systems

Changing perceptions of the value of TVET

By 2035, the number of Africans joining the working age population (15–64) will exceed that of the rest of the world combined



# Challenges in TVET

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## Funding



Weak public funding. Finding a viable commercial delivery model is one of the most fundamental problems.

## Demand



More limited student demand for professional, agricultural, hospitality, retail, and mid-level technical training, as well as on-the-job training. Connection of training to job outcomes undeveloped.

## Relevance



Qualifications must be outcome driven and locally relevant. 54% of employers state that job seekers' skills do not match their needs and two-thirds of youth are undereducated for the work they do.

## Quality



Establishing quality systems including the provision of teaching and learning that develops confidence in a TVET product.



## TNE: the new scramble for Africa?

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United Kingdom and Europe – long term engagement

China and the United States - diverse interests

Donors, commercial and impact investment

The funders: The Gates Foundation / Jack Ma Alibaba



## Australia's value proposition

TVET policy development and models of public/private provision

National qualification frameworks and quality assurance systems

Industry focused curriculum and pedagogy

Established connections between qualifications and job outcomes

Defined pathways to higher education



## How do we move forward?

- Develop quality relationships and partnerships
- Identify key markets and industries
  - Acknowledge student aspirations
  - Create a link between off and onshore activity
  - Advocate for Africa and African students
  - Want to go on the journey





Lower middle income

**Population 2017:** 48.5 million

**GDP 2018:** US \$85.98 billion

**GNI Per Capita:** 2015: US \$1,380

**Five-year GDP growth forecast:**  
6-7%

**Ease of doing business ranking**  
**2018:** 80 (up 12 places)



## Case Study

MOU January 2014, WA Government and COMESA on cooperation in the field of mineral and petroleum resources, agriculture, vocational training and capacity building.

2016/17 relationship building / Africa Down Under / ministerial delegations

South Metropolitan TAFE and Kenya Pipeline Company: 2018 potential offshore project (business plan development stage for oil and gas related training collaboration).



# MAURITIUS



Upper middle income

**Population 2017:** 1.3 million

**GDP:** US \$14.4 billion

**GNI Per Capita 2015:** US \$9,610

**GDP Growth 2017:** 4%

**Ease of doing business ranking  
2018:** 25



## Case Study

Charles Telfair Institute esp.1999.

Delivering Curtin University courses since 2004 and TAFE Western Australia courses since 2005.

17 AQF TVET qualifications that include: Business, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Software Development, Human Resource Management.

Curtin Mauritius opened as Curtin University's fourth international campus at Charles Telfair Institute in 2018.

Charles Telfair Institute also has its own diploma and degree awarding powers since 2013 regulated by Tertiary Education Commission of Mauritius.

Current student population of over 1850.



**THANK YOU – QUESTIONS?**

