

Support for the training and professional integration of vulnerable young people and migrants in Guinea

Since 2016 the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) has been supporting the reintegration of migrants, who voluntarily returned to Guinea through a project that provided them with three days of training in which they learned the basics of running a microbusiness. When the number of returnees from Switzerland dropped significantly, the SEM agreed to include returnees from Niger in the project. The last phase of this project ended in February 2021.

The end of the business training project was an occasion to analyze the current situation in Guinea, to set new priorities and to look for sustainable and effective solutions. In close consultation with the colleagues in Conakry, IOM Bern has therefore developed a new project which was approved by the SEM and commenced in October 2021. The project is called «Appui à la formation et l'insertion professionnelle des jeunes vulnérables et des migrants en Guinée» ("Support for the training and professional integration of vulnerable young people and migrants in Guinea").

Rationale

In Guinea, 53 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line. About 64.1 per cent of the population is under 25 years old and is among the most affected by poverty and unemployment. Since 2017, more than 18,000 Guineans have returned from North Africa and 40 from Switzerland. The high unemployment rate is due, in part, to the lack of vocational training and qualifications among these young people, including returnees.

IOM Guinea therefore supports the "Ministère de l'Enseignement Technique, de la Formation Professionnelle et de l'Emploi (METFPE)", which runs so-called "Centres de Formations Professionnelles (CFP) » (vocational training centres) where young people, including returnees, can learn various trades. The biggest challenge after these trainings is to find employment or to start their own business, as the graduates often lack the financial means for internships or the skills necessary to start their own business.

Duration: 15 months, starting from October 2021

Budget: 91,310.00 US Dollars

Beneficiaries: Vulnerable youth and migrants who have returned to Guinea

Key activities:

The new project supports vulnerable youth and returning migrants in two ways:

Providing training on setting up and managing micro-businesses

The project strengthens the capacity of the CFP in Conakry to **provide and promote training on setting up and managing micro-businesses**. By training trainers and developing new modules, the CFP will be able to offer such courses to its students and returnees.

Supporting the start of their professional lives

The project supports 40 students and returnees from Switzerland and Niger to start their professional lives. The young people are encouraged to form groups and develop their own micro-businesses, for which they will receive start-up kits. Those who prefer doing an internship instead are also supported with kits to cover their needs throughout the internships.



For more information:

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This project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Switzerland,
with funding from the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration.