3 DIFFERENT AREAS OF EXPERTISE

1. Support to the Skilling Uganda Strategy
In the Albertine-Rwenzori region SSU promotes collaboration between training providers and the local private sector, against the backdrop of an expected oil-infused economic development. This component is funded by the Belgian government.

2. Vocational Training for Refugees
In the West Nile and Kiryandongo, SSU strengthens youth, women and girls from the refugees and their host communities to obtain the skills needed to find or to create a job in the settlement economy or in preparation of the economy back home. This component is funded by the European Union.

3. Vocational Training in Karamoja
In Karamoja, SSU improves livelihood and skills relevant for the labour market in a challenging socio-economic context. It also aims to ensure equitable access to training for boys and girls. This component is funded by the Irish government.
Youth unemployment is a growing problem in Uganda, with the majority of its population below 18 years. Providing youth with the right skills and matching them to jobs should contribute to their social and economic integration. However, Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) in Uganda suffers from a chronic underfinancing and has reputation issues in terms of quality and relevance. The "Skilling Uganda" strategic plan (2012-2021) wants to transform BTVET into a system of skills development for employment, enhanced productivity and growth. BTC supports the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports in implementing this strategic plan through the Support to Skilling Uganda (SSU) programme.

**CONTEXT**

Youth unemployment is a growing problem in Uganda, with the majority of its population below 18 years. Providing youth with the right skills and matching them to jobs should contribute to their social and economic integration. However, Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) in Uganda suffers from a chronic underfinancing and has reputation issues in terms of quality and relevance. The "Skilling Uganda" strategic plan (2012-2021) wants to transform BTVET into a system of skills development for employment, enhanced productivity and growth. BTC supports the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports in implementing this strategic plan through the Support to Skilling Uganda (SSU) programme.

**OBJECTIVE**

The SSU programme wants to increase the employability of youth through better quality of instruction and learning in Skills Development and by making it more responsive to labour market needs. The programme wants to help this paradigm shift become a reality.

**ACTIVITIES**

The SSU intervention works at 3 different levels.

1) **Governance level: a coordinated governance strategy for the education and employment sector**

SSU supports capacity building activities laid out in the Skilling Uganda Strategic (SSU) Plan by:
- Encouraging involvement of the private sector in BTVET.
- Giving technical advice and support for the SSU reform process.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the education sector and capturing its best practices.
- Supporting Skills Development coordination structures at sectoral and at district level.

2) **Financing level: Setting up a Pilot Skills Development Fund**

SSU aims to empower public & private partners to collaborate on innovative approaches to Skills Development for youth, women and girls through competitive calls for proposals.

The experience from this pilot fund will shape the national Skills Development Fund, which will contribute to a trusted environment for combined public-private funding at a transitional stage.

3) **Grassroots level: Quality of training and qualification processes is improved and the access to quality BTVET is enhanced**

SSU aims to empower 7 public and private not-for-profit institutions in the 3 geographical area’s of Albertine Rwenzori, West-Nile and Karamoja to become modern, relevant and qualitative Skills Development Centres and ultimately Centres of Excellence for a particular trade. The support includes: infrastructure, relevant equipment and coaching on work-based learning practices, assessing market relevance of training, career guidance, tracing of graduates, etc.

**LOCATION**

Albertine Rwenzori
West-Nile region
Karamoja region

€ 24 million from the Belgian Government, EU Trust Fund and the Irish Government

2015—2020 (5 years)

This is done in the following institutions:
1. Kasese Youth Polytechnic (Kasese)
2. St. Josephs Virika Vocational Training Institute (Fort Portal)
3. Millennium Business School (Hoima)
4. St Simon-Peter Vocational Training Center (Hoima)
5. Uganda Technical College Kyema (Masindi)
6. Nakapiripirit Vocational Training Institute (Nakapiripirit)
7. St-Daniel Comboni Polytechnic (Moroto)

**MAP**

Cross Cutting Issues of HIV, gender, environment and social economy are incorporated in all programme activities.