



# TEKKI FII – MAKE IT IN THE GAMBIA COUNTERFACTUAL IMPACT EVALUATION



Funded by  
the European Union

## EVALUATION CONTEXT

The Gambia presents high levels of underemployment, precarious working conditions, and low levels of productivity. A significant share of youth either do not have a job or work in the informal sector with low and volatile incomes.

The lack of economic opportunities and the incapacity to meet basic needs often leads youth to migrate in search of a better future. Action is therefore needed to develop human capital and to modernize key economic sectors. To do so, it is necessary to facilitate access to trainings designed to develop soft skills, technical skills and management skills that match both the needs of the labor market as well as the aspirations of each individual.

In response, the Tekki Fii program provides trainings lasting between six to nine months in three different cohorts. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is delivered to youth aged 18-35 years old with minimal mathematics and English skills. An additional Business Development (BD) training is provided to 30% of these trainees. Throughout this program, GIZ aims to develop youths' technical and

## UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

The Counterfactual Impact Evaluation (CIE) uses a quasi-experimental design using Propensity Score Matching (PSM) to measure the impacts of the TVET and the

## QUICK FACTS

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit

### LOCATION

Banjul, Upper River, Lower River,  
The Gambia

### METHODS

Propensity score matching

### TARGET GROUPS

Youth, women, returnees

### FINANCING AMOUNT

7 000 000 EUR

management skills in different sectors to increase their employability, access to decent employment, income, resilience and ultimately, improve their livelihoods.

impact of both the TVET and BD. The CIE focuses on shortlisted applicants based on a scoring system. Among the non-selected shortlisted candidates, C4ED used regis-

tration data to identify the most similar individuals to the selected candidates before the intervention and built a comparison group. To measure the impacts of the program, C4ED is collecting data 6 and 18 months after the end of the training. The sample is currently composed of 1,814 individuals of which 1,095 are in the treatment groups and 719 are in the comparison group. The final endline will take place

in December 2023. Given the difficulties of the program to enrol and train returning migrants, C4ED collected qualitative data in 2022 to gain further insight into the challenges encountered during implementation. In total, C4ED performed 10 Key Informant Interviews (KII) with GIZ staff and consultants, implementing partners, an International Organization for Migration officer and beneficiary representatives.

## BUILDING ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS

**Counterfactual impact evaluations (CIEs)** are used to identify the attributable effect of a project on beneficiaries. The “counterfactual” is what life would have looked like in the absence of the intervention. Unlike in simple before-and-after comparisons, CIEs provide a way to separate program impacts from other effects. Since we cannot directly observe a counterfactual, we construct a control group using experimental and quasi-experimental econometric methods to estimate program impacts.

**Propensity score matching (PSM)** is an econometric method that consists of making a group of project beneficiaries and a group of non-participants as comparable as possible based on observed characteristics. This quasi-experimental approach then allows to compare outcomes between the two (matched) groups to estimate the causal impact of the project.

### HOW WILL A CIE INFORM POLICY?

The CIE intends to provide context-specific insights on whether the Tekki Fii program has had an impact on key outcomes (employability, employment, resilience, income and intentions to migrate) and to understand the mechanisms that enabled such changes. An analysis of impacts for

key subgroups will also inform potential implementation strategies. From a broader perspective, the evaluation intends to build knowledge on the potential of such tailored trainings to contribute to the achievement of European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) Strategic Objective 1.

### TIPS FOR FUTURE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

- Plan the evaluation before the start of the program.
- Adapt the sensitization activities to targeted populations (returning migrants).
- Develop a digital and user-friendly monitoring system that collect information on enrolment, attendance and reliable contact information.