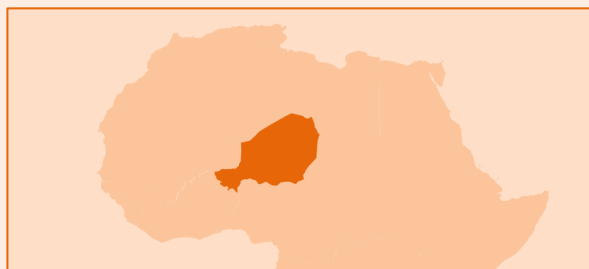# SUCCESS STORY
Support the training and professional insertion of young girls and boys in the regions of Agadez and Zinder (A-FIP)

EU Trust Fund for Africa - Sahel & Lake Chad

EUTF PARTNER:
LuxDev

COUNTRY: Niger

BUDGET:
EUR 6.9M

From **01/2017**
to **11/2020**

Objective of the project

To promote socio-economic development by improving youth employability through vocational training and jobs.

Key successes

> Achieving its target of providing vocational training opportunities to 6,982 youth, out of a 7,000 target.

> High completion of training (99.2%) and employment integration (41% within one year).

> 96% employer satisfaction post-training, showing trainees gained relevant job skills.

> Demonstrated gender equality, with 42.7% females trained, surpassing the 35% target.

The A-FIP[1] project, implemented by LuxDev, successfully promoted socio-economic development in the Zinder and Agadez regions through technical and vocational education and training (TVET). It improved youth employability and professional integration. The intervention was aligned with the TVET development strategy of the Ministry of Professional and Technical Education (MEPT), collaborating directly with its regional branches, including the Regional Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education (DREPT) and regional offices of the Support Fund for Vocational Training and Apprenticeships (FAFPA).

The primary beneficiaries were young women and men (aged 15–30 years old) in the two regions, who were in rural locations and either out-of-school or with low levels of schooling. The project started in January 2017 and ended in November 2020.

How did EUTF help?

The primary achievement of the project was successfully providing vocational education to 6,982 young individuals, out of a target of 7,000. With regard to gender balance, the project was strongly committed to inclusivity and surpassed its initial target of 35% female participation in training, reaching 42.7% female beneficiaries.

The project employed a dual learning approach, allowing youth to alternate between training centres and practical internships in workshops, companies, or with apprenticeship masters. In three-month long courses, learners spent two months in the training centres and one month on practical internships with an apprenticeship master. In six-month courses, trainees alternated between two weeks in the centres and two weeks in workshops under the supervision of apprenticeship masters.

This approach contributed to giving trainees realistic perspectives of insertion and led to a high completion/achievement rate of 99.2%. As a result, 41% of the youth were successfully integrated into sustainable jobs related to their training within one year of completing it. In addition, 96% of employers expressed contentment with their new employees' competencies, showing that the project succeeded in meeting labour market needs and equipping beneficiaries with relevant skills.

For other EUTF for Africa success stories and more learning materials, please consult the EUTF website's Library page.

Funded by the European Union

Keys to success

Participatory approach: The integrated plan to strengthen the capacity of partner structures was developed in consultation with partner organisations at the regional level (DREPT, FAFPA) and built on strong support and active engagement from officials. Ad-hoc committees ensured effective coordination of training programmes among stakeholders, including private training operators, facilitating successful and collaborative implementation.

Responsive to local needs: Consultation between all of the project's stakeholders, including the private sector, helped to accurately identify local socio-economic needs. Training actions aligned with regional development plans, ensuring relevance and effectiveness.

Collaboration and diversification: Collaboration among municipalities prevented duplication and saturation, offering diverse opportunities to beneficiaries.

Competitive selection process: Implementing a competitive process for training operators ensured a high level of quality. The process motivated operators to improve programmes, contributing to the project's success.

Enhanced pedagogical support: Harmonisation of training modules and improved materials enhanced teaching and learning, increasing motivation and improving outcomes.

Regular monitoring: Ongoing monitoring by inspectors and regional committee visits helped ensure quality. Evaluation and certification reassured stakeholders about the quality of the training provided.

Building on success

Opportunities for building on work already completed: The project conducted useful training needs assessments, business mappings, and facility upgrades. Future initiatives should build on the strong foundation laid by this project. Deeper partnerships with national TVET actors, such as the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Professional and Technical Education, could ensure government involvement, wider influence, and better responsiveness to socio-economic conditions affecting TVET in Niger. For instance, addressing barriers to female participation in long-distance training due to domestic responsibilities and mobility restrictions.

Shifting strategies but uncertain future due to coup: While the project achieved success, the EU opted not to directly continue funding but rather support national TVET actors through €20M budget support and €5M technical aid contracted to PROMAN. GIZ also planned a €4M project co-financed at €3M to strengthen selected TVET centres. However, negotiations and activities were suspended in the country due to the July 2023 coup.

---

[1] *Appuyer la formation et l'insertion professionnelle des jeunes filles et garçons des régions d'Agadez et Zinder en vue de contribuer au développement socio-économique de ces deux régions.*

EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa