GROW

Construction Waste Remediation and Recycling Vocational Training in Sub Saharan Africa

GROW Consortium

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GROW at a glance

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GROW strengthens TVET institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa to advance skills for a greener construction sector amid rising construction and demolition waste.

GROW is an ERASMUS+ Capacity Building VET Project co-funded by the European Commission

KEY FACTS

Project Name: Construction Waste Remediation and Recycling Vocational Training in Sub Saharan Africa (GROW)

Project Partners from 3 European Countries Portugal, Italy, Spain **and 2 African Countries:** Nigeria and Mozambique

Target Beneficiaries : TVET Centers and TVET Students

Project Duration: 24 months

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Project Expected Outcomes

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One comprehensive research report analysing context, challenges, and skill gaps in construction waste management, circular economy, and micro-entrepreneurship for the two countries was produced. Prior to GROW, there was no exhaustive research focusing on construction waste management skills in Sub-Saharan Africa.

40 trainers (20 per country) upskilled in construction waste management and circular economy; and **six** VET managers trained in sustainability and digital skills, ensuring a lasting impact on vocational education. Before GROW, there were no existing modules specifically on green construction waste for TVET trainers, and most of them had never participated in training focused on public-private partnerships or VET service creation.

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100 learners (**50** per country) were trained in innovative Construction Waste Management and Circular Economy through GROW's pilot TVET programme launched by accredited TVET providers, with training materials made available, as open-source resources, for replication in English and Portuguese. Based on a GreenVETAfrica analysis on available relevant training (May 2023), there were no TVET programs in SSA integrating construction waste management with a circular economy and micro-entrepreneurship focus before this.

GROW guarantees social and gender inclusion by requiring that approximately **30%** of the training participants are **women or girls**, thereby empowering these underrepresented groups by providing equal access to skills development, fostering gender equality within the construction sector, and improving their economic prospects through enhanced job opportunities in the green economy.

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At least **30%** of graduates from GROW's training programme were employed or self-employed within **six** months of completion. Previously, no data was available to determine the percentage of youth and VET graduates in green construction waste self-employment pathways since no dedicated TVET programme existed for construction waste management in Nigeria or Mozambique.

One impact assessment, **one** stakeholder feedback & exchange report, and **two** major events bringing together public and private sector actors were achieved. Prior to this, VET institutions in both countries lacked engagement with local authorities and the private sector in construction waste management.

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EU RELEVANCE

GROW offers a unique and innovative vocational training programme around three thematics axes: skills for sustainable construction and demolition waste management (CDW), skills for relevant emerging technologies such as drones and smart glasses for remote monitoring of construction sites, and skills for micro entrepreneurship.

This training increases the number of skilled professionals in CDW management, leading to a transformation in the construction sector, driving the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices, socially inclusive training, and economic empowerment through the creation of green jobs, while also contributing to reducing carbon emissions, waste, and resource consumption across Sub-Saharan Africa (aligned with the EU Global Gateway priorities).

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Thank you

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