



SDGs covered by this initiative: **1, 5, 8**

THE PRIDE OF AFECK KÉNIÉBA VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

The Adéquation Formation-Emploi dans le Cercle de Kéniéba (AFECK) project is a “Skills for Employment” initiative, co-funded by Global Affairs Canada and B2Gold (75% and 25% respectively) and implemented by Cowater-Sogema (an international development organization).

The objectives of AFECK are to improve vocational skills for Kéniéba District residents to meet the needs of the labour market and to increase the capacity of small businesses, with a focus on female entrepreneurs. The project also supports local government to improve delivery of vocational skills and training programs. The expected and realized outcome is to increase local procurement opportunities.

The project, which started in 2017, has delivered vocational training to approximately 2,200 people from Kéniéba up to December 2019. Local entrepreneurs have also been supported by the project through technical training on small business management, hygiene, and food preparation. AFECK has helped formalize 27 small businesses, including 15 women’s cooperatives, and ensured they are registered as vendors with the mining companies operating in the region. Monitoring of the 15 women’s cooperatives showed a 65% increase in their income.

A significant achievement of the AFECK project was the establishment of the Kéniéba Vocational Training Centre, which has the capacity to train up to 360 students each year in catering, welding, electricity and auto mechanics, with complementary training in literacy and entrepreneurship. Today, the centre is the pride of the region with 133 graduates (including 68 women) to date.

The centre faces certain challenges: there is high demand from applicants (applications often exceed 300 for just 30 spots at a time), the entering education level of trainees is often low, and there is a lack of qualified instructors within the region. To better meet training needs of the Kéniéba District, the construction of three additional workshops are being considered – for literacy, auto mechanics and catering.

Going forward, applications can be done through the National Agency for Local Employment, the City Hall and the Kéniéba District Council. An advisory committee comprised of community stakeholders will recruit applicants who meet the desired profile.

