



Skills on the Move: Linking Labor Mobility and Vocational Training

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Our Argument



- TVET often touted as important for economic growth in LMICs, but largely fails to deliver positive, significant, impacts.
- It can help address *supply-side issues* (such as skill shortages and skill mismatches) but can't address *demand-side issues* (such as a lack of jobs).
- The Global South will see nearly 800 million young people without adequate jobs, while the Global North has persistent skill shortages.
- Donors have recently cut their aid budgets and refocused attention on how development spending benefits their own populations and economies.



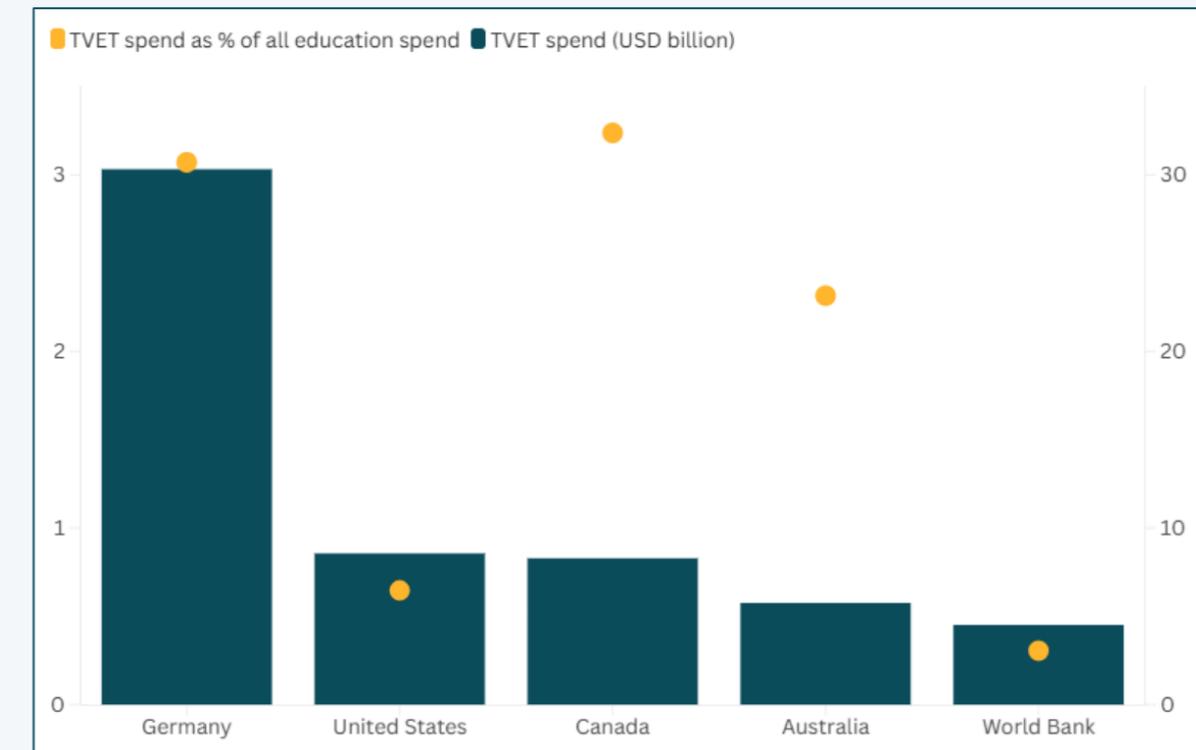


If donors supported some trainees to move to higher-income countries, it would improve TVET outcomes and quality; support employers at home and abroad; and reduce poverty by allowing trainees to access higher incomes and more opportunities.

Exploring Donor Investments in Green TVET

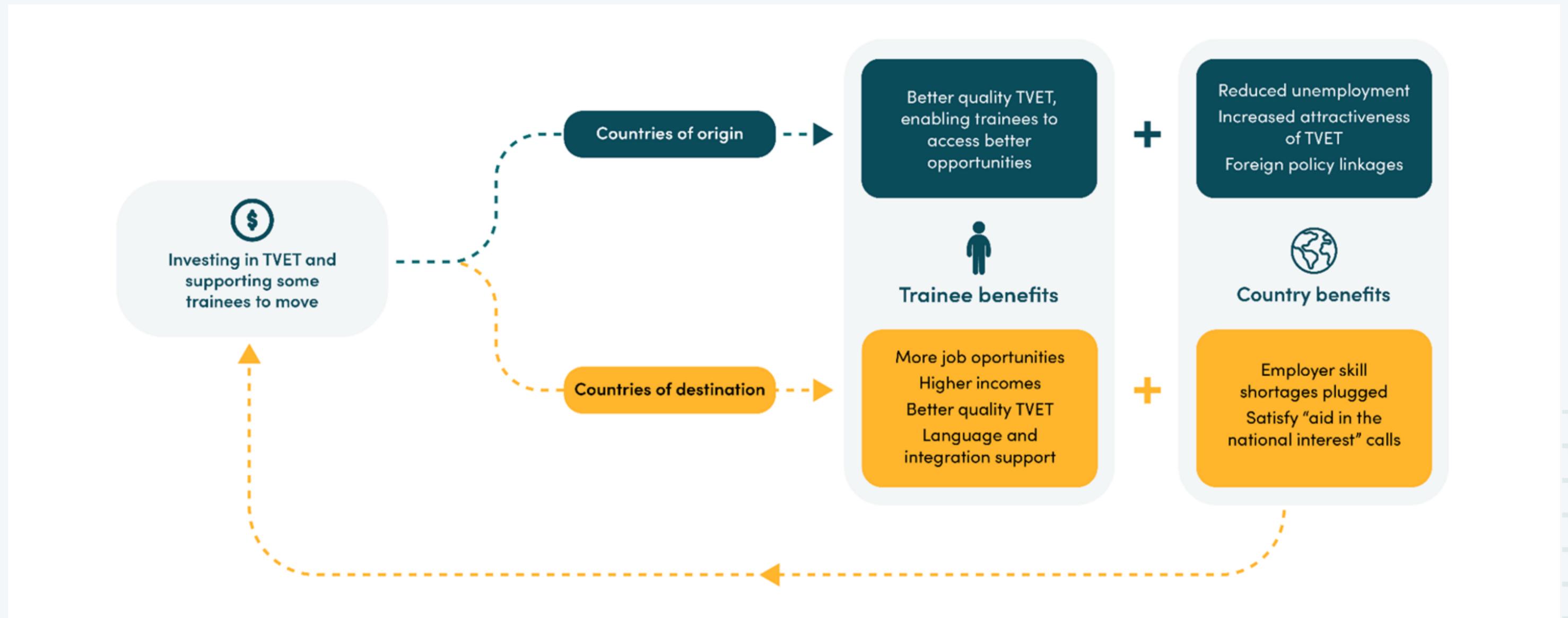


- Looked at donor investment in TVET, with a focus on green skills, using OECD CRS data.
- Between 2013–2022, the top five donors (Germany, the US, Canada, Australia, and the World Bank) spent US\$7.5 billion on TVET.
- Relative importance of TVET within education spend differs—e.g., 32% (Canada), 31% (Germany)—but under 2 percent of all aid goes on TVET.
- In line with low- and middle-income countries, which spend 0.2 percent of GDP in TVET.



Source: Iqbal and Dempster (2026)
<https://www.cgdev.org/tags/skills-on-the-move>

Linking Labor Mobility and TVET: The Why



Linking Labor Mobility and TVET: The How



1. Align training content and quality with employer needs

- Improve overall quality.
- Provide “top-up” training.
- Develop a full “away track”.

2. Recognize certifications or qualifications

- Implement Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs).
- Support individual certification.
- Pursue accreditation.
- Form partnerships with country of destination employers.
- Deliver industry-issued certifications.

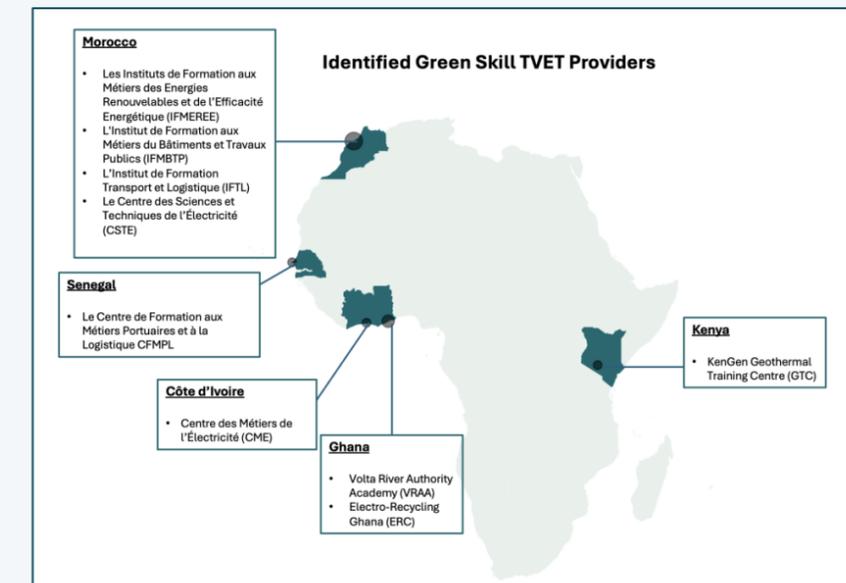
Source: Dempster and Ricou (2026)

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Finding “Investment-Ready” TVET Providers



- Set out to find high-performing, “investment-ready”, TVET providers in Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, and Senegal.
- Focused on those delivering green skills.
- Found nine providers with active, viable plans for how they could expand their work and / or represent models which can be readily replicated.
- Would need support with language training, pre-departure orientation, and integration programs.
- All PPPs or Centers of Excellence—need to provide demonstration effect, improving public TVET provision.



Source: Ricou et al. (2026)

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Thank you!

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