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ANNOUNCEMENT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF) CALL FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

The management of the Rwanda TVET Board (RTB), through the Skills Development Fund (SDF), is pleased to announce that the call for grant proposals is now open to all interested institutions. The primary objective of the Skills Development Fund is to address the skills gap faced by private business operators by rapidly increasing the supply of in-demand skills within the labor market. Additionally, the fund aims to help new entrants to the labor market by equipping them with skills that are relevant to current employment needs.

To respond to this, Rwanda TVET Board calls for the attention of companies/industries, associations, Trade Unions, Technical Secondary Schools (TSSs), Cooperatives, Vocational Training Centers, Incubation centers, Polytechnics, experienced training providers in business-related fields, local or international organizations that have interest and capacity to provide technical and practical skills and/or leading the Recognition of Prior Learning process, that they can apply for SDF grant as per the call for grant proposals guidance.

Prospective applicants for this call will support employer-led short-term training that addresses specific skill requirements. The focus will be on providing labor market-relevant skills, particularly through interventions categorized into 4 windows below:

Window 1: Rapid Response Training (RRT)

The objective of this window is to address skills gaps experienced by companies in the formal sector and to promote their collaborations with training institutions. The Fund will co-finance short-term training for workers who are in the process of being employed by the applicant or existing workers in the applicant's business who need skills upgrading to improve their productivity. Window 1 will therefore cater for two target groups: a) existing 'formal' enterprises in need of upgrading the skills of the existing labor force, and b) investors planning to establish an enterprise in Rwanda or already established in need of new qualified labor force.

Window 2: Out-of-school youth/NEET youth

The primary objective of the out-of-school window is to engage Youth not in Employment,

Education or Training (NEET) and support them in acquiring skills and competencies allowing their integration into the labor market. They will be provided with practical skills for work in labor-intensive trades that align them with local demand and opportunities. The trainees will be enabled to create their businesses or be more competitive in the labor market. This window will have three sub-windows: (1) Industry Based Training youth, (2) Dual training for out-of-school youth, and (3) Internship targeting unemployed basic and higher TVET graduates, and higher education graduates. All these target groups should fall under the NEET category.

Window 3: Short-term training for the informal sector and Recognition of Prior Learning

The purpose of this window is to provide beneficiaries in the informal sector with an opportunity to acquire and upgrade labour market relevant skills, and to allow people who have acquired their competences through informal or non-formal training to get certified through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Applicants are supposed to be training institutions and informal sectors (professional associations, federations, cooperatives, NGOs, and trade unions).

Window 4: Short-term training for middle level skills in the construction sector

The construction sector is a priority economic area in Rwanda and continues to experience growth, currently contributing approximately 8% of national employment. However, the sector is facing a shortage of skilled workers domestically and is increasingly relying on imported labor, particularly for large publicly financed projects.

This initiative will focus on three groups: (a) existing low-level construction workers who need upskilling; (b) mid-level construction workers who require improvement in their competencies within selected areas of specialization; and (c) new entrants to the construction industry who need both general and specialized construction skills. Training providers will include polytechnics, TVET schools, and private training centers and companies.

Upskilling existing low-level construction workers may take up to three months or less, and the same timeframe applies to mid-level construction workers seeking to enhance their competencies. Training for new entrants in the industry may range from three to six months.

Application Process

Interested institutions who meet the eligibility criteria are encouraged to apply via the SDF Grant Management System accessible at <https://gms.sdfwanda.rw>. The link is also available on RTB and SDF websites. Both the detailed call for Grant Proposals and the Concept Note are equally

important and applicants are highly recommended to read both documents before submitting their applications.

Application Deadline

Applications will be accepted from **11 September 2026** until **2 October 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

Note: The detailed Call for Grant Proposals and the Concept Note are available on the Grant Management System (GMS) portal at <https://gms.sdfrwanda.rw> , as well as on the official websites of the Rwanda TVET Board (www.rtb.gov.rw) and the Skills Development Fund (www.sdfrwanda.rw).

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