The key feature of the project Skills and Knowledge for Youth (SKY) is imparting skill training to socially, economically and geographically disadvantaged out-of-school youths with an age limit of 18 to 30 years and whose educational background ranges from 8th to 12th grade in market oriented short term (3-6 months), modular, and outcome based training courses.
The SKY project is generated from field based evidence of an innovative, cost effective, up-scalable and sustainable approach to train and employ Ethiopian youth via financing TVET and to consider incorporating these elements into the National TVET Strategy. The project is targeting 2000 young out-of-school women and men of rural/remote origin as the primary direct beneficiaries. In order to foster inclusiveness, the project actively approaches and includes people/youth with disabilities in its activities.

Based on the findings of a labour market survey, the six occupations were selected (garment, basic metalwork, food preparation, urban agriculture, construction, hairdressing). HELVETAS in collaboration with the regional Technical, Vocational and Enterprise Development (TVED) Bureau selected trainers and trainees for the identified occupations. SKY is oriented on an “outcome based financing approach”, which means trainers and their institutes are paid based on the successful provision of training and the subsequent job placement of the young graduates.

THE CONTEXT
Low skill levels and very low average educational attainment characterize about 35 million people of the Ethiopian workforce. Accordingly, 75% of the workforce is concentrated in low skill employment sectors such as commerce, services and elementary occupations. More than 40% are self-employed in the informal economy. As a result, many workers live on the edge of poverty. Only 10% of the urban population has post-secondary school education. Less than half of the urban workforce is engaged in wage employment, and a significant proportion works in family businesses without clear payment structures.

The incidence of unemployed women and related poverty in urban areas is about two times higher than for men. Unemployment is essentially a youth, female and urban phenomenon.

APPROACH
- Implementing outcome based financing approach through market oriented short term (up to 3 months), modular and outcome based training;
- High participation of stakeholders in partnership with public and private TVET providers and employment supporting entities and structures;
- Imparting market lead skill training with high follow up and flexible training programs;
- Support and capacitation of training providers (trainers and their institutes).

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR
So far the project has achieved the following (2015-2016);
- Sky has delivered skill training to 1069 trainees (Male- 211, Female- 856 trainees)
- More than 90% of the graduates are competent in the occupational assessment.
- More than 71% of the graduates are linked to job in the selected occupations of women and men hair dressing, food preparation, garment, embroidery, construction installation, and electronics equipment maintenance.

THE PROJECT
The SKY was launched in 2015 with objectives aligned with the education policy and particularly the national TVET strategy which aims at developing competent and self-reliant citizens through market driven training thereby focussing on young women and men who are marginalized.

Yezina is self employed; earns 1000 ETB and has saving of 400 ETB per month; a motivated youth proved physical disabilities can’t hinder from self sufficiency.