



Managing e-waste in Kenya

Project implemented from: April 2022 to Oct. 2023
 Sectors: Climate and energy, digital
 Agency: GIZ



Opportunity

In Kenya, the growing **green economy**, especially the booming **e-waste management** sector, presents significant **investment opportunities** that generate **local employment**, particularly for young people with a limited educational background. Service providers of international companies, including European ones, are increasingly active in the e-waste management sector within the country.

Aligned to the focus sectors of the **European Union** and the priorities of the **Kenyan government** on advancing the green economy, VET Toolbox conducted a mapping of the relevant private sector partners and engaged them in discussions on e-waste issues.

The project established a partnership with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Centre (WEEE Centre), a well-established local private centre providing e-waste management services for key national and international companies.

Considering the WEEE Centre's expansion plans and the sector's steady growth, a critical need emerged for **improving skills development** in this field. These skills are crucial for the e-waste management **supply chain**. Emerging local employment opportunities in the e-waste sector promise positive effects along the whole value chain. Enabled by VET, they reveal a clear **opportunity** for **decent job creation** within Kenya's flourishing green economy.



Achievements

VET Toolbox collaborates with public and private partners to create a conducive environment for local job creation and future investments in the e-waste sector. Notable accomplishments include:

- Enhancing the **Public-Private Dialogue** (PPD) in the sector with the National E-waste Steering Committee, that allows for discussions on skills development between the private sector, the government and VET providers.
- Developing the first approved **e-waste management curriculum** in Kenya, including occupational standards, learning materials, and assessment instruments.
- Equipping workers, organisations, and VET providers with essential **e-waste handling skills**, by training trainers and youth to collect, process, and refurbish electronic components

and devices, facilitating business creation, and providing the necessary equipment for these activities.

- Conducting a **national e-waste study** identifying business and employment opportunities in the sector.
- Establishing an e-waste **collection centre** at Meru University of Science and Technology, raising awareness of the e-waste issue and of economic opportunities arising from proper collection and disposal of e-waste.

Key results



425 people trained

343 graduates employed

Employment rate of 81%



Private partners

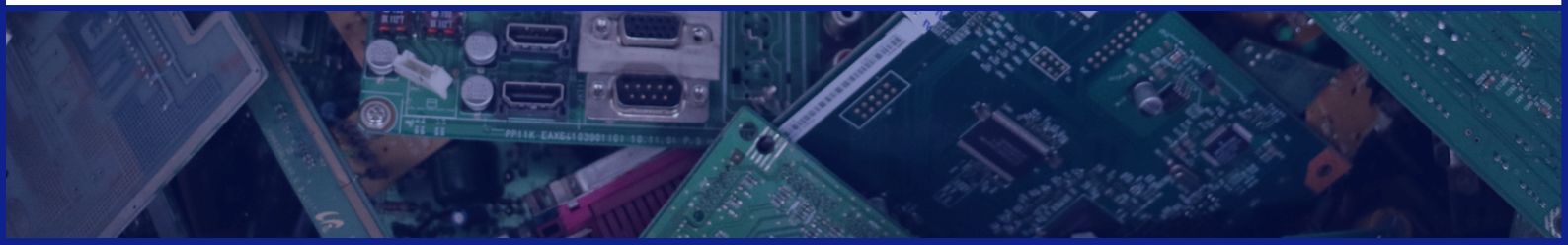
- The **WEEE Centre** (Kenya) is one of Africa's largest ISO-certified e-waste management companies and was established by the NGO Computer for Schools Kenya (CFSK). It advises VET partners and provides work-based learning opportunities for teachers and learners. The WEEE Centre collaborates with various international and EU companies and organisations in their e-waste management efforts, thereby creating employment opportunities in Kenya:
 - **Total Energies** (France) is exploring the set-up of additional e-waste collection points in their service stations across Kenya. In addition, the WEEE centre supports Total Energies in their disposal of e-waste and awareness creation.
 - **Carrefour** (France) set up e-waste bins in their Nairobi stores as part of their environmental programme to collect and transport e-waste to the WEEE centre for safe disposal, rewarding e-waste recyclers through a loyalty programme.
 - Other European and international companies such as **Philips** (Netherlands), **Schneider Electric** (France), **HP** (USA) or **Samsung** (South Korea) are supported by the WEEE Centre in their disposal of e-waste materials.
- **Safaricom** is a Kenyan telecommunication company that collaborates with WEEE centre on the collection and recycling of e-waste.
- **E-waste Initiative Kenya (EWIK)** is a social enterprise whose core business is electronic waste management specifically in the informal sector. They voice the interests of the informal sector and provide training and employment opportunities.

Public partners

- The **National E-waste Steering Committee** finds sustainable solutions for e-waste management in Kenya. The **National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)** chairs the technical working group on E-waste management and provides advice to the National Steering Committee aiming at advising the government on sector-relevant legal and regulatory frameworks.
- The **Ministry of Labour** and the **National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)** developed the curriculum on e-waste jointly with the private sector and subsequently approved the curriculum.

VET providers

- Five **public and private VET providers** - Meru University, EWIK, CFSK, NITA, and Mathenge Technical Training Institute delivered training in collaboration with companies. Meru University also took part in the establishment of the waste collection centre.





Key success factors

- The starting point of the action is the social enterprise **WEEE Centre**, which is seeking a **skilled workforce** to respond to the growing demand of its public and private partners. This expansion promises employment opportunities in a sector that is relevant to both the EU and the Kenyan government.
- The WEEE Centre has partnered with key actors in the national e-waste and VET ecosystem. This **collaboration** strengthens the National Steering Committee on e-waste and translates into concrete employment opportunities.
- In this competitive market, **certified technicians** have a quality advantage over other technicians in the informal sector. The accredited training thus promises sustainable local employment opportunities for graduates. At the same time, business creation remains an important opportunity for graduates and market development.
- The onboarding of **informal companies**, including Micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and their involvement in the PPD, was crucial as most of the e-waste is still handled informally. Considering the specific business dynamics, the action responds to their needs **without insisting on their formalisation**. Addressing the specific skills needs of informal companies resulted in employment opportunities in the emerging sector and value-chain sectors.



Upscaling and sustainability

- This successful pilot ensures the **continued implementation** of the e-waste **curriculum**. Multiple VET providers plan to continue training and have created **sustainable models** such as using on-site e-waste facilities for income generation and graduates' employment. The WEEE Centre will resume training for 1200 new trainees.
- The project has influenced **policies** in Kenya that support the thriving green economy. Upcoming policies, such as the Extended Consumer Responsibility (ECR) and Sustainable Waste Management Act, will increase **businesses' accountability** for e-waste, boosting demand for e-waste recycling and employment opportunities in the sector.
- **Policy recommendations** that were formulated with the National Steering Committee will support the **business environment**.
- All actors have shown strong interest in **continued participation** in the **National Steering Committee** and reinforced partnerships. Sustained dialogue potentially leads to **upscaling** the **curriculum** from a certificate level to a diploma level, addressing market needs and stakeholder interests.



Policy recommendations

- Promoting **gender-mainstreaming** and enhancing **women economic empowerment (WEE)** in the e-waste management sector.
- **Institutionalising** the PPD.
- **Upscaling** and further developing the e-waste management **curriculum**.

Read more about the project's:
[Policy recommendations](#) | [Lessons learned](#)



VET Toolbox is a programme developing opportunity-driven skills development initiatives aligned with investments' needs, supporting the private sector with local job creation. For additional information, please visit www.vettoolbox.eu.

Co-funded by
the European Union



A partnership project