Summary
In three African countries people with disabilities prove they can learn a trade and work if only they get the chance.

Equal to the task
In developing countries, 80% to 90% of people with disabilities within the working age are unemployed according to the International Labor Organisation. But just like others, people with disabilities want a dignified and productive life. They want to work and are most often able to do the exact same work as non-disabled people. But frequently they face discrimination and exclusion from an early age onwards. Children with disabilities in developing countries regularly don’t go to school. They end up lacking the skills and education that are essential to find a job. Thus, they are forced to be financially dependent upon others. For girls with a disability this happens even more so than for boys.

Education and job market
Even if they do finish their education, employers will still often discriminate against disabled people. There might be some physical barriers, like a lack of access to some offices by wheelchair, but these can easily be overcome. A more pressing issue is the persistent negative attitude towards their perceived skill set. This project therefore addresses both issues: access to vocational education as well as the link to the job market.

Relevant skills
In each of the three project countries, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia, 200 people with disabilities will learn a specific trade, craft or profession through good quality vocational training. They will be trained in a mainstream vocational educational training centre, just like any other student. Employers will be trained as well to make them aware of simple solutions to include people with disabilities in their companies. The vocational training centres will be supported to provide career counselling and link students with potential employers and recruitment agencies.

Growing movement
The ultimate goal is for youth with a disability to not encounter any difficulties in finding a job; they should be treated as equal to a candidate without a disability. This project tackles some important obstacles. Children and youth with a disability should go to school and learn useful skills that enable them to work. This will not happen overnight. However, good practices, model projects and success stories can inspire others and accelerate change. This project unites a wide range of partners. Over the course of the project it is expected that this group of people and organisations working towards the same goal will grow even bigger. Lead partners in each country will identify success stories and small steps of progress and share them with partner organisations in other countries, but also with policy makers, government agencies, youth employment organisations and employers’ associations. The stories and experiences of these youth will be the beginning. Their successes in completing a vocational education and finding a job will pave the way for others.

Short Facts
- **Sector**: Agriculture and food processing
- **Lead partner**: Light for the World
- **Overall budget for the project**: €1.171.555
- **Learn4Work contribution**: €303.400
- **Partner contribution**: €868.155
- **Implementation period**: January 2014 - December 2016
Public Private Partnership

Light for the World is the lead partner of this ambitious project and coordinates and collaborates with the three country lead partners ECDD, ADDA and UPHLS. The Dutch Groenhorst College will support the different technical and vocational institutions in the countries to improve the quality of teaching and curriculum. Together they will adapt the training programs to make them more hands-on and responsive to the local demands from the private sector.

Other Contributing Partners: Umbrella of Persons with Disabilities in HIV&Aids (UPHLS) (lead partner in Rwanda), Agency for Disability and Development in Africa (ADDA) (lead partner in Kenya), Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (lead partner in Ethiopia). Local partners in Rwanda: National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), Workforce Development Authority (WDA), Private Sector Federation (PSF), Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) Masaka Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, Yes Rwanda (Youth Employment Service), Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Inkuronziza, CF le Bon Pasteur, Gako Farming Training Centre, VTC Makines, GS ADB Nyarutarama. Local partners in Kenya: Kabete Technical Institute, Baraka Training Institute, Karen Training Institute, Techno Brain Ltd., Toyota Kenya, Vocational Training for the Blind and Deaf-Siiri, Stantec Motors Ltd. Local partners in Ethiopia: Selam Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institute, InfoMind Solutions PLC, Alage Agricultural TVET.

Learn4Work and Edukans

This project is co-funded by the Learn4Work programme. The Learn4Work programme focuses on technical and vocational education and training in Africa and is coordinated by Edukans. Edukans works on improving and enriching education in both the Netherlands and in developing countries by for example exchange programmes, advisory services and training. Edukans’ goal is for children and young adults to be able to actively contribute to shaping their own future and participating in society.

Kezia’s story

Kezia Njeru lives with multiple impairment (mental, visual and physical impairment). “Currently, I am undertaking a Poultry Production Management course. I have been trained how to vaccinate the chicks. I can train other people in poultry rearing, be a supplier of eggs and meat and also through my business offer employment to other people.”