

THE \$100 MILLION AFRICAN WELDING SCHOOL & TRAINING FUND

THE TEAM MEMBERS

GFP International is a US based non-profit organization with a twenty-year background working in the African education sector.

<https://www.gfp-intl.org/>

The Blue-Ribbon Committee is currently being formed with a group of 25+ leaders from industry, academia, banking, government and other constituents including donor organizations.

International Accounting Firm with a deep footprint in Africa with its assurance, tax and advisory services:

(To be determined)

African Skills and Development Group Ltd. is a corporation established to source skilled trades, project advisory, project management, project development, and industrial development services, and currently has branches in a growing number of African countries.

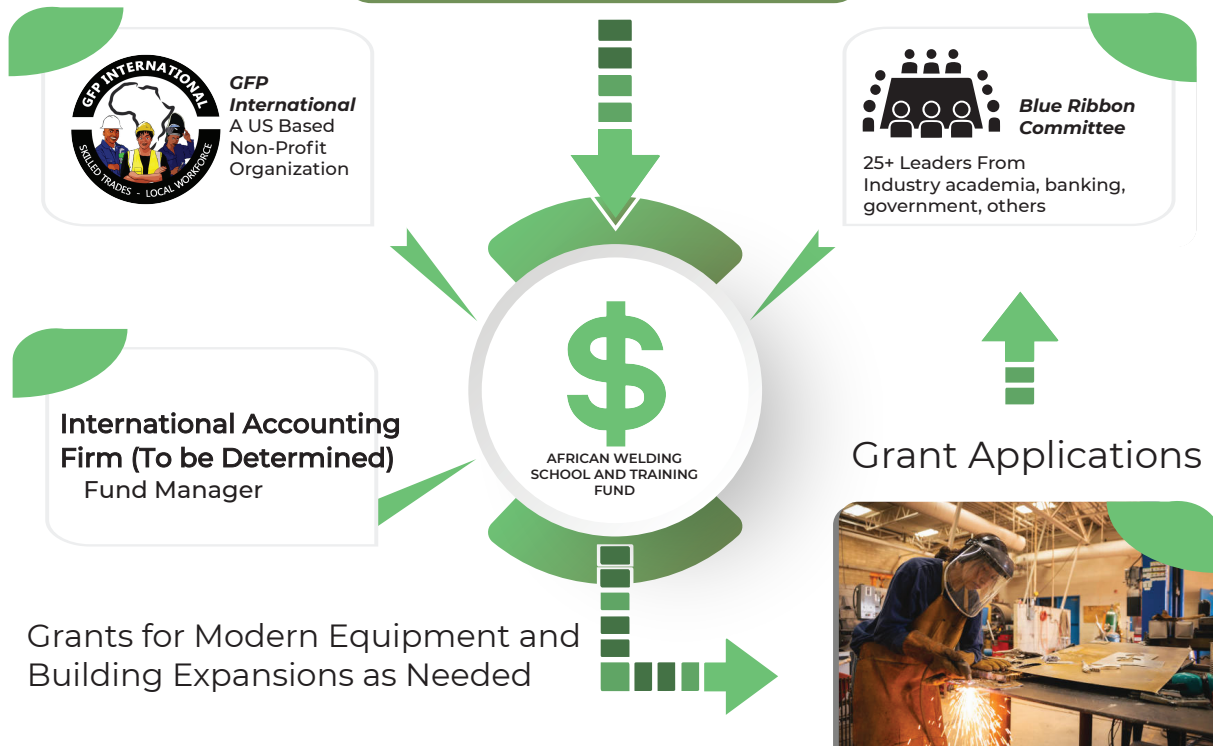
<https://www.africanskillsanddevelopment.com/>

THE GRANT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

MAJOR DONORS

Energy and Mining Corps., Foundations, African Development Bank, Governmental Entities, Sovereign Aid Agencies, Others

Donor Financial Pledges



Vocational Welding Schools

Project Management, Controls, and Technology Transfer

Responsible oversight and management of grants will be provided by a team consisting of the Blue Ribbon Committee, GFP International, an International Accounting Firm, and African Skills and Development



MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

- Creation of 20-30 welding schools of excellence through modernization, expansion, and training the trainers.
- Students completing the training programs will be tested in accordance with American Welding Society (AWS) and/or IIW standards, and each school will have a pass/fail rate and other outcome measurements against world standards.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Due to the high cost of welding training consumables (steel plate, pipe, welding rod, gases, etc.) a scholarship fund will be created from donations.

ONGOING SUPPORT

- GFP International / African Skills and Development will provide up to three years of support with bulk purchasing of consumables, equipment maintenance support, technical support, facility management advisory, train the trainers, and other services as needed or requested.
- Outcomes, (pass/fail rates) from the various schools will be monitored and a spirit of positive competition between the schools maintained, with the World Skills welding competition. Best practices will be shared among the welding schools of excellence.



DRAFT December 16, 2024

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE CHARTER

\$100 Million African Welding School And Training Fund

Blue-Ribbon Committee

A Blue-Ribbon Committee is being assembled with 25 or more leaders from sectors including education and training, banking, business, NGO's, foundations, and other individuals. The roles of this Committee will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Review and validate the concept note for the African Welding School and Training Fund program (writing in progress) including the statement of need, feasibility analysis, and project execution plans and intended outcomes for the program.
2. Assist with fund raising by providing connections to funding sources for the program.
3. Provide independent overview of the program.
4. Assist with review and approval of grant applications from trade schools, making selection of grants to be awarded based on objective criteria.
5. Receive and review periodic progress reports, financial reports, school performance reports and other data.

Other Considerations

The Blue-Ribbon Committee members may change over time. Donors will be given an option to assign a member of their choosing to the Committee to enhance visibility on the use of their donated funds.

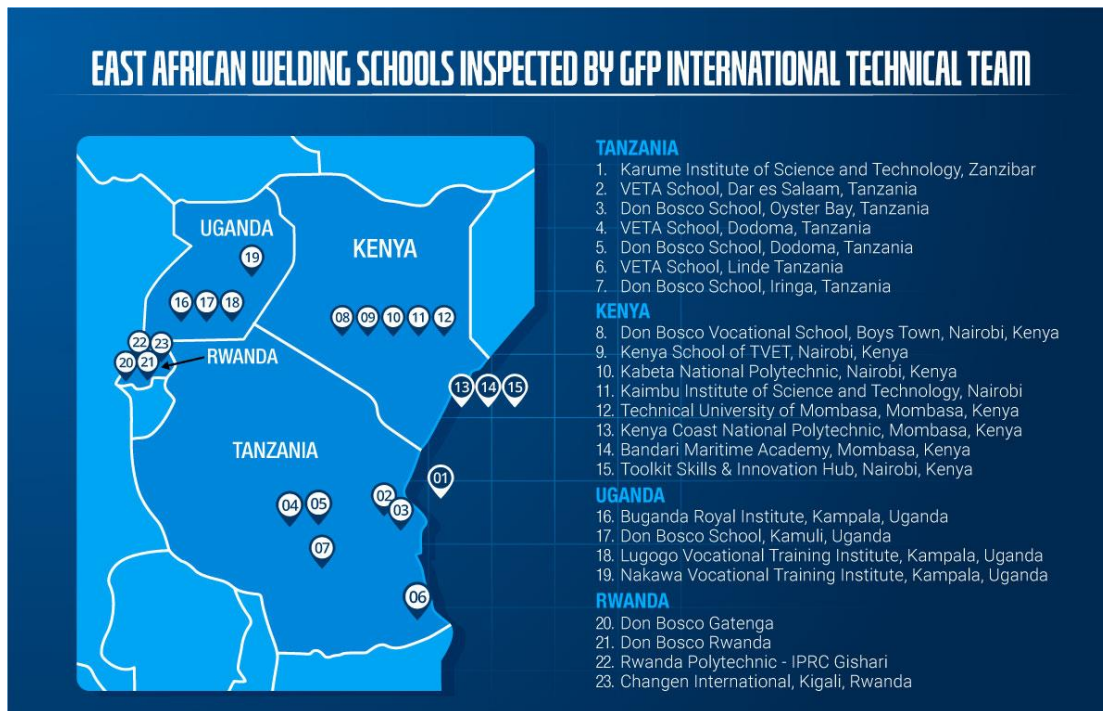
Accommodations will be made for donors to target their funds to specific projects for the purpose of advancing their strategic goals or objectives, if any.

Background

GFP International has completed an assessment of the need for and scope of a major program to upgrade a group of existing welding schools in Africa with new equipment and building modernizations and expansions as needed to create between 20 to 30 welding schools of excellence.

To date, the following activities have been completed.

1. A group of 23 existing welding schools across the East African countries of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda have been inspected for evaluation of equipment, curriculum and other aspects required for training welders to international standards.



2. Standard schematic designs and cost estimates for 20 and 60 booth welding schools have been prepared. See <https://www.gfp-intl.org/welding-school-design-guide/>
3. Preliminary costs of equipment and local construction cost estimates have been performed. See <https://www.gfp-intl.org/welding-school-design-guide/>
4. A team of internationally recognized industrial welding training school experts have been assembled.
5. An overall program execution plan and process has been established by GFP International including team members **Accounting Firm to be Announced**, African Skills and Development Group Ltd., the American Welding Society (AWS) and/or the International Institute of Welding (IIW).
6. Other key subject matter experts have been identified to play all the key roles necessary.
7. A special purpose corporation has been established called African Skills and Development Group Ltd. To date, this entity has registered branches in Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda to date. About 100 African engineers, architects and project managers have been recruited to become prepared

to support the execution of the planned \$100 Million African Welding School and Training Fund program.

8. Commenced engagement with **Accounting Firm to be Announced** with the intent to bring them on the team to provide fund management and assurance services. Audit services will be provided by another third party to be selected.

The upcoming activities are planned for completion by the end of February 2025

1. Conduct a lecture tour and school evaluations in West Africa in a similar manner that was conducted in East Africa.
2. Meet with key leaders in banking, business, education, and training in West Africa.
3. Continue to recruit members of the Blue Ribbon Committee.
4. Meet with African Skills and Development Consultants Group Ltd. in West Africa.
5. Meet with African Skills and Development Consultants Group Ltd. in East Africa.

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