

Case Study

## Saudi Skills Standards

### Support for a new National Vocational Certification Body



AlphaPlus provides full service design and development for learning and accreditation programmes, from professional standards and competency frameworks, to learning resources, delivery support and professional assessment and certification.

We pride ourselves on a simple and straightforward approach to consulting projects. Part of this is a strong on-site presence, working side-by-side with our clients to understand their requirements and deliver outstanding outcomes.

#### Challenge

Ensuring good jobs and promising careers for Saudi Nationals is one of the most important priorities for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) has been identified as the most critical lever for improving the value of human resources and helping Saudi youth play a productive and meaningful role in the local labour market. Today, the proportion of the Saudi workforce receiving technical and vocational training is less than 10%, but the Kingdom has set an ambitious target of 40-45%, dramatically increasing capacity from about 100,000 students today to around 400,000 by 2023, while simultaneously improving the quality of the system.

#### Solution

Saudi Skills Standards (SSS) was newly established as the primary regulatory and awarding body overseeing TVET in Saudi Arabia. The team at SSS needed help in rapidly developing capacity and capability to operate a national TVET certification body.

SSS performs three main functions:

1. Defining the National Occupational Skills Standards (NOSS) according to labour market needs, and defining qualifications based on these NOSS.
2. Assessing and certificating trainees based on outcomes defined in the NOSS
3. Reviewing and grading training providers within a quality framework

AlphaPlus has supported SSS over 5 years:

1. Developing over 50 NOSS
2. Designing 100 Associate Diploma and Diploma level qualifications
3. Producing Assessment resources (tests and skills assessments)
4. Providing support, training and capacity development to SSS staff
5. Establishing a governance framework for quality assurance in certification, assessment frameworks, credit frameworks and short course programmes.

We continue to work with partners in Saudi Arabia in growing the use of external certification and quality assurance to TVET in Saudi Arabia.



Name: AlphaPlus Consultancy Ltd

Based:  
Manchester, UK with major operations in GCC.

Industry:  
Specialist Education Consulting

Products & Services:  
Curriculum and Certification Design, Assessment, Standards & Quality

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#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Challenge: Develop a new national certification body for vocational education and build capacity for immediate operations.

Solution: we deployed a specialist team to SSS' offices in Riyadh, providing training and support while a large team of developers in the UK produced a major portfolio of core vocational programmes for SSS.

Results: SSS is fully operational as a certification body, delivering and certifying qualifications. After 5 years, AlphaPlus is continuing to support SSS in its capacity development work.

Turning Education & Skills  
Policy into Practice