

# Creating prospects for South Africa's Youth

We support the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) in transitioning more young people in South Africa from learning to earning

## South Africa has the highest unemployment rate in the world and youth suffer most

South Africa faces a national crisis of unemployment and young people are among those most affected. In the fourth quarter of 2021, 44.7% of those between 15 and 34 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET). Particularly in economically marginalised settings, such as townships and rural areas, too many young people are not transitioning from learning to earning.

The Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) is the South African Government's most comprehensive response to this challenge to date.

## Stepping up to the challenge with the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention

With a renewed sense of urgency, the PYEI seeks to coordinate, harmonise and accelerate efforts to fight youth unemployment. To this end, the intervention receives substantial resources from the National Treasury and is closely linked with other major government initiatives targeting structural barriers to economic recovery and inclusive growth and employment creation.

The PYEI focuses on priority action areas:

- Designing and implementing targeted interventions to unlock demand in priority growth areas;
- Scaling up efforts to build sought-after skills;
- Providing entry points for young people to build life skills and contribute to their communities through youth service;
- Promoting youth entrepreneurship and the creation of additional jobs for youth;

- Guiding young people more effectively towards opportunities for training, workplace experience and employment.

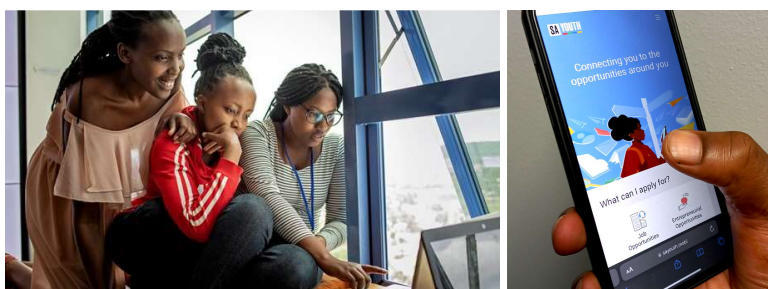
The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa is coordinating the implementation of the PYEI through a dedicated Project Management Office (PMO). Key challenges for the PMO include the coordination of the vast and complex stakeholder landscape in the different action areas, and growing the capacities of implementing agencies of the PYEI to meet the challenges of youth unemployment.



|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Project name          | Support to the Initiative for Youth Employment (S2PYEI)               |
| Commissioned by       | German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| Project region        | South Africa  |
| Lead executing agency | Presidency of the Republic of South Africa                            |
| Duration              | April 2021 – March 2024   |

## Building partnerships for greater impact

We support the PMO in coordinating and implementing the PYEI with the greatest possible impact for young people in South Africa. The PYEI consists of a wide variety of programs championed and implemented by a diverse group of actors, such as national, provincial and municipal governments, but also civil society, development partners and private sector organisations.



The project supports the PYEI in a variety of areas. SAYouth.mobi provides a digital platform for career path development and gives youth access to learning and earning opportunities.



Dennis Horch  
Officer Responsible for the  
Commission  
S2PYEI@giz.de

We help the PMO to bring different actors to the table and facilitate dialogue, coordination and the formation of partnerships. Concrete actions include the facilitation of greater dialogue with the development partner community in South Africa and the support to coordination of government actors that drive activities in identified growth sectors.

Communicating the goals, approaches and experiences of the PYEI to a diverse group of stakeholders is instrumental to sustain support and grow partnerships. This is why we also assist with the development of effective communication approaches and tools in support of the PYEI.

## Facilitating learning, growing capacities

The uncomfortable truth is that previous efforts have had limited success in addressing the youth unemployment crisis. New and innovative approaches are required to solve the challenges in stimulating and matching demand and supply in the labour market. Therefore we support evaluations and learning from PYEI pilot initiatives, identifying promising approaches for upscaling and continuous improvement of delivery.

There are no simple solutions to complex challenges such as youth unemployment. The PYEI is therefore diverse in its approaches, the implementing agencies it engages, and the areas in which it intervenes. Despite this complexity, it is crucial to measure the success of this joint effort and evaluate its success transparently. To this end, we advise the PMO in the monitoring and evaluation of the PYEI, and in communicating the results to the public.

We complement the efforts of other projects implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German government focussing on skills development, especially for the green and digital economies and with a focus on girls and young women.

We also promote entrepreneurship and job creation to make sure that there are enough employment opportunities for young people once they have acquired skills. One focus area of the PYEI aims at local economic development in marginalised areas, such

as townships and rural economies. We support the PMO in harnessing resources to promote the development of services and infrastructure for businesses in these areas, so that they can thrive and provide additional jobs for youth.

Many organisations contributing to the PYEI need to assume new roles and responsibilities. Others have to significantly expand their operations. This often requires additional capacities, skills or adjusted procedures to achieve these goals. We support implementing organisations in adjusting to these new challenges and provide them with the skills they need to contribute to the PYEI with maximum impact.

## Creating more and better opportunities for all young people in South Africa

Our goal is to support the PMO in such a way that it coordinates the PYEI effectively and is able to clearly communicate the results achieved by the wide array of partners. As a result, several hundred thousand youth will have access to platforms which guide them on their path from training and learning towards workplace experience and employment opportunities (e.g. SAYouth.mobi). Young people will also have better access to market-oriented training programs, which are designed and implemented in close cooperation with industry partners from various sectors.

In addition, our work contributes to an increase in jobs available to young people. Improved access to service and infrastructure for businesses in marginalised areas, such as townships, will enable economic growth. Businesses will be able to create additional jobs, and self-employment and start-up opportunities for young people will be increased.

This paves the way for and complements the activities of other German cooperation projects, while closely aligning with the work of other development partners in South Africa.

### Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Support to the Initiative for Youth Employment (S2PYEI)  
GIZ South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini  
333 Grosvenor Street, Pretoria  
Phone 012 423 5900

S2PYEI@giz.de  
www.giz.de/en

As at

April 2022

### Photo credits

GIZ

### Text

Bianca Peters, Bastian Schwarz

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

### On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

### In cooperation with



THE PRESIDENCY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA