

Project Name: Youth-Inclusive Entrepreneurial Development Initiative for Employment (YIEDIE)

Organization(s): Global Communities

Dates of Implementation: 2015-2020

Country: Ghana

Partner(s): Opportunities Industrialization Center – Ghana; Aurora Africa Business Network; Artisans Association of Ghana; Republic-Boafo

Funder(s): Mastercard Foundation

Website: <https://www.yiedie.org/>

Project description: Youth-Inclusive Entrepreneurial Development Initiative for Employment (YIEDIE) is a five-year project designed to create economic opportunities in Ghana's construction sector for economically disadvantaged youth. This project has five components: (1) Developing employability and entrepreneurship skills; (2) Facilitating the development and use of youth-friendly financial services; (3) Offering an apprenticeship-based skills training model; (4) Providing start-up funding, access to business development services, job matching and mentoring to youth, and supporting job creation in small and medium construction enterprises; (5) Supporting increased coordination and a better enabling environment for youth employment in construction.

Target Population: Youth aged from 17-24 in five of Ghana's largest cities (Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Ashaiman and Tema) who have dropped out of school and are living under \$2/day.

Results to-Date and/or Target Results:

The project operates at a significant scale, developing the skills of 23,700 youth over its lifespan. The Artisans Association of Ghana has become a market-based source of job matching and skills development. Financial service providers will continue to offer profitable youth-focused products after project close, and local policies should ensure the continued growth of opportunities for youth.

Key Indicators are:

Outcome indicators (disaggregated by gender and measured 12 months after completing training):

- % of youth transitioning successfully after graduation (to employment, self-employment, or further education or training)
- % of youth reporting increased income
- % of youth reporting increase in household assets
- % of youth satisfied with their jobs
- % of youth with access to financial services (disaggregated by gender)

Enabling environment indicators include:

- # of targeted cities demonstrating improved policy environment for youth employment
- # of initiatives undertaken by value chain actors to promote sector policy improvement for youth employment

Interesting Features & Innovations:

- Uses the locally existing **apprenticeship model**, which is the most affordable and accessible for TVET training.
- Works with the Centre for Employment of Persons with Disability (CEPD) to identify key in-demand trades that are accessible to persons with disabilities (PWD) and oversees the apprenticeship placement of PWDs for the program.
- To increase the enrollment of women in construction (male-dominated), YIEDIE provides incentives such as full payment of some licensing, health insurance, child care and transport stipend, as well as introducing female role models as speakers and mentors and organizes women-only events for trainees.
- Takes a **systems approach within the informal sector**, with initiatives to address skills development, job creation, intermediation and job matching, enterprise development, access to finance and the enabling environment
- Has a policy component focused on improving the environment for youth employment at the national level (e.g. the local content policy for the construction sector) and the city level (e.g. Department of Public Works procurement policies).