

Project Name: The Rise of Digital Artisans for the 4th Industrial Revolution in South Africa

Organization(s): Mentec Foundation

Dates of Implementation: 2019-2022

Country: South Africa

Partner(s): Accenture, Dan Piet (Pty) Ltd, Gantu, Microsoft, SEDA, MICT SETA, Exxaro, CISCO, City of Ekurhuleni local municipality, Transnet, GaSegonyana local municipality, Ekurhuleni TVET colleges

Funder(s): Initial funding received from Accenture for the 700 candidates

Website: <http://www.newlit.mentecfoundationsa.org/>

Project description: Mantec Foundation is a program that offers ICT skills training, job placement and supports enterprise thoughts. Mantec Foundation has four strategic pillars that are: (1) Drone Technology; (2) Forth Industrial Revolution (4IR) toolkit and Open Africa App (OAA) digital framing; (3) Digital trainer a trainer; (4) Digital Enterprise development. This program partners with companies in digital industry that will have direct workforce demand from future graduates from Mentec thus the project sustainability is secured.

Target Population: Youth from target regions from disadvantaged backgrounds who have excelled in their previous academic achievements; have an ICT Diploma/degree, with excellent communication skills and analytical skills, with passion for Information Technology.

Results to-Date and/or Target Results:

Mentec Foundation intends to scale from 750 trained youth in year 1 to 1000 in year 3, 5 corporatives/start-ups formed within 12 months to 12 of those, and would eventually have 95% beneficiaries attain jobs through the formed cooperatives, and 5% placed in direct jobs/internships and/or projects outside the formed cooperatives. Key indicators are:

- Number of youths trained on demand driven skills and enterprise development;
- Number of corporatives/start-ups formed within 12 months (ref-Black Industrialist Hub franchise model)
- Number of trade agreements between the trained individuals/corporatives and local government (municipality)
- Secure job opportunities (contractual phase)
- Local economic improvement and alleviation of poverty and food scarcity.
- Percentages of beneficiaries attain jobs through direct, indirect and enterprise development opportunities

Interesting Features & Innovations:

- Relatively selective population of beneficiaries ensures that the high retention.
- Industry-specific trainings with clear focus: Drone technology, 4IR toolkits, Digital Enterprise development etc.
- Executive mass placement and service level contract extensions (engagements between Mentec management and employers)
- Regular monthly job performance satisfactory visits and engagement with employers sustain jobs.
- Intends to have at least 3% of the total number of youths with disabilities.