

Project Name: Supporting Innovations for Youth Employment in South Africa

Organization(s): World Bank

Dates of Implementation: 2019 ongoing

Country: South Africa

Partner(s): Youth Employment Service (YES)

Website: n/a

Project Description:

The Government of South Africa has made youth employment a top priority. Indeed, youth unemployment and underemployment, as identified in South Africa's Systematic Country Diagnostic, are among the country's main development challenges. Despite the salience of the issue, however, solutions have been hard to come by. Drawing on South Africa's experience and lessons from the Bank's engagement on youth employment, this activity aims to support the development and evaluation of promising approaches to improving youths' access to economic opportunities. In particular, activities are centered around support to Youth Employment Service (YES), a business-led collaboration with the South African government and civil society, launched in March 2018, and aiming to support the employment of one million marginalized youths.

This activity has two pillars:

PILLAR I: Supporting YES in the provision of work experiences for youths

- **Component 1: Improving employability and labor market insertion of marginalized youths.** This component represents the bulk of this activity and aims to address mostly supply-side constraints to youth employment in South Africa. The team will provide technical assistance and advisory services to YES in two main, complementary, areas: (i) the development, implementation and evaluation of screening and profiling psychometric tools aimed at better understanding and improving the matching of youths to internship positions; and (ii) the development and implementation of socio-emotional skills training modules to help equip youths with job-relevant skills that complement technical skills and that are seen as key for successful labor market participation by employers in South Africa and in the relevant literature.
- **Component 2: Supporting the creation of economic opportunities for vulnerable youths.** This component, narrow in scope, aims to support YES in addressing a targeted set of demand-side constraints to employment creation for youths. It proposes to achieve this by supporting YES on developing approaches for the identification of value chains that have employment potential and for mechanisms to link youths to these opportunities.

PILLAR II: Supporting youth policy development and implementation

Activities under this pillar would allow for the continuation of the policy dialogue with traditional counterparts on youth employment in the Government. Hence, this pillar will support the policy dialogue on youth employment, and possible just-in-time support to the Government of South Africa, beyond the YES initiative.

Target Population:

Disadvantaged youth between the ages of 18 and 35.