



**PRESIDENTIAL  
YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT  
INTERVENTION**



**PYEI QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT:  
Q1: APRIL – JUNE 2024**

**Increasing young women's  
access to the labour market.**



**THE PRESIDENCY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**





# Message from the Deputy Minister in the Presidency

The Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) concluded the first quarter of the new financial year with significant progress towards its targets. The National Pathway Management Network now reaches more than 4.5 million young people. Young people have been supported to access over 1.4 million earning opportunities – including those delivered through the Presidential Employment Stimulus, the revitalised National Youth Service, and private sector efforts such as the Youth Employment Service.

Drawing from the collective efforts of partners in the PYEI, this quarterly report spotlights how the PYEI is addressing the barriers faced by young women in the labour market.

As Women's Month commences, it's important to reflect on the sobering picture of female youth unemployment in the country. Despite upward trends following the pandemic, female youth unemployment has started to plateau, while male youth unemployment has grown. According to Stats SA's Quarterly Labour Force Survey for the first quarter of 2024, women have a higher unemployment rate than men despite having much better educational outcomes.

The PYEI is committed to addressing the gender gap in employment and a significant achievement of the intervention is that 70% of the opportunities have been secured by young women. This quarterly report spotlights the stories of tenacious young women of who have been supported towards sustainable employment and the partner programmes that proactively try to mitigate the employment barriers for young women.

In the seventh administration, we will build on this foundation to ensure that young women access and transition through the labour market. We will also accelerate the work to unlock demand in the priority

growth sectors, increase the scale of the revitalised National Youth Service, and drive policy reforms that will benefit young people at scale. We remain committed to embedding the intervention appropriately in government, enhancing the institutional arrangements of the intervention, and securing funding for the PYEI's key programmes over the medium term.

We will continue to share our progress on these priorities and the implementation of the PYEI through our quarterly reports. As always, detailed data can be accessed through the PYEI dashboard at [www.stateofthenation.gov.za/presidential-youth-employment-intervention/tracking-progress-and-facilitate-learning](http://www.stateofthenation.gov.za/presidential-youth-employment-intervention/tracking-progress-and-facilitate-learning).

With warm greetings,

**Mr Kenny Morolong**

**Deputy Minister in the Presidency**



# Introduction

The President launched the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) in 2020 as a comprehensive approach to address the country's youth unemployment challenge. The PYEI is a multi-stakeholder partnership that accelerates efforts to transition young people from learning to earning.



The Presidency's Project Management Office (PMO) coordinates and provides strategic direction while key national departments and entities lead the implementation together with a diverse set of partners.

## In the PYEI, partners are working to achieve three core objectives:

- ▶ Drive systems change to address the barriers that young people face in establishing themselves in the labour market
- ▶ Aggregate existing opportunities and create new opportunities for young people
- ▶ Link young people to opportunities and available support in a single national network

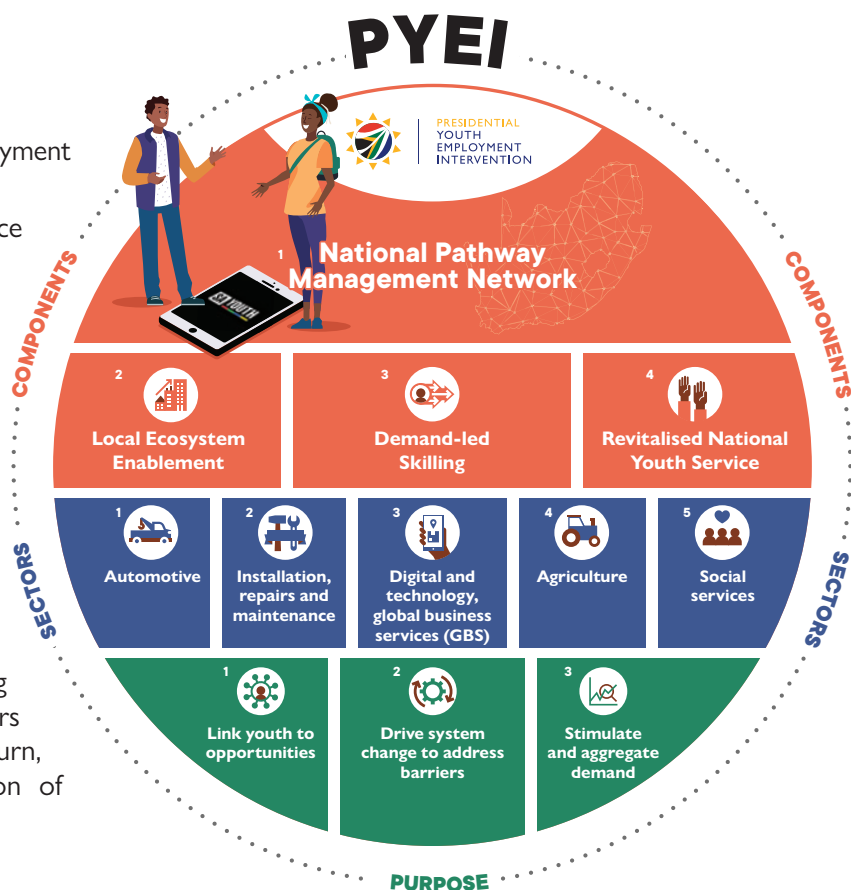
Central to the PYEI's efforts is the establishment of a National Pathway Management Network. The NPMN allows young people to find and seize opportunities that unlock earning pathways.

## Other PYEI components include:

- ▶ Demand-led skills development
- ▶ Enabling local ecosystems to facilitate self-employment and enterprise opportunities
- ▶ The revitalisation of the National Youth Service (NYS)

The desired impact is to **contribute to a South Africa where young people are actively participating in the economy with greater dignity and a sense of agency over their contribution to society.**

The PYEI closely integrates with other interventions coordinated by the Presidency to drive structural reforms and enable job creation, such as Operation Vulindlela and the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES). PES provides funding for several PYEI components and directly delivers public employment opportunities for youth. In turn, the PYEI's NPMN supports the implementation of PES programmes.







# What has been achieved since inception?

The PYEI continues to make significant progress towards achieving its targets for supporting young people and linking them to earning opportunities.

The PYEI has three overarching targets that capture how the intervention seeks to support young people on their journey to sustainable earning. This includes reaching the most vulnerable young people, particularly young women, and providing them with targeted support that helps them build their profile and earning potential.

TARGET (2020 – 2025)	ACTUAL (2020 – to date)
At least <b>5 million young people</b> are engaged in the <b>National Pathway Management Network</b> and access services to help them grow their employability and pursue opportunities.	<b>Over 4.5 million young people</b> are registered and accessing opportunities in the National Pathway Management Network. 
Young people supported to access <b>1.5 million temporary earning opportunities</b> including work-based placements, work-integrated learning opportunities, and paid service opportunities.	Young people have been supported to access <b>1.46 million earning opportunities</b> including work-based placements, work-integrated learning opportunities, and paid-service opportunities. <b>Over 70%</b> of these opportunities have been accessed by <b>young women</b> . 
<b>500 000 young people</b> engaged in sustainable earning opportunities through workforce development programmes.	<b>Work-in-progress.</b> Evaluations and tracing studies have commenced. 



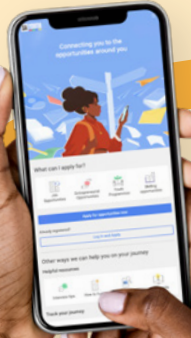


# Achievements and highlights from Quarter 1

(APR – JUN 2024)

Young people have secured over **127,968** earning opportunities through the National Pathway Management Network.

In the first quarter of the new financial year, **101,102** earning opportunities were secured by young people on the SA Youth platform. A further **26,866** earning opportunities were secured on Department of Employment and Labour's (DEL) ESSA platform. Over 70% of these opportunities were accessed by young women.



Expanding workplace experience opportunities to support young people to get their first job.

The Youth Employment Service, a private sector led initiative, placed **8,715** young people in workplace experience opportunities in various sectors of the economy. In addition, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) placed **2,207** young TVET learners and graduates into workplace experience opportunities.



The third cohort of the Revitalised National Youth Service to start their community service.

The third phase of the PYEI's revitalised National Youth Service has been launched. Recruitment is underway to place **20,000** young people in paid service opportunities. To view and apply for service opportunities, young people are encouraged to register and apply on [SAYouth.mobi](http://SAYouth.mobi).



Supporting young people to build their enterprises.

In Q1, young people continued to receive direct support for their enterprises. A total of **7,383** financial and non-financial enterprise opportunities were provided by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). In addition, the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) provided a total of **8,105** non-financial and financial enterprise opportunities to young people.



NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
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# Showcasing partners that are creating earning opportunities for young women



**AMAZI SHEtribe is an implementing partner of the PYEI's Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund. Amazi empowers young women with high value skills that enable them to participate in the labour market and create economic opportunities for themselves and others.**

AMAZI SHEtribe is a dynamic women's empowerment organisation founded that was founded in 2018. Created to address the systemic barriers that often marginalise women in the economy, AMAZI is built on the principles of social justice and entrepreneurship. The organisation's mission is to foster a future where women have equal access to resources, education, and economic opportunities, thereby enabling them to learn, start businesses and earn.

At the heart of AMAZI's efforts is the AMAZI Academy, a pioneering initiative that provides comprehensive beauty skills training to young women of colour in South Africa. This programme emerged from direct conversations with young women who expressed a desire to gain financial independence but faced limited educational opportunities. Through the Academy, participants receive training in beauty techniques, mentorship, and essential soft skills, equipping them with the tools needed to launch their own ventures.

Through the establishment of its Beauty Bars, AMAZI has extended its impact beyond the classroom. Initially starting with Beauty Bars located in two flagship stores **AMAZI has now expanded to 21 Beauty Bars nationwide.** These Beauty Bars serve as both training grounds and income-generating platforms, where Academy interns gain practical experience while providing affordable, high-quality beauty treatments to customers.

Furthering its commitment to local economic empowerment, AMAZI has developed its own skincare line, AMAZI Beauty. This range is uniquely African, utilising locally sourced active ingredients and produced entirely in South Africa. By doing so, AMAZI not only supports the local beauty supplier community but also creates additional job opportunities, all while offering consumers natural, affordable skincare products.

AMAZI's holistic approach to empowerment is encapsulated in their Rands and Change framework. This innovative model ensures that every rand spent by customers on beauty products or treatments directly contributes to the development and upliftment of young women through the Academy. This reinvestment strategy underscores AMAZI's dedication to creating tangible social impact and fostering conscious consumerism.

In addition to beauty and skincare services, AMAZI provides digital soft skills training and vocational development programmes, empowering young women to start their own businesses. Apprenticeship opportunities at AMAZI Beauty Bars allow these women to gain hands-on experience, enhancing their confidence and entrepreneurial capabilities.

Through the PYEI's Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund, AMAZI will provide training and earning opportunities to **102 young women.**



Through its comprehensive ecosystem of education, practical training, and local production, **AMAZI is making significant strides** in creating opportunities and driving social change for **marginalized young women** in South Africa.





## SPOTLIGHT 2

# Celebrating our Young Women: Stories of Impact



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The PYEI celebrates and honours the tenacious young women who have been supported by PYEI partner programmes.

**Lerato Mahlangu** was a Team Leader in the Enke: Youth4Service programme which was part of phase 1 of the National Youth Service (NYS). She served as an independent volunteer in Gauteng, Sedibeng District. Lerato was previously a volunteer at an ECD centre in her neighbourhood and says when she saw an advert about the Enke: Youth4Service programme on the [SAYouth.mobi](#) site.

She was immediately drawn to the advertisement because she is passionate about volunteer work and has had experience in it. As such, when she learned about this opportunity, she knew she had to seize it. When asked about the highlight of being part of the Enke: Youth4Service programme she said being chosen as a Team Leader was the biggest highlight and accomplishment.

“Never in my life did I think that I would have the opportunity to lead a team! My mindset has shifted because I can now understand how to manage a team, I have learnt conflict management skills and I have really developed my own interpersonal skills. I am even more thankful for the technical skills I also acquired as I capture timesheets and other data, which is something that I was not exposed to before. This programme has contributed immensely to my personal development in more ways than one.”

– **Lerato Mahlangu**

**Wehleminah Khalo**, a 25-year-old from Lotus Gardens in Pretoria, Gauteng, lived in a single-income household with seven family members. Limited by her family’s circumstances, she was only able to complete Grade 10, which severely impacted her ability to find a job. In June 2022, she joined the National Youth Service programme managed by Afrika Tikun where she served as a caregiver at the Rearabilwe Community Development Center.

Wehleminah’s service experience not only equipped her with caregiving skills, but also gave her a deep sense of fulfilment serving children in her community. She was also able to contribute to her family’s household expenses which improved

their wellbeing and quality of life. Upon completion of the NYS programme, she transitioned to the YES programme, where she was an administrator at SK Moseneke Primary School. In this role, she honed her planning and administrative skills, and passion for education administration. Her experience in the NYS and YES programmes increased her confidence and encouraged her to further her education.

“My personal life changed tremendously. First, the stipend helped me contribute to my family’s household expenses and improve our well-being. I have also gained confidence working in the ECD centre and interacting with parents and children has taught me that it takes a village to raise a child, and that’s what we are doing now – contributing in our small way”

– **Wehleminah Khalo**

**Tsholofelo Namisa** had always been passionate about giving back to her community. Even before the Enke: Youth4Service programme started, she had been volunteering at the Galeshewe Youth Network. When the opportunity to be a team leader during the programme presented itself, she jumped at the chance. As a team leader, Tsholofelo was responsible for training 32 volunteers on administrative tasks at the center. It was a challenging role, but one that she embraced wholeheartedly. She enjoyed sharing her knowledge with others and watching them grow and develop their skills.

One of the things that Tsholofelo appreciated most about the programme was the stipend that volunteers received. It gave them a reason to wake up in the morning and do something meaningful with their day. She knew first-hand how difficult it was to find work in her community, and the programme provided a valuable opportunity for young people to gain experience and earn some income. When the programme came to an end, Tsholofelo remained committed to her community and continued to volunteer at the Galeshewe Youth Network. She knew that through volunteering, she could make a difference and help others to grow and achieve their full potential.



The PMO in the Presidency continuously monitors progress with implementation. Information on the PYEI and quarterly updates are published on the PYEI website available here:

[stateofthenation.gov.za/pyei](http://stateofthenation.gov.za/pyei)



The Presidential Youth Employment Intervention is funded from the fiscus and is implemented by participating departments. Strategic oversight is provided by the Project Management Office in the Presidency. Development partners provide technical and research support to the PYEI.



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