



**PRESIDENTIAL
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
INTERVENTION**



**PYEI QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT:
Q3: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024**

**Leveraging Innovative Approaches To
Unlock Opportunities For Young People**



**THE PRESIDENCY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**





Message from the Deputy Minister in the Presidency

Building on the momentum from previous quarters, the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) has made even further strides in unlocking earning opportunities for young people. By the end of Q3 of this financial year, the National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) had registered over 4.6 million young people, with more than 1.57 million earning opportunities secured to date. This underscores the PYEI's continued success in aggregating demand and linking young people to opportunities that enhance their economic participation.

In addition, the PYEI's innovative funding mechanisms such as the Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund and the NPMN Innovation Fund are beginning to deliver their first fruits. The Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund has made significant strides in its pilot phase, which is set to run until the end of 2025. This innovative pay-for-performance model aims to address youth unemployment by incentivising skills providers to directly link training to sustainable employment. To date, over R46 million in grants has been disbursed to 12 implementing partners, some of whom have already met or exceeded their initial enrolment and placement targets. Through the Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund, implementing partners have been supported to successfully place 1 669 into jobs and the fund is on track to meet its target of placing 4 500 young people into sustainable earning opportunities by the end of 2025.

The NPMN Innovation Fund continues to catalyse employment pathways for young people through creative and scalable initiatives. With a focus on digital inclusion, enterprise development, and work-integrated learning, the fund has supported several high impact projects. These interventions not only equip young people with relevant skills, but also enhance employability through demand-driven approaches. As the fund progresses, it continues to integrate lessons from implementation partners to refine models that effectively bridge the gap between young people and sustainable earning opportunities.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on scaling impactful programmes, securing sustainable funding, and deepening our partnerships to drive long-term change. In addition, learnings and insights uncovered by commissioned evaluations will inform refinements to our approach, enabling us to enhance programme effectiveness and expand reach.

Through these efforts, we reaffirm our commitment to creating pathways to sustainable earning opportunities, unlocking opportunities in priority growth sectors, and effecting systems change to address the structural barriers young people face in the labour market. The PYEI remains a dynamic and adaptive intervention committed to ensuring that the employment of young people remains a national priority.

We will continue sharing our progress through these quarterly reports. As always, detailed data and insights are available on the PYEI dashboard at www.stateofthenation.gov.za/presidential-youthemployment-intervention/tracking-progressand-facilitate-learning.

With warm regards.

Ms Nonceba Mhlauli

**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

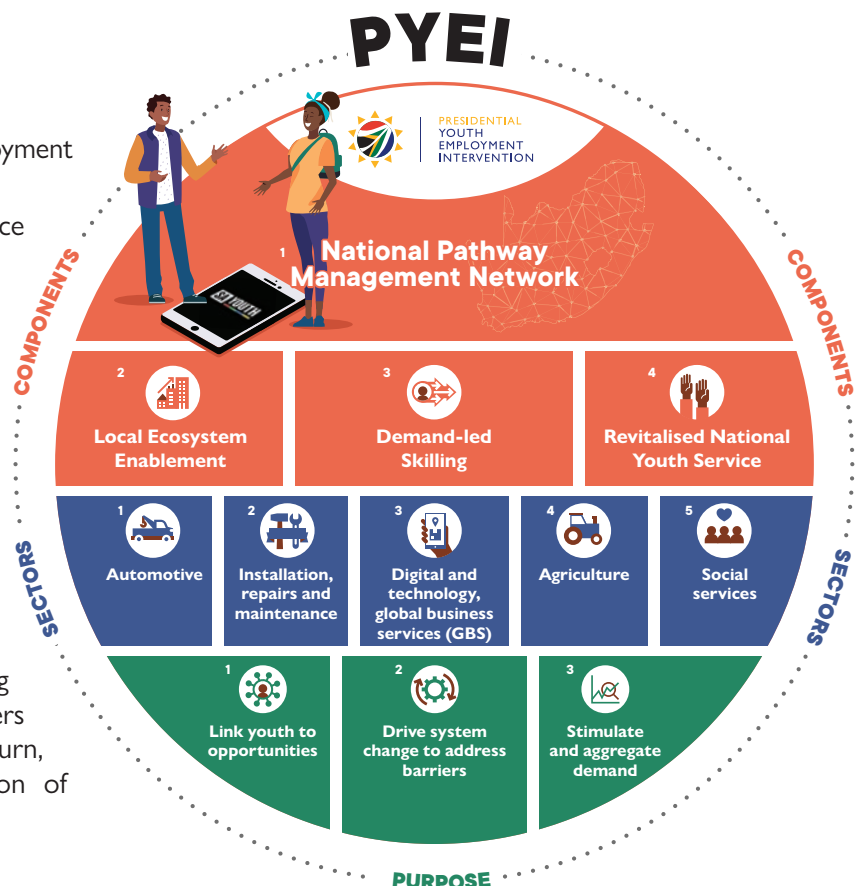
Central to the PYEI's efforts is the establishment of a National Pathway Management Network. The NPMN allows young people to find and seize opportunities that unlock earning pathways.

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?

As we enter the fifth year of the PYEI, we continue to make great strides towards unlocking earning opportunities for young people.

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 and providing them with targeted support that helps them build their profile and earning potential.

TARGET (2020 – 2025)	ACTUAL (2020 – to date)	
At least 5 million young people are engaged in the National Pathway Management Network and access services to help them grow their employability and pursue opportunities.	Over 4.62 million young people are registered and accessing opportunities in the National Pathway Management Network.	
Young people supported to access 1.5 million temporary earning opportunities including work-based placements, work-integrated learning opportunities, and paid service opportunities.	Young people have been supported to access over 1.57 million temporary earning opportunities including work-based placements, work-integrated learning opportunities, and paid-service opportunities.	
500 000 young people engaged in sustainable earning opportunities through workforce development programmes.	Work-in-progress. Evaluations and tracing studies have commenced.	





Achievements and highlights from Quarter 3

(OCT – DEC 2024)

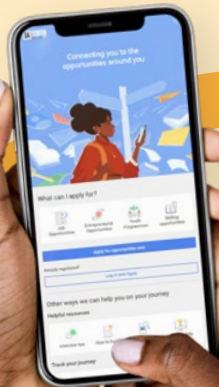
Young people secured over **53 379** earning opportunities through the **NPMN**.

In the third quarter of the new financial year, **38 864 earning opportunities** were secured by young people through the SA Youth platform. A further **14 515 earning and learning opportunities** were secured on ESSA.



employment & labour

Department: Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Expanding workplace experience opportunities for **15 175** young people.

In the third quarter of the financial year, the Youth Employment Service (YES), a private sector led initiative, placed **10 337** young people in workplace experience opportunities in various sectors of the economy. In addition, the Department of Higher Education and Training placed **4 838** young TVET learners and graduates into workplace experience opportunities.



higher education & training

Department: Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Launch of Phase 3 of the Revitalised National Youth Service.

The third phase of the PYEI's Revitalised National Youth Service launched in Q3 of the new financial year. This phase saw the recruitment of **13 568** young people. To date, the Revitalised National Youth Service has placed **82 378** young people in paid service opportunities across all three phases.



Supporting young people to build their enterprises.

In Q3 of the financial year, young people continued to receive direct support for their enterprises. A total of **4 641** financial and non-financial enterprise opportunities were provided by the National Youth Development Agency in Q3. In addition, the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), provided **10 028** financial and non-financial enterprise opportunities to young people.



small business development

Department: Small Business Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SPOTLIGHT 1

Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund Preliminary Performance Results

The Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund is an exciting initiative aiming to deliver high quality jobs for previously excluded youth, by incentivising skills providers to deliver appropriate skills development and support job readiness programmes and interventions.



The Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund is a **R300 million** innovative funding mechanism designed to tackle youth unemployment in South Africa. The fund uses a pay-for-performance model to partner with skills providers to equip previously excluded young people to access high quality jobs. Traditional approaches to job creation tend to focus on inputs and activities, such as training, workshops, or events. This has resulted in large numbers of youth undergoing skills development but not necessarily finding meaningful work, often because training is not aligned with the needs of employers.

Through the pay-for-performance model of funding, Jobs Boost ensures funding for youth unemployment interventions shifts from paying for activities and inputs to paying for pre-defined outcomes. Implementation partners receive 80% of their funding only if the job seeker secures full-time long-term employment, with the final tranche paid after the job has been held successfully for six months. Earning opportunities delivered by implementing partners are advertised to young people through the **SAYouth.mobi** platform.

The 12 implementation partners are:

- **Afrika Tikkun**
- **AMAZI**
- **Blue Lever Education**

- **BPESA**
- **V&A Waterfront**
- **Cheebea**
- **Employment Solutions management**
- **Green Riders**
- **Foundation For Professional Development**
- **Swift Skills Academy**
- **Collective X**
- **The Tourism and Business Institute of Southern Africa**

Implementation commenced in Q3 2024 and to date, over **1 600** of the targeted **4 500** young people have been successfully placed into employment opportunities by Jobs Boost Funded implementing partners. Out of this, **1 229** have sustained employment for 3 months. These numbers demonstrate the significant progress the Jobs Boost Outcomes Fund has made and indicates that the fund is on track to reach its placement targets.



SPOTLIGHT 2

Innovation Fund Implementing Partner Spotlight: UMUZI



Umuzi was founded in 2014 and is a fully remote educational (ed) tech non-profit organisation (NPO) that supports underserved youth in achieving their potential by securing jobs in the digital industry. Umuzi develops and deploys learning-to-earning pathways for young people by upskilling them with technical and soft skills. The National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) Innovation Fund has funded UMUZI to scale its Experience Lab, which is a last-mile work experience accelerator supporting unemployed young people to get into South Africa's labour market. The Experience Lab takes young people through a four part journey towards unlocking permanent earning opportunities:



Step 1: Assess

The Experience Lab targets marginalised skilled young people and assess and verify their skills and aptitude to determine their level of skills and experience to match them to personalised experience pathways.



Step 2: Experience

Informed by the assessment, personalised experience pathways are created to provide young people with access to experiential learning projects and thereafter impact gigs. Impact gigs are micro-earning opportunities with corporates and SMMEs which are aligned to the experience they want to gain. This provides young people an opportunity to gain first hand work experience prepare them for the world of work.



Step 3: Connect

Once learners have gained sufficient experience they will be efficiently matched to full-time employment opportunities and mentorship.



Step 4: Accelerate

Learners who successfully enter the workforce receive continuous support, helping them to seamlessly integrate into their new roles. Learners become part of Umuzi's Alumni Network and continue to build their network and social capital. Umuzi continues to track their career progression in order to determine the longterm impact of the Experience Lab on learners.

Through supporting initiatives like the Umuzi Experience Lab, the second round of the NPMN Innovation Fund seeks to unlock earning opportunities through the creation of innovative pathways to employment of young people.

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



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.



The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the monitoring and evaluation of the PYEI as well as the dissemination of results. This included the design and printing of this document.