



PRESIDENTIAL  
YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT  
INTERVENTION

# Transitioning young people from learning to earning

AN OVERVIEW



THE PRESIDENCY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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Unemployment among young South Africans is a national crisis that demands urgent, innovative and coordinated solutions. It is therefore essential that we implement a comprehensive plan to **create no fewer than 2 million jobs for young people within the next decade.**

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– PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA



Emerging from the global Covid-19 pandemic, South Africa has unprecedented levels of unemployment. At the end of the second quarter in 2022, the Statistics South Africa Quarterly Labour Force survey found **33.9% of South Africans jobless**. Many more have given up looking for opportunities.



At the end of the second quarter in 2022, **45% of young people between 15 and 34 years were not in employment, education or training.**

The persistent and structural nature of youth unemployment means that the issue can no longer be addressed through isolated initiatives. The situation requires an extensive, coordinated and sustained effort to respond to both the changing needs of the economy and those of young people in South Africa. This effort must be mobilised, cut across sectors and actors, and must include a wide variety of stakeholders and decision-makers from Government, the private sector, academia, development partners and civil society.

Addressing this crisis is one of President Ramaphosa's priorities. In his 2020 State of the Nation Address, the President launched the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI). This ambitious multi-sector action programme expands the range of opportunities for young people in South Africa – whether in further education or training, work experience, youth service, or employment, or entrepreneurship. It recognises the great potential of South Africa's young people and works towards a society where every young person has a path to progress.

# Accelerating efforts through coordination, innovation and scale-up

The PYEI is South Africa's most comprehensive effort to address youth unemployment to date. Its goal is to enable more young people to move from learning to earning. It seeks to coordinate, accelerate and enhance existing programmes and unblock pathways to employment, training and youth enterprise. Additional resources drive the development of innovative approaches.

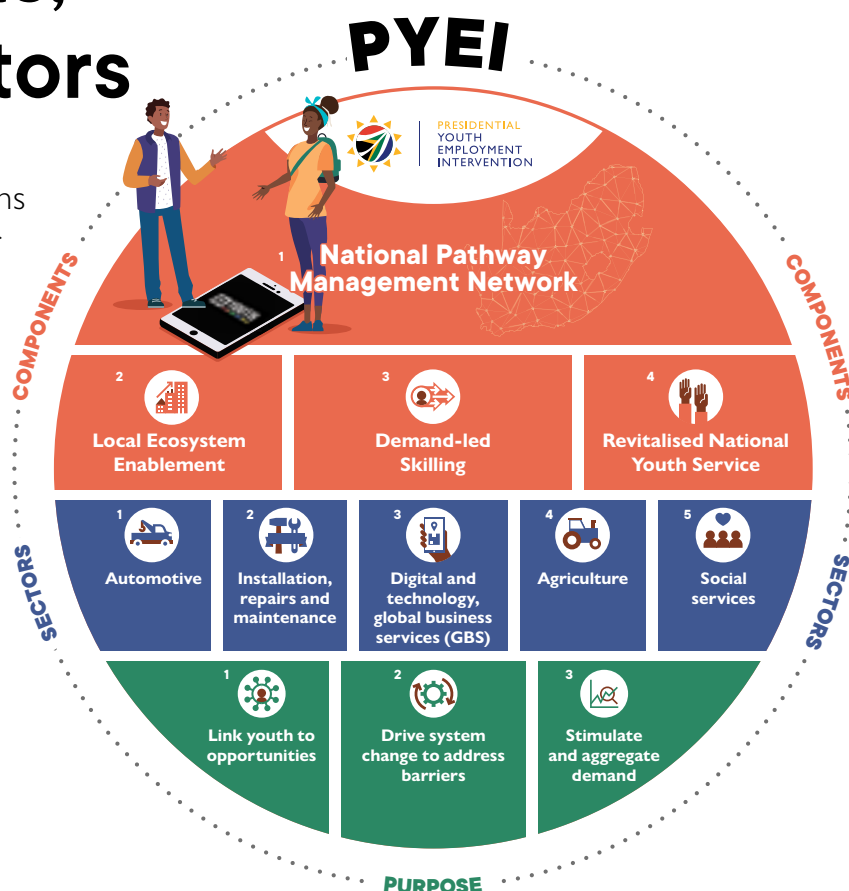
The PYEI is coordinated by a Project Management Office (PMO) in the Presidency and combines the know-how of leading experts, government departments, the private sector, social partners and young people themselves.

The PMO's direct reporting line to the President adds convening power. Implementation is led by national departments and entities best positioned to ensure rapid and effective delivery. The PMO provides oversight, strategic direction and support to implementing departments. This includes unblocking administrative bottlenecks, co-creating interventions, securing funding and sourcing technical support. The PMO also facilitates and strengthens linkages with stakeholders outside government.

## One national network, four components, five priority sectors

The PYEI is implementing priority actions to link young people to opportunities for learning, workplace experience and earning a sustainable living.

It also implements interventions to address barriers young people faces and supports the creation of opportunities in the formal and informal economies. These actions are focused on sectors with identified potential for sustained growth that can translate into employment opportunities for young people. These sectors are digital and technology, global business services, agriculture, installation repairs and maintenance, social services, and automotive.

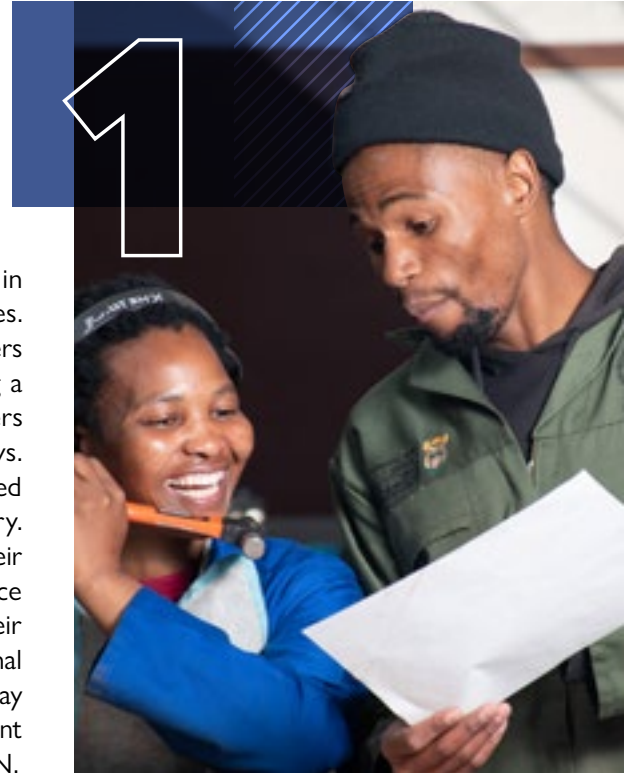


# The intervention is delivered through **4** interlinked components:

**A National Pathway Management Network (NPMN)** that connects young people to opportunities to grow their employability and generate income is central to the PYEI.

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The NPMN brings together all networks that serve young people not in employment or training, aggregating learning and earning opportunities. This creates a single entry point for young people and opportunity holders alike to share, view and access opportunities in the economy including a wide range of support services. The NPMN actively addresses barriers young people face and provides them with support to enable pathways. The NPMN is enabled by the SA Youth platform, which can be accessed for free online or via DEL and NYDA centres around the country. The NPMN also provides continuous support to young people finding their way into the economy, for instance through the Khetha career guidance platform. The mPowa app links young people to relevant services in their communities. For some young people, this can be a starting point for personal development and initial workplace experience. For others, the NPMN may provide direct linkages to employment or enterprise support. The Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) leads the implementation of the NPMN.



## MAKING MOVES WITH SAYOUTH.MOBI

**SAYOUTH.mobi** is a digital platform managed by Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator where young people can digitally access the national Pathway Management Network and find job and income opportunities. The platform also actively provides young people with recommendations for accessing learning, resources and support for growing their **profiles** and taking the initiative to access **more opportunities**.

The mobile platform is complemented by channels including telephone and face-to-face support that can reach young people wherever they are.

All mobile networks have zero-rated SAYOUTH.mobi, enabling free access from anywhere in the country. Over 3.1 million young people are registered on the platform. By the end of June 2022, 570,000 young people had secured earning opportunities through SA Youth.



Helping young people **develop skills that meet actual demand in the economy.** Here, the PYEI focuses on potential for jobs in identified growth sectors.

The PYEI has established multi-sectoral, demand-led skilling workstreams to bring all relevant actors together in these growth areas. Actions aim to rapidly and effectively align training with current and emerging industry demand. This will be done through approaches such as flexible bridging interventions. The introduction of pay-for-performance mechanisms rewards providers for successfully placing young people in skilled jobs after interventions that offer bridging/vocational training or facilitate workplace experience. Through the NPMN, young people can easily find new opportunities that emerge from this effort to upgrade their skills; they can gain experience in the workplace or move towards sustainable self-employment. This work is led by the Department of Higher Education and Training in partnership with the National Skills Fund and Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs).



**Stimulating local economies and building ecosystems that can enable self-employment and enterprise development.**

Focusing on township and rural economies, the PYEI aims to unlock the employment potential of greater business activity in vulnerable communities. This includes more support to young people that want to create work for themselves and others. The PYEI complements existing direct enterprise and financing support by focusing on systemic enablers. This includes giving targeted financial support to actors who are implementing innovative approaches through a Local Ecosystem Enablement Fund. Interventions concentrate on expanding mechanisms to increase access to potential clients and markets. They also complement longer-term efforts to improve access to key services such as the internet or electricity. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, in partnership with the Industrial Development Cooperation, leads in these efforts.



## Empowering young people through a revitalised **National Youth Service (NYS)** and contributing to advance social cohesion, nation-building and development.

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Young people who are engaged in their communities become more confident, build networks and are more likely to create income for themselves. The PYEI is thus revitalising the NYS to enable young people to contribute to their communities, develop life skills, build their confidence and gain experience in areas such as education, sports, arts or the delivery of public services. Opportunities are delivered in communities by actors focusing on local needs, while advancing youth development. Preference is given to services that benefit all young people in participating communities. The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is leading the programme through the National Youth Development Agency, in partnership with Government Technical Advisory Centre and the Jobs Fund.



# A strong partnership approach to delivery

The PYEI aims to infuse new urgency into the fight against youth unemployment. A principal objective is to accelerate and maximise results by breaking down barriers between actors who are working to provide opportunities for young people. Reducing fragmentation and creating synergies among existing efforts holds potential to achieve more impact using the resources already available. In addition, the PYEI will focus on addressing inefficiencies that hold back implementation in public sectors. Improved monitoring, evaluation and reporting will increase transparency and accountability. Through dedicated funds in all four components, the PYEI also provides additional resources with a focus on funding innovative approaches.

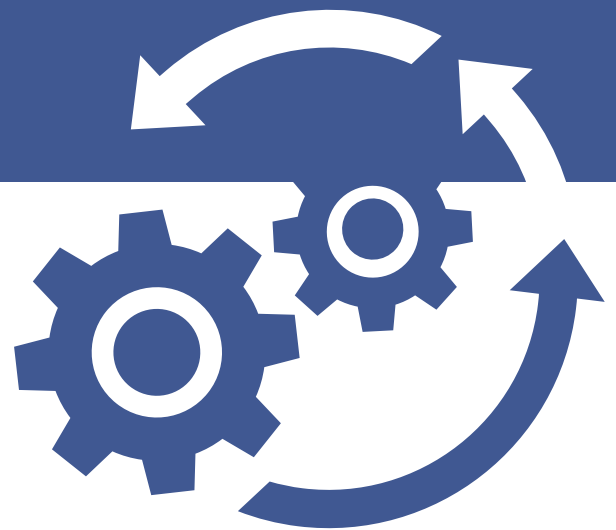
The PYEI links with other priorities driven by the Presidency, such as Operation Vulindlela and the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES). Operation Vulindlela addresses the structural and infrastructural barriers that prevent businesses from creating jobs for young people.

Actions target problems such as slow administrative processes, and unreliable access to electricity and broadband internet. The PES is a direct response to the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to create jobs and strengthen livelihoods, supporting meaningful work while the labour market recovers. The PES provides funding for several PYEI components and the PYEI's mechanisms support the implementation of PES programmes. For instance, the PYEI's NPMN is used to place young participants in public employment programmes and to support them to transition into other opportunities upon completion. Also, many of the people that are benefiting from the PES public employment programmes are young people. For example, the PES supported the Department of Basic Education to create nearly 600,000 opportunities for young people to be placed as assistants in schools across the country.

## PRESIDENTIAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INTERVENTION CORE PRINCIPLES

To drive implementation, the PYEI has adopted the following key principles:

- ▶ Place young people at the heart of the intervention; design around and respond to their needs, challenges and lived experiences.
- ▶ Provide accountability for implementation.
- ▶ Leverage existing policies, plans and agreements and focus on addressing gaps in policies.
- ▶ Create space for innovation that accelerates delivery and catalyses further action.
- ▶ Strengthen and build effective partnerships across all spheres of government, with the private sector and social and development partners.
- ▶ Address constraints to job creation both on the supply and demand side by maximising the allocation of resources within and outside of government to jointly identified priorities.



# What the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention plans to achieve

**The PYEI is contributing to the President's stated goal of creating 2 million new jobs for young people in this decade. It is pursuing results in the following outcome areas over the medium term:**

- ▶ New demand is generated, and opportunities are aggregated and made visible for young people.
- ▶ An increasing number of young people are employed in the formal and informal economy, including through youth entrepreneurship.
- ▶ An increasing number of young people access opportunities for workplace experience, service and training. Young people seamlessly transition and navigate different pathways (within and beyond the PYEI, and across learning and work areas).
- ▶ An increasing number of enterprises are owned and managed by young people.
- ▶ An improved system (across government/non-government/private sector) enables opportunities for young people.

The PMO in the Presidency continuously monitors progress with implementation. Quarterly updates are published on the PYEI dashboard available here: [www.stateofthenation.gov.za](http://www.stateofthenation.gov.za)



## LEAD IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

