

Opportunities for Youth Employment



Project full name:

Opportunities for Youth Employment (OYE)

Domain:

Employment and Income

Phase I:

2016 - 2019

SDC contribution:

USD 6'247'797

Total phase budget:

USD 14'221'477

Location:

Central Corridor - Morogoro, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Tabora and Singida

Implementing partner:

SNV

Other partners:

MasterCard Foundation (MCF)

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Project Overview

Tanzania's youth unemployment rate stands at 21.2%¹. Every year, 800'000 to 1'000'000 low-skilled young women and men enter a job market that can only absorb a small percentage of them.

The job market outlook for Tanzania is still negative, mainly because of the lack of skilled workers and the **mismatch between skills supply and demand**. Training institutions often teach outdated curricula which provide youth with skills that do not match those required in a fast-changing market.

The Opportunities for Youth and Employment (OYE) project aims to sustainably increase youth employment and income by developing skills and competencies through tailored technical, vocational and life skills trainings, apprenticeships and post-training support (**push** factor). As a result, youth are prepared for pre-assessed local market opportunities for employment and enterprise development (**match** factor) in growth sectors that have concrete potential for employment creation (**pull** factor).

Success: OYE facilitated a dialogue between the Vocational Education and Training Association (VETA) and Tanzania Meat Company (TMC) which led to the design of a new demand-tailored training course. After 3 months of theoretical and on-the-job trainings 55 of the 90 youth trained (with certificate) were formally hired by TMC.

OYE has identified agriculture, renewable energy and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) as sectors that offer vast job creation potential. The implementation of the OYE project started in September 2013 in three countries: Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania.

Overall Goal

To improve the livelihoods of young women and men by creating employment opportunities in **agri-business, renewable energy, sanitation and hygiene** and improve vocational skills delivery and access to employment.

Challenges and opportunities

The **main challenge** to youth employment is the negative perception of youth by private sector employers. Young people are seen as unreliable, unprofessional and lacking practical skills.

Participating private sector companies expressed their appreciation for the practical approach and relevance of the project for market needs. They praised OYE's basic life skills training and post-training coaching because it effectively contributes to the trustworthiness of rural youth and removes negative perceptions currently prevailing among private sector stakeholders.

Main activities of the phase

- Technical, vocational and life skills trainings (theoretical and practical)
- Apprenticeships, mentoring and post-training support
- On-going assessment/appraisal of local market opportunities
- Facilitation of linkages between private sector and training institutions

RESULTS TO DATE

- Capacities of **16'876** young women and men (6'167 through SDC contribution in the Central Corridor) are improved through technical, life and business skills trainings
- **12'959** skilled young women and men (5'683 through SDC contribution in the Central Corridor) are employed or self-employed
- **764** youth-led enterprises (366 through SDC contribution in the Central Corridor) are established, registered and with access to finance

Beneficiaries

Youth aged 18 to 30 with a particular focus on those who are under 25 and most vulnerable (out-of-school, currently unemployed, underemployed or unpaid labourers); youth's households; Technical Vocational Education and Training institutions (TVETs); and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

¹ ILO 2012