

## Improving career prospects for young people in Limpopo, South Africa, by promoting vocational qualifications, soft skills and entrepreneurial skills.

One of the most pressing socio-economic issues in South Africa is the high youth unemployment, especially in rural communities such as those in the Limpopo province. At the beginning of 2022, the unemployment of young people between 15 and 35 years stood at staggering 66,5 %.

Limpopo is one of the poorest provinces of South Africa. Located in the north, the legacy of inequality remains post-apartheid. With rural communities difficult to reach, basic services such as adequate education, health care and employment opportunities are still lacking. In addition, Limpopo has a high number of schools with very poor performance and higher than average dropout rates, as well as a high rate of HIV infections and teenage pregnancies, which severely hinder the economic participation of the young generation. Even those, who are occasionally employed in informal or low-income jobs struggle to make a living and mainly rely on government grants.

Under the apartheid regime, young people from disadvantaged sections of the population did not generally receive any form of vocational training that actually meets the needs of the modern labor market. Up to today, the youth in Limpopo have limited access to secondary and tertiary education, as well as vocational guidance. As a result, they typically lack employable skills such as technological understanding, problem solving, communication skills, effective job application and other soft and life skills, making it almost impossible to compete in the strained labour market.

<b>Project Name</b>	Improving career prospects for young people in Limpopo, South Africa, by promoting vocational qualifications, soft skills and entrepreneurial skills.
<b>Project Duration</b>	01 October 2021 - 30 November 2023
<b>Budget</b>	355.000 €
<b>Current Funding Gap</b>	9.000 €
<b>Project Region</b>	Maruleng Municipality, Limpopo
<b>Main Beneficiaries</b>	7.500 Youth and young adults (15-35 years)
<b>Funded by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>German Partner</b>	Gesundes Afrika, Gesellschaft für Medizin und Forschung in Afrika e.V.
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	World Vision South Africa

## Our approach

The project establishes a Youth Hub in GaSekororo, Maruleng Municipality, to better engage youth (with a focus on girls and young women) in skills development, vocational guidance and economic participation. Through the Youth Ready Model, unemployed and largely unskilled youth will be empowered to discover their potential, plan for the future and gain the skills and guidance to succeed in the labour market and ultimately improve their livelihoods, health and wellbeing.

**Output 1:** The Youth Hub provides youth and young people in GaSekororo with education and counselling services such as peer mentoring, vocational guidance, coaching, referral and linkage.

**Output 2:** Youth and young people in the project region are provided with capacity building and career information to improve their transition into employment.

**Output 3:** The access to employment and entrepreneurship promotion as well as market linkages for youth in GaSekororo has improved.

### The project is focused on five fields of action:

- Establishing a Youth Hub that provides mentorship, counselling, access to ICT infrastructure and job and training opportunities
- Strengthening partnerships and coordination between local stakeholders (e.g. government agencies, local CBOs, educational institutions and employers)
- Training of job seeking youth in relevant technical, soft and life skills
- Supporting young entrepreneurs with skills, inputs and linkages to profitable markets and funding programs
- Providing high-school learners and out-of school youth with information on education and training opportunities



### GESUNDES AFRIKA

Gesellschaft für Medizin und Forschung in Afrika e. V.

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