

National Youth Service Programme

Purpose

Hand in Hand was appointed by the Jobs fund(JF) in Partnership with the National Youth Development Agency(NYDA) as an implementer of the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention Programme, National Youth Service(NYS) in eight provinces across South Africa namely, Western Cape, Gauteng, North West, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, and Free State.

The Primary Aim of the NYS project is to mobilise young people to become active citizens of the country's democracy, while earning an income and increasing their employability. It is a programme directed at addressing South Africa's chronic youth unemployment challenge.

Implementation

The target audience (preferred by the Jobs Fund) was unemployed youths, also called participants, between the ages 18-35 years with the aim of creating 6080 individual employment opportunities throughout a six-month period in four main categories of work namely, Surveys and Digital Mappings, Social Support Services, Solidarity and Care, Food Security and Child care and lastly Community Work, Revitalisation and Greening Programmes. Target groups were established in the various districts of each province to ensure that equal employment opportunities were presented provincially.

Achievements and Outcomes

The project ultimately reached out to 7015 participants throughout South Africa and in addition to the employment opportunities, free training and support sessions were offered in, Employability, Administrative support services, career guidance, Entrepreneurship training, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Harassment, HIV/AIDS, Team building, Self-esteem as well as Women Empowerment. These training and support services were provided by HIH SA alongside our stakeholders namely, NYDA, Stepping Stone, Department of Labour, FHI360, Department of Social Development, Ndzalama HBC, Love Life, Phelo Phepha Train, and Department of Agriculture, Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality and Msukaligwa Local Municipality.



*"The youth of today
are the leaders of
tomorrow."
- Nelson Mandela*



An overview of impact stories for the National Youth Service Programme

National Youth Service (NYS) programme has brought momentous changes to various communities across the country and has tackled a variety of socio-economic issues that face South Africa today. It has created thousands of jobs for unemployed youth in South Africa whilst offering solutions to social welfare issues such as gender-based violence, the need for dignity packs in underprivileged communities and empowering entrepreneurship.

Here are some awe-inspiring case studies of people from different provinces who have been profoundly impacted by taking part in the programme.

Participants from the Gert Sibande district in Mpumalanga identified a lack of dignity packs for female learners and held a pad donation drive as a part of the NYS social campaign in Lesedi Combined School where they were doing community service work and it was a remarkable success.

The lives of young adolescent girls were profoundly changed and impacted.



*-picture displays participants donating dignity packs to
Lesedi Combined School as a part of NYS social
campaigns*



Gladys Ndlovu, a participant from Ehlanzeni district, Mpumalanga was faced with constant sexual and emotional abuse from her life partner, and this became a continuous cycle because of her financial dependency on him.

When the NYS program commenced in Mpumalanga, she got the opportunity to join a team in the district and she can happily say that the monthly stipends gave her the courage and financial freedom to leave the abusive life partner and start a new life. Now she spends her time educating fellow participants on gender-based violence and how to overcome it.



-Gugulethu Mazibuko with newly purchased mobile beauty Spa

Gugulethu Mazibuko matriculated in 2018 and for four years she stayed with her family, unemployed and with a son to provide for. This situation had a negative impact on her as she longingly wanted to assist her mother who was bearing the financial burden at the time.

At the commencement of the NYS programme in KwaZulu-Natal province, she had the opportunity to join a team in Durban and began community service work on a weekly basis. This was a major breakthrough for her because for the first time in her life, she was gainfully employed and earned a regular stipend.

Gugulethu is an entrepreneur at heart, and she managed to save every cent of her monthly stipend to start her mobile beauty spa where she renders manicures, pedicures, and make-up services.



Two participants absorbed and given permanent work positions by the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) at Olievenhoutbosch clinic through the NYS Programme

Three participants were placed at Olieven clinic to perform cleaning duties as part of their community service under the NYS programme but two of the participants showed outstanding diligence and work ethic. The clinic manager, Ms. Sarah Kutumela, managed to advocate for these participants to be absorbed by EPWP which is managed by the counsellor’s office.

Ms. Sarah Kutumela relates that she chose the two participants because of their dedication , passion and their willingness to work with people. They have now been tasked to deal with gender-based violence victims at the clinic, arrange their documentation and refer them for counselling.

The stories captured above paint a beautiful picture of how the NYS programme has changed and impacted people from various walks of life with different problems and needs.

In closing, it is quite apparent that the programme has marked a positive turning point in the lives of the youth of South Africa who grabbed this opportunity with both hands and did not despise the effect it would have on their future.

Quote from Limpopo participants: “It does not matter how small the programme is, it is always beneficial when you look at it in a positive way.