

Opportunities for Youth Employment



Project full name:
Opportunities for Youth Employment (OYE)

Priority:
Improving Youth Livelihoods

Phase II:
2021 - 2024

SDC contribution:
CHF 1'980'000

Total phase budget:
CHF 3'660'000

Location:
Morogoro and Singida

Implementing partner:
SNV

Other partners:
AS Beteiligungen und Vermögensverwaltungs GmbH

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Project Overview

Tanzania has a young and fast growing population of whom 66% live in rural areas. Almost 52% of the population falls within the 15 – 35 age bracket¹. On average, 82.3% of youth are in vulnerable employment², a percentage that reaches 86.4% for young women and 93.6% when referring to rural youth³.

Formal jobs are limited and even rarer in rural areas⁴. The job market outlook for Tanzania remains negative, mainly due to the lack of skilled workers and the **mismatch between skills supply and demand**. Training institutions often teach curricula that provide youth with skills that do not match those required in a fast-changing market. There is thus a need for localized, flexible, accessible, practical and market-relevant skills training that equips youth for self-employment.

Inspired by the Swiss model of Vocational Skills Development, the Opportunities for Youth and Employment (OYE) project aims to increase youth (self-)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). OYE has identified agriculture and renewable energy as sectors that offer vast job creation potential.

SNV also implements the OYE project in three other countries - Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Overall Goal

The overall goal is to improve the livelihoods and future prospects for out-of-school youth through access to wage and self-employment opportunities in agriculture and renewable energy.

'OYE changed my life. Not only in terms of business and income but it also gave me a lot of exposure. Thanks to the support of the project, I was able to travel outside my region for the first time ever.' **Elizabeth Barnabas, OYE beneficiary and founder of Haki Leather Enterprise**

Expected outcomes

- An additional 4,250 (3,200 rural youth and 1,050 peri-urban) and 15,300 indirect out-of-school youth, among whom at least 50% young women, accessed (self-)employment opportunities.
- Youth-inclusive market systems in two regions are improved and effective in promoting and improving youth employability and self-employment in a systemic manner.
- Local government authorities are enabled to implement their mandate effectively driven by learning and regional knowledge development with evidence-based documentation

RESULTS TO DATE

- **7'017 youth** (M: 57%, F: 43%) secured self-employment or employment in agriculture, renewable energy, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sectors.
- Average annual income of participating youth increased by **215%**.
- **484 youth-led enterprises** were registered, 73% active in agriculture and agri-business.
- OYE facilitated access to finance by establishing **246 saving and credit groups**, generating savings worth over USD 100'000 and linked **47 youth-led enterprises** to access Government youth loans worth USD 42'000.
- OYE successfully piloted climate smart innovations to boost production systems and attract higher market prices.

Beneficiaries

Youth aged 18 to 30 that are out of school and in vulnerable employment; youth champions and youth-led enterprises from phase I; government institutions, financial institutions, value chain actors, public and private actors.

¹ Finscope (2017)

² United Nations

³ Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (2014)

⁴ Tanzanian National Bureau of Statistics (2016)