



Youth Engagement and Socio – Economic Empowerment

Implementing organisation(s)	Save the Children South Africa ; Education with Enterprise
Duration	17 January 2017 – 17 June 2019
Project budget	Total budget: € 600,000 EU contribution: € 200,000
Keywords	Youth Engagement and Socio – Economic Empowerment
Contract number	CSO – LA/2016/379 - 661



Project Description

Save the Children Italy (hereafter referred to as SC Italy) is implementing a 30 months action with the **Overall Objective** of ensuring that **disadvantaged young people and under-skilled youth CSOs and networks have increased capacity to actively contribute to decision-making processes, social development and livelihoods in their communities.** This action is built around a partnership bringing together the collective experience of SC Italy and its Co-Applicants, namely Save the Children South Africa (SCSA) and Education with Enterprise Trust (EWET), with combined expertise in civil society development, quality capacity building approaches and socio-economic programs resulting in tangible benefits for marginalized youth and children.

Target groups will be 3000 disadvantaged young people between the ages 15 – 25 years old from rural and peri-urban district municipalities within Free State, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces of South Africa (i.e. two district municipalities per province). These will be reached through 100 Youth Networks (YN) and 50 CSOs.

The 100 target youth networks will be drawn from existing school based children's groups, which include children's committees, Youth Enterprise Society (YES) and Learners Representative Councils (LRC) in the target schools, whereas the 50 target youth CSOs will be drawn from existing Community Based Organisations (CBOs) that directly provide services to out of school youth in project target areas. **Final beneficiaries** will be 100 schools and 6 district municipalities; 100,000 young people will be reached indirectly through the radio talk – shows, debate and roadshows.

The project aims at capacitating in and out of school youth. In order to achieve this, for in-school youth, the project will form Youth Networks (YNs) in schools by linking all the existing children's groups such as Representative Councils of Learners (RCLs), Children's Committees activated by SCSA, Youth Enterprise Society (YES) clubs promoted by EWET, Soul Buddies, Radical Empowerment (REDs), UNICEF's Boys Empowerment Movements (BEMs) and Girl Empowerment Movements (GEMs) groups.

Young people will be provided with opportunities to learn their rights and responsibilities and to promote their civic engagement in their communities. Their voice will be strengthened to promote their social, political and economic participation through tailored capacity building on communication skills and civic engagement, networks, joint actions and youth-led Imbizos on socio-economic issues and District Youth Economic Forums. In addition to that, the action will promote young people's participation and contribution towards a more inclusive and sustainable growth, as it will empower 100 YN and 50 youth CSOs with financial literacy, vocational, entrepreneurship and employability skills and facilitate their members' placement in market relevant internship and Learnership programmes. The lessons learnt through this project will be documented and shared widely.



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Furthermore, an innovative Youth Entrepreneurship Mentorship programme will be developed and targeted youth will be supported to access financial and technical support from business and government stakeholders.

By promoting leadership, personal development and entrepreneurship, the employability of targeted disadvantaged young people will be enhanced. SC Italy and its co-applicants will ensure that by the end of the project, 3000 young people within the targeted provinces and districts municipalities are equipped and empowered with skills and actively participate in governance, social development and livelihoods in their respective communities. The proposed intervention will prioritise the needs of disadvantaged young women and youth from the rural and peri-urban district municipalities within the target provinces.

Thus, gender equality and meaningful participation of young women will be promoted throughout the lifespan of this project. Through this action, SC Italy and its co-applicants will provide young people with skills that will improve their income and economic resilience, increase their knowledge and awareness and create opportunities and platforms for them to actively participate on issues that affect them. It is assumed that by empowering young people with skills and new opportunities, the proposed action will result in a reduction of risky behaviours, such as substance abuse, gender based violence, sexual violence and crime in general.

Through this action, the capacity of young people to actively contribute to decision making processes, social development and livelihoods in their communities will be increased. This will result in improved self-esteem and confidence by the young people, whose voices will be strengthened to influence social and economic decisions that affect their lives in their respective communities. Through this project, options will be created to facilitate smooth transition from schools to work.

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