



South Africa Siyasebenza



Reflections from the Head of the Fund

About the Jobs Fund

The National Treasury established the Jobs Fund in June 2011 to support innovative initiatives and approaches to job creation. The R9 billion fund operates on challenge fund principles, and all funding allocations are made on a competitive basis in a transparent and open manner.

Once-off grants are awarded to projects that demonstrate sustainable job creation potential and project partners are required to match the grant fund allocations at a ratio of 1:1 or higher.

The Jobs Fund is not a mass employment programme, nor is it intended to tackle long-term structural causes of low growth and unemployment. Rather, it provides a targeted programme of support for effective labour market interventions that result in sustainable employment creation.

About Siyasebenza

Siyasebenza is the Jobs Fund's quarterly newsletter. *Siyasebenza* is an isiZulu word meaning "we are working".

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S i y a s e b e n z a

As we reflect on the past quarter, the Jobs Fund's journey continues to showcase innovation, strategic partnerships, and transformative impact. Since our establishment in 2011, we have not only created over 150,000 permanent jobs but also set a benchmark for systemic change in South Africa's employment landscape.

Our approach focuses on sustainability and fostering credible partnerships. By leveraging existing capacities, we ensure that our initiatives remain impactful and scalable, providing a model that can be replicated globally. This approach is especially vital in the context of South Africa's ongoing challenges, including high unemployment rates, economic recovery, and the need for sustainable development.

In alignment with national priorities, as highlighted in the State of the Nation Address, we continue to prioritize job creation, youth opportunities, and economic reconstruction. Through our knowledge agenda, we've reached broad audiences with valuable

insights via nine engaging webinars, covering timely topics and fostering a strong sense of community.

One standout initiative, "Digital Livelihoods: SA's Game Development Rise", supports South Africa's growing game development industry by addressing entry barriers and promoting training, awareness, and funding. This marks a significant milestone in creating an enabling ecosystem for job creation across various sectors. Building on this momentum, the Jobs Fund is also pleased to announce the launch of its 12th Funding Round, Breaking Barriers to Employment in the Green and Informal Economies. See the Fact sheet on page 4 of this newsletter.

As we conclude this quarter, we remain committed to our mission of driving sustainable job creation and adapting to future opportunities and challenges. 🌱

Najwah

Najwah Allie-Edries
Head of the Jobs Fund



Empowering South Africa: The Jobs Fund's Transformative Journey

The Jobs Fund is a testament to the power of innovation and strategic partnerships. Since its inception in 2011, the Fund has not only exceeded its mandate of creating over 150,000 jobs but has also set a benchmark for systemic change in South Africa's employment landscape.

Our model emphasizes sustainability, ensuring initiatives are impactful and scalable. By partnering with credible organizations, we've been able to implement innovative solutions that address key challenges in job creation.



Minister of Finance, **Enoch Godongwana**, emphasized the Fund's role, stating:

"The Jobs Fund has been instrumental in addressing unemployment through innovative, long-term projects."



Similarly, **Najwah Allie-Edries**, Head of the Jobs Fund, adds:

"Our focus is to create sustainable jobs that drive systemic change, and by collaborating with like-minded organizations, we've achieved remarkable results."

A true reflection of our impact is **David Maleleka**, a young entrepreneur whose business success, made possible by the Fund's support, continues to generate employment and empower his community.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering innovation and creating sustainable employment, aiming to elevate South Africa toward a more prosperous and equitable future.



The Digital Spaza Evolution

From selling cigarettes and snacks at a table on a street corner in Soweto to owning and managing a well-stocked spaza shop, David Maluleka is proof that the A2Pay strategy works.

Starting out, David had to navigate the challenges familiar to many small-business owners. He faced constant pressure to choose between supporting his family and purchasing stock for his spaza shop. This was further complicated by the need to select products that would actually sell. His business could easily have failed. But, with sacrifice and help from the Jobs Fund/A2Pay “Community Access to Wireless Retail Project”, David’s business has flourished.

In 2016, David received support from A2Pay that made it significantly easier to run and grow his business. He was provided with a point-of-sale (POS) device that enabled him to ring up sales, track income and expenses, manage stock and monitor the purchases of his customers, ultimately helping him to stock his shop with the right products.



DAVID – MUNCH AND NETWORK



Stocking his shop strategically boosted his turnover and profits. His business grew to the point where he needed to extend his space to store additional stock. He applied for a loan from A2Pay and extended his business into what he proudly calls his “real spaza.”



The A2Pay project highlights the power of technology and demonstrates the vast potential of digital solutions.



To read more stories of inspiration and change, please download a digital copy of our latest publication titled “*A Decade of Innovation and Partnerships – Lessons and Insights on Funding Sustainable Job Creation.*” This publication offers valuable insights into the Fund’s journey, highlighting its experience in establishing what was once the largest challenge fund globally, as well as the lessons learned in implementing sustainable and inclusive job creation interventions.

[Click here to read the publication](#)



Breaking barriers to employment in the green and informal economies

Jobs Fund – 12th Funding Round

Launch Date: 22 April 2025

FOCUS: The Jobs Fund invites proposals that will address critical employment barriers in South Africa's green and informal economies. We seek sector intermediaries from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors with solid implementation expertise to propose innovative and implementable solutions that will create sustainable jobs and stimulate economic growth.



THE GREEN ECONOMY

- Includes economic activities aimed at reducing environmental risks and addressing ecological scarcities
- Promotes sustainable development through green jobs that play a significant role in protecting or restoring the environment.
- Aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment includes:
 - ✔ renewable energy
 - ✔ waste management
 - ✔ energy efficiency
 - ✔ sustainable agriculture
 - ✔ green transport
 - ✔ water management



THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

- Includes economic activities, enterprises, jobs and workers that are not covered by formal arrangements
- Includes:
 - ✔ street vending
 - ✔ small retail
 - ✔ construction
 - ✔ care work
 - ✔ waste picking
 - ✔ repair and maintenance services
 - ✔ informal transportation
 - ✔ artisanal work
 - ✔ market trading
 - ✔ home-based work
 - ✔ small-scale farming

Closing Date: 5 June 2025 at 3:00PM



NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS REGISTERED

As of **8 May 2025**,
177 applications had
been registered on the
Jobs Fund's on-line
Grant Management
System (GMS).



The funding round will be implemented using challenge fund principles, which means the Fund will deploy a portfolio approach in its consideration of proposals for funding.

Please ensure you access the Funding Round Term Sheet, The Online Application User Guide, Briefing session recording & presentation and Frequently Asked Questions guide on our website:
www.jobsfund.org.za

Jobs Fund knowledge agenda: empowering through insights

Our knowledge agenda has been highly effective. This year, our nine webinars reached a broad audience and focused on relevant and current issues. It highlighted the real difference our initiatives are making in people's lives.

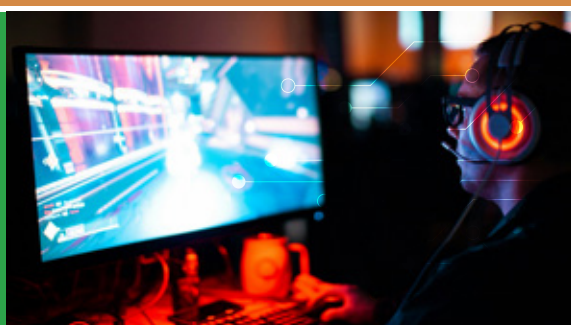


These informative and engaging sessions shared valuable insights, sparked meaningful exchanges on job creation and inspired further collaboration. The positive reception of our knowledge agenda reflects its value in advancing the labour market discourse. Beyond insights, it provides a platform for dynamic discussion, enhancing participants' understanding of key topics.

Key insights from our webinars:

Digital Jobs in South Africa

With immense potential to address high youth unemployment, the digital sector—particularly gaming and coding—offers promising prospects for sustainable job creation through cross-sector collaboration.



Witzenberg PALS – Beyond the Soil

We showcased how the PALS initiative promotes inclusive agricultural growth, land reform and economic development in the Western Cape, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in scaling success.



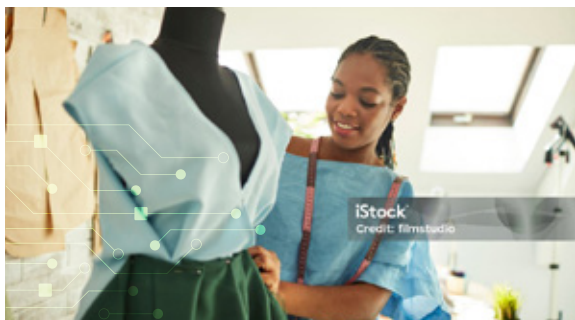
Mental Health First Aid in Schools

Promoting mental health in schools plays a significant role in improving student well-being and academic performance. Community Keepers shared insights on creating supportive environments that foster mental resilience.



Youth-Led Businesses

The success stories of youth-led businesses emphasized how crucial non-financial support—such as, mentorship and customised assistance—is in empowering young entrepreneurs to create jobs and drive economic growth.



To access presentations and recordings from all nine webinars, visit our website.



Levelling up: A billion reasons to support South Africa's game development ecosystem

The Jobs Fund is proud to announce the implementation of the “**Digital Livelihoods: SA's Game Development Rise**” project, the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa. This initiative aims to unlock the potential of South Africa's growing game development industry, tapping into the \$187 billion global gaming market.

By addressing barriers to entry, such as high development costs and limited market access, the project is building a thriving ecosystem that will empower local developers and boost job creation. Training, incubation and funding will be instrumental in overcoming challenges and fostering growth in economically marginalised areas.

Africa's gaming industry is expanding rapidly, with revenues projected to exceed \$1 billion by 2026, driven by mobile users who make up 90% of the market. Local success stories, such as **Nyamakop Studios** and **Pineapple on Pizza**



Studios, are already creating culturally relevant content and positioning themselves to compete globally.



This project highlights the need for a cohesive government approach, including legislative support and incentive schemes, to effectively drive investment in the gaming industry. The Jobs Fund's intervention has helped enhance the legitimacy of the sector, sparking increased interest and investment.

As the gaming industry evolves, the “Digital Livelihoods” project will play a crucial role in expanding South Africa's creative economy, creating employment and building capacity across sectors. With the right support, South Africa is poised to become a key player in the global gaming landscape.



Jobs Fund Performance Update: 31 March 2025

FUNDING

OVERVIEW

R22.6 billion

total portfolio size

R7.5 billion

grant funding disbursed

R15.1 billion

matched funding leveraged from partners

1 : 2,01

matched funding ratio

R41 million

average grant disbursed per project

COST PER JOB

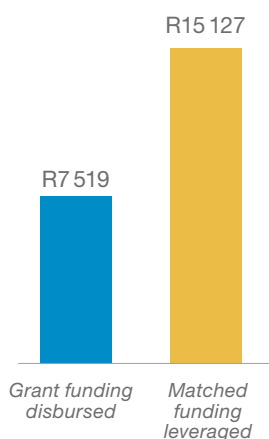
R23 738

grant cost per job

(includes the grant disbursed +

Jobs Fund operating costs – training costs)

Total funding for
job creation (R millions)



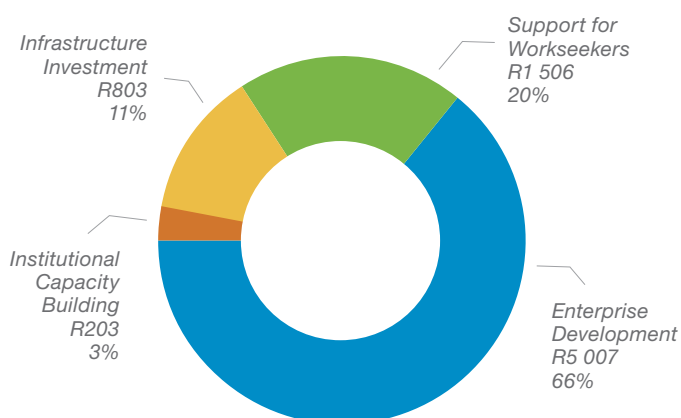
R25 428

grant cost per job

(includes the grant disbursed +

Jobs Fund operating costs)

Grant disbursed by funding window (R millions)



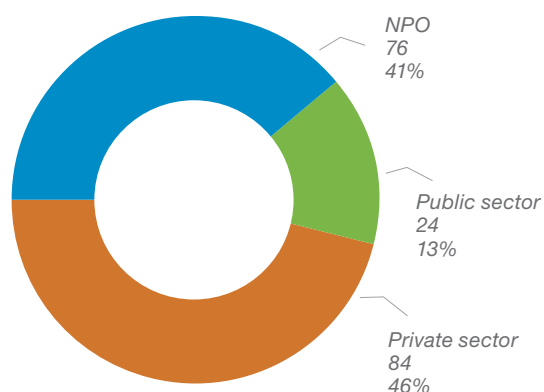
JOBS FUND PARTNERS

OVERVIEW

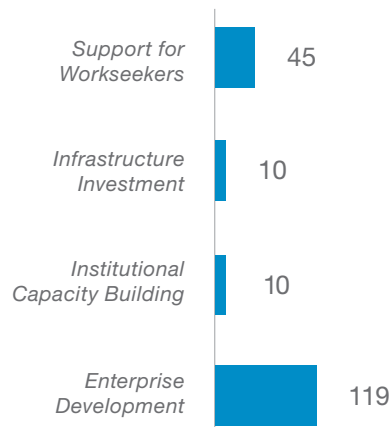
184

contracted projects

Projects by implementer type



Projects by funding window



JOB CREATION

Total jobs, placements & internships facilitated

