

Overview of YEPS

In Somalia, about 70% of the population are under the age of 30. Some of them without job can take part in piracy or terrorism to earn their living, which is one of serious social problems. Youth employment is an urgent issue for both national economic growth and human security. To tackle this issue, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) requested supports from Japan. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) first carried out the Youth Employment Baseline Study (YEBS) (2015-2017) to confirm the current employment status and identify major industries in Somalia, which resulted in the first JICA's technical cooperation project since 1991, so called the Youth Employment Project for Somalia (YEPS).

Project duration

From February 2018 to October 2022

Project target area

Whole area of Somalia

Overall Goal

Youth employability is enhanced, which eventually contributes to human capital development in Somalia.

Project Purpose

The supporting environment for youth employment and entrepreneurship is improved.

Project Outputs

- 1 Policies or strategic plans on youth employment for the pilot industries are drafted.
- 2 Knowledge and capacity of trainers/mentors for youth employment in the pilot industries are improved.
- 3 Knowledge and capacity of supporting institutions for start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are improved.

IMPLEMENTING MINISTRIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED)

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA)

Ministry of Public Works and Reconstruction and Housing (MoPWRH),

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MoFMR), etc.



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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT FOR SOMALIA (YEPS)





SELECTION OF THE PILOT INDUSTRIES

In order to expand employment opportunities of the youth, it is important to revitalize industries as a whole with supports and measures for both sides of labor market: human resources to be employed and companies to employ. The Project first conducts information survey on nine major industries identified by YEBS, then, analyzes and scores each industry to select the industries, which are finally approved by the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) as the pilot industries to conduct the project activities.

YEPS selected fisheries as the 1st pilot industry in August 2018, then, construction as the 2nd one in November 2019. The Project will select the 3rd pilot industry in 2021.

[To achieve Output 1] SUPPORT FOR POLICY OR STRATEGIC PLAN FORMULATION ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

YEPS supports the formulation of a draft policy or strategic plan to promote the youth employment for the pilot industries in line with National Development Plan (NDP) and National Employment Policy (NEP) of Somalia.

In 2019, JICA Experts with the officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MoFMR) have discussed and developed the first draft of fisheries policy.

[To achieve Output 2] SUPPORT FOR TRAINERS/MENTORS FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE PILOT INDUSTRIES

The youth who seek employment are required skills to meet the needs of industries and companies, however, opportunities to learn such skills are limited in Somalia. To address this issue, YEPS provides training of trainers (ToT) for those who work on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) so that they will teach the youth and disseminate the skills learned through ToT.

A ToT for fisheries sector was conducted in June-July 2019 at Fisheries Education Training Agency (FETA) in Tanzania. The selected participants were twenty who teach and train the youth in different organizations and places in Somalia, including instructors of TVET, cooperative members and the government staff. The course covered a wide range of topics with more practical approach and all participants learned a lot about fisheries. Some participants have reported that they conducted trainings in Somalia by using the skills which they learnt. The effectiveness of training will be measured by what the participants do afterwards. YEPS continuously monitors their activities in their field in collaboration with the development partners working in Somalia.



[To achieve Output 3] CAPACITY BUILDING OF FOR SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS FOR START-UPS AND MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES)

To increase in employment opportunities, it is also important to foster an environment which can encourage and facilitate the youth to start own business. YEPS supports capacity development of organizations supporting entrepreneurs and existing companies.

In September 2019, YEPS organized a 5-day workshop on capacity development of start-ups and MSMEs at the Innovation Village in Kampala, Uganda, in collaboration with different supporting organizations in Uganda and Kenya. The participants from Somalia consisted of fifteen from the private sector (i.e. university, training institutions, consulting firms, incubation centers, private companies, and NGOs) and seven from the government sector. The workshop was very intensive with lots of discussions and group exercises, panel discussion with field visits to different entrepreneurs and organizations. An on-line network group was created among the participants, supporting organizations and JICA Experts at the end of the workshop and has been actively used for daily communications and exchange of useful information.