Plan International Mozambique’s Youth Empowerment, Technical Training and Employability (TVET) project aims to provide young people with skills and vocational training they need to secure decent work.

In line with the Mozambican Governments efforts to increase youth employability, the project is expected to close the gap between market demand and qualified labour supply in Jangamo and Homaone districts, contributing to improved economy and poverty reduction.

Youth employment prospects in Mozambique:

Poverty levels remain very high in Mozambique, with more than 50% of the population living on less than $1 per day. Some 27% of potentially working people are unemployed, while some 300,000 new job seekers enter the market every year.

Young people are particularly affected by a poor labour market - with limited job opportunities, they often end up working in the informal sector with few prospects of securing reliable employment.

In the target districts, youth who do have jobs typically work in the agricultural sector or as self-employed petty traders. Plan International Mozambique’s baseline study found that 70% of youth are currently unemployed in Homaone and 23% in Jangamo.

Plan International’s global economic security strategy:

Plan International works to promote the economic rights of children and young people to ensure they will be prepared to engage as economically active adults who can make a positive contribution to civil society.

By working with partners at multiple levels, we aim to promote the development of children and youth through access to education, information, training, financial services and other opportunities leading to economic empowerment.

In line with Plan International’s global strategic priorities, this project will increase opportunities for work through market led vocational training and job placement, and by promoting youth owned enterprises.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Duration: 1 April 2013 - 30 June 2017

Partners: Cultural Association for Sustainable Development (ACUDES) and National Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (INEFP)

Amount: €1,387,750

Funded by: European Commission and Plan Nederland

OVERALL, OVER 2000 YOUNG PEOPLE AND 150 BUSINESSES WILL BENEFIT DIRECTLY, WHILE THE IMPROVED SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION WILL BENEFIT OVER 200,000 PEOPLE ACROSS THE TWO TARGET DISTRICTS

Plan-international.org/eu 1 July 2015
Closing the gap between supply and demand:

With a limited private sector, young people in Mozambique’s Jangamo and Homoine districts have little opportunity to develop the skills they need for the job market - trainings are either non-existent or of poor quality.

Through this project, Plan International Mozambique is working to bridge the gap between market demand and qualified labour market supply.

A newly established vocational training course in Jangamo and three improved courses in Homoine provide a youth friendly environment for the training courses. With girls and disabled youth facing even greater challenges in securing decent work, specific consideration has been taken to meet their particular needs.

The project has also challenged traditional gender stereotypes. By sensitising their parents and husbands, community leaders and members have promoted young women participation in technical and vocational training. Over 50% of the youth enrolled in the courses are female.

The project in numbers:

Over 2000 young people and 150 businesses will benefit directly from the project. Indirect, the improved socio-economic situation will benefit over 200,000 in both districts.

- 121 youth enrolled in a vocational training course
- 51.1% female participation in the course
- 78 youth have successfully graduated
- Over 50% of students have gained employment or enrolled in further education two months after graduation

TWO CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED FOR PARTNERS, TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE REGARDING ADVOCACY ON CHILDREN’S RIGHTS, GENDER AND CHILD PROTECTION
Tailoring allows Alberto to make a real difference to the lives of his family, and his community

22-year old Alberto has always had a passion for tailoring - he even saved up enough money to buy his own sewing machine. The problem was, he didn’t know how to use it properly.

That soon changed, when he joined Plan International Mozambique’s Youth Empowerment, Technical Training and Employability project, funded by the European Commission. After enrolling on the tailoring course, Alberto developed his skills and graduated easily.

Soon, he decided to pursue his dream and start a tailoring cooperative together with six other graduates from his course. He is now happily self-employed through this cooperative, and experiences the joys of being his own boss.

“The fact that I’m now self-employed has made me independent, I don’t need financial support from my parents anymore,” he beams. “I now earn enough money for my personal expenses.”

Alberto feels proud to be able to help not only his family with everyday expenses, but also his community with cheap clothes made in his tailoring cooperative.

“I now can contribute money for food purchases and I help with the purchase of school material for my brothers, which has meant a lot for my family,” he says. “Our community supports our cooperative as they see young and responsible young people and that we can play an important role in the development of the community,” he adds.

Alberto knows that people usually see tailoring as a woman’s activity, but that did not stop him from achieving his goal.

“Before, I thought that tailoring was more for women because it is a delicate activity that requires a lot of patience. But after the course I now know that it is dependent on skills and not on gender.”

Today, thinking of everything he has accomplished, Alberto looks back and wishes all unemployed youth could have the same opportunity as he did.

“Before the course my life was full of suffering,” he recalls.

“I had to travel a lot between my home and the nearest city, which is an eight hour drive, in order to look for a job, and I would never be successful.”

The course has had other benefits for Alberto, too, boosting his confidence and self-esteem. “I now have more confidence in myself with my new skills and the fact that I can contribute positively to my family and community's well-being”, he said proudly.

When he talks about the future of his cooperative, Alberto has big ambitions in mind: “We want to improve our services and increase our clientele by 10 times by next year.”

And as far as he is concerned, tailoring will always play a big role in his life. “I view tailoring as a real art that requires skills,” he says. “My skills will develop throughout life and I wish to become an expert. My ambition is to be a well-known tailor and a reference when it comes to sewing women’s clothes and children’s school uniforms.”