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## Economic Strengthening Livelihood Programme

Socio-economic development support and opportunities enabling young women to become economically active.



### Overview

#### The Challenge

Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) throughout South Africa face unprecedented socio-economic challenges. Girls between 15 and 24 are especially marginalized and vulnerable.

Apart from high levels of HIV, teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence, these young women struggle to complete schooling or further their studies and lack employment or entrepreneurship opportunities.

Based on the need to create a sustainable livelihood for these young women not in employment, not in education and not in training (NEETs), the Economic Strengthening Livelihood Programme (ESL) aimed to develop skills, offer career guidance and access to work and entrepreneurship opportunities.

### The Scope

The funded project provided socio-economic development support and opportunities to 425 AGYW in Sub-District C of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

The support enabled the targeted group to become economically active and to create sustainable livelihoods for themselves after completing the programme, whilst supporting these young women during programme implementation

### Proposed Solution

Livelihood Skills, Opportunities and Support

Through the collaboration of EOH People Solutions (MBAT), BeyondZero, NACOSA and MIET Africa the solution consisted of:

- Livelihood Skills Training
- Creating Livelihood Opportunities
- Providing Livelihood Support

## The Solution

### Livelihood Skills Training

NEETs attended six days of classroom-based, facilitated skills development training covering the subject areas of Work Readiness, Financial Skills and Computer literacy.

### Livelihood Opportunities

NEETs were streamed into various livelihood options including work placement, internships, education or entrepreneurship. On presentation of a Business Plan, participants received mentoring and small grants.

### Livelihood Support

NEETs in employment were supported with vouchers for transport for interviews, transport to work, food, clothing, Early Childhood Development support and given matched savings.

## The Benefits

- **Livelihood Skills Training:** The target of 425 was exceeded by 5 % and 445 delegates were trained.
- **Livelihood Opportunities:** 205 delegates were placed in work placement opportunities, 5 in internships, 148 provided with additional education interventions and 34 entrepreneurs were capacitated through mentoring and small grants.
- **Livelihood Support:** 325 delegates were provided with food and clothing vouchers, 322 with transport to work and 188 with transport to interviews. 134 who saved, were given matched savings and 72 women provided with Early Childhood Development vouchers.

Overall, the most important underlying benefits of the programme were that it impacted positively on participant's lives and made a difference to the broader community.

## About Us – MBAT

MBAT is committed to people development and offers a range of training and development solutions that are applicable across all industries.

Managing large-scale training related projects, implementing learnerships and delivering short courses is our core business.

“

But if you can create an honorable livelihood, where you take your skills and use them and you earn a living from it, it gives you a sense of freedom and allows you to balance your life the way you want.

Anita Roddick

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