

URBAN YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT



Background



- **Young people under age of 20 form almost half of PNG' population**
 - Significant percentage of the urban poor are young men & women.
 - 67% of the population is below 35; and 25% are between 16-35 years of age. 60% of urban youth are unemployed; and in a recent survey of urban youth, 58% of those sampled had dropped out of school or tertiary education.
- In Port Moresby, youth between the ages of 15 and 29 represent **over 35 percent** of the total population.
- **Unemployment rates** are over 50 percent for males and 30 percent for females between the ages of 15 and 24 in NCD.
- While **50,000 youth reach working age in PNG each year**, the absorptive capacity of the formal economy **is limited to only about 5,000 people per year** (ILO, 2002).
- Without a job, increasing poverty, growing inequality, and limited access to services in Port Moresby, youth from poorer communities, and young women, often feel marginalized.

Context

- **The PNG Urban Youth Employment Project (UYEP or “project”) was initiated by the Government of Papua New Guinea in 2009 and is supported by the World Bank and DFAT -- targeting unemployed youth between the 16 and 35 years of age in the National Capital District, who have been resident for at least 12 months, and not in school or employment for at least 6 months.**

- **The project supports:**
 - GoPNG “*Vision 2050*” (2010) and Medium Term Development Plan (2011-2015); and
 - National Youth Policy (2007–17)

- **The objective is to provide urban youth in NCD with income from temporary employment opportunities and to increase their employability**

Who Are the UYEP Youth?

Based on the project's eligibility screening:

- **Average age of 25 years** for both men and women
- **41% are women**
- Around **12%** are Motu-Koitabian.
- **79%** have **never worked in a wage job** before
- **86%** have **never had a bank account** before
- **50%** have at least 10 years of education (vs. NCD's 56%).
The share of youth with less than 7 years of education has been at an average of 18% (vs. NCD's 13%)
- **40%** of participating youth self-report having been involved in crime in the past. And **55%** of youth report having been a victim of crime in the past.

Key Results

- 10,605 beneficiaries served to date, exceeding the original target of 10,500.
- 490,000 labor days created, exceeding the original target of 300,000.
- High rates of participation by women (41%) and MK youth (12%), exceeding the original targets of 33% and 10%.
- 12,000 trainees with Bank account established.
- 1,168 trainees successfully graduating from OJT.
- Wide geographic coverage across the city with activities implemented in all wards.
- Fostered public-private partnerships: BSP providing financial literacy training, 90 employers participating in the OJT, national contractors engaged to oversee public works activities.

