Case Study: Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO)
Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO)

Team Members
1. Gabriel Wilhelm Sule
2. Douglas Opio
3. Kate Williams
4. Abubakar Atiku Musa
5. Roselyn Wangui Gakure

Overall Objective
“To Increase Access of the Poor to Youth Employment Opportunities, Social Services and Strengthened Safety Net System in Participating States”

Resource Person: Drew Gardiner
Nigeria faces youth unemployment & youth restiveness challenges:

- 51% of Nigerian population are young (NBS 2011)
- National youth unemployment is 37%
- 70% of unemployed youth are uneducated and unskilled and most of the educated youths are unemployed
- 2/3rd of population has a primary or less than a primary education.
- Infant, child and maternal mortality rates as well as malnutrition rates, remain very high.

YESSO is a support operation that is out to reduce poverty by creating:

- Immediate employment opportunities through (Public Work Fare & Skill for Job) for the teeming youths and;
- Conditional Cash Transfers
Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO)

Component 1: Public Works Fare
Component 2: Conditional Cash Transfers
Component 3: Skills for Job Program
Theory of Change: Skills for Job Program

Need Assessment

Intervention

Project Level Assumptions:
- State funds are available to pay participants stipends before being reimbursed 75% IDA Fund.
- Graduated students utilize starter packs to start their own business rather than selling them to others.

National Level Assumptions:
- Enough job offers by private sector business Operators to absorb the graduating participants into the labour market.
- Private sector are willing to hire youth.
- Absence of corruption practices.

Youth have entrepreneurial skills
Youth have vocational/technical skills
Youth have life skills
Youth have access to career orientation training
Youth have access to job placement services
Provision of Starter Packs

Youth apply skills and access information relevant to labour-market

Youth are sufficiently employed (waged & self-employment)
Research Questions

**Research Question 1:** Do trainings and job placement support lead to jobs for Nigerian youth?

**Research Question 2:** Do youth who participate in trainings and job placement support have a decreased propensity to engage in negative social and risk taking behaviours?

**Research Question 3:** Do the public-private partnership arrangements improve the quality of youth’s work experience?
Phase-in cluster design

Intervention 1

National Poverty Register

18 LGAs × 20 States

360 LGAs

180 treatment

180 control

Poverty segment

2000 youth

Poverty segment

2000 youth

Poverty segment

2000 youth

Poverty segment

2000 youth

Poverty segment

2000 youth

Poverty segment

2000 youth

Poverty segment

2000 youth

Intervention 2
## Timeline

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<td>Intervention:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Career orientation (1 month)</td>
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<td>- Training (6 months)</td>
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<td>- Starter pack</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Internship (6 months)</td>
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<td>Follow-up survey</td>
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**Intervention 2**
Data and Sample Size

Source of Data: Administrative & Survey

Indicators to be measured:
# of youth participants who have jobs 1 year after completing trainings and job placement

Significance Level: 0.05
Standardized Effect Size: 0.15
Sample: 360

Significance Level: 0.05
Standardized Effect Size: 0.10
Sample: 550

ICC: 0.17

Assumption: based on evaluation (Diaz and Jaramillo 2006) of ProJoven youth employment program from Peru, employment effect of between 7-18%
Potential Challenges

Challenges:
1. Attrition: Interstate movement of participant
2. Attrition due to frustration: Drop out of the control group before the end line survey
3. Drop out: Some youth many abandon the programme overtime

Solutions:
1. Tracking the respondents using administrative and biometric data
2. Phase in approach will be used to keep the control group engaged
3. Bigger sample size and revise the power calculation if necessary
Results

• Why and to whom the result would be useful?

• **Policy makers:** Guide resource allocation and long term policy strategy

• **Legislators:** To influence enactment of law that would create an Agency that would effectively coordinate, monitor and report results of all Social Protection interventions

• **Youth:** Inform career choices

• **Development partners:** Identification of projects to fund

• **Dissemination:**
  • Stakeholder meetings and electronic and print media.
  • Executive council meeting through supervising Minister