



International
Labour
Organization

Promoting decent work through social enterprise development

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND THE SOCIAL ECONOMY PROJECT



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PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

In South Africa, interest is increasing in the social economy as a sector that can provide decent employment and social protection. The New Growth Path, adopted in late 2010 by the South African Government, identifies social economy development as one pillar of the national development strategy framework.

The South Africa Decent Work Country Programme drawn up by organised business and labour, community and government, in consultation with ILO and governed by the National Economic Development and Labour Administration Council (Nedlac), identifies the development of the social economy as a strategic means for the creation of decent jobs in sustainable enterprises.



WHAT IS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE?

A social enterprise is an enterprise that has a social purpose, run on business principles, democratically controlled and that reinvests at least 50% of its 'profits'/surpluses into the business's social purposes.



Umkanyakude waste pickers, KwaZulu-Natal

The development objective of the Private and Public Procurement and the Social Economy Project is more and better jobs for men and women in sustainable social enterprises, with geographic focus on social enterprises operating in the KwaZulu-Natal and Free State Provinces.

The project supports social economy businesses in South Africa to take advantage of the regulatory space for procurement of their goods and services through both government and private sector businesses.

It does this with a mix of advocacy, advisory and training services targeted at procurement officials in government and public and private sector business, and through capacity building support for owner-managers of social enterprises.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND THE SOCIAL ECONOMY PROJECT OUTCOMES:

1. Increased appreciation among stakeholders on the role of public and corporate procurement as a stimulus for employment creation in the social economy.
2. A more conducive enabling environment for public and private sector procurement from social enterprises.
3. Improved breadth and depth of supply with tailored business support services for aspiring, emerging and established social entrepreneurs.



Study visit to Makari multi-purpose agricultural Coop, KwaZulu-Natal

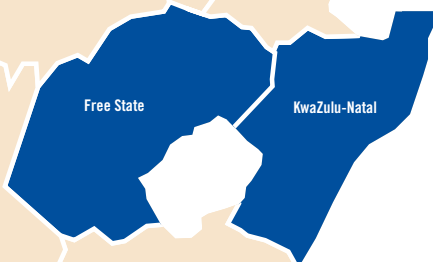
Working through partnerships

The project works most closely with provincial departments of economic development with a range of local partners to achieve its objectives:

- Municipal level and provincial level government officials tasked with procurement (where dialogue on social economy development is concerned also national level government officials).
- Procurement officers and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) officers in businesses tasked with community contracting/SME contracting.
- Trainers and training programme co-ordinators in social business development services organisations.

Working with social enterprises

The project supports emerging and established social entrepreneurs, including co-operatives, and their workers in KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State provinces. The project's emphasis is on priority sectors and geographic locations identified by the project in consultation with its partners.



- Areas where project is undertaken

Contact the ILO for more details:

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND THE SOCIAL ECONOMY PROJECT

Free State and KwaZulu-Natal

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