



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DEVELOPPEMENT

Investing in Youth: The Role of Development Banks the African Development Bank

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The Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy – 3 Strategic Pillars

INTEGRATION



Incorporate a youth employment focus in its projects, investments, and work with Regional Member Countries

INNOVATION



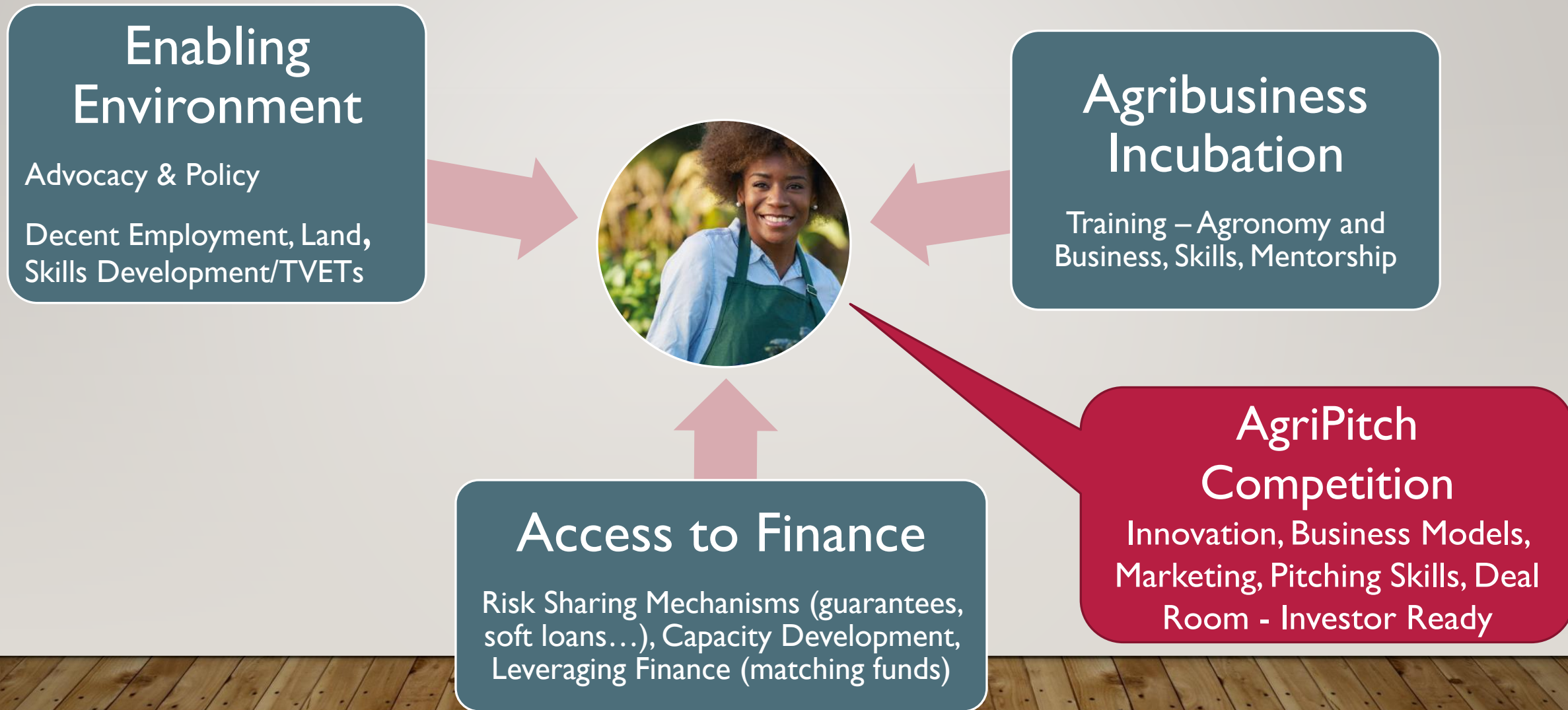
Work with external private and public partners to identify, assess, and scale promising policies and interventions for creating youth employment

INVESTMENT



Catalyze private sector capital to stimulate the youth employment and entrepreneurship ecosystem

The ENABLE Youth Program

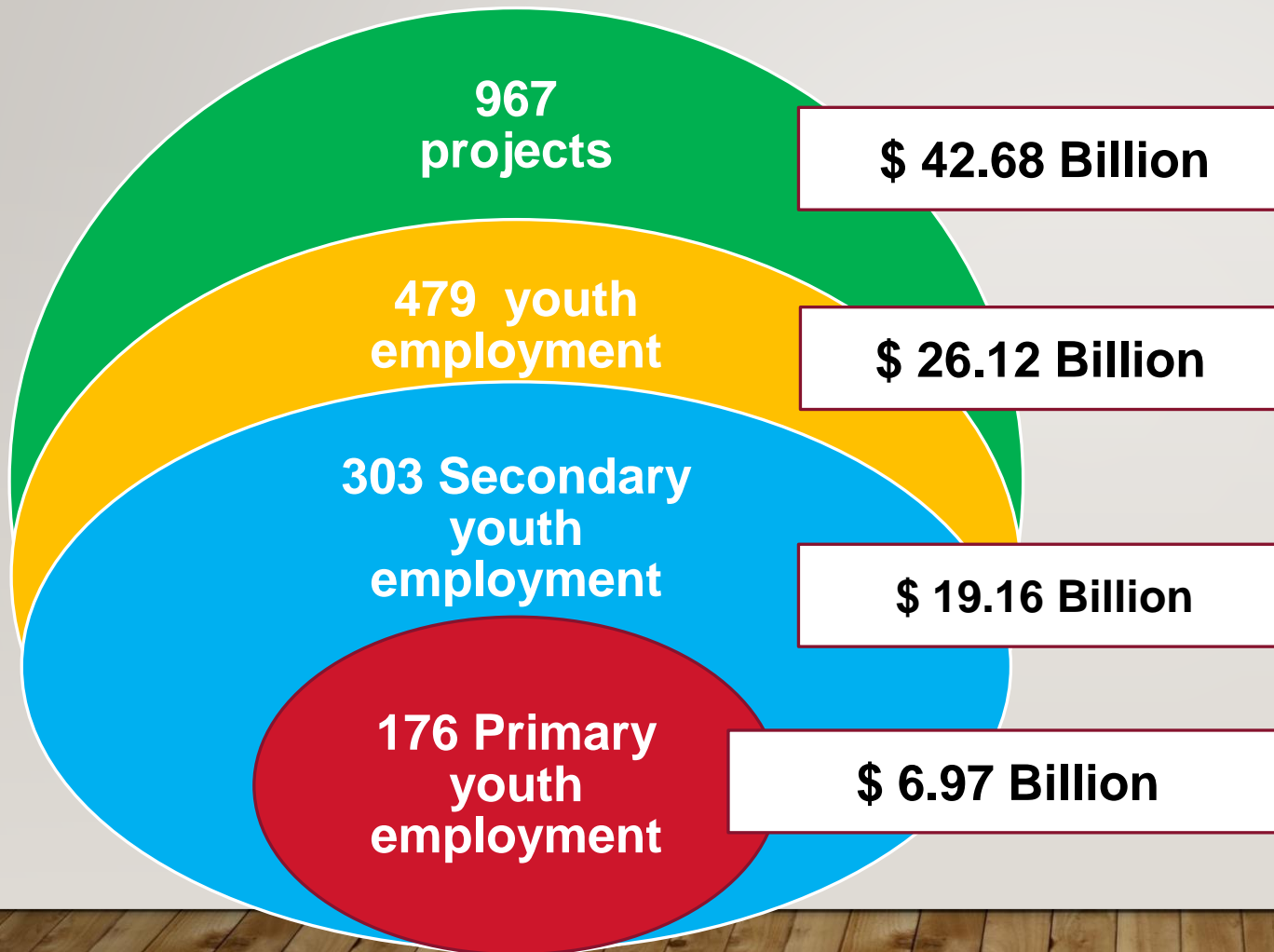


Enable Youth Projects to Date

Enable Youth Standalone Projects			
	Country	Project	USD (Mil.)
1	DRC	Projet d'entrepreneuriat des jeunes dans l'agriculture et l'agro-industrie (PEJAB)	57.12
2	Sudan	Enable Youth Sudan	32.55
3	Kenya	Enable Youth Kenya	29.78
4	Madagascar	Programme entrepreneuriat des jeunes dans l'agriculture et l'agro-industrie	7.00
5	Sudan	Enable Youth Program Sudan II	30.80
6	Multinational (DRC, Nigeria, Uganda)	Creating Sustainable Youth MSMEs Through Urban Farming (SYMUF)	1.47
			158.72
Agriculture Value Chain Projects with Enable Youth Components			
7	Cameroon	Projet de dév. des chaines de valeur agricole (pd-cva)	105.84
8	Malawi	Agric. Infrastructure and Youth Agribusiness Proj.	22.40
9	Uganda	Farm Income Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Project	5.60
10	Ghana	Rural Enterprise Project	16.80
11	Mozambique	Agric. Value Chain and Youth Empowerment Proj.	15.40
12	Senegal	Support to Skills Dev. and Youth Entrepreneurship	19.60
13	Guinea	Proj. transf. de l'agric. et de l'entrepr. des jeunes	11.02
14	Sierra Leone	SL Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS)	11.93
15	Ethiopia	Productivity Enhancement Support for the Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks and Youth Employment (PESAP-YE)	101.16
16	Burundi	Projet d'Entrepreneuriat Agro-pastoral et Perfectionnement Professionnel des Jeunes et des Femmes (PEAPJF)	21.90
17	Djibouti	Projet d'Entrepreneuriat des Jeunes pour l'Adaptation au Changement Climatique (PEJACC)	49.82
18	Tanzania	Building a Better Tomorrow - Youth in Agribusiness (BBT-YIA)	129.71
			511.18
			669.89

African countries have shown great interest in the Enable Youth Program and as of December 2024, the Bank has approved Enable Youth operations in 18 countries for a total amount of **USD 670 million**.

Project Approvals 2016-21



Lessons Learned

- Overoptimistic expectations – targets, HR, systems
- Incentives paired with accountability mechanisms – successful integration of youth
- Skills coupled with access to finance and non-finance support – critical for youth employment
- Small size grants can be effective in unlocking catalytic opportunities – YEI-MDTF

Recommendations

1 Update the Strategy and its implementation plan based on current circumstances and resources.

- Update the Theory of Change, Implementation Plan, and strategy targets.
- Review and update the risk mitigation measures and surveillance plans.

2 Strengthen Results Measurement and Learning.

- Advance implementation of the Jobs and Skills Marker System.
- Improve the quality and consistency of data, measuring actually created jobs for youth.
- Consider adopting a jobs indicator among the Bank's KPIs.
- Review the JfYA Strategy's RMF.
- Capacitate the Innovation Lab to take on its intended core role of generating evidence on and become the center of excellence in youth employment and entrepreneurship.

3 Continue to mobilize resources to support catalytic activities and high employment-creating projects.

- Expand the scale and scope of the YEI-MDTF, in line with the new Trust Fund Policy 2021, to continue its catalytic work.

4 Strengthen leadership and coordination of youth employment across Bank departments, building on existing resources and considering other Bank priorities.

- Review the structure, positioning, functions, and resourcing of the JfYA team to provide leadership in the area of youth employment across the Bank.

AfDB Ten-Year Strategy 2024-2033 – Youth Focus Areas

- (i) Skills Development:** Investments in education and technical training, particularly in STEM and vocational fields.
- (ii) Youth Entrepreneurship:** Scale up financial inclusion to create youth-friendly products and business development services - tailored financial incentives.
- (iii) Employment Creation in Agribusiness:** Enable Youth, Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs) – youth participation in agricultural value.
- (iv) Digitalization and Innovation:** Digital platforms that connect youth with job opportunities, training, and markets - agri-tech, fintech, green technologies...
- (v) Climate-Smart and Green Jobs:** Programs emphasizing climate resilience – renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and green infrastructure.



Youth Jobs and Skills Marker System (YJSMS)

- **Marking and Maximizing Impact:** Introduces tools to assess projects for youth, job, and skills outcomes.
- **Harmonizing Indicators:** Standardizes measurements and improves data disaggregation for consistent reporting.
- **Mainstreaming Youth Considerations:** Integrates youth and skills development as cross-cutting priorities in Bank policies and strategies.

Categorization Tools

Category 1: Primary focus on youth, jobs, or skills.

Category 2: Integrated objectives on youth, jobs, or skills.

Category 3: Supporting metrics for youth, jobs, or skills.

Category 4: No explicit consideration of youth, jobs, or skills.



Investing in Rural Youth – Lessons from the AfDB

1. Integrated Value Chain Approaches Unlock Opportunities

Holistic interventions – combining skills, inputs, finance, and markets – drive youth engagement and enterprise in agriculture.

2. Access to Finance is a Persistent Bottleneck

AfDB leverages blended finance, risk-sharing, and tailored youth instruments to overcome barriers to financial inclusion.

3. Scaling Requires Public-Private Collaboration

Strategic partnerships with banks, agribusinesses, and incubators are key to scaling successful youth employment models.

4. Digitalization is a Game-Changer

Tech platforms like DIFAS empower rural youth with access to training, services, and markets – bridging inclusion gaps.





THANK YOU

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