Youth Development Collaboration Lab

Advancing youth development through collaboration

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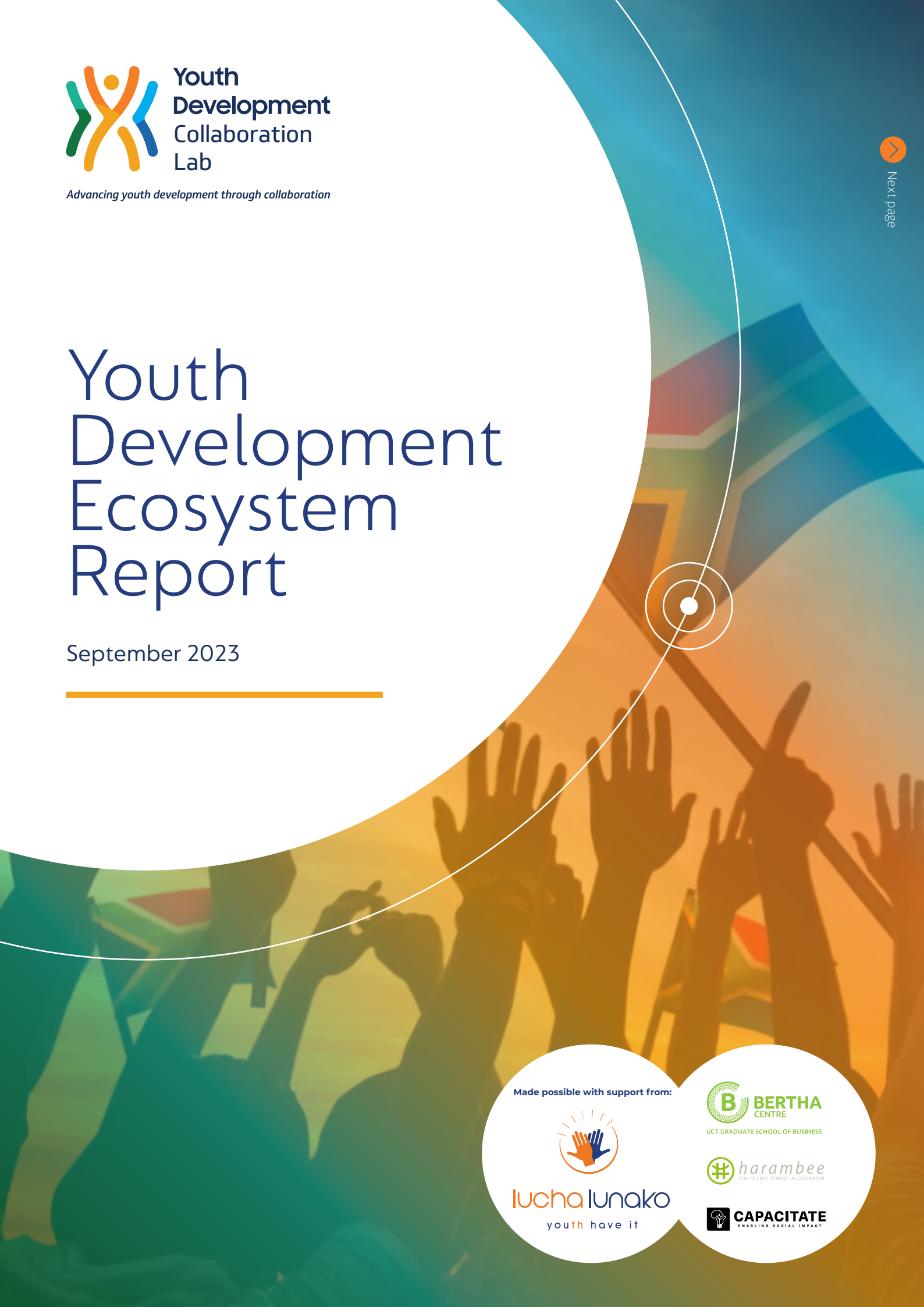
Youth Development Ecosystem Report

September 2023



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CAPACITATE
ENABLING SOCIAL IMPACT

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Acknowledgements

A wide range of individuals and organisations have been involved and enabled the development of the Youth Development Ecosystem Map; we would like to acknowledge your support, advice and input. Special thanks go to:

- The project team:
  - Michelle Yorke, Project Manager
  - Nicola Coundourakis, Lucha Lunako
  - Alana Bond, Lucha Lunako
  - Jason Bygate, Capacitate
  - Adela Ndlovu, Harambee
  - Penny Foley, Harambee
  - Luvuyo Maseko, The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
  - Simnikiwe Xanga, The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Zinhle Phakathi, the YD Co-lab
- Nkululeko Phakathi, the YD Co-lab
- Amathuba Collective
- And all the 1,866+ organisations that took the time to respond to our call for data.

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About the YD Co-lab

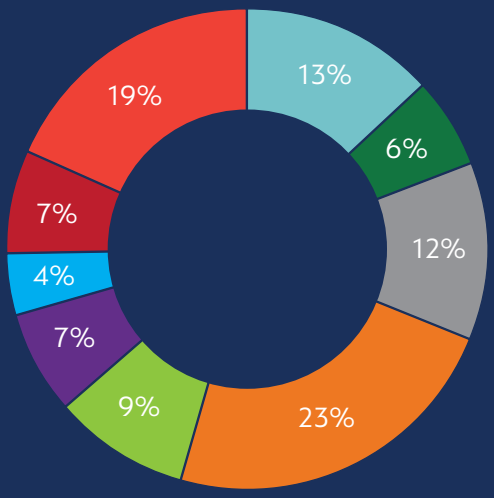
A Youth Development Collaboration kick-off meeting held in November 2020 confirmed the urgency of forming a collaborative structure for organisations in the youth development ecosystem, with the objective to assist in networking; communication; accessing funders and working with government; and capacity development, to more effectively advance youth development in South Africa. This was in line with the National Development Plan (NDP), which identifies the need to prioritise the development and socio-economic empowerment of youth and sees partnerships throughout society as an important contributor to achieving its aims. A strong coordinated youth development sector and ecosystem are vital to supporting this goal.

The Youth Development Collaboration Lab (YD Co-lab) is a developing network of organisations and individuals who are working towards advancing youth development and empowerment in South Africa. It is a collective of youth development enthusiasts, ecosystem actors, organisations and individuals committed to advancing a more effective systems response to the youth development agenda.
The main objective of the association is to maximise the contribution of youth development organisations, individuals and the ecosystem towards the national and global development goals, specifically related to young people in Africa, by improving capacity, effectiveness, levels of collaboration and influence. This will give youth development organisations (YDOs) the support they need to amplify their voices and improve their status and impact.

YD Co-lab is building a member-based association where members will:

- Be part of a community of youth development professionals united by a common purpose to continuously learn, interact, collaborate and innovate;
- Access and be part of collaborative action that makes a difference in the South African youth development ecosystem;
- Gain the credibility, support and professional influence of being part of coordinated advocacy efforts;
- Network with other professionals in the member's local area or within a specific youth development sector of interest.

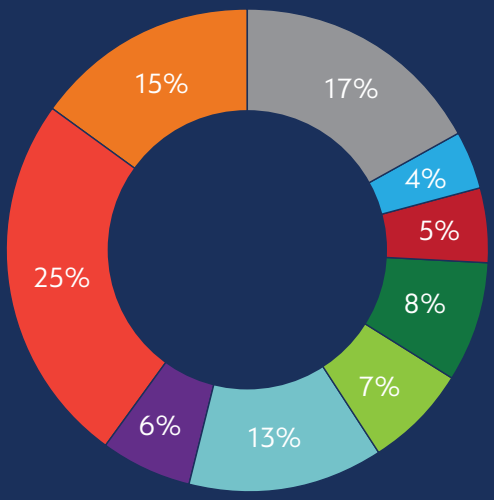
Data Summary/ Overview



Total Respondents Represented in Provinces

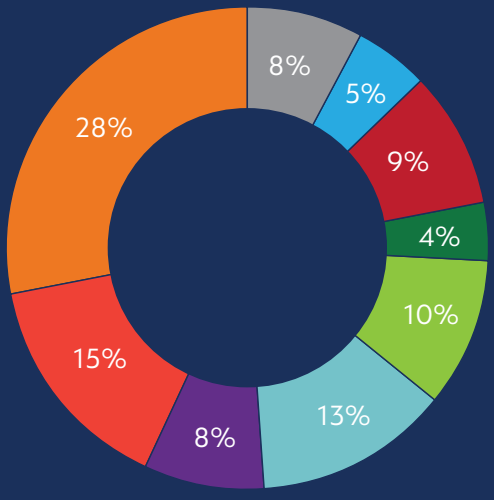
1866 Organisations responded

- Eastern Cape
- Free State
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Limpopo
- Mpumalanga
- North West
- Northern Cape
- Western Cape



Civil Society & Private YDOs Represented

- Gauteng
- North West
- Northern Cape
- Free State
- Limpopo
- Eastern Cape
- Mpumalanga
- Western Cape
- KwaZulu-Natal



Government Entities Supporting Youth Represented

- Gauteng
- North West
- Northern Cape
- Free State
- Limpopo
- Eastern Cape
- Mpumalanga
- Western Cape
- KwaZulu-Natal

Organisations excluding Government – Largest samples, in order of descending size, were from KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Gauteng, respectively.

1. Introduction

The Youth Development Collaboration Lab (YD Co-lab) initiated the Youth Development Ecosystem Mapping project as one of the key strategic activities that emerged out of extensive consultations within and outside of YD Co-lab.

The mapping aims to foster greater transparency among youth development stakeholders and ultimately enable, enhanced collective impact. As youth employment initiatives are not well coordinated[1], the mapping was identified as an important component of a functional youth development environment, since documenting who is currently operating in the space is one step closer to understanding it. It is well known that youth in South Africa need considerable support. In 2020, the average not-in-employment or training (NEET) rate in the OECD in the age group from 15 to 29 years was 13.4 percent[2]. In South Africa, it was more than double the OECD average, indicating that the impact and visibility of support programmes being offered to youth are not widely evident.

It is anticipated that the initial overview of the youth development ecosystem will begin to change the YDO dynamics by offering a birds-eye view of the system at a specific point in time (2022/2023). This will enable YDOs to build programmes and services that target a particular focal area, one that is not already oversaturated, and to capitalise on opportunities of working with other YDOs.

This process will have a positive impact on the services and opportunities offered to youth by assisting youth development stakeholders through:

- Providing a greater understanding of who operates in the ecosystem;
- Encouraging collaboration amongst youth development providers;
- Creating an understanding of opportunities in programmes offered to the youth;
- Identifying programme gaps; and
- Enabling youth to easily access services located in proximity to them.

2. Methodology

The survey was originally designed to be self-completed and went live in October 2021. With limited promotion within the YD Co-lab's existing network and social media channels, it was possible to gather information from approximately 140 organisations. In early 2022, a new strategy was implemented, comprising establishing a partnership with a call centre to actively call and telephonically complete surveys with the YDOs. This process ran from August to early December of 2022. Data from 1,955 organisations was initially collected but, after following up on missing data and conducting a data clean-up from January to April 2023, information from 1,866 organisations was included in the study. Analysis of the data took place from May to June 2023.

3. How to Use the Data

For organisations interested in youth development, the data can be used for:

- Identifying collaborative partners;
- Building knowledge of existing organisations operating in a geographical area;
- Identifying organisations offering additional services in a location;
- Highlighting potential gaps in services being offered (with the caveat that this is a developing data analysis and not all YDOs have been included at this stage).

Furthermore, the data can be used by:

- Government to identify who to partner with and refer to for support and to enhance services;
- Civil society and private entities to identify collaborators, partners and support services;
- Funders, to align their support with the gaps and opportunities identified, as well as potential collaborations.

1 Rinne, Eichhorst, Marx and Brunner (2022). Promoting youth employment during COVID-19: A review of policy responses. International Labour Organization.
2 https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/CO_3_5_Young_people_not_in_education_or_employment.pdf.

4. Limitations of the Report

The following list of limitations needs to be considered and is not exhaustive:

- The survey was designed as a first attempt to gather basic information from YDOs, recognising that there will be a need for follow-up surveys and research.
- The information was self-reported and, therefore, what organisations say they do and what they actually do are potentially different. Although information was verified telephonically, it has not been physically verified.
- The quality of youth development services provided is unknown.
- The report uses static data on organisations as provided in 2022.
- Efforts were made to gather accurate data, however the accuracy cannot be verified.
- A high percentage of organisations in the social and support categories are Government Entities; however, they form a large part of the ecosystem and are relevant to include due to the opportunity to partner, support and not duplicate efforts.
- The sample size is limited to 1,866 organisations and therefore is not representative of the whole ecosystem; however, it does still enable interesting findings and inferences to be drawn and offers useful insights as a starting point.
- The understanding and knowledge of the respondents could have resulted in incorrect responses to questions, especially with those related to governance and legality.

5. Diving into the Respondent YDOs' Data

Information was included from 1,866 organisations. It is the first independently-curated data collection of active YDOs undertaken in South Africa. YD Co-lab will continue to collaborate with as many partners as possible, both active civil society and government organisations, with the objective to build on this project and to provide a high-level outline of the youth ecosystem in South Africa. This will require sharing of organisational data, to enable actors to effectively interact and engage with all stakeholders in the ecosystem.

5.1 YDOs in Provinces

Of the 1,866 organisations that responded to the survey and are represented in the Youth Ecosystem Map, some have multiple locations across South Africa and therefore 2,004 YDO locations are represented below.

Efforts were made to gather data from organisations in all nine provinces of South Africa. Most organisations that responded to this first phase of the Youth Ecosystem Mapping were from KwaZulu-Natal (461), followed by the Western Cape (381) and the Eastern Cape (263), respectively. The province with the least number of respondent organisations was the North-West (72).

Of the 1,866 respondents, 60 organisations operate across more than one province and 13 organisations operate across five or more provinces.

5.2 Organisations' Legal Status or Registration

Definitions[3]:

NPC: Non-Profit Company – a company incorporated for public benefit or other objective relating to one or more of cultural, social, communal or group interest. Registered with CIPC.

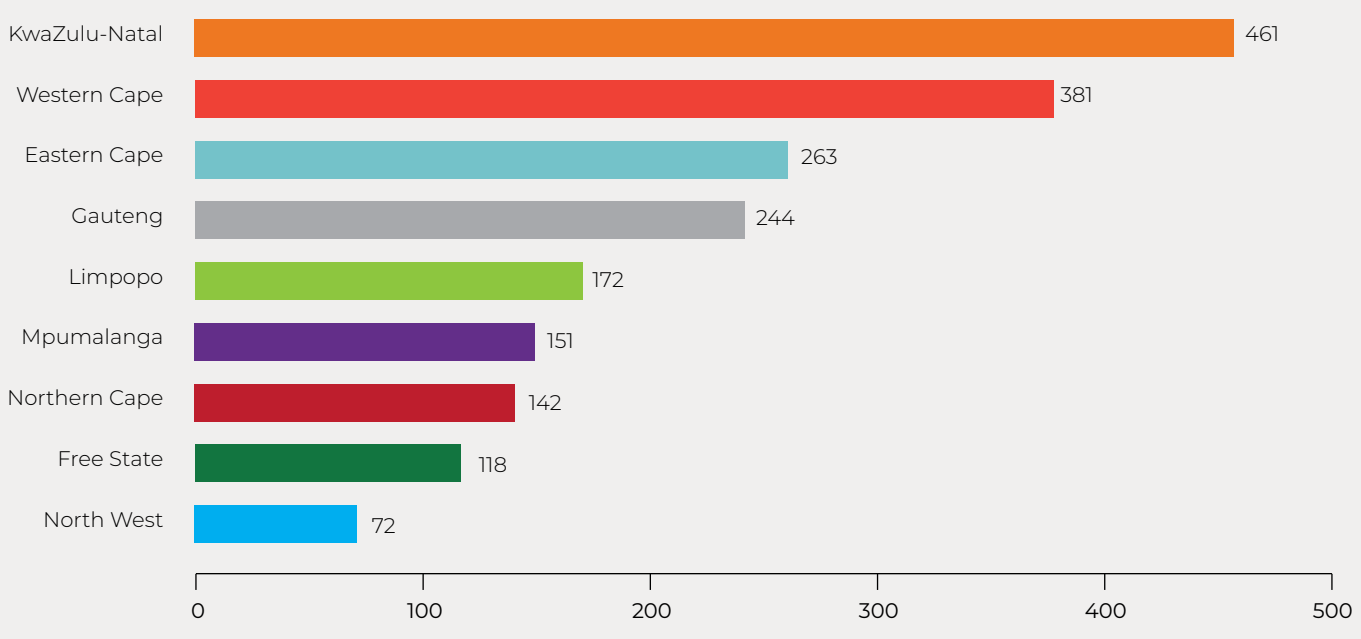
NPO: Non-Profit Organisation – association of persons established for a public purpose and of which its income and property are not distributable to its members or office bearers except as reasonable compensation for services rendered. If the association wishes to receive grants or donor-funding, it is required to register with the Department of Social Development.

PBO: Public Benefit Organisation – an NPC/Trust/Association with a constitution and must apply to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) to qualify for approval.

Section 18A Certificate: provides for donations to certain organisations to be tax deductible. A PBO/Government Entity needs to formally apply to SARS for approval to issue Section 18A receipts, for purposes of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act. Not all PBOs are eligible.

Co Op: Co-operative – a business where a group of people join together voluntarily to address their common needs. It is a form of enterprise that provides services and/or products to its members.

Total Number of YDOs that responded by Province



3 https://www.cipc.co.za; https://www.gov.za; https://www.sars.gov.za;

Voluntary Association: a group of three or more people who come together and agree to achieve a common objective that is primarily not-for-profit.

Trust: a legal entity that is able to own property and other assets. It has a legal agreement that stipulates how assets will be managed and distributed.

JV: Joint Venture – a business arrangement in which two or more parties agree to pool their resources for the purpose of accomplishing a specific task/project.

Partnership: a relationship between two or more persons who join together to carry out a trade or a business. A partnership is not a separate legal person or taxpayer.

Pty Ltd: Private Company – Pty Ltd or proprietary limited company is treated as a separate legal entity.

Social Enterprise: an organisation with a social purpose/mission and can be for-profit or not-for-profit. It is not a recognised legal entity in South Africa and, therefore, can be established as a Pty and/or non-profit entity.

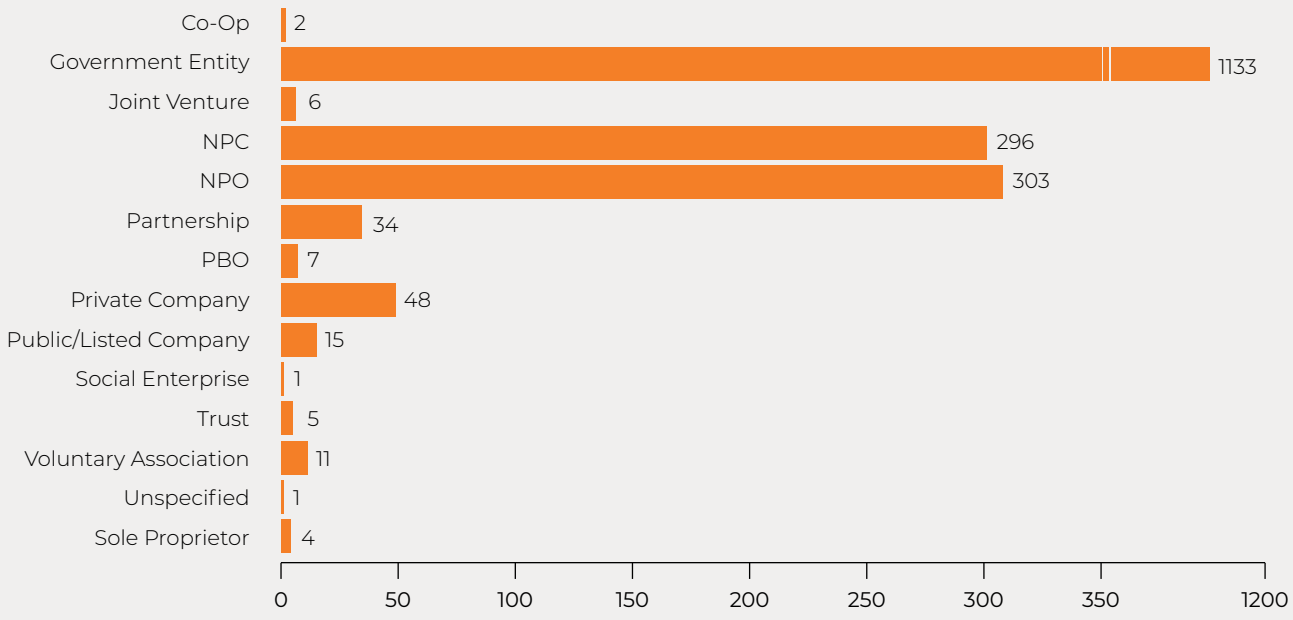
SOE: State Owned Enterprise – a Government Entity established by the national or provincial government in order to earn profit for the government.

Public/Listed Company: a business that issues securities through an initial public offering (IPO) and trades stock on at least one stock exchange, e.g. listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

The lack of understanding of the legal status of organisations has created confusion in the sector and it is clear that many organisations are not aware of the various registrations available to them and/or how they are legally registered. Clean-up of data was, by far, the most needed in this section and considerable work is needed in the industry to build capacity and understanding of why and how to register entities. Furthermore, what entity organisations identify as, and can register as, was not always clearly aligned. One example of this is, entering 'Social Enterprise' under legal entity, despite the fact that 'Social Enterprise' is not a recognised legal entity in South Africa. NPO, NGO and NPC were used interchangeably, and many municipalities and government entities selected 'State Owned Entity (SOE)' as their legal entity.

In order to differentiate between private, civil society and government, all libraries, municipalities, clinics, hospitals, SOEs, development agencies, community health centres and labour centres were clustered under Government Entities in the mapping exercise. Other than Government Entities, the majority of organisations mapped are NPOs, although many organisations claimed that they were NPCs but not all were able to provide verification numbers. It is therefore assumed that they are unregistered or registered as NPOs, and possibly unaware of the difference; however, they are likely operating as a not-for-profit type entity, which is useful to know.

Legal Status of Organisations

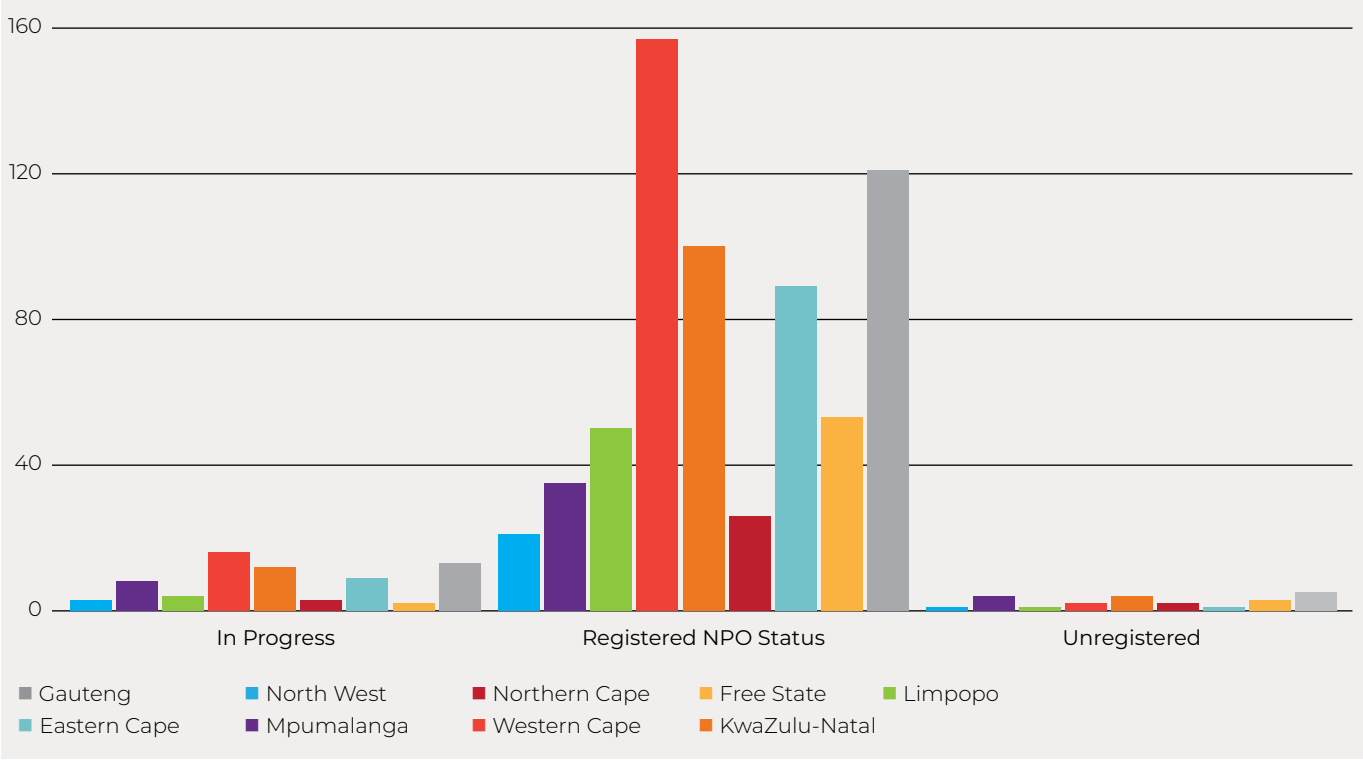


5.3 Organisations' NPO Status

When the organisations are broken down by NPO status, many of the organisations responded that the question was not applicable to their current registration, and there were few that were unregistered or had their NPO status in progress. Of the total organisations, 652 are registered NPOs. From a provincial perspective, the Western Cape has the highest number of registered NPOs, followed by Gauteng (121) and KwaZulu-Natal (100). There are 70 organisations with an NPO status in progress and the province with the majority of these is the Western Cape.

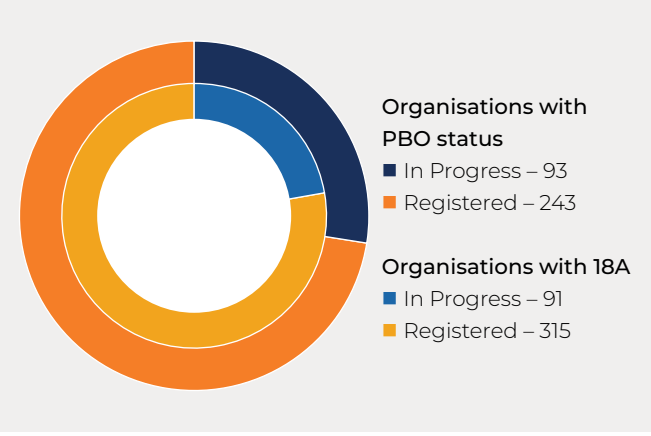
A total of 1,284 organisations marked NPO status as Not Applicable (N/A) and were not included in the graph below. The majority (1,133) of these are categorised as Government Entities, while the remainder would either not be registered, or be registered as another type of entity. In some cases, social enterprises may register two different entities (both for-profit and not-for-profit) but selected only one.

The inferences from this are that the organisations are: a) not aware of the potential benefits of being a registered NPO; b) do not have access to the financial resources, no matter how minimal, to register as an NPO; or c) do not have the capacity or knowledge to undertake the process of registering as an NPO.



5.4 PBOs and Section 18A

Overall data included 243 organisations registered as PBOs and 93 in progress. Of the respondents, 315 have a Section 18A, with 91 in progress. The fact that organisations are registered as a PBO and Section 18A is encouraging, as these processes are quite onerous and require submissions to SARS. This implies that these organisations are more established as they have the capacity to manage the process. Having PBO and Section 18A registration is also encouraging for funders who often prefer this status, over just an NPO certificate, due to the processes and accountability needed to retain these. However, not all YDOs will qualify as PBOs and an alternative is to provide support and organisational capacity-building interventions to enable them to implement credible governance and robust due diligence processes. Well-governed organisations are needed to build the sector.



5.5 Areas Serviced by Province

The questionnaire collected data on which areas are serviced by YDOs, distinguishing between urban, peri-urban and rural, or a combination. Definitions of these areas are included bellow.

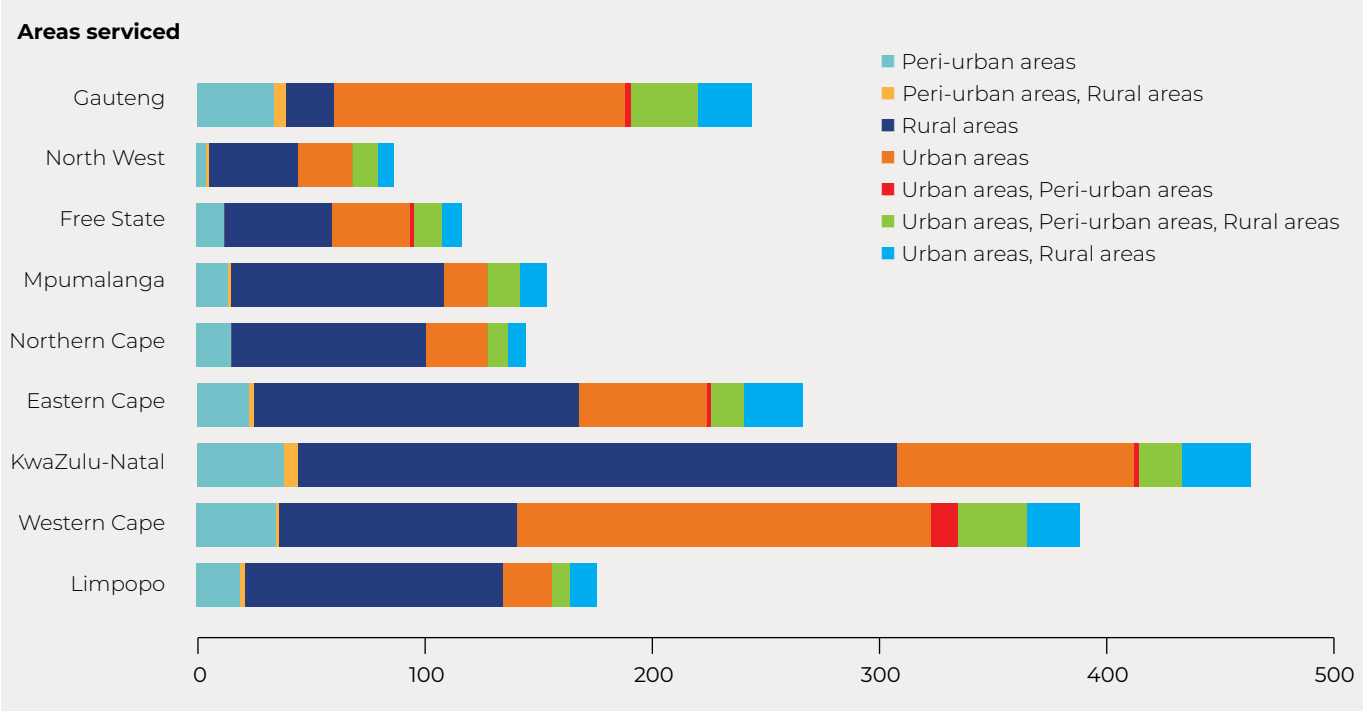
Overall, most of the respondent organisations serviced rural-only (906) areas, including Government Entities. Urban areas are serviced by 593 organisations, and there are 194 organisations that service peri-urban areas. There are 146 organisations that service all three area types with most of these organisations operating in the Western Cape (30) and Gauteng (29).

Definitions:

Urban: City or town; areas that generally have more development in terms of access to infrastructure.

Rural: Areas that are more remote, have a lower population density and generally less infrastructure.

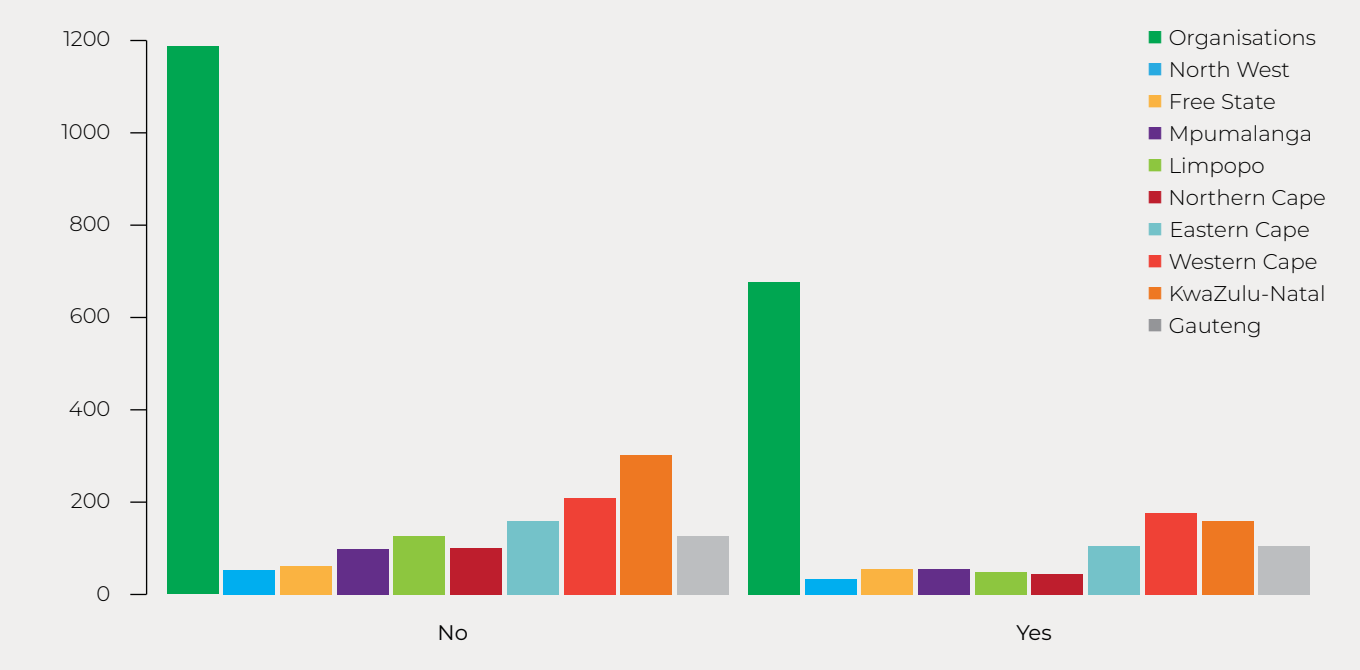
Peri-urban: Areas that are located on the outskirts of cities or large urban areas but retain rural characteristics.



If Government Entities are removed from this analysis, then **276 organisations operate in urban areas** and **213 in rural areas**. On a provincial level this shows that KZN has the highest number of organisations (40) servicing rural areas, followed by the Eastern and Western Cape, both with 33 organisations. Western Cape had the largest number of organisations servicing Urban areas with 107, followed by Gauteng with 65.

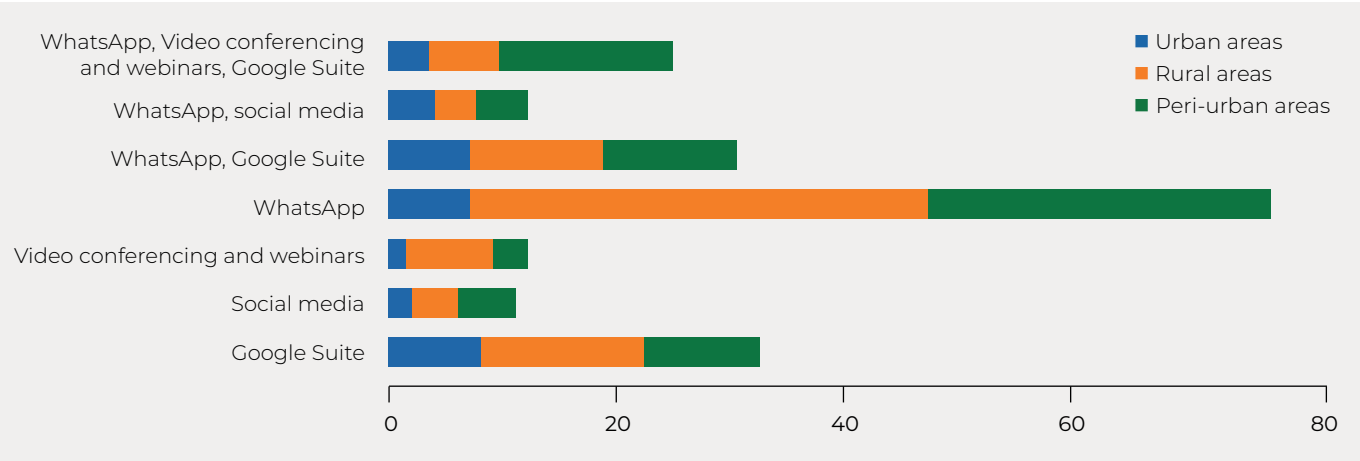
5.6 Organisations with Virtual Operations by Province

Most of the respondent organisations indicated that they do not operate virtually, with 64% indicating that they have no virtual operations. Of the 677 organisations that do operate virtually, the majority of these organisations are in the Western Cape (177) and KwaZulu-Natal (159). The province with the least number of organisations that operate virtually is the North-West, with 33 (38%) respondents based there.



5.7 Digital Platforms Used

With regards to technology and digital platforms used, a large number (1,359) of organisations are still not using technology to deliver services. This can be in part due to in-person services being offered at hospitals and clinics. Of the 508 organisations using technology, interestingly, 172 of these are in rural areas and, not surprisingly due to accessibility and cost, WhatsApp is by far the most-used platform stated.



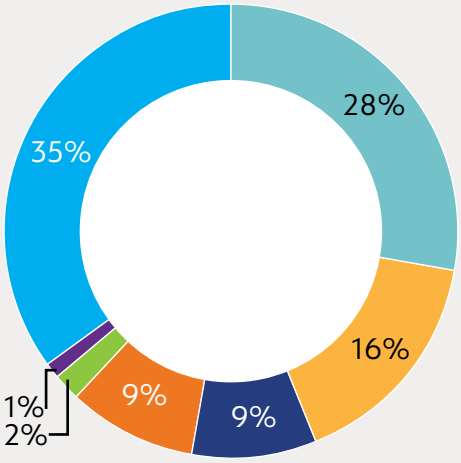
5.8 Service Categories

The survey collected information on services that had been clustered into 3 main categories:

- **Education and Training:** which included, amongst others, bursaries, scholarships, Further Education and Training (FET) courses, Matric, life skills, tutoring, university courses, etc.
- **Employment and Entrepreneurship:** business mentorship and guidance; employability skills training; funding support; job placements; volunteering; job assessment; job interview placements; etc.
- **Social and Support Services:** family services, mental wellness, trauma counselling, etc.

1. Services offered by Civil Society and Private Organisations (excluding Government Entities):

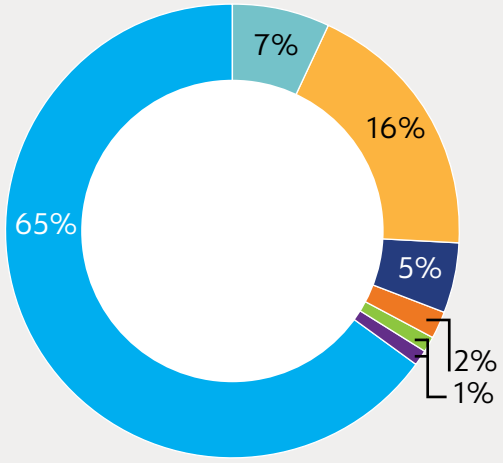
Many of the organisations work across the three categories (205); however, the majority offer services in Social and Support (256). Education and Training (119) is the second largest category of services provided.



- All three
- Education and training
- Education and training, social and support
- Employment & Entrepreneurship, Education and training
- Employment & Entrepreneurship
- Employment & Entrepreneurship, Social and Support
- Social and Support

2. Government Services only

Not surprisingly, Social and Support Services outstrip the other categories with regards to government services, with 739 organisations operating only in this category. This is followed by Education and Training, with 211 organisations offering these services.



- All three
- Education and training
- Education and training, social and support
- Employment & Entrepreneurship, Education and training
- Employment & Entrepreneurship
- Employment & Entrepreneurship, Social and Support
- Social and Support

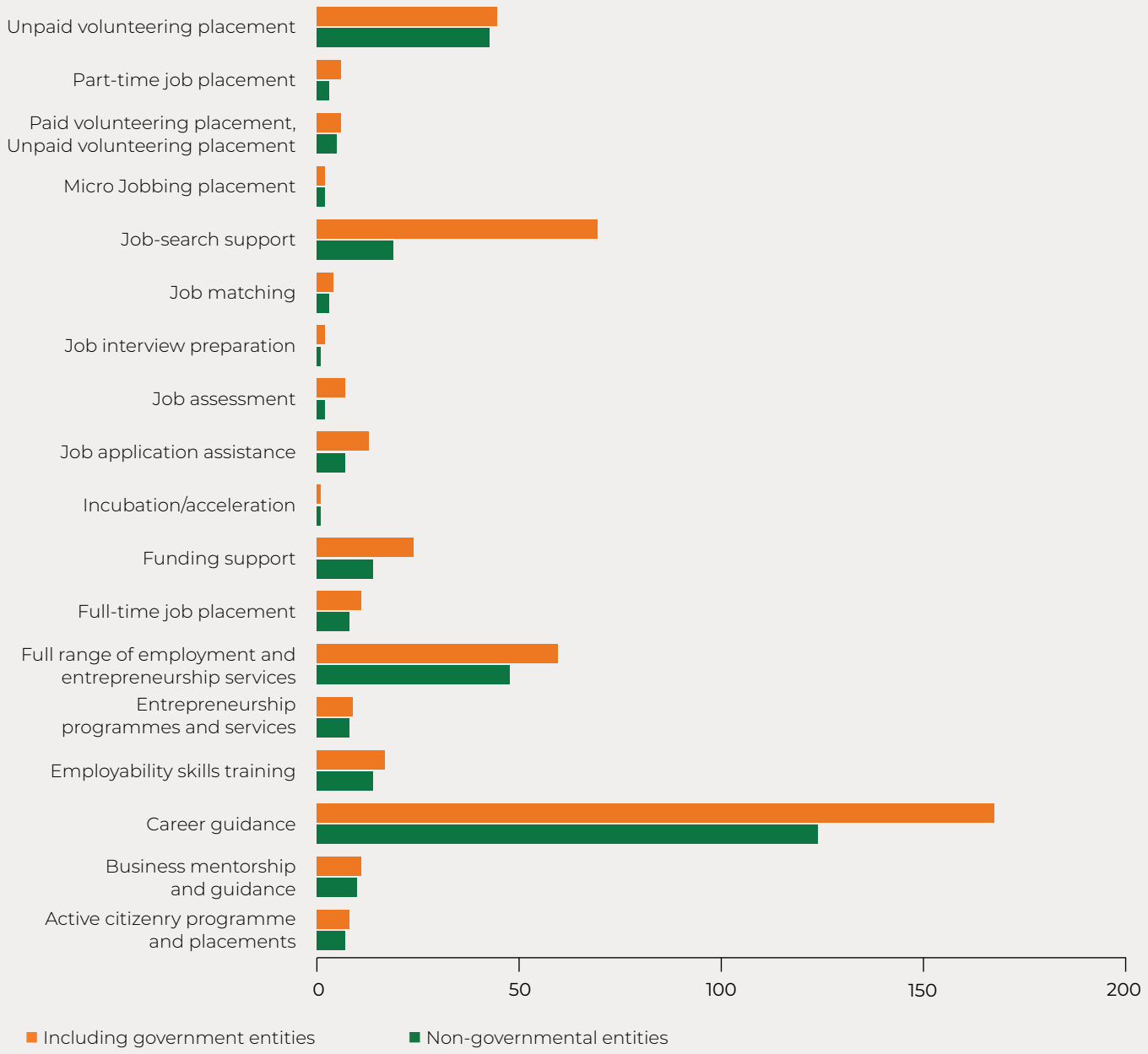
5.8.1 Employment and Entrepreneurship Services

Employment and Entrepreneurship services was the category with the least (465) number of services provided by organisations who responded. Within this category, a large number (169) of organisations offer Career Guidance and Job Search Support (70), which includes CV Writing. These are the most supported of services, yet only two organisations provide Interview Preparation, which could be a potential opportunity to better collaborate and offer more systemic support to youth preparing for job opportunities.

Based on existing studies, for example the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) ecosystem mapping, there are a significant larger number of accelerators and incubators operating in South Africa; however, these organisations did not respond to the survey and would be an area of potential collaboration going forward.

The table below shows civil society and non-governmental organisations that responded to the survey. From the respondents, civil society organisations are providing a significant amount of support to the youth in the employment and entrepreneurship sectors (320).

Total number of organisations providing Employment & Entrepreneurship Services

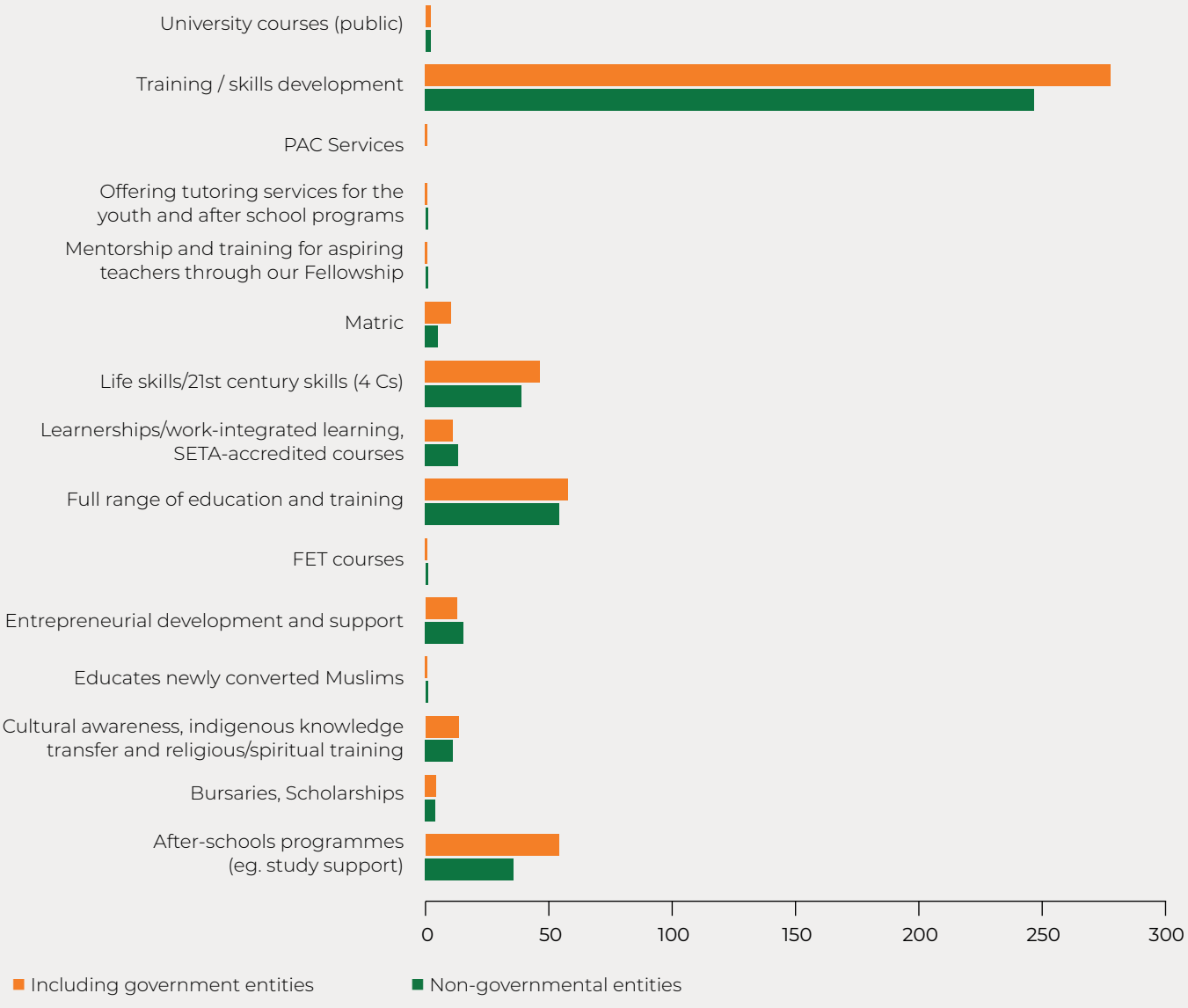


5.8.2 Education and Training Services

Training and Skills Development were by far the most represented services with 370 organisations falling into this category and still many more academic institutions and colleges not yet included in the dataset. Of these, 77 organisations offer the full range of services, 75 provide after-school services and 62 provide life skills training.

It is not surprising that Training and Skills Development are the most provided offerings, often due to funding being available and the obvious need to upskill the youth; however, the focus is often on outputs, the certificate or the number of individuals trained, as opposed to measuring the impact of training and aligning training with market and industry demand.

Total number of Organisations providing Education and Training Services



Removing Government Entities from this category did not make a significant impact on the spread of services.

5.8.3 Social and Support Services

5.8.3.1 Social and Support Services Including Government Entities

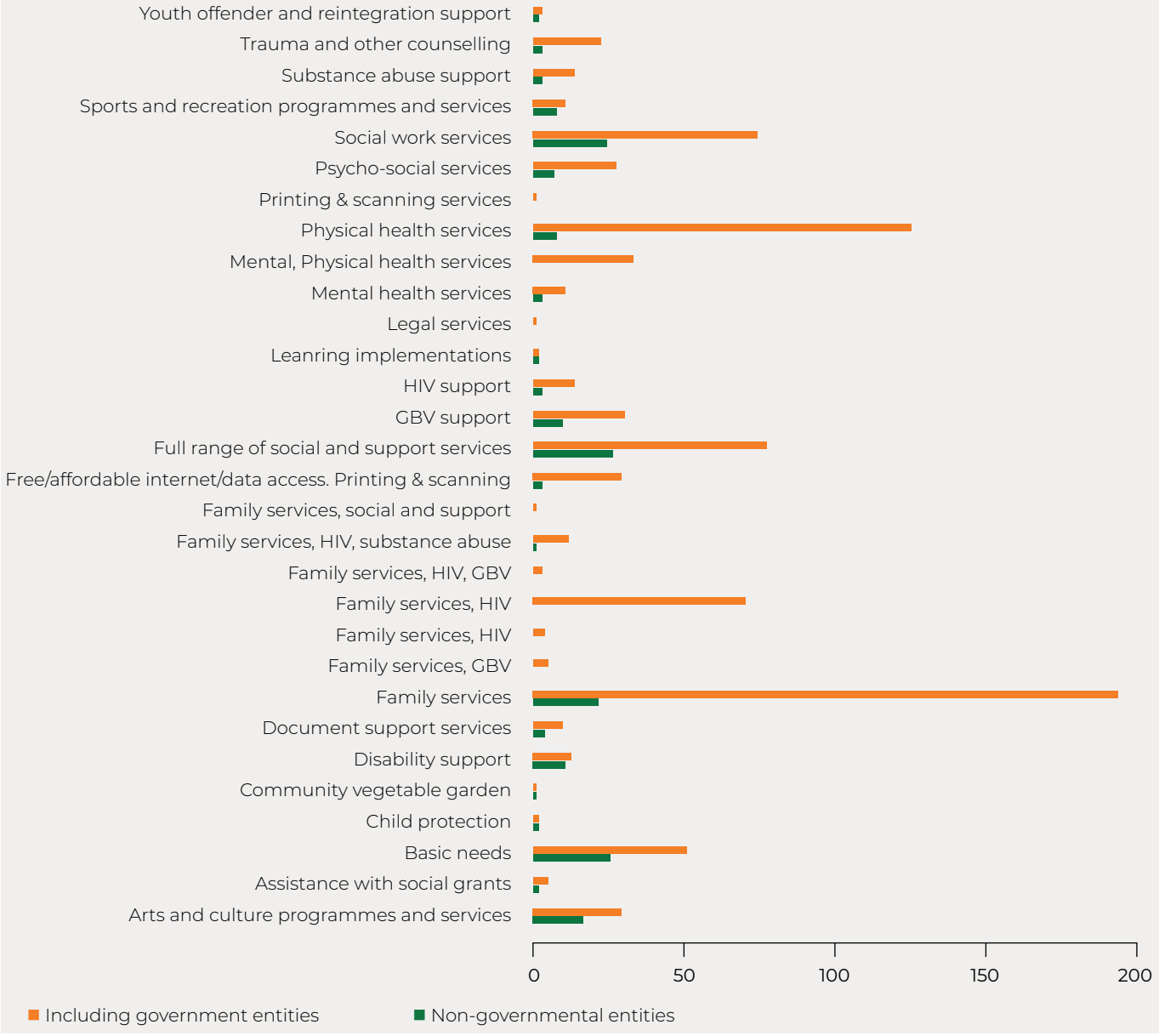
Not surprisingly, this category is heavily shaped by the inclusion of government organisations, including services offered by clinics and hospitals. Some 122 organisations provide Social Work services, 17 provide Document Support services, including birth certificates; 153 offer Physical Health services; and the broad category of Family services is also well represented Given their current negative outlook, in terms of the pressures from the economy, crime, lack of perceived opportunities and joblessness, the youth are struggling to cope. This has resulted in high stress and substance abuse, which is ravaging the youth in communities. In light of this, Mental Wellness and Psychosocial Support seem underserved and are areas that deserve significant input and collaboration to ensure the youth are better supported. Government Entities are providing the majority of such services, with 63 supporting Mental Wellness (Mental Health & Psychosocial support) and only 33 non-government organisations offering support in this area. Some of these services may be offered under 'Trauma and Counselling' services, the majority of which is also offered by Government Entities.

Many programmes may offer these services inhouse as part of broader programmes; however they are not explicitly stated and may not have the tools and capacity for effective support.

5.8.3.2 Social and Support Services Excluding Government Entities

A total of 53 organisations provide a full range of services across the category. Basic Needs and Social Services are the highest offered, with 69 and 71 organisations providing these services, respectively.

Total number of organisations providing Social & Support Services



6. Insights

Reliable data is not readily available

The process to identify YDOs has highlighted the fact that finding accurate, up-to-date data is near impossible at present. Datasets have not been shared or consolidated, they are not maintained, and the data is unreliable. There is no agreed consistent taxonomy or indicators in collecting of data, which is seen in the duplication of mapping efforts and therefore wasted resources in an already constrained environment. A robust, current dataset is needed before even beginning to develop and grow the ecosystem. As a result, the YD Co-lab aims to continue to grow the database it has developed so far and to collaborate with partners to support and supplement existing datasets, such as the Youth Explorer mapping of the public sector services as well as the National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) of the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention.

Demand and Supply seem misaligned

There is a mismatch in terms of supply and demand and, therefore, although there are a myriad of programmes supporting and providing services to the youth, South Africa's youth unemployment keeps growing. Although many factors are contributing to the economic situation in the country, with all the programmes targeting the youth, should we not be seeing more impact?

"... South Africa's 32.9% unemployment rate (the highest in the world) ... youth unemployment rate is much higher, at 46.5%. This is despite the efforts made by the government, NGOs and the private sector to address the youth unemployment crisis through a multitude of upskilling, training and job creation initiatives." Ayn Brown, Chief People Officer at TymeBank

A coordinated approach is lacking

What stands out is that youth development is not materialising systematically. Many organisations are working in silos as they are isolated and not necessarily aware of duplicated services. With the limited accurate data available, there is a need to bridge the gaps, coordinate the sector and better drive linkages between organisations, an initiative that YD Co-lab has commenced. There are a few glaring gaps already evident in the services provided by respondents that, if addressed, could support existing programmes and lead to more holistic development of the youth. There are also a few successful collaborations and partnerships evident, highlighting the benefit of better coordinated programme design and activities.

Widening digital divide

Many organisations are still not operating virtually, which is more nuanced than assumed. This could be due to: 1) lack and unreliability of internet accessibility, in respect of infrastructure; 2) high data costs; 3) in-person interaction being more appropriate in some instances (e.g. medical consultations); 4) lack of knowledge of products and tools available; and 5) crime and the fear of theft of equipment.

Impact-focused programme design is essential

Despite the multitude of youth development programmes, youth employment is not seeing the impact, due to a lack of robust impact measurement being conducted. For example, the large number of training and skills development organisations in operation, does not necessarily mean that there is no need for more skills training, there is a need to ensure that the type of training offered is demand-led and results in work readiness and/or competencies needed in the market, that will lead to youth employment. Therefore, a focus on impact measurement and outcomes of the skills training is required, as well as better coordination to ensure a clear pathway to employment is created.

7. Recommendations

Ongoing Research

Building a robust sector that is able to support youth will need well-resourced organisations and a coordinated effort to continue to map YDOs, to gather more accurate data, and to continue to identify gaps, linkages and collaborative opportunities that lead to building youth pathways to sustainable employment. This can be done through continuing desktop studies and including broad community participation opportunities, for example roundtables, focus groups and working groups.

A greater understanding of the landscape (in essence who offers what and where) is the first step in driving collaboration and bridging the divide between demand and supply in the youth development sector.

Integration and Collaboration

Encouraging organisations to actively register and detail what they are doing is necessary to drive data-based action that will help extend availability of needed services. Deep, intentional collaboration is needed in terms of actively working towards shared goals that will drive the sector to develop and support economically-active and productive youth. For example, this could be in the form of a workstream comprised of action-oriented groups, who are resourced and work towards agreed deliverables that can advance the sector.

Capacity Building, Governance and Due Diligence

Extensive capacity building will help to build a robust, well-governed sector to develop and support our youth. This includes offering capacity building for organisations across the board, from due diligence to effective programme design and measuring impact, before even tackling important aspects such as fundraising.

With the myriad of organisations being unaware of and confused about legal registration, as an example, the need for training and support on the registration process has been identified. YD Co-lab is currently partnering with various service providers to offer an initial education session for YDOs, as well as ongoing training and support to build capacity in the YDO sector.

Alignment of Skills Demand and Supply

Training and skills offered to youth should be research-led and outcomes driven, in close consultation with industry and professional bodies, to ensure real skills transfer and job creation opportunities, which may differ in various geographic locations. For example, working with both industry chambers and business associations will assist in identifying skills shortages and aligning YDO skills development programmes and internship opportunities to address these shortages.

Focus on Programme Impact

This requires ensuring that all programmes offered to youth are designed with the intention of delivering on the outcomes identified to have the potential to lead to youth being empowered and supported to create a positive future.

Affordable Internet Access

Access to the internet has become vital in so many areas that youth are accessing, including completing education and vocational training, job opportunities and new businesses, yet few respondents are providing online programming. Therefore, there is a need to implement initiatives to bridge the digital divide in South Africa, where almost half of our citizens still lack internet access. Initiatives that focus on zero-rating services could also prove to be vital.

8. Ecosystem Mapping Partners

A sub-committee was formed to oversee the Youth Ecosystem mapping process. Members initially met monthly over a period of nine months and then met bi-monthly to refine the survey, categories and process. The sub-committee consisted of representatives from the following organisations:

The YD Co-lab

The YD Co-lab is a developing network of organisations and individuals who are working towards advancing youth development and empowerment in South Africa. It is a collective of youth development enthusiasts, ecosystem actors, organisations and individuals committed to advancing a more effective systems response to advance the youth development agenda.

Lucha Lunako

Lucha Lunako, which means "The Youth Have It", helps build pathways to decent work through partnerships, collaboration and innovation. It works with funders, youth development organisations, business and government to ensure that best practices are implemented so that impact is amplified and youth unemployability can be substantially and sustainably reduced.

By identifying and engaging with how young people are affected by poverty and inequality, Lucha Lunako provides its foundational development model, "I Have It, You Have It, Youth Have It"™, as a holistic approach to youth development.

Harambee

The Harambee is a Kiswahili word that means "All Pull Together" and symbolises its commitment to partnering to break barriers and unlock jobs for youth.

Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator is a not-for-profit social enterprise with over a decade of experience, and which looks for solutions to youth unemployment through partnerships. It works with partners who, like itself, are committed to results that can work at scale – including government, the private sector, civil society and millions of youth. Its vision is of a growing economy and a society that works, powered by the potential of young people.

The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business is a globally ranked centre of excellence dedicated to advancing social innovation and entrepreneurship. The first academic centre of its kind in Africa, its mission is to build capacity and knowledge – with partners, practitioners and students – to advance the discourse and systemic impact of social innovation.

Capacitate

Capacitate Social Solutions is a social enterprise that was established in 2015 to support stakeholders across the social and green economy and drive innovation for impact. Their focus is to enable greater efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability across the development sector. Leveraging their decades of collective experience across the continent, they deliver relevant, fit-for-purpose solutions to address common challenges and unique problems experienced by investing and implementing partners. As an impact consultancy they have adopted a human-centred, partnership model for engagement, focusing on Impact Advisory, M & E support, Digital Transformation and Inclusion and Emerging Enterprise Support.

For more information on YD Co-Lab and to download a summary of all provinces go to:
www.ydcolab.org.za