

Design of the Expanded Public Works Programme Phase 4 - Social Sector



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) entered Phase 4 of its implementation in April 2019. EPWP is a cross-cutting programme to be implemented by all government entities. Innovative and labour-intensive EPWP projects provide non-permanent employment (on average about 3 months) for about 1 million people every year, making a vital contribution to social protection amidst high unemployment and poverty levels. However, there are tensions in the programme design; and implementation weaknesses persist despite some progress. In preparation for Phase 4, the International Labour Office provided technical assistance to the National Department of Public Works (custodian of EPWP) for planning of the Phase 4 design. PDG contributed to the Phase 4 design as Social Sector specialists.

The sector experts worked closely with the national coordination structure to review EPWP both at cross-cutting and sectoral levels. The project featured broad consultation with EPWP stakeholders, identification of issues and generation of proposals and solutions, analysis of performance and negotiation around target setting and expansion for Phase 4.

PDG's in-depth understanding of the Social Sector, from previous work in this sector, played a valuable role in identifying tensions to be addressed in Phase 4, as well as exploring options for scaleup of specific programmes. Through the extensive consultation process, managers in all spheres of government and all provinces contributed concerns and proposed solutions, shaping a shared way forward.

The Phase 4 Business Plan and sector plans commit EPWP to: setting realistic and responsive targets, strengthening

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compliance with core EPWP principles, enhancing coordination mechanisms, formalising of EPWP commitments at political and senior management level in public bodies, investing in impact evaluation and social audits, and strengthening partnerships with the private sector, donors, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges. For the social sector, expansion opportunities were identified in the safety and school support related programmes.

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DEPWP PROJECT:

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