

Skills for Youth Employability and Social Inclusion Project (SYESI) 2021-2023



SUCCESS STORIES



In total, the SYESI project saw 1,619 youth enrolled in vocational training programs with 1,298 graduating and receiving certificates and start-up kits. The following success stories are taken from the first enrollment of students.

In early 2021, a call for applications for youth to participate in the SYESI project went out through local advertisements. There were spots for 500 youth who were interested in to receiving basic vocational skills training on a range of sectors including basic electrical installation, plumbing and pipe fitting, bakery and catering, customer care, solar installation, hair dressing and beauty therapy. A total of 575 youth registered in June 2021 and the first three-month training sessions were conducted from July to September 2021. On 14 October 2021, over 500 youth who successfully completed their basic vocational skills training, received official certificates of completion, start-up kits, and access to employers for internships. The stories illustrate a few of the beneficiaries and they share how the training has helped them increase their income and improve their lives.

The SYESI project was funded by the African Development Bank and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It was implemented by the UNDP in partnership with SAADO (in Juba) the Ministry of Labour, the Directorate for Vocational Training, and the Juba Multi-service Training Center (MTC),



Kingdom of the Netherlands





Chol Elijah Awuol assisting customers at the Pyramid Hotel, 2021.

SERVING CUSTOMERS TO BUILD A CAREER

Chol **Elijah Awuol** is 23 years old from Shirkat. He completed Senior 4 and had a dream to continue with his education, but he could not afford university fees. Despite this, he was not willing to give up on building his future and took the first opportunity to learn new skills as a volunteer with the Isaac Ding Abraham Chan Awuol (IDACA) Foundation. For eight months he did data entry and record keeping. His friends and family helped him with the money he needed for transportation and other basic needs while he was volunteering.

In 2021, Chol saw the ad for the short courses offered at the Juba MTC and decided this could be another opportunity to acquire more skills and knowledge. With the hope of finding a job, he took the three-month Customer Care Course (July-Sept 2021). He learned phone and email etiquette, customer relations, time management, and basic computer skills. After completing the course, he was eligible for an internship, and he found a place at the Pyramid Continental Hotel in Juba.

The hotel paid Chol \$100.00 total for a three-month internship. Chol impressed the hotel management with his skills, knowledge, and hard work. They offered him a full-time position as a guest service agent—**Chol is now a valued employee at the Pyramid Hotel**. He is fortunate to receive both a salary and accommodation, which helps him save a 'education fund' because he is determined to attend university. He also supports his family with money for food, and medicine.

"With the money I can save, I hope to attend university and learn more about management. The training opportunity I received helped me be more optimistic about my future."

"The customer care skills I learned from the training courses helped me find employment, and I have found that I am interested in advancing my career in hospitality and tourism management. The training opportunity I received through this project helped me be more optimistic about my future. I think that these trainings should be offered to more youth because there are many who are stranded and pessimistic about life. Idleness and lack of skills to gain employment or earn money leads young people into problems. I think a peaceful and growing community is only attainable by busy and productive youth, so there is need to also empower other youth."

—CHOL ELIJAH AWUOL.

PAINTING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Madit **Philip Anok** was a 26-year-old university student attending his first year of a bachelor's degree program in Pure Economics at the University of Juba. While his family and friends were helping him with his basic needs, he was also working as a painter to pay for his transport to and from school. A few painting companies that had painting equipment and supplies employed him for 2,000 SSP for each job he worked on.

In June 2021, he saw the ad for basic vocational skills training, Madit was excited to see that painting was among the trades available. He wanted to advance his skills in painting so that he could get more customers and earn more money to support his efforts at school.

Madit completed the Painting Course at the MTC in Juba and received his certificate and a start-up kit. The course included both theory and practice: basic introduction to painting, types of painting colours (water & water paints), painting and safety guidelines. The start-up kit included the basic equipment he needed for painting jobs.

"With this certification and the start-up kit, I became a self-employed painter. I found painting jobs at the new buildings being constructed around Hai Cinema and Hai Malakal, and some short painting contracts with the Royal Palace Hotel. I can earn at least 7,000 SSP per day. I am able to save at least half the money to support my family and the other half I pay for school, and I am saving to expand my business."

Madit is now in his fourth year of university and with his degree as an economist he will be able to launch different businesses, including painting, in order to increase his income and improve his standard of living and that of his family. Madit expressed his gratitude to the African Development Bank and the UNDP for this life-changing opportunity offered to the youth of South Sudan. *"I would like to see continued support for the youth through these kinds of training courses to improve on their livelihoods and contribute to the development of the nation."*

Madit Philip Anok painting for a customer, 2021.

"With the certification and the start-up kit, I became a self-employed painter. I can earn at least 7,000 SSP per day. I use the money to help pay for school and to help my family, and I am saving some money to expand my business."

—MADIT PHILIP ANOK



FROM SIDE HUSTLE TO FULL TIME WORK



Abuk Makol Riak completed her secondary school education at 18 years old. To help support herself, her mother and her sister, she worked as a teacher at Gumbo Primary School. Her mother raised her as a single parent but found a way for Abuk to stay in school. For eight months Abuk taught standard 6, 8 and senior 1 classes. As a teacher Abuk earned 30,000 SSP per month, which was not enough to support her mother and to pay for school fees for her younger sister. While she was teaching, Abuk had started to make “small bites” to help supplement her income. When she saw the ad for the training course, she saw an opportunity to gain more skills and way to find employment that would pay more than teaching.

The Bakery and Pastries Course taught her how to follow the recipes for bread, cookies, pizza, snacks as well as lessons on food safety and hygiene. After completing the course, she was eligible for an internship and was selected to

train at the Pyramid Hotel. After her three-month internship, she was eligible for employment and while the hotel was not able to employ her, the management team provided her with a letter of recommendation. They were impressed with her skills and work ethic and wanted to see her succeed.

“I used the letter of recommendation to apply for a job at the Joseman bar and Restaurant at Thongpiny. I have worked here now for one year as a chef, waitress, and cashier. I now earn 60,000 SSP each month, double what I made as a teacher. With this money, I was able to pay school fees for my sister, who has now completed her Primary 8 national exams! It was important that my young sister have the education to become self-reliant, independent so she can get a professional job in future.”

—ABUK MAKOL RIAK

Abuk Makol Riak on the right side of the photo working at the Pyramid Hotel, 2021.



LIGHTING UP A PATH TO THE FUTURE



Elijah Ngor Anok making electrical repairs, 2021.

“Before joining the Basic Electrical Installation Trade Course at the MTC in Juba, I was attending the University of Juba for Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. I was working as a helper for a private electrical engineer who was doing electric wiring in households and shops at Buluk, Hai Thoura and Malakia. I was learning some practical skills and I earned 3,000 SSP per day, which was enough to buy things like notebooks, pens, course hand-out notes, and transport to school. When I saw the ad for the vocational skills training in electrical installation I thought that it would help me learn many more practical skills, get a certificate of qualification, and help me get my own customers—and earn more money to help me continue my studies.”

Elijah Ngor Anok trained for three months at Juba MTC in 2021. He received both theory and practical trainings on electrical principles, electrical safety, electrical drawing, wiring installation, and use of electrical tools. This complimented the courses he was studying at university. He is now in his final year of university and can proudly say he has both academic knowledge and practical skills.

The formal certification and a letter of recommendation from the Director of Juba MTC helped him to get an internship at JEDCO. *“When I was an intern at JEDCO I received on the job training and learned from other professional electrical engineers. Those I worked with recommended me to new customers and now I can work on my own with customers—on a good day I can earn 250,000 SSP. This is enough money for me to pay some school fees and provide some financial support to my family.”*

“Now I work on my own with customers – on a good day I can earn 250,000 SSP. This is enough money for me to pay some school fees and provide some financial support to my family.”

– ELIJAH NGOR ANOK





RIDING SAFELY IN JUBA WITH SIMON BILAL

ON THE ROAD WITH PETER AYAI

More Skills Means More Customers

In August 2022, close to three hundred motorcycle riders attended a boda-boda Safety Training Course offered in partnership with UNDP at the MTC in Juba. Peter Ayai was one of the participants.

Peter Ayai is 32 years old, and even though he taught himself to drive a motorcycle when he was 25, he says he still benefited from training course especially customer care and road safety. He explains how the training has made him a better driver and as a result he has increased his customer base and his income.

"I am delighted to have taken the boda-boda Riders' Safety Training Course. This was the first time I attended such an educative and professional training. This training offered us knowledge about road safety, and about the rules and traffic regulations such as the use of signals, what to do at a junction, and the right of way.

The instructors taught us some riding skills, such as the best way to maneuver and negotiate in a bend in the road and overtaking and being overtaken in traffic. The facilitators also demonstrated customer care and what a boda-boda driver must do before, during and after taking a passenger. I learned a lot."



Peter Ayai during boda-boda training at the MTC, 2021

"On average, I earn at least 8,000 SSP per day from my boda-boda business, much more than I earned last year. With this money, I can afford to buy some food for my family, and I support my siblings with school fees."

Peter has seen his customer base increase since last year, especially with the elderly who always demand careful drivers. *"On average, I earn at least 8,000 SSP per day from my boda-boda business, more than I earned last year. With this money, I can afford to buy some food for my family, and I support my siblings with school fees."*

Peter recommends that this course continues for other Boda drivers who might have not received such trainings in Juba or other states. *"I would like to see the African Development Bank, UNDP and the MTC continue the training for boda-boda riders for the benefits of the others to reduce the numbers of road accidents in Juba County."*

Simon Bilal is a 26-year-old from Nykuron in Juba. He was one of the three hundred participants who joined the two week-long boda-boda training offered at the Juba MTC in August 2022.

Simon says *"I am grateful to the African Development Bank, the MTC and UNDP for making it possible for us to learn how to drive a boda-boda safely."* For Simon, the training was important because it gave him the guidelines to be patient while driving and to observe the rules and regulations and to improve his ability to maneuver and negotiate corners while riding on the roads.

Simon enjoys the flexibility of being a boda-boda driver, and with some new customer service skills learned during the course his customer base increased along with his income. *"Some of my customers now send me on errands to deliver food or other goods. I earn approximately 10,000 SSP or more per day. I can afford to pay for my basic needs like food, cloths and sometimes buy medicine from the clinic when I feel sick."*

Simon is grateful for the opportunity and hopes the training will continue for other youth who drive motorcycles in Juba town. *"This would improve the safety for both drivers and the pedestrians, who are often victims of careless driving."*

Classmates below and on the right Simon Bilal during boda-boda training at the MTC, 2021

