



# YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

# Youth employment and entrepreneurship skills Project (YESS) Project

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Skills (YEES Project) is a joint initiative between the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Government of Timor-Leste, and UNDP to tackle the unemployment and job creation issues among young men and women. The project supports the economic diversification of the country by fostering MSMEs development, promoting investment and job creation in the productive sectors, as well as strengthening the employability skills of youth to get better employment access.

## National Priorities

### Job creation for youth



The government has set the job creation for youth as the number one priority in the socio-economic aspect.

### Economic diversification



The government aims to create all possible conditions to leverage economic diversification in productive areas, such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forests, and tourism, in addition to the industry sector.

### Skills development for youth



The government has envisioned to promote skills development of youth, including entrepreneurship and soft skills.

### Strengthening business enabling environment



The government plans to improve the business enabling environment, both in technical and policy levels.

## Project Main Activities



Internship and soft skills training for university fresh graduates



Entrepreneurship training for youth and returnee migrants



Business competition and entrepreneurship expo

Job fair and career counselling for youth



Soft loan and access to finance to MSMEs



Information on market access, value chain, and access to jobs for youths



## Quick Facts

### Project Title

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Skills (YEES)

### Duration

July 2022 - December 2027

### Government Counterparts

MCI, SEFOPE, IADE, The Bridge

### Total Budget:

US\$8,120,947.00

### Beneficiaries

Young women and men, people with disability, returnee migrants

### Co-Funded by



### SDG alignment



# Key Development Challenges

## 9.6%

of youth aged 15-24 was unemployed. 30.5% of youth aged 15-24 were not engaged in employment, education or training (NEET).

## 15%

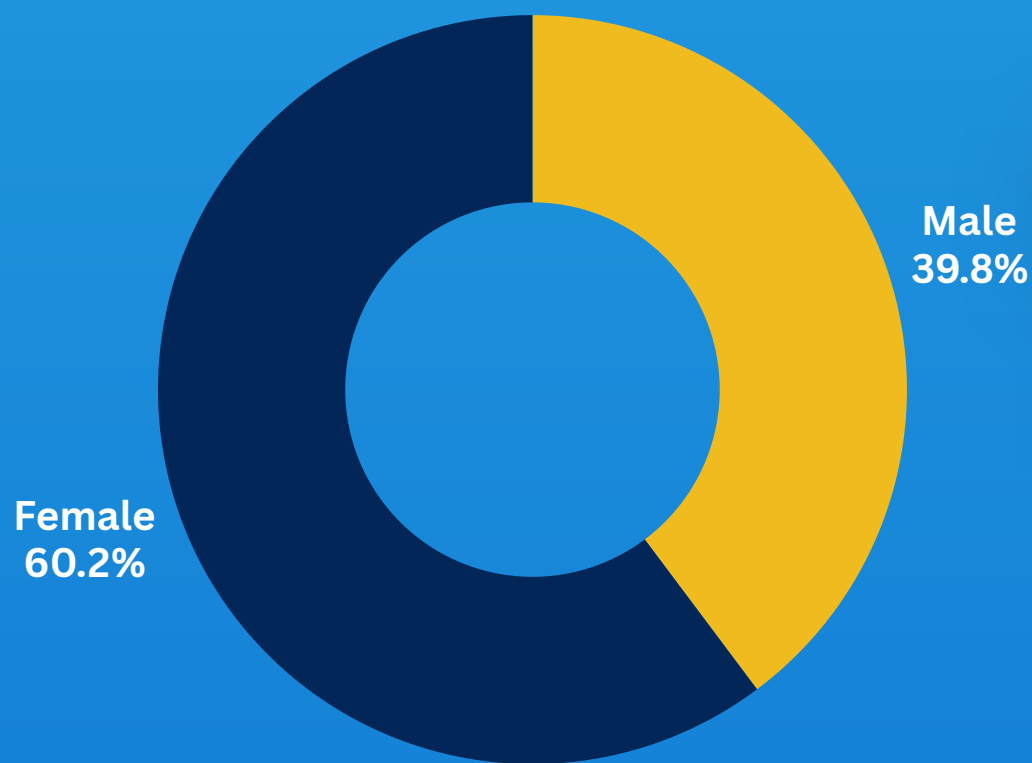
of firms have a bank loan or a line of credit. Only 3% of investments in fixed assets were financed by bank lending.

## 50,000

Timorese are living abroad with potentially half of these being temporary migrant workers. Migrant workers find it difficult to find employment and transfer their knowledge upon their return.

## Key Results

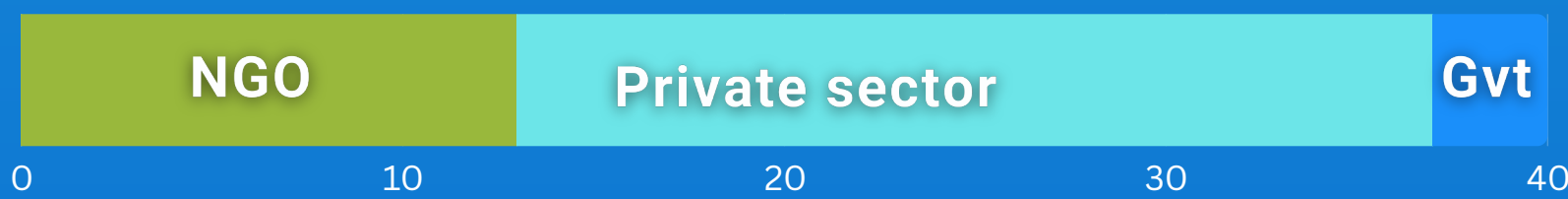
### Youth internship



# 171

youth obtained internship and 50 people secured full-time employment after the internship.

### Host institutions



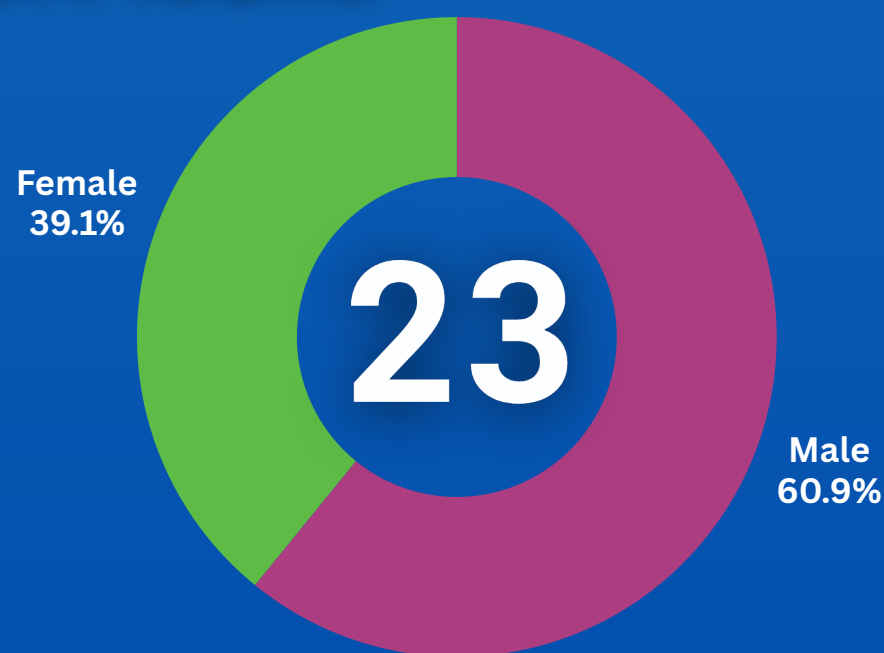
### Business training



# 312

youth participated in entrepreneurship training

### Soft loans



# 23

MICRO  
18

\$ 293,395.29

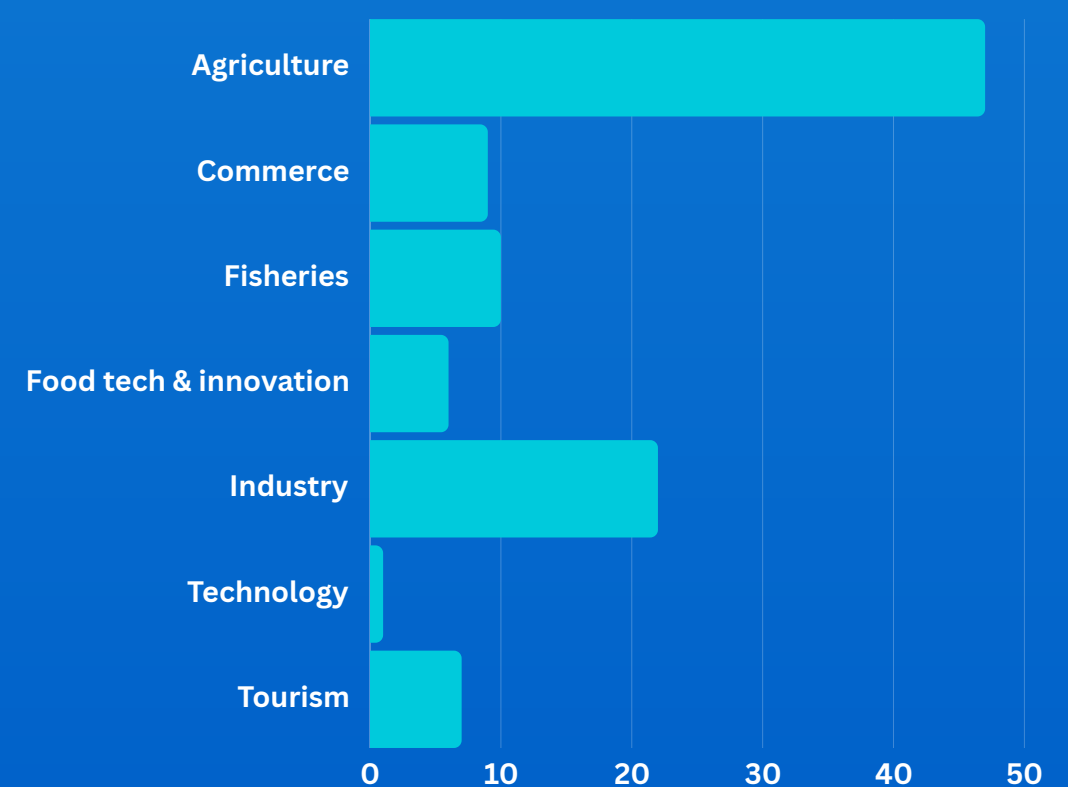
SMALL  
5

\$ 72,900.00

23 people received soft loans to develop their business. A total of 14 male received US\$227,245.29 and 9 female received US\$139,050.00.

### Business Grants from BIC 3

263 youth received Business grants to advance their business in the 7 sectors below.



### Project Map



### Voices

*"I managed to increase my production capacity after receiving grants from Business Innovation Challenge. My products are also now available in over 16 retailers in the country. Thank you UNDP and MCI."*

**Martinho Gorety , Beneficiary of Business Innovation Challenge**

