

# Vocational Training and Re-Skilling for Vulnerable Women and Youth in South Africa Post COVID-19



## FACTSHEET

**MARCH 2021-MARCH 2022**

**BUDGET:** US\$1,180,000

**KEY PARTNERS:** Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Japanese private sector, Toyota South Africa, Department of Higher Education and Training.

### OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to empower youth and women with economic opportunities in the automotive sector through strengthening the provision of demand-led vocational skills in line with the post COVID-19 economic recovery. Specifically, the project will provide life-long skills to youth to enhance employability, strengthen the capacity of the beneficiary TVET colleges, including flexible and digital learning mechanisms, and will increase the connection between graduates and TVET colleges with private sector employment opportunities, including but not limited to Japanese automotive companies in South Africa.

### PROJECT OUTPUTS

**Output 1:** Institutional capacity of the TVETs strengthened to identify challenges and opportunities for vulnerable youth and women in automotive sector in the COVID-19 context.

**Output 2:** Automotive skills training and up-skilling of vulnerable women and youth strengthened to increase access to employment opportunities in automotive industry through increased technical capacity of TVET.

**Output 3:** At least one sustainable platform for trained women and youth, private sector, academic institutions and policymakers established to link job seekers with job opportunities in the automotive sector.

### CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS

The project will contribute to SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, and 16.



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### DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified many of the challenges already facing youth unemployment in South Africa. As a result of the pandemic, most schools and universities were closed due to social distancing measures, carrying high social and economic costs, and depriving South African youth opportunities and future prospects for their employment.

As the South African economy moves to re-open its businesses and seeks to rebuild the economy from the devastation from COVID-19, there is an urgent need to equip youth and women with the relevant job skills required in the post-COVID-19 economy and enhance the capacity of vocational training, particularly through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges.

The automotive sector employs workers across various skills levels and is also central to reindustrializing the economy of South Africa.

As the economy recovers from the COVID-19 crisis, there will be a need to provide the right type of skills for the automotive industry to meet labour demands in the automotive industry.