

Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator



54.8%

of South Africans
aged 18 to 34 are
unemployed.

**Status
quo**



1 million

South Africans enter
the labor market
every year.



3 million

youth will have a
transformed work-
seeking experience.

**Harambee
goals**



1 million

young people will
increase their income
within five years.

The Challenge:

One million young South Africans enter the labour market every year, but two-thirds are not in education, employment, or training within a year.

Young people have to navigate systemic barriers in pursuit of employment, including jobless growth, inadequate education systems, poor visibility of income earning opportunities, and high job search costs.

Women also face gender discrimination, misogyny, and violence, and Black women are particularly affected, with even higher unemployment rates than their peers.

Long-term unemployment in youth increases the likelihood of unemployment later in life, with lasting effects on poverty levels, health, and educational attainment.

The Solution:

Harambee is a women-led non-profit working to unlock jobs and break down barriers to youth employment in South Africa.

Harambee is playing a central role in South Africa's national efforts to expand opportunities, improve visibility, match youth to suitable opportunities, and reduce major costs and barriers to employment.

With Co-Impact's support, Harambee's goal is to transform the work-seeking experience for at least three million young South Africans by 2025. Reduced costs and improved work opportunities will provide at least one million disadvantaged youth — over 60% of whom will be women — with higher net incomes.

With Co-Impact's support, Harambee achieved the following in the first three years of its five-year grant:

People-level outcomes:

Improved the work-seeking journey of over two million additional youth (66% women) via the SA Youth National Pathway Management Network platform, totalling to over 4 million youth supported since its launch.

Saved youth an estimated \$68 million in avoided transportation costs by matching them to local jobs.

Connected youth to more than 876,000 work opportunities across the private, public, and informal employment sectors, for a total of over 1.4 million since the platform launched with approximately \$1.4 billion in income earned by youth.

“Co-Impact’s support has enabled Harambee’s systems change strategy, shifting us from operator to orchestrator for South Africa’s youth employment ecosystem.”

Sharmi Surianarain
Chief Impact Officer, Harambee

Systems-level outcomes:

Harambee’s SA Youth has been officially adopted and funded by South Africa’s government as the core national platform to support youth in their work-seeking and pathway management. To date it has been used by over 1900 private sector partners, nearly 400 CSO providers and multiple government units.

Supported 10 private sector industry intermediary bodies in developing and implementing strategies to increase the number of available jobs, and/or make jobs more available to South African youth.

Organization-level outcomes:

Strengthened skills to support government relations, partnerships, and impact measurement.

Implemented a learning agenda to test and refine the organization’s strategy.

