TolaDataCASE STUDY

GIZ DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT GBMH

MULTI-COUNTRY MONITORING FOR RURAL YOUTH JOB CREATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



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CONTENTS



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SUMMARY

CLIENT	GIZ - RYE GLOBAL PROJECT
SECTORS	RURUAL DEVELOPMENT & YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
DURATION	2020-2024
REGIONS	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTRIES



BURKINA FASO JAN 2020-DEC 2024



KENYA JAN 2020-DEC 2024



MALAWI JAN 2020-DEC 2024



MOZAMBIQUE JAN 2021-DEC 2024 GIZ is implementing a programme on behalf of the German federal government to promote rural youth employment (RYE) in four Sub-Saharan countries: Kenya, Burkina Faso, Malawi and Mozambique.

RYE coordinators sought an M&E tool for data collection and aggregation to streamline the multicountry tracking at the activity, output and outcome levels. It was also essential for staff at the global programme level to be able to generate insights from disaggregated data and time-based results, and to visualise programme progress on dashboards.

The RYE team selected TolaData from a list of candidates following a thorough tender process, which included a GIZ review of the platform's data security. Through TolaData and in combination with KoboToolbox, GIZ has built a fully-digital data process – from field to dashboard – to track and report on granular and aggregated data for the entire RYE programme across the four implementation countries.

Utilising the data collected with KoboToolbox and analysed through TolaData, RYE staff are delivering data-driven learnings to steer the multicountry project implementation, report to key stakeholders and donors, and guide future development programming in the area of rural youth development.





partners' needs by harmonising with their existing Results-Based Monitoring processes.



Lukas Marx GIZ RYE Programme and M&E Advisor

Screenshot of GIZ RYE project public dashboard on the TolaData platform

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

With over 25 million young people in Africa entering the labour market every year, more than half of them – 14 million – will be in rural areas.

¹: United Nations. (2022). World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. As many countries in the Global North continue to grapple with demographic stagnation or decline, regions that previously experienced slow population growth are now witnessing a remarkable surge. Nowhere is this more apparent than in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Last year, the combined populations of Europe and North America were almost equal to that of Sub-Saharan countries, where the median age is around 17 years old - half as young as many Western countries. UN estimates predict Sub-Saharan countries will contribute more than half of the global population increase anticipated through 2050, and are expected to continue growing throughout the century.¹ The opportunities — and risks — posed by a demographic transition of this size are potentially enormous, extending to various aspects of society, including economies, welfare and health systems, budgets, and housing and infrastructure needs. However, if managed strategically, Sub-Saharan Africa's transition also presents the potential to reap a massive demographic dividend.

With over 25 million young people in Africa entering the labour market every year, more than half of them – 14 million – will be in rural areas. This produces increasing incentives to ensure a robust economy with sustainable employment opportunities that guarantee a standard of living for the younger working-age generations, particularly outside of urban areas.

Rural youth in developing countries face significant employment challenges, often weaker worsened by support systems in comparison to urban areas, including limited access to infrastructure, markets, credit, and skills development. The agrifood sector offers the strongest potential for jobs in rural areas, though many young people are discouraged from pursuing agricultural work due to unattractive working conditions and limited income prospects. Those who do find work often endure informal employment, low wages, poor conditions, and heavy workloads.



Population pyramids for Sub-Saharan Africa and the World Except Africa in 2040²

At the macro-economic level, youths are entering the workforce at a precarious time. Sub-Saharan Africa is facing significant economic challenges on the back of a slow pandemic recovery, high food and energy prices, excessive public debt, and record-high inflation. Despite a rebound last year, domestic economic activity has been subdued, and growth is expected to slow. External factors, such as commodity prices, exchange rate fluctuations, supply chain disruptions, and natural disasters, have heavily influenced inflation rates.

Young women, who generally face greater risk of exclusion and exploitation in the job market, face additional constraints in rural areas due to entrenched gender biases and greater household responsibilities. Despite progress in narrowing the gender gap in access to employment and education opportunities, African women still face gender barriers to economic inclusion. These barriers are even more pronounced in rural areas where women are less likely to have secure employment and own land than their urban counterparts.

TolaData

Although research shows that women in both rural and urban areas perceive that their opportunities are equal to those enjoyed by men, rural women have strikingly less access to the Internet, banking services, and formal schooling, and are less likely to participate in the labour market. Access to credit is also limited due to cultural assumptions, legal barriers, and low financial literacy, which further exacerbates the economic agency of rural women.

In catering to this demographic transition amid regional economic instability, the strengthening of rural communities in a gender-sensitive manner offers the opportunity to build sustainable selfsufficiency and reduce reliance on international markets. With global supply-chain shocks around essential commodities like food and fuel, the strengthening of rural economies through youthfocused employment, particularly in the agricultural sector, has the potential to alleviate economic pressures at the micro and macro levels, and provide a generation of rural youths with better opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and to contribute to Africa's economic future.



Sub-Saharan countries with over 50 percent of the population living in rural areas, 2021³

 $^2\!\!\!$: Cilliers, J. (2021). Getting to Africa's Demographic Dividend. In: The Future of Africa. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

³: The World Bank data via: The Global Economy https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/rural_population_ percent/Sub-Sahara-Africa/

WHAT

EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES DO RURAL YOUTHS FACE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?



EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Rural youth have limited access to quality education and vocational training, leading to lower education levels, especially for young women, and significant literacy rate disparities between rural and urban areas in sub-Saharan Africa, while insufficient business-management knowledge and technical skills hinder rural youth from capitalising on opportunities in the high-value agriculture-services sector, exacerbating the skills mismatch in rural areas.



ACCESS TO FINANCE

Rural youth, especially young women, struggle to access capital and suitable financial services for business startup due to age restrictions, collateral requirements, high interest rates, and limited investments in agriculture, while also lacking financial literacy skills and relevant training.



NETWORKS, LINKAGES AND MARKET ACCESS

Limited youth participation in farmer cooperatives hampers access to services and markets, worsened by membership requirements and exclusion decision-making, from particularly affecting young women, while limited land rights and access pose obstacles for rural youth in starting independent agricultural work, fueled by unclear regulations and gender biases.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

Weak rural infrastructure hampers the development of modern agriculture, limiting its appeal to rural youth, while insufficient mechanisation and technology result in unsafe conditions, unstable earnings, and prompt migration to urban areas in search of better opportunities.



INFORMAL, UNSTABLE AND INDEPENDENT WORK

Youth often engage in self-employment or seasonal agricultural work, which entails high vulnerability (e.g. absence of formal social security and labour standards). They diversify their income sources by shifting between various activities (on/off-farm) according to the season and opportunity, resulting in underemployment and insufficient income to afford a decent standard of living.



GENDER-SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

The burden of unpaid work, including tasks traditionally assigned to young rural women such as water collection and child care, creates constraints on their access to paid work and control over resources. It is a triple burden being young, rural and female.

Adapted from: GIZ (2020), 'What works in rural youth employment promotion? Good practices and lessons from GIZ Programmes on rural youth employment', Germany, February 2020, p12. Accessible at: https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2020_eng_employment_promotion.pdf

THE ORGANISATION

For us, vision also means pressing ahead with sustainability at all levels, not only in our projects but also **in the way we use data and digital tools**, and within our own company.

GIZ Integrated Company Report, 2021

GIZ: German Agency for International Cooperation

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is Germany's leading international development agency and one of the largest development organisations in the world, supporting international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work.

Its main commissioning party is the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). With over 50 years of experience and diverse expertise in areas such as economic development, energy, environment, peace and security, GIZ works with various partners, including the German government, EU institutions, the United Nations, foreign governments and the private sector.

The organisation operates in around 120 countries with nearly 25,000 employees, most of whom are national staff. GIZ projects generate knowledge for political, social and economic change, developing ideas into concrete plans and implementing them effectively. GIZ adheres to German and European values and works flexibly to deliver solutions that offer people better prospects and improve their living conditions. As part of its Corporate Strategy, GIZ aims to make GIZ more digital, flexible, agile and efficient with a focus on results and efficiency, digital transformation and innovation.

GP RYE: Global Project on Rural Employment with a Focus on Youth

To support the Sub-Saharan region in the scope of the ongoing youth bulge, on behalf of BMZ and cofunded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Malawi, GIZ is implementing the RYE project to promote employment in rural areas of Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique. The project aims to improve the employment and economic situation of young people in these countries through a set of targeted activities. To achieve this, the RYE project is implementing the 360°-AgriJobs-Approach, which is an integrated approach to employment promotion, improving the rural labour market from four angles:



Practical vocational training, e.g., on farm management, marketing or business models. Young women and men are given the right tools for the rural working world.



Integration of young people into the labour markets, e.g., they learn what employment and support opportunities are available in rural areas and can build up a professional network.



Support for young entrepreneurs in rural areas, e.g., in developing ideas, business plans and financing. Startups and small businesses grow, new and better jobs are created.



Strengthening youth organisations so that young women and men have a voice, network and help each other.



The RYE project also prioritises the equal rights and promotion of women, especially young women, in rural areas by developing gender-sensitive and youth-specific concepts and approaches for rural economic development and employment promotion. The project provides, for example, childcare during training and sensitises families, especially husbands, to support women's entrepreneurship.

The project activities target over 30,000 youths (at least 40 percent women). In the four partner countries, it collaborates with local public, private,



TolaData

The four implementation countries of the GIZ RYE project.

and civil actors to implement over 100 interventions that are strategically interlinked. Together these interventions form the backbone of the 360°-AgriJobs-Approach, with each contributing to the project targets: improving the employment prospects of 21,500 youths, generating jobs⁴ for 11,750 youths, and increasing the income of 17,500 youths.

The RYE Results-Based Monitoring System

Central to the RYE Results-Based Monitoring (RBM) system is a focus on how to measure the targets accurately, how to collect the required data, when to collect it and how to build up a constant and robust data flow from the individual intervention in remote parts in Africa to the country and global levels.

The project conducts baseline studies – usually surveys – for each intervention and target group to assess their initial employment situation. It also carries out tracer studies 3-6 months after the intervention to measure any changes, report on the projects indicators and identify needs for adaptation.

⁴: An employed person is defined as all those of working age (15+ years) who are working formally and/or informally; wageor self-employed or working in a family business; producing goods and/or services; generating incomes and/or benefits monetary and/or in-kind through their work.

As part of the RYE participatory monitoring approach, implementation partners play key roles in the RBM process. Under this system, partners support the collection of data directly from affected communities, with the goal of developing and enhancing partner RBM capacities in order to obtain the most relevant data and information to monitor project activities. Importantly, this also establishes partner ownership towards results. Partners take on responsibility to collect the required data themselves, including participant data and indicator data. RYE staff support partners by offering guidance on indicators and methodology, advising on defining data collection tools, providing tablets with TolaDataForms and KoboToolbox, and training on data collection and analysis to comply with data security regulations.

To track the project progress and results, the project has defined a set of 40 indicators and 13 disagreggations on activity, output and outcome levels. For each intervention the project monitors not only the participation (activity) and the change of the employment situation of the youth (outcome), but one intermediary step (output), such as the relevance of training for work, or the set-up, expansion, diversification, or intensification of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

On the outcome level, rural labour markets pose a peculiar challenge to monitoring the employment situation. The nature of work in rural areas is overwhelmingly non-wage labour mainly on familyrun farms. There are limited opportunities for informal wage employment and even less for formal wage employment in rural areas. The availability of work is highly seasonal and depends heavily on the rainy season and the agricultural cycle. Thus, unlike their urban peers who endure high levels of unemployment, rural youth face a central challenge of chronic underemployment.

To address the reality of youth underemployment, the RYE project also aims to increase the duration and income of existing part-time or seasonal jobs, which is defined as 'additional employment'. The additional employment is measured as the increase in Full-Time-Equivalent jobs (FTE).⁵

Income growth is an important metric to measure progress towards this goal, as an increase in time worked (measured in FTE) should also lead to an increase in money earned. The project aims to increase the income of 17,500 people, which is more than the target number of people with new or additional jobs (11,750). This is because some interventions focus on improving productivity and innovation, for example, through mechanisation, which will only increase income and not work hours.

As an additional step, the project monitors not only the objective improvement of the participants' employment and income situation, but also the subjective change in their perception of their employment prospects. For this, the project has created the Employment Prospect Index with ten items, capturing how the participants view the various aspects of the rural labour market and their impact on job prospects.

RYE staff support partners by offering guidance on indicators and methodology, advising on data collection tools, providing tablets with TolaDataForms and KoboToolbox, and training on data collection and analysis to comply with data security regulations.

 $^{^{5}\!\!:}$ An FTE is defined as a job worked in 225 days per year, 8 hours per day.

THE CHALLENGE

From the project's outset, RYE coordinators sought a monitoring tool for data collection, aggregation and visualisation to streamline the multi-country tracking at the activity, output and outcome levels. The chosen digital RBM platform would need to provide M&E specialists and project staff with the capacity to collect, enter and report on data within a simplified and intuitive digital tool. Additionally, the solution should allow partner teams to continue to use their existing collection systems with industry-standard tools, like KoboToolbox.

The RYE project indicators draw in data from over 100 single activities with around 500 data collection points throughout the project lifespan. Within the majority of interventions, varying cohorts individually generate data and information over the duration of the project. As such, GIZ project teams required a system that could facilitate this while keeping the overview and making it transparent and easy to add data from different sources. The following represents a breakdown of requirements by reporting level:



Data collection teams

Data collection on the RYE project is carried out by GIZ staff and partners and is reported in different various formats (e.g., photos, scans, spreadsheets, and through integrated tools like KoboToolbox). The RBM platform should therefore provide the project with a range of digital input methods that adequately capture the full dimensionality of the data.

As project data is reported in these different formats, it was also important that primary data could be left intact, and attribution to indicators can be correctly linked to the source. That is to say: to not force data collection teams to flatten (or convert) the richness of various data into a single format; and to transparently communicate how the indicator data is arrived at (i.e., what are the contributing activities) and what their data sources are. Every implementing partner should be able to customise their data collection tools to their needs while still contributing to the 40 overall project indicators. In this way, the RBM platform should be easily adaptable to support partners who have existing and established monitoring processes and tools, allowing simple integration of their existing methods and data into the system. Furthermore, the RBM platform should be accessible in a range of languages so as to ensure local project staff and partners can access and understand the required resources. In this case, the system should be available in English, French and Portuguese languages.



Country package teams

While data collection should be carried out by teams of enumerators on the ground, including project staff and partners, data input into the RBM platform (including linking the data to the respective indicators) would be completed by a team of GIZ M&E experts in every country. As GIZ country teams routinely monitor milestones (e.g., quarterly and annually), the digital RBM system should provide a thorough and transparent overview of the data and its origin from the 100+ intervention activities on a frequent basis through access to time-based results.



GIZ RYE project staff

At the top level of reporting, the project staff at the global level should be able to access the entire scope of the RYE RBM data for review, analysis and reporting. For data security reasons, platform data permissions should ensure personal data from target communities is accessible only to those who require it. In order to guarantee the project implementation is on track, it is also essential for staff at the global level to be able to analyse and visualise aggregated and disaggregated data to generate actionable insights.

THE SOLUTION

TolaData is a **ready-touse solution that we can customise ourselves to our own needs.** There is a work-around for almost everything, so we do not need to pay developers to develop unsustainable, tailormade solutions that arrive too late into implementation.

Lukas Marx GIZ RYE Programme and M&E Advisor

Following a competitive public tender process, TolaData was selected after a thorough review by GIZ experts of necessary system requirements and a comparison with other tools on the market. TolaData was rolled out to global project staff and country teams at the commencement of the project implementation in 2020.

With TolaData, the collection and analysis of indicator data is efficient and streamlined. TolaData's platform, specifically designed for indicator-based monitoring, offers a range of features that simplify data management and monitoring. By using TolaData, RYE project staff can collect data, manage and organise the data effectively, and aggregate data from different country packages. The platform also provides dashboarding and reporting functionalities.

The system enables the easy combination of data from different sources, including Excel and CSV-tables, direct import from tools like KoboToolbox, manual input of results, and even TolaData's own in-built Forms. As TolaData is available in a range of languages, including English, German, French and Portuguese, RYE staff can be sure that local partners are provided with intelligible, high-quality digital tools designed for the purposes of M&E.



The simplified data collection processes and unified reporting in the TolaData platform is designed to encourage buy-in from local teams, by providing a clear and intuitive platform for participatory monitoring of activities. For partners that already have a tool in use, TolaData circumvents disruptions to existing processes and enables teams to integrate their systems seamlessly into the workflow with TolaData.

At the global staff level, TolaData automates the aggregation process, enabling users to obtain global-level and aggregated indicators effortlessly. One of the key advantages of TolaData is its ability to link indicators directly to the data sources, allowing project staff to maintain a comprehensive overview of their data and its provenance for effortless validation and quality assurance.

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Image: TolaData screenshot showing collected data results for Output 2.1a on the Malawi project.

This provides RYE in-country teams with the tools to ensure that the data that reaches the Global project staff is accurate, reliable and well organised. The platform also offers real-time data visualisation through customisable dashboards, which can be made public and are automatically updated when data is input. This ensures that users have access to up-to-date information anytime and anywhere, facilitating worldwide accessibility through a browser-based system.

Out	out 2							
	2.1a 2000 promoted small-holder farmers and MSMEs	(19)	Numeric	Semi-annually	On track	1,182 / 2,000 small-holder farms, FBOs and MSMEs 55% Last data update: 2023-02-27		ŵ
	2.1b 60% of the X promoted small- holder farms and MSMEs confirm that they are implementing employment- promoting practices.	KPI	Percentage			75% / 60%	*	ŵ
	2.2a 120 of promoted "founders": youth in StartUp support	KP	Numeric			92 / 200 founders 46% Last data undate: 2023-04-03		ŵ

Image: TolaData screenshot showing target progress for Output 2 indicators on the Malawi project.

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Image: TolaData screenshot showing the manual entry of data, including disaggregation data by gender and location.

Dashboards play a crucial role in visually communicating RYE project progress, targets, and achievements, ensuring project staff and stakeholders have access to up-to-date project information to facilitate effective project steering. TolaData dashboards serve as a comprehensive tool combining both quantitative and qualitative information to illustrate the RYE projects performance, and to communicate progress and results to specific target audiences, such as project managers, political partners, or donors. TolaData offers a flexible, no code solution for creating dashboards, allowing users to create multiple dashboard visualisations tailored to their requirements. Access to dashboards can be granted to stakeholders (including local key community representatives and donors) by simply sharing a link, and permissions can be set to 'view-only'.

Within dashboards, users can include indicator results presented in visually appealing graphs, which are automatically updated whenever new data is added. To provide context and engage stakeholders, users can incorporate a project description, images, success stories, and other elements that help put the data into perspective. <u>Click here to view the dashboard</u> for 2022 RYE project results.

Through its secure, cloud-based platform, TolaData is supporting RYE teams to effectively collect, manage and analyse indicator data, while providing real-time visualisation and global access to data through a userfriendly platform.



Image: TolaData screenshot of dashboard for Outcome 2 results at the global level (data as of June 2023).

Burkina Faso Deep-Dive – Automated Data Aggregation:

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Data is collected in the field by enumerators, e.g. using KoboToolbox, and uploaded as a dataset into TolaData. Data can also be collected in TolaDataForms, input manually, or imported from Excel, CSV or other third-party integrations.

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At the indicator level, results can be added manually or by pulling them from imported datasets. These queries, which can include complex calculations including conditions, can be created without the user having to write code.

3.»

For the same indicator, data can be pulled from different data sets, giving users great flexibility. For each result, the source of evidence can be provided, allowing traceability of results back to the raw data.

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>	549		Nov 15, 2022	Liste des exploitants agricoles en AC-VF	Ranch de Koba		Nov 24, 2022	盦				
>	274		Dec 20, 2021	Liste des maraîchers accompagnés-Yumaani	Helvetas Yumaani		Jun 15, 2022	盦				
>	30		Jul 15, 2021	Liste des MPME d'AFP- PME	AFP-PME		Jun 16, 2022	盦				
5	Total											



« **4** .

The indicator list including progress-bars is updated in realtime as soon as indicator data is added. This overview supports management and steering.



[«]5.

For each indicator, an automated analysis is available that shows the progress of the indicator over time, including a breakdown by periodic targets or disaggregation dimensions.



Aggregated indicators at global level are updated automatically as soon as contributing indicators from the country packages are updated. An automated analysis shows their development over time, including for disaggregation dimensions such as gender.



THE RESULTS

Nearly **three-quarters** (74 percent) of the monitored target group **confirm** that their **employment** prospects have **improved** in the past year.

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At the mid-term phase, the RYE project is making good progress towards its goal of improving the employment situation of young people in rural areas, so far reaching more than 15,000 young people (out of a target of 30,000) across the four implementation countries. The targeted youths currently benefit from a range of services that have enhanced their skills and employability, such as vocational training, business coaching, contract farming, start-up incubation, internships and career guidance. The project has also strengthened 50 youth organisations and networks to enable peer learning and exchange.

New and additional employment opportunities

More than 4,100 people (out of a target of 11,750) have already found new or additional employment in rural areas, with the project targets for young people (80 percent) and women (40 percent) currently being exceeded. Close to half (44 percent) of the jobs created are dependent employment in small enterprises with a large part of this work being seasonal. This is reflected by the average per person increase of around one-third of a full-time job (0.34 FTE) in additional employment.

A large share of this new and additional employment has been created by the supported MSMEs, with 78 percent of the monitored supported enterprises applying employment-promoting practices and creating additional employment averaging four people for every enterprise in the first year following receiving support. In Mozambique, one initiative has seen the training of over 500 young people in the production and sale of eggs, providing them with entrepreneurial skills and financial support to start their own businesses, leading to the hiring of permanent employees. In one specific case, Fabelsa - a young entrepreneur supported by the project - received training on raising hens and producing and selling eggs for profit. She now sells about 5,000 eggs per month for around 500 euros and has hired an additional worker to help with the demand. Fabelsa plans to expand her business.

Increased income and skills development

In addition, increases in income levels have been very successful. The project goal of a 20 percent average increase in income is currently being exceeded by a large margin; in fact, the majority of incomes have more than doubled since project implementation began. Young graduates of short-term vocational training programmes in particular have recorded very positive results in achieving higher wages for youths. They also subjectively perceive the added value of their training positively, with 95 percent confirming the relevance of the newly learned skills for their work.

In Malawi, Vincera, a 25-year-old entrepreneur cofounded a honey business with two friends in their town of Mzuzu. Vincera – who received training on business management from the RYE project – trains local farmers on honey production processes, markets the harvested honey, and sells low-cost beehives made from recycled tires that increase honey yield. Every month, Vincera and her team sell more than 500 jars of honey locally to shops, restaurants, offices and lodge owners, as well as through two of their own stores. They currently have two permanent employees, and have since made enough income to pay back their business loan.

Improved prospects for work

Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) of the monitored target group confirm that their employment prospects have improved in the past year. Some segments have even exceeded this rate, such as in eastern Burkina Faso and among family members of former RENAMO paramilitaries in Mozambique, where youths confirm to a very high degree that their employment prospects have improved (>95 percent).

In Burkina Faso, for instance, environmental consultant Adjaratou began a business during the pandemic lockdown, making mango juice and cakes in her kitchen and selling them to neighbours. With the help of the RYE 360°AgriJobs-Approach, Adjaratou and around 100 other female entrepreneurs received training in business, entrepreneurship, accounting, and technical skills. They also received leadership and personality coaching, providing essential skills for women entrepreneurs in Burkina Faso where gender roles limit women's opportunities. With the support of the RYE project, Adjaratou was able to expand her production and hire more employees, successfully growing her business in the process.



Image: Fabelsa now sells around 5,000 eggs per month, having joined hundreds of young people in training as part of the 360-Agrijobs-Approach in Mozambique.

Context monitoring and adaptation:

Unfortunately, factors outside the projects scope of influence, such as the economic consequences of multiple global crises, have served to cloud entrepreneurial prospects for some participants.

Over the course of the project, numerous major external factors have affected implementation in various areas. These have borne heavy economic drawbacks due to high inflation and rising costs for energy and imported agricultural inputs, resulting in supply shortages. What's more, natural disasters such as Cyclone Freddy and the devaluation of currency in Malawi (by up to 25 percent) have heavily burdened economic development and employment creation. Despite these major challenges, the project has been able to stay on track to reach its targets with the help of effective context analysis and steering. Thanks to the indepth RBM system, the project team and their partners have been able to identify risks and challenges in their early stages, as the frequent and real-time information flowing in from the field has allowed RYE staff to promptly counter-balance unforeseen external shocks and internal difficulties.



Image: Entrepreneur Vincera, who took part in the 360-Agrijobs-Approach in Malawi, trains local farmers on honey production processes.

Guiding future development programming

The evidence generated by the RYE projects has so far provided valuable insights into possible strategies to ensure the effectiveness of similar interventions. Evidence gathering through the RYE projects has helped in the identification of successful approaches and best practices, supporting GIZ in its mandate to advise the German government in replicating and scaling up interventions that have proven to be impactful.

Set to continue until the end of 2024, the RYE project's interim results demonstrate tangible contributions in improving the livelihoods and employment opportunities for rural youth. By combining targeted interventions, capacity building, and strategic partnerships, the project is paving the way for sustainable and inclusive rural development to advance the potential of young Sub-Saharan Africans to contribute to their communities and the broader economy.

The frequent and **realtime information flowing in from the field** has allowed RYE staff to promptly counter-balance unforeseen external shocks and internal difficulties. TolaData Case Study

GIZ: Multi-Country Monitoring for Rural Youth Job Creation in Sub-Saharan Africa

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