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The economic and social damage caused by unemployment, poverty and armed violence in Pakistan presents an enormous challenge for the nation, especially the youth. From an economic and social perspective increasing skills and building the capacity of the youth is imperative for a prosperous future of Pakistan. In response to these challenges faced by young men and women across the nation's largest city Karachi, the UNDP's Youth Employment Project is providing training and employment opportunities for youth of Karachi in the garment and textile industry- to help more than 13,000 young men and women towards a better future.

## Youth Employment Project

More than 31 percent of the population of Pakistan consists of youth, falling in the age bracket of 15-29. This "youth bulge" provides a unique opportunity and resources for Pakistan's economic and social development. A large portion (32%) of youth is uneducated with no vocational skills, making this segment of society vulnerable to being drawn to violence and extremism. By investing in skills development and employment opportunities for youth, it will not only help to reduce conflict but also help establish a foundation for long-term economic growth and prosperity in Pakistan.

### QUICK FACTS

**Duration:** 2015 - 2017

**Implementing partners:** UNDP

**Funding partners:** USAID

**Location:** Lyari, Korangi, Sultanabad, Landhi, Malir, Shah Faisal, Orangi, Baldia, SITE town, North Karachi, New Karachi, F.B. Area, Liaquatabad, Mehmoodabad, Qayyumabad, Lines Area, Pak Colony and Nazimabad

**Annual budget (2015):** US\$ 3,000,000

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The **Youth Employment Project (YEP)** is being carried out in partnership with USAID and builds on the successful public-private partnership model demonstrated through its predecessor project called the Promoting Employment and Productivity in Garment Industry" (PEPGI. 2013-2014) and Gender Promotion through Skills Development in Garment Factories (2006-12). The project employs three interconnected outputs to achieve its objective. These relate to skills training for youth, capacity development of local training providers and policy research/advocacy on issues to youth employment.

### Objectives

- Skills developed and employment generated for youth in the garment industry.
- Increased capacity of local service providers built to train workers and middle management in the textile / garment value chain.
- Evidence based research on youth engagement undertaken to inform relevant policies and programmes of the government

### Expected results

- The expected result of the YEP project is to increase the income and employment opportunities for youth and enhanced productivity in the garment/home textiles industry.

### Main achievements

- More than 6,600 young men and women have been enrolled into training programs being conducted in partner garment factories and training institutes
- 3,700 graduates have secured employment/self-employment
- Formal partnerships signed with eight renowned garment/ home textile companies of Karachi – Gul Ahmed Textile Mills, Kings Apparel, Eastern Garments, Soorty Enterprises, Al-Karam Textile Mills, Artistic Milliners, Rajby Industries and Akhtar Textile Industries.

- In partnership with 10 technical and vocational training institutes including six institutes of Sindh Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (STEVTA) institutes, Institute of Knitwear Technology (PHMA), Memon Industrial & Technical Institute (MITI), Habib University Foundation Institute (I-ACT) and Pakistan Ready Made Garments Technical Training Institute (PRGTTI)
- Applied Economics Research Centre, University of Karachi and Institute of Business and Management are conducting research studies in select thematic areas
- Signed partnership with Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), to offer self-employment and soft skills training programs.

### What's next?

- New partnerships with more institutes and garment/textile companies across Karachi.
- Advocacy, communication and research studies to support project objectives.
- Over 7,000 young men and women to be trained and employed in 2016.
- Database of project beneficiaries to be developed.

### Where we work



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