



YOUTH BUSINESSES DRIVE LOCAL JOBS

Soutpan Solar Power's Enterprise Development programme has a strong focus on developing local youth businesses. A holistic approach has been applied to these development initiatives, which entails the deployment of funding, business mentorship, building of institutional capacity and possible market access, where necessary. This is in addition to skills training; funding of materials and equipment and compliance and registrations etc.

Tlangelani Malatji, is now the owner of a fledgling manufacturing company, which produces roof tiles and paving and cement building bricks. Situated in Bochum, Blouberg Municipality, Malatji is a true entrepreneur who chose a new venture over full-time employment.

"High levels of unemployed youth require a formalised approach that includes both immediate and ongoing support, if we are going to be able to see a sustainable difference."

Roof Square Tiles, is one of the many beneficiaries of Soutpan Solar Powers' youth skills development programme that commenced in October 2020, through service provider, Afrivillage (Pty) Ltd. The programme provides entrepreneurs with business management skills through mentorship at different levels depending on their individual stages of entrepreneurial growth – to address critical needs that hinder growth.

Malatji was amongst a cohort of entrepreneurs to receive grant funding and business support. This was the first step in developing her SMME, which has directly resulted in increased production, product line expansion and local employment.

Our economic development implementation partner, Afri Village works to enable strategic decision-makers to reduce social and economic disadvantages in low-income communities.



BOOST FOR AGRI YOUTH

Youth-owned Mopi Fresh Produce, in the Bochum area, is a fledgling farming enterprise, which produces spinach, beetroot, green pepper and tomato crops. Soutpan Solar Power's intervention and support of this enterprise includes business support, provision of equipment, seedlings, fertilizers and other assistance, and has allowed the business owner to put plans in place to expand her supply chain further afield, as well as directly benefiting her local community through youth employment.

Mapula Rapholo, is dedicated and passionate about her business and steadfast in her commitment to growth, saying, "Farming is not simple - it comes with different challenges that are out of our hands, so I need to be physically and emotionally prepared to deal with whatever nature throws my way."

CARPENTRY GRADUATE ENTREPRENEURS

A youth development programme has been helping prepare carpentry graduates for the workplace, since 2019. Inspired by the need to provide work opportunities for graduates, coupled with the need for better school furniture, this led to a value chain that opened doors for young community members in the Blouberg Municipality.

Thabo Modjadji, from Ga-Modjadji in Limpopo, a carpenter and programme graduate shares how he has been helped by this development initiative, which incorporates the transfer of skills and business training, amongst other support. "This programme taught me the fundamentals of the daily running of a company, how to engage with clients and how to deal with dissatisfied clients. I am also pleased that I could help my family via the monthly stipend."



SUPPORT FOR MATRIC LEARNERS IN BOCHUM COMMUNITY

The Matric Centre at Marumofase Community High School, which Soutpan Solar Power has been funding and supporting since 2016, lies at the heart of our secondary school education programme.

This academic programme fills gaps and supplements what educators are doing on a daily basis, focusing on Maths, Science and English.

The support provided includes a stipend for retired teachers', laptop computers, study guides and other administrative equipment, as well as a winter school support programme and a Career Expo. Learner transportation is also funded, from other schools to the centre, to ensure equal access.



CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

With a focus on setting up strong foundations for local ECD centres to provide better, safer and more effective childhood development, Soutpan Solar Power is helping these centres meet the required Department of Social Development's health and safety standards, which includes adequate Practitioner qualifications.

The programme was implemented in 2021 and currently looks after a handful of centres within the Blouberg Local Municipality.

➤ Read about our water infrastructure programme at ECD centres, on the back page.

TERTIARY STUDYING OPPORTUNITIES IN BOCHUM



Matriculants and students from Bochum, are the direct beneficiaries of the Globeleq Scholarship Fund (GSF), funded by Soutpan Solar Power. The focus is on providing tertiary bursary funding for degrees, certificates or TVET college courses.

Bursary beneficiaries receive tuition fees, travel and accommodation costs, book allowances and even a stipend.

"We hope that young people take up the opportunity to study further, which will ultimately impact the greater community, as tertiary education can effectively increase the local skills pool and talent."



SANITARY WEAR FOR SCHOOL GIRLS

Working with a trained nurse, Soutpan Solar Power funds the distribution of personal hygiene products to schools as well as providing them with reproductive health education. The programme kicked off in 2015 across 37 schools, reaching 10 000 learners.

"Fair access to education as it is a key enabler to transform lives."