



SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Targets

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications

technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.

Opportunities for business transformation with SDG 4

Each and every SDG provides business opportunities. Businesses have a chance to contribute to society and their own bottom line by pursuing the SDGs. The following are the strategies businesses can use to play their role for SDG 4:

- **Invest in education** in the form of funding for schools or universities, offering scholarships or bursaries for students, or investing in research and development in education.
- **Promote STEM education** by funding STEM programs or offering internships to students to prepare them for careers in high-growth fields and contribute to economic development.
- **Support or develop an entrepreneurship programme** to assist individuals and communities in developing self-sufficient entrepreneurial skills and mindsets. These skills and mindsets can help break the poverty cycle and provide access to education and lifelong learning opportunities.
- **Develop cost-effective education services and products** to increase access to education for children or adults who may not be able to afford traditional education options.
- **Provide employees with continuous learning and development opportunities** to help individuals develop their lifelong skills and promote innovation and creativity within their organisations.



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Case Study

Background



With an unemployment rate of 34.4% as of September 2021, it is clear that the job market in South Africa needs help to keep up with the needs of its citizens. Youth in South Africa are greatly impacted by high unemployment rates. The youths are struggling to find job opportunities. Hence, Business E launched an entrepreneurship program in 1998 to support student-led projects.

Challenges



The need for greater access to capital and support is one of the major issues that student entrepreneurs in South Africa confront. Many students with creative ideas require more funding, commercial know-how, and mentoring to see their projects through to completion.

Solutions



Business E helps the students overcome the challenges by providing access to funding, mentorship, and training through the entrepreneurship program. Besides, the program connects the students with mentors and successful entrepreneurs to gain advice and necessary support. The program also provides initial capital and funding for the students to experiment with their ideas.

Impact



Around 2,000 student-led projects have received support from the program, which has also supported over 3,000 employment and brought in over R20 million. Many social and environmental issues, such as poverty, unemployment, environmental sustainability, and access to healthcare and education, have been addressed through the projects.