



YOUTH LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN

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COUNTRY AND SECTOR CONTEXT

Middle income country, highly natural resource dependent

Strong and pro-poor growth since 2000, but regional disparities persist

Low unemployment rate (5.2% in 2013)

Population continuing to grow (youth bulge)

Aims to be one of top 30 most developed countries by 2050

Main challenges

1. Underemployment, low productivity self-employment, informality
2. Low skills (PISA, BEEPS)

OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Youth Corps Project (\$22m) – approved in March 2014, pre-effectiveness, implemented by MOES

Objective: Promote young people's community engagement and *life skills* through a community-based service learning program, especially for vulnerable youth

Measured outcomes of intervention: Share of youth project beneficiaries that demonstrate a significantly greater improvement in defined life skills, relative to controls (share of vulnerable youth) → includes IE

Expected results: 80% (60%)

Skills and Jobs Project (\$137m) – approved in March 2015, pre-effectiveness, implemented by MHSD

Objective: improve employment outcomes and *skills (including life skills)* of target beneficiaries and to improve the relevance of technical and vocational education and training and higher education programs

Measured outcomes of intervention: employment status 6 months after training, earnings, firm satisfaction

Expected results: 15 % increase, 25% increase, 75%

YOUTH CORPS PROJECT DESCRIPTION

What life skills are developed?

Life skills: community engagement, communication, collaboration, identifying and avoiding risky behaviors, healthy gender relations

Project management skills: exposure to positive examples of social entrepreneurship, opportunity recognition for community-based projects, risk assessment, basic financial literacy, marketing, business management

What is the delivery mode?

1. **One-week course** prior to participating in community-based service learning program (includes project management training as well)
2. **Monthly sessions** with an adult mentor during 6-month program
3. **One-week course** at the end of the program

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Let's talk in about two years!