Seriti Institute
A DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION AGENCY

Social Employment Fund
Work for the common good

SEPTEMBER 2026

SOCIAL EMPLOYMENT FUND

Impact Newsletter



FROM WORK OPPORTUNITIES, TO LASTING LIVELIHOODS

155
Moved into better paying or longer-term work





28
Took up further studies

263
Started or sustained an enterprise



CONNECT WITH US

MORE THAN TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT

The Social Employment Fund creates opportunities for people to earn an income while contributing to useful work in their communities. SEF Round 4 was designed to go beyond temporary employment by connecting practical work with skills development, community benefit and pathways into longer-term opportunities.

Across Limpopo, North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape, Seriti Institute and four local partners worked across 16 sites. Participants developed practical skills, produced food, took part in environmental activities, strengthened their digital skills and explored pathways into employment, further study and entrepreneurship.

The Three Thematic Areas

1



Food Security and Nutrition

Training and practical work helped participants produce food, support local food access and explore agricultural enterprise opportunities.

2



Greening and the Environment

Participants turned environmental awareness into action through waste collection, recycling, composting, tree planting and awareness activities.

3



Digital Inclusion and Soft Skills

Participants developed computer and digital literacy, alongside CV preparation, communication, job preparation, financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness.

Training designed around real needs

A Skills Gap Analysis at the beginning of the programme helped identify participants' existing knowledge, learning needs and realistic pathways. Training could then respond to what people actually needed and connect learning to practical activities.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION





Food security in SEF Round 4 was about more than producing vegetables. It was also about helping communities access food, creating opportunities to earn an income and supporting participants to develop agricultural businesses.

Participants received training in agricultural production, agribusiness management, financial literacy, food processing and entrepreneurship. These skills were connected to practical work in gardens, nurseries and agricultural projects.

Community gardens matter

Community gardens create spaces where people can work together to produce food, share knowledge and respond to local needs. They can improve access to fresh vegetables, support households and community organisations, create local selling opportunities and provide a starting point for small businesses.

The results show both sides of this work: food was sold into local markets, while produce and seedlings were also donated or distributed to support communities.

From training to enterprise

The 42 agricultural businesses established through the programme show how food-security activities can also become livelihood opportunities. Participants were introduced to skills needed to manage agricultural activities as businesses and understand markets.

GREENING & DIGITAL INCLUSION

Turning awareness into action

Greening & The Environment

The environmental component helped participants understand environmental challenges and take practical action. Activities included collecting waste, recycling PET plastic, producing compost from organic waste, planting trees and conducting environmental awareness campaigns.

The programme showed that waste can become a resource. This links cleaner communities with food production and local economic activity.

Digital inclusion & work readiness

Digital inclusion helped participants gain computer and digital skills needed for learning, work and economic opportunities. Through the partnership with Afrikan Tikkun, participants were introduced to digital learning resources and opportunities to access learning materials and explore jobs.

·Computer and digital literacy
·Microsoft applications and email
·CV preparation and job searching
·Online learning materials
·Cybersecurity and digital awareness
·Digital tools, including AI-related tools

The soft-skills component included communication, work readiness, job preparation, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.



STORIES OF IMPACT

From SEF to further studies



Anelisiwe Njoko is currently studying at North-West University.

Before joining the Social Employment Fund (SEF) programme, Anelisiwe was unemployed and looking for opportunities to continue her studies. Through SEF, she was placed in the food security programme, where she gained more than financial support from the stipend.

Her experience helped her develop valuable work experience, teamwork and leadership skills, as well as knowledge of agroecology.

The support she received gave her the confidence to continue her education.

Anelisiwe hopes to complete her studies, find employment, start her own business and give back to her community.

"SEF has made a big difference from having no opportunity to having skills, confidence and a pathway to education."

From SEF to employment

Romane Class Lelaka from Modimolle joined SEF 4 in October last year. Through the programme, he developed teamwork, work ethics and practical skills, while learning about recycling, food conservation and crop production.

He has since secured employment, which continues to motivate him to grow and pursue his goals.



"SEF taught me that there is still more to accomplish."

Romane hopes to start his own business in the future and contribute to reducing unemployment in South Africa.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Tintswalo's Journey

When Tintswalo Sarah Maluleke joined SEF in October 2025 in Mookgophong, she had been unemployed and did not have a reliable source of income. She came looking for an opportunity to learn, but the programme gave her more than gardening skills. Through practical work and training in work-related skills, financial literacy, food processing and agribusiness management, she began to see new possibilities for herself.

After her four hours of SEF work, she began building a small ice-cream business aimed at school learners. She started with a small amount of stock, watched what her market wanted and expanded from there.





TODAY, SHE EARNS AROUND R200-R250 A DAY

PARTNER WITH US

SEF's work is made possible through partnerships between communities, implementing organisations, government, funders, businesses and other stakeholders.

We invite partners, funders, businesses, community organisations and local stakeholders to work with us to strengthen food security, support greener communities, expand digital inclusion and create pathways to sustainable livelihoods.

Seriti Work.Learn.Grow ENABLING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

IDC Industrial Development Corporation

Social Employment Fund Work for the common good

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

R1.39 MILLION+
IN MEASURABLE VALUE

PARTICIPANTS TRAINED / **2223**

Seedlings Produced
1,014,654

Seedlings Distributed
783,127

Seedlings Sold
130,500

Compost Produced
12,229 Kg

Trees Planted
1,234

Waste Recycled
18,680 tonnes

Waste Collected
57,180 Kg

Vegetables Produced
93,810

Vegetables Donated
21,442

Vegetables Sold
50,714