

## Media Response- Money Web

1. Please confirm when the EPWP was founded? Is it 2003?

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has its origins during the Growth Development Summit in 2003 to address the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment through socially useful activities using public sector budgets. The Programme uses labour intensive methods in the implementation of its projects which are focused on creating community assets and providing work opportunities to the poor, unskilled and unemployed South Africans. [The Programme officially started on 1 April 2004](#). It is implemented within the 5 year phases and its first phase was implemented from 2004-2009, second phase from 2009-2014 and 2014-2019 and phase 4 has been implemented since 2019 and its five years will come to an end in 2024.

2. What kind of jobs are you providing to the public? What would a typical day look like for a beneficiary working in the early childhood development programme for example?

The EPWP provide short term to medium term work opportunities and it is implemented through its four sectors which are Infrastructure, Non State Sector Environment & Culture, as well as the Social Sector. The Social sector is led by the Department of Social Development and one of its programmes is Early Childhood Development (ECD). The EPWP participants working in the ECDs provide development and educational services to children between age 5-6. In addition to that, services include provision of child health, nutrition, education, psychosocial and other needs within the context of the family and the community. The [participants](#) are in turn provided with skills to increase their capacity to generate an income hence improving care and learning environment in the ECDs.

There are a number of sub-Programmes such as Working on Fire, School Support Programme, National Youth Services etc.

3. What is the duration of the employment?

The duration of employment [depends](#) on the duration of the project and according to the EPWP basic conditions of employment as guided by the Ministerial Determination 4: Expanded Public Works Programme, Notice No. 4 issued by the Minister of Labour in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997. [The Labour Relations Amendment Act of 2014 also provides further guidance on employment conditions and duration \(see section 198\)](#)

EPWP work opportunities are short to medium term.

4. Is there an application or a selection process that takes place? If so, how does it work?

The EPWP has Recruitment Guidelines which provide guidance in the selection of participants to be employed in EPWP projects. It seeks to eliminate any unfair and biased process in the recruitment of participants. The EPWP Recruitment Guidelines provide a fair, transparent and unambiguous process to be adhered to by all implementing bodies. [There are more than 350 public bodies implementing the EPWP, utilising own budgets to create work opportunities. These public bodies undertake the recruitment and selection of participants.](#)

The project implementors work with different structures within communities to ensure that local labour is recruited.

5. How many applications did you get between April 2020 - December 2020?

The EPWP has between April 2020 and December 2020 created over 500 000 work opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans across all four sectors of the Programme. [DPWI through the EPWP Branch provides a coordination role in terms of the Programme. Work opportunities are created by various public bodies across all spheres of government. The work opportunities are reported by public bodies in the EPWP Reporting System, which is maintained by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.](#)

6. What are some of the challenges that the programme encountered amid the pandemic? (e.g did you maybe have to retrench some of your workers?)

The Pandemic had negative impact on most of government programmes including EPWP. Similar to other sectors within the economy, work opportunities were affected by the levels of lockdown. Once the lockdown levels were amended, projects started and the various implementers needed to plan and implement measures to ensure the safety of workers. This meant that the Programme, similar to other sectors, had to adjust to the new normal way of working.

[Its important to note that some of the EPWP sectors such as the Social and Non state sectors undertook massification projects, as a response to COVID-19 and provided much needed interventions. For example Young people were recruited to assist with sanitisation at public health facilities, ensure Covid protocols are adhered to and create awareness about the virus. The Department of Public Works worked with the Department of Health to create work opportunities especially for the youth.](#)

7. What are the programme's plans for 2021 and beyond?

The EPWP will continue to provide a variety of projects across all its sectors within the set targets to create work opportunities. [The provision of work opportunities provides a safety net for all the vulnerable groups and households. Public employment programmes are vital at the moment and will continue to provide income to poor and unemployed households. Hence DPWI, together with various public bodies will continue to undertake various programmes that will also provide useful services and goods to various communities.](#)

