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THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES

**ASPIRES**

# Building the Skills of Youth to Engage in Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Education

Over the next decade, roughly one billion youth will enter the workforce. Young people, especially young women, who know how to find academic or vocational programs to expand their knowledge and skills, understand how to look for a job, are able to adapt to workplace dynamics, and are entrepreneurial will have the best chances of attaining sustainable livelihoods that enable them to avoid risky behaviors associated with HIV.

## Our Experience

ASPIRES develops and implements training and technical assistance programs to increase the capabilities of USAID implementing partners to carry out a range of economic strengthening (ES) activities that enable vulnerable youth to enhance their economic self-sufficiency and make positive life decisions. In addition to an extensive, youth-appropriate financial capabilities training program (see the one-pager “Strengthening Financial Capabilities among Youth”), since 2015 ASPIRES and its partner, Save the Children, have been implementing an ES package in South Africa that also includes:

- practical employability skills—such as how to conduct a job search, prepare a resume, interview, and maintain good workplace relations;
- entrepreneurship training—including how to identify and assess market opportunities, and make a business plan; and
- support for access to tertiary and vocational education—covering how to identify courses in the first or second year of high school or secondary school to ensure that students are on track to meet prerequisites for applying for desired specializations in universities, technical colleges, and vocational training programs (or have obtained the qualifications needed to apply for entry-level jobs offered by government or private employers).

## ASPIRES Offers

- Support for the adaptation of our youth-oriented ES curricula to specific national, regional and local contexts, as well as to serving adult caregivers of vulnerable children and youth.
- Training of Master Trainers courses to enable implementing partners to train, mentor and supervise community facilitators who deliver the trainings to the youth.
- Support to develop an approach to monitor and evaluate the trainings to inform management decisions and assess impact.
- Guidance on how to integrate ES programming with HIV prevention education (see the one-pager “Skills-based, Participatory Training for HIV Risk Reduction among Youth”).

## Contact Us

To learn more about how ASPIRES’s expertise in employability, entrepreneurship, access to post-secondary education, other ES approaches, and HIV prevention education can benefit your programs, contact Mike Ferguson, ASPIRES Project Director ([mferguson@fhi360.org](mailto:mferguson@fhi360.org)), or our AOR, Colette Peck ([cpeck@usaid.gov](mailto:cpeck@usaid.gov)). You also can check out ASPIRES’s learning resources at: <http://bit.ly/1rwRue3>.

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