

REPORT LAUNCH

Unlocking Potential: Investigating the Feasibility of Unconditional Cash Transfers to Boost Labour Market Participation Among KZN's Unemployed Youth

Programme

Date: Thursday, 11 September 2025

Time: 10:30 – 12:30 (followed by lunch)

Venue: Ascot & Newbury Room, **Golden Horse Conference Centre**, 45 New England Road, Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg

ABOUT THE REPORT: South Africa's youth face some of the highest unemployment rates globally, with barriers such as high job-seeking costs and lack of capital for self-employment. To test new approaches, the PMBEJD, in partnership with Misereor, piloted a two-year Unconditional Cash Transfer project. One hundred unemployed TVET graduates around Pietermaritzburg received R2000 per month for 24 months (value deliberately set above the upper-bound poverty line). The main research question which guided the project was, "Does an unconditional cash transfer of R2000 per month, for 24 months, provided to unemployed youth, who completed post-school education or training, lead to them creating economic livelihoods or increase their participation in the formal or informal labour market?"

By end of project:

- 74% became economically active through employment, self-employment, or both.
- Even six months after transfers ended, most remained engaged, though sustainability challenges were noted.

The report highlights findings on how unconditional cash transfers improved labour market entry, household security, and dignity—and sets out recommendations for future policy considerations.

Programme Schedule

10.00 – 10.30	Registration
10.30 – 10.40	Welcome & Introductions
10.40 – 10.55	Screening Video: Voices from Project Participants
10.55 – 11.15	Presentation of Main Findings & Recommendations
11.15 – 12.20	Discussion (in-room and online)
12.20 – 12.30	Way Forward & Concluding Remarks
Lunch	

The launch is in hybrid format. ☞ Join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91974173874?pwd=YTRxvVAH9m0TmktWfxvDNbkI3ajKxF.1>

We thank you for your participation in this event. Hard copies of the report will be available at the launch. To access the research report electronically (as from Wednesday, 10 September 2025) go to www.pmbejd.org.za