EPWP BIGGER PICTURE – AN OVERVIEW

The EPWP is a nationwide programme to draw in significant numbers of the unemployed into productive work where workers gain skills while they work and increase their capacity to earn an income.

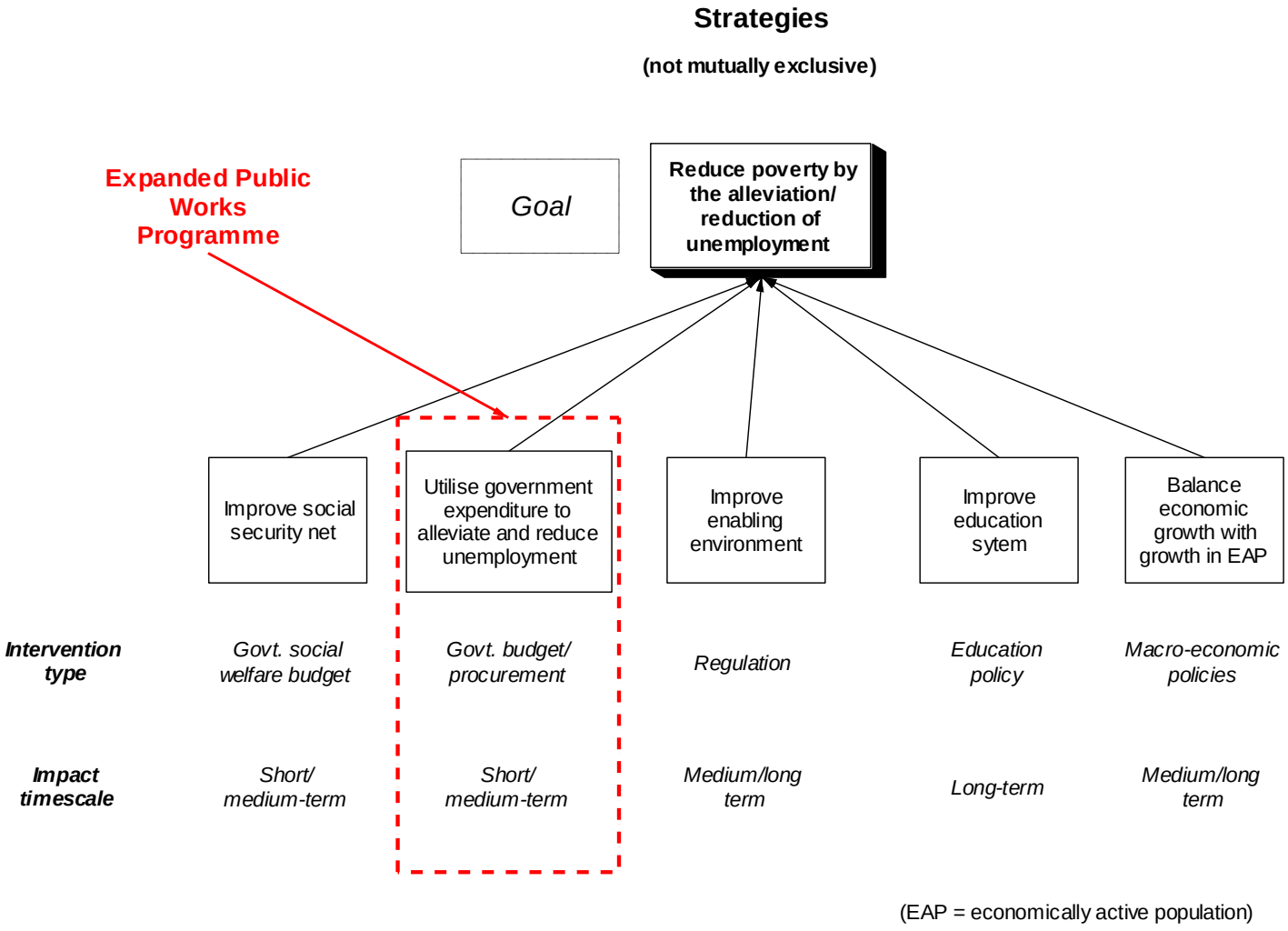
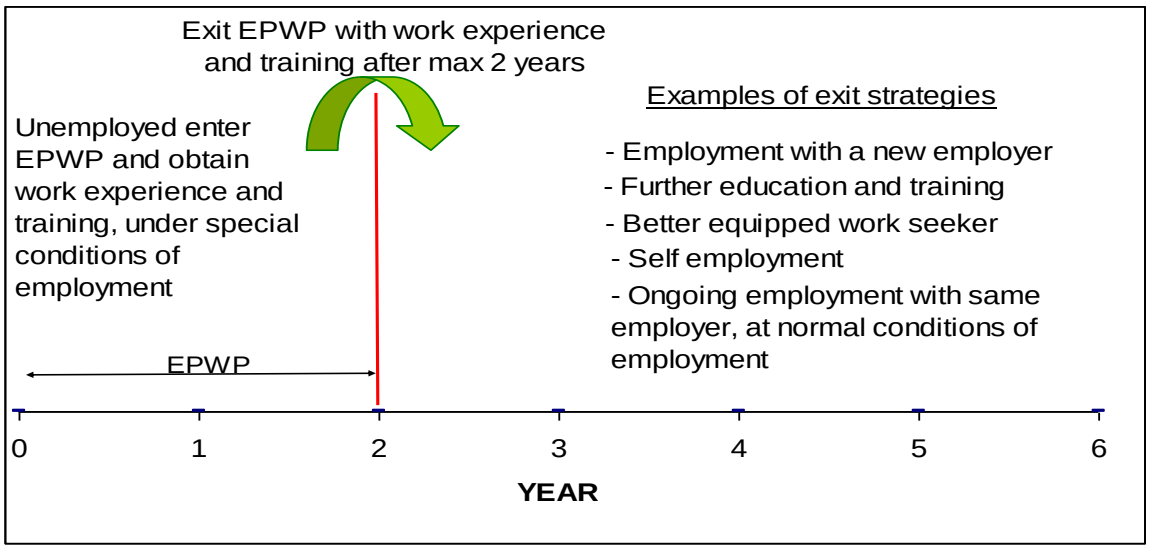


Figure 1 – Government national strategy for reducing unemployment and alleviating poverty

The overall objective of the EPWP is to utilise public sector budgets (predominantly MIG and PIG but not exclusive to) to reduce unemployment and alleviate poverty. This would be achieved by:

- Creating productive employment opportunities in the 4 sectors (infrastructure, social, environment and economic)
- Enhancing the ability of workers to earn an income, either through the labour market or through entrepreneurial activity

Table 1 – Worker employment, training and exit strategies



The EPWP commenced with the LI upgrading and maintenance of rural roads and municipal infrastructure, where the types of infrastructure most amenable to the use of LIC methods were targeted particularly projects where large numbers of work opportunities could be created.

Table 2 – Some EPWP Phase funding cycle comparisons

Comparisons	Phase I		Phase II	
	Plan	Implementation	Plan	Implementation
	2004/5 to 2008/9 (1st 5 years)		2009/10 to 2013/14 (2nd 5 years)	
Goal	1 million employment opportunities 7 no. multiple objectives	1,6 million employment opportunities	4,5 million employment opportunities or 2 million full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs (contributing to the Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy target)	Over 4 million employment opportunities and over 1,15 million full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs
Target group	40% women, 30% youth and 2% disabled		55% women, 40% youth and 2% disabled	
Wage incentive	None		To commence in 2009/10 financial year	
Non-state sector	No involvement	The Economic Sector was replaced	Mobilisation of non-state capacity	
Large projects	Commenced in 2007/2008		To be continued on an even greater scale	
Programmes for youth and skills development, etc	EPWP Guidelines 2004 Ed 1 and 2005 Ed 2 SMME, training and skills and economic development		To be continued on an even greater scale	Training as a core objective of EPWP and SMME development was removed
Vukuphile Contractor development programme	2 year programme		3 year programme; more learnerships; aligned to CIDB-driven NCDP	

Comparisons	Phase III		Phase IV
	Plan	Implementation	Plan
	2014/15 to 2018/19 (3rd 5 years)		2019/20 to 2023/24 (4th 5 years)
Goal	6 million employment opportunities or about 2,55 million FTEs [Guided by National Development Plan and New Growth Plan) Objective of EPWP Phase III	Over 4.5 million employment opportunities – 75% of the target	At least 5 million employment opportunities or about 2,38 million FTEs
Target group	55% women, 55% youth and 2% disabled	66% women, 46% youth and 1% disabled	60% women, 55% youth and 2% disabled
Wage incentive	Continued		Continued
Non-state sector	Continued		Continued
Large projects	Continued		Continued
EPWP Guidelines and other Programmes and	EPWP Guidelines 2015 Edition 3 – expanded with inclusion of: EPWP Universal Principles; Cross-cutting Issues; Programmes, Indicators and Minimum Labour Intensity Targets; Design and Implementation Compliance Checklists & Templates		EPWP Guidelines 2015 Ed 3 – As before Infrastructure Sector programmes: NYS, Vukuphile, Large projects and Provincial Roads Programme
Vukuphile Contractor development programme	Continued		Continued

NOTE: For more information of the EPWP refer to the document titled "EPWP IV Business Plan for 2019/20 – 20203/24" especially as regards the following:

- ✓ Section 2.2 - The evolution of the EPWP form Phase I to Phase III
- ✓ Sections 4.1., 4.2 and 4.2.5 – EPWP IV Programme Theory of Change, the Targets for EPWP Phase IV and Demographic Targeting
- ✓ Section 13.1 – Infrastructure Sector