



**Development Alternatives
commits to
deepening engagement with
youth to drive inclusive
entrepreneurship**

Development Alternatives joins UN Partnerships for SDGs platform

Development Alternatives (DA) has committed to the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth (facilitated by the United Nations) to address youth aspirations through inclusive entrepreneurship in underserved areas of India. The initiative aims to bridge the gaps between voices of the youth and global policies through DA's work on global platforms such as Work 4 Progress ("la Caixa" Foundation), the Systems Play initiative (University of Cape Town) and Global Sparks (The Bytes Project). The commitment will be impacting over 60,000 women and youth by 2025 and is guided by the following objectives:

Reducing socio-economic, intergenerational and gender barriers faced by aspiring entrepreneurs: by understanding barriers and co-designing relevant solutions with youth to respond to their aspirations and need for employment. DA in partnership with The Bytes Project is developing the Positive Sparks tool to work on understanding youth aspirations across countries, and building solidarity among them to increase their representation in policymaking for youth employment.

Nurturing constructive communities for quality jobs and social well-being: DA is facilitating community-led platforms to encourage solidarity among youth and women. Such platforms will provide support services to equip its members with skills to match new economic opportunities. In partnership with Medha and Janastu, DA is co-designing safe spaces in rural India where women feel free to voice their aspirations and work together to overcome barriers that limit their entrepreneurial spirit.

Building a robust support system for entrepreneurship: by facilitating joint action platforms between relevant stakeholders in the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem. With a network of local civil society organisations and enterprise support service providers, DA is facilitating regional entrepreneurship coalitions that aim to converge resources for youth-led entrepreneurship and also work on increasing their representation in policymaking.

Mainstreaming enabling mechanisms for entrepreneurship-led job creation: By replicating tested solutions and processes for youth employment with regional and global partners, as well as sharing

knowledge and lessons through open resources. Jobs We Want is a one such platform of DA that initiates dialogue on lessons and good practices of its commitment partners and growing network.

The commitment will boost action and impact on Youth Entrepreneurship and Self-employment, Youth in the Rural Economy, and Digital Skills for Youth. Driven by innovation and collaboration, Development Alternatives aims to activate systemic drivers for entrepreneurship-led job creation.

The full commitment can be viewed [here](#) and shared on social media through [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). The initiative is also reflective on the [UN Partnerships for SDGs Platform](#) and an article highlighting its vision can be read [here](#).

Decent Jobs for Youth was launched in 2016 as a UN system-wide effort, focusing on the youth employment challenge that is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has emerged as a global, multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together governments, social partners, the private sector, youth and civil society organisations, and others. They work together to share knowledge, leverage resources and take action at country and regional level, to support young people in accessing decent work and productive employment worldwide.