Jobs Fund response – Africa Check

28 February 2019
1. In layman’s terms, what is the Jobs Fund and how does it work?

The Jobs Fund was established by the National Treasury in June 2011 with the aim of supporting innovative initiatives and approaches to job creation. Operating on challenge fund principles, the Fund issues open calls for proposals and considers proposals from the public sector including municipalities, government departments, the private sector and not-for-profit organisations that show development potential linked to job creation.

The Jobs Fund has a two-stage online application process; the Concept Application Stage and Full Business Case Application Stage. The application process begins when a call for proposals opens, and ends once a project has been approved by the Investment Committee. Since its inception, the Jobs Fund has rolled out eight funding rounds.

2. The August 2018 newsletter says 226 360 jobs have been created. Where and how have they been created?

The Jobs Fund facilitates job creation through its structured and strategic partnerships with the private and public sectors, as well as NGOs/NPOs. These jobs spread across the country, with particular concentration in provinces with higher economic activity (Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape) and a specific focus on women and youth (60% and 57% respectively).
The mentioned newsletter referred to the contracted permanent job number of 226 360, as at September 2018, and not the total number of jobs created through the Fund.

As at 31 December 2018, Jobs Fund projects have reported 170 148 permanent jobs and 55 654 short-term jobs, totalling 225 802 jobs.

3. How is the job estimate calculated? And how is it broken down? For example, are these all permanent positions or does the estimate include part-time jobs and training opportunities?

When the Jobs Fund contracts with a project the project will estimate the:
   1. Number of new permanent jobs
   2. Number of placements (permanent)
   3. Number of new short-term jobs
   4. Number of beneficiaries having completed time bound internships
   5. Number of trained beneficiaries

When the projects deliver these jobs they will report separately against each indicator for which they contracted.