



# Success Story: Faraji

Hometown Hothead Learns a Better Way of Managing Emotions

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## **Introduction**

*What follows is a series of success stories about young people who received Passport to Success® life skills training as part of their courses in Tanzania's Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) and the Tanzanian Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness Centre (TECC). They received this training thanks to the Via: Pathways to Work (aka Via: Jiandalie Ajira) program, a partnership between International Youth Foundation (IYF) and Mastercard Foundation. The stories share the transformations experienced by the young people in their work as well as their engagement with their families and communities in their daily lives. The interviews and success stories were conducted and produced by Alfredo Jochoma, a Mandela Washington Fellow under the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) during his professional development experience at IYF.*

## **Via: Jiandalie Ajira**

*Via: Pathways to Work (or Via: Jiandalie Ajira) applies a systems approach to improve economic opportunities for underserved youth in Tanzania. By focusing on program outcomes, Via's goal is to influence the collective behaviors of TVET system actors (government, employers, civil society, and youth), so that they are more responsive to the needs of young people and industry. As such, Via facilitates sustainable changes and refinements in the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and entrepreneurship systems. IYF works closely with VETA and TECC to strengthen training and services young people receive, so they are more prepared to succeed in the world of work. Specifically, Via is integrating life skills programming and career support services, clearly identified workforce and industry gaps, into technical offerings. The Via legacy will be in the systemic changes made at institutional levels and across an array of youth training and support services stakeholders, leading to significant numbers of youth benefiting from these advances over time. Via is also implemented in Mozambique.*

## **Passport to Success®**

A significant component under Via is working with VETA and TECC, and their associated stakeholders to sustainably integrate PTS into their course offerings. Educators, employers, and policymakers increasingly emphasize the development of life and employability skills as a way to prepare young people for success in today's rapidly changing world. IYF's experience has been that offering combined life and employability skills programming results in young people who are self-motivated, reliable, productive, resilient, and confident decision-makers. Superior quality content and service delivery distinguish PTS, strengthening teachers' pedagogy to be more activity-based and student-centered. Developed and defined over the course of a decade, the curriculum adheres to best practice standards experts agree are critical to effective life skills programming. Among these standards is a focus on a core group of widely endorsed life skills—including self-confidence, responsibility, and respect—that responds to the needs of youth, employers, and youth-serving organizations.

## **Conclusion**

These stories are just a sample of young people who have benefited from PTS. The Via program's goal is to ensure that many more young Tanzanians can receive this training over the years through Tanzania's training institutions. For more information on the Via program and PTS curriculum, please contact:

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## Hometown Hothead Learns a Better Way of Managing Powerful Emotions

In his hometown of Mtwara, Tanzania, 24-year-old Faraji was known for resolving conflicts by fighting and shouting. In fact, many people in his neighborhood avoided him because they knew he couldn't control his temper. "One day I heard my friend was spreading rumors about me," Faraji recalls. "Without even giving him time to explain, I started insulting him. Then, after some days, I found out the story was different from what I had heard."

Things changed for Faraji after he moved to Dar es Salaam to enroll in a Computer Science course through the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA). In addition to teaching students like Faraji technical skills, VETA courses integrate IYF's Passport to Success® (PTS) life skills training under Via: Pathways to Work, an IYF initiative in partnership with Mastercard Foundation. PTS includes lessons in areas like communication, time management, and teamwork. It was during a PTS class that Faraji learned a healthier, more productive way to interact.

"The PTS classes were a true turnaround for my life," said Faraji. "I learned that violence is not the answer. It's important to remain calm and to cool down and not to respond when I am angry." Looking back, he feels ashamed about how he used to resolve his conflicts; however, since he has learned better ways of dealing with his emotions, the people who used to avoid him are becoming his friends.

The life skills Faraji learned through PTS have helped him grow professionally, too. His dream is to be an IT officer, and he launched a small business reselling cell phones. To start it, he was granted a government loan when he was in school with the understanding that he will pay it back in the future. According to Faraji, the communication skills he learned through PTS are helping him succeed as a businessman, especially in terms of customer service.

Currently, PTS lessons are being integrated into short courses at VETA centers in Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, and Dodoma, as well as Morogoro Vocational Teacher's Training College (MVTTC) and the Tanzania Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness Centre (TECC).

Faraji believes PTS courses should be incorporated in the general school system so that it can benefit more Tanzanians like himself—both professionally, and personally.

