



Success Story: Kashinje

The Electrician Who Knows the Value of Teamwork

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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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Kashinje, The Electrician Who Knows the Value of Teamwork

Since he was in secondary school in his hometown of Dodoma, Tanzania, Kashinje, now 21, has dreamt of becoming an electrician. He even started working on home electrical installations although he was not trained. Soon after he finished his secondary school, he enrolled in an electrician course at the local Vocational Educational and Training Authority (VETA) center after learning about it from his neighbor.

During the course he was also introduced to the International Youth Foundation's Passport to Success® (PTS) life skills lessons. Because of his dedication, after the course he was employed by VETA Dodoma center to install electricity in homes and schools. "I am practicing PTS skills on the job, such as teamwork and having a positive attitude towards people around me," said Kashinje. "Team working is the PTS skill that I apply at my workplace to make the job well done. For instance, if the job I am doing needs more manpower, I tend to invite my colleagues to work together to finish the job on time."



Kashinje is very proud to have found a job soon after graduation and especially at his former center where he learned electrical installation. At the center, he works for 60 hours per week. Before even enrolling for the course at the center, he had a small business of selling compact discs movies. Now, he can help his family with basic provisions.

He dreams of going to the university to further his studies although there are barriers in his way, especially the cost. To overcome this challenge, he is working very hard and saving money from his current job.