



For 30 years, the International Youth Foundation (IYF®) has focused solely on helping young people succeed. A global nonprofit organization, IYF believes success in life is secured by learning skills that will endure, earning a livelihood, and growing as an engaged citizen.

Our vision is to see **young people inspired and equipped to realize the future they want.**

## IYF in Mozambique

*IYF has worked in Mozambique for seven years. IYF has partnered with USAID, Mozal (South 32) and Mastercard Foundation and in collaboration with the Government of Mozambique.*

10k +

Youth reached

17

Local youth serving organizations reached



## The Challenge

Seventy percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's population is under the age of 30, making Africa the world's youngest continent.<sup>1</sup> And while youth constitute two-fifths of the continent's working age population, they make up three-fifths of the unemployed, with greater numbers still who are under-employed. Companies identify the low quality of skilled labor as one of their most significant constraints to growth as educational institutions fail to prepare students with the technical and soft skills, they need to be job ready. At the same time, the informal sector represents 94.8% of Mozambique's population, of which 2.6 million people are between the ages of 15-24 ([International Labor Organization](#)). Preparing youth to pursue productive opportunities in the informal economy is viewed as critical to addressing youth livelihood needs.

## IYF's Approach

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) programming in Mozambique is centered in supporting youth-relevant institutions and systems to adaptively respond to youth's needs. Our holistic, systems-based approach emphasizes development of leadership, technical, and life skills for youth to enter the workforce, create their own opportunities, and be agents of change in their communities.

IYF programming supports youth serving organizations to provide opportunities for youth so that they gain the skills employers seek and to develop young entrepreneurs through hands-on support to help business ideas come to life. Recognizing the importance of the informal sector, IYF works closely with its partners to harness the potential of the informal economy in creating jobs. IYF's model focuses on public and private sector engagement to drive structured training and apprenticeships that align with employment opportunities. IYF's holistic programming includes life skills and vocational training, business development services, financial inclusion, leadership development, and internship and mentorship support.

Rooted in the belief of youth as problem-solvers, change-makers, and leaders, our initiatives are catalysts for change, IYF Mozambique believes in strengthening youth representation and skills to contribute and influence relevant systems and programs to drive systemic changes that improve youth agency and economic opportunities over the long term.



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# Our Work & Partners

IYF's programs have enhanced the employability potential of 10,000 + youth through various initiatives implemented by schools (secondary, teacher training institute's and technical training institutes), civil society organizations, technical vocational training centers and employment centers.



Our studies have identified barriers to youth's access to the job market. Based on these results, IYF has engaged with various stakeholders to address bottlenecks and jointly promote initiatives that enhance youth's technical and life skills including strengthening efforts towards the inclusion of life skills in the national qualifications board.

**OBJECTIVE:** YouthMap was a multi-country initiative informing how donors, NGOs, and governments understand and address the challenges of young Africans. **YouthMap Mozambique** examined socioeconomic data, documentation, and literature about youth in Mozambique, and conducted youth focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

**OUTCOMES:**

- 507 Mozambican youth and 107 community stakeholders engaged
- Eight Mozambican youth served as research assistants who organized and conducted youth focus groups

**PARTNER:** USAID

**OBJECTIVE:** ESCOLHAS Initiative designed to provide in-school youth with life-skills and work readiness skills, complemented by market-relevant career guidance and counseling services, to help young people to better position themselves.

**OUTCOMES:**

- Trained 2,165 students in life skills, 55% females
- Trained 52 teachers as life skills facilitators and career counselors, in six schools

**PARTNER:** MOZAL-Operated by South32

**OBJECTIVE:** The BHZINDZULA project allowed women empowerment initiative designed to provide vulnerable women and their associations with the technical capacity and life-skills necessary to expand their economic activity, increase their income and grow their enterprises

**OUTCOMES:**

- Trained 107 women in life skills, 37 women for entrepreneurship and small business management, and 20 women for poultry farming

**PARTNER:** MOZAL-Operated by South32

**YOUTHMAP**  
mozambique

2012  
-  
2013

2012  
-  
2015

**PREPA**  
PREPARAÇÃO LABORAL PARA JOVENS

**ESCOLHAS**

2015  
-  
2018

2016  
-  
2018

**dzima!**  
PONTAPÉ PARA O SUCESSO

**BHZINDZULA**

2016  
-  
2017

**via**  
ROTAS PARA O TRABALHO

2015  
-  
2021

**OBJECTIVE:** Through vocational, entrepreneurship, life skills, and other complementary trainings, **PREPA** piloted models for creating sustainable livelihoods and healthy lifestyles. The initiative's target demographic included orphans and vulnerable children 15 to 18 years old, HIV-positive youth younger than 24 who are receiving anti-retroviral treatment, and their caregivers 24 and under.

**OUTCOMES:**

- 1,682 Mozambican youth directly benefited from this project
- 24 young leaders trained as life skills facilitators

**PARTNER:** USAID/PEPFAR

**OBJECTIVE:** DZIMA was a sport for development initiative designed to provide unemployed, out-of-school youth with life and work readiness skills, complemented by career guidance.

**OUTCOMES:**

- Trained 790 out of school youth in life skills, 46% girls
- 200 youth received Career Guidance/Counseling services
- 20 participants trained in financial education; 95 youth continued to technical training
- 16 sports coaches trained as life skills facilitators, 12 in Financial Literacy

**PARTNER:** MOZAL-Operated by South32

**OBJECTIVE:** **Via** is an initiative that improves economic opportunities for underserved youth in Tanzania and Mozambique by facilitating sustainable changes in the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and entrepreneurship systems in both countries.

**OUTCOMES:**

- Served 5,000+ young people with enhanced technical/vocational training services.
- 100+ trainers trained as life skills facilitators
- 18 local partners with strengthened capacity;

**PARTNER:** Mastercard Foundation



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