



THE CHALLENGE

In the urban areas of Mozambique and Tanzania, youth unemployment and underemployment present significant and growing challenges. The youth economic opportunity system does not work for most young people, no matter the livelihood pathway they choose to pursue. Jobs-related data and information is often outdated or unavailable as they make choices on their career pursuits. The formal private sector creates few jobs, and the educational system does not adequately prepare graduates to succeed in the positions that do exist. Due to this skills gap, even in a context where labor supply vastly exceeds demand, companies still cannot find qualified employees to hire. Opportunities for self-employment are similarly limited and show reduced economic productivity due to a lack of training in enterprise management and poor access to finance.

THE INITIATIVE

In partnership with Mastercard Foundation, Via: Pathways to Work applies a systems approach to improve economic opportunities for underserved youth in Mozambique and Tanzania. Via's goal is to influence the collective behaviors of TVET system actors (inclusive of 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 in both countries. Specifically, the program is integrating life skills programming and career support services – clearly identified workforce and industry gaps, into technical offerings for more than 21,000 young people. 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.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Stakeholder engagement: IYF works with key local and national TVET system stakeholders – decision-makers and implementers at education authorities, headquarters, and training centers, by integrating work-readiness training and related support services into technical courses. Multi-stakeholder engagement with key actors in the system (government agencies, teacher training institutes, employers, and youth themselves) strengthens networks where information is not flowing and addresses norms that are barriers to youth livelihoods.

Partner Capacity Strengthening: Via invests in strengthening partner institutions' technical and operational capacity to better serve young people and influences the larger ecosystems of key stakeholders within which they operate. Facilitating periodic self-assessments against set indicators and standards allows partners, to better understand strengths and areas for potential growth to ultimately improve their effective delivery of market-driven youth products and services. Improved capacity allows youth-serving institutions to deliver deeper systemic impact for large numbers of youth over the long term.

Youth Support: During the life of the program, as improved services are piloted and adopted, Via partners will provide over 21,000 economically disadvantaged youth living in urban areas of Mozambique and Tanzania with a set of holistic training interventions and support services that will better enable them to secure improved work opportunities through wage earning, self-employment, or a combination of the two. Via

supports partners to add or strengthen services so that students or participants receive a suite of services that may include life skills training, technical training, career guidance, entrepreneurship training, mentorship, and/or linkages to finance.

Measurement, Evaluation, Research, and Learning: Via is implementing a robust learning agenda that creates opportunities for research, reflection and course-correction, then sharing and disseminating learnings globally. Employing a rigorous information management system to collect, analyze, and share data, IYF and its partners regularly test, evaluate, revise, and validate program activities and services that improve economic opportunities for youth. Program lessons about systemic change critical for achieving large scale and sustainable outcomes for youth are publicized through events, conferences, and other learning platforms.

RESULTS

Eight vocational training centers across the two countries, working closely with national and regional authorities have adopted improved work-readiness life skills content into their curricula, and both countries have modified the Passport to Success® (PTS) life skills curriculum to fit their needs and parameters, with approval from education authorities. Partners have also adopted improved career support services, strengthened engagement with the private sector, demonstrated more effective trainer pedagogy, improved communication and conflict management between staff and students, and increased data collection practices.

To date, Via has achieved the following milestones:

- **20,000** young people served with improved services
- **400** teachers trained in delivering holistic, student-centered life skills
- **25%** increase in partner capacity self-assessment scores

PARTNERSHIPS

The Via program is made possible through a collaboration with Mastercard Foundation. In Mozambique, Via operates in Maputo, Machava, Tête, and Inhambane, with core implementing partners the Mozambican National Institute of Professional Employment (INEP) and the Mozambican Professional Institute and Labor Studies Alberto Cassimo (IFPELAC). In Tanzania, Via activities are conducted in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mtwara, and Morogoro, with partners the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) and Tanzanian Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness Centre (TECC).

IYF continues to engage partners and stakeholders to provide Via program guidance, link youth to employment and learning opportunities, mentor young entrepreneurs, connect key ecosystem actors, and participate in learning events. Individuals, organizations, and companies interested in participating in Via are encouraged to contact the management team at the email addresses below.

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