



Via: Jiandalie Ajira Newsletter



Project Overview

VETA, TECC, and MVTTC have been working with the International Youth Foundation since 2015 to improve economic opportunities for young people in Tanzania (Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, and Morogoro) with support from the Mastercard Foundation. Via facilitates sustainable changes and refinements in the TVET and entrepreneurship systems so that services and offerings are more responsive to the needs of young people and industry.

Key Results to date



13,961

Youth served with enhanced technical/vocational training (technical training + PTS)



1,215

Youth served with enhanced entrepreneurship and financial training (e-ship & financial training + PTS)



584

Youth received employment services such as career guidance or job placement



292

Trainers completed Passport to Success improved pedagogy training



Youth Respond to COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis is affecting the world in unprecedented ways. In addition to massive health and labor market consequences, the pandemic has laid bare deep structural defects in the social, economic, and political fabric of societies around the globe. IYF believes designing and implementing effective solutions for young people requires engaging them as partners, not passive recipients. The Via team has been hard at work connecting with students and graduates to understand how they experienced the pandemic. We spoke with them back in May while schools were closed to understand what their priorities for the response to the COVID crisis would be.

What did we do?



103

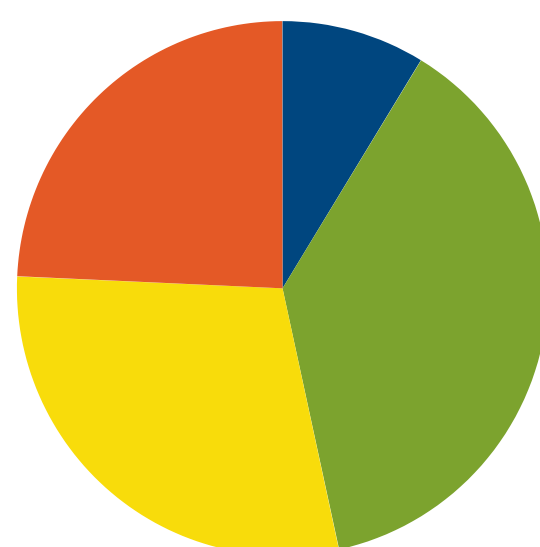
Phone interviews



12

IYF staff interviews

Who did we talk to?*



- TECC (8.74%)
- VETA Dodoma (37.86%)
- VETA DSM (29.13%)
- VETA Mtwara (24.27%)

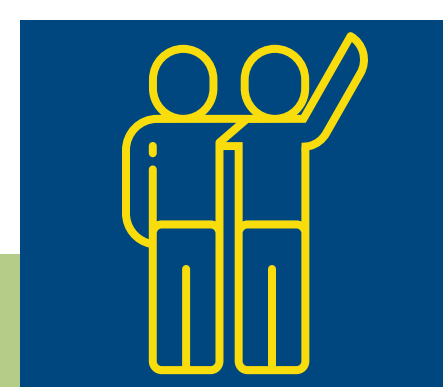
*62 were graduates, 37 current students, and 4 did not indicate their status; 47 females (46%), and 56 males (54%)

What are respondents doing?



- Not in education, employment or training (41.75%)
- Self-studying or field practical (27.18%)
- Working (19.42%)
- Self-employed (9.71%)
- No response (1.94%)

How are they accessing information?



Many young people cited the use of multiple sources such as TV, radio, and social media. TV and social media were the most popular sources, reported by 75% and 60% of respondents, respectively. 35% are using the radio, 13% are swapping information with their friends, and several (n=9) rely on the SMS messages delivered by their telecommunications provider. The most popular social media platforms were Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp, with several mentioning YouTube and MillardAyo.

What are they doing to support each other?



Sharing information

Asking and reminding friends to be keen and follow health guidance. Many also mentioned peer-to-peer education & myth busting.

One entrepreneur set up a handwashing station in their shop and requires all customers to use it before receiving service.

Enforcing the rules



Taking precautions

Taking precautions as directed like staying at home, avoiding unnecessary movements, and insisting others take safety precautions.

Supporting their families and friends with masks, hand sanitizers, and even natural remedies.

Providing PPE

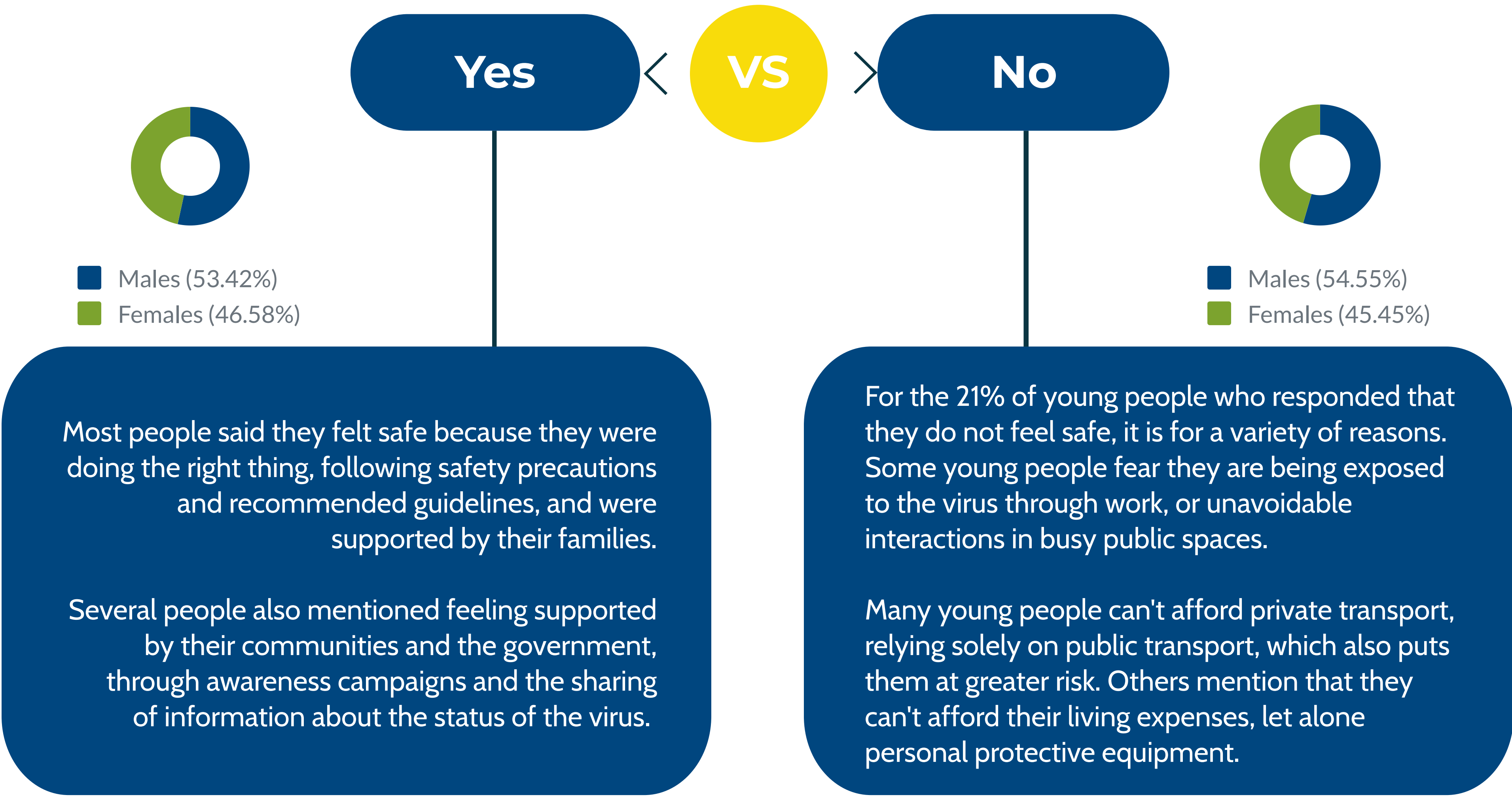


Focusing on self

Some youth are so busy looking for opportunities that they have no time or energy for other activities.

Do they feel safe?

Most young people, 73 of the 103 total interviewees (or 70%) stated that they do feel safe and supported at this time. Only 22 young people (21%) cited that they don't, and 8 respondents indicated that they felt both safe and unsafe.



What are their greatest needs at this time?

1

FINDING A JOB OR MAINTAINING A BUSINESS

The most common need expressed was to find a job to support themselves and their families. Many youth who were working prior to the pandemic have since lost their jobs. Young entrepreneurs are struggling to maintain their businesses and customer base.

2

MONEY & INCOME

The second most commonly mentioned need was income. Without employment prospects, youth are struggling to support themselves. Young people and their families have suffered a significant decrease in income, while at the same time, the cost for some basic commodities has increased.

3

EDUCATION

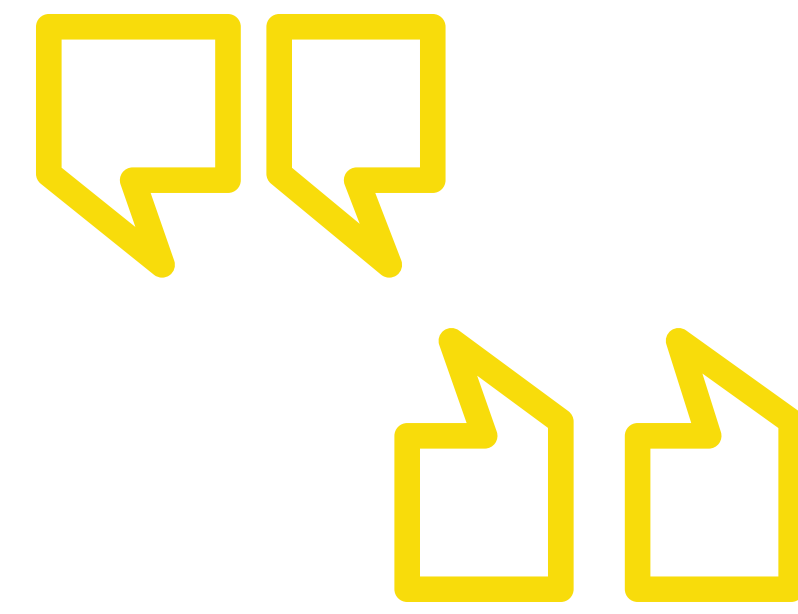
Many students expressed the desire to complete their studies and were disappointed with the interruption in their life plans. They worried that they were now unprepared to take exams for their courses and that their previous investments would be wasted.

4

AN ENGAGING PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

For a handful of youth, the biggest challenge was being forced to stay idle at home with nothing to do. Some of those young people mentioned they would rather be finishing their courses or working, but finding a meaningful project or activity could also meet this and bring them some fulfillment while they are stuck at home.

Quoteworthy



Zainabu Mkunje,
Student, VETA
Mtwara

"When school is open, it's easy to ask for some help from other students or teachers on a subject that I have not understood well, but [during COVID closures] this is different—there is no one to ask and no one to help. Supporting my parents with domestic duties here at home also limits my study time, so I set aside one hour every day to study so that I don't forget what I've learned."



**Khadija Amri
Chabai,**
Student, VETA
Dar es Salaam



"It's a big challenge to stay in one place with nothing to do and there are no trainings going on. If there was at least a virtual studying platform or educational videos being offered, I could continue with my studies."

Steven Kelvin,
Grad, Dodoma

"For now, I am supporting by sharing information to my community about available opportunities, how to stay protected, and ways to influence the local government to support fellow young people, such as providing loans."



Recommendations & Referrals

What can you do to help?

DO

- ✓ Adapt learning methodologies for the digital age
- ✓ Be flexible & support students with opportunities to refresh their learning
- ✓ Provide psychological and health support awareness

DON'T...

- ✓ ...forget about youth without access to virtual learning technology - identify solutions in the event of future shutdowns or distancing measures
- ✓ ...stop engaging with your students when they aren't physically present - they still need your support and interaction to feel connected, not only to the center, but to their goals and all of the hard work they have accomplished so far

ORGANIZATION / RESOURCE INFO

International Youth Foundation Tanzania

www.kijanaongea.org

Local gender desk

Secure and discreet setting for survivors to report incidences of sexual violence - *116#

Ministry of Health - Tanzania

<https://www.moh.go.tz/en/covid-19-info>

World Health Organization - Tanzania

<https://www.who.int/countries/tza/en/>

TAYOA – Health Helpline

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