



Via: Rotas para o Trabalho Newsletter



Project Overview

IFPELAC and INEP have been working with the International Youth Foundation since 2015 to improve economic opportunities for young people in Mozambique (Maputo City, Maputo Province, Tete, and Inhambane) with support from the Mastercard Foundation. Via facilitates sustainable changes and refinements in the TVET systems so that services and offerings are more responsive to the needs of young people and industry.

Key Results to date



5,327

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



18

Institutions formally engaged in the project, including ministry-level entities and other non-profit organizations



173

Youth received employment services such as career guidance or entrepreneurship training



100

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 and early June to understand what their priorities for the response to the COVID crisis would be.

What did we do?



Who did we talk to?*



- Electrotecnia (27.4%)
- Inhambane (20.55%)
- Machava (23.29%)
- Tete (28.77%)

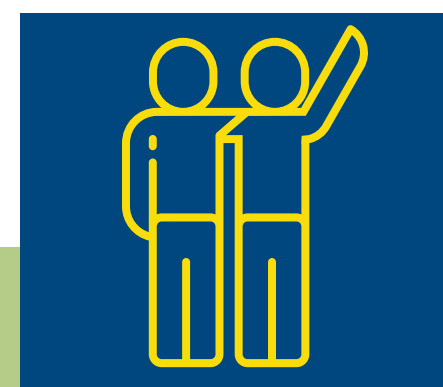
*43 were graduates and 30 were current students; 38 females (53%) and 35 males (47%)

What are respondents doing?



- Self-studying or field practical (39.73%)
- Not in education, employment or training (38.36%)
- Working (12.33%)
- Part-time/Occasional work (5.48%)
- Self-employed (4.11%)

How are they accessing information?



Many young people cited the use of multiple sources such as TV, social media, and radio. TV was by far the most popular source cited by 82% of respondents, followed by social media cited by 52% of respondents. Only 14% are using the radio and 10% are swapping information with their friends. For those who only mentioned one news outlet, it was most often just TV. The most popular social media platforms were Whatsapp and Facebook, and several youth mentioned following the social media accounts of the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization for their information.

What are they doing to support each other?



Sharing information

Reminding friends to follow health guidance. Many mentioned peer-to-peer education & that their friends are committed to the same.

Supporting their families, friends, and community members with masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, firewood, and more.

Providing PPE



Taking precautions

Taking precautions as directed, like following health measures, staying at home, and avoiding unnecessary movements.

One grad is a part of a Whatsapp group, where he and other young people network and talk through business ideas, which he says boosts morale during this time.

Encouraging one another

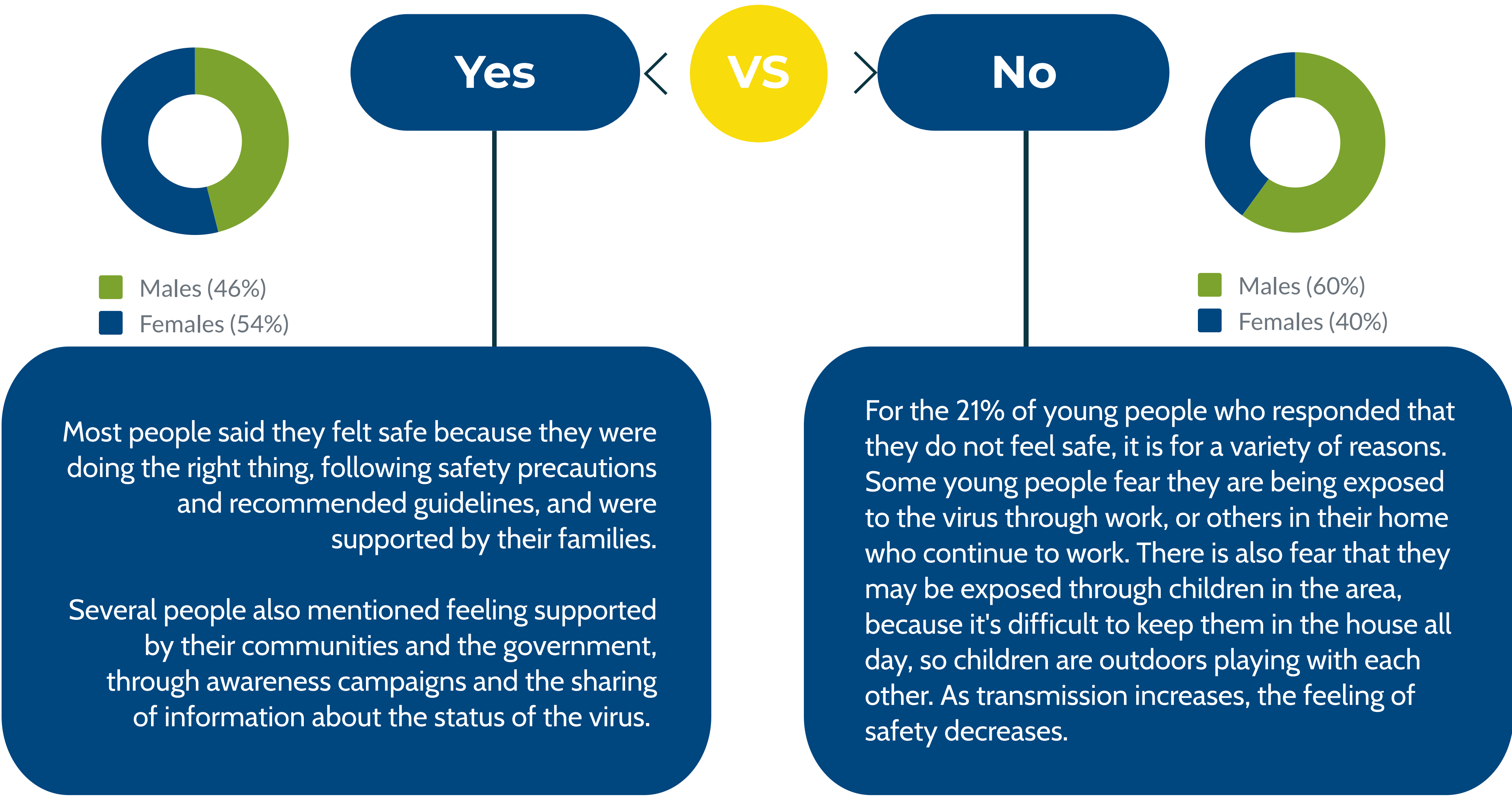


Focusing on self

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, 50 of the 73 total interviewees (or 68%) stated that they do feel safe and supported at this time. Only 15 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 MONEY & INCOME

The most comment need mentioned 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.

2 FINDING A JOB OR MAINTAINING A BUSINESS

The second most commonly mentioned need 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 obtain the materials they need to maintain their businesses.

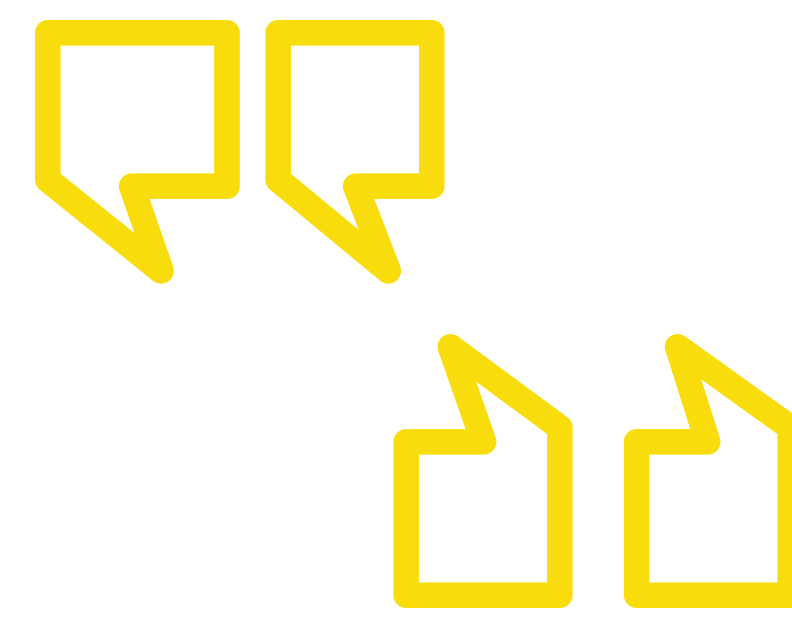
3 BASIC NEEDS

The situations were quite dire for several youth, who talked about the difficulty of meeting basic needs. A number of young people reported that it was becoming increasingly more challenging to afford food during this period. One town in particular does not have access to potable water.

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



**Antonio Jose
Massango,**
Student,
IFPELAC
Electrotecnia

“Not being able to look for a job is my biggest challenge. In my region, there is a company that is hiring temporary workers, but I feel like I cannot make new commitments because I am waiting for classes to resume. I am waiting to see what the government will say this month, so I can either finish my course or start looking for a job.”



**Luisa Inacia
Velacua,**
Grad, IFPELAC
Machava



“I try to improve myself in my area of study, locksmithing, and asked a young man who has a workshop to let me practice with him. Given my commitment, he has given me some machines and material to work from home.”

**Person Bruno
Langa,**
Student,
IFPELAC Tete

“I support others by being an example and following the stated norms. My friends are doing the same—we set examples for people to follow.”



Recommendations & Referrals

What can you do to help?

DO

- ✓ Adapt learning methodologies for the digital age
- ✓ Offer continuous virtual learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic
- ✓ Support students with opportunities to refresh their learning & make up for lost time

DON'T...

- ✓ ...forget about youth without access to virtual learning technology - identify solutions so they can continue their courses during the pandemic as well
- ✓ ...stop engaging with your students because 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

Ministério da Saúde

Websites do ministério
Instituto Nacional de Saúde
Plataforma PENSA
Alô Vida
Iniciativa "FICA ATENTO"

www.misau.gov.mz
www.covid19.ins.gov.mz
*660#
84146/ 82146 / 1490
wa.me/258843318727?text=Ola

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