Akazi Kanoze: A Youth Livelihoods Project

My Story: Emmanuel

BYAMUNGU Emmanuel works in Kigali, wiring steel that will support the concrete in the walls of a future hotel. He earns 2,000 Rwandan francs per day, and he works six days per week.

But his life was not always like this. Work was not steady for Emmanuel, who finished six years of schooling. Thanks to the Akazi Kanoze training, Emmanuel has a new lease on his professional life. "I learned interpersonal communication and teamwork," he said. Such lessons are directly relevant to on-the-job situations. When he first arrived at the construction site, he did not know how to build the pillars that support the ceilings of the building. "Thanks to my work readiness training, I knew how to learn from my colleagues. " he said.

"Life has changed a lot," he said. "Before Akazi Kanoze, I couldn't even afford shoes or pants." Emmanuel now regularly sets aside money for food, allowance, and savings. "My goal is to learn as much as possible here."

His dream is to eventually supervise his own construction crew and take on his own building contracts. Emmanuel knows that he will be involved with at least two other construction projects on the horizon. Emmanuel's strong work ethic and training from Akazi Kanoze are the building blocks of a solid future.

Overview

AKAZI KANOZE provides youth in Rwanda with market-relevant life and work readiness training and support, hands-on training opportunities, and links into the employment and self-employment job market over a four-year period. Akazi Kanoze graduates have the opportunity to pursue further education and training, obtain gainful employment through a job or internship, and/or start a business or join a cooperative.

Target Population

12,500 urban youth, including 5,000 orphans and vulnerable children ; 14- to 24-year-olds with varied levels of education

I now know how to manage money, make wise financial decisions, and to plan for the future.

—MUSABYIMANA Laurence, Akaze Kanoze participant

A Path to Opportunity

1. **Expanded Youth Access to Services** Akazi Kanoze works with youth-serving organizations including NGOs, government agencies, education providers and businesses to engage youth participants and implement youth activities.

2. **Core Training Program** All participants complete a 100-hour work readiness training course. The curriculum covers Personal Awareness, Communication, Professional Conduct, Financial Literacy, Personal Health and Rights and Responsibilities.

3. **Beyond Training** Akazi Kanoze works with local partners to link youth graduates to sustainable livelihood pathways, either through pursuing education, linking with work experiences or starting small businesses.

For More Information Contact

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Impact

As of March, 2011:

- **2,434** youth aged 14-24 years and **420** youth above 24 years old have enrolled in the work readiness program

- **1,807** youth aged between 14-24 years have completed training in work readiness

- **654** youth under 24 years old transitioned to employment and/or self-employment

- **267** youth above 24 years old transitioned to employment and/or self-employment

- Employers consistently report being satisfied by the improved skills of employees who have completed the work readiness program

EQUIP3 Consortium

Education Development Center (Lead Agency) • Academy for Educational Development • Catholic Relief Services • International Council on National Youth Policy • International Youth Foundation • National Youth Employment Coalition • National Youth Leadership Council • Opportunities Industrialization Centers International • Partners of the Americas • Plan International Childreach • Sesame Workshop • Street Kids International • World Learning

Additional Partners: YouthBuild • EcoVentures Inter-national • Mercy Corps • Family Health International • Microsoft Corporation