

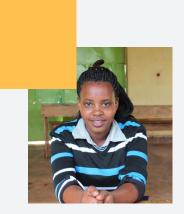




USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze

How do we address youth unemployment in **Rwanda?**

I know that finding job opportunities for young people is what Rwandans want. It's what your government wants, what your people want, and what your students want. And that's a hard challenge.



- US Ambassador Peter Vrooman

Nearly 40% of Rwanda's population are youth between the ages of 14 - 30. This presents a tremendous opportunity for the country. However, with a growing, yet small formal sector, nearly 65% of these youth are unemployed.¹ USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze is helping to address this challenge by improving youth workforce readiness and employment opportunities for thousands of youth across Rwanda.



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Through the HDAK program, vulnerable youth learn transferable soft skills and technical vocational skills, while gaining work experience through work-based learning (WBL) to help prepare them to successfully enter the labor market. Youth also learn important family planning, reproductive health, and social inclusion concepts.

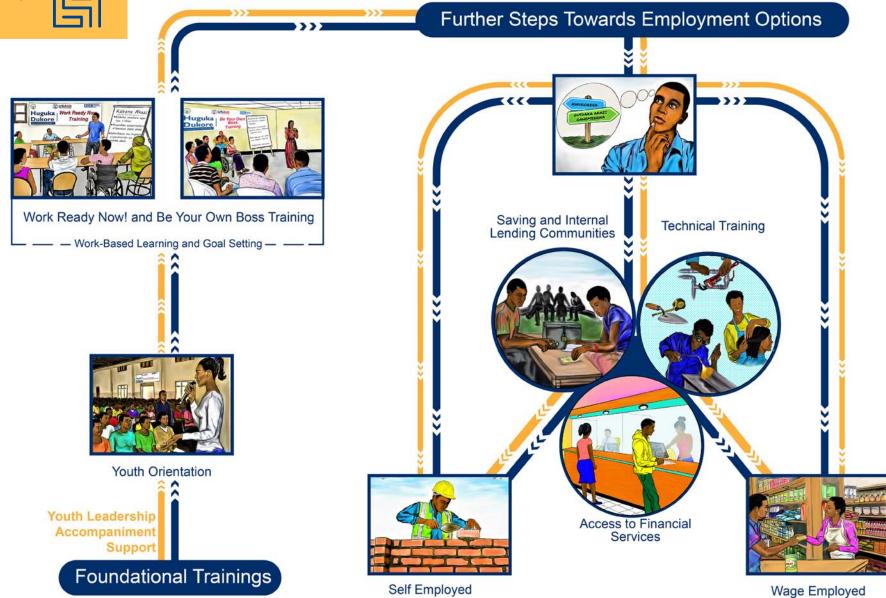


HDAK prepares male and female youth for viable self-employment options by delivering entrepreneurship training and identifying agriculture value chain opportunities and linkages to growth markets. Youth are also guided to access group saving and loan services and are offered information on loan products available through local financial ser-

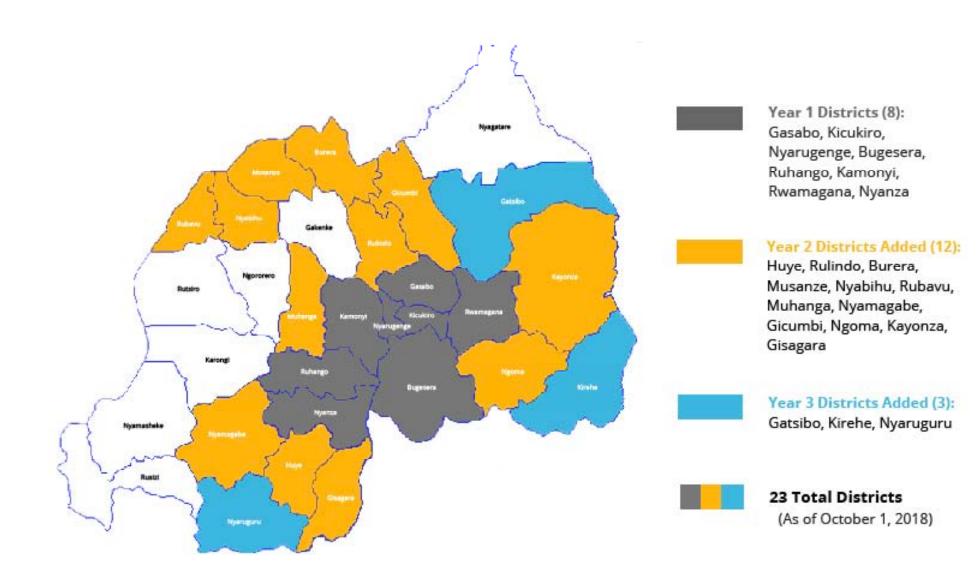
vice providers.



HDAK supports the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and the Ministry of Youth (MINIYOUTH) to develop a more coordinated workforce development delivery system by strengthening networks between public and private workforce actors, leveraging investments with development partners, and improving the capacity of local implementing partners to provide high-quality youth employment services.



USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Geographic Coverage



Key Achievements









USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Year 2

Year 2 (Fiscal Year 2018) of HDAK saw rapid program expansion including increased youth access to skills training and strengthened delivery systems with the Government of Rwanda (GOR), private sector, and civil society partners.

By the close of Year 2, HDAK work readiness programs for vulnerable youth expanded from 3,428 youth enrolled in 8 initial districts to 15,850 youth enrolled across 23 of Rwanda's 30 districts.

During Year 2, HDAK stepped up capacity building of partner institutions, leveraged resources from other development partners, and expanding networks of government, civil society and private sector actors to strengthen Rwanda's workforce development deliery systems.

Strengthening local capacity and promoting local solutions has been emphasized by USAID as a "journey to self-reliance, defined as a country's ability to plan, finance, and implement solutions to solve its own development challenges." HDAK has continued to

promote self-reliance of implementing partners by strengthening their technical and organizational capacity. HDAK has also developed youth support networks among local government, private sector and development partners to ensure that high quality services are available and maintained on the community level.

While supporting Rwanda's National Employment (NEP) Program to scale up and institutionalize HDAK project innovations, during the past year, HDAK trained 22 local organizations to assess and share local labor market data and deliver market-relevant employment preparation and job intermediation services as prerequisites to connecting vulnerable youth to stable work and self-employment.

In Year 3, HDAK will expand the delivery of capacity building to empower local organizations to implement and maintain high-quality, innovative workforce development programs that provide vulnerable youth with market-driven employability skills for new or better employment.





PREPARING WORK READY YOUTH

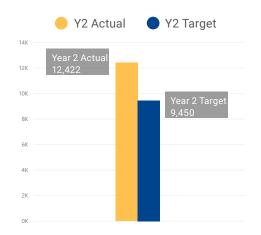
A main expected outcome of the HDAK program is to coordinate diverse stakeholders to provide youth with increased access to market relevant training and accompaniment support towards securing meaningful employment where youth can grow and contribute to the Rwandan economy and to their communities.

This includes matching the supply of employment skills training programs with labor market demand based on regularly updated local labor market assessment data. Additionally, HDAK increases information for vulnerable youth about family planning and reproductive health services.



Work Ready Now! Training

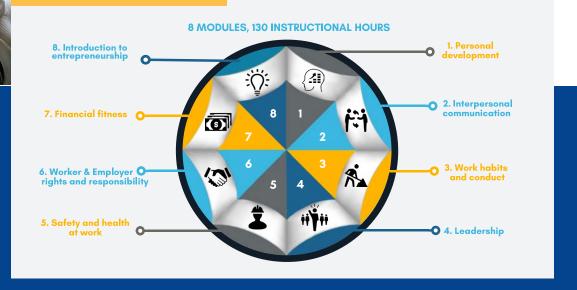
During Year 2 of HDAK, 12,422 new youth (4,481 M; 7,941 F) enrolled in the foundational Work Ready Now! Training package as a result of rapid program expansion by 22 Implementing Partners. 15,850 cumulative youth (5,687 M; 10,163 F) to date have enrolled in the HDAK program.



12,422

new youth enrolled in WRN! during Year 2

Work Ready Now! Soft skills curriculum

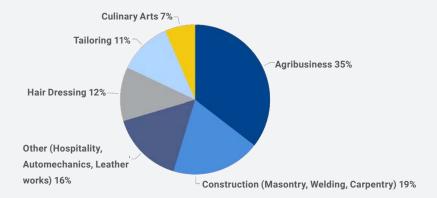


The soft skills covered in the Work Ready Now! curriculum are proven to transform youth knowledge, attitudes and behaviors, and thus are in high demand among private sector employers, government Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs and from youth themselves.

Technical Training

By the close of Year 2, 7,827 HDAK youth had participated in technical skills training. As displayed below, HDAK youth attended technical training courses in a variety of trades including agribusiness, construction, hairdressing, hospitality, and tourism. Different trades were offered per IP based on the local labor market assesments they conducted.

Percentage of Youth Enrolled in Technical Training by Trade



Why is it important to conduct regular local labor market assessments?

To re-emphasize the importance of market driven training, during year two HDAK developed a Local Labor Market Assessment (LLMA) tool and approach and trained all Implementing Partners (IPs) on its use. HDAK requires that each IP conduct an LLMA to ensure that the selection of technical training options is aligned with current market data on local employment opportunities available to youth. This approach helps guarantee that youth graduating from HDAK are not only work ready, they are equipped with the skills they need to enter high demand fields.



"Before I joined Huguka Dukore, I had many things I desired for my life, but I felt like I didn't know how to reach those goals.

But, my mindset changed so much after learning WRN! After learning financial fitness, I felt confident that I can start with a small amount of money, but still reach very far - which is something I didn't know before.

I decided to go for hairdressing technical training as I know that having those hard skills combined with my interest in entrepreneurship, I would be able to reach my goals of selfemployment. After I complete my training in hairdressing, I plan to look for work and start saving up money. Then I ultimately dream of opening my own salon."

- Jacques, Kinyinya



"After doing WRN! I decided to join agrobusiness technical training as I knew agriculture was an economic sector I could easily make money in. Previously I knew how to farm crops common to my area, but in the training I gained more specialized knowledge like how to choose the right type of seed. Most people in my area don't grow tomatoes and eggplant because they are riskier crops. However, the results we found with the Holland Greentech seeds we used in the training was huge. With this knowledge I've already made income in the short-term and know my crops will continue to be much more competitive than others in the area.

I now plan to join higher levels of the value chain and also save so I can start my own sewing business to supplement my agriculture

- Venantie, Kamonyi



Hard skills and Soft Skills Combined



"I see a big difference in these youth compared to other interns I've had.

They are well-disciplined and have a very clear sense of why they are here and what they want to get out of their internship. They respect their colleagues, work well in teams, and have great time management – they always get to work on time.

I think the biggest thing that has surprised me about them is how they keep the workshop clean and safe without me even having to give them instructions. We need more youth like them.

It's good that this project has trained these youth both in soft and hard skills, because those soft skills are the things that really set them apart and make them perform well."

- Geras, Owner of the Aterier De Transformation De Bois Ltd. Carpentry Workshop where some HDAK youth did their WBL



Youth participating in pair activity during focus group discussion

Reproductive Health and Family Planning

"I gave birth to a child eight months ago because I didn't know I have a say in my own reproductive health. My next child will come when I say I am ready."

- Reflection from a female participant in an HDAK focus group discussion

8,220 Ø

youth received training on reproductive health and family planning as part of the WRN! training.

Focus group discussions conducted with youth revealed increased confidence among both male and female youth around sexual reproductive health messages.







Youth Accompaniment Strategy Developed

During Year 2, the HDAK program team developed a Youth Accompaniment methodology to provide peer-to-peer support and coaching. IP officers support youth not only during the WRN! training activities but also during the transition periods as youth find placement in employment or develop self-employment opportunities. This HDAK innovation is recognized as a Year 2 success that is now in demand by NEP and other development partner TVET programs.

Youth Leadership Program Launched

HDAK launched the innovative Youth Leadership Program during Year 2 of program implementation. Youth are empowered to serve as role models, to facilitate peer-to-peer accompaniment and employment support, and to coordinate youth-led civic engagement activities within their respective communities. Youth leadership is the centerpiece within the HDAK youth accompaniment methodology which is designed to provide support to thousands of youth as they seek to achieve the individual employment goals and personal development plans they set during their WRN! training.

Initial 10-Week Pilot of Youth Leadership Program

COVERAGE

An initial 10 - week pilot reached over 1,000 youth in 4 districts of Rwanda: Nyarugenge, Kamonyi, Ruhango, and Rubavu.



YOUTH LEADERS

64 youth leaders were trained representing 45 youth groups each made up of 25 youth



GROUP ACTIVITY

34 groups started income generating activities



EMPLOYMENT

169 youth secured wage-employment 277 youth started individual businesses



SAVINGS

45 SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Communities) groups were formed



COMMUNITY

49 community projects were completed





"I am so proud of whe plished. Of our 47 m has an income gener have already found together and started cessing factory. We've for vulnerable familie feels good to give bac

"I am so proud of what my group has accomplished. Of our 47 members, each one of us has an income generating activity and some have already found paid work. We've saved together and started our own soybean processing factory. We've also built bathrooms for vulnerable families in our community. It feels good to give back to our community and move forward in our lives together."

Ruth, Ruhango, HDAK Youth Leade





l am now a shoemaker.

Ernestine, Nyarugenge



I am now a patron at a secondary school.

Cylvine, Kamonyi



l am now a waitress.

Ingabire, Kayonza



l am now a carpenter.

Egide, Nyarugenge



I am now working at Irembo, a government service.

Chantal, Ruhango





YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

Due to the challenges of securing stable employment for thousands of vulnerable youth with low education levels within Rwanda's limited formal employment sector, HDAK continues to focus on increasing access to viable self-employment options for youth. The project is linking many rural youth to livelihood options across agriculture value chains and is involving youth in savings and lending groups that provide initial capital for small business start-ups.







youth participated in entrepreneurship training

Be Your Own Boss

Entrepreneurship Training

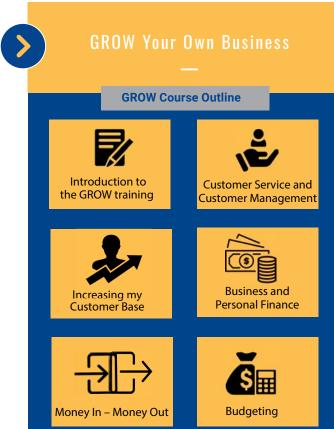
4,424

youth were trained in Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) which is EDC's foundational entrepreneurship curriculum.



Due to the high level of popularity, HDAK is now offering BYOB to all youth. The complementary entrepreneurship training is provided directly after youth complete the foundational WRN! curriculum.

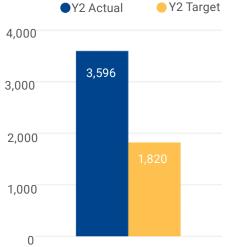




as an advanced their own small busi-

Kanoze alumni were trained in this curriculum during Year 2.

Youth with New Businesses



3,321 youth were linked to agriculture value chains and 1,404 youth received agriculture start-up kits.

3,596

youth started their own businesses during Year 2.



I'm happy to be reaching my self-employment goals. I'm working in the upper end of the value chain selling produce between large sellers and small sellers. I also sell milk from the cow I've bought and am planning to open my own canteen very soon.

Eric, Nyarugenge



After learning financial management during my Work Ready Now! training. I started saving money from the bananas I used to grow and sell. Now I'm proud to say I have a flourishing pig business.

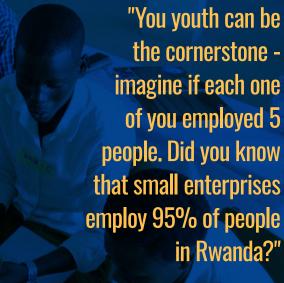
Anitha, Kayonza



I never knew I could turn animal rearing into an income earning business until I attended the HDAK trainings. I am now one of the best youth in bee production in my area and also have saved and bought chickens, pigs, and a cow. I'm excited about where my life is heading.

Alexander, Ruhango





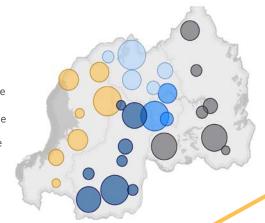
- Rosemary Mbabazi, Minister of Youth and ICT, Speaking at an Esther's Aid (an HDAK IP) graduation



HDAK youth in a SILC group meeting

HDAK youth across Rwanda are accessing financial services

- Eastern Province
- Kigali Province
- Northern Province
- Southern Province
- Western Province



Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) are an innovative group savings and lending approach developed by CRS and used to empower thousands of youth throughout Rwanda and other countries across Africa.



7,861

youth participated in 378 total SILC groups.



46,901,500

(approximately USD \$53,602) SILC savings have been mobilized.



1,594

HDAK youth opened accounts with formal financial services providers (FSPs)



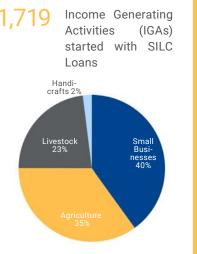
102

Youth received loans from FSPs



4,594

youth have used mobile money systems as part of saving mobilization.





Agriculture Value Chain Linkages



HDAK's two agriculture technical partners, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Connexus, made significant progress during the year in connecting thousands of youth to agriculture value chain employment and training opportunities. A Year 2 Value Chain Opportunities Assessment (led by Connexus) identified a range of promising agribusiness work opportunities for youth.

Opportunities were identified in horticulture, mushroom production and trade, poultry, beekeeping, Irish potatoes, maize, cassava production and petty trade, rice, soybeans, animal feeds, and pineapples.



Connexus' President and CEO, Anita Campion and Holland Greentech's Jacques Tuyishime presented at the Global Youth Conmic Opportunities Summit in Washington, DC about the benefits and challenges of working with private agribusiness partners and financial institutions to expand youth entrepreneurship.

The Youth-focused Agribusiness Promotional Campaign led by Connexus developed marketing materials to highlight the potential employment opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness. The campaign highlighted private sector partners that are providing technical trainings to youth. Awareness raising materials were translated into Kinyarwanda and distributed to youth through private sector partners and implementing partners. As part of the campaign, HDAK youth were supported to attend the National Agriculture Show in Kigali, in June, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources.



What are market linkages?

Market Linkages involve informing youth about potential livelihood opportunities within promising agriculture sectors and skills training opportunities to upgrade skills and quality of services related to agriculture value chains. These linkages have created jobs for HDAK youth as either direct employees of an agribusiness or within a buyer or seller relationship. The main employment outcomes have been youth loading and offloading services, youth serving as sales agents, and youth as transporters from farm to produce aggregation centers.

Youth have also been linked to private sector partners offering technical training on aspects of agrigultural production, post harvesting technologies, and marketing within different segments of agriculture value chains.

Consortium member Connexus signed MOUs with five private agribusinesses --Balton, Holland Greentech, PEBEC, Garden Fresh, and New Extension Technology aimed a expanding agribusiness opportunities for HDAK youth.



STRENGTHENING THE WORKFORCE **DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM**

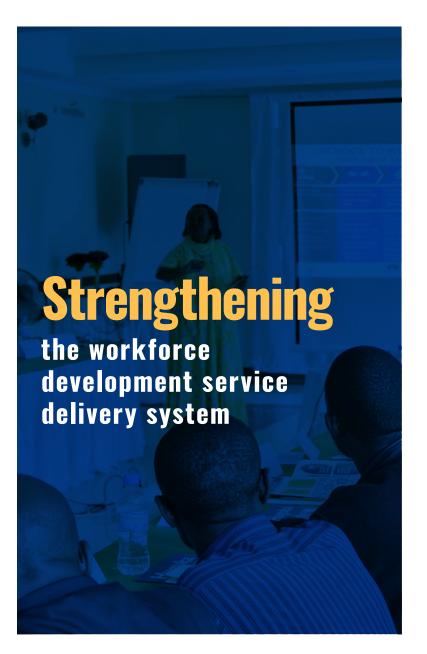
The third key outcome of the USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze project is working to develop a higher quality, more coordinated workforce development service delivery system. HDAK's stepped up commitment to systems building during Year 2 included strengthening existing strategic partnerships with Government

of Rwanda (GOR) Institutions, Private Sector Companies, Youth Serving Organizations, and other development partners, which resulted in leveraged investments, strengthened networks, and information sharing between public and private workforce development actors.



Participants at HDAK NEP Private Sector Meeting





Partnering with Other Youth Employment Programs

A major focus during Year 2 of HDAK has been integrating HDAK youth employment strategies and methodologies into largescale GOR youth employment programs.

One success area has been the provision of HDAK technical assistance to the GOR's **National Employment Program** (NEP) to enable Work Ready Now!, Be Your Own Boss, and Work Based Learning to be rolled out to 1,077 youth supported by NEP.

Another success for the program was the Workforce Development Authority's (WDA) request that HDAK lead a process to develop curricula, trainer's manuals, and assessment tools for the **new Rwanda Technical Quality Framework (RTQF) Level 2 TVET curriculum.** This included coordinating the efforts of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Hanga Ahazaza Program to develop a Hotel & Tourism (H&T) training to be included in the Level 2 TVET curriculum.



"It's really important that we are now filling in the Level 2 TVET curriculum. Previously this slot was empty and it was a big gap. There are a huge number of youth who don't have the education requirements to access level 3. Now someone with a P6 education can join level 2 and be welcome to have an occupation and choose a trade. This will help us decrease unemployment rates."

Aimable, Curriculum Development Officer from Rwanda Polytechnic

USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze





HDAK had the opportunity to serve on GOR youth panels, providing strategic positioning and high visibility for USAID within the TVET work space.

During Year 2, HDAK was elected to co-chair the **Minister of Youth's Economic Growth cluster**, alongside UNFPA who was selected to co-chair the Social Well Being cluster.

In addition, HDAK served as co-chair for competence-based training (CBT) within the **WDA TVET sub sector working group.**



Partnering with Private Sector Companies

HDAK training content and approaches to private sector companies. HDAK trained 89 private sector companies on how to deliver Work Ready Now! and Work Based Learning programs to their employees – 84 companies at the request of the Belgian organization Association for the Promotion of Education and Training Abroad (APEFE) and Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA) and 5 additional private companies in garment manufacturing under the NEP Rapid Response Training program.

Year two also provided an opportunity to extend



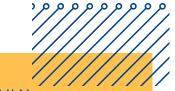
Master Training of Trainers with AKA

USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze



Capacity Building for 22 Local **Implementing Partners**

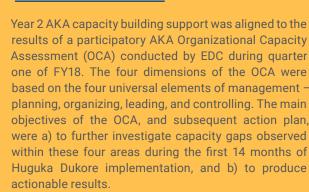
During Year 2 HDAK provided intensive capacity building for its 22 local implementing partners. The focus was on youth employment training program delivery, M&E and reporting, quality assurance, and finance and grants management. Follow up support was provided to implementing partners during monthly coordination meetings and weekly field visits.



Akazi Kanoze Access (AKA) Capacity Building

results of a participatory AKA Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) conducted by EDC during guarter one of FY18. The four dimensions of the OCA were based on the four universal elements of management planning, organizing, leading, and controlling. The main objectives of the OCA, and subsequent action plan, were a) to further investigate capacity gaps observed within these four areas during the first 14 months of Huguka Dukore implementation, and b) to produce

During the first quarter of Year 2, nine new IPs were provided 12-month grants and scopes of work by EDC to implement HDAK programs. Four additional IPs were provided similar implementation grants by CRS during quarter three. These 13 Year 2 IPs worked to roll out HDAK programming alongside the original nine Year 1 IPs. Ongoing capacity building was provided to all 22 IPs throughout Year 2.







GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

HDAK made significant strides during the year to enroll youth with disabilities into employment preparation programs. Under a project grant, Umbrella of Organizations of People with Disabilities in the Fight against HIV and AIDS and in Health promotion (UPHLS) continues to serve as a main resource partner for HDAK's other 22 IPs.

To date, over 500 youth with disabilities have been enrolled in HDAK work readiness training programs. Additionally, working closely with all the IPs to promote gender equality through training and other awareness raising activities, HDAK continued to enroll female youth in trades that are traditionally dominated by males.



"

In Work Ready Now! I learned that all people have different talents and skills no matter their ability or disability. Now I see that mine is making shoes."



Christian's Story

Christian is an USAID HDAK youth from Rulindo who has recently completed WRN!, BYOB, and technical training.

Prior to joining HDAK, Christian was interested in learning shoemaking but faced barriers in reaching his dream because of the discrimation he faced due to his physical disability.

"The hardest thing since I developed this disability is that people started to look at me and think that I wasn't capable. In their minds, having a disability stopped me from being able to do anything. I used to fix broken shoes as an odd job, but no one saw my potential in being able to work well or even make my own shoes."

Christian was excited when he heard that USAID HDAK would be specificially targeting youth with disabilities.

"I didn't think that there were people who would include me. I could attend WRN! classes and share my ideas during groups discussions and have people actually listen to me. It was really encouraging to interact with my peers in this way."

Now Christian has completed his leather work training and is now confidently self-employed making shoes and belts.





Empowering Females to Join Traditionally Male-Dominated Trades



- Jeanine, Nyarugenge (left)

"I've always been interested in cars and secretly dreamed of becoming a taxi or bus driver, but I never imagined I would have the opportunity to learn a trade like auto-mechanics. I know many people think auto-mechanics is for boys, but I'm good at it and it doesn't bother me if others don't get it."

- Diane, Nyarugenge (right)





Visit From USAID Washington Senior Education and Gender Advisor, Yolande Miller-Grandvaux and Senior Communications Advisor Laura Lartigue

Dr. Yolande and Laura interacted with two HDAK disability partners UPHLS and Uwezo and also visited a training site where HDAK youth were receiving on the site training from an experienced shoe maker. This visit was an important part of HDAK's continued commitment to gender and social inclusion.



Making WRN! More Inclusive

With the help of UPHLS, the Work Ready Now! curriculum has been translated into braille. Blind youth are now included in HDAK training and are independently accessing the WRN! written materials.

Sign language interpreters have been hired so that deaf



Top WRN! Student: Janette

"I was so happy to arrive at the training and see others who have disabilities learning alongside those who don't. I felt so welcomed and included. It was like for the first time, people actually understand the disability I have. (Janette is partially deaf.) Now I have hope that I can find a way forward and build a better future for myself."

- Janette (center) from Musanze, is partially deaf





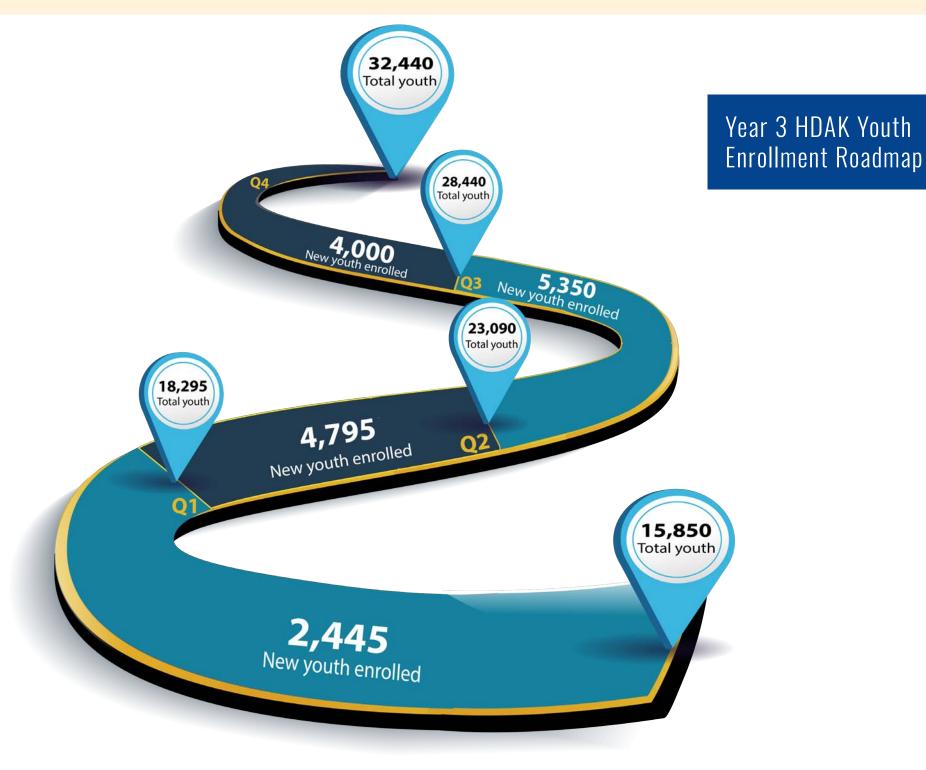
EDC Rwanda Team

HDAK will build on successful Year 2 achievements to further strengthen a well-coordinated workforce development delivery system, equipped to provide relevant, demand- driven employment preparation and job placements for thousands more vulnerable youth during the coming year.

During Year 3, HDAK plans to enroll at least 16,590 new youth beneficiaries in employment preparation programs which will bring the cumulative youth enrollment figure (Years 1-3 combined) to approximately 32,000 youth enrolled by the end of FY19. Progress towards performance indicators is presented within

HDAK's sample data dashboard: https://go.edc.org/hdak

HDAK will expand working relationships and capacity building efforts with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Workforce Development Authority, Rwanda Polytechnic, National Employment Program, foreign donor Technical Vocational Education and Training programs, private sector companies, and local implementing partners. This will include leveraging resources with a growing network of workforce development actors to integrate HDAK youth employment strategies and methodologies into large scale GOR youth employment programs.



With special thanks

To our consortium members:









And to our implementing partners:

Afric (AEE		gelisti	c Enterp	rise
Afric	a New Li	fe Min	nistry (AN	LM)
APAI	ORME			
Asso	ciation	Des	Jeunes	De

Saint Charles Lwanga (AJECL)

Associazione Volontari per il **Servizio Internazionale (AVSI)**

Benimpuhwe Association

Caritas Byumba

Caritas Kibungo

Caritas Kibungo

Centre de Formation des Travaileurs Rwandais (CEFOTRAR)

Centre Professional des Jeunes Pour Sortir de la Pauvrete (CPJSP)

Conseil Consultatif des Femmes (COCOF)

Esther's Aid

Frontiers Adventures Great Lakes

Health Poverty Action (HPA)

Imbaraga Farmers Organization

International Business Center (IBC Group)

Never Again Rwanda (NAR)

Rwanda Organization for Development Initiative (RODI)

SOS Village D'Enfants

Umbrella of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in the Fight against HIV/AIDS and for **Health Promotion (UPHLS)**

Vision Jeuness Nouvelle

