



# NEWSLETTER



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**Save the Children**



## A NOTE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the Akazi Kanoze Access newsletter. We want to share with you our progress in the field of youth economic empowerment and in helping take advantage of economic opportunities.

Stay updated on the progress of our activities in the multiple projects we are implementing through this publication. Details on our ongoing trainings, job placement activities and other support services are included inside. I hope you enjoy this edition!

*-Nicolas Emame*

*Marketing and Communications Coordinator*



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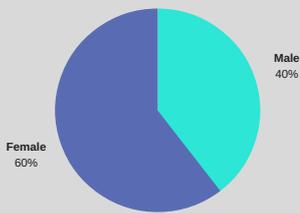
**DEVOTHE, DARIA &  
JEAN CLAUDE SHARE  
THEIR EXPERIENCES**

# THE MONTH OF MAY IN NUMBERS



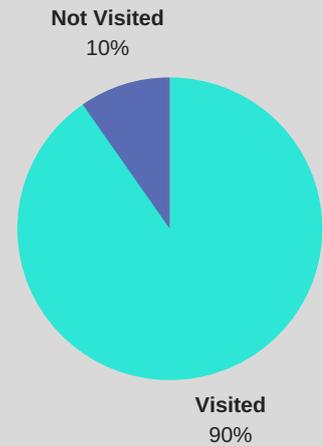
## *Business Support Services:*

After youth complete Work Ready Now and Be Your Own Buss training, some choose to become entrepreneurs and start their own business. Through the GROW (Grow Your Own Business) program, AKA visits these entrepreneurs to check up on their businesses and see what support and advice they need.



This month, 215 alumni (85M, 130F) of Akazi Kanoze programs have been contacted regarding their businesses.

## *Monitoring and Evaluation:*



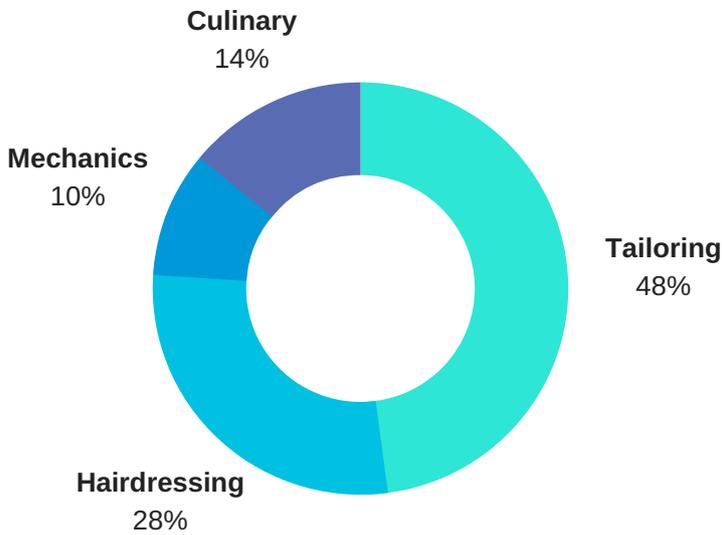
Of the 31 Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze implementing partners, 28 have been visited for monitoring and evaluation, and the quality of training observed has been satisfying.

## CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:

During the implementation of the Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze program, our staff did face some challenges in communication with implementing partners, assurance of training and venue quality, and accommodating youth needs based on training time. However, our staff was able to develop strong solutions to these programs that we look forward to implementing in June.

These solutions include, but are not limited to, ensuring availability of training materials, organizing more efficient planning and communication with implementing partners, and designing curriculums that can support youth interested in different trades.

# MAY'S NUMBERS CON'T: TECHNICAL TRAINING



## *AKA Direct Delivery Technical Training:*

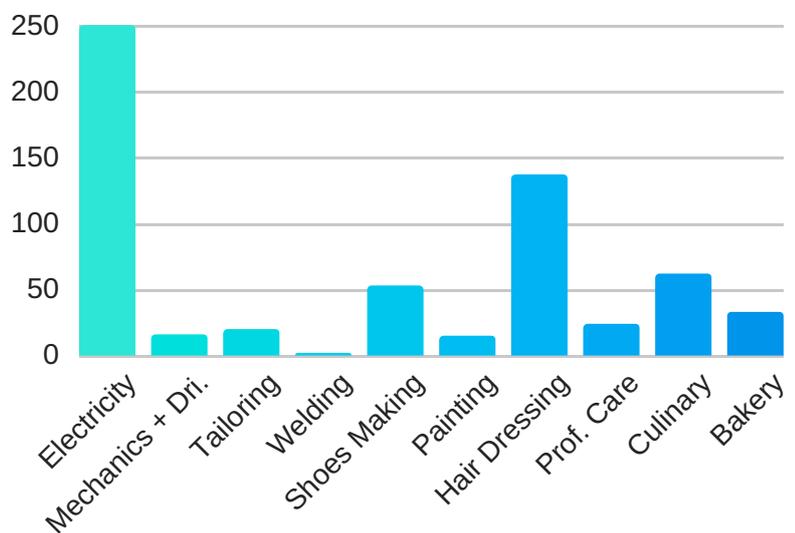
After our youth receive Work Ready Now and Be Your Own Boss training, they undergo technical training based on their trade of interest. AKA offers Direct Delivery of certain trades, in collaboration with VTC Gacuriro and Esther's Aid, such as tailoring, hairdressing, mechanics, and culinary. Below and to the left is a breakdown of youth interest in each trade.

IP	Trade	# youth		
		M	F	TOTAL
VTC Gacuriro	Tailoring	1	18	19
	Hairdressing	2	18	20
	Mechanics	7	0	7
Esther's Aid	Tailoring	15	0	15
	Culinary	2	8	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>71</b>

This data was collected by the Monitoring, Evaluating, Learning and Planning (MELP) Department

Apart from AKA Direct Delivery, many of our youth receive technical training through our implementing partners throughout Rwanda. Below is data about 612 of our youth. 250 are receiving vocational training in electricity from IBC, 38 in tailoring, mechanics, welding and shoemaking from UPHLS, 66 in painting, hair dressing, and professional care from NAR, and 246 in culinary, hair dressing, bakery and shoe making from AEE. To the right is a graphical breakdown of the vocational training numbers for each trade.

## *IP Technical Training:*



This data was collected by the Skills Development Department

# ACTIVITIES FROM OUR STAFF'S EYES

"We are happy that our youth are happy with the content of the training. On the day of the External Assessment, students gave testimony that the training will help them in their daily lives, and that it has changed their way of thinking. I'm happy to have contributed to the well-being of others."

-Omar Mugabo,  
Database Administration

"In May we found placement for AKA youth that were trained at Gacuriro VTC. Other alumni received internships at the Landmark Hotel, with 4 serving as housekeepers and 1 as a receptionist. We are excited to follow up and track their progress!"

-Gilbert Nshimiyimana, School to Work Transition

"May was significant with the arrival of our two interns from Georgetown, following our continued partnership with GU Impacts."

-Nicolas Emame, Communications

Siddharth (Sidd) Mucchal is a Business Development and Communications intern with Akazi Kanoze Access from Georgetown University, and is excited to work on AKA's social media presence and improving youth access to capital.

Sonia Gupta is entering her third year of studying International Law and Development at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service. She is excited to spend the rest of the summer in Kigali, working on advocacy and communications for AKA!

AKA is working with Future First Global to increase the scale and scope of current alumni networks. The pilot project tested the potential of alumni networks in mentoring and supporting youth. Our three month evaluation provided demonstrated that:

- All focal point teachers and headteachers recognized the value in a good alumni network and stated it was important to them.
- All schools spoken to at interview had taken some steps towards developing their alumni network.
- Schools were aware of putting structures in place to capture details of students who leave from now on.

The plan includes the following phases:

- Programme development
- Fundraising
- Continuing work with the 45 schools in Cohort 1
- Scale up 100 schools
- Scale up another 100 schools



Schoolteacher Rosa de Lima reflects on the need for alumni networks- "I'm only informed of what I see in my day to day life and what I witness in the classroom or hear from my supervisors. The alumni show me what's happening outside of this bubble and I can adapt my lessons accordingly."

AKA employee Nicolas Emame worked on this report with FFG employee Hannah White. Interviews conducted by Gilbert Nshimiyimana & Sonia Gupta

# TRAINER SUCESS STORY

## Olivier: Entrepreneurship in Action

Whether it be in his education, his business, or his life, Olivier Sano Iradukunda, 27, builds himself on the ideals of entrepreneurship and planning. As a trainer for Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze (HDAK), he hopes to instill these same ideals into the youth he works with.

Before becoming a trainer, Olivier was a student at the University of Rwanda, where he led the entrepreneurship club for two years, participating in business plan writing and idea competitions. By working with entrepreneurship trainers as part of this club, Olivier himself became interested in the field, and became a trainer for the Akazi Kanoze 2 program after graduation.

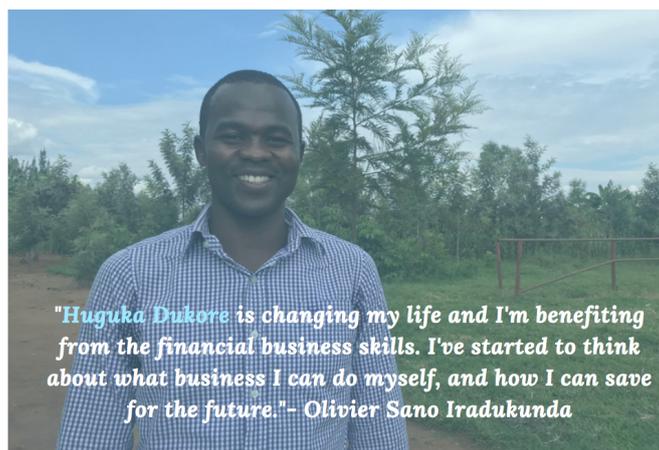
After AK2 reached completion, Olivier began training HDAK, and realized the profound impact it had on students. "In HDAK, youth get to discover themselves, know their potential, think of the future they want, and plan how to get there."

Olivier explained how specifically HDAK is able to equip youth with this ability to plan. "After they begin to discover themselves, we take them through business training sessions in Work Ready Now. Then, we conduct Be Your Own Boss training, which is a package that helps them create a business proposal."

Youth can then participate in technical training, which helps them in finding a job or starting their own businesses. "In whatever they're doing, the youth learn to think about their situation and innovate. We are challenging them and helping them see their environment as a profit."

Though HDAK is focused on helping the trainees become innovators and planners, even the trainer has learned some valuable lessons. "HDAK is changing my life, and I'm benefiting from the financial business skills. I've started to think about what businesses I can do myself, and how much I can save for the future." Currently, Olivier already has a business of subletting houses, but he is considering starting another agricultural business through his savings that will generate a monthly income.

In fact, Olivier has been incorporating his learnings about innovation and planning into the training itself; when there's a challenge or a redundancy, he looks for unique ways to overcome them. When student attendance is low, Olivier calls them and reaches out to make sure they are okay, and works with other trainers to host inspirational events with speakers to motivate youth about opportunities. When certain modules of training seem confusing, he adapts his methodology for the youth. When youth with smaller academic backgrounds struggle to cope with concepts, Olivier empowers those with more education to help their fellow trainees "gain knowledge and be motivated."



*Name: Olivier*

*Training Site: Karambi*

*Sector and District: Muhazi, Rwamagana*

*Implementing Partner: Frontiers*

*Adventures Great Lakes*

*Hobbies: Riding bicycle and playing volleyball*

Despite all the efforts Olivier makes so that youth can access work readiness and entrepreneurship training, he is aware that they will face significant challenges in engaging in self-employment.

"There are challenges for individuals and for groups. Being in a group removes some of the individual challenges of accessing financial support and growing a customer base, but there are still challenges of working together and trusting each other."

However, empowered with HDAK training, Olivier believes these youth can overcome these obstacles and become successful. "There is much the youth can achieve with goal setting. In the starting, we help them identify and develop their goals."

According to these goals, they go through technical training, and can start businesses. After completion, through our SILC (Saving and Internal Lending Community) groups, youth can learn from each other. Overall, HDAK helps these youth develop skills to become business minded and be successful."

Olivier is optimistic not only for the youth, but for his own future as well. "I'm still designing my hopes for the future. But what is important is not the income you can generate, but how much someone can save and invest; not how much in terms of amount, but according to what each person has. With me, I hope to start my farm in the future, but of course I will continue training because I like it."

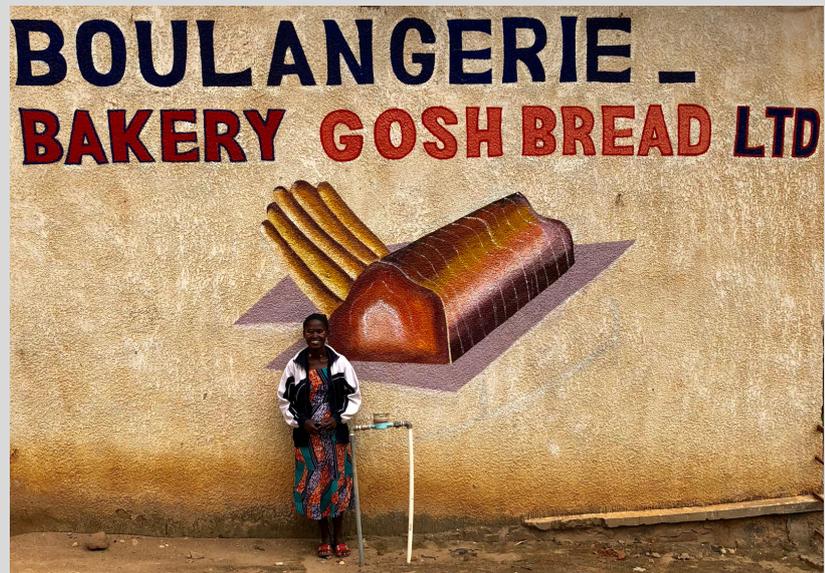
# STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES 05/18



Daria (28) is excited to begin her internship at Gosh Bread Bakery, thanks to Akazi Kanoze Access! She completed the AKA's Work Ready Now program before receiving training in culinary skills from Esther's Aid of Kigali. Using this trade, she earned an internship and plans to build upon this experience in a full time job after her internship.

"Thanks to this training, I have hope for the future. Now I can make plans and I am confident that I will succeed."

-Devothe, age 20



"Now I can be the one helping other people because no one is going to underestimate me because of the skills I have."

-Jean Claude, age 27

# A LOOK AHEAD

## COMING UP IN JUNE

On Friday, June 22nd, AKA will visit Nyamata to commemorate the Genocide against the Tutsis.

AKA staff will visit the Nyamata Genocide Memorial and two families of survivors, to show support and solidarity. It is part of AKA's social responsibility to partake in such events and provide a contribution. We are looking forward to having a thoughtful and respectful day as we share this experience.



We highly value your continuous feedback and are all ears if you have ideas on what you would like to see included in our next newsletter!



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