



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

Inspires Youth to Create Employment Opportunities for Peers



EDC/Akazi Kanoze Project

“As an Akazi Kanoze graduate, I have hired other youth from the program because I know they can deliver good results.”

Faustin NTAMUGABUMWE

Faustin NTAMUGABUMWE looks poised and confident at the construction site of the new Nyamata Parish Catholic church, a building structure approximately 30 kilometers south of Kigali city. A welder by trade, Faustin hires assistant workers to help him produce metal doors and windows. As a contractor, Faustin attributes his success to the skills he acquired from the Akazi Kanoze program—specifically, “exploring entrepreneurship”—a module that teaches participants business start-up skills.

Akazi Kanoze Youth Livelihoods project Financed by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), provides Rwanda youth, ages 14-35, with market-relevant work-readiness training and support, life skills training, and links to formal employment and self-employment opportunities.

A year ago, Faustin was enrolled in the Akazi Kanoze program with implementing partner CEFOTRAR. As a student, he gained technical training in welding services as well as essential work-readiness skills such as time management and financial literacy. The program’s fundamental lessons inspired Faustin to purchase welding equipment using a series of loans and open a small contracting business where he now employs fellow young people. “Before Akazi Kanoze I had no skills; after the program I obtained the technical knowledge to increase my livelihood,” said Faustin.

Faustin currently manages eight workers, including two Akazi Kanoze graduates who were recruited as interns following their completion of work-readiness training with CEFOTRAR. “As an Akazi Kanoze graduate, I have hired other youth from the program because I know they can deliver good results,” asserted Faustin. “It’s a benefit to recruit Akazi Kanoze youth for my business.”

On the job, the young workers have developed a real camaraderie among themselves. Faustin coaches his fellow graduates in hands-on technical skills by assisting them to cut metal sheets, carve and bend irons, and operate different machines necessary to produce quality products.

Faustin dreams of expanding his business and hiring additional Akazi Kanoze youth for employment. He even recommends mentoring youth trainees from the program to enhance their technical skills for employment opportunities in the construction industry.

Faustin, a man of great potential, is staying true to his Akazi Kanoze roots by providing work-readiness youth with the fundamental building blocks to succeed.