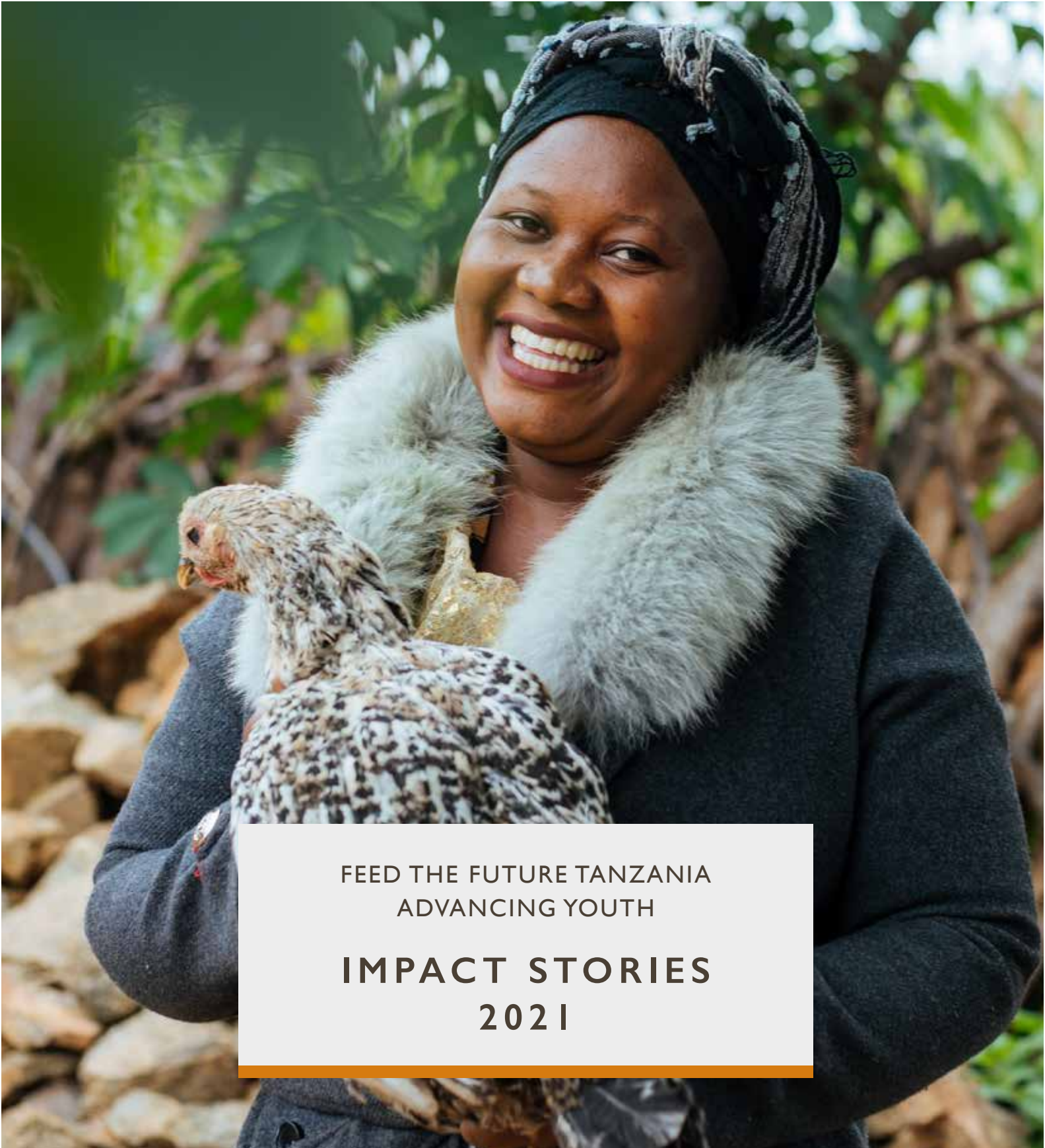




FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



FEED THE FUTURE TANZANIA
ADVANCING YOUTH

IMPACT STORIES
2021

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*Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.*

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FEED THE FUTURE TANZANIA ADVANCING YOUTH

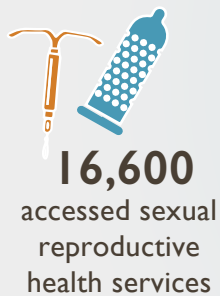
Background

Tanzanian youths have the potential to play a key role in the economic development of their country. However, for the 800,000 young people who enter the Tanzanian workforce annually, employment remains a challenge. For Tanzania to reap the benefits of its growing youth population and achieve the goals of its development agenda, it is more important than ever to provide youth with the skills, training, and resources they need to contribute to the economy.

Nearly 67 percent of the workforce in Tanzania is engaged in agriculture. Economic growth has benefited cities more than rural areas, leading to increased rural-to-urban migration by youth who see farming as a dead-end occupation.

The Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth activity connects youth to entrepreneurship training, technical skills building, leadership development, healthy lifestyle cultivation, and employment opportunities. This activity aims to increase income opportunities for more than 25,000 young people through rigorous, professional training and matching youth to formal and informal jobs.

3.75 YEARS OF FEED THE FUTURE TANZANIA ADVANCING YOUTH



Acknowledgments

This book captures a glimpse of the efforts that Feed the Future Advancing Youth, funded by USAID, has been able to achieve in the past four years. Since its inception in 2017, Advancing Youth has worked with myriad actors who have channeled resources and invested in the success of young people, providing promise that even beyond Advancing Youth's tenure, young people will continue to innovate, grow, and thrive in Tanzania. The success of USAID's Advancing Youth activity would not be possible without our partnership with the Government of Tanzania, especially the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Authority, the Special Department in Zanzibar, the Ministries of Youth on the mainland and in Zanzibar, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, local government authorities including the Regional Commissioners, Regional Administrative Secretaries for Mbeya and Iringa Regions, and District Commissioners for Iringa, Njombe, Mbarali, Mbeya DC, Mbeya City, Rungwe, Kyela, and Busokelo

Similarly, apex private sector associations have been part of Advancing Youths' success. Strong partnerships with organizations such as the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation, Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture, and universities have engaged youth in trainings, linkages, exposure, market opportunities, internships, and jobs.

Investing in youth leadership in Tanzania is a priority for USAID and the Government of Tanzania. Tanzania is a young country, and its population is expected to double in the next 25 to 30 years. Deliberate efforts by the government, private sector, and communities to ensure that the energy, talents, and optimism of today's youth, as well as those who will follow them, make Tanzania a place of promise and prosperity for all.

It is with great appreciation that we provide this window into the stories and lives of young people that Advancing Youth has helped to shape and support, who in turn use their newfound skills, resources, and capacity to create the Tanzania that we want to see. Here is to you, our partners and our youth!

Asanteni sana na Hongera wote.



USAID MISSION DIRECTOR FOREWORD

For more than 60 years, the United States has considered Tanzania a partner in economic growth. More recently, we have supported the Government of Tanzania's Vision 2025 efforts to achieve middle-income country status. One of the key ways we have supported these efforts is through investing in youth. With 65 percent of the population now between the ages of 15 and 35, Tanzania can only accelerate its economic growth if it harnesses the full productive potential of its youth, 800,000 of whom enter the workforce annually. This requires the creation of new jobs, better financing opportunities, and government support, enabling entrepreneurs and the private sector to thrive and invest in the future of this country. It also means investing in leadership opportunities where young people's voices can become part of decision-making processes, as well as ensuring youth make healthy life decisions.

The U.S. government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) prioritizes investing in youth through its \$20 million five-year Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth (AY) activity. Advancing Youth addresses the challenges affecting rural young people by supporting leadership, life skills, and livelihoods opportunities where youth can channel their energy and resourcefulness toward creating jobs, becoming leaders, and deciding how to shape the future of their families.

We believe that youth bring about economic transformation when they have a stake in society. Through the Advancing Youth Advisory Council, the activity encourages young people to work with government and private sector actors and broaden their involvement in decision-making. As future leaders, they will become the engine for achieving economic growth and for influencing policies and laws that encourage positive transformation.

We also promote healthy lifestyles among Tanzanian youth. We assist young people to protect their future by helping them access quality health services from government facilities.

To date, the USAID Advancing Youth activity has reached more than 26,500 young people and provided over 1.2 billion Tanzanian shillings as grants to grow agribusinesses. The key to unlocking capital has not only been start-up capital, but youth savings and lending groups. AY currently has 210 Youth Savings and Lending Associations made up of more than 3,900 youth who are collectively worth 1.3 billion shillings (US\$560,700), demonstrating the infinite possibilities that youth hold. Apart from start-ups, AY has also helped youth gain leadership skills, and have subsequently led community development efforts where youth have raised more than 120 million shillings (US\$52,170) to build six rural roads, 15 schools, and 210 latrines (for clinics and schools). This has helped shape their communities' perspectives of young people as change agents and capable individuals who can provide critical support to transform the communities in which they live.

USAID will continue to support the people of Tanzania, and our strong bilateral partnership, as together we contribute to economic growth and self-reliance by advancing Tanzanian youth. We remain committed to supporting the Tanzanian people and particularly its young people to become the leaders and entrepreneurs that will drive Tanzania's economic growth.



Kate Somvongsiri

USAID Mission Director



L I V E L I H O O D

The Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth program aims to increase entrepreneurship and workforce readiness skills among youth.

When they are economically empowered, youth reinvest in their communities, leading to greater self-reliance and prosperity. Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth trains youth, including young women, who do not have access to formal banking services, to save and borrow money to support their small businesses by establishing Youth Savings and Lending Associations (YSLAs) in their communities. The YSLAs create a genuine possibility for youth to become economically independent.



Female-owned enterprise adds value and earns profits

Dependence on old farming techniques limited 32-year-old Pili Kashinje's potential as a farmer. She expected farming to yield high results and quick returns, but this was not the case when she first began. Everything changed when she joined Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth, which invests in entrepreneurship and savings and lending training for youth in Zanzibar. The training helped Pili transform her love for farming and agriculture into a profitable enterprise. Pili learned how she could grow as a farmer.

Drawing upon her experience in agriculture, Pili used her new business knowledge to set up Kashinje Products Limited in 2018. She adds value to orange-fleshed sweet potato crops by processing them into flour. Pili then sells them across Zanzibar and on the Tanzania mainland.

In the nascent stages of building her company, Advancing Youth worked with Pili and continuously provided her with mentorship, technical help,

and market exposure opportunities. The productivity of her business improved. Advancing Youth also linked Pili to the Feed the Future Tanzania *Mboga na Matunda* (vegetables and fruit) program. They provided her with quality seeds of the nutritious sweet potato variety known as orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Within the Advancing Youth activity, Pili joined a YSLA where she could save and borrow money to help her business take off.







The small milling machine at Pili's facility now produces 400 kilograms of sweet potato products per month from the potatoes that she farms. She generates TZS 12 million (USD 5,159) annually in sales to 15 schools across Zanzibar and directly to other customers.

FROM 0.5 ACRES TO



“Originally, I owned half an acre of land, but since expanding my business, I now own 12 acres of land. Expanding my business has exponentially helped me to employ other youth. I currently have eight youth workers whose families I support,” says Pili.

Besides her success with Kashinje Products Limited, Pili's business expansion has allowed her to construct her own house and pay school fees for her only child enrolled in an out-of-country school. Pili will also soon complete the construction of a processing factory and a packaging warehouse for her products. The warehouse also packages cassava flour, moringa plant flour, and an assortment of spices and nutritious purpose-mixed flour for children under five.

“Pili plans to become one of the most successful female agripreneurs in her region. “I have huge expectations for the future. I want to start a fruit processing factory, to export my products out of the country, and help provide jobs for many more youths.”



Finding her voice, Khairat leads other youth

25-year-old Khairat Suleiman Ame from Zanzibar is a Community Mobilizer. Coming from a community where women struggle to overcome gender inequality, have lower earning power, and the majority marry early, Khairat has defied the odds. Her parents divorced when Khairat was young, leaving her mother with few resources to raise her family. Khairat knew she wanted a better future. Today she is creating financial independence.

Initially, Khairat did not feel confident that she had a voice. Nor did she believe she could persuade others to protect their health or save money in youth groups. Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth trained Khairat on entrepreneurship,

leadership, and life skills, including reproductive health education. This training has transformed Khairat into a woman with both business skills and self-esteem. She is now an accomplished and personable leader, much respected by her community.

“I have formed and trained YSLAs on how to improve their businesses as individuals and in groups. They have achieved success from various sources of livelihood that contribute to their growth. At first, I didn’t believe that I could do it. I now address people confidently, and many have gained a lot from my advice. I have also increased my income through networking and exposure to business networking opportunities. My business activities have enabled me to help my mother and my relatives.”

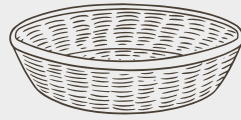






“The Youth Savings and Lending Associations (YSLAs) I formed and trained have achieved great success. I have become a more confident public speaker and increased my income through exposure to business networking opportunities. I am now able to help my family.”

KHAIRAT SULEIMAN AME, 25
ZANZIBAR



Zanzibari youth weaving themselves a brighter future

25-year-old Mayasa Hamadi Ali zooms in on her motorcycle, beaming confidently. She has good reason to smile. Mayasa leads the Zanzibar International Student Network (ZISNET), a lucrative youth business group that she's helped create and grow from three members to 25!

Mayasa, a diploma graduate, lacked chances for formal employment despite her level of education. She dreamed of getting a job as an accountant, but opportunities were few. Still, Mayasa held on to the belief that unemployment should not be a barrier to success. She wanted to prove to other young women like herself from her community that a brighter future awaits them.

Mayasa gained the opportunity to achieve her dreams when she joined the Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth program. The training helped her refine her

idea to establish a club for young women using self-taught skills to earn a living.

Immediately after the training, Mayasa teamed up with a fellow participant and established ZISNET domestic club using a start-up capital of just TZS 230,000 (USD 99).

“With the support of Advancing Youth, we registered our group following the training. Training also inspired us to come up with new products. These new products are bringing success to the group.”





Zanzibar, Tanzania - Mayasa Ali, and other members of ZISNET. The group specializes in making cultural products such as handbags, purses, winnowing baskets, and door mats.

L I V E L I H O O D

The ZISNET club enrolls out-of-school youth who can use their sewing and weaving skills to produce items and earn a living.

“We train youth on practical skills such as designing and sewing clothes, weaving baskets and doormats, and producing essential oils for body massage. We only use sustainable materials to make the bags, and would like all our products to be environmentally friendly. This appeals to the tourism market, our prime target,” explains Mayasa.

“The training I received from Advancing Youth led me to realize my vision to help other youth like myself to believe in their abilities. The training has made me more confident, improved my skills, and has empowered me to lead my group more efficiently. It feels good that I have added value to the group using the bookkeeping and marketing skills I learned. I am excited to see what the future holds now that we are diversifying our products to a more sustainable offering.”

ZISNET merchandise is also a big hit with Zanzibar residents. The group took part in the 2019 Zanzibar Cultural Exhibition and received custom orders totaling TZS 1,050,000 (USD 451). Mayasa and ZISNET are weaving their way into a brighter future and more income thanks to Advancing Youth.







Elfu huanzia moja - A thousand begins with one; Nassoro's journey from two products to 21

Nassoro Musa Khamisi is a 27-year-old entrepreneur from Pemba. He processes and sells food products under Nass Products, his own brand name. Nassoro was not new to processing food products when he came into contact with Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth since he was already processing baobab fruit (ubuyu) and mango pickles. But with only two products, there was certainly room for expansion.

Access to Advancing Youth training taught and motivated Nassoro to expand his business to include a wider variety of food products. He saved up capital and added popular food flavorings such as chili powder, curry powder, and a ground-spices-blend for cooking aromatic rice. He added spiced coffee, nutritious flour, and assorted oils like coconut and jasmine oil, as well as other new commodities. Nass Products grew from two products to 21!

New products required new markets. Nassoro was excited to gain more market exposure via Advancing Youth. They connected Nassoro with business networking events such as Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) 'Saba Saba' exhibition and the World Food Day event in Chamanangwe, Pemba. In January 2020 the Small Industries Development Association (SMIDA) held a business competition at the Zanzibar Business Festival in Unguja, Zanzibar.



Pemba, Tanzania - Nassoro Musa, Khamisi received entrepreneurship training from Feed the Farmer Tanzania Advancing Youth. He sells many products under his brand 'Nass Products', including chili sauce, flour, hair and body oil, and various vegetable and fruit juices.

L I V E L I H O O D

Nassoro was one of five other skilled entrepreneurs who competed in the business creativity category. He proudly won third place, an achievement he credits to the skills and exposure he got through Advancing Youth.

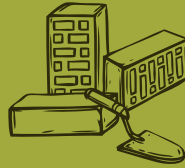
“Advancing Youth transformed my life. The program has developed three important things in me: belief in my capabilities, a diverse skill set, and credibility in my business. Training made it possible for me to advance, giving me the skills and confidence to create a wider range of products. I now have 21 products under my brand, an outstanding growth made possible by the program training alone.

All my products are certified by the Zanzibar Food and Drug Association. My next goal is to meet ZBS standards, a certification that will give Nass Products even more credibility. I aim to achieve it by 2024.”

“I used to run a small grocery, but now I own an entire shop. I worked very hard at my business and bought myself land. My principal goal is to one day own a manufacturing plant. There is no better program than the Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth program. I give it my highest recommendation!”



PEMBA WOMEN ARE BUILDING THEIR OWN HOMES

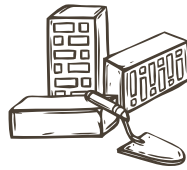


A group of women are creating ripples along the shores of Pemba by building their own homes, single-handedly

Traditionally, Pemba women have little or no access to income generation and rarely take part in public leadership roles. Many women marry and have children young. They become responsible for the family's survival yet suffer from a lack of income, mainly because of a shortage of capital to invest in income-generating activities.

SABAH AND AMINIA SHARE THEIR
ADVANCING YOUTH SUCCESS STORIES.





Community savings and loans help build self-reliance

Economically empowered youth reinvest in their communities—leading to greater self-reliance and prosperity. Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth supports economic empowerment by training youth, including young women, who cannot access formal banking services. They learn how to save and borrow money to support their small businesses by establishing YSLAs in their communities.

Aminia Hadji from Mtambwa in Wete District, Pemba, Zanzibar, is an outstanding example. Two years ago, a Community Mobilizer from Advancing Youth selected Aminia to take part in youth savings and lending training. Following her training, she teamed up with a few friends and neighbors to create the *Umoja wa Inua Vijana* (Unity Uplifts Youth) savings group.

“We all wanted to do business but didn’t have any capital, so the savings groups were a great way to get started,” says Aminia.

Aminia and the other youth in her group had a dream to each own a

house. “We went for it and we set a goal that within a year each of us should use the profit we make from our businesses to build a house.”

A YSLA group comprises 15-25 members, where each member contributes an agreed minimum amount of savings as a dividend during their weekly meetings. Members can then borrow money at a fixed interest rate set by the group of 3-10. The loan is used to start or support their small businesses. After 12 months, the lending stops. The members then share the total profit accrued during the 12 months based on how much each had bought as a dividend and as a percentage of overall profits.





PEMBA WOMEN ARE BUILDING THEIR OWN HOMES

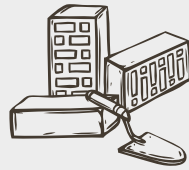
A mother of two, Aminia saw the need to build a house for her family, and the YSLA funds came in handy. “Through the support I received from Advancing Youth, I am able to supplement my husband’s efforts in ensuring that my family lives a good life. I have been able to save and borrow money from the *Umoja wa Inua Vijana* youth group, which has enabled me to build my house. I initially borrowed 200,000 shillings (USD 86) to help with my family’s clove business. Three months later, I used the profit I made from cloves to purchase cement. After repaying the loan, I borrowed another 300,000 shillings (USD 129) to pay the builders.”

Aminia has since moved into her three-bedroom house with only a few repairs on windows left to complete. Thanks to Advancing Youth, she has seen her dream fulfilled. Aminia hopes many more youths will be encouraged to join the savings group.

⋮ *“I am so excited to own a house, that I have built through my own efforts. Discipline and accountability have put me in control of my future and my dream to build a home for my young family. I had no chance of saving and planning, but Advancing Youth has taught me just that. The project has helped me to develop the skills and discipline to save and create the future I want!”*







The group challenge that helped make Sabahi a home-owner

Twenty-seven-year-old Sabahi Mohammed Ali from Pemba in Zanzibar, is an entrepreneur and a member of *Umoja Wetu* (Our Union) YSLA. She is also the very proud owner of her own home.

Sabahi and the other youth in her group had a dream to each own a house. They created a group challenge. Within the year, they would use their business profits to build their own homes. Sabahi rose to the challenge and used her first YSLA

loan to construct a two-bedroom house for her family. She was eager to fulfill the group aspiration, and Sabahi invested her savings into her desire to hold an asset that she can call her own.

⋮ *“Before joining the YSLA, I was extremely poor. I had no solutions yet now I have built my own two-bedroom house!”*





“Young women are waking up to the need to build homes. We want to have something in our name, and we want to live in better quality houses. Our group has agreed that we women will take the lead and focus on using our profits to build houses. I am a clove farmer, and I improved my business with a loan of 300,000 shillings (USD129) from Umoja Wetu (Our Union), our savings and lending group. The Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth training program prompted us to form the group. Our husbands support us and appreciate our new motivation. Without the training and challenge from Advancing Youth to save, borrow, and invest, we would not be making the progress that you see today.”

SABAHI MOHAMMED ALI, 27
PEMBA



Sewing her way to success

Inside her home in Chake Chake on Pemba Island, 26-year-old Riziki Hamadi Omar sews a pillowcase for a client. Pillowcases are one of the recurrent orders that she receives daily. Riziki is passionate about her trade, and with a growing demand for her services, she taught other youth in her community how to sew. This commitment, however, required investing in additional sewing machines with money she didn't have.

Riziki heard about the YSLA organized by Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth program in her community. She decided joining the association would allow her to borrow money to help expand her business and help her train more youth.

“I knew little about saving money before being introduced to *Umoja Wetu* Savings and Lending group through AY. As a member of the YSLA, I could borrow 300,000 shillings (USD 129). I used the money to buy an additional sewing machine,

adding to the two I already had. The extra sewing machine means I can teach more students, allowing for more customers.”

While many women in her community have invested in building homes, Riziki wanted to first use the money to grow her business by acquiring more physical assets. She is confident it will lead to more income over time, enabling her to improve her life. Riziki plans to ultimately invest in building a home using increased business profits.





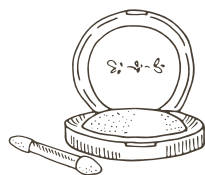
L I V E L I H O O D

“I charge 50,000 shillings (USD 21.50) to teach one student. This fee covers one month with two-hour sessions, three times a week. Before the loan, I made 100,000 shillings (USD 43) from two students, but since then, I can now make 150,000 shillings (USD 64.50).”

Riziki can now produce more clothing through her sewing school with the help of her students. Her clients can choose from a variety of embroidered bed sheets, tablecloths, and children’s clothes.

“When I had two sewing machines, I could make 300,000 shillings (USD 129) per month, but now I make over 600,000 shillings (USD 258) in profit, thanks to Advancing Youth efforts.”

⋮ *“I didn’t have enough knowledge about saving money until
⋮ being introduced to Umoja Wetu Savings and Lending group
⋮ through Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth.”*



Youth takes up make-up business opportunity

Twenty-four-year-old Lailat Hilali Kombo puts her creative talents to work. She is a make-up artist and communications student in Pemba, Zanzibar. She is also a member of *Umoja Wetu* YSLA. While fellow members invested in typical food processing businesses, she spotted a different opportunity in her community. Lailat provides wedding services.

Weddings are a big business in Zanzibar. Preparations begin a week before the wedding day, and there is a strictly No Boys Allowed policy in the female-only ceremonies. Culturally, men cannot take pictures, nor can they be present in such intimate settings, an opportunity Lailat recognized and seized. Advancing Youth has opened her eyes to the possibility of borrowing, buying assets, and paying for courses relevant to her wedding business.

Lailat explains, “I joined and contributed to a youth savings and lending group. I borrowed money to enroll in a beauty and make-up course. Before my courses, I started out doing body art using henna. Henna decorations are an important part of our culture. We decorate brides for luck and to bless the marriage. I now complement my henna services with professional make-up for weddings and wedding photography.”

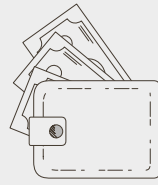


“I did not have a sense of self-awareness before joining Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth. The program has taught me so many new skills, including reproductive health knowledge. On a personal level, I have gained great parenting skills, have more confidence as a mother, and can better raise my child. On a professional level, I am pursuing a line of work that I enjoy and that suits me.”

LAILAT HILALI KOMBO, 24
PEMBA







Mikidadi brings home the bacon in more ways than one

Genuine leadership is a calling, and training can help bring it out. Mikidadi Chaula, a 24-year-old from Rungwe, Mbeya, an ever-green fertile part of Southern Tanzania, always wanted to lead change in his community. He dreamed of empowering youths to rise out of poverty through increased agency and better income, leading to a future where they were in charge of their own destinies. The dreams for himself and his fellow youths matched the goals set out by Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth.

Advancing Youth chose Mikidadi for a three-day leadership training in May 2018. His natural leadership skills had not gone unnoticed. They invited Mikidadi to become an Advancing Youth Advisory Council member at the district level. Eager to learn more, he took part in the Community Mobilizer training, followed by Leadership Training of Trainers. His accomplishments impressed the Rungwe District Community Development Officer who appointed Mikidadi as the Rungwe youth rep-

resentative on the women and youth loan committee.

Advancing Youth has been instrumental in Mikidadi's success, both as a leader and in business. He was voted to chair the Children Protection Leadership Committee. He makes a profit rearing pigs and chickens amounting to TZS 7 million (USD 3,010) annually and has constructed a three-bedroom house in Uyole, Mbeya.







“Before joining Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth programs, I was not confident enough to face my local authority with my opinions. After I received entrepreneurship training, our savings and lending group flourished, which helped improve my economic status. The leadership skills training gained me a permanent seat on the district council’s loan board. It gave me the chance to connect with my local authority and make decisions that positively affected youth’s lives within my community. I have helped more than ten groups to borrow a combined amount of 71 million shillings (USD 30,524).”

MIKIDADI CHAULA, 24
RUNGWE, MBEYA



L I V E L I H O O D

On a personal level, Advancing Youth facilitated his participation in a farmers' fair. At the fair, he met his life partner and now wife.

Mikidadi has guided 11 YSLAs on formalization procedures and constitutional formation. He has also helped them access loans. Five groups are AY groups that, with Mikidadi's support, have received government loans totaling TZS 44,427,000 (USD 19,100). The money will go toward farming, improving small businesses, and food processing businesses.

Mikidadi flashes a sunny and confident smile as he feeds his livestock. He has answered his calling and fulfilled his dream to lead his community to a better future. And this is just the beginning.







“Beyond training us on food processing, Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth has taught us marketing skills. Our new skills have helped make our products widely known. Product variety and good market exposure raised our income. Our future projection is to start a medium-sized industrial unit by 2025 and have a big brand beyond Tanzania.”

SAADA SALUM MASUD, 25
TANDARE, MBEYA



Aiming nationally and beyond

We meet Saada Salum Masud in a tidy and well-stocked shop. The wooden shelves, pink walls, and black and white cow patterns create an inviting ambiance for customers. In an adjoining room, she shows us how they manufacture some of their products. The room is clean and organized, and as Saada dons a bright white hat and apron, it's clear that hygiene practices are exemplary.

Twenty-five-year-old Saada Salum Masud from Tandare in Mbeya is a member of the Bhatubwa YSLA. Saada and her group received training in food processing from the AY grantee Small Industries Development Organization. Today her group produces added-value food products. They turn nutritional orange-fleshed sweet potatoes into

potato flour and process fresh ginger into conveniently packaged ground ginger. They bake biscuits made of banana flour and produce tasty spreads like peanut butter and pineapple jam. Soya tea, lotions made of honey, and moringa are also part of their stock. Saada exudes confidence as she speaks of her plans for the brand.







Young woman increases access to finance for youth farmers in Kyela

Twenty-four-year-old Mkami Yusuf Tetere comes from Kyela, a small town near the Tanzania-Malawi border famed for its aromatic rice. The crop's taste and texture are prized in domestic and export markets. Banks and mobile money kiosks have followed this trading boom in Kyela, providing town dwellers secure options to save their money, pay bills, make transfers, conduct business transactions, and get loans to grow their businesses. Yet young farmers who grow rice in surrounding villages remain locked out of financial services. The journey to the nearest bank can be up to 50 kilometers, typically done by bicycle on hilly, muddy roads and navigating between flooded paddies. Often, at the end of this journey, the bank tells them they cannot get a loan since they lack the assets to serve as collateral to secure loan repayments. Mkami knows the story well. She, too, struggled to make ends meet. She doubted she could ever turn her life around on her own.

Today, Mkami is a successful entrepreneur helping other youths improve their lives. Her life transformed after she took part in Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth entrepreneurship, life skills, and leadership training. With access to capital through a savings and lending group and the provision of a start-up kit for food processing materials and machinery, she could lift herself and others out of poverty.





Kyela, Mbeya - Mkami Tetere, an entrepreneur who received training from Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth on entrepreneurship, savings and lending, leadership, and life skills produces and sells different products including rice, maize flour, spices, beans, and soap.

L I V E L I H O O D

Her journey toward prosperity, self-awareness, and increased self-efficacy had begun.

In 2019, she traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit organized by Making Cents International. Very few of her peers ever travel abroad, so a trip to the United States was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. At the summit, Mkami spoke confidently about how Advancing Youths' integrated training has changed how she sees herself and her capabilities.

“I am a young mother of two children, and previously had no faith that I can achieve something, or even become successful. My attempts at business helped me get by, but not effectively. Being an introvert, I never realized that I could be capable of training other people, nor connect them with trade opportunities. It was hard to support my family because business required me to get out of my shell. But today I can call myself a successful businesswoman! I can better support my family and pay for my children's school fees. My community trusts and respects me, and I can influence other youth and inspire them to do it, too. I am a leader and my opinion matters! Advancing Youth gave me an opportunity to stand among high-level government leaders to share my thoughts and rights as a young person. I have connected with experts from whom I've learned so much. I feel so confident and free to express my thoughts, something that I couldn't do before.”

Mkami glows as she speaks of her experience in the United States “To a great extent, the summit in the U.S. changed my mindset. I learned a lot from the experiences of the youth that I met there and various people who came from all over the world.” Mkami continued networking on the plane back to Tanzania when she met Anna Tieri, a school owner based in Dar es Salaam. Mkami and her products impressed Anna, prompting her to buy TZS 10,029,710 (USD 4,312) worth of products, such as rice, beans, maize flour, and spices.

She continues, “I process and package full-grain maize flour, pilau masala,



tea masala, ginger, cardamom, cinnamon, and garlic. I also make batik, soaps, and have a basket-weaving business. Advancing Youth helped me take part in various workshops, seminars, and trade fairs that exposed me to a new world. Now I have a customer that I supply with 15 tons of maize flour per week. This is an important achievement that I proudly attribute to Advancing Youth. Therefore, I help other youth to tap into the project's benefits."

Mkami started five youth savings groups in five villages around her hometown in one month, providing 97 young rural farmers access to their first loans. The impact of these five savings groups inspired her to continue sharing her skills. A member says the groups have been life-changing already.

“Before the loan, our family income depended on the rice harvesting season. The loan has allowed me to buy beans from other villages and sell them at a profit in my village. There’s freedom in knowing that we are no longer limited to making money only once a year now. The loan has allowed us to grow our business and improve our life as a family.”

Paschalia Namwasile, 25

Together with two other Advancing Youth beneficiaries, Esther Mwasaka and Masha Sanga, Mkami has set up Five Star Trainers. The group trains youth in entrepreneurship, life skills, and leadership. They have also started YSLAs and young mother's groups. Mkami is also a contributing member of a savings group. She notes the positive behavioral effects it has had on her own life and her business: instilling financial planning and discipline.

“If you told me three months ago that I would have helped so many youths improve their livelihoods, I wouldn’t believe you. The training I received from Advancing Youth has allowed me to contribute to my community in a way I didn’t think was possible for me. Before the training, I believed I needed help from someone else, but now I teach others that any difference you want to make in Kyela begins with you and your savings group!”







Youth finds business success, shares skills with 1,600 youths

Thirty-year-old Masha Sanga found that hard work and dedication are not enough to make you a successful entrepreneur. He struggled to earn a good living, as he lacked self-confidence and had limited knowledge of business and marketing. When he came across the Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth program, he learned new skills to turn his life around. Today his company is flourishing.

Born in Mbeya town, Masha moved to Kyela when he realized the higher entrepreneur potential of this rural district than in the city. He has tapped into the palm oil market by refining the oil for sale. Advancing Youth provided crucial market exposure that led to an order of 800 liters of palm oil from a customer in Tanzania's largest city, Dar es Salaam. His business also has a soap production deal worth TZS 1,200,000 (USD 516). He gained both contracts through product exposure at various trade fairs, such as the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (also known as Saba Saba).

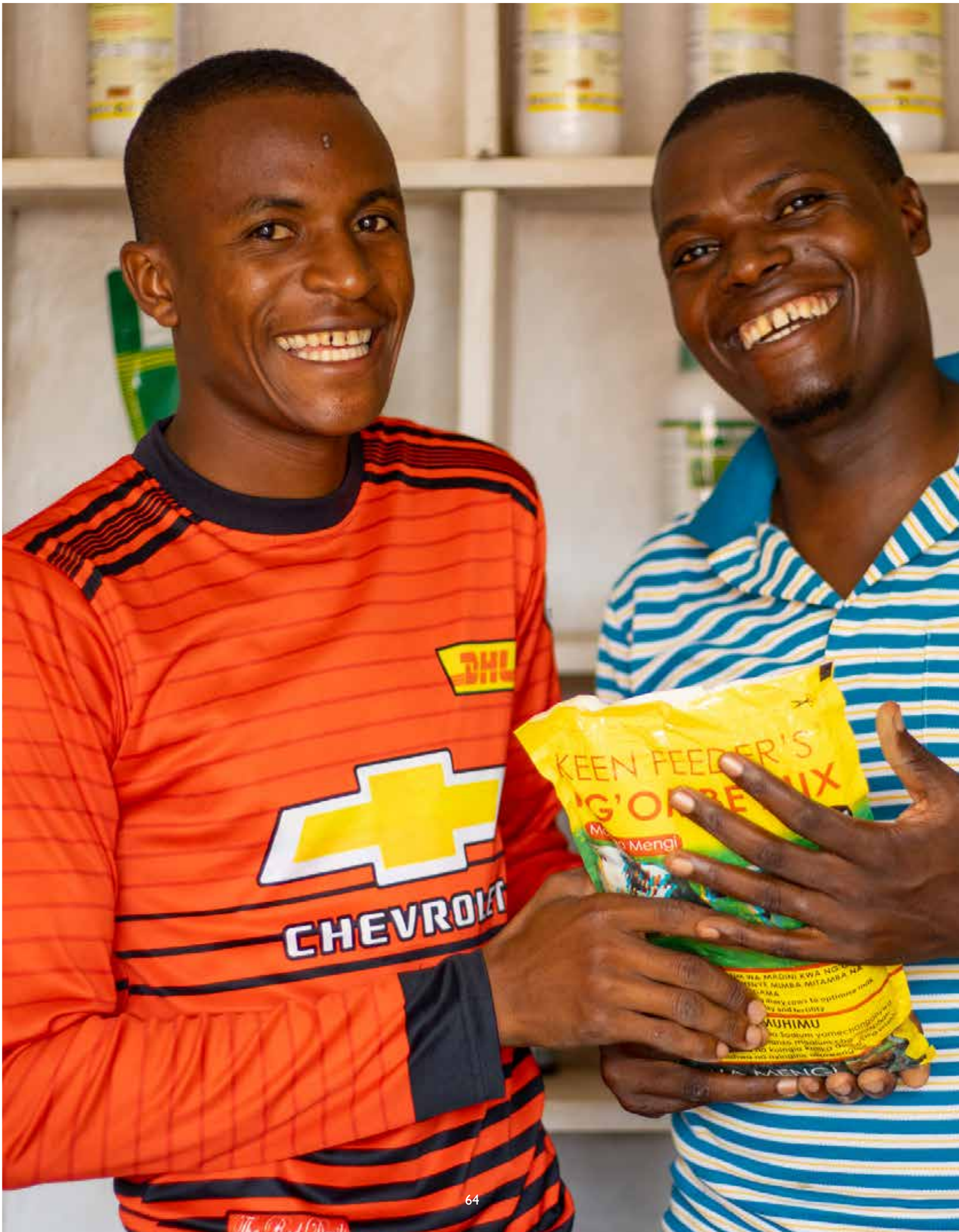
“Before Advancing Youth, I didn’t connect with other entrepreneurs and did not have the skills to market and improve my business to challenge the competition. I was not aware of different formulas for food processing and product branding. I was shy and never thought I would one day become a trainer, but now I can stand in front of a crowd and share the knowledge I have with confidence.”



To date, Masha has shared his knowledge and leadership skills with more than 1,600 other youths! As well as being a trained community mobilizer, he is one of the three founders of Five Star Trainers, a training group. They train youths on entrepreneurship, life skills, and leadership. Masha established the business together with Mkami Teterere and Esther Mwaisaka, two other Advancing Youth beneficiaries. All three successfully completed various courses, including Trainer of Trainers. Their journey to success continues in their roles as Advancing Youth Advisory Council members. Trainer and community mobilizer positions allow them to interact with and influence local government representatives within their areas. They frequently receive invitations to take part in different business exhibitions, summits, and intergenerational dialogues across the country with the AY program.

“The program has helped me a lot, particularly in entrepreneurship. My business was not doing well before. Advancing Youth has enabled me to take part in various trade fairs, for example, the Nane Nane agricultural fair in Arusha and the Saba Saba trade fair in Dar es Salaam. Without the support of Advancing Youth, I wouldn’t have made it there. I got to meet different people that I could do business with, and now I have many customers.”

Masha no longer works in isolation. Today, he is capable, skilled, and confident—and excited to share his skills.





“I am at a loss for words to explain the enormous benefits of this project! I have achieved outstanding success within a tiny time frame. The project has enabled me to own a farm inputs shop and to rear livestock. The project has also developed me into an exemplary youth leader who brings positive change.”

STEFANO KASPALI, 29
BUSALE WARD



Training opens opportunities for youths

Twenty-nine-year-old Stefano Kaspali is the Renaissance man of Busale ward. It may be easier to list what he cannot do, rather than what he can do. Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth Leadership training helped open up multiple opportunities and possibilities for Stefano.

Stefano is an agriculture officer who is using his training to develop himself and his community. He moved from Kyela town to Busale ward, one of the more populated wards in the district, to better use his skills within the community. His leadership credentials have led to various roles, such as acting Village Executive Officer in Busoka village and Busale Ward Executive Officer assistant. He is a member of the Busale ward committee responsible for six villages on issues such as development projects and conflict management. Beyond these duties, Stefano supports other youth to develop themselves, too.

Stefano is a busy man as he also rears chicken, goats, and pigs and has planted a little more than seven acres of maize. He currently has 12 pigs with plans to breed more. He shows us the extra sheds he has built. A healthy-looking pig is happy to accept a back rub from his owner. Stefano has a natural affinity for animals and agriculture. He visits and supports farmers to use modern farming techniques. For animals with health needs, he can also offer veterinary services.

Stefano assures us he won't stop at his current success, "I am supposed to go beyond, and my next goal is to establish a godown (warehouse/storage place) for the following season's farm produce."





Shared skills result in increased rice yields

Ipyana Twijulege is a 29-year-old entrepreneur who owns the Pysha Food Products Company in the Kyela District of the Mbeya Region. He started his food processing company in December 2019. The company processes and packages nutritious porridge meal, rice, cassava flour, rice flour, ginger, cinnamon, and palm oil. This business idea was born after Ipyana attended an entrepreneurship learning session during an innovation competition in Dar es Salaam. Seedstar organized the training, and Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth facilitated it.

Ipyana is an Advancing Youth Advisory Council (AYAC) youth representative. Together with the Kyela Agriculture Officer, a fellow AYAC member, Ipyana trains farmers on modern ways of farming rice. The capacity-building initiative has reached 30 farmers so far, covering more than 494 acres. Each farmer pays from TZS 80,000 (USD 34.50) to TZS 100,000 (USD 43) to receive training and support from Ipyana's

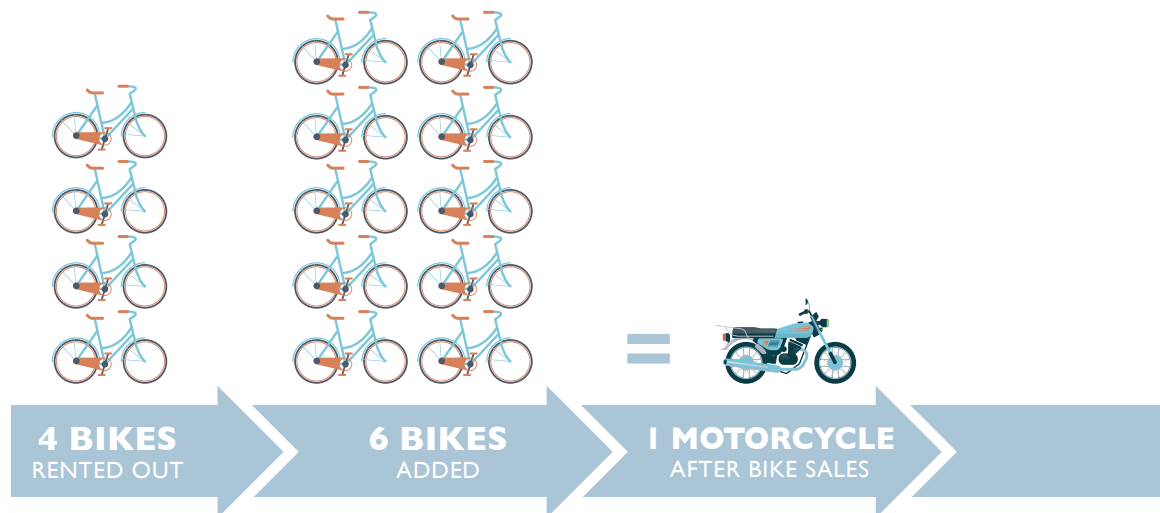
organization, depending on the size of the farm.

The agriculture department in Kyela is very proud of Ipyana's efforts. According to their records, most farmers are now using modern seeds and modern farming techniques, which increases yields. Ipyana himself has planted just over seven acres of rice.





Ipyana is noticeably proud and eager to share his achievement. “One group borrowed 500,000 shillings (USD 215) and bought four bicycles to rent out. He worked hard in the business until he owned more than ten bicycles. After some time, he sold these and bought a motorcycle. If he had not joined the savings and lending group, he would not have achieved that success.”



“Through the Advancing Youth program, I have training in their three key components; leadership skills, life skills, and entrepreneurship skills. In my role as Community Mobilizer, I help youth to set up savings and lending groups. I also contribute and teach leadership skills. I have three youth groups that are ideal examples.”



Entrepreneurship opens doors to success

Michael Mgongolwa, a resident of Ndolela village in rural Iringa, dreamed of transitioning from subsistence farming to business but did not have the know-how. He was not aware of any business opportunities in his community. Fortunately, he came across the Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth activity and enrolled in entrepreneurship training. The training led him to develop a market survey plan to help him identify potential business opportunities.

“We have readily available electricity in the area, and I realized that many construction projects were taking place. It shaped my decision to establish an electrical hardware store that would provide merchandise used in construction. I have since built a good network with builders in the area who order materials in bulk from my store,” says Michael.

With the profits from his electrical hardware store, Michael invested in another business. “The hardware store makes a monthly profit of

between 400,000 to 500,000 shillings (USD 172 to USD 215). The profit made it possible to open a pharmacy, which my wife runs.”

Michael believes in giving back to his community. As a Community Mobilizer for Advancing Youth, he uses his leadership skills to assist youth in his area. “I have established three savings and lending groups to help promote a culture of saving among the youth in my community. Together, these three groups have 32 million shillings (USD 13,757) in savings.”



“I am grateful to Advancing Youth. The project opened my eyes to entrepreneurship opportunities in my area and also imparted me with skills that have led to success in my businesses. Being able to play a role in the success of other youth like myself makes me beam with pride. I have not only earned a living but also played a role in the success of other youth.”

MICHAEL MGONGOLWA,
IRINGA







Michael Mgongolwa is a farmer who received entrepreneurship and leadership training from Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth. Today he owns a hardware store and a pharmacy that Leticia Chaula, his wife, runs.

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Using the leadership skills garnered through Advancing Youth training, Michael heads the Legal Aid Iringa Village office that provides legal services on land issues and other disputes in his community. He is working with his YSLA to diversify their activities into beekeeping. He has also approached the village council to allocate almost 15 acres of land for the project.

⋮ *“Advancing Youth has changed my mindset and helped me
⋮ focus on developing my family and my community.”*







“At the start of my business, I required urgent funds to help me purchase cooking equipment and pay rent for my business. I borrowed 175,000 shillings (USD 75) from my savings and lending group. The loan assisted me a lot to run the business. I am grateful to Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth.”

KANUTI JOHN NYAMKA, 28
KILOLO



Kanuti John Nyamka receives the prize money TZS 232,000 (USD 100) from DAI Communications Lead, Meg Edwin.



Kanuti John Nyamka photo - Third place winner of the first-ever YouthPower Learning Global Photo Contest!

The winning photo (pages 82-83) captures 28-year-old Kanuti John Nyamka from Ilula Ward, Kilolo, Iringa Region in Tanzania serving rice at his business. He established it using a microenterprise loan from a YSLA under Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth Program.

The photo depicts positive youth development (PYD) achieved by empowering young people like Kanuti to establish their own businesses. Through business, they create an income for themselves and their families. A key PYD feature is youth engagement and contribution. The photo was displayed in the Photo Gallery at the YouthPower Annual Learning Network Meeting held in Washington, D.C., in February 2020.

John's business is an outstanding example of how Feed the Future Advancing Youth has trained youth to create YSLAs. The savings and lending groups help them establish and run their businesses. Kanuti's food business flourished following a loan from his YSLA.

The YouthPower Learning Photo Contest sought clear and creative photos that told a powerful story about how positive youth development approaches and solutions were being applied.

Feed the Future Advancing Youth Communication department donated the TZS 232,000 (USD 100) monetary prize to Kanuti to assist him in the day-to-day running of his business.

<https://www.youthpower.org/photocontest/feed-future-tanzania-advancing-youth-beneficiary-iringa-tanzania>

Kanuti John Nyamka serves rice at his local food stall. This photo won Third Place in the first-ever Youth Power Learning Photo Contest and was displayed at the YouthPower Annual Learning Network Meeting held in Washington D.C. in February 2020.

Photo by Meg Edwin/DAI







Young mother inspiring others on a journey to self-reliance

Johari Kasuke is 27 and lives in Kihorogota Village in Iringa, part of the country's food-growing southern regions. Like most young women in her village, Johari was a smallholder subsistence farmer, growing corn, beans, and onions on her parents' farm. Three years ago, while still living with her parents, she gave birth to a baby girl. With her parents' meager income and the baby's father abandoning them, raising the little girl proved challenging for Johari. Never deterred by a challenge, Johari began rearing chickens to supplement her income. However, she struggled to find a substantially steady market in her village for the chickens and eggs.

In June 2018, Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth hosted training in Iringa on entrepreneurship, business management skills, and the establishment of youth savings groups. Johari was one of the

young people trained in the region. The training expanded both Johari's knowledge base and network. It connected her with youths from villages across the region. She says:

“Before the training, all I knew was my village. I didn't know too many people outside Kihorogota and didn't consider opportunities beyond my village. Advancing Youth taught us how to identify business opportunities and how to plan effectively to grow business. We learned how to budget and save. It also provided me with my first market opportunity outside of my village.”







Iringa, Tanzania - Johari Kasuke is a community mobilizer who received training from Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth on family planning, sexual reproductive health, transformational leadership, and establishing YSLAs.



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Johari applied her entrepreneurship lessons immediately. She brought her eggs to the training and, in one week, sold more eggs than she would sell in a month in her village. She convinced fellow trainees to buy in bulk and sell the eggs themselves when they returned to their own villages. Johari diversified her business interests, adding guinea fowl and vegetables to her portfolio. Advancing Youth connected Johari to agricultural officers from the local government, who taught her modern poultry farming techniques. The productivity of her chicken and guinea fowl hatches quickly increased. Through another Advancing Youth connection, Johari grew her skill set further by learning how to make soaps and colorful wax-dyed batik fabrics.

Johari has established three savings and lending groups, comprising 67 youth in her village. She is a trained community mobilizer who teaches fellow youth about leadership, family planning, and sexual reproductive health issues. She adds: “The training taught me how to establish and manage savings groups that have grown into a network of youth entrepreneurs in the village. But the groups aren’t just good for inspiring young people to save and start businesses, they are also peer-learning communities. We discuss youth issues, then propose solutions and interventions to the local government and the Advancing Youth project.”

Johari has founded a savings and lending group that caters solely to young mothers. There are 12 young women in the group, all of whom had teen pregnancies (some as young as 15) and, much like Johari, three years ago, struggled to feed and care for their babies. Johari leads the group in discussions on childhood pregnancies, gender-based violence, proper childcare, and early childhood nutrition.





“Before training, my mind was dormant, and I had little to do apart from helping my parents cultivate their farm. I had to raise two children on my own from my parents’ home. Advancing Youth entrepreneurship training transformed my life. I learned about honey processing and modern methods of cultivating sunflowers commercially. Applying the training to practice, I started selling sunflower oil and soon made enough money to build myself a house and pay for my children’s school fees. I then started helping fellow youth so that they could attain similar success.”

JOHARI KASUKE, 27
KIHOROGOTA

“Most of these young mothers had given up on being actively involved as parents and had left the kids to be raised by their grandmothers. Being children themselves, they felt unequipped to take care of their babies and felt as if society had abandoned them in their time of need. I know that feeling. The lessons on entrepreneurship, leadership, and health that I received from Advancing Youth helped me begin my journey to self-reliance. Now I want to help these young mothers begin their own journeys.”

Johari was among 15 youth from YSLAs facilitated by Advancing Youth in 2018 to take part in a business-to-business meeting in Iringa. They met various stakeholders, including financial institutions, agro-dealers, producers, and business services providers. The youth shared with other members how they can access varied services for their microenterprises. After participating in this meeting, Johari applied for a loan from Tanzania Postal Bank to purchase a tractor.







“Thanks to Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth, I now earn a living by producing peanut butter, popcorn, and pumpkin flour. The exposure of my products to various markets, and the opportunity to attend business exhibitions in Iringa, Mbeya, and Dar es Salaam have propelled my business forward. Thanks to the success of my businesses, I have built myself a house from scratch and bought a one-acre plot of land. I have also purchased four cows and four goats through loans from savings and lending groups. In addition, Advancing Youth has connected me with the USAID Enabling Growth Through Investment and Enterprise and Mboga na Matunda programs for additional marketing exposure.”

ATUDWIKE MLOGA, 26
IRINGA



Save, borrow, and grow - a home built by popcorn and peanut butter

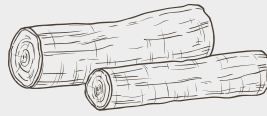
Atudwike Mloge is a 26-year-old woman from Kihorogota ward, Iringa. As in most rural areas, youths in Kihorogota ward have few opportunities for economic advancement. Almost 95 percent of the rural youth engaged in agribusiness practice a more traditional way of keeping livestock and farming. Because of the high costs of farm inputs and extension services, most of the youth involved in agribusiness are farming on a small scale in terms of acres. Most of them cultivate between half an acre to five acres at most, and hence, their enterprises are static.

Atudwike is turning her life around following training from Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth grantee SIDO, Iringa. She learned entrepreneurship, focusing specifi-

cally on food processing. Atudwike has joined a savings and lending group, which made it possible for her to take out a loan to expand her business.

⋮ *“The exposure of my products to various markets, and the opportunity to attend business exhibitions in Iringa, Mbeya, and Dar es Salaam, have propelled my business forward.”*





Logging on to a better life (and creating jobs in the process)

About 20km from Iringa DC in Isele village, Kisinga ward, 26-year-old Remy Wilbert Kitosi, owns a thriving timber business based on freely available local pine trees. These trees are in high demand as they make good timber. Remy identifies areas where landowners have planted pine trees for sale, buys them, logs them, and transforms them into sought-after timber. Initially, he conducted his business on a small scale. Remy says his livelihood status was decidedly low. But realizing the potential and growing market, he expanded his business.

As a member of *Vijana Kwanza* (Youth First) YSLA, Remy had easy access to capital. “I took a loan of 600,000 shillings (USD 258) and repaid it after three months. I then borrowed 700,000 shillings (USD 301) and later 900,000 shillings (USD 387). With the money I could increase the number of sites for wood cutting from 10 to 15,” says Remy. He also used it to pay workers.

“Usually, one pine tree costs me about 7,000 shillings (USD 3). I hire lumberjacks and pay them,

depending on the size of timber. Usually, two by six cm of timber costs 350 shillings (USD 0.15) per piece,” Remy explains. “We fell the earmarked trees, log them, and then dry the wood in the sun. After two weeks, they are ready to be transported to the market. I create employment for around 14 people for each assignment.”

In the beginning, Remy found accessing markets for timber difficult. However, he is now one of the prominent suppliers of timber to



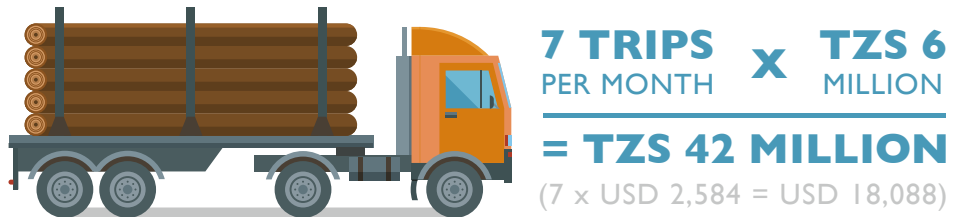




“I am grateful to Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth. Without membership in the Vijana Kwanza savings and lending group, I wouldn’t have been able to expand my timber business. Without the profit from my business, I wouldn’t be able to build a house. I look forward to expanding my family of one soon. I can now ensure that my family is comfortable. Recently I have also been able to purchase logging machinery that will bring down my operation costs.”

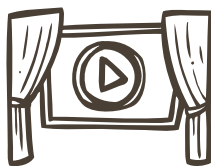
REMY WILBERT KITOSI, 26
IRINGA





business owners from Morogoro who source their wood from Kisenga. “I make up to seven trips a month transporting my timber to Morogoro, out of which I make a total of 6 million shillings (USD 2,584) net for every sale,” says Remy.

“Thanks to my business, I could purchase land to build my dream home. Our three-bedroom house is near completion,” says the father of one in joyful anticipation of moving from his leased property to his own home. “Currently, I pay 15,000 shillings (USD 6.45) per month in rent. I look forward to completing my house soon.”



Training and access to finance creates a sporting chance to achieve life goals

Christian Ngusulu is 27 years old and lives in the village of Magulilwa, in the green highlands of the Iringa Region. He has received training from Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth on entrepreneurship, leadership, and savings and lending. With his solar-powered television running in the background, he tells us how training has helped transform his life.

“I own and run a food processing business, grow horticulture produce, and keep cows and chickens. The training from Advancing Youth has been invaluable in helping me to develop my network with different people, making it easier to market my products. The leadership component of the training inspired me to run for a leadership position in my village. Participants elected me unanimously to the Village Council

in Magulilwa, Iringa DC. Increased income permitted me to purchase a solar power system of more than 100 watts, a television set, and an Azam satellite dish.” Azam TV is a digital satellite service provider in Tanzania, offering packages from TZS 8,000 (USD 3.44) per month. Watching sports on the service, particularly football (soccer), is very popular in rural and urban areas alike.

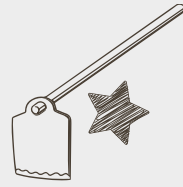






Christian continues, “My TV and satellite dish provides me with an additional and entirely new source of income, which makes me even more money! I have used them to set up a new business where I showcase sports and video shows in my village.”

CHRISTIAN NGUSULU, 27
MAGULILWA, IRINGA



Quality farming methods increase yields for youth

In the Iringa Region, deep in the sprawling hills of Ikokoto in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania, agriculture production forms the backbone of the local economy. Youths such as 29-year-old Eddy Lwambafu rely on agriculture to make a living. However, challenges such as low productivity caused by poor agricultural practices became a hindrance to success.

When Eddy encountered the Advancing Youth program, he and 25 other youth from the *Kijani Kibichi* (Green Youth) youth group that Eddy leads received training on effective agricultural practices through USAID Feed the Future Tanzania Mboga na Matunda—the flagship horticulture activity. Training included crop rotation, poultry farming, and budgeting. The youth exercised their new knowledge of modern agricultural practices on demonstration plots, which helped increase their productivity and earn incomes.

“As novice farmer, you know almost nothing. You learn some skills from your family and friends. Advancing Youth and USAID Feed the Future Tanzania Mboga na Matunda assisted me and my fellow youth to boost our traditional knowledge to improve our crops. With the additional knowledge I gained, I have been able to start poultry farming.”

The training sessions provided Eddy with valuable skills and advice on how to increase and improve crop production. As a result, he can better prepare and budget for oncoming farming seasons.





“Previously, to have breakfast in the morning, I would go in search of menial jobs at neighboring farms purely to earn money for food. But currently, I wake up assured of food, my children can go to school, and I have a supplementary income from my farming and poultry activities. I have gained knowledge and confidence in my abilities.”

EDDY LWAMBAFU, 29
IRINGA REGION

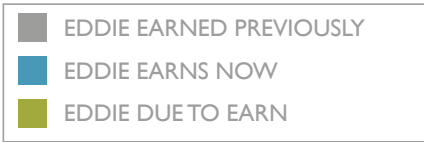
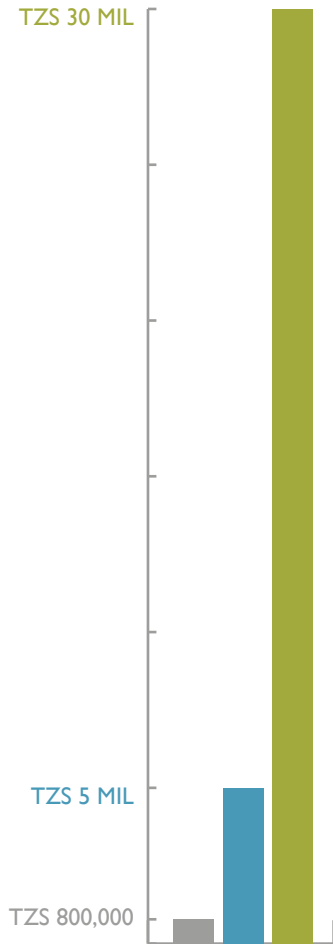






Eddy Lwambafu and his wife, Witness Jabili Mposewa, cultivating cabbage at their farm.

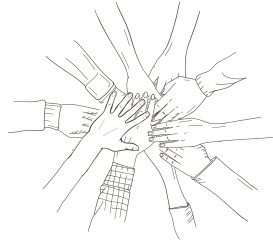
L I V E L I H O O D



“Initially, my earnings did not exceed 800,000 shillings (USD 344) per year, but they currently stand at 5 million shillings (USD 2,150). I now also plant multiple crops; I have cultivated cabbage on two acres of land, one acre of eggplant, half an acre of green peppers, and another acre of tomatoes. As a result, my capital will no longer be 5 million shillings (USD 2,150) - it will be over 30 million shillings (USD 12,898). Advancing Youth has made me who I am today,” says Eddy.

Eddy has improved and secured his financial future.





United we stand - Youth group makes inroads to improve livelihoods

Youth entrepreneurs in Tanzania are full of innovative ideas to generate income and improve their livelihoods. However, they often lack access to the tools and resources necessary to capitalize on their ideas effectively. Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth (AY) has been supporting youth entrepreneurs by filling this critical gap.

Through grantee Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), AY has empowered more than 120 youth in Iringa with business training that simultaneously builds their soft skills and provides them with tools to improve their products.

The *Tupendane* (Love Each Other) youth group from the Pawaga ward in Luganga village benefited from AY training. The group came together through a collective interest to enhance their livelihoods. They formalized the group in July 2018, and five members took part in an AY-sponsored training at SIDO. They learned the basics of entrepreneurship and business management skills, enterprise formalization, compliance, and certification.

Petro, 30, is the chairperson of the *Tupendane* youth group. The group members come from the Iloilo Mpya and Kiwele wards, and Petro is one of the 40 youth that trained and received enterprise start-up kits from SIDO. The organization distributed the kits to help improve production rates and product marketability. They supplied them with relevant items like gas cookers, small milling machines, solar driers, weighing scales, potato slicers, pots, and packaging materials.

Petro enthuses, “We have had brilliant success collectively. Before training, we did not have the right food processing knowledge to achieve high-quality products. The Advancing Youth training was invaluable. They also trained us








“We were making products using traditional methods, but now we use modern methods and produce high-quality products that are easy to market. In 2019, I took part in the Saba Saba International trade fair in Iringa, and I made sales of more than 250,000 shillings (USD 107). It is a big testament to our quality products,” says Petro proudly.

PETRO UHALULA, 30
IRINGA





on marketing and how to package the product to best appeal to the market. After applying the training into practice and improving the product, I earned enough money to buy land. I am now preparing to build a proper production unit. I can attribute so many benefits to the program as an individual and the community at large.”

Combined with the soft skills they received, the kits have assisted the group in refining their products and improving efficiency. When producing cassava flour, the processing machine shreds 20kg of cassava within 10 minutes. Previously, Petro and his companions used knives and needed two hours to shred the same amount. Using a solar drier when drying the shredded cassava helps preserve precious nutrients and color. Previously, they used a canvas to dry the cassava, which reduced the nutritional value. Once dried, they grind the cassava into flour, which sells for about TZS 2500 (USD 1.07) per pack. The group also produces sweet potato flour, crisps, tomato paste, and sweet potato blended juice.

To support access to finance, in early 2019, with Advancing Youth support, the group has established a YSLA whereby members can save and borrow money. Ashura Mbinda, the group’s chair, explains, “We have 300,000 shillings (USD 129) in our bank account. We sell shares to YSLA members at 2,000 shillings (USD 0.86) per share with a limit of five shares per member and charge an interest rate of 10 percent. This system has enabled us to progress collectively as a group. We can put our resources together to develop the acre of land where we produce cassava and sweet potatoes for our products.”



Reaching for the stars wins consulting bids for a trio

Five Star Trainers specializes in teaching entrepreneurship, leadership, and life skills. The group has its headquarters in Kyela District, Mbeya Region, Southern Tanzania. Two of the Five Star founders, Mkami Teterere and Masha Sanga were profiled earlier (pages 54 and 61, respectively). Esther Mwaisaka is the third founder of this accomplished group, three motivated and talented individuals who are reaching for the stars of success, together.

In the past, they worked in isolation. Today, the trio works together and complements each other's strengths. They were absolute strangers before their fates collided through Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth training on entrepreneurship, life skills, and leadership. During training, they realized they do not need to be alone and that they are very capable, skilled, confident, and able to transfer skills to other young people. They are now Advancing Youth Advisory Council (AYAC) members and trainers of trainers (TOTs). Together, they run a successful business.

In their roles as AYAC members and TOTs, Ester, Masha, and Mkami felt confident and qualified to apply for an exciting tender. Kiota Women's Health and Development organization advertised for trainers for livelihood training for young women. The tender represented an exciting employment opportunity, so in February 2019, they joined forces to establish the Five Star Trainers. In March 2019, the group registered with support from the Kyela District Youth Officer (also an AYAC member). They applied for the training tender using AY certificates and won a two-month contract to train 42 small young women's enterprise groups on livelihood skills.

FIVE
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P.O. BO

**STAR
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K 224 KYL

Five Star Trainers trio together with Hamis Musa Mbenaa.





Esther from Five Star Trainers at work. The group registered by Kyela District has trained young women's enterprise groups in livelihood skills.

500 GIRLS REACHED TO DATE



They have now trained 20 young women groups and reached 500 girls (14-24 years old). The two training contracts they secured are worth TZS 5 million (USD 2,150) per year. Five Star Trainers run courses focused on practical livelihood training like batik- and candle making.

Esther emphasizes the importance of the training, “The Advancing Youth training certificates led to the opportunity to attend six days training with the Strong Women Organization in Dodoma. After the training, Five Star Trainers received a three-year contract with Strong Women Organization to coordinate leadership and entrepreneurship training to small enterprise women’s groups in Kyela, Mbeya Region. I could see this opportunity passing me by if it were not for Advancing Youth training me.”



LEADERSHIP

The Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth program strengthens leadership and positive youth development. The leadership skills component makes it possible for Tanzania to capitalize on the potential and ambition of its young people. It also supports the involvement of more youth as active members in decision-making bodies in their communities.

Training has resulted in increased youth participation in local leadership, with 1,515 trained youth joining decision-making bodies and 1,810 trained youth now taking part in community development activities.





Youth leadership champion creating Changemakers

A youth leadership advocate, 24-year-old Rashid Mwinyi, looked for ways to help young people in Zanzibar become more active leaders.

As a Project Officer for *Pamoja* (together) Youth Initiative, Rashid applied to the Advancing Youth leadership program in 2018. He was one of 50 trainees on the program that brings together youth to a three-day training on negotiation, problem-solving, and community mobilization techniques. These skills will enable them to influence decisions and/or become key decision-makers in their communities.

After leadership training, they connected Rashid with various local and international opportunities to further strengthen his leadership capabilities. He attended the YouLead East Africa Summit in Arusha in 2018, which gathered open-minded youth from East Africa to discuss

political and economic inclusion for youth toward sustainable regional integration. He also took part in the Tanzania International Model United Nations summit in 2019, which discussed empowering youth and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.

“As a beneficiary of the program, Advancing Youth invested a lot in me. The knowledge, connection, and experiences that I got from AY have collectively shaped my personal and professional development. I am now a qualified leadership trainer and a consultant working for reputable organizations in Zanzibar and Tanzania. This experience has formed my desire to pay it forward to my fellow youth in Zanzibar.”

“After participating in the leadership training, I felt more certain that I could present my ideas more effectively to bring positive change to my community. As a result, I won a 70 million shillings grant (USD 30,000) to tackle climate change and have now become an Advancing Youth grantee. Advancing Youth granted me 138 million shillings (USD 59,465) to train other youths, sharing the skills I gained,” says Rashid.

RASHID MWINYI RASHID, 24
ZANZIBAR





Rashid is one of three direct beneficiaries of the Advancing Youth program who have qualified for program grants. The program awards leadership grants to selected organizations that are experienced and able to impart leadership, knowledge, and skills to youths. Rashid used the grant to build capacity and impart knowledge and skills to youth beneficiaries under the program. The training enables participants to take part in community leadership and decision-making bodies. Rashid has trained 200 youth on leadership through his organization. One hundred and twenty of the trained youths are now in different decision-making bodies. He has also empowered about 180 youth to engage in community development activities that address community challenges.

∴ *“My goal is to see lots of leadership-trained youths occupy various leadership positions in Local Government Authorities and the private sector as well. More significantly, they should take the lead in community initiatives that positively transform their society.”*

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Shri. M. S. Mohan Youth Initiative





Youth leader earns life-changing opportunity

In 2015, 27-year-old Imani Mwangomo, a young man from the Kiwira ward in Rungwe, had a promising future ahead of him. He had just graduated with an education degree and was looking forward to pursuing his passion for youth advocacy and mobilization. However, this was not to be, as the opportunities were few. To make ends meet, he resorted to farming on his family land, hoping to focus on his passion one day.

In May 2018, Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth held a series of training events in Rungwe on leadership. Imani was among the youths selected for the training. He trained as a community mobilizer, which led to his selection as an Advancing Youth Advisory Council member. Imani is an eloquent speaker and fast learner, so the knowledge and skills gained from the training made him stand out. Advancing Youth selected him to be a Leadership Trainer of Trainers. Imani's new skills became the turning point in his life. He began to work closely with the Advancing Youth grantee, Tanzania Bora Ini-

tiative (TBI), regularly helping to implement the leadership program in Rungwe.

His knowledge of youth issues and record as a trainer impressed TBI. In December 2019, they employed him on a year contract as a Governance Officer based in Dar es Salaam. His primary responsibility was to galvanize youths and moderate online discussions and campaigns on voter education. The aim was to attract young people to vote during the recent general elections. Imani's contract was worth a net pay of TZS 1,350,000 (USD 580 per month).







“Before Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth, I was jobless despite being a graduate. Since then, my life has improved drastically. I now own my house. I have also purchased two plots of land worth 4.5 million shillings (USD 1,935). The leadership training I received improved my confidence as a leader and opened many doors for me. The youth governance opportunity was the icing on the cake. That sense of hopelessness has gone. The future is bright. Advancing Youth discovered me and lifted me from zero to hero!”

IMANI MWANGOMO, 27
RUNGWE



“Besides the economic benefits I gained from this opportunity, this career was life-changing for me. I learned so much and added it to my arsenal of experience with youth issues. The exposure, networking, skills, and experience that I received qualifies me as a professional youth mobilizer,” says Imani.

His enthusiasm, hard work, and commitment earn him glowing praise from his supervisor. “Imani is a skilled leader and an excellent youth mobilizer. He did an excellent job of mobilizing his fellow youths across 35 regions to vote. Using the #KuraYetu (Our Vote) online campaign, he enabled underrepresented youths to come out and vote. Subject to availability of funds, Imani is a youth we would love to have on our team permanently. We are working toward this,” says his supervisor, Ismail.



Sharing skills invites success for Zanzibari woman

Raya Saidi Khalifa, 25, from Zanzibar feels she has had a lucky streak. She received training on entrepreneurship and leadership by Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth. Her new skills help her run her businesses much more efficiently.

Raya owns an IT and stationery business. She does a range of activities such as training, photography, and printing on different mediums. Raya also owns a handicraft shop called Sparkle and heads a women's group. Raya formed this youth

group to empower women through vocational training. She teaches them techniques on how to sew various items such as bags and baskets. The women create, display, and sell their handicraft items in Sparkle to earn an income.

“Before training, I was managing my business without a proper approach to the job. I had minimal knowledge of how leadership works. I was also making erratic decisions. The leadership training equipped me with the skills to lead and manage my staff and business well. Now I make my decisions by weighing my options properly and through consultations when I have a staff issue. Entrepreneurship training has taught me to keep better records of my transactions. My bookkeeping skills have improved a lot! I now know how much profit or loss the business is making, which has improved its success immensely. I am a more enlightened and focused leader.”



Zanzibar, Tanzania - Raya Saidi (far right) and her staff. She is an Advancing Youth beneficiary who owns an IT business where she does a range of activities, such as training, photography, and printing, on different mediums. She is also the owner of a handicraft shop called Sparkle and heads a women's group.









Making able strides in leadership

Thirty-one-year-old Abel Mwakatima lives in Rungwe, in the verdant highlands of the Mbeya Region. A natural-born leader, he speaks eloquently, considering his words with care. It is easy to understand why his community fondly refers to him as “a man of the people.” His integrity and charisma endear him to his community. However, before training by Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth, he lacked the skills to drive and further his aspirations for the community.

In June 2018, Abel was one of more than 20 youth selected by Advancing Youth to attend a one-week leadership training. After the training, Abel was selected to become an Advancing Youth Advisory Council member at the district level. This led to the Rungwe community appointing Abel as the Executive Secretary of the Kiwira County Council. He leads a seven-person *baraza* (public meeting place), which mediates land and marriage cases twice a week.

Since his appointment, Abel has successfully mediated more than 300

cases, with only about 15 carrying on to referrals at the district level. Abel credits the training he received from Advancing Youth to his successful leadership journey.

“The tools I gained allowed me to build trust amongst my community. I am equipped with self-efficacy in my work, with my eyes now open to community needs. Now I know how to be patient as a leader and how to serve my community in the best way. I work diligently and effectively, putting their needs before mine. I am motivated to change the way I think

“I strongly believe and appreciate that Advancing Youth has equipped me with skills on how to lead effectively. The other thing that I am proud of is how I have improved as a farmer. Now that I use modern agriculture methods, my new skills are reaping great profits from it, in sugarcane cultivation in particular. I can now get more than 3 million shillings (USD 1,290) annually compared to at most 700,000 shillings (USD 301) previously. Because of the extra income, I have built our family a house.”

ABEL MWAKATIMA, 31
RUNGWE







Abel and his wife, Doreen Amani Abinara, farming together.

and work. Also, I can mediate conflict and negotiate, a skill that is critical in solving community challenges,” Abel says.

As a community mobilizer, Abel’s leadership skills positively affect the youth in his community. He facilitates three savings and lending groups, comprising 72 members, on formalization procedures and constitutional formation. He also advocates for another youth group’s right to access government loans. Abel has helped formalize two groups, which has led to one savings and lending group receiving a much-needed loan. *Umoja wa Vijana* (Youth Union) Kanyenye received a loan of TZS 7 million (USD 3,010) from the local government youth fund. They use the loans for farming vegetables (tomatoes and green peppers, for example) across more than seven acres of land.

Abel is an influential leader, improving his community by sharing his skills. He is also a great farmer and a very proud homeowner. Abel truly is able!





L I F E S K I L L S

The Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth program enhances life skills for healthy living and planning. The program pairs its employment and entrepreneurship interventions with activities to make community-based health services more accessible to young people, promoting healthy lifestyles.

Family planning and sexual reproductive health education are crucial parts of the life skills component. More than 16,500 young people have accessed youth-friendly sexual reproductive health services upon the activity's referral. Advancing Youth have also trained 2,500 youth at risk of violence on leadership and healthy life skills.



Learning life skills makes young mother financially independent

Twenty-four-year-old Maimuna Caripson from Makandala in Rungwe is a young mother of two. She recounts how she used to be a burden to her parents, as she could not contribute to the family's day-to-day needs. Her life did not feel right, but she did not know how to improve it. Today, Maimuna sees a brighter future and has plans to become a successful entrepreneur.

Maimuna received life skills training and family planning education from Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth. She has learned how to space her children and about better options for engaging in economic activities to help raise her young family. Ade-

quately spaced children often perform better academically. The mother has more time and resources for each child; added attention assists development; and the added resources help to ensure healthy physical growth. The mother's body also has more time to recover.

“Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth has helped me in more ways than one. I knew nothing about family planning. I had a three-month-old baby when I became pregnant again. Now, after going through reproductive health training, I use family planning methods. My children are growing in good health.” Maimuna smiles. She stands proudly upright, her long braided hair wrapped in an artful knot; her bold red clothing echoes her newfound confidence.

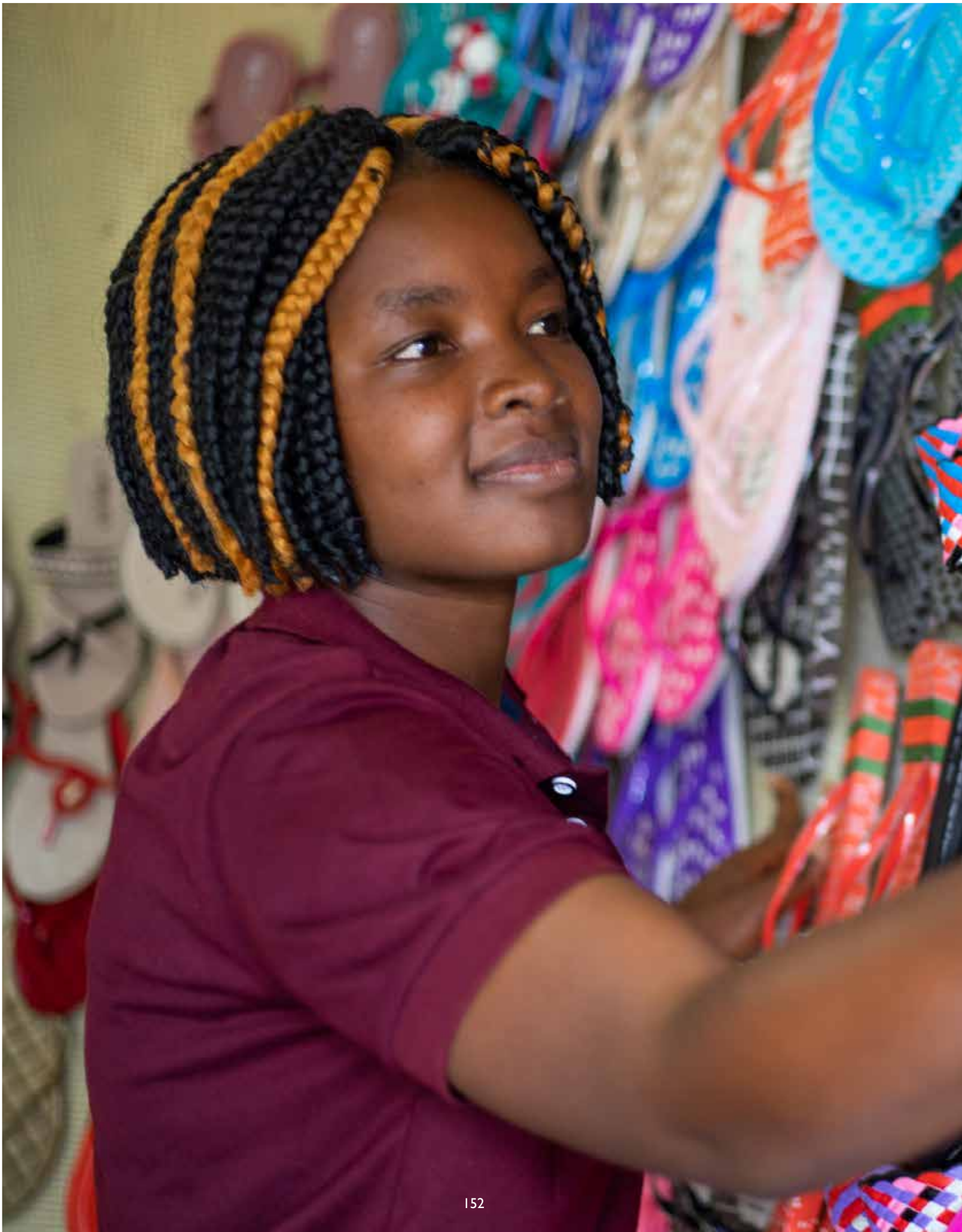


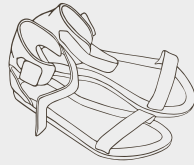




“I am now no longer dependent because the project has helped me to learn so much. For instance, I engage in agriculture, which helps me to sustain my family. The bananas and maize that I farm, I sell at the local market. I also run other small businesses like selling homemade buns. All of this enables me to feed my family. In the future, I plan to be a boss lady!”

MAIMUNA CARIPSON, 24
RUNGWE





Training awakens a budding serial entrepreneur

Suma Philipo, 24, from Makandala in Rungwe District is a young mother of one and a serial entrepreneur. She glows with energy as she shows off her delightful shop. Three walls feature an array of colorful shoes and brightly patterned kitenge cloth. Suma echoes her vibrant shop, sporting bright streaks of orange braided into her hair. She says she did not always have the self-confidence she has now.

Suma received training on entrepreneurship, leadership, life skills, and reproductive health from Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth. Training transformed her, motivating her to maximize her potential

in life and in business. Because of her stellar leadership skills, she is also a community mobilizer for the Advancing Youth program, helping others to advance.

“Before the project, I did not know my worth. I wasn’t working to my full potential. The training I received from the program truly changed me. I now own three shops where I sell footwear. Previously, I owned only one shop. Following the entrepreneurship training, I was able to borrow money to grow my business. I have successfully paid back the loan without going bankrupt, while still being able to add to my stock and maintain good cash flow.”

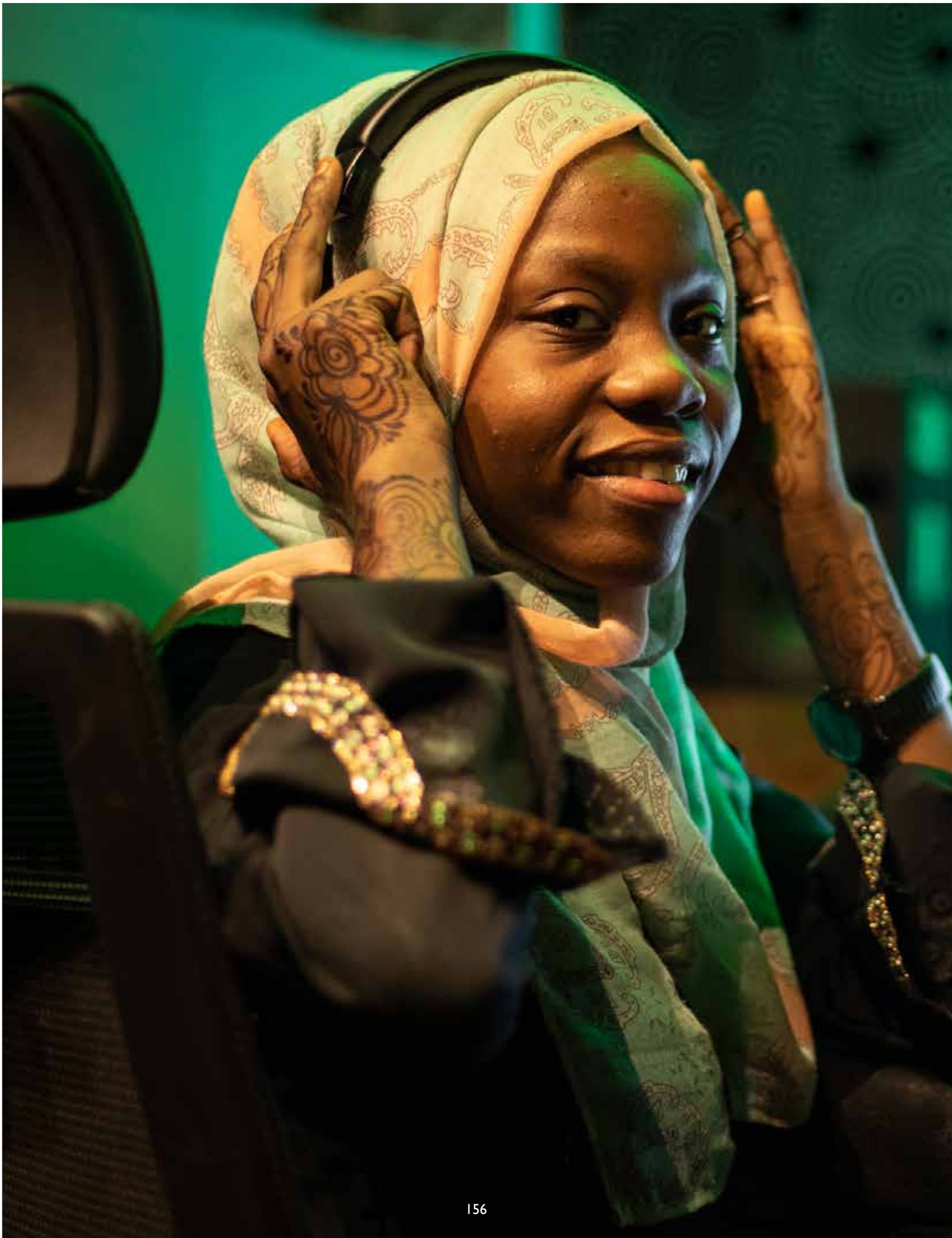
CITIZEN JOURNALISM



Giving youth a voice

Citizen journalism training conducted by Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth in partnership with USAID *Boresha Habari* (Improve Information) trains youth to be active participants in social processes. They equip them with the tools and techniques to find their voice, and to produce and disseminate news and information. The partnership has so far seen 20 youth trained on digital journalism.







Promising youth impacting community with digital skills

In an increasingly interconnected 21st century society, digital skills are a critical need. The advancement of mobile phones and the spread of internet connections globally pushed Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth to innovate and partner with USAID *Boresha Habari*, a civil society and media strengthening activity. Together they offered citizen journalism and digital storytelling training to rural youth.

Grasping the opportunity to push for meaningful change and eager to use her skills to improve her community, 18-year-old Khayyam Mustafa from Zanzibar enrolled in the training. Despite being the youngest participant in her cohort, Khayyam's charisma and intelligence made her an obvious candidate to be selected.

Through the training, Khayyam and her fellow trainees gained the digital tools and competencies necessary to tell their community's stories in today's shifting digital media landscape. Specifically, the training focused on interviewing and writing

skills, understanding digital audiences, live mobile reporting, photography, visual referencing, and editorial planning.

Because of the training, Coconut FM in Zanzibar hired Khayyam as a radio presenter. "After the training, there has been a huge transformation in me, especially my mindset. Besides working at the station, seeking and sharing information, the citizen journalism training made me stand out. That's why I achieved second place during the 2019 Youth Journalism Awards. The training has awakened a desire in me to do more



for my community through media. It has raised me from an ordinary level to a higher level.”

So far, 20 youth from Zanzibar, Iringa, and Mbeya have taken part in the training, with great success. Using mobile phones distributed as part of the practical training, they have effectively told stories of their communities on social media platforms. They also contribute to bulletin stories on the Advancing Youth program weekly. Others have cascaded the training to their fellow youth within their communities.

Khayyam has elected to build a career in journalism and is currently pursuing her diploma in journalism and tourism studies. She is confident about her future.

⋮ *“The skill set that I have gained from the training has made me bold enough for this field. I have also been able to apply for various international competitions, such as the World Youth Journalism awards. I am now more confident following my training.”*



“Change starts with you. Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth training changed my mindset and put me at the forefront of achieving change for youth in my community.

I am a whole and well-rounded leader because the program took a chance on me, despite my young age.”

KHAYYAM MUSTAFA, 18
ZANZIBAR







⋮ *Mpanda ovyo, hula ovyo.*
⋮ *(As you sow, so you shall reap)*



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



“I strongly believe and appreciate that Advancing Youth has equipped me with skills on how to lead effectively. The other thing that I am proud of is how I have improved as a farmer. Now that I use modern agriculture methods, I am reaping great profits from it.”

ABEL MWAKATIMA, 31, RUNGWE



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE