

AKAZI KANOZE 2

A Randomized Controlled Trial of Secondary Students in Rwanda

A randomized controlled trial found that students in the Akazi Kanoze 2 workforce development program were 8 percent more likely to land jobs than youth who did not participate in the program. The study, involving more than 1,500 young people during Year 1 of the three-year program, also showed increased work readiness and increased confidence in job-seeking.



Since June 2014, the **Akazi Kanoze 2 (AK2) project** has been building on Education Development Center's (EDC) efforts to strengthen workforce development programs in Rwanda. Through the Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education (PSIPSE) program, funded by the Mastercard Foundation, AK2 builds on the foundations of its predecessor program, the Akazi Kanoze Youth Livelihood Development Project. AK2 assists schools, government offices, employers, and communities to institutionalize work readiness and transition-to-work programming within the Rwandan secondary school system.

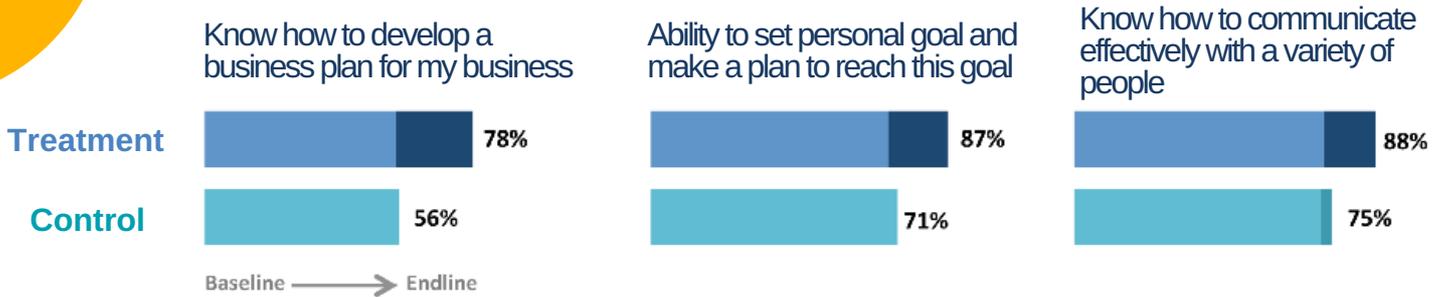


Employability Outcome Findings

1

Work readiness knowledge

- AK2 youth have larger gains in work readiness knowledge and key competencies than a young person who does not participate in the program



“The skills we have learned from our AK2 classes and through this experience has made us confident about our ability to succeed in the future, no matter the initial challenges or failures we may face.”



2

Increased Confidence

- AK2 youth reported much higher levels of confidence in their work readiness skills at endline than the control group, particularly in the following areas:

- finding work
- improving work
- starting and growing a business

AK2 Youth Confident in Finding Work



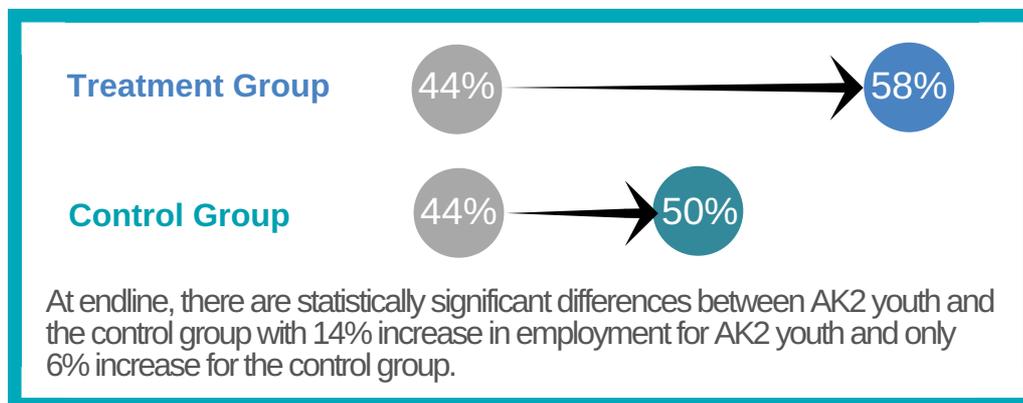
The control group had a 1% decrease at endline and AK2 youth increased by 20% (p<.001)

Employment and Soft Skills Findings

3

Increase in Employment

- AK2 students are more likely to be employed after completing the program than someone who does not participate in the program



- **In school youth -**
 - AK2 in school youth experienced a **10.8%** increase in employment at endline whereas the control group only experienced a **4%** increase.
- **Youth in TVET schools -**
 - AK2 TVET students were **7.6%** more likely to be employed at endline than control youth
- **Female Students**
 - Female students who participated in AK2 made larger gains in employment than those females who did not. Female AK2 TVET students gained **47%** in employment, the largest gain seen by any group.



4

Soft Skills Outcomes

- Despite high baseline scores, there were statistically significant increases in soft skills for the AK2 youth.
- In particular, it appears that AK2 partially **closed the gender gap on soft skills**, as AK2 young women made **larger strides** in soft skills than control group women