

According to the International Labour Organization, the global average to find a stable or satisfactory job after completing school is 19 months^[1]. This is over a year and a half of unemployment or underemployment, making it difficult to both meet basic needs and gain valuable work experience. In Rwanda, the estimated youth unemployment rate was 19.6% in 2019. With approximately 4.1 million people between the ages of 14 and 35 in Rwanda in 2019, over 800,000 young people lack access to meaningful employment and sustainable futures^[2]. Especially for recent graduates coming from disadvantaged backgrounds or young adults with dependents, this time can be a difficult transition period and make it harder to establish meaningful livelihoods in the future.



Globally, almost 1 in 7 youth are looking for work^[3]



Persons who are below the age of 25 represent 67% of the Rwandan population^[2]



43% of the global youth labor force is unemployed or working yet living in poverty^[1]

Our response

To address the issue of youth unemployment and underemployment in Rwanda, the Fig Tree Foundation invested in the Career Launching Project for Extraordinary African Youth, an initiative by The Strongest Oak Foundation (TSO) which provides training and internship opportunities to graduates or recent graduates. The cost of training and internships is shared between all stakeholders including the employer and the students. TSO covers the costs of supplies and living expenses through a low-interest loan with employers sponsoring the part-time internship. This program provides youth with the practical, hands on work experience generally lacking from their university training. It also delivers talented, skilled labour to Rwandan employers at minimal cost and risk. Through a sustainable and collaborative model, the project promotes the core values which guide the Fig Tree Foundation's vision of a future where all communities are self-sustaining.

Funded Projects Dashboard

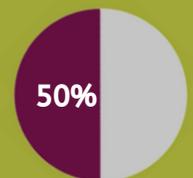
Location of project: Rwanda



Project goals: Internships for recent college graduates

Roundtable Member: The Strongest Oak Foundation
 Year organization was founded: 2010
 In-country partner: Survivor's Fund
 Length of project: 3 years (2012-2014)

Proportion of project funded by FTF:



Grant amount: \$10,000 CAD

This project contributes to SDG's...

1 NO POVERTY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





The Impact

Ten ambitious Rwandan students were selected to partake in the internship program in 2014, with nine successfully finishing their placements. Of these students, eight now have reliable full-time positions that utilize their past education and skill-sets. Though youth unemployment rates are still high in Rwanda, the impact of the Career Launching Project for Extraordinary African Youth is a shining example of how one project can impact lives and contribute to a more just and equitable world.

Scola, one of the internships students, opened her own restaurant which she successfully runs with her husband. Another student in the pilot group of TSO's project, Pascal, completed a three-month Fig Tree Foundation-sponsored internship at Forestry and Agricultural Investment Management Ltd. (FAIM). After his internship, FAIM hired him and then promoted him to Head of Production, in which he manages twenty-two staff. As of 2016, Pascal has the distinction of being the first Oak to repay his Fig Tree loan, as well as secure a full-time job in the company of his internship.



60 months of internships were sponsored by TSO



7 different employers provided internships



8 of the students are now employed full-time, with one starting a business



Click to learn more about the great work [The Strongest Oak Foundation](http://www.strongest-oak.com) is doing around the world

References

- [1] **Global Employment Trends for Youth (2017) International Labour Organization.**
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_598669.pdf
- [2] **Rwanda Youth Employment Assessment Report (2009) Educational Development Center, Inc.**
<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/8054391/rwanda-youth-employment-assessment-report-equip-education->
- [3] **UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015) United Nations,**
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>