



## CASE STUDY:

### Daudi, Mkombozi youth

#### In his own words:

My name is Daudi, I am 28 years old and I am from Moshi. I ran to the streets when I was 5 years old because my family was too poor to care for me. I made the choice to run away, I was not forced out. When I reached the streets, I met lots of friends - some older, some younger - and we all lived together as a group and helped protect each other, especially when we would be caught by police. I used to fetch water for street food vendors and would be paid with money and food.

I met Kate (who is now Mkombozi's Executive Director) on the streets, long before the Mkombozi Centre was started. I used to get food from her and talk to her when I had problems. After Kate got an office, I would stay there during the day and sleep at Mama George's house at night. When Kate got a house, we kids moved in with her. I stayed there for 7 months, and then returned to the streets.

Eventually I met another Mkombozi worker on the streets and was helped by him. Then I moved to Arusha and became used to the street life there. I met another Mkombozi staff member there, and they helped me make a family home visit. When the staff member saw my father's hut, he understood why I left in the first place, as there was such poverty and my family was still unable to care for me. He brought me to the remand home. This was when I was 15. I stayed there and yet felt like a prisoner, having committed no crime but not being free to come and go as I pleased.

I returned to Arusha, then from there went to Dar es Salaam and stayed at a centre where I learned to play the drums during the day but slept on the streets at night. I became so good at the drums, that I would be hired for different shows. But the teachers who would take me to these shows to perform would steal the money from me, so I left them and returned to Arusha.

I stayed in Arusha for several years. I really wished to have my own business, and I was lucky to meet with Pascal (who is now a Senior Social Worker at Mkombozi) because he took me to the Street Business Toolkit (SBTK) classes where I learned about basic business skills. I attended SBTK and I was very happy about the training because it was teaching me about how to make a business grow.

Through SBTK, Pascal helped me find a business mentor and I was given capital to start up my business (selling peanuts and cigarettes). Unfortunately, I had a funeral that I needed to attend and I contributed all my capital to the family without telling Pascal. But lucky for me, Pascal knew me and had only given me half my capital, so I had another chance to succeed! If it wasn't for Mkombozi I think I would be roaming the streets without hope or future, with no idea what to do.

SBTK training helped me to know how to speak with customers, how to run a business, about capital and lending and other concepts that I didn't know before the training. It helped teach me how to save my money so I can achieve my dream of having my own business. I used to save, but in a little box with no bank account, so I would spend it when things happened. With this new solidarity group, I will be able to save for long term and not be tempted to spend these funds. I would like my girlfriend to have the opportunity that I had, at SBTK training, so as to help her know what I now know. It would be great for her to know what I have learned, so I will ask if she can be trained next time!