

**“The skills I’ve developed here will help me one day open my own business.”**

### **Idelaiyte Demoze**

*Leather goods seamstress at HAFDE PLC, a leather tannery in Sebeta. She is responsible for assembling and arranging leather pieces for sewing into goods for bulk export to international buyers. Enterprise Partners supports HAFDE in its efforts to become the largest chrome-free leather producer in Africa, through the integration of eco-sustainable methods in leather production.*



Idelaiyte Demoze is an 18-year old leather seamstress employed by HAFDE Tannery PLC located in Sebeta, Ethiopia.

For the past year and a half, Idelaiyte has worked at HAFDE in assembling leather pieces which are sewn into purses and shoes products exported to international buyers.

She initially began her training in leather sewing and design at her technical school in Addis Ababa. She was then hired by HAFDE after receiving high marks on her 10<sup>th</sup> grade technical examinations, and being recruited by HAFDE to complete a first round training prior to her results being given.

Idelaiyte is someone filled with ambition and energy. She explains, that each day she asks her friends at work if she can assist them with their tasks, which in turn allows her to improve her sewing skills. With her colleagues, Idelaiyte is able to assemble the leather pieces and assist in sewing and completing five leather purses per day. On her own, Idelaiyte says she’s learned to now finish sewing three complete purses.

It is inspiring to hear Idelaiyte’s initiative in the workplace, and sheer desire to learn. She says she is known for sorting through leather pieces, and if any are unsatisfactory to her standards – will ask the tannery to return them and bring ones of better quality. She also provides her supervisors with her feedback on the designs provided by the international buyers for production at HAFDE. She says that her overall goal is to advance her purse production skills, while improving her shoe making skills as well.

Although Idelaiyte hopes to earn more while working at HAFDE, she has greater dreams for herself. She stresses that she is diligently working to learn as many skills as possible, while making her contributions in the workplace – so that she can one day open her own leather goods business with her friends. She says that she enjoys the arts and design, and cannot wait to have the ability to produce leather goods that she has designed herself. Idelaiyte’s dedication and commitment to developing, leave little doubt that she will one day do so.