

USSIA NEWSFLASH



2nd - 5th June 2025

EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH DIGITAL INNOVATION

In a bid to strengthen entrepreneurship and support small businesses across Uganda, sensitization campaigns have been rolled out in Fort Portal, Hoima, and Wakiso to promote two powerful digital tools: the E-starters platform and the Yo-kazzi mobile application. These initiatives are transforming how entrepreneurs access knowledge, plan their ventures, and connect with essential services.

The E-starters platform is designed to guide new and existing entrepreneurs through the process of developing a business plan. It also features a rich collection of instructional videos that break down the key requirements for starting different types of businesses—from registration and compliance to sourcing and operations. These step-by-step guides make the platform an ideal resource for first-time business owners looking for clear and practical advice.



Meanwhile, the Yo-kazzi app serves as a digital marketplace and service connector. Entrepreneurs can use the app to find a variety of service providers, such as accountants, legal advisors, designers, and more. Just as importantly, users can also list their own services, helping them reach new customers and expand their networks within Uganda's growing digital economy.

The sensitization activities, led by the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), focused on hands-on demonstrations and practical engagement with participants. Entrepreneurs in each district were shown how to navigate the platforms, set up their profiles, and begin using the tools immediately to enhance their businesses.



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EQUIPPING THE FRONTLINE: PREPARING ENUMERATORS FOR ACTION

In preparation for a critical data collection exercise under the Livelihoods and Employment for Development (LEAD) Project, a group of dedicated enumerators has completed a targeted training program in Kyaka II Settlement, located in western Uganda. This marks a major step in ensuring that data collected from the field is accurate, reliable, and reflective of the realities within both the refugee and host communities.

Trainers emphasized the importance of integrity, confidentiality, and consistency throughout the data collection process. “Quality data is the foundation of impactful programming. By investing in well-prepared enumerators, we are laying the groundwork for interventions that truly respond to community realities,” one facilitator noted.

The training, equipped the enumerators with practical skills in digital data collection, ethical interviewing techniques, and understanding of the project’s scope. Enumerators were introduced to mobile survey tools and guided through mock interviews to ensure readiness for the upcoming household-level assessments.

As the enumerators gear up for fieldwork, the training has instilled both competence and confidence—ensuring that voices from Kyaka II are heard and accurately represented in shaping future development interventions under the LEAD Project.

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Building Momentum for a Greener Future

Local leaders, stakeholders, and community representatives gathered in Kabarole District for the official inception meeting of the Green Deal Project, marking the beginning of a transformative initiative aimed at promoting inclusive green growth, environmental sustainability, and livelihood enhancement in the region.



The inception meeting also outlined the planned activities for the initial phase, including baseline assessments, training of enumerators, stakeholder mapping, and identification of priority intervention areas. These efforts will ensure that the project is data-driven and community-informed from the outset.

With strong local support and a clear implementation roadmap, the Green Deal Project is set to become a catalyst for lasting change in Kabarole

Participants at the meeting appreciated the inclusive approach taken by the project and stressed the importance of community engagement at every stage. Several stakeholders expressed enthusiasm about the opportunities the initiative brings for job creation, environmental restoration, and capacity building among youth and women.



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This soft skills training complements the technical courses offered through the Get Skilled Project ensuring that beneficiaries don't just gain skills in trades such as tailoring, mechanics, or hairdressing, but are also prepared to manage income, make informed financial decisions, and pursue self-employment with confidence.

Many participants expressed appreciation for the training, noting that it challenged them to rethink their habits and embrace entrepreneurship as a viable path to independence.

The Get Skilled Project continues to address youth unemployment by combining hands-on vocational training with the soft skills necessary for long-term success. As Cohort 4 progresses, the impact of these lessons in savings and entrepreneurship is expected to ripple through households and communities, fostering a generation of financially literate, self-driven young entrepreneurs.

Empowering Potential Beyond Technical Skills

Youth participants under Cohort 4 of the Get Skilled Project in Wakiso, Mukono, and Kampala have completed a transformative training in soft skills, focusing on financial literacy, savings culture, and entrepreneurship. This training is a core component of the broader initiative aimed at not only equipping young people with vocational skills but also preparing them for the realities of business and self-employment.

The sessions emphasized essential life and work-readiness skills that are often overlooked in traditional training programs. Youth were introduced to practical techniques in personal finance management, goal setting, budgeting, and the discipline of consistent saving. The entrepreneurship module guided them through idea generation, business planning, customer relations, and the mindset needed to start and sustain a small enterprise.



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Member Visits Highlight Youth Empowerment and Innovation in Carpentry in Fort Portal

A recent membership engagement visit to Imukya Initiatives and Universal Construction Company in Fort Portal shone a spotlight on how local enterprises are using carpentry and construction not only as business ventures but also as platforms for youth empowerment and skills development.

Both companies are active members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) and serve as vital contributors to the region's vocational training ecosystem.



Imukya Initiatives stands out for its innovative use of bamboo in creating eco-friendly furniture and household items. During the visit, members observed the production process of bamboo chairs, tables, and decorative pieces highlighting the potential of sustainable materials in Uganda's carpentry sector. In addition to its bamboo work, Imukya runs a training program that targets vulnerable youth, offering them free or subsidized carpentry training to increase their economic independence.



Universal Construction Company continues to make an impact through its structured apprenticeship programs. Trainees work under skilled artisans to learn furniture making, cabinetry, and structural woodwork, with many transitioning into employment or starting their own workshops after graduation. The company also contributes to the local economy by sourcing materials locally and employing workers from within the community.

These membership visits served as an opportunity to deepen engagement, identify areas of support, and share best practices among other small-scale industrialists in the region.

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A New Zone, A New Beginning: Kyambogo Entrepreneurs Welcomed into the Uganda Small Scale Industries Network



Small-scale industrialists and entrepreneurs in Kyambogo were officially welcomed into the growing national network of small industry actors during an orientation session introducing the newly established Kyambogo Zone under the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA). The session brought together business owners, artisans, and youth-led enterprises to learn more about the association's mission, services, and the value of collective membership.

The creation of the Kyambogo Zone reflects USSIA's continued effort to bring services closer to its members by decentralizing operations and strengthening local networks. As the zone begins its activities, members are now better positioned to take advantage of the training, advocacy, and growth opportunities that come with being part of the USSIA family.

The orientation focused on helping new members understand the role USSIA plays in promoting the growth and sustainability of small-scale industries across Uganda. As one of the country's leading membership-based organizations supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), USSIA champions innovation, enterprise development, and inclusive economic participation.

With energy, commitment, and a shared vision, the Kyambogo Zone is set to become a vibrant hub for innovation, skills development, and industrial growth in the heart of Kampala.



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Empowering Youth for Sustainable Livelihoods through VSLA Training

This week marked a significant milestone in youth empowerment as trainees under the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) docket underwent intensive training aimed at strengthening their capacity for self-reliance and group sustainability. The training focused on equipping young people with vital knowledge and skills related to the formation, effective operation, and long-term sustainability of savings groups.

The training also emphasized the importance of transparency, record-keeping, and accountability within savings groups—cornerstones that contribute to trust and cohesion among members. Youths were encouraged to take ownership of their financial futures through collaborative savings and investment activities, helping them build a strong foundation for economic independence.



This initiative aligns with broader efforts to foster youth entrepreneurship, reduce unemployment, and create inclusive economic opportunities at the grassroots level. With these newly acquired skills, the trainees are now better positioned to form well-structured and resilient savings groups that will serve as springboards for individual and community development.



Through continuous mentorship and follow-up support, the youth under the VSLA docket are expected to translate this training into tangible impact, not only improving their own livelihoods but also contributing meaningfully to their local economies.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

STREET MARKET

ARUA CITY

Looking for a unique shopping experience filled with local treasures and unbeatable prices? look no further than the USSIA street market in the heart of Arua. Proudly organized by the Uganda small scale industries association (USSIA)

August
7th - 9th, 2025

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Arua City

FOR BOOKING CALL > 0706733792 Or 0787100282

Arua Street Market

 **Date: 7th-9th August, 202**



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FEE: 100,000 shs

VENUE: USSIA Offices, UMA show grounds Lugogo

DATE: 28th - 30th July 2025 **Starting At 9:00am**

0705378023 / 0773660688
info@ussia.or.ug
www.ussia.or.ug

Gomesi and Mushana Training

 **Date: 28th-30th July, 2025**

 **Participation Fee: UGX 100,000 only**