

NEWSFLASH



7th - 11th July 2025



Catalyzing Climate Finance: MSMEs Join Forces at Uganda's First Private Sector Forum

Uganda took a significant step toward inclusive climate action with the inaugural National Private Sector Engagement Forum on Climate Finance (NaPSEF1), held at Serena Hotel under the theme “Advancing Private Sector Leadership in Climate Finance Mobilization.” The event brought together key players from government, the private sector, financial institutions, and development partners to chart a path toward a more climate-resilient economy.

Representing Uganda's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) took an active role in the discussions. USSIA reaffirmed its dedication to equipping small-scale industries with access to climate finance mechanisms, while promoting adaptation and resilience strategies across grassroots enterprises.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives were a focal point of the forum, with Mr. Jim Mugunga, Executive Director at the Ministry of Finance, presenting coordinated government efforts to bridge policy and practice in climate finance mobilization. Financial institutions such as Uganda Development Bank (UDB), PostBank, Equity Bank, and the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) shared practical insights on green financing initiatives and the role of private capital in driving sustainable development.



7th - 11th July 2025



Shaping Uganda's Energy Future: Stakeholders Validate National Efficiency Strategy

Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), representing the voice of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). USSIA reaffirmed its support for energy-efficient industrial practices and emphasized the importance of equipping small-scale manufacturers with knowledge and tools to adopt clean technologies and reduce energy costs.

Discussions at the workshop focused on sector-specific strategies, regulatory frameworks, financing mechanisms, and the need for public awareness campaigns. Participants also explored the role of innovation, technology transfer, and private sector engagement in accelerating energy efficiency adoption.

The validation workshop served as a critical step in finalizing the strategy,

A diverse group of stakeholders convened at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel to participate in a validation workshop for Uganda's draft National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and Plan. The event marked a significant milestone in the country's efforts to promote sustainable energy use and reduce consumption across all sectors.

The draft strategy outlines a comprehensive roadmap to improve energy efficiency nationwide, identifying households as the largest energy consumers, followed by the commercial and public sectors, industries, the transport sector, and agriculture. These insights will guide targeted interventions aimed at optimizing energy use and promoting conservation practices across Uganda's economy.



NEWSFLASH

7th - 11th July 2025



Forging Stronger Partnerships for Skills Development in Uganda



In a concerted effort to enhance collaboration between the private sector and vocational training institutions, a strategic round table discussion was organized by Enabel and SSPVTI. The event brought together key stakeholders committed to strengthening Uganda's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystem.

The focus of the meeting centered on building sustainable partnerships that can bridge the gap between skills training and the actual demands of the labor market. Discussions highlighted the importance of aligning training programs with industry standards, facilitating apprenticeships, and ensuring that trainees gain hands-on, relevant experience.

USSIA was represented by seven of its members who actively provide training services in metal fabrication, carpentry, and electrical installation who shared practical insights from their on-the-ground experiences in offering technical training to youth and emerging artisans. Their contributions underscored the crucial role that small-scale industries play in fostering employable skills and reducing youth unemployment.

The round table concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen coordination between training institutions and industry players, with clear action points to support a more responsive and dynamic TVET framework in Uganda.

7th - 11th July 2025



The meeting served as a platform to introduce the objectives of the Green and Decent Jobs for Youth initiative, discuss the role of each stakeholder, and outline strategies for effective implementation across the district. With Uganda's youthful population facing persistent employment challenges, the project aims to create pathways for decent work that align with green economic growth and sustainable development.

As the mobilisation phase kicks off, stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to working collaboratively to implement inclusive programs that will uplift youth in Hoima and contribute to Uganda's broader green growth agenda.

Youth Empowerment Takes Center Stage at Hoima Green and Decent Jobs Inception Meeting

In a significant stride towards sustainable youth employment, the Green and Decent Jobs for Youth inception and mobilisation meeting was held today at the Hoima District Local Government headquarters. The initiative brought together district officials, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), vocational trainers, members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), and other key stakeholders committed to fostering environmentally friendly and dignified job opportunities for young people.



Trainers and SMEs in attendance underscored the necessity of linking skills development with market opportunities, ensuring that youth are not only trained but also absorbed into meaningful employment or supported to start their own green enterprises.

7th - 11th July 2025

Shaping Tomorrow: Youth Empowerment Workshop Champions Digital and Financial Inclusion

In a bold stride toward building a digitally savvy and financially informed generation, a transformative youth empowerment workshop was held in Mbale, drawing 25 energetic and ambitious young participants. The workshop focused on three key pillars: digitalization, financial literacy, and inclusive economic development.



The event served as a timely response to the challenges faced by young entrepreneurs and job seekers in an increasingly digital world. Participants were introduced to essential digital skills, strategies for managing personal and business finances, and the importance of financial services like insurance in economic resilience.

The sessions featured interactive learning, real-world case studies, and practical tools tailored to the unique needs of youth in the region. Attendees expressed gratitude for the opportunity to engage with professionals and access knowledge that is often out of reach in rural and peri-urban communities.

With a clear vision for sustainable youth development, USSIA and CIC have committed to continued collaboration, aiming to replicate and scale the workshop's success across other regions.

7th - 11th July 2025

Forging Stronger Leadership: Kampala Metropolitan ZEC Orientation Unites Zones for Impactful Change



In a concerted effort to strengthen leadership and promote collaborative service delivery, the Kampala Metropolitan region recently hosted a comprehensive Zonal Executive Committee (ZEC) orientation. Bringing together representatives from Kampala, Mukono, Wakiso, Luweero, and Kajjansi, the orientation focused on building leadership capacity, deepening understanding of association policies, and fostering unity across the zones.

The event served as a strategic platform to equip ZEC members with the tools and knowledge necessary to lead effectively and drive the association's mission forward within their respective areas. By aligning efforts and sharing best practices, the orientation set the tone for a more coordinated and impactful approach to service delivery.

As the association looks ahead, the orientation marks a crucial step in building cohesive, informed, and responsive leadership across the Kampala Metropolitan region. The momentum generated is expected to translate into stronger zone performance and greater satisfaction among members.

Through a series of interactive sessions, engaging discussions, and informative presentations, participants explored the core principles of effective leadership, governance structures, and the operational policies that guide the association. The sessions encouraged open dialogue and peer learning, helping participants contextualize their roles and responsibilities.



NEWSFLASH

7th - 11th July 2025



Empowering Entrepreneurs: Financial Literacy and Savings Skills Boost for USSIA Members

In a bid to strengthen the financial capacity of small-scale industrialists an insightful training session that was focused on financial literacy, the operations of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), and the advantages of joining USSIA SACCO LTD was conducted

The training, which brought together dozens of USSIA members from various sectors, emphasized the importance of sound financial management as a cornerstone of successful business operations. Participants were equipped with essential knowledge on budgeting, record keeping, savings culture, debt management, and basic investment strategies. The session aimed to bridge the knowledge gap that often hinders small-scale entrepreneurs from reaching their full potential.

In addition to the general financial literacy topics, the session highlighted the numerous benefits of being a member of the USSIA SACCO LTD. Members learned how the SACCO serves as a reliable financial institution tailored to the unique needs of small-scale industrialists. With access to affordable credit, saving products, and investment opportunities, the SACCO provides a secure and efficient platform for USSIA members to grow their businesses. The cooperative model also fosters collective bargaining power and offers a sense of belonging to a larger entrepreneurial network.

USSIA continues to empower its members with tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in increasingly competitive economic landscape.

Uncovering Local Potential: Artisans and Entrepreneurs Shine in Isingiro District

A recent mobilization and engagement exercise in Isingiro District has revealed a wealth of untapped entrepreneurial talent, as potential members in various trades—including bakery, weaving, and tailoring expressed interest in joining the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA).

The outreach initiative was part of ongoing efforts to identify and support small-scale industrialists across the country, particularly in underrepresented regions. During the field visits and community meetings, a number of passionate individuals and groups came forward, showcasing their skills in artisanal baking, handweaving, and fashion design. Their commitment to growing their crafts and businesses was evident, despite operating under challenging conditions..



The most commonly cited challenge across all sectors was market accessibility. Many entrepreneurs struggle to find consistent buyers for their products, especially beyond their immediate communities. Poor infrastructure, lack of transport, limited digital presence, and insufficient marketing skills have further hindered their growth. Several participants also shared that while they can produce in bulk, they often have no clear channels through which to sell or promote their products.

The next steps will include capacity-building workshops, mentorship opportunities, and facilitating access to broader markets—both locally and regionally. By formally onboarding these potential members into the USSIA network, the association hopes to create a more inclusive industrial community that recognizes and nurtures grassroots enterprise.



NEWSFLASH

7th - 11th July 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS



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NEWSFLASH

7th - 11th July 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS



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NEWSFLASH

7th - 11th July 2025



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NEWSFLASH



7th - 11th July 2025

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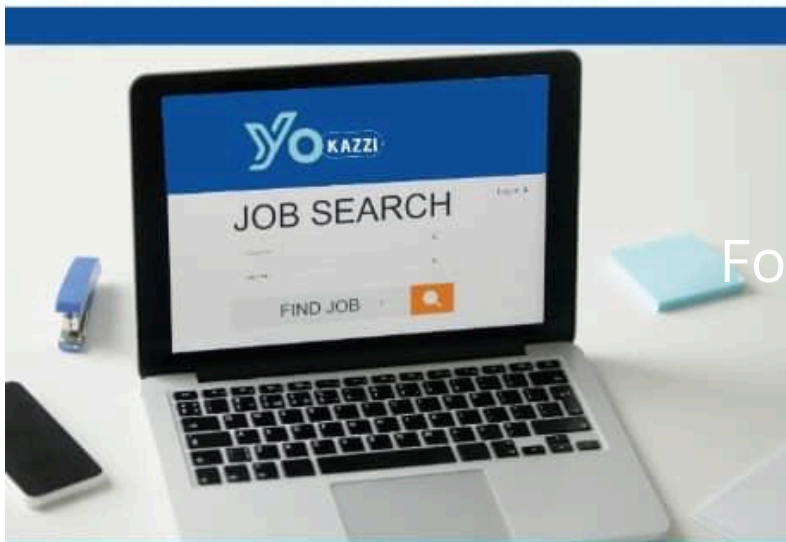
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