

11th- 15th August 2025

## WEEG-UWEP Project Launched

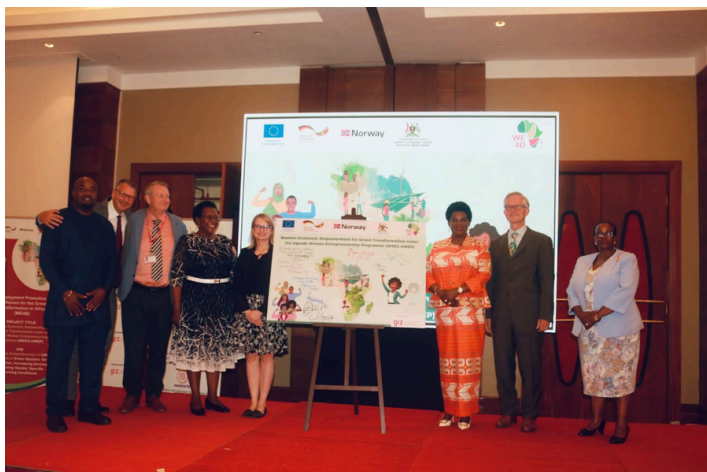
The Ministry of Labour, in partnership with GIZ Uganda, officially launched the WEEG-UWEP project, a bold initiative designed to strengthen the competitiveness of women groups under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP). The project focuses on harnessing opportunities within the green economy while ensuring gender-sensitive working conditions that enable women to thrive in business.

During the launch, USSIA joined other key stakeholders in reaffirming the importance of empowering women entrepreneurs with the tools, knowledge, and networks they need to succeed. By integrating green practices into their enterprises, UWEP women groups will not only improve their productivity but also contribute to environmental sustainability.



The WEEG-UWEP project emphasizes creating inclusive spaces where women can innovate, expand their markets, and access better economic opportunities, all while balancing social and environmental responsibilities. USSIA's participation reflects its continued commitment to supporting women-led enterprises and advancing gender equity in Uganda's small-scale industries.

This partnership marks a significant step toward building a competitive, inclusive, and sustainable future—one where women are at the forefront of driving green growth and social transformation.





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## Shaping Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs

The We work (Green deal) Project has entered its second week of Entrepreneurship and Life Skills Training, bringing together more than 435 energetic youths from Hoima, Kyegegwa, and Fort Portal. This initiative, supported by the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) as the lead implementing partner, is laying a strong foundation for the next generation of change-makers.

The training is designed to equip participants not only with entrepreneurial knowledge but also with essential life skills that prepare them for the demands of both business and community development. Through interactive sessions, the youth are gaining exposure to practical tools for financial management, critical thinking, leadership, and adaptability—skills vital for thriving in today's competitive world.

What makes the Greendeal Project unique is its forward-looking approach. Upon completion of the life skills component, the trainees will transition into technical training placements across 28 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). These specialized trainings will focus on high-demand trades such as solar energy, eco-friendly construction using interlocking blocks, sustainable bamboo carpentry, and innovative waste management practices.

By connecting entrepreneurship with green skills and sustainable trades, the project is not only tackling youth unemployment but also fostering eco-conscious innovation that responds to global sustainability challenges. The ripple effect is expected to create jobs, promote cleaner technologies, and enhance livelihoods in the participating districts.





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## Businesses and Stakeholders Voice Electricity Concerns in Mbarara

A one-day electricity workshop was held at the Electricity Regulatory Authority's (ERA) regional office in Mbarara, bringing together the business community and stakeholders to address pressing electricity-related issues. The interactive session created a platform for participants to raise concerns ranging from billing challenges, power reliability, connection delays, to customer care experiences.

The workshop provided an opportunity for ERA officials to listen directly to the affected communities while also clarifying regulatory processes and commitments to improved service delivery. This open engagement emphasized the importance of collaboration between electricity providers, regulators, and end-users in finding sustainable solutions.

Among the participants were six members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), whose contributions highlighted the unique challenges faced by small and medium enterprises. Reliable electricity remains a critical factor in the growth and competitiveness of such businesses, making their involvement in the discussions highly valuable.

By the close of the workshop, participants expressed optimism that continued dialogue would not only resolve existing complaints but also build stronger partnerships to ensure more reliable and transparent electricity services across the region.



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## BLINC Workshop Charts New Path for Inclusive Trade and Investment in Uganda

A new strategic direction for Uganda's trade and investment landscape was set at the Business Linkages and Investment Connections (BLINC) Strategic Planning Workshop held at Esella Country Hotel, Kampala, from 16th–17th August 2025. Convened by the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), the workshop brought together key stakeholders including the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) to co-design a roadmap aimed at strengthening business linkages and fostering inclusive economic growth.

Key discussions underscored the challenges facing Uganda's business ecosystem, including weak value chains, high SME mortality rates, limited access to affordable financing, and persistent informality. It was noted that despite existing funds such as those from UDB and the Agricultural Credit Facility, many SMEs remain excluded due to strict collateral and documentation requirements.



The BLINC initiative seeks to create a structured platform for promoting trade, investment, and economic opportunities by linking government, private sector actors, and investors. Its overall goal is to enhance private sector participation while ensuring that small and medium enterprises (SMEs), women, and youth are actively engaged in Uganda's growth agenda.



Opportunities were highlighted, such as the need for stronger economic diplomacy, the creation of public free zones to spur exports, and the development of centralized knowledge platforms to connect SMEs with information on financing and trade opportunities. The revival of cooperatives was also emphasized as a strategy to improve aggregation, and input access,



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## Petrochemical Prospects Poised to Transform Uganda's Manufacturing Sector

Uganda's journey toward industrial self-sufficiency gained momentum on 14th August 2025 during a high-level dialogue on petrochemical raw materials and the future of manufacturing, held at the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) Multipurpose Hall. Organized in partnership with the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) and Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the event brought together industry stakeholders to explore how the forthcoming Hoima Refinery could reshape the country's industrial base.

The refinery, expected to be operational by 2030, will not only supply refined fuel but also produce vital petrochemical feedstocks—such as plastics, resins, and chemicals—currently imported at high cost. This development is anticipated to reduce dependency on foreign markets, cut foreign exchange outflows, and provide affordable, locally available raw materials for diverse industries ranging from plastics and fertilizers to paints, automotive parts, and cosmetics.



For small-scale industries, the refinery presents enormous opportunities—lower production costs, wider access to raw materials, and potential entry into new downstream investments. However, it also calls for deliberate preparation. USSIA underscored the importance of capacity-building, access to financing for technology adoption, and policy measures to guarantee SMEs equitable access to refinery outputs.





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## Entrepreneurs Sharpen Financial Skills

In the USSIA boardroom, a new chapter of business growth unfolded as 32 entrepreneurs that were comprised of 21 women and 11 men, gathered for a dynamic financial management training focused on financial planning and budgeting. The session was more than just a lecture it was an eye-opener on how numbers, when managed wisely, can shape the future of a business.

Participants explored the “money map” of their enterprises, learning how to track every shilling, design budgets that work like roadmaps, and plan ahead with confidence. The training went beyond theory, using real-life business scenarios that encouraged entrepreneurs to think critically about their financial decisions and the ripple effects these decisions have on sustainability.

For many participants, the highlight was discovering that financial management isn't about complex accounting jargon, but about developing the discipline to turn small, consistent actions into lasting impact. The training instilled not only skills but also the confidence to transform challenges into opportunities.

By the end of the day, the atmosphere was filled with optimism. The entrepreneurs left not only with new skills but also with the confidence to apply them in their businesses, laying a foundation for stronger, more sustainable enterprises.





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## Enterprise Visits Showcase Innovation and Growth Among Local Industries

In a drive to strengthen connections with local entrepreneurs, a series of enterprise visits were carried out in Wakiso and Kampala, offering valuable insights into the resilience, innovation, and growth potential of Uganda's small-scale industries.



One of the key highlights of the visits was the engagement with Sangu Herbal Products in Wakiso, a fast-rising enterprise known for its contribution to the natural health and wellness sector. The team explored the company's journey, product innovations, and commitment to promoting traditional herbal solutions within modern market systems. The visit also provided an opportunity to discuss challenges faced by herbal producers, including certification requirements, access to financing, and market penetration.



Beyond Wakiso, four other member enterprises in Kampala were also visited, each showcasing unique contributions to Uganda's industrial landscape. These enterprises demonstrated the creativity and determination of small-scale industries, ranging from food processing and value addition to craft production and manufacturing. The discussions centered on practical solutions to everyday business challenges, while also highlighting the need for capacity building, market access, and policy support.



The visits not only fostered stronger relationships with member businesses but also reinforced the importance of continuous engagement to understand on-the-ground realities. Such interactions are critical for shaping future programs that address the real needs of entrepreneurs, ensuring that small-scale industries remain competitive, sustainable, and well-integrated into Uganda's broader economic agenda.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Explore Textile Excellence!



Join USSIA's exposure visit to Nytil in Jinja  
For Business Insights and Opportunities



Fee: UGX 30,000



**AUGUST**  
**29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2025**

For Booking:



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**20th August, 2025**



**Mutufu Town council**  
**Sironko District**

**FEE: 50,000/=**



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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### BEEF PROCESSING TRAINING

#### What to learn / Expect

Beef sausages  
Minced meat  
Burgers  
Meat balls



Fee: 100,000  
/=



25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>  
August 2025

09.00am



0787091022  
0760228519

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### MAKEUP TRAINING

**What to Learn**

- Cream contouring and strobing
- Cut crease eyeshadow
- Halo eye technique
- Advanced blending techniques
- Glitter and pigments use and more

**FEE: 80,000 Shs**

**USSIA Offices, UMA show grounds Lugogo**

**28th-29th, August 2025**

**Call: 0787091022/ 0751734621**

For more information call  
**0789104638 or 0706733792**



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## THE YOKAZZI APP



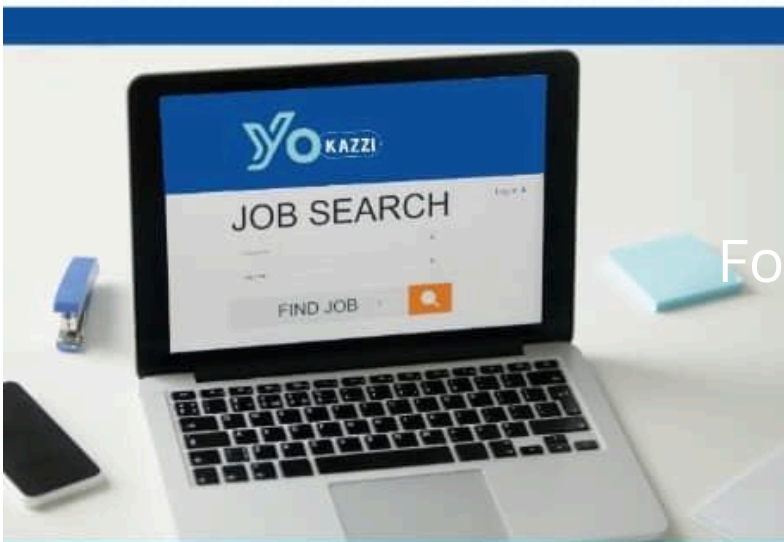
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## THE E-STARTER'S PLATFORM

USSIA  
e-STARTER'S  
Platform



"We walk the journey with you from Idea inception to actualization of your dreams"

### About the Platform

The USSIA e-starters platform is an online tool designed to support and nurture early-stage businesses, entrepreneurs and startups



#### Business Ideas

Get basics on the different start up ideas or build on your idea



#### Business plan development

Simplified step by step process on the formation & development of your business plan



#### Formalization

Be guided on how to formalize your enterprise



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Aspiring entrepreneurs across Uganda now have a powerful new tool at their fingertips. The USSIA Starters Platform, available online at [ussia.co](http://ussia.co), is helping individuals turn their business ideas into reality by providing structured guidance, resources, and step-by-step tutorials

From idea to impact, the USSIA Starters Platform is your first step to building a successful enterprise.

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