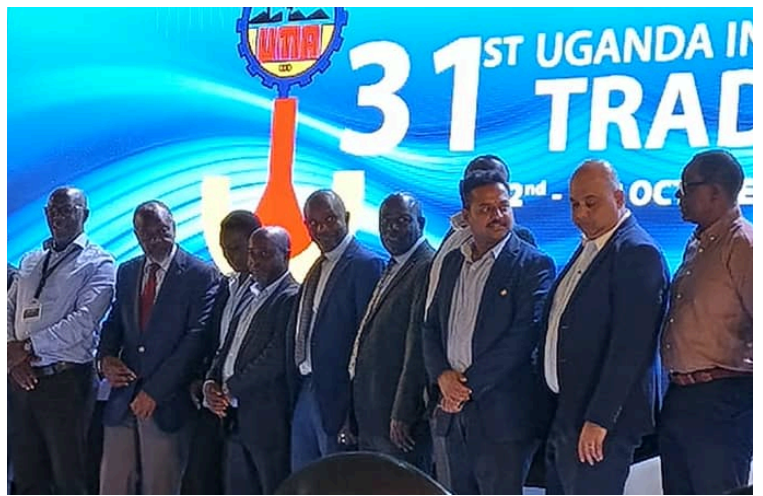


1st- 5th September 2025

USSIA Joins the UMA Trade Show Launch

The countdown is on for one of Uganda's biggest business gatherings the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) Trade Show, happening from 2nd to 12th October 2025. This grand event is more than an exhibition; it is a hub of innovation, collaboration, and growth for enterprises across the nation.

The UMA Trade Show has long been a springboard for businesses to unveil creativity, discover new technologies, and access new markets. USSIA's participation this year highlights the immense value of small-scale industries in fueling innovation, job creation, and industrial transformation. With members excelling in areas such as agro-processing, textiles, crafts, and renewable energy, the Association is bringing diversity and fresh solutions to the marketplace.



This year's theme revolves around building resilience and fostering industrial linkages, perfectly aligning with USSIA's mission to empower small-scale enterprises to thrive in a competitive global economy. Through this platform, USSIA aims to demonstrate that small industries are not just participants in Uganda's industrial growth story—they are the changemakers driving it.

As October approaches, excitement is building. Entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and consumers are all invited to visit the UMA Trade Show and witness firsthand the power of small industries shaping a big future.



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The awareness session set the tone for what lies ahead, sparking enthusiasm and determination among the trainees. The program will expose them to practical hands-on experiences, foster creativity, and encourage entrepreneurial mindsets that can transform challenges into opportunities. With VSLA training, participants will also gain the financial discipline and collective strength needed to sustain their ventures long after the training ends.

The LEAD Project stands as a beacon of possibility in Nakivale, proving that with the right support, young people can drive powerful change in their communities. For the next five weeks, these 136 youths will not just be learning they will be building a foundation for self-reliance, innovation, and lasting impact.

Nakivale is not just hosting a training it is nurturing tomorrow's leaders.

Assessing Training Needs and Expectations

A wave of hope and opportunity is sweeping through Nakivale Refugee Settlement, where 136 vibrant youths both refugees and host community members have embarked on a journey that promises to redefine their futures. Through the LEAD Project, an inspiring awareness engagement session was recently held to prepare these young people for an intensive five-week training program.

The training is designed to equip participants with technical skills, entrepreneurship knowledge, life skills, and Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) practices a comprehensive package aimed at unlocking their potential and empowering them to thrive in both business and community life.



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LEAD Project Trainings Ignite in Kyaka

Energy and ambition are taking center stage in Kyaka Refugee Settlement, where the LEAD Project has kicked off a transformative training journey for 168 youths drawn from both refugee and host communities. Over the next five weeks, these young men and women will be immersed in a dynamic program combining entrepreneurship, life skills, and Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) training.

The sessions are designed to build more than just skills—they are cultivating resilience, creativity, and a spirit of self-reliance. By learning how to identify opportunities, manage resources, and collaborate effectively, the participants are being equipped to craft sustainable livelihoods that can withstand today's challenges and tomorrow's uncertainties.

For many of these youths, this training represents a turning point: a chance to gain hands-on entrepreneurial knowledge, sharpen essential life skills, and understand the power of collective savings through VSLA. More importantly, it strengthens the bonds between refugee and host communities, demonstrating that shared learning and cooperation are the foundation of peaceful coexistence and economic growth.

The ongoing training is more than a classroom exercise—it is an incubator for future leaders, innovators, and changemakers. With every session, the participants are stepping closer to unlocking their potential and rewriting their stories of possibility and progress.

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Building Capacity for Success

A new wave of empowerment is taking root in Kyaka and Nakivale Refugee Settlements, where the LEAD Project has successfully completed Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions for a select group of passionate facilitators. In total, **8 trainers—4 from each settlement**—were equipped with advanced knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship, life skills, and Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) methodologies.

This initiative marks a critical step in ensuring sustainability and wider outreach. By investing in trainers who live and work within the communities, the LEAD Project is building a multiplier effect—where knowledge cascades from a few to many, empowering more youths and households to embrace self-reliance and innovation.



The TOT sessions were not simply about delivering content; they emphasized interactive facilitation, practical exercises, and real-world application. Trainers learned how to inspire participants, nurture entrepreneurial thinking, and cultivate financial discipline through VSLA structures, while also guiding young people on essential life skills for resilience and leadership.



With this cadre of well-prepared trainers now in place, both Kyaka and Nakivale are set to benefit from high-quality, localized training that responds directly to the needs of the communities. These trainers will play a pivotal role in mentoring, coaching, and supporting youths through the LEAD Project's five-week training cycles and beyond.

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Building Trust, Securing Quality

Before the first lesson is taught and the first tool is handed over, the LEAD Project is ensuring that quality and accountability are at the heart of its work. In both Kyaka and Nakivale Refugee Settlements, thorough due diligence visits were carried out at various Technical Trainers' Centres ahead of contract signing—an exercise that underscored the project's commitment to excellence and transparency.

The visits provided an opportunity to assess the readiness, capacity, and credibility of trainers and institutions that will play a central role in shaping the skills of refugee and host youths. Criteria such as technical expertise, training facilities, mentorship capacity, and alignment with LEAD's mission of empowerment were carefully evaluated.

The outcome speaks volumes: following this meticulous process, over 34 technical trainers were contracted across the two settlements. These trainers will deliver hands-on instruction in areas ranging from vocational skills to entrepreneurship, life skills, and Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) practices—equipping young people with the tools they need for meaningful livelihoods.



By prioritizing due diligence, the LEAD Project is not only safeguarding quality training but also building trust among partners, trainees, and the wider community. Each contracted trainer now represents more than an instructor—they are trusted change agents tasked with sparking innovation, self-reliance, and resilience among the youths.



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LEAD Project Boosts Communication Skills of Focal Persons

In today's fast-paced world, powerful communication is more than a tool—it's a lifeline for impact. Recognizing this, the LEAD Project convened a dynamic workshop aimed at strengthening the communication capacity of focal persons drawn from across its network.

The workshop brought together different partners and practitioners to sharpen one of the most critical elements of development work: how stories are told, captured, and shared. Participants were taken through practical sessions that explored the importance of communication, effective framing techniques, the rule of thirds, lighting basics, and videography essentials.

By investing in these skills, the LEAD Project is not only improving how information is shared but also strengthening the narrative power of communities themselves. Every frame, every clip, and every story captured by these trained focal persons now has the potential to inspire action and amplify hope.

Partners at the workshop emphasized that strong communication builds bridges between projects and the people they impact, ensuring visibility, accountability, and greater engagement. The interactive nature of the sessions fostered creativity, peer learning, and confidence among focal persons, leaving them inspired to take their communication to the next level.



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Turning Share-Outs Into Step-Ups

It's share-out season in the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) of Mukono and Wakiso, and excitement fills the air as members receive their long-awaited savings. For many, this is the moment they've been waiting for—money in hand, and dreams finally within reach.

Yet, with opportunity comes challenge. The temptation to spend quickly can sometimes overshadow the discipline to save or invest wisely. Recognizing this, the Get Skilled Project stepped in at the perfect time, integrating financial literacy sessions into the share-out period to guide youths toward better financial choices.



The sessions weren't just about numbers on a page—they were about reshaping mindsets. Participants learned how to:

- Separate needs from wants
- Create simple, practical budgets
- Explore small business opportunities
- Plan for emergencies

In Mukono, Kampala, and Wakiso, the project is proving that financial education is not simply about managing money—it's about building futures, strengthening families, and unlocking the power of youth innovation.

For some, this became a turning point. A reminder that even the smallest share-out can become a stepping stone to a bigger dream.



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Strategic Planning for Growth



The spirit of renewal and collaboration came alive during the recent Mukono Zonal Executive Committee (ZEC) meeting held at Mukono District headquarters. The gathering brought together leaders, members, and stakeholders with a shared purpose: to reimagine how Mukono can be revived and positioned as a stronger, more vibrant district.

The discussions were both reflective and forward-looking, centering on strategies to unlock Mukono's potential, strengthen local industries, and improve service delivery for the community. Key themes included enhancing collaboration across sectors, boosting youth and women participation in economic activities, and fostering innovation as a driver of growth.

Participants emphasized that while challenges remain, Mukono is rich with opportunities that can be tapped into when communities and leaders work together. The ZEC meeting provided a platform for honest dialogue, fresh ideas, and a renewed sense of commitment to building a district that thrives socially and economically.

Special appreciation was extended to the Mukono District management for their support, guidance, and active role in ensuring the meeting's success. Their leadership continues to be a cornerstone in the district's journey toward progress.

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Counting Beyond Numbers



By investing in such impactful trainings, USSIA continues to strengthen small-scale industries across Uganda, ensuring entrepreneurs are not only keeping track of numbers but using them to build thriving, sustainable futures.



At the heart of every thriving enterprise lies one crucial skill: the ability to monitor and manage finances effectively. With this in mind, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) recently hosted a transformative Financial Monitoring Training at its offices, drawing 34 enthusiastic participants eager to sharpen their financial management skills.

The training went far beyond the traditional balancing of books. Participants were guided on how to track and interpret financial data to make informed strategic decisions, identify risks early, and align financial monitoring with their business growth goals. Through interactive discussions, practical exercises, and real-life case studies, they discovered that financial monitoring is not just an accounting task; it is a powerful tool to steer their enterprises toward resilience, sustainability, and long-term success.

The atmosphere was electric as participants shared challenges from their own businesses, asked critical questions, and collaborated to explore solutions. For many, the session was a revelation, shifting the perception of financial monitoring from a mere compliance requirement to a vital driver of growth and opportunity.

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Mukono Entrepreneurs Open Doors to Growth

Mukono is buzzing with entrepreneurial energy, and recent enterprise visits showcased just how creative and industrious local businesses can be. Among the highlights were To Win Chicken, a trailblazer in value addition for poultry products, and Anza Leather, a skilled producer of high-quality leather goods.



At Win Chicken, visitors witnessed how raw poultry is transformed into a variety of value-added products, combining quality processing techniques with innovative packaging to meet market demands. The enterprise demonstrated not only the potential for profit but also the broader impact of creating jobs and improving food security in the community.



Meanwhile, Anza Leather offered a glimpse into the artistry behind leather production. From crafting durable bags to elegant accessories, the enterprise blends traditional craftsmanship with modern design, producing products that appeal to local and international markets alike. Visitors were inspired by the attention to detail, creativity, and business acumen driving the enterprise.

These enterprise visits highlighted Mukono as a hub of innovation, skill, and business growth, illustrating how small and medium-scale enterprises can add value to raw materials, create employment opportunities, and contribute to economic development.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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free training on the
certification process of
Soap



27th September, 2025



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