

20th-31st October 2025

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frontdesk@ussia.or.ug



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Preparing Ugandan Artisans for the Juakali Expo 2025



The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, in collaboration with the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) and CMSEO, convened a special briefing session for artisans and small-scale manufacturers ahead of the much-anticipated Juakali Expo scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 7th–16th November 2025.

The session focused on key logistical and administrative details critical for smooth participation in the expo. Representatives provided clear guidance on the allocation and setup of exhibition booths, ensuring that participants understand how products will be displayed to attract customers and potential business partners.



The Juakali Expo stands as one of East Africa's largest platforms for informal and small-scale producers, offering space for participants to showcase their innovations, establish business relationships, and explore export opportunities across the region. With Uganda expected to present a diverse delegation of skilled entrepreneurs, the briefing was organized to ensure proper coordination, preparedness, and clarity for all exhibitors.

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Partners Unite for LEAD Project Co-Creation Session



In a spirit of collaboration and strategic reflection, partners under the LEAD Project convened for a Co-Creation Activity aimed at shaping the next phase of the initiative. The session provided a meaningful platform to assess progress made throughout 2025, align on future aspirations, and build capacities essential for sustaining growth and impact.

The reflective segment of the meeting highlighted key achievements attained during the year. Partners reviewed milestones within the work plan, celebrated progress in enterprise support, community engagement, and institutional strengthening, while also identifying lessons learned along the way. This collective reflection created a shared understanding of what has worked well and what should be enhanced going forward.



Looking ahead, the partners collaboratively developed clear targets and strategic priorities for 2026. The planning discussions emphasized a forward-looking approach—ensuring that the activities and interventions for the coming year respond to emerging needs, maximize resources, and deepen positive outcomes within the project focus areas. Each partner contributed insights that will guide coordinated action and stronger alignment in the next project cycle.

The Co-Creation Activity concluded with renewed energy, shared commitment, and a strengthened sense of partnership.

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Stakeholders Unite to Shape EAC Strategy for Women in Business

A significant step toward strengthening women's economic participation in the region was taken during the East African Community (EAC) Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Regional Strategy for Promoting Women in Business for Socio-Economic Development (2025–2035). The engagement convened representatives from Partner States, civil society organizations, women business platforms, and private sector actors to collectively review and validate the draft strategy aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs across the region.

The workshop concluded with renewed consensus on the shared responsibility of ensuring that women are not only included but are enabled to lead and shape the economic landscape of East Africa.

The consultative meeting, organized by the EAC Secretariat through the Gender, Community Development, and Civil Society Department in collaboration with the East African Women in Business Platform (EAWiBP), underscored the crucial role women play in driving economic transformation. It highlighted that women dominate Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT), yet continue to face structural challenges that hinder growth, competitiveness, and market access.

The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), reaffirmed its dedication to advocating for women in small-scale manufacturing and enterprise development. USSIA highlighted ongoing efforts to support women entrepreneurs through skills enhancement, policy dialogue, enterprise networking, and access-to-market initiatives.



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Get Skilled Project Launches Awareness Sessions for Cohort 5

A fresh wave of opportunity is unfolding for young people and women in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono as the Get Skilled Project rolls out its awareness sessions for Cohort 5 placements. The initiative is designed to equip youth and women with practical, market-ready skills that enhance their employment prospects, support financial independence, and improve their overall livelihoods.

The awareness sessions were held across the three districts to introduce the project's goals, training pathways, and placement opportunities to new participants. The engagements provided a platform for young people and women to learn about available vocational and enterprise development courses, mentorship support, and the work placement program that enables trainees to gain hands-on experience with partner enterprises.

The Get Skilled Project continues to grow as a catalyst for economic empowerment—helping individuals not only acquire skills, but also build confidence, resilience, and a pathway to a better future. With Cohort 5 now in motion, the project is set to contribute to stronger, more skilled, and more self-reliant communities in the Kampala Metropolitan region.



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VSLA Leaders Equipped for Effective Group Management



Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) continue to play a vital role in enhancing financial inclusion, especially among rural and peri-urban communities. In an effort to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of these groups, a training session was conducted for VSLA group leaders with a focus on empowering them with practical leadership and financial management skills.

A central goal of the training was to ensure that leaders are well-prepared to sustain their VSLAs and protect member savings, while promoting income growth and financial resilience. Participants learned the importance of clear communication, accountability structures, and engaging members in decision-making processes to allow the group to operate smoothly and fairly.

The training brought together leaders from various VSLAs to deepen their understanding of group governance, record keeping, financial discipline, and conflict management. Recognizing that strong leadership is central to the success of any community financial group, the facilitators guided participants through interactive sessions designed to strengthen their ability to manage member contributions, oversee loan issuance, and foster trust and transparency within their groups.

With well-equipped, knowledgeable, and accountable leaders at the helm, VSLAs are better positioned to continue transforming lives and building stronger, more resilient communities.

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Tax Planning Training Empowers Small Business Owners

A vital step toward strengthening business sustainability and compliance was taken during a Tax Planning Training organized in partnership with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). The training brought together 37 participants, comprising entrepreneurs, small-scale manufacturers, and enterprise managers, all eager to enhance their understanding of tax obligations and effective financial management.

The session aimed to demystify tax processes and equip business owners with practical skills to properly plan, manage, and comply with tax requirements. Facilitators emphasized that tax planning is not just a legal obligation, but a strategic tool for business growth, credibility, and long-term stability.

During the training, participants gained clarity on the different types of taxes that apply to businesses and learned how to correctly calculate and file them. Trainers also guided participants on proper record keeping and documentation practices that support compliance and reduce risks of penalties. The importance of timely filing and declaration of taxes was underscored as a key element of responsible business management.

As businesses continue to play a significant role in driving Uganda's economic development, capacity-building initiatives like this remain crucial in promoting responsible entrepreneurship, expanding market access, and fostering financial discipline.



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Zonal Leaders Conduct Courtesy Visit to Optimum Interiors Designs

A team composed of the Wakiso Zonal Executive Leaders, the Regional Coordinator, and the Membership Officer paid a courtesy visit to Optimum Interiors Designs, a corporate member of USSIA. The visit took place at the company's workshop in Nansana, where constructive discussions were held on enhancing service delivery and deepening member engagement.

Optimum Interiors Designs is widely recognized for its unique, high-quality furniture and fabrication work. The enterprise has built a strong reputation for excellence, with its products rated among the best in the country. During the tour, the leadership team had an opportunity to observe the production process, examine finished products, and interact with the enterprise owner and staff.



The discussion focused on strengthening networks, improving visibility, and identifying opportunities for business scale-up. Leaders emphasized the importance of linking the enterprise to broader markets through exhibitions, business forums, and partnerships with other manufacturers and suppliers. Strategies to enhance the company's brand presence, both digitally and within industry circles, were also explored.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



SMALL SCALE BUSINESS EXPO & SYMPOSIUM

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Utilities & Sustainable Industrialisation

Promoting energy, water, and waste efficiency to lower costs.



19th – 21st
Nov 2025



UMA SHOW
GROUNDS

For participation and Sponsorship Inquires: Guma Ismail: 0755840004 | Olivia Alija: 0706733792



SMALL SCALE BUSINESS EXPO & SYMPOSIUM

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Value Addition & Local Manufacturing

Enhancing quality, standards, and competitiveness through technology.



19th – 21st
Nov 2025



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SMALL SCALE BUSINESS EXPO & SYMPOSIUM

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Financing & Investments

Promoting digital finance solutions and innovative investment models.



19th – 21st
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2025

Starting At 9:00am



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UPCOMING EVENTS

TIKTOK MARKETING TRAINING

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USSIA Masaka Offices



Thursday, 14th November 2025



9am

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Join our Product Costing & Pricing Training to learn how to calculate your true production costs, set profitable prices, and maximize your business earnings effortlessly!"

Date / Time

12th November 2025

Start at 09:00am

VENUE

USSIA Offices, UMA Show grounds Lugogo



For more information,
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Juice Training



JUICES YOU WILL LEARN:

- Mojito
- Natural juices
- Milk shakes
- cocktails and mocktail

Fee: shs 100,000



Friday, 21st November 2025



Mbale USSIA offices along Tororo highway



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NSSF HI-INNOVATOR AWARENESS SESSION



Unlock new doors of growth! Join us for the Hi-Innovator Awareness Session and discover how your business can access funding, mentorship, and practical tools to scale sustainably.



6th November 2025



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10am

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