

NEWSFLASH



13th - 17th April 2026

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13th - 17th April 2026

Youth Unlock Business Potential Across Districts



The energy and ambition of young people took center stage this week as the Get Skilled Project rolled out entrepreneurship sessions for Youth Cohort 5 in Kampala, Mukono and Wakiso. Bringing together participants from diverse vocational trades and business backgrounds, the sessions created a dynamic learning space where ideas, experiences, and aspirations were shared. The goal was clear: to strengthen entrepreneurial knowledge, sharpen practical business skills, and build the confidence needed for young people to start or expand their own enterprises.

As the sessions concluded across the districts, one thing stood out: a renewed sense of purpose among participants. Equipped with both technical expertise and entrepreneurial insight, these young people are now better positioned to turn their skills into thriving businesses.

These sessions form a key part of the project's wider mission to go beyond technical training. While many youth already possess valuable hands-on skills, the challenge often lies in transforming those abilities into sustainable income. By integrating entrepreneurship training, the project is ensuring that participants are not only skilled workers but also capable business thinkers who can navigate real market environments and create lasting livelihoods.

A strong focus of the training was on building the right entrepreneurial mindset. Participants were guided to shift their thinking from simply seeking jobs to identifying and creating opportunities within their communities. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, they explored how to spot market gaps, develop viable business ideas, and approach challenges with creativity and resilience.

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Busia Industrialists Unlock New Financing Pathways

Momentum built in Busia District as small-scale industrialists gathered for a high-impact engagement focused on unlocking access to financing. The meeting brought together entrepreneurs, community leaders, financial institutions, and key stakeholders including the Uganda Investment Authority. It was organized by the Bank of Uganda and centered on the Agricultural Credit Facility and the Small Business Fund.

Participants explored practical insights on how these financing options work, with clear guidance on eligibility, application processes, and requirements. The session moved beyond theory, equipping entrepreneurs with actionable knowledge on how to prepare and position their businesses to access funding successfully

A key highlight was the direct interaction between industrialists and financial institutions. Entrepreneurs engaged openly with lenders, discussed challenges such as collateral and financial records, and received tailored advice on how to strengthen their creditworthiness and business proposals.

The engagement also sparked a mindset shift, encouraging participants to view financing as a tool for growth rather than a barrier. By fostering connections and building confidence, the initiative laid a strong foundation for increased financial inclusion, enterprise expansion, and sustainable economic development in Busia.



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Shaping Stronger Businesses Through Insight and Inclusive Planning

Energy and purpose defined a recent member orientation session, where participants explored the full spectrum of services designed to accelerate business growth. The session went beyond information-sharing, creating a space for meaningful dialogue, clarity, and practical understanding.

Members didn't just listen—they contributed. Through open conversations and shared experiences, the session became a collaborative learning moment, helping participants connect the services offered to their real business needs and ambitions.

Running alongside this was a forward-looking Women's Desk planning session, focused on reimagining support for women entrepreneurs. Key services were reviewed with a critical lens, sparking fresh ideas on how to make them more impactful, accessible, and responsive.

With a clear roadmap of activities for the year ahead, the sessions marked a step toward more intentional, inclusive engagement. Appreciation goes to management for the continued support in driving these meaningful initiatives forward.



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Cosmetics Manufacturers Upgraded on Digital Compliance and Market Readiness

In a strategic move to strengthen Uganda's cosmetics industry, manufacturers gathered for a specialized capacity-building session held at the USSIA Offices in collaboration with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). The engagement focused on raising awareness and practical understanding of product compliance in an increasingly regulated and competitive marketplace.

At the heart of the training was the rollout and application of Digital Conformity Stamps, a modern verification system designed to enhance product traceability and assure consumers of safety and quality. Participants were taken through real-life compliance pathways—from product assessment and certification to proper stamp application—equipping them with actionable knowledge to immediately improve their production processes.



Beyond compliance procedures, the session emphasized a shift in mindset: from informal production to structured, standards-driven manufacturing. Manufacturers were guided on how certification directly influences brand credibility, consumer trust, and access to larger, more profitable markets both locally and beyond.

By the close of the training, participants left not just informed, but empowered—recognizing that compliance is no longer just a regulatory obligation, but a powerful business tool for growth, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability in the cosmetics sector.



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TRIAS Delegation Draws Inspiration from USSIA Member Growth Journeys

A vibrant exchange of ideas unfolded during a learning visit that brought together Masbak Consolidated Ltd and Mama Don Garage with a delegation from TRIAS, featuring Anna, Head of Communications from TRIAS Belgium. The visit created a dynamic space for storytelling, reflection, and firsthand insight into how small enterprises are evolving through structured business support systems.

At the center of the engagement were two USSIA members who proudly opened up about their entrepreneurial journeys—sharing how their businesses began, the hurdles they overcame, and the turning points that shaped their current success. Their stories highlighted not just survival in business, but steady growth driven by improved skills, better management practices, and continuous guidance.



The TRIAS team engaged deeply with both enterprises, showing keen interest in how USSIA's support mechanisms translate into real business transformation. From improved operational efficiency to stronger customer relationships and increased confidence in decision-making, the businesses demonstrated clear evidence of progress anchored in practical support.



For the visiting delegation, the experience went beyond observation—it became a living case study of resilience and opportunity in action. The interaction reaffirmed the value of collaborative development efforts that empower entrepreneurs to grow from local players into competitive market contributors, capable of telling powerful success stories that inspire others along the way.

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USSIA BRANDS



Today, I'm proud to highlight Mashalla Foods East Africa Ltd, they process, pack and distribute a wide range of high quality spices including turmeric, rosemary, ginger, cinnamon and black pepper. Their products are certified by Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and the Uganda Halal Bureau, reflecting a strong commitment to quality, safety, and compliance with national standards.

Led by CEO Suleiman Kyeyune, the company is championing local manufacturing and setting high standards within Uganda's spice industry.

Mashalla sources its spices from various regions across Uganda, working closely with trusted outgrowers who supply local markets.

When you find these products anywhere, I encourage you to choose and support them. Let's be intentional about uplifting and promoting our local brands.



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GET SKILLED PROJECT TRANSFORMS LIVES THROUGH VOCATIONAL TRAINING



The Get Skilled Project continues to make a significant impact on youth livelihoods by equipping young people with practical vocational skills that promote self-reliance and employment opportunities.

One of the beneficiaries, Nakajoba Olga Bridget, 23, successfully acquired welding skills through training at Sharifa Metal Work under the project. Before joining the program, Olga was staying at home without employment or a stable source of income.

Through the hands-on training provided by the Get Skilled Project, Olga gained valuable welding skills that enabled her to secure employment at Contractor Son and Frontiers in Namugongo. She now earns approximately 300,000 Ugandan Shillings per month, allowing her to live independently and meet her basic needs without reliance on others.

Looking ahead, Olga aspires to establish her own welding workshop, where she can expand her skills into entrepreneurship and create job opportunities for other young people in her community.

She expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Get Skilled Project for changing her life, stating that the training has given her dignity, financial independence, and hope for a better future.



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Shower Gel & Shampoo Making Training

Learn how to produce and sell your own products

Why Attend?

- ✓ Start your own cosmetics business
- ✓ Learn practical production skills
- ✓ Low-cost, high-demand products

What You Will Learn:

- ✓ How to make shower gel (step-by-step)
- ✓ Shampoo formulation techniques
- ✓ Liquid hand wash production

UGX 100,000 only
*Includes training materials

30th May 2026

USSIA Offices, UMA Showgrounds - Lugogo

Register now - Limited slots available!

0787 091022 / 0706 733792

Visit: www.ussia.or.ug

Who Should Attend:

- ✓ Youth & entrepreneurs
- ✓ Salon owners
- ✓ Small business starters
- ✓ Anyone interested in cosmetics production



PITCHING & PITCH DECK TRAINING

Master how to present your business and win funding

Learn how to confidently communicate your business idea and attract investors, donors, and partners.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- ✓ Deliver a powerful 3-5 minute pitch
- ✓ Design a winning pitch deck
- ✓ Understand what investors look for
- ✓ Communicate your value clearly and confidently



- Date:** 24th April 2026
- Time:** 9:00 AM
- Venue:** USSIA Offices, UMA Showgrounds - Lugogo
- Fee:** 30,000 UGX

Reserve your slot today - Limited spaces available!

Call / WhatsApp

0787 091022 | 0706 733792

Organized by: Uganda Small Scale Industries Association

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



BEEF PROCESSING TRAINING

Learn how to start and profit from beef processing

What You Will Learn:

- ✓ How to make sausages (step-by-step)
- ✓ Minced meat production techniques
- ✓ Burger & meatball preparation
- ✓ Packaging and value addition

UGX 150,000 only
*Includes training materials



📅 27-30 April 2026
🕒 9:00 AM daily
📍 USSIA Offices, UMA Showgrounds - Lugogo

Register now – Limited slots available!

Call / WhatsApp:
☎ 0787 091022 | 0706 733792
🌐 Visit: www.ussia.or.ug

Who Should Attend:
✓ Butchers & meat vendors
✓ Entrepreneurs
✓ Youth & startups
✓ Anyone interested in agribusiness

FREE TRAINING OF TRAINERS (ToT)



Inclusive TVET Training for Instructors Working with Refugees & Host Communities

Build inclusive, gender-sensitive and competency-based TVET skills for effective vocational training.

Strengthening inclusive, quality and impactful vocational training for refugees and host communities in Uganda.

ORGANIZED BY

RITE PROJECT
In partnership with



WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

- 📖 Inclusive teaching methodologies
- 📋 Competency-Based Training (CBET) skills
- 👤 Gender-sensitive & learner-centered approaches
- 🌱 Practical strategies to support vulnerable and refugee learners

TRAINING DETAILS

- 📅 DATES: 28th - 29th April 2026
- 📍 VENUE: UMA Show Grounds (USSIA Building), Nakawa
- 🕒 DURATION: 2 Days
- 📄 CERTIFICATE: Certificate of Participation will be provided

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- 👤 TVET Trainers
- 👤 Instructors
- 👤 Academic Coordinators
- 👤 Curriculum & Learner Support Staff
- 👤 2 nominees per institution

APPLICATION DETAILS

- 📅 Kindly confirm your nominees by **23rd/April/2026**
- ✉ via: awalusimbi2016@gmail.com
- ☎ call: **+256 782 173 086**



Co-funded by the European Union

We look forward to your institution's participation in this important initiative aimed at strengthening inclusive education in Uganda

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