

NEWSFLASH



30th March - 2nd April 2026

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Empowering Futures Begins on Bussi Island



A new chapter of opportunity has officially unfolded on Bussi Island with the launch of the Get Skilled Project. The initiative kicked off with Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) and entrepreneurship training sessions aimed at empowering youth with practical, income-generating skills. These efforts are tailored to equip participants with the knowledge and confidence needed to navigate today's challenging economic environment.

A key highlight of the launch was the Parents, Trainers, and Trainees engagement meeting, which created a platform for meaningful interaction among stakeholders. The meeting encouraged open communication, shared understanding, and collective responsibility in supporting the youth throughout their learning journey.

The VSLA sessions are introducing participants to a culture of saving, financial discipline, and collective growth. At the same time, entrepreneurship training is nurturing creativity and business-minded thinking, enabling young people to identify opportunities and develop sustainable ventures. Together, these components are building a strong foundation for financial independence and long-term resilience.

Despite existing challenges on Bussi Island, the project remains committed to its mission of transforming lives through skills development and financial literacy. By strengthening collaboration and maintaining a focus on practical empowerment, the Get Skilled Project is paving the way for a more self-reliant and resilient generation.

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Brewing Innovation: Strategic Dialogue Sparks New Opportunities for Agribusiness Growth

A strategic engagement was held between USSIA and CURAD at the latter's Namanve offices, marking a significant step toward strengthening agribusiness innovation and enterprise development in Uganda. The dialogue brought together key stakeholders to explore practical solutions aimed at unlocking the full potential of small and medium enterprises, particularly within the coffee value chain.

The engagement also opened avenues for collaboration in mentorship programs, exposure visits, and targeted initiatives designed to empower youth and emerging entrepreneurs. By fostering knowledge exchange and practical learning opportunities, both institutions aimed to nurture a new generation of innovative and resilient business leaders.

Discussions centered on critical areas such as coffee value addition, product development, youth skilling, and incubation support—pillars essential in enhancing SME competitiveness. Emphasis was placed on equipping entrepreneurs with hands-on skills in coffee roasting, packaging, and branding, alongside improving access to shared production facilities that could lower operational barriers for small-scale producers.

Such partnerships continue to play a vital role in building a robust ecosystem that supports sustainable growth. Through this collaboration, efforts were reinforced to drive innovation, enhance productivity, and create lasting impact across Uganda's SME sector.



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Strengthening Capacity for Gender-Responsive Programming

On 30th March 2026, staff members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) participated in a comprehensive Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) capacity-building training organized by Woord en Daad. The training provided an engaging platform to deepen their understanding of inclusive development approaches, with a strong focus on gender-transformative programming. Through interactive sessions and practical exercises, participants gained insights into how inclusive strategies can drive equitable growth within communities and enterprises.

The sessions also focused on strengthening leadership capacity to champion inclusivity within organizational systems and programs. Participants were equipped with practical tools to integrate GESI principles into Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) frameworks, ensuring that interventions are responsive and impactful. In addition, the training emphasized the importance of incorporating GESI considerations into advocacy efforts, enabling staff to effectively address the needs of women, youth, and other marginalized groups.

key outcome of the training was the collaborative review and revision of the Gender Action Plan. This process ensured alignment with gender-responsive and socially inclusive practices, making future programming more intentional and measurable.



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My Change Story

My name is Namakula Rachel. I am 22 years old.

After I finished my S4, life became very hard for me. My father had no job, and there was no money at home. One day he sat me down and said, "Rachel, at least go and look for any small job so you can help yourself." Those words really hurt me. I felt lost, hopeless, and ashamed. I had no skills and no idea what to do with my future. Every day I asked myself, "What will become of me?"

Then one day, my father came home and told me he had found out about the GET SKILLED Project* in our area. He explained that they were offering free training in hairdressing and other skills. When I heard this, I felt something wake up inside me. I became very eager and decided to try my luck. I went and applied immediately.

I was accepted into the hairdressing training. From the first day, I gave it my all. I learned how to do different hairstyles, treat hair, handle customers, and even simple business skills like saving and customer care

Today, I am working at *Sparkles Salon*. I earn money every day depending on the number of customers I serve. For the first time in my life, I can buy my own things, eat well, and support my younger brothers and sisters with school needs. I am also saving some money every week because I dream of opening my own small salon one day.

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This is my change story.

Before the GET SKILLED Project, I had lost all hope. I felt useless because my father had no job and I had no skills. But when I joined the training, everything started changing. Now I have a skill that I love, I earn my own money, and I can take care of myself and help my family. I no longer feel ashamed or helpless.

I am deeply grateful to the GET SKILLED Project for giving me this opportunity. The training gave me not only hairdressing skills but also confidence and hope for the future. Thank you to Welthungerhilfe, USSIA, KIFAD, and BMZ for believing in young people like me.

Namakula Rachel

Hairdresser, Sparkles Salon



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



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Location: USSIA Offices, UMA Show grounds Lugogo

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