

NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026

CONTENTS

The National Monitoring Committee (NMC) meeting on the Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) 01

Business planning training for the Get skilled project youth 02

Business training for the Green deal project beneficiaries 03

Carpentry Sector Meeting 04

Pitching training 05

USSIA BRANDS 06

SUCCESS STORY 07

USSIA online shop 08

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 09



frontdesk@ussia.or.ug



www.ussia.or.ug

NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026

Advancing Uganda's Trade Competitiveness Through Strategic Dialogue



Momentum built in the effort to streamline trade across Uganda's borders when key stakeholders convened for the National Monitoring Committee (NMC) meeting on the Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) at the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance in Kampala. The meeting brought together government agencies and private sector representatives, creating a critical platform to address persistent trade obstacles affecting the country's competitiveness.

Representing the voice of industry, USSIA actively participated in the discussions, contributing insights drawn from its diverse membership base. The engagement underscored the importance of public-private collaboration in identifying and resolving trade constraints that continued to impact businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises.

Deliberations during the meeting focused on evaluating progress made in eliminating NTBs while ensuring alignment with regional commitments under the East African Community (EAC) framework. Participants acknowledged that although notable strides had been made, several challenges remained unresolved. Among the most pressing issues highlighted were delays at border points and administrative bottlenecks, which continued to disrupt the smooth flow of goods and increase the cost of doing business.

A key highlight of the discussions was the urgent call to accelerate the implementation of SmartGates at One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs). This initiative was expected to significantly reduce clearance times, enhance efficiency, and improve transparency in cross-border trade processes.

NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026

Empowering Youth Through Business Planning Training: A New Chapter for GET Skilled Graduates

Across all districts, young people who had successfully completed their vocational training under the GET Skilled Project stepped into a new phase—transforming their skills into sustainable businesses. To support this transition, a comprehensive Business Planning Training was rolled out, equipping graduates with the knowledge and tools needed to start, manage, and grow their own enterprises.

The training focused on practical business development skills, including identifying viable business ideas, understanding market demands, financial management, record keeping, branding, and customer care. For many of these youth, it marked the first time they were learning how to turn their technical abilities into structured and profitable ventures.



“We had the skills, but we didn’t know how to organize a business. Now I understand how to plan, save, and grow. This training has opened my mind.”- Kwezira Joram, Get-skilled participant

Participants were guided through the process of developing clear and realistic business plans. They learned how to calculate startup costs, set pricing strategies, and forecast income. This was especially important for those in trades such as tailoring, mechanics, hairdressing, and other hands-on professions where skills alone were not enough to guarantee success.



NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026

From Vision to Green Ventures: Future Entrepreneurs Gather in Fort Portal

Energy, ambition, and a shared commitment to sustainability filled the hall in Fort Portal on Tuesday as prospective beneficiaries of the Green Deal Project's second cohort convened for a pivotal business meeting. The gathering brought together aspiring entrepreneurs, key stakeholders, and trainers, all focused on shaping a new wave of environmentally conscious enterprises.

The session served as an important platform for participants to gain deeper insight into the Green Deal Project, its objectives, and the opportunities it presents. Through interactive discussions, attendees explored how green business practices can be integrated into their ventures, not only to enhance profitability but also to contribute to environmental protection and long-term community resilience.

Stakeholders and trainers played a central role in guiding the conversation, offering practical knowledge on business development, sustainability strategies, and market positioning. Their contributions helped bridge the gap between theory and practice, equipping participants with a clearer understanding of what it takes to build and sustain green enterprises in today's evolving economic landscape.



NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026

Carpentry Sector Embraces Digital Innovation Amid Growth Challenges

The carpentry and joinery sector is steadily evolving, with digital tools taking center stage in transforming how artisans design, communicate, and run their businesses. During a recent sector meeting, members explored the growing role of smartphones and tablets in enhancing efficiency, strengthening client engagement, and expanding market reach.

Participants shared how these everyday devices are enabling them to access a wide range of design ideas, respond to client inquiries more promptly, and showcase their work through digital platforms. This shift is not only improving workflow but also positioning carpenters to compete more effectively in an increasingly modern marketplace.

Despite these promising advancements, several challenges continue to hinder growth within the sector. Access to financing remains a major obstacle, with many members citing difficulties in securing loans from banks. This limitation has slowed down business expansion and investment in better equipment. In particular, the high cost of modern machinery, especially CNC machines, was identified as a significant barrier, even though such technology could greatly enhance productivity and design quality.

To overcome these challenges, members were advised to take practical steps toward formalizing their businesses. Emphasis was placed on business registration, establishing a clear office address, and maintaining proper financial records, including consistent cash flow tracking. These measures were highlighted as critical in building credibility and improving access to financial support.



NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026

Entrepreneurs Sharpen Their Pitching Power

A powerful idea can change everything—but only if it is communicated effectively. This was the driving force behind a dynamic training session on pitching and pitch deck development, where entrepreneurs gathered to learn how to confidently present their businesses to potential investors, partners, and clients.

The training focused on transforming raw business ideas into compelling narratives that capture attention and inspire confidence. Participants were guided through the essentials of crafting a winning pitch, including how to clearly define a problem, present a viable solution, and demonstrate market potential in a way that resonates with audiences.



A key highlight of the session was the deep dive into pitch deck creation. Entrepreneurs explored how to structure their presentations slide by slide—covering elements such as the value proposition, target market, business model, traction, and financial projections. Emphasis was placed on clarity, simplicity, and visual appeal, ensuring that each slide adds value rather than overwhelming the audience.

Beyond structure, the training also addressed delivery. Participants learned practical techniques on storytelling, body language, and confidence-building, enabling them to present with impact. Interactive exercises gave attendees the opportunity to practice their pitches, receive feedback, and refine their approach in real time.

The session also underscored the importance of authenticity and preparation. Entrepreneurs were encouraged to deeply understand their businesses, anticipate questions from investors, and tailor their pitches to different audiences.



“Before this training, I had a good business idea but struggled to explain it clearly. Now, I can confidently present my vision in a way that captures attention and makes people believe in what I’m building.” Mr. Badru said

NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026



USSIA BRANDS



Eliana Creations is an online Ugandan brand specializing in handcrafted handbags made from durable macramé nylon yarn. The company produces a range of stylish bags, including tote bags, sling bags, and statement pieces designed for modern women, students, and fashion lovers.

Each handbag is carefully crocheted by hand, combining creativity with strong craftsmanship to ensure long-lasting and unique products. The brand is known for its distinctive colour blending and ability to create custom designs that match individual customer preferences.

Eliana Creations focuses on delivering high-quality, fashionable, and practical bags that suit everyday use while standing out as unique handmade pieces. Products are available through online orders, making them accessible to customers seeking authentic locally made fashion.



NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026

SUCCESS STORY



The Remarkable Transformation of NIWAHEREZA NICHOLAS



My name is Niwahereza Nicholas, a Ugandan youth living in Nakivale refugee settlement and a participant of the lead project, I had little experience in repairing and when I heard about the LEAD project with USSIA and its plan to do skills upgrading for youth I joined and managed to upgrade my skills in Motorcycle repair and now I'm a senior. After the technical training with Justus and Brothers garage, I joined one of the motorcycle garages in the camp and started doing small work there as I kept practicing what I learned. I started earning some small money which I saved through our saving group(VSLA). I gathered money through my savings which I used to buy goats that I later sold off with profit to help me start my own repair shop.



I now own my business called Nicholas Motorcycles & Garage, I employ two youths which I have trained myself and my livelihood has generally improved and I enjoy my work because of its strategic location just at the entrance of the town in Bukere.



I thank USSIA for their good work, and I request for more support to help me grow my business and improve on its visibility and branding, for example, business stickers that I can put on my customers' motorcycles, a receipt book, and business cards. .

NEWSFLASH

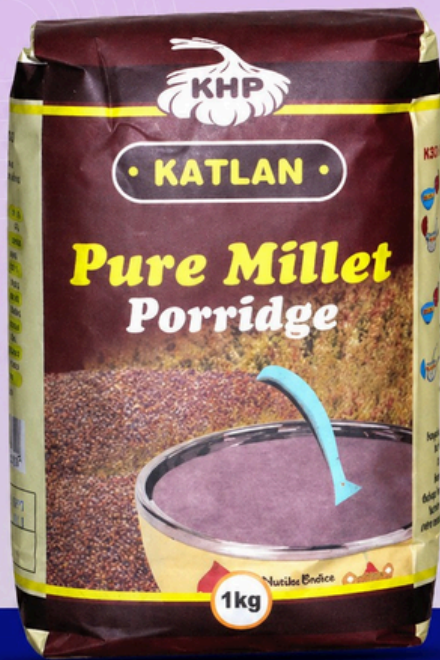


20th - 24th April 2026

USSIA ONLINE SHOP



**USSIA
ONLINE
SHOP**
Come Shop With Us



KATLAN PURE MILLET PORRIDGE

A healthy and nutritious choice made from 100% pure millet. Rich in fibre, vitamins, and minerals to keep you strong and active every day.



100% Pure Millet



Healthy & Nutritious



Rich in Fibre, Vitamins & Minerals

Why choose imported when Uganda has it all? Our members produce unique, affordable, and durable products that meet your everyday needs while celebrating local talent.

It's easy to shop:

Visit

www.shop.ussia.or.ug

Browse Explore diverse

Ugandan-made products

Order Get quality

delivered to your convenience

Make the choice that matters.
Be part of the movement that empowers Ugandan businesses.



SHOP NOW

Visit www.shop.ussia

or call/WhatsApp **0787 091 022**

www.ussia.or.ug

info@ussia.or.ug

NEWSFLASH



20th - 24th April 2026

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

Who Should Attend:

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

Visit: www.ussia.or.ug





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.

ORGANIZED BY

RITE PROJECT
In partnership with



WHAT YOU WILL GAIN	TRAINING DETAILS	WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Inclusive teaching methodologies✓ Competency-Based Training (CBET) skills✓ Gender-sensitive & learner-centered approaches✓ Practical strategies to support vulnerable and refugee learners	<p>DATES: 28th – 29th April 2026</p> <p>VENUE: UMA Show Grounds (USSIA Building), Nakawa</p> <p>DURATION: 2 Days</p> <p>CERTIFICATE: Certificate of Participation will be provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ TVET Trainers✓ Instructors✓ Academic Coordinators✓ Curriculum & Learner Support Staff <p>2 nominees per institution</p>

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



www.ussia.or.ug

info@ussia.or.ug