

# NEWSFLASH

8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> June 2026



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8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Strengthening SME Resilience: USSIA Members Participate in BRAP Business Recovery Training in Mbarara



Small businesses often reach turning points where structure, discipline, and new skills determine whether they grow or decline. It is within this context that USSIA members are participating in the ongoing Business Rescue and Aftercare Program (BRAP) workshop at Hotel Triangle in Mbarara, implemented by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) in collaboration with development partners. USSIA played a key role in mobilizing members to benefit from this capacity-building initiative.

The first day of training focused on strengthening essential business management competencies required for stability and growth. Participants were taken through entrepreneurial mindset development, improved record keeping systems, and strategies for enhancing operational efficiency. These foundational areas were highlighted as critical for building structured and resilient enterprises capable of adapting to market challenges.

The sessions were highly interactive, allowing SMEs—including USSIA members—to exchange experiences and reflect on practical business challenges. Key discussions emphasized the importance of financial discipline, proper documentation, and structured decision-making as tools for improving performance, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

The three-day program will continue with more advanced content aimed at business recovery, continuity, and growth. The collaboration between USSIA and URSB continues to strengthen SME capacity by connecting entrepreneurs to practical knowledge and tools that support survival, resilience, and improved competitiveness in the private sector.

8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Arua SMEs Receive Export Readiness Training to Boost Market Competitiveness

Enterprise Uganda, in partnership with USSIA, conducted a half-day Export Readiness Training Session on 12th June 2026 at Desert Breeze Hotel in Arua City. The session brought together 100 SMEs cleared by RCC and the District Health Office of Arua City, with participants arriving on time and fully engaging in the program.

The training focused on key areas essential for export market participation, including export readiness assessment, quality standards compliance, documentation processes, market identification, and strategic pricing. Facilitators guided SMEs on the requirements needed to compete in regional and international markets, emphasizing consistency, quality assurance, and proper business documentation.

Participants drawn from sectors such as crafts, leather, agro-processing, and honey production actively took part in discussions and practical learning sessions. The engagement allowed SMEs to better understand the expectations of export markets and the steps required to position their products competitively.

The training was successful and marked an important step in strengthening SME capacity in Northern Uganda. USSIA will continue collaborating with Enterprise Uganda to support SMEs through targeted export linkages and sector-specific clinics aimed at improving market access and business growth.



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## She Heroes of USSIA: Eunice Wekesa — The Woman Who Redefined Leadership

Leadership is often measured not by titles held, but by the impact left behind. For USSIA, one name stands tall in its history: **Madam Eunice Wekesa**, the first female Chairperson of the National Executive Council (NEC) and the 5th Chairperson of the association. Serving two consecutive terms from 2015 to 2025, she broke barriers and established a strong legacy of inclusive leadership, institutional growth, and private sector development in Uganda. Beyond governance, she is an active entrepreneur in textiles, poultry, and fish farming, and a certified and respected trainer, instructor, and mentor committed to building business capacity across the country.



Throughout her leadership, Madam Wekesa strengthened USSIA through strategic governance and expanded influence in both national and international spaces. She served and still serves on several key committees, including the Enabel selection committee, the WorldSkills selection committee, the National Partnerships Steering Committee under the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development. Through these platforms, she advanced collaboration, policy engagement, and resource mobilization for SMEs. She also championed inclusion of women in leadership through structured integration approaches that enabled women entrepreneurs to take up leadership roles and effectively represent their regions within USSIA structures. As Madam Eunice Wekesa emphasized, “Women and youth are the future of industry,” a belief that guided her leadership and strengthened USSIA’s commitment to inclusion and to empowering women and youth as drivers of industrial growth, innovation, and enterprise development in Uganda.

Her tenure delivered significant institutional growth and sustainability. USSIA membership expanded from 3,000 to 12,654 members, while internally generated income grew by 30%, strengthening financial stability. Regional presence increased from 7 to 21 offices, improving access to members nationwide. She also strengthened partnerships and structured engagement strategies that boosted membership retention and expansion, achieving an 80% retention rate. Under her leadership, USSIA secured multiple donor-funded projects, expanded MOUs with government MDAs, and enhanced its financial and operational resilience.

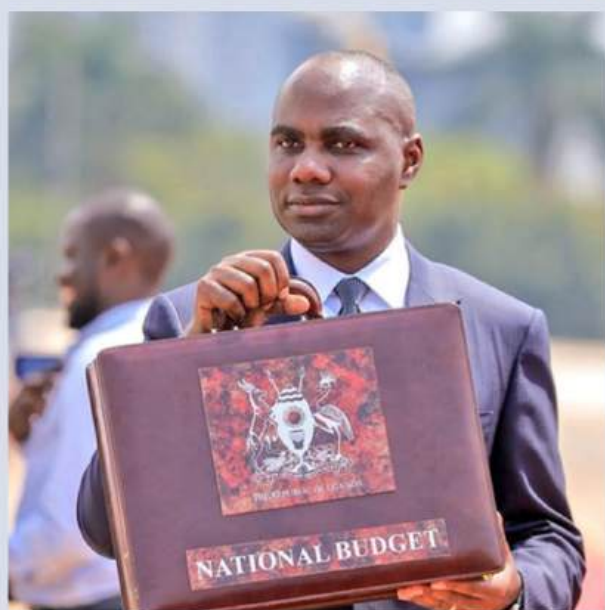
Madam Wekesa also led transformation in skills development, infrastructure, and digital systems. More than six incubation and common user facilities were established, including centers in Bwaise, Mbarara, Buloba, Isingiro, Kamwenge, and Arua, supporting value addition and enterprise growth. She oversaw increased training delivery with over 10 sessions monthly in business development and technical skills. In addition, she drove digital transformation through ERP systems, the USSIA e-Starters platform, Yokazzi, and the USSIA Online Shop, improving efficiency and service delivery. Her leadership remains a defining chapter in USSIA’s history—marked by growth, inclusion, and lasting institutional impact.

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## Uganda's Shs 84.39 Trillion Budget: What It Means for SMEs in 2026/27



Uganda's FY 2026/27 national budget, valued at Shs 84.39 trillion, is anchored on four key priorities: commercial agriculture, industrialization, digital transformation, and market access. For Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), this signals government's commitment to enterprise growth, productivity, value addition, and employment creation. As MSMEs remain central to Uganda's private sector, the budget presents important opportunities for business expansion and economic participation.

The government's strong focus on industrialization and commercialization of agriculture creates significant opportunities for MSMEs involved in manufacturing, agro-processing, and value addition. Increased investment in production infrastructure, industrial development, irrigation, and agricultural systems is expected to improve access to raw materials, stimulate local production, and create more jobs, especially for youth and women in enterprise.

The continued emphasis on digital transformation and market access also positions MSMEs for growth. Investments in ICT infrastructure and digital systems can help businesses improve efficiency, adopt e-commerce, strengthen financial management, and reach wider markets. Additionally, improved access to regional and international trade presents opportunities for MSMEs to scale operations, increase exports, and improve competitiveness.

However, while the budget offers promising growth opportunities, it also presents challenges. Increased tax compliance through digital systems, limited access to affordable financing, and rising production costs may place pressure on small businesses. For MSMEs, the FY 2026/27 budget should therefore be viewed as both an opportunity and a challenge—success will depend on their ability to formalize, innovate, adapt, and strategically position themselves within Uganda's evolving economic landscape.

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## USSIA Monitoring Visit in Wakiso Supports Youth Coffee Training under WeWork Project



The monitoring team also observed practical sessions involving quality control processes, where participants are being introduced to standards required in coffee handling and post-harvest practices. In addition, some groups were learning how to prepare organic manure, which supports sustainable soil management and strengthens long-term agricultural productivity.

Overall, the visit confirmed steady progress in the training process, with participants actively engaged and gaining practical skills in coffee production. USSIA emphasized the importance of continued mentorship and structured learning to ensure that the youth are well-prepared to transition into sustainable enterprise development within the coffee value chain.

USSIA conducted a monitoring visit in Wakiso District under the WeWork: Green and Decent Jobs for Youth Project to assess progress in the early stages of implementation. The visit focused on tracking how youth participants are being trained in coffee value chain activities, observing practical learning in the field, and ensuring that skills transfer is taking place effectively.

During the visit, participants were found in the coffee gardens undergoing hands-on training in basic agronomic practices, including proper farm management, coffee handling techniques, and understanding the production cycle. The training is aimed at equipping them with foundational knowledge required to eventually build and manage viable coffee-based enterprises



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## Wholesome Nutrition For The Family: Discover KATLAN Products On The USSIA ONLINE SHOP



The USSIA Online Shop features a premium selection of food and milling staples from Katlan, expertly produced to meet everyday household and enterprise culinary needs. The spotlight range focuses on nutrient-dense breakfast and baking essentials, including Katlan Soya Maize Porridge, Katlan Whole Wheat Flour (Atta), and Katlan Pure Millet Porridge. Conveniently packed in 1kg bags, these wholesome products are perfectly sized for families seeking a healthy start to their day or small-scale food vendors aiming for consistent quality and great taste.

Beyond these foundational porridge and wheat flours, Katlan offers a wide and diverse selection of value-added agricultural foods and kitchen essentials processing. Customers exploring the platform can discover their extensive main product lines, which feature premium everyday staples like Maize Flour and Cassava Flour, alongside specialized nutritional blends such as Baby Soya Porridge and Soya Kawa. To round out your culinary needs, Katlan also processes high-quality food and tea spices, including freshly ground Black Pepper and aromatic Rosemary Leaves.

These locally manufactured items are carefully processed to support optimum health, convenience, and reliability in food preparation, making them ideal for households, school canteens, and local restaurants alike. By choosing Katlan, consumers are not only investing in top-tier nutrition for their families but are also directly championing Uganda's small-scale manufacturers and agricultural value-addition.

Customers can easily explore this featured range and complete their orders directly through the official digital marketplace. Visit the USSIA Online Shop today to view the Katlan collection and discover a wider selection of quality, locally made products designed to support both healthy living and local enterprise growth: USSIA Online Shop



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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### 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

📅 22nd-25th June 2026  
🕒 9:00 AM daily  
📍 USSIA Offices, UMA Showgrounds - Lugogo

Register now - Limited slots available!

Call / WhatsApp:  
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Visit: [www.ussia.or.ug](http://www.ussia.or.ug)

**Who Should Attend:**

- Butchers & meat vendors
- Entrepreneurs
- Youth & startups
- Anyone interested in agribusiness

**03<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2026**

Renewable Energy Training Centre (RETC) Nakawa Vocational Training College, Nakawa, Kampala

**APPLY BEFORE: 24<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2026**

**TRAINING MODULES:**

- Occupation Safety and Health (OSHA)
- Introduction to Solar Energy
- Solar PV Components
- System Design and Sizing
- Installation Practices
- Testing and Commissioning
- Fault Diagnosis and Maintenance
- Practical Sessions

**TARGET GROUPS:**

- Technicians
- Solar practitioners
- Solar engineers and Designers
- Solar Business owners
- Electrical engineers

**Training Fees: UGX 1,185,000**

**FULL DAY PROGRAMME**  
(08:00 AM - 02:00 PM)

Application Forms available at:  
Renewable Energy Training Centre (RETC)  
Nakawa Vocational Training College,  
P.O. Box 38020, Plot 4002 Jinja Road  
Tel: 0789 232 501, 0714 422 288  
[info@retc.ug](mailto:info@retc.ug), [retc.ug](http://retc.ug)

**REGISTER ONLINE:**



### SKILLS UPGRADING TRAINING

Designing and decorating of changing dresses and flower girl dresses

Practical, Professional, Hands-on Training.



**WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:**

- ✓ Selecting fabrics and materials
- ✓ Drafting patterns and measurements
- ✓ Cutting and stitching techniques
- ✓ Decorating with lace, beads & bows
- ✓ Finishing and quality control

**FEE: UGX 100k**  
\*Includes training materials

📅 23-24 July 2026  
📍 UMA Showgrounds, Lugogo

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**DECODING THE BUDGET:**  
Empowering Uganda's MSMEs to Comply, Compete and Grow.

A practical platform for MSMEs to understand the Budget, strengthen compliance, access opportunities and build capacity to compete and grow sustainably.

**THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026**  
**TIME: 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM**  
**ISBAT UNIVERSITY**  
Plot 10A, Rotary Avenue, Lugogo, Busika, Kikinda, Kampala, Uganda

**COMPLY:** Strengthening Compliance and Formalization  
**COMPETE:** Enhancing Productivity, Innovation and Access to Markets  
**GROW:** Building Capacity, Financing and Sustainable Growth  
**EMPOWER:** Empowering MSMEs, Transforming Communities

HOSTED BY: ISBAT UNIVERSITY  
FUNDED BY: TRIAS  
SUPPORTED BY: Grant Thornton | FPA

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**EXPOSURE VISIT TO CURAD**

Gain practical insights. Learn. Network. Grow.

**DESTINATION: CURAD**  
**DATE: 26th June 2026**  
**TIME: 9:00 AM (Prompt)**

**WHY ATTEND?**

- Learn real-world production processes
- Interact with industry professionals
- Discover business opportunities
- Enhance your practical knowledge

**PARTICIPATION FEE: UGX 30,000 ONLY**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Entrepreneurs
- Students & trainees
- Business owners
- Anyone interested in industrial exposure

**REGISTER NOW!** **RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**  
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