



NEWSFLASH

UGANDA'S SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES IN FOCUS



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USSIA Celebrates PSFU at 30 with Founder's Legacy Award



The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) joined the private sector fraternity in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), recognising three decades of leadership and contribution to Uganda's private sector development.

Over the past 30 years, PSFU has played a pivotal role in championing the interests of the private sector, promoting an enabling business environment, supporting enterprise development, and contributing to Uganda's economic transformation.

The celebrations marked an important milestone for PSFU and its members, partners and stakeholders who have contributed to strengthening Uganda's private sector over the years.

A key highlight for USSIA was receiving the Founder's Legacy Award during the PSFU@30 Gala Dinner. The award recognises USSIA's longstanding contribution to the private sector and its continued commitment to advancing the interests and development of Uganda's small-scale industries.

The recognition reflects USSIA's role in supporting small-scale industries, promoting entrepreneurship, and advocating for an enabling environment in which small and growing businesses can thrive.

As PSFU marks three decades of service, USSIA commends its leadership, members, partners and stakeholders for their continued contribution to private sector development.

USSIA congratulates PSFU upon this significant milestone and looks forward to continued collaboration in promoting innovation, enterprise development, inclusive economic growth and a stronger private sector in Uganda.

USSIA Welcomes Former HWK Technical Advisor Heinrich Rinke



Mr. Heinrich Rinke from the Chamber of Crafts and Small Businesses



The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) had the honour of welcoming Mr. Heinrich Rinke from the Chamber of Crafts and Small Businesses of Cologne (HWK) during a visit to the USSIA Secretariat on 17 August 2026.

Mr. Rinke previously served as a HWK Technical Advisor at the USSIA Secretariat for seven years, during which he made a significant contribution to the development and strengthening of the Association.

He is widely recognised as the architect of the USSIA Regional Concept, an approach that continues to guide the Association's work today. His contribution also extended to strengthening the management systems of the Secretariat, laying a strong foundation upon which USSIA continues to build.

During his tenure, several new USSIA zones were established, contributing to the expansion of the Association's reach. Membership also grew significantly, reflecting the impact of the structures and initiatives established during this period.

Mr. Rinke also played an important role in organising exchange visits, creating opportunities for USSIA members and stakeholders to learn from one another, build networks and share knowledge and experiences.

His visit provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made by the Association over the years and recognise the lasting impact of his contribution to USSIA's institutional development.

USSIA continues to appreciate Mr. Rinke's dedicated service, leadership and contribution to building a stronger and more sustainable Association.

USSIA Explores Collaboration with Presidential Hub to Strengthen Graduate Entrepreneurship Skills



Masaka— The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) Masaka team visited the Presidential Hub, a vocational training institution in Greater Masaka, as part of efforts to explore opportunities for collaboration in strengthening entrepreneurship skills among vocational graduates.

The delegation comprised the Chairperson of the USSIA Masaka Zone, the Sector Head and the USSIA Coordinator for Masaka. During the visit, the team engaged with the management of the Presidential Hub to discuss areas of mutual collaboration.

The discussions focused on how USSIA can work with the institution to ensure that graduates acquire relevant entrepreneurial skills alongside their technical and vocational training. Such skills are essential in helping young people transition from training into sustainable employment and business opportunities.

The engagement also explored opportunities for linking graduates to entrepreneurship development, business support and other initiatives that can enhance their ability to start and grow enterprises.

USSIA remains committed to strengthening partnerships with vocational training institutions and other stakeholders to promote skills development, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods for young people.

The visit marked an important step towards building stronger collaboration between USSIA and vocational institutions in Greater Masaka and ensuring that graduates are better prepared to participate meaningfully in the private sector and create employment opportunities.

USSIA and NDA Strengthen Uganda's Herbal Sector Through Certification Awareness Campaigns



Kampala & Wakiso

The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), in partnership with the Uganda National Drug Authority (NDA), held a two-day Herbal Certification Awareness Session in Kampala and Wakiso, bringing together herbal enterprises to strengthen their understanding of certification, product quality and regulatory compliance.

The engagement provided herbal entrepreneurs with practical knowledge on the requirements for certification and registration of herbal medicinal products. Participants also gained insights into product quality, labelling, packaging and other regulatory requirements necessary for operating compliant businesses.

Beyond understanding the requirements, the discussions emphasised how compliance can contribute to improved product quality, increased consumer confidence and greater credibility for herbal enterprises. Meeting the required standards can also position businesses to explore wider market opportunities and build sustainable enterprises.

The engagement provided an opportunity for herbal entrepreneurs to interact, ask questions and gain clarity on regulatory requirements directly from the Uganda National Drug Authority. This practical interaction helped participants better understand the steps they need to take towards compliance and responsible growth.

USSIA appreciates the Uganda National Drug Authority for the guidance and expertise shared throughout the two-day engagement, and extends its sincere appreciation to all the herbal enterprises and members who attended and actively participated.

SUCCESS STORY: The Remarkable Transformation of Elen Ndegesa



I can proudly say I am self-reliant, empowered and an active member of my community. I broke the barriers around unemployment and moved towards independence."

Elen Ndegesa, a 24-year-old Congolese refugee living in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, had trained in tailoring but struggled to find employment due to limited knowledge of modern designs and fashion trends.

Through the USSIA-supported LEAD Project, Elen enrolled in a skills upgrade programme at Umoja Skills Hub, where she strengthened her tailoring skills and learned to make modern skirts, dresses and trousers.

Her commitment and hard work impressed her trainer, who offered her an opportunity to stay at the centre and work as a tailor after completing the training.

Today, Elen earns more than UGX 200,000 per month, enabling her to contribute to household expenses while gaining valuable experience and building relationships with customers.

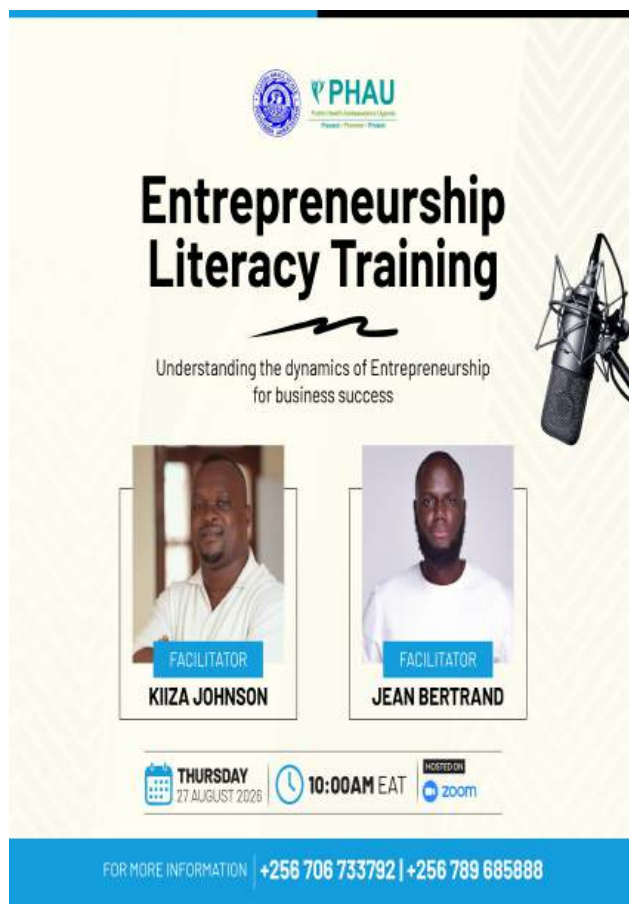
Elen also serves as secretary of the Youth Power Saving Group, formed with fellow trainees to mobilise capital for their future businesses.

Through skills development and employment, Elen has moved from struggling to find work to becoming self-reliant, empowered and an active contributor to her community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT'S NEXT FOR MEMBERS, ENTREPRENEURS AND INDUSTRY



The poster for Entrepreneurship Literacy Training features the PHAU logo at the top. The title "Entrepreneurship Literacy Training" is prominently displayed in a large, bold font. Below the title, a subtitle reads "Understanding the dynamics of Entrepreneurship for business success". To the right of the text is an image of a professional microphone. Two facilitators are introduced with their portraits: Kiiza Johnson and Jean Bertrand, each labeled as a "FACILITATOR". The event details at the bottom specify it is on Thursday, 27 August 2026, at 10:00 AM EAT, hosted on Zoom. Contact information for more details is provided at the very bottom.

 PHAU
Public Health Administration Uganda
Protect. Promote. Progress.

Entrepreneurship Literacy Training

Understanding the dynamics of Entrepreneurship for business success



 FACILITATOR
KIIZA JOHNSON

 FACILITATOR
JEAN BERTRAND

 **THURSDAY**
27 AUGUST 2026

 **10:00AM EAT**

 **HOSTED ON**
zoom

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