



Youth Entrepreneurship Facility

... contributing to the creation of decent work for young Ugandans both as means of self-employment and job creation for others

While Uganda has enjoyed significant growth over the last decade, averaging over 6% with decreasing poverty levels, there remains significant challenges to further development. Uganda has one of the highest population growth rates in the world (3.4%) with a current population of 35 million, half of it under the age of 15. Even with relatively high economic growth, the economy is unable to create enough employment and provide social services for the increasing youth population.

According to the National Employment Policy, while overall unemployment rate in Uganda has increased from 3.5% to 5.6%, the reality of the problem about the youth underemployment reveals a more severe situation than what is reflected in the numbers. The UBOS report notes that there is a demonstrable linkage between youth unemployment and social exclusion and further notes that the result of underemployment can be seriously damaging as a potential source of social unrest, instability and increased crime rate.

In light of this background, since 2014, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has partnered with European Union (EU) to help address the high youth unemployment in the country. In this partnership, the EU is contributing to an existing successful programme, the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) which is being implemented by the ILO.



The Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs, Hon. Evelyn Anite talking to some of the programme beneficiaries

The programme is being implemented through partnerships with ILO Social partners (workers and employers), selected Government Ministries and agencies, NGOs/community based organisations and service contracts with competent BDS providers and external consultants, financial institutions, YEF/ILO staff plus ILO master trainers. The strategy is to reach out to ultimate beneficiaries: young men and women between 15-35 years old that are involved in emerging and established enterprises located in the beneficiary districts of Kampala, Jinja, Mbale, Soroti, Lira, Oyam, Kitgum, Gulu, Nebbi, Zombo and Arua. **With financial support from the European Union, the programme has managed to record tremendous achievements over the past one year.**

Promotion of Entrepreneurship Culture

The dare to dream weekly TV series, an initiative of the programme was successfully launched whereby 8 successful entrepreneurs under the support of the project were featured. The TV series that ran on UBC TV captured stories of young entrepreneurs on how they began, their business processes as well as a question and answer forum with other aspiring entrepreneurs. The impact of the TV series was measured in order to assess changes in attitudes and perception towards business as livelihood strategy among young men and women and an end line survey was carried out.



Participants during a capacity building session



The EU Ambassador, H.E Kristian Schmidt, hands over a certificate of participation to one of the YEF beneficiaries as the Minister of State for General Duties in the Prime Minister's Office, Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere looks on

Of the 1,162 respondents interviewed, 65% had watched an entrepreneurship programme in the past 5 months, 30% of the respondents had started businesses basing on the information they had received from the TV program and 17% of the respondents used the knowledge acquired to improve their businesses.

An entrepreneurship documentary and a magazine documenting stories of young entrepreneurs have been produced. The purpose is to showcase the stories of young entrepreneurs, highlighting employment created, opportunities identified and business growth among others. These are promotional and motivational tools for potential and existing young entrepreneurs to enable them appreciate entrepreneurship as a career.

Social media has become one of the most powerful and yet cheap tools of communication especially to the youth. It is against this background that the activation of the programme's social media pages; @EU.YEFUG (Twitter), Yef Uganda (YouTube) and Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (Facebook) were launched.

Integration of Entrepreneurship Education

Through a partnership with the National Curriculum Development Centre and representatives from the Directorate of Education Standards, some Universities, the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board, Vocational and UGAPRIV Institutions, an entrepreneurship syllabus, teacher's training guide and entrepreneurship textbook have been developed for the certificate level of the Business Technical Vocational Education Training (BTNET) institutions.

Evidence Based Advocacy

A follow-up analysis to some of the beneficiaries of the Start and Improve Your Program (SIYB) was done to assess the impact of the trainings conducted in aspects of business development and management, performance, knowledge gained and applied in their businesses, type and areas of assistance received and in need of as well as job creation and workforce level. The analysis found out that 28% of the entrepreneurs started new businesses while 42% improved their businesses after the training and the job creation rate is estimated to be 1.8 jobs per enterprise.

Youth to Youth fund

The Youth-to-Youth Fund is a competitive grant scheme which offers local youth-led organizations an opportunity to actively participate in the development of youth entrepreneurship in their communities. It supports small-scale youth entrepreneurship development projects implemented by youth-led organizations and was created as a mechanism to identify, test and promote innovative entrepreneurship solutions to youth employment challenges. Three calls for proposals have been initiated with different themes which include; "promotion of green businesses and entrepreneurship promotion among youth with disabilities." 62 youth led organizations from the 11 beneficiary districts have received grants worth over USD 340,000 to enable them implement their ideas.

Access to Business Development Services and affordable finance

256 new BDS providers/trainers (146 males and 110 females) were developed through Training of Trainers programmes and 112 (69 males and 43 females) have been certified. Through the BDS provision, over 5,000 young entrepreneurs (at least 30% female) were trained in entrepreneurship and business management skills. Partnerships with 5 (five) Savings and Credit Co-operatives (SACCOS) to pilot the matching grant model for youth to enable them access affordable loans have been initiated and agreements signed of which so far 750 youth have accessed loans from the selected SACCOS.



Some of the beneficiaries from Arua display their products

Particular added-value elements

Job creation: The project expects to facilitate the creation of at least 5,000 new jobs for young women and men through promotion of self-entrepreneurship, and to the start-up of at least 1,875 businesses by November 2016. At least 40% of the jobs created are expected to be for young women and at least 30% of the businesses started or expanded will be owned and/or managed by young women.

Youth with disabilities (YWDs): Specific interventions for young people living with disabilities are being piloted.

Gender equality: The programme is seeking to break up gender stereo-types by gender-mainstreaming the mass media programmes by supporting youth organizations with an explicit mandate to reach out to young women and by setting minimum outreach targets for young women entrepreneurs.

HIV/AIDS: The programme seeks to make a contribution to combat HIV and AIDS in the world of work by embedding HIV and AIDS awareness messages into its meta-level advocacy campaigns, and by mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into market place interventions, introducing HIV/AIDS in the SME workplace training module and into the Start and Improve Your Business training package.

Informal economy upgrading: Through its macro-level interventions, the programme seeks to facilitate a more conducive Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework for young entrepreneurs; through its micro-level interventions, the programme will seek to 'induce' compliance, here by way of making access to business finance and non-financial business support services conditional to compliance with basic building blocks of the labour law.

Green economy transition: The programme promotes green sustainable business practices, in line with the sustainable business strategy framework of the ILO.



Some of the winners of the Green Business Plan competition 2016 display their dummy cheques with the Assistant Commissioner, Ministry of Gender, Mr. Kyateka Mondo (standing -third right)

Expected Outcomes of the Programme

- Improved attitudes towards entrepreneurship among young women and men
- The education system produces more entrepreneurial graduates with pertinent skills
- Youth employment policy makers and promoters make evidence-based decisions for better resource allocation and program design
- Youth organizations deliver innovative youth entrepreneurship and employment solutions
- Youth start and improve their businesses



Beneficiaries from Lira district acquiring skills in hair dressing

"I am glad that the ILO through YEF has shown amazing results in terms of outreach to the youth organisations, training of the youth in various entrepreneurship packages and even the grants given to the young people, ladies and gentlemen could you join me in giving them a round of applause." **Hon. Evelyn Anite, State Minister for Youth and Children Affairs.**

"As European Union, we are very proud to support ILO in its YEF programme which aims at enabling youth in Uganda to turn their energy and ideas into business opportunities by increasing their income earning capacity and creating decent work for themselves and also for others."

Dr. Stefan Lock, EU First Secretary/ Head of Section Economic Growth