

Skills Development

PROJECT:	Local Skills Development for the Youth (LSDY)
REGION:	Central, East & Southern Africa
COUNTRY:	Uganda
PROJECT PHASE:	January 2017 – December 2020
FUNDING:	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and Green Leaves Education Foundation



RATIONALE

In Uganda, access to education is limited for many young people. The overall literacy rate is at 63% in rural districts and 78% in urban districts. Illiteracy among young women is at 46% compared to 36% for young men. Majority of those entering the labor market have no formal training. This is coupled with constraints such as lack of creativity and innovativeness, limited technical and entrepreneurial skills, limited market information and access, and inadequate financial services. In addition, there is limited capacity by the key market actors such as training providers and local authorities to deliver market-oriented skills to young people.

Andrew planting hot pepper seedlings in his nursery bed in Mayuge



Irene covering her nursery bed with grass in Mayuge

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Local Skills Development for the Youth (LSDY) Project targets out-of-school youth aged between 16 and 30 years from families living below or slightly above the \$1.25 poverty line a day. It contributes to sustainable poverty alleviation through the provision of skills development training which eventually creates employment opportunities for young men and women. The project is implemented in 10 districts in Eastern Uganda. These are: Mayuge, Bugiri, Busia, Namayingo, Tororo, Buteleja, Manafwa, Budaka, Kibuku and Namutumba.

The project enables market actors to deliver relevant training to the youth, with specific focus on women. It uses the learning group methodology and links the youth to trainers with sufficient skills who empower them and increase their employment chances with companies, local organizations, vocational and financial institutions. The trade - based model provides a holistic approach involving training in technical, entrepreneurial, financial literacy and life skills such as negotiation, work ethics, labor regulations and environmental conservation. It is an output-oriented approach with the problem or shared interest as the start point shadowed by a group solution designed by the learning groups themselves. Similar learning groups within the same trade or value chain often evolve into business associations which enhance knowledge exchange and access to extensive services from the private and public sector.

The LSDY Project focusses on three main sectors. These are agribusiness, building and construction and hospitality.

EXPECTED PROJECT IMPACT



Raise 4,000 young people (50% female) out of poverty by increasing their competitiveness in the job market and improving their self-employment opportunities.



Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, financial institutions, training providers and local authorities will have improved their capacity to deliver various skills.

TESTIMONIAL

"The lack of financial resources forced me to drop out of school. I occasionally helped my auntie in her shop and earned some money which went into supporting my mother and four siblings. My friend attended an awareness meeting organized in our sub-county and learnt about the LSDY Project. He informed me and I registered myself for participation. I attended the career guidance session and later joined a learning group. I am currently involved in hot pepper production through a partnership with a fresh foods export company called Tropical Dynasty. With my earnings from the harvest, I am able to cater to my personal needs and support my family by buying household items and paying medical bills when they fall ill. I receive my payments from the partnership regularly through an account I hold with Centenary Bank. I am also a member of a mavuno community savings group which allows me to access small loans to further invest in my hot pepper business. From my earnings, I have hired three acres of land at CHF 228.6 and been able to expand my garden. I am also saving my income towards buying my own land where I intend to build my house."

Joanita Nampina | 21-year- old beneficiary from Buwaaya Sub-County, Mayuge District

CONTACT INFORMATION

Swisscontact, Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation
19/20 Off Martyr's Way, Ntinda
P.O. Box 21153 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 0 414 222 431
www.swisscontact.org

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