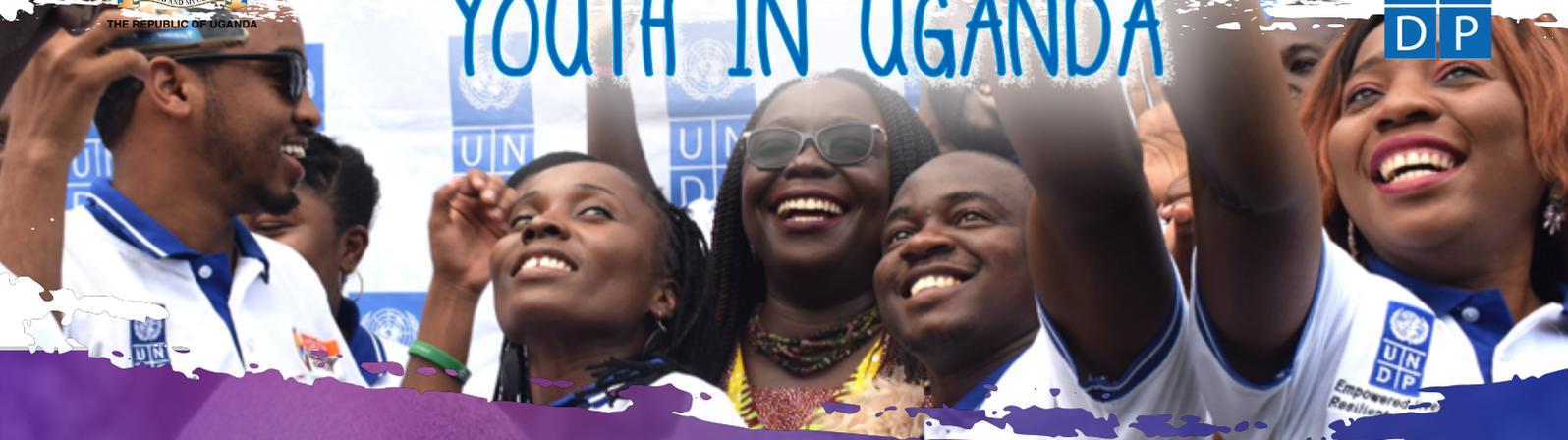




# UNDP INITIATIVES FOR YOUTH IN UGANDA



UNDP is currently undertaking several initiatives designed to empower the youth of Uganda, with skilling, innovation and entrepreneurship serving as catalysts to enable UNDP's broader development agenda in Uganda including the eradication of poverty, promotion of sustainable development, creation of opportunities for empowerment, and achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its central mission to leave no one behind. Uganda has one of the youngest and most rapidly growing populations in the world with a 3.7% population growth rate and 78% of Uganda's population being under the age of 30.

With more than one million young people entering the job market each year, the youth unemployment challenge is one that UNDP is committed to addressing through equipping youth with vocational skills, increasing the competitiveness of youth within the labour market, building capacities of national institutions to mainstream youth employment, and supporting youth-led enterprises to pilot innovative ideas.

## 7 PRIORITY SECTORS



## Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility

H.E. President Yoweri Museveni Launched the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility developed by UNDP in partnership with Stanbic Bank Uganda to serve as a catalyst for innovation by enabling youth to pilot and implement sustainable and commercially viable ideas and models. The five-year initiative has provided an initial \$10 million grant on top of technical assistance, as well as concessional loans, providing flexible funding mechanisms that will stimulate recovery of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from the social and economic shocks borne from COVID-19. The initiative is expected to create at least 20,000 new decent jobs for youth, retool and skill 50,000 youth, and have a multiplier effect through the creation of over 100,000 indirect jobs.



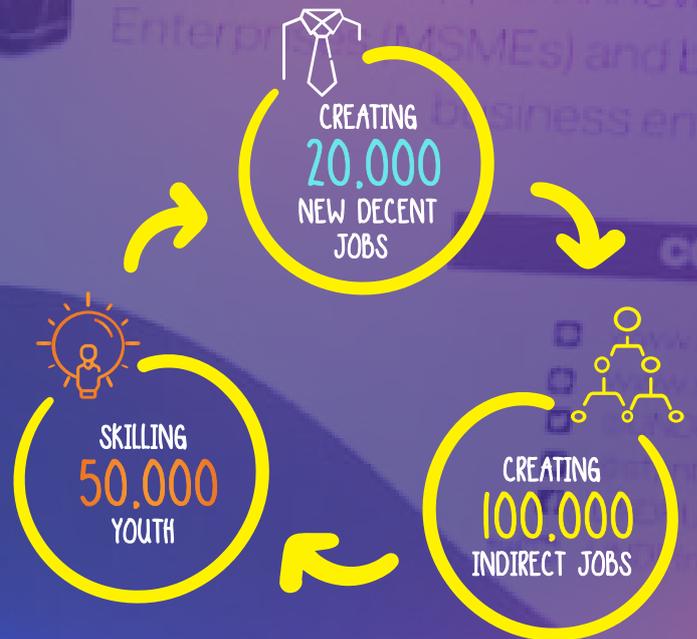
44.5 M  
TOTAL POPULATION



3.7%  
GROWTH RATE

78%  
UNDER

30YRS



# YOUTH4BUSINESS GOALS

#Youth4BizUG

## Youth Start-ups

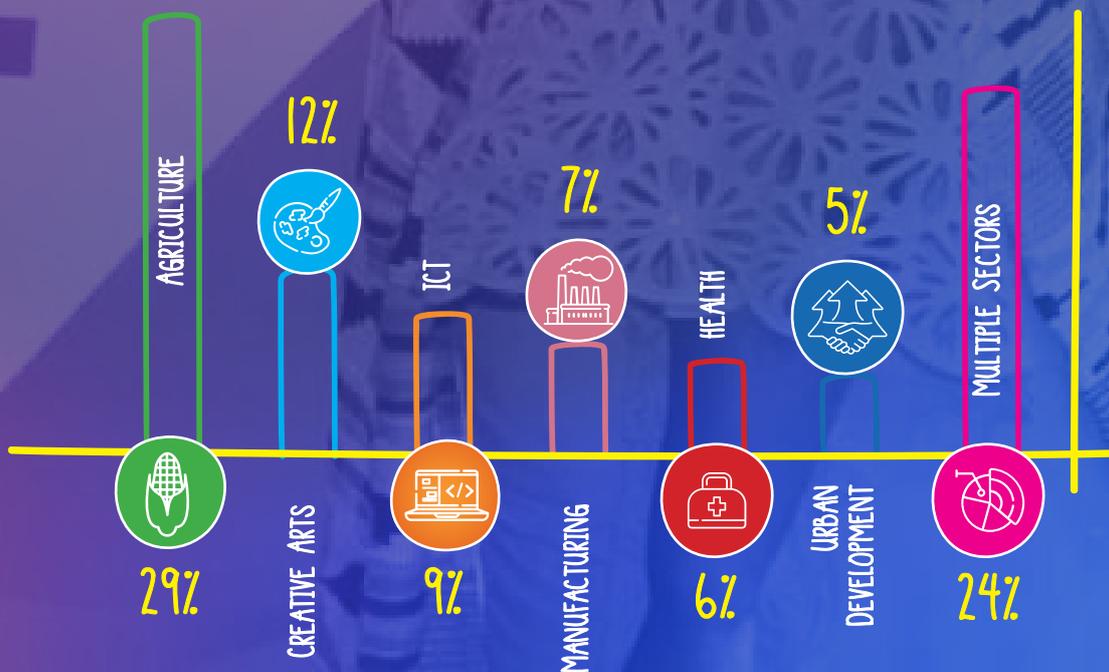
The Youth IDEathon is an initiative led by the National Association of Student Enterprises (NASE) and supported by UNDP presenting entry level opportunities to unearth and nurture creative early-stage and startup ideas that can eventually feed into the pipeline of the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility and form the next generation of transformative, innovative and inclusive MSMEs. This initiative provides youth with an interactive and collaborative process to develop and refine their ideas for products, services and solutions that help Uganda respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Youth IDEathon generated 3,586 unique applications, engaged with over 65,000 participants through online information sessions, and identified 14 partners to support with delivery.

3.586  
UNIQUE  
APPLICATIONS

65.000  
PARTICIPANTS

14  
PARTNERS

## 3,586 YOUTH IDEATHON SUBMISSIONS



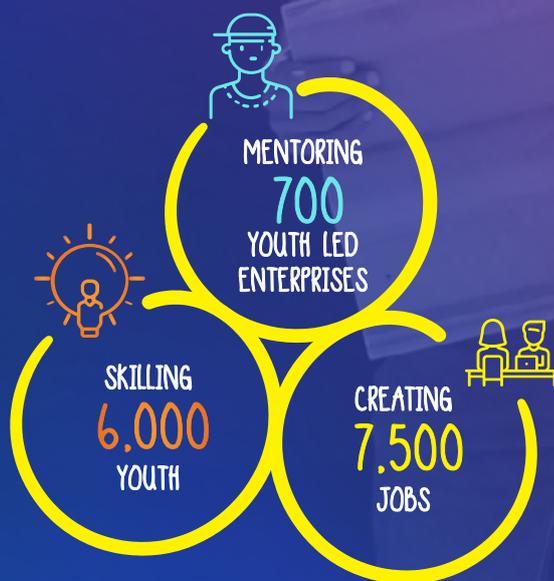
## Scaling-up Youth Entrepreneurship

UNDP has partnered with BRAC Uganda to increase access to employment and livelihood opportunities for 7,500 economically active youth in 17 target districts throughout Uganda. This will be achieved through equipping youth with relevant marketable skills, apprenticeship opportunities, business support kits, business development support, mentorship and coaching, as well as facilitating business and market linkages. Since implementation this initiative has already reached 7,344 youth, of which 3,874 have identified for upskilling through vocational training while a further 510 are being offered business mentoring and recovery kits.

## Connecting Informal Market Vendors to E-Commerce

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown measures, UNDP in partnership with Jumia Uganda set up an E-Commerce Platform to allow informal market vendors to continue selling their produce online, while connecting rural farmers to urban markets and unlocking employment opportunities and sustaining livelihoods with a focus on women and youth. 3,000 market vendors from seven markets across Kampala (Nakasero, Nakawa, Wandegeya, Bugoloobi, Kalerwe, Naalya and Kibuye) are now selling their produce online. Over 60% are women, people with disabilities and youth.

With over 300,000 unique products being sold monthly, there is evidence to suggest that the informal sector is successfully adopting e-commerce and the digital economy. This initiative has directly supported 925 youth in roles as market vendors, market agents, produce pickers and delivery riders, with many being equipped with training on food quality and safety. The platform has boosted the vendor's daily sales, early indicators show a significant increment in daily earnings due to increase in interactions with customers online. Preliminary ethnographic research indicate that customers are making savings on transport costs and time by ordering online as opposed to spending money when they physically visit the markets.





## Green Recovery and Digitalisation to rebuild a Resilient Tourism Sector

UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Uganda Tourism Board and Uganda Wildlife Authority is harnessing nature and digital technology to stimulate recovery from COVID-19 and build a resilient tourism industry in Uganda.

This initiative is demonstrating how tourism can drive rapid socioeconomic recovery, utilizing greener and risk-informed development pathways to support the tourism sector through creation of green job opportunities, investment in green MSMEs, strategic policy reorientation toward inclusive green recovery, and accelerating digital transformation and efficient energy solutions.

Prior to the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, Uganda's tourism sector was one of the fastest growing industries contributing 6.2% of the country's GDP and employing 589,300 people. Since the pandemic, visitor numbers have fallen from 657,000 in 2019 to 473,000 in 2020, while the industry contribution to Uganda's GDP has fallen to 2.9% and the number of persons employed by the industry dropped to 386,000.

Through this initiative, UNDP is also partnering with the Ministry of Tourism and the Rolex Initiative to conduct an 8-week capacity building exercise for 500 youth food vendors across 10 designated districts within the Rwenzori region. Training sessions are aimed at supporting food vendors to improve business hygiene standards, practice sustainable management of finances, and promote environmental awareness through improved waste management and utilization of clean cooking technologies.

UNDP has also launched the Take on the P.E.A.R.L. Innovation Challenge Call, supporting the piloting and scaling of inclusive business solutions to drive recovery of Uganda's tourism sector. The initiative addresses business level barriers through targeted funding with targeted technical assistance.

## UNDP YOUTH INITIATIVES



## Trade4SMEs

With Uganda now a signatory of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), UNDP is serving as the lead partner for AfCFTA in Uganda and implementing an initiative to establish and operationalize a Trade Financing Facility targeting Ugandan manufacturing and exporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

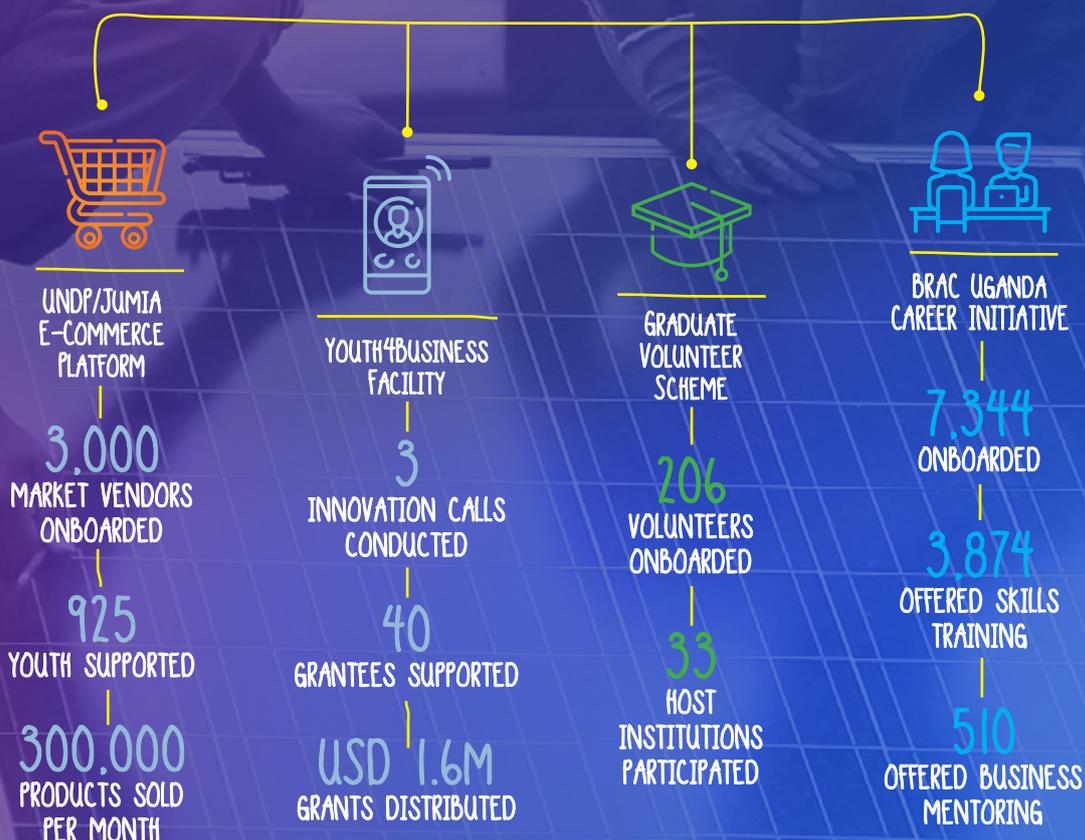
This initiative will lead to the realisation of necessary enablers including business development services, skills training, access to trade financing, and regulatory reforms. SMEs owned and managed by youth and women will be awarded priority, with a focus on interventions and trade innovations that support access to new continental markets, regional blocs, and digital solutions to facilitate easier and more successful trade.

## Graduate Volunteer Scheme

UNDP launched the Graduate Volunteer Scheme in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, with the objective of providing university graduates with access to workspaces in institutions to gain vocational skills.

Having onboarded a total of 206 volunteers within 33 host institutions from key sectors of agriculture, finance, tourism, education, health, ICT and social development, this initiative continues to support youth engagement through volunteerism to address Uganda's development challenges.

## EARLY RESULTS





*Youth empowerment through skilling, innovation and entrepreneurship, is a catalyst to enable UNDP's broader development agenda in Uganda including the eradication of poverty, promotion of sustainable development, creation of opportunities for empowerment, and achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its central mission to leave no one behind.*

*Elsie G. Attafuah, Resident Representative*

**“  
I AM  
READY  
TO TAKE  
ON MT.  
RWENZO  
”**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Plot 11, Yusuf Lule Road, Nakasero  
P. O. Box 7184, Kampala, Uganda.

☎ : +256417112100/30

📠 : +256 414 344801

✉ : [registry.ug@undp.org](mailto:registry.ug@undp.org)

🌐 : [www.ug.undp.org](http://www.ug.undp.org)

🐦 : @UNDPUGanda

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