



UGANDA

Partnering for job creation



■ CONTEXT

Uganda is a landlocked country in eastern Africa. With nearly half the people of the country below the age of 15, Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world. An additional 20% are between the ages of 15 and 24, averaging seven million in 2013. Despite comprising a large segment of the population, youth unemployment is estimated at 60%. This is due partly to the mismatch between requirements of the labour market and the education system. In view of this challenge, the Government of Uganda introduced an Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme (ECP). Entrepreneurship education helps young people to develop positive attitudes towards entrepreneurship, business and self-employment, and gives them an opportunity to take initiative in creating their own work. It also provides youth with the necessary skills and experience to enable them to find productive employment or start their own business after school.

■ STRATEGY

In the late 1990s, the Government began exploring the idea of introducing entrepreneurship into the country's education system through national education workshops. In 2000, the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) of the Ministry of Education and Sports began elaborating an entrepreneurship curriculum for both stages of secondary education: Ordinary level (O-level) and Advanced level (A-level).

The curriculum was developed and implemented in partnership with academia, the private sector and

■ PROJECT OVERVIEW

Goal: Fostering Positive Attitudes Towards Entrepreneurship, Business and Self-Employment

Partner: Ministry of Education and Sports

Donor: Japan

Budget: USD 292,000

Duration: 1999-2002

international development organizations. UNIDO supported the introduction of the ECP in secondary schools, in addition to assisting the NCDC in the development of entrepreneurship syllabi, teacher guides, student textbooks, monitoring tools and in-service teacher training.

Ten secondary schools were selected for the pilot phase and, in 2002, the entrepreneurship curriculum was launched for grades 1 and 2 of O-level and for grade 5 of A-level. Due to the overwhelming positive response,

the entrepreneurship curriculum was rolled-out to additional secondary schools before the pilot initiative was completed. Entrepreneurship was introduced as a standalone subject; as a compulsory course for the first two years of O-level education and as an elective from then on. At the end of each secondary school level, the subject is examined by the Uganda National Examination Board (UNEBC). The entrepreneurship curriculum follows a spiral

design, through which students are encouraged to adopt entrepreneurial attitudes, coached to identify business opportunities within their communities and taught how to manage a small business. The entrepreneurship course also integrates cross-cutting issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, ensuring environmental sustainability and maximizing the use of information, communication and technology for business.



RESULTS

- Over 2,000 secondary schools across the country are implementing the entrepreneurship curriculum programme
- In 2012, a total of 140,000 students were enrolled in the course – 80,000 in O-level secondary and 60,000 in A-level secondary schools
- Entrepreneurial activities allow students to generate their own income and become more financially independent from their parents
- Entrepreneurship is now a requirement for admission into many universities. Some also offer entrepreneurship teaching programmes as part of their curriculum
- Several schools have established business clubs through which students apply their knowledge and skills by engaging in entrepreneurial projects
- In A-level secondary, enrollment rates in the entrepreneurship course rose by an annual average of 174% between 2002 and 2012

"We did not know that we could earn a lot of money by learning home economics. Learning entrepreneurship has shown us how we can do it."

Student from St. Catherine Girls Secondary School, Lira, Uganda.

"Learning entrepreneurship has enabled us to become independent because we now know how to work and earn our own income. Therefore, we no longer have to look for boyfriends to buy us our personal and scholastic needs. This has reduced the risk of our getting pregnant while still at school."

Student from Wiggins Senior Secondary School, Kumi, Uganda.

"Entrepreneurship education creates self-awareness among the learners. It has helped me to know who I am and what I can do."

Kilama S., Student, Kampala, Uganda

