



SEMBABULE DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Overview of the Uganda women entrepreneurship program

1. BACKGROUND

2. Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) is an initiative of the Ugandan Government being implemented as a rolling programme under the MGLSD.
3. Under the Programme, women will access interest-free loans to start income generating enterprises.
4. The programme is now being rolled out to cover all the 115 districts and 41 municipalities in the country and Kampala Capital City Authority inclusive.
5. The programme started implementation in 2015/16 in 19 districts, The districts include; Wakiso, Koboko, Kitgum, Kisoro, Bundibugyo, Kiruhura, Kaliro, Kamuli, Moroto, Katakwi, Mayuge, Nakasongola, Kalangala, Ntungamo, Otuke, kole, Kibaale, Kayunga and Nebbi but has now been rolled to cover all the districts in Uganda in FY 2016/17.

2 JUSTIFICATION

1. Women make up 53% of the labour force hence an important target group for the economic development of the country.
2. Women face challenges in undertaking economically viable enterprises including limited access to affordable credit, limited technical knowledge and skills for business development, limited access to markets as well as information regarding business opportunities.
3. The promotion of women's entrepreneurship is one of the avenues for wealth creation as there is great potential and benefit from investment in women business enterprises in the country.
4. Therefore, increased access to affordable credit through UWEP will stimulate growth of high quality and competitive women enterprises in the micro, small and medium enterprise subsector, in which women are key actors in Uganda.

3 PROGRAMME GOAL

The overall goal of the Programme is to empower Ugandan women to improve their income levels and their contribution to economic development.

4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the capacity of women for entrepreneurship development.
2. To provide affordable credit to enable women establish and grow their business enterprises.
3. To facilitate women's access to markets for their products and services.
4. To promote access to appropriate technologies for production and value addition.
5. To strengthen programme management and coordination.

5 PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

➤ The programme has three components;

- **Capacity and skills development Component**

In this component the programme strengthens the capacity of women for entrepreneurship. This component focuses on upgrading needs-based skills for women to enable them initiate and manage enterprise.

- **Women Enterprise Fund component**

In this component the programme provides affordable credit to enable women groups develop their enterprises.

- **Institutional Support Component**

This component provides support to enhance the technical, administrative and managerial capacity of key programme implementers and in so doing promote transparency and good governance.

6 TARGET BENEFICIARIES

1. The primary target beneficiaries of the programme will be women within the age bracket of 18 to 65 years. They form groups of 10 to 15 members and are expected to carry out the same enterprise as a group or as individuals within the group, depending on the enterprise.
2. Some young women within the age 18-30 years can benefit from the Youth Livelihood Programme, which provides that 30% of youth interest group

members should be female. However this target group can only benefit from one programme of their choice either YLP or UWEP.

3. UWEP as much as possible promotes the integration of the following categories of women as beneficiaries:

- Unemployed women
- Vulnerable groups e.g Child mothers, single young mothers, widows and Gender based violence (GBV) survivors, women with disabilities.
- Women living with HIV/AIDS
- Women heading households
- Women slum dwellers

Women living in hard to reach areas such as on island and ethnic minorities.

7 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES

1. The beneficiary women groups are identified and selected through a community participatory process that involves LC.I and women council leaders as trusted members of the community.
2. The selection of women groups under UWEP is undertaken by the beneficiary selection committee chaired by the Sub-county Chief with members including the Chairperson of the Sub-county Women Council and the Community Development Officer.
3. The respective LC.I Chairpersons confirm that the selected women group members are bona fide Ugandans who reside within their respective communities (the catchment area for the group membership may be a village, parish and must not go beyond a sub-county/Town Council/ City Division).

8 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Maximum fund to be applied for 12.5 million per group approved at district level. For unique and innovative enterprises a maximum amount of 25 million to be approved by the Ministry.
2. Zero-interest for the repayments made within the first twelve months (one year) and a service fee of 5% per annum for the repayments made after 12 months. The service fee is meant to cater for inflation.
 - a. No physical assets/collateral required.

3. Repayment period of 1-3 years, depending on the nature of the enterprise
4. Each repayment schedule is based on the nature and maturity period of the enterprise.
5. Accessible for both existing and new groups.
6. Formal registration of groups is not a pre-condition for access (but encouraged after access of funds as part of enterprise sustainability)

9 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Community members are key in confirming beneficiary through community meetings and ensuring that the most deserving beneficiaries apply for the revolving fund.
2. The sub-county level is most critical to the implementation of the programme. The beneficiary selection committees are based at sub-county level and they are comprised of the Sub-county Chief (Chairperson). Chairperson of the Sub-county Women Council, CDO/ACDO, LC.I Chairperson.
3. Other key players are the sub-county Technical Planning Committee that is chaired by the sub-county Chief and constitutes the appraisal teams, conducts desk and field appraisal and recommends projects for approval by the District Technical Planning Committee.
4. The sub-county Executive Committee is another structure at sub-county level which endorses the proposals.
5. The SAS then submits the endorsed files to the focal person who submits to DTPC for approval then to the DEC for endorsement.
6. The CAO then submits to the ministry for approval and funding.

10 CONCLUSION / WAY FORWARD

1. Not all women groups will benefit in the first round but it is important that women groups identify priority enterprises that they are passionate about for consideration in the next phase.
2. A stakeholder's sensitization meeting is expected to be held at the district very soon by the Ministry.
 - i. A TOT for 5 staff will be held at central level also funded by the Ministry and then,.
3. Operational funds will be released to facilitate the preliminary activities at the district and sub counties.