

KAMPALA
TWINS
Festival
DOUBLE THE FUN

Throughout the month of August, Vision Group publishes stories of twins or multiples across all its platforms. The annual tradition is aimed at celebrating the blessing of twins.

PHOTO BY AGNES KYOTALENGERIRE

We used name tags to tell them apart



Cynthia Babirye and Clarissa Nakato are identical twins. The pair was born on March 30, 2011 at St Francis Nsambya Hospital. They both study from Pax Junior School, Kira in P6. Christine Mugisa, their mother, says it was difficult telling them apart when they were babies. So they had to use name tags. Over the years, they have learnt to tell them apart. Mugisa describes Babirye as clean and organised. While Nakato is quick and time conscious. The twins love music and their best movie is descendants.

Readers are invited to share their twins stories on *sunday@newvision.co.ug* or *jnalubwama@newvision.co.ug*

World Bank GROW project to create 1.4 million jobs

By Apollo Mubiru

About 1.4 million jobs will be created for Ugandans in the five years of implementing a World Bank funded project dubbed Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW) project, officials have disclosed.

Up to 295,000 direct jobs and 1,180,000 indirect jobs are anticipated over the project's five-year timeline, the commissioner labour, industrial relations and productivity in the gender ministry, Alex Asimwe said.

Asimwe, who is also the national project co-ordinator, revealed that an anticipated 35,000 micro-enterprises and 4,000 small women-owned businesses are expected to transition into small and medium-sized enterprises, respectively.

The commissioner made the remarks during the maiden steering committee to fast-track implementation of the project on Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by James Ebitu, the acting permanent



Alex Asimwe

secretary, ministry of gender.

The committee approved the project operation manual, plan and budget to augment the project's execution.

The Government seeks to finance women through the \$217m (sh800b) five-year grant to increase access to enterprises, focusing on women-led businesses.

Asimwe explained that the project would empower up to 60,000 women-owned enterprises, including a target of 3,000 refugee-owned businesses.

ABOUT GROW

The new Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW) Project will support a multi-sectoral programme of customised services that empower women entrepreneurs and transition their enterprises from micro to small, from small to medium and improve their productivity.

Direct beneficiaries are projected to include 280,000 women entrepreneurs and employees, including 42,000 refugees and 14,000 host community members.

"Beyond the immediate scope, the project aspires to indirectly impact an estimated 1.6 million individuals through its service offerings," Asimwe said.

He described GROW as a unique project that will offer an integrated package of services for women entrepreneurs including

empowerment and enterprise development services, access to finances, gender inclusive workplace infrastructure, programme management and policy innovation.

The strategy encompasses the creation and fortification of women entrepreneurs' networks at district, sub-regional, regional, and national levels.

Enriching training sessions to enhance women's entrepreneurial skills and the provision of trade and sector development services, such as marketing, branding, certification for exports, product value chain development, and climate-smart production systems are also part of the blueprint.

Other interventions include the provision of work placements for women entrepreneurs to nurture experience and employability, competitive business grants, the establishment of credit lines through commercial banks and the creation of multi-purpose enterprise and productivity centres along with common-user facilities.

YOUTH SKILLING PROJECT CREATES OVER 3,000 JOBS

PHOTO BY SSENGENDO ABDULKARIM

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

After his graduation in 2019, Deusdedit Oyesigye remained hopeless about employment. Like any other jobless youth, he ran out of ideas and thought of resorting to casual jobs, which didn't match his qualification, but getting them also was in vain.

Oyesigye holds a first-class degree in agriculture and community development from Kampala University. After failing all ideas, he decided to take a risk and acquire a loan of sh3m and started an agrichemicals shop in Koranorya town in Mbarara city.

The business didn't generate quick income as expected, but because he had passion for it, he kept the struggle on.

GETTING SKILLS

Oyesigye's star came to life after acquiring advanced skills in agribusiness at IBO mixed farm, under the Skilling in Agripreneurship for Increased Youth Employment (SAY) project.

The four-year project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by AVSI Foundation.

The project targets 18,800 youth aged 18-30 years for immediate employment in the agriculture sector.

The project also trains youth in secondary schools and in justice system rehabilitation centres for increased agripreneurial knowledge and skills for long-term engagement in agriculture.

Oyesigye was also trained as a plant doctor and fully certified. The acquired

Mackline Nayebare (second-left), the director of Makarena Juice, which deals in the production of fresh natural fruits. Nayebare employs 30 youths at her juice making business



skills have boosted his business and expanded his network, attracting endless demands from farmers yearning for his services.

His area of expertise is now on soil testing, where he charges sh500,000 per acre.

JOB CREATOR

His business has grown to now sh9.6m in capital. He employs five youths and expects to create more than 10 jobs in the next year.

"The training at IBO mixed farm changed my thinking. It is okay to attain a degree, but it is important to have a mindset shift after university, so that you don't get frustrated while looking for jobs," he said.

Beabre Magume, a poultry farmer in

Their target is to see 65% of the youths in the region start their own businesses.

Rwemiyenje village, Mbarara city South division, is also a beneficiary of the training.

Magume, who is a director of Amona Investment farm, has created five jobs

at his company, which broods 1,500 birds every after six weeks, giving him an average earning of sh1.5m monthly.

Mackline Nayebare, the director of Makarena, which deals in the production of fresh natural fruits, has trained 30 youth under the project and employs 15 on full time and 15 casual workers at her plant.

Pison Atwiine started beekeeping after university.

He says the training has enabled him to train up to 100 innovative youths and has added value by processing different products out of honey.

"I am able to make other products like beehives, catcher boxes, bee suits, gloves, smokers, candles, lip balms, which has increased my earnings," he said.

Ronald Tweheyo, the guild president Rwampara Farm Institute, hailed the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for funding a project which he said skilled 350 students at the institute.

"We were empowered with business skills and after school, we are going to create more jobs and address unemployment, which is becoming a global problem," he said.

Julius Turyaheebwa, the team leader AVSI Foundation Mbarara field office, said the youth are being positioned for employment in agribusiness and work with partners, mostly private sector companies, in agribusiness that provide market-related skills directly to the youth.

"The trained youths are positioned in different levels of the value chain from inputs to a retailer. The goal of the intervention is to increase agri-skills level and gainful employment for youth in the agriculture sector," he said.

Turyaheebwa said their target is to see 65% of the youths in the region start their own businesses and 15% wage employed.

The youths are given technical support and booster packages based on their business needs. Some of their businesses will be incubated to refine their models so that they can be able to be on the market.

About 339 (212 males and 127 females) plant doctors were trained and certified by The Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT), who are offering extension services to the farmers.