



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



Jolt Youth Initiative

Empowering Youth

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the E.D
- Insights from the Program Manager
- Education
- Holiday Skills Training in Event Management & Decoration
- Student Spotlights
- Health, Technology and Innovation
- Entrepreneurship

"Unlocking hidden potentials."

Message from the E.D

UNLOCKING YOUTH POTENTIAL: JYI's journey of impact

OUR VISION;

Millions of youth gaining the opportunity to discover, develop and deploy their full potential for individual and societal transformation.

MISSION;

To cultivate communities where young people's hidden potentials are unlocked through self efficacy, enabling them to be active contributors to individual and societal development.

GOAL;

By 2028, empower at least 80% of youth aged 15-24 years in Mpigi and Butambala district with knowledge, skills and positive attitudes for success and development.

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Uganda has one of the world's youngest populations, with nearly 77% under the age of 25. Around 13% of youth aged 18-30 are unemployed, above the national average of 9%. Behind these statistics are real young people, ambitious, hardworking, and hopeful. Our ideology of Unlocking Potential is about transforming these job seekers into opportunity creators and high-value candidates, ensuring their efforts bring results.

Our approach is holistic. Through Educate 1, we are supporting 25 students on half bursaries, allowing vulnerable but bright learners to stay in school. Beyond fees, we provide mentorship, career guidance, and life skills. We also celebrate the story of a young graduate who trained in tailoring. With JYI's support and a startup sewing machine, she is now self-reliant, earns an income, and is training other youth. These are powerful reminders that when young people are given a chance, they thrive, and they lift others along the way.



Ms. Mariam N. Wamala
Executive Director

Our mentorship programs have now reached over 5,000 students across 11 partner schools, sparking ambition, setting academic and personal goals, and igniting entrepreneurship projects. We have also introduced training in peace and conflict resolution, life-saving skills, and entrepreneurship, all aimed at preparing youth for a future where they can both create opportunities and resolve challenges in their communities.

This work has been possible through the dedication of our staff, partners, and Board. As our Board Chair, Greg, often says: *"This is not about top-down solutions. JYI listens to young people, their parents, educators, and community leaders, and then adapts programs to meet their real needs."* His words capture our approach: listening first, then acting.

But to continue and scale this impact, we need more partners, supporters, and friends. You can join us by:

- Partnering on projects or events
- Volunteering your time or expertise
- Donating funds or resources
- Serving as a mentor or facilitator

Let's discover, develop, and deploy the hidden potential of Uganda's youth because their success is our shared future. ”

Insights from Programs Manager



Dr. Matovu Mousa
Ag. Program manager
Jolt Youth Initiative

Jolt Youth Initiative has successfully concluded the third quarter with impactful activities across all departments, with the recently completed Entrepreneurship Holiday Skilling Project taking the spotlight.

Guided by our five-year strategic plan, we continued to unlock potential and empower young people through initiatives such as the Educate One program (school fees support), agricultural activities, and peace and conflict resolution programs. We were also proud to have partnered with Mentoring Peace Champions Uganda (MPCU) in the recently concluded Annual Youth Peace Festival at Bweranyangi Girls' Senior Secondary School.

We also secured a strategic partnership with Jefrat Medical Hub, an emergency medical services enterprise committed to improving emergency care and reducing fatalities caused by delayed interventions. Together, we are preparing to skill 330 youth in life-saving emergency care and first aid.

Looking ahead to the next quarter, our focus will be on:

- Ensuring the continuity of the Entrepreneurship Project Sente with new business openings and scaling it up to more schools.
- Beginning the construction of a central workshop in Mpigi.
- Expanding our farming and agriculture program, with ginger production this season.
- Delivering career guidance and mentorship to semi-candidates, with special focus on our Educate One beneficiaries.
- Rolling out the Jefrat life-saving skills training initiative.

Together, we remain committed to empowering youth, strengthening communities, and driving innovation for a better future.

Welcome
to our team

Please join me in warmly welcoming **Martha Akello** to the Jolt Youth Initiative family as our new **Resource Mobilization Lead**.

Martha brings with her great energy and passion for mobilizing resources to ensure that our planned activities move forward successfully. Her arrival comes at a crucial time for the organization, as we continue to explore every avenue to secure funding in line with our five-year strategic plan.

We are excited to have Martha on board and look forward to working with her as we empower the next generation of youth for a sustainable future.

Innovation

Under our climate change strategic priority, Jolt Youth Initiative is leveraging the upcoming Technology Hub to champion the adoption of green energy solutions in schools and communities. One of the flagship projects in the pipeline is an Electric Bike Initiative, which aims to transform ordinary bicycles into electric-powered bikes. This innovation seeks to save students' travel time while promoting environmentally friendly practices.

Education

As the quarter comes to a close, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your continued support of the Educate 1 program. Your commitment is directly changing lives.

We are pleased to report that this quarter, we successfully paid the school fees for all five of our students. Furthermore, we are excited to welcome two new beneficiaries to the Educate 1 program. Both onboarded students are girls attending Quality High School and Kibuuka Memorial Secondary School in Mpigi district.

We recently held a productive engagement with the Board Member in charge of Educate 1. Key outcomes from this meeting include a commitment to conduct school visits and a strategic focus on expanding our support to include the boy child in future initiatives.

Academically, the students completed their mock examinations. We will be sharing a detailed report once the results are released, which will allow us to properly assess the program's progression and impact.

Thank you again for being instrumental in this journey. Together, we are making a significant difference in these students' education.

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Donate Key on our website



We are excited to announce that our “Donate” button is now active! This makes it easier than ever for you to stand with us in transforming the lives of young people in Uganda. Whether it is school fees for vulnerable students, startup kits for graduates of our skills programs, or mentorship support, your contribution goes directly into unlocking opportunities for youth.

For local supporters, we now have an MTN Mobile Money collection line where donations can be sent quickly and safely. For our international friends, we are finalizing Stripe integration to make global giving simple and secure. This way, wherever you are in the world, you can join us in building a better future for Africa's youth.

Every shilling, every dollar, every act of kindness counts. Together, we can ensure that no potential is wasted.

To donate visit our website:
www.joltyouthinitiative.org for details.

“Unlocking Youth Potential Through Skills and Entrepreneurship”



For over two years, Jolt Youth Initiative (JYI) has been helping school-going youth in Mpigi District unlock their self-efficacy for individual and community development. Through programs in education, health, peace and conflict resolution, and entrepreneurship, JYI continues to brighten the future of young people.

On 25th August 2025, JYI launched the Project Sente skilling program at Wamatovu Muslim Secondary School in Nakirebe. Over two weeks, ending on 5th September 2025, 26 students from S.2 to S.6 completed a Financial and Skills Training Program that combined entrepreneurship and financial literacy

with hands-on training in woodwork fabrication and event decoration. The sessions introduced students to entrepreneurship fundamentals, financial management, savings, and business planning, while practical workshops gave them exposure to modern machines and creative design techniques.

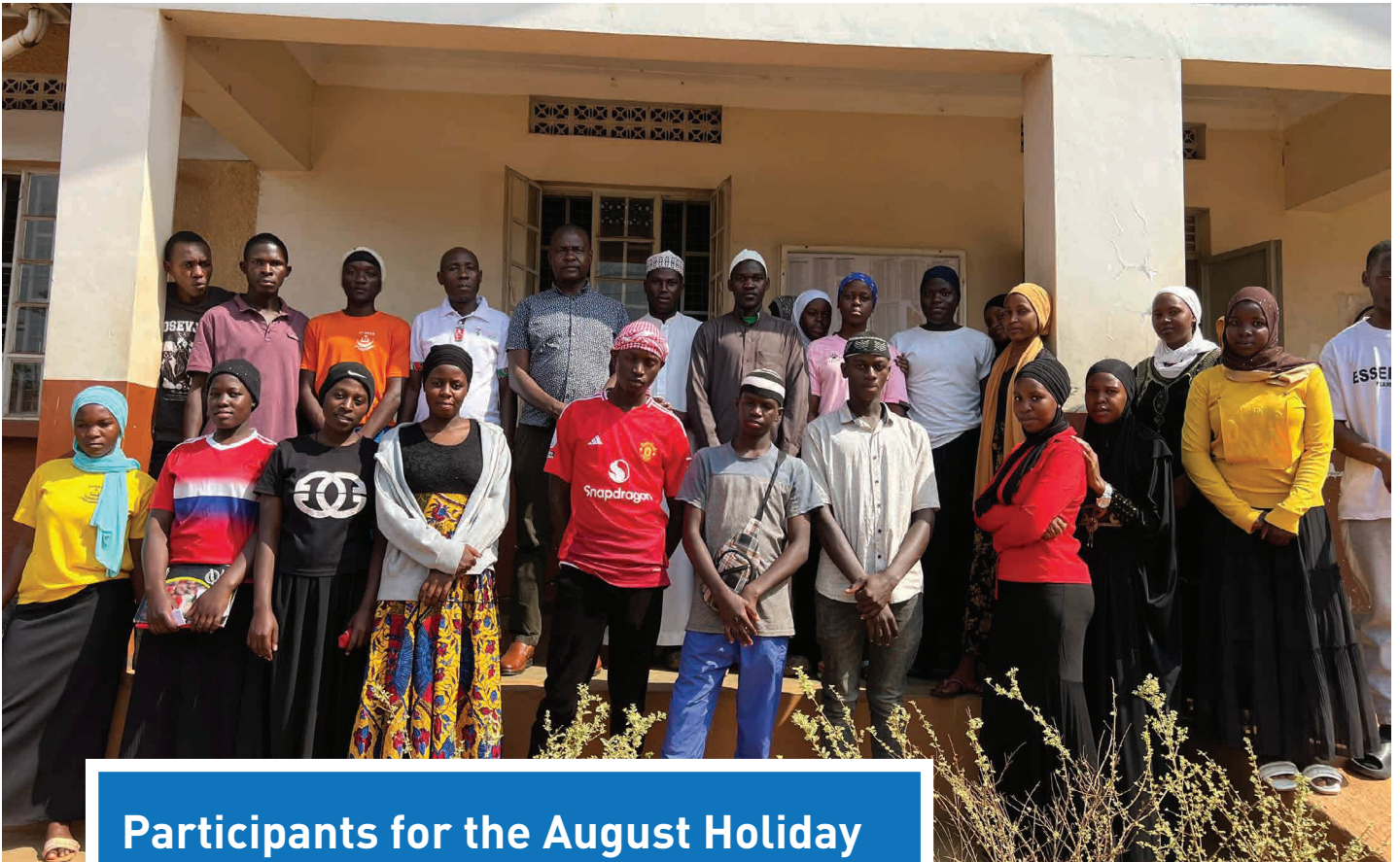
The training produced exciting outcomes: 12 students trained in woodwork, 13 in event decoration, and 25 received certificates after the training. Five social entrepreneurship businesses were also formed, each with elected leaders, and they now envision building a youth-led events management enterprise.

Tropical Bank pledged to open junior savings accounts for eligible trainees, ensuring financial inclusion at a young age. Our appreciation goes to the district education department, the school administration. Special appreciation to our Trainers including Carol Mary Amase, Semamabo Sharman Creatives and Mr. Tamukedde Derrick, for their vital role in delivering both theory and practical sessions.

Looking ahead, JYI plans to establish a central hub as a workshop where these cohorts can continue training, grow enterprises, and access job opportunities a sustainable center for turning youth potential into real economic mobility.

Entrepreneurship coordinator

Holiday Skills Training in Event Management & Decoration



Participants for the August Holiday Entrepreneurial Skills Program

From August 25th to September 5th, 2025, Jolt Youth Initiative trained 13 young people in Event Management and Decoration under our Holiday Skills Development Program. The two-week training equipped participants with practical skills in events planning and management, theme selection, draping, balloon art, floral design, table setting, centerpiece creation, tent setup, car decoration, lighting, and stage design.

The program also emphasized the use of affordable local materials, finishing touches for quality results, and safety measures such as fire and electrical safety. By the end, trainees showcased creative projects and expressed confidence in using their new skills to start small businesses and earn income.



Holiday Students Presenting their Creative Piggy Banks Produced

Beneficiaries

KIWAFU DAVID

From Trainee to Aspiring Entrepreneur

Two weeks into Jolt Youth Initiative's Holiday Skills Development Training Program, Kiwafu David has already begun to see his future in a new light. As a participant in our Entrepreneurship and Woodwork Fabrication Training, David shares how the experience has transformed both his mindset and his skills.

"In the past two weeks, I have discovered so many new things. In woodwork, I have learned different skills that I never had before. We have also gone through financial literacy and business management sessions, which have opened my eyes to entrepreneurship. These lessons have been very important to me."

One of David's favorite moments was the introduction of woodwork machines, the saw, the drill, and other tools that were completely new to him. Under the guidance of JYI trainers, he and his fellow students were not only introduced to these machines but also trained on how to use them safely and effectively. For David, this was more than just a lesson, it was an empowering experience that built his confidence.

David has already created several impressive projects through the training. Among them are innovative savings boxes with unique designs. One of his creations is shaped like a chair, not only can you sit on it, but you can also save money inside. Another of his designs is a Bible holder savings box, you can place the bible. One side is for coins and the other for paper money a tool he imagines being useful for preachers and church communities.

Looking ahead, David's dream is to turn these skills into a business.

"My plan is very simple. Using the project that you introduced to us, I want to set up my own workshop, employ some people, and help solve the problem of unemployment," he says with determination.

David's story is just one example of how JYI's training programs help young people discover, develop, and deploy their potential.



ISAAC SERUBYA S.6

The JYI Holiday Skills Development Training in Woodwork Fabrication was a life-changing experience.

"It has been a very good experience learning financial literacy. The moment I first worked with the mighty saw, I was shivering, thinking it was going to cut off my fingers. But by the end of the training, it was so easy to use. I thank my trainers."

Over the two weeks, Isaac designed and produced creative piggy banks, including a hexagon-shaped one and another unique design he proudly displayed at the closing session. He admitted that before joining the program, he knew nothing about woodwork but now he has both skills and confidence.

"I didn't know about woodwork, but now I know it. I will look for people who know more about woodwork so I can learn further and start up my own business. It was a wonderful experience, and I thank the school administration and Jolt Youth Initiative for giving us this opportunity."

Isaac's journey is a true reflection of JYI's mission to help young people discover, develop, and deploy their potential. What began with fear turned into confidence, and now Isaac is dreaming of a business that will not only support him but also inspire others.



Beneficiaries



Irene Discovers Her Passion for Events

Name: Nabatanzi Irene

Class: S.5

School: Wamatovu Muslim Secondary School

Irene joined JYI's Holiday Skills Development Training without any background in decoration. Two weeks later, she left with skills, confidence, and a clear dream for the future.

"When I came here, I couldn't decorate. Now I can make a photo booth, do curtaining — which is my favorite and even use a balloon pump. I have also learned about saving money and how decoration can be turned into business."

Irene now dreams of becoming an **events planner**, and she sees the decoration training as her first big step in that direction.

"To become an events planner, I needed hints in decoration and now I have them. I recommend my fellow youth not to undermine opportunities like these. We have not paid a single coin, yet we have learned so much: business, entrepreneurship, woodwork, and decoration. I thank Jolt Youth Initiative, and may God bless you abundantly."

Her testimony reflects the heart of JYI's mission helping young people **discover, develop, and deploy their potential** so they can create opportunities and build their futures with confidence.



Ibrahim Turns Rough Wood into Creative Designs

Ibrahim Kamwesiigye an S.5 Student at Wamatovu Muslim Secondary School shared his excitement after completing the two-week Woodwork Fabrication Training under JYI's Holiday Skills Development Program.

"Before this training, I thought wood was always rough. I didn't know how to smoothen it. Now, my products are smooth because of the machines we have been trained to use. I have learned how to start making real products, and it makes me very happy."

During the program, Ibrahim produced creative savings boxes in different shapes, including a triangular box that doesn't look like a savings box at first glance, and another designed like a house. These unique projects showed his growing skill and creativity.

Looking ahead, Ibrahim is determined to build on what he has learned:

"For the future, I want to add more to what I have already applied. I am very happy about Jolt Youth Initiative. They divided us into two groups Decoration and Woodwork Fabrication where we learnt new skills and now we can do something visible. Thank you, JYI."

Ibrahim's story highlights how JYI helps young people discover, develop, and deploy their potential by giving them hands-on skills they can proudly showcase and later grow into businesses.



Name: Nakyanzi Hindu
Class: S.5
School: Wamatovu Muslim Secondary School

Hindu Dreams of Starting an Events Company

Hindu shared her excitement after completing JYI's Holiday Skills Development Training in Event Decoration.

"I have learned many things about financial management, and my favorite moment was when I started pinning during the curtaining. Now I can decorate for weddings, wrap gifts, and even make success cards."

Inspired by the skills she has gained; Hindu is already thinking about her future:

"My plan is to start an events company. I encourage my fellow youth to join youth initiatives like this one so they can get what we have got. To all Jolt staff, thank you very much. Long live Jolt Youth Initiative."

Her words are a strong reminder of how opportunities like these help youths **discover, develop, and deploy their potential** into dreams of business and self-reliance.

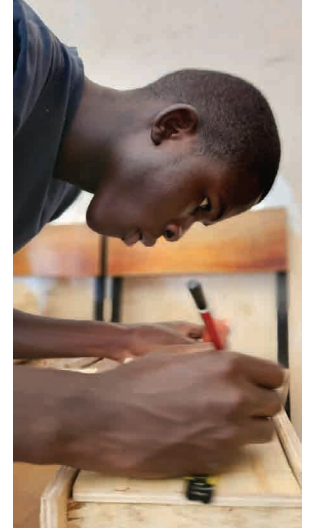
The Events Management and Decoration Training



The Events Management and Decoration Training



Basic Woodworking Training



HEALTH

This quarter, we continued to amplify our grand message through sexual and reproductive health mentorship, with a strong focus on **menstrual health** and **boy-child support** in today's challenging environment.

In addition, Jolt Youth Initiative signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with JEFRAAT Health Hub to deliver a much-anticipated First Aid Skilling Training Program for students. The program is set to build the capacity of 330 students from 11 schools, equipping them with life-saving first aid skills while promoting safety and awareness among school-going youth. The rollout begins in October, with the first sessions scheduled for Wamatovu Muslim School and St. Joseph's SS Nakirebe this **October**.



Dr. Matovu Mousa (program manager) with JEFRAAT representative on the MoU signing

Technology Baseline Study: Insights to Guide Our Implementation

In this quarter, Jolt Youth Initiative in partnership with **Cybershero** (Atech company), conducted a **technology baseline study** in schools aimed at understanding the current state of digital access, usage, and skills among adolescents and youth in Mpigi District.

This assessment was intended to help in guiding our implementation of digital learning and innovation programs.

Uganda's large adolescent population represents a powerful opportunity to build a digitally skilled workforce. However, low digital literacy driven by limited access, inadequate training, and poor infrastructure remains a challenge. To bridge this gap, JYI sought evidence on how young people currently use technology, their learning preferences, and the barriers they face.

The study used a **mixed-methods approach**, combining surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. We engaged **392 students aged 13–24** across two schools, plus 20 students in focus groups and 3 ICT teachers in in-depth interviews.

Key Findings

- Most students own smartphones but have limited exposure to advanced devices like computers due to outdated or non-functional school labs.
- Young people are motivated to learn ICT for academic and career purposes. However, confidence in advanced digital tasks remains low, and understanding of emerging fields like AI or robotics is limited.
- High data costs, poor internet connectivity, unreliable power supply, and lack of training remain the biggest hurdles.
- Students prefer **hands-on formats** such as video tutorials, interactive workshops, and peer-to-peer learning. They also value mobile-based learning because of affordability and flexibility.

Our Response

Based on these insights, JYI will develop **structured mentorship programs** and **learning modules** that go beyond everyday ICT devices. These will introduce youth to wider applications of technology in **health, agriculture, manufacturing, and soft skills development**, while also addressing infrastructure gaps and teacher training needs.



How Jolt Youth Initiative Turned a Challenge in a farming opportunity

When international funding started dwindling, Jolt Youth Initiative (JYI) faced a big challenge.

We had to think carefully about how to keep our work going and remain strong. Instead of giving up, we chose a new path, farming. Farming would not only help us generate income and support our programs, but it would also create opportunities for young people in our community.

In March 2025, JYI rented one acre of land in Busomba Village, Mpigi District, marking our first step into agriculture. We engaged young people from the village to till the land, paying them for their work while also giving them a chance to learn practical farming skills. This approach ensured that both JYI and the community benefitted from the project.

We planted maize (DK 8031 variety) and cassava using hoes and other simple tools, applied fertilizer, and controlled weeds through both manual and chemical methods. As expected, farming came with challenges. Termites, squirrels, and rodents destroyed some seedlings, but we managed by replanting and also adding cassava cuttings at the margins of the farm.

By early August, the maize was ready for harvest. On August 9th, our program coordinator, two staff members, and a group of young people worked together to bring in the yield. The maize is now drying under controlled conditions to prevent spoilage before it can be sold in local markets. Although this first cycle did not yield a profit, we operated at a total loss, we gained valuable lessons that will guide us in improving future harvests. Importantly, the effort demonstrated that farming can provide food for the community while offering youth employment and learning opportunities.

Meanwhile, the cassava we planted is still growing and is expected to be ready in three months. Known for its resilience and ability to thrive in different conditions, cassava is a reliable crop that fits perfectly into our long-term sustainability plans.

As we reflect on this journey, we see more than just a farm. It is a story of resilience, learning, and community empowerment. We want to expand this initiative by involving more young people, partners, and supporters. Together, we can grow more food, create jobs, and build a stronger community. At JYI, unlocking potentials

The JYI Farm Pictorial



1. Getting lease documents
2. Sitted in red is the program
3. Manager & the land owners.



Tilled Land



Growing Phase



Infestation by weeds



5.Pests & Diseases



Spraying with pesticides

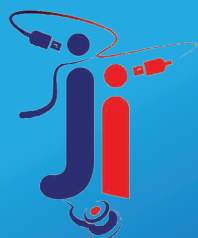


Harvesting



Await for sale





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Empowering Youth

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