

Youth Livelihood Programme creates 200000 jobs



Different youth listen during the Learning Visit at Gender Ministry in Kampala. @CSBAG 2019

The Youth Livelihood Programme(YLP) has created about 200000 jobs from its inception and more are likely to be generated as it nears phase II of implementation, officials from Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development have said.

They said this while interfacing with youth who during on National Learning Visit and the Ministry's offices in Kampala on 7th November, 2019.

"For us as the Ministry and the Programme, we are very excited about the progress we have achieved by YLP ofcourse challenges notwithstanding. We know that through this programme, we have been able to empower young

people to create self-employment opportunities, enhance their incomes and participate in activities that builds their skills, confidences and satisfaction," said Paul Onapa, the YLP Programme Manager.

According to him, over 20159 youth groups have been financed ever since YLP was launched in 2014 which is benefiting 241799 young people who are involved in activities across sectors like agriculture, trade, service industry, vocational skills among other areas.



The YLP Manager Paul Onapa speaking to the youth on 7th November 2019. @CSBAG

"We did an impact evaluation last year which indeed confirmed that significant progress had been made by the Programme. The impact evaluation among other things indicated that there was an improvement in access to financial services by the youth because this programme was put in place to consider youth who were looked at as unbankable to access financing be able to get self-employment," said Onapa.

He added: "There was an improvement up to 24% of the youth being able to access funding and create employment opportunities. The evaluation also showed us that they youth had moved from un-skilled to skilled. From unpaid to paid and temporary occupations; this is very key. When you get statics of youth in carpentry, welding and shoe making, they have been able to acquire some skills."

Paul Ochaya, the YLP Regional Officer- Northern Uganda said by 31st July 2018, sh33.50bb has been recovered out of sh64.630b which is due, implying over 50% recovery rate. He said 145 Local Governments have already recovered up to 50% of amount of funds which are due. 33.502 Billion out of UGX 64.630

"208 projects in 52 Local Governments have completed 100% recovery of funds. Produce buying and selling has the highest number of groups making 100% repayment (43 out of 100). This is followed by Bull Fattening (27), Boda Boda (19) among others. Lyantonde has the highest number of groups making 100% recoveries (16) followed by Kyegegwa(14), Bushenyi(13) and Ibanda(11)," said Ochaya.

He added that to date, sh7.956b has been revolved to the respective Local Governments. According to him, the funds revolved have financed 897 projects benefiting 10,286 youth.

Youth questioned the YLP officials on the rampant corruption that has dented the Programme, making it have less progress in some parts of the country. In response, Onapa said YLP like any other Gov't programmes has had its fair share of challenges but they are working with different Government agencies to solve them.

Eria Mugisa, the CSBAG Monitoring and Evaluation Officer asked youth to work closely with Government in fighting against corruption that has dented the YLP Programme.

"Youth must make sure that corruption is made difficult, that way they will be able to benefit as they transform themselves. We have learnt that there's some progress in recovery of funds but more efforts are needed in the collection of the monies," he said.