



Jolt Youth Initiative
Empowering Youth

Quarterly

NEWSLETTER

Volume 01 31st March, 2025



Welcome to the first quarter edition of the Jolt Youth Initiative (JYI) newsletter! We are excited to share updates on our key focus areas that drive our mission to empower young people in Mpigi, Masaka and Butambala districts.

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"Unlock your hidden potential."

WHO WE ARE

Our Vision; A world where young people are empowered to enhance development outcomes by promoting their sense of self efficacy for sustainable growth and development.

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.

Reflection

The Jolt Youth Initiative 2024 was a year focused on laying the foundation for the future and strengthening the bond between the districts, the schools, the community, and us. Much like a garden that starts with seeds and blossoms through care and nurturing, youth represents a phase of immense potential and transformation. During this time, young people are like tender plants, full of promise and opportunity. They require guidance, support, and opportunities to grow into their fullest selves, just as plants need sunlight, water, and care to bloom. The Jolt Youth Initiative is rooted in this power to nurture, empower, and build connections and creating



Through our shared experience, we nurture a community of belonging that reflects our core values, ensuring that youth can become active contributors to their personal lives, their communities, and their country by unlocking their hidden potential. Over the past year, we are proud to share the positive impact we've made across Mpigi District. Through our various programs, we reached over 20,000 youth, providing mentorship, education, and health services. Notably, our "Ignite the Mind, Inspire Excellence" mentorship program impacted 1,039 students in six schools, while 700 students received vital education on sexual and reproductive health. We also supported 24 teachers alongside our mentors, fostering a comprehensive learning environment.

In addition, our Health department made a tangible difference by offering free healthcare services to 500 individuals at the Mpigi Health Centre IV, and our Charity department provided clothing assistance to 177 people from 77 households affected by a devastating storm. As we begin this new year, we are excited to continue our work and build on these accomplishments, creating a future where youth are empowered, supported, and equipped to thrive.



Message From The Executive Director

Ms. Mariam Wamala

As we close this quarter, our focus remains on building a strong foundation for the future. With the steadfast leadership of our dedicated Board, we continue to uphold our mission and values, foster collaboration, respond to immediate community needs, and strategically work toward our long-term goals. At Jolt Youth Initiative, we believe in celebrating milestones. This quarter, we were proud to donate a Singer sewing machine to one of our vocational trainees; an empowering step as she completes her tailoring training and prepares for a brighter future. We also launched the Educate One sponsorship program to support academically excellent students facing financial hardship. So far, the program has reached five schools with five students on a half bursary, and we plan to expand to the remaining partner schools by the end of the year. We appreciate and recognize individuals who contributed to this fund and those who have expressed intention of generosity and commitment to this cause.

*“Education, Health, Technology,
Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Leadership,
Peace and Conflict Resolution”*



Ms. Mariam Wamala
Executive Director

Mentorship remains at the heart of our approach. This quarter, we received training in financial literacy, which we are excited to roll out next quarter to reach 5,000 students. Our mentorship sessions continue to receive feedback, with students sharing testimonies on the positive impact these programs have had on their lives. In addition to these accomplishments, we continue to focus on key areas that shape the future of our youth: Education, Health, Technology and Innovation, Leadership, and Peace and Conflict Resolution. These pillars guide our programs and ensure that we are not only meeting the immediate needs of young people but also equipping them for sustainable success.

We look forward to the next quarter with continued commitment to empowering young people.



JYI Educate 1 Kicks Off in Mpigi District

JYI Educate 1 Kicks Off in Mpigi District At Jolt Youth Initiative, we believe that education is the key to unlocking potential. Through our Educate 1 Sponsorship Program, we are breaking financial barriers and empowering students to stay in school and achieve their academic goals. In March 2025, our team embarked on a field visit to five schools in Mpigi District to support students selected for partial bursaries and officially launch the Educate 1 program.

Bringing Hope to Students

Our visit confirmed the pressing financial need among students, which had been highlighted in our June 2024 needs assessment, where 44.3% of participants identified financial constraints as the

biggest challenge to staying in school. With this in mind, JYI selected one student from each of the five schools based on academic performance, financial need, and commitment to education.

Schools and Students Supported

We are proud to have provided financial assistance of a half bursary to five students in five different schools:

Bukenya Martin (Wamatovu SS) - UGX 225,000

Nakalembe Joan (St. Catherine SS Bujjuuko) - UGX 340,000

Nabulya Mariam (St. Mark SS Kamengo) - UGX 100,000

Namubiru Noor (St. Phillips Equatorial SS Nabusanke) - UGX 75,000

Nakayiwa Shadia (Lumuza high school) -UGX 490,000

Total amount disbursed in this phase: UGX 1,230,000/= PER TERM

Each of these students, despite financial challenges, has demonstrated resilience, determination, and academic excellence. By supporting them, we are investing in future leaders and changemakers.

Community Engagement and Gratitude

During our visits, we engaged with school administrators and guardians to ensure that they understood Jolt Youth Initiative's mission and the purpose of the Educate 1 program. Many expressed their heartfelt gratitude. One parent, Ms. Nakitende Aisha, mother of Nabulya Mariam, was overwhelmed with joy and appreciation, emphasizing how this support lifts a major burden off struggling families.

Similarly, school leaders commended JYI for recognizing education as a priority and supporting vulnerable students to complete their studies. At St. Mark SS Kamengo, the Headteacher expressed deep appreciation, describing JYI as a true partner in education.

The Road Ahead We are actively fundraising to support the remaining seven schools, as our goal is to have at least one Educate 1 beneficiary in all 11 partner schools. With more support, we can expand this impact and change even more lives.

This is just the beginning! The Educate 1 program is a beacon of hope, but we need more partners and supporters to sustain and expand our efforts. If you believe in the power of education, consider supporting JYI in ensuring that every student gets a chance to thrive.

Student Stories

Impact of JYI to Students

WAMATOVU MUSLIM SECONDARY SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 2121
KAMPALA
23rd, January, 2025

Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Bukanya Martin, a Senior four student at Wamatovu Muslim Secondary School. I am eighteen years old and I stay with my grandmother at Bugembe village in Katende, Mpigi District. I am an orphan. I lost my father when I was still very young.

I have written this letter to request an opportunity on academic assistance. Since I can academically make it but I need help because I face very many challenges with school fees since I do not have a father who would pay my school fees and I live with my grandmother who is not financially stable hence causing me needy.

I like to study so much so that I pursue my dream of being a surgeon but I have low chances of reaching my dream because my grandmother is not financially stable. I perform well in science subjects such as Biology, chemistry and Mathematics as well as other science subjects.

Besides all that, am a good artist. I like Music, Dance and Drama because it is my hobby. On addition to that I was also the overall participant amongst the boys on our MDD gala.

I promise that once I get a scholarship in hostel section from you I will continue to be hardworking in my academics to pursue my dream of being

Mr. Marvin Bukenya

Wamatovu Muslim SS

Mr. Marvin Bukenya is an S4 scholar at Wamatovu Muslim SS. He is the top performing student in the school even with the challenges he faces. His father died when he was young and his mother abandoned him at his grandmother's place in Katende. Mr. Marvin survives on the little money saved by his grandmother and the mercy of the school. He moves a distance of about 8km as total distance to and from school. As the Educate team, we had a chance to meet Mr. Bukenya and his grandmother who corroborated the story that was given to us by the mentor. Mr.

Ms. Namubiru Noor

St. Phillips Nabusanke

Ms. Namubiru Noor is an S4 scholar at St. Phillips Nabusanke who treks about 6 kilometers to and from school every day. She requires school fees of 150, 000 Uganda shillings but she finds a hard time paying this amount. She lives with 3 of her siblings who are younger than her. She survives on casual jobs like digging gardens for a cost. Her father occasionally visits them but leaves little basic needs for all three of them. At some point she was given land by a good Samaritan where they tilled and planted maize which helped to pay some of their school fees.

St. Phillips Equatorial Secondary School,
P.O. BOX 53 Nabusanke,
Mpigi.
6th February, 2025.

The Manager,
Jolt Youth Initiative,
P.O. BOX

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Requesting for a Scholarship.

Kindly, I am writing to request for a scholarship from your organisation.

I am a senior four learner who goes to school at the above institution. I am aged sixteen.

I am a disciplined girl who prioritises education. A picture of my performance is reflected by a copy of my end of year report card of 2024 which is attached to this letter.

My father is financially unsound, he hardly meets my needs. The mother survives on meagre income after selling trivial things like paraffin which fetches too little.

I have attached a copy of our school structure and other school requirements.

I promise to make the best out of my project, which is education.

I will be happy if considered.

Yours faithfully,
NAMUBIRU NOOR.
Namubiru Noor.

Student Stories

Impact of JYI to Students

Ms. Nakayiwa Shadia

Lumuza High school

Ms. Nakayiwa Shadia is an S6 student with leadership qualities and responsibilities. She is the head girl of the school and tops the class even while facing school fees challenges. Ms. Shadia hails from a moslem family and the father pays school fees for about 5 children. Ms. Shadia is usually sent home to fetch fees and she has to be the sacrificial lamb among her siblings. She usually has to take a longer time home waiting for the dad to give her some money to go back to school. Even with these delays at home, she manages to compensate by performing well when she returns to school for studies. She pays school fees of Ugx. 980,000/= Uganda shillings.

Ms. Nabulya Mariam

St. Mark SS Kamengo

Ms. Nabulya Mariam is an S6 candidate who struggles with basic re-quirements and school fees as well. She is the first born of 6 children who lost her father post covid 19. The dad responsibilities were tak-en over by an uncle of theirs but he also succumbed to cancer in 2024. She now struggles to be school due to school fees but her performance is exceptional even with these challenges.

Health Innovation

Impact of JYI to Students

Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) for School-girls

In health, we continue to champion sexual and reproductive health (SRH) among school-going girls a cause close to our hearts. Access to sanitary pads remains a critical barrier for many young girls, often forcing them to miss school and disrupting their education. The lack of these essentials doesn't just affect attendance; it chips away at their dignity, confidence, and future opportunities. Our advocacy is a call to action. We're appealing to partners, donors, and community leaders to join us in addressing this gap. By providing sanitary pads and SRH education, we can keep girls in school and empower them to thrive.

Technology and Innovation: Building a Digital Future

Switching gears to technology, we've been busy igniting curiosity and skills among our youth. Through capacity-building sessions with our tech-enthusiast board members, we're equipping students and community members to understand and embrace technology.

Our focus? Promoting student- and community-led innovation that solves local problems with global potential.

The crown jewel of our tech efforts is the upcoming Mpigi Tech Hub, a first of its kind space in the region. This hub will boost digital literacy, provide access to computer skills, and foster a culture of learning, innovation, and empowerment. In today's digital age, we believe every young person deserves a seat at the tech table. With your support, we'll break ground soon and create a launchpad for Mpigi's innovators.

Tackling Malaria with Innovation: The House Modification Project

Malaria remains a persistent threat in our communities, but we're fighting back with ingenuity. This year, we're excited to roll out the Malaria House Modification Project, an innovative initiative designed to control malaria at its source. By promoting affordable, community-driven modifications like screened windows, ventilated walls, and mosquito-repellent material. We aim to reduce malaria transmission while keeping families safe. This project blends health and innovation, showcasing how simple ideas can yield big impact. We're in the early stages, but the enthusiasm from our team and community partners is infectious (pun intended!). Watch this space as we pilot and scale this game-changing effort.

Growing Stronger: The Annual Medical Camp

Our flagship Annual Medical Camp is back and poised to be bigger and better by year-end! This cornerstone event brings free healthcare services—check ups, treatments, and education to hundreds in need. It's a celebration of community, resilience, and teamwork. We're working tirelessly to expand its reach and impact in 2025. Join us as volunteers, sponsors, or participants. **let's make this our best camp yet!**



Peace in Our Schools

Insights from the Frontline

Schools are meant to be safe spaces where students grow, learn, and develop. But like any community, conflict can arise; between students, teachers, and peers. If not managed well, these conflicts can lead to bullying, violence, poor academic performance, and broken relationships.

As part of our commitment to promoting peace and conflict resolution, we recently conducted a Peace and Conflict Resolution formative research in four secondary schools in Mpigi District:

St. Mt. Katherine, St. Mark S.S, St. Phillips S.S, and Wamatovu Moslem Secondary School.

We gathered insights from students, teachers, and administrators.



The Objective of the Formative research included;

- Identifying existing policies, programs, and practices related to peace and conflict resolution in schools.
- Determining key barriers that hinder effective conflict resolution among students.

Gathering insights from students regarding their experiences with conflicts and the effectiveness of current resolution strategies. The results will enable us to formulate evidence-based strategies to improve peace-building initiatives and conflict resolution intervention tailored to the needs of students

We shall contribute to empowering students with the skills to manage disagreements respectfully, communicate clearly, and understand one another. This will not only solve problems more effectively but also create stronger, more respectful school communities.

Mental Health in Schools *The Silent Killer*

In schools across the country, students are facing a challenge that often goes unnoticed: While schools focus on grades, exams, and discipline, many young people are silently struggling with stress, anxiety, depression, and even trauma.

Mental health issues can affect how students learn, relate to others, and make decisions. When left unaddressed, they can lead to poor academic performance, school dropout, substance abuse, or even self-harm. That's why mental health has been called the "silent killer" because it hides in plain sight, and its impact is deep and long-lasting.

At Jolt Youth Initiative, we believe that schools should not only teach academic skills but also create safe spaces where students feel heard, supported, and empowered. Teachers, parents, and peers all play a role in supporting the emotional well-being of students.

*Create a safe place!!!!
Not every child is an academic giant;
Just Unlock their hidden potential*



The Entrepreneurship Corner

Who we are and what we're doing

In 2024, Jolt Youth Initiative launched an entrepreneurship program under the name Project Sente, with the aim of equipping youth in Mpigi and Butambala districts with practical skills and resources to start and sustain income-generating initiatives. This program includes financial literacy and business mentorships, agricultural training and implementation, vocational skills development, capacity building, resource mobilization, networking, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

Why we are doing it

The entrepreneurship component of Jolt was born from a strong belief in the transformative power of economic empowerment. By unlocking young people's sense of self-efficacy, we believe they can drive sustainable change in their lives and communities.



JYI team handing over the sewing machine to Gloria

What we've accomplished.

To support her entrepreneurial journey, one of our Vocational graduands, JYI provided a seed capital loan of UGX 1,000,000, which enabled Gloria to acquire a brand-new Singer Magna sewing machine at UGX 400,000/=

An additional UGX 600,000 cash loan was prepared to support her startup tailoring business, with the condition that she would present a viable business plan and repay the UGX 1,000,000 interest-free within one year. Gloria later informed us that she would not be taking the cash loan at this time, which we fully respect.

Where we are going next

Following our vocational success, on February 22, 2025, I initiated the next phase of Project Sente—agriculture. Given that agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda's economy, we aim to establish a model demonstration farm that provides hands-on training and experience to youth interested in agriculture as a business.

How we are doing it.

We conducted a pilot visit to Busomba Village, located 15 km from Mpigi Town, where—with the support of a local contact, we identified and secured a 1-acre plot of land on a gentle slope next to a swamp, ideal for irrigation and accessibility. Our goal is for all Jolt staff to jointly prepare and cultivate selected cash and food crops, and use this land for agricultural demonstrations and mentorships. This model farm will be a practical, scalable tool for entrepreneurship and youth engagement.

A Success story

As of January 24, 2025, we celebrated a significant milestone at the JYI offices in Bugolobi: the graduation of our first vocational trainee, Gloria Mirembe, from the tailoring program at Joseph Girls Learning Centre – Kidera through a partnership with Direct Hand foundation. This training was supported in partnership with the Direct Fund Foundation. During the celebration, Gloria shared a heartfelt testimony, expressing her gratitude to JYI for the training support, which helped her discover a renewed sense of self-efficacy. She said:

Before this training, I wasn't sure where life was leading me. But through Jolt, I now believe in my potential. I'm not just a tailor, I am a busi-ness woman in the making. Thank you for believing in me.



Gloria Mirembe and Mr. Shafik Kivimbi

Inspirational remarks were also shared by members of staff including **Dr. Matovu Mousa**, who encouraged Gloria to continue growing her skills and to use digital platforms to innovate and market her work. In recognition of her achievement, a cake was cut in the company of her relatives, **Henry Matovu and Mariam**, and a moment of joy was shared among all present

We remain inspired by stories like Gloria's and committed to empowering many more youth through entrepreneurship training, mentorship, and support. At Jolt Youth Initiative, we are not just building businesses, we are building belief, resilience, and futures.

What next;

The rainy season has started, we are to planting Ginger, Maize and beans. We will update you on the progress in the next series.

Shafiq Ronald Kivumbi,
Lead and Coordinator, Entrepreneurship Programs

Jolt Youth Initiative



Staff training Corner

We learn, We share and We empower.

In our staff training corner this quarter, we had 3 major trainings. They included; Strategic Community Engagement, Financial Literacy and Peace and conflict Resolution.

Strategic Community Engagement

Led by Mr. Jude T. Rwemisis, a distinguished social scientist and medical anthropologist with 24 years of experience in research, program management, and policy development. The Jolt Youth Initiative staff had an orientation on strategic community Engagement. The objective was to ensure our initiatives are relevant, culturally appropriate, and community-driven for greater impact and sustainability.

The training emphasised 3 key areas :

- Building strong relationships with communities
- Effective communication with project beneficiaries
- Engaging stakeholders for better program success



Mr. Jude T Rwemisis

Staff reflection

Over time, it's easy to become routine in our work, and staff may lose sight of the deeper purpose behind community engagement. This training served as a valuable refresher, reinforcing the importance of intentional, strategic interactions with the communities we serve. The session was engaging and eye-opening, equipping the team with practical techniques to strengthen relationships and improve communication with project beneficiaries. As one participant shared, "This session reminded me that true impact comes from meaningful connections. Relationship-building is at the heart of lasting change."

What's Next?

The team is already applying these skills in our ongoing projects. We utilise learning opportunities that help us grow and serve communities better!



Financial Literacy Training

Shaping a financially empowered generation

Well knowing that financial knowledge is a game-changer, our Executive Director organized a financial literacy training for the team, bringing in Mr. John Ntende, a.k.a *“The Money Engineer,”* to equip us with practical money management skills.

The financial literacy training was organized to equip staff with essential money management skills, helping them make informed financial decisions both personally and professionally. Jolt Youth Initiative ensures that staff members can apply these principles in their personal, work and pass them on to the youth we mentor. This aligns with our mission of empowering young people with knowledge and skills for self-reliance and success. The session, led by Mr. John Ntende, covered key topics such as:

- The power of the compounding effect; how small, consistent financial actions lead to long-term growth.
- Smart saving and investing; strategies for financial security and wealth creation.
- Budgeting and expense tracking; understanding spending habits for better financial control.
- Debt management; practical ways to avoid and reduce financial burdens.

The biggest takeaway was the impact of compounding, reinforcing the idea that starting early and being consistent can create long-term financial stability.

Impact on Work & Organization

The impact goes beyond the team; we are already sharing this knowledge with students in the 11 schools we mentor. By teaching them about smart financial habits, we are helping them develop self-efficacy, financial independence, and long-term economic security.

Additionally, staff members are now more intentional about budgeting and saving, applying what they’ve learned to improve both their personal finances and financial decision-making within JYI programs.

Future Training Plans

- Organize follow-up sessions on investment strategies and wealth creation.
- Develop a financial literacy toolkit for students in our mentorship program.



+256(0)760 252 789



Bugolobi, Kampala



joltyouthinitiative@gmail.com



www.joltyouthinitiative.org