

EASY U25 project II

A participatory evaluation | UYDEL, Uganda

About UYDEL

Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL), based in Kampala, Uganda, addresses socio-economic challenges facing disadvantaged children and youth aged 10-24. With 13 youth-friendly centres across eight districts, UYDEL provides vocational training, life skills, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education, and psychosocial support. It focuses on rehabilitation, reintegration, and economic empowerment, whilst also partnering with various stakeholders to amplify its impact.

Project evaluated: the EASY U25 project II

The EASY U25 Project II targeted vulnerable youth aged 12-25 in Kampala's urban slums, with a focus on empowerment through enhancing vocational skills, fostering entrepreneurship, promoting sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and improving personal development.

Its goals were:

- To improve vocational skills and business opportunities.
- To increase access to SRH services and knowledge.
- To promote self-reliance and informed decision-making.

Activities included:

- Vocational training in tailoring, hairdressing, carpentry, and electronics repair.
- Entrepreneurship training and support for business start-ups.
- SRH education and service access campaigns.
- Psychosocial support and life skills development.

This case study outlines the midline evaluation findings of the project.



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Participatory evaluation plan

The evaluation adopted the Picture Diary methodology, engaging participants in documenting their experiences through photographs, drawings, and narratives. This approach enabled beneficiaries to provide nuanced insights into project impacts, challenges, and successes. Follow-up interviews complemented the visual data, while demographic information contextualised the findings.

Tools selected

Picture diaries: through which beneficiaries captured their daily interactions with the project.

In-depth interviews: which allowed for expansion on the visual data for deeper insights.

Demographic surveys: were used to collect participant profiles and enable analysis of trends.

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Evaluation outcomes

The participatory evaluation revealed significant progress in vocational skills acquisition, entrepreneurial ventures, and SRH awareness while highlighting gaps in financial support and stigma reduction efforts.

- Through vocational training, 85% of participants acquired new skills, and 70% applied them daily.
- Through the entrepreneurship initiative, 60% of participants started small businesses and 45% increased their income.
- The SRH services brought 90% improvement through awareness and 75% accessed services. 90% of participants showed an increased understanding of SRH issues, with 75% accessing project-supported SRH services, such as counselling, contraception, and health check-ups.
- Regarding personal development, 80% of participants reported an increase in self-confidence and 65% reported improved decision-making skills.
- Through accessing social support, 70% of participants built networks for emotional and professional collaboration.

Lessons learnt

- Development of skills enables youth empowerment: tailored vocational training can transform youth livelihoods.
- Stigma is a barrier to youth development: despite efforts in awareness-raising, cultural stigmas around SRH remain challenging.



- Limitations around resources in turn limits the scalability of entrepreneurial ventures: access to start-up capital and advanced tools is a challenge.
- Youth networks are vital: social connections are very important but require structured support for sustainability.

Conclusion



The EASY U25 Project II has made notable strides in empowering vulnerable youth in Uganda. It demonstrates the potential of participatory, evidence-based approaches to amplify impact. However, addressing gaps in funding, mentorship, and SRH stigma will be essential for sustaining and scaling outcomes. This midline evaluation underscores the importance of continuous adaptation to meet youth needs effectively.

CONTACT DETAILS

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