

Why Entrepreneurship Clubs in Uganda?

IDEA4Africa was founded in Rwanda in 2015. Since then we have been successful in training teachers to teach entrepreneurship, starting Entrepreneurship Clubs, running national Seminars inviting the best students in the country to participate, hosting Global Entrepreneurship Week which is the largest convening of innovators and job creators in the world, running a national Entrepreneurship Essay Competition with prize money for the winning students and schools and running Workshops for young entrepreneurs and burgeoning businesses.

We are now scaling our model and expanding into Uganda.

Our first and most powerful goal is to start working with teachers whose reach explodes exponentially each year. We will be training and running Entrepreneurship Clubs aimed at empowering this next generation to become job creators instead of job seekers in an environment where there just aren't enough good jobs.

The Ugandan people are resourceful and have taken to small entrepreneurial ventures both formally and informally for their livelihood. However, due to lack of skills needed to sustain these ventures, GEM estimates that while 10% of the population starts a business every year, about 20% discontinues one at the same time. This heightens the need for organizations like IDEA4Africa to equip youths with skills while they are still in high school and as they exit to start small businesses to support themselves and their communities.

Uganda is considered the world's most entrepreneurial country

Many may be surprised that the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) named Uganda last year the world's most entrepreneurial country. The United States doesn't even make the cut on Inc's ranking of the top ten most entrepreneurial countries in the world. They use a very traditional definition of entrepreneurship: identifying needs and taking the risk to fill that need.

Population explosion leads to innovative thinking

Uganda lists its total early-stage entrepreneurial activity at 35.5% (of adults aged 18-64) compared to 13.8% in the United States. The main reason for such a high percentage of new businesses is the dearth of other options. Like Rwanda, Uganda is having a population explosion of young people entering the job market. There may be 400,000 youths looking for work with only 9,000 established jobs out there.

Young students and entrepreneurs in Uganda could use help in sustaining their businesses

The unfortunate thing is that many of these young businesses do not survive very long. Twenty percent of Ugandans aged 18-64 have also discontinued a business in the past year. What we are seeing is that there is a tremendous need for support of these young entrepreneurs in order to make these ventures sustainable.

Follow what we are doing as we ramp up work in Kampala, and the numerous rural areas around the capital city, with our expansion into Uganda!