

UNESCO China Funds in Trust Project Impact in Uganda: Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) & Makerere University

Dr. Kedrace Turyagyenda

*Permanent Secretary- Ministry of Education and Sports,
Government of Uganda*



Presentation Outline

- 1. Introduction and Uganda's Context**
- 2. A brief about Project (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) - China Funds in Trust (CFIT))**
- 3. How the UNESCO-CFIT project aligns to the Uganda Universities' mandate**
- 4. Project Outputs since 2022 to-date**
- 5. Key gaps from the Labour Market Analysis and Graduate Tracer Studies**
- 6. Key areas of focus**
- 7. Planned activities**
- 8.  Our request**

Uganda's country context and youth unemployment challenge

- Skilling Uganda and achieving a middle income status is the vision 2040 and National Development Plan (NDP) IV focus of the Government of Uganda
- The Government of Uganda has prioritized the creation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) infrastructure in Higher Education Institutions
- Records from the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) indicate that over 54 universities and 207 tertiary institutions produce approximately 700,000 graduates annually for only 90,000 formal employment positions



Introduction: Uganda's country context and youth unemployment challenge

- The unemployment situation is over 60% among youth as a result of mainly from less skilled graduates
- Many graduates come out of institutions but a few get formal jobs: About 87% of the graduates are not able to find jobs
- At least 27% of students in Uganda in institutions of higher learning in science and technology training against the recommended 40%, is a big challenge towards the realization of national objectives



About the Project

- A 3-year project implemented by Mbarara University of Science and Technology (South Western Uganda) and Makerere University (Central Uganda) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports funded by China Funds in Trust Phase III
- Title: **Higher Technical Education in Africa for a Technical and Innovative Workforce**
- 12 Higher Education Institutions are supported and 2 are in Uganda
- **The Institutional Coordinators are Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko (for Mbarara University) and Assoc. Professor Dorothy Okello (for Makerere University).**
- **The National Focal Persons are: Dr. Jane Egau Okou and Mr. Timothy Ssejjoba**
- The focus is to build the capacity of the youths in innovative technical skills as well as interpersonal skills/soft skills



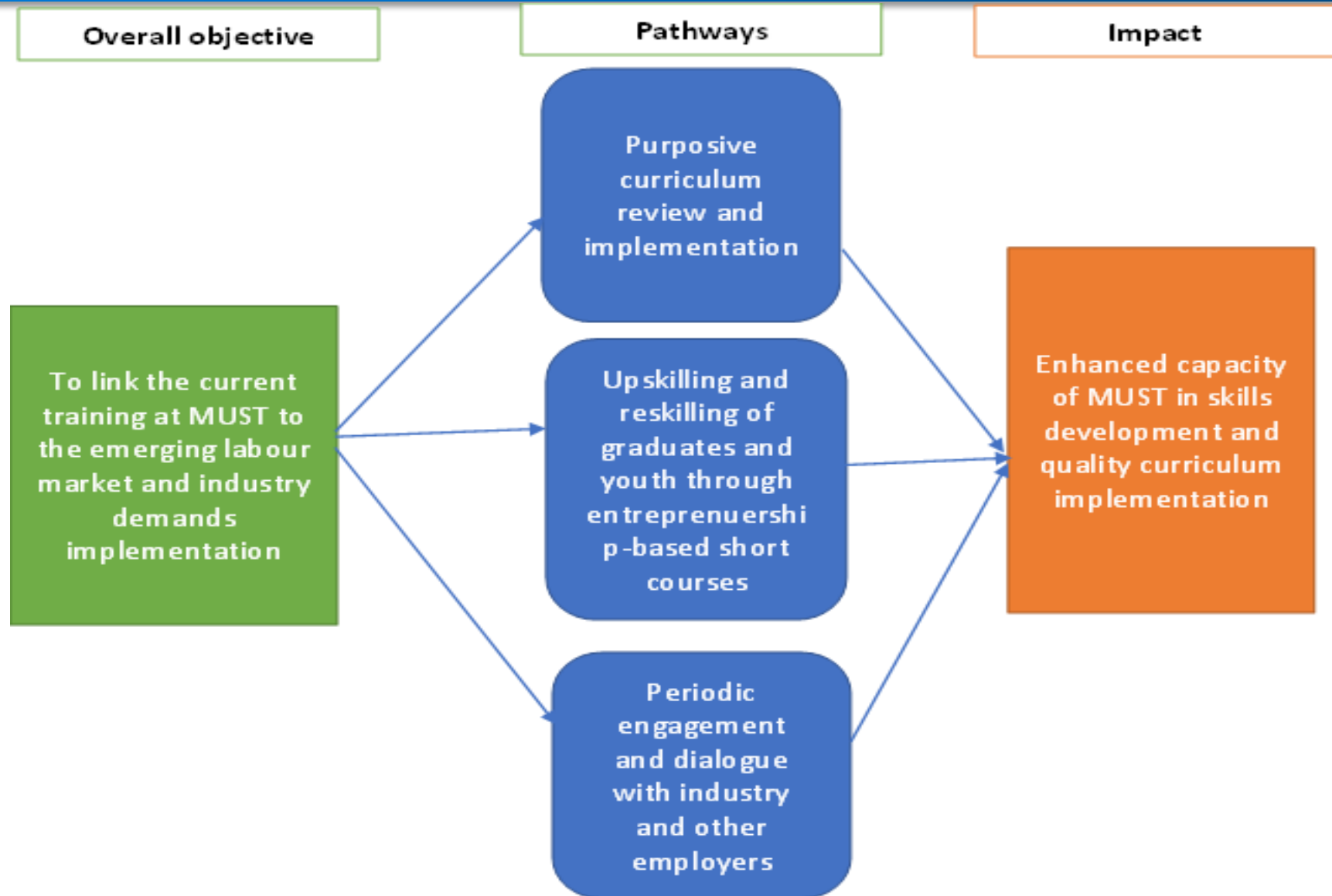
Project outcomes for Uganda -2022 to 2025

- 1. Effective utilization of information from labour market analysis, curriculum review, graduate tracer studies to improve the delivery of technical education**
- 2. Quality and relevance of the curriculum and programmes improved, which meet labour market demands, enhances inclusiveness, and promotes gender equality**
- 3. Improved assessment methods adopted to promote competence-based training**
- 4. Cooperation between Universities and private sector stakeholders strengthened to inform labour market analysis, curriculum review, programme development, assessment reform, and delivery of technical higher education**



How Project fits into the Uganda's Universities' Mandate (Makerere and Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST))	
Strategic objectives	How they fit in the China Funds in Trust (CFIT) Project outcomes
Engaging in excellent innovative research-oriented teaching and learning	Labor market driven curricula and work-based learning opportunities inform the current teaching and training needs
Strengthening the capacity of innovation, skilling and experiential learning, and technology transfer for generate employable graduates	The skilling niche for graduates in Higher Technical Education informs this strategy
Strengthening and integrating Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and support services in all core functions of the university	The suggested innovative training that generate skilled graduates entails ICT as an enabling factor
Enhancing financial resource mobilization and management systems to help in relevant teaching, research and innovation	The funding fits into building the capacity of Mbarara University and Makerere in reviewing its academic programmes, delivery systems, re-engagement of the that can offer relevant education

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)'s Theory of Change under the UNESCO China Funds in Trust (CFIT) Project



Outputs from 2022 to 2025

- Labour market and graduate tracer survey and reports (shared with staff and management to guide curriculum development)
- Reviewed 12 curricula in 2022 to 2025
- 1024 youth students & graduates in soft and hands-on technical skills
- Institutional pedagogy certificate training course and manual, and competence-based framework for the 2 universities
- Trained 490 staff (Deans, Heads of Departments, Faculty Administrators, Quality Assurance committee) on quality curriculum design, implementation and quality assurance – 3 workshops **(including training in green skills)**
- **173 academic staff have been trained and graduated in institutional pedagogy and competence-based education for Mbarara University**
- **Supported the innovation and entrepreneurship capacity of Makerere School of Engineering and Mbarara University**



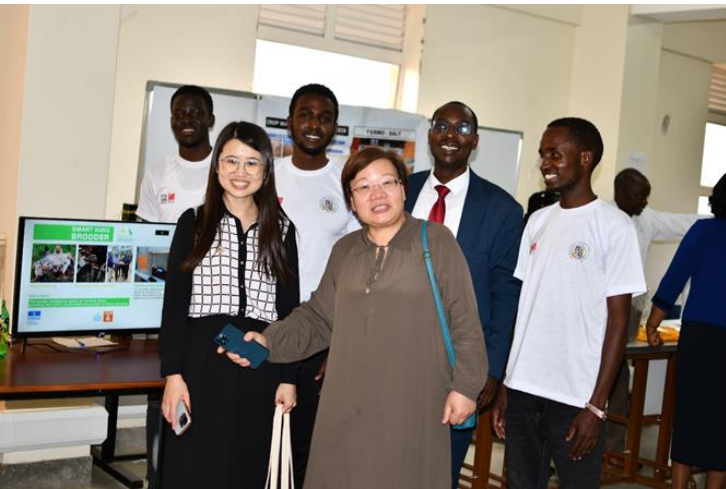
Outputs in 2023- Youth Entrepreneurship based short courses

- Developed 6 Micro-credential short-courses;
 - Bio-organic farming techniques
 - Youth Entrepreneurship Development
 - Innovation & Digital Application Development
 - Herbal and Traditional Medicine
 - Organic Health Drinks (OHD)
 - Institutional Pedagogy and Competence-based Education



Outputs in 2023-2025- Youth Entrepreneurship based short courses

- Supported 10 agro-biotechnology start-ups that are now employing youths and making money (3 female and 7 male-led)
- Have supported 6 innovation exhibitions platforms where university-industry have interfaced. Signed 6 Memorandum of Understanding



Key gaps from the Labour market and graduate tracer study from both Mbarara and Makerere

- **Limited interpersonal skills/soft skills**
- **Limited career guidance for students**
- **Entrepreneurship and innovation skills**
- **Limited time and quality of internship**
- **Limited industry-university linkages e.g guest lecturers**
- **Limited practical skills- almost in all faculties**
- **Limited pedagogical skills- competence-based pedagogy**
- **No purposive needs assessment and graduate tracer studies**

Key areas of focus/flagship products

- **Competence-based framework and curriculum (including assessment methodology and tools) for Uganda**
- **Micro essentials entrepreneurship based short courses (with integration of green skills for green jobs)**
- **Rolling out the institutional pedagogy and competence-based education training to all Universities**
- **Realizing innovation cottage industries at Mbarara University and Makerere University**



Activities planned this year

- **UNESCO training by a consultancy firm—Cadena International Development Projects**
- **National forum- July 29-30,2025 at Makerere**
- **Mop-up plan for Competence-based education training**
- **Certification of the Micro-credentials with Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board (UVTAB)**
- **Green skills competition**
- **Open science and innovation week at Mbarara**
- **Participate in China Funds in Trust (CFIT) IV to scale-up the interventions**



- 1. To consider Uganda for China Funds in Trust IV**
- 2. To consider Mbarara University of Science and Technology, and Makerere University for China Funds in Trust IV to enable the 2 institutions scale-up the interventions to other Higher Education Institutions in Uganda**
- 3. To support the Ministry of Education and Sports in the development and implementation of the National Competence-based Education curriculum for Higher Education Institutions**

Appreciation and acknowledgement

1. UNESCO Fraternity for the financial and technical support
2. The People's Republic of China for the funding
3. The Institutional Coordinators for Mbarara University and Makerere University – Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko and Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Okello for the excellent coordination role
4. The National Focal persons- Dr. Jane Egau Okou and Mr. Timothy Ssejjoba for the National guidance to the two universities
5. Dr. Patience Awopegba for guiding the implementation of the project at the UNESCO regional office in Nairobi
6. The implementation teams and the beneficiaries

Thank you for the support to make Uganda youth employable



unesco

CFIT Annual Meeting 2024

Education
2030