

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS FUND (MAK-RIF)

BI ANNUAL BULLETIN

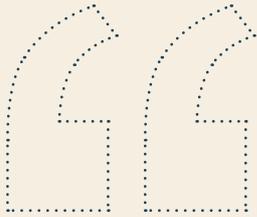
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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



Capacity building remained central to our mandate, evidenced by targeted trainings for public servants and continued investment in PhD research, nurturing the next generation of scholars committed to translating knowledge into impact.

FOREWORD

The first half of the 2025/2026 Financial Year was a period of significant progress, learning, and impact for the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF). Guided by national development priorities and supported by the Government of Uganda, Mak-RIF has continued to strengthen Makerere University's role as a research-led institution whose work responds to real societal, economic, and policy challenges.

During this period, Mak-RIF-supported research generated critical evidence to inform public policy and practice. Notable among these was a collaborative study with the Ministry of Public Service on salary enhancement and teacher performance, which highlighted both gains in motivation among science teachers and emerging inequities affecting arts teachers. Other projects advanced innovation, sustainability, and inclusion ranging from climate-sensitive budgeting for local governments, conservation of medicinal plants, sustainable urban transport solutions, and integrating Kiswahili literacy in vocational skilling for vulnerable youth.

The Fund also made strides in strengthening research uptake and commercialization through strategic partnerships, dissemination engagements,

and the launch of a national knowledge-sharing platform designed to bridge research, policy, industry, and community needs. Capacity building remained central to our mandate, evidenced by targeted trainings for public servants and continued investment in PhD research, nurturing the next generation of scholars committed to translating knowledge into impact. Further, the Mak-RIF Secretariat convened a comprehensive half-year program evaluation meeting to reflect on performance, deepen understanding of impact evaluation and commercialization pathways, and strengthen institutional sustainability through action planning, financial management, and succession planning.

In the second half of the 2025/2026 Financial Year and beyond, Mak-RIF remains committed to supporting high-impact, translatable research and scalable innovations that drive Uganda's development agenda, strengthen evidence-based policymaking, and deliver tangible benefits to communities.

Prof. Fred Masagazi-Masaazi

Chairperson, Mak-RIF Grants Management Committee.

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ABOUT MAK-RIF

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AND MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE STUDY REVEALS IMPACT OF SALARY ENHANCEMENT ON TEACHER PERFORMANCE IN UGANDA.

Mak-RIF funded research highlights disparities between science and arts teachers and their implications for Uganda’s education system.



*The report titled, **Impact of Salary Enhancement on the Performance of Secondary School Teachers in Uganda** being presented to the Minister of Public Service, Hon. Wilson Muruli Mukasa.*

A collaborative study by Makerere University and the Ministry of Public Service has shed new light on how salary enhancement affects the performance of secondary school teachers in Uganda. The study, titled “Impact of Salary Enhancement on the Performance of Secondary School Teachers in Uganda,” was funded by the Government of Uganda through the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF).

The research was prompted by the Government’s 2018 pay policy that significantly increased salaries for science teachers, while arts teachers remained at a lower rate. By 2022, science teachers had achieved 77% of the approved pay target, while that of arts teachers remained at 12%.

A team of researchers led by Dr. Cyprian Misinde, have noted that these disparities have far-reaching implications on the quality of education, the National Development Plan (NDP III Goal 5: Human Capital Development), the emerging NDP IV framework, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced

Inequalities).

Using a mixed methods approach, researchers collected data from 1,352 secondary school teachers (617 science and 735 arts teachers) across 14 sub-regions. This included , 28 key informant interviews with head teachers, alongside 28 focus group discussions (FGDs) with students.

Key Findings:

A Divided Teaching Workforce

The findings paint a stark contrast between science and arts teachers:

Science teachers reported high motivation with 80.5% revealing this level. 76.5% revealed a strong perceived performance, 39.1%

showed greater retention intent (planning to stay until retirement), improved student outcomes (64.5%), and enhanced morale (80.5%). Arts teachers, however, experienced lower motivation (25.5%), reduced performance (17.8%), lower retention (27.5%), weaker student outcomes (15.2%), and diminished morale (26.6%).

Across the board, 85.3% of all teachers agreed that higher salaries improve retention, reaffirming that pay remains a critical driver of teacher performance and commitment.

“While the pay policy has strengthened science education, it has unintentionally widened disparities that could undermine equity and holistic quality education in Uganda,” the report reads in part.

The study also found that salary enhancement alone was not accompanied by proportional investments in other key performance enablers such as school infrastructure, teaching materials, and instructional resources which are equally vital for improved educational outcomes.

Policy Implications and Recommendations

The report cautions that prolonged disparities could lead to growing division between science and arts teachers, teacher demotivation, workforce instability, and uneven student performance, potentially hindering NDP IV’s goal of sustainable human capital growth.

The researchers called for a review of the implementation modalities of the pay policy to minimize salary disparities between science and arts teachers, thereby promoting balance, morale, and fairness across disciplines.

While the emphasis on science aligns with NDP III’s focus on STEM and human capital development, neglecting the arts undermines the holistic learning. Researchers called for an urgent need for balanced reforms to align with NDP IV and SDGs 4&10.

Leaders Weigh In

Speaking at the dissemination of the study, the Minister for Public Service, Hon. Wilson Muruli Mukasa, reaffirmed Government’s commitment to improving teachers’ welfare.

“The Government approved a public pay policy which includes progressive salary enhancement for secondary school teachers, particularly those teaching science subjects,” said Hon. Mukasa. “By FY2025/26, UGX 2.5 trillion has been committed to salary enhancements. However, even among teachers whose salaries were enhanced, some are applying for early retirement and their motivation to teach has declined. This study was hence commissioned to understand the immediate and future impact of this pay reform,” he added.

Hon. Mukasa further noted that the Ministry of Public Service sought technical support from a Mak-RIF-funded project to better appreciate the impact of salary enhancement and to guide future pay reforms.

The State Minister for Gender and Cultural Affairs, Hon. Peace Mutuzo, echoed similar concerns, urging stakeholders to reflect on the challenges within the education sector and prioritize strategies that ensure equity and sustainability.

Strengthening Collaboration Between Makerere University and Government

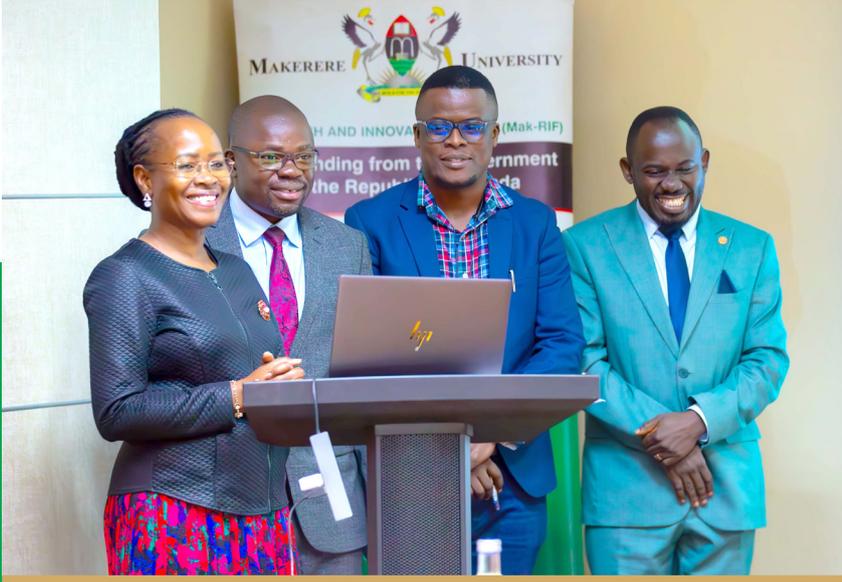
The study is one of the first results of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in January 2024 between Makerere University and the Ministry of Public Service.

According to Prof. Robert Wamala, a member of the Mak-RIF Grants Management Committee, the partnership is a strategy to strengthen evidence-based policy and governance.

“The MoU between Makerere University and the Ministry of Public Service is collaborative journey which forges a stronger bond between academia and Government for the greater good of society,” said Prof. Wamala.

Through the MoU, Makerere University and the Ministry of Public Service have committed to joint research projects, policy-oriented studies, data management and dissemination, capacity building, curriculum development, and monitoring and evaluation of collaborative initiatives.

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES KNOWLEDGE-SHARING PLATFORM TO DRIVE INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Left to Right: Prof. Sarah Ssali, Prof. Ibrahim Mike Okumu, Mr. David Kisitu and Dr. Peter Babyenda at the launch of the Platform.

On 19th December 2025, Makerere University launched a knowledge-sharing platform designed to bridge research, education, and community outreach, with the aim of accelerating innovation and economic development in Uganda.

The platform is the outcome of a project led by Prof. Edward Bbaale, which examined how universities can translate research, innovations, and institutional capabilities into tangible impact for communities, businesses, and national economic growth, in line with the government's tenfold growth agenda. The project was funded by the Government of Uganda through the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF).

The study also explored how university-based research and innovation can be better aligned with Uganda's development priorities in agriculture, tourism, mineral-based industrialization, and science and technology, as outlined in the Fourth National

Development Plan (NDP IV).

Speaking at the launch, the First Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Prof. Sarah Ssali, said the platform would strengthen the link between academic research and societal transformation. She also noted that knowledge production and utilization is a political matter and urged researchers to meaningfully engage and participate in such conversations.

Dr. Stephen Wandera, representing the Chairperson of the Mak-RIF Grants Management Committee, described the platform as timely and relevant, noting that it comes at a period when University is positioning itself as a research-led institution with measurable impact on communities and systems.

"The knowledge-sharing platform will enable researchers to disseminate their work to relevant audiences," Dr. Wandera said. He added that dissemination workshops are among several

avenues available for sharing research findings and urged the project team to explore additional channels, including policy briefs, academic publications, and online dialogue platforms.

He added that the Directorate supports initiatives that move research beyond academic boundaries into practical application, policy influence, enterprise development, and community impact.

Dr. Peter Babyenda, the project's Co-Principal Investigator, said the initiative combined research, outreach, and capacity-building activities, drawing lessons from global models where universities play a direct role in community development by supporting agriculture, industry, and the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Dean of the School of Economics, Prof. Ibrahim Michael Okumu, observed that while Uganda's universities have produced substantial research, its translation into practical outcomes has remained slow. He cautioned that Makerere University's relevance will ultimately be measured by the extent to which its work contributes to national development.

Dr. Babyenda noted that the platform will support the development of sustainable research, education, and outreach systems, helping to bridge the gap between university research and real-world application.

"As we launch this platform, I

encourage academics, students, industry players, policymakers, and communities to actively engage with it," Prof. Wamala said. "Let it serve as a living space for dialogue, learning, co-creation, and innovation."

The knowledge-sharing platform is accessible to the public at www.dissemination.ug. Its launch took place at Sheraton Hotel in Kampala and was attended by officials from Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Gulu

University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Busitema University, and Soroti University.

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY CONDUCTS TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN CLIMATE-SENSITIVE BUDGETING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



A one-day training aimed at enhancing the capacity of Local Government public servants in natural capital accounting and climate-sensitive budgeting brought together researchers from Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) and Local Government officials from the districts of Bukomansimbi, Lyantonde, Masaka, Kalangala, Kalungu, Lwengo, Sembabule, Kyotera, and Rakai.

The training, which was held at Brovad Hotel in Masaka City on 13th January 2026, was officially opened by Prof. Fred Masagazi-Masaazi, Chairperson of the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF) Grants Management Committee. In his remarks, Prof. Masagazi-Masaazi emphasized the importance of budgeting for natural resources, noting that sustainable management of environmental assets is critical for effective service delivery and long-term development.

He commended Prof. Edward Bbaale, the Project Principal Investigator, and the research team for successfully organizing the training and reaching a key project milestone. Prof. Masagazi-Masaazi also acknowledged Makerere University management for fostering a supportive environment for research and innovation through funding mobilization and infrastructure development, as well as the Government of Uganda for continued financial support to research, innovations, and capacity development that meet Uganda's development agenda.

While presenting the project overview, Dr. Peter Babyenda,

the Co-Principal Investigator and Policy Coordinator at CoBAMS, noted that the project addresses the urgent challenge of climate change. He highlighted that many Ugandans depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods, making it essential for public servants to understand the economic value of these resources. He further observed that Local Government officials are frontline actors in safeguarding natural capital but often lack the tools and skills required for climate-sensitive planning and budgeting.

Dr. Babyenda also noted that inadequate technical capacity has contributed to the unsustainable

conversion of forests, wetlands, and other natural assets for agriculture, settlement, and infrastructure. By strengthening decision-making at the local level, the training aims to reduce environmental degradation, improve climate resilience, and promote sustainable development.

According to Prof. Masagazi-Masaazi, the initiative marks the beginning of stronger collaboration between Makerere University and Local Governments and provides a platform for dialogue aimed at improving service delivery across districts and municipalities.

“Our hope as Mak-RIF is that this training will significantly enhance technical capacities at the Local Government level, strengthen Uganda’s resilience to climate change, promote sustainable development, and support evidence-based decision-making in the management of natural resources,” said Prof. Masagazi-Masaazi.

Participants received hands-on training in environmental

valuation, natural capital accounting, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and climate-sensitive budgeting, with a strong focus on practical application.

“Natural resources and climate sensitive budgeting are not simple phenomenon. This training has been eye opening and has provided us with deeper understanding of different concepts and best practices,” Ms. Rose Nakyejwe, Natural Resources Officer, Masaka District Local Government.

About the training

The training is part of a Mak-RIF funded needs based project titled *“Retooling Local Government Public Servants in Natural Capital Accounting and Climate-Sensitive Budgeting in Uganda.”* It was developed in response to findings from a survey conducted by the Environment for Development Initiative (EfD-Mak Center) in 2023, which revealed that 97.5% of Uganda’s environmental officers lack adequate skills and competencies which are considered

critical for sustainable resource management and evidence-based policymaking. Such skills include environmental valuation, natural capital accounting, and climate change adaptation.

The project has rolled out intensive regional training across Uganda targeting Local Government public servants and equipping them with practical skills in environmental valuation, natural capital accounting, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and climate-sensitive budgeting.

The initiative aligns with Uganda’s Vision 2040, the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), and global Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 8, 13, and 15. With nearly 40 percent of Ugandan households relying on climate-sensitive subsistence agriculture, stakeholders emphasized that building local capacity is essential for balancing economic growth with environmental protection.



Mr. Moses Mawejje, the Spokesperson of the Uganda Taxi Operators Federation speaking during a project dissemination workshop at Makerere Business School.

PRIVATE TRANSPORTERS READY FOR PARTNERSHIP TO DECONGEST KAMPALA

To tackle congestion, the Government of Uganda is planning an electric metro rail system, while encouraging operators to adopt electric motorcycles and buses for both commercial and personal use. Moses Mawejje, the spokesperson of the Uganda Taxi Operators Federation (UTOF), which claims over 100,000 members nationwide, welcomed the shift towards electric transport.

In a research project led by Dr. Ismael Nkambwe, the Principal Investigator at Makerere University Business School (MUBS), alongside Ass. Prof. Saadat Kimuli Nakyejwe, Dr. Eng. Ismail K. Kiiza (Makerere CEDAT) and graduate researcher Nashua Nabaggala, researchers found that Kampala lacks a unified urban transport policy to guide sustainable solutions.

Prof. Kimuli explained that their research used a mixed-method design, combining commuter

surveys with stakeholder interviews and quantitative modelling. Over 350 commuters and operators from the districts of Kampala, Mukono, Mpigi, and Luwero participated in the survey, while over 25 stakeholders including Safeboda, UTOF, KCCA, NEMA, and Uganda Railways

Corporation, shared perspectives on readiness and integration.

Key findings showed that informal sectors, such as taxi and bodaboda associations, view the metro as a complementary rather than competing service. They expressed willingness to integrate into a

multi-modal system if engaged and supported. Representing the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), Julius Sernjogi, manager of the central region industrial parks, revealed that Namanve alone receives over 1,000 trucks daily serving 400 industries.



Launching the manual on integrating Kiswahili in vocational skilling among vulnerable youth in Uganda, Mrs. Phoebe Lutaaya Kanya (C), Mak-RIF's Deputy Coordinator commended the project team for their output, and challenged them to champion the establishment of centres for the young people to learn the Kiswahili language.

INTEGRATING KISWAHILI LITERACY IN VOCATIONAL SKILLING AMONG VULNERABLE YOUTHS IN UGANDA

By New Vision

A study by Makerere University's College of Education and External Studies has revealed that language barriers are stifling economic opportunities for skilled youth, even as programmes like Presidential Industrial Hubs and YES Empowerment Services equip them with technical expertise.

Despite significant investments in vocational training, Ugandan youth are being sidelined in East Africa's booming regional trade markets due to a critical shortfall: The inability to speak Kiswahili.

The gap in vocational training

While Uganda's vocational initiatives have empowered thousands with skills in tailoring, mechanics, and agriculture, Kiswahili- the language of cross border commerce- is absent from vocational education curricula.

"Youth are trained but blocked at the border by language," says Dr. Levi Masereka, the principal investigator.

The research, conducted in Kasese and other regions, uncovered systemic flaws:

- No standardized Kiswahili syllabus in vocational institutions.
- Inadequate teaching materials: 80% of learners lacked trade-specific resources.
- Poor instruction: Part-time teachers provided just two hours of weekly Kiswahili, often using outdated secondary school notes.

A benchmarking trip to Tanzania showcased contrasts. Institutions like BAKITA and the Institute of Kiswahili Research offered tailored materials for trades like plumbing and hospitality, resources virtually non-existent in Uganda.

Kiswahili for the workplace

To bridge the gap, researchers developed: Kiswahili Halisi kwa Vituo na Vyuo vya Ufundi, an illustrated manual integrating technical vocabulary and real-world scenarios.

Over 51 institutions now use the textbook which covers:

- Trade-specific terms for mechanics, hospitality, and agriculture.
- Role-play exercise for client negotiations and service delivery.
- Content validated by Tanzanian experts and Uganda's education authorities.

Completing the manual, 50+ youth have undergone intensive training in "business Kiswahili,"

mastering communication for sales, marketing, and cross border transactions. “We are not just teaching language—we are teaching economic empowerment,” instructor Edward Baluku said.

Calls for action

Despite Kiswahili’s status as an EAC official language, Uganda lags in institutionalising it in vocational

facilities. Researchers have called for:

- Mandatory Kiswahili in vocational curricula.
- Recruitment of full-time, specialized instructors in vocational institutions.
- Digital tools and apps to scale learning access.
- A national task force (MoES,

NCDC, DIT) to align training with regional trade goals.

Professor Kiggundu Muhammad Musoke, head of Makerere’s humanities and languages education, said: “Kiswahili must be embedded in vocational studies to unlock economic participation.”

Researchers from the Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology, and Biotechnology at the College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS), Makerere University have highlighted the urgent need to conserve medicinal plants in the face of increasing threats from climate change, overharvesting, and habitat destruction.

Despite Namutumba District’s rich diversity of medicinal plants, conservation efforts are limited, and several species are already classified as globally and nationally threatened. This highlights the urgent need for focused conservation strategies to safeguard these vulnerable medicinal plants.

Under a project titled “Knowledge, Attitudes, and Conservation of Commonly Traded Medicinal Plants in a Climate-Changing Environment in Eastern Uganda,” a team of researchers led by Dr. Patience Tugume documented 174 medicinal plant species. The goal was to assess the existential threats facing these plants due to unsustainable harvesting practices and the lack of effective conservation measures. These species are widely used to treat various

MAKERERE RESEARCHERS CALL FOR URGENT CONSERVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN EASTERN UGANDA

By Hasifa Kabajja



Dr. Patience Tugume (standing), the project’s Principal Investigator addressing the workshop participants on the key research findings.

health conditions, including malaria, syphilis, diabetes, hypertension, and certain cancers. The findings of the study are intended to guide the development of species-specific, evidence-based interventions to curb possible extinction and loss of medicinal plant resources.

Research Findings

The research revealed troubling trends in the availability of key medicinal plants, including:

- The herbalists mostly collected their medicinal plants from bushlands (92.0%), markets (82.3%) and wetlands (74.7%)

and were rarely cultivated. This is of great concern regarding the conservation and future availability of these resources.

- It was noted that 36% of the herbal products were made from roots, which presents a conservation threat since the heavy utilization of roots affects the regeneration of the medicinal plants.
- Common plants used were: *Kigelia Africana* (Naibere), *Erythrina abyssinica* (Ekiyirikiti) and *Geranium saueolens* (Lokowe). *Kigelia Africana* was the most cited species by the herbalists, indicating heavy utilization

and a high conservation threat if deliberate measures are not taken to ensure its future availability.

- iv. Majority of respondents (289, 96.3%) acknowledged a considerable decline in the availability of 13 medicinal plants species including *Aloe wollestonii* (Ekigagi), *Commiphora Africana* (Nkulidho), *Myrica kandtiana* (Mukikimbo) and *Acacia sieberiana* (Mufundawuzi).
- v. Four plant species i.e. *Tamarindus indica* (Enkoge), *Warburgia ugandensis* (Balwegira), *Mitragyna rubrastipulata* (Mutamatama) and *Mondia whitei* (Mulondo) appear on the Red List of Globally and Nationally

Threatened Species and were mentioned among the plants whose population has greatly declined.

- vi. The causes of decline in availability of medicinal plants included climate change, overharvesting, agricultural expansion, habitat destruction, land use change and inadequate regulations.
- vii. There were no medicinal plant conservation efforts by herbalists.

Recommendations

- i. The study recommended the following practices to ensure conservation of the medicinal plants:
- ii. Promote the use of sustainable harvesting techniques to

ensure conservation of medicinal plants.

- iii. Conduct capacity building for stakeholders in the medicinal plants sector on conservation, value addition and standardization.
- iv. Establish community botanical gardens raw plant collection and sensitization programmes.
- v. Advocate for agroforestry among herbalists to reduce the dependence on natural habitats.
- vi. Develop and enforce regulations on accessing natural areas for medicinal plants.
- vii. Promote conservation awareness campaigns. Read more here.

USING A RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS ACADEMY TO COORDINATE RESEARCH PRODUCTS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A new initiative hosted at Muteesa I Royal University (MRU) in Mengo, Kampala District has aimed to position research and innovation as catalysts for national and global development. Central to the project is the establishment of a Research and Innovations Academy which functions as a hub for coordinating research outputs including publications, innovative products, and patents and channeling them toward real-world problem-solving.

The Academy brings together experts from multiple disciplines, fostering collaboration between local and international researchers. By strengthening Uganda's capacity to generate knowledge-driven innovations, the initiative seeks to contribute to socio-economic transformation, inform policy, and promote sustainable development.

Lessons Learned

1. Strong Alignment With Global and Regional Frameworks Enhances Legitimacy
2. Multidisciplinary Collaboration Is Essential but Requires Structured Coordination
3. There Is High Demand for a Centralized Research Coordination Hub
4. Capacity Gaps Limit the Translation of Research Into Tangible Innovations
5. Infrastructure and Resource Limitations Slow Down Implementation
6. Partnerships and Networks Are Critical for Impact and
7. Awareness and Visibility Are Key to Attracting Researchers and Stakeholders

Researchers, led by Dr. Simon Nantamu have recommended the development of a Robust



Participants during the dissemination of a project titled, "Establishing a research and innovations academy to coordinate researchers and their research products for national development" on 26th November 2025 at Muteesa I Royal University

Institutional Framework for the Academy, continuous Investment in Capacity-Building for Researchers, and Enhanced Partnerships at Local, Regional, and International Levels.

MAK-RIF EMPOWERS PHD STUDENTS TO TURN RESEARCH INTO REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS

Research and innovations are at the heart of Makerere University's vision and mission. This is especially evident in its steady advancement towards becoming a research-led University.

To date, Mak-RIF has supported 235 PhD students with funding, and over 100 publications in peer reviewed journals. For PhD students at Makerere University, the journey from research concept to real-world impact is increasingly becoming a reality. Mak-RIF provides financial resources that allow them to focus on innovative research addressing pressing societal needs such as improving healthcare systems, advancing technological solutions, and policy reforms among others. Ultimately, Mak-RIF-backed projects are helping bridge the gap between academic research and community impact.

“The PhD Award plays a critical role in building research capacity and nurturing the next generation of scholars. Our goal is to empower PhD students to translate ideas into practical solutions in areas such as health, technology, agriculture,



Dr. Crispus Kiyonga (R), Chancellor Makerere University awarding Ms. Hilda Mpirirwe (L), a PhD during the University's 75th graduation ceremony in January 2025. Dr. Hilda Mpirirwe is one of the beneficiaries of the Mak-RIF PhD award.

and social development,” says Dr. Roy William Mayega, Mak-RIF Coordinator.

19 out of the 143 PhD Graduands during the 75th Graduation

Ceremony held in January 2025 at Makerere University were Mak-RIF PhD grantees. In February 2026, 18 Mak-RIF PhD grantees were awarded their degrees. These include the following.

Mak-RIF PhD Awardees who Graduated in February 2026

	Name	College/School	Thesis title
1.	Atuhaire Privah	CAES	Behavior change communication strategies for use of water and sanitation facilities in selected secondary schools in Kanungu and Wakiso district
2.	Fred Shimali	CAES	Women empowerment and children's dietary diversity in Iganga and Bugiri districts
3.	Samuel Kalimunjaye	CAES	Scaling out of research innovation in cassava seed system in Uganda
4.	Innocent Hope Tinka Mukama	CAES	Safety of ready-to-eat foods in highway tourist stopover food service establishments in Uganda
5.	Cherotich Harriet	CAES	Prosects of Reducing Vulnerabilities of Communities in Post Disaster Resettlement, A Case of Bunambutye Camp Eastern Uganda
6.	Nampijja Zaina	CAES	Vulnerability of Indigenous chicken scavenging production system to climate variability
7.	Nkurunziza Gelase	CAES	Breeding for biological nitrogen fixation efficiency in cowpea

8.	Fred Shimali	CAES	Influence of Women Empowerment and use of ICTs for Improvement of Children's Dietary Diversity in Eastern Uganda
9.	Moses Tuhame Kamondo	CoCIS	A model for career selection enhancement systems: A case of Ugandan secondary school students
10.	MUINDA Patrick Emmanuel	COCIS	A Model for Digitization Projects in Ugandan Technical Institutions: An Agency Theory Perspective
11.	Andrew Gahwera Tumusiime	CoCIS	Machine learning models for short-term rainfall prediction using Uganda's Lake Victoria basin weather dataset
12.	Joseph Wamema	CoCIS	Enterprise architecture approach to standardising digital health across Uganda's health system
13.	Zula Namubiru	CEES	Fishers' way of learning: A participatory action research AT Kigungu ground on Make Victoria
14.	Rukia Nakintu	CEES	Exploring the Role of School Busing in ECD Schools in Kampala and Wakiso Districts
15.	Sophia Geera	CEES	Examining curriculum alignment for graduate employability: A qualitative study of selected undergraduate programmes at Makerere University, Kampala
16.	Justine Injikuru	CEES	Internal marketing and the job performance of academic staff in public universities in Uganda
17.	Geoffrey Kiyingi	CEES	Evaluation of Approaches to Values Education: A case of Primary Science Teachers in selected Schools in Luweero District.
18.	Lwanga Jordan Byekwaso	CEES	Towards an inclusive higher education system for non-traditional students in Uganda, a case of Makerere University
19.	Aim'e Fide'le Ndayishimiye	SoL	An Examination of the Effectiveness of the East African Court of Justice in the Adjudication of Civil and Political Right Cases
20.	Herbert Kayiga	CHS	Effectiveness, acceptability, and uptake of early versus standard intrauterine contraception following provision of first trimester medical post abortion care in central Uganda
21.	Lwere Kamada	CHS	Gut microbiome composition, immune response, and genetic predisposition to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in a Ugandan population
22.	Joy Loiuse Gumukiriza	CHS	Cultural Adaptation and evaluation of the WHO iSupport intervention for reduction of psychological distress among Caregivers of older persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) in Uganda
23.	Nalwanga Damalie	CHS	"severe Pneumonia In Children: The Ability Of Body Composition To Predict Survival, And The Effect Of Nutritional Supplementation On Outcomes"
24.	Ali Kudamba	CHS	Anti-cancer activity and safety of Rhoicissus Tridentata (L.F.) Wild & R.B. Drumm. As used in the treatment of prostate cancer in Elgon sub region, Uganda
25.	Phillip Ssekamatte	CHS	Immune responses to latent tuberculosis infection and tuberculosis preventive therapy among adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus in Uganda
26.	Jimmy Chaciga	CoNAS	Development of solar thermal energy storage technology for off-grid cooking applications
27.	Zirintunda Gerald	CoVAB	Efficacy And Safety Of Medicinal Plants Used In Control Of Chicken Helminths In Soroti District, Uganda
28.	Peter Sekandi	CoNAS	Structural elucidation, antibacterial, antioxidant, and toxicity of compounds from selected Ugandan medicinal plants used in treating bacterial skin infections
29.	Collins Atuheire	CoVAB	Sympatric epidemiology of rabies in human settlements contiguous to selected wildlife reserves in Uganda
30.	Dickson Tayebwa	CoVAB	Roaming dogs in Uganda: Dog ownership practices, public health implications, community attitudes and control strategies in selected urban and rural settings
31.	Harriet Aber Odonga	SPH	Substance use among children in Mbale, Uganda: Health system landscape and support structures
32.	David Lubogo	SPH	Metabolic Syndrome in Females of Reproductive Age: Associated Factors and Effects of a Community-Based Lifestyle Intervention in Wakiso District, Central Uganda
33.	Olivia Nakisita	SPH	Maternal health services for adolescent refugees in urban settings in Uganda: Access, Utilisation, and Health Facility Readiness
34.	Hajira Birungi	CoBAMS	Entrepreneurial eco-system pillars, competitive advantage and performance of manufacturing SMEs in Uganda
35.	Kim Christine Atuhairwe	CoBAMS	Health-related quality of life, viral load suppression and survival among older persons living with HIV in Uganda

36.	Musa Ssenanda	CoBAMS	Islamic Financing, Governance And Poverty Mitigation: An Analysis Of Countries Benefiting From Islamic Development Bank.
37.	Linda Ismene Apon	CoBAMS	Internal control systems, leadership style, cash flow management behaviour and sustainability of small and medium enterprises in Uganda
38.	Jordan Paul Ssemwanga	CoBAMS	Crop production and welfare effects of sludge manure adoption among rural households in the selected districts of central Uganda
39.	BettyTuhaise Tumuhirwe	CoBAMS	Bond market development, government effectiveness, private sector participation, and infrastructure development in Africa
40.	Musa Kiggwe	MUBS	Food consumption behavior of the youth in Uganda
41.	Safiki Ainomugisha	CEDAT	Green engineered nanoparticles from sugarcane biomass waste as supplementary cementitious materials
42.	David Martin Amitu	CEDAT	Radio resource management and scheduling for machine type communications
43.	Ronald Jjagwe	CEDAT	A model commercialization framework for technological innovations in Uganda
44.	Derrick Kajjoba	CEDAT	Assessment of thermal comfort, air quality and energy performance of naturally ventilated residential buildings in Kampala city, Uganda
45.	Henry Fenekansi Kiwumulo	CEDAT	MRI aided nanoparticle drug release in Leukemia treatment
46.	Sheila Ndoboli Mugala	CEDAT	Performance analysis of an aerial assisted cellular network
47.	Catherine Namuga	CEDAT	Development of a bioactive gauze dressing functionalized with herb-loaded nanoparticles to facilitate wound healing
48.	Ssemuddu Jeffy Briton	CEDAT	Advancing safety and sustainability through occupational, safety, health, and environment integration in Uganda's cement manufacturing industry
49.	Godfrey Mario Wangi	CEDAT	Development of zeolite-based nanocomposite materials for removal of toxic metals and Escherichia Coli from water
50.	Denis Tushabomwe	CHUSS	The impact of agricultural market liberalisation and commercialization on gender relations in Uganda's smallholder crop value chains: A case of white potatoes in Rubanda district
51.	Gimono E. Munira Ali	CHUSS	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of deaf women and girls in Uganda
52.	Clare Cheromoi	CHUSS	Integrating political corruption in post independence Uganda: Manifestations, Causes, and Anti-corruption responses 1962-2017
53.	Deogratias Arinaitwe Ruyendo	CHUSS	From print to digital evolution, adoption and contribution of epapers in the ugandan press
54.	Mutuzo Irene Esther	CHUSS	Usability context and adoption of human capital management systems in Uganda's public universities: Application of the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology
55.	Bob Denis Odongo	CHUSS	Access to livelihood assets, adaptive strategies and livelihood outcomes among refugees in Bidibidi settlement, Uganda
56.	Emmy Rwomushana	CHUSS	Discourse, gender, and power: A critical analysis of Runyankore-Rukiga marriage songs among the Bakiga
57.	Tushabomwe Denis	CHUSS	The impact of agricultural market liberalization and commercialization on gender relations in Uganda's smallholder crop value chains: A case of white potatoes in Rubanda district

Beneficiaries of Mak-RIF's PhD Award describe the fund as more than financial support. It offers validation, visibility, and confidence for young researchers seeking to make meaningful contributions in their fields. By prioritizing innovation and relevance, Mak-RIF builds a strong pipeline of researchers equipped to influence policy, industry, and academia in Uganda and beyond.

Prof. Masagazi-Masaazi, Chairperson of the Mak-RIF Grants Management Committee applauded Makerere University's Management for prioritizing research and innovations and appreciated the Government of the Republic of Uganda for continuously funding research and innovations through Mak-RIF.

The PhD Research Grants are only open to students who have been approved for full registration at Makerere University. Particular attention is paid to ideas that have clear potential for scalability to drive development.

HALF YEAR PROGRAM EVALUATION MEETING STRENGTHENS COLLABORATION, LEARNING, AND STRATEGIC IMPACT



The Mak-RIF Secretariat during a three-day half year program evaluation meeting that took place from 10th - 12th December 2025.

In December 2025, the Mak-RIF Secretariat held a comprehensive half year program evaluation meeting to reflect, learn, and plan for the second half of the financial year. The three-day evaluation opened with a session on breaking the ice and building trust, creating an open and collegial environment that encouraged

active participation throughout the meeting. Participants reviewed the Fund's half-year performance against its work plan, highlighting achievements, identifying gaps, and discussing practical solutions to emerging challenges.

The meeting also deepened understanding of core strategic areas, including impact evaluation for Mak-RIF and the pathway to commercialization of research

grants, ensuring participants appreciate how research outputs can move beyond academia to generate real-world value. Another major focus was on personal financial management and succession planning which strengthened individual and institutional capacity, emphasizing sustainability and long-term leadership development.

PICTORIAL



On 5th November 2025, Mak-RIF hosted a strategic engagement meeting with the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA). The meeting is a critical milestone in strengthening collaboration between academia and industry to accelerate the commercialization of research and innovations emerging from Makerere University.

Mak-RIF participated in the 2025 Annual East Africa Public Relations Week in Arusha, Tanzania under the theme, "Strengthening Government and Citizen Trust in East Africa: The Strategic Role of Public Relations."



Participants during the dissemination of a project titled, "Population, Health and Environment for Uganda's refugee and host communities" at the Institute of Gender on 22nd August 2025. The research was led by Prof. Sarah Ssali.

At a dissemination of a project on "Developing a Sustainable Business Model for Organic Chicken Urban Farming," researchers led by Dr. Samuel Kabbera demonstrated how they are transforming traditional chicken farming into commercial, organic businesses. The dissemination took place in Wakiso district on 23rd September 2025.





Makerere University School of Public Health held dissemination workshops in Mubende (15th October) and Kasanda District (16th October 2025) to share findings from the study titled "From COVID-19 to Ebola: Lessons on Maintenance of Essential Health Services and Implementation of Public Health and Social Measures." This study, supported by Government of Uganda Mak-RIF, compared disruptions to essential health services (EHS) during the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent 2022 Ebola outbreak in the districts, drawing on HMIS data between 2018 and 2023 and insights from 30 key informant interviews and 10 focus group discussions.



At an inception workshop for a project titled, Exploring the option for coexistence of Mabira Forest and the booming economic activity, stakeholders including National Forestry Authority, National Agricultural Research Organization, National Environment Management Authority, Nature Uganda, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Buikwe & Wakiso district leaders, Makerere University, and others gathered to provide insights on the methodology of the study. The workshop, led by Principal Investigator, Prof. Ibrahim Okumu, took place in Makerere on 28th October 2025.

PICTORIAL

Articles

Expulsion and continuation rates between early and standard intrauterine contraception following medical management of first trimester incomplete abortions in central Uganda: a non-inferiority, open-label, randomised controlled trial

Herbert Kayiga, Emelie Looft-Trägårdh, Othman Kakaire, Amanda Cleve, Joseph Rujumba, Musa Sekikubo, Nazarius Mbona Tumweigye, Josephat Byamugisha, Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson



scientific reports

OPEN Metabolic dysfunction impairs *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*-specific cytokine and chemokine responses in latent tuberculosis and type 2 diabetes mellitus

Phillip Ssekamatta^{1,2,3}, Diana Sitenda¹, Rose Nabatanzi¹, Gyaviira Nkurunungi^{2,3}, Marjorie Nakibulele⁴, Davis Kibirige⁵, Andrew Peter Kyazze⁶, David Patrick Kateete⁷, Bernard Ssentato Bagaya⁸, Obondo James Sande⁹, Reinout van Crevel¹⁰, Stephen Coose¹¹ & Irene Andia Biraro¹²

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Cleaner and Circular Bioeconomy



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Sustainability and the role of policy regulations in agro-processing small and medium enterprises in Uganda

Samuel Kabbera, Jude Thaddeo Mugarura, Anthony Tibaingana, Yusuf Kiwala

Makerere University Uganda, College of Business and Management Sciences, School of Business, Department of Marketing and Management, P.O. BOX 7062 Kampala, Uganda

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE Perceptions of women and their partners on postabortion intrauterine contraception: A qualitative study in central Uganda

Herbert Kayiga^{1*}, Emelie Looft-Trägårdh², Othman Kakaire³, Nazarius Mbona Tumweigye⁴, Musa Sekikubo⁵, Joseph Rujumba⁶, Josephat Byamugisha⁷, Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson⁸

¹ Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda, ² Department of Women's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet, and WHO Collaborating Centre, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, ³ Makerere University School of Public Health, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda, ⁴ Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda

* hkayiga@gmail.com



Nabatanzi et al. BMC Veterinary Research (2025) 21:551
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12917-025-05008-z>

BMC Veterinary Research

RESEARCH

Open Access

Knowledge and practices of traditional treatment of chicken diseases using medicinal plants by indigenous communities in Najjembe sub-county, Buikwe district central Uganda

Alice Nabatanzi¹, Samuel Baker Obakiro^{2,3}, Abdul Walusansa⁴, Nambija Cissy⁴ and Godwin Anywar^{1,6}

MATHEWS

Research Article

Mathews Journal of Nutrition & Dietetics

Development of a Photographic Figure-rating Scale for Detection of Wasting Among Infants 9-12 Months in Buyende, Uganda

Hedwig Acham^{1*}, Richard Kajura², Richard Bukonya³, Esther Babirekere⁴, Mathew Mwenyi⁴

¹ Department of Food Technology and Nutrition, Makerere University, Uganda

² School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda

³ Mwanamugima Nutrition Unit, Ministry of Health, Uganda

⁴ School of Biomedical Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Uptake of intrauterine contraception after medical management of first trimester incomplete abortion: A cross-sectional study in central Uganda

Herbert Kayiga^{1*}, Emelie Looft-Trägårdh², Amanda Cleve³, Othman Kakaire⁴, Nazarius Mbona Tumweigye⁵, Musa Sekikubo⁶, Joseph Rujumba⁷, Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson⁸, Josephat Byamugisha⁹

¹ Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda, ² Department of Women's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet, and WHO Collaborating Centre, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, ³ Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, ⁴ Makerere University School of Public Health, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda, ⁵ Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda

* hkayiga@gmail.com



PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Healthcare providers' perceptions on post abortion intrauterine contraception: A qualitative study in central Uganda

Herbert Kayiga^{1*}, Emelie Looft-Trägårdh², Amanda Cleve³, Othman Kakaire⁴, Nazarius Mbona Tumweigye⁵, Josephat Byamugisha⁶, Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson⁷

¹ Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda, ² Department of Women's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet, and WHO Collaborating Centre, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, ³ Makerere University School of Public Health, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda

* hkayiga@gmail.com



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Pharmaceutics, Drug Delivery and Pharmaceutical Technology
Research Article

Excipient properties of alkalized *Manihot esculenta* peel

Ronald Kayiwa^{1*}, Moses Kigozi², Hillary Kasende³, John B. Kirabira⁴

¹ Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, Design, Art, and Technology, Makerere University, P.O. BOX 7062, Kampala, Uganda

² Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, and Education, Business University, P.O. BOX 296, Tororo, Uganda



WJARR

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Cross Ref DOI: 10.30574/wjarr

Journal homepage: <https://wjarr.com/>

(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



A penal data analysis on the effects of climate variations on malaria incidences among children 0-5 years in Uganda

George Robert Okello^{1*}, Robert Wamala², Hellen Namaweje³, Martin Mbonye Kayitale⁴ and Herbert Susan Sendege⁵

¹ Department of Population Studies, College of Business and Management Sciences, Makerere University, P. O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda

² Directorate of Research, Innovations and Partnership, Makerere University, P. O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda

³ Department of Statistical Methods, College of Business and Management Sciences, Makerere University, P. O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda

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Analysing the coping and adaptive strategies for Refugees in Swinga, Zone 2, in Bidibidi settlement, Yumbe District in Uganda.

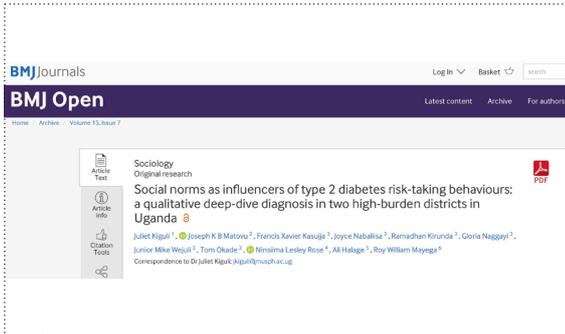
Published: Jul 27, 2025

DOI: 10.4314/ajds.v17i3.7

Keywords: adaptive strategies coping strategies Bidibidi settlement, Refugees Uganda

Bob Denis Odongo
Professor Stella Neema, PhD
Siverru Agutu Odongo, PhD

Abstract



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Sociology
Original research

Social norms as influencers of type 2 diabetes risk-taking behaviours: a qualitative deep-dive diagnosis in two high-burden districts in Uganda

Juliet Kiguli¹, Joseph K B Matovu², Francis Xavier Kasujja³, Joyce Nabalisa⁴, Ramadhan Kirunda⁵, Gloria Naggya¹, Junior Mike Wejui⁶, Tom Okate⁷, Nnimama Lesley Rose⁸, Ali Halage⁹, Roy William Mayega⁸

Correspondence to Dr Juliet Kiguli: jkiguli@nussh.ac.ug



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OPEN ACCESS

Refugees' Access and Barriers to Education at Bidibidi Settlement in Uganda

Published: Sep 7, 2025

Keywords: Uganda; refugees; Bidibidi settlement; education assets; education outcomes.

Bob Denis Odongo
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Makerere University, Uganda
@https://orcid.org/10.5086/8846.1078

Stella Neema
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Makerere University, Uganda
@https://orcid.org/10.5086/8846.1078

Siverru Agutu Odongo

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Dynamics of transition to self-sufficiency for refugees in Swinga, Zone 2, Bidibidi settlement in Yumbe District, Uganda

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DOI: 10.4314/jpds.v9i1.1

Keywords: self-sufficiency transition refugees Bidibidi settlement Uganda

Bob Denis Odongo
Stella Neema
Siverru Agutu Odongo

Abstract

ABOUT MAK-RIF

With funding from the Government of Uganda, Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF) is supporting cutting-edge research and innovative solutions that contribute to Uganda's development. The initiative was established in 2019 and has to date funded 1,457 multidisciplinary research and innovation projects focusing on priority issues of national importance jointly identified with policymakers. The Fund has also supported 235 PhD students with funding, and over 100 publications in peer reviewed journals.

Mak-RIF is governed by a multi-sectoral Grants Management Committee (GMC) which guides the implementation of all the Mak-RIF activities. The GMC is appointed by Makerere University's Vice Chancellor after wide consultations with all the University Colleges.



Mandate

To support high impact research and innovations that inform national development priorities.



Goal

To increase the local generation of translatable research and scalable innovations to drive Uganda's development agenda.



Objectives

1. To develop and fund a robust research agenda based on National development priorities identified by academia, government, implementing partners, and industries.
2. To support the dissemination of high-quality research and innovations in a way that influences development policies and programs.
3. To support the growth of research leadership capacity in the university.



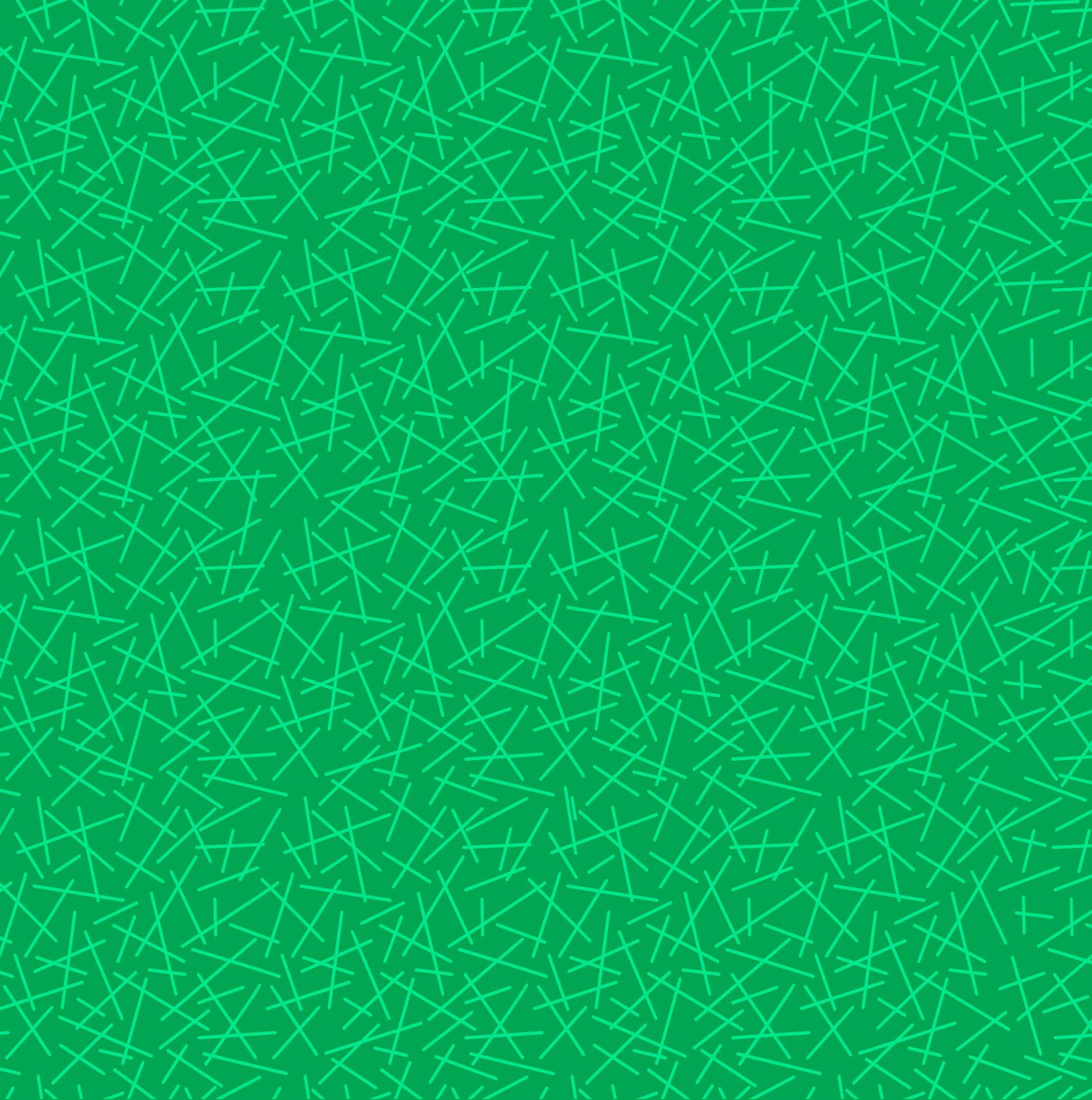
Cover Page: Left to Right Prof. Sarah Ssali, Prof. Ibrahim Mike Okumu, Mr. David Kisitu and Dr. Peter Babyenda at the launch of the Platform.

Editorial

Compiled by:
Ms. Winnie Kyamulabi
Communications Officer, Mak-RIF

Contributors

Ms. Grace Ruto Cherotich
Ms. Evelyne Nyachwo
Ms. Juliet Nabirye
Dr. Moses Twimukye
Ms. Carol Kyolaba



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