

"MUNDURU: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FUTURE THROUGH FINANCIAL LITERACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES"

Munduru Mwajuma Esther

Cohort; 34 Civic Leadership, Uganda

Munduru is a personal finance consultant certified by the Bank of Uganda and Team Lead, at the Financial Education Academy social enterprise running financial literacy programs for capacity building in different African countries as a sustainable approach to poverty alleviation (Sustainable Development Goal 1). She is an Alumnus of the African Civic Engagement Academy of the University of Georgia, a US exchange program.



She runs a not-for-profit organization, running community activities for poverty alleviation, centered on health, education, and economic empowerment in rural Jinja. Recently, she was listed as one of the best 40 under 40 nominees (individuals doing incredible work in Uganda) in Uganda, and this was published on the 10th of December 2023, in the Sunday New Vision Paper, the leading Newspaper in Uganda. Munduru also works as a board member of the Youth Lead Advisory Board (YLAB)- a project run by USAID. The Academy's vision is "A poverty-free Africa" and our mission is "To equip individuals from different walks of life with practical financial knowledge, skills, and opportunities to enable them to build sustainable wealth for themselves and their loved ones.

"The Financial Education Academy was formed after the YALI program in August 2019. I realized that Family Uplift Uganda would not easily survive and together with my team we started the academy as a sustainability enterprise for the not-for-profit and also, a capacity-building initiative for poverty alleviation. Through the Academy's programs especially the Personal Financial Mastery Program, over 3500 individuals have been impacted since 2021. Individuals from both the formal and informal sectors, Through the Campus version program, an extension of the financial literacy services to the university students have seen an impact of 200 students since May 2023. The Academy's programs are practical and hands-on, tailor-made for real individual and community impact. This is one factor that has created a market niche for the Academy's programs.



Because of the impact, organizations have adopted programs far staff capacity building. We have trained staff for both national and international staff. I knew about YALI through a friend and was guided to understand more about the program by an Alumni

In five years to come, I see the Academy establishing branches in at least 4 African countries.

I adopted the concept of Transformation for Africa from the This is Africa sessions. The Academy's concept is not only for Uganda but Africa at large, and we have run sessions in South Sudan (2023) and looking forward to more sessions in South Sudan and Congo this year.