



## MANDELA DAY CELEBRATION 2025: Summarized Report

### Introduction

On July 18, 2025, the Federation of Uganda Social Entrepreneurs (FUSE), in partnership with Youth Challenge International and Jangu International, hosted a vibrant Mandela Day celebration in Mpigi, Uganda. The event honored Nelson Mandela's legacy of collective action and empowerment, inspiring youth to drive social and economic change through entrepreneurship. It aligned with Mandela's vision by promoting innovative solutions to poverty, unemployment, and inequality, while fostering job creation and sustainable development.

### Background

Uganda's youth represent a dynamic force for innovation but grapple with poverty, unemployment, and limited access. Social entrepreneurship offers a sustainable approach, blending business acumen with social impact to spur economic growth and inclusivity. This event aimed to harness that potential for national progress.

### Event objectives

- Promote social entrepreneurship among youth as a tool for addressing social challenges and national development.
- Introduce the Social Enterprise Fund and Rural Impact Fund for financial and technical support to young entrepreneurs.
- Award winners of the Mandela Day Essay Writing Competition, spotlighting ideas for job creation.

### Attendance

Over 30 participants attended, exceeding the target of 30. The diverse group included rural social entrepreneurs and youth aged 16–30, focused on building awareness of FUSE and expanding its network.

### Event highlights

- **Panel discussion:** Featured FUSE CEO Mugerwa Timothy, who called for collaboration over competition, quoting Mandela: “If you haven’t found something worth dying for, you are not fit to live.” Youth Challenge International's Stellan Nakawuki emphasized inclusion and learning, while Pendeza Shelters Founder David Monday urged resilience for impactful entrepreneurship.
- **Mandela Day Essay Competition:** Launched June 12, 2025, it received 36 entries on “Promoting Job Creation through Social Entrepreneurship.” Winner Martin Masembe Dan's "Green Thumbs Up" idea promotes urban farming and green jobs; he received a \$150 prize.
- **FUSE awareness session:** Head of Partnerships David Luganda presented FUSE's mission, membership benefits, and success stories, sparking inquiries from rural attendees.
- **Launch of support funds:** The Social Enterprise Fund aids youth-led ventures, while the Rural Impact Fund empowers rural women and girls, generating strong interest in applications.



## **Outcomes**

- Inspired youth entrepreneurship and showcased innovative ideas.
- Launched funds as pathways for sustainable ventures.
- Recognized talent via the essay award, highlighting youth as job creators.
- Gained 15 new membership applications, boosting FUSE's rural presence.

## **Contact FUSE**

For more information, membership, or fund applications, contact FUSE at:

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## **Partners**

- Jangu International: Tonny Wamboga – [tonny@socialinnovationacademy.org](mailto:tonny@socialinnovationacademy.org)
- Youth Challenge International: Stellah Nakawuki Lukwago – [slukwago@yci.org](mailto:slukwago@yci.org)

## **Conclusion**

The 2025 Mandela Day Celebration was a resounding success, achieving all objectives and reinforcing FUSE's role in empowering Ugandan youth. By inspiring innovation, launching funds, and growing membership, it advanced Mandela's ethos of collective empowerment for a prosperous future.