

Dissemination Workshop: “Enhancing Youth Employment and Small Firms Growth”

Organizing institutions: BRAC, Institute for Fiscal Studies (London),
Stockholm University and International Growth Center (London)

Supported by: Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme

Conference Hall at Silver Springs, Bugolobi – Kampala, 18 July 2017

Programme committee:

Vittorio Bassi (University of Southern California and IFS)

Brian Kule (BRAC Uganda)

Aisha Nansamba (BRAC Liberia)

Edwinah Nassuna (BRAC Uganda)

Esau Tugume (BRAC Uganda)

Programme

09:00-09:30 – *Conference registration*

09:30-09:45 – *Welcome session and opening remarks*

Robert Mpiira (Program Manager, Research and Evaluation Unit, BRAC Uganda)

Hasina Akhter (Country Representative, BRAC Uganda)

Nsumba Lyazi (Director - Basic Education, Ministry of Education and Sports)

Morning session 1 – Skills for Youth Employment: Evidence from Recent Evaluations

Moderator: Robert Mpiira (Program Manager, Research and Evaluation Unit, BRAC Uganda)

09:45-10:10 – *Research presentation: “Creating Jobs for the Youth in Uganda: Effects of Alternative Training Methods on Skills, Employment and Earnings”*

Marta Russo (Research Associate, BRAC Uganda and IFS)

Christine Nabulumba (Assistant Data Manager, BRAC Uganda)

10:10-10:35 – *Research presentation: “The Importance of Soft Skills for Youth Employment: Evidence from a Job-matching and Certification Intervention”*

Vittorio Bassi (Assistant Professor, University of Southern California and IFS)

Aisha Nansamba (Research Associate, BRAC Liberia)

Brian Kule (Research Assistant, BRAC Uganda)

10:35-11:00 – Tea/coffee break

Morning session 2 – Skills for Youth Employment: Policy Perspective

Moderator: Leon Matagi (Professor, Makerere University)

11:00-11:15 – *Keynote speech: “Relevance of Vocational Skills in the Ugandan Employment”*
Okumu Micheal (Director, Directorate for Industrial Training)

11:15-11:30 – *Keynote speech: “Relevance of Soft Skills in the Educational Curriculum”*
Grace Baguma (Director, National Curriculum Development Center)

11:45-12:15 – *Panel discussion*
All morning speakers and moderators

12:15-13:30 – Lunch break

Afternoon session 1 – Stimulating Small Firms Growth: Evidence from Recent Evaluations

Moderator: Wameq Raza (Thematic Research Head for Financial Inclusion & Livelihood, BRAC Uganda)

13:30-14:00 – *Research presentation: “Credit Contract Structure and Firm Growth: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Uganda”*
Miri Stryjan (Assistant Professor, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

14:00-14:20 – *Research presentation: “Flexible Microcredit and Business Growth: Evidence from Pilot of a New Loan Product in Bangladesh”*
Selim Gulesci (Assistant Professor, Bocconi University)

14:20-14:45 – *Research presentation: “Grow Remote Consulting Project”*
Stephen Kagera (Research Associate, Innovations for Poverty Action, Uganda)

14:45-15:10 – Tea/coffee break

Afternoon session 2 – Stimulating Small Firms Growth: Policy Perspective

Moderator: Yiga Fred (Lecturer, Makerere University Business School)

15:10-15:25 – *Keynote speech: “SMEs Development in Uganda”*

Johnson Abitekaniza (Commissioner, Ministry of Trade)

15:25-15:40 – *Keynote speech: “The Role of Microfinance Institutions for SMEs Development”*

Jacqueline Musiitwa (Executive Director, Financial Sector Deepening Uganda)

15:55-16:25 – *Panel discussion*

All afternoon speakers and moderators

16:25-16:30 – *Closing remarks*

Jimmy Onesmus Adiga (CEO, BRAC Uganda Microfinance Limited)

16:30-17:30 – Social Hour and Networking