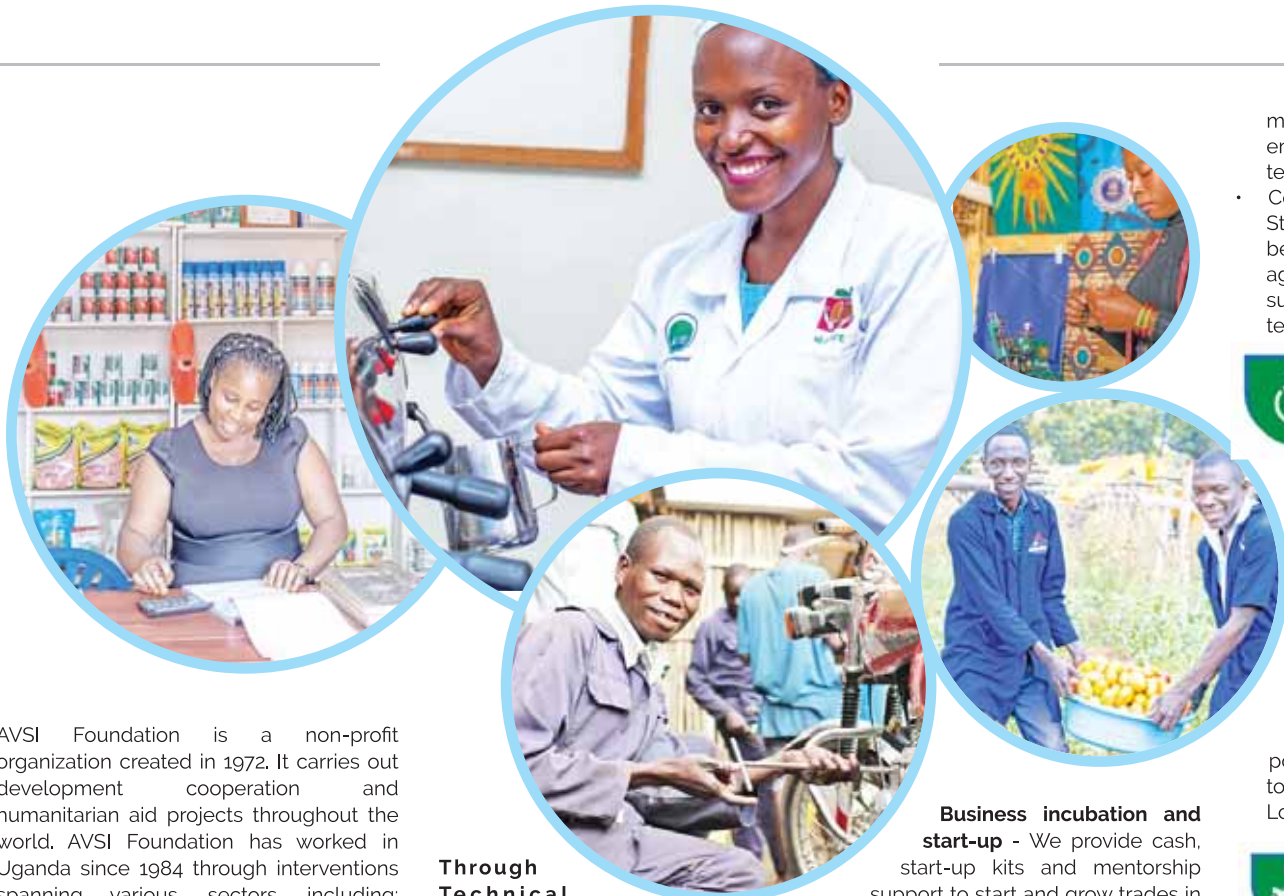


# AVSI Foundation and the Youth



People for development



AVSI Foundation is a non-profit organization created in 1972. It carries out development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects throughout the world. AVSI Foundation has worked in Uganda since 1984 through interventions spanning various sectors including: Education, Livelihoods, Agriculture, Health, Food Security and Nutrition, Protection, Psychosocial support and WASH, with the youth being a deliberate target group for AVSI Foundation programs.

AVSI Foundation has in the last five years accompanied over 60,500 young people as they transition through life, by addressing three critical aspects: **support to learn, support to work and support to live**. We meaningfully engage youth through platforms such as youth-led groups or as individuals to provide them with opportunities to co-design and deliver their programs and emerge as **protagonists** in defining their own transition through life.

## Support to Learn:

AVSI Foundation's Distance Support Program enables at least 3,500 learners to attend formal schooling annually through provision of school fees and other scholastic necessities. Our education in emergency programs keep youth in school through promoting access, improving quality and strengthening systems, enabling us to reach at least 12,000 youth annually.

## Support to Work

**Policy influence** – AVSI Foundation collaborates with the Government of Uganda at levels such as with: the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development through the National Youth Coordination Working Group where our mandate is to co-lead the livelihoods and skilling theme; the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries for youth agribusiness; the Directorate of Industrial Training for the development of Agricultural Assessment and Training Packages and assessment.

## Through Technical training and skilling

– AVSI Foundation participates in increasing access to formal education thus growing entry into formal employment, contributes towards increasing technical skills through the Dual Training System – merging theory learning in the classroom and practical training through youth attachments in vocational institutions, quality apprenticeships and artisanries.

Our tested **Earn as You Learn model** is one of the approaches we utilize to achieve increased retention in trainings, and offers start-up income for own initiatives.

**Work readiness skilling** – AVSI Foundation applies a customized employability package such as the established three job centers in Isingiro, Lira and Terego Districts that offer walk-in employment services to support development of curriculum vitae, job search and job matching, preparation for and how they can succeed with job interviews and other life skills.

**Business skills and platforms** – AVSI Foundation offers wrap around business skills from financial literacy, to enterprise selection, planning and management, savings, bank linkages, business coaching, to assist the youth in starting and managing successful business enterprises. We apply our tested **WINGS Plus socio-economic model and Hela Financial Literacy** training to attain the right financial discipline and skills.

**Business incubation and start-up** - We provide cash, start-up kits and mentorship support to start and grow trades in researched and viable value chains.

## Support to Live:

AVSI Foundation's tested Vijana Life Skills training and mixed sport, psychosocial and mental health therapy and mentorship model builds youth resilience, permitting at least 10,000 youth to thrive amidst life's challenges annually.

## AVSI Foundation services to the youth:



Agriculture and Livelihoods

- Skill in-school and out-of-school youth in agricultural value chains and assess and certify the competencies and job readiness of the skilled youth.
- Promote Climate Smart Agricultural practices and innovations.
- Provide phased start-up and scale up support to selected graduates and agripreneurs, establish job connection, and brokerage platforms and incubation of agripreneurships.
- Equip youth in the Government rehabilitation system with agripreneurship skills.
- Engage Government-line ministries and programmes for policy oversight, opportunities and markets.
- Establish agri-skilling and agribusiness multistakeholder platforms to strengthen public private partnerships for financial inclusion, business development,

market access, regulation and enforcement, supplies and technology.

- Conduct Market System Strengthening and linkages between agribusinesses and agripreneurs, consumption support, asset transfer and core technical skills training.



Internships, Job linkages and Apprenticeships

- Job Center walk-in and mobile mission services for job readiness skills.
- Provide apprenticeship in the trades to prepare youth for Directorate of Industrial Training certification and startup/booster kits.
- Establish two employment services forums and online job portal in Isingiro and Arua Districts to involve employers, youth and Local Governments.



Education and Psychosocial and Mental Health Services

- Conduct mapping and identification of targeted potential Accelerated Education Program centers in Masindi, Hoima and Kyenjojo Districts, community mobilization and raising awareness.
- At least 2,160 learners enrolled in 12 months, to utilize the Accelerated Learner Screening Tool, learner placement assessments, provision of life skills training, psychosocial support and recreational activities.
- Expanding access to education for children with disabilities, innovations and complementary learning modalities, strengthening child protection referral pathways and providing school-based actions to address issues of violence, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, access to education for girls, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Menstrual Hygiene Management, and provision of scholastic materials.
- Provision of community mental health education/psycho-education, interpersonal psychotherapy sessions, trainings in basic counseling and interpersonal psychotherapy model.

## Youth Programming, the AVSI Foundation Way:

AVSI Foundation applies a right-based approach in its programming for the youth. Our recognition of young people as rights-holders mandates AVSI Foundation program designs and implementation to align with global standards for the respect, protection,

and fulfillment of human rights. Our approaches are therefore participatory and all inclusive.

**Our Mission:** AVSI Foundation implements cooperation projects in various sectors with a preferential focus on education, meaning that the person is accompanied towards self-discovery and recognition that the other person is a resource. Each project is conceived as an instrument to promote this awareness in everyone involved, has in itself a need for communicating and sharing and creates an impact capable of generating a positive change.

**Our Vision:** AVSI Foundation works for a world where the person, aware of his/her value and dignity, is the protagonist of his/her own integral development and that of his/her community, even in crisis and emergency contexts.

We are **thankful to development partners** for the continuous collaboration in a meaningful journey that enables us to accompany more than 60,500 youth to Learn, to Work and to Live productively. The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the IKEA Foundation, UN agencies including the International Labour Organization, The Olympic Refugee Foundation, Education Cannot Wait, The Trust Fund for Victims, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, and other private donors.

## Youth reached from 2019 - 2023

