

Welcome to the BDPSN Quarterly Update!

This report provides an update on the activities of the BDPSN Secretariat for the quarter ending June 30, 2024. The report highlights the successful completion of the 6-month multi-national e-commerce project and the upcoming implementation of a new project on cooperative development under the ILO PROSPECTS Program.

Key achievements of the quarter include:

- **E-commerce project implementation:** In-person training for 97 SMEs across Lesotho, Uganda, Madagascar, and Ethiopia.
- **One-on-one support:** Provided to 38 SMEs for e-commerce development.
- **Website development:** Developed and revamped e-commerce websites for 23 SMEs.
- **Deployment of consultants:** 8 consultants deployed to support the e-commerce project.

Upcoming project: Cooperative Development in Isingiro and West Nile

The BDPSN Secretariat is excited to announce the implementation of a new project focused on cooperative development. This project, under the ILO PROSPECTS Program, will support five area cooperatives in Isingiro District and West Nile with institutional development and growth. The project will utilize the ILO cooperative tool Think. COOP, Start COOP, and My COOP. To ensure successful implementation, 21 candidate trainers and 5 experts in cooperative training have been deployed.

This report will provide further details on these achievements and upcoming activities.

Projects and programs

The BDPSN Secretariat successfully completed the implantation of the E-Commerce Multi-National project that involved 40 SMEs in each of the 4 countries (Lesotho, Uganda, Madagascar, and Ethiopia). During the quarter, key milestones were achieved these include report on the SMEs Needs assessment, Development of Training guide and templates, conducting in-person trainings and conducting the one –on – one support for the SMEs (this involved development of digital marketing strategies, revamping and development of e-commerce websites, registration and subscription of SMEs on market place like eBay.



The implementation led to partnerships with Trade support organization (TSIs) that played a key role in the mobilization of the SMEs per country and the local consultants that played a key role in interpretation and guiding the project team on the local context with in each country involved in the project.

The project marked a beginning of a successful partnership with TFO Canada and Global Affairs Canada as the funds for the bigger project Make Trade work for Women in sub-Saharan Africa.

During the final month of the quarter, the BDPSN Secretariat put pen to paper for the implementation of the 6 month cooperative development project under the ILO PROSPECTS Program. The project has under gone its inception



Vision: A world with innovative sustainable businesses.

Mission: Provision of tailored professional business development services to the private and public sector.

Values:

1. **Credibility:** From partners, trainers and other stakeholders
2. **Quality:** Ensure quality of Business Development Services
3. **Accessibility:** To all those who need Business Development Services
4. **Centrality:** ILO packages to take central place in delivery of Business Development Services
5. **Flexibility:** Business Development Services to be responsive to all target groups



A group photo with members of Nzayia United Farmers Group with BDSPN team after introductory session of the Coop Expert

phase with achievements like conducting the scoping visit, approval of inception report, introduction of the expert to the Area Cooperatives Enterprises for further implementation of project activities like institutional assessment. The project will then advance into the next phase in which the BDSPN Management, coop development Experts, Candidate trainers and Key stakeholders will have a planning meeting to ensure a smooth implementation of the upcoming capacity building for the Area Cooperative Enterprises.

Partnerships

BDSPN has jointly corroborated with other institutions in the successful implementation of upcoming, ongoing, and concluded projects. These include Lesotho National Development Corporation **LNDC**, Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry **LCCI**, Basotho Enterprises Development Corporation **BEDCO** in Lesotho, Uganda Small Scale Industries Association **USSIA**, Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited **UWEAL**, Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives in Uganda, Groupement des Femmes Entrepreneurs de Madagascar **GFEM**, **FIV. NRA. NA** in Madagascar and Entrepreneurship Development Institute **EDI**, Ethiopia Chamber of Commerce **ECC** in Ethiopia. These trade support institutions supported the mobilization of project beneficiaries and jointly hosted the in person trainings under the E-commerce project

Under the Cooperative development project, BDSPN has corroborated with Rhino Camp Maecora ACE (West Nile), Nzayia United Farmers Groups (West Nile), Rubondo Coop. Society (Isingiro District), Rushasha Farmers Group (Isingiro District), Rwenkanyisa Coop. (Isingiro District). The 5 are under taking a process to formalize the partnership with an MOU as beneficiaries of the project to strengthen their capacity to support their primary function.

Membership

No new member subscriptions have been registered in the quarter, however with the implementation of the cooperative development project the 21 candidate trainers have committed to subscribe for their membership.

Material sales

The secretariat made total sale of 317 training materials and 4 Game kits across the quarter as show in the figure below



Upcoming events

1	Members Annual General Meeting	September 2024 (tentative)
2	Regional Membership meeting	August 2024
2	BDSPN 10 th Anniversary	October 2024