



TUKUL AFRICA

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“EMPOWERING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS: BUILDING RESILIENT BUSINESSES IN BOR”

Editorial Note

Our work in Bor demonstrates the potential of youth-led enterprises to transform local economies and strengthen community resilience. Through Tukul Africa’s project Youth Enterprise Development and Capacity Building (YEDCB), supported by UNDP and funded by the African Development Bank’s interest-free loan program, young entrepreneurs are gaining critical business, financial, and market skills. By promoting climate-smart business practices, financial literacy, and access to markets, we are supporting a generation of youth to turn ideas into sustainable livelihoods while contributing to the economic development of Jonglei State



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YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ACTION

Over the past months, we have trained more than 400 youth on business planning, financial literacy, and climate-smart business practices.

Participants are now running small enterprises ranging including salted fish sales, creating jobs for themselves and inspiring others in their communities.



"Participants are now creating jobs for themselves and inspiring others in their communities."

Community Voices – Young Entrepreneurs Share Their Stories

Youth participants share how the training has transformed their businesses and increased household incomes. From managing savings groups to accessing new markets, their stories reflect resilience, innovation, and determination to succeed despite challenging economic conditions.



Story: Kuei's Journey of Economic Empowerment

When Grace Kuei, a 30-year-old lady, first heard about the YEDCB project, she was running a small and unstable business at the local market. Like many women in her community, she faced daily struggles limited access to credit, lack of financial literacy, and the constant pressure of meeting her family's basic needs. Grace, who lives with a physical disability affecting her right leg, has faced years of economic and social barriers that limited her opportunities to earn a stable income.

"I used to depend entirely on small help from relatives," she recalls softly. "Sometimes I stayed home because I didn't have money to restock my business."

The UNDP YEDCB project, implemented by Tukul Africa, sought to address exactly these challenges by training youth-led MSE groups on savings, record keeping, and small business management. After completing the training, Grace and 24 others formed a VSLA group, a self-managed group where members save weekly, give small loans to one another and invest in income-generating activities. This group received seed capital to strengthen their VSLA revolving fund. Grace is also a member of an MSE group made up of 5 members and also have access to interest-free loans. With their first loan, this group plans to run a salty fish business where they will purchase fish in bulk directly from fishermen, enabling them to increase her profits and business stability.

"Through the training, I learned how to keep proper records, save regularly, and make better decisions with money," she says proudly. "Now, as we receive the seed capital, our group can give larger loans and help each other expand our businesses."

"I feel empowered because I can now plan my life better," she says with a smile. "This program has shown me that women, including those of us living with disabilities, have the ability to succeed when given the right support and opportunity."

Capacity Building for MSE Groups

Our sessions on business planning, record keeping, and market analysis have strengthened youth-led MSE groups, helping them operate more efficiently and sustainably. Participants are also learning to integrate climate-smart practices to protect their enterprises from environmental risks.



Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) – Promoting Savings Culture



Through VSLA training and support with seed capital, youth are developing a habit of saving and responsibly accessing small loans to expand their businesses. The groups have already begun mobilizing resources for enterprise growth and financial security.

Market Linkages – Expanding Business Opportunities

Tukul Africa has conducted B2B market linkage forums aimed at facilitating connections between youth entrepreneurs and local markets, cooperatives, and chambers of commerce. These linkages are helping participants sell products, access bulk supplies, and negotiate fair prices to grow their enterprises.



Youth-Led Innovation – Spotlight on Success Stories

Highlighting entrepreneurs who have leveraged the training to diversify their income streams, adopt climate-smart solutions, or scale up production. These examples inspire others and demonstrate the impact of youth-led initiatives in Bor.

ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Ongoing entrepreneurship training for the 35 MSEs in the seed for youths.





VSLA Groups receiving their VSLA Kits and Seed Capital.



VSLA groups receiving their VSLA Kits and Seed Capital.



VSLA Meeting in the community to agree on the management modalities including drafting the constitution.



Radio talk show.



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