

Baseline Survey Report

Conducted in

Rwenzori Region

Focused on

Trainings

In

**Financial Inclusion, Hygienic Meal Making, Greening Businesses
& Digital Disruptions.**

Supported By



**Republic of Uganda
Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Antiquities**

&



**United Nations
Development Programme**

Executive Summary

The Rwenzori region as an opportunity: It comprises of 9 districts (Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Bunyangabu, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, & Fort Portal), it is a tourism hub of Uganda, a food basket, a center for cross-border trade to Congo, and a good road connection to the Capital Kampala. However, poverty has been increasing in this region of Uganda. One of the factors is probably the low level of urbanization; the two major urban centers of the region (Kasese and Fort Portal) are home to only 7.4% of the region's population of about 2.7 million. With the advent of COVID-19 and its associated lockdown restrictions has led to the loss of jobs and incomes in the trading, service, and hospitality sector, this has resulted into incomes falling below zero and the discontinuation of many informal youth run businesses.

There has been limited baseline assessments conducted in RolexPreneur project areas due to the limited interaction during these COVID-19 moments, staff capacity, congested time frame for the program and funding constraints to efficiently meet some program items. This baseline assessment was conducted internally by staff of Rolex Initiative with support from regional tourism coordinators deployed for a few days. The Rolex Initiative worked with Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Antiquities to plan and offer resource support on baseline survey. The regional tourism coordinators and Rolex Initiative staff under the supervision of Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Antiquities undertook data collection, cleaning; the Rolex Initiative member performed the analysis and the report writing.

The assessment interviewed 102 sampling units and each unit represented an organized fast food street group per district using a mixed methods questionnaire tool. Of the respondents interviewed 78.43% were male and 21.57% female. The age groups interviewed included adolescent (2.94%) below the age of 15 years, persons aged 16-20 years (18.63%), persons between 21-30 (54.90%), persons aged above 30 years (22.55%) while 0.98% declined to share their age and no elderly aged identified. This speaks to our focus target of youths and women for RolexPreneur trainings.

The study established key baseline figures for the ongoing RolexPreneur project against which progress will be measured at the end of the project as summarized in section 3.4.1 below.

The survey found out that of the interviewed, 100% were fully immersed into the use of charcoal as the only source of energy, 2.94% mentioned hydro power as an alternative source of energy, 1.96% LPG, 1.96% mentioned bricks and 93.14% could not state an alternative, calling for urgent sustainable green solutions in the region. Presence of modern kitchen wear such as aprons, chef huts was positive at 7.84% while 92.16% did not use any of the mentioned. The region has access to quality piped tap water ranking 92.16% among other sources, market space remains the major option for waste disposal accounting for 50.98%, the waste stays the entire day waiting for local authorities or its burnt to ashes, personal dustbins were present at 26.47% in the entire region.

The survey also found out the following in the aspect of financial inclusion practices such as; Access to government relief programs before and during Covid-19, only 4.90% were positive to have received aid while 95.10% said No, Bunyangabu district received the highest number of beneficiaries at 2.94%. This makes RolexPreneur intervention timely to build forward better and build resilience after the shocks of COVID -19. Only 17.65% were banked while 82.35% did not possess a valid bank

account,46.08% responded positive to book keeping practices while 53.92% said no and finally 96.08% had the opportunity to save with alternatives while 3.92% could not.

The survey further established no evidence to prior capacity building programs interventions for fast food street vendors and zero penetration of digital adaptation through delivery food applications in the Rwenzori region .



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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Uganda's national unemployment rate is 9.2%, while the unemployment rate for youth aged 18-30 is 13.3%. Although high, these rates are not so far removed from global averages. Consider the European Union, where the average youth unemployment rate has hovered at 14.3% for the last few months of 2019. Over the last decade, there has been a rapid growth of the Ugandan labor force. More than a million young people are entering the job market each year in the country. But this has not been met with a commensurate increase in the number of formal jobs available.

Although Ugandan youth are commonly regarded as highly entrepreneurial – and it's true that Uganda hosts the greatest number of young entrepreneurs on the continent – in reality, most youth-run businesses are small-scale and informal, with little employment-generating effect and a very high discontinuation rate. Like many low-income countries, Uganda's economy is dominated by these micro-firms, the vast majority of which emerge through necessity, rather than opportunity. The country is facing crucial systemic barriers that limit economic growth and job creation. Chief among these is unfavorable business climate, characterized by an often-prohibitive cost of doing business, lack of legal and safe working environments and limited access to start-up or scale-up capital. But the poor quality of basic education also inadequately prepares youth for work, and limited infrastructure to support business operations and logistics means businesses struggle to engage with markets. Collaborative action is required by donors working with private sector and government to stimulate transformative growth, improving the quality and quantity of labor demand, whilst also linking firm growth to the creation of job openings specifically targeted at youth. Equally, all skills interventions need to be demand-driven, so that training is responsive and relevant to market needs.

With all the above noted, the emergence of COVID 19 continues to displace majority dependents of the informal pushing them back into the poverty trap, with the government observation of fast-food vendors (informal sector) as a shadow economy makes their survival and accessibility to relief packages, social funds and growth enabling policies a typical night mare. A study by the United Nations in Uganda estimates that the tourism sector is projected to lose USD 5 billion revenue over the period 2020-2025.

Therefore, under the Harness Nature, Culture, and Digital Technology to stimulate recovery and build a resilient tourism industry in Uganda by Ministry of Tourism, Rolex Initiative a youth led enterprise was identified to conduct entrepreneurial trainings with the youth & women in the Rwenzori Region districts (Kabarole, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Bunyangabu, Kamwenge and Fort portal municipality).

1.2. Objective of the Baseline survey

The main objective of this baseline survey was the following;

1. To build capacities of men and women, particularly youth and marginalized groups, to access and benefit from innovative technologies, natural and productive resources for expanded livelihoods, decent work and employment opportunities informal sectors .

1.3. Specific objectives of the Baseline survey

The specific objectives of this baseline survey was the following;

1. To identify and define gaps and opportunities that exist in the fast food street vending businesses in the region.
2. To equip the food vendors in the region with relevant skills in food hygiene, financial Literacy energy efficiency and environmental conservation through providing relevant training.
3. To assess the impacts of COVID-19 to the livelihood of fast food street vendors in Rwenzori region.
3. To establish and propose implementation and M&E frameworks, that would ensure realization of the identified linkages and sustainability of the program in the region through training of trainers.

1.4. The Baseline survey process

The baseline survey process started with desk reviews and training of the enumerators, which was followed by data collection during the pre-site visit from 3rd to 7th November 2021 . Rolex Initiative internally conducted this baseline survey with the help of regional tourism coordinators, team members under the supervision of Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Antiquities staff deployed to oversee the project. Rolex Initiative staff M&E team with support from the M&E experts at Kabarole Research Centre provided guidance and literature reviews from recent survey for fast food street vendors in the region. The Rolex Initiative team worked out details of the baseline survey methodology (section 2). Prior to data collection, the Rolex Initiative members(5) were trained into the basic Research knowledge .The Rolex Initiative then analyzed the data and wrote the baseline report while soliciting comments/input from Ministry of Tourism Wildlife & Antiquities.

1.5. The organization of the report

This section of the report briefly highlights an overview of the overall structure of the baseline report. Section one (1) gives a preview of introductory background information and the objectives of the survey. Section two (2) describes methodology detailing the overall approach employed in the baseline survey. Key survey findings are discussed and summarized in section three (3). Finally, the last section (four 4) summarizes the conclusion on the report and provides recommendations based on the key findings of the survey.

2. Methodology

2.1. Survey design

The baseline survey employed a mixed methods survey approach and in particular used survey questionnaires. The method was purposely selected in order to help collect Quantitative and Qualitative data needed to set appropriate indicator targets. Triangulation of information was limited to the pre-and existing project reports with the intention of complementing and generating meaningful data for the ongoing project.

2.2. Desk reviews

For purposes of triangulation, identifying key deliverables and parameters for the baseline survey, desk review was among the methods employed for the survey. It involved reviews of project information and important project documents, relevant past reports and important secondary data that were made available and others that were accessible online. Mostly, Kabarole Research Centre was a center of focus, we also visited their physical offices along Mugurusi road, Fort Portal for a more in depth partnership and support.

2.3. Sampling techniques

Simple questionnaires were drafted to aid feedback from the respondents adequately and respondents of at least 10 members were selected from each organized group of street food vendors per district. A total of 09 districts of the Rwenzori region were purposely visited for the survey. Respondents for the baseline survey in these towns were simply randomly sampled.

2.4. Sample frame and sample size

The sampling frame for the baseline survey included all potential beneficiaries from the RolexPreneur program. The sampling frame encompassed all the nine districts of Rwenzori region.

To determine the sample size, the following simplified proportion formula was used for the calculation.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n = Sample size required
N = Target population size
e = Precision level

Accordingly, with critical assumptions made for the sample size design that included 94% confidence level with a 6% margin of error, 102 sampling units (potential beneficiaries) were determined as being representative enough for the baseline survey considering the catchment area.

2.5. Selection of respondents

Simple randomized sampling methods were used in the survey dictated by the nature of the category of the beneficiary considered. To fairly decide on the selection of respondents, participants (Rolex Initiative staff) were asked to rank beneficiary category on the scale of 0 – 5, with the scale of 0, being very essence of difficulty of finding a respondent and the scale of 5, being very essence of the ease to finding a respondent for the survey. This exercise provided a guide to the field sampling procedure that is summarized in the following table.

Target SV type	Most Ranked Scale	Proposed Sampling Procedure
SV with special needs	0 = very difficult	Purposive sampling. - Ask local leaders for support to identify SV - Ask women leaders/group for support to identify SV - Snowballing sampling (one SV introduces the next).
SV of adolescent age working	1 = fairly difficult	Purposive sampling. - Purposive sampling to identify SV

Female headed SV business	2 = fairly difficult	Simple random sampling. - Observation and availability of SV - Ask women leaders/group for support to identify SV
SV of male headed business	3 = Very easy	Simple random sampling. - Present at sample locations

2.6. Data collection: Organization method and Tool

The data collection was carried out between 3rd to 7th of November 2021. Rolex Initiative staff – i.e. five members, collected all the 102 required data. Prior to field data collection, all the field teams (data collectors) were trained on the basics of baseline survey and were extensively exposed to the questionnaires for this baseline survey. This was followed by field visiting to carry out the eventual field work. In the field, the supervisors - Ministry of Tourism Wildlife & Antiquities guided and supported Rolex Initiative and were there to help resolve minor field difficulties. Although other methods (e.g. desk reviews, observations) may have been used in the survey, survey questionnaire was the key tool used for collecting primary data for this baseline survey.

Soon after the fieldwork was completed, The Rolex Initiative M&E team carefully looked through each data entry submitted to the server and thereby editing any discrepancies that may have been detected. In this way, the team ensured all data were cleaned – readying the data for analysis that was done by Rolex Initiative.

2.7. Data analysis and reporting

The data were analyzed using Excel Pivot Tables, an advanced data analysis tool within MS Excel. The analyzed data was crosschecked for consistency and presented in form of tables, graphs, charts and figures where appropriate. For ease of understanding, important sections and/or elements of the analyzed data were explained in brief narratives. The process information was triangulated with information gathered through desk reviews and project information. After all the above, a draft baseline report was produced.

2.8. Ethical consideration

Ethical practices were carefully explained and discussed with data collection team during pre- data collection training. It involved proper introduction of data collector, explaining the purpose of the baseline survey, how the information would be used, freedom to exit/refuse participation at any .All this was done with the aim

of obtaining informed consent of each participant before proceeding with data collection. During the field data collection, the survey team led by their supervisors, met local leaders of each district and tourism coordinators for introduction and to seek their consent for the baseline survey. In every engagement and/or meeting with the local leaders and participants, the survey teams respected cultural norms and practices. As the survey used mixed methods questionnaires, Finally, at the end of the questions/discussion, the data collectors thanked the respondents for their time, willingness and effort to provide data for the baseline survey.

2.9. Limitation

This survey did not happen without limitations. The following were both the expected and experienced limitations during the baseline survey. Firstly, the language barrier: the survey questions were administered in English and yet communities where the survey was carried out predominately speak Rutoro. Besides, Rolex Initiative had limited time and resources allocated to implement the RolexPreneur campaign and all its items, collecting of data and analyzing it in less than 7 days accompanied with a series of activities encompassed in the program. During the pre-site visits we were expected to collect data, close media partnerships, seek authorization for training grounds from local governments and stop overs at locations of potential partners. In addition there was an element of variations in working hours, majority street vendors work during evening hours. Therefore, it is likely that cross-translation errors could have compromised the quality of the data collected. Secondly, perceptions on regarding interviewing due to the illiterate nature of beneficiaries who thought the concern was politically motivated pushing them to withhold some information . Third, and finally, the risk of not answering all the survey questions due to unavoidable factors beyond the control of enumerators or the lack of clear understanding of the survey questions by the enumerator.

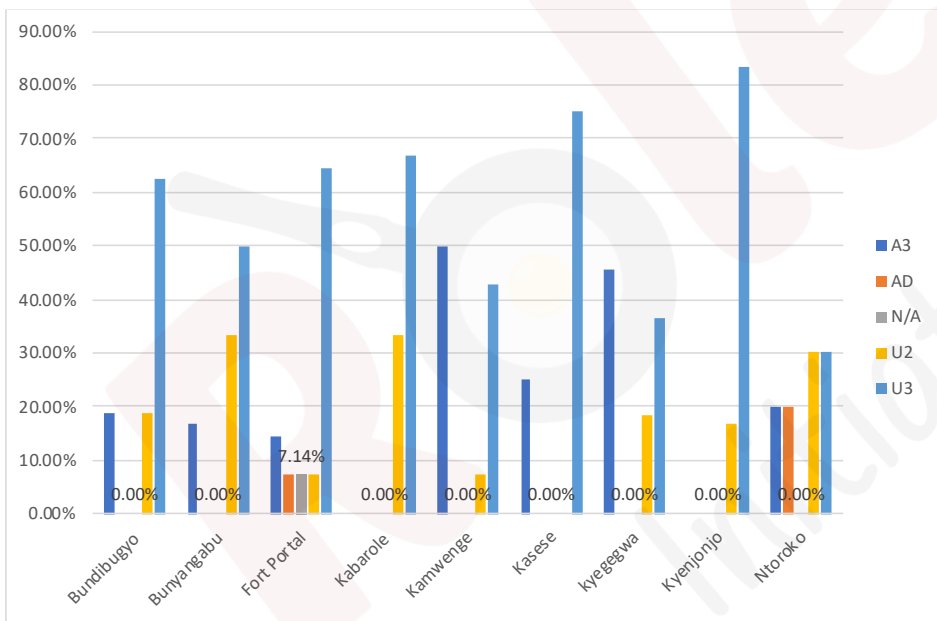
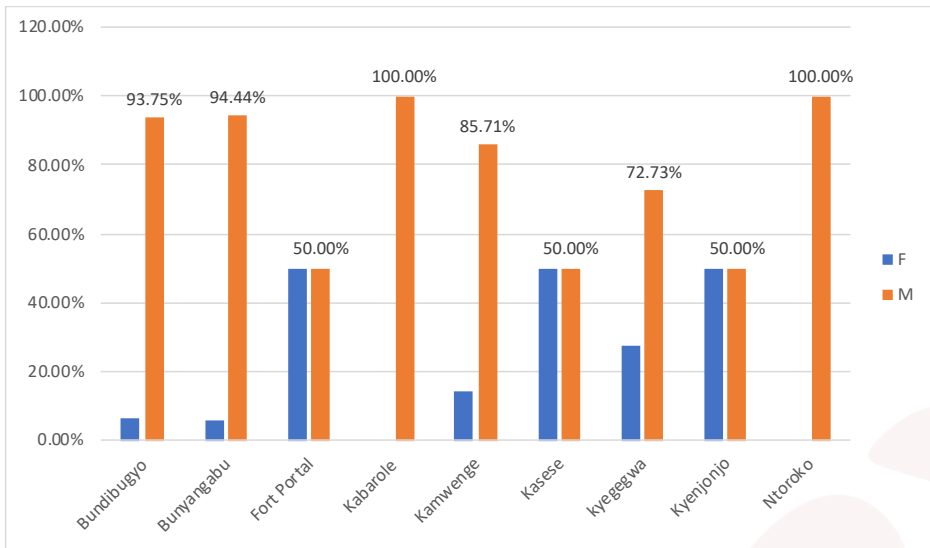
3. Findings

3.1. Demographic characteristics

The baseline survey was carried out in 9 districts of the Rwenzori region (Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Bunyangabu, Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko, & Fort Portal). Of the respondents interviewed 78.43% were male and 21.57% female overall, below is a break down per district.

DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	MALE	FEMALE	PWDs
Ntoroko	10	100%	0%	N/A
Fort Portal	14	50%	50%	N/A
Bundibugyo	18	93.75%	6.25%	N/A
Bunyangabu	18	94.44%	5.56%	N/A
Kamwenge	14	85.74%	14.29%	N/A
Kyenjojo	12	50%	50%	N/A
Kabarole	03	100%	00%	N/A
Kyegwegwa	11	27.27%	72.73%	N/A
Kasese	04	50%	50%	N/A

Below is a graphical representation of the information of gender inclusiveness per district .

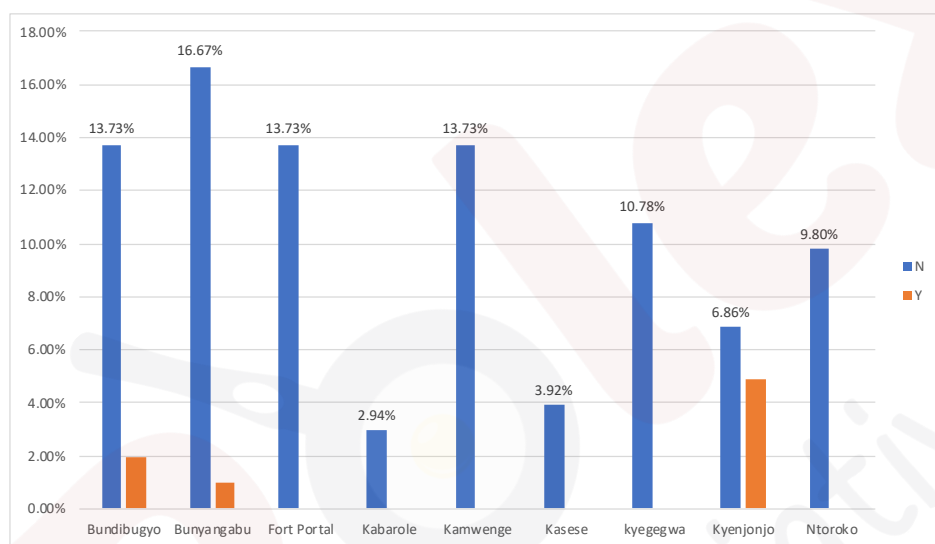


The age groups interviewed included adolescent (2.94%) below the age of 15 years (AD), persons aged 16-20 years (U2) (18.63%), persons between 21-30 (U3) (54.90%), persons aged above 30 years (A3) (22.55%) while (N/A) 0.98% declined to share their age and there was no elderly aged identified. This speaks to the potential beneficiaries of the program.

3.2. Knowledge and Practice of Hygienic Meal Making

3.2.1. Use of modern kitchen wear

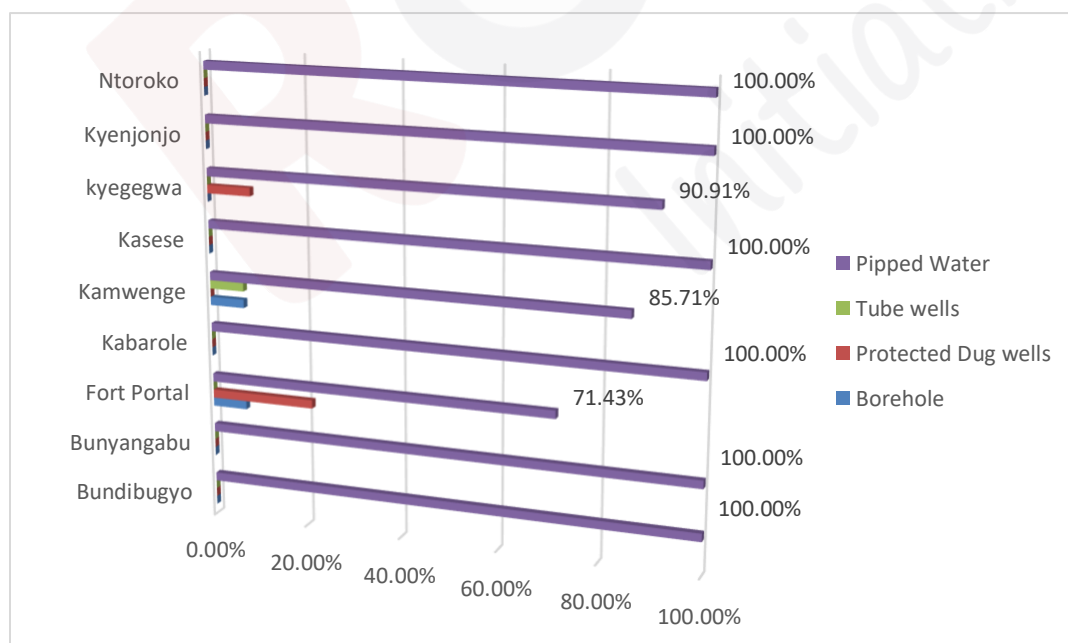
The baseline sought to understand the awareness and knowledge on minimum health standards of fast food street vending. This was an element of observation since all were approached during working hours, designed to gauge levels of adherence to hygienic meal making . The survey found out that interviewed, 92.16% did not use modern kitchen ware such as Aprons, Chef huts. Only 7.84% were positive. Y- Yes, N-No. This was basically done by observation method since they were all approached during working hours.



3.2.2. Access to clean water

According to WHO water quality standards, water source should be one or a combination of the following: 1) protected well/spring, 2) piped water connection and 3) deep well/boreholes with hand pump. For this baseline study, only the above sources that are WHO recommended were considered to obtain baseline data for safe drinking water, in this case clean water for production. The baseline showed that majority of the people use safe production water sources especially piped tap water. This information is important for the program as it will help the team adapt further WASH activities include targeted hygiene promotion messaging and where applicable.

	Piped water tap /tap stand	Boreholes/ hand pump	Protecte d dug well	Cart with small tank or drum	Tube wells	Tanker truck	Unprote cted well
Fort Portal	71.43%	7.14%	21.43 %	N/A	N/A	N/A	N / A
Kamwengye	85.71 %	7.14%	N/A	N/A	7.14 %	N/A	N / A
Kasese	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N / A
Ntoroko	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N / A
Bundibugyo	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N / A
Kabarole	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N / A
Kyegegwa	90.91 %	N/A	9.09%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N / A
Bunyangabo	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N / A
Kyenjojo	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N / A



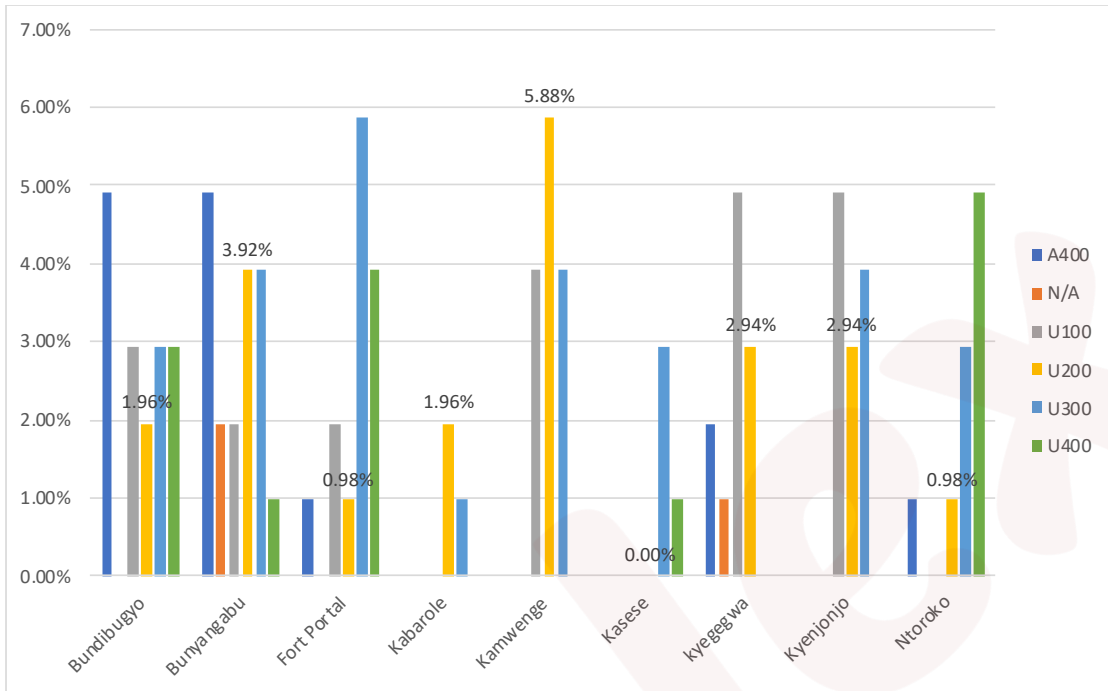
3.3. Financial Inclusion

According to World Bank Financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way. As Rolex Initiative we focused on access to government relief programs, book keeping practices, ability to save and ownership of a valid bank account. The baseline survey established that 17.65% members accessed banking services such as bank accounts, 4.90% accessed government relief program , 46.0% practiced favorable book keeping ideas and 96.08% have the ability to save money with alternatives such as SACCOS, at home etc.

	Book Keeping Practices	Ownership of bank account	Access to Government relief program	Ability to save
Fort Portal	50.00%	3.92%	0.00%	11.76%
Kamwengye	42.86%	3.92%	0.00%	3.73%
Kasese	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.92%
Ntoroko	30.00%	0.98%	0.98%	8.82%
Bundibugyo	43.75%	0.98%	0.98%	15.69%
Kabarole	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	2.94%
Kyegegwa	45.45%	1.96%	0.00%	10.78%
Bunyangabu	50.00%	5.88%	2.94%	16.67%
Kyenjojo	58.33%	00.00%	0.00%	11.76%

3.3.1. Startup capital,

The money raised by an entrepreneur to underwrite the costs of a venture until it begins to turn a profit. For this kind of business needs to acquire a vending cart, basin, jerrycan, energy stove , utensils such as frying pans, spatulas and food subsidies.



A400, is a key for vendors whose startup capital is above 400,000 UGX approximately 114\$, U400 is between 310,000UGX to 390,000 UGX(88\$-110\$), U300 is between 210,000 UGX to 290,000 UGX(60\$-82\$) , U200 reflects 110,000 UGX to 190,000 UGX(31\$-54\$) , U100 for start up capital below 100,000 UGX app 30\$.

3.4. Digital Disruptions

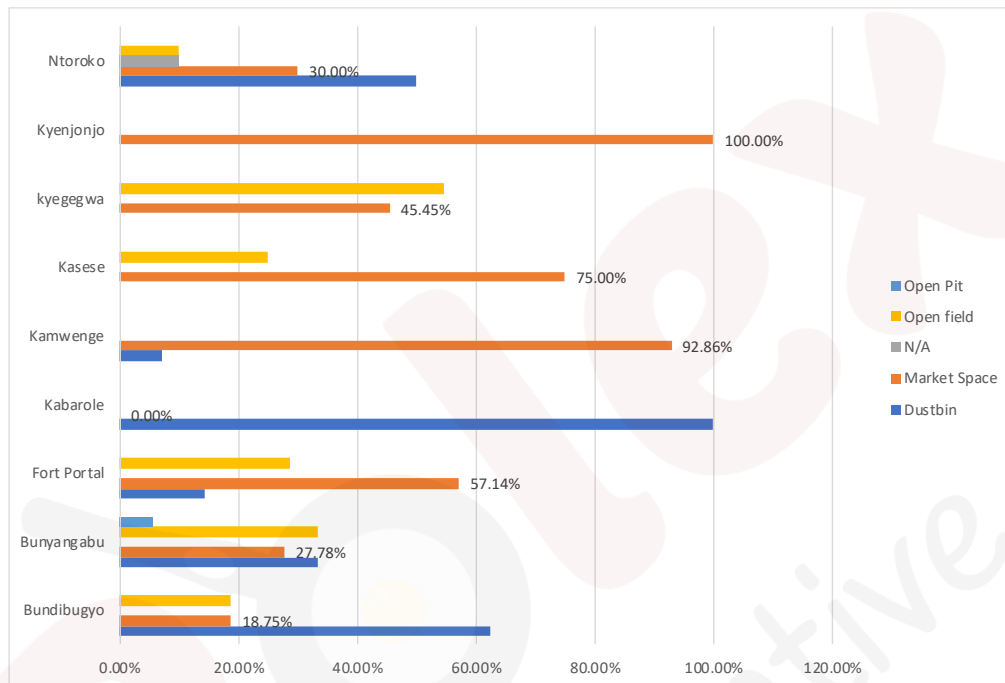
The level of digital innovation in the region is still low especially for tech solutions to cater for fast food street vendors. There was no evidence of local ride hiring or food delivery apps to accelerate growth and development .

3.5. Greening Businesses

A decision to protect the environment through proper waste management and clean energy use,

3.5.1. Disposal of Waste

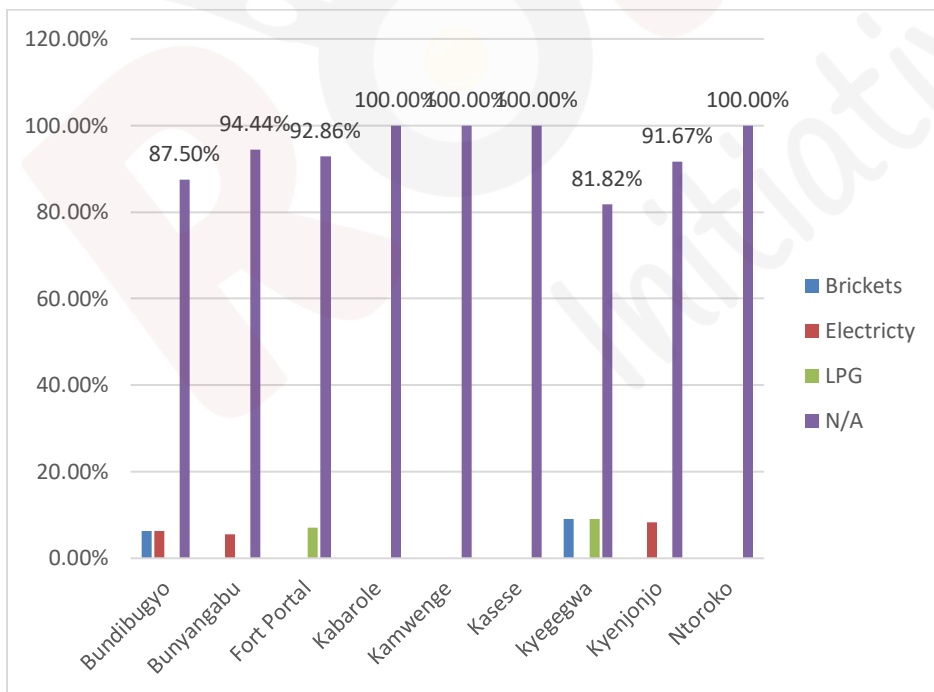
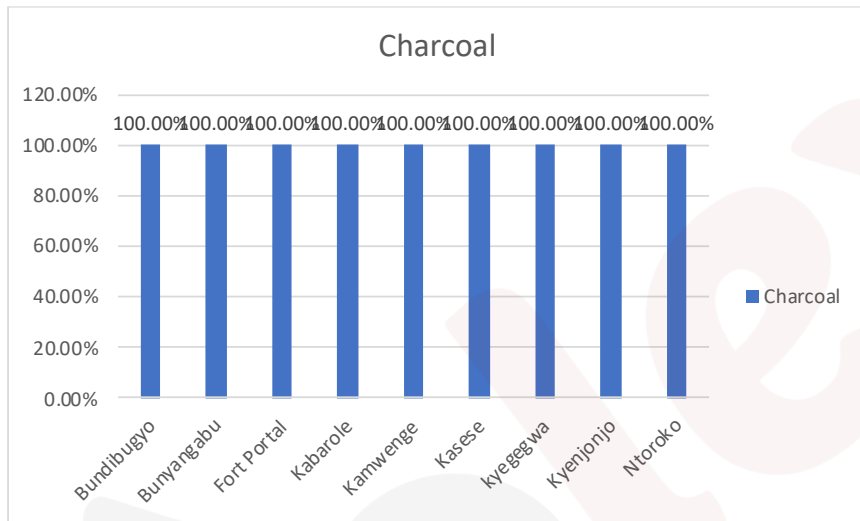
The chart below shows the different ways that respondents reported disposing of food waste garbage. Note that respondents could provide more than one response to this question and we considered their first option.



3.5.2. Use of clean energy such as LPG, Briquets, Hydro Power

The chart below illustrates charcoal at 100% as the only source of energy being used by fast food street vendors per district in the Rwenzori region,

Only 2.94% in the region were aware & mentioned hydro power as an alternative source of energy, 1.96% LPG, 1.96% mentioned bricks and 85.29% could not state an alternative.



The chart illustrates respondents' mention of alternative energy sources per district, with 2.94% for electricity recorded as the highest mention, followed by bricks and LPG both at 1.96% amongst the 9 districts of the Rwenzori region.

4. Conclusion & Recommendations

The survey provided an in-depth understanding of the baseline information and data through which key project indicators will be established. Drawing a conclusion that capacity building programs are essential for the region to achieve growth and development for the informal sector but most importantly build forward better for culinary tourism. All Respondents shared a negative experience when it comes to business trainings and developments or incubation classes.

Overall, people have poor knowledge and practice of positive hygienic meal making practices.. Sadly, a few women 21.57% are evident in this region.

Use of charcoal is the major source of clean energy in the region, with potential impacts on environmental outcomes. Some of the cause could be addressed through provision of modern improved carts response that are solar powered and come with an LPG stove to address greening businesses. The current project could be modified to address a more detailed sustainable clean energy need for the fast food street vendors in order to tackle climate goals.

Access to government interventions to stimulate economic recovery after the shocks of COVID-19 is still very poor contributing only 4.90% ,while 95.10% negated to have received any support form of support from the central power body. Making RolexPreneur a timely intervention to equip these marginalized groups with improved work amenities such as Improved carts, modern kitchen wear (aprons, chef huts, table towels and table mats), spatulas, and training manuals.

There is evidence of a huge un banked population where only 17.65% were banked while 82.35% did not possess a valid bank limiting there access to affordable financing from financial institutions. In addition 53.92% presented a deficit of proper book keeping which hinders business growth and development.

We recommend resource allocation to enable Rolex Initiative conduct a digital financial inclusion app that will aid majority into booking, access to markets, updates on improved culinary and networking platform.

We also finally recommend that regional incubation centers are very pivotal for sustainable growth and development of the informal sector. These incubation centers will offer access to modern improved working stations, skills training grounds, office space for local associations, networking opportunity and most importantly seed funding.

THANK
YOU

Rolex Initiative



