



EU Unveils €200 Million Investment Package to Propel Uganda's Economy and Empower Entrepreneurs

In a significant move to bolster Uganda's economic landscape, the European Union, through its Global Gateway strategy, has launched an ambitious investment initiative totalling over €200 million. This financial boost is set to invigorate small businesses, support young female entrepreneurs, enhance agribusinesses, and develop critical digital infrastructure in Uganda.

The announcement was made during the high-level Business Forum titled "Boosting Trade and Investment. What can Uganda gain from the Global Gateway?" where Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen emphasized the transformative impact these initiatives are poised to have on Ugandan society and its economy.

The Global Gateway strategy is an EU framework that aims to mobilize €300 billion in investments by 2027. It promotes sustainable and inclusive growth in partner countries through grants, concessional loans, and guarantees.

In the realm of digital infrastructure, The European Investment Bank (EIB) is set to finance the construction of over 500 new telecom towers in rural Uganda, funded by a €25 million loan. The project, led by TOWERCO, aims to expand mobile network coverage, provide 4G and 5G data services, and introduce mobile money solutions in underserved areas. The initiative underscores the EU's commitment to digital empowerment and economic progress in Uganda, with an emphasis on sustainable infrastructure that incorporates renewable energy sources like solar power.

The EIB and Housing Finance Bank of Uganda have partnered on a €25 million loan to support private sector entities, particularly SMEs, with a strong gender component. The initiative aims to benefit businesses owned by or serving women. Belgium's €5 million "Advancing Respect for Business and Human Rights" project focuses on women's rights.

Female entrepreneurship is another cornerstone of the investment package. The €40 million initiative aims to empower young women-led entrepreneurs in 8 Sub-Saharan countries, including Uganda. A €50 million investment will focus on enhancing employability for vulnerable youth and women in Uganda, focusing on green and decent job opportunities.

Sustainable agriculture is not left behind, The START Facility, EIB's €50 million loan to CERUDEB, and EU/Denmark's €12 million investment in the Agricultural Business Initiative support sustainable agriculture in Uganda, benefiting microentrepreneurs and farmers.

The Uganda-Europe Business Forum, organised by the Sustainable Business for Uganda (SB4U) platform, was pivotal in fostering partnerships and attracting European investment in critical sectors such as agribusiness, minerals, energy, digital, and tourism. The EU's Global Gateway strategy aims to bridge the global investment gap and support green and digital transitions beyond its borders through investments in Uganda, fostering transformative change and economic growth.