

By Aloysius Kasoma

MTN Uganda has unveiled 25 community projects set to benefit from a sh500m funding boost under the third phase of its Changemakers Initiative, opening new opportunities for improving the socio-economic welfare of Ugandans.

The selected projects, drawn from over 1,800 applications nationwide, will each receive up to sh20m through the MTN Foundation to implement interventions in economic empowerment, education, health, environmental protection and water and sanitation.

The announcement, made in Nakasongola district last week, signals a significant expansion of community-led solutions targeting some of Uganda's most pressing socio-economic challenges.

Speaking at the awards ceremony on Tuesday, MTN Foundation trustee Allen Kagina said the initiative is designed to amplify the impact of individuals and organisations already working to transform their communities.

"We are inspired by people who are already making a difference. Our role is to support them so they can extend that impact to more Ugandans," she explained.

Among the beneficiaries is the

MTN injects sh500m in 25 community livelihood projects



Kagina (foreground, second-left) sewing with a machine donated by MTN at the new facility, Migyera, Nakasongola, on Tuesday

Migyera Women Centre of Influence, a community initiative under the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, which received sewing machines and fabric worth sh20m.

The support is expected to scale up its vocational training programme, equipping women, including vulnerable groups, with tailoring and entrepreneurship skills.

The project co-ordinator, Margaret Katongole, said the funding presents a turning point for the centre's outreach.

"This support will enable us to train more women and empower them with skills to earn a living and support their families," she said.

Local leaders have also welcomed the initiative, describing it as a

STATEWIDE PROJECTS

Across regions, the funded projects reflect a wide spectrum of community needs. In Kampala, initiatives include support for vocational training, inclusive education through assistive technologies and healthcare equipment such as wheelchairs.

In the greater central region, projects will focus on water access, school infrastructure and youth enterprise development.

In western Uganda, health facility upgrades, beekeeping initiatives and water harvesting systems will benefit from the initiative.

Eastern and northern regions will see investments in school facilities, agricultural projects, clean water access and women empowerment initiatives, including the production of reusable sanitary pads.

catalyst for inclusive growth.

The Nakasongola district chairperson, Lt (rtd) Samuel Kigula Sam, said such community-driven investments are critical in addressing unemployment, particularly among women and youth.

"This programme creates real opportunities at the grassroots and supports sustainable local development," he said.

Since its inception, the Changemakers Initiative has funded more than 50 projects with a total

investment of sh1b, reaching over 235,000 people nationwide.

Officials say the programme is increasingly becoming a key platform for unlocking local innovation and accelerating inclusive development, particularly in underserved communities.

By backing community-driven ideas with financial and technical support, MTN Uganda is positioning the initiative as a model for private sector participation in national development.