



## IN THIS ISSUE

### The Journey So Far: January – May 2025

From selection to connection, training to transformation, a glimpse into the heart of the 2025 cohort's mentorship journey so far.



### Alumni, We Invite You Back!

Once part of the WSI Mentorship Program family, always part of the circle. We're calling on our alumni to rejoin the journey, and help us keep the flame burning bright.

### From the Circle: Alumni Reflections and Meet The 2025 Cohort

We were honored to host a panel of alumni mentors and mentees who generously shared their stories with the new cohort. We capture their reflections. In the same spirit, we welcomed 41 participants to the 2025 cohort.



# From a Spark to a Surge: Continuing a Legacy

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters,

We're excited to share with you the very first edition of The Ripple Effect; a monthly update that brings you into the heart of the journey we're on with the Women Solidarity Initiative Mentorship Program (The WSI Mentorship Program).

This first issue gives a glimpse into everything that's happened from the moment we opened the call for applications for Cohort 2 on **January 30th, 2025**, to the energy and connection we witnessed at our inaugural kick-off gathering on **May 3rd, 2025**.

It's been a season of movement; not just in logistics, but in hearts, in community, and in purpose.

We've seen stories unfold, new faces step up, and returning mentors come back to give again.

What started as an idea is now growing into something real, grounded, and full of potential and we are happy to have you as part of us.





## 30th January 2025 - Putting Out The Call

We kicked off the year with intention; sending out a call for mentors and mentees to join the 2025 cohort of the WSI Mentorship Program. At the core of that call was a simple but powerful belief: young people thrive when they're supported, and growth happens when knowledge and experience are shared.

At the time the application window closed on 28th February, we had received:

- ✓ 89 applications from mentees
- ✓ 26 applications from mentors

We received 115 applications from young women from various fields. Each application was filled with passion, potential, and a shared desire to grow and give back. It affirmed what we already knew; that there is a deep and growing hunger for mentorship, connection, and community.



**MENTORS AND  
MENTEES - STUDENTS**

**MENTORS AND MENTEES  
- EARLY CAREER  
PROFESSIONALS**

**APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!**



After a full month of deliberations, selected applicants received a heartfelt welcome to the WSI Mentorship Program 2025 Cohort on **24<sup>th</sup> March**; an invitation to grow, connect, and journey together in purpose.

## March 2025 – A Month of Review and Reflection

In March, our selection team embarked on a deeply intentional process of reviewing nearly 120 applications.

This was far more than a routine task; it was an immersive journey through the hopes, stories, and aspirations of passionate individuals.

Each application was approached with care and curiosity as we considered:

- Who is ready to be mentored with openness and purpose?
- Who is prepared to give of themselves with generosity and heart?
- Who resonates with our core values of purpose, accountability, growth, and solidarity?





# 29th March 2025 – Virtual Information Session

Our first official gathering took place on **March 29th**, bringing together **59 mentors and mentees** in a vibrant virtual space. This session marked the start of the program; and it was a moment of alignment and shared purpose.



The Information Session was more than an orientation it was where introductions sparked belonging, and a community began to form.



THE WSI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

## COHORT 2 INFORMATION SESSION

Presentation by Esther Mercy Atim

Together, we:

- Explored the program's structure, expectations, and timeline
- Reaffirmed our core values and the roles we each play
- Fostered early connections and collective intention
- Addressed questions and eased first-time nerves

# 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - Mentors Training

Recognizing the power and responsibility of mentorship, we held a dedicated training for our mentors. This was a session designed to:

- Explore the philosophy and practice of mentorship
- Equip mentors with tools for effective communication, active listening, and accountability
- Share challenges and expectations openly
- Build a community of support among mentors themselves

Our mentors came away affirmed, empowered, and prepared to walk this journey intentionally.

## FINAL COHORT NUMBERS

Following confirmation and a few natural withdrawals, we finalized our cohort as:

**23 Mentees**

**18 Mentors**

This group reflects a diverse, purpose-driven, and high-potential community drawn from across fields. They are students, early professionals, dreamers, doers; all united by a common hunger for growth and impact.





# 3rd May 2025 - Inaugural Kickoff: A Journey of Purpose

In a momentous milestone, we hosted the first in-person gathering of the new cohort; our inaugural kick-off meeting.

This powerful event included:

- Welcoming sessions that sparked excitement and connection
- Mentor-mentee introductions and shared reflections
- A panel discussion featuring alumni mentors and mentees, who spoke candidly about their experiences, lessons, and hopes for the new cohort



## LEGACY IN ACTION

We were proud to welcome back **3 out of 9 mentors** from our previous cohort, now returning as seasoned guides. Their return is a powerful testimony to the impact and continuity of this program.

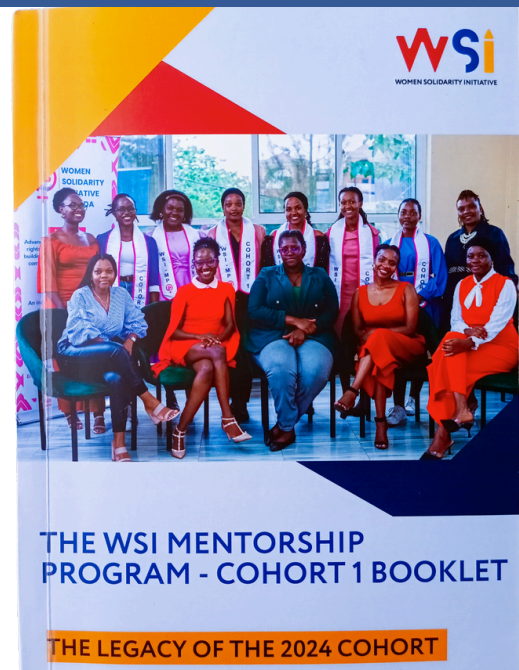
These returning mentors reminded us that true mentorship creates ripples that come full circle.



## A Special Launch:

We also officially launched the WSi Mentorship Program Cohort 1 Booklet; a celebration of the stories, reflections, and milestones from our inaugural year.

This launch marked a moment of reflection, pride, and inspiration for the path ahead.





# From The Circle: Alumni Panel Reflections



**Paget Owembabazi, Mentor Cohorts 1&2**

"The mentorship program was a learning even for me as a mentor. It took me out of my comfort zone because I did not want to just tell my mentee what to do yet I was not doing the same thing. So I was challenged to do better myself and to learn through the process even as a mentor"

**Oyella Brenda Obina, Mentor Cohorts 1&2**

"The mentorship program helped me develop my skills as a mentor. I had never been a mentor before so it was a learning experience for me alongside my mentees"



“ Each empowered woman must become a ripple. Mentorship is how we multiply the change we wish to see.

**Phumzile Mlambo-  
Ngcuka (South Africa)**

”



# From The Circle: Alumni Panel Reflections



**Tumugonze Olga Naomi, Mentee Cohort 1**

"I had high expectations of what I wanted to benefit coming into the program; and I was intentional about them. I seized all the opportunities that presented themselves for me to grow; and I was surprised the impact these had on me in both the short and long run"

**Nakyanzi Ritah, Mentor Cohorts 1&2**

"I learned the importance of setting mentorship goals and a plan from the beginning of the program to avoid some of the challenges that arise from having conflicting priorities as a mentor"



“ You lift as you climb. That’s how we build lasting change for women—by bringing others along

**Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria)**

”



# Meet The 2025 Cohort - Mentors



**Brenda Oyella**  
Economist



**Ritah Nakyanzi**  
Public Health specialist



**Akankunda Allen**  
Secondary school teacher



**Alice Akurut**  
Program Manager



**Prudence Lukoye**  
Advocate



**Acio Violet**  
Country coordinator



**Petra Aturindamukama**  
Advocate



**Paget Owembabazi**  
Advocate & IP Consultant



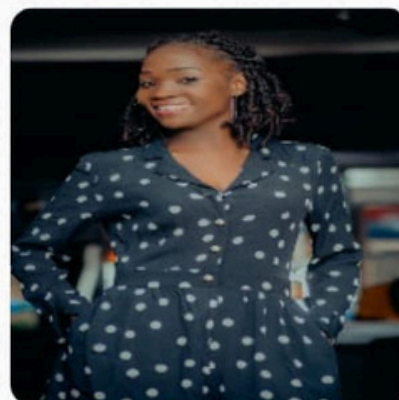
**Kirabo Ivy Martha**  
Junior Human Resource Officer



**Namugaya Halimah**  
Civil Engineer



**Koshaba Brillian**  
Advocate



**Dorcus Abangi**  
Social worker/Psychologist



# Meet The 2025 Cohort - Mentors



**Agaba Patience**  
Founder, Kaps shining  
charms Foundation



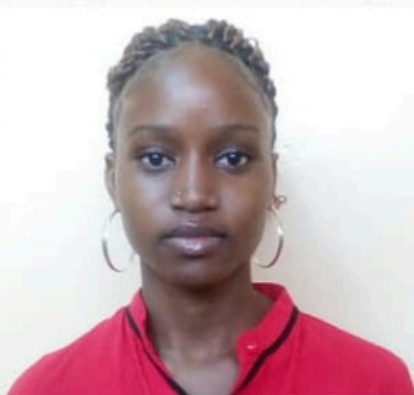
**Abio Mildred**  
Lawyer/Researcher



**Leni Latifah**  
Human Resource  
Manager



**Ankunda Sheila**  
Advocate



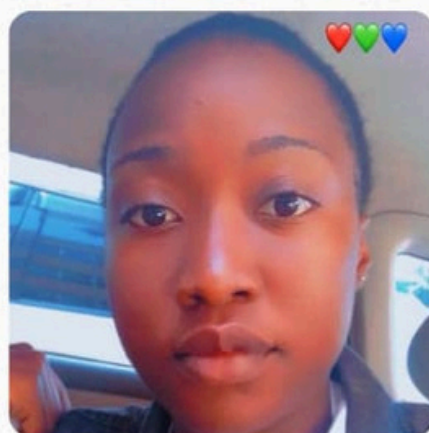
**Kozaala Mastulah**  
Law student, KIU



**Tirzah Atwiine**  
Robotics Engineer



**Ayesigye Allena**  
Lawyer and Feminist  
activist



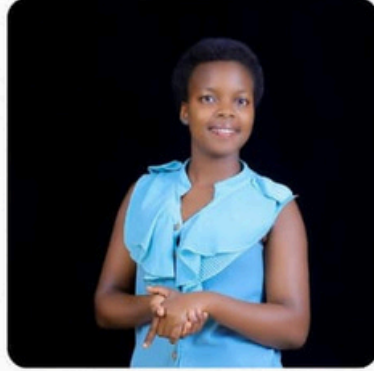
**Akello Susan**  
Social worker and climate activist



# Meet The 2025 Cohort - Mentees



**Nyalo Rhoda Triumph**  
Law student,UCU



**Ayebare Brave**  
Student



**Karungi Grace**  
Law student,UCU



**Nambi Angella**  
Advocate



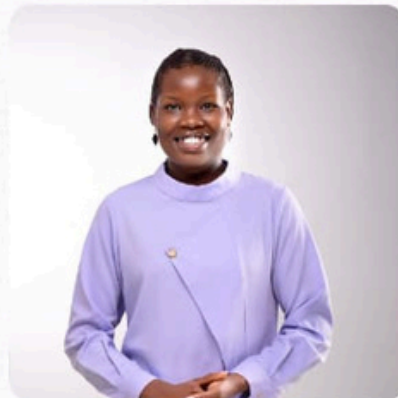
**Asama Brenda Faso**  
Law student



**Dusabe Doreen**  
Advocate/Banker



**Aketch Kezia**  
Student, UMU



**Atim Caroline**  
Student,MUBS



**Nalwoga Sharon**  
Law student,UCU



**Arinda Catherine**  
Capacity building Officer



**Namutosi Joan**  
Legal Officer



**Aloyo Fiona**  
Advocate



# Meet The 2025 Cohort - Mentees



**Seera Racheal Atarah**  
Broadcaster & Comms  
Professional



**Akolot Susan**  
Advocate



**Itaio Lydia**  
Medical student,UCU



**Susan Hilda Hope**  
Advocate



**Akankunda Maria**  
Founder, RISOL Glam and Scent candles



# Alumni, We Invite You Back!

As an alumna, you are a vital part of this ripple. Here's how you can plug in:

- Volunteer to write for this bulletin
- Share your leadership or professional journey in our upcoming features
- Offer resources or opportunities to the current cohort
- Simply show up to be part of our sessions if interested; your presence means everything

To get involved, reply to this bulletin or write to us at

**womensolidarityinitiativeug@gmail.com**  
and cc: **info.wsiug@gmail.com**

## »» WRITE BACK TO US

Send us a one-paragraph check-in: **What's new in your world?** We'd love to celebrate you in the next bulletin!

## NOMINATE AN ALUM TO BE FEATURED:

Is there a fellow alum doing amazing work?

Nominate them and their work to be featured! Let's cheer each other on.