



Premier
League

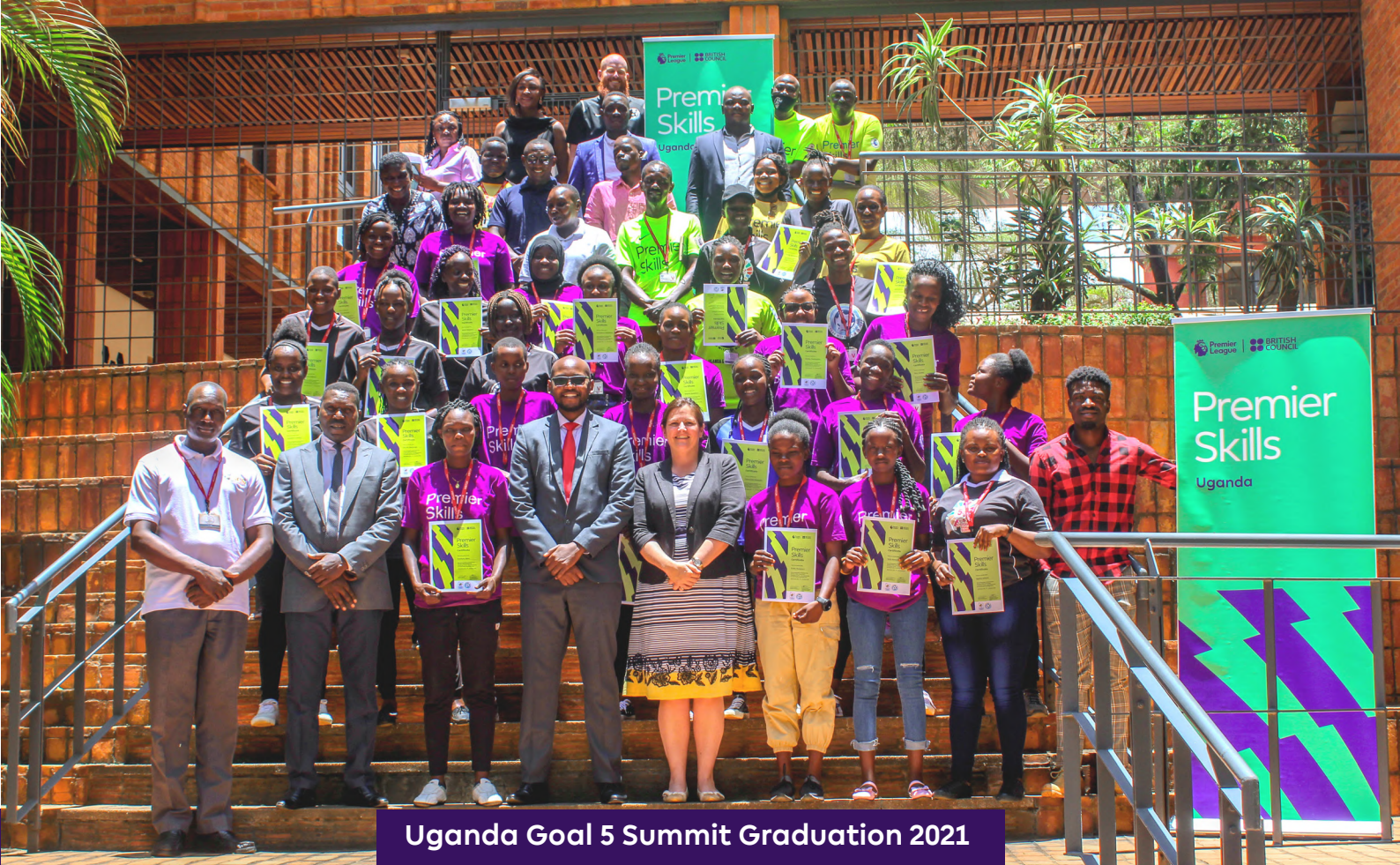


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Premier Skills

Alumni Uganda



Uganda Goal 5 Summit Graduation 2021

Premier Skills partnered with Soccer Without Borders and FUFA to deliver the Uganda Goal 5 Summit with the aim of promoting gender equality in sports across all levels of the sector in Uganda.

About Premier Skills

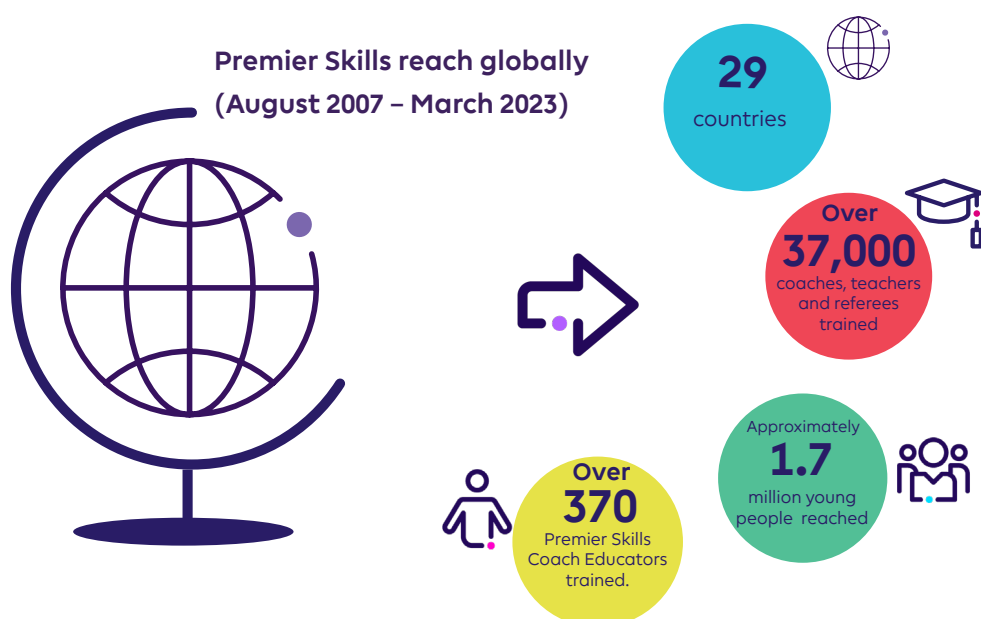
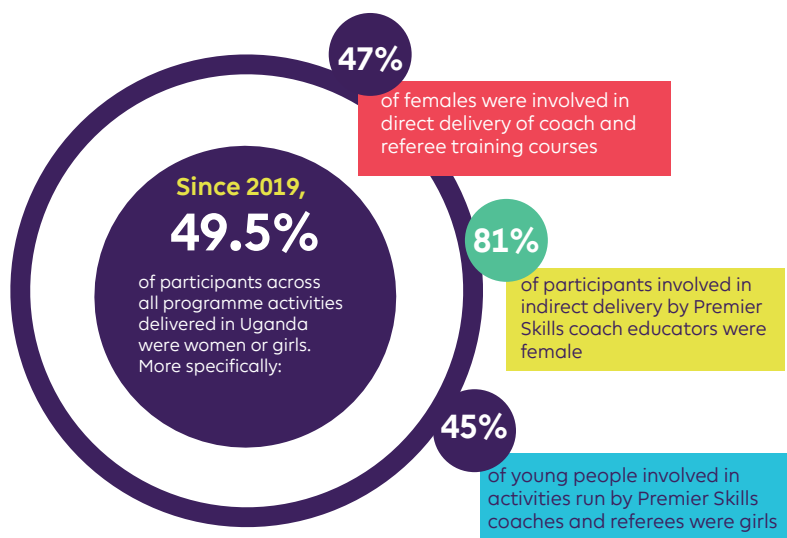
Premier Skills is a global partnership between the British Council and the Premier League, which uses the inspirational power of football to support marginalised young people in international communities by empowering grassroots coaches and referees to work with them to help them develop skills and confidence.

Uganda Country Summary March 2023

Premier Skills has been running in Uganda since August 2009. To date, some 2,200 coaches and referees have gone through the Premier Skills training, including 11 coach educators who gained skills to train new coaches. Together they reached at least 25,123 young people.

Key partners in Uganda (2008 – March 2023)

- Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA)
- National Council of Sports
- Ministry of Education & Sports
- Soccer Without Borders
- Hope for Justice (Retrak)
- Children At Risk Network (CRANE)
- TACKLE Africa.
- Golden Boots Uganda
- Kids Club Kampala
- Edgars Youth Programme
- Katwe Youth Development Association (KAYDA)
- Integrated Community Action for Development (ICAD)



¹Premier Skills reach takes account of both direct reach (those trained by Premier League coaches) and indirect or cascade reach (those trained by Premier Skills coaches).



Coach Stories

Uganda



Stephen Namata Bampiga Premier Skills Coach Educator

Stephen was among the first Premier Skills Coach Educators to graduate from the Premier Skills Introduction to Community Coaching sessions in 2013. He is now a football manager at Mama Teo, a community-based organisation that is using football for greening community projects. He has trained over 500 community coaches across the country including schools' games teachers, and rural-based youth coaches in western Uganda youth coaches from refugee camps in Arua northern Uganda.

"At Mama Teo, we have planted more than 1080 trees during tournaments and football festivals. These trees include fruit trees such as mangos, avocados, and orange trees that are improving the greening of many areas around Kampala suburbs and we hope they will provide fruits to the communities.

Our organisation has offered many young stars exposure and opportunities to further their football careers. I had an opportunity to work with GK Sports to scout for needy but promising players. Two of my players are now playing professional football in Turkey and Zambia."



Muwanguzi Willis Sserunyange

Premier Skills Coach Educator

After graduating as a Premier Skills Coach Educator in 2019, **Willis** embarked on organising community coaching workshops, especially working with female participants. He has trained over 655 female coaches in Wakiso district where he also serves as a local leader at the district council. He has collaborated with several sports and charity organisations including Motivation UK, Uganda Society for Disabled Children, Uganda Cranes, and the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) to deliver community sports programmes and train coaches. **Willis** with other community coaches recently worked on the Girls Stay in School campaign that helped many girls across Kampala return to school after the Covid-19 lockdown.

"I started a girls' soccer team to break gender stereotypes and several initiatives in the community. Life Eternal Soccer Academy is among those working with children in the slums of Nateete, a Kampala suburb to restore hope in the lives of young girls and boys to stay in school while playing football. Sinza Sports for Inclusion, a charity organisation I co-founded is also offering sporting opportunities for children with disabilities in schools. We are now working with Kampala School for the Physically Handicapped, a school that educates children with disabilities."



Saidi Segirinya
Premier Skills Coach Educator

Saidi is a Premier Skills Coach Educator and was among the first coaches to graduate from the Premier Skills Introduction to Coaching course in 2008. He is now using football to support young people in the community. He has worked with the Uganda Police, the Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development, and the Edgar Youth Programme to deliver community projects targeting young people on streets and detention centres in Kampala.

"After completing the Premier Skills course, I successfully joined the Federation of Uganda Football Association (FUFA) coaching course for beginners in 2009. I was selected to participate in Tackle Africa and FUFA HIV/AIDS awareness campaign. Using the lesson learned, I organised workshops with football festivals targeting young people in detention at Naguru Remand Home. We supported them on issues such as HIV/AIDS, crime, and child abuse. I am proud to have mentored over 200 female coaches and referees. Premier Skills opened many opportunities for me in football as a leader. In 2010 I coached the Edgars U11 team that participated in the International War Victims Memorial Day tournament at Nelson Mandela National Stadium. In June 2010, I coordinated Aga Khan Centre team that participated in the Aspire Football Dreams Project, Sophas Kaweke one of the players from the centre was selected to represent Uganda in the finals at Moi International Stadium Kasarani Nairobi Kenya. I coached Edgars U11 Travel Team which reached the finals at the Welsh International Super Cup tournament in July and August 2010 in the UK."



Haruna Kebba Helon
Premier Skills Coach Educator

Haruna is a Premier Skills Coach Educator. He was among the first coaches to graduate from Premier Skills in 2008. He is employed as a sports tutor at Islamic University in Uganda. He has also embarked on football initiatives working with both rural girls and boys on themes such as education, health and community support for young people in eastern Uganda.

“As a result of Premier Skills training in 2010, the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) appointed me as the National U-20 Girls’ Team football coach instructor and National Beach Soccer Coach in 2012. Later, I advanced as an instructor and referees assessor. I have organized over 13 FUFA football coaching courses where I have trained and mentored over 27 coaches and 13 referees across Uganda. Through British Council and Premier League, I got sponsorship in 2014 to travel to the UK for The FA International Coaching course at St George’s Park, London.”



Premier Skills Community Coaches



Mukisa Lydia Stephans

Lydia is a community coach living in the Wakiso district. After completing the Premier Skills training in 2016, she embarked on using learnings from the programme to establish the Sokolo football academy and Sokolo Foundation. Her charity now supports 70 boys and 20 girls and offers them opportunities to pursue education while playing football.

Children dropping out of school is still a big challenge in Uganda. In the case of Kampala and surrounding areas, the children who leave school, especially girls, are exposed to early child pregnancy and risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS. She has been working with other coach administrators to create safe and inclusive spaces for girls during tournaments, as a coach and child safety and protection officer.

She organises a workshop with community leaders and raises awareness about mental health, and HIV/AIDS among young people in the community.

Her Premier Skills journey since 2016 has included working as a coach and collaborating with many community coaches and sports organisation working with young people. In 2021, she was a panellist on the Premier Skills online panel discussion to speak on advancing female participation in football in Uganda. This event was to lead up the Goal 5 Summit to mark International Day of the Girl Child.

“I am inspired to advance and engage more girls to play football. From the Premier Skills, I learned how to use the STEPS and SMILES [premier skills coaching principles] which make my sessions more fun, and it has also helped me to identify risks and ways to mitigate them while working with young people. I can now do more on the pitch as a female coach while safeguarding female participants.”



Agnes Mutonyi

Agnes completed the Premier Skills training in 2018. She is now the head coach at Girls United, a team of 50 U-17 girls that play in the Kampala Girls League.

“Premier Skills programme gave a chance to understand simple skills yet very effective during training sessions while engaging with children, especially girls. Football is now more fun; the girls are now more excited and willing to play without any fears and I love their confidence. The acronyms of SMILES and STEPS [Premier Skills coaching principles] have been very helpful and effective.”



Sharifah Nantumbwe

Sharifah embarked on the Premier Skills training in 2022. She is now coaching at Edgars Youth Programme, a football team and academy for boys which also plays in Kampala Kids Leagues.

“Working with young people had always been a challenge for me on the pitch. With the Premier Skills training, I was able to acquire skills and knowledge on working with young people in the community. This programme was the core foundation of my coaching career. I was able to further my studies when I enrolled and completed the Confederation of African Football (CAF) C Diploma in the coaching course.”



Ruth Akao

Ruth joined the Premier Skills programme in 2021. She is involved in community initiatives offering girls an opportunity to play football and stay in school. Working with other coaches, she established a charity organisation called Women in Football Uganda.

“Learning about inclusion during the programme inspired me and other colleagues to start a community-based organisation ‘Women in Football Uganda’. We provide free training sessions to girls between the age of six and 17 years. We have registered over 35 girls into the programme and two of them recently finished their Primary 7 and were awarded full football scholarships. We have impacted over 100 girls through soccer clinics and girls’ leagues in Kampala.”



Diana Namuli

Diana joined the Premier Skills programme in 2022. She now coaches Dreams FC, a football club of young people in the Buikwe district that plays in the U-17 regional league. Her initiatives have been successful in mobilising young people to participate in community projects.

“It has been a wonderful platform that opened more opportunities for me to add value to my community especially engaging young people in active activities such as football and reproductive health programmes. In a rural community like where I coach, many girls drop out of school and most times they get married off at an early age. With football, we have managed to bring together young girls and empower them.”



Immaculate Kabagahe

Immaculate joined the Premier Skills programme in 2021. She is employed as a coach to train a team of 28 girls and 17 boys at Soccer without Borders, an international NGO delivering football and education programmes to young people in Kampala.

“I am now able to plan and make effective sessions safe, inclusive, and educative for the participants. Children are now more open to me and I can listen to them and get effective feedback from participants about the session. Nothing excites me like seeing children play football with happiness.”



Walter Akena

Walter is a community coach community working with many young people who live in refugee settlement camps. He joined the Premier Skills programme in 2013 and now coaches Acholi United Football FC, a football club with 25 girls and 19 boys. Most of the young people who fled the war in South Sudan have settled in the region. Walter's initiatives target these young people to engage them in football training and participate in community tournaments. People in northern Uganda suffered from war in the early 2000s and many young people still stay in settlement camps with limited opportunities to play football. With football as a change agent, we mobilise young people and train them in life skills.

"Premier Skills programme offered me skills in working with young people and I have travelled to many communities in the camps to engage and scout for talent from the grassroots. Twenty young children have so far benefited from bursaries to continue schooling and play football for their school teams."



Fahaby Kitimbo

Fahaby embarked on the Premier Skills programme in 2021. She is employed as a senior programme coordinator, overseeing the football department at Soccer Without Borders, an international NGO delivering football and education programmes to young people in Kampala. Moments on the pitch are precious during my coaching. I was able to discover more by interacting with fellow female coaches from Premier Skills. I now have a network of coaches to consult when it comes to football coaching for young people.

"Many young girls have been inspired to follow in our footsteps as female coaches in the community. The SMILES and STEPS coaching approaches from the Premier Skills training have helped me to improve the football sessions delivered. Planning for the training is part of my everyday schedule, especially a safe ground and carrying only the equipment I plan to use to the pitch. I am self-driven, confident, and social when delivering training sessions. I developed my leadership skills and now taking on roles to offer an effective and inclusive space for my team."



Mayele Jules Murhula

Jules is a Premier Skills community coach and joined programme in 2016. He is employed as programme manager at Soccer Without Borders in Kampala where he supports other coaches in the football-for-good sector and initiatives to advance gender equality on the pitch. He also focuses on the publicity of the programme by sharing great stories of community football with the media.

“The training on inclusion helped me support all the youth in my team regardless of their skill levels. I now have a network of coaches from the programme and other organisations with whom we collaborate to deliver successful football events. “I am immensely grateful to have been part of the Premier Skills programme. I learned a lot of professional

coaching skills from Premier Skills. I can engage with young people at the centre all the time during my coaching sessions while prioritising their needs to play football with fun and protect them from abuse.”



Mercy Nabulobi

Mercy joined Premier Skills in 2021. She is now a coach at Women in Football Uganda in Mukono district. A community-based organisation that she founded with other two female colleagues to mentor girls in the communities using football.

“Through Premier Skills, I discovered that we can do more for young people using football apart from playing. We have been able to mobilise girls to mentor them in other life skills to become better people in the community and that has given me a lot of joy. I am determined to support more girls improve their

football in schools and connect them to sports scholarships for their secondary education. We also scout for talented young people that dropped out of school in eastern Uganda through the Mordechai Mentorship Club and create pathways for them to play professional football.”



Mustafa Nsamba

Mustapha joined the Premier Skills programme in 2016. He now coaches Leopard FC, a men's football club which plays in the Kampala Intercity tournaments. He organises sports activities for GIS Community Organisation where 30 girls and 20 boys participate in football tournaments.

"Premier Skills opened my understanding of the value of empowering girls to engage in sports. I am confident to lead and coach teams that have female participants and give the opportunities to play in tournaments and enjoy the sport."



Rebecca Nakasato

Rebecca joined Premier Skills in 2020, and she is now a community coach at Watoto Wasooka in Kampala where she coaches a team of 30 girls who participate in Women Regional League Under 7-14 community tournaments.

"Premier Skills opened my pathway to coaching inclusive football by training other community coaches. I now coach teams at the Women in Football Organisation, Excel Soccer Academy, and Gava Inter Africa Sports Academy. Both clubs for girls 7-14 years to participate in the Women's Regional Leagues. From the clubs, we have been able to continue sharing my knowledge gained from Premier Skills."



Collines Ahumuza

Collines joined the Premier Skills programme in 2021, and she is currently volunteering as a coach at Uganda Christian University for both female and male teams. She also oversees the football programme at Women in Football where they train a team of 30 girls in the rural community of Mukono district.

“Premier Skills courses made me a great coach, I am confident, and I learned to work with everyone irrespective of who they are. My aim is to reach more young people in the community to play fun and inclusive football. I love football as a female coach, and I am seeing many girls embrace football at the university and in rural communities. Our skills from Premier Skills have now started paying off.”



Dorcas Nanyonga

Dorcas joined the Premier Skills course in 2021, and she is now coaching 20 boys and 30 girls at YES Academy in the Busia district at the border with Kenya. Border areas are known for having many young people dropping out of school and engaging themselves in illegal activities such as smuggling goods across the border at an early age. Dorcas’ initiatives support young people to participate in community football training and football festivals.

“With the coaching skills gained from the Premier Skills training. The girls love the game and they are empowered to follow in my footsteps. I am now a role model for many young girls in the Kisenya community of Busia district bordering Uganda and Kenya. We have returned over 15 girls back to school using our football programme.”

Elvis Wilson Lubowa

Elvis joined Premier Skills in 2010 and established the Michezo Youth Academy, operating in Kampala and Mukono districts.

“At Michezo, we reach out to young people in the community, scout for talent, and interest them in playing football. We also realised that many community coaches were doing similar work but have limited knowledge and skills in child protection. Our programme also trains community coaches and supports them to work with children, especially school coaches. After Premier Skills training in 2010, I was employed as a programme officer at Hope for Justice working on a programme for children that live on the street of Kampala. The child protection course from Premier Skills was very fundamental in delivering coaching sessions and life skills to children. Football was a uniting force to bring them together.”

Apofia Nabirye

Apofia joined Premier Skills in 2021, and after the course she was employed as a tutor at Uganda Youth Development Link where she was training girls on hairdressing and introducing football to the girls at the institute. She was able to carry out mental health sessions to talk to students as many of them were going through tough times and needed to build self-esteem and confidence.

“Premier Skills introduced me to the SMILE concept [Safe, Maximum Participation, Inclusion, Learning, Enjoyment and Success], which was very effective in participation and having inclusive sessions.” I was able to understand how to manage teams and take on leadership for the community programme since I was a tutor. I also returned to school as an adult student and hope to sit for Uganda Advanced Certificate Education this year under the adult education programme and complete secondary education.”

Kazibwe Bright

Kazibwe joined Premier Skills in 2015 and is a community coach. He started Universal Soccer Academy, a team of 65 boys and 15 girls.

"We have mentored and trained many children who now play for clubs in the Uganda Premier League and Uganda Christian University. These were once children living on the street of Kampala and now play professional football."

Premier Skills built my confidence in coaching young children after understanding the children's protection course. I have advanced my career by taking on other courses including the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) Beginners Course in Coaching, CAF D, and now CAF C."

Faridah Kisitu

Faridah joined Premier Skills in 2020, and now works as a community coach at Field of Dreams, a club of 25 girls. Before joining Premier Skills, she was a football player at Kampala Queens. She coaches young players starting from primary school and focuses on developing their self-esteem and training them on other life skills outside football, mentoring girls in becoming role models for others. Many of the girls were vulnerable, and she has developed them into leaders.

"Premier Skills built my confidence to stand in front of players and deliver training sessions. I have now inspired other female coaches on handling children and planning for sessions. I have advanced taking on other courses, including CAF D in 2020 and CAF C in 2021 and continued the journey of becoming a professional coach."

Ayebale Allan

Allan joined the programme in 2015, and he currently works as a community coach at Kitende Community Youth, a football club with 25 girls and ten boys in Wakiso district. He also coaches school teams to participate in the school's tournaments in the district.

My team is confident, and they are taking on tournaments and leagues in the central region.

"Working with young people is my passion and Premier Skills ignited my coaching career. Many school leaders in my community have appreciated my approach to coaching young people, especially girls in schools and in the community. My team is confident, and they are taking on tournaments and leagues in the central region."

Mutyaba Kausara

Mutyaba joined Premier Skills in 2018. As community coach, he established Titans Katwe Soccer Academy, a team of 50 boys and 30 girls.

"Our organization identifies children living on the streets and restores their lives. We have reunited many children with their families after going through our programmes. We organise workshops for training children on life skills outside football and creative works such as crafts and bookmaking. We have children that have gone far with playing football; Ibra Kayiwa plays for Busoga United FC and Nabweteme Sandra plays professional football in Israel. Katabi Jane and Nakyeyune Letisha play Beach Soccer for the Ugandan team. Premier Skills was my first encounter with professional coaching skills in handling players and working with children. Child protection and planning training sessions were a big takeaway from the programme. I got further training by taking on other courses. I enrolled for the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) Beginners Coaching Course."

Kato Ashim Irish

Kato joined Premier Skills in 2017 and later established the Teletubbies Kids League, a club of 90 boys and 22 girls operating in the suburbs of Kampala.

"We started an organization that was timely and relevant to the community, especially working with children that live on the streets. Through our programme, children who have previously lived on the streets are offered an opportunity to return to school, play football, have life skills, and shelter. I have trained many great players through this programme who play in Uganda Premier League; Joel Kiyonga, Kirunga Hassan, and Sebumbi Yusuf who played for Vipers FC. Before coaching, I was a primary school teacher and loved working with children. Premier Skills started my career in coaching. The programme built my skills in child protection, planning for training sessions, and leadership. I enrolled and completed the FIFA Grassroot Educator, CAF D and currently studying for a bachelor's in Business Administration."

Kamoga Shaft

Kamoga joined Premier Skills in 2017, and is currently coaching Life Eternal Soccer Academy, a team of 40 boys and 15 girls.

"As community coaches, we use football to reach out and mobilise children in the suburbs of Kampala working with a local church and providing activities including menstrual hygiene to girls, and sanitization and wash programmes in the Kabuli area. Today we have many children that we coach and are playing for their school teams and performing well. We have mentored some players that play in the Uganda Premier League, among them are Bruno Bugaga who plays for URA [Uganda Revenue Authority Football Club], Michael Lubowa who was signed recently to URA, and Ssebagala Enoch who plays for Express FC. Premier Skills was my very first course on coaching football, it opened my career as a coach. It built my confidence and self-esteem and today every child that has been coached understands that I value them and always want the best for them. All this was learned by enrolling in Premier Skills. Besides just playing football and coaching you can be the change others want to see in the community. My Premier Skills certificate has value as it got me my very first coaching job with Sports Outreach & Evangelism in Uganda an organization that was using sports for evangelism."

Herbert Ssevume

Herbert is a community coach and currently coaching at Life Eternal Academy Football in Nateete in the suburbs of Kampala.

“At Eternal Academy, we focus on programmes that transform the lives of children that live on the streets. Working together with village health teams and local leaders, we counsel the children and offer shelter to restore their lives while training them to play football. Most of the children have received bursaries from good Samaritans to return to school. We are lucky to have mentored Ssebagala Enoch for Express FC and Mbowa Patrick who plays for URA FC who plays in Uganda Premier League. Before Premier Skills, I didn’t have any basic coaching skills to handle young people. Today I am a great coach as it opened my career as a professional coach. I enrolled and completed training for Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) Beginners Coaching and CAF C course.”

Raymond Paul Kawungu

Raymond joined Premier Skills in 2017 and is currently coaching boys and girls teams at Sokolo Football Academy, a charity organization using football to offer education and shelter for children.

“At Sokolo Foundation we provide a home and food for children we have identified in the community especially those that have lived on the streets. Football has offered many of them to return to school as they look for schools that offer bursaries to needy children that play football for school teams. We also carry out sports for development activities where we use football drills to carry out programmes in the community.

We empower girls and advocate for their participation in football. We carry out awareness sessions for boys on menstrual health and hygiene and stigmatising girls when playing football.

We have trained players including Semakula Cyrus who plays for NEC Under 17 Junior team in Uganda Premier League. Through our programme, we have also mentored other community coaches including female coaches in the past 4 years.”

Henry Kassuja

Henry joined Premier Skills in 2014, and is currently coaching Divine Destiny FC, a club of 30 boys and 15 girls.

“We are using football to identify children that need support. We have a programme that targets teenage mothers, through counselling, we build their confidence to play football freely and interest them to return to school. Apart from football, we do other vocational training for the children in tailoring, liquid soap making, paper bags, and candles. We have built relationships with the local church that supports counselling services and mentoring and engaging the children spiritually having our children take bible reading classes.

One of the girls had dropped out of school in senior four due to early pregnancy. She is loved and taken care of by our organization. She returned to school, completed the ordinary level, and is currently studying in senior five. We see her ambition to go further with her education.

Premier Skills gave me an opportunity to understand an inclusive environment while working with others and coaching young people. Now I understand how to time for coaching skills at a different level with ease. I also understood how to build relationships with other organizations and coaches that are interested in delivering related programmes to children in the community.

I completed the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) Beginners coaching course level 1 and 2 and enrolled for the CAF C license which I hope to complete soon.”

Amina Tamugwaniza

After completing the Premier Skills training in 2022, **Aminah** now works as a community coach at Budondo Soccer Academy, and a school coach at Namasagali College where she trains 100 boys and 80 girls in the academy in Jinja district in eastern Uganda.

“Premier Skills helped me to acquire skills and knowledge in coaching young people in the community. The skills acquired from the programme were a strong foundation to further my studies and attain a Diploma Course in coaching at the Confederation of African Football (CAF). With these qualifications, I have taken community football to another level as a professional coach empowering many young people in schools and community tournaments.”



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