
**Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International
Standards of Accounting and Reporting
(ISAR)**

**41st SESSION
6 – 8 November 2024**

Friday, 8 November 2024

**Agenda item 5 (a). Updates on implementation of technical
cooperation projects**

Presented by

Richard Mubiru, Lead Officer, Enterprise Growth and
Development, Ministry of Finance,
Planning and Economic Development, Uganda

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Experiences from Uganda's Informality Management for Compliance and Revenue Mobilization (IMCORE) Program

**Richard Mubiru,
Manager, Enterprise Growth and
Development, Ministry of Finance,
Planning and Economic Development
Uganda**





Outline

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. UNCTAD Technical Assistance**
- 3. Uganda's E- Accounting Tool**
- 4. Relevance of the E-Accounting tool**
- 5. Screen shorts of the Tool**
- 6. Conclusion**



Introduction of IMCORE Program

1. To ease formalization of SMEs, Government conceived the Informality Management for Compliance and Revenue Mobilization (IMCORE) Program.
2. This program was designed as a Long term Study to appreciate motivations and challenges of informal operations within start-ups and small informal entities.
3. Focuses on boosting internal capacities of small informal businesses as well as equipping Business owners with practical business management skills, Apprenticeship opportunities to ease formalization.



UNCTAD Technical Assistance

1. The first phase of the Technical Assistance from UNCTAD focused on;
 - (i) assessing the institutional, regulatory and administrative frameworks for accounting and reporting in the country
 - (ii) Supported development of tools to ease SME formalization and compliance.



Uganda e-Accounting Tool Process

1. Local consultant hired to support development of the e-accounting tool.
2. Benchmarked existing digital platforms for the SMEs accounting to check structure, functionalities, etc. April 2023
3. Several stakeholder engagements held to inform the Conceptualization of the e-accounting tool.
4. Testing of the pilot version, collecting feedback from key stakeholders.
5. First e-accounting tool validation held during the National Workshop in Uganda in June 2023.
6. Uganda E-Accounting tool's practical training of trainers' session for SMEs held in June, 2023.
7. Conducted technical feasibility, usefulness and readiness of the tool by selected SMEs provided by Empretec Centre Uganda – August / September 2023.
8. Presentation of the tool to Ministry of Finance Top management for endorsement and ownership July 2024.
9. Second national validation of the tool held in July 2024, attended by MDAs, SMEs and researchers.



E-Accounting Tool Advantages

1. **Easy to understand** instructions, Tutorials and Training manuals)
2. **Free Access to Small Informal Businesses;** its online and can be accessed from anywhere in the world. Ugandans requested for offline options and translation into key local dialects
3. **Simplicity;** Simplified accounting, all purpose financial statements and comprehensive performance analysis – just in one click !
4. **Reliability;** Data is safely and confidentially kept on-line and also has an off-line functionality.
5. Domesticated/ Tailored to Uganda's Micro – small businesses needs regardless of entrepreneur's financial literacy levels.

Thanks to UNCTAD, all SMEs involved in the project will access the e-accounting tool to be used for recording of transactions, reporting and producing financial statements.

This will ease SME formalization, compliance and Competitiveness in Uganda.



Screen Shorts of the Uganda E- Accounting Tool

1. Signing into the tool

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Uganda eAccounting tool. The browser address bar displays 'uganda.easyaccounts.org'. The website header includes the 'easy accounts' logo and a 'SIGN IN' link. The main heading reads 'Simple accounting for micro and small enterprises'. Below this, a subheading states 'Generate financial statements easily, by filling questionnaire once a month:'. A list of features is provided: 'Income statement', 'Balance sheet', 'Profit analysis', and 'Step-by-step business formalization guide'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'SIGN UP HERE' (highlighted by a red callout bubble) and 'SIGN IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT'. The callout bubble contains the text 'Click here to capture your registration details'. An inset image shows a preview of the tool's interface, including a 'QUESTIONNAIRE' section and a 'FINANCIAL STATEMENTS' section with a 'Net income' bar chart.

Uganda eAccounting tool

uganda.easyaccounts.org

easy accounts

SIGN IN

Simple accounting for micro and small enterprises

Generate financial statements easily, by filling questionnaire once a month:

- ✓ Income statement
- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit analysis
- ✓ Step-by-step business formalization guide

Not yet registered? **SIGN UP HERE**

Do you already have your account? **SIGN IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT**

Click here to capture your registration details

easy accounts

QUESTIONNAIRE

January 2022

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounting for Micro and Small Enterprises (eas) accounting

SUMMARY

A snapshot of company's financial status

Income Statement - summary

Sales and purchases

Net income

2021-2022

2021-01

2021-02

2021-03

2021-04

Sheet - summary

Current Assets

Screen Shorts of the Uganda E- Accounting Tool

2. You can Capture your transactions using the web-based Tool

1. Capture all your monthly transactions

Click here to capture your transactions

easy accounts Davidson

Transactions Financial statements Formalisation & Access to finance

Please fill in all the questions of the selected month in the "Transactions" section. A set of financial statements and ratios will be generated automatically in the "Financial

TRANSACTIONS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

You can find "Tutorials" by clicking the red icon

January 2024

Micro and Small Enterprises accounting

SALES

Cash sales 85,000

Credit sales 60,000

(Cash sales + Credit sales)

Sales of the month 145,000

PURCHASES

Select the period of transactions

Check for tutorials by clicking this red icon

Total of Cash & Credit sales. This is auto generated

The screenshot shows the 'Transactions' section of the Uganda E-Accounting Tool. The interface includes a navigation bar with 'Transactions', 'Financial statements', and 'Formalisation & Access to finance'. The 'Transactions' section is active, displaying a form for entering monthly transactions. The form includes a dropdown for the month (January) and a year selector (2024). A red icon next to the 'TRANSACTIONS' header is highlighted with a callout: 'Check for tutorials by clicking this red icon'. The form lists 'SALES' and 'PURCHASES' with sub-items. Under 'SALES', 'Cash sales' is 85,000 and 'Credit sales' is 60,000. A callout points to the 'SALES' header: 'Select the period of transactions'. A yellow callout points to the total 'Sales of the month' of 145,000: 'Total of Cash & Credit sales. This is auto generated'. The 'PURCHASES' section is also visible at the bottom.

Screen Shorts of the Uganda E- Accounting Tool

3. Offline Tool version available in case of unreliable internet.

The screenshot shows the Uganda eAccounting tool website. The browser address bar displays 'uganda.easyaccounts.org/?lng=undefined'. The main heading reads 'Simple accounting for micro and small enterprises'. Below this, a text block states: 'Generate financial statements easily, by filling a simple questionnaire once a month:'. A list of features follows: '✓ Income statement', '✓ Balance sheet', '✓ Profit analysis', and '✓ Step-by-step business formalization guide'. Two buttons are present: 'SIGN UP HERE' (red) and 'SIGN IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT' (yellow). A yellow speech bubble points to a link at the bottom: 'Click here to download the offline version of the tool in the excel format'. To the right, a preview of the offline Excel tool is shown, featuring a red header, a questionnaire form, and a 'FINANCIAL STATEMENTS' section with a 'SUMMARY' table and a 'Net income' bar chart.

Uganda eAccounting tool

uganda.easyaccounts.org/?lng=undefined

Simple accounting for micro and small enterprises

Generate financial statements easily, by filling a simple questionnaire once a month:

- ✓ Income statement
- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit analysis
- ✓ Step-by-step business formalization guide

Not yet registered? **SIGN UP HERE**

Do you already have your account? **SIGN IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT**

Click here to download the offline version of the tool in the excel format

① Easy Accounts also offers an offline report-generating spreadsheet to help you familiarize yourself with accounting. [Click here to download it](#)

Screen Shorts of the Uganda E- Accounting Tool

4. Formulas in grey cells help in auto populating the tool

The screenshot displays the Uganda E-Accounting Tool interface. The top menu bar includes FILE, HOME, INSERT, PAGE LAYOUT, FORMULAS, DATA, REVIEW, VIEW, and ACROBAT. The REVIEW tab is active, showing options like Spelling, Research, Thesaurus, Translate, New Comment, Delete Previous, Next, Show/Hide Comment, Show All Comments, Show Ink, Unprotect Sheet, Protect Workbook, Share Workbook, Protect and Share Workbook, Allow Users to Edit Ranges, Track Changes, and Start Inking Ink.

The spreadsheet shows a table with columns for Transactions, Month (January to December), and Annual Amount. The data is organized into sections: SALES, PURCHASES, and OPERATING EXPENSES. The Annual Amount column is highlighted in grey, indicating it contains formulas.

A yellow callout box points to the grey Annual Amount column, stating: "The Grey Area has formulas and cannot be changed: Its auto-filled".

Transactions	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual Amount
SALES													
Cash sales	85,000												85,000
Credit sales	60000												60000
Sales of the month	145000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	145000
PURCHASES													
Cash purchases	55,000												55,000
Credit purchases	15000												15000
Purchase of the month	70000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70000
OPERATING EXPENSES													
Salaries	5,000												5,000
Travel costs	10,000												10,000
Rent	15,000												15,000
Insurance													-
Repairs and maintenance													-
Office supplies													-
Advertising and marketing													-
Electricity													-
Water													-

Screen Shorts of the Uganda E- Accounting Tool

5. Formalisation and Tax information



easy accounts

ISARTEST2021



Transactions

Financial statements

Formalisation & Access to finance

Settings

System



2024



Step-by-step guide to formalizing a business in Uganda

Business formalization refers to the process of legally registering and structuring a business to ensure it operates within the Ugandan legal framework.

A formal business is one that has registered with **Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URBS)** and obtained a business or Company name, registered for taxes with **Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)** and obtained a **Tax Identification Number (TIN)** and has secured permission to trade in any desired area/place through obtaining a **Trading License**

Why do I need to register my business?

- **Growth and continuity:** Enhanced business reputation leads to a broader and loyal clientele, which is essential for business expansion and growth.
- **Better access to financial services:** Such as bank loans and other Government financial interventions that are essential for business expansion.
- **Attracting investors:** Formally registered businesses are more attractive to investors who may want to buy into your establishment.
- **Acquiring a TIN:** Helps you process land transactions and eases the payment of stamp duty on land transfers and motor vehicle applications.
- **Claim tax refunds:** Formalization helps you claim tax refunds where you could have paid excess taxes.

Business Formalization Process

Step 1 – Business/Company Registration with URSB

The business formalization process begins with the URSB, where one gets a Certificate of Registration (for a business) or a Certificate of Incorporation (for a company). Businesses

Insights from recent implementation of the Accounting Development - Uganda



Conclusion

1. All stakeholders have high expectations for this program
2. UNCTAD continues to provide global best practices to supplement local knowledge and expertise for the success of this program.
3. Government is committed to implement this program to;
 - a) Pilot and study this tool as we appreciate the motivations for informal operations
 - b) Establish the most appropriate incentive framework for formalising the SMEs in Uganda
 - c) Share lessons from the National rollout of this program



Thank You For Listening

