

## **68 FEMALE INMATES AND 6 PRISON OFFICERS GAIN VOCATIONAL SKILLS AT FORT PORTAL WOMEN PRISONS**

Six (6) female prison officers and Sixty-eight (68) female inmates have completed a four-month hands-on training program at Fort Portal Women Prisons, aimed at improving rehabilitation and reintegration within the Uganda Prisons Service.

The training covered practical skills such as carpentry and joinery, knitting and weaving, cosmetology and body care, soap making (both liquid and bar), culinary arts including bakery, pastries and artisan work. The participants were awarded certificates after successfully completing the course.



The graduation ceremony was presided over by ACGP Robert Munanura, Production and Engineering, who represented the Commissioner General of Prisons.

In his speech, Mr. Munanura stressed the importance of vocational skills in transforming the lives of inmates. He encouraged the participants to use the knowledge gained to become self-reliant and productive after their release. He also emphasized discipline, hard work, and continuous learning as key values for success.

The program is part of ongoing efforts by Uganda Prisons Service to equip inmates with useful skills that can help them rebuild their lives after release, while also boosting prison production.

This initiative was made possible through a partnership between Uganda Prisons Service, the Embassy of the Netherlands, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Penal Reform International. In 2025, these partners donated production equipment, which has supported vocational training at the facility.

In addition to skills training, the program also supports legal counseling, paralegal services, family visits, and community corrections.

Some of the items produced, such as sweaters made by inmates, are donated to vulnerable groups, especially school-going children in nearby communities.

This program supports the service development goal of transforming every prisoner into responsible, law abiding and economically productive citizen.

