

## **Transforming Women's Lives Through Skilling**

Formerly, with hardly any savings, the Tumwebaze Women's Group in Mityana District was the joke of the community. Through FOWODE's training in practical economic skills, specifically focusing on "mandazi" (doughnut) production, the group was able to pick up and get to work. With combined resources and determination, they refined their craft, growing their clientele from across the sub-county. As orders poured in and profits increased, the once-dormant savings group sprang to life, echoing with the sounds of hope and possibility. Currently, they save 50,000/= weekly as profit in their group account, with expectations of further savings as production expands.

Najjemba Gloria, the Secretary and Group Coordinator, highlighted the significant impact of FOWODE's economic skilling on their group.

"The practical skills we have gained have led to notable growth in savings, improved cohesion among members, and strengthened the group's organization. As we move forward, we aim to share our knowledge and skills with other women in our community, fostering synergies and expanding our enterprise. We plan to produce more bakery products, enhancing quality to meet national standards." expressed Najjemba, brimming with optimism.

FOWODE's Gender and Economic Justice programme envisages women's economic



*Tumwebaze Women's Group members in the process of making doughnuts for sale.*

empowerment as one of the vehicles for effective participation in leadership and governance. Women's independent and sustained voice cannot be achieved in the absence of economic autonomy and empowerment. Through initiatives like these, the organisation tackles a key barrier to gender equality and women's participation in public life. Najjemba represents just one of the 365 women in Mityana and Luwero who have been trained in various income-generating activities, with many more set to benefit from these programs.