



UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



Uganda Country Results Report | 2021








UN Uganda Country Results 2021

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Contents

Foreword	1
United Nations Country Team	2
Key development partners of the UN development system in Uganda	3
01 Key developments in the country and the regional context	4
02 United Nations development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework	7
2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework results	8
2.2 Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs	11
2.3 Support to partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda	61
2.4 Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency	64
2.5 Lessons Learned.....	66
2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization	67
03 Emerging issues and UNCT key focus for 2022	68
3.1 Emerging issues	69
3.2 UNCT key focus for 2022	69
Acronyms	71



Foreword



I am pleased to present the Uganda One United Nations Country Report for 2021. The report reflects how the United Nations (UN) system in Uganda supported the country towards its 2030 aspirations as contained in the Third National Development Plan and the Vision 2040, through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025.

The UN in Uganda appreciates the Government of Uganda, donors, and partners for taking bold steps to reduce the risk and respond to the impact of COVID-19 on communities. Over the two years 2020 and 2021, the collective UN system efforts to respond to COVID-19 and its consequences mobilized an estimated US\$92.5 million. I take the opportunity to congratulate the Government of Uganda on the recent launch of the Parish Development Model and express our commitment to support government programmes in the framework.

The UN System continues to support the 2030 Agenda through strategic partnerships and interventions to deepen the localization and financing for Sustainable Development Goals and integrate a human rights-based approach and gender principles into data and statistics. In line with the promise to 'leave no one behind', the UN system in Uganda pledges to engage with civil society, affected communities and the Ugandan Government to align the efforts of the international community, including the Universal Periodic Review and the Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Appreciation goes to the partners in the government, civil society, the private sector, and communities with whom the UN has worked to implement the Cooperation Framework in 2021. Going forward, the UN in Uganda will continue to support the Ugandan Government's recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic with due attention to data and statistics for sustainable development goals; empowering adolescents and youth in Uganda to unleash their full potential; violence against women and girls; and emergency response coordination.

Susan Ngongi Namondo
UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda

United Nations Country Team

In 2020, the United Nations country team (UNCT) in Uganda assessed the UN system capacities and resources required to effectively deliver on the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Uganda (2021-2025). Twenty-nine UN entities participated in the assessment.



UNITED NATIONS MISSIONS AND REGIONAL ENTITIES BASED IN UGANDA



Key development partners of the UN development system in Uganda



Government of Uganda



Government of Austria



Government of Azerbaijan



Government of Belgium



Government of Canada



Government of China



Government of Denmark



Government of Finland



Government of France



Government of Germany



Government of Iceland



Government of Ireland



Government of Japan



Government of Liechtenstein



Government of Luxembourg



Government of Netherlands



Government of Norway



Government of Portugal



Government of Russian Federation



Government of South Korea



Government of Spain



Government of Sweden



Government of Switzerland



Government of Switzerland



Government of United Kingdom



Government of United States of America



European Commission



01

Key developments in the country and the regional context

Uganda is recovering from the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In 2021, the economy exhibited resilience, increasing by 3.3 per cent in the financial year 2020/21, after a considerable slowdown in 2019/20 (2.9 per cent), while per capita GDP grew from US\$916 in 2019/20 to US\$936 in 2020/21. However, the country is experiencing rapid urbanization and concentration of economic activity in urban centres, which calls for an increased focus on productivity-centred economic growth. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Report 2021 ranked Uganda 140 out of 165 countries with a global index score of 53.5, having improved from 52.6 in 2019 (a score of 100 indicates that all SDGs have been achieved). The following developments impacted the country team’s work in 2021.

General elections

Uganda successfully conducted general elections in January 2021 for the president, members of parliament, and local governments. However, the electioneering period was affected by COVID-19, which reduced the interaction between the candidates and the populace. Some violence was noted as a result of election-based anxiety and excitement among different sections of the population.

Peace and Security

Uganda has remained peaceful and stable. However, the country experienced instances terror attacks including a twin suicide bomb attack near the Uganda central police station and the Parliament in November 2021.

COVID-19 pandemic

The pandemic affected business continuity in public administration, public sector performance, the dispensation of justice, legislature, and democracy. The lockdown curtailed access to justice due to restricted movement and temporary closure of justice, law and order sector (JLOS) institutions, causing case backlogs. Justice institutions embraced digital solutions in case management and adjudication processes in court proceedings to address these barriers. The upsurge in COVID-19 cases in March 2021 prompted the government to resume lockdown measures that had been eased from the previous year. This disrupted the continuity of essential health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Immunization services declined in third dose diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT 3) vaccine

coverage, and the emergence of vaccine-derived polio was reported in some regions. Health worker nutrition screening decreased by 10.8 per cent, leading to the introduction of mother-led screening with mid-upper arm circumference tapes. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted WASH system weaknesses and the need to prioritize safe water coverage in rural areas.

THE GOVERNMENT REPORTED
127,523 CONFIRMED
 CASES OF COVID-19 IN 2021,
WITH 3,252 DEATHS.



COVID-19 VACCINATION
 RATES REMAIN LOW AT 2%
4,751,422 PEOPLE
 WERE VACCINATED IN 2021

Efforts were made to accelerate the implementation of the COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign, using diverse social mobilization approaches at the sub-national level.

The COVID-19 lockdowns triggered increased violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC), particularly girls. The 2020 Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) national survey on violence demonstrated persistently high levels of intimate partner and sexual violence, with a significant increase over five years. Sexual violence was the most reported form of violence against children at 38.3 per cent of cases, with neglect being the second highest at 35.8 per cent.

The prolonged closure of schools and education institutions

The pandemic significantly impacted children's education. Marginalized children, including refugee children, had minimal access to alternative remote learning modalities. While the phased reopening of schools enabled candidates to sit their final examinations, the second COVID-19 wave in June 2021 led to renewed school closures and further learning losses, affecting 15 million learners.



BY THE END OF 2021,
NEARLY 6M CHILDREN
IN LOWER PRIMARY CLASSES
(1-3) HAD MISSED ALMOST TWO
ACADEMIC YEARS OF LEARNING.

During the long school closure, weakened parental care, increased teenage pregnancy, child labour, and a loss of interest may result in many children not returning to school. The National Planning Authority (NPA) predicted that 30 per cent of the learners who had enrolled in February 2020 would not return when the schools reopen in January 2022. In addition, many teachers, particularly from private schools who were not paid during the closures, left teaching to take up alternative employment.

Between January and December 2021, 214 teenage pregnancies and 146 child marriage cases were reported through the child helpline. The Uganda Police Crime Report 2020 highlighted over 12,000 adolescent girls aged 9-17 years being defiled, including by guardians and parents, while Ministry of Health (MOH) noted over 1,456,429 girls under the age of 18 years reporting for antenatal care. The underlying causes of defilement include cultural norms that assume girls who develop breasts are considered ready for marriage.

Vulnerability to shocks

The production sectors and livelihoods of vulnerable communities that depend on agriculture, forestry and fisheries were negatively affected by shocks, mainly prolonged dry spells and erratic rainfall, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Other factors included rising water levels of the River Nile, desert locusts and other migratory pests, and a renewed outbreak of livestock epidemics (foot and mouth disease and African swine fever). By October 2021, 345,311 people were affected by drought, floods, landslides, heavy storms, and fire outbreaks. A total of 23,558 people were internally displaced due to the destruction of infrastructure and the risk of waterborne and climate-sensitive diseases. The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report completed in 2021 classified 30 per cent of the population in Karamoja, Uganda's most deprived sub-region, in phase 3 (crisis) and above.

ABOUT ONE-QUARTER
OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF
AGE IN KARAMOJA ARE STUNTED,



AND 1 CHILD IN 10 IS WASTED.

Uganda continued to host 1,573,291 refugees as of 31 December 2021, most of whom fled insecurity and political upheaval in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan. Due to overcrowding in urban settlements, poor access to WASH, a high prevalence of undernutrition, and multiple protection risks, an estimated 4,084,983 refugees and host community members will need humanitarian assistance by the end of 2022.



02

United Nations development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

A member of Mabuyenzyo Farmers Group in Bukulula Sub-county, Kalungu District tends to the group passion fruit garden. The group also benefited from solar-powered irrigation system under the EU funded GCCA project ©FAO Uganda

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

2.1.1 Transformative and inclusive governance

United Nations support for the electoral process:

In collaboration with both state and non-state actors, including the Elders Forum of Uganda and the Women's Situation Room, the UN-facilitated high-level political dialogues on the electoral processes and supported high-level diplomacy meetings between the UN Resident Coordinator, political parties and senior representation of state institutions engaged in the 2020/2021 electoral process. Consequently, strategic dialogue on the conduct of elections in the COVID-19 context was held, through the Interparty Organisation for Dialogue. In addition, media campaigns on voter registration and verification and inclusion of women and persons with disabilities in the electoral process were conducted.

SUBSEQUENTLY, THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS



2016: 15,277,198

2021: 18,103,603

THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE 2020/2021 GENERAL ELECTIONS.

SDG implementation: In collaboration with the UN, the Government of Uganda (GoU) developed action plans for its Third National Development Plan (NDP III) and the SDGs Roadmap 2021-2025. The Integrated National Financing Framework was developed to align plans, policies, financing, and monitoring and reporting on NDP III and SDG implementation. The UN supported the development of a National Industrialization Policy and its implementation plan. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) reviewed the SDG indicators, which subsequently increased the number of indicators that Uganda reports on from 92 to 117. Accordingly, the SDG Metadata Handbook is being revised to ensure compliance with global standards.

Data management: Efforts were made to harmonize and strengthen existing data management systems and collect disaggregated administrative

data on violence against women and girls/harmful practices (VAWG/HP) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) across government sectors, including gender and social development, health, education, police and justice sectors and civil society. For instance, an online interactive geospatial data visualization module on gender-based violence (GBV) and parish community information system was developed and is linked to the census mapping.

Border management: Leveraging the UN's comparative advantage in digital innovation, information and communication technology (ICT) materials for 53 gazetted border posts were procured to boost collaboration and data collection, contributing to the mitigation of COVID-19 related cross-border health risks.

2.1.2 Shared prosperity in a healthy environment

Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA): The AfCFTA became operational in 2021, thus presenting an opportunity for Uganda in terms of repositioning the industrialization strategy and organizing an agile business ecosystem across high-value sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and mineral development. The UN supported priority interventions such as the development of the AfCFTA implementation strategy, raising awareness among all stakeholders and providing trade finance to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to help unlock Uganda's potential in the AfCFTA.

Support to national emergency coordination: Functional support was extended to national and district emergency coordination and operations centres, where early warning information was shared with targeted audiences in the aviation and agricultural production industries. Promoting e-commerce platforms such as Jumia helped micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to respond to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions; over 300,000 products are currently sold online, double the platform's pre-COVID-19 daily turnover.



A woman selling fruits and vegetables in Kalerwe Market, Kampala ©UN Uganda

Strengthened livelihoods for women, youth, and vulnerable groups: Vulnerable groups, including youth and female-owned enterprises, had improved market access and increased competitiveness due to UN interventions. Through a partnership with Stanbic Bank Uganda, the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility was launched, which has provided over US\$3 million in grants and incubation to over 7,500 youth-owned SMEs. The UN also supported the government in building a competitive and resilient tourism industry by implementing a US\$2 million rapid financing facility aimed at harnessing nature, culture, and technology. Livelihood interventions for refugees and host communities in the northern region benefited over 1.15 million settlement-based refugees (591,779 females) and community members. Specifically, the UN supported the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in designing, printing, and launching the Jobs and Livelihood Integrated Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities. The plan defines opportu-

nities with partners and other actors to implement sustainable livelihoods programmes for refugees and host communities in Uganda.

Response to climate change and natural hazards vulnerability: The UN supported the development of the National Action Plan to implement the decade of ecosystem restoration, due for approval by the Cabinet of Uganda. It also provided innovative climate financing, specifically through the climate action challenge grants for women and youth-led non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

2.1.3 Human wellbeing and resilience

Increased social protection coverage: The UN continued to contribute to social protection coverage to avert the impacts of COVID-19 and a desert locust invasion. The nutritional needs of 64,365 beneficiaries were met with US\$1.7 million in cash-based assistance, the majority

being women and children aged 6-23 months. Additionally, US\$1,685,411 was remitted to asset creation participants in the south west and West Nile to address immediate food needs and mitigate COVID-19 impacts. The UN partnered with Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and NGOs to provide cash transfers to 1,400 in- and out-of-school adolescent girls as material support for daily needs, and mentorship to equip them with life skills to reach their potential. Urban COVID-19 multi-purpose cash grants were successfully disbursed to 34,442 urban refugees via mobile money. Through the country coordination mechanism, US\$168 million was secured from the Global Fund to boost COVID-19 responses.

Coverage of essential health services: The UN collaborated with the GoU to provide an integrated response to COVID-19 to minimize the adverse impact on health service coverage. Various improvements were registered; for example, over 1,554,634 women, 338,532 adolescents, 1,002,248 youth, and 106,468 persons with disability utilized at least one sexual and reproductive health and rights service. The number of new family planning users more than doubled, while fourth antenatal care visits increased by 6 per cent and institutional deliveries by 5 per cent, between 2020 and 2021. Improvements were also registered in the management of fever in children and antiretroviral therapy coverage, especially access for pregnant women, resulting in high maternal antiretroviral therapy coverage for prevention of mother to child transmission (at >95 per cent). The health of 2,185,519 children aged 6-59 months was improved through Vitamin A supplementation, while 37,850 children aged 6-59 months were treated for severe acute malnutrition. With support from the UN, the government imported more than 17 million COVID-19 vaccine doses, and 1,076,923 people (94.5 per cent of the targeted population) received the first and second doses of the vaccine. The UN contributed to sustaining the national immunization programme, with 90 per cent cover in focus districts. Adapting to the COVID-19 lockdown, the UN, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the GoU

worked together to deliver home- and community-based early childhood development (ECD) services, resulting in 15,124 children (50 per cent girls) better prepared to transition to primary education.

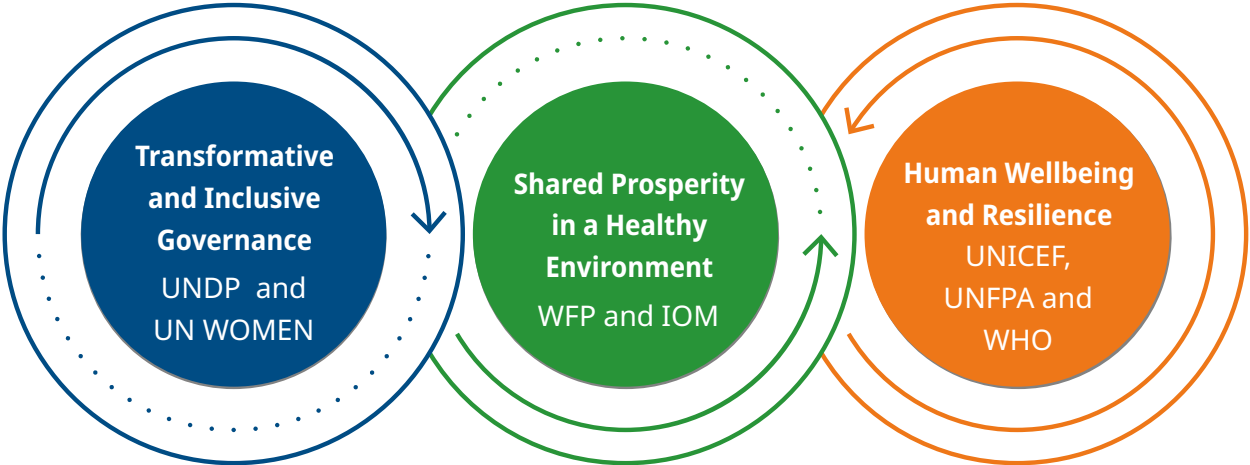
Social norm change: With UN support, 22,550 adolescents (12,623 girls: 9,927 boys) demonstrated increased capacity to amplify their voices on various national, district, and community platforms. Within the Learning to Earning agenda, 1,104 adolescents and young people (535 female: 569 male) joined the global Digital Livelihood Challenge, with 57 per cent completing the challenge and 97 per cent of those developing a 'growth mindset' when assessed. To strengthen the capacity of children, families, and communities to identify risks and prevent and respond to all forms of VAC, 69,348 people (23,116 females: 46,232 males) in 28 districts participated in community intergenerational dialogues and interpersonal communication aimed at changing social norms that fuel harmful practices in Uganda. Moreover, 2,752 government and NGO staff (750 female: 2,002 male) were trained on social and behavioural change communication, helping them plan, implement, and monitor integrated media campaigns on VAC that reached 2,072,963 people in 28 districts (among whom were 537,069 boys and 523,089 girls).

Advancing gender equality and human rights: The UN supported the development and subsequent launch of the Third National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security. This plan is one of the first to prioritize women's role in conflict generally and in conflict-related climate change and recognizes them as equal partners in disaster mitigation and management. With support from the UN, Uganda is also one of the first countries to further localize the implementation of Resolution through district-level local action plans. The UN provided technical and financial support to the development and launch of Uganda's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, a significant milestone for protecting the human rights of all Ugandans.

2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

An overview of the Cooperation Framework result areas

The UNSDCF 2021-2025 was designed around results areas called Strategic Priorities, which are long-term results agreed upon with the government, linked to the NDP III and the Vision 2040. The heads of specific UN agencies lead each of the three priority areas as below:



Each Strategic Priority group has oversight on the collective progress of UN activity that is encompassed by several outcome results strategically linked through the priority area. Leadership choices of chairs of the Strategic Priority are changeable throughout the lifespan of the UNSDCF if agreed by the country team, the Resident Coordinator and the Joint Steering Committee.



SP1.

Transformative and Inclusive Governance

1.1 Inclusive and Transformative Governance



SP2.

Shared Prosperity in a Healthy Environment

2.1 Productivity, Decent Employment & Equal Rights to Resources

2.2 Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Mitigation of Climate Change & Disaster Risks



SP3.

Human Wellbeing and Resilience

3.1 Equitable Access to & Utilization of Quality Basic Social and Protection Services

3.2 Gender Equality and Human Rights



RESULTS AREA 1: TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

CONTRIBUTING MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAS):

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. District local governments | 13. Ministry of Local Government |
| 2. Economic Policy Research Center | 14. National Information Technology Association |
| 3. Electoral Commission | 15. National Planning Authority |
| 4. Equal Opportunities Commission | 16. Office of the Auditor General |
| 5. Justice, Law and Order Sector | 17. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions |
| 6. Ministry of Education and Sports | 18. Office of the Prime Minister |
| 7. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development | 19. Parliament of Uganda |
| 8. Ministry of Foreign Affairs | 20. Uganda Bureau of Statistics |
| 9. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development | 21. Uganda Human Rights Commission |
| 10. Ministry of ICT and National Guidance | 22. Uganda Law Society |
| 11. Ministry of Internal Affairs | 23. Uganda Police Force |
| 12. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs | 24. Uganda Prisons Services |
| | 25. Uganda Revenue Authority |
| | 26. Uganda Wildlife Authority |

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES:

FAO, IAEA, IOM, ILO, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNCDF, UNDSS, UNDP, UNFPA, OHCHR, UN Habitat, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women, and UNV.

PARTICIPATING CSOS AND PRIVATE SECTOR:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Uganda Local Government Association | 7. Refugee Law Project |
| 2. Urban Authorities Association of Uganda | 8. Uganda Women's Network |
| 3. Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group | 9. Save the Children |
| 4. Coalition for Action (CoACT) | 10. World Vision |
| 5. Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC) | 11. Stanbic Bank |
| 6. CARE Uganda | |

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUPPORTED:



OUTCOME 1: BY 2025, UGANDA HAS INCLUSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS AND PEOPLE ARE EMPOWERED, ENGAGED, AND ENJOY HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE, JUSTICE, AND SECURITY.

ALIGNED FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE:

The UN contributed to an increase in government expenditure as a proportion of the approved budget from 90.2 per cent in 2020 to 113.3 per cent in 2021¹. To this end, the UN extended support to relevant government entities for coordination and capacity building for SDG planning and related alignment with national budgeting and planning frameworks.

PEACEFUL ELECTIONS:

An accountable governance system was fostered through support for peaceful elections. In partnership with the Electoral Commission and civil society, media campaigns on voter registration, verification, and peaceful co-existence were conducted. Youth were empowered, as seen by an increase of representation in elected parliament positions from 1.1 per cent in 2016 to 16 per cent in 2021², and citizen voting rose from 15,277,198 in 2016 to 18,103,603 in 2021³. Critical training in gender and elections contributed to the enhancement of women's participation: 133 women (4.9 per cent) contested parliamentary positions, and 22 (3.6 per cent) contested for district/city chairperson.

IMPROVED GOVERNANCE:

Aiming to enhance the 51.8 score on the governance index (2020), the UN continued to nurture mechanisms that foster security and the rule of law, participation, rights and inclusion, equal economic opportunity, and human development. To this end, additional support was extended to Justice, Law and Order Sector in collaboration with non-state actors for conflict prevention and mitigation, reinforcing access to justice through digitization of select courts and prisons and establishment of the judiciary call centres and concerted advocacy effort.

Three outputs were supported under Outcome 1, and the progress made in 2021 is presented below.

OUTPUT 1.1: Institutions and systems at national and sub-national levels are effective and accountable in line with national, regional, and international obligations and commitments.

(a) Progress on laws and passing of legislation

- The 11th Parliament of Uganda **amended, passed or initiated seven laws** during the year, including the Succession Amendment Bill, Employment Amendment Bill, The Sexual Offences Bill, Health Insurance Bill, Public Health Amendment Bill, School Health Policy and National Legal Aid Bill. The Succession Amendment Bill was later signed into law by the President, becoming The Succession (Amendment) Act, 2021.
- The **National Health Insurance Bill and the Public Health Amendment Bill** were presented to the Health Committee as part of the ongoing consultations by the Ugandan Parliament.
- The **National Legal Aid Bill** (2020) was debated in Parliament as one of the pathways for enhancing access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. In addition, legal aid services were provided in hard-to-reach areas.
- Working with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the **National Strategy for Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism and Terrorism** (2021-2026) was approved and is envisaged to strengthen inter-agency coordination with the government's existing counter-terrorism and countering of violent extremism efforts.

(b) Support for plans and policy

- The UN intensified engagements with the Ministry of Education and Sports on the **School Health Policy**. The major milestone was the

¹ Budget performance report, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

² Uganda Government Gazette dated 2021-02-01 number 12

³ Electoral Commission website Uganda, 2021

review of the 2021 roadmap for SHP finalization and key activities implemented.

- The **National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights** were developed jointly with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to improve labour rights, due diligence, and accountability of business cooperation in the country.
- Technical input was provided to develop the **Ministry of Health Strategic Plan (2020/21-2024/25)**, **Sector Ministry Strategic Plans and Programme Implementation Action Plan** aligned with the NDP III.
- The Office of the Prime Minister was supported in conducting the **Regulatory Impact Assessment** for the refugee policy.
- There was commendable progress in integrating the **Education Response Plan** into district and national public planning to ensure a more coordinated and effective response. All the twelve refugee-hosting districts (except for Kampala) approved district Education Response Plans reflecting locally adapted budgets based on realistic and achievable targets in these locations. Other guidelines completed included guidelines for preventing and managing teenage pregnancy in school settings, drafting of the adolescent health strategy mirroring the adolescent health policy, and the draft strategy implementation framework.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Equal Opportunities Commission, Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development and civil society, the UN provided technical support for the **Public Finance Amendment Act, 2015** assessment. The results show an increase in the overall allocation by 87 per cent of the national budget from UGX 18,343 billion in FY 2015/16 to UGX 34,304 billion in FY 2019/20 for gender equity and women empowerment. It also demonstrated a shift from 57 per cent in 2016/2017 to 61 per cent in FY 2019/2020 in compliance with gender and equity issues in planning, budgeting, and implementation of programmes by MDAs and local governments. Gender and equity service delivery in hard-to-

reach areas greatly improved with allocations increased from 68 per cent in FY 2019/2020 to 78 per cent in FY 2020/21, enhancing the performance of local governments. Findings of the review highlight the increased recognition of the needs of women and girls and other vulnerable groups through programming. The UN and partners will build upon the recommendations to address the existing gender and equity financing gaps.

(c) COVID-19 response

- Uganda was supported to adapt and develop **appropriate tools, interventions, and legal frameworks for the COVID-19 response**. The COVID-19 strategic committee was furnished with evidence from the research and innovations team to design appropriate interventions for COVID-19 risk reduction and incident management.
- The UN further supported the GoU in maintaining a dual response during COVID-19, including **ensuring access to quality essential health services across life courses**. Notable is the work of multiple UN agencies with other partners and NGOs to address the unique needs of adolescent girls and families, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), COVID-19 related stigma and mental health.

(d) Data management and demographics

- To accelerate investments to **harness the demographic dividend, programmes and districts were assessed for compliance against demographic dividend indicators**. Overall, during the financial year (FY) 2020/21, 72.9 per cent of sector plans and budgets were aligned to demographic dividend indicators, compared with the benchmark of 80 per cent. At the programmes level, in the FY2020/21, 92.9 per cent of the annual budgets were aligned to the demographic dividend. This performance was attributed to better budgeting for results at the outcome and intermediate outcome levels. At the local government level, in the FY2020/21, alignment to demographic dividend indicators was at 59.8 per cent, which

was moderately satisfactory. This was because there was limited prioritization of key demographic dividend indicators in the annual work plans and budgets of the 172 local governments assessed.

- The UN supported GoU to harmonize and strengthen **existing data management systems and collect disaggregated administrative data on VAWG/HP and SRHR** across government sectors, including gender and social development, health, education, police and justice sectors and civil society. An online interactive geospatial data visualization module on GBV and Parish Community Information System linked census mapping. The system supports data harmonization of GBV data from various systems and strengthens real-time data generation, analysis, and use, enabling mapping of areas of inequality, available service points and other required indicators crucial for Leaving No One Behind. Additionally, the system identifies the number of GBV cases by type and determines the hotspots, thus guiding planning, programming and policy and advocacy for GBV response. GBV/SRHR community data collection and findings for 14 districts were disseminated at national and district levels. The findings highlighted the inequalities and hotspot areas and will be used to enhance better targeting for better results and thus greater impact.
- In partnership with UBOS, Uganda Demographic Health Survey data collection tools and **computer-assisted handheld devices (CAPI) application** were developed.
- Support was provided to the government to **review the SDG indicators** on which Uganda is reporting, and the number has increased from 92 to 117. In addition, the SDG metadata handbook is being revised to ensure compliance with global standards.

(e) **Financial management and reporting**

- The UN supported the local government sector's launch efforts for an **improved environment for sub-national access to innova-**

tive financing. This is the effort to mobilize diverse sources of development finance for local governments and cities to complement grants from central governments and development partners. Some of the issues constraining sub-national access to innovative financing are regulatory, and so the government is being supported to amend the Local Government Act, such as a clause that includes a 20 per cent borrowing cap on own-source revenues. A cabinet paper on sub-national financing and the need for a local government financing bill is also being developed.

- In partnership with the International Monetary Fund, Tax Administration Diagnostic Tool Assessment Secretariat and the Uganda Revenue Authority, over 150 staff from the central government, nine agencies in the greater Kampala metropolitan area, 15 cities and countrywide local governments were trained in the **Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool** to help improve their revenue management and administration.
- Working in partnership with MoFPED, the UN provided technical and financial support to the **Aid Management Platform**, a web-based tool for tracking, reporting, monitoring, and planning development activities. This is an essential tool for achieving the objectives of the Rome and Paris Declarations on Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization. The platform enhances government ownership and capacity of aid management; supports aid transparency and accountability; improves the processes for planning, monitoring, coordinating, and reporting on external assistance flows and activities; and aligns resources with national plans and priorities.
- Alongside the Economic Policy Research Centre, targeted policy briefs were developed to mobilize support for grassroots women participation in the **Parish Development Model**, given their high level of integrity and trustworthiness in handling public finances (approx. 74 per cent).

OUTPUT 1.2: Strengthened capacity of people especially marginalized and vulnerable groups to participate and benefit from governance and development at all levels.

(a) Legal and judiciary support

- The UN provided **technical and financial support to six JLOS institutions** (Probation, Prisons, Police, Judiciary, Public Prosecution, and Judicial Service Commission) to digitize selected courts, prisons and the judiciary call centre. It advocated for passing the Judiciary Act to influence the administration of justice and separation of powers.
- Working with the National Planning Authority, legislature and judicial administration programmes were enhanced to provide a **people-centred justice service delivery system and strengthen business processes to reduce corruption**. A curriculum on alternative dispute resolution was prepared and disseminated, a compendium of justice service delivery standards was developed to ease monitoring of justice service delivery, and free legal aid services and counselling on GBV issues were provided, reaching 1,072 (689 female: 383 male) marginalized people in target districts. Capacity building for legal aid service providers about trauma-informed approaches to handling SBGV cases benefitted 57 legal aid service providers (35 female: 22 male).
- The UN supported the training of the JLOS and the Uganda Human Rights Commission to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice actors at the regional level to identify and use existing legislation with strong human rights implications.



A TOTAL OF 140 (61 FEMALE: 79 MALE) PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING JLOS OFFICERS, ATTORNEYS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, WERE TRAINED ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT, 2019.

The training provided a unique opportunity to operationalize the Act among the key actors in the criminal justice system and enhanced the capacity of human rights defenders and lawyers to apply the Act in seeking redress and accountability for human rights violations.

- A total of 361 justice actors, including police officers, prosecutors, and court administration staff (196 female: 175 male), **benefitted from capacity building initiatives aimed at enhancing access to justice for women**. This included developing a curriculum on women's rights and justice delivery, providing training, and integrating training modules into the curriculum of justice training institutions. The aim was to strengthen the capacity of justice personnel to eliminate discrimination, bias, and stereotyping in justice delivery.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports, the UN promoted collaboration between citizens, community organizations, and local security and justice institutions to **implement community-based strategies to prevent youth crime, violence, and radicalization**. This included life skills training as well as situational prevention initiatives. Twenty-six youth groups were supported to set up or strengthen existing income-generating activities through sports, technology, entrepreneurship, arts, and culture in seven selected districts. Additional support was provided to marginalized communities through safe spaces, the refurbishment and standardization of five sports facilities and incubation hubs for innovation, sport, art, and culture-based interventions. These activities benefitted over 6,000 youth in targeted high-risk areas in four regions.
- Through legal aid clinics, individual case management, detention monitoring visits, mobile court sessions and radio talk shows, the UN in Adjumani and Lamwo enabled **4,809 refugees and 2,013 host communities to access legal assistance**. A pool of 46 refugee interpreters was trained. Twenty-seven recruited paralegals were supported with training, incentives like bicycles, visibility items and stationery

to enhance their capacity. Police and health workers were trained in collecting forensic evidence and SGBV case management. Further, in partnership with the Uganda Law Society, a total of 16,832 **refugees and host communities benefited from access to legal assistance** in Yumbe and Moyo Districts. The targeted audiences were oriented on the rights and obligations of refugees, criminal trial procedures, rights of accused persons, including plea bargain sessions, rights of the accused persons, traffic laws, and domestic violence.

(b) Election transparency and participation

- In partnership with the Electoral Commission, **dialogues on transparency of the electoral process and inclusion of women, youth, and people with disabilities** in the electoral process, communication of the electoral roadmap, and media campaigns on voter registration and verification were supported, contributing to a voter turnout of 59.35 per cent in 2021.
- The UN and partners improved **delivery on electoral milestones through capacity development of key national institutions fostered in human rights monitoring and reporting and COVID-19 response strategies** that enabled business continuity and safety. Engagement with democratic institutions such as the Electoral Commission, the Human Rights Commission, and Parliament ensured that they met the minimum core function performance benchmark and that Uganda's Parliament had improved capacity to undertake inclusive, effective, and accountable law making. Non-state institutions like the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, Legal Aid Service Providers Network and International Justice Mission were financially and technically strengthened in advocacy and governance.

(c) COVID-19 support

- Uganda was supported to **develop appropriate tools for COVID-19 response**. Interventions included assessing and strengthening emergency preparedness capacity; supporting

a mid-term review of the joint external evaluation recommendations; offering evidence from the research and innovation sub-committee to the COVID-19 strategic committee; supporting the adaptation of proven prevention strategies for the COVID-19 pandemic and other epidemic-prone diseases implemented at scale; monitoring and risk mitigation of COVID-19 variants; and supporting the rapid detection, assessment and communication of COVID-19 and epidemic-prone risks.

- The UN supported the GoU to **maintain a dual response during COVID-19, including ensuring access to quality essential health services across** life courses. Notable is the work of WHO with other partners and NGOs to address the special needs of adolescent girls and families, including SGBV. In addition, issues related to COVID-19 stigma and mental health were addressed nationally.

(d) Support for planning, policies and programming

- Technical input was provided to the development of the **Ministry of Health Strategic Plan (2020/21-024/25) and Programme Implementation Action Plan aligned with the NDP III**. The Public Health Amendment Bill was reviewed on behalf of the Health Development Partners, which was presented to the Health Committee as part of ongoing consultations by the Uganda Parliament.
- The UN **supported the updating of the several health programme strategic documents and policies**, including Reproductive Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, National Immunization Strategy, COVID-19 National Response Plan, Health Information Systems Strategy, Community Health Extension Workers Strategy, COVID-19 Community Engagement Strategy, Human Resource for Health, Alcohol Control Policy, Tobacco Control Regulations, Guidelines for Screening and Treatment of Pre-Cancer of the Cervix, Nutrition Guidelines, and Guidelines of Physical Activities.

OUTPUT 1.3: Capacity of state and non-state actors at local, national, and regional levels strengthened to sustain peace and security.

(a) Peace dialogues and mechanisms

- Uganda's infrastructure for peace has made great strides in facilitating **community-level mediation, cultural, religious, and political leaders' dialogue**, generation-for-generation conversations, community dialogues with political and security officers and media engagement. This contributed to ensuring largely peaceful national elections in 2021.
- **Five alternative conflict resolution, mediation and consensus-building mechanisms** at national, subnational, and regional levels targeted the marginalized, especially women and youth. The new programmes aim to strengthen people-centred justice service delivery systems; reform and support justice business processes; strengthen the fight against corruption; and strengthen legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks for effective and efficient justice delivery.
- **Young people were engaged through mentorship programmes and sports for peace.** These were the main structures for youth to proactively engage with leaders and elders and advocate for their inclusion in peacebuilding processes and initiatives. The project successfully sustained dialogue and youth participation through convention and the formation of peacebuilding structures, reaching close to 10,000 youth. Over 300 (177 female: 123 male) youth were organized into district level and regional peace chapters to influence the course of peacebuilding processes in the Rwenzori region. An additional 320 (170 female: 150 male) youth participated in generation for generation's dialogues focusing on youth and peace (aligned with SDG 16, SDG 5 - Indicator 1.3.2).

(b) Access to justice and human rights awareness

- In 2021, despite limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, **access to justice by**

persons of concern reached 38,176. In Arua, access to justice increased during the year, with 7,643 beneficiaries against a target of 6,400. Refugees were provided with legal assistance on legislative awareness, mobile courts, mediation, legal representation, and legal counselling. Joint prison monitoring was conducted in five prison facilities, and 514 refugee detainees were provided with legal assistance and material support (soap, razor blades and sanitary pads).

- In collaboration with the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Uganda Law Society and other actors from civil society, **the UN delivered skills capacity building to state and non-state actors to improve their capacity to monitor, investigate, adjudicate, and provide redress for human rights violations.** In addition, a curriculum on countering violent extremism was integrated into existing prison staff training curriculum modules, and a Prisoner Classification Framework was developed to strengthen security mechanisms and capacities amongst prison staff in Uganda. A policy framework on prison intelligence was also developed, providing a new prison structure for intelligence officers, standard operating procedures for prison intelligence, specialized training and an action plan to strengthen dynamic security.

(c) Development of frameworks and policies

- **The UN facilitated the development of a framework for implementing women's peace and security commitments for five years (2021-2025)** following the launch of the Third National Action Plan (NAPIII) on Women's Peace and Security by H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of Uganda. Commitment to implement NAP III was secured from MDAs as evidenced by seconding personnel to the National Technical Committee and Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group and development of MDA operational plans. The NAP III was presented to over 100 UN member states as a good practice at the Global Women, Peace and Security Focal Points network meeting. Uganda's NAP III has been cited as a best prac-

tice due to the support provided to non-state actors to localize it in Kasese, Yumbe, Kitgum, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Luweero and Kyegegwa Districts.

- The UN provided technical support for developing the **Training Manual and Facilitators Guide for Lawyers on Procedural and Constitutional Rights in Uganda's Administration of Criminal Justice**, which will be rolled out for planned training of lawyers in 2022. Additionally, the Uganda Law Reform Commission developed a manual on the adjudication of traditional justice per international human rights standards, and CSOs were supported to establish a **National Victims' Manifesto for Transitional Justice**. This seeks to add victims' voices to the implementation of the National Transitional Justice Policy adopted by the Cabinet of Uganda in 2019. A total of
- 185 respondents (79 female: 106 males) were consulted during the regional meetings. The manifesto highlights vital perspectives of the victims, including reparations and other transitional justice initiatives.
- The development of **Programme Implementation Action Plans for the Legislature and Judicial Administration Programmes** was supported, separating them from the Governance and Security Programme of NDP III. The new programmes aim to strengthen people-centred justice service delivery systems; reform and strengthen justice business processes; strengthen the fight against corruption; and strengthen legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks. Specifically, the proportion of magisterial areas accessing state-funded aid legal services increased from 39 per cent in 2020 to 48.7 per cent in 2014.



Ms. Afisa Agua reciting a poem during the Launch of Yumbe Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security ©Coalition for Action



RESULTS AREA 2: PROSPERITY IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

CONTRIBUTING MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAS):

1. Enterprise Uganda
2. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
3. Ministry of Education and Sports
4. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
5. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
6. Ministry of Local Government
7. Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
8. Ministry of Water and Environment
9. Ministry of Energy & Mineral Development
10. Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
11. National Forestry Authority
12. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
13. Private Sector Foundation of Uganda
14. Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority
15. Rural Electrification Agency
16. Uganda Chamber of Mines & Petroleum
17. Uganda Coffee Development Authority
18. Uganda Export Promotion Bank
19. Uganda Investment Authority
20. Uganda National Bureau of Standards
21. Uganda National Bureau of Standards
22. Uganda Tourism Association
23. Uganda Tourism Board
24. Uganda Wildlife Authority

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: WFP, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, IOM, ILO, ITC, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDESA, UNDRR, UNCTAD, UNECA, UNIDO, UNFCCC, UNDP, UNDSS, OHCHR, UNEP, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS and UN Women.

CONTRIBUTING CSOS AND PRIVATE SECTOR: Natural Resource Conservation Network.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUPPORTED:



Under the 'Prosperity in a Healthy Environment' strategic priority, the UN contributed to two outcome areas and delivered six outputs. The progress made is presented below.

OUTCOME 2.1: BY 2025, PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE, BENEFIT FROM INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, DECENT EMPLOYMENT, AND EQUAL RIGHTS TO RESOURCES.

INCREASE IN GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) THROUGH AGRICULTURE:

The UN's efforts contributed to the increase in the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP from 22.9 per cent in 2020 to 24 per cent in 2021, while the unemployment rate reduced from 9.2 per cent to 8.8 per cent (female 8.9 per cent: male 8.7 per cent) in 2019/20⁵. This could be attributed to the increase in employment in the agriculture sector to 40 per cent. Uganda was ranked 115 out of 140 countries in the 2019 edition of the Global Competitiveness Report published by the World Economic Forum. The competitiveness rank in Uganda averaged 118.23 from 2007 until 2019. This could have been enhanced through efforts to leverage private sector capital through the finalization of the SDG Investor Map, a market intelligence tool⁶ on SDG investment opportunities that provides insights into local market conditions.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

Partnerships were nurtured for youth-owned agribusinesses and scaled innovative business models that positively impacted thousands of livelihoods through increased sales and incomes and access to formal financial services. Over 10,000 small-holder farmers were facilitated to access new markets and affordable financial credit from banks such as Equity Bank, Post Bank and Centenary Bank. Through UN-supported financial literacy initiatives, over 28 per cent⁷ of targeted beneficiaries reported improved knowledge about different financial services such as loan/credit services, savings, and financial product access terms and conditions.

The following partnerships were noteworthy:

- **Start-up Uganda⁸, innovation hubs, business incubation and acceleration hubs, National ICT Initiatives Support Programme and Ministry of Information Technology and National Guidance:** The UN provided financial and technical support to drive digital innovation that boosted the operational capacity of Start-Up Uganda. This led to creating linkages to the public and private sector and international start-up ecosystems, raising the visibility of the start-up association. Start-up Uganda ran an innovation challenge on financial health, last-mile distribution and digital literacy. Three final winners were awarded seed funding of US\$17,000 each, which enabled them to kick-start pilot projects of their solutions. Monitoring and technical support will be carried out during 2022 with the possibility of scaling up.
- **NASE Africa Limited⁹:** The Youth IDEathon was a short, intensive design sprint experience for multidisciplinary entrepreneurs and other creative minds to work in teams, using design thinking and innovative learning practices to co-create possible solutions to real economic and social challenges under the priority sectors of Uganda's NDP III, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Youth IDEathon registered over 4,800 smart ideas, with most applicants still in school.
- **Innovators in agriculture, health, education and finance:** Digital solutions and new business models and technologies were tested and scaled. Some promising innovations were identified; for instance, the UN partnered with TEXFAD, a non-profit making organization that deals in textile development in Uganda to scale up the production of banana fibre innovations

5 Uganda National Household Survey (2019/20)

6 Market Intelligence tool can be found at <<https://sdginvestorplatform.undp.org/market-intelligence>>

7 Financial Literacy Scale Up Study conducted by the specific agency in the UN in 2021

8 An association of innovation support organizations

9 Formerly the National Association of Student Enterprises (NASE), is a social enterprise that focuses on facilitating entrepreneurship and enterprise skills among the youth in Uganda

that transform banana plant waste into environmentally friendly, high-quality textile and handicraft products whilst creating job and livelihood opportunities. As a result of the TEXFAD partnership, new community challenges were identified and matched with innovators as part of the challenge-based innovation journey. Work commenced with HIVE Colab to develop a digital literacy training toolkit, training on which is scheduled for teachers, health workers, women, youth, and refugees. Twelve SMEs were created and submitted to Uganda Development Bank under the START facility to benefit from concessional loans worth UGX 3,156 billion. Of these, two projects were approved and given reimbursable grants worth UGX 80 million to add value to agroprocessing in northern Uganda. In total, 7,500 micro-enterprises across the country were equipped with entrepreneurship skills and tools to assist them in recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

OUTPUT 2.1.1: Strengthened capacity of institutions and people, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, to promote the delivery and adoption of integrated, innovative, equitable and inclusive strategies for improved productivity, value chain enhancement and market access

(a) Delivery and adoption of diversified production technologies and practices

- Approximately 204,000 individuals in communities affected by threats due to drought, desert locust invasion, floods, landslides, and insecurity **reported increased production and food security because of livelihood recovery assistance packages** comprising technical support, cash assistance, agro-inputs, vaccination, infrastructure, access to training and extension services, early access to early warning information, and linkages to markets. United Nations programme monitoring studies show that 82.9 per cent of targeted households supported by desert locust response interventions were utilizing diversified production technologies and practices such as improved

agricultural technologies for farming such as post-harvest handling.

- In collaboration with government and private sector service providers, 1,388 farmer organizations with an estimated 41,668 **smallholder farmers were assisted in accessing improved climate-resilient technologies and extension services**. The capacity of animal health institutions was enhanced through in-service applied veterinary epidemiology training (ISAVET) provided to 21 sub-national level personnel. Other interventions include bio-risk assessments of key laboratories, appropriate equipment, laboratory supplies and personal protective equipment to the National Animal Disease Diagnostic and Epidemiology Centre and support in response to an anthrax outbreak and other animal diseases. This was further boosted by the Event Mobile Reporting Application (EMA-i) technology tool for animal disease reporting, scaled up country-wide with over 1200 users.
- As a primer to transition from relief to sustainable production, **food and nutrition assistance was provided to 1.15 million settlement-based refugees** (591,779 female) with 80,079 metric tonnes of food and cash-based transfers worth US\$44,028,318. The share of cash-based transfer recipients within general food assistance to refugees in Uganda has gradually increased from 21 per cent in 2018 to the current 55 per cent in 2021. This development (coupled with the double entitlement distributions) enhanced the UN's efficiency in providing food assistance and reducing the time beneficiaries spent at food distribution points, thus limiting the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19. Due to decreased funding and ration reductions, the UN could only provide 77 per cent of planned food (103,605 metric tonnes planned) and 50 per cent of planned cash (US\$87,877,599 planned). In 2022 further support will ensure increased production and decent livelihoods for the selected vulnerable populations.
- To enable refugees to access water for production during the dry season, partners/the UN **drilled 245 shallow wells in refugee settle-**

ments and provided irrigation kits to households. This enabled households to grow a diversity of food crops such as vegetables, legumes, pulses, tubers, and fruits. Through this initiative, families have been able to supplement food assistance and earn incomes from sales of surplus crops. Through continued collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency and NGOs, 894 refugees and host community farmers were trained in rice production and post-harvest handling technologies. Trained rice farmers were also supported to establish two rice producer organizations in Adjumani and Rhino Camp in West Nile, enabling farmers to collectively process and market rice. In addition to reported benefits at the household level such as improved food security and use of proceeds from rice sales to pay for children's school requirements, enterprises such as poultry and piggery have also emerged because of rice processing, thus enabling refugees and targeted host community households to diversify their income sources.

(b) Access to markets, increased sales, and enterprise capacity improvement

- The UN strengthened the capacity of 115 local government personnel from 10 districts to enhance smallholder capacity in institutional governance, post-harvest management, bulking and collective marketing, and food safety and quality standards. Sixteen institutions were assisted to improve their functioning and reporting.
- The 41,668 smallholder farmers mentioned above were assisted in improving their capacity to access high-end markets through training in quality management, phytosanitary standards practices, post-harvest handling practices and market access.
- In collaboration with Merchandise Uganda (a private company providing services for online business marketing), technical support was provided towards the creation of sixteen new farmer organizations reaching out to 4,396 (62 per cent female) smallholder farmers. Training was provided to farmers on market access,

post-harvest management, bulking and collective marketing. This benefited 33,028 (37 per cent female) smallholder farmers and small agribusiness owners. As a result, four of the 16 farmer organizations sold 545 metric tonnes of maize worth US\$194,693 to market avenues facilitated by the UN under the directly negotiated contract modality. Additionally, 1,069 metric tonnes worth US\$304,485 were sold to other markets through UN-supported aggregation systems. This was further enhanced by the UN's support for the digitalization processes of micro-enterprises that supported the agricultural sector.

- In collaboration with the Ministries of Trade and Energy and Mineral Development, **twenty-one districts in Uganda were engaged with technical support in usually-neglected mining communities.** This support aimed to enhance access to market opportunities for vulnerable mining communities, especially artisanal and small-scale mining. Training was provided to over 800 artisans, women groups, and small-scale miners to equip them with skills in business and enterprise management.

(c) Strengthened land ownership rights by women and men

- To enhance access rights to land, **over 400 customary certificates of land ownership were issued, reflecting the names of both spouses,** thus increasing tenure security for both men and women. Registration initiatives strengthened livelihood opportunities for women's economic empowerment and equitable access to land ownership by women and men.



A TOTAL OF 3,000 WOMEN FROM NWOYA DISTRICT GAINED ACCESS TO 3,000 ACRES OF LAND REGISTERED IN THEIR NAMES FOR FAST-YIELDING FRUIT AND CEREAL FARMING.

OUTPUT 2.1.2: People, especially women and youth, have improved access to and utilize innovative practices, technologies, finances, natural and productive resources for decent employment and livelihoods.

(a) Employment creation

- Support was offered to develop a **National Employment Governance Framework contributing towards coordination and monitoring of decent employment**. This was done by the Economic Policy Research Centre in collaboration with MGLSD and ILO. Uganda Bureau of Statistics undertook data collection for a labour force survey that ILO is currently analysing.
- In collaboration with MoFPED and Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority, **the UN reviewed and amended the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority Act (PPDA Act, 2003) to include marginalized groups**, including women under reservation schemes in the procurement processes, thus ensuring women-owned companies are provided percentage slots. The President has assented to the amendment, and it is in the process of being gazetted.
- A total of **7,124 jobs were created for 1,395 women due to the provision of start-up capital to boost livelihood interventions** in cage fish farming, cash for work (466), and business (5,263). Approximately 255 informal jobs were created for village agents in sesame value addition (62 females: 193 males: 10 persons with disability). Through UN support, 13 village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) of 30-32 refugee women and girls actively engaged in marketable businesses such as in food and beverages, clothing, jewellery, and confectionery. The gained skills include financial literacy, leadership, group dynamics, savings, functions of a VSLA and debt management.

- Financial support for the **construction of about 405km of road networks with physical progress at 80 per cent created employment opportunities** for 298 (51 female: 247 male) community members. The employment status will further be enhanced through revised approved employment regulations¹⁰ and the training of selected MDA technical staff on ethical recruitment, including a learning visit to the United Arab Emirates, which contributed to the still ongoing technical review of the bilateral labour agreement with the United Arab Emirates and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(b) Promotion of inclusive digital solutions to facilitate trade:

- The UN partnered with **Jumia, an e-commerce platform, to connect informal market vendors (primarily women and youth) to consumers** through e-commerce. Over 3,500 market vendors from seven markets across Kampala (Nakasero, Nakawa, Wandegeya, Bugolobi, Kalerwe, Naalya and Kibuye) now sell their produce online. The market vendors' daily turnover doubled, and over 900 youth were employed as market agents and pickers.
- The UN trained and mentored 167 market women in Kampala aged 15-50 years on the usage of the **Market Garden smartphone application**. This entrenched women's participation in the digital economy and strengthened their skills in ICT use for business, which improved market space, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown. In addition, 94 young women were trained in financial management, business growth and expansion of transformational leadership. The training facilitated mindset change through new skills like customer care, record keeping, product marketing, advertisement, customer identification and emphasis on savings and reduced spending, to accumulate capital.
- In partnership with the Federation of Uganda Employers, **an online job portal was created to provide migrant workers access to available job opportunities in Uganda**. Between

¹⁰ International Recruitment of Ugandan Migrant Workers



A woman in Omugo Refugee Settlement (right) demonstrates how she uses her phone to save and borrow to support her business. This is part of UNCDF's programme, with the support of SIDA, designed to build an inclusive digital economy with a specific focus on empowering rural communities – smallholder farmers, women, youths, MSMEs and refugees – to lead productive and healthy lives, by expanding access to and usage of digital services ©UNCDF Uganda

November and December 2021, 14 job seekers and two employers had registered and used the portal. In addition, 100 returnee migrant workers, 65 per cent of whom were women, benefited from psychosocial support and entrepreneurship skills training provided by the UN support to trade unions. The UN continued to support the promotion and protection of labour and human rights by adopting the global media toolkit and capacity building for media actors reporting on forced labour and fair recruitment. Capacity building clinics also were conducted for journalists from over 32 local government and private media houses.

(c) Increased access to formal financial services

- **Partnerships were established with 15 youth-owned agribusinesses to scale innovative business models to positively impacted thousands of livelihoods.** This resulted in increased sales and incomes as well as access to formal financial services. Ten thousand smallholder farmers accessed affordable financial credit and new markets following technical and financial support from Quest Digital Finance Limited to pilot an innovative digital financial ecosystem solution that fostered farmers' access to agricultural products and services. Furthermore, through financial literacy

training, UN monitoring reports indicated a 28 per cent increase in beneficiaries' knowledge about different financial products such as loan services and savings.

- Four hundred women and girls received a total of UGX 115,000,000 (US\$33,358.2)¹¹ in **non-conditional cash assistance through their mobile phones during the COVID-19 lockdowns.** In addition, the UN extended technical and financial assistance to nearly 8,000 refugee households towards the transition to development assistance and sustainable, market-oriented livelihood opportunities. This boosted their production capacity, income, and ability to choose how to use their income, improving women and girls' small business and VSLA savings.
- The UN trained and engaged 504 refugees from South Sudan using a cash-for-work approach to produce re-usable non-medical face masks for distribution to all refugees over the age of six years. This initiative facilitated refugees' adherence to government standard operating procedures relating to COVID-19 and enabled participating tailors to earn incomes in the wake of tightening economic conditions. As a result, refugee tailors demonstrated the ability to meet their needs such as food

11 Each beneficiary received UGX 287,500 (approx. US\$81.5)

and healthcare; make savings for personal investments such as purchasing new sewing machines; invest income into other existing businesses; and start up new business initiatives like hair salons.

(d) Women and men-owned enterprises having incorporated good practices into their commercial activities and having transacted business with greater awareness of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement

- Through the UN, 710 individuals (148 government counterparts, 201 parliamentarians, 153 community leaders, 208 members of private recruitment agencies, and labour training centres) were trained on ethical recruitment, focusing on overseas employment, recruitment ethics, and IRIS¹² principles. This has created awareness and alternative safe, ethical recruitment practices among the private recruitment agencies towards enhancing decent and ethical employment.
- Capacity building was done for 640 individuals from government, the community and the private sector on ethical recruitment, focusing on overseas employment externalizations, recruitment ethics, IRIS principles, and communication through information, education and communication (IEC) materials. Of the 89 private recruitment agencies that benefited from the training on ethical recruitment, 16 were enrolled in the IRIS capacity building programme to promote best practices in the management system to provide alternative and safe recruitment channels to migrant workers. A total of 269 private recruitment agencies (242 private recruitment agencies, 16 labour training centres and 10 CSOs) were reached with IEC materials and mass media campaigns reached approximately 21,477,298 individuals through road drives, TV and radio talk shows, spot messages, online publications, and social media posts to create awareness about ethical recruitment practices and safe

labour migration pathways. The IEC interventions were further enhanced through efforts such as the engagement of CSOs, Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies, Private Recruitment Agencies (PRAs), MGLSD and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a dialogue meeting attended by 112 participants to discuss emerging issues that affect operations within the externalization labour migration industry and make recommendations.

- Through UN support, the MGLSD, as chair of the Global Policy Network technical working group on Licensing and Oversight of Labour Recruiters, has taken part as technical lead in the IRIS Global Policy Network. This government-led collaboration brings together senior policymakers, regulators, and practitioners to address challenges, identify solutions, and highlight promising practices to strengthen recruitment regulation and migrant worker protection.

OUTPUT 2.1.3: Strengthened capacity of public and private sector organizations to increase investments in productive sectors and develop and implement responsive policies and regulations.

(a) Revenue enhancement for increasing public expenditure

- Automation of own-source revenue administration and management using the Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS)¹³ was done. As a result, revenue collections for the 18 Development Initiative for Northern Uganda local governments increased from UGX 6,055,988,556 (US\$1.7 million) in 2019/20 to the current UGX 7,669,016,453 (US\$2.1 million) in 2020/21, a 26.6 per cent increment. Their own-source revenue contribution to district plans increased from an average of 1.3 per cent to the current 1.9 per cent, following on from the financial and technical assistance provided.

¹² IRIS is a global multi-stakeholder initiative that supports governments, civil society, the private sector and recruiters to establish ethical recruitment as a norm in cross-border labour migration.

¹³ The Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS) is a web and mobile application platform that aids municipalities in collection of local revenue from registration, assessment, billing, payment, sensitization of taxpayers and linking the citizens to municipalities.

(b) Stimulating foreign and domestic direct investment in productive sectors

- In partnership with four business member organizations,¹⁴ the UN **provided financial and technical support that strengthened the productivity and competitiveness** of over 850 export-ready enterprises involved in productive sector value chains as prioritized in the NDP III.¹⁵¹⁶
- **A total of eight new functional partnerships were developed in the target value chains**, while 36 inclusive green business models were initiated or scaled. As a result, 60 MSMEs are now utilizing supplier development platforms for inclusive and sustainable value. Forty-seven locally appropriate sustainable development initiatives were developed and scaled up, targeting underserved community groups and women.
- The UN partnered with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, and the Kingdom of Tooro **to create a cultural tourism product: 'Ekyooto Ha Mpango'**, a cultural festival that is now an annual event on the tourism calendar.
- In coordination with the GoU, the UN and partners **continued to support refugees' access to land for small-scale commercial farming**, including renting from host communities. Refugee households were supported to access an estimated 2,500 acres of arable land in Adjumani and Yumbe Districts in 2021. Through this initiative, 1,124 refugees (about 60 per cent female) were engaged in the cash-for-work activities on the farms.

(c) Policies and regulations developed and implemented to support private sector growth and innovations

- The UN supported the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to develop and opera-

tionalize a 'Formalization and Business Acceleration Strategy for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Enterprises'¹⁷ **to formalize and accelerate business development support to artisanal and small-scale mining enterprises in the development minerals subsector.** The strategy aims to address access barriers in financing and technical oversight that is endemic in Uganda's mining sector. Strategic engagements were undertaken with district local government officials in 21 districts hosting mining activities in Uganda.

- In partnership with the MGLSD, the UN provided **technical support to conduct the Regulatory Impact Assessment on national labour migration policy.**
- The UN supported the **Ministry of ICT and National Guidance in developing an Inclusive Digital Economy Scorecard.** This policy tool facilitates governments to set their digital transformation priorities to enable inclusive access to and usage of digital services. A National Policy on Innovation was also prepared. A digital economy innovation diagnostic study was conducted to revive the digital transformation programme working group and enabled the National Planning Authority to mainstream digitalization into NDP III.
- In collaboration with the Uganda Securities Exchange, the country's leading securities market, the UN has **championed the mobilization and recruitment of private sector companies to engender their business actions, leadership, and practices aligned to the Women Economic Empowerment Principles.** Twenty-one private sector entities signed on to the Principles at work, marketplaces, and communities.

14 These include the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda; Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Federation of Small and Medium-sized enterprises; and Uganda Manufacturers Association

15 UNDP Partners with FSME on AfCFTA, <<https://twitter.com/fsmeuganda>>

16 It includes transforming waste banana pseudo stems and other waste materials into high quality sustainable textile products and handicrafts such as upholstery of seats in aviation and high-end motor vehicles, fibre carpets, hair extensions, and fabrics, which are in high demand in both the domestic and export markets

17 Uganda Mining Digest, December 2021

OUTCOME 2.2: BY 2025, UGANDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT ARE SUSTAINABLY MANAGED AND PROTECTED, AND PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED, HAVE THE CAPACITY TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISKS



Nile Forestry Agro Inputs and Engineering Services Limited recipient of a certificate of commercial tree seedling nursery management ©FAO Uganda

The trend in crucial outcomes from the baseline in 2020 indicates improvement in sustainable management of Uganda's natural resources, the capacity of people to adapt to climate change and disaster risks, and an increase in the number of households shifting from using wood fuel and charcoal for cooking to using electricity and gas. Key highlights are as follows:

INCREMENT IN UGANDA'S FOREST COVER:

Uganda's forest cover increased from 9.5 per cent in 2020 to 12.4 per cent in 2021.¹⁸ To this end, 480 hectares (Ha) of land in Eastern Uganda were put under sustainable land management by the Ministry of Agriculture with support from UN and Common Market for East and Southern Africa.

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY AND MODERN COOKING GAS:

The national population with access to electricity increased from 21 per cent in 2020 to 51 per cent in 2021, while the population with access to green energy remained at less than 1.0 per cent.¹⁹ The UN and partners contributed to expanding access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy through

financial support for installing solar systems in social service institutions and households.

REDUCTION OF ANNUAL EMISSIONS OR CLIMATE-INDUCED DISASTERS:

To strengthen alignment with Uganda's 2030 climate ambitions, the government was supported to revise its Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement. As a result, Uganda has increased its ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 24 per cent by 2030 and included new sectors. The adaptation targets were enhanced to include fisheries, water and sanitization, environment, ecosystem, transport, manufacturing, industry, mining, cities, and the built environment.

¹⁸ 2021 Water and Environment Sector Annual Performance Report

¹⁹ Uganda National Household Survey Report 2019/2020

OUTPUT 2.2.1: Strengthened capacity of public and private institutions and communities to sustainably manage natural resources and protect vital ecosystems

(a) Increased area of natural resources that are managed sustainably

- In partnership with various MDAs, district local governments, communities and private sector service providers, the UN supported the rehabilitation of 122HA of rangelands in the Karamoja sub-region. Additionally, 22,021Ha of wetlands were restored across the country; 875Km (900Ha) of wetland inlet streams were demarcated for protection by the Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature; the Ministry demarcated 134Ha of wetlands within south-western refugee settlements to protect them from encroachment. In partnership with district local governments, 6,600Ha of watersheds are under restoration in 33 districts. In continuing efforts to restore natural forest cover, the UN, in collaboration with the National Forest Authority under the Refugee Forestation Project, established 300Ha of natural forest in Kikuube and Kyegegwa Districts and West Nile sub region.
- The UN provided technical and financial support worth US\$150,000 to strengthen national regulatory and institutional frameworks on access and benefit-sharing from genetic resources in line with the Nagoya Protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Partners include World Agroforestry (ICRAF), National Environment Management Authority, Uganda, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Uganda Coffee Development Authority.

(b) Increased number of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources.

- The UN agencies provided technical support and strengthened the capacity of 33 district

local governments, including 24 supported by the Green Climate Fund, to manage watersheds. As a result, 66 micro-watershed management plans were developed and are being implemented.

- As part of ongoing support to improve evidence-based policies and strategies, research by Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovations generated evidence that informed the review and formulation of national and district action plans to address environmentally induced migration and displacement at local government level.
- UN extended support to the Uganda Wildlife Authority officers to protect wildlife and conservation areas from illegal use through equipment donations. The enhanced capacity will help prevent potential poaching incidents. Fifty-one officers were trained in financial investigation techniques to strengthen their agency's ability to undertake investigations in organized wildlife and forestry criminal cases. Wildlife Prosecution Guidelines were launched, which provide investigators and prosecutors with a resource tool to improve the national response to wildlife and forest crime. The Wildlife Prosecution Guidelines have streamlined the approach taken by prosecutors when pursuing wildlife offenders and wildlife charges.

(c) Gender- and equity-responsive climate-smart agricultural practices

- A total of 4,400 women gained access and control over productive water resources and markets and are engaged in climate-smart agriculture technologies in targeted districts. Field progress reports indicated 1400 women were directly employed in the cage fish farming value chain and earned more than US\$275,000 income during the reporting period.



ADDITIONALLY 3,000 WOMEN WERE SUPPORTED TO GROW CLIMATE-RESILIENT FRUIT TREES (E.G., GUAVAS AND MANGOS) INTERCROPPED WITH CEREALS.

OUTPUT 2.2.2: Enhanced capacities of institutions and communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and disaster risks

(a) Increased number of households implementing mitigation measures that reduce emissions

- A total of 31,526 farmers (11,113 female: 17,413 male) are engaged in **group-based climate risk management**, including sustainable watershed management, sustainable rangeland management, agroforestry, construction, and use of energy-saving stoves, biogas production, irrigation, use of water storage and conservation technologies, community-based crop and livestock breeding, seed production, and acquisition of customary land ownership certificates. These include 15 cooperatives (150 members each, 45 per cent women) to establish 50 Ha of agroforestry trees; 3,000 women that benefited from cash-based assistance to grow climate-resilient fruit tree species such as guavas and mangoes; 3,700 households that benefited from training and financial support to adopt and expand green livelihoods including agroforestry, apiary, tree nursery establishment, strip weeding, and integrated pest management; and 21,285 farmers trained on community-based climate adaptation and mitigation techniques through farmer field schools in the central cattle corridor. However, from monitoring studies, **14-20 per cent of farmers are applying climate change adaptation practices; therefore, adoption is still low.** Adoption of climate change adaptation technologies and techniques is still limited due to limited access to water, land tenure issues, high cost of some climate-smart agriculture technologies and lack of or limited access to financial services and markets.
- A recent rapid survey in Karamoja established that the **proportion of targeted communities that self-reported improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks was 86 per cent.** The capabilities of MDAs and district local governments to address climate mitigation challenges are limited by underdeveloped information management mechanisms to share

timely information, limited institutionalization of preparedness in planning across MDAs and local governments, and inadequate financing for the implementation of preparedness.

(b) Increased proportion of MDAs and district local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- The proportion of target **local governments that adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies** in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR increased from 75 per cent in 2020 to 85 per cent in 2021. This was a result of multipronged support, including alignment to the new climate change act, multi-stakeholder dialogues on preparedness, which resulted in the development of a road map for national preparedness, enhanced integration of climate actions into national and district plans, enhanced capacity for coordination of disaster risk management, and enhanced human, technological and infrastructure capacity.
- To improve **alignment with the Climate Change Act**, the capacities of eight MDAs (Ministry of Water and Environment; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Local Government; National Planning Authority; Ministry of Works and Transport; National Agricultural Research Organisation; and Equal Opportunities Commission) were strengthened with improved knowledge of gender-responsive climate-resilient planning. The training helped to identify and prioritize interventions for improving climate resilience. With technical and financial support from the UN and partners, the National Climate Change Act was passed into law in August 2021; and Uganda's climate change resilient and low carbon agricultural development strategy 2050 was drafted under the leadership of the Ministries of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and of Water and Environment. The Act and the Low Carbon Strategy 2050 will guide Uganda to implement climate change response measures in line with

resolutions from international conventions like the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Non-governmental organizations such as Youth Go Green were helped to provide inputs to the Climate Change Bill, and Kampala Capital City Authority was empowered to set up a Local Climate Change Committee.

- Capacities of national, local government and community institutions to enhance preparedness and adaptation were strengthened after attendance of the **first multi-stakeholder National Preparedness Dialogue** on managing food security disaster risks as organized by Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) with UN support. A roadmap and action implementation matrix were developed. Through Nutrition National Food Systems Dialogues and Rapid Food Systems Assessments during the Food Systems Summit in 2021, the UN provided financial and technical assistance to stakeholders to improve and strengthen their capacity to analyse policies and legislations pertaining to food security and nutrition. The development of a roadmap strengthened national preparedness against natural hazards and disasters.
- In partnership with OPM, the UN implemented the **integrated climate information and disaster early warning system** linked to 33 districts, providing regular updates to the target audiences. Through the Pro resilience action (ProACT) programme, the drought early warning system for the Karamoja sub-region was enhanced. Momentum for improvement of coordination of stakeholders around disaster preparedness was also achieved. For the Karamoja sub-region, nine district disaster management committees were re-activated. In partnership with OPM and district local governments, every month, the UN produces and disseminates bulletins detailing early warning information on threats, affected communities, the number of individuals affected, and most pressing needs.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment, the UN provided **technical assistance to enhance the ability of**

100 government and non-government focal point persons to track and report on climate actions through the online web-based integrated monitoring, reporting and verification tool. The integrated tool and database builds on the national monitoring, reporting and verification framework that has been developed to assist in estimating the annual national greenhouse gas emissions and inventory from the greenhouse gas emission sectors, enhance tracking and monitoring the climate actions on mitigation and adaptation, policies, programmes, climate finance flows and relevant SDG impacts.

- In a multi-sectoral one-health approach, **the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries was strengthened to respond to crop and livestock pest and disease outbreaks.** Among the key achievements are: a) multi-partner support to prepare and respond to desert locust invasion; b) A total of 200 animal health practitioners trained and assisted in strengthening livestock disease surveillance, control systems, decision support systems, biosafety and biosecurity.



A team of veterinarians and paravets during the training in surveillance, disease outbreak investigation, risk communication and reporting in Luwero District ©FAO Uganda

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, **national capacity for surveillance and preparedness for desert locusts, livestock health institutional and workforce capacity** was strengthened. This was done through in-service applied veterinary epidemiology, laboratory quality management system (compliant with ISO 17025:2017; surveillance, reporting and response to zoonotic disease outbreaks, pest and disease outbreaks; multisectoral coordination for one health approach to combat re-emerging infectious diseases; and: development of timber standards for international trade, linked to Uganda Timber Growers Association.

(c) Increased amount of financial resources mobilized and utilized for climate action by targeted institutions.

- About US\$7.6 million was **mobilized and utilized for climate action** in 2021.
- About 12,000 people (7,000 female: 5,000 male) **benefited from nature-based solutions** for improved livelihoods and climate action.

(d) Uganda communicates its national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, biennial transparency report, national communication, and biennial update report

- Uganda's capacity to **influence the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) negotiations in Glasgow, Scotland was strengthened** through support for national preparatory meetings whereby four lead negotiators were equipped with the latest information on negotiation themes and representation of government, youth and CSOs, and Uganda's COP26 position paper was developed. There was the facilitation of participation of some national negotiators, youth, and civil society representatives in the national delegation to the Conference.
- In partnership with OPM, the UN **implemented an integrated climate information and disaster early warning system** linked to 33 districts, providing regular updates to the

target audiences. To enable National Emergency Operation and Coordination Centre/ OPM to play its coordination role for multiple hazards Uganda is exposed to, the UN, under the umbrella of 'Enhancing National Resilience to Multi-hazard Induced Disaster Risks,' with a budget of over US\$500,000, supported OPM to activate both the national and 11 pilot district emergency operation and coordination centres for effective coordination. They were supported with specialized equipment for real-time disaster risk surveillance, data management and communication. A roadmap for strengthening national preparedness and management of food security disaster risks was developed in 2021.

- Based on a request from OPM, the UN **commissioned a consultant to develop a Comprehensive National Disaster Risk Management Plan for Uganda**, in line with the UN's commitment to supporting the implementation of the NDP III.
- The UN provided technical support to GoU **to strengthen resilience programming at national and sub-national levels**. The support was towards integrating disaster risk reduction into national, sector, and district development plans. The support provided analytical works to inform the planning and assisted in conducting sensitization meetings and technical backstopping to 32 districts (ten of which were refugee-hosting) and ten MDAs to mainstream risk management into development plans. Over 250 persons were reached with the sensitization initiative. The programme support contributed to the following achievements:
 - i) Strengthening of resilience programming and disaster risk management at national and sub-national levels and implementation of the resilience and self-reliance pillar of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Uganda.
 - ii) Risk management and resilience integration into strategic documents, including the NDP III, Programme Implementation Plans for NDP III and district development plans.



Women carrying firewood in the semi-arid area of Kotido District ©UNDP Uganda

- iii) Increased awareness and understanding of resilience and risk management as a critical component of development programmes that promotes risk-sensitive development planning.
- iv) Strengthened capacities of three district local governments, Amudat, Katakwi, and Bududa, on the migration, environment, and climate change nexus, in that 60 (24 female: 36 male) district officials were trained on the linkage between environmental factors, climate change and population displacement. This enabled the districts to formulate district-level- action plans to address environmentally induced migration and displacement
- In November 2021, Uganda joined the rest of the world in the **fight against the effects of climate change by adopting the COP 26 commitments on health and climate change**. This agreement is segmented into four areas of implementation, including a national health adaptation plan; a climate-resilient health system; increased climate change health financing; and a sustainable low carbon health system. The UN in Uganda will continue to provide guidance and support the actualization of the commitment.
- **A Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment was carried out**, with risk cascaded to the district level. The assessment provides essential evidence and scientific analysis of climate risks and vulnerability for Uganda. The results will feed into the process of updating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and defining main adaptation targets and actions in synergy with boosting and accelerating SDGs achievement. The two main and consecutive elements to the Assessment are i) climate change decentralized (completed) and ii) risk and vulnerability assessment (in progress).
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment, the UN provided technical assistance to enhance the capacity of 100 government and non-government focal point persons for **tracking and reporting on climate actions through the online web-based integrated monitoring reporting and verification tool**. The tool and database build on the national framework to assist in estimating the annual national greenhouse gas emissions and inventory from the greenhouse gas emission sectors, enhance tracking and monitoring the climate actions on mitigation and adaptation, policies, programmes, climate finance flows and relevant SDG impacts.

OUTPUT 2.2.3: Increased and equitable access to and use of modern, renewable, and affordable energy sources and services.

(a) New development partnerships with funding for improved energy efficiency or sustainable energy solutions targeting underserved communities/groups and women

- **The Renewable Energy Challenge Fund** in Uganda was set up in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and the Embassy of Sweden to support low-income people to transition to cleaner, efficient energy. To this end, target partners can access finance across the energy value chain by investing in innovative business ideas.
- Twelve new development partnerships were started with funding for **improved energy efficiency and sustainable energy solutions** targeting major municipalities and underserved communities, groups and women. In collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, **waste management plans and ordinances** were completed for 10 cities and two municipalities²⁰. Two feasibility studies on waste management to produce biogas and electricity at the Kitezi solid waste landfill and National Water and Sewerage Corporation were completed. The UN provided funding and technical support, and the Global Environment Facility provided additional funding. A south-south learning visit was organized to Ghana for key officials of the ministry and municipalities to benchmark best practices on integrated waste management and biogas technology.

(b) Households and enterprises with access to modern, renewable, and affordable sources of energy/energy services

- Approximately 33,935 households and 156

enterprises countrywide **benefitted from clean, affordable, and sustainable energy access** because of UN support to promote energy efficiency initiatives and reduce carbon emissions.

- In partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, a **Sustainable Energy Response Plan** was drafted and endorsed by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework steering group²¹. In collaboration with the Ministries of Energy and of Health, OPM, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) under the Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings, and NGOs, the UN supported the installation of solar systems in social service infrastructure and institutions including health facilities, schools, and WASH facilities in refugee-hosting districts. Beneficiaries include 11 health centres²² and six health facilities in refugee settlements. Installation is ongoing in 13 more health centres. The solarization of health centres increased the health and well-being of vulnerable communities in rural areas due to reliable electricity supply. It resulted in improved delivery of expectant mothers, reduced maternal deaths, boosted power supply, and improved health care delivery. Attendance to emergency cases such as surgeries is now possible because of a reliable power supply to sterilize equipment. Infant mortality rates also have reduced, especially for premature babies who require incubation. This support has also been crucial for the national COVID-19 response in expanding the vaccination programme.
- There is a need for reliable energy to enhance security and address cross border challenges. The UN is supporting the Ministries of Internal Affairs and of Energy through the **provision of solar power to 27 gazetted border posts**. In addition, the UN has supported the procurement and installation of an assortment of ICT equipment for 53 gazette border posts to

²⁰ Cities: Kampala, Jinja, Mbale, Masaka, Mbarara, Fort Portal, Gulu, Arua, Lira, Soroti; Municipalities: Mukono, Entebbe

²¹ Can be accessed at: <<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/82456>>

²² The supported health centres (HC) are health centres (IV) and are in the central, western, eastern and north-eastern parts of Uganda. These include Rukunyu HCIV, Bukomero HCIV, Bukedea HCIV, Kidera HCIV, Budadiri HCIV, Anyeke HCIV, Bubulo HCIV, Kakumiro HCIV, Kapelebyong HCIV, Kazo HCIV and Lalogi HCIV. Health centres in refugee settlements include: Ofua HC III, Yinga HC III, Siripi HC III, Imvepi HC II, Oduobu HC II and Ocea HC II.

boost coordination, collaboration, and data collection to improve border management and mitigate cross-border health risks considering COVID-19 and related risks and other cross border challenges such as human trafficking and terrorism.

- In partnership with the OPM, various MDAs, district local governments and development partners, the UN provided technical support to the GoU to **implement the resilience and self-reliance pillar of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework**. In this effort, 19 public and civil society institutions supporting refugee and host communities (19 DLGs in Teso and Karamoja, Kiryandongo, and Lamwo) in underserved rural and urban communities were provided with financial and technical support to increase investments in sustainable agricultural production systems and energy sources. The intervention supports introducing scaling up the recycling of agricultural residues produced by refugee and host community farmers, briquettes as alternative cooking fuels to wood fuel, energy-saving cook

stoves, and biochar as a soil amendment. The UN support emphasised capacity building, awareness and promotion of energy-saving technologies as a mitigation measure against deforestation. Key achievements include:

- i) Construction of 19,288 energy-saving stoves and 13 institutional cooking stoves in schools for underserved refugee and host households with the help of locally trained stove artisans.
- ii) The capacity of 29 local stove artisans and 25 briquette-making groups in refugee-hosting districts was strengthened by providing entrepreneurial and business skills training to build their craft as a sustainable business enterprise. Through the e-voucher system, 49.3 tonnes of briquettes were produced, 61 per cent of which was sold off, earning the group UGX 30.1 million.
- iii) In the southwest settlements, to increase access to alternative biofuels for cooking, 3,000 individuals were sensitized about energy-saving practices, 4,350 individuals were trained in making hand-made briquettes, and



Ms. Afuswa Karungi, a graduate volunteer, with technicians from Green Heat Uganda Limited install solar panels ©UNDP

12 briquette-making groups were supported with briquette making machines to boost their production capacity.

- iv) To enable people to have clean and safe lighting in their homes, 3,018 solar lighting kits were disseminated to modal households and Persons with Special Needs (PSNs), as well as 268 solar kits to host communities.
- v) In refugee settlements, 2,012 heat-retaining baskets were produced and disseminated to pregnant and lactating mothers.
- vi) Twelve women and youth-led organizations were supported with climate action grants. Fifty women groups (of 30 members each) in five target districts were able to access energy-efficient cook stoves, which reduced the number of hours women take while fetching firewood and reduced indoor air pollution.
- vii) Climate action grants were provided to 2,000 households adjacent to protected areas in Rubirizi District by Kataara Women's Poverty Alleviation Group, where 2,000 energy-efficient cook stoves were constructed. Ten briquette-making equipment sets worth US\$8,000 were donated, resulting in an 85 per cent reduction in fuel wood consumption at household levels. This reduced encroachment cases on protected areas in search for firewood and reduced expenditure on fuel wood per day by over 50 per cent for the population.

(c) Increase in the share of clean energy used for cooking

- **Due to the strengthening of capacity**, the percentage share of clean energy used for cooking increased from 15 per cent in 2020 to 29 per cent in 2021.
- In collaboration with the Electricity Regulatory Authority, the UN implemented a pilot to **reduce biomass (charcoal and firewood) usage in social institutions by promoting electricity for cooking** in Mulago National Referral Hospital. The project models a special tariff for electric cooking that will apply to all

social institutions and should result in more than 50 per cent biomass consumption in institutions.

- The UN provided technical and financial support worth US\$185,000 through United Nations Environment Programme's Africa OzonAction, Montreal Protocol (US\$ 95,000) and Land Degradation Thematic Mapper™ for United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD) Reporting (US\$ 90,000) to **strengthen the country's institutional alignments with UN Convention to Combat Desertification on matters related to sustainable land management**. Emphasis was put on firming up systems for data collection and reporting as well as cross-sectoral and extra-sectoral information sharing. This is in addition to enhancing the capacity for adequate preparation of hydrochlorofluorocarbon phase down national implementation plans.
- The UN supported the **development of Uganda's State of Environment and Outlook report**, in addition to strengthening the capacity of national environment information networks. To enhance data production related to the monitoring and reporting of ecological footprints, the UN disbursed US\$16,000 through a small-scale funding agreement with Uganda's National Environment Management Authority.
- Technical and financial support worth US\$70,000 was given to select **institutions to implement policies and programmes to increase access and adoption of innovative on- and off-grid clean, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions**. This especially targeted women and girls for cooking, lighting and WASH in underserved rural and urban communities, including refugee and host communities. This enhanced diffusion of clean and affordable energy solutions transforms value chains, including reducing post-harvest losses through solar dryers.



Providing access to sexual reproductive health information to young people can help them make informed choices about their health © UNFPA Uganda

RESULTS AREA 3: HUMAN WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE

CONTRIBUTING MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAS):

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. District local governments | 6. Ministry of Health |
| 2. Justice, Law and Order Sector | 7. National Planning Authority |
| 3. Kampala Capital City Authority | 8. Uganda Law Reform Commission |
| 4. Ministry of Education and Sports | 9. Uganda National Meteorological Authority |
| 5. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development | 10. Uganda Police Force |

CONTRIBUTING UN AGENCIES: (Add agency logo) FAO, IAEA, IFAD, IOM, ILO, ITC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNEP, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women, WHO and WFP

CONTRIBUTING CSOS AND PRIVATE SECTOR: Human rights defenders

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUPPORTED:



Under the 'Human Wellbeing and Resilience' strategic priority, the UN contributed to two outcome areas and delivered on five outputs. The progress made in 2021 is presented below:

OUTCOME 3.1: BY 2025, PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED, HAVE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO AND UTILIZATION OF QUALITY BASIC SOCIAL AND PROTECTION SERVICES.

COVERAGE OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES:

The UN facilitated an integrated response to COVID-19 to minimize an adverse impact on service coverage through an integrated push on continuity of vital health services, which largely protected access and utilization. The concerted effort was also geared at supporting the government to improve the health service policy environment. With these efforts at policy and service delivery level, improvements were registered in institutional deliveries, management of fever in children, antiretroviral therapy coverage access for pregnant women, and antenatal care services. The UN also provided financial and technical support for drafting key policy and guidance documents, including the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill and the Eighth Cycle of the National Health Accounts, to cover three fiscal years, 2016-2019.

INCREASED ACCESS TO INTEGRATED SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS:

Despite the lockdown, in partnership with the UN, the MOH sustained non-COVID-related SRHR service delivery through multiple innovative approaches, especially to women, adolescents and young people, key populations and refugees. Emphasis was on delivering an integrated package of services, including HIV testing and linkage to treatment, contraceptives, ANC, post-abortion care, cervical cancer screening and referral, sexually transmitted infection management and GBV screening and management. In 2021, at least 1,554,634 women, 338,532 adolescents, 1,002,248 youth and 106,468 people with disability utilized at least one such service delivered through the integrated SRHR service delivery mechanism. Institutional deliveries increased from 59 per cent to 64 per cent. The proportion of pregnant mothers who went for their first antenatal care visit in their first trimester of pregnancy increased from 22 per cent in 2020 to 33 per cent in 2021.

STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:

The UN contributed to the improvement of the national-level coordination for forecasting, quantification, and procurement of health commodities, including support to the annual commodity quantification and procurement planning exercises, which ensured the development and availability of the updated National Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health Quantification and Procurement Plan 2021-2025. The UN supported the development and rollout of the Reproductive Health Supervision Performance Assessment and Recognition Strategy to strengthen district supply chain management systems. The UN further strengthened the Electronic Logistics Management System to improve end-to-end data visibility, accountability and last-mile assurance of essential supplies as part of the overall commodity security supporting efforts.

TO STRENGTHEN NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY:

With other partners, the UN supported the MOH and key stakeholders to organize and make commitments to the Global Food Systems Summit 2021²³ held on 23 September 2021 in New York, USA. The UN provided financial and technical support for a baseline survey to inform the public procurement food policy and the development of food-based dietary guidelines. To enhance data for decision making, the UN also facilitated the training of health workers on the nutrition Health Management Information system (HMIS) and supported the performance review of the nutrition indicators in HMIS at the regional and district level.

Support was provided to 153,928 beneficiaries (190,041 female: 34,697 male children & 24,118 pregnant and lactating women and girls), with 918 metric tonnes of nutritious foods procured as well as cash transfer of USD 27 per beneficiary due to increased food insecurity. This support prevented the would-be deaths due to malnutrition in Karamoja and West Nile.

23 <www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>

TO STRENGTHEN THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE:

The UN, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, provided financial and technical support for the development of the Human Resources for Health (HRH) Strategic Plan; supported the revision of HRH staffing norms; supported the revision of schemes of service for public health workers; and provided infection prevention and control support to mitigate health worker infection against COVID-19.

TO STRENGTHEN THE QUALITY OF HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING PEOPLE-CENTRED HEALTHCARE:

The UN supported: (i) comprehensive performance assessments and quality of healthcare services in both public and private facilities; (ii) monitoring, evaluation and reviews of programmes performance; (iii) strengthening of district health systems and community engagement; (iv) quality improvement initiatives for people-centred health services; (v) continuity of essential health services to increase access to effective interventions for the prevention and successful treatment of patients; (vi) updating pro-health (e.g., on tobacco, alcohol and added sugar) and pro-poor fiscal policies; (vii) harmonization and coordination of health partners and with other sectors in support of one country health agenda; (viii) updates to national policies, strategies, plans, guidelines and standard operating procedures; and (ix) updating of essential medicines and diagnostics list. The UN also strengthened governance, planning and implementation capacities for preventing and managing communicable and non-communicable diseases; the ability to tackle antimicrobial resistance using a multi-sectoral approach; and the health systems to deliver on condition- and disease-specific service coverage results.

REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES:

The UN supported the transition of 14 refugee health facilities to government ownership in 2021; hence the facilities started receiving support from the Ministry of Health, including human resources, medicines and medical supplies, as well as primary health care grants.

PREVENT AND RESPOND TO HIV/AIDS:

The UN supported the government to (i) consolidate and update HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment guidelines; (ii) finalize and disseminate a safe male circumcision policy and training curriculum; (iii) finalize and disseminate the National Multisectoral HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan; (iv) finalize a joint UN programme of support 2022-2026; (v) finalize the HIV self-testing training curriculum and communication materials; (vi) finalize and scale-up HIV self-testing 2020-2023; (vii) draft HIV Testing Services Policy and Implementation Guidelines; and (viii) and the Draft National Hepatitis Strategic Plan. To eradicate stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS in the communities, the UN supported MOH in training health workers in Kampala and Wakiso Districts on how to integrate human rights-based approaches to SRHR for women and girls living with HIV/AIDS. This action aimed to reduce the stigma and discrimination of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the community and health facilities. This action was a recommendation realized during a dialogue carried out with women and girls living with HIV/AIDS on stigma and discrimination in accessing social services.

STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR EPIDEMIC-PRONE RISKS AND COVID-19 RESPONSE:

The UN partnered with the government to (i) assess and strengthen capacity for emergency preparedness; (ii) conduct a mid-term review of the joint external evaluation recommendations; (iii) provide the COVID-19 strategic committee with evidence from the research and innovation sub-committee; (iv) adapt proven prevention strategies for COVID-19 pandemic and other epidemic-prone diseases implemented at scale; (v) monitor and mitigate the risk of COVID-19 variants; (vi) rapidly detect, assess, and communicate regarding COVID-19 and other epidemic-prone risks; (vii) leverage relevant national and international capacities to respond rapidly and appropriately to COVID-19; and (viii) maintain continuity of essential health services delivery during COVID-19. The UN support extended to non-governmental actors, including facilitating engagement with and capacity strengthening of private not-for-profit and private for-profit organizations. This included

addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services and supporting the government to develop and disseminate guidance on private sector engagement in COVID-19 pandemic responses.

CONTINUOUS MOSQUITO NET DISTRIBUTION:

Following a mass campaign conducted in 2020 to reduce malaria incidence within refugee settlements, distribution of nets continued. In addition, 1790 community health workers/village health teams were trained in integrated community case management, ensuring that children under five years with malaria, pneumonia, or diarrhoea receive treatment within 24 hours of the onset of symptoms.

PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSITION:

In 2021, the UN contributed to the mitigation of the negative impact of the COVID-19 induced closure of educational institutions on some of the most deprived children, including girls, refugees, children with disabilities, and children from remote areas. This was achieved through advocacy, communication for development, promotion of partnerships, and support for delivering services through home-based, community, and distance methods. Technical and financial support for policy-level work and enhancement of the capacity of individuals and institutions both at the national and local levels strengthened the resilience of the education system to provide inclusive and quality education. The period under review registered the approval of the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy, the Inclusive Education Policy, the Revised Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Teenage Pregnancy in school settings, and the Education and Sports Sector Strategic Plan (2021-2025) prepared through UNICEF and partners' advocacy and technical support. These policies have created an enabling environment for the recovery of the education sector, which is key to the achievement of Uganda's NDP III. These efforts will accelerate the stagnated 36.6 per cent gross enrolment rate of pre-primary (2020) and 55.2 per cent average learning outcome results in core subjects and transition rate to secondary affected by the closure of learning institutions.

SOCIAL PROTECTION COVERAGE:

The UN continued to contribute to social protection coverage to avert the impacts of COVID-19 and desert-locust invasion. In this regard, the UN reached over 77,000 beneficiaries, the majority being women, adolescent girls, and refugees, with approximately US\$4 million in cash-based assistance to meet their immediate food and nutritional needs. The money also helped in asset creation to mitigate COVID-19 impacts, support transition to development assistance and sustainable market-oriented livelihoods opportunities through value chain development, for livelihoods protection and early recovery, and give underprivileged children an equal chance in life. The UN partnered with the Kampala Capital City Authority and NGO partners to mentor in- and out-of-school adolescent girls equipping adolescent girls with life skills to ensure they reach their highest potential. These efforts subsequently contributed to expanding social protection coverage to 55 per cent of the districts.

HOME LEARNING SUPPORT:

As students continued at-home learning during the school closures, the UN supported students with two rounds of Alternative Take Home Rations (A-THR) to keep the learners participating in at-home education and school-related activities. The A-THR reached 92 per cent of those in attendance before the 2020 school closure (120,820 learners: 47.8 per cent female). Programme surveys found that 82 per cent of the A-THR recipients agreed that this initiative enabled them to participate in the Ministry of Education-initiated home schooling by motivating them to concentrate and study, reducing distractions such as shortening learning to look for food.

FOOD ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN:

In the second take-home ration of 2021, digitalized methods such as the mobile operational data acquisition platform were utilized to distribute food assistance to school-going children through digitizing the class registers. Each learner was assigned a unique identifier that translated into a coupon to receive assistance. This innovation



Recipients of rice that the Republic of Korea gave to support the WFP refugee response ©WFP Uganda

improved efficiency in service delivery, reaching the rightful beneficiaries and significantly reducing waiting time at food collection points. Several education partners and government agencies attached to the UN distribution teams rolled out various complementary activities and services such as messaging on keeping learners (especially the girl child) focused on potential school return; learning material distribution; COVID-19 response and health services; immunization; deworming; human papillomavirus vaccination against cervical cancer, as well as school environment, sanitation, water, and hygiene.

OUTPUT 3.1.1: Strengthened capacity of government and non-government institutions at national and sub national levels to effectively manage and deliver sustainable and inclusive quality social and protection services.

(a) Increasing social services spending

- The delivery of primary health care relies on the capacity of district health teams to plan and manage resources. **Capacity building and district health systems investments led to most districts improving their ability to fund and staff health services.** These interventions created an enabling environment for implementing maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, nutrition, and WASH packages.

- Despite **UN advocacy efforts, resource leveraging and engagement of other development partners, the health sector budget as a proportion of the national budget dropped to 6.1 per cent from 7.2 per cent in the previous year.** However, the health sector budget increased by 8 per cent from UGX 2,589 billion in FY 2019/20 to UGX 2,788.90 billion in FY 2020/21. This was attributed to additional allocations for interventions related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. The share of GoU's contribution to the budget was 57 per cent, with external financing at 43 per cent. Equally, other sectors registered a decline in budgets, such as social development, from UGX 221.58 billion in 2019/20 to UGX 187.41 billion in FY 2020/21. Education saw a marginal increase from 3,398.53 billion in 2019/20 to UGX 3,700.18 billion in 2020/21.
 - Technical assistance was **provided to the government to ensure efficient use of funds so that the HIV response is fast-tracked** and meets the Test and Treatment 95-95-95 targets²⁴ by 2025. Aimed to increase and improve the sustainability of national HIV responses, the UN supported the Uganda AIDS Commission in implementing HIV mainstreaming guidelines, which enables MDAs to allocate 0.1 per cent of their sectoral budgets for HIV response. In addition, the UN provided technical assistance towards the drafting of the Global Fund applications for HIV and COVID-19 response and contributed to the development of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Country Operational Plan 2021. Finally, the UN supported the development of business cases for the private sector financing for HIV under the One Dollar Initiative, including feasible models for resource mobilization.
 - The UN helped the **OPM organize the country's first national dialogue on disaster preparedness.** The dialogue brought together a broad set of stakeholders to reach a consensus on the key issues and pave the way forward for strengthening disaster preparedness in Uganda. The recommendations have been fed into the forthcoming National Disaster Risk Management Plan to which the government has pledged a financial allocation.
 - In close collaboration with OPM and the Uganda National Meteorological Authority, the UN **initiated the development of a forecast-based financing programme for drought in Karamoja.** A forecast-based financing technical working group was established, and anticipatory actions were identified together with key stakeholders.
 - The UN supported the government in **disseminating the Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC) results that showed 30 per cent of Karamoja's population was at critical levels of food security** and launched an appeal for assistance. In response to this action and the UN's subsequent lean-season response, the government mobilized and distributed food to households in Karamoja, with support provided estimated at US\$695,000.
- (b) Social protection programmes coverage**
- The UN **continued to contribute to social protection coverage to avert the impacts of COVID-19 and desert-locust invasion.**
 - The UN reached 64,365 beneficiaries with approximately US\$1.7 million in **cash-based assistance to meet their immediate food and nutritional needs**, the majority being women and children aged 6-23 months.
 - i) US\$1,685,411 was transferred to asset creation participants in the south western and West Nile sub regions to address immediate food needs and mitigate COVID-19 impacts.
 - ii) By partnering with the Development Response to Displacement Impact Project and local governments, cash-based transfers were extended to 1,127 households of 6,270 individuals (60 per cent women), with 1 in 10 of the beneficiaries selected from labour-constrained households (disabled, elderly, and pregnant and lactating women). To sustain the gains, the UN successfully supported the integration of beneficiaries into the programme. Addition-

²⁴ The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS aims for HIV testing, treatment and viral suppression rates to be 95%--95%--95% by 2025.

ally, the UN delivered a one-time cash transfer of US\$27 to 58,095 beneficiaries (42 per cent pregnant and lactating women and girls and 58 per cent children between 6-24 months) to help them meet their food security needs during the pandemic.

- iii) A total of 8,000 refugee households received cash assistance to support a transition to development assistance and sustainable market-oriented livelihood opportunities through value chain development. Amidst the Desert Locust Response, the UN extended cash assistance for livelihoods protection and early recovery to 11,881 beneficiaries in Uganda's Karamoja and Teso sub-regions.
- iv) The UN provided food and nutrition assistance to more than 1.15 million settlement-based refugees (591,779 female) with 80,079 metric tonnes of food and cash-based transfers worth US\$44,028,318. The share of cash-based transfer recipients within general food assistance to refugees in Uganda has gradually increased from 21 per cent in 2018 to 55 per cent in 2021. This development (coupled with the double entitlement distributions) enhanced the UN in Uganda's efficiency in providing food assistance and reducing the time beneficiaries spent at food distribution points, thus limiting the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19. Due to decreased funding and ration reductions, the UN could only provide 77 per cent of planned food (103,605 metric tonnes planned) and 50 per cent of planned cash (US\$87,877,599 planned). This and additional interventions further ensured decent livelihoods for the selected vulnerable populations.
- v) To give all children an equal chance in life, the UN partnered with the Kampala Capital City Authority and NGOs to provide cash transfers and mentor 1,400 in- and out-of-school adolescent girls equipping the adolescent girls with life skills to ensure they reach their highest potential, while the cash transfers helped the girls to acquire school material needed to stay in school.
 - To ensure that national and subnational institutions in Uganda have increased ability to coordinate and manage food security and nutrition programmes and respond to shocks by 2030, the UN supported social protection strengthening to deliver direct income support and technical assistance for emergency preparedness and response. For example, the UN:
 - vi) Partnered with the MGLSD to design and launch a National Single Registry, an integrated beneficiary management information system (MIS) that supports data integration across eight national social protection programmes.
 - vii) Contracted 54 enumerators to support MGLSD to register and validate 28,000 beneficiaries on the national Senior Citizen Grant, assessed MIS needs for eight West Nile districts, and procured hardware to decentralize essential MIS functions to the district level.
 - viii) Provided facilitation for 11 national and district staff to participate in a 20-week online social protection training (in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Institute, South Africa).
 - In response to COVID-19, the UN, in addition to other interventions, supported two essential government programmes: **Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) and the Urban Cash for Work design**. Specifically, the UN continued financial and technical support to the MGLSD to disseminate and operationalize the National LIPW Guidelines. This resulted in increased uptake and utilization of the guidelines in 64 districts by the government and development partners implementing public works programmes, and monitoring showed a high degree of compliance. Findings in the monitoring report by the national LIPW committee revealed that the LIPW planning steps were closely followed in generating community LIPW projects. Through a technical expert seconded to the ministry, the UN strengthened national and sub-national government officials' capacity to design labour-intensive public works programmes; supported the coordination of the National Labour-Intensive Public Works Technical Working Committee;

and provided vital technical inputs into the design of the national Urban Cash for Work programme, one of the Government's planned primary COVID-19 social protection responses.

(c) Resilience planning and disaster risk reduction

- The UN continued to **support sub-national planning tools for resilience building, productive safety nets, disaster risk reduction, and preparedness through the three-pronged planning approach (3PA) rollout**. Through a partnership with the Makerere University School of Public Health, the UN facilitated the development of an Integrated Context Analysis, a Seasonal Livelihoods Plan, and thirteen Community Action Plans. The integration of community action plans into the Kaabong and Kikuube five-year district development plans is a significant achievement towards institutionalizing 3PA at the district level. Seasonal livelihood programming provides tailored response plans at sub-national levels. It links national-level integrated context analyses (identifying food security and vulnerability variations in different regions) with communities and partners, including UN agencies and NGOs, to deliver complementary programmes through community-based participatory planning.
- Through the PRO-ACT project (strengthening shock responsive systems in Karamoja), jointly implemented with OPM, **the UN engaged 255 people in four capacity strengthening initiatives for disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response**. This enhanced the efforts of the NPA to support districts in Karamoja to develop and integrate disaster contingency plans into their five-year district development plans and stands as a significant achievement for institutionalizing district-level disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness efforts.

(d) Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- The UN supported Uganda **Parliamentary Forum on WASH to be a strong advocate for sustainable resource mobilization and effective implementation of WASH-related strategies**. In collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment and related MDAs, the UN facilitated the engagement of a multi-sectoral broad-based coalition on WASH-related interventions. During the COVID-19 response, the UN also supported the promotion of safe water use, sanitation, hygiene intervention, and handwashing and hand rubs as primary response measures.
- **People had improved water supply through UN support in various ways**. A total of 16.8 litres per person per day (LPD) of water was supplied on average to refugees. Only two refugee settlements (Rhino and Imvepi) consistently surpassed the UN water supply target of 20 LPD during the year, and six settlements stayed within the range of 15-20 LPD. All but one settlement in the mid-west and south-west were below the minimum threshold of 15 LPD. Approximately 23.6 million litres of water were supplied per day, which was made possible because the UN, through partners, maintained the full functionality of 201 motorized water supply systems, ensuring the supply of water treatment chemicals (aluminium, chlorine, and lime, where required).²⁵ Five production wells were drilled and equipped with a hand pump, and 1,135 hand pumps were maintained to be operational, providing 35.4 per cent of the daily water requirements in 12 settlements. The operation extended 72.45km of pipe network to underserved areas.²⁶ Seven natural springs were rehabilitated to improve water supply, especially in hosting communities. To enhance water storage, six new reservoirs²⁷ were installed, and two new water schemes were completed.²⁸ The UN supported partners in daily water quality monitoring at chlori-

25 These systems were powered by renewable solar energy (39.1 per cent), national electricity grid (6.3 per cent and diesel generators (19 per cent).

26 30km-Nakivale, 15.2km-Kyaka, 2.65km-Palabek, 10.1km-Rwamwanja, 7.5km-Kyangwali, and 7km-Palorinya 1.15km pipeline extension could not be completed in Imvepi and Rhino due to delays in procurement by the partner.

27 Two galvanized pressed steel tanks each 100m³ capacity, three of 70m³ -T70 and one of 27m³ capacity.

28 Seven systems solarization were not completed due to delayed delivery of in-kind donation of solar panels.



A boy drinking water from a stand tap water facility built by UNICEF ©UNICEF Uganda

nated and non-chlorinated water points (hand pumps, reservoir tanks, springs and community tap stands) in all settlements and neighbouring host communities.

- **Environmental health and hygiene campaigns were conducted** by 1,182 village health teams and 386 community hygiene promoters across all the settlements. The entire refugee and surrounding hosting populations were reached with messages on home hygiene improvement, food hygiene, operation and maintenance of hygiene and sanitation facilities, faecal-oral route disease transmission management, and vector control. Campaigns were geared toward adapting health and sanitation behaviour transformation to reduce public health-related infections among community members. Notably, the district health inspectorate in hosting districts supported community engagements for sustained positive behaviour change.
- Although 4,877 dome-shaped slabs were produced, **4,115 latrines were fully constructed, representing 84 per cent completion of the target.** The remaining latrines are under construction by households, with delays attributed to a lack of available superstructure construction materials. To meet the emergency latrine needs, 300 emergency communal latrines were constructed in settlements receiving new arrivals. At the institutional level, 153 stances of drainable latrines were built. Latrine coverage at the household level stood at 73 per cent²⁹, on average, in refugee settlements. Kyangwali (61 per cent) and Palabek (67 per cent) posted the lowest coverage.
- **Handwashing practices** are at an average of 64.1 per cent, according to the knowledge, attitude and practices survey conducted at the end of 2021. There has been an increase registered due to massive community sensitization focusing on COVID-19 best practices and routine hygiene practices of washing hands after critical moments. Sensitization on handwashing and jerrican cleaning campaigns at water points was scaled up following the risk of COVID-19 transmission and cross-contamination in water chain management.
- Regarding waste management, **84.17 per cent of households have a waste disposal pit** (Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions Survey 2021). Institutional waste management only caters for solid waste leaving a significant gap in faecal waste management.

29 UNHCR gap matrix, December 2021.

OUTPUT 3.1.2: People, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, are empowered to utilize quality basic social and protection services.

(a) Capacity to demand for services

- The UN **strengthened community feedback through social listening mechanisms**. The adolescent volunteer initiative continued to promote adolescent engagement and participation in community-level advocacy, including with district technical and political leaders in discussing teenage priorities.
- The UN helped **develop high-reach campaigns across different media platforms** for VAC, immunization, ECD, go-back-to-school, hand-washing with soap, and COVID-19. Messaging on COVID-19 reached over 14 million people, while the VAC campaign reached over three million people. UN's role as co-chair of the Risk Communication and Social Mobilization Sub-Committee of the National Task Force on Disease Outbreaks contributed to the timely implementation of an integrated risk communication plan for COVID-19.



THERE IS AN INCREASED CAPACITY OF 22,550 ADOLESCENTS (12,623 GIRLS: 9,927 BOYS) TO AMPLIFY THEIR VOICES ON NATIONAL, DISTRICT, AND COMMUNITY PLATFORMS DUE TO UN INTERVENTIONS.

Within the Learning to Earning agenda, 1,104 adolescents and young people (535 female: 569 male) joined the global Digital Livelihood Challenge, with 57 per cent completing the challenge and 97 per cent of those developing a 'growth mindset' when assessed.

- To **strengthen the ability of children, families, and communities to identify risks and prevent and respond to all forms of VAC**, 69,348 people (23,116 female: 46,232 male) in 28 districts participated in community inter-generational dialogues and interpersonal

communication aimed at changing social norms that fuel harmful practices in Uganda. Moreover, 2,752 government and NGO staff (750 female: 2,002 male) were trained on social and behavioural change communication, helping them plan, implement, and monitor integrated media campaigns on VAC that reached 2,072,963 people in 28 districts (among them were 537,069 boys and 523,089 girls).

- A total of 598,699 people **were directly reached with communication regarding health promotion on COVID-19, and messages regarding COVID-19 vaccine uptake** were shared through social mobilization and heard by 26,000 people (16,000 female: 10,000 male).
- Together with partners and donors, the UN **supported the government in operationalizing four integrated refugee response plans** to respond to the needs of refugees and host communities in terms of education, health, water and environment, and jobs and livelihoods. The Sustainable Energy Response Plan has been endorsed by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Steering Group.
- The UN supported the MGLSD in **holding the National Symposium on Disability**. The symposium focused on the national theme of commemoration of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities: 'Not All Disabilities Are Visible.'

(b) Utilization and user satisfaction with social services

- The UN supported the government in sustaining **non-COVID-related health, education, and protection service delivery** through multiple innovative approaches, especially for women, adolescents, young people and refugees.
- In ensuring zero unmet need for **family planning the UN supported the MOH to increase access to contraceptive method mix**. The number of new family planning users doubled between 2020 and 2021, rising from 194,780 in 2020 to 473,702 in 2021. The total family

planning users increased from 1,460,020 to 1,640,147 over the same period in the UN-supported districts. During the period under review, 4,778,607 couple years of protection³⁰ were registered.



COVERAGE OF AT LEAST FOUR ANTENATAL CARE VISITS INCREASED FROM 42 PER CENT TO 48.2 PER CENT FROM 2020 TO 2021.

- Uganda's prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme **implemented near-universal HIV testing for pregnant women** attending antenatal care and a high maternal antiretroviral therapy coverage (both at >95 per cent). As a result, an estimated 80 per cent or more of new vertical HIV infections were averted. The vast majority (97 per cent) of children and adolescents living with HIV were enrolled on the recommended HIV drug regimen.
- As a result of the 1,114 **outreach sessions conducted, 26,869 (15,871 female: 10,998 male) are more aware of GBV prevention and response services**, especially where survivors of violence can access essential quality services. The communities were also made aware of free legal services at various legal aid offices, toll-free lines and PULIDA WO a mobile application developed by the Uganda Law Society to extend pro bono legal aid services. The awareness was further bolstered by the 105 interactive radio talk shows that reached 1,799,243 people (913,447 female: 885,796 male) with pertinent information on the prevention of VAWG, teenage pregnancies, harmful practices, and information on where to access essential services. A total of 373 call-ins (95 female: 278 male) were registered during the talk shows. A total of 3,472 spot messages tailored to the most salient issues affecting women and girls like domestic violence, marriage, divorce, and inheritance rights were aired. Analysis shows 72 per cent
- of the people who accessed legal aid offices came to know of the services offered through radio engagements.
- A prefabricated **structure was erected to serve as a clinic, and medical equipment was procured for Masindi main prison, enhancing the delivery of tuberculosis and HIV services in Uganda prisons.** The UN also supported Uganda's prison service by equipping the prison high dependency unit at the staff treatment centre at Luzira with medical equipment. The equipment consisted of hospital oxygen airflow splitters, oxygen non-rebreather patient masks and hospital oxygen regulators, as well as coveralls, face shields and oxygen cylinders.
- To **improve child nutrition and reduce mortality**, 2,185,519 children aged 6-59 months received Vitamin A supplementation; 37,850 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition; and 1,454,094 primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months received counselling on infant and young child feeding per the District Health Information System.
- In the health sector, services are provided integrated for refugees and host communities, with no restriction on nationality. **Ninety per cent of the permanent health facilities are coded by the Ministry of Health** and receive government grants.
- COVID-19 refocused attention on hygiene to prevent disease transmission. The UN **provided essential WASH supplies** to 426 villages that achieved open defecation free status against the annual target of 400. The UN also surpassed the annual target to provide WASH facilities in schools (68 schools against the target of 54) and the emergency WASH response. The UN provided WASH supplies for 621,723 people (against the target of 280,000) to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The provision of personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control supplies for frontline and auxiliary personnel also contributed to keeping service providers safe

³⁰ Estimated protection provided by family planning (FP) methods during a one-year period, based upon the volume of **all contraceptives sold or distributed free of charge** to clients during that period

and working. The normative work to develop national guidelines and standards for WASH in health facilities, which was being finalised, will strengthen infection prevention and control in health facilities. The rehabilitation of defunct boreholes and solar panel motorized water systems provided water to 68 schools, 40 health centres, and two hybrid systems (communities and schools/health facilities). At the same time, 4,400 students benefited from access to WASH and climate-resilient facilities.

(c) Education

- Through UN support to district education systems, **29 districts enhanced their data collection and management system, evidence-based planning,** and cross-sectoral coordination, including coordination of integrated ECD services. With technical support from the UN, all 13 refugee-hosting districts developed education response plans.
- Adapting to the COVID-19 lockdown, the UN **supported the delivery of home- and community-based ECD services in partnership with civil society organizations,** resulting in 15,124 children (50 per cent girls) being better prepared to transition to primary education. To continue improving the quality of services at community ECD centres, 1,201 ECD caregivers were trained, and 53 per cent of targeted ECD centres were licensed. In addition, a parenting book was produced to help parents support home learning for their youngest children.
- **Continuity of learning was also assured through the provision of printed home-based learning materials,** benefitting 180,654 learners (25 per cent of the annual target) at the upper primary level, including refugee children. Braille materials were printed and distributed to 1,469 primary and secondary learners with disabilities. To facilitate the transition from mother tongue to the English medium of instruction, lessons for Primary 4 were broadcast to 9.8 million viewers on national TV. The Kolibri online platform provided a digital curriculum and life skills content for 7,300 users, with 2,700 new users registered in 2021. In preparation for school reopening and to sup-

port the psychosocial needs of children, 1,243 recreation materials were distributed to 600 schools, reaching 363,052 learners in 20 districts.

- **Adolescents out of school enhanced their life skills and resilience through the UN-supported life skills programme.**


 **63,936 GIRLS**

 **58,018 BOYS**

 **7407 REFUGEES**

- A total of 1,051 teachers (388 female) were **trained on the reporting, tracking, response and referral mechanism** to prevent VAC, contributed to making schools safe for all learners.
- The **education prospects of refugees improved** as 9,878 refugees (33 per cent girls) out of 749,761 candidates sat for Primary Leaving Examinations from 11,231 centres in Uganda, showing a 9.8 per cent increase from 2019. The candidates in Divisions 1 to 4 were 8,797 compared to 8,086 in 2019, showing that 8.7 per cent more candidates qualified to access post-primary opportunities. In Kampala, 337 urban refugees (56 per cent girls) sat for Primary Leaving Examinations, and 99 per cent (333) obtained Divisions 1 to 4.

(d) COVID-19 response

 **DESPITE 2 LOCKDOWNS THE UN IMPORTED MORE THAN 17M VACCINE DOSES**
1,076,923 PEOPLE
 (94.5 PER CENT OF THE TARGETED POPULATION) RECEIVED THE FIRST AND SECOND DOSES.

- The UN contributed to sustaining the national immunization programme with immunization in the focus districts at 90 per cent (DHIS 2).



A Ugandan health worker vaccinates a community member against COVID-19 in Kampala. COVID-19 vaccination remains the most effective public health measure against the global pandemic ©WHO Uganda

- The **COVID-19 Response Community Engagement Strategy (CES) was developed**, and the MOH was supported in drafting the Community Health Strategy. Engagement of non-state actors was done by facilitating their convening, coordination and capacity building during the COVID-19 response.
- A total of 150 **COVID-19 vaccinators and village health teams and 700 medical and non-medical personnel were remunerated and trained on COVID-19 emergency response**, mitigation, and risk communication at three border points of entries of Mutukula, Kasensero and Kikagati. A total of 43,588 individuals (including 4,475 migrants and 39,113 non-migrants) were vaccinated against COVID-19 through support from the UN.
- **People's health was improved through donations of** 441,553 personal protective equipment items, 2,762 infection prevention and control items, and 9,000 COVID-19 test kits and reagents delivered to selected hospitals. In partnership with the Ministry of Health and the district health team, UN facilitated the collection and transportation of 2,563 COVID-19 samples for testing at Adjumani Referral hospital.

OUTPUT 3.1.3: Strengthened policy and regulatory environment to promote equitable access and utilization of rights-based and gender-responsive social and protection services that prevent, mitigate, and respond to shocks and stress.

(a) Policies and regulations development and implementation

- With UN technical support, the Ministry of Education and Sports **approved several policies** that have created an enabling environment for the recovery of the education sector, including:
 - i) National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy.
 - ii) National Inclusive Education Policy.
 - iii) Revised Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Teenage Pregnancy in school settings.
 - iv) Education and Sports Sector Strategic Plan (2021-2025).
- The UN supported the **government in developing and implementing sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based violence laws, policies, and strategies**, including the following.

- i) Four guidelines and policies on sexuality education were approved: School Health Policy, School Health Operational Guidelines, Menstrual Hygiene Management Guidelines and Out-Of-School Sexuality Education.

IN ADDITION, THE 2018 NATIONAL SEXUALITY EDUCATION FRAMEWORK WAS ROLLED OUT, REACHING A TOTAL OF 80,515 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10-24 YEARS WITH SEXUALITY EDUCATION.

 **43,008 FEMALE**

 **37,507 MALE**

- i) Gender-based violence/ SRHR was integrated into the Draft Revised Disability Policy (2021) and existing farmers' groups as a platform for reducing women and girls' vulnerability to poor SRH outcomes, GBV, and harmful practices.
- ii) The Uganda AIDS Commission revised the National Multisectoral Key Population Programming Framework of 2014 to generate strategic guidance for 2020-2025, as well as to develop a Key Population Programming Action Plan 2020-2023, integrating strategies and indicators for addressing gender-based barriers to HIV prevention.
- iii) The Ministry of Health finalized the development of (i) the National STI Management Guidelines and accompanying health worker training manuals, (ii) National Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan 2020/21-2024/25, and (iii) Essential Maternal and Newborn Care Guidelines. The government also issued Family Planning 2030 Commitments.
- To **strengthen the federal protection system**, the **National Child Policy** was disseminated, and child wellbeing committees were established in 51 districts to coordinate the implementation of the policy in each district.
 - To strengthen the capacities of police, prosecutors and judicial officers to effectively manage cases of GBV in a gender-sensitive, victim-centred, and trauma-informed manner and to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in expediting GBV-related cases, a **Cross-Sectoral**

Handbook for Victim Centred Investigation, Prosecution, and Adjudication of GBV Cases; a Gender-Based Violence Training Manual for Judicial Officers and Victim-Centred and Human Rights-Based Plea-bargaining Guidelines for prosecutors were launched.

- The judiciary was supported to develop the **Judicial Handbook on HIV, Human Rights, and the Law in Uganda** to sensitize and guide the judiciary on matters relating to HIV and AIDS in courts of law.
 - The UN supported the government and partners in drafting, **advancing, and advocating for legal reforms to promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights in Uganda**. Support was offered to the Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association, the Domestic Violence Action Coalition, and the women's movement to advance progress on the Employment Amendment Bill, the Succession Amendment Bill, and the Sexual Offences Bill; all three had sufficient support and were passed in Parliament.
- (b) Level of annual work plan budget compliance to NDP III by programmes and local governments**
- Support was provided to Uganda AIDS Commission to **implement the HIV national mainstreaming guidelines** and to the Ministry Finance, guidance on allocating 0.1 per cent to all MDAs in respective budgets. An assessment is ongoing regarding the performance of HIV and AIDS interventions and budget allocations in significant infrastructure projects in Uganda for the fiscal year 2020/2021.
 - Support was provided to the private sector in **developing and strengthening a private sector-specific HIV financing mechanism dubbed 'the One Dollar Initiative'**. This is a private sector-led innovative domestic resource mobilization mechanism geared towards complementing and sustaining government and development partners' response to HIV/AIDS.
 - Technical support was offered to MOH to **develop and implement investment and**

financing strategies, advance an enabling legal, policy, and regulatory environment, and strengthen coordination and planning across sectors for a whole of government and whole of society inclusion in the prevention and

control of noncommunicable diseases. The UN also supported the integration of noncommunicable diseases into HIV programming, especially into the 2022 Country Operational Plan of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.



Amid COVID-19 and prolonged school closure, with support from the United Nations, girls were mobilized to join Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents (ELA) clubs, where sexual and reproductive health and rights issues were discussed ©UNFPA Uganda

OUTCOME 3.2: BY 2025, GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE IN UGANDA ARE PROMOTED, PROTECTED, AND FULFILLED IN A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT.



Staff of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, United Nations and European Union engaging with local government leaders during a training organised by the Spotlight Initiative on preventing violence against women and girls ©UNFPA Uganda

OUTPUT 2.1.1: Strengthened capacity of government and non-government institutions at regional, national, and sub-national level to uphold positive social, cultural norms, values and practices that promote human rights, equality, and non-discrimination.

(a) Essential services for women and children subjected to violence and harmful practices

- Through multiple joint initiatives, the UN strengthened the capacities of essential service providers (local governments, local council courts, police, health workers, judicial officers, civil society entities and media) and contributed to the provision of essential services for survivors of GBV, VAC and HP. The joint initiatives included the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, SIDA-supported Joint Programme on GBV, and Global Programmes on Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation. The UN helped the MGLSD develop the National GBV/VAC Multi-Sectoral COVID-19 Response Plan (2021-2024).

- To support the delivery of comprehensive survivor services, in partnership with the MGLSD, the UN provided financial support for the ongoing operation of 15 GBV shelters across Uganda. In addition, the UN also financed the construction of a new GBV shelter in Amudat District and a GBV survivor reception centre in Terego.
- The MGLSD expanded the use of the SafePal App to 70 districts and was integrated with the National GBV database system and the SAUTI Helpline. Consequently, 2,475 application downloads were made, and 216 cases of GBV were reported and successfully referred.
- Up to 694,371 young people and women received prevention or protection services related to harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, including 389,717 girls at risk of or affected by child marriage.
- Alternative livelihood interventions with start-up kits were provided to over 1,100 GBV survivors to mitigate violence against women and girls. These survivors now own and operate

micro and small-scale enterprises 150 (101 female; 49 male). The beneficiaries included artisanal miners who were also supported to formalize into companies.

- Approximately 845 members of the local council courts (282 female: 563 male) in seven districts **gained skills in GBV prevention and response**, as supported by the Ministry of Local Government and in collaboration with the International Justice Mission and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.
- The UN supported the Ministry of Public Service to finalize the **integration of gender-based violence, violence against children and gender and equity responsive interventions in the Performance Management Circular Standing Instruction No. 5 of 2021**.
- A curriculum was developed and adopted by **three pre-service and in-service training** institutions to facilitate learning on GBV response in government processes.
- The UN provided **technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of JLOS** actors (police officers, prosecutors, judicial officers, court clerks, probation officers, etc.) effectively investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate GBV-related cases in a gender-sensitive, victim-centred, and trauma-informed manner. This included:
 - i) A total of 105 police officers (30 female: 75 male) were trained to enhance their capacity to respond to women's justice needs and effectively investigate cases of violence against women and girls. As a result of the training, 1,750 cases were reported; 209 cases were successfully investigated with files taken to court, 615 cases were resolved at police stations, and 926 are still being investigated.
 - ii) A total of 72 (34 female: 38 male) prosecutors, police officers and probation officers acquired skills and knowledge on the plea-bargaining process after training on gender-sensitive, victim-centred, and human rights-based approach Prosecutor Plea Bargaining Guidelines.
 - iii) A total of 149 JLOS officials (117 female: 38 male) demonstrated improved knowledge and skills in effectively managing violence cases against women and girls after a five-day training on victim-centred investigation, prosecution, and adjudication.
- iv) A total of 39 (24 female: 15 male) court clerks, administrative staff and front desk officers acquired knowledge and skills on customer care, institutional strengthening in their mandate in ensuring justice for all, GBV, provision of survivor-centred services and security and risk management.
- v) The Uganda Police Force (UPF) activated and equipped a toll-free GBV helpline, through which 689 cases were reported (69 per cent domestic violence and 12 per cent defilement) and referred to responsible police units for investigation and action.
- vi) Special GBV court sessions facilitated speedy disposal of court cases, reducing case backlog and enhancing perpetrator accountability, contributing to ending impunity. Of the 771 cases listed in 2021, about 86 per cent (682 cases) were disposed of, of which 421 cases (62 per cent of disposed of cases) resulted in convictions.
- vii) Legal assistance and advice were also enhanced through the UN's partnership with civil society organizations: 20,657 people accessed legal support, referrals or information through the Ugandan Law Society and Justice Centre's toll-free lines, mobile app (PULIDA WO), and interactive voice response line.
- Workplaces were made safer as the UN supported the MGLSD and the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda to **develop a training manual, guidelines and checklist for monitoring compliance for GBV prevention and response in workplaces**. Subsequently, 11 MDAs and six district local governments mainstreamed GBV into their development plans. Ten private sector organizations instituted measures to prevent and respond to GBV in workplaces. Onboarding 93 private companies also enhanced private sector engagement in gender equality and women's empowerment in the Gender Equality Seal Certification process.

- UN provided technical and financial support to sustain the **functionality of multisector partner coordination platforms for gender and GBV programmes** and access to an integrated package of SRH/HIV/GBV services. The National GBV Reference Group extensively shaped the GBV COVID-19 response strategy. The Medico-Legal Technical Working Group at national and sub national levels provided technical backstopping to subnational structures. Through this, the MOH sent a circular to all health care workers in government facilities to desist from charging medical examination fees when filling the medical form for SGBV survivors, an essential step towards addressing barriers to justice for GBV-survivors and reducing impunity by the perpetrators.
 - In partnership with the GoU, 317 (102 female: 215 male) local leaders (including local councils, para social workers, GBV champions, village health teams, religious leaders) and 987 (517 female: 470 male) teachers in 27 schools **were reached with messages on human trafficking in Amudat, Tororo, and Kampala Districts**. With females at 24 per cent and males at 76 per cent, 909,848 followers on TV, radios, and other social media platforms were reached with messages on trafficking in persons. A total of 360 vulnerable migrants were assisted to return to Uganda and reintegrate into their communities, and 600 copies of the National Action Plan and National Referral Guidelines for managing victims of trafficking were developed and supplied to government officials.
 - The UN supported the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control including the Uganda Police Force, Internal Security Organization, and External Security Organization, in training 143 people (53 female: 90 male) in **immigration intelligence**, including the training of 24 trainers.
 - The Uganda Government **created the first maritime unit in the history of the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration** by providing ten weeks of maritime training to 11 immigration officials (one woman) in collaboration with the Uganda People Defence Forces. In addition, the maritime unit was supported with maritime security counterterrorism response equipment, including patrol motor-boats and patrol cars, to enhance naval border security towards improving counter-terrorism response.
 - A total of 30 immigration border officials, including users, trainers and system administrators (6 female: 24 male), **were trained in border management information systems** and the International Organization for Migration Information and Data Analysis System. On-site cascade training for other immigration officials using the analysis system was supported.
- (b) Advancing positive social, cultural norms, values and practices**
- **Community safety was enhanced after 1,562 community leaders, activists, and champions in 20 districts were trained in the SASA! Together Awareness Phase, gaining knowledge on the methodology, power imbalance and other root causes of gender inequality and gender-based violence.** The trained community activists and community leaders conducted SASA! group sessions reaching 40,129 community members (21,342 female: 18,787 male). Multi-media campaigns on VAWG reached 4,898,034 people (2,008,194 female: 2,889,849 male) with messages challenging harmful social and gender norms through the Spotlight Initiative.
 - **Community intergenerational dialogues were attended by approximately 69,348 people (23,116 female: 46,232 male) in 28 districts, with the aim of changing social norms** that fuel harmful practices in Uganda. 2,752 government and NGO staff (750 female: 2,002 male) were trained on social and behavioural change communication, helping them plan, implement, and monitor integrated media campaigns on VAC that reached 2,072,963 people in 28 districts (537,069 boys and 523,089 girls).
 - The UN partnered **with religious and cultural institutions to address harmful gender and social norms that limit women's empowerment** and contribute to violence and harmful

practices against women and children. This includes the following:

- i) Over 1,400,000 community members in UN-supported districts were reached with messages advancing SRHR and preventing and responding to GBV, HIV/AIDS, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices using cultural leaders. This included community dialogues, scheduled institutional events, and media (radio, TV, social media, and tailored IEC materials).
- ii) Up to 2,300 community resource persons such as religious and cultural leaders, SASA! activists, participants of male engagement interventions, male models and women mentors were oriented to enhance community awareness and the education process using institutional approved tools. The trained community resource persons reached 482,770 community members with SRHR and GBV information.
- iii) Sustained support was offered to cultural institutions, and mobilization of communities was done to denounce negative cultural norms and practices, which yielded positive results in Kitgum and Amudat Districts. The three chiefdoms in Kitgum committed to ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Similarly, cultural leaders from the Karon-lityei community in Amudat Sub County publicly announced the abandonment of FGM in their community.

(c) UN support for human rights in Uganda

- The UHRC conducted 184 **human rights monitoring missions** securing the release of 65 people (43 men, 18 boys, 3 women) from arbitrary detention.
- UHRC developed, published, and launched its 2019 and 2020 annual reports and a **report on the human rights situation in elections**. This informed policy reform, advocacy, and interventions by parliament on issues of human rights concern with respective agencies.
- The **National Affirmative Action Programme on Indigenous Peoples** in Uganda was developed.
- The National Council for Persons with Disabil-

ities **conducted regional consultations to develop a report on the status of implementation of the 2016 CRPD** concluding observations in the initial report of Uganda.

- Contributing to promoting access to information, including constitutional rights for persons with disabilities, **fifty copies of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda were transcribed in braille**. Uganda National Association for the Blind received 30 copies, and the national council received 20, with 10 going to the local governments.
- The UN worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to **organize meetings with stakeholders and launch and disseminate state reports**. Consultations on the Universal Periodic Review process of the CSOs and MDAs were carried out with their reports. In 2022, the UN facilitated some government officials to travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend the Universal Periodic Review session to present Uganda's case. CSOs were also supported to convene human rights defenders across the country to elaborate a joint civil society strategy to respond to and engage in the review process. The process also aimed at advocating and raising CSO's human rights concerns to diplomatic bodies and on the invitation of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders-Uganda. They facilitated sessions on the review process in the internal meetings of the twenty-four civil society thematic clusters that then contributed with their respective inputs to the civil society submissions to the Universal Periodic Review process. As a result of this process, the Ugandan civil society contributed to the elaboration of 40 reports that were jointly submitted to the Universal Periodic Review process.
- **Advancing the human rights of persons with albinism was done in various ways.**
 - i) The UN supported the development of a public report on people with albinism entitled 'Just like you: addressing myths and misconceptions on albinism in Uganda.' The report was developed as an advocacy tool with illustrations to clarify myths and stereotypes against persons

with albinism. In April 2021, the UN submitted the report for review by the government and follow-up is being done with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MGLSD for the required approvals.

- i) The UN supported the MGLSD, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the albinism community in Uganda to validate the National Action Plan on Albinism. The Ministry committed to having the National Action Plan on Albinism adopted in 2022. Once adopted, the Plan will contribute to the National Comprehensive Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2020-2024).
- ii) The UN supported the commemoration of the International Albinism Awareness Day in Uganda in Kabarole, western Uganda. As part of the commemoration, the UN collaborated with partners to support sensitization on COVID-19 and vaccination for persons with albinism.
- **Advancing human rights of persons with disabilities was achieved when the UN supported the MGLSD to hold the National Symposium on Disability. The Symposium focused on the national theme of commemoration of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities: ‘Not All Disabilities Are Visible.’**

OUTPUT 3.2.2: Strengthened capacity of government and non-government institutions to effectively plan, monitor and deliver public and private financing to social sectors in an equitable, gender-responsive, accountable, and sustainable manner.

(a) Gender and equity planning and budgeting

- Gender and equity planning and budgeting are vital strategies for sustainable, inclusive growth and development, **as provided under the SDGs and Uganda’s Vision 2040 and as such, various compliance assessments were supported.** An evaluation of gender and equity budgeting under the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 was conducted. The 2021 assessment established an increase in national budget allocation to gender equality and women’s empowerment from UGX 18,343 billion in FY 2015/16 to UGX 34,304 billion in FY 2019/20 (an 87 per cent funding increase). Gender and equity service delivery in hard-to-reach areas improved from 68 per cent in FY 2019/2020 to 78 per cent in FY 2021/22. In addition, the National Planning Authority conducted an assessment of sector plans and budgets to determine the compliance level demographic dividend indicators. The assess



Representatives from the albinism community, Government, civil society and the diplomatic community at the launch of an initiative aimed at ‘Enhancing Equality and Countering Discrimination against persons with Albinism in Uganda’ ©OHCHR Uganda

- ment revealed that 72.9 per cent of plans and budgets were aligned to the demographic dividend, compared with a benchmark of 80 per cent.
 - The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development **developed 20 handbooks to inform the enhancement of gender and equity programming** in priority sectors. The materials spell out the gender and equity issues under each programme, the proposed NDP III interventions and performance indicators.
 - The Equal Opportunities Commission, with support from the UN, **developed Gender and Equity Guidelines for Local Governments** as part of the efforts towards addressing the gender and equity capacity gaps to enhance compliance at the local government level.
 - In collaboration with MoFPED, diagnostic studies have been completed to inform policy options. For instance, **a position paper to influence tax law and policies from a gender perspective**
 - During the Generation Equality Campaign, **the government committed increased financing to end violence against** and strengthen economic justice for women.
 - The UN strengthened the capacity of government officials across levels to implement gender and equity planning and budgeting as well as GBV integration into processes.
- i) To improve their oversight function of legislation and financing for gender and equity issues, the UN supported the induction of new members of parliament. Workshops on gender-responsive planning and budgeting were carried out with critical parliamentary committees, including gender, budget, human rights, education and health.
 - ii) The Ministry of Public Service launched and institutionalized an online course on mainstreaming GBV in budgeting and planning processes. Over 500 finance and planning public service officials were training using this course on gender budgeting. To further scale up the reach of this course (and other online courses of the Ministry) to more public officials, a multi-media centre, the first of its kind in Uganda, was also established at the Civil Service College, Jinja. This centre will enable the Ministry of Public Service to deliver this and its other online courses.
 - iii) The UN supported seven district local governments to mainstream GBV into development plans that include costed interventions on GBV response. Districts also developed GBV work plans. In addition, 50 district officials in Karamoja on gender-responsive budgeting, equity, and human rights-based approaches.
- (b) Gender statistics and disaggregated data**
- The **Third Plan for National Statistical Development 2021-2025** was developed and aligned with NDP III. Within the reporting year, 38 MDAs, 134 local governments, and five CSOs developed implementation plans for statistics. In partnership with UBOS, the UN provided technical support to integrate gender perspectives according to international standards to facilitate the continuous production of gender-responsive statistics. UBOS integrated GBV/SRH indicators in the four modules of the National Community Information System to collect data on the 10-14-year-olds that are not generated through the Uganda Demographic Health Survey.
 - **Administrative data collection was strengthened**, including training 47 police data clerks to capture GBV-related data.
 - Uganda Bureau of Statistics was supported to conduct a **National Survey on Violence in Uganda**, including violence against women and children, violence against the elderly, and forms of economic, online, workplace, and emotional violence not hitherto collected.
 - Guidelines for an innovative data collection approach based on the collection and use of **citizen-generated data** to complement official statistics were written.

Progress on the Promise to “Leave No One Behind”

As demonstrated in the results reported above, the UN System in Uganda remains committed to the promise of leaving no one behind. This commitment is also evidenced by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT)’s progress under the UN-System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) Gender Equality Scorecard and the Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion. The UN in Uganda remains committed to the promise of leaving no one behind as Uganda advances towards sustainable development. In its common country analysis to prioritize interventions, the UNCT identified groups most likely to be left behind in the Uganda context, including orphans and vulnerable children, women and girls, children and youth, people with disabilities, persons with albinism, older people, indigenous people, ethnic minorities, people living in remote and hard-to-reach areas, sexual minorities, people living with HIV/AIDS, migrants and mobile population, refugees, and stateless persons.

- The UN’s **Human Rights and Gender Advisory Group remained active** throughout 2021, with focal points from all UN agencies with a physical presence in Uganda, supporting the UNCT’s advancement of human rights, gender equality, and leaving no one behind through its operations, programming, and leadership. In early 2021, the UNCT adopted the findings and action plan from the 2020 comprehensive assessment of the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard. Progress under this action plan in 2021 resulted in the advancement of three indicators: 1.1 Common Country Analysis (from approaching to exceeding); 2.1 Joint Programmes (from meeting to exceeding); and 4.3 Gender Parity (from missing to approaching). As of 2021, the UNCT meets or exceeds 11 of 15 indicators, with the remaining four ‘approaching.’
- The UN conducted a **gender parity and enabling environment assessment**, from which it developed a UNCT Uganda gender parity strategy and action plan, localizing the Secretary General’s System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity.
- The UN supported the integration of human rights into sustainable development. The support included engagement with the Universal Periodic Review and the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Joint capacity building was conducted for the newly reconstituted Uganda Human Rights Commission, as well as ongoing advocacy and capacity building with law enforcement officials and other duty bearers on observing human rights principles and advancing gender equality and women empowerment.
- A **Disability Inclusion Working Group** was established, which conducted its first comprehensive assessment of the UNCT Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion. This will inform actions in 2022 to enhance disability inclusion in UNCT’s programming and operations in Uganda.
- The GoU was supported to design **22 regional hubs to institutionalize the provision of key population-friendly services within public health facilities**. A total of 145,333 key populations and the community members with whom they interact were reached with HIV and SRH services. The Human Rights and Equity Strategy was completed, and a national standing committee on human rights, equity and gender in HIV programming was instituted. A national community-led mechanism to monitor the quality of services targeting key populations and a dashboard to track areas of improvement is in place.
- **Empowerment initiatives were carried out for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) facing intersecting forms of discrimination** (i.e., females living with HIV, child mothers, transgender, rural poor, those with disability and refugees). A total of 99 AGYW completed the secondary school certification programme, with 93 successfully completing their Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (02-Division 1, 10-Division 2, 21-Division 3, 42-Division 4 and only 18 ‘F’s). Seven AGYW finished their Uganda Certificate of Education with the required two principal passes. All formal school learners have expressed willingness to

continue their studies. A total of 770 vocational graduates acquired placements, and this has enhanced their economic potential serving in various vocations such as plumbing works, carpentry, electrical and solar installations, motor vehicle mechanics, catering, automobile repairs, tailoring, livestock, and crop extension services, driving welding, building and concrete practice.

- Overall, 144,851 young women refugees aged 15-24 years old **were reached with messages through multimedia calling for equal gender norms, attitudes, and practices for women's right to health**, specifically sexual reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (SRMNCAH) and HIV prevention. A total of 60 young women living with HIV acquired skills as peer educators and community mobilizers to spearhead advocacy efforts for quality SRMNCAH services; 78 refugee and host community leaders have been taken through advocacy competency drills for SRMNCAH; 520 young women beneficiaries acquired skills in group care approach and received training in economic resilience, self-reliance, and got oriented on keeping girls in school. These interventions are meant to improve individual livelihood and the ability to demand quality SRMNCAH services.
- A total of 520 vulnerable girls and young women 15-24 years from 26 POWER clubs across the districts of Terego, Adjumani, and Yumbe **received VSLA kits following the training and financial management skills**. Cumulatively a total savings of UGX 65.8m has been posted across the clubs, and 64 per cent of the members started small businesses on their own.
- His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni launched UN's **Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility, which is UN's innovative financing and entrepreneurship set of instruments to promote impact-driven businesses and engage enterprises in tackling youth unemployment** by leveraging innovations to create jobs and livelihood opportunities to quicken recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This facility partners

with Stanbic Uganda, the GoU, BRAC and other stakeholders. Over US\$3million in grants and incubation support has been provided to over 7,500 youth-owned small and medium enterprises. Fifty youths have received up to US\$40,000 each (approximately UGX 7billion) in agriculture and agribusiness, tourism, mining, renewable energy, manufacturing, ICT, creative arts, construction, and health. In addition, the UN has partnered with civil society to increase access to employment and livelihood opportunities for 7,500 economically active youth in 17 target districts throughout Uganda.

- The men@work methodology was applied to **mobilize youth participation and give a voice to the global generation equality agenda**. As a result, a national reference team with representation from Karamoja, West-Nile, Acholi and Lango sub regions was constituted. Uganda was engaged and contributed to the final compacts and recommendations, especially for bodily autonomy/SRHR, economic rights and justice, feminism movement and leadership, gender-based violence and the compact for women's peace and security.

Key challenges and recommendations

Challenges

- Staff transition within the government and the UN caused slight delays in the coordination and implementation of the UNSDCF.
- COVID-19 presented a complex electoral environment for the 2020/2021 elections that affected the participation of some people in the electoral processes. This included escalated costs for campaigns and the use of virtual interactions.
- Slow adoption of the COVID-19 new ways of working, such as using virtual means for conducting business, delayed the implementation of some activities.
- Critical data gaps (regularity, comprehensiveness, timeliness of available data) still exist, making it difficult to monitor SDGs and other international and national priorities.
- Delayed operationalisation of the UNSDCF coordination structures within the UN and

government hampered effective implementation and reporting for the Cooperation Framework. Key gaps exist in aligning the UNSDCF structures with NDP III programme working groups, SDG secretariat, UNSDCF SP working groups, among others.

Recommendations:

- Increase investment for enhanced capacity to produce and use statistics at national and sub national levels, including surveys in key priority areas such as SIGI, VAWG, VACs, functional abilities survey, vulnerability index, and national service delivery survey
- Support localization, mainstreaming and integration of SDG indicators in national planning framework and Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), Citizen Generated Data.
- Strengthen mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of labour export policy and regulations to protect the rights of workers and employers.
- Increase investment for research and technology focusing on disaster and climate change mitigation, response, and management.
- Support continuous civic education to meaningfully impact on democratic process and development.
- Conduct a comprehensive and regular orientation of UNSDCF stakeholders by the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office.
- Assign focal points from the Ministries, Departments and Agencies to each UNSDCF strategic priority and results group.
- The UNSDCF outcome results groups conduct joint UN and Government review meetings on the on quarterly basis.
- Create the UNSDCF results groups at outcome level for better coordination and reporting which consist of an outcome lead and co-lead agency and technical focal points from both the Government of Uganda and UN entities.



Participants during Peace Mediation dialogue at Maaji Refugee Settlement on 22nd May 2020, ©Women International Peace Centre

2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

SDGs were integrated into Uganda's NDP III 2020/21-2024/25 with UN support. This offered a strategic opportunity for prioritizing, integrating, and implementing the SDGs at national and sub-national levels. The UNCT subsequently forced partnership with government, private sector, and other actors to advance the SDGs and leveraged financing for the 2030 Agenda in Uganda. Key milestones reached in 2021 included the following:

Third New Generation UNCT meeting

- i) In the spirit of the UN reform in Uganda, a New Generation UN country team, composed of representatives from the government, UN heads of agencies, development partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector, was established in Uganda and continued its work in 2021.
- ii) The Third New Generation UNCT held on February 25, 2021, served as a collaborative platform to facilitate inclusive and strategic partnerships with the private sector. The diverse private sector community, including associations, multinationals as well as small and medium enterprises, in line with the Addis

Ababa Action Agenda, recognize the critical role of the private sector as a partner in the implementation of SDGs.

- iii) The Third New Generation UNCT in 2021 focused on private sector partnerships for SDG acceleration in Uganda under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, OPM and Private Sector Foundation of Uganda, as supported by UNCDF and UNDP. Deliberation was made on holistically addressing various aspects of private sector engagement on SDGs. These strategic engagements concluded with an Outcome Paper: Adopting the Uganda Private Sector Platform for SDGs as a collective action to support SDGs through matching necessary resources, innovation capacities and partnerships.
- iv) The partnership reinforced the role and efforts of the private sector in the decade of action; presented the concept of the Uganda Private Sector Platform for SDGs; leveraged existing and new partnerships to accelerate SDG implementation.



Uganda Private Sector Platform for SDGs

In 2021, the UN in Uganda and the GoU, in collaboration with the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda, launched 'Uganda Private Sector Platform for SDGs', a multi-stakeholder mechanism to holistically address various aspects of private sector engagement on SDGs in Uganda. The platform aims to mobilize the Ugandan private sector to implement the SDGs by providing continuous support and guidance to facilitate its effective contribution to achieving the SDG targets and the NDP III objectives. The platform was structured around four mutually complementary pillars: (i) SDG Private Sector Platform, (ii) The SDG Knowledge Centre and Innovation Lab, (iii) Technical Assistance/Business Development Services Facility, and (iv) SDG Innovation.

UN-Equity Group Foundation partnership

The United Nations system in Uganda and the Equity Group Foundation rolled out a partnership for SDG acceleration in Uganda. 14 UN agencies closely collaborated with Equity Bank to develop various initiatives in areas of supporting and de-risking vulnerable populations; capacity building of youth and women; collaborating on climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives; business development for MSMEs; scaling up financial inclusion and shared prosperity; creating enabling policy framework for execution; digitization of national payments systems and social payments; collaborate with agencies and align efforts for collective impact.

UN and Equity Bank/Equity Foundation: 14 UN entities engaged

Program principles	Execution principles	Partnership principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be scalable 2. Be sustainable 3. Be directly and/or indirectly aligned to the Group's business model 4. Mitigate operational, reputational and liability risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leverage the Group's infrastructure and human capital 2. Foundation programs should remain within the capacity of the Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding based on seeding model to be used for developing economically sustainable and scalable ventures 2. Engage, involve, and inform customers, staff, public and external stakeholders in program activities and funding

Economic Enterprise Restart Fund

Fund Motivation

- Liquidity – Mobilized USD 20.3m
- Partners set for commitment
- Risk portfolio guarantee – USD 13m

SACCO/UBWA Support

- USD 20.3m for 100 SACCOs
- Supporting 100k of ERF 100k + 100k
- Supporting 100k of ERF 100k + 100k
- Shared SACCO and Women in Business proposition to meet their needs

Significance

- Complementary engagement with the private sector for collaboration and recovery
- Resilience to lower the cost of operations (Current cost is \$2,000 per SACCO)
- Impact has been able to contribute to the Sustainable growth and recovery in the (re)start for employees
- 100,000 SACCOs in a year of 2021 (2020 was 100,000 SACCOs)
- 100,000 SACCOs in a year of 2021 (2020 was 100,000 SACCOs)
- 100,000 SACCOs in a year of 2021 (2020 was 100,000 SACCOs)

Partnership mechanisms

- Progress for a portfolio guarantee of USD 10m
- IFC as guarantor of USD 10m
- IFC for technical support regarding training and upskilling of the SACCO/UBWAs
- IFC for technical support for Agriculture SACCOs
- Ongoing discussions with UN Agencies

Economic Enterprise Restart Fund (EERF) Impact

Enterprise (SACCO/UBWA): Access to Credit (USD 10m), Digital and Operational Development support

Gender: 100k Women, 100k SACCO/UBWA members are women

Communities: Social needs committees - 100k

Employment: 100k SACCO/UBWA members are women

EERF Projected Impact

Resilient Impact: Support local entrepreneurs that will drive growth

Resilient Income: Access to Education, Health Care, Income (Start-Ups), Clean Cooking

Enterprise (SACCO/UBWA)

- Access to Credit (USD 10m)
- Digital and Operational Development support

Gender

- 100k Women
- 100k SACCO/UBWA members are women

Communities

- Social needs committees - 100k

Employment

- 100k SACCO/UBWA members are women

Economic Enterprise Restart Fund

The United Nations system in Uganda has partnered with Stanbic Bank to design the Economic Enterprise Restart Fund in response to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in Uganda. Further efforts to operationalize the initiative were undertaken in 2021. The Economic Enterprise Restart Fund was initially established as a three-year COVID-19 impact relief fund worth \$85,662,500. Through the Fund, the UN system aimed to address the unprecedented financing needs of women and youth in savings and credit co-operatives and VSLAs across this nation without access to the formal economy.

Advancing financing for the 2030 Agenda through the UN Joint Programme on Integrating policy and financing for accelerated progress on SDGs in Uganda

Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)

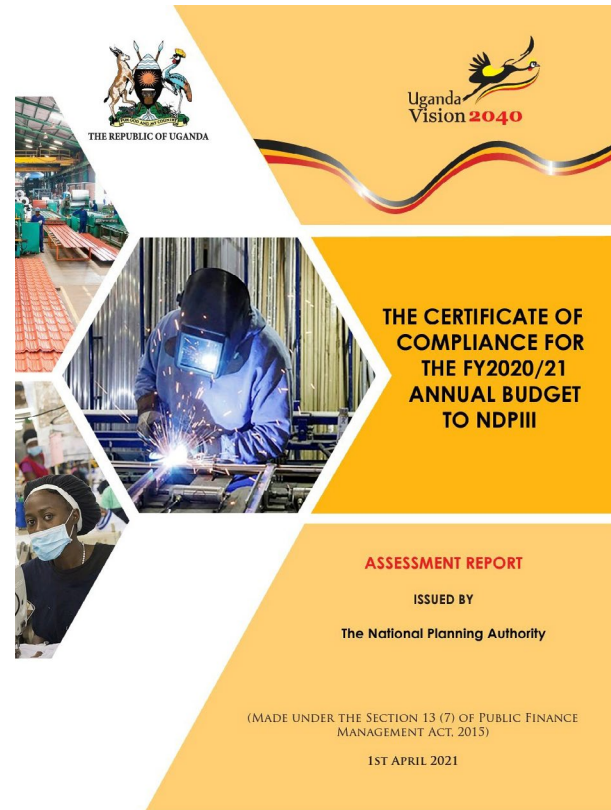
INFFs provide a framework for financing sustainable development and the SDGs at the country level:

- INFFs help identify and implement policies and reforms to increase and better align financing toward the achievement of national sustainable development priorities;
- INFFs consider all types of finance – public, private, domestic, international – and provide a framework for enhancing their coherence for sustainable development;
- INFFs help formulate risk-informed financing strategies that can support countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout.

The UN system in Uganda, jointly with the MoFPED, is implementing the UN Joint Programme on 'Integrating policy and financing for accelerated progress on SDGs in Uganda.' The Joint Programme is co-funded by the UN SDG Fund and UNDP, UNCDF and UNWOMEN. The Joint Programme builds on existing efforts and supports the government in developing and implementing an Integrated National Financing Framework through strengthening a complementary, interdependent, and mutually reinforcing relationship between planning, budgeting, financing processes and accountability systems. Efforts are supported to increase domestic revenue mobilization, align private finance and investment to government priorities, and strengthen the governance and coordination mechanisms around planning and financing.

In 2021, significant milestones were achieved:

- A total of 176 local government plans, including for 31 municipalities and 10 new cities, were reviewed for quality assurance and alignment to the NDP III. Local Governments will adopt a programme-based approach of the NDP III for effective planning, implementation and monitoring and integrated financing.
- To ensure effective implementation of the NDP III and other national development frameworks, the government issued a Certificate of Compliance, an institutional benchmark for the alignment of the annual budgets to the national development plans, the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility, and the National Budget Framework Paper. As a requirement of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, the Certificate of Compliance for the annual budget for the previous year is issued to accompany the budget for the next financial year. To this end, Uganda adopted a programme-based approach to implementing the NDP III, which necessitated a revision of the Certificate of Compliance methodology to accommodate all the 20 programmes.



2.4 RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND EFFICIENCY



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo (far right) listening to women from the community explaining how vegetable tower gardens introduced by WFP had improved their families nutrition in Nachele, Moroto District, 3rd December 2021 ©UN Uganda

To reduce transaction costs and redundancies, the UNCT embarked on innovative approaches that operationalized the UNSDCF. This included the implementation of a joint work plan and joint programmes, operationalization coordination architecture and the development of a funding framework for the UNSDCF.

Joint work plan implementation

The UNCT developed a multi-year joint work plan and a corresponding funding framework, encompassing all UN entities' critical interventions and the resources required to deliver on them. The implementation of a joint work plan allowed UN entities to deliver collectively on interventions. Throughout the year, UN entities used the joint work plan to develop agency-specific work plans to operationalize agency programmes derived from the UNSDCF.

Implementation of joint UN initiatives and programmes included the following.

i) The Resident Coordinator's Office, UNDP, UNFPA and OHCHR jointly implemented the Peace Building Fund project in Uganda.

The initiative registered success in profiling conflicts and conflict hotspots, leveraging media impact to spread messages of peace, supporting youth livelihoods, training and capacity building activities, and mentorship. The programme used games and sports to strengthen social cohesion.

- i) The Strengthening Electoral Processes in Uganda Project was implemented by UNDP, RCO, UN Women, OHCHR, UNESCO, and national actors.
- ii) The Spotlight Initiative aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls was implemented by UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNDP.
- iii) UNDP, UNCDF and UN Women implemented a US\$2 million SDG Fund joint programme. The programme resulted in the development of the draft Public Investment Financing Strategy. The strategy identifies alternative financing mechanisms, including the mobilization of private sector stakeholders to finance SDG implementation.

- iv) The UNDP and IOM conducted a study on strengthening socio-economic policy responses to COVID-19 for key populations, including migrants and refugees.
- v) The Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda was launched in 2021. It includes 22 development partners, including the UN system, the World Bank, IMF, and heads of development cooperation. The Plan offered entry points for development actors to contribute to livelihoods enhancement and improvement of the economic status of refugees and host communities.
- vi) The UNODC and UNDP collaborated on the Youth Crime Prevention Initiative project, which strengthened community-based strategies to prevent crime, drug use, violence, and radicalization to violent extremism.

Efforts to communicate and advocate together

The UN Communication and Partnership Group provided joint communication support to a range of initiatives undertaken by the UNCT to deepen the localization of the SDGs. These included the following:

- i) Launch of the UN-Equity Bank Partnership on Enhancing Social Impact through the SDGs in March 2021.
- ii) Launch of the SDG Private Sector Platform in May 2021.
- iii) Launch of the SDG Roadmap and SDG Secretariat in September 2021.
- iv) Commemoration of the 76th Anniversary of the United Nations on the theme 'Achieving the SDGs Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic.'

The joint communication support provided to the above initiatives included organizing events, production visibility and branding items, media engagement and coordinated social media activity. The events were attended by many partners from the government, private sector, civil society, including youth groups. The Communication and

Partnership Group leveraged UN participation in other milestones such as the national commemoration of international dates and other landmarks such as the private sector Chief Executive Officer Forum to promote awareness about the SDGs through the speeches delivered by the UN Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UN system, as well as through mainstream and social media.

Provision of integrated policy advice by the UN to the government

The UNSDCF 2021-25 for Uganda benefited from the contributions made by non-resident UN departments and agencies such as UNCTAD, UNDESA and UNECA, which are also signatories to the framework. The integrated approach of the UN was further proven when the joint UNCT socio-economic impact analysis of COVID-19 was prepared with the contribution of resident and non-resident (UNDESA and UNECA) agencies. The study's recommendations informed the government's response and recovery measures, led by the government's Economic Response Unit, to which the UN RC was a committee member representing the UN system. In addition, the UN in Uganda continued to collaborate with UNDESA and UNECA to build the capacity of national data and statistical systems, which has improved Uganda's readiness to track progress on SDGs. As a result, the country has been able to identify 201 SDG indicators that apply to Uganda, out of which 117 can be reported on. This informed the development of an Open Data Platform for SDGs anchored on the UBOS website with the support of UNDESA. Uganda's Voluntary National Review Report 2020, which demonstrates accountability and commitment to the 2030 Agenda, greatly benefited from the strengthened statistical capacities. With UNECA's support, Uganda carried out a Voluntary Local Review to complement the national review. As part of south-south learning, RCO collaborated with UNDESA and the African Peer Review Mechanism and facilitated Uganda to share its experiences on integrated policy approaches to resilience and recovery from COVID-19 impacts. The Ugandan Minister of Trade was also facilitated to make a statement during the UNCTAD 15 Conference.

2.5 LESSONS LEARNED

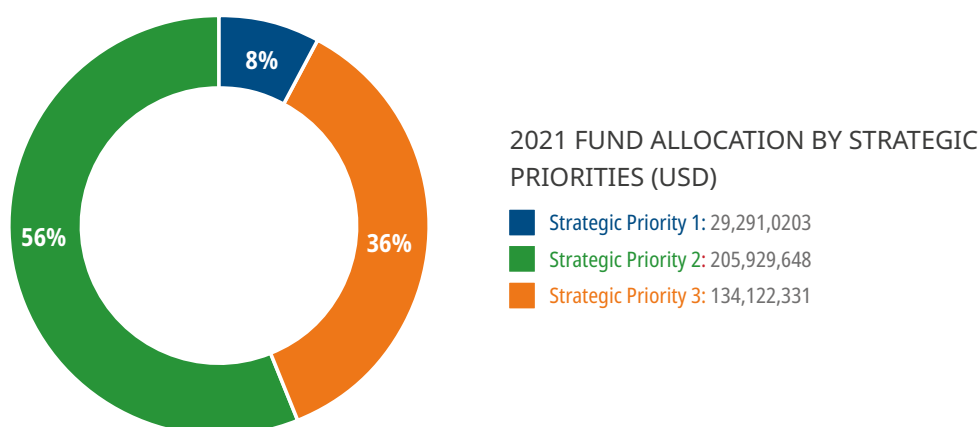


Rosette Uwamahoro, lead caregiver at the Busheka Early Childhood Development Centre, plays with children from the Oruchinga Refugee Settlement, Isingiro District. The centre is run by Right To Play in partnership with UNICEF ©UNICEF Uganda

- i) The use of interactive geospatial data visualization for various indicators at parish, sub county, and district levels to identify areas of inequality enhanced the engagement of leaders at multiple levels, especially on budget allocation and service delivery.
- ii) The COVID-19 pandemic triggered extensive experience that guided flexible modalities and pathways to make health, education, and protection systems more responsive and resilient at all levels.
- iii) Digital platforms, including social media and helplines, provide an excellent opportunity for continued engagement and remote delivery of protection and GBV services to benefit vulnerable communities such as women, youth, and other confined populations. In addition, implementation highlighted the digital divide based on age, gender, location, and wealth.
- iv) Integrating social services such as psychosocial care and individual counselling into community response approaches can have more impact when linked to economic empowerment opportunities for vulnerable women and girls.
- v) The establishment of disaster risk management committees at the community level led to better community involvement and ownership in disaster risk management processes.
- vi) A shift from informal partnerships between community and financial institutions accelerated micro-enterprises and households' access to financial services and products. These included but were not limited to small scale farmers, youth and women in the informal sector.
- vii) The enormous gaps in the labour export policy and regulations exposed during the COVID-19 period call for urgent reforms in the policy and its implementation modality.
- viii) The capacity to engage in e-commerce was boosted across the whole value chain and served as a major determinant of the success of transformation from subsistence to commercialization.

2.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.6.1 Financial overview



2.6.2. Resource Mobilization and Quality of Funding (USD)

2021 UNSDCF EXPENDITURE BY UN ENTITY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITY							
#	UN Entity	Planned Resources per Strategic Priority (SP)			Total	2021 Expenditure	Delivery (%)
		SP1	SP2	SP3			
1	FAO	348,590	22,603,478	1,401,941	24,354,009	14,521,014	59.6
2	ILO	200,000	325,000	120,000	645,000	213,000	33.0
3	IAEA	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	IOM	1,310,445	963,247	3,292,496	5,566,188	3,977,580	71.5
5	ITC	-	1,227,567	867,847	2,104,414	2,104,414	100.0
6	UNAIDS	-	-	3,528,785	3,528,785	3,528,785	100.0
7	UNDESA	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	UNFCCC	-	-	0	-	-	-
9	UN WOMEN	4,822,073	3,188,530	17,365,939	25,376,542	20,380,542	80.3
10	UNCDF	2,203,712	10,940,140	-	13,143,852	11,635,949	88.5
11	UNICEF	576,675	1,220,856	35,099,161	36,896,692	36,896,692	100.0
12	UNDSS	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	UNDP	12,622,764	14,875,528	2,391,548	28,839,840	25,633,883	85.9
14	UNESCO	-	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,500,000	75.0
15	UNEP	-	22,725,120	-	22,725,120	12,097,093	53.2
16	OHCHR	560,000	-	-	560,000	522,000	98.6
17	UN HABITAT	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	UNIDO	-	1,327,833	-	1,327,833	336,457	25.3
19	UNOPS	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	UNHCR	1,516,965	200,000	7,769,353	9,486,318	9,486,318	100.0
21	UNODC	2,400,000	500,000	510,000	3,410,000	2,490,000	73.0
22	UNFPA	2,729,978	-	27,847,856	30,577,834	14,352,221	46.9
23	UNV	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	WFP	-	125,882,349	7,524,835	133,407,184	127,675,414	95.7
25	WHO	-	-	24,394,070	24,394,070	20,512,201	84.1
TOTAL		29,291,203	205,928,648	134,122,331	369,343,182	307,893,063	83.4



03

Emerging issues and UNCT key focus for 2022

Teenage mothers Mariam Muhindo (right) and Juliet Nyabosi (centre). They are both students at Rwenzori Senior Secondary School, Kilembe. They were able to go back to school after giving birth as a result of the Spotlight Initiative programme interventions ©UNFPA Uganda

3.1. EMERGING ISSUES

- Need to operationalize the Parish Development Model
- Need to operationalize the programme working groups and project implementation action plans (supporting the transition from the sectors to programme approach)
- Need to support the review of NDPIII and related frameworks at mid-term.
- Need to prioritize support to the newly created cities

3.2. UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2022

At the UNCT retreat held in October 2021, the UNCT agreed to focus on four flagship Areas in 2022: data and statistics for SDGs; empowering adolescents and youth in Uganda; gender-based violence and violence against women and girls; and emergency response coordination. COVID-19 response will also remain one of the core areas of collective work. In addition to the implementation of nexus agenda, strategic financing, and partnerships, leaving no one behind, human rights, and gender equality and women's empowerment, and advancing UN efficiency agenda will remain as some of the core priority areas in 2022.

1. **Data and statistics for SDGs:** In line with the National SDG Road Map and UNSDCF strategic priorities, the UN intends to collaborate with the government to carry out a review of the status of SDG related data and statistics in Uganda. The review aims to establish the extent to which data and statistics have been generated and used at all levels in state and non-state decision making and reporting on commitments, including the voluntary national reviews. Findings of the review will inform the development of a UN Joint Programme for Data and Statistics.
2. **Empowering Adolescents and Youth:** The adolescents and youth in Uganda are multi-dimensionally and disproportionately disadvantaged in comparison to other population

segments making them disempowered to achieve their full potential and fully participate in society and the economy. The UNCT will thus support the Government with 'Empowering Adolescents and Youth in Uganda to Unleash their Full Potential' through the following components:

- i) Improve the development and implementation of policy for sexual and reproductive health/family planning, and mental health for adolescents and youths
- ii) Improve access to quality inclusive education and training for adolescents and youth
- iii) Enhance the capacity of duty bearers towards enforcement of laws and policies for empowerment and protection of the rights of adolescents and youth
- iv) Enhance employment generation for youth
- v) Increase adolescent and youth engagement for peace, security, and environmental conservation

3. **Violence Against Women and Girls and Harmful Practices:** Consistent with global trends, incidents of VAWG, teenage pregnancy and child marriages spiked because of the COVID-19 pandemic and have remained unacceptably high. Building on the successful EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate VAWG and other joint programmes combating gender-based violence, a key priority for 2022 is to develop and mobilise financing for a Spotlight successor programme, as well as strengthen cohesion and coordination with other gender-based violence initiatives. The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative successor programme is under development under the Gender4Development programme with interventions on adolescent girls in education, sexual and reproductive health and rights and sexual and gender-based violence. It will run from 2023 - 2025/2026 with a total budget of Euro 60 million.

4. **Emergency Response Coordination:** Uganda has been experiencing high level of frequency of natural disasters. In particular, the country had faced climate borne disasters such as flood droughts. The country has also been

experiencing other situations required emergency response such as locust as well as COVID-19 and Ebola disease. At the same time, inter-agency coordination in non-refugee and acute emergency context in Uganda has been lacking clarity in terms of roles and responsibilities in the UN as well as quick response and decision making. With this background, the UNCT had agreed to develop a new emergency coordination architecture to ensure effective and agile inter-agency humanitarian coordination in taking actions to alleviate human suffering and protects the lives, the livelihoods and dignity of people in need.

1. **Advocacy and Support to Implement COP26 Commitment on Climate Resilient Health System:** In 2022, the UN System renewed its commitment to support the Government of

Uganda to implement the COP26 Commitment.

- i) Commemoration of the World Health Day 2022: Around April 07, 2022, the UN System, through the 'Our Planet, Our Health' campaign appealed to leaders and all people to take accelerated actions to preserve and protect the environment and mitigate the climate crisis.
- ii) Other related activities include tree planting activities, strategic advocacy seminars, evidence-based national health adaptation planning and implementation towards climate-resilient health system and a sustainable low carbon health system, as well as resource mobilization for increased climate change health financing.

Acronyms

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement	FY	Financial year
AGYW	Adolescent girls and young women	GBV	Gender-based violence
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	GDP	Gross domestic product
AMP	Aid management platform	GEWE	Gender equity and women empowerment
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism	Ha	Hectares
ART	Antiretroviral therapy	HC	Health centre
A-THR	Alternative take home rations	HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
BMIS	Border management information system	HMIS	Health Management Information system
CBTs	Cash-based transfers	HREA	Human Rights Enforcement Act
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
CGD	Citizen generated data	ICT	Information and communication technology
COP26	United Nations Climate Change Conference	IEC	Information, education and communication
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease	ILO	International Labour Organization
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework	IOM	International Organization for Migration
CRVA	Climate change risk and vulnerability assessment	IPC	Infection prevention and control
CSA	Climate-smart agriculture	JLOS	Justice, Law and Order Sector
CSBAG	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group	JSC	Joint Steering Committee
CSOs	Civil society organizations	KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
CVE	Countering violent extremism	MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
CYP	Couple years of protection	MDAs	Ministries, departments and agencies
DECOC	District Emergency Coordination Centre	MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
DHIS	District health information system	MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
DLG	District local government	MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development
DRDIP	Development Response to Displacement Impact Project	MIS	Management information system
DRR	Disaster risk reduction	MLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
DTP	Diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus vaccine	MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
EC	Electoral Commission	MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
ECD	Early childhood development	MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
EOC	Equal Opportunity Commission	MOH	Ministry of Health
EPRC	Economic Policy Research Centre	MRV	Monitoring, reporting and verification
EU	European Union	MSMEs	Micro, small and medium enterprises
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations		

MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment	UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS Secretariat
NAP	National Action Plan	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
NDP	National Development Plan	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
NECOC	National Emergency Operation and Coordination Centre	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NPA	National Planning Authority	UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
ODI	One Dollar Initiative	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
OSR	Own source revenue	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
PFMA	Public Finance Amendment Act	UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PMTCT	Prevention of mother-to-child transmission	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
PPE	Personal protective equipment	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
PSFU	Private Sector Foundation Uganda	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
RC	Resident Coordinator	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
RMNCAH	Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence	UNV	United Nations volunteer
SHR	Sexual and reproductive health	UPF	Uganda Police Force
SMEs	Small and medium enterprises	UPS	Uganda Prisons Service
SOPs	Standard operating procedures	URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights	USD	United States Dollar
SRMNCAH	Sexual reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health	UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
TADAT	Tax administration diagnostic assessment tool	VAC	Violence against children
TV	Television	VAWG	Violence against women and girls
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics	VNR	Voluntary national reviews
UCDA	Uganda Coffee Development Authority	VSLA	Village savings and loan association
UGX	Uganda shillings	WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission	WFP	World Food Programme
UN HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Programme	WHO	World Health Organization
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women	WPS	Women in peace and security
UN	United Nations		
UNAB	Uganda National Association for the Blind		



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