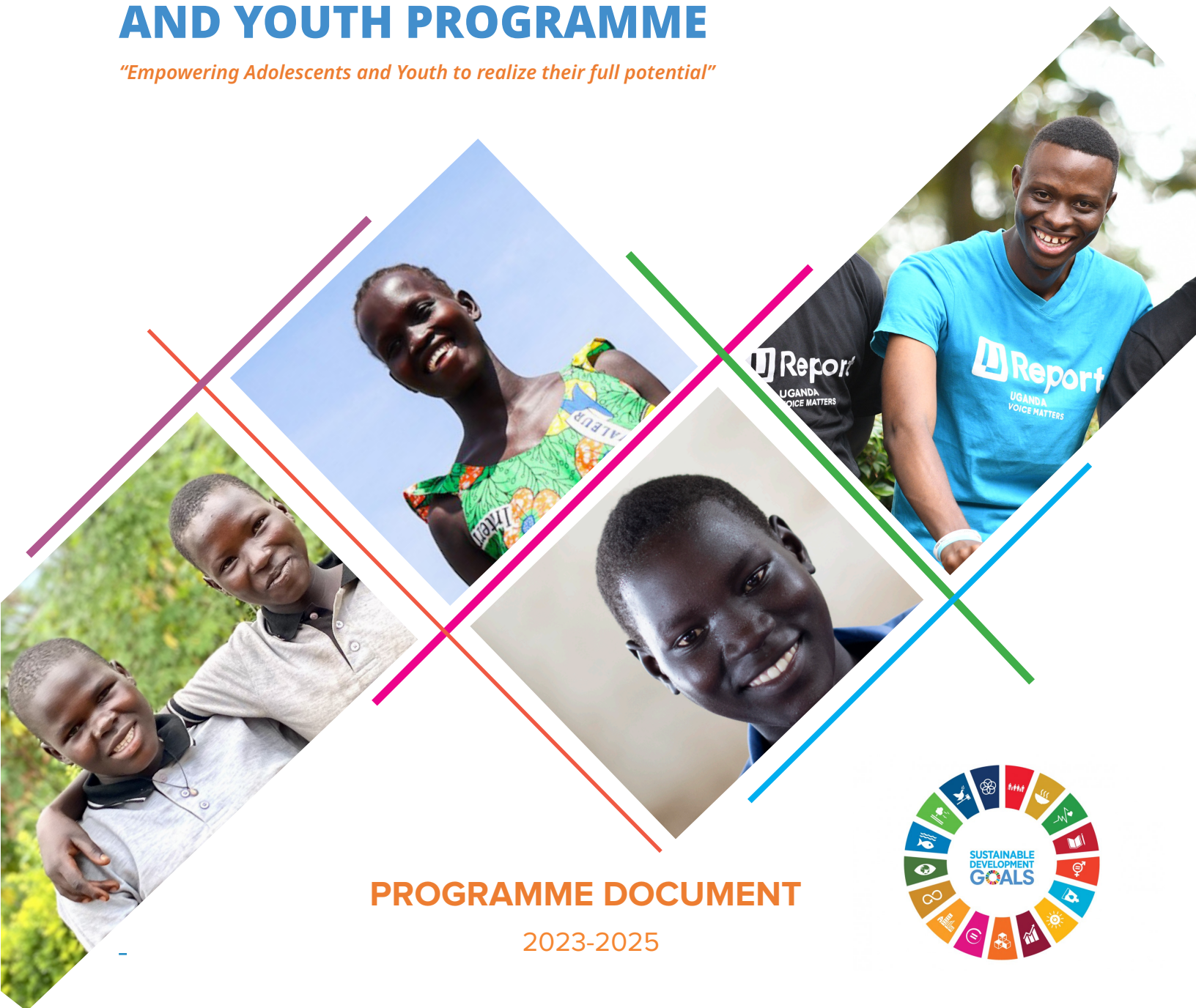UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA

# UGANDA
# UN JOINT ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH PROGRAMME

*"Empowering Adolescents and Youth to realize their full potential"*

**PROGRAMME DOCUMENT**

2023-2025

## ABOUT
## THE PROGRAMME

The Uganda UN Joint Adolescent and Youth Programme is a collaborative effort by 13 UN agencies in Uganda, aimed at achieving youth-related priorities outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. This programmme aligns closely with both the global UN Youth Strategy and national frameworks and policies, focusing on areas that require urgent action. Specifically, the Joint Programme will make significant contributions to Cooperation Framework Priority 1 (outcomes 1, outputs 1.2, and 1.3), Priority 2 (outcomes 2.1 and 2.2; outputs 2.1.2, 2.2.1, and 2.2.3), and Priority 3 (outcomes 3.1 and 3.2; outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, and 3.2.1).

Furthermore, this initiative aligns with the key development results of the Uganda National Development Plan III. It will actively contribute to Objective 1 (outcomes 1 and 2), Objective 2 (outcome 2), and objective 4 (outcomes 1, 2, and 3) as outlined in Annex 2. By fostering cooperation and coordination among various agencies, the Joint Programme aims to create a meaningful impact on the lives of Ugandan youth and adolescents.

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# FACT **FILE**

Joint programme title:

**UGANDA UN JOINT ADOLESCENTS and YOUTH PROGRAMME**

"Empowering Adolescents and Youth to realize their full potential".

**Duration:** **2.5 years**

**Start:** **2023,**

**End:** **2025**

**Lead PUNO:** **UNFPA**

**PUNOs:** **UNFPA (1), UNICEF (2), WHO (3), UNESCO (4), UNDP (5), UN Women (6), ILO (7), UNHCR (8), UNAIDS (9), IOM 10), FAO (11), UNODC (12) UNCDF (13)**

**Fund management modality:** **Pass- through and Parallel**

**Administrative Agent:** **UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**

**Total estimated budget:** **22,402,632 USD**

**Source of funds:** **Particpating UN Organisations, Government and other Non-UN Partners**

Photo Credit: ©UNFPA

# LEGAL
## AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The joint programme is legally grounded in the Legal Annex of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025). It relates to existing cooperation or assistance agreements between the Government of Uganda and each Participating UN Organization.
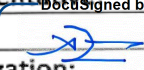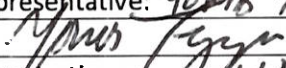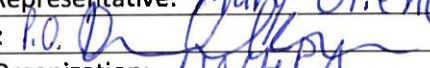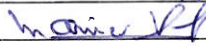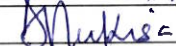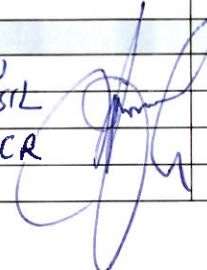


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# IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES OF THE UGANDA
## UN JOINT ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH PROGRAMME

The Uganda UN Joint Adolescent and Youth Programme is a collaborative effort by 13 UN agencies in Uganda.

## SIGNATURE PAGE

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| Signature: *[signature]* | Signature: pp *[signature]* |
| Name of Ministry: GENDER, LABOUR & SOC. DE | Name of Organization: UN RCO |
| Date: 12.07.2023 | Date: 15-Aug-2023 |

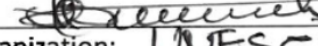| UN Organization | |
|---|---|
| Name of Representative: YONAS TEGEGN Wo | Name of Representative: Mary Otieno |
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| Name of Organization: UN WOMEN | Name of Organization: |
| Date: 28-07-2023 | Date: |
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| Name of Organization: UNHCR | |
| Date: 31/07/23 | |

# CONTENTS

# Executive summary

The Government of Uganda, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and in partnership with national and international civil society organizations, has dedicated substantial efforts to improve the lives of Adolescents and Youth (A&Y) in Uganda in recent years. Despite these efforts, several important challenges persist, hampering progress in key areas such as access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services, complete educational attainment, employment opportunities, environmental resilience, peace, and security. To address these challenges, a proposed initiative called the United Nations Adolescents and Youth Joint Programme (UNJYP) aims to complement existing United Nations and government initiatives, bridging gaps in current programmes and providing additional support where increased investment is needed.

A comprehensive situation analysis has revealed a complex interplay of factors at different levels that hinder progress and compromise the potential of young people in Uganda to fully realize their capabilities, live healthy lives, and actively engage in society. At a systemic level, sub-optimal government capacity to deliver quality health, protection, and education services to A&Y plays a significant role in perpetuating the daily struggles faced by Ugandan youth. Despite the commitment of the government and its partners, challenges persist due to insufficient investment in the social sectors, limited engagement, and involvement of A&Y, as well as the compounding effects of climate change and resurgent conflicts, which impede sustainable improvements. Moreover, the intersection of poverty, limited opportunities, and deeply entrenched cultural and social norms further exacerbates the harmful and debilitating consequences experienced by young people, making it difficult for them to overcome these obstacles.

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that simultaneously tackles these factors, as well as community and individual aspects, through multi-sectoral interventions and strong partnerships. This approach aims to achieve greater and more sustainable impact. Furthermore, it necessitates a shift in the perception of A&Y and their roles, embracing the vision outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Youth Strategy 2030. In this vision, young people, including the most vulnerable and diverse among them, are recognized as a positive force for change, action, and innovation, playing a crucial role in national and local development.

## Outcomes and implementation

The primary objective of the Joint Programme is to provide comprehensive support to adolescents and youth in Uganda, within the age range of 10 to 30, with the overarching goal of facilitating the realization of their full potential. Concurrently, the


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programme is committed to making substantive contributions towards the advancement of key strategic priorities outlined in the national development frameworks of Uganda, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework specific to the country, and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The proposed programme aims to create an enabling environment for vulnerable young people, referred to as A&Y, by providing necessary tools and resources to improve their wellbeing and opportunities in life. Simultaneously, it seeks to strengthen the system's capacity to better respond to the diverse needs of A&Y throughout their lives. The programme emphasizes enhancing their participation and engagement in critical thematic areas, including peace and security, environmental conservation, and climate change.

*The envisioned outcomes of this programme are as follows*:

### Outcome 1:

Ensuring the availability, equitable accessibility, and utilization of responsive quality social and protective services for A&Y. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will lead this outcome, with support from UNESCO and the World Health Organization (WHO) as co-leads. This outcome will be achieved through the provision of knowledge and information to A&Y to enable informed decision-making and effective utilization of social and protective services (Output 1). Additionally, it will involve enhancing institutional capacity to deliver sexuality education and life

skills to both in and out-of-school young people (Output 2). The programme will also focus on ensuring the availability of quality essential services specifically designed for A&Y (Output 3) and equipping schools to prevent and address school-based violence (Output 4).

### Outcome 2:

Enhancing access to education, skills, productivity, livelihoods, and employment opportunities for A&Y, whether they are in school or out-of-school. This outcome will be co-led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The programme will concentrate on building institutional capacity to support school retention and transition, with a particular focus on girls' transition to secondary school (Output 5). Additionally, it will work to enhance the employment and livelihood skills of A&Y (Output 6) and support enterprises in creating suitable employment and livelihood opportunities for this demographic (Output 7).

### Outcome 3:

Facilitating meaningful participation and engagement of A&Y in development, peace, security, and climate action. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will take the lead in this outcome. It aims to achieve meaningful participation of A&Y through their involvement in climate change and renewable energy actions (Output 8), youth dialogues on peace, security, and human rights (Output 9),and

disaster risk reduction and management (Output 10). Moreover, support will be provided to strengthen youth-led organizations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Output 11).

It is crucial to recognize that all the proposed outcomes and outputs are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, providing a comprehensive and youth-centered approach to meet the diverse needs and engagement levels of A&Y. The successful implementation of the three outcomes will be supported by two crosscutting outputs: firstly, the documentation of lessons learned and best practices for meaningful engagement of A&Y, which will be disseminated through fact-sheets and position papers (Output 12); secondly, the establishment and enforcement of laws, policies, and regulations that support and advance A&Y in key areas such as education, health, employment, peace, and security, across all intervention areas (Output 13).

**Coverage**: The programme will target eight districts that demonstrate the most significant needs in the outcome areas, while also considering the existing investments of UN Agencies. To ensure inclusivity, districts with refugee camps will also be included in the programme's coverage. Each outcome will be spearheaded by one or more UN agencies, and effective implementation will be achieved through collaborative efforts among various UN entities.

### Management, Coordination, and Funding:

The overall guidance and direction for the programme will be provided by the Uganda Government and the heads of Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs) through the UNSDCF steering committee. For effective coordination, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as the lead agency for the UN Joint Youth Programme (UNJYP), will act as the secretariat to the UNJYP Joint Steering Committee. This committee will oversee the implementation of the UNJYP and facilitate coordination among the different Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and

the UNSDCF steering committee.

Regarding funding arrangements, the UNJYP will operate under a pass-through fund arrangement, while also allowing for the possibility of pooled funding. To secure the necessary financial resources, the programme will seek contributions from donors through proposal submissions. Once a donor expresses willingness to contribute funds, the fund management agency will establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the respective donor. Following this agreement, the donated funds will be managed by the fund management agency, which will operate under the stewardship of UNFPA.

This funding mechanism ensures transparency and accountability in the management of funds, and it facilitates efficient allocation of resources to support the programme's various activities. Additionally, the involvement of multiple UN agencies and the collaboration with the Ugandan Government will enhance the programme's effectiveness and impact in addressing the needs of young people in the targeted districts.

Coordination for the UN Joint Youth Programme (UNJYP) will operate on both political and programmatic fronts, utilizing a well-structured framework involving various key entities:

1. **Programme Steering Committee (PSC):** The PSC will bear responsibility for effective management of the JP and the achievement of results. Comprising the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), the UN Resident Coordinator, heads of participating UN Organizations (PUNOs), and relevant implementing stakeholders, the PSC will offer strategic oversight and guidance to the Joint Programme Team (JPT) from inception to completion. This includes making adjustments to the Joint Programme Document and overseeing progress reports, learning, and evaluation. The PSC meetings will be held annually, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Minister. The JPT will report programme progress and results annually

to the PSC, which will lead on aspects such as approval of the joint programme document, resource mobilization, results reporting, and facilitating the resolution of implementation issues.

2. **Joint Programme Team (JPT):** The JPT, consisting of one technical expert from each of the PUNOs and non-UN partners, will be responsible for preparing workplans, monitoring activity implementation, and ensuring the realization of results. Flexibility, teamwork, and the ability to revise and refine approaches will be crucial for JPT members. They will be accountable to both the Programme Steering Committee and their respective PUNOs, convening quarterly throughout the programme cycle.

3. **Lead Technical and Administrative UN Agency:** UNFPA will provide overall technical leadership for achieving results. In close collaboration with the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), UNFPA will guide the technical aspects of programme activities and support procurement, contracting, administration, and financing procedures related to implementation.

4. **Coordinating UN Agency:** The RCO will be responsible for overall coordination, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, progress reporting, and communication in collaboration with national implementing partners and PUNOs. Additionally, a joint programme support team will be established at RCO, including a coordination analyst, reporting, and donor relations officer, and communication analyst. This team will work closely with the PUNOs of respective UN joint programmes to ensure system coherence in implementation, reporting, resource mobilization, partnership building, and advocacy under the UNSDCF 2021-2025.

5. **Thematic Lead UN Agencies:** For each outcome area of the joint programme, thematic lead agencies will be selected from among the PUNOs. They will collaborate with PUNOs and other stakeholders to ensure the achievement of results in their respective areas. The selection of lead UN Agencies will be based on their comparative advantage, global custodianship responsibilities for SDG indicators, and current initiatives in relevant areas. UNFPA will lead Outcome area 1: "Responsive quality social and protective services are available, equitably accessible, and utilized by A&Y"; UNICEF and ILO will co-lead Outcome area 2: "A&Y, both in school and out-of-school, have increased access to education, skills, productivity, livelihoods, and/or employment opportunities for safe and decent work"; and UNDP will lead Outcome area 3: "A&Y meaningfully participate in development, peace, security, and climate action."

6. **National Partners:** In the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the joint programme, UN agencies will partner with the MGLSD as the key implementing partner (IP), as well as youth and other national stakeholders from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), Local Governments (LGs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, and the private sector.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Each outcome area will be overseen by the lead UN agency, responsible for data collection on related outputs, with quarterly reporting to UNFPA, the programme's lead agency. The monitoring and evaluation activities encompass both regular data collection and specific evaluation moments, allowing for continuous tracking of programme implementation and periodic comprehensive assessments. Evaluations are carefully planned at the programme's baseline and at the conclusion of its implementation, providing valuable insights into the programme's starting point and its overall achievements.

# 1. Introduction

In Uganda, 35% of the population are adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years, as reported in the UDHS 2016 data. This demographic presents a promising opportunity for the nation's future. To harness the potential demographic dividend, it is crucial for A&Y to be in good health, adequately educated, and equipped with skills to contribute to their economic wellbeing and that of their communities. Creating a safe and climate-resilient environment, free from conflict and violence, is essential for maximizing their potential. However, the current situation for young people is marred by challenges like limited access to accurate sexual and reproductive health information, insufficient utilization of youth-responsive health services, low educational achievement, scarce employment opportunities, environmental degradation, and prevailing violence and insecurity.

⊙ Over the past years, the United Nations agencies, coordinated by the Resident Coordinator have been actively working towards improving the lives of adolescents and youth in Uganda. Alongside individual agency-specific initiatives, several joint programmes have been established to directly benefit or target young people, fostering collaboration with the Government of Uganda and national and international civil society organizations.

⊙ The United Nations Adolescents and Youth Joint Programme is a proposed effort aimed at complementing existing UN and government endeavors. It seeks to address gaps in current programmes and provide additional support in areas requiring increased investment. The proposal is rooted in an assessment of the needs of Ugandan adolescents and youth since 2010 and identifies areas where progress has faltered, especially due to setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately affected young individuals. By bridging these gaps, the joint programme aims to further improve the lives and prospects of Uganda's young generation.
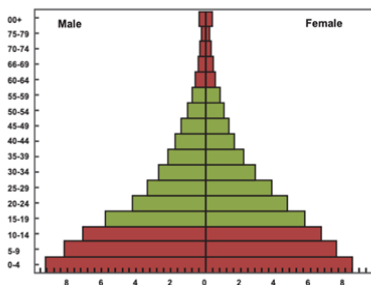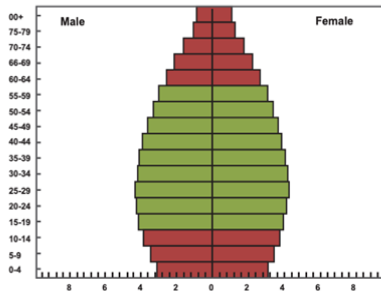


Source: Harnessing the Demographic Dividend; Accelerating Socioeconomic Transformation in Uganda , July 2014- Report

**Figure 1:** *Representation of the Uganda`s youth bulge since 2014 versus the intended population distribution.*

**35%**

**of the population are adolescents and youth (A&Y) aged 10-24 years**

# Situation Analysis

The formulation of this Joint Programme has been guided by a comprehensive understanding of the requirements and deficiencies pertaining to adolescents and youth. By recognizing the contextual realities and challenges face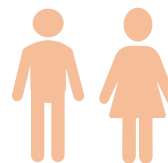d by young individuals, the United Nations and national partners aim to accelerate collective endeavours towards improving the lives and welfare of the youth. The summary below outlines the key issues confronting Ugandan adolescents and youth, which have been carefully considered during the development of this programme.

## Insufficient sexual and reproductive health education, information, and services

→ Insufficient sexual and reproductive health education, information, and services have detrimental effects on the well-being and socioeconomic outcomes of young people. Statistics from the UDHS 2016 report reveal that a significant number of adolescents (aged 15-19) engage in early sexual activity, with 11.8% of females and 13.94% of males reporting having had sexual intercourse by age 15. Moreover, risky sexual behaviors, such as low condom use (26.4% among females and 52.1% among males

aged 15-19), multiple partners, and cohabiting, were observed among adolescents (Matovu et al., 2021).

→ COVID-19 coping interventions in Uganda, including the closure of schools and training institutions, have exposed adolescents to heightened risk for engaging in high-risk sexual activity. Shockingly, only 40% of adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years have comprehensive knowledge of HIV infection (UBOS & ICF, 2018). Particularly concerning are the regions of West Nile, Karamoja, and Eastern Uganda, where comprehensive knowledge on HIV is below average (see Annex 1, Figure 1).

→ The consequences of high-risk sexual behavior are significant, including increased HIV/AIDS prevalence, STI prevalence (10%), and early pregnancy (25%) among adolescents, ultimately compromising their health, educational attainment, and empowerment (UNFPA, 2017; Matovu et al., 2021). It is alarming that 29% of all new HIV infections in Uganda occur among adolescent girls and young women, despite representing only 10% of the total population (UNAIDS, 2021).

## 40%

of adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years have comprehensive knowledge of HIV infection

(UBOS & ICF, 2018)

**13.94%** of young males

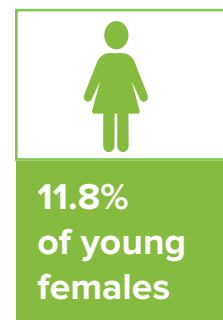**11.8%** of young females
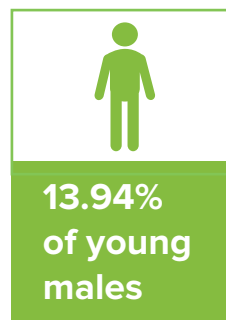
**have had sexual intercourse by age 15**

(UDHS 2016)

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**A&Y are further characterized by low educational outcomes.**

</div>

→ Adolescents and youth in Uganda face significant challenges in educational attainment. Transition rates from primary to secondary education have declined from 72% in 2013 to 61% in 2017, with further drops observed during the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020-2021. Shockingly, only 47% of primary-aged children and adolescents, and a mere 8% of secondary-aged adolescents are currently enrolled in school. Among those attending, 22% are placed in grades lower than expected for their age (UNHCR, 2020). Notably, these figures represent all children, and those in humanitarian contexts likely experience even worse outcomes.

→ Economic disparities are evident, with wealthier households showing higher secondary education participation (43.1%) compared to adolescents from poorer households (8.2%) (UBOS 2019/20). Additionally, regional disparities are present, with Karamoja having the lowest net secondary school attendance rate at 3.4%. Completion rates for lower secondary are also concerning, as only 19% of those who complete lower secondary education proceed to complete upper secondary.

→ Furthermore, a significant percentage of adolescents are categorized as 'Not in Education, Employment, or Training' (NEETs), with 37% of young women and 21% of young men aged 15-19 falling into this category (UBOS 2019/20).

**37% of young women**

**21% of young men**
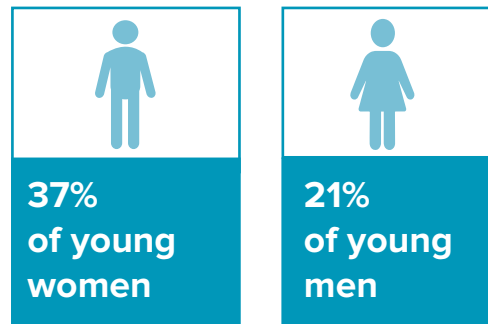
**aged 15-19 are categorized as 'Not in Education, Employment, or Training' (NEETs)**

UBOS 2019/20)

Moreover, gaps in skill development persist across all levels. Around 60.5% of pupils between Primary Three and Primary Seven lack the required reading competence for their grade, while 50% of adolescents leave lower secondary education without the necessary literacy and mathematical proficiency (Uwezo 2021; UNEB 2021). When considering regional disaggregation, it becomes evident that, apart from the Central, Kampala, Ankole, and Kigezi regions, all other regions in Uganda have literacy rates below the national average. Among these regions, the situation is particularly critical in the Karamoja region (see Annex 1, Figure 2).

## 50%

**of adolescents leave lower secondary education without the necessary literacy and mathematical proficiency**

(Uwezo 2021; UNEB 2021).
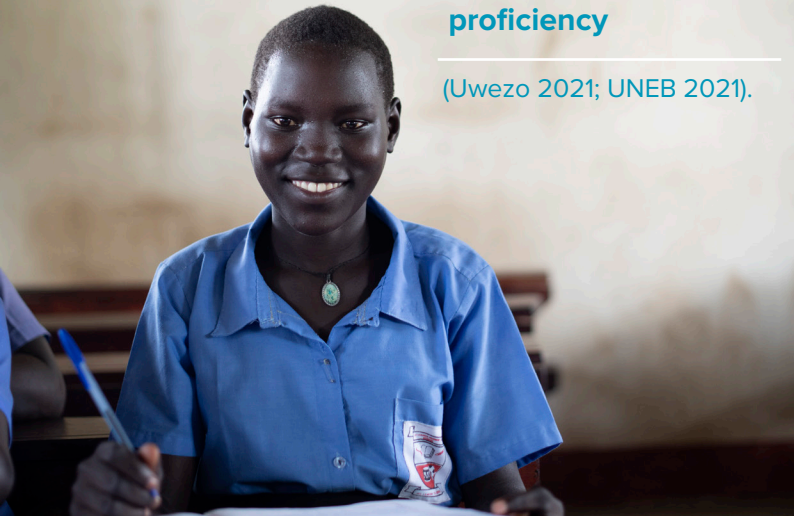
→ The combination of low educational attainment and poor educational quality contributes to the sub-optimal participation of youth in the economic production sphere. This, in turn, acts as a precursor for a lower quality of life for the affected population.

→ Rural youth are particularly affected, with approximately 50% of the 7.7 million Ugandan youth living in rural areas being 'Not in Education, Employment, or Training' (NEETs). Moreover, 41% of rural youth are involved in subsistence agriculture, forestry, and fishing (UBOS, 2018).

→ Youth unemployment and underemployment have severe implications, leading to a reduced ability to maximize their productive potential, an increased risk of being drawn into domestic terrorism and crime, and a higher likelihood of engaging in environmentally harmful economic activities such as charcoal burning, sand mining, stone quarrying, lumbering, brick making, and fishing, among others. These activities have negative environmental and health consequences, making it crucial to address the underlying factors contributing to limited economic participation among Uganda's youth.

## 35.7%

**Among youth aged 20-24 years are unemployed**

UBOS 2019/20)

**A&Y have limited participation in the economic production space.**

→ Adolescents and youth face challenges in actively participating in the economic production sector. Among youth aged 20-24 years, 35.7% are unemployed (33% female; 36% male) (UBOS 2019/20). Even those who manage to secure employment are often underemployed. According to the International Labour Organization (2017), the youth labor underutilization rate is a staggering 67.9%, largely due to youth engaging in informal employment (49%).



## 49%

**of youth largely engage in informal employment**

(ILO 2017)

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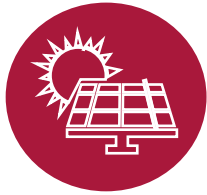
**A&Y in rural and urban areas are heavily affected by climate change.**

◆ These bear the brunt of climate change. Uganda has experienced average temperatures rising by 1.3 degrees centigrade since the 1960s (World Bank 2021). Additionally, rainfall patterns have become increasingly erratic, notably witnessing a significant reduction of 6.0 mm per month, per decade, during the annual March to May rainfall season, particularly in regions like Gulu, Kitgum, and Kotido (World Bank 2021).

◆ The western, northern, and northeastern regions have been grappling with more frequent and extended drought conditions over the past two decades.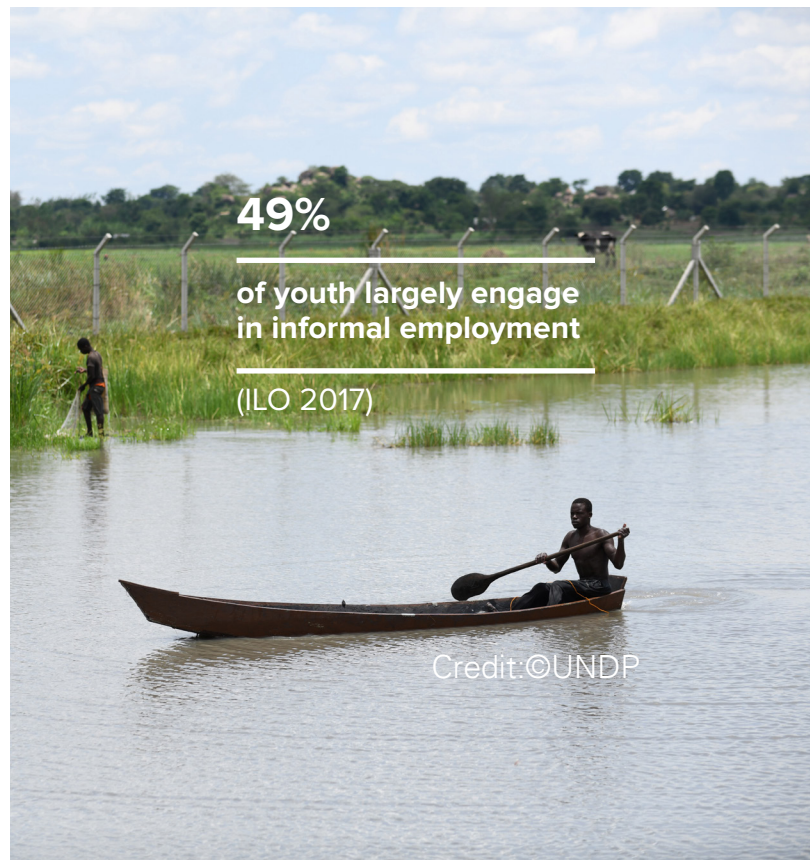 Notably, the Karamoja region endured seven droughts between 1991 and 2000, with subsequent droughts occurring in 2001, 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2011. These recurrent droughts, along with an increase in heavy precipitation events, elevate the risk of disasters like floods and landslides (World Bank 2021).

**The Karamoja region has endured seven droughts between 1991 and 2000, with subsequent droughts occurring in 2001, 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2011.**

World Bank 2021



**Young people in rural areas are facing the consequences of environmental degradation.**

◆ The degradation is significantly impacting their livelihoods and that of their families. Climate change implications for youth are severe, leading to the loss of livelihoods, deaths, displacement, and social hardships. For instance, rising lake water levels (Mugyenyi et al., 2020), torrential downpours are causing floods in urban areas (Klara & Hajdu, 2017; Oriangi et al., 2020; Tenywa et al., 2017; Nagasha et al., 2019), and soaring temperatures have resulted in variations in agricultural productivity and challenges for informal settlements where many young people flock in search of job opportunities.

◆ In rural settings, climate change-induced crop failures have triggered increased food prices, impacting both rural and urban youth and their families. Unfortunately, most youth lack stable and well-paying employment, making it difficult for them to afford the rising cost of living, perpetuating poverty among agricultural households (Mugyenyi et al., 2020).

◆ Urban areas, especially informal settlements, are also vulnerable to climate change. Flooding often wreaks havoc in urban centers, leading to sanitation-related diseases. In times of crisis, young people, in particular, bear the brunt as poverty, ill health, and food scarcity escalate the likelihood of school dropouts, undermining their educational attainment and future employment prospects (Osuret et al., 2016; Oriangi et al., 2020).

## (A&Y) in Uganda continue to face various threats and consequences resulting from conflict

Despite experiencing relative peace, adolescents, and youth in Uganda continue to face various threats and consequences resulting from conflict (Olojo et al., 2020). When conflicts arise, A&Y, along with their families, often endure displacement. In 2019 and 2021, 2,300 and 1,300 people, respectively, were internally displaced due to ethnic and political conflicts as well as cattle rustling (World Bank 2022; Sempijja 2022). Moreover, out of 1.49 million refugees living across 12 of Uganda's 121 districts, a significant 57% are below 18 years of age (OPM/UNHCR ProGres V4-Dec 2022).

→ Refugees and internally displaced persons lack the necessary familiarity, skills, administrative documentation, or rights to actively participate in the economic activities of their new locations. Consequently, youth in refugee communities experience higher unemployment rates (44%) compared to the national average (9%, UNHCR 2021). Idleness among youth, coupled with limited access to meaningful education and livelihood opportunities, leads to increased stress, negative coping mechanisms, and risk-taking behaviors, including engaging in illegal activities and environmental degradation.

→ In conflict-affected areas, displaced persons often exert pressure on the environment to sustain themselves by cutting down trees for shelter and firewood, leading to deforestation, soil erosion, and depletion and pollution of water resources in refugee settlements (UNHCR 2001).

→ Recognizing that A&Y play a central role in both conflict and peace, they are crucial actors in improving the natural environment on which they and the larger community depend. Empowering and involving youth in environmental conservation efforts can contribute to their well-being, foster resilience, and promote sustainable development, benefiting both the youth themselves and the broader society.

→ Finally despite having laws, policies, and institutions designed to protect and promote the meaningful participation of adolescents and youth in Uganda, implementation often falls short, leaving many young people without adequate support. Cultural practices and social norms continue to play a significant role in limiting A&Y, especially adolescent girls, and young women (AGYW), from fully engaging socially, educationally, and economically. Harmful practices and violence, such as child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence affecting 22% of women aged 15-49 per year, persist (UBOS & ICF, 2018). Child labor and severe forms of child exploitation also remain prevalent.

→ These violations of A&Y's right to bodily integrity and security are often overlooked, with youth voices and perspectives seldom considered or valued. Meaningful participation of youth in decision-making spaces, both on personal and public levels, is frequently disregarded in political discourse, even when the matters under discussion directly concern them. Evidence indicates that A&Y voices are either unheard or inadequately represented in key decision-making processes due to limited capacity and functionality among duty bearers and rights holders (NDP 2020). Power imbalances in relationships between A&Y and adults further hinder their meaningful participation, compounded by limited civic competency and awareness among youth regarding their civic rights (GoU and UN, 2019).



**Refugees and internally displaced persons lack the necessary skills to actively participate in the economic activities of their new locations.**

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**Economic disparities are evident, with wealthier households showing higher secondary education participation (43.1%) compared to adolescents from poorer households (8.2%)**

(UBOS 2019/20).



Credit:©UNESCO
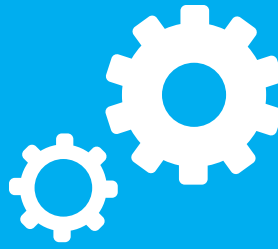
# Rationale and Theory of Change

The Government of Uganda, along with its development partners, has been actively supporting a range of interventions targeting adolescents and youth, evident in the National Development Plans (NDPs) I, II, and III, as well as through legal and institutional frameworks at the national level. Globally, there has been increased recognition of the significance of adolescents and youth and their roles in societies, resulting in various UN Security Council Resolutions. Notably, Resolution 2250 (2015) focuses on Youth Peace and Security, aligned with the African Union Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security (CFYPS), while Resolution 2535 (2020) acknowledges youth as key stakeholders in building and sustaining peace, resolving conflicts, and preventing violence.

→ Furthermore, in 2018, the United Nations launched a comprehensive Youth Strategy that serves as an overarching framework guiding the UN's efforts to strengthen engagement with and for young people across the three pillars of peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development.

→ The UN's commitment and active engagement in Uganda are evident through various implemented programmes. However, despite these efforts, the needs of adolescents and youth in terms of health, education, economy, environment, and security remain insufficiently addressed. A complex interplay of factors at different levels hinders progress, preventing young people in Uganda from fully realizing their potential, leading healthy and fulfilled lives, and actively participating in society. The lack of government capacity to provide quality health, protection, and education services for A&Y contributes significantly to perpetuating the challenges faced by Ugandan youth daily.

→ Moreover, even when government ministries or partners invest in solutions, poor A&Y engagement and resurgent conflict hinder the durable improvement of the context. Poverty, lack of opportunities, deeply entrenched cultural and social norms compound, creating harmful and debilitating consequences for young people. To bring about real and sustainable change, new programming must holistically address these systemic, community, and individual factors through multi-sectoral interventions in partnership for greater and lasting impact.

→ In Uganda, numerous projects and programmes aimed at adolescents and youth have been proposed by various UN Agencies, addressing essential areas such as health, education, economic empowerment, human rights, environment, peace, and security (See Annex 1, Figure 3 and Table 1). However, a review of existing UN youth programming documents in the country reveals that interventions have mostly been ad hoc, with different agencies operating independently. Such fragmented approaches pose a significant limitation to achieving long-term and sustainable impact, as well as hindering

effectiveness and efficiency, with challenges in terms of scalability and sustainability.

→ The current situation in Uganda necessitates comprehensive and integrated efforts to effectively address the needs of adolescents and youth and empower them to reach their full potential, leading healthy lives, and actively participating in society. To achieve this, a shift in perception is required, aligning with the vision outlined in the SDGs Agenda 2030 and the UN Youth Strategy 2030. These frameworks recognize A&Y, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, as a positive force for change, action, and innovation, essential for national and local development.

→ It is crucial to acknowledge that current programs often fail to reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged youth, including those with disabilities, migrants, internally displaced individuals, and others. Additionally, it is imperative to reach young people whose rights are not recognized or who suffer from gender-based discrimination and violence.

→ Joint programmes present an opportunity to optimize resources and achieve maximum results by fostering synergies and collaborations that comprehensively address problems at various levels more effectively and simultaneously.

→ Several Joint Programmes and Funds in Uganda are dedicated to addressing the specific challenges faced by adolescents and youth. These include the Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM), Education Plus Initiative (EPI), Spotlight Initiative (related to GBV), Prospects Partnership Programme (PPP) for skilling and employment, United Nations Joint Programme on AIDS (JUPSA) for HIV prevention and treatment, Global Programme on the Elimination of FGM, Refugee Innovation Fund, and Peacebuilding Fund.

→ Recognizing the importance of meeting the diverse and intersectional needs of A&Y, the UN in Uganda has established a Youth Technical Working Group (TWG). Collaborating with the UN Country Team (UNCT), the UN Youth TWG aims to align agency efforts across sectoral programmes and strategies, ensuring efficiency, minimizing duplication, and promoting catalytic programming, synergies, and collaboration.



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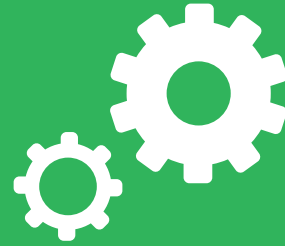
# UN Joint Adolescents and Youth Programme:
## Theory of Change

◈ It is widely recognized that with the right support and tools, adolescents and youth have the ability to make informed choices, actively participate in societal problem-solving, and shape the collective future of Uganda.

> The objective of this Joint Programme is to empower A&Y in Uganda to achieve their full potential and contribute to key strategic priorities outlined in the national development frameworks, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, and the global SDGs.

◈ Overall the Joint Programme envisions creating favorable conditions for adolescents and youth especially vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, to access the necessary tools and resources for improved well-being and life opportunities. It aims to strengthen the capacity of existing systems to better respond to A&Y needs throughout their life course. The programme will collaborate with current structures to enhance their capabilities in providing services for A&Y. Additionally, it seeks to promote their active participation and involvement in critical areas like peace and security.

**Figure A.** UN Joint Adolescents and Youth Programme Theory of Change



**Uganda UN Sustainable Cooperation Framework Strategic priorities and SDGs**

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES: HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY, LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND, COLLABORATION**

**IMPACT**

**Adolescents and Youth in Uganda realize their full potential**

**OUTCOME**

Responsive quality social and protective services are available, equitably accessible and used by A&Y

A&Y, both in-school and out-of-school, have increased acsess to education, skills, productivity, livielihoods, and/or employment opoortunities for safe and decent work.

A&Y meaningfully participate in development, peace, security, and climate change

**OUTPUTS**

A&Y have knowledge, information to make informed decisions and use basic quality social and protection services.

The capacity of institutions (school, community level institutions) strengthened to support retention and transition of A&Y, especially girls, to secondary education.

A&Y meaningfully participate in and/or lead affirmative climate action, including those related to renewable energy.

Capacity of institutions to deliver SE and life-skills education to in and out-of-school A&Y is strengthened.

A&Y have enhanced skills for a successful transition into employment & livelihoods

Increase in youth engagement and dialogue on peace, security and human rights

Quality essential services for A&Y are available (SRHR, GBV, HIV, GFM, psychosocial support)

Enterprises' capacity to create employment and livelihood opportunities for and by A&Y is enhanced

A&Y capacity built in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Schools are equipped to prevent and address school-based violence (SRGBV, VAC)

The capacity of A&Y-led organizations/ structures is strengthened towards achievement of SDGs.

Documented lessons' learnt and best practices for meaningful engagement of A&Y

Legal, policy and regulatory environment is enabled to support A&Y in key areas (e.g. health, education, employment)

**KEY STRATEGIES**

- **Institutional strengthening** for education, health, SRHR and protection services for A&Y
- **Training** in valuable skills to increase employability
- **Capacity building** of A&Y for active and meaningful participation and advocacy in key areas SRHR, climate change, environmental conservation and rehabilitation and peace and security
- **Enabling** social and **political environment** in key areas, including at the community level, to support and improve A&Y lives and wellbeing
- **Mapping and Documentation**

# The **UNJYP envisions** three **complementary** and **inter-sectoral outcomes**



**Outcome 1** aims to enhance the quality and accessibility of health and protection services for adolescents and youth by providing them with essential tools such as knowledge and agency to make informed decisions. By integrating comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education and life skills training for A&Y, both in and out of school, they will be equipped to adopt positive behaviors and attitudes concerning their health, especially in terms of SRH and overall well-being.

➔ The programme will focus on preventing and responding to school-based violence, offering protection and a sense of safety for A&Y within the school environment and the broader community, with linkages to health, policy, and legal support. By ensuring that responsive and high-quality social and protective services are available and equitably accessible to A&Y, they will have the necessary information, agency, and safety to make informed decisions about their health and life. This, in turn, will empower them to demand essential services, leading to improved life choices and overall well-being.

➔ Empowering adolescents and youth with information and access to essential services lays the foundation for making informed life choices at the individual level. However, it is equally crucial to enable A&Y to actively participate and thrive in society. Education is a key area that plays a pivotal role in providing opportunities and prosperity for young people. Increasing the level

of schooling for Ugandan youth to the secondary level, particularly for the most vulnerable, will contribute to expanding various opportunities, including vocational or technical training, leading to access to decent jobs and livelihoods.

➔ **Outcome 2:** The Joint Programme not only aims to support A&Y's retention and transition to secondary education but also seeks to provide training in sectors relevant to Uganda's socioeconomic context. Additionally, the programme aims to enhance the capacity of micro-small-medium enterprises to create employment opportunities for A&Y. These efforts will not only benefit young people currently in schools or training but also those outside of education and employment, thereby reducing the number of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) in Uganda. This collective action is expected to result in increased access to education, skills, livelihoods, and safe and decent employment opportunities for A&Y, both in school and out-of-school (Outcome 2).

➔ **Outcome 3:** At a broader level, the Joint Programme recognizes the importance of involving youth in matters that can shape and redefine the country, with potential mid to long-term impacts on them. These include mitigating climate change effects, disaster resilience, environmental conservation, and promoting peace and security in times of resurgent conflict.

➔ To achieve Outcome 3, which focuses on meaningful youth participation in peace, security, and climate action, tailor-made advocacy and affirmative climate action engagement for A&Y will be developed and supported through platforms and youth-led campaigns. Building peaceful societies will involve increasing youth engagement and dialogue on peace, security, and human rights. Strengthening the capacity of youth and youth-led organizations in disaster risk reduction and resilience will be crucial, as A&Y

can play key roles in disseminating information and enhancing resilience when adequately engaged.

Ultimately, strengthening the capacity of A&Y-led organizations and structures will enable them to effectively engage and contribute significantly to achieving the SDGs, fostering a positive impact on Uganda's future.

→ All three outcomes and outputs in the Joint Programme are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, providing a comprehensive and youth-centered approach to meet the needs and engagement of young people at various levels. Two crosscutting outputs will further support the outcomes: documentation of lessons learned and best practices for meaningful engagement of A&Y, disseminated through fact-sheets and position papers; and enabling laws, policies, and regulations to support and advance A&Y in key areas like education, health, employment, peace, and security, applied across all intervention areas.

→ The achievement of the defined outcomes will be pursued through key strategies, including strengthening social and protection service institutions, providing valuable skills training to enhance youth employability, and building the capacity of youth and youth-led organizations to actively engage in climate action and renewable energy solutions, as well as peace and security efforts.

→ At a broader level, the programme will create an enabling environment through laws, policies, and community involvement that supports and promotes youth participation and decision-making. The mapping and documentation of existing youth structures, identifying what works and what does not, will inform future programmatic strategies and policy-level decision-making. These comprehensive approaches ensure that young people's voices are heard and that their needs are addressed effectively, paving the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future for Uganda.

→ The Joint Programme's outcomes, outputs, and planned activities are aligned with the UN Cooperation Framework and agency strategies, guided by principles of Human Rights, Gender Equality, Leave No One Behind, and Collaboration.

→ Complementarity is a key aspect of the UNJYP, as it works in conjunction with existing Joint Programmes and projects implemented by various UN agencies.For instance, *Outcome 1* of the UNJYP complements numerous programmes focused on youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), ending child marriage, sexuality and life skills education, and child protection. These programmes are carried out by WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UN Women, UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, and UNESCO, primarily in Northern, West Nile, Karamoja, and Eastern regions of Uganda.

Key Joint Programmes like the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, the EU Spotlight Initiative, and the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation, as well as the UNESCO Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future project on sexuality education in schools, are designed to create sustainable linkages between health services, nutrition, and schools. The ultimate goal is to generate demand for SRH services, reduce HIV stigma and discrimination, eliminate GBV, and improve the SRHR of all A&Y, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as youth with disabilities, refugees, and migrants.

→ Outcome 2 is aligned with Programme implemented by FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNCDF, IOM, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNHCR, and UNICEF,UNFPA which focus on creating decent jobs, skilling, and supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Key initiatives include the Prospects Partnership Programme (PPP), Youth for Business Innovation & Entrepreneurship Facility, and FAO's Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative. These PPPs aim to increase access to finance for gender-responsive MSMEs, foster economic advancement, and enable recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are mainly carried out in Northern, Western, Eastern, West Nile, and Karamoja regions.

→ Outcome 3 corresponds to programmes implemented by FAO, UNODC, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNHCR, focusing on environmental protection, climate change mitigation, disaster management, and fostering adolescent participation and meaningful engagement.

These initiatives aim to improve community-based protection, create platforms for adolescent involvement in decision-making and community action, and protect natural resources and shared environments. These programmes are primarily implemented in Western, West Nile, Northern, Bunyoro, Central, and Eastern parts of Uganda largely to improve community-based protection, and creating platforms for meaningful adolescent engagement in decision-making and community action; and enabling protection of natural resources and shared environments.

**Geographic focus:** The UNJYP will concentrate on eight selected districts based on specific criteria. The programme's implementation will prioritize districts with the highest needs, as identified through mapping, while also considering ongoing investments by UN Agencies (as shown in Annex 3). Although refugee communities meet the criteria, to ensure regional balance, the programme will target two refugee host communities, Yumbe and Terego (West Nile), and two districts from Karamoja, Kotido, and Moroto, due to their lower socio-economic indicators. Additionally, the programme will include Lamwo, Kiryandongo, Kampala, and Namayingo, representing the Northern, Western, Central, and Eastern regions of Uganda, respectively.

→ The implementation of the UNJYP will follow the structure outlined in Figure 1, under the overall guidance of the UNSDCF steering committee. This committee will consist of senior managers from Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs) and representatives from various government ministries, including the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development (MGLSD) as the lead, the Ministry of Education & Sports (MoES), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the National Planning Authority (NPA), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), the National Population Council, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), the Ministry of Local Government, the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries (MAAIF). It will also include representatives from the National Youth Council, Uganda National Students Council, private sector, civil society organizations, youth networks, development partners, and academia.
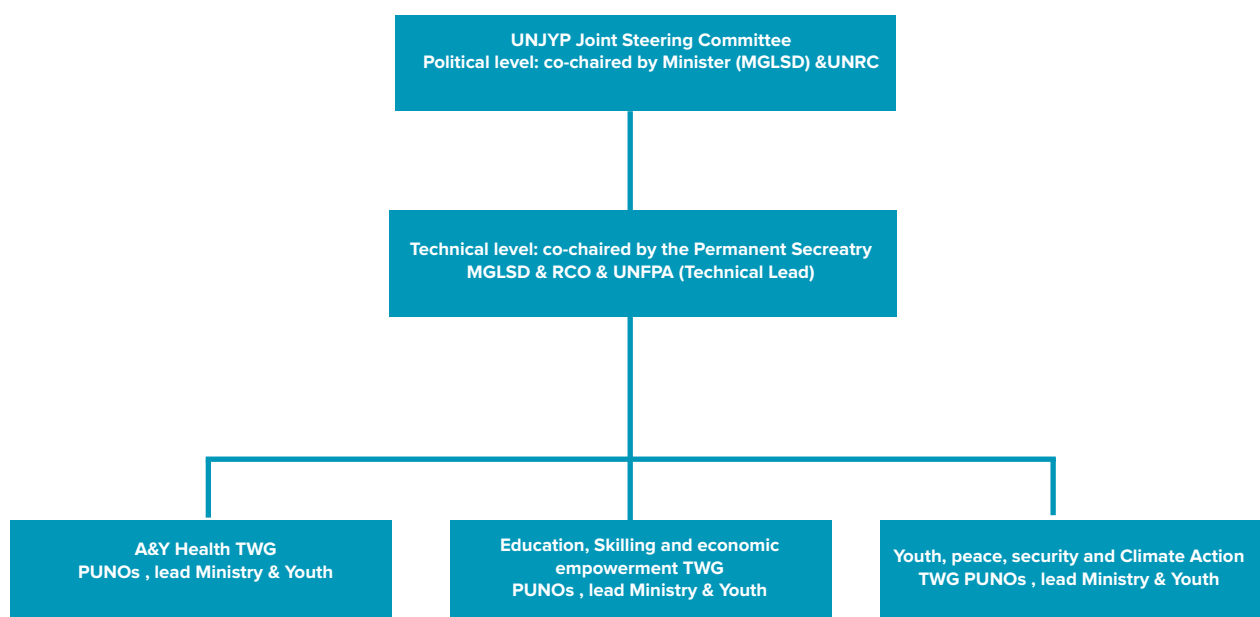
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◉ **The UNJYP Joint Steering Committee will be coordinated at two levels:** the political level and the programmatic level. At the political level, the Minister of Gender, Labour, and Social Development will co-lead with the UN Resident Coordinator. At the technical level, the Commissioner Children and Youth at the MGLSD will co-chair with the office of the Resident Coordinator, with UNFPA serving as the technical lead.

◉ UNFPA, as the lead agency for the UNJYP, will also act as the secretariat to the UNJYP Joint Steering Committee, responsible for preparing the agenda, arranging meetings, and ensuring the implementation of recommendations. The Steering Committee aims to build on existing structures to avoid duplication, but in cases where it is necessary, it will be supported by three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to guide the UNJYP's implementation.

◉ The A&Y Health TWG, led by UNFPA, will include all PUNOs engaged in Outcome I of the UNJYP work plan, focusing on health-related interventions. The Skilling and Economic Empowerment TWG, led by UNICEF, will involve PUNOs delivering on Outcome II of the programme's Theory of Change, targeting skills development and economic opportunities for A&Y. Meanwhile, the Youth, Peace, Security, and Climate Change TWG, led by UNDP, will include PUNOs focused on Outcome III interventions, which address issues related to peace, security, and climate action for young people.

◉ To ensure a multi-sectoral approach, the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MoGLSD) will coordinate other key line ministries and districts' involvement in the programme based on their specific mandates. Additionally, the National Youth Council and Uganda National Student's Association will actively participate in the programme implementation.

**Figure 1:** Coordination structure of the UNJYP



UNJYP Joint Steering Committee
Political level: co-chaired by Minister (MGLSD) &UNRC

Technical level: co-chaired by the Permanent Secreatry MGLSD & RCO & UNFPA (Technical Lead)

A&Y Health TWG
PUNOs , lead Ministry & Youth

Education, Skilling and economic empowerment TWG
PUNOs , lead Ministry & Youth

Youth, peace, security and Climate Action TWG PUNOs , lead Ministry & Youth

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## Fund Management Modality

➡ The UNJYP is designed to streamline funding for critical A&Y interventions through a complimentary, aligned, joint programme. The fund management framework aims to facilitate coordination and coverage of key A&Y interventions among the Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs). The fund management arrangements are based on the Guidance Note on Joint Programmes (2022) of the UN Development Group (UNDG). The proposed fund management arrangement considers factors such as the required financial resources, the number of implementing partners, and the potential for effective and efficient implementation with reduced transaction costs for all stakeholders.

➡ The UNJYP will operate as a Multi-Partner Trust Fund following existing guidelines. UN Agencies will be responsible for implementing the Fund. Each implementing entity will have programmatic and financial responsibility for the funds they receive, in accordance with their own regulations, rules, policies, and procedures.

## Monitoring, evaluation, learning, and reporting

➡ For each outcome area, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development will collaborate closely with the lead UN agency and relevant MDAs to gather data on related outputs, to be reported quarterly to UNFPA as the lead UN agency of the joint programme. Data collection tools will be adapted or developed for each component if not already available in complementary programmes. These tools will be integrated with other government and UN Agency activities to capture process indicators and monitor implementation progress, facilitating necessary adjustments as required.

➡ Data collection will occur regularly during intervention implementation, such as SRH and life skills training sessions, and specific moments for evaluation (mid-term and end evaluation). Whenever possible, technology will support digital data capturing and automatic storage for real-time monitoring and data use. Monthly reporting will be conducted at quarterly meetings held at the local level, with participation from government counterparts, relevant ministry, district, or city authorities, to review the data collection processes and the quality of the collected data.

**Outcome 1:** Ensuring the availability, equitable accessibility, and utilization of responsive quality social and protective services for A&Y. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will lead this outcome, with support from UNESCO and the World Health Organization (WHO) as co-leads. This outcome will be achieved through the provision of knowledge and information to A&Y to enable informed decision-making and effective utilization of social and protective services (Output 1). Additionally, it will involve enhancing institutional capacity to deliver sexuality education and life skills to both in and out-of-school young people (Output 2). The programme will also focus on ensuring the availability of quality essential services specifically designed for A&Y (Output 3) and equipping schools to prevent and address school-based violence (Output 4).

**Outcome 2:** School retention and transition will be tracked using the EMIS system and programme process indicators in monitoring reports. Economic empowerment activities will be assessed through pre and post-tests, the number of A&Y benefiting from skill-building activities and training, and employment opportunities created for programme participants. Skilling and job creation interventions will be closely monitored through process indicators with monthly data collection. Outcome data will be gathered through pre and post-tests during training and educational sessions, and cross-sectional surveys at baseline and end-line to measure progress and programme effectiveness.



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**Outcome 3:** Outputs related to building youth and youth-led organizational capacity for development, peace, security, and climate action, including environmental conservation and DRR, will be monitored by the lead agency coordinating these activities. Process data will be collected and submitted monthly, with quarterly reviews to ensure quality and completeness by UNFPA, the lead UN agency for the UNJYP. For instance, capacity building for youth-led organizations and advocacy will be collected by the agency responsible for the specific thematic issues. Youth participation and voice activities will be monitored through participatory platforms where they can express their needs and expectations, such as SRH concerns, employment opportunities, and required skills. In addition, a Youth, Peace, and Security community implementers' team will collect data on all activities using checklists and forms, whether paper or digital.

➡ All data monitoring will be collected digitally in real time or on paper and transferred to digital monitoring platforms created for the programme on a monthly basis. Quarterly data quality assurance will be conducted and reported at Steering Committee meetings every 6 months, with recommendations addressed within the subsequent 6-month period, and the results of the corrections reported at the next biannual review meeting. Annual programme review meetings will report on outcome and output indicators outlined in the UNJYP work plan and results framework. Any deviations or lack of progress on targets will be discussed, and necessary course corrections will be facilitated to ensure the overall effectiveness of the programme. If needed, significant issues will be brought to the attention of the Steering Committee to ensure the programme remains on track to achieve its goals.



## Reporting and communications:

Reporting to the donors and the Steering Committee will occur twice annually, with a summary report due every six months, including MEL, and fiscal data.

➡ A more comprehensive report detailing progress and challenges will be submitted at the year-end. An annual consolidated, results-based report will be produced, encompassing programmatic and financial information for all programme activities. This report will provide evidence of progress towards Joint Programme results, based on monthly data collected at the field level, quarterly at the district level, and bi-annually by Outcomes. The Results Framework will serve as the matrix for data organization, with digitalized data capture systems used for programme activities. Standard reporting formats will ensure comparability and coherence for programme agencies and the UNCT.

➡ Annual progress reviews will align with Steering Committee meetings, led by UNFPA, the lead agency, with support from Outcome or output agency leads. Analysis of monitoring and field review data will inform recommendations for course correction, to be followed up by the respective agency responsible for the output intervention area.

➡ The UNJYP will be enhanced by a robust evaluation and review protocol. Before programme initiation, a baseline evaluation will be conducted to establish realistic targets and assess programme activities. Qualitative assessments of sector capacities, challenges, and opportunities will inform implementation strategies, including a mapping of other programmes and actors in the same locations. Collaboration meetings with partner organizations and stakeholders, including district or city governments, will ensure complementarity and alignment for maximum synergy.

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● At the midpoint of the project, an internal review process will update learning since the baseline. Beneficiary youth and representatives from the youth ecosystem will provide feedback on whether the programme meets their needs and identify emerging challenges. A JP meeting will be held based on this qualitative assessment to improve programme effectiveness.

● Additionally, an end-line evaluation will be conducted to measure programme outcomes and impact. The evaluation will assess the achievement of targets, identify lessons learned, and assess the sustainability and scalability of successful interventions.

● These evaluations will be crucial for understanding the overall programme's effectiveness and making informed decisions for future interventions and approaches.

● All evaluations will involve stakeholders, including youth beneficiaries, to ensure their perspectives are taken into account and their voices are heard throughout the process. The findings from these evaluations will be widely disseminated to relevant stakeholders, ensuring transparency and accountability in the programme's implementation.

# Annex 1: Summarised Results Framework

| Outcomes | Outcome indicators | Outputs | Output indicators | Sub outputs |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1: Responsive quality social and protective services are available, equitably accessible and used by A&Y | Reduced child marriage & Reduced Pregnancy | **1. [Knowledge and behaviour change]** <br><br> A&Y possess the knowledge and information required to make informed decisions, as well as the ability to access basic quality social and protection services. | Percentage of A&Y aged 15-24 years using modern contraceptives, by sex. Percentage of A&Y aged 15-24 visiting social or protection services (health centers, GBV, or psycho-social support services), by sex. Proportion of women aged 15-49 making informed decisions on sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care. | 1.1.1: Support A&Y engagement in SE and life skills clubs both in and out of school, with a gender analysis approach (UNFPA, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNICEF, and WHO) <br><br> 1.1.2: Promote access to gender-analyzed information through various channels, including health providers, teachers, online platforms, youth-led organizations, and community platforms (UNFPA, WHO, UNHCR) |
| | | **2. [In-and Out of School SE/LSE]** <br> The capacity of institutions to provide gender-transformative and age-appropriate SE and life skills education to both in-school and out-of-school A&Y is enhanced. | **2 a. In-school** <br> The number of teachers trained in SE and life skills is recorded by sex. *The number of students receiving SE education is also tracked by sex. Additionally, the count of schools implementing SE programs is monitored. | 1.2.1: Support for the implementation of the SE framework, including training, materials, coordination, monitoring, and supervision and evaluate SE across all levels (UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, and WHO) <br><br> 1.2.2: Strengthen the capacity of teachers, institutions, and key stakeholders to deliver SE in alignment with standards (UNESCO, UNHCR, UNFPA, and WHO). <br><br> 1.2.3: Advocate for a conducive environment for SE (Supported by UNFPA, UNHCR, and WHO). <br><br> 1.2.4: Engage key structures, such as parents Association, religious institutions to address opposition and other barriers to SE (UNFPA UNCHR, WHO) |
| | | | **2 b. Out of school** <br> The number of youths reached through out-of-school life skills education categorized by sex. And the number of clubs supported. Bottom of Form | 1.2.5: Support establishing out-of-school SE/life skills clubs/groups with custom curricula, materials, training, supervision, partnerships, and referrals. (UNFPA, WHO, UNWOMEN, UNDP) <br><br> 1.2.6: Engage key stakeholders, like religious groups and community leaders, to improve acceptability and overcome barriers in delivering SE for A&Y following out-of-school guidelines. (UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO) <br><br> 1.2.7: Adapt the programme to reach marginalized and vulnerable youth, including YWD. Connect out-of-school life skills education to economic empowerment and YPS activities for NEET and youth in fragile contexts. (UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, FAO, IOM, UNDP) |
| | | **3. [Services and referral]** <br> Quality, gender-sensitive, and essential services for A&Y are readily available, affordable, and easily accessible (SRHR, GBV, HIV, FGM, psychosocial support). | Number of A&Y utilizing YFHS, by sex. Number of A&Y accessing integrated SRHR services, by sex. Number of Health facilities providing Youth-friendly services as per service standards. | 1.3.1: Train, equip, and implement SRHR services, including YFHS and outreach activities for A&Y. (UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF) <br><br> 1.3.2: Harmonize, obtain approval, and roll out adolescent health guidelines, tools, and materials (e.g., training guides for peer providers). (WHO, UNFPA) <br><br> 1.3.3: Print and disseminate adolescent health guidelines and IEC materials. (Supported by WHO, UNFPA) <br><br> 1.3.4: Review and support innovations to enhance access to information, referrals, and opportunities. (UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO) <br><br> 1.3.5: Empower and strengthen the peer educator/advocate model, training peers in SRHR information and life skills to ensure quality SRHR delivery and demand. (WHO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF) |
| | Reduce GBV and VAC | **4. [School-based violence]** <br> Schools are equipped to prevent and address school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) and violence against children (VAC) | Number of school-based violence focal points in place, categorized by sex. Number of reported cases of SRGBV (School-Related Gender-Based Violence) or VAC (Violence Against Children) by school focal points, categorized by sex. | 1.4.1: Strengthen referral mechanisms for GBV, VAC, and SRHR (UNWOMEN, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF) <br><br> 1.4.2: Support the implementation of existing VAC guidelines (UNICEF, UNHCR) <br><br> 1.4.3: Implement, monitor, and evaluate GBV interventions at all levels (UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNHCR) <br><br> 1.4.4: Engage communities to address and reduce drivers of violence (UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNHCR) <br><br> 1.4.5: Engage and build capacity of duty bearers to enforce laws on GBV and VAC (UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA) |
| | Reduced HIV related Infections, stigma and discrimination | **5. SBCC (Social and Behavior Change Communication)** - <br> Social mobilization and community-led monitoring to empower young people communities to reduce risky behaviors, HIV transmission, mortality rates, and stigma and discrimination. | Number of young women and men with increased comprehensive HIV knowledge. <br><br> Increased access to HIV-related services due to protection from stigma and non-discrimination, categorized by sex. | 1.5.1: Support advocacy for an enabling environment to eliminate HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNWOMEN) <br><br> 1.5.2: Monitor quality, availability, accessibility, and utilization of HIV-related services by young people living with HIV and key populations. (UNAIDS, UNFPA) <br><br> 1.5.3: Conduct targeted SBCC campaigns on negative social norms impacting service access, HIV prevention, SRHR, TP, GBV, TB, mental health, and empowerment for vulnerable individualsTop of Form and key populations. (UNFPA UNWOMEN) |

| 2:<br><br>A&Y in and out of school have improved access to education, skills, livelihoods, and safe, decent employment opportunities. | Increase of number of girls retained in primary (SDG ind.4.4)<br><br>Increase number of girls/ adolescents transitioning from primary to secondary (SDG ind.4.4) | 6. [School retention]<br>The capacity of institutions (school, community level) strengthened to support the retention and transition of A&Y, especially girls, to secondary education. | Number of girls transitioning from primary to secondary. Number of girls staying/completing primary education. Number of tested support models, including cash support for girls' transition to secondary education. (Baseline: No; Target: Yes) | 2.1.1: Strengthen school stakeholders and management to retain adolescent girls and boys up to P7. (UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNAIDS, UNCHR)<br><br>2.1.2: Develop, support, and test cash support models to increase AGYW's transition, retention, and completion in secondary school. (UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNAIDS, UNCHR)<br><br>2.1.3: Complement in-school SE/LSE (output 2.1) with structured adolescent-centered activities during co-curricular hours to create an enabling learning environment for retention and completion. (UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNWOMEN, UNCHR)<br><br>2.1.4: Advocate for increased investments in secondary education. (UNAIDS, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNCHR) |
| | Number of youths equipped with relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship through the programme (SDG Indicator 4.4). | 7. [YEE Skills building]<br>A&Y possess enhanced skills for a successful transition into employment and livelihoods. | Number of adolescent and young boys and girls who acquired skills for personal empowerment, active citizenship, and employability. Number of youths transitioning to employment. Number of NEET youth reached by the programme. | 2.2.1: Strengthen skills development for A&Y in formal and non-formal education systems. Integrate additional modules within LSE (See outputs 1 and 2) covering life skills, employability, TVET, Junior Farmer Field Schools, non-formal training, internships, and recognition of previous learning. (ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO, UNWOMEN, UNCHR, IOM, UNDP)<br><br>2.2.2: Enhance partnerships with the private sector and relevant actors to expand work-based learning, incubation, mentorship, and acceleration opportunities for youth, including rural youth. (ILO, UNICEF, FAO, UNWOMEN, UNCHR, IOM, UNDP,UNODC)<br><br>2.2.3: Design and implement employment services in collaboration with private sector employers, focusing on the rural economy. (ILO, UNWOMEN, UNCHR,UNDP)<br><br>2.2.4: Provide skills development through climate-smart livelihood opportunities for socioeconomic empowerment. (FAO) |
| | Number of youths who secure productive employment and decent work including youth with disabilities. | 8.[Employment & opportunities]<br>The capacity of enterprises to create employment and livelihood opportunities for and by A&Y is strengthened. | Number of new A&Y relevant jobs identified across sectors, including environmental conservation and agriculture, catering to diverse youth segments, especially vulnerable groups.<br><br>Implementation of a strategy to develop job opportunities for A&Y throughout the value chain.<br><br>Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, either as a distinct strategy or part of a national employment strategy (SDG Indicator 8.b.1).<br><br>Number of adolescents and youth, including vulnerable groups like refugees, equipped with digital skills for the 21st century.<br><br>Availability of a tested model of multi-level digital skills training for in-school and out-of-school adolescents and youth under the MoES Digital Skills agenda (Baseline: No; Target: Yes).<br><br>Number of adolescents and youth, including vulnerable groups like refugees, accessing microwork and remote digital jobs.Q<br><br>Number of financial services secured, such as borrowing or small grants mechanisms, for young people. | 2.3.1: Identify and explore employment opportunities for youth through MSME and MSME development. This includes value chain analysis, scoping, mapping, and designing/supporting interventions to facilitate youth participation. (ILO, FAO, UNWOMEN, UNCHR, UNCDF, UNDP)<br><br>2.3.2: Support youth employment in the digital economy, including digital skills and microwork opportunities, with a focus on youth with disabilities and vulnerable populations. (ILO, UNWOMEN, UNCHR, UNCDF, UNDP)<br><br>2.3.3: Strengthen capacities for value addition and improve youth access to financial services. (ILO, FAO, UNWOMEN, UNCHR, UNCDF,UNDP)<br><br>2.3.4: Develop youth-based enterprise investment plans or investment profiles and business models. (FAO)<br><br>2.3.5: Provide support for the establishment and growth of youth cooperatives. (FAO/ILO) |

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| 3: A&Y actively participate in develop-ment, peace, security, and climate action endeavors. | Number of A&Y partici-pating in environmental conservation and climate change actions. | 9. [ climate change action]<br><br>Support tailor-made advocacy and meaningful engagement for gender-transformative climate action led by A&Y. | Number of active A&Y climate action platforms. Number of conducted A&Y affirmative climate action campaigns. Number of gender transformative climate action position papers shared and disseminated by A&Y platforms. Number of supported gender transformative climate action/nature-based solutions/ campaigns for A&Y. | 3.1.1: Conduct mapping of operational A&Y platforms for Climate action. (UNDP/FAO, UNCHR, UNCDF, IOM)<br>3.1.2: Carry out sustained climate action campaigns and advocacy, engaging A&Y. (UNDP, UNCHR, FAO, IOM)<br>3.1.3: Provide support for A&Y capacity-building and mentorship towards affirmative climate action. (UNDP, FAO, UNCHR, UNCDF, IOM)<br>3.1.4: Support nature and nature-based cash solutions and interventions benefiting and involving A&Y, including PWDs and marginalized groups. (FAO, UNCHR, UNDP, IOM)<br>3.1.5: Conduct A&Y south-to-south linkages for benchmarking and experience sharing on climate change. (UNDP, FAO) |
| | | 10: [renewable energy]<br><br>Promote A&Y's active involvement in the renewable energy access value chain. | Number of A&Y, disaggregated by sex, who gained access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy with UN support, and benefited from related services. Increased and equitable access to modern, renewable, and affordable energy sources and services. Number of supported operational Renewable Energy access innovations and models. Number of A&Y, by sex, who are beneficiaries of these innovations and models. | 3.2.1: Conduct capacity building of A&Y to enhance renewable energy access. (UNDP, UNCHR, UNCDF, FAO, IOM)<br><br>3.2.2: Support exceptional A&Y models/innovations to increase renewable energy access for under-served communities. (FAO/UNDP, UNCHR, UNCDF) |
| | An increase in instances where youth leaders of community-based organizations act as catalysts to prevent or reduce violence. | 11. [YPS Dialogue]<br>Promote an increase in youth engagement and dialogue on peace, security, and human rights, with a focus on strengthening the participation of young women. | Number of dialogues, including at least one per quarter, held between youth organizations and security stakeholders, with a focus on issues concerning young women. Ratio of young women to young men participating in these dialogues, with a target of 50%. | 3.3.1: Support A&Y in engaging and influencing Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) spaces/platforms. (UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNDP,UNODC)<br>3.3.2: Aid youth in engaging in the development of the Uganda National Plan for YPS. (UNFPA, UNDP, UNWOMEN)<br>3.3.3: Conduct mapping of platforms focusing on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS). (UNDP, UNFPA) |
| | Strengthened resilience capacity of A&Y. | 12. [Disaster Risk Reduc-tion] Capacity of A&Y enhanced in gender-re-sponsive Disaster Risk Re-duction and Management interventions (DRR/M). | Number of A&Y organizations/structures (with female/male membership) actively involved in early warning and information dissemination. Number of supported A&Y resilience-focused interventions (for both female/male membership). | 3.4.1: Establish and strengthen capacity of A&Y organizations/structures in early warning and informa-tion dissemination at various levels. (UNDP/FAO, UNCHR, IOM)<br>3.4.2: Map DRR/M interventions that meaningfully engage or involve A&Y. (UNDP, UNCHR)<br>3.4.3: Support exceptional DRR/M interventions that meaningfully engage or involve A&Y. (FAO, UNDP, UNCHR, IOM) |
| | Capacity of A&Y-led orga-nizations strengthened. | 13. [Youth organisations]<br>The capacity of A&Y-led organizations/structures is strengthened to achieve the SDG targets. | Number of A&Y organizations (with female membership) actively engaged in SDG achieve-ment activities. | 3.5.1: Conduct an assessment of capacities of youth-led organizations and structures in selected districts on focused SDGs. (UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA, UNCHR)<br>3.5.2: Provide capacity building, including organization development, to enable youth-led organizations' meaningful participation in achieving the SDGs. (UNDP, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNCHR, FAO,UNODC) |
| Cross-cutting output | | 14. [Evidence gener-ation] Evidence-in-formed documentation of lessons learned and best practices for A&Y multisectoral program-ming, including youth engagement. | Number of position papers/fact sheets developed and disseminated, showcasing A&Y engagement. Number of documented best practices. | 4.1.1: Conduct A&Y focused documentation of lessons learned and best practices. (UNFPA, all agencies to contribute)<br><br>4.1.2: Generate and disseminate evidence for A&Y programming. |
| | | 15. [Legislation & Policy]<br>Have an enabling legal, policy, and regulatory environment to advance A&Y education, health, employment (including occupational safety), and peace and security. This includes realigning measures such as school re-entry and youth policy. | Number of approved laws, policies, and regulations aimed at enhancing the lives, well-being, and opportunities for A&Y. | 4.1.3: Review and track the approval of legal and policy environments for A&Y health (WHO), education, information, skills, and employment (FAO), and meaningful engagement (UNFPA).<br><br>4.1.4: Advocate for the policy and legal implementation of laws and policies and budget allocation for A&Y SRHR. (UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, UNWOMEN, UNHCR, FAO, UNAIDS, UNODC) |

**Annex 2:** Budget per output

| Outcomes | Outputs | Sum of 2023 'USD | Sum of 2024 'USD | Sum of 2025 'USD | Sum of Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1: Ensure the availability, equitable accessibility, and utilization of responsive quality social and protective services by A&Y. | 1.1: Empower A&Y with knowledge and information to make informed decisions and access basic, quality social and protection services. | 208,000 | 307,000 | 305,000 | 820,000 |
| | 1.2: Strengthen institutions to provide gender-transformative and age-appropriate SE and life skills education to in- and out-of-school A&Y. | 699,340 | 611,923 | 437,088 | 1,748,350 |
| | 1.3: Quality, gender-sensitive essential services for A&Y, including SRHR, GBV, HIV, FGM, and psychosocial support, are available, affordable, and accessible. This is achieved through outreach, referral mechanisms, and the support of innovative technology and media plans. | 269,800 | 561,700 | 445,500 | 1,277,000 |
| | 1.4: Schools are equipped to prevent and address school-related gender-based violence and violence against children | 42,720 | 37,380 | 26,700 | 106,800 |
| | 1.5: Implement SBCC (Social and Behavior Change Communication) to mobilize communities of young people and prevent risky behaviors, HIV transmission, mortality rates, stigma, and discrimination. | 550,000 | 441,000 | 300,000 | 1,291,000 |
| Outcome 1 Total: | | 1,769,860 | 1,959,003 | 1,514,288 | 5,243,150 |
| Outcome 2: A&Y, both in school and out-of-school, have increased access to the education, skills, and livelihoods and/or employment opportunities for safe and decent work | 2.1: Capacity of institutions (school, community level) strengthened to support retention and transition of A&Y, especially girls, to secondary education. | 798,000 | 702,000 | 500,000 | 2,000,000 |
| | 2.2: A&Y have enhanced skills for successful transition into employment & livelihood | 3,204,733 | 2,804,141 | 2,002,958 | 8,011,832 |
| | 2.3: Micro-Small-Medium-Enterprises' capacity enhanced to create employment and livelihood opportunities for and by A&Y (output 2.1.1) | 1,118,900 | 1,141,538 | 836,813 | 3,097,250 |
| Outcome 2 Total: | | 5,121,633 | 4,647,679 | 3,339,771 | 13,109,082 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outcome 3: A&Y meaningfully participate in development, peace, security and climate action | 3.1: Support tailor-made advocacy and meaningful engagement for gender-transformative climate action led by A&Y. | 553,500 | 488,063 | 357,188 | 1,398,750 |
| | 3.2: Promote A&Y's active involvement in the renewable energy access value chain. | 422,900 | 370,038 | 264,313 | 1,057,250 |
| | 3.3: Increase youth engagement in dialogue on peace, security, and human rights, with a focus on empowering young women. | 267,000 | 196,000 | 151,400 | 614,400 |
| | 3.4: Enhance A&Y's capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR/M). | 241,600 | 211,400 | 151,000 | 604,000 |
| | 3.5: Strengthen the capacity of A&Y-led organizations/structures to achieve the SDG targets. | 42,000 | 22,000 | 32,000 | 96,000 |
| Outcome 3 Total: | | 1,527,000 | 1,287,500 | 955,900 | 3,770,400 |
| **Cross-cutting**<br><br>Output 1: Documented lessons and best practices for A&Y meaningful engagement | Cross-cutting Output 1: Documented lessons learned and best practices for meaningful engagement of A&Y. | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 240,000 |
| Cross-cutting Output 1 Total: | | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 240,000 |
| **Cross-cutting Output 2: Create an enabling legal, policy, and regulatory environment to advance A&Y education, health, employment (occupational safety), peace, and security.** | Cross-cutting Output 2: Establish an enabling legal, policy, and regulatory environment for advancing A&Y education, health, employment (occupational safety), peace, and security, which may include realigning measures like school re-entry and youth policy. | 15,000 | 15,000 | 10,000 | 40,000 |
| Cross-cutting Output 2 Total: | | 15,000 | 15,000 | 10,000 | 40,000 |
| Grand Total | | 8,513,493 | 7,989,181 | 5,899,958 | 22,402,632 |

## Annex3: Summary of Outcomes

| NDPIII Development Objectives | UN Adolescent and Youth Joint Programme Outcomes | UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – Uganda (2021-2025) |
|---|---|---|
| **Objective 1:** Enhance value addition in Key Growth Opportunities | **Outcome 1:** Ensure the availability, equitable accessibility, and utilization of responsive quality social and protective services by A&Y. | **Outcome 1:** By 2025, Uganda achieves inclusive and accountable governance systems, empowering and engaging people to enjoy human rights, peace, justice, and security. |
| | **Outcome 2:** A&Y, both in school and out-of-school, experience increased access to education, skills, productivity, livelihoods, and safe and decent employment opportunities. | |
| | **Outcome 3:** A&Y actively participate in development, peace, security, and climate action initiatives in a meaningful and impactful manner. | |
| **Objective 2:** Strengthen private sector capacity to drive growth and create jobs | **Outcome 2:** A&Y, whether in school or out-of-school, experience increased access to education, skills, productivity, livelihoods, and safe and decent employment opportunities. | **Outcome 2.1:** By 2025, people, especially vulnerable and marginalised, benefit from increased productivity, decent employment, and equal rights to resources |
| | | **Outcome 2.2:** By 2025, Uganda achieves sustainable management and protection of its natural resources and environment, empowering vulnerable and marginalized communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and disaster risks. |
| **Objective 4:** Increase productivity and wellbeing of Population | **Outcome 1:** Ensure responsive, quality social and protective services are available, equitably accessible, and utilized by A&Y.<br><br>Outcome 2: Improve A&Y's access to education, skills, livelihoods, and safe employment opportunities, both in and out of school.<br><br>**Outcome 3:** Foster meaningful A&Y participation in development, peace, security, and climate action initiatives. | **Outcome 3.1:** By 2025, people, particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, achieve equitable access to and utilization of quality basic social and protective services.<br><br>**Outcome 3.2:** By 2025, promote, protect, and fulfill gender equality and human rights in Uganda within a culturally responsive environment. |

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