



UNITED
NATIONS
UGANDA

2023 UN Country Results Report

Our story of leaving no one behind





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Overview

The report highlights results in 2023 from implementing the Uganda UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021–2025. Notably, in supporting the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP III) to achieve national priorities was pivotal in driving forward Uganda's development agenda.

Uganda has made great progress towards graduation from the Least Development Country (LDC) status. The United Nations in Uganda, in partnership with the government and other stakeholders, has been at the forefront of supporting the country's efforts to achieve sustainable development and improve the well-being of its people.

2023 saw significant advancements in governance, with increased efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness. The United Nations supported the government in strengthening its institutional frameworks, resulting in more effective and responsive governance systems. On social development, Uganda improved on providing access to quality healthcare, education, and social protection services. Furthermore, initiatives aimed at enhancing educational outcomes and expanding

social safety nets contributed to the reduction of inequalities and the empowerment of vulnerable communities.

Economic development has been another area of significant achievement. The United Nations' collaboration with the government and private sector has led to the creation of job opportunities, promotion of sustainable agriculture, and support for small and medium-sized enterprises. These efforts have been crucial in driving economic growth and improving livelihoods, particularly in rural areas.

Environmental sustainability remained a key focus, with initiatives aimed at combating climate change, preserving natural resources, and promoting sustainable land management, that were vital in ensuring that Uganda's development is environmentally sustainable and resilient to climate-related challenges.

UN COUNTRY TEAM

Table 1: Composition of the UN Country in 2023



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KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

The United Nations in Uganda continues to forge strong partnerships with a diverse range of development partners, reinforcing its collective efforts towards sustainable development. The partnerships extend beyond financial contributions, encompassing strategic collaborations that amplified the impact of our work.

The European Union and the Netherlands emerged as key partners in the implementation of the Uganda Spotlight Initiative 2.0, focusing on addressing gender-based violence and promoting gender equality. This partnership exemplifies our commitment to leveraging resources for transformative change.

The 'Friends of UN' group, a novel mechanism established in 2023, provided a platform for programmatic collaboration and collective advocacy on critical issues, including the UN's five flagship areas. This initiative fostered a shared understanding and joint action among interested donors, enhancing our

strategic coherence and impact.

Our engagement with the World Bank, though not financial, resulted in greater coverage and support for vulnerable and marginalized groups, exemplifying the synergy between our respective development agendas.

At the local level, the UN's collaboration with the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU) and Equity Bank Uganda Limited demonstrated our commitment to economic inclusion and climate resilience, respectively. These partnerships underscored the importance of private sector engagement in achieving sustainable development goals.

The broad-based partnership approach, involving over 400 traditional government and non-traditional partners, including institutions, civil society organizations, international and national NGOs, and the media, ensured a holistic and inclusive response to development challenges.

1.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Uganda is breaking boundaries and reaching new frontiers in its socio-economic quest. The country's post-COVID economic recovery continued, achieving a growth rate of 4.6% in 2023. This growth was driven by increased national consumption expenditure.

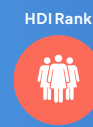
The agriculture sector, which employs a substantial portion of the population (63%) contributes about a quarter to the country's economy (23 percent of GDP), surpassed by the share of both industry and services (26.7% and 41.7% of GDP respectively) over over the same period.

DEVELOPMENT TREND

Summary of major development trends in Uganda from 2022 - 2023

Human Development

At 0.550 Human Development Score in 2023/24, Uganda is now a medium human development country



159 out of 163 countries



63.6 years (M: and F)



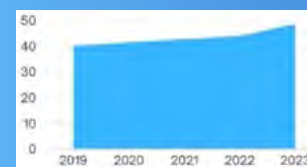
Average income per woman: US\$1,890 (37% less than male counterparts at US\$2,597).



Mean years of schooling is 11 years

Population

Total population reached 49.9 million in 2023, more of whom are youth (75%)

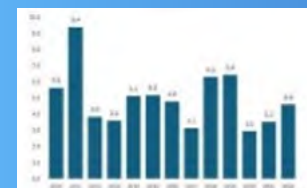


Inflation rate

2.4% inflation rate in 2023, falling by more than half from 7.2% in 2022



4.6% Economic Growth



Economic recovery continued in 2023 with a growth rate from 2022

Refugees

1.5 million refugees. The largest refugee hosting country in Africa



Gender Equality

National average budget compliance to gender and equity at 54.35% in 2023/24. Uganda has made progress in gender equality in education and labor force participation. However, political representation remains unequal, with women holding 33.8% of seats in parliament (2021)

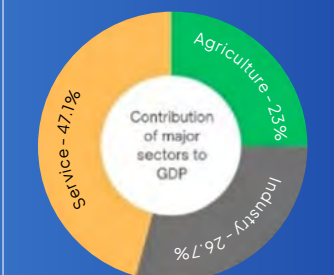


Fertility Rate

5.4 births per female and 3.2 percent population growth rate

Government Debt

Government debt to GDP ratio is at 44.4 per cent, falling short of the 50 per cent threshold to trigger debt sustainable measures



Poverty Headcount



Poverty headcount ratio of 35.7% at \$2.15/day and 60.2% at \$3.65/day (2023). Uganda's poorest 40% owns only 16.1% of the country's wealth, contrasted with the 34.5% owned by its richest 10%

2.0 UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The Cooperation Framework Approach

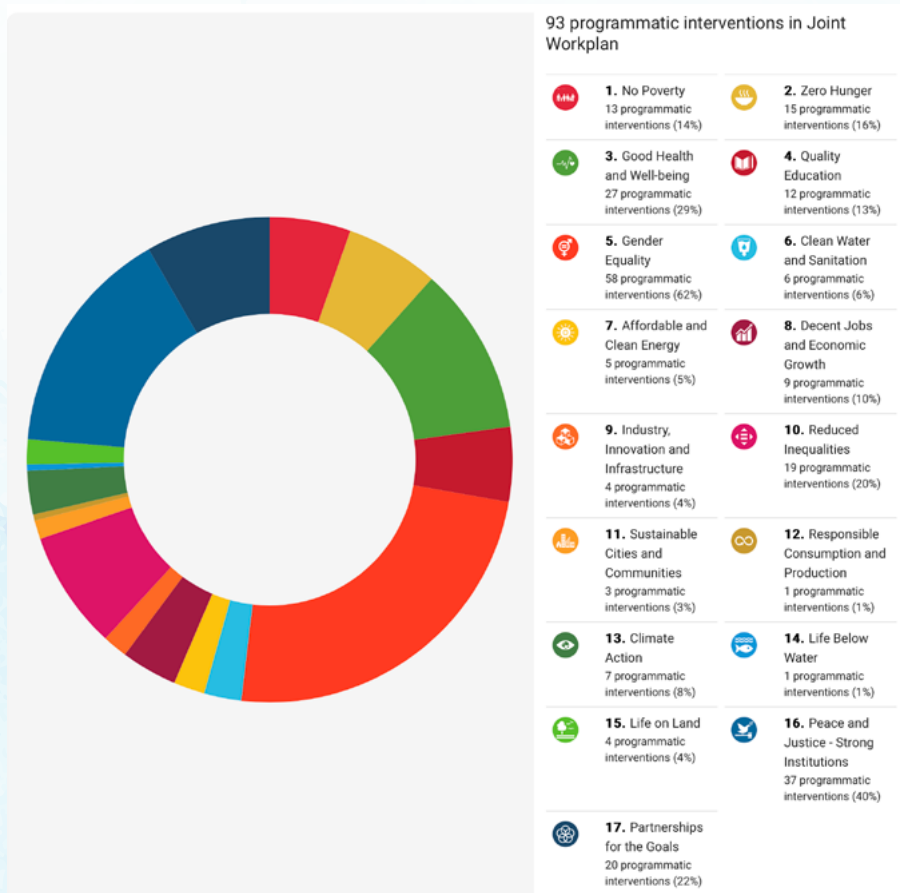


Figure 1: Uganda's Approach and Contribution through the Strategic Priorities in the Cooperation Framework

2.0.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The United Nations in Uganda continues the implementation of the Cooperation Framework in close collaboration with Government of Uganda and development partners including the private sector and civil society organizations.

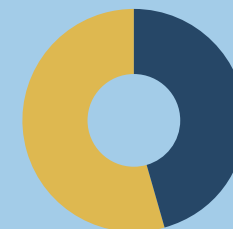
Throughout the UN's support, the United Nations integrated the guiding principles of the Cooperation Framework, ensuring a focus on leaving no one behind, human rights, gender equality, sustainability, and accountability. Below is a distribution of activities across the SDGs.



2.1 TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Key insights and Results

38 (45.8%)
Women in Cabinet



In the 2006 Cabinet, there were only 10 women (14.7%) while in 2021/2025, the proportion of women in Cabinet has since more than tripled to 38 (45.8%)

National Budget Compliance to Gender and Equity

The National average budget compliance to gender and equity was 54.35 per cent in 2023/24 compared to 67.6 per cent in 2022/23

Corruption Perception Index

26



Uganda is the 141st least corrupt country out of 180 ranked countries 2023, representing an improvement from its highest point in 2016.

Safety

52%



5 in 10 people feel safe walking alone at night (2022)

Key Contributions

- Expansion of state-funded legal aid services from 45 to 50 magisterial areas in 2023
- 1,189 female survivors/victims of GBV accessed quality essential justice and referral services
- Legal aid extended to 4,231 prisoners (4,025 M, 206 F).
- Supported 21 infrastructure to promote peace and security



Supporting Uganda's digital efforts through initiatives like the Rapid Financing Facility (RFF) and development of strategic management information systems.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY RESULTS IN TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

In 2023, we aimed to foster inclusive and accountable governance system such that every citizen has a voice and every voice matters. We engaged government on increased productivity and decent employment, recognizing the vital role of economic empowerment in breaking the cycle the of poverty.

We worked towards promoting responsible management and protection of natural resources, acknowledging that our survival and well-being are intrinsically linked to the health of our planet. We also advocated for equitable access and utilization of essential social and protection services, believing that everyone, regardless of circumstances, deserves a chance at a better life.

Gender equality and human rights have been at the forefront of our agenda. We continue to ensure the promotion, protection and fulfillment of these fundamental principles recognizing that they are not merely ideals to aspire to, but rights to be upheld. On inclusive and transformative governance, our efforts contributed to improved access to justice, through technical, financial and operational assistance to courts, prison, the judiciary of Uganda, the Ministry of

Justice and Constitutional Affairs and other justice institutions.

In partnership with the governments, we supported about 1.2 million people with registration for legal identity, including children and refugees. 1.3 million Ugandans gained from increased access to justice through UN supports. The expansion of state-funded legal aid services from 45 to 50 magisterial areas in 2023 in 2023, underscored further progress on access to justice.

Overall, disposal of cases increased from 52% in 2020 to 63% in 2023, with 72% registered conviction rate at the national level. The UN transformed eight cross-border management system from manual or paper-based to digital border management information system. This has increased the number of border control points in the country using Boder Management Information System from 15 to 23 out of 67 border control posts on gazette.

Security forces and the Uganda Human Rights Commission were engaged by the United Nations to ensure protection of rights through community dialogues that enhance linkages from districts to national levels.

2.2 STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SHARED PROSPERITY IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Key insights and Results

12%
unemployment rate (2021)
Source: https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/11_2022N-LFS_2021_main_report.pdf

1.2%
Access to clean cooking technologies (2022)

52.2%
Mobile broadband subscriptions are at 52.2 per 100 population

42.7%
Gini index. Indication high inequality (2019)
Source <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?locations=UG>

45.7%
Has access to electricity (2022)

10.3%
Increase in internet users (2021)

652
Youth-led MSMEs that accessed inclusive financing

70.7%
Terrestrial sites under protection, plus 48.5% of freshwater sites also under protection (2022)

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

1.6 million
Individual farmers gained access to land and water resources



In Terego and Madi-okollo districts, 334 acres of block land were allocated to 334 refugee households, one acre per household. This boosted their production of sesame to 66,800 Kilogrammes worth 235.5 million Uganda Shillings

LABOUR FORCE

Post COVID-19 labour force participation rate shows more and more women getting into the labour force since 2019



The number of farmers in Karamoja that were given market access to sell 2,345 metric tons of food commodities worth USD 1.9 million there by increasing their income



PROSPERITY

Uganda is set to graduate from UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) category in the early 2030s, if the development trajectory remains positive.

72% Terrestrial sites under protection, plus 48.5% of freshwater sites also under protection (2022)





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HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY RESULTS IN SHARED PROSPERITY IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

On Uganda's journey towards shared prosperity in a healthy environment, we have seen increased access to electricity, clean cooking technologies, access to clean water, and protection of natural resources, including land and freshwater sites.

The country's approach to sustainable management of natural resources, involves initiatives ranging from sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture to the conservation of wetlands and biodiversity and management of surface and groundwater systems.

Uganda has a significant area of terrestrial, freshwater sites and important biodiversity that is protected, with 72.2% of terrestrial sites and 48.5% of freshwater sites under protection as reported in 2022. The UN supports culminated in a total of over 55,000 hectares of natural resources, including forests, wetlands, and rangelands, put under sustainable management.

Farmers in Karamoja gained increased access to markets for

their produce. As a result, a total of about 11,800 farmers from 10 organizations realized \$2,000,000 in revenue boost by selling about 2,300 metric tons of produce to WFP school feeding programs. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, the UN supported the establishment of two women-led large-scale commercial farms of cereals, oilseeds, and legumes that involved 70 acres in Moroto and 900 acres in the Nakapiripirit districts.

Over 1.6 million farmers, including from refugee settlements, were supported to gain access to 746 acres of land for agricultural production, enabling farmers to delve into value chain enterprise development in crops such as passion fruits, cassava, sesame, and soybeans. In Terego and Madi-okollo districts, 334 acres of land were allocated to refugee households, leading to the harvest of sesame valued at over UGX 235 million and 26,000 job opportunities for youth and women in the districts.

2.3 STRATEGIC PRIORITY: HUMAN WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE

Proportion of Government Expenditure as a percent of total expenditure

3.1

Health

10.1%

Education

RESULTS

300,000

people accessed surgical operations with sustainable energy access solar PV installations

DATA



90.8% youth literacy

GENDER

126.6%

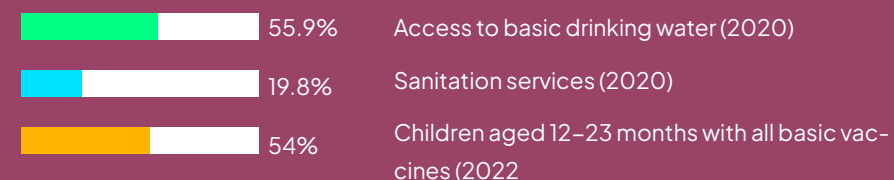
GBV-related cases reported to the police were investigated and taken to court

32

Private sector institutions put in place policies to address sexual harassment in the workplace

HEALTH

#1	Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births, 2022)	180
#2	Neonatal mortality (per 1,000 live births) 2022	23
#3	Mortality rate, under -5 (per 1,000 live births) 2022	52
#4	New hiv infections (per 1.000 Uninfected population) 2021	1.3
#5	Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age 2022	24.4



Education

Challenges remain in secondary education, with a lower completion rate of 26.4% (2017), indicating the need for better retention and completion strategies.

Gender

458 communities made public declarations to end GBV and harmful practices, including child marriage and FGM.

Health

Reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality rates. However, high rates of tuberculosis, HIV infections, and non-communicable diseases highlight the need for stronger healthcare systems.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY RESULTS IN HUMAN WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE

On human well-being and resilience, UN advocacy led to the Government of Uganda joining the School Meals Coalition, an international initiative, that aims to address the global challenge of school hunger and malnutrition. As a result, the Ministry of Education and Sports has the draft National School Feeding policy and is conducting regional consultations as part of the policy development process.

Moreover, UN investment ensured over 240,000 teachers were retooled and mentored through an institutionalized, continuous professional development structure. On nutrition. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, HIV and AIDS, child and maternal health, the UN contribution ensured Vitamin A supplementation reached over 5 million children, achieving a 62.3% national coverage.

The UN also supported integrated services for over 400,000 individuals on sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV and AIDS, and gender-based violence prevention.

Nearly 1,000,000 pregnant women were given iron folic-acid supplements at antenatal care visits, a key public health measure aimed at lowering incidences of low birth weights, maternal anemia and iron deficiency.

On malnutrition detection nationwide, over 3.1 million children were screened in 2023 using the family-led mid-upper circumference approach. This has enabled mothers and other caregivers to identify and refer malnourished children, with 58,000 treated for severe acute malnutrition and 76,145 benefited from the management of moderate acute malnutrition during the year.

On gender equality and women empowerment, religious and cultural institutions and leaders are demonstrating their commitments to gender equality and ending gender-based violence and other harmful practices. With UN support, 458 communities made public declarations to end gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation.



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2.6 Resource Mobilization

In 2022, UN joint resource mobilization efforts led to fund raising agreements of about US \$ 48 million, including Euro 22 million for Spotlight Initiatives, over 10.2 million for underfunded refugee response and Karamoja food insecurity and nutrition response, including through UN Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). Subsequent CERF allocations in 2022–2023 have functioned as a catalytic funding in bridging humanitarian response gaps and in encouraging donors for additional resources. For example, over \$ 26 million was raised for refugee response in 2022/2023, and UNHCR succeed in securing multi-year contributions starting 2024. The UNCT has decided to revitalize Uganda Multi-Partners Trust Fund (MPTF), established in 2020 for COVID emergency response, by revising its scope as a strategic financing instrument. The UNCT aims to open development window with several themes organized around UN flagship areas in Uganda: Youth and Adolescents; Data and Statis-

tics for SDGs; Refugee Inclusion; Gender Equality; and Karamoja food insecurity – developing borderland areas. UN Friend of UN group were briefed on UN JPs, ready for implementation. UN Agencies leading JPs on Youth and Adolescents and Data and Statistics conducted a donor mapping for resource mobilization for respective JPs, and the UN Partnership Group is developing an action plan for tailored/strategic donor engagement for resource mobilization.

The UN also mobilized USD 15.7 million to bolster climate action across Uganda. These funds have been pivotal in augmenting green recovery endeavors, conserving biodiversity, and amplifying nature-based solutions for climate resilience. This financial impetus has facilitated Uganda's alignment of its National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAPII) with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), ensuring coherence in the execution of biodiversity financing plans.

2.9 Challenge and Lessons Learned

The operating environment did not change drastically in 2023 compared to 2022 but it still necessitated greater flexibility and adaptability to continue to align to existing and emerging national priorities throughout the year:

The development landscape in Uganda depicts a sense of convergence of development, peace, and humanitarian work which is usually intertwined and fast moving at the same time. Such an environment demand close collaboration, flexibility, adaptability, and a keen focus on local needs and priorities to achieve sustainable development. The United Nations put measures in places through coordination and dialogue platforms such as the Humanitarian Coordination Team Light and the UN Country Team and engaging in the National Partnership Forum and Local Development Partners Group to ensure it adapts quickly to changing circumstances as the operating environment evolves. The UN maintained some degree of latitude in repurposing and reallocating resources, as such it responded to unanticipated emergencies and needs that emerged during the year.

UN Coordination structures did not function at their optimal level, which impacted implementation, the gathering of evidence and building synergy across all interventions: Regular engagement and dialogue with implementing partners through the established coordination structures including periodic monitoring, documentation of evidence, problem solving

and communication on the Cooperation Framework would have further enhanced the effectiveness of UN work in Uganda and lead to better outcomes as interventions would be adjusted in real-time based on feedback from partners. Recent efforts through the National Partnership Forum are significant steps forward to address challenges linked to coordination.

The passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Law and the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza have had significant impacts on funding and humanitarian and development efforts as some funding opportunities were either frozen, withdrawn, or diverted. Government of Uganda's budget was revised in the second half of 2023 after the World Bank halted the financing of new projects due to the passing into law of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023. This was compounded by the shift in focus of major development partners to the crises in Ukraine and Gaza. As a result, funding opportunities for humanitarian and development in Uganda further constricted. This proves that relying heavily on a few donors can make funding vulnerable to geopolitical shifts and economic downturns. The UN in Uganda could explore a broader partnership and funding sources through the integrated national financing framework (INFF) for Uganda, deepen its partnership with the private sector, and explore innovative financing instruments like social green bonds or impact investments.

Effective coordination yields concrete results especially within the framework of joint programmes:

An analysis of data presented by agencies during the annual review of the Cooperation Framework revealed that joint programmes are a unifying mechanism. It is a great avenue for getting multiple UN agencies collaborating better. Joint initiatives and programmes that follow the blueprint of such interventions, stand to be more cost effective and impactful.

Sustained engagement with a broad spectrum of partners was critical in strengthening ownership and delivering results: Maintaining

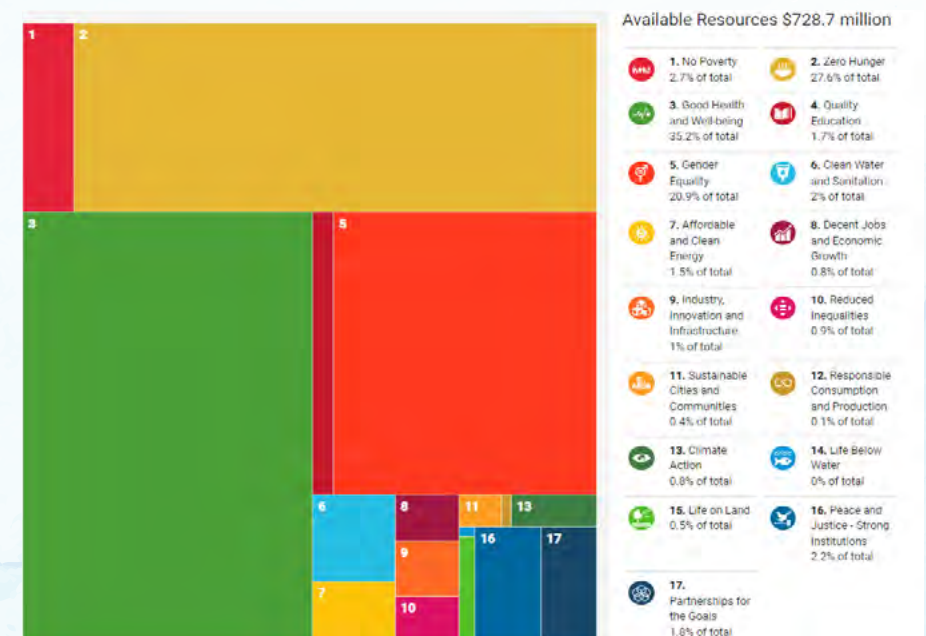
close collaboration with various stakeholders, including local governments, NGOs, and other international organizations, was critical to the results achieved. It made it easier to build ownership, scale-up and mainstream intervention, and ensure a more effective response to any potential crisis.

There are operational challenges on service delivery linked to health, education, food systems as well as environmental and climate change challenges, which continue to stall progress in those areas.

3.0 UNCT key focus for 2024

In 2024, the UN in Uganda will focus on transformative and inclusive governance, shared prosperity in a healthy environment, and human well-being and resilience. Priorities include enhancing natural resource management and climate change adaptation, improving access to renewable energy, and supporting the 2024 census with a focus on gender and human rights. The UN will also strengthen program

planning and budgeting, facilitate inclusive participation, support access to justice, and promote peace and security through cross-border programs and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. Additionally, efforts will be made to enhance strategic communication and support the implementation of the National Development Plan III (NDPIII).





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