

UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2024 UGANDA



UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



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Cover picture: ©WFP



Nyangoma Taremwa is a 15-year-old pupil at Bugoma Primary School in Kikuube district. She is one of the beneficiaries of the life skills education, and before the skills education.

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FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

The world is changing at an unprecedented pace unseen in modern history. Technologies once considered futuristic are now at the forefront of our daily lives, reshaping economies, governance, and the very fabric of societies. In Uganda, these shifts are evident. From digital health solutions improving service delivery in refugee settlements to solar-powered education hubs in Karamoja, the UN Country Team has harnessed innovation to bridge gaps, uplift the most vulnerable, and pave new pathways for sustainable development.

Yet, the road ahead is bumpy. Global instability, economic volatility, and the growing climate crisis cast long shadows over our collective aspirations. The Annual Results Report 2024 serves as a reflection of the UN Country Team's firm commitment to Uganda's development trajectory, documenting the progress made in key areas such as education, food security, health, gender equality, human rights, economic inclusion, and climate action. For the UN Country Team in Uganda, the past year epitomized the resilience of partnerships and the power of collaboration. Together with the Government of Uganda, development partners, and the private sector, we supported over 9.7 million children with health interventions, reached over 20,000 vulnerable households with cash transfer programmes, and empowered about 127,000 adolescents with 21st-century skills. These results speak to the strength of our joint efforts and the unwavering commitment to leave no one behind.

But multilateralism is facing reckoning. Across the globe, the fabric of international cooperation is being tested. We are witnessing unprecedented shifts in funding streams, a recalibration of priorities among donor countries, and mounting skepticism about the efficacy of global institutions. For the UN, this is a call to action. The ongoing reforms under UN80 Initiative and the UN 2.0 initiatives are not just structural—they are strategic. They represent our collective resolve to become more agile, data-driven, and accountable to the people we serve.

For Uganda, the future holds immense promise. The fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) outlines a bold ten-fold growth strategy anchored in inclusive economic development, transformative education, and climate resilience to be delivered through the Parish Development Model (PDM). As we transition to the next Cooperation Framework, we are aligning our interventions to amplify Uganda's ambitions, focusing on expanding productive assets, supporting transformative education, social protection, food systems and climate resilience empowering youth, women and girls, and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

None of this would be possible without our trusted partners. To our donors, including the European Union, United Kingdom, United States, Japan, South Korea, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland and Norway, your support has been invaluable. To civil society organizations, private sector partners, and local communities, your collaboration has been the cornerstone of our success. And to the people of Uganda, thank you for your resilience, for your trust, and for your relentless pursuit of a better tomorrow.

Let us move forward with renewed purpose, grounded in the belief that together, we can shape a future of shared prosperity, dignity, and peace for all Ugandans.

Leonard Zulu
UN Resident Coordinator

UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM



The composition of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Uganda has remained largely stable since the signing of the Cooperation Framework (CF) in 2020. Currently, the UNCT comprises 29 member entities, with 21 maintaining a physical presence in the country. These include a mix of humanitarian and development agencies actively engaged complementing the efforts of the Government of Uganda and other development actors across Uganda.

The UN entities with the largest footprint in Uganda are UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, IOM, FAO, and UNFPA. Eight entities, including IAEA, ITC, UNDESA, UNECA, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, UNEP, and UNCTAD, operate without a physical presence. However, there have been a few notable shifts in the UN footprint. UN-Habitat has recently established a small liaison office in Uganda, which functions under the oversight of its Regional Office in Nairobi. Additionally, both UNODC and UNESCO have significantly expanded their in-country operations, nearly doubling their staff in response to a growing programme portfolio. These developments reflect a modest evolution in the UNCT's presence, aligned with emerging priorities and operational demands, while the overall structure has remained consistent.



29 SIGNATORIES AND MEMBERS OF THE UN COUNTRY TEAM

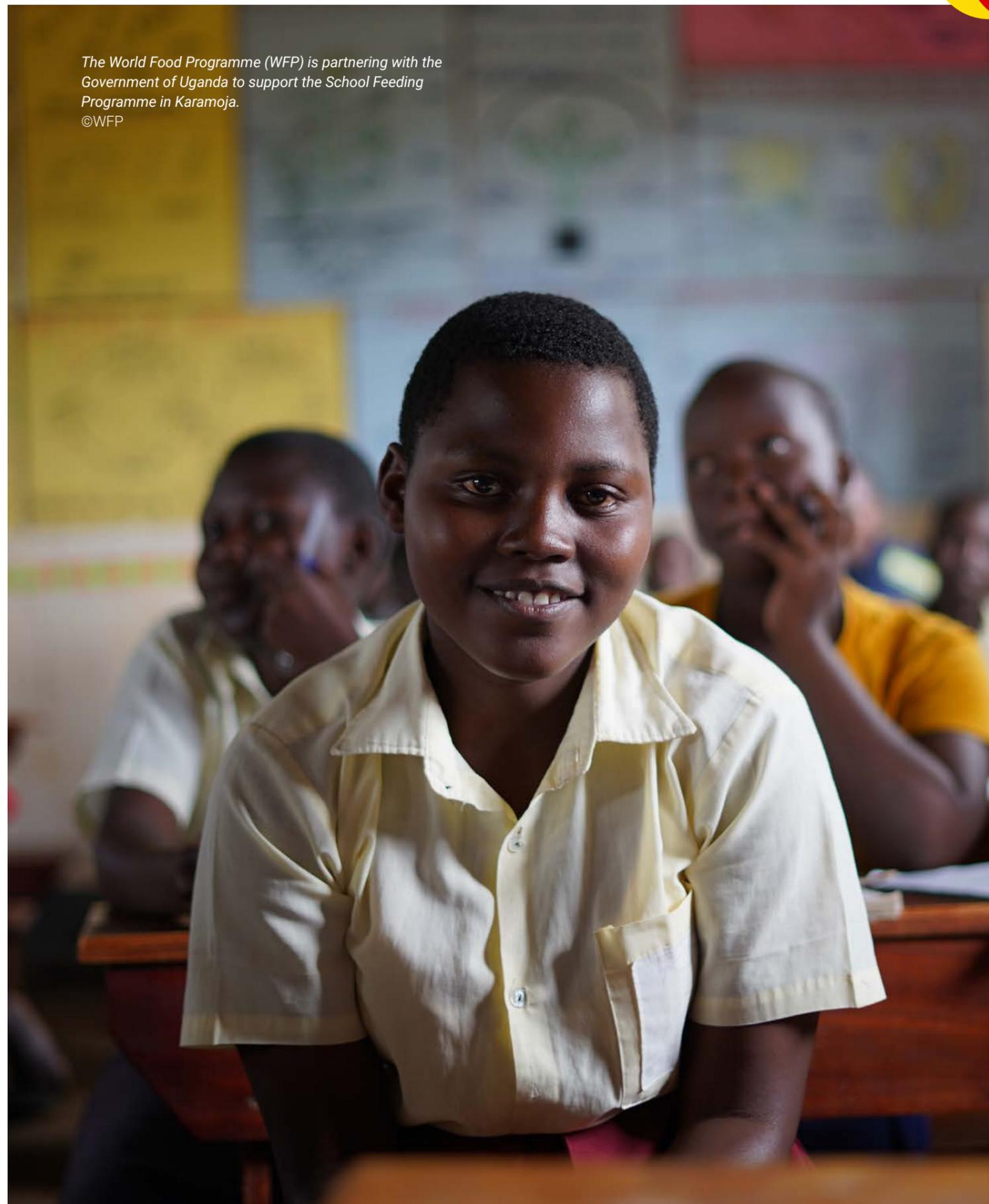
21 Physically Present

FAO Investing in rural people	International Labour Organization
IOM UN MIGRATION	rsce
UN WOMEN	UNAIDS
UN CDF	UN DP
UNDSS	unesco
United Nations Climate Change	UNFPA
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency	unicef for every child
UNIDO	UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	UN VOLUNTEERS
WFP World Food Programme	World Health Organization

8 Without physical presence

IAEA	International Trade Centre	DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
ECA	UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE	
UNDRR The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	UN environment programme	UNITED NATIONS UNCTAD

The World Food Programme (WFP) is partnering with the Government of Uganda to support the School Feeding Programme in Karamoja.
©WFP



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



In 2024, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Uganda significantly advanced its collaborative efforts with a diverse array of stakeholders, including government entities, traditional and non-traditional donors, private sector actors, civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These partnerships were instrumental in aligning with Uganda's national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The convening of the National Partnership Forum (NPF) served as a high-level platform for dialogue between the Government of Uganda and its Development Cooperation Partners. This forum facilitated discussions on strategic development issues and fostered mutual accountability. Additionally, the UNCT engaged with development partners through initiatives like the "Friends of UN at Core" enhancing collaboration and coherence among stakeholders.

The UNCT prioritized regular engagement with both traditional and non-traditional donors, as well as private sector partners, through mechanisms such as UNCT

retreats and the UN Partnership Sub-group. These interactions began yielding tangible results in early 2025, including the planning of a policy dialogue series and a national dialogue on 'Financing for Development.' This series, organized in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), National Planning Authority (NPA), and key donor partners (Denmark, EU, The Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK), aim to reimagine financing architectures to support Uganda's development priorities amidst global challenges like aid freezes and reviews by traditional partners. The dialogues are set to explore avenues such as strengthening domestic resource mobilization, accessing climate financing sources, implementing the Funding Compact, and advancing private capital development.

UN Agencies continued to strengthen partnerships with the private sector in programme delivery. Private sector partners contributed both in-kind support and financial resources, engaging with various national committees of UN Agencies. For instance, the Government of Japan collaborated closely with the UN Resident Coordinator's

Office for the Japan Supplementary Budget Programme (JSBP) allocations, enhancing UN coherence and strategic planning. The EU and the Netherlands sustained support for multi-partner programmes like the Spotlight Initiative and the Prospects Programme, involving agencies such as ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR; the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, KfW, Enabel, and the EU.

For the first time, partners collaborated to prepare a consolidated overview of humanitarian and development funding directed towards refugee response and hosting districts. Between 2018 and 2024, humanitarian funding amounted to approximately US\$2.91 billion, while development funding reached US\$2.09 billion across 158 development projects by 15 donors. In 2024 alone, an estimated US\$311 million was disbursed, targeting both the 1.8 million refugee population and their host communities.

The partnership between the UN and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), along with Humanitarian INGOs (HINGOs), was further solidified through the

Humanitarian Country Team - Light (HCT-L) mechanism. This collaboration was pivotal in mobilizing and delivering emergency responses to crises such as floods and health emergencies, including Mpox and Ebola outbreaks. HINGOs actively participated in preparing emergency appeals, coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), and were included in government-convened emergency coordination meetings, a testament to effective advocacy efforts.

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office(RCO) and UN Agencies worked in tandem with international partners, including the World Bank, Ireland, USAID, the UK, and the EU, to co-chair various Development Partners' Groups (DPGs). These included groups focusing on Education (UNICEF), Karamoja (FAO), and the Private Sector (RCO). UN engagement in these DPGs was instrumental in leveraging support for sectoral transformations, particularly in education and private sector development, aligning with the broader goal of achieving the SDGs.

1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Fishing boats docked at Katosi Landing Site, along the shores of Lake Victoria. FAO supports artisanal fishers with sustainable practices and better market access, for youth and women. ©FAO

1.1 KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Uganda's economic trajectory in 2024 was marked by a robust 6.0% GDP growth driven by post-COVID recovery in services, industry, and agriculture, with further acceleration anticipated from oil production commencing in 2025. However, external pressures, including the withdrawal of funding by major donors such as the US and World Bank in response to the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act, have heightened macroeconomic vulnerabilities. Inflation was contained at 3.9 per cent, but the Uganda shilling depreciated to UGX3,660 to US\$1 amid rising imports and declining reserves (2.9 months of import cover). Public debt rose to 46.8 per cent of GDP and is projected to hit 53 per cent by FY2025/26. Domestic borrowing, with treasury bond rates at 15–17 per cent, has driven up debt servicing costs to 33–40 per cent of revenue. Uganda's trade deficit expanded to US\$1.26 billion in Q4 2024, with exports under pressure due to the loss of AGOA access and new US tariffs. Nonetheless, Uganda has shifted focus to regional trade, with a notable 40 per cent growth in the Uganda-DRC corridor and rising exports to Nigeria under AfCFTA, positioning regional trade as a key strategy to mitigate aid dependence. Uganda's youthful population, comprising over 77 per cent under the age of 30, presents both a demographic dividend and a critical challenge, with a concerning 50.9 per cent of categorized as NEET—youth not in education, employment, or training—exacerbating vulnerabilities and impeding inclusive economic growth. Uganda's economic growth in recent years has been accompanied by persistent and deepening inequalities across income, gender, and regional lines. Gender disparities further exacerbate these inequalities. For instance, women often face norms and practices that limit their access to economic opportunities, contributing to higher poverty rates among female-headed households. Additionally, regional disparities are stark, with areas like Karamoja and Acholi experiencing poverty rates exceeding 60 per cent, compared to less than 10 per cent in regions like Kampala.



In Uganda, poor-quality diets that lack sufficient diversity undermine human capital development. To address this, the UN encourages both refugees and host communities to setup backyard gardens, enabling them to grow and harvest nutritious food that can supplement their diets. ©WFP

Corruption and illicit financial flows (IFFs) significantly impede Uganda's development efforts. The country loses approximately UGX 2 trillion annually to IFFs, including activities such as trade mis-invoicing, tax evasion, and money laundering. These losses undermine public service delivery and exacerbate inequality by diverting resources away from essential sectors like health and education. Crime rates decreased by 1.5 per cent, and advancements were made in women's participation in decision-making, reflected in their ranking on the Global WPS Index, 143rd of 177 countries.

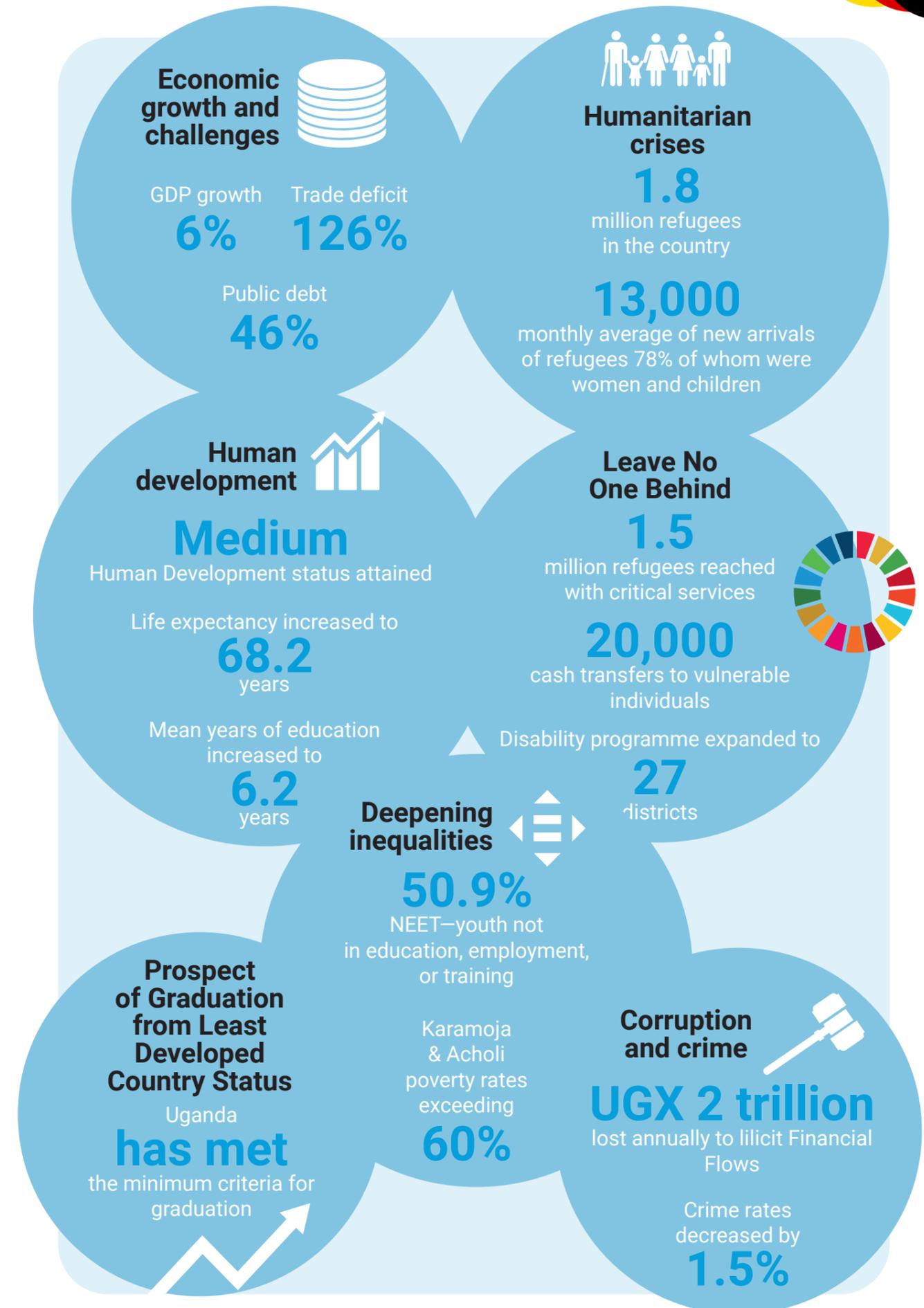
In 2024, Uganda fulfilled one of three criteria (human capital development) for potential graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. However, the process will be completed after the next global review in 2027. Moderate improvement was demonstrated in SDGs related to agriculture, health, energy, industry, and consumption/production patterns. Stagnation was experienced in poverty reduction, gender equality, water and sanitation, economic growth, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, peace, justice, and partnerships. A decline was noted in life on land, and insufficient data hindered progress measurements for quality education and life below water. The Government

prioritized prosperity and peace SDGs, while giving low priority to human development SDGs. Deforestation, land degradation, and water mismanagement exacerbated climate change vulnerability and negatively impacted agriculture.

Uganda's development trajectory was also influenced by external dynamics. Instabilities in neighbouring countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi created ripple effects felt within Uganda, particularly regarding refugee flows, regional security concerns, and potential economic disruptions.

Uganda continued to host a large refugee population, totaling 1.8 million, predominantly women and children facing reduced food rations, limited healthcare, GBV, and conflicts with host communities. Floods, landslides, and a Mpox outbreak in late 2024 further strained humanitarian efforts.

The UNCT configuration remained relatively stable in 2024. The UN's work shifted towards more medium-term resilience-building efforts, integrating humanitarian and development approaches. The UN also ramped up advocacy for increased funding for the humanitarian response.



2

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

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS RESULTS IN 2024

1,500

judicial officers trained on alternative dispute resolution

67

community justice centres established

16,000

women and youth trained in rights advocacy

255

Local Council members trained in GBV response

Transformative and Inclusive Governance



2.4

million hectares of natural resources sustainably managed

2,800

hectares of woodlot established

20,660

households adopted clean energy solutions

Environmental Sustainability



68,232

smallholder farmer trained in post-harvest management

1,439

farmers reached in family planning

Shared Prosperity in a Healthy Environment



9.7

million children received Vitamin A supplementation

1,542,063

new users from expanded family planning services

540,465

children provided with legal identities

Human Well-being and Resilience



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Leave No One Behind

800,000

refugees reached

Gender equality

\$800,000

cash transfers

Human Rights-Based

Programming **212** institutions

trained in disaggregated data collection

2.1.1 Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes, and outputs

In 2024 the UN Cooperation Framework (CF) implementation continued to be strategically aligned with the third National Development Plan (NDP III), the SDGs and the Six Global Transitions. It focused on three priorities: Transformative and Inclusive Governance; Shared Prosperity in a Healthy Environment; and Human Wellbeing and Resilience, with a strong focus on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). These strategic priorities aligned with and contributed to the SDGs for Uganda, Uganda's progress in delivering the Africa Agenda 2063 and its Vision 2040, addressing peace, justice, human rights, gender equality, and inequalities.

Transformative and Inclusive Governance emphasizes governance, gender equality and human rights. The CF aimed to foster inclusive and accountable governance systems and empower people to engage meaningfully in national development processes. The UN advanced efforts to strengthen institutional capacities at regional, national, and sub-national levels to promote human rights, equality, and non-discrimination. These included strengthening institutions and systems at all levels to deliver equitable services in line with national and international obligations. In 2024, 1,500 judicial officers were trained in alternative dispute resolution, benefiting over 250,000 citizens, while 67 community justice centres were established in conflict-prone areas. The UN supported capacity building for peace and security, training 16,000 women and youth in rights advocacy and 255 Local Council members in GBV response.

Shared Prosperity in a Healthy Environment underscores the UN's commitment to advancing sustainable development while promoting economic inclusion and environmental resilience. This priority aligned with Uganda's third National Development Plan (NDP III), the SDGs, and the six transitions framework adopted globally. The UN sought to ensure that people, especially the marginalized and vulnerable, benefited from increased productivity, decent employment, and equitable access to resources. The targeted initiatives focused on value chain enhancement, market access, and labour market transitions. In 2024, efforts to enhance value chain development led to improved post-harvest management for 68,232 small holder farmers, through the provision of 1,000 silos and training in sustainable farming practices. Additionally, 6,043 coffee farmers in Rwenzori and Buganda regions were equipped with skills in value addition, positioning them to secure better prices and access diversified markets.

UN UGANDA COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2024 PRIORITIES



TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE
Inclusive and accountable governance systems fostered and people empowered to meaningfully participate in national development processes.



SHARED PROSPERITY IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
People, especially the marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from increased productivity, decent employment, equitable access to resources, and sustainable management of resources.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Sustainable climate action and natural resource management strengthen biodiversity protection, expand clean energy access, and support resilient livelihoods for vulnerable populations.



HUMAN WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE
Equitable access to and utilization of quality basic social and protection services ensured for all, especially the vulnerable.



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

- Leaving No One Behind
- Gender Equality
- Human Rights



A woman from Rushasha Farmers Group skilfully winnows soybean, an essential step in post-harvest handling, Isingiro District, Western Uganda. ©ILO

Employment initiatives skilled 323 vulnerable youth, enhancing their employability in key sectors such as hospitality, agribusiness, and digital industries. The innovation hub at Makerere University, equipped with design labs and makerspaces, further facilitated youth engagement in green jobs and climate-smart enterprises. Additionally, inclusive agribusiness initiatives supported 5 cooperatives in West Nile and Isingiro, integrating 2,780 women and 1,167 men into structured agricultural value chains, thus promoting sustainable livelihoods. Furthermore, economic resilience initiatives targeted conflict-affected regions, with three markets constructed in Adjumani, Obongi, and Lamwo to support refugee and host community livelihoods. These actions align with SDGs 16, 5, and 10, promoting peace, justice, gender equality, and reduced inequalities.

Environmental sustainability remains at the forefront of UN efforts under this strategic priority, strengthening the capacity of public and private institutions and communities to sustainably manage natural resources and protect vital ecosystems. In 2024, 2.4 million hectares of natural resources were sustainably managed through restoration initiatives and alternative livelihood programmes in Karamoja, Moroto, and West Nile. The UN also supported the establishment of about 2,800 hectares of woodlot across 12 districts, contributing to climate change mitigation and promoting sustainable land management practices.

Climate action reached 1,439 farmers with climate-smart agriculture and established 70 acres of fruit and medicinal tree plantations in Ayilo and Nyumanzi, Adjumani District. Furthermore, the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) mechanism was rolled out in eight districts, enabling 270,000 beneficiaries to access climate information services and implement adaptation measures, including micro-watershed management and irrigation systems.

Clean energy access expanded in 2024, to 20,660 households in Teso, West Nile, and the Central Cattle Corridor. These households benefited from energy-saving innovations, including biogas units, gas cylinders to landslide-affected households, and the establishment of five communal energy-efficient hubs in Nakivale Refugee Settlement. Furthermore, the UN collaborated with 120 charcoal producers to introduce sustainable charcoal production practices, contributing to reduced deforestation and improved livelihoods.

Human Well-Being and Resilience is central to the UN's efforts to ensure that vulnerable populations in Uganda have access to essential services, including healthcare, education, social protection, and legal support. In 2024, the UN focused on strengthening institutional capacities to deliver inclusive and sustainable social services.

Health and nutrition interventions focused on enhancing resilience to health crises by improving preparedness, strengthening Non-Communicable Disease (NCD), undernutrition, and communicable disease response, and integrating climate adaptation in healthcare. In 2024, 9.7 million children received Vitamin A supplementation, while 5.1 million caregivers were trained in infant and young child feeding. Digital health solutions were scaled up to expand service delivery, contributing to improved health outcomes, particularly in refugee and crisis-affected areas. Additionally, the UN expanded family planning services, resulting in 1,542,063 new users, with 4,041,917 contraceptives distributed, achieving 67% Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) commodity availability.

On **inclusion and non-discrimination**, the UN continued to advocate for policy reforms and strengthened regulatory frameworks to address systemic barriers in social service delivery. This included supporting the development of the National Social Protection Strategy (2024) and the National Shock Responsive Framework (2024), which outline strategies for building resilience among vulnerable populations. Additionally, the Disability Health Services Guidelines and the National Community Health Services Guidelines were finalized, promoting inclusive health service delivery for all.

Education initiatives included equipping 126,836 adolescents, including refugees and those with disabilities with market-driven 21st-century skills and training 52,365 children in pre-primary learning. The rollout of the National Parenting Manual reached 50,000 caregivers, promoting positive parenting practices and reducing incidences of child neglect and abuse. Additionally, 540,465 children gained legal identity through birth registration, ensuring that all children are accounted for and have access to essential services.

Cross-cutting themes in Leave No One Behind (LNOB), gender equality, and human rights-based programming included reaching 1.2 million refugees with essential services and expanding disability-inclusive programming to 27 districts. Cash transfers totaling US\$800,000 benefited over 20,000 vulnerable individuals. Additionally, data-driven decision-making was prioritized through training of 212 institutions in disaggregated data collection. These efforts contribute to aligning CF interventions with Uganda's NDP III, the Six Transitions Framework, and regional strategies such as the EAC Vision 2050 and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Looking ahead, the UNCT will deepen its partnerships, leverage innovative financing mechanisms, and prioritize data-driven decision-making to ensure that no one is left behind in Uganda's development journey.



A thriving passion fruit crop in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, supported through FAO's refugee response in Uganda. ©FAO

2.2

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Students participate in digital skilling programmes at the KCCA Skilling Facility in Nakasero. ©UNDP



UGANDA'S PROGRESS



Public Financial Management

Primary government expenditure

Achieved
78.9%
of approved budget



Women's Political Representation

Parliament

Women held
33%
of seats

Local Councils (LC1-C5)

Women held
46% of seats
Target
44%



Governance Index

Overall score improved

49.1%
Target
60%

Key drivers
Participation, rights and inclusion, security and rule of law, economic opportunity



Peace and Security

Uganda re-elected to AU Peace and Security Council

PARTICIPATING UN AGENCIES



KEY IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

GoU
Electoral Commission, Judiciary, MfKA, MGLSD, MIA, MoDVA, MoJCA, MoLG, MoFA, MoFPED, NCF, NPA, NPC, ODPP, OPM, Parliament, UBOS, UHRC, Uganda Prisons, ULRC, UPF, URA, UWA.

NGOs
AFI, AFIC, AGDHI, ASF, Better World, CSBAG, CIPESA, CroAct, FIA, GARD, IRCU, JNLC, LASPNET, LCF, NDF, Riam Riam, ULS, UYDEL, UWSR, VEDCO, Warrior Squad, WIPC, WNPA, WSF.

Academia
Economic Policy Research Centre, Makerere University, Muni University.



Participants at the Kabaka birthday run whose theme was on Men for Good Health to Save the Girl Child and End AIDS by 2030. ©UNAIDS

2.2.1.1. Strengthening Institutions and Systems for Effective and Accountable Service Delivery



Contributing Agencies

UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, UN Global Pulse, ILO, UNODC

Enhancing Policy and Legal Frameworks for Inclusive Development

In 2024, Uganda achieved significant progress in establishing policy and legal frameworks to promote democracy, accountability, and equitable development. Eight frameworks were developed and implemented, aligning national priorities with international human rights standards and sustainable development objectives. The third National Development Plan (NDP III) and the Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs) continued to be strategically rolled out to promote sustainable growth, focusing on sectoral integration, economic inclusivity, and pro-poor policies.

Building on the NDP III achievements, seven priority programmes were successfully implemented, further promoting coordinated development efforts across key

sectors. The Alternative Justice Strategy in the West Nile, Eastern, and Rwenzori regions marked a pivotal milestone in expanding access to justice. This initiative increased case disposal rates from 60 per cent to 75 per cent, reducing backlogs and providing vulnerable populations with timely access to legal services.

A roadmap for ratifying Occupational Safety and Health Conventions 155 and 187 was developed, setting the groundwork for stronger worker protections and improved workplace safety standards. Uganda also enhanced its legal frameworks for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and Firearms Protocols, facilitating the use of the Regional Electronic Virtual Monitoring and Data Platform (REVMOD) to effectively monitor and track transnational crime.

Advancing Data Governance and Evidence-Based Policymaking

Data governance emerged as a critical pillar in 2024, with the establishment of a National Data Strategy designed to improve data management, policy formulation, and service delivery. This empowered institutions at both national and subnational levels to make evidence-based decisions, ensuring that resources were effectively allocated to priority areas.

Furthermore, the Parish Development Model (PDM) and agricultural marketing initiatives received targeted support, fostering local economic development and

generating income streams for marginalized communities. In tandem, the National Action Plan for Human Rights was developed, integrating a shock response framework to address vulnerabilities during crises.

A framework for social care and service support was also formulated, strengthening social protection systems and expanding access to essential services for at-risk populations. This rights-based approach ensured that the most vulnerable were included in national development efforts, aligning with Uganda's commitment to the SDGs.

Improving Governance and Service Delivery at the Subnational Level

At the subnational level, 59.7 percent of Local Governments showed improved governance and service delivery as reported in the 2024 Local Government Performance Assessment. This positive trend was underpinned by targeted interventions aimed at enhancing institutional capacities.

Data management equipment was provided to eight districts, enabling more accurate data collection, analysis, and dissemination. Additionally, 23 District Statistics Committees (DSCs) were reactivated to facilitate the production of reliable statistics, essential for evidence-based planning and decision-making.

Gender and equity-responsive budgeting and planning were prioritized in 19 districts, aligning local development plans with NDP III. This included the integration of gender

equality and child labour interventions, contributing to more inclusive governance frameworks. Benefiting districts such as Butebo, Hoima City, Kapchorwa, Kasese, Kyankwanzi, and Nakasongola demonstrated substantial progress due to these efforts.

Optimizing Functional Management Information Systems

Functional management information systems were developed and optimized, significantly enhancing data-driven policymaking and service delivery. Local governance processes were digitized, improving efficiency and enabling real-time data analysis.

Financial and technical support facilitated the enhancement of Uganda's Information Management Systems (IMs), focusing on data collection, processing, and analysis to inform policy direction. A harmonized data management system was established in partnership with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), encompassing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Disability and Development (DD) indicators. This system enabled targeted interventions and well-coordinated responses to emerging challenges.

Expanding Access to Justice and Legal Support

Access to justice was significantly improved in 2024 through targeted UN interventions. Video conferencing systems were installed in courts and prisons, reducing trial delays and expanding access to justice for those in remote or conflict-affected areas. This initiative proved particularly effective in ensuring that vulnerable populations could participate in legal proceedings without physical barriers.

Furthermore, the civil registry of social protection beneficiaries was upgraded, ensuring accurate identification and support for the most vulnerable populations. This comprehensive registry enhances social protection targeting, facilitating timely access to essential services for marginalized groups.

Non-state institution capacity strengthened

The capacities of two non-state institutions were significantly strengthened for advocacy and engagement in governance and development.



Satisfaction with public services

63% of the population reported satisfaction with their last experience of public services.



Individuals registered with legal identity

189,522 chilbirths registered

49.8% of registrations for girls



Access to justice improved

A moderate number of people gained access to justice.



2.2.1.2 Empowering Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups through Governance and Development

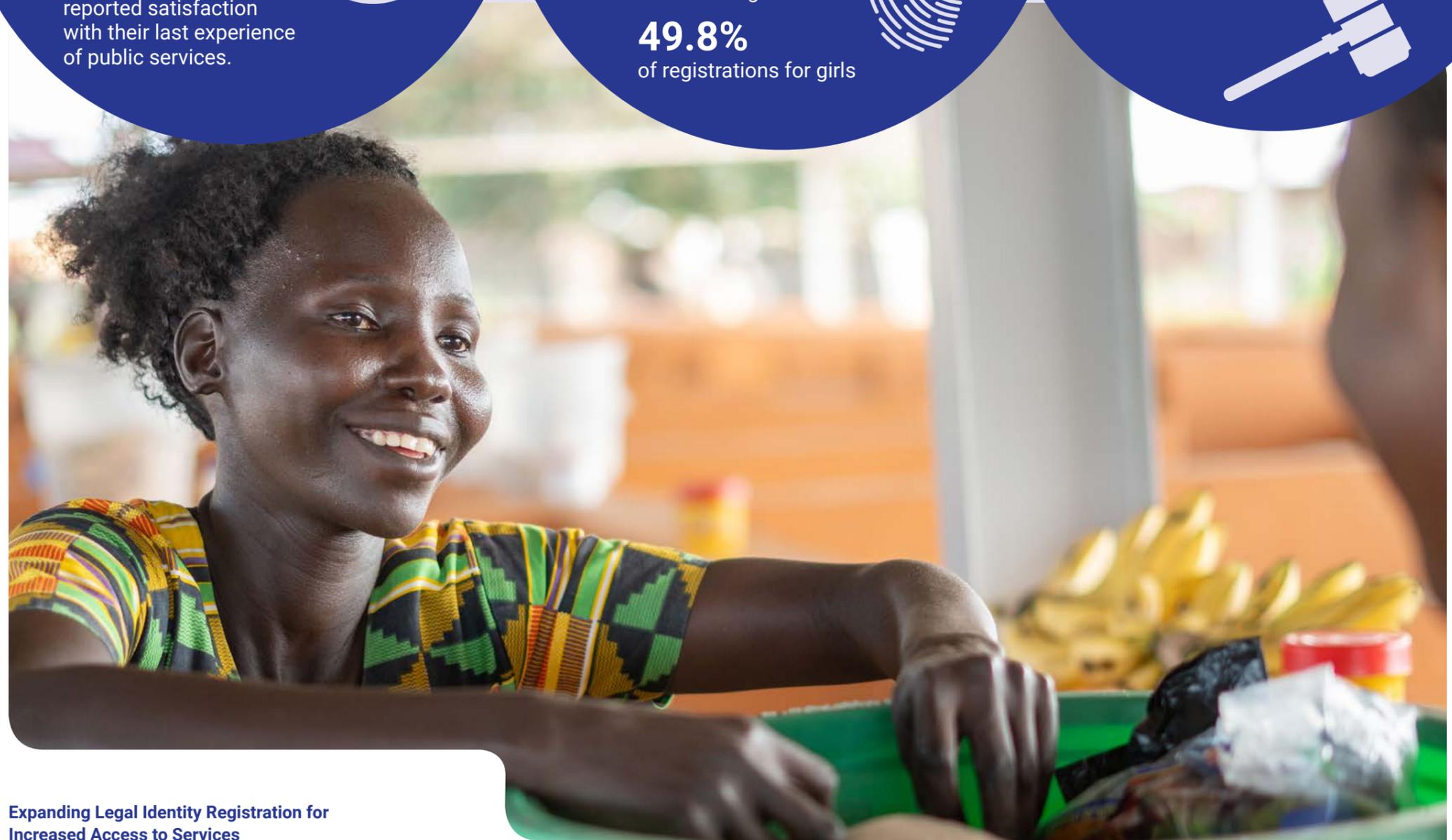


Strengthening Non-State Institutions for Policy Advocacy and Reform

In 2024, the United Nations played a pivotal role in enhancing the capacities of two key non-state institutions to effectively participate in governance and policy reform processes at both national and subnational levels. The Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection received targeted support to amplify its advocacy for social protection policy reforms, ensuring that the voices of vulnerable populations are included in critical policy discussions. Similarly, the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) was empowered to enforce the Certificate for Gender and Equity, increasing its influence on gender-responsive budgeting and policymaking. This support significantly increased the advocacy capabilities of these institutions' ability to engage in legislative processes and contributed to a more inclusive governance landscape.

Improving Access to Public Services and Judicial Reforms

The United Nations also contributed to enhanced public service delivery, as evidenced by the JLOS Report 2024, which revealed that 63 per cent of the population reported satisfaction with their last public service experience. This progress was driven by initiatives, including the establishment of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms that provided accessible and efficient means for resolving disputes. Additionally, the introduction of Video Conferencing Systems (VCS) in courts improved access to justice, particularly for people in remote areas, while Open Court Days promoted transparency and public participation in the judicial process. Moreover, the HiIL survey report indicated that 69 per cent of the population expressed satisfaction with justice services.



Expanding Legal Identity Registration for Increased Access to Services

Significant strides were made in expanding access to legal identity documentation, a critical step toward ensuring inclusive service delivery and protecting the rights of vulnerable populations.

The National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), with the support of the UN, upgraded its mobile vital record system to extend registration services to underserved communities. Consequently, 189,522 chilbirths were successfully registered, with 49.8 per cent of these registrations being for girls. This initiative not only facilitated the inclusion of marginalized populations in national systems but also provided the foundation for enhanced access to essential services and social protection programmes.

Expanding Access to Justice and Legal Support

In 2024, UN supported initiatives significantly improved access to justice for vulnerable populations; 7,586 individuals (4,319 women, 3,267 men) received legal representation and support, ensuring that marginalized groups could exercise their legal rights effectively. Legal support was extended to 33,732 inmates, with 9,902 individuals released through bail, mitigating overcrowding in correctional facilities and facilitating reintegration into society. These efforts reflect the UN's commitment to advancing equitable access to justice and safeguarding the legal rights of all citizens, particularly those at risk of exclusion from legal processes.

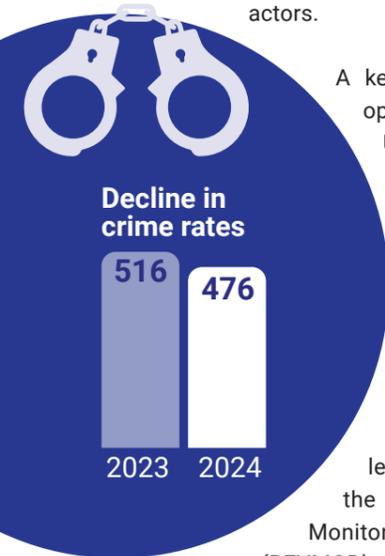
UNDP and KOICA have constructed community markets in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi, stimulating trade and promoting peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities.
©UNDP

2.2.1.3 Strengthening the Capacity of State and Non-State Actors to Sustain Peace and Security

Contributing Agencies
UNDP, UN Women, WFP

Reducing Crime and Enhancing Public Safety

In 2024, Uganda registered a notable decline in crime rates, with the number of victims per 100,000 people dropping from 516 in 2023 to 476 in 2024, as reported in the Annual Police Crime Report 2024. This reduction was the result of targeted interventions supported by the UN in collaboration with government and non-state actors.



A key focus was the review and operationalization of the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) Mechanism and Firearms Protocols, which enhanced the country's legal frameworks and enforcement capabilities. Stakeholders in the police and prosecution sectors received extensive training, equipping them to address legal gaps and effectively use the Regional Electronic Virtual Monitoring and Data Platform (REVMOD) to monitor transnational crime activities.

Community policing initiatives also played a crucial role in the reduction of crime. Programmes implemented in Northern, Eastern, and Western Uganda focused on combating substance abuse and preventing recruitment into violent extremist groups. Additionally, peace ambassadors were commissioned in schools, promoting anti-crime messaging and substance abuse prevention among young people.

Maritime security was also prioritized, with 22 officers (19 men, 3 women) receiving specialized training in Entebbe on detecting and preventing transnational organized crime through enhanced border security measures. A regional survey involving 409 community members (193 women, 216 men) and 20 key informants (2 women, 18 men) in areas such as Kasensero, Jinja, and Port Bell helped identify emerging threats and community vulnerabilities.



Dialogue with top police leadership of the Uganda Police Forces on the burden of HIV and the importance of removal of barriers for Uganda to achieve the 2030 targets. ©UNAIDS

At the regional level, 66 Regional Working Group officials (59 men, 7 women) participated in integrated border governance meetings in the Lake Victoria region, strengthening cross-border security coordination and information sharing. These interventions collectively contributed to a safer and more secure environment, through a cohesive crime reduction strategy.

Strengthening Public Confidence in Security Systems

The Governance and Security Report 2024 indicated that 90 per cent of the public expressed confidence in the national security system, an increase from previous years. This result was attributed to the implementation of community policing initiatives in partnership with the UN.

In Northern, Eastern, and Western Uganda, community policing programmes were instrumental in fostering stronger relationships between security personnel and local communities. This approach ensured timely responses to community grievances and effective reporting of criminal activity, contributing to a reduction in crime rates and a safer public environment. These initiatives underscored the impact of community-driven security strategies, highlighting the importance of public engagement and responsive policing in maintaining law and order.

Building a Functional Infrastructure for Peace

Uganda made significant strides in establishing a robust infrastructure for peace, supported by the UN and its partners. The operationalization of the third National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP III WPS) was a pivotal achievement, with Local Action Plans (LAPs) developed by District Local Governments to address gender-based violence, promote conflict resolution, and foster social cohesion.

Peace dialogues were conducted in high-risk areas such as Moroto, Kaabong, and Kotido, to address inter-district and cross-border conflicts, including implementation of the Lokirama Peace Accord. These dialogues were crucial in preventing the escalation of conflicts and strengthening communal bonds.

Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) was another key area of focus. Joint efforts between military forces and local communities improved public perceptions, reduced tensions, and promoted peaceful coexistence. The capacity of Peace Committees, Security Personnel, and Disaster Management Committees was also strengthened



through targeted training, leading to improved early warning systems for peace and security.

Coordination mechanisms were further reinforced through quarterly district security committee meetings and community dialogues, providing a platform for stakeholders to discuss emerging threats and jointly develop solutions.

Youth-led peace initiatives were also prioritized, particularly in Karamoja, where 1,266 peace actors (924 women, 342 men) were engaged in peacebuilding activities during the 9th Karamoja Cultural Event.

A cash-for-work programme was implemented to promote peace and stability through economic opportunities, distributing US\$480,000 to 10,137 individuals. This initiative reduced and offered a constructive alternative to violence and criminal activity.



A local entrepreneur in his processing plant in Mubende shows biomass residue used for briquette making, part of efforts to promote value addition and reduce post-harvest losses in Uganda's forestry work. This is part of FAO's forestry interventions in Uganda. ©FAO



Procurement injected
US\$5.2
million

7,182
metric tonnes
of food

90%
locally
sourced

Livelihood and Market Development for Conflict Response

Addressing the economic drivers of conflict was a key component of the UN's peace and security strategy in 2024. The UN, in partnership with local governments, constructed and launched three markets in Ciforo (Adjumani), Dongo (Obongi), and Jerusalem (Lamwo) to support livelihoods for both refugees and host communities.

Standardized Market Functionality Assessments were conducted across 60 markets, informing targeted actions to stabilize commodity prices and improve market access. To further enhance economic resilience, retailers were trained in commodity price stabilization and participated in quarterly Retailer Performance Monitoring and Evaluation exercises. District-level market coordination working groups were established, bringing together wholesalers and retailers to negotiate fair prices and ensure stable supply chains. A notable innovation was the development of a low-cost, off-grid, zero-emissions evaporative cooling chamber, in collaboration with Muni University, aimed at extending the shelf life of fresh foods in rural markets. This intervention not only addressed post-harvest losses but also promoted climate-smart agricultural practices.

Promoting Strategic Procurement and Food Security

Strategic procurement was a critical aspect of the UN's conflict response efforts, injecting US\$ 5.2 million into the local economy through the purchase of 7,182 metric tonnes of food commodities from Ugandan suppliers. This initiative ensured that 90 per cent of distributed food was locally sourced, promoting local economic development while addressing immediate food security needs in conflict-prone regions.

A total of US\$46.7 million in cash transfers and 33,193 metric tonnes of food was distributed to refugees and other crisis affected people in Uganda enabling them to have access to adequate nutritious food. The UN also provided nutritious hot meals to 233,869 children attending school in 320 schools in Karamoja.

By aligning these initiatives with SDG 16, the UN continued to foster a secure, resilient, and inclusive environment conducive to sustainable development and conflict prevention.



Hawa Muhamed Adam, her daughter Yusha Zakeria, and their grandchildren, all Sudanese refugees, await relocation at Kiryandongo Reception Center. ©UNHCR

SUCCESS STORY

Uganda: A Global Model for Refugee Protection

In a world where borders are increasingly fortified and refugee rights often contested; Uganda stands out as a powerful exception—an unlikely beacon of hope in the heart of Africa. With over 1.8 million refugees hosted within its borders by the end of 2024, Uganda is home to one of the largest refugee populations globally. Yet what makes Uganda exceptional is not just the numbers—it is the approach.

Unlike many of its neighbors and wealthier countries across the globe, Uganda's refugee model is rooted in inclusivity, dignity, and opportunity. Here, refugees are not just sheltered; they are integrated. They are not just hosted; they are empowered.

This unique approach is anchored in Uganda's progressive Refugee Act of 2006 and the Refugee Regulations of 2010, which provide one of the most open asylum frameworks in the world. Refugees in Uganda have the right to work, to move freely, to own property, and to access public services such as education and healthcare rights rarely granted in other countries.

Behind this generosity lies a combination of historical empathy and deliberate policy. Uganda's own history of conflict and displacement has instilled a culture of solidarity. But empathy alone doesn't sustain a refugee response. Through the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), Uganda has fused its humanitarian approach with development planning, making refugees

a recognized part of national systems. Refugees are integrated into local education, health, and water systems, and are included in Uganda's third National Development Plan (NDP) and Parish Development Model.

This inclusive model has attracted broad international support. Despite the challenges faced in 2024, there were remarkable achievements and progress made. Following the success of the Global Refugee Forum at the end of 2023, where \$240.7 million was pledged to Uganda, we saw strong support for the Government's progressive commitments to the refugee situation.

Uganda's approach is not only morally compelling it is strategic. By enabling self-reliance, Uganda reduces long-term dependence on aid and fosters peaceful coexistence between host communities and refugees. With the support of the UN system, including the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Uganda has championed the humanitarian-development nexus, attracting global praise and sustainable investments in refugee-hosting districts.

Still, challenges remain. Uganda's generosity is under pressure from resource constraints, infrastructure gaps, and competing global crises. Yet, its continued commitment to refugee protection, even amidst its own socio-economic limitations, remains a moral north star for the region and the world.

As the global community searches for sustainable and humane refugee solutions, Uganda's story provides a powerful lesson: that dignity, opportunity, and inclusion can coexist—and that even nations with limited resources can lead with vision and compassion.

2.3.1

Increased productivity, decent employment and equal right to resources

Collaborating Partners

Government of Uganda (MAAIF), Local Governments, CSOs, Private Sector

Empowering Farmers through Access to Water and Irrigation Systems

The UN, in partnership with the Government of Uganda, Local Governments, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), implemented targeted interventions to mitigate the impact of climate variability on agriculture.

A major achievement was the provision of 32 small-scale irrigation kits and the renovation of hand-pumped boreholes in arid and semi-arid regions, including West Nile, Karamoja, Teso, and western Uganda. This intervention directly benefited approximately 40,000 farmers (16,000 males, 24,000 females), equipping them with the tools needed to increase crop and livestock production, improve food security, and expand income-generating opportunities.

The introduction of reliable water access transformed livelihoods, enabling farmers to withstand droughts and other climate-related shocks more effectively. This intervention significantly reduced the burden of water collection, a responsibility often shouldered by women and girls, thus freeing up time for other productive activities such as education, small business ventures, and community participation.

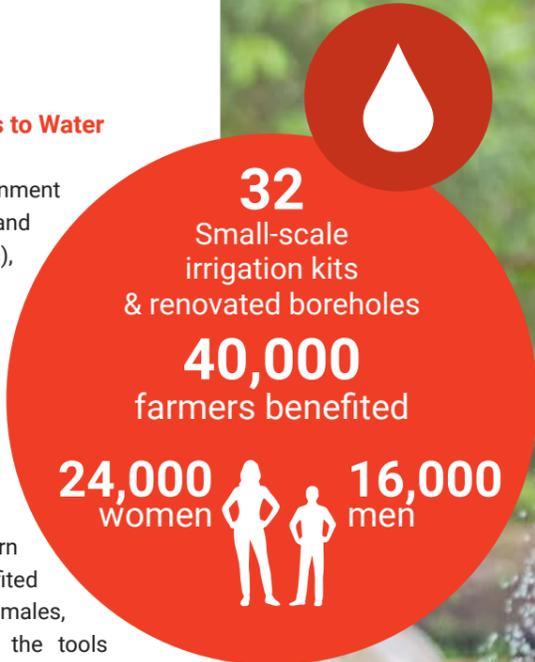
Expanding Access to Quality Inputs and Training in Agronomic Practices

To boost agricultural productivity, the UN, in collaboration with the government and development partners, facilitated access to improved seeds for staple crops, fruits, and vegetables for 15,792 farming households, benefiting about 95,753 people (57,451 women, 38,302 men).

In addition to distributing inputs, farmers received training in agronomic practices, focusing on crop rotation, soil management, and pest control. This knowledge transfer was crucial in maximizing yields, reducing losses, and integrating farmers more effectively



A farmer waters coffee seedlings in Luwero District. The Coffee nursery is supported by FAO through the Climate Change Programme for promoting a climate-resilient coffee value chain. ©FAO



Expanding Market Access and Value Addition

Improving market access was a key focus of the UN's intervention strategy in 2024. By forming cooperatives and promoting value-addition processes, 5,679 coffee farmers (3,262 women, 2,417 men) in the Rwenzori and Buganda subregions were empowered to secure better prices for their coffee.

Training on branding, packaging, and quality control helped farmers improve their products and negotiate higher prices. As a result, farmers collectively increased their incomes to US\$744,632, significantly improving their household economic stability.

The value-addition initiative also focused on equipping farmers with post-harvest management skills, targeting 26,000 farmers across multiple regions. Training in safe storage practices reduced losses and preserved incomes, strengthening the agricultural sector's resilience.

Empowering Vulnerable Women through Cooperatives

In Karamoja, the UN extended targeted support to four cooperatives focused on vulnerable women, enabling them to engage in commercial agriculture on 843 acres. This initiative provided women with the resources and opportunities to participate meaningfully in agriculture, promoting economic inclusion and empowerment.

Additionally, the intervention facilitated the formation of market linkages, enabling women to access broader markets and secure better prices for their produce. This initiative not only provided a pathway to economic empowerment but also served as a catalyst for social cohesion, reinforcing the role of women as vital contributors to community development.

Building Resilience through Coffee Value Addition

The UN's intervention in 2024 further strengthened the coffee value chain, targeting 5,679 coffee farmers (3,262 women, 2,417 men) with training in processing, branding and packaging to meet market standards and command higher prices.

This support was instrumental in mitigating the impact of economic shocks, enabling farmers to better withstand market fluctuations and other financial challenges. By emphasizing value addition, the UN not only increased incomes but also promoted greater economic resilience among coffee-producing communities.

into agricultural value chains. By investing in both inputs and capacity-building, the UN laid a solid foundation for sustainable agricultural development, enhancing productivity while promoting climate-resilient farming practices.

Safeguarding Livelihoods from Climate Shocks

The UN supported the rollout of weather-based index insurance. In partnership with the government, 154 smallholder farmers (70 women, 84 men), were covered, protecting 266 acres of farmland.

This insurance scheme served as a safety net against crop losses caused by adverse weather events, such as droughts and floods. It enabled farmers to invest more confidently in their farms, knowing they were protected from financial ruin in case of extreme weather. This intervention not only increased resilience to climate shocks but also encouraged farmers to adopt improved agricultural practices, ultimately contributing to greater agricultural productivity and economic stability.



UNDP private sector partner and youth innovator Helton Traders has been supported to transform plastic waste into textiles. ©UNDP

2.3.2 Expanding Access to Innovative Practices, Technologies, and Resources for Decent Employment and Livelihoods

Collaborating Partners
 Opportunity Bank, KCCA, TEXFAD Limited, Government of Uganda, Local Governments, CSOs, Private Sector

Strengthening Cooperatives for Economic Empowerment

The UN, in collaboration with the Government of Uganda and CSOs, implemented strategic interventions to strengthen the capacity of five cooperatives in 2024. The cooperatives, comprising 2,780 women and 1,167 men, included Maecora Arua Cooperative Society and Nzayia United Farmers Group in West Nile, as well as three farmer cooperatives in Isingiro District – Rwekanyisa United Farmers’ Cooperative, Rubondo United Farmers’ Cooperative, and Rushasha Farmers Association.

This initiative directly impacted 1,560 refugees and 2,387 host community members, enhancing their capacity to increase productivity, improving market access, and diversifying income-generating activities. This initiative strengthened rural economies and social cohesion by empowering vulnerable groups through cooperative models.

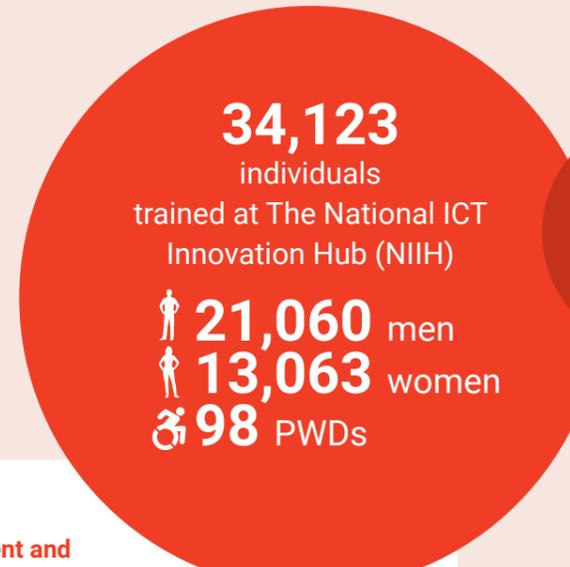
Expanding Financial Inclusion through Localized Banking Services

The UN partnered with Opportunity Bank to establish 25 bank agent points, bringing banking services closer to refugee communities. These agents facilitated over 26,000 transactions, amounting to a total volume of UGX8.5 billion, demonstrating the significant demand for financial services in these areas.

This initiative reduced travel time, enabled savings and credit access, and promoted financial inclusion as a pathway to economic empowerment and poverty reduction.

Enhancing Value Chains through Local Business Support

The UN’s focus on strengthening agricultural value chains included targeted support to 10 MSMEs in Kiryandongo, equipping them with quality inputs that were then supplied to local farmers. This approach strengthened agricultural value chains, improved access to inputs, and created income opportunities for both businesses and farmers – boosting productivity and regional economic resilience.



Skill Development and Job Creation for Youth

Recognizing the potential of young people as drivers of economic growth and innovation, the UN partnered with KCCA and TEXFAD, to provide 323 vulnerable youth with practical skills and industry certifications.

The UN launched seven multimedia digital skilling courses, focusing on the Culture and Creative Industries, aimed at enhancing the employability of youth in emerging sectors. The Mak-UniPod innovation hub at Makerere University, equipped with maker spaces, a design lab, and a Technology Transfer Office- supported 33 innovations.

At Kabale University, a Potato Value Addition Facility was established to promote agri-based innovation. Additionally,

The National ICT Innovation Hub (NIIH) was refurbished and equipped, providing training to 34,123 individuals (21,060 males, 13,063 females, and 98 PWDs) in marketable digital skills. Moreover, the Second Chance Education initiative enabled 405 women and girls to acquire marketable skills, empowering them to pursue employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in competitive markets.

Promoting Digital Transformation and Market Access

The UN advanced digital transformation by launching the “Hidden Uganda” digital marketing platform, showcasing Uganda’s unique attractions and trade opportunities to enhance its presence in global markets.

Uganda’s engagement in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), including the lifting of visa restrictions with Mozambique, expanded regional trade opportunities and boosted economic collaboration.



Empowering Women in the Mining Sector

Economic empowerment for women was a key focus in 2024, particularly in the mining sector. The UN provided US\$50,000 in grants to women entrepreneurs, aimed at supporting value addition and business growth. This funding enabled women to scale up their mining activities, improve product quality, and secure higher prices in competitive markets.

By prioritizing support for women entrepreneurs, the UN fostered greater economic inclusion and financial stability, aligning with broader goals of gender equality and women’s economic empowerment.

Expanding Market Access and Enhancing Trade Visibility

The “Hidden Uganda” platform and AfCFTA integration collectively enhanced Uganda’s global visibility and market access. These initiatives connected local producers with international buyers and created new cross-border trade linkages, supporting inclusive economic growth and regional cooperation.

2.3.3

Strengthening Public and Private Sector Capacity for Increased Investments and Responsive Policies

Collaborating Partners

Government of Uganda (MAAIF, NARO, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development), Private Sector, Financial Institutions, SDGs Secretariat, CSOs, Media

Facilitating Labour Market Integration and Economic Inclusion

In 2024, the UN implemented strategic interventions to support 6,163 individuals (3,131 males, 3,032 females) in transitioning to the labour market through comprehensive skilling programs and labour market intermediary services. These interventions encompassed vocational training, employment-intensive investment programmes (EIIP), work-based learning, and the recognition of prior learning and qualifications.

A notable component was i-UPSHIFT, a platform designed to nurture entrepreneurs and foster youth-led enterprises. By equipping participants with market-relevant skills and entrepreneurial capabilities, the UN helped beneficiaries to secure employment, launch businesses, and contribute to the local economy, thereby reducing unemployment and fostering economic inclusion.

Strengthening Policy Frameworks for Agricultural Productivity

The UN's commitment to improving agricultural productivity in Uganda was demonstrated through the development of key regulatory frameworks and action plans aimed at safeguarding food security and enhancing agricultural value chains.

A significant milestone was the drafting of a bill to establish the Food and Agriculture Authority, aimed at regulating agricultural inputs and ensuring food safety from production to market.

Additionally, the UN facilitated the development of an action plan for aflatoxin control campaign, raising awareness among farmers and processors to reduce crop contamination and economic losses.

In Kiryandongo District, the UN supported the development of a maize ordinance action plan, to promote grain quality standards and support market access.

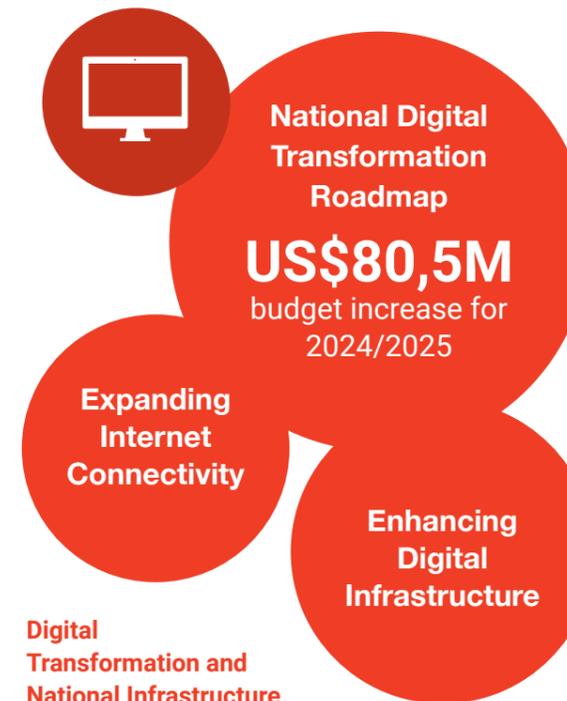


Enimiro is a Kayunga-based company that connects smallholder farmers to the international market by buying from them vanilla, pineapples and jackfruit and processes them for an international market.
©IFAD/Jumba Martin

Improving Agricultural Practices and Expanding Access to Resources

The UN, in collaboration with MAAIF and NARO, developed a comprehensive passion fruit production manual and a passion fruit nursery establishment and management manual. These resources enabled farmers to adopt the best practices for higher yields and better-quality produce.

The UN's intervention extended to the provision of training and resources for MSMEs in the agricultural sector, equipping them with the tools to supply quality inputs to farmers and participate more effectively in value chains. This approach enhanced the capacity of local businesses and ensured that farmers had consistent access to essential inputs, thereby reducing production costs and increasing profitability.



Digital Transformation and National Infrastructure Development

In a significant move towards digital transformation, the UN supported the development of the National Digital Transformation Roadmap, aligning it with the third National Development Plan (NDP III). This strategic framework facilitated a US\$80.5 million budget increase for 2024/25, earmarked for expanding internet connectivity and digital infrastructure.

The roadmap prioritized improved service delivery, transparency, and accountability, creating a robust framework for integrating digital solutions into governance and public administration. This initiative bridged the digital divide and laid the groundwork for inclusive digital economies, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Promoting SDG Financing and Enhancing Coordination

In collaboration with the Government of Uganda, the UN played a pivotal role in advancing SDG financing and coordination through the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), mobilizing US\$27.6 million in public and private resources.

The UN co-hosted the Third Annual Uganda National SDG Conference, providing a platform for local actors, development partners, and minor stakeholders to engage in government-related projects. This approach fostered dialogue, promoted SDG localization, and ensured that even the most marginalized communities were included in national development efforts.

Boosting Trade, Investment, and Tourism

To enhance Uganda's global visibility, the UN launched the "Hidden Uganda" platform, showcasing the country's tourism assets and investment opportunities.

Additionally, the UN facilitated the Elgon Half Marathon, a high-profile event designed to promote regional tourism and attract local and international visitors, further enhancing Uganda's economic visibility.

Furthermore, the UN played a strategic role in developing six market penetration strategies, targeting Algeria, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, South Africa, and the Central African Republic – opening new trade corridors and strengthening export capacity.

Fostering Gender-Responsive Policies in MSMEs

To promote gender equity and inclusive economic policies, the UN conducted ten gender-responsive studies, focusing on the mining, trade, and e-commerce sectors. These studies provided data on the challenges faced by women and marginalized groups in MSMEs.

The findings from these studies were incorporated into policy frameworks, ensuring that gender considerations were mainstreamed into economic policies, thereby creating a more equitable business environment for all.

Strengthening Regional Trade and Investment

The UN supported the East African Trade and Investment Forum, bringing together stakeholders to explore regional trade opportunities and economic collaboration. Additionally, the UN facilitated Uganda's participation in the AfCFTA framework, leading to the removal of visa restrictions with Mozambique, effectively promoting cross-border trade and economic collaboration.

Improving Working Conditions in the Construction Sector

In response to the growing demand for regulatory oversight in the construction sector, the UN supported the development of the Building Substances Bill, a comprehensive legal framework aimed at regulating construction practices and improving employment conditions for workers.

This bill seeks to standardize construction materials, promote safe working environments, and enforce labour regulations, ensuring that workers in the sector are protected from exploitation and hazardous working conditions.

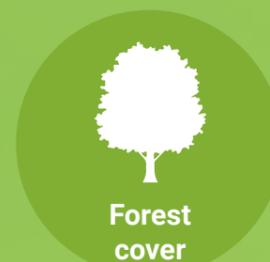
2.3.4

NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



©FAO

UGANDA'S PROGRESS



Reached
12%
from 10%
in 2023



58%,
from 57%
in 2023



20%



38%,
largely solar

PARTICIPATING UN AGENCIES





A farmer in Nakaseke District tends to his herd in Uganda's cattle corridor, where the FAO is supporting improved livestock management and pasture access. ©FAO

2.3.4.1 Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Ecosystem Protection

Uganda's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable development and climate resilience have yielded significant progress in natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and environmental governance. The UN, in collaboration with key government agencies such as the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National Forest Authority (NFA), District Local Governments (DLGs) and international partners including UNMA, ICPAC, and IFRC, implemented targeted interventions aimed at enhancing governance, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and protecting critical ecosystems.

Strengthening Governance and Policy for Ecosystem Protection

A key achievement in 2024 was the development and update of ten policy and regulatory frameworks, reinforcing biodiversity protection and sustainable resource management. The inclusion of migration data in the Water and Environment Management Information System (WEMIS) was a notable innovation, providing enhanced data for policy decision-making.

The National Wildlife Crime Coordination Task Force expanded its mandate to encompass forest crimes, enhancing enforcement and enabling more effective investigation and prosecution. This helped protect biodiversity and sustain livelihoods dependent on natural resources.

Technological advancements also played a critical role in ecosystem protection. The Natural Resources Information System (NARIS) employed drone mapping technology to map 14,173 farms (21,292 ha) in Kasese, aligning agricultural practices with EU deforestation-free regulations for coffee exports. This intervention not only safeguarded market access but also promoted sustainable farming practices.

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) proposed a subsidy action plan, encouraging companies to adopt sustainable practices through mechanisms such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). This approach fostered innovative financing solutions while aligning economic incentives with environmental protection.



UN, in partnership with UNMA, ICPAC, and IFRC, implemented the Karamoja Drought Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP)



Building Climate Resilience through Community-Centric Approaches

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate shocks on vulnerable populations, the UN, in partnership with UNMA, ICPAC, and IFRC, implemented the Karamoja Drought Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP), triggered by the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI). This early warning system enabled timely, targeted drought mitigation.

Additionally, six District Local Governments (DLGs) in the cattle corridor adopted web-based Climate and Disaster Risk Screening tools, integrating climate change considerations into budget processes. This localized approach empowered communities to manage natural resources more effectively and respond to climate risks in a timely manner.

Sustainable Resource Management and Livelihoods

In 2024, 2,464,155 hectares of natural resources were sustainably managed with UN support, including 840 hectares of protected areas, 23,177 hectares under sustainable land management, and 2,439,544 hectares under sustainable forest management. In wetland-vacated areas such as Kaliro, Budaka and Namutumba, communities received livestock to support alternative livelihoods.

To further enhance environmental conservation, 2,823.9 hectares of woodlots were established in districts including Lyantonde, Kalungu, Sembabule, Gomba, and Nakasongola, promoting sustainable land use and water availability for agriculture. In Kaberamaido and Katakwi, 58 woodlots were developed to support irrigation and water harvesting systems, improving both agricultural output and resource conservation.

In addition, 59 micro dams and three valley dams were rehabilitated to enhance soil and water conservation, storing over 450,000 cubic meters of water in Katakwi, Sembabule, and Nakaseke. These initiatives reduced runoff, improved water retention, and enhanced livestock feeding systems, contributing to both environmental sustainability and economic stability.



A pine plantation in Mubende, planted under FAO's Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) project. Sustainably managed forest plantations contribute to climate change mitigation, increased incomes, and improved livelihoods. ©FAO

26 community groups (510 beneficiaries, including 296 women) developed climate-smart business plans

Katatwi Amudat Bududa

2.3.4.2 Enhanced Capacities for Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

Uganda's progress in climate resilience highlights the importance of integrating community empowerment, institutional strengthening, and localized adaptation strategies. The UN, in partnership with ADRA, DLGs, and local communities, implemented key initiatives aimed at mitigating climate risks and enhancing adaptive capacity.

Community-Driven Adaptation

In Bududa, Katakwi, and Amudat, 26 community groups (510 beneficiaries, including 296 women) developed climate-smart business plans, integrating climate adaptation strategies into local development goals. These initiatives were supported by cash transfers that enabled the adoption of sustainable practices while enhancing community resilience.

Access to Climate Information

Over 800,000 people now utilize the national climate information and disaster early warning system, empowering them to make informed decisions and prepare for climate-related risks.

Ecosystem Restoration and Livelihoods

Five farmer groups, in collaboration with ADRA, engaged in ecosystem restoration through the planting of sisal, aloe vera, and elephant grass in eroded watersheds. These plants provided both environmental and economic benefits, offering raw materials for value-added products while reducing soil erosion.

Women's Economic Empowerment in Karamoja

In Karamoja, 364 women from eight cooperatives received training in value chain management, enabling them to market cereals, oilseeds, and legumes. Additionally, the construction of community markets in Kaliro and Namutumba provided a safe space for women to sell food and handcrafts, creating sustainable income opportunities.

2.3.4.3 Increased Access to Renewable and Affordable Energy

Uganda's commitment to sustainable energy was demonstrated through targeted interventions aimed at expanding access to clean cooking solutions, promoting renewable energy, and fostering skills development.

Household Energy Access and Clean Cooking

In 2024, 20,660 households in Teso, West Nile, and the Central Cattle Corridor adopted energy-saving cookstoves, improving indoor air quality and freeing up time for women to engage in economic activities. Additionally, 500 households in Bulambuli affected by landslides received gas cylinders, providing immediate relief and a clean cooking alternative.

20,660 in Teso, West Nile, and the Central Cattle Corridor adopted energy-saving cookstoves

Institutional Initiatives

Schools including Jinja College and Nakaloke Secondary School were equipped with biogas plants, demonstrating sustainable energy solutions in educational institutions. This initiative not only reduced fuel consumption but also promoted environmental awareness among students.

Skills Development and Sustainable Practices

The UN established the Bidi Bidi E-Waste Multipurpose Cooperative (BEMCoS), training 1,300 youths in sustainable e-waste management. The Cooperative repurposes solar electronic waste into second-life battery packs, promoting a circular economy and green job creation.

1,300 trained in sustainable e-waste management

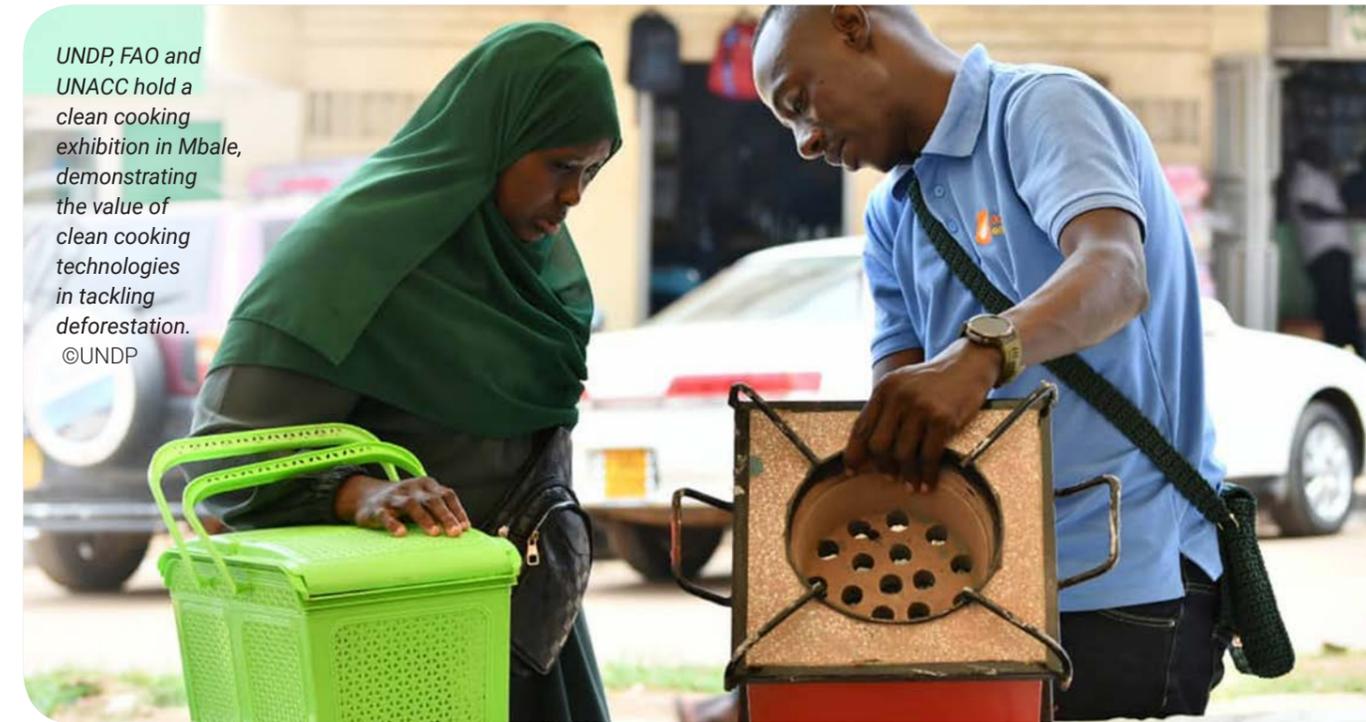
Subsidizing Clean Energy for Public Employees

In Arua and Luweero, 700 public sector employees received subsidized LPG gas cylinders, encouraging a shift away from traditional fuels and promoting cleancooking solutions.

Renewable Energy Hubs in Refugee Settlements

In Nakivale Refugee Settlement, five communal energy-efficient hubs were installed in primary and vocational schools, reducing fuel consumption and promoting sustainable practices.

Collectively, these interventions underscore the UN's commitment to sustainable resource management, climate resilience, and inclusive economic development, aligning with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.



UNDP, FAO and UNACC hold a clean cooking exhibition in Mbale, demonstrating the value of clean cooking technologies in tackling deforestation. ©UNDP



Chepkumun Paulina, an enrolled Midwife working at Loro Health Centre III, Karita sub-county, Amudat district interacts with Chebet Lydia, a young mother who had come from antenatal care services. ©UNFPA

2.4

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3
HUMAN WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE**

UGANDA'S PROGRESS

Vitamin A

9.7
million children received Vitamin A supplementation

Family planning

1.5M
new users from expanded family planning services

Registration

540K
children provided with legal identities

PARTICIPATING UN AGENCIES



KEY IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

GoU

DLG EOC, Judiciary, MGLSD, MIA, MoDVA, MoES, MoH, MoJCA, MoLG, MoPS, MoWE, NDA, ODP, Parliamentary Forum for NCDs and Social Protection, NMS, NPA, UAC, UBOS, UHRC, UVRI, UWOPA.

NGOs

AAH, ACORD, Action Aid, AFENET, AHA, Alight, AMICCALL, AMREF, AVSI, Baylor, CAFOMI, CEDOVIP, Church Aid, COTLA, COSMESS, COU, CUAMM, C&D, DRC, FAWE, HADS, HelpAGE, HRAF, ICWEA, IRC, IRCU, LASPNET, Living Goods, LWF, Mama's Club, Marie Stopes, MTI, NAFOPHANU, NRC, ODI, Oxfam, Plan International, Platform for Labor Action, Raising Voices, RHU, RTP, SciU, TMF, TPO, UGANET, UKPC, UMSC, UYDL, VSO, Walimu, War Child-Canada, Water Missions Uganda, Windle Trust.

Cultural Institutions

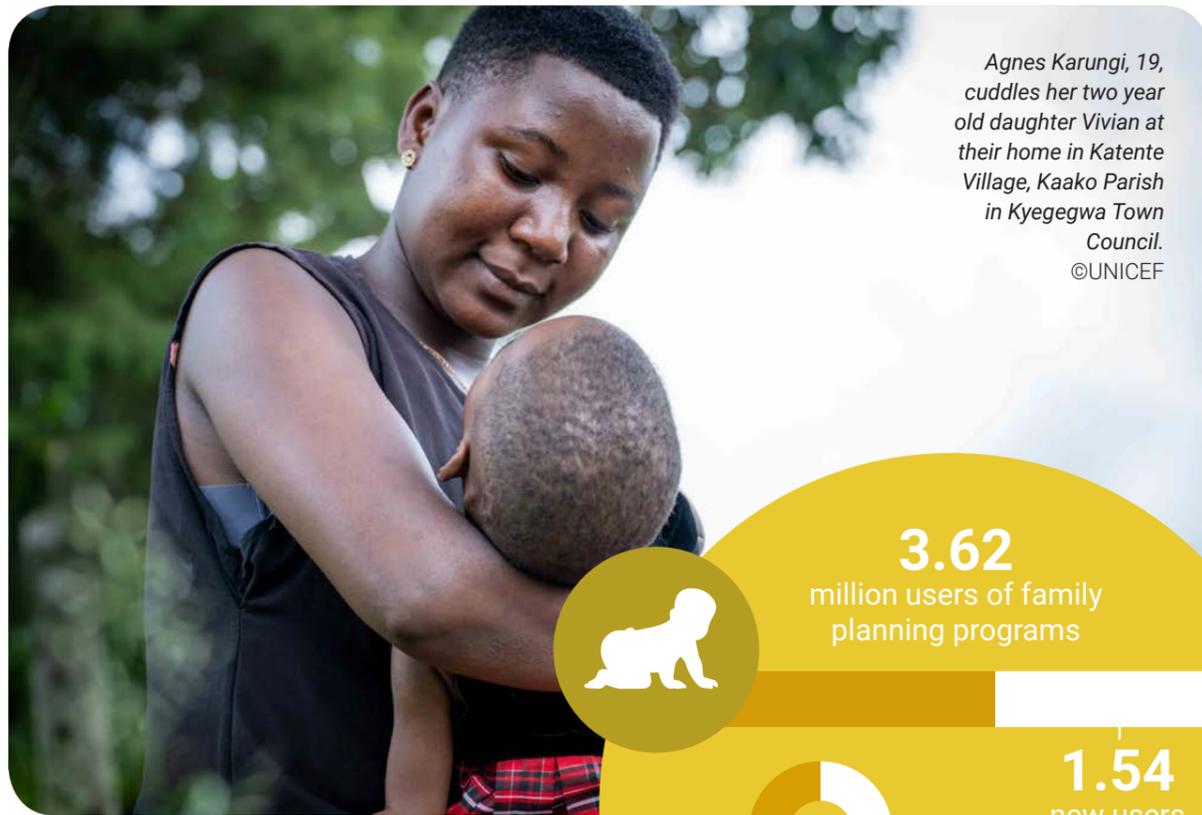
Buganda Kingdom, Busoga Kingdom.

Private Sector

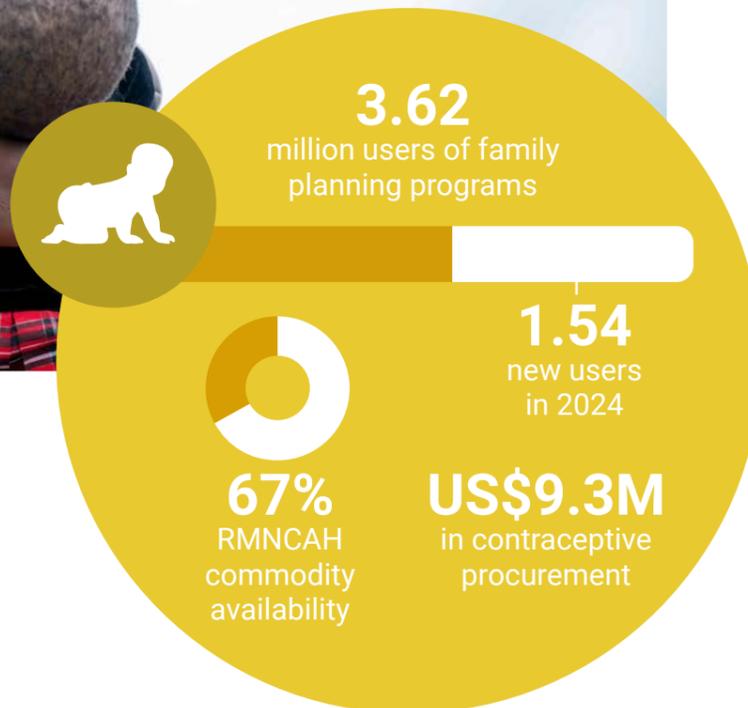
Private Sector Foundation Uganda.

Academia

Makerere University School of Public Health, Nsamizi Training Institute, Infectious Diseases Institute.



Agnes Karungi, 19, cuddles her two year old daughter Vivian at their home in Katente Village, Kaako Parish in Kyegegwa Town Council.
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2.4.1 Quality Basic Social and Protection Services

Strengthened Capacity for Sustainable and Inclusive Social Services

Contributing Agencies
UNICEF, IOM, WHO, UNAIDS, UN Women, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP

The UN in collaboration with government and non-governmental partners, enhanced the capacity of Uganda to deliver sustainable and inclusive social services. This led to improved social protection, climate resilience, and health systems, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable development pathway.

Empowering Vulnerable Populations through Social Protection

Over 20,000 vulnerable individuals, including refugees and breastfeeding women (approximately 1,700 with disabilities), benefited from optimized cash transfer programmes worth US\$ 800,000, (including NutriCash). These efforts strengthened social protection systems, improved food security and enhanced financial inclusion. UN advocacy secured increased domestic funding for child protection and social safety nets.

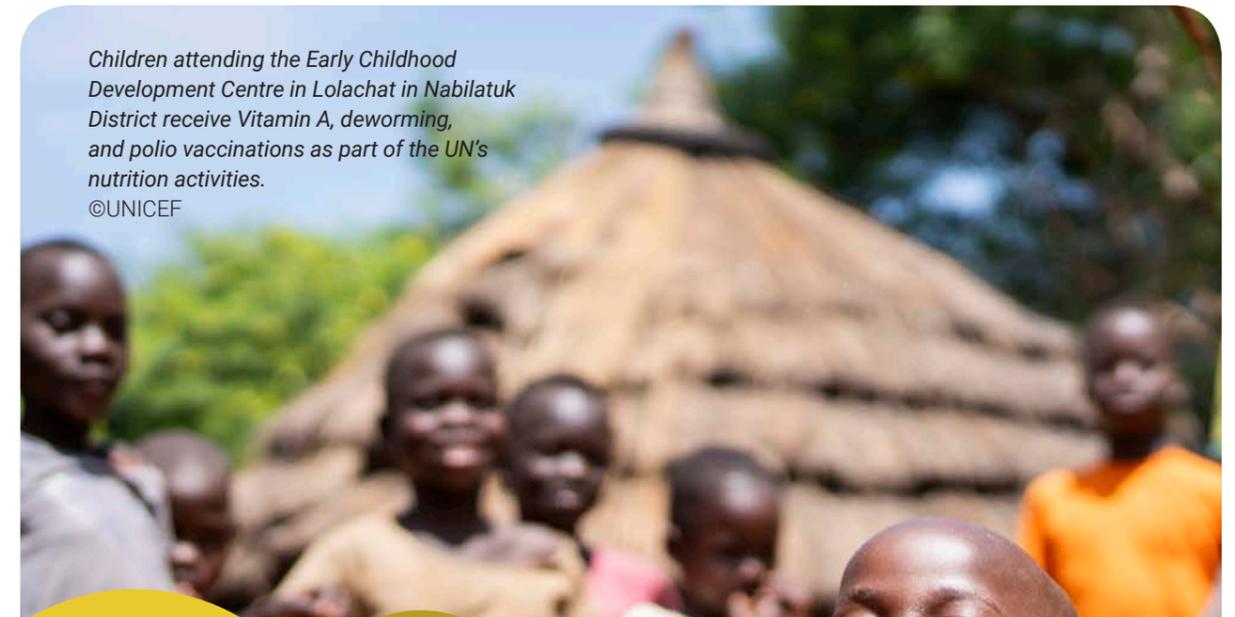
Improved Health and Nutrition Outcomes

UN investments in digital health systems, workforce training, and integrated nutrition services enhanced emergency preparedness and health system resilience.

Additionally, a total of 255,000 children were reached with nutrition prevention and treatment services and the UN expanded family planning programmes resulted in 1.54 million new users and cumulative 3.62 million users, and over 67 per cent RMNCAH commodity availability due to US\$9.3 million in contraceptive procurement.

Enhanced Governance and Service Delivery:

The UN championed policies to enhance governance and accountability, improving financial planning and service delivery. Digitalization, notably through the CBMIS, streamlined social and protection services and legal reforms facilitated birth registration for 540,465 children including refugees and other vulnerable populations, providing them with legal identity.



Children attending the Early Childhood Development Centre in Lolachat in Nabilatuk District receive Vitamin A, deworming, and polio vaccinations as part of the UN's nutrition activities.
©UNICEF



Humanitarian Assistance and Skills Development

The UN provided humanitarian assistance and skills development in conflict-affected regions.

Over 38,885 individuals (mostly women) accessed economic resilience programmes, livelihood opportunities, and gender equality interventions. A total of 80,494 children sustained access to pre-primary learning, and 126,836 adolescents and young people, including refugees and those with disabilities, gained market-driven skills. Over 26,500 people gained access to safe drinking water.

2.4.2 Access and Use of Quality Basic Social and Protection Services

Contributing Agencies:
UNICEF, IOM, UNAIDS, UNHCR, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA

Enhanced Child Protection and Social Inclusion: Empowering Children and Adolescents

The UN, in collaboration with local organizations and community groups, made significant strides in strengthening the child protection ecosystem in 2024. Over 3,060 children received life skills training, to identify, prevent, and report abuse, fostering safer environments for vulnerable youth.

In refugee-hosting districts, 2,316 students received sensitization on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), creating awareness around protection measures and reporting mechanisms. The intervention further reinforced accountability through the establishment of community reference groups and volunteer actions, amplifying the voices of young people in policy discussions and advocacy efforts.

These initiatives empowered children and adolescents while reinforcing community-based protection networks.

Transformed Behaviors and Empowered Communities

In 2024, large-scale behavioral transformation was achieved through targeted social and behavior change interventions, reaching over 3.2 million individuals. The UN's strategic approach involved community dialogues led by religious and cultural leaders, addressing harmful practices such as Gender Based Violence (GBV), child marriage, and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). As a result, 677,792 individuals, including refugees and other vulnerable populations, reported increased knowledge and prevention capacity.

The National Parenting Manual was used to train nearly 50,000 caregivers in positive parenting, reducing violence against children.

In Busoga, the King championed efforts against teenage pregnancies and HIV, reaching over 1.7 million men



©UNICEF



5.1 million caregivers received infant and young child feeding counselling

783,331 adolescents were reached with nutrition programmes promoting healthy lifestyle

2,85 million women and youth accessed integrated SRHR services

9.7 million children received Vitamin A supplements

and boys. The initiative encouraged positive behavior change, promoting healthier relationships and reducing risky behaviors.

The UN supported comprehensive care services by integrating sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), HIV, and GBV services, targeting marginalized populations through outreach and community empowerment.

Addressing Trafficking in Persons (TiP)

The UN successfully reached 1,861 individuals directly, including 943 males, with targeted messages addressing Trafficking in Persons (TiP), migrant smuggling, and transnational organized crime. Additionally, an impressive 912,642 individuals were indirectly engaged through diverse media campaigns focusing on TiP and related crimes, complemented by 355 interactive engagements via social media platforms.

Resettlement of Refugees and Migrants

In 2024, the UN, in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister, resettled 10,659 refugees and migrants through its Resettlement Transit Centres to various countries such as Canada, the USA, Australia, Sweden, and others.

Improved Health, Nutrition, and Well-being
In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC), and civil society, the UN delivered impactful health and nutrition services:

HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care: Progress Towards UNAIDS Global Targets

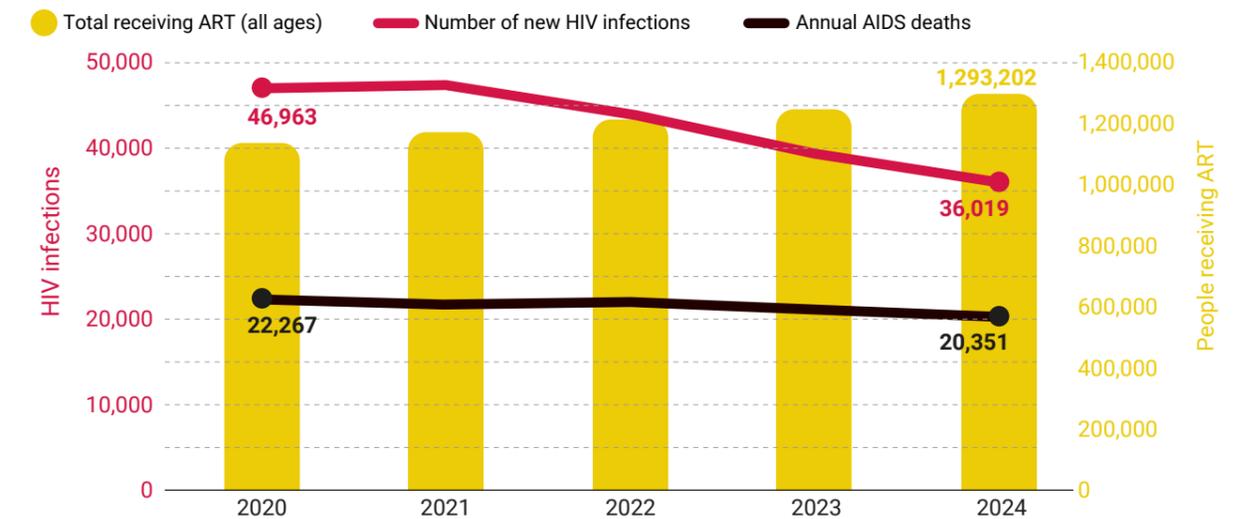
The UN intensified HIV response efforts amid the impacts of the Anti-Homosexuality Act (2023), helping reduce new HIV infections by 23%, falling from 50,000 in 2020 to 36,000 in 2024. The country is now on the path to achieving the UNAIDS Global target of 95-95-95, having reached a coverage of 94-90-96 by December 2024:

- 94% of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) knew their status
- 90% were on treatment
- 96% of those on treatment were virally suppressed

The UN's advocacy efforts also led to increased uptake of HIV prevention interventions, including Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT), Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), and Education Plus programmes, further reducing transmission risks and improving health outcomes.

The graph illustrates the steady increase in ART coverage, resulting in further declines in AIDS-related deaths and new HIV infections during the period 2020 to 2024. This progress underscores the effectiveness of the UN-supported HIV response strategy, aligning with national and global targets for HIV prevention, treatment, and care.

Figure 1 ART Coverage and HIV Infection Trends (2020-2024)



Expanded Access to Adolescent and Maternal Healthcare

In 2024, the UN intensified efforts to expand access to adolescent-friendly health and HIV services through peer-led structures and health facility linkages, empowering young people to make informed health decisions. Over 91,440 adolescents accessed integrated health services, including HPV vaccination, SRHR, HIV, GBV, and nutrition support, contributing to improved health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

The rollout of the eCHIS system across 21 districts significantly enhanced real-time health data tracking, raising reporting rates by 40% improving maternal and child healthcare delivery. The scale-up of services and deployment of community monitors in 80 of 146 districts further facilitated early identification of barriers to HIV prevention and treatment services, driving service delivery improvements and increased uptake.

The Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) system was strengthened, achieving 95.4% maternal death notifications, 94.8% reviewed maternal deaths, 61.2% perinatal death notifications and 61.3% reviews. To bolster reproductive health, 181.7 million male condoms and 132,520 female condoms were distributed and 527,165 individuals from Most At-Risk Populations (MARPs) received integrated SRH services



A dedicated midwife under the DELISiE project through funding from the Government of Japan, 28-year-old Alice Awich is no ordinary health worker. Her passion and resilience are evident through every aspect of her work at Awich HCIII in Lamwo District, where she serves a catchment population of 19,550, including refugees. Her commitment to provide the best maternal and child health care is a hope and life changing to her clients, even in the face of unimaginable challenges like humanitarian emergencies in her community
©UNFPA

Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR)



95.4%
maternal death notifications



94.8%
reviewed maternal deaths



61.2%



61.3%

91,440
Accessed integrated Health services

SUCCESS STORY

Concerted efforts curb Teenage Pregnancy in Namayingo

Deliberate focused action by five UN agencies UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO and UNESCO under the Uganda United Nations Joint Adolescent and Youth Programme (UNJAYP) yielded results in addressing teenage pregnancy in Namayingo District in Busoga Sub-region, Eastern Uganda.

A mapping exercise by the UNJAYP to ascertain where the most vulnerable adolescents and youth in Uganda were who were not being effectively reached by interventions by all development actors established that adolescents and youth in Namayingo District, were being left behind.

Before the interventions under the UNJAYP, there were no interventions by any UN agency for adolescent and youth Namayingo. Like most development actors, UN support was concentrated in other sub-regions with low development indices such as semi - arid Karamoja and refugee hosting sub-regions such as West Nile and South Western Uganda.

The UNAIDS Country Director Jacqueline Makokah recognizing the Kyabazinga as the UNAIDS National Goodwill Ambassador for engaging men and boys to end teenage pregnancies in Busoga region ©UNAIDS Uganda

The UNJAYP, a Joint Programme by Government of Uganda and the UN, was designed to increase synergies and complementarity between interventions for adolescents and youth by UN agencies in order to contribute to greater overall impact. Whereas the UNJAYP mapping focused on establishing the districts where two or more UN agencies were working, a decision was made the UNJAYP Secretariat to also include a district with no UN interventions during the pilot phase of the UNJAYP from 2023 to 2025.

The decision proved to be a wise. The five UN agencies converged efforts to address teenage pregnancy including prevention interventions through community engagement and advocacy; capacity building through regular training for Village Health Teams (VHTs), health workers, and community leaders; coupled with the provision of essential kits; engagements with cultural and religious leaders; interactive community engagement such as drama and sports; targeted social campaigns to promote health-seeking behaviours and address harmful



The Kyabazinga (King) of Busoga Kingdom (centre) with delegation including the UNAIDS and UNFPA Country Representatives, Chair Uganda AIDS Commission, and staff USAID, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, Airtel, Uganda Health Advocacy and John Hopkins; after the Kyabazinga was recognized by UNAIDS National Goodwill Ambassador for engaging men and boys to end teenage pregnancies in Busoga region ©UNAIDS

practices; strengthening the referral systems, leveraging digital tools for data collection; and prioritized the unique needs of vulnerable groups in hard to reach areas. As a result, it was reported that the teenage pregnancy rate reduced from 23.6% in April to June 2024 to 21.6% in Oct to December 2024 according to the Teenage Pregnancy Surveillance and Response intervention that is coordinated by Ministry of Health with support from UNFPA and UNICEF.

The success draws important lessons for the UN by demonstrating that well coordinated efforts by UN agencies yield results. The success also highlighted the significance of UN collaboration with other key influential actors. The initiative was also supported by the Busoga Kingdom under the leadership of the Kyabazinga (King) William Gabula Nadiope IV leveraging his relation with UNAIDS as National Goodwill Ambassador for engaging men and boys to end teenage pregnancies in Busoga sub-region, through 2gether4SRHR project jointly implemented with UNICEF aimed at harnessing the leadership of the traditional leaders to reduce teenage pregnancies. The 'BOLD' adolescent health campaign was launched in

Namayingo with the support of UNFPA, UNICEF and UNAIDS. UNESCO played an important role as the UNJAYP lead agency for Namayingo District and led in organising the inception and work planning workshop for the district. While WHO supported in the coordination of immunization programmes for adolescent girls (Td and HPV), which were used for sensitization on teenage pregnancy.

The UNJAYP is a collaborative endeavour involving 12 UN agencies to collectively address youth related actions under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025. Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs) are UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, UNDP, UN Women, ILO, UNAIDS, IOM, FAO, UNODC and UNCDF.

The UNJAYP Secretariat is led by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (responsible for Adolescents and Youth) and co- led by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and UNFPA as the technical lead UN agency. The participating Government Ministries include the Ministries of Health and Education.

This Joint Programme's core objective is enabling Adolescents and Youth in Uganda (age 10 to 30 years) to realize their full potential, simultaneously driving progress in key strategic priorities for the country and the global SDGs. The Joint Programmes three outcomes are: Outcome 1 Responsive quality social and protective services are available, equitably accessible and used by Adolescents and Youth; Outcome 2 Adolescents and Youth, 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 Outcome 3 Adolescents and Youth meaningfully participate in development, peace, security and climate action. Management and Coordination. The programmes estimated budget is US\$12 million for phase 1 from 2023 to 2025.

The first phase is being implemented in the 8 districts of Yumbe, Terego, Kotido, Moroto, Kampala, Lamwo, Kiryandongo and Namayingo. With the exception of Namayingo, they were selected based on the greatest needs in the outcome areas and investment locales of the participating UN Agencies.



Group of MHPSS beneficiaries who also received financial literacy training, Rhino Camp Settlement. ©ILO

Advanced Inclusive Education and Skills Development

The UN, in collaboration with the Government and partners, strengthened inclusive education and life-skills training, targeting marginalized youth. The Education Plus Initiative facilitated the implementation of the Second Chance to Education Initiative, supporting adolescents and young people to return to school and complete their education.

The launch of the O3 Plus Project in four universities and three technical institutes promoted HIV prevention, reduced early marriages, and decreased GBV cases through inter-university debates and community dialogues.

Strategic engagements were undertaken with Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Health, Education, and Gender focused on budget allocation for adolescent skilling and empowerment, aiming to reduce HIV prevalence, teenage pregnancies, and GBV.

2.4.3 Strengthened Policy Framework for Child Protection and Gender Equality

In 2024, the UN, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development and key civil society organizations, advanced policy frameworks aimed at safeguarding children's rights and promoting gender equality.

Over 3,060 children were empowered through life skills training, equipping them to identify, prevent, and report abuse. Additionally, nearly 50,000 caregivers received training in positive parenting practices through the National Parenting Manual, fostering safer home environments. Efforts to streamline case management led to the integration of Child Protection and GBV services for refugees into the national system in Kampala, with plans to extend this model to refugee-hosting districts in 2025.

In a bid to ensure that social services adequately address the needs of women, children, and marginalized groups, gender-responsive budgeting was integrated at the district level. Targeted community dialogues engaged over 126,159 individuals, successfully challenging harmful social norms and informing policy adjustments that strengthened multi-sectoral coordination for gender equality and child protection.



3,060 children were empowered through life skills training, equipping them to identify, prevent, and report abuse.

50,000 caregivers received training in positive parenting practices



Improved Access to Healthcare through Policy Interventions

UN advocacy in 2024 contributed to policy reforms that significantly enhanced access to adolescent and maternal healthcare services. The expansion of the electronic Community Health Information System (e-CHIS) across 21 districts led to a 40 per cent increase in health data reporting rates, enabling more effective policy-driven decision-making. HPV vaccination, SRHR, and HIV services were integrated into adolescent-friendly health platforms, benefiting over 91,440 young people.

Efforts to standardize community health service delivery were reinforced through the scale-up of the National Community Health Services (NCHS) guidelines. Building on experience gained from the Ebola response, the Community Actors for HIV Plus (CAHIV Plus) model was adapted to engage traditional healers, sex workers, and PLHIV networks, expanding service accessibility and utilization at the community level.

Key policy frameworks supported by the UN included

- MOH Strategic Plan (2026-2030)
- HIV Sustainability Roadmap
- NCD Prevention and Care Legal Environment Assessment
- Disability Health Services Guidelines
- National Health Care Waste Management Guidelines
- National Community Health Services (NCHS) Guidelines.

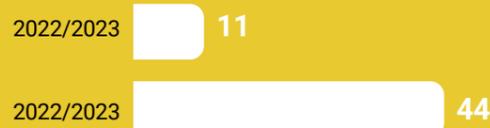
Under the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan, 20 health facilities were integrated into the national health system, with 96 per cent of eligible facilities now part of the national network. This integration was vital in ensuring that 94 per cent of refugee households accessed healthcare services, nearly aligning with the 95.7 per cent coverage for host communities.

Enhanced Education Policies and Learning Environments

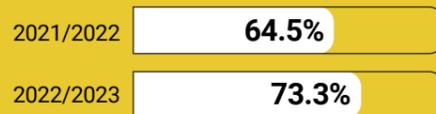
UN interventions in 2024 focused on strengthening inclusive education and life-skills training, aligning education policies with international standards. Teacher training programmes were expanded to integrate sexuality education, gender-responsive teaching methodologies, and life-skills training, creating a more inclusive and rights-based learning environment.

As a result of these interventions, 44 policies and regulations were supported in 2023/2024, a significant increase from 10 policies in 2022/2023. Alignment of Annual Workplan Budgets for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and Local Governments (LGs) with the third National Development Plan (NDPIII) demonstrated considerable progress. In FY2022/23, 73.3 per cent of MDAs and 70.8 per cent of LGs aligned their budgets to NDPIII, up from 64.5 per cent and 60.5 per cent respectively in FY2021/22.

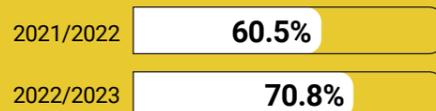
44
policies and regulations were supported in 2023/2024



Alignment of Annual Workplan Budgets Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs)



Local Governments (LGs)



Key policies influenced included

Uganda National Institute for Teacher Education (UNITE) Act (2024)

- **National Social Protection Strategy (2024)**
- **National Shock Responsive Framework (2024)**

Diagnostic studies supported the realignment of District Development Plans (DDPs) to NDP IV across 59 districts.

Integrating Refugees into the National Education System

In the refugee response sector, 48 schools were government-coded and grant-aided, facilitating the enrollment of 33 per cent of refugee students, totaling 202,582 primary and 7,606 secondary students. Integration of refugee students into the national system reduced educational costs for humanitarian actors while ensuring inclusiveness.

In these schools, 35.3 per cent of primary and 60.4 per cent of secondary teachers are now government-deployed, enhancing teaching capacity and learning outcomes for both refugees and host communities.

48
schools were government-coded and grant-aided

202,582
primary students

7,606
secondary students

33%
of refugee students



2.4.4 Gender Equality and Human Rights

Contributing Agencies: UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR

Uganda aims to advance gender equality and human rights by 2025 within a culturally responsive environment, with the UN providing targeted support, advocacy, and technical assistance to drive progress.

Institutional Capacity Building and Policy Frameworks

Institutional capacity to promote human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination expanded from zero to 229 in 2022 but declined to 113 in 2024. PSEA policies rose from 0 to 78 by 2022, with 24 policies implemented by 2024, surpassing the 2025 target of 50. Meanwhile, GBV cases reported in 2024 totaled 28,052, with 31.3 per cent charged, 14.7 per cent convicted, and 22.7 per cent disposed of, highlighting the need for judicial capacity strengthening.

Strengthened Institutional Capacity for Gender Equality and Human Rights:

UN partnerships with the government, CSOs, and private sector resulted in the development of a national Climate Change and Gender Action Plan and the operationalization of a GBV-responsive planning e-course. Three companies enrolled in the Gender Equality Seal for the Private Sector. The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) trained 20 district officials, resulting in five districts developing ordinances addressing GBV and SRHR. At the local level, 255 Local Council (LC) members were trained in GBV response, and 96 sector leads integrated GBV prevention into DDPs. Additionally, 4,543 people, primarily women and refugees, benefitted from three newly established markets.

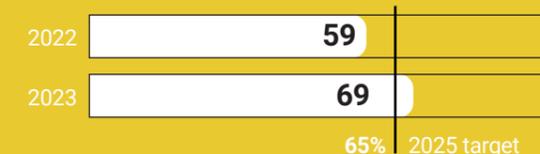
Improved Access to Justice for Vulnerable Populations:

Targeted legal frameworks enhanced access to justice, with 14,425 sex-related cases reported in 2024, of which 6,584 progressed to court and 363 SGBV cases were resolved through special court sessions. Legal assistance supported 360 individuals, resulting in 49 concluded cases. UN supported ADR mechanisms facilitated 513 resolved cases out of 1,274 through training and accreditation of 96 mediators.

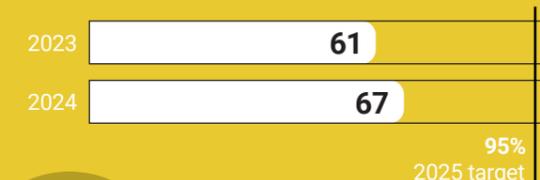
Gender Inequality Index



Public trust in the justice system



Compliance with the National Budget on Gender and Equity



Increased Access to SRHR/GBV Information and Services:

Community outreaches reached 288,134 young people with SRHR services, while 2,936,345 individuals received GBV/SRHR information. Sexuality education expanded to 418 schools, training 3,379 teachers and reaching 26,284 students. In addition, 2,443 women and girls received integrated GBV services at shelters, with 50% reporting freedom from violence.

Fostering Social Norm Change within Communities

UN led initiatives engaged 2,500 community leaders across nine cultural institutions, leading to five institutions revising policies to combat GBV and promote SRHR. In Bukwo, Kapchorwa, and Kween districts, 691,944 community members were educated on anti-child marriage policies. Additionally, 280 community gender champions were empowered to lead social norm change campaigns.

Enhanced Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting

In 2024, UN initiatives trained 48 Parliamentarians and 50 local government staff from nine districts in gender-responsive planning and budgeting, integrating gender perspectives into District Development Plans (DDPs). Further support enabled 56 participants from Spotlight Initiative districts to incorporate GBV and gender equity considerations into district budgets.

Strengthened GBV/VAC and Human Rights Data Systems

Data systems for GBV/VAC and human rights were strengthened through targeted capacity building. Service providers received training to manage GBV cases via the Sauti Helpline and the National GBV database. In 2024, the helpline received 283,429 calls, and over 2,800 cases were entered into the database.

Localization and Humanitarian Response

Over 10 per cent of CERF allocations (US\$6 million) were sub-granted to local and national actors, including government entities and NGOs. Training on Accountability to Affected Population (AAP), PSEA, GBV, and VAC reached 1,633 community members in the Karamoja sub-region, enhancing local response capacities.

UN's Commitment to 'Leave No One Behind'

The UN in Uganda maintained its commitment to reaching marginalized populations through targeted programming under the Gender for Development in Uganda (G4DU) framework and the Spotlight Initiative 2.0. These programmes targeted women, girls, persons with HIV, persons with disabilities, and refugees, using data-driven approaches to address persistent inequalities. Despite financing challenges, the UN leveraged capacity building, advocacy, and strategic partnerships to sustain progress.

SUCCESS STORY

Alice Nyirazana: A Beacon of Hope

Alice Nyirazana, a 17-year-old physically disabled adolescent girl, has defied numerous challenges to become a beacon of hope and leadership in Sweswe Dam II, Sweswe Zone, Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, Kyegegwa District, Uganda. Despite the difficulties associated with her disability, Alice is a passionate advocate for ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) and empowering teenage mothers through skill development.

Despite significant efforts by gender based violence (GBV) focused sectors and partners, challenges such as insecurity, rape, and defilement persisted in the settlement. Alice herself is a GBV survivor—a victim of rape who faced compounded challenges due to her physical disability and being an orphan raised by a single mother. These hardships made her an ideal candidate for support under the Spotlight Initiative 2.0 project

In Alice's words, "When you focus on someone's disability, you end up overlooking their abilities, beauty, and uniqueness. Just like I learned to love myself, I guide my fellow girls on preventing early marriages and violence."

Alice initially learned basic tailoring skills from well-wishers at a reception center. This foundation was further strengthened through training and start-up kit support provided by Alight Uganda's Spotlight Initiative 2.0 project funded by the European Union. In collaboration with the Refugee Empowerment for Sustainable Development in Africa (RESDA), a local artisan Community-Based Organization, the initiative trained 126 out-of-school adolescent girls in skills like tailoring to enhance self-resilience and help them live free from VAWG. Alice is one of the beneficiaries who received skills training and a start-up kit, enabling her to launch her tailoring business. These efforts aim to economically empower women and girls, reduce GBV incidents, and provide a pathway to self-reliance. The training and support have significantly increased awareness among participants about reporting channels for violence.

Alice is now a successful tailor and offers free training in tailoring to teenage mothers, empowering them to gain independence and fight against VAWG. Her advocacy has inspired many young girls in her community to seek skill development as a path to better their lives. Alice's transformation from a vulnerable adolescent to a community leader and advocate has inspired many others to follow in her footsteps.

As Alice shared, "I love transforming lives and acting as an example for other young adolescents. Through my knowledge and skills, I am now able to transfer these to other vulnerable girls, which has been instrumental in improving their lives."

The Kyaka II Refugee Settlement faces alarming rates of gender-based violence (GBV), including defilement, early marriages, and school dropouts. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 54% of young girls in the settlement are defiled while fetching water or firewood, leaving them highly vulnerable. Women and girls bear a disproportionate burden of GBV, yet survivors like Alice are breaking barriers and inspiring others to overcome these challenges.

Nationally, 22.3% of women experience physical violence, 16.6% face sexual violence, and 9.3% endure both. This prevalence exacerbates school dropouts and early marriages, with women and girls at a higher risk of exploitation and GBV than men. To counter this, NGOs and community-based organizations are working tirelessly to provide information, skills, and economic opportunities for women and girls.

Going forward, the Spotlight Initiative team plans to engage stakeholders to promote beneficiaries' products in various forums; link girls to local markets to expand their businesses; strengthen partnerships with sectors such as mental health and livelihoods to provide ongoing support and conduct follow-ups to assess the progress of beneficiaries in their new careers.



2.5 PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), the UN continued to lead national efforts to revitalize the development cooperation landscape in Uganda to enhance collaboration among development stakeholders based on principles of the effective development cooperation. The UN's role mainly involved facilitation of dialogue among the Government of Uganda, Development Partners, Civil Society, and the private sector within a structured National Partnership Forum Dialogue Framework. In 2024 the UN enabled the development of a roadmap for renewed engagement, coordinated the collection of partnership monitoring data, and successfully convened the second revitalized National Partnership Forum. The refinement of the Joint Accountability and Results Framework for more effective partnership continued. Moving forward, focus will be on continued regular dialogue between Government and its development partners, review of the partnership policy, ensuring the involvement of non-traditional development partners in all the engagements to promote inclusiveness, and finalization of the partnership monitoring report.

Key Partnerships Leveraged – UN Uganda 2024

The UN, under the RC's leadership, strategically facilitated partnerships that advanced SDG financing and implementation across multiple sectors. These partnerships, structured around the National Partnership Forum Dialogue Framework, brought together government entities, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to foster cohesive development cooperation.

Innovative Partnerships and South-South Cooperation

UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UNICEF, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA

Innovative Partnerships Advancing the 2030 Agenda/SDGs and South-South Cooperation were integral components of the UN's strategy in 2024. The UN supported the establishment of Uganda's first Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), which aimed to mobilize financing for SDG initiatives, focusing on integrated area-based programming in Karamoja. Collaborations with the private sector included the implementation of solar-powered irrigation systems by Omia Agribusiness and Tulima Solar in West Nile, improving agricultural productivity and climate resilience. The UN also partnered with insurance companies and health facilities to launch a mobile money-based health savings platform targeting pregnant women and teenage girls, expanding access to maternal health services.

The third phase of the China-Uganda South-South Cooperation project was launched, valued at US\$12.6 million, to enhance agricultural productivity, while cooperation talks with Vietnam further reinforced technical exchange in agriculture. The UN collaborated with the Ministry of Health in China to develop a joint concept note on reproductive health services. In Karamoja, UN's partnership with Sistema Bio facilitated the installation of biogas digesters in schools, simultaneously enhancing school feeding programmes and promoting sustainable energy solutions. The UN, in collaboration with Open Energy Labs and AceleAfrica, introduced designated drop-off kiosks for solar lanterns and batteries to manage e-waste effectively.

Financing SDG Achievements:

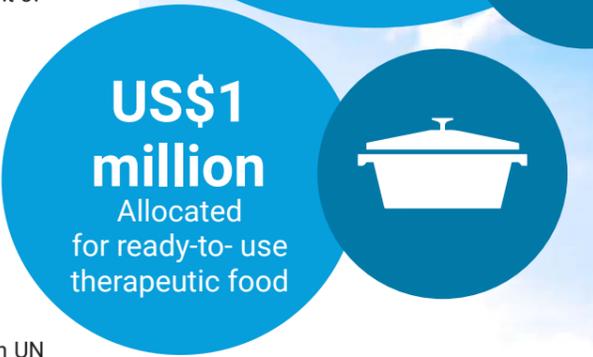
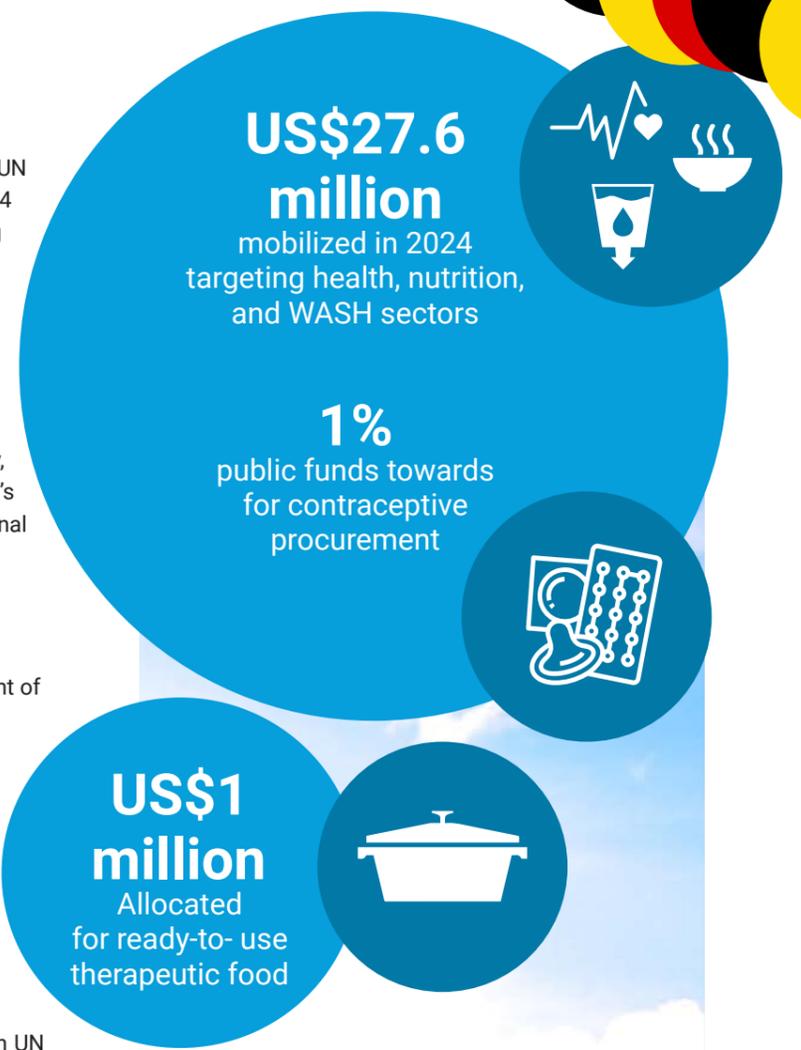
In terms of financing SDG achievements, the UN mobilized an additional US\$27.6 million in 2024 from both public and private sources, targeting health, nutrition, and WASH sectors. A compact with the Government of Uganda committed 1 per cent of public funds towards contraceptive procurement for every US\$100 contributed by UN partners. The Netherlands' PROSPECT Programme Phase II leveraged partnerships with the World Bank to support refugee integration, gender equality, and employment initiatives, emphasizing the UN's role in aligning international funding with national priorities.

Government Expenditure Realignment and Financial Effectiveness

UN advocacy influenced the allocation of 2 per cent of the Discretionary Development Equalization Grant for nutrition coordination in all districts, thereby aligning public resources with food security priorities. The Government also allocated US\$1 million for ready-to-use therapeutic food, marking the third consecutive year of government-supported nutrition intervention driven by UN efforts.

Data-Driven Decision-Making

Data-driven decision-making was reinforced through UN partnerships with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), facilitating the implementation of the first-ever digital population and housing census in 2024. Supported by the UN Joint Programme on Data and Statistics, this initiative laid the groundwork for evidence-based planning. The introduction of DrugDash, a mobile application developed in collaboration with Outbox and funded by UN Global Pulse, further exemplified the UN's commitment to leveraging technology for public health by providing real-time medicine supply data to mitigate shortages and streamline health logistics.



Across Northern Uganda, UNCDF supported 17 community infrastructure projects, including the rehabilitation of markets and the installation of piped water supply systems. Implemented under the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) with funding from the European Union, these projects are helping communities access clean water for household use and livestock, while also improving sanitation and functionality of trading spaces. The upgrades are contributing to safer, healthier market environments and supporting income-generating activities, particularly for small-scale traders. ©UNCDF



UN Inter-Agency Partnerships

The UN's inter-agency partnerships remained central to advancing Uganda's development agenda. The One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026), spearheaded by FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOA, focused on health systems resilience. UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNAIDS jointly expanded access to antiretroviral treatment for mothers and children as part of the national action plan to eliminate pediatric AIDS. Uganda hosted significant international summits

in 2024, including the 19th Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Third South Summit of G77 + China, and the Africa Chief Justices' Summit, events that were instrumental in reinforcing Uganda's commitment to the 2030 Agenda through strategic global partnerships. In addition, UN Agencies' inter-agency partnerships – an essence of the UN Development System reforms – led to several important results. Some of the joint initiatives are listed below:

UN Joint Initiatives and Programmes		Collaborating UN Agencies
01	Development and implementation of a national action plan for ending	UNICEF, UNAIDS and UNFPA
02	Global Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation	UNFPA-UNICEF
03	Global Programme to End Child Marriage	
04	One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026)	FAO, UNEP, WOA and WHO
05	Strengthening shock-responsive systems in Karamoja	FAO and WFP
06	Building Climate-Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security of Smallholder Farming Households in Teso Sub-region in Uganda	
07	Improving food security and resilience of food production systems in Karamoja	
08	Joint UN Food System Initiative - Enabling sustainable, equitable, healthy, and resilient food systems.	FAO, WFP, and UNICEF, under the coordination of the RCO
09	Enhancing Inclusive and Gender Responsive Climate Resilience to Prevent	IOM, UN Women, and IGAD
10	Joint Disaster Risk Management Initiative	IOM and FAO
11	MoU, LoUs and Agreements signed between UNHCR and 10 other UN	11 Agencies (FAO, IOM, ILO,
12	PROSPECT Programme – Gender for Development Uganda	UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, the World
13	Spotlight Initiative	UN WOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA,
14	SDG Localization	UNDP, UNWomen, UNICEF and
15	Uganda UN Joint Adolescent and Youth Programm (UNJAYP)	UNFPA led
16	Joint Programme for Data and Statistics in Uganda	UNDP led
17	2gether4SRHR JPGBV	UNFPA led
18	Joint Programme on Child Sensitive Social Protection in Refugee Hosting Districts of West Nile	UNICEF, WFP

Humanitarian-Development Collaborations

Humanitarian-Development Collaborations played a pivotal role in aligning development funds with the needs of refugees and host communities in Uganda. For the first time, development partners mapped and made accessible data on funds directed towards refugee support, particularly focusing on environment and energy sectors.

Between the previous and current Cooperation Framework cycles (2016 and 2024), a total of US\$2.09 billion was mobilized by development donors, with 124 ongoing projects valued at US\$1.81 billion. UN-EU partnerships were strengthened, through the joint initiative worth €15 million to integrate refugees into public essential services. Additionally, the second phase of The Netherlands' PROSPECT Programme was launched in partnership with the World Bank, targeting gender equality and economic integration of refugees. In collaboration with Germany, the EU, AFD, and the Ministry of Water and Environment, piped water supply schemes are being developed in refugee-hosting districts, enhancing access to essential services. The UN also leveraged partnerships with the private sector to advance sustainable development in refugee-hosting areas, promoting environmental conservation, socio-economic integration, and transforming refugees into self-reliant communities.

Innovative Solutions and Technology

Integration Innovative solutions and technology integration were emphasized across multiple sectors. The 'Eco Smart Sanitary Pads' initiative, implemented in collaboration with UIRI, provided low-cost, biodegradable menstrual hygiene products to underserved communities – blending sustainability with social impact. In the area of data-driven decision-making, the introduction of DrugDash, a mobile application developed with Outbox and funded by UN Global Pulse, facilitated real-time monitoring of medical supplies, enhancing public health systems' responsiveness and reducing supply chain gaps.

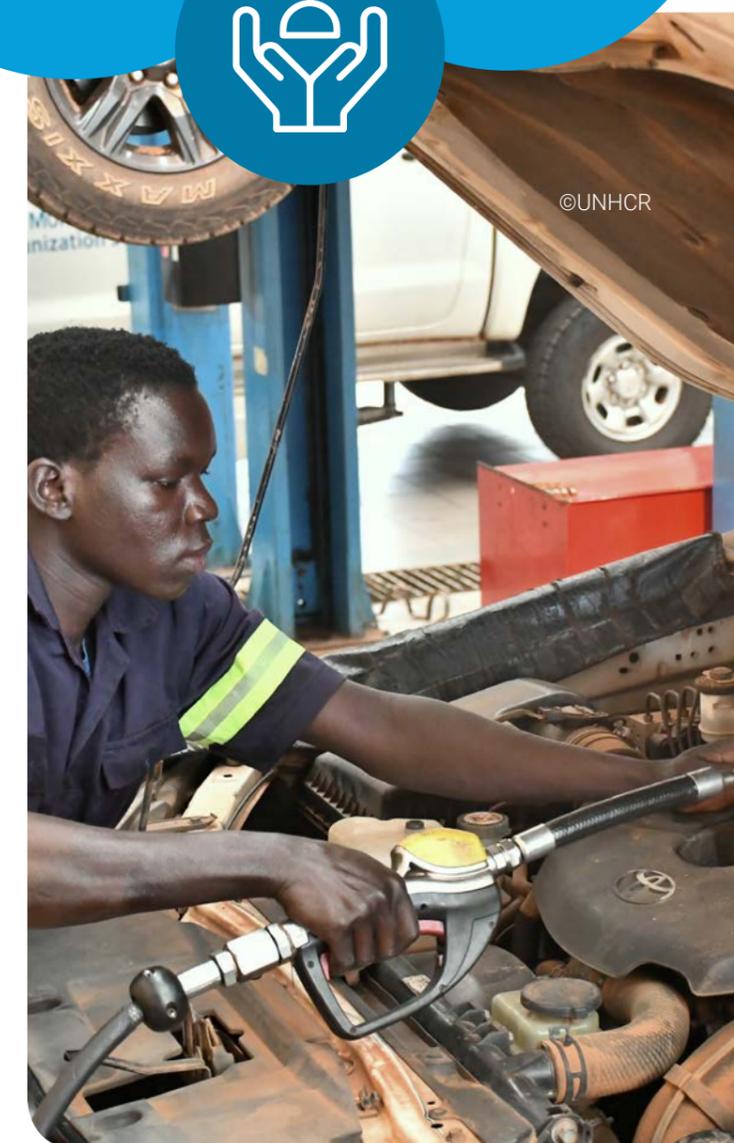
Partnering with private sector (Omia agribusiness development and Tulima solar) and the UN implemented a solar-powered irrigation in West Nile sub-region which started with 500 farmers in December 2023 and will be scaled to 5,000 farmers in 2025.

Overall, the UN's strategic approach to partnership development in 2024 underscored a comprehensive framework that integrated public and private sector cooperation, technological innovation, and targeted resource mobilization. This approach significantly advanced Uganda's SDG agenda, aligning international support with national priorities and reinforcing resilience across health, nutrition, and environmental sectors.

US\$2.09
Billion
Mobilized 2016-2024

€15
to integrate refugees into essential public services, through the joint UNHCR-IOM initiative under the UN-EU partnership

124
Ongoing projects
Valued at
US\$1.81 Billion



©UNHCR

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

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Uganda remained focused on implementing the UN Cooperation Framework (CF) 2021-2025, ensuring alignment of all UN entities' country programmes with this overarching framework to reinforce operational coherence and impact. The five Results Groups played a crucial role in advancing joint work planning and implementation, meeting quarterly to assess progress, identify synergies, and drive collective action towards planned results.

In 2024, the UN continued implementing its five flagship joint programmes:

- **UN Joint Programme for Data and Statistics**
- **UN Joint Programme on Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**
- **Spotlight Initiative under Gender for Development Uganda (G4DU)**
- **UN Joint Adolescents and Youth Programme (UNJAYP)**
- **UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation.**

These joint programmes targeted vulnerable populations and served as platforms for mobilizing resources towards CF implementation.

Thematic groups under the CF, including the Human Rights and Gender Advisory Group; Operations Management Team; UN Deputies Team; UNSDG Technical Working Group; and the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning team; were instrumental in advancing key activities. Among these were the CF evaluation, the drafting of the new UN Country Common Analysis (CCA), and the design of the upcoming CF 2026-2030. The UN provided joint support to the Government in preparing the 2024 Annual SDG Progress Report and the Third Voluntary National Review (VNR), ensuring alignment with global reporting frameworks.

Youth at the Youth Encounter the Savior Centre (YES) at Nsambya, Kampala enjoy a light moment 23 October 2024 ©UNHCR



As a common service to the UN System, UNV deployed 104 UN Volunteers across 18 UN agencies in Uganda. These volunteers made significant contributions to various development initiatives, including health, education, youth empowerment, crisis response, community development, environmental conservation, and humanitarian assistance. Their dedicated efforts were instrumental in advancing sustainable development and improving the lives of countless individuals and communities.

The UNAC system continued to enhance field-level coordination, with Area Coordinators for Karamoja, Northern Uganda, West Nile, and Southwest Uganda. Their efforts improved joint programming, facilitated joint UN field visits, and fostered stronger engagement with local stakeholders. Additionally, regional and global expertise was leveraged to enhance UNCT programming and decision-making, with technical support from the Development Coordination Office (DCO) Africa, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNDP-DPPA, and UN Global Pulse, the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa in developing the CCA and new CF.

SUCCESS STORY

Eco-friendly joint Office for UNICEF and WFP in Uganda inaugurated

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) on 30 September 2024 inaugurated a new eco-friendly joint office complex on Mbuya Hill, Kampala, marking a significant milestone in their partnership to serve vulnerable communities in Uganda.

The eco-friendly joint offices, which also house UNAIDS, advance the UN Secretary-General's efficiency agenda, by making savings of funds, which would otherwise have been spent on rent, and by significantly reducing operation costs through sharing common back-office services such as information communication technology (ICT), security, catering, cleaning, meeting and conference rooms.

In addition, there are significant savings on electricity costs, given that 80% of the overall energy usage is from solar power. The building has water recycling, rainwater harvesting and sewage treatment initiatives. Wastewater is treated on site and re-used. These greatly cut costs on utilities such as water and sewerage. The energy-efficient designs maximize natural light. These measures all contribute to reduce the carbon footprint.

Built on 2.6 acres, the new eco-friendly office space is designed with sustainability at its core. The office complex also includes amenities to support staff well-being

The DCO Regional Office further supported the visioning and prioritization process for the CF 2026-2030, reinforcing alignment with global and regional priorities.

Efficiency gains were achieved through the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS), common premises, and shared services, streamlining administrative functions and reducing transaction costs. Quantifiable efficiency savings were documented. A total of US\$1 million was avoided in 2024, a rise of US\$100,000 from 2023. As part of the common premises consolidation, UNICEF and WFP completed and moved into their new common premises in Mbuya and the RCO and UNFPA now share the same common premises on Yusuf Lule Road, Kampala. These moves continue to exemplify the UN's commitment to delivering impactful results in a cost-effective manner. See results and progress below:



such as a wellness centre, green spaces, and gender-sensitive facilities like breastfeeding rooms. A conference facility and multiple creative spaces are also included to encourage cross-sector collaboration and innovation.

The joint offices are the first to be built and jointly owned by two UN agencies for their national headquarters in Kampala. The joint office is a testament to the UN commitment to collaboration, maximizing resources, and delivering impactful services to the people of Uganda.

The UN in Uganda continued its unified communication strategy under the "Communicating as One" approach, effectively harmonizing messages across all UN entities to present a coherent narrative on development priorities, achievements, and advocacy efforts. This strategy ensured that key messages were consistently aligned with the UN Cooperation Framework (CF) 2021-2025 and joint programmes. Crisis communication and misinformation were tackled through coordinated campaigns, joint press releases, and strategic engagement with national and international media. By leveraging common platforms, such as the UN Uganda website and social media channels, the UNCT effectively communicated progress on SDG implementation, resource mobilization efforts, and humanitarian-development initiatives, reinforcing the UN's role as a trusted partner in Uganda's development agenda.

2.7 EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The evaluation of the UN Cooperation Framework (CF) 2021-2025, a mandatory accountability measure for the UN's results and contributions in Uganda, was commissioned by the UN Country Team (UNCT) in 2024. The final report was shared with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), and the UNCT is currently addressing DCO comments before finalizing the report and developing the evaluation management response plan in collaboration with key stakeholders.

The evaluation concluded that the CF remains highly relevant in Uganda's evolving humanitarian and development context, particularly given the growing refugee population. The framework aligns effectively with national priorities outlined in the National Development Plan III, sectoral development plans, and selected SDGs, ensuring a conflict-sensitive approach that prioritizes vulnerable populations, including women, girls, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). However, while the CF's responsiveness to emerging crises was noted as a strength, a stronger focus on preventive strategies and alignment with community-specific needs was recommended.

THE EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTED KEY LESSONS LEARNED

Effective governance, peace, and security require robust collaboration between humanitarian and development actors.

Strengthening government institutions, rather than creating parallel structures, enhances programmatic sustainability.

Empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups through targeted flagship initiatives was noted as a powerful strategy for fostering social cohesion and community resilience.

Combining awareness efforts with economic empowerment and life skills training yielded more sustainable outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Institutional capacity building and fostering national ownership were also identified as pivotal to long-term success.

DESPITE THESE GAINS, SEVERAL CHALLENGES WERE IDENTIFIED

Limited disaggregated data continues to hamper effective performance monitoring and targeted decision-making, particularly for marginalized groups.

Coordination challenges among UN agencies and inefficiencies between national and local levels were noted as areas for improvement.

While 96 per cent of planned outputs were achieved, outcome-level progress remained uneven.

Limited domestic financing for social services and over-reliance on donor funding for critical interventions posed sustainability risks.

Social norms and cultural barriers also continued to impede the adoption and enforcement of gender-responsive and rights-based policies.

Recurring climate shocks disrupted service delivery and increased vulnerability among marginalized populations. Policy delays and gaps in implementation, driven by misalignment between political priorities and programmatic realities, hindered overall effectiveness. Data and capacity gaps, including the lack of disability-disaggregated data and accessibility barriers, were noted as persistent obstacles to targeted interventions. A Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) assessment revealed a relatively high level of awareness of climate change, but also a limited understanding of the complex linkages between Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (MECC), highlighting the need for ongoing education and awareness campaigns.

In response to these findings, several programming adjustments have been initiated. The new CF 2026-2030 is being designed to align more closely with NDP IV, integrating climate resilience, gender, and private sector engagement. The nexus approach is being strengthened to enhance inter-agency coordination, and a robust monitoring and evaluation system, including an SDG reporting framework, is being established. Additionally, the UNCT is intensifying donor collaboration and optimizing joint resource mobilization strategies to address funding gaps. Emphasis is also being placed on enhancing the visibility and functionality of the "Delivering as One" approach to foster greater operational coherence and impact across UN entities in Uganda.

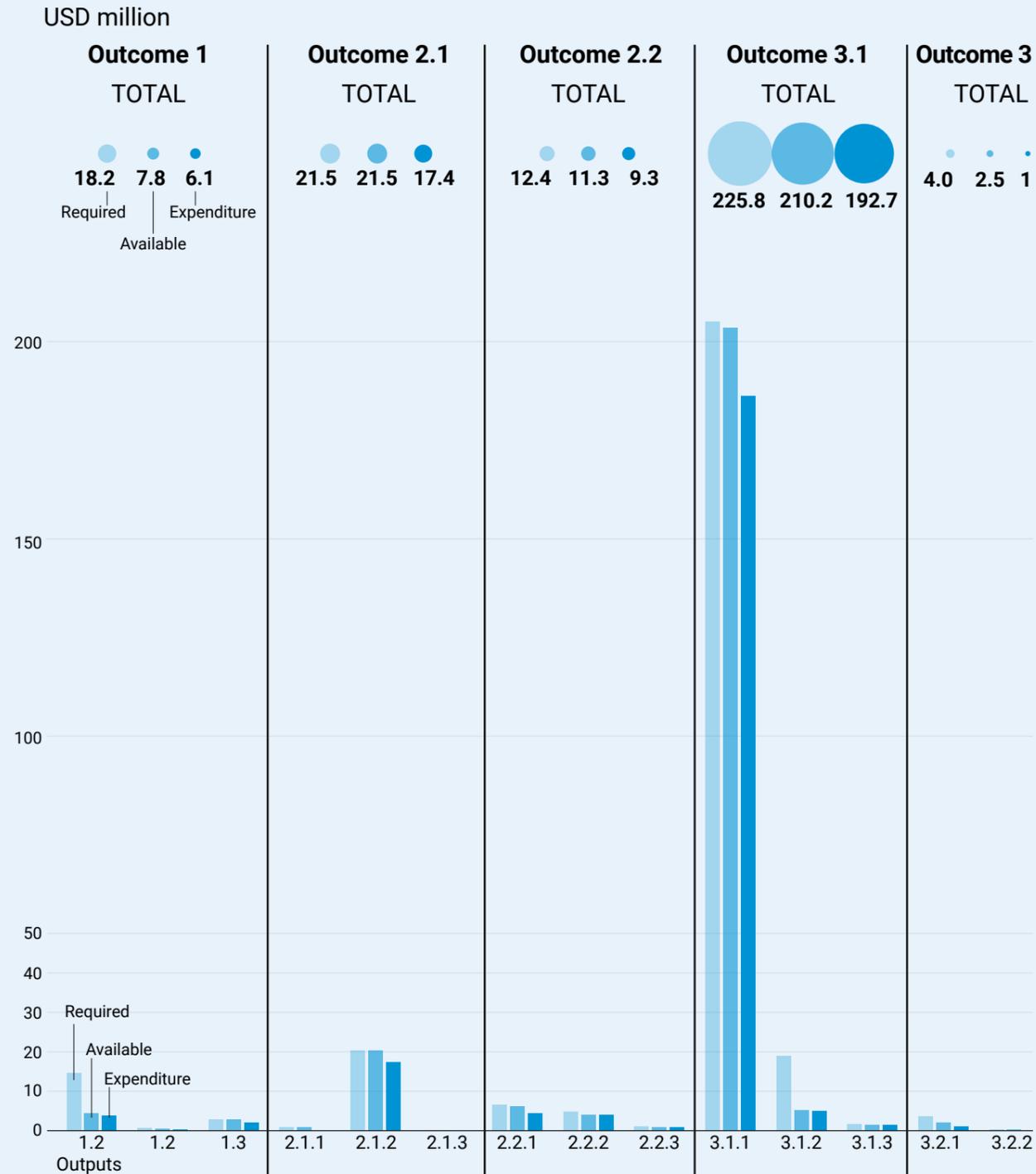
Students participate in the Electric Mobility Skilling Programme at the Makerere University Innovation Pod, part of UNDP's Timbuktoo initiative to position public universities as centers of innovation.
©UNDP



2.8 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.9.1 Financial Overview

Financial Overview by Outcome and Output

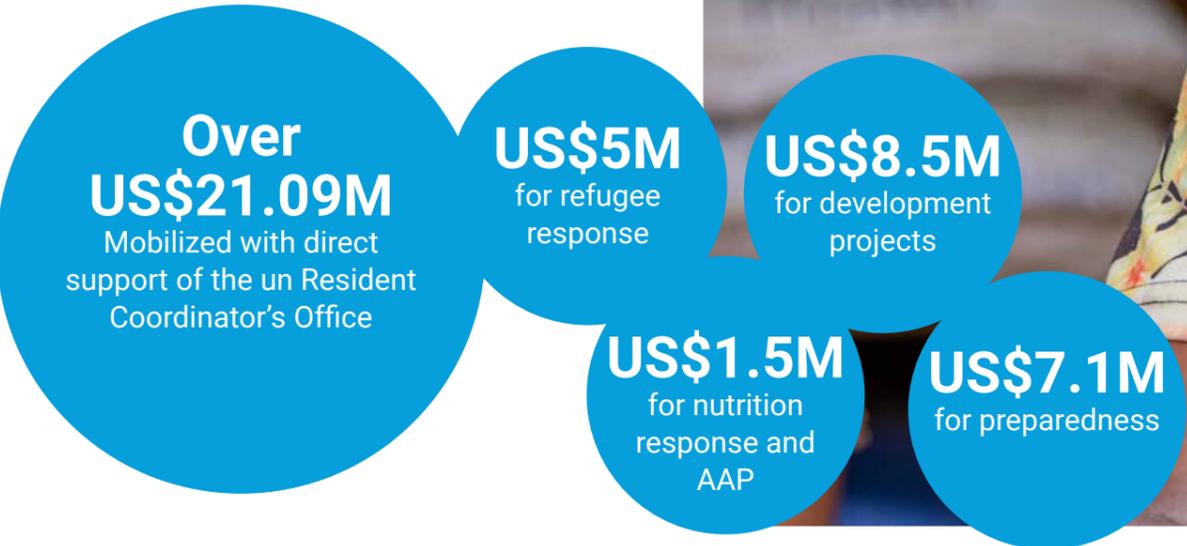


UN Entity	Required resources	Available resources	Coverage
WFP	175,051,272	175,051,272	100
UNICEF	28,039,919	28,028,672	100
UNAIDS	17,670,000	3,170,000	18
UNHCR	17,347,260	17,347,260	100
UNFPA	12,813,135	2,815,613	22
UNDP	9,045,787	8,587,927	95
UNCDF	8,926,800	8,526,800	96
UN Women	7,750,189	4,680,905	60
FAO	6,206,060	6,176,060	100
WHO	4,375,000	3,850,000	88
UNODC	1,660,000	1,660,000	100
UNEP	1,390,408	1,390,408	100
IOM	1,029,203	1,029,203	100
UNESCO	826,000	483,000	58
UNGP	605,000	550,000	91
ILO	424,080	384,080	91

2.9 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND QUALITY OF FUNDING

In 2024, over US\$21.6m was mobilized for Uganda with direct support of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office from various sources for both humanitarian and emergency response. Of these, US\$5 million was spent in refugee response; US\$1.5 million was spent for nutrition response and enhancing Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) in Karamoja sub-region; US\$8.5 million was allocated for development projects including on food systems, SDG localization, and GBV (Spotlight); and the US\$7.1 million from the Japan Supplementary Budget was allocated for projects focusing on preparedness, including for health (disease outbreak) emergency and disaster preparedness, integrated nutrition programme in Karamoja, and other life-saving and integrated services to refugees and host communities. UN joint resource mobilization continued to face challenges in the context of overall global development funding landscape, and the UNCT came together adopting different means to secure funding for the UN work in Uganda. While partnerships with private sector have been enhanced, most private sector partners are strategic partners, which enable UNCT leverage different resources; the RC has launched conversation with donor partners and the Government of Uganda for undertaking an impact assessment of the aid-cut, including US freeze. UNCT members are adopting various innovative means of leveraging partnerships for mobilizing necessary actions in support of UN work. To enhance UN joint resource mobilization tools a concept-note for establishing Uganda multi-partner trust fund was developed and will be further advanced in 2025.

A market vendor at Owino Market, recently solarized by UNDP. ©UNDP



3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

In 2025, the United Nations Country Team in Uganda will focus on key priorities that align with the emerging Cooperation Framework (CF) 2026-30, Uganda's Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030), and the African Union's Agenda 2063. These priorities aim to address critical socio-economic challenges while promoting sustainable and inclusive development.



Sustainable financing and resource mobilization remain pivotal in the UN's agenda. The focus will be on strengthening domestic resource mobilization and enhancing coordination between the Government of Uganda and UN agencies to secure sustainable funding for social programmes. Advocacy for increased domestic financing for gender equality and human rights work will be intensified, emphasizing the need to integrate gender-responsive budgeting into national financing frameworks. This approach aligns with the broader agenda of accelerating SDG implementation while reducing aid dependency.

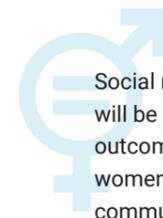
Strengthening **social services** and health systems will be a cornerstone of 2025 programming, particularly in light of Uganda's commitments to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) under NDP IV and SDG 3. Efforts will focus on enhancing resilience to health crises by reinforcing preparedness systems and addressing the dual burden of non-communicable diseases and communicable disease outbreaks. Emphasis will be placed on integrating climate adaptation into health responses to mitigate the impact of climate-related health risks. Strengthening primary healthcare (PHC) through domestic financing, accountability mechanisms, and the integration of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), HIV, and GBV services across service delivery points will be prioritized. National guidelines for preventing and managing wasting and nutritional oedema will be finalized and rolled out, particularly targeting vulnerable populations in Karamoja.



Education and skills development remain critical to advancing human capital, in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the SDG 4 targets. In 2025, the UN will intensify support for capacity-building among teachers to adapt to curriculum reforms and integrate disability-inclusive programming. Collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports will focus on finalizing the School Feeding Policy, with a specific emphasis on securing a sustainable financing strategy to provide nutritious meals to students in Karamoja. Promoting the digital transformation of the education system will be vital, leveraging ICT to expand learning opportunities and bridge the educational divide.



To address rising **vulnerabilities** and inequality, advancing social protection and policy implementation will be central to the UN's efforts. The review of the National Social Protection Policy (2015) will provide a platform to align it with emerging social and economic realities, setting the stage for the rollout of the joint GoU-UN Integrated Social Protection Programme (ISPP 2025-2030). Supporting the implementation of key policy frameworks on disability inclusion and UHC, including the introduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme, will be instrumental in fostering equity in access to essential services.

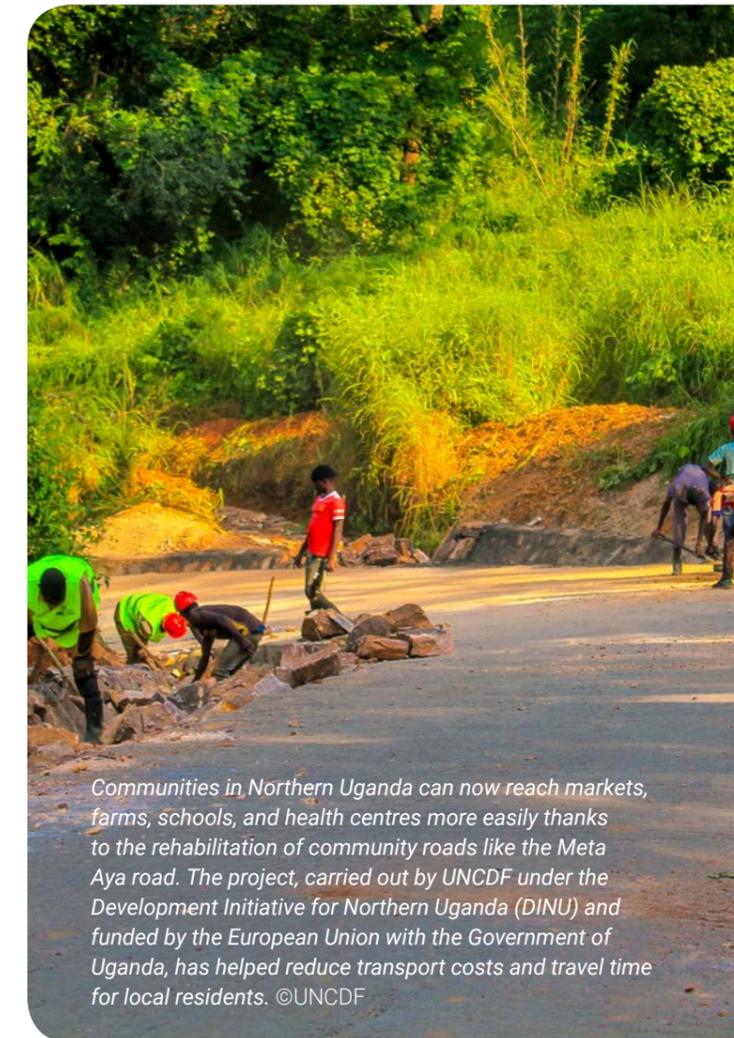


Social norms change and **gender equality** will be integral to fostering inclusive development outcomes. Initiatives will focus on empowering women and girls in refugee settlements and host communities affected by conflict and GBV. Engaging men, boys, women, and girls to address negative social norms perpetuating gender inequality will be emphasized, coupled with targeted interventions to promote women's leadership. Community-based structures, including women, youth, and disability councils, will be strengthened to ensure the sustainability of results, supported by comprehensive male engagement strategies.

Climate action and environmental protection will be elevated as a strategic priority, integrating Uganda's commitments under NDP IV and Agenda 2063. Efforts will focus on safeguarding communities from climate change impacts, promoting sustainable forest and biodiversity conservation, and implementing gender-responsive climate action plans. Developing and enforcing laws and policies to manage waste and protect fragile ecosystems will be prioritized, alongside enhancing institutional capacity for sustainable natural resource management. Expanding equitable access to clean, modern, and affordable sustainable energy will also be a critical focus area.



Governance priorities will underpin the broader objective of promoting peace, justice, and inclusive institutions in Uganda. Support for reforms in justice administration, including alternative dispute resolution and digital solutions, will be pivotal in enhancing access to justice for marginalized populations. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives will be intensified in high-poverty regions like Karamoja, addressing root causes of instability. Additionally, promoting civic education, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and advancing gender equality in governance will be key pillars of the governance agenda. Finally, data-driven decision-making will be advanced through support for quality disaggregated SDG data production, computation of the Governance Index, and strengthened coordination across key stakeholders, positioning Uganda to meet both national and global development targets effectively.



Communities in Northern Uganda can now reach markets, farms, schools, and health centres more easily thanks to the rehabilitation of community roads like the Meta Aya road. The project, carried out by UNCDF under the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) and funded by the European Union with the Government of Uganda, has helped reduce transport costs and travel time for local residents. ©UNCDF

ACRONYMS

General

AAP	Accountability to Affected Population
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency
AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
CBMIS	Community-Based Monitoring and Information Systems
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CIMIC	Civil-Military Cooperation
CF	Cooperation Framework
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DD	Disability and Development
DDPs	District Development Plans
DGs	Development Partners Groups
DSCs	District Statistics Committees
eCHIS	Electronic Community Health Information Systems
EIIP	Employment-Intensive Investment Programmes
EPRC	Economic Policy Research Centre
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
G4DU	Gender for Development in Uganda
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HCT-L	Humanitarian Country Team Light
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
IFFs	Illicit Financial Flows
IMSS	Information Management Systems
JLOS	Justice Law and Order Sector
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
LAPs	Local Action Plans
LDC	Least Developed Country
LG	Local Government
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
LoCAL	Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility
MECC	Migration, Environment and Climate Change
MPDSR	Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NARIS	Natural Resource Information System
NCD	Non Communicable Disease
NCHS	National Community Health Services
NDP	National Development Plan
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPF	National Partnership Forum

PDM	Parish Development Model
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PHC	Primary Healthcare
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PSFU	Private Sector Foundation Uganda
PWD	People With Disabilities
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
REVMOD	Regional Electronic Virtual Monitoring and Data Platform
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SPI	Standard Precipitation Index
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UHCR	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UN	United Nations
UNAC	United Nations Area Coordinator
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNITE	Uganda National Institute for Teacher Education
UNTOC	United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime
USD	United States Dollars
VAC	Violence Against Children
VCS	Video Conferencing Systems
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEMIS	Water and Environment Management Information System

Government

EOC	Equal Opportunities Commission
FIA	Financial Intelligence Authority
IDI	Infectious Diseases Institute
DLGs	District Local Governments
KCCA	Kampala City Council Authority
MDAs	Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
GoU	Government of Uganda
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
MEACA	Ministry of East African Community Affairs
MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MfKA	Ministry for Karamoja Affairs
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoDVA	Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ACRONYMS

MoFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MoICT	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and National Guidance
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MoPS	Ministry of Public Service
MoWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
MTIC	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NDA	National Drug Authority
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NIRA	National Identification and Registration Authority
NMS	National Medical Stores
NPA	National Planning Authority
NPC	National Population Council
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
UAC	Uganda AIDS Commission
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNMA	Uganda National Metrological Authority
ULRC	Uganda Law Reform Commission
UPF	Uganda Police Force
UVRI	Uganda Virus Research Institute
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
UWOPA	Uganda Women Parliamentarians Association

NGOs

AAH	Action Africa Help
ACAV	Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari (Volunteer Aid Center Association)
ACORD	Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AFENET	African Field Epidemiology Network
AFI	Andre Foods International
AFIC	Africa Freedom of Information Centre
AGDHI	Advisory Gender Data Hub Initiative
AHA	Africa Humanitarian Action
AMICCALL	Alliance of Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation
ASF	Avocats Sans Frontières
AVSI	Association of Volunteers in International Service
BRAC	Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee
CAFOMI	Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants

CEDOVIP	Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention
CIPESA	Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa
COTLA	The Council for Traditional Leaders in Africa
COSMESS	Capacity Building Organization for Small and Medium Entrepreneurship and Skill Support
COU	Church of Uganda
CSBAG	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
CUAMM	Collegio Universitario Aspiranti Medici Missionari
C&D	The Institute for International Cooperation and Development
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationalists
FUE	Federation of Uganda Employers
GARD	Grassroots Alliance for Rural Development
HADS	Humanitarian Assistance & Development Services
HRAF	Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum
ICWEA	International Community of Women living with HIV Eastern Africa
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRCU	Inter-Religious Council of Uganda
JNLC	Julius Nyerere Leadership Centre
LASPNET	Legal Aid Service Providers Network
LCF	Lango Cultural Foundation
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MTI	Medical Teams International
NAFOPHANU	National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS Networks in Uganda
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
ODI	One dollar Initiative
NCF	National Culture Forum
NDF	Nnabagereka Development Foundation
NOTU	National Organisation of Trade Unions
RHU	Reproductive Health Uganda
RTP	Right To Play
SCIU	Save the Children in Uganda
TMF	Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation
TPO	Transcultural Psychosocial Organization
UAERA	Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies
UGANET	Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS
UKPC	Uganda Key Populations Consortium
UMSC	Uganda Muslim Supreme Council
ULS	Uganda Law Society
UWEAL	Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited
UWSR	Uganda Women Situation Room
UYDEL	Uganda Youth Development Link
VEDCO	Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
WIPC	Women's International Peace Centre
WSF	Warrior Squad Foundation

UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2024 UGANDA



UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



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UNUganda



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