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# UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2021-2025

ABRIDGED VERSION





**United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, Uganda 2021-2025 - ABRIDGED**

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UNITED NATIONS  
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# UGANDA

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# UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

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2021-2025

ABRIDGED VERSION

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## UNITED NATIONS UGANDA VISION 2030

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A Transformed inclusive Ugandan Society where People have Improved Quality of Life and Resilience for Sustainable Development

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## UNSDCF 2021-2025 OBJECTIVE

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United Nations Country Team in Uganda will coherently, effectively and in partnership with various stakeholders support Uganda in offering options to reframe economic policies and practices around sustainability for inclusive, diversified, and job-intensive economic development, and promote access to and utilization of basic social and protection services that advance human rights, gender equality and well-being of people in Uganda, and protect the planet





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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Youth involved in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals

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# DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT AND PROGRESS TOWARDS 2030 AGENDA

## 1.1 UGANDA VISION 2040

Uganda's Vision 2040, launched in 2013, aims at transforming Uganda from a predominantly rural and low-income country to a competitive upper middle-income country. It is conceptualized around strengthening the fundamentals of the economy to harness the opportunities around the country, including agriculture, oil and gas, tourism, minerals, information and communication technology business, abundant labour force, geographical location and trade, water resources, and industrialization. The Vision is actualized through the Comprehensive National Development Planning Framework (CNDPF) articulated through three ten-year and six five-year National Development Plans. With the second National Development Plan (NDPII) drawing to an end in June 2020, Uganda has prepared the third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020/21-2024/25.

## 1.2 THIRD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP III)

The goal of NDP III is to increase household incomes and improve the quality of life of Ugandans. To ensure inclusive development, the NDP III has adopted the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) with specific attention to the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination, empowerment and participation and attention to vulnerable groups. All sectors, ministries, departments, agencies and local governments are expected to adopt HRBA in their respective policies, programmes, legislation and plans. Application of this approach will contribute to bringing the government closer to the people to effectively address their development needs, advance equality and leave no one behind.

The key regional and global frameworks, the Africa Union Agenda 2063, the East African community (EAC) Vision 2050, and the 2030 Agenda, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), among others, also informed the design of NDP III. Uganda plays an important role in sustenance of the regional peace and security in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa regions.

## 1.3 NATIONAL PROGRESS ON SDGS

In 2019, Uganda's progress on SDGs was ranked 140 out of 162 countries with a global index score of 52.6 per cent declining from 125<sup>th</sup> position out of 156 Countries in 2018. According to the SDG Global index, Uganda's achievement is average, with moderate performance on SDGs 3, 8, 9, 13 and 15. SDGs 2, 5 and 6 have stagnated and the Country is off-track in achieving SDG 1, 11, and 16. There are also information gaps, with official data available on only 46.3% for SDG indicators applicable to the country context.

Uganda has embedded SDGs into its national developing planning process, and recognizes NDP III as a vehicle towards accelerating the achievement of these goals while addressing regional aspirations and commitments. The Government, with support from the United Nations system, rolled out the Integrated Sustainable Development Goals simulation model to analyze and identify SDG accelerators to guide prioritization of the Goals in national development planning. The model has identified Governance, Environment and Industry as key SDG accelerators for Uganda's development and social transformation across the country. Nevertheless, emphasis also has been placed on the Human Capital development sectors of health, education and water and sanitation as vital to the attainment of the SDGs.

## 1.4 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT OF SDGS

The United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCA) identified challenges and opportunities that can potentially curtail or accelerate progress towards the achievement of NDP III and SDG targets. These cut across the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, namely; Social, Economic, and Environment Dimensions.

**Social Dimension:** Uganda faces the challenge of addressing increasing poverty, food and nutrition insecurity; promoting access to and benefits from inclusive and quality health, education & training and social protection services; addressing HIV and AIDS, water sanitation & hygiene, and gender and other socio-economic inequalities. The COVID-19 pandemic and frequently occurring disasters and risks have exacerbated these challenges, and provides opportunity for change.

Whereas Uganda has enabling laws, policies and frameworks for ensuring gender equality and promotion of women's empowerment, gender inequality and inequity, and sexual gender-based violence exist in Uganda.

NDP III presents a good opportunity for Government and non-state actors to cooperate and instigate measures to protect people, especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups and communities, from socio-economic and environmental challenges, and increase their incomes and quality of life.

**Economic Dimension:** Uganda's economy is demonstrating recovery, having experienced significant slowdown during most part of the Second National Development Plan (NDP II) 2015/16 – 2019/2020 period and was projected to grow from 6.2 per cent in 2018/2019 to 6.3 per cent in 2019/2020, driven by expansion in the manufacturing and construction sectors. However, this earlier projected growth rate has been revised to 3-4 per cent in 2019/20 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 that is expected to have far-reaching negative impacts on the economy and people's livelihoods. Uganda's economy is rural-based with 68.9 per cent of households engaged in the subsistence economy and informal micro and small enterprises without contracts or legal protection. NDP III identifies industry as one of the key accelerators for the attainment of SDGs and the NDP III targets.

**Environment Dimension:** The recent locust invasion, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and rising of Lake Victoria water levels among other shocks, have provided important lessons and opportunities for Uganda and its partners to work towards building comprehensive and strong systems for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, building resilience (governance, socio-economic and environmental) at national, local government, and sector levels.

## 1.5 PEACE, SECURITY AND PARTNERSHIP

Uganda is one of the few countries in Africa where relative peace and security has been sustained for more than two decades. The socio-economic dynamics in East African region, including peace and security, directly affect Uganda's economic development and social progress especially as Uganda hosts the largest refugee population in Africa and the third biggest in the world, with 1.4 million refugees.

NDP III identifies "Governance", as one of the accelerators for the attainment of SDGs and the NDP III targets. A stable, predictable and secure political environment and effective partnerships (engagement with people) is a pre-requisite for inclusive and effective development and social transformation across the country. In its Decentralization Policy, Uganda aims to take the government closer to the people to effectively address their development and social needs. However, the capacity of local governments to mobilise local resources and support development, build resilience and adaptation systems remains a challenge, and an area of opportunity for transformation. Strong institutions and the doctrine of separation of powers will be pivotal for the country to be resilient to different shocks, and promote sustainable development.

Refugees crossing into Uganda from the Democratic Republic of Congo

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A Karamajong cultural event

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# UNITED NATIONS UGANDA SUPPORT TO 2030 AGENDA

The United Nations system in Uganda is committed to contributing towards the development and social transformation of a Ugandan society where there is good governance, observance of human rights, justice, peace and security; gender equality and equity, effective participation in inclusive and sustainable economic development and decent job creation as well as equitable access to and utilization of quality basic social and protection services.

The United Nations Uganda Vision 2030 therefore is: **“A Transformed Inclusive Ugandan Society Where People have Improved Quality of Life and Resilience for Sustainable Development.”**

Noting the socio-economic and environmental impacts of disasters and risks across Uganda, including frequently occurring landslides, floods, droughts, locust invasion and the COVID-19 pandemic, UNCT commits to adopts strategies that would: leverage on technology and innovations (Uganda’s digital transformation); support Government effective role and investment in the economy; enhance

productivity and job security in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); support meeting increased demand for quality and inclusive basic and social protection services; and strengthen disaster risk reduction systems at national, local government, sectors, community and household levels. The Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 has thus been designed to ensure this approach is streamlined across all three strategic priorities and outcomes.

The United Nations system also recognizes that the Government of Uganda demonstrated its leadership by making bold moves as an early starter in localization of the United Nations reform. The key milestones achieved in the implementation of the United Nations reform include:

- Establishment of a New Generation Country Team, with membership of representatives from the Government, UNCT, development partners and international financial institutions, private sector, civil society, traditional leaders and faith-based organizations, youth, academia and the media;
- Establishment of a national SDG Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister in March 2019, with the responsibility of supporting the office in providing coordination for localization and implementation of the SDGs by Government ministries, departments and agencies, private sector and civil society. The Cooperation Framework will build on best practices and lessons learned, to work strategically and innovatively with all partners towards the 2030 Agenda.

## 2.1 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES AND PARTNERSHIPS



Representatives from the albinism community, civil society and the diplomatic community at the launch of the initiative aimed at 'Enhancing Equality and Countering Discrimination against persons with Albinism in Uganda'

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The UNSDCF builds on the successes of the UNDAF (2016-2020) and reflects continued efforts of the CF System in Uganda, with SDGs at its core, in supporting the Government to deliver on the NDP III and 2030 Agenda.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

The Cooperation Framework theory of change is based on the logic that sustaining transformative and inclusive governance, including socio-economic and environmental governance, is a pre-condition for realization of inclusive and sustainable development and social transformation across Uganda that includes promotion of shared prosperity and increased investment in building human well-being and resilience.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, it is envisaged that sustaining transformative and inclusive governance is a requirement and an enabler for promoting shared prosperity in a healthy environment and building human well-being and resilience across all levels. Actualization of the three conditions will lead to a transformed Ugandan society where people have improved quality of life and resilience. Peace and security are an important pre-condition for this change to happen.

In this regard, Government will continue to demonstrate its political will and commitment towards sustained good governance, particularly in bringing government closer to the people for effective engagement and participation, promoting the rule of law and human rights, strengthening effective public policy and resources management and fighting corruption, enhancing E-governance, promoting a programmatic approach to planning, and ensuring peace and security across the country and with neighbouring states. On its part, the United Nations system will provide targeted policy and technical support to strengthen national, local government, and private sector capacities in line with national, regional and international obligations and commitments, guided by the principles of Leave No One Behind, Human Rights-Based Approach, Gender Equity & Empowerment of Women, Resilience, Sustainability and Accountability. In particular, as a means of transformation, the UN system will focus on supporting acceleration of digital transformation in Uganda and enhancing availability of credible disaggregated data for policy, planning and effective monitoring and evaluation of progress towards SDGs.

<sup>1</sup> This is aligned to NDP III position that "Efficient political and economic strands promote social order. A stable, predictable and secure political environment is a pre-pre-requisite for socio-economic development".

The Cooperation Framework will be implemented through three strategic priorities and five outcomes as follows:

## 2.2 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

This strategic priority has one outcome and is aligned to the following:

- Vision 2040 Aspirations: A, B, C, D, E, F, G
- NDP III Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17



### 2.2.1 OUTCOME 1

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

Sustained transformative and inclusive governance is a precondition and a key accelerator for equal opportunities, enabling inclusive and quality economic, environmental, social and political systems, and promoting conservation of the environment while building resilience. It requires accountable, inclusive and effective institutions that perform conscious and efficient public interventions to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Respect for human rights, rule of law, equal access to justice, gender equality and equity are key pillars of such a society, to ensure that the most marginalised and vulnerable are not left behind, and that peace is sustained. Empowering citizens and non-state institutions to actively engage and participate in decision-making is fundamental for transformative and inclusive governance together with access to basic, equitable and quality social and protection services. It also requires facilitation of private investment that promotes inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, conservation

and management of the environment, and promoting people's well-being and resilience.

The United Nations system will work with various institutions and facilitate reforms by supporting national and local multi-stakeholder dialogues on inclusive and accountable governance, the role of state, local government and non-state stakeholders in promoting human rights, equal opportunities, and transformative/inclusive governance as well as monitoring and reporting on reforms and adherence to national, regional and international obligations and commitments. The United Nations will also work with parliament to strengthen its oversight, representative and legislative role in achieving the goal of leaving no one behind. In view of the general elections planned for 2021, the United Nations will support and work with the Electoral Commission, law enforcement agencies, political parties and civil society organizations to contribute towards free, fair, peaceful and credible elections across Uganda. The United Nations system also will continue supporting the Government, private sector and civil society in advocacy and technical support towards the promotion and protection of human rights and gender equality.

## 2.3 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SHARED PROSPERITY IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

This Strategic Priority has two outcomes aligned to:

- Vision 2040 Aspirations: A, B, C, D, E, F
- NDP III Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- SDGs: 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17



### 2.3.1 OUTCOME 2

**BY 2025, PEOPLE ESPECIALLY THE MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE, BENEFIT FROM INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, DECENT EMPLOYMENT AND EQUAL RIGHTS TO RESOURCES**

For Uganda to increase household incomes and improve people's quality of life, it requires inclusive sustainable economic growth, investment in productive sectors (including enhancing productivity and resilience of agriculture with a special focus on smallholders and of other productive sectors such as manufacturing and mining); investment in skills development, investment in building economic resilience and job security in MSMEs, equitable distribution of resources and benefits targeting the marginalized and vulnerable including those in hard to reach regions, refugees and mobile population among others. Observance of human rights and promotion of gender equality and targeting the marginalized and vulnerable groups and regions, is a key condition for shared prosperity in a healthy environment.

In this regard, Government and the UN system will cooperate and work together with the private sector and other relevant institutions to intensify efforts to address the bottlenecks to Uganda's socio-economic transformation in order to harness the opportunities in agriculture, minerals, oil and gas, knowledge, as well as tourism. This will also involve, among others, improving means of livelihood and

creating opportunities for decent jobs, especially for youth and women, leveraging and accelerating Uganda's digital transformation (in productive, trade and service sectors), and protecting workers from socio-economic and environmental disasters and shocks. The UN will support the Government to implement climate-smart agriculture and the sustainable intensification of agriculture to improve productivity, value chain and market efficiency, and resilience as the means to achieving the country's long term aspiration of transitioning into a modern industrial economy, while promoting food sufficiency. The UN will also support and work with the private sector, youth and academia to leverage innovations and technology for job creation, economic/business security and development. The use of digital technologies to drive innovation and integrated approaches for business, job creation, and increased production and productivity in agriculture, and the service and manufacturing sector will be promoted.

The Government will provide leadership and be supported to create an enabling environment for investment and ease of doing business, taking advantage of international and regional frameworks like EAC, COMESA and AfCFTA related to economic growth and development. The United Nations system on the one hand will cooperate and work with targeted government and private sector entities and other stakeholders, especially youth and vulnerable/marginalized groups, on relevant interventions.



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

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### 2.3.2 OUTCOME 3

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

Strengthening Uganda DRR systems and institutions, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (the Africa Programme of Action –POA) will promote sustainable and inclusive economic development and a shared prosperity, with special target to marginalized and vulnerable groups, and fragile regions. The focus is to protect Ugandans from social, economic and security shocks related to frequent environment, climate and health related disasters. This is an important strategy to promote sustainable development.

In this regard, the Government and United Nations are committed to supporting the development and implementation of policies and interventions that target environmental conservation, ecosystem restoration and management of natural resources, to build household and community resilience. The United Nations system will work with relevant organs of government, the private sector and other key stakeholders to build an effective disaster preparedness and response framework. This will include comprehensive systems for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The United Nations will also empower communities in Uganda to constructively engage in, and demand activities that promote environmental conservation, ecosystem restoration, and protection of natural resources to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The UN will support effective and coordinated support to the National Emergency Coordination Centre (NECOC) to be effective in carrying out its mandate and roles, in particular to provide and disseminate early warning information, establish mechanisms for the effective coordination and networking emergency response and recovery assets and resources, support the assignment of responsibilities and establishment of procedures to safeguard the lives and properties of the population in-case of emergencies or disasters through organizational, planning, training activities designed to enhance the countries preparedness and response capabilities.

## 2.3 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: HUMAN WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE

This Strategic Priority has two Outcomes aligned to:

- Vision 2040 Aspirations: A, B, C, D, F, G
- NDP III Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12



### 2.3.1 OUTCOME 4

BY 2025, PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS, HAVE IMPROVED EQUITABLE ACCESS TO AND UTILIZATION OF QUALITY BASIC SOCIAL AND PROTECTION SERVICES

The United Nations system in Uganda will provide technical assistance in reviewing, developing and effective implementation of relevant policies, legal and regulatory frameworks around health, education, HIV & AIDS, food/nutrition, WASH and social protection services. Under this outcome, the system will strengthen the response services that form part of the overall basic social and protection system where social welfare, justice and health sectors are capable of responding to all forms of violence against women, children and other vulnerable or affected groups. The United Nations system in Uganda will also cooperate and work with the Government and non-state organizations including (right holders) to strengthen systems and promote quality and inclusive access to and utilization of protection services.

**The Health Sector:** The United Nations system in Uganda will cooperate and work with the Government, the private sector, and other non-state organizations including rights-holders to strengthen the national health system. Key focus will be placed on promoting inclusive access to and utilization of quality health services as well as strengthening public financial management. The support will target, among others, improving health sector infrastructure, preventing maternal,

new-born and child mortality, addressing unmet needs regarding family planning and contraceptives and provision of antenatal care skilled birth care and postnatal care.

**Education Support:** Uganda's education system needs to be strengthened to improve equitable access, quality, efficiency and effectiveness at all levels of education. Improvement of access to pre-school and progression from primary one across other levels of basic education, transition from primary to secondary education, improvement in quality of education for all children at all levels, promotion of e-learning and skills development are some of the critical areas of support. The United Nations will support the Government to make schools inclusive and safe for all children, including those with special needs. The United Nations system also will work with the private sector to create opportunities for apprenticeship and innovation particularly targeting youth and women.

**Social Protection:** The United Nations system will support Uganda in fulfilling the National Social Protection Policy and strengthen national and local systems to effectively deliver social security and social care services, direct income support, and complementary programmes to ensure that the country's human capital is protected and its full potential promoted. The system also will play an important role in harmonizing social protection, humanitarian and development assistance to refugees by synergising services provided to host and refugee communities. To support the country's efforts to better prepare, mitigate and respond to shocks, the United Nations will support inter-sectoral efforts to coordinate whole of government and whole of society approaches to shock-response. This will include leveraging existing systems and financing arrangements used for routine social assistance and strengthening linkages along the humanitarian-development continuum.



### 2.3.2 OUTCOME 5

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

Uganda's inclusive and equitable economic and social transformation will be realized faster if gender equality, equity, and inclusion of women/girls and other vulnerable and marginalized groups are achieved. As part of human rights, Uganda requires effective promotion of gender equality, elimination of discrimination against women, girls and other marginalized and vulnerable groups, and elimination of sexual and gender-based harmful practices, including FGM and child marriages. This requires strong and accountable institutions and people, and the extent to which public finance revenue and budgetary allocations are equity responsive, and prioritise these issues.

In this regard, the UN system will support the government and other non-state partners, to ensure that incidences and impact of GBV, VAW, VAC and sexual exploitation, harmful practices and abuse of women and children are substantially reduced, if not eliminated. There will be support for advocacy and sensitization to promote positive cultural and traditional practices and discard repugnant ones like FGM and child marriages; building capacities for equity responsive budgeting; and support on community mobilization and capacity building at national and local (district) levels to support mainstreaming GEWE and human rights.

Over 500 HeForShe Champions, Uganda's motocross and Safe Boda riders to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

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# 3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS

To align the United Nations support to Uganda's NDP III, the Government of Uganda and the country team agreed to adopt a collaborative strategy to ensure effective partnerships and targeted, coordinated and impactful support on agreed areas of CF interventions. The United Nations system will engage development partners, private sector, the civil society, umbrella organizations, academia and special groups of women, youth and people living with disabilities (PLWDs) in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework, whilst observing core programming principles.

The Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 embodies the nexus of change and partnerships therefore, the United Nations system, will work towards building and sustaining partnerships for Cooperation Framework implementation, monitoring and reporting during the cooperation cycle. To support national ownership and engagement the highest governing body of the framework will be a joint taskforce comprising a national team and the UNSDCF steering committee. Implementation of strategic priorities will be co-lead with Government line ministries.

The implementation also will be supported by various inter-agency groups including the United Nations Programme Reference Group, United Nations SDG Team, United Nations Disaster Risk Management Team, Human Rights and Gender Advisory Group, Results-Based Management Group, United Nations Operations Management

Team and the United Nations Communication Group. The system will also strive to establish new partnerships, expand old ones, and support informed engagements and consultations with these partners. The UN system will leverage on technology to ensure that partners are actively engaged during the Cooperation Framework cycle, even in the midst of any future challenges.

The Cooperation Framework will be nationally executed by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, for the period 2021-2025. The UNCT will work closely with national SDG Secretariat under the Office of the Prime Minister, and the multi-stakeholder SDG National Taskforce. The UNCT will also provide oversight to the various results groups formed under this Cooperation Framework.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE UNSDCF

The Cooperation Framework is valid for five years 2021-2025 and will be reviewed and reported against annually. Considering Uganda's vulnerability to climate, health, socio-economic disasters and shocks, the effectiveness and efficiency of UNCT configuration will be reviewed annually during the Cooperation Framework period. Subsequent/relevant adjustments will be made to the Cooperation Framework and UNCT capacity configuration as necessary based on the national priorities. A monitoring, reporting, evaluation and learning plan will support agency-specific results-based management activities to mutually reinforce each other, with shared roles and responsibilities. The Cooperation Framework will be reviewed and reported against annual joint work plans and evaluated prior to the start of the subsequent planning cycle.





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