



UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



**2021 UN COUNTRY
ANNUAL RESULTS
REPORT
UGANDA**



UN Uganda Country Results 2021 | Abridged

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Foreword



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

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

Appreciation goes to the partners in the government, civil society, the private sector, and communities with whom the UN has worked to implement the Cooperation Framework in 2021. The UN System will continue to support the 2030 Agenda through strategic partnerships and interventions to deepen the localization and financing of Sustainable Development Goal interventions and integrate a human rights-based approach and gender principles into data and statistics. In line with the promise to 'leave no one behind', the UN System in Uganda pledges to continuously engage with civil society, affected communities and the Ugandan Government to align and integrate the efforts of the international community, including the Universal Periodic Review and the Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Going forward, the UN in Uganda will continue to support the Ugandan Government's recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic with due attention to data and statistics for sustainable development goals; focus on empowering adolescents and youth in Uganda to unleash their full potential; work to eliminate violence against women and girls, and support emergency response coordination.

Susan Ngongi Namondo
UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda

UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM - UGANDA



UNITED NATIONS MISSIONS AND REGIONAL ENTITIES BASED IN UGANDA



UNITED NATIONS UGANDA VISION 2030

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

UNSDCF 2021-2025 OBJECTIVE

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



Key development partners of the UN Development System in Uganda

In 2021, the UN System in Uganda engaged with diverse partners, including government institutions, private sector entities, academia, civil society organizations, worker organizations, employer and business membership organizations (EBMOs)¹ and international organizations and networks in the fields of

- (i) advocacy and communication;
- (ii) programme development/implementation;
- (iii) policy support and policy advice;
- (iv) know-how and expertise exchange; and
- (v) dissemination and outreach.

In 2021, the UN in Uganda engaged with (i) Nordic countries of the European Union: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland; (ii) Central European countries: Austria, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Ireland, Netherlands and Spain; (iii) the Americas: USA and Canada; and (iv) East Asian countries: Japan, Korea, and China. The European Union (EU) continued to be one of the leading partners of the UN in Uganda in 2021.

The UN System in Uganda maintained its strong engagement with **key development partners** such as the EU, the member states and their affiliated development coordination agencies, the international financial institutions such as the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the multilateral/regional development banks such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

The **private sector** continued to be an evolving critical partner for the UN in Uganda for the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the context of building markets and livelihoods, safeguarding the environment and supporting climate action, increasing food security, protecting child rights, and ensuring social inclusion.

Civil society organizations maintained their position as critical partners of the UN System in Uganda for outreach, advocacy, and implementation-oriented partnerships. The UN benefited from the technical expertise, human resources, networks, and local presence of the academia (universities, think tanks, and research institutes) both in the development and humanitarian workstreams.

The UN system in Uganda partnered with the **local governments, grassroots organizations and municipalities** as critical partners for localizing the SDGs through their institutional settings, local networks, and services.

Intra-UN partnerships were also significant in 2021 with a set of UN joint programmes. The flagship areas of convergence on youth, data and statistics, gender-based violence (GBV) and emergency coordination prioritized by the UN System in Uganda provided avenues for demonstrating the UN brand as well as UN's collective added value vis-a-vis the Ugandan Government and key development partners.

¹ EBMOs refers to membership organizations constituted for the purpose of representing and advocating on behalf of business and employers.

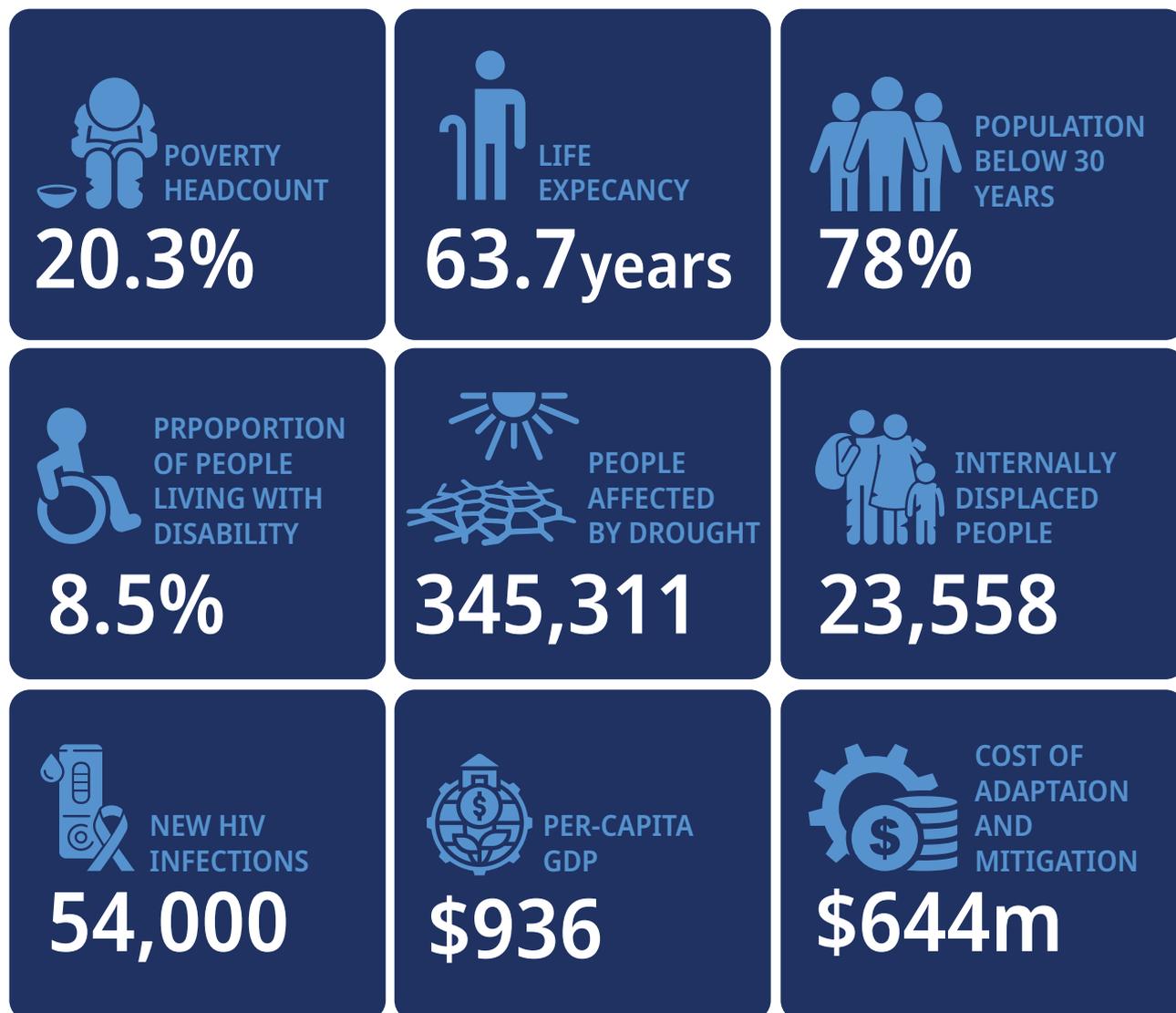


01

Key developments in the country and the regional context

Children play at the ECD centre in Busheka, Isingiro District. The centre is run by Right to Play, supported by UNICEF under the framework of the National Integrated Early Childhood Development ©UNICEF Uganda ©UNICEF Uganda

DATA SNAPSHOT - 2021



Uganda's economy was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy contracted by 1.5 per cent in 2020² but rebounded strongly in 2021, growing by 6.0 per cent. The growth was fueled by an increase in household consumption and investment emanating from the easing of movement restrictions and reopening of businesses between October 2021 and February 2022. Lower consumption in 2020, coupled with reduced economic activities and remittances, limited credit, and job losses, increased poverty from 27.5 to 32.5 per cent after the first lockdown. Unemployment rates had worsened by the second lockdown in 2021.³ However, as restrictions were relaxed, the private sector was revived through expansion in mining and construction. The service sector returned to a near pre-COVID-19 level resulting in a per capita growth in gross domestic product (GDP) from US\$916 in 2019/20 to US\$936 in 2020/21.⁴ The increased economic activity also increased domestic revenue, underpinning further fiscal consolidation for the Government of Uganda.

² Uganda Economic Outlook (2021), African Development Bank, <www.afdb.org/en/countries/east-africa/uganda/uganda-economic-outlook#:~:text=Economic%20activity%20was%20hit%20by,by%20household%20consumption%20and%20investment>

³ The World Bank in Uganda (2021); Economic Overview, <www.worldbank.org/en/country/uganda/overview>

⁴ Uganda Economic Outlook (2021), African Development Bank, <www.afdb.org/en/countries/east-africa/uganda/uganda-economic-outlook#:~:text=Economic%20activity%20was%20hit%20by,by%20household%20consumption%20and%20investment>

Uganda has a youthful population with a median age of about 16 years, which offers a significant demographic dividend in the form of future labour and workforce. On the other hand, it also indicates a higher level of dependency and more expenditure on consumables and social services. The SDG Report 2021 ranked Uganda 140 out of 165 countries with a global index score of 53.5, having improved from 52.6 in 2019 (a score of 100 indicates that all SDGs have been achieved). The country has made significant gains in health, particularly reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, as well as cancer diagnosis and treatment. The HIV prevalence in the country remains high, with young female adults between the ages of 20-24 years five times more likely to be infected than their male counterparts. Gender parity in primary level education has almost been achieved between boys and girls in terms of enrolment and completion, but the country still lags behind at the secondary and tertiary levels. The outlook on access and quality of several essential social services and opportunities such as water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transportation, and employment continues to be positive with challenges in the areas of equity (between women and men), reach (rural and urban, leaving no one behind) and affordability (cost and proximity). Though the COVID-19 pandemic impacted most social services they are steadily picking up as the pandemic continues to lose its stranglehold on the country.

The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia represents a threat to multilateralism and is a factor that may negatively impact Uganda's growth pattern between 2022 and 2023 due to its disruptive nature to trade, aid flow and various supply chains. The conflict could further hamper domestic resource mobilization as major implementing partners divert resources to the Ukraine crisis, which for many is a conflict closer to home. In addition, the increasing expense of inputs such as fertilizers will derail agricultural productivity and, by extension, food security and household income in the country. With erratic weather patterns, insufficient rainfall could further

undermine agricultural yield and reverse the country's gains on achieving zero hunger by 2030.

Uganda is undergoing more extreme weather events such as flooding and prolonged dry and warmer spells. Climate change impacts are felt mainly in agriculture, water, health, and human settlements. About 345,000 people were affected by drought, floods, landslides, heavy storms, and fire outbreaks, with a further 23,558 internally displaced due to the destruction of infrastructure and the risk of water-borne and climate-sensitive diseases. Uganda hosted more than 1.5 million refugees amid challenges of overcrowding in urban settlements, poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene, a high prevalence of undernutrition, and multiple protection risks. If realistic actions are not taken to adapt to the impact of climate change, Uganda could incur an annual economic loss of 2.8-4.5 per cent of GDP between 2020 and 2030. This loss could jeopardize existing infrastructure programmes in energy, agriculture and industrialization. The National Climate Change Policy (2015) estimated the cost of adaptation and mitigation measures at about five per cent of ODA in 2021-25 (about \$644 million total).

Notwithstanding the above, Uganda has embraced the principles of sustainable development with coordination structures established in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Africa Agenda 2063. The country is currently implementing its third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020/21-2024/25, whose goal is to increase household incomes and improve the quality of life of Ugandans. In January 2021, the country conducted its general elections for the presidency, members of parliament, and local governments. The electioneering period was affected by COVID-19, which reduced interaction between the candidates and the populace. Overall, the elections were generally peaceful, and Uganda as a country remains peaceful and stable, despite some terror attacks such as the twin suicide bomb attack at the Uganda Central Police Station and the precincts of Parliament in November 2021.



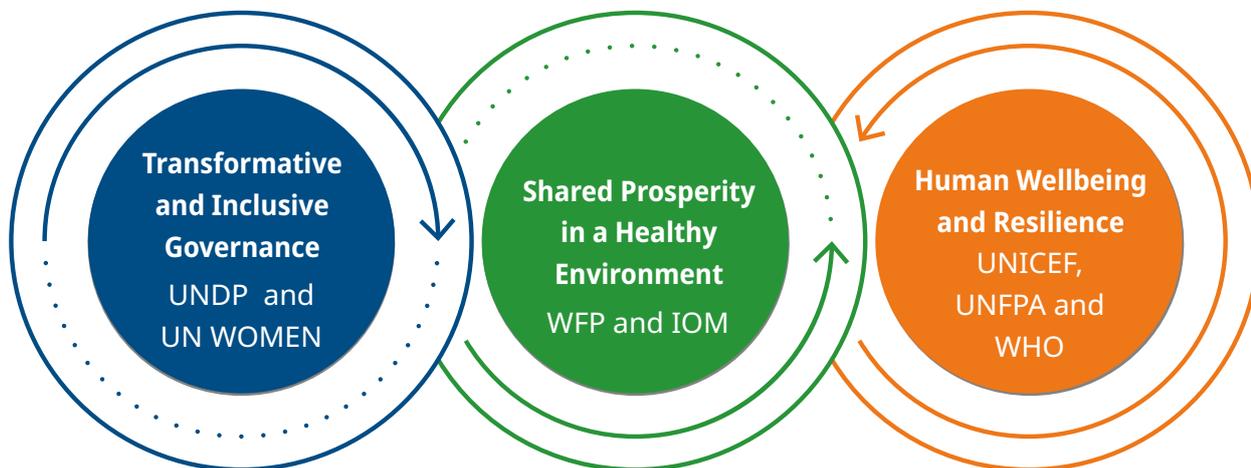
02

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

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

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

The UNSDCF 2021-2025 was designed around three **strategic priorities**, which are long-term results agreed upon with the government and linked to the NDP III and Vision 2040. Five results groups, alongside outcome levels, were formed under the respective strategic priorities. The results achieved in 2021 for the respective priority areas are summarized below.



UNSDCF 2021-2025 Uganda strategic priorities

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



SP1.

Transformative and Inclusive Governance

1.1 Inclusive and Transformative Governance



SP2.

Shared Prosperity in a Healthy Environment

2.1 Productivity, Decent Employment & Equal Rights to Resources

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



SP3.

Human Wellbeing and Resilience

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

3.2 Gender Equality and Human Rights

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE



↑ **18.5%**

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS

15,277,198 : **18,103,603**
2016 : 2021

♀ **4.9%**

133 women
CONTESTED FOR
PARLIAMENTARY
POSITIONS

♀ **3.6%**

22 women
CONTESTED FOR
DISTRICT/CITY
CHAIRPERSON

THE UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
REVIEWED THE SDG INDICATORS, INCREASING
THE NUMBER OF INDICATORS THAT UGANDA
REPORTS ON

↑ **92 to 117**

With UN support to the Electoral Commission, the Elders Forum of Uganda and the Women's Situation Room, there was increased citizen participation in the 2021 electoral process. For instance, the number of registered voters increased from 15,277,198 in 2016 to 18,103,603 in 2021, contributing to a voter turnout of 59.35 per cent. To achieve this, the UN supported media campaigns on voter registration, verification, and inclusion of women and persons with disabilities in the electoral process. Moreover, the critical training and advocacy on gender and elections enhanced women's participation: 133 women (4.9 per cent) contested for parliamentary positions, and 22 (3.6 per cent) contested for district/city chairperson.

To accelerate SDG implementation, the UN provided technical and financial support to select government institutions, including the Office of the Prime Minister, National Planning Authority and Uganda Bureau of Statistics. As a result of this support, action plans were developed for implementing the NDP III, the SDGs Roadmap 2021-2025 and the Integrated National Financing Framework. Additionally, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics reviewed the SDG indicators, increasing the number of indicators that Uganda reports on from 92 to 117.

With the UN support, the 11th Parliament of Uganda amended, passed, and initiated seven laws, including the Employment Amendment Bill, the Sexual Offences Bill, Health Insurance Bill, Public Health Amendment Bill, School Health Policy, National Legal Aid Bill and the Succession Amendment Bill. This Bill was later signed into law by the President, becoming the Succession (Amendment) Act, 2021. The UN's support included the contribution of technical and financial support to selected government institutions and non-state actors.

SDGS CONTRIBUTED TO



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SHARED PROSPERITY IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



IMPLEMENTED INTEGRATED CLIMATE INFORMATION and disaster early warning systems

linked to 33 districts



US\$500,000

PROVIDED TO ACTIVATE THE NATIONAL AND 11 PILOT DISTRICT EMERGENCY OPERATION AND COORDINATION CENTRES.



Over US\$3 million

PROVIDED IN GRANTS AND INCUBATION TO OVER 7,500 YOUTH-OWNED SMES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STANBIC BANK THROUGH THE YOUTH4BUSINESS INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FACILITY



300,000

PRODUCTS ARE CURRENTLY SOLD ONLINE



US\$2 million

RAPID FINANCING FACILITY AIMED AT HARNESSING NATURE, CULTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The UN supported the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, the national implementation strategy, raising awareness among all stakeholders and providing trade finance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help unlock Uganda's potential in the Agreement.

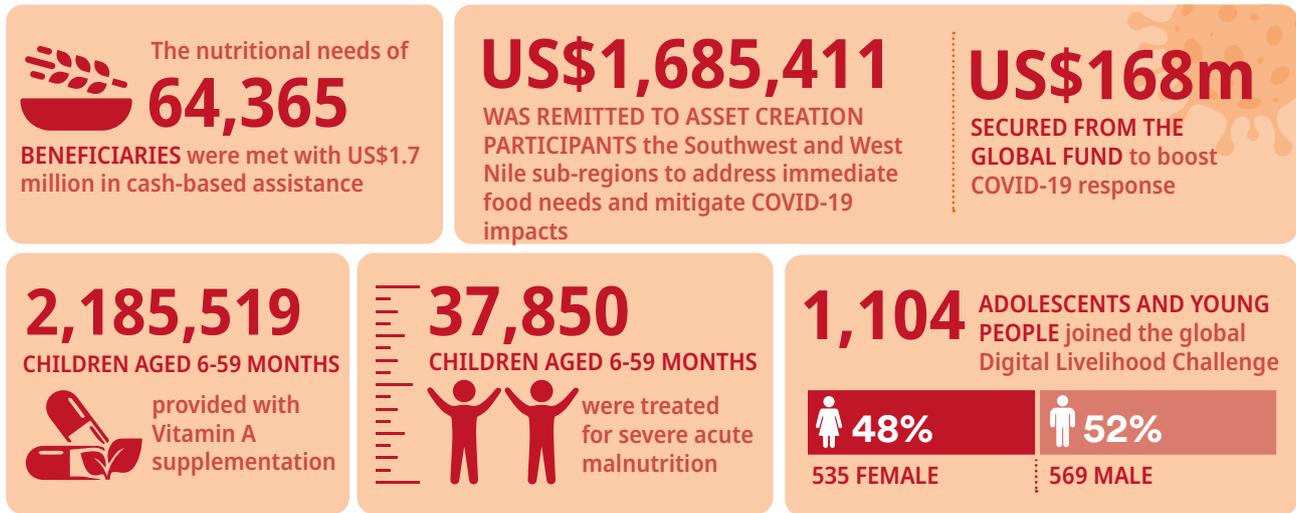
The UN strengthened the capacity of the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre for national preparedness against natural hazards and disasters. To achieve this, the UN, in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister, implemented integrated climate information and disaster early warning systems linked to 33 districts, which provided regular updates to the target audiences. The UN provided US\$500,000 to the Office of the Prime Minister to activate the national and 11 pilot district emergency operation and coordination centres. They were supported with specialized equipment for real-time disaster risk surveillance, data management and communication. In addition, a national action plan for implementing the decade of ecosystem restoration was developed, and a roadmap for strengthening national preparedness and management of food security disaster risks was created.

The UN strengthened livelihoods for women, youth, and vulnerable groups through improved market access and increased competitiveness. To achieve this, the UN partnered with Stanbic Bank Uganda to launch the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility and provided over US\$3 million in grants and incubation to over 7,500 youth-owned SMEs. The UN promoted e-commerce platforms such as Jumia to help micro and SMEs to respond to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions; and over 300,000 products are currently sold online. In addition, the UN implemented a US\$2 million rapid financing facility aimed at harnessing nature, culture, and technology. This helped the government in building a competitive and resilient tourism industry.

SDGS CONTRIBUTED TO



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: HUMAN WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE



The UN enhanced the capacity of the government to expand social protection coverage amid the impacts of COVID-19, natural disasters, and a desert locust invasion. The UN also partnered with Kampala Capital City Authority to provide cash transfers to 1,400 in-and out-of-school adolescent girls as material support for daily needs, and mentorship to equip them with life skills. Furthermore, urban COVID-19 multi-purpose cash grants were disbursed to 34,442 urban refugees, and US\$168 million was secured from the Global Fund to boost COVID-19 response.

In collaboration with the Ugandan Government, the UN provided an integrated response to COVID-19 to minimize the adverse impact on essential health service coverage. Over 1,554,634 women, 338,532 adolescents, 1,002,248 youth, and 106,468 persons with disability utilized at least one sexual and reproductive health and rights service. More than 17 million COVID-19 vaccine doses were imported and 1,076,923 people (94.5 per cent of the targeted population) received first and second doses of the vaccine by December 2021.

To address the challenge of violence and other harmful practices against women, girls and children, the UN contributed to the government efforts toward social norm change. For instance, 22,550 adolescents (12,623 girls: 9,927 boys) demonstrated increased capacity to amplify their voices on various national, district, and community platforms. Within the Learning to Earning agenda, 1,104 adolescents and young people (female:535; male:569) joined the global Digital Livelihood Challenge, with 57 per cent completing the challenge and 97 per cent of those developing a 'growth mindset' when assessed.

The UN implemented joint initiatives, including the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls; the Swedish International Development Agency-supported Joint Programme on Gender-Based Violence (GBV); and global programmes on child marriage and female genital mutilation. For instance 16 GBV shelters across the country were functional, and a GBV survivor reception centre was constructed in Terego District.

SDGS CONTRIBUTED TO



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



EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOOD FOR ADOLESCENTS (ELA), UGANDA

EARLY PREGNANCY

Common types of STIs

Syphilis
 This is a sexually transmitted disease caused by a bacteria called *Treponema pallidum*. Syphilis does not show any signs in its early stages of infection, but it can show some signs later. If untreated, the disease can spread to internal organs and other body tissue, potentially leading to death.

Gonorrhoea
 Gonorrhoea is caused by bacteria called *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. The bacteria can be passed on from one person to another through vaginal, oral or anal sex. The disease can also be passed on from a mother to her baby during birth.

Chlamydia
 Chlamydia is caused by bacteria called *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It is often passed on through vaginal, oral or anal sex. It can also be passed on from a mother to her baby during birth.

Herpes
 Herpes is caused by a virus called *Herpes simplex virus*. It is often passed on through vaginal, oral or anal sex. It can also be passed on from a mother to her baby during birth.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
 HIV is caused by a virus called *Human Immunodeficiency Virus*. It is often passed on through vaginal, oral or anal sex. It can also be passed on from a mother to her baby during birth.

Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA), Uganda

brac **KOICA**

2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOME 1 INCLUSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS



THE UN FACILITATED ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY PERSONS OF CONCERN, REACHING

64,365 PEOPLE



514
REFUGEE
DETAINÉES

WERE PROVIDED WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE



INCREASED GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE AS A PROPORTION OF THE APPROVED BUDGET

90.2%

2020

113.3%

2021

A woman casting her vote during the Presidential Elections in Uganda ©Electoral Commission

The capacity of national and sub-national institutions and systems was strengthened for effective and accountable governance. The UN supported the alignment of relevant government expenditure with national budgeting and planning frameworks. This increased government expenditure as a proportion of the approved budget from 90.2 per cent in 2020 to 113.3 per cent in 2021. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was supported to operationalize the Aid Management Platform, a web-based tool that facilitates planning, tracking, monitoring and reporting development activities.

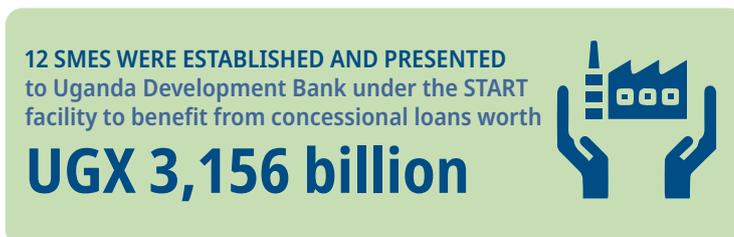
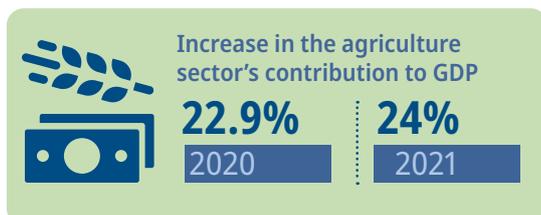
Additionally, the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights was developed jointly with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to improve labour rights, due diligence, and accountability of business operation in the country. The Office of the Prime Minister was supported in conducting the regulatory impact assessment for the refugee policy.

Legal aid services were provided in hard-to-reach areas to ensure marginalized and vulnerable groups participate and benefit from governance and development at all levels. The UN facilitated access to justice by persons of concern, reaching 38,176 people. Refugees were provided with legal assistance on legislative awareness, mobile courts, mediation, as well as legal representation and counsel. Joint prison monitoring was conducted in five prison facilities, and 514 refugee detainees were provided with legal assistance. In addition, in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Strategy for Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism and Terrorism (2021-2026) was approved. It is envisaged that the strategy will strengthen inter-agency coordination with the government on counterterrorism and to counter violent extremism.

In collaboration with The Elders Forum of Uganda and the Women's Situation Room, the UN contributed to efforts to sustain peace in Uganda. Subsequently, relatively peaceful general elections were held in 2021. The UN supported community-level mediation, cultural, religious, and political leaders' dialogues, generation-for-generation conversations, community dialogues with political and security officers and media engagement.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development developed the third National Action Plan (NAP III) on Women's Peace and Security with UN technical and financial support. The NAP III was presented to over 100 UN member states as a good practice at the Global Women, Peace and Security Focal Points network meeting. Select civil society organizations were supported to localize the NAP III in Kasese, Yumbe, Kitgum, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Luweero and Kyegegwa Districts.

OUTCOME 2.1 INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, DECENT EMPLOYMENT & EQUAL RIGHTS TO RESOURCES



The UN's efforts contributed to the increase in the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP from 22.9 per cent in 2020 to 24 per cent in 2021, while the unemployment rate reduced from 9.2 per cent to 8.8 per cent (female 8.9 per cent: male 8.7 per cent) in 2019/20.5. Efforts to leverage private sector capital were enhanced by finalizing the SDG Investor Map, a market intelligence tool⁶ on SDG investment opportunities that provides insights into local market conditions.

With UN assistance, partnerships were nurtured for youth-owned agribusinesses and scaled innovative business models. The UN also partnered with TEXFAD, a non-profit organization that deals in textile development in Uganda, to scale up the production of banana fibre innovations that transform banana plant waste into environmentally-friendly, high-quality textile and handicraft products whilst creating job and livelihood opportunities.

The UN strengthened land ownership rights for women and men. Over 400 customary certificates of land ownership were issued, reflecting the names of both spouses, thus increasing tenure security for both men and women.

The UN contributed to employment creation. For instance, 7,124 jobs were created for 1,395 women due to the provision of start-up capital to boost livelihood interventions in cage fish farming, cash for work (466), and business (5,263).

⁵ Uganda National Household Survey (2019/20)

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

OUTCOME 2.2 NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE




122 hectares
of rangelands in the Karamoja sub-region

 **22,021**
HECTARES OF WETLANDS
were restored across the country; 900 hectares of wetland inlet streams were demarcated for protection;

 **4,400**
WOMEN GAINED access and control over productive water resources and markets.

1,400
WOMEN WERE directly employed in the cage fish farming value chain and earned **MORE THAN US\$275,000**

 **1,104** FARMERS WERE ENGAGED IN GROUP-BASED CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

 35%	 67%
11,113 FEMALE	17,413 MALE

A woman watering tree seedlings in a nursery bed ©FAO Uganda

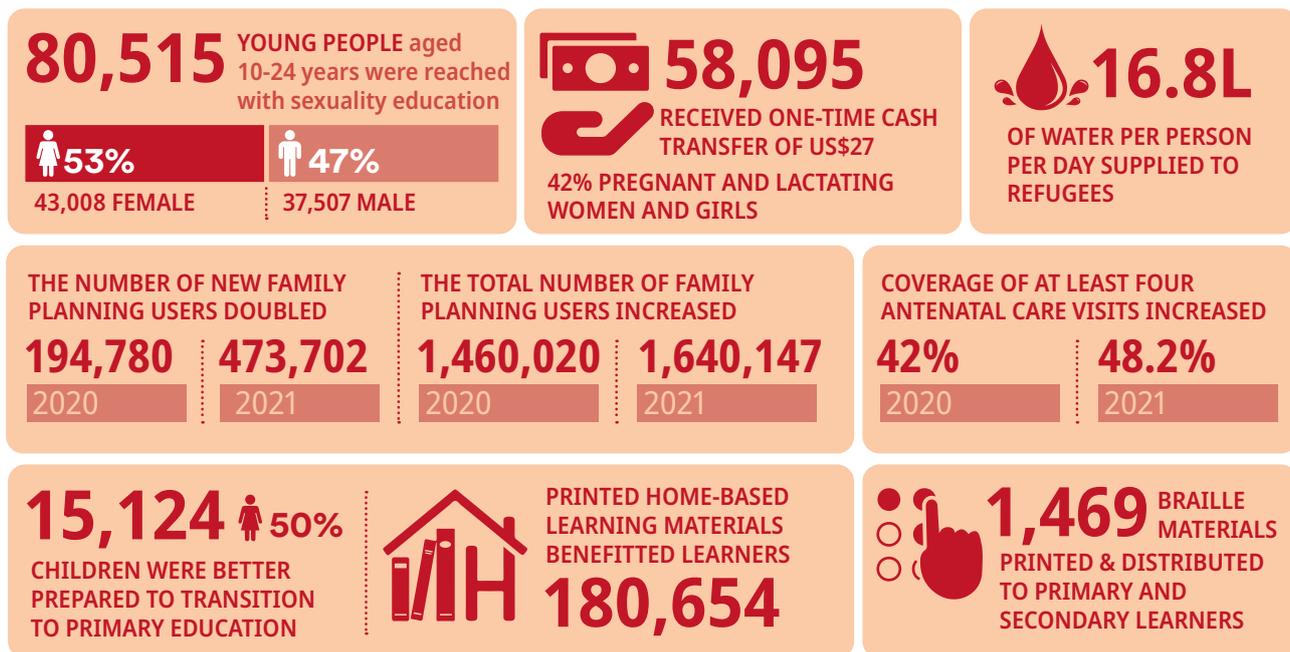
The UN contributed to the government's efforts toward sustainable natural resource management and the protection of vital ecosystems. In partnership with select ministries, departments and agencies, district local governments, communities and private sector service providers, the UN supported the rehabilitation of 122 hectares of rangelands in the Karamoja sub-region. Additionally, 22,021 hectares of wetlands were restored across the country; 875Km (900 hectares) of wetland inlet streams were demarcated for protection; and the Ministry of Water and Environment demarcated 134 hectares of wetlands within south-western refugee settlements to protect them from encroachment.

The UN further provided technical and financial support worth US\$150,000 to strengthen national regulatory and institutional frameworks on access and benefit-sharing from genetic resources in line with the Nagoya Protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Partners include World Agroforestry (ICRAF), the National Environment Management Authority of Uganda, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Uganda Coffee Development Authority.

In addition, gender and equity-responsive climate-smart agricultural practices were promoted, and 4,400 women gained access and control over productive water resources and markets. They were engaged in climate-smart agriculture technologies in targeted districts, and as a result, 1,400 women were directly employed in the cage fish farming value chain and earned more than US\$275,000.

The UN contributed to enhancing the capacities of communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and disaster risks. A total of 31,526 farmers were engaged in group-based climate risk management, including sustainable watershed management, sustainable rangeland management, agroforestry, construction, and use of energy-saving stoves, biogas production, irrigation, use of water storage and conservation technologies, community-based crop and livestock breeding, seed production, and acquisition of customary land ownership certificates.

OUTCOME 3.1 QUALITY BASIC SOCIAL AND PROTECTION SERVICES



The UN contributed to government efforts to provide basic social and protection services. For instance, to fast-track HIV/AIDS response to meet the Test and Treatment 95-95-95 targets by 2025, technical support was provided to the Uganda AIDS Commission to implement the HIV mainstreaming guidelines. As a result, government ministries, departments and agencies allocated 0.1 per cent of their sectoral budgets for HIV response. Four guidelines and policies on sexuality education were approved: School Health Policy, School Health Operational Guidelines, Menstrual Hygiene Management Guidelines and Out-Of-School Sexuality Education. In addition, the 2018 National Sexuality Education Framework was rolled out, reaching a total of 80,515 young people (43,008 female: 37,507 male) aged 10-24 years with sexuality education.

Social protection interventions implemented by the UN benefited vulnerable and marginalized populations. For instance, the UN delivered a one-time cash transfer of US\$27 to 58,095 beneficiaries (42 per cent pregnant and lactating women and girls and 58 per cent children between 6-24 months) to help them meet their food security needs during the pandemic. The UN also provided food and nutrition assistance to more than 1.15 million settlement-based refugees (591,779 female) with 80,079 metric tonnes of food and cash-based transfers worth US\$44,028,318.

In ensuring zero unmet need for family planning, the UN supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to increase access to contraceptive method mix. The number of new family planning users doubled between 2020 and 2021, from 194,780 in 2020 to 473,702 in 2021. The total number of family planning users increased from 1,460,020 to 1,640,147 over the same period in the UN-supported districts. Coverage of at least four antenatal care visits increased from 42 per cent to 48.2 per cent from 2020 to 2021.

To ensure continuity of learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports and select civil society organizations, delivered home- and community-based early childhood development services. The education prospects of refugees improved as 9,878 refugees (33 per cent girls) out of 749,761 candidates nationwide sat for Primary Leaving Examinations from 11,231 centres in Uganda, a 9.8 per cent increase from 2019.

OUTCOME 3.2 GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS



SAFEPAL APP USAGE EXPANDED TO

70 (out of 146) districts and integrated with the national GBV database system and the SAUTI helpline.



694,371 YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN

received prevention or protection services related to harmful practices

1,400,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

members reached with messages advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, and preventing and responding to GBV, HIV/AIDS, child marriage and female genital mutilation

Boda boda riders join youth activists to advocate for a violence free Kampala and safe cities for women and girls during the 16 Days of Activism Campaign ©UN Women Uganda

The UN supported the relevant government and non-state actors in providing essential services for women and children subjected to violence and harmful practices. For instance, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development expanded the use of the SafePal App to 70 districts and was integrated with the national GBV database system and the SAUTI helpline. Consequently, 2,475 application downloads were made, and 216 cases of GBV were reported and successfully referred. In addition, 694,371 young people and women received prevention or protection services related to harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, including 389,717 girls at risk of or affected by child marriage.

Through partnership with cultural leaders to promote positive social and cultural norms, values and practices, over 1,400,000 community members in UN-supported districts were reached with messages advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, and preventing and responding to GBV, HIV/AIDS, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices. As a result, three chiefdoms in Kitgum committed to ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Similarly, cultural leaders from the Karon-lityei Community in Amudat Sub County in Amudat District in eastern Uganda publicly announced their community's abandonment of female genital mutilation.

With the technical and financial support of the UN, the Uganda Human Rights Commission conducted 184 human rights monitoring missions. This resulted in the release of 65 people (43 men, 18 boys, and 3 women) from arbitrary detention.

The UN provided technical and financial support that strengthened the capacity of government and non-government institutions to effectively plan, monitor and deliver public and private financing to social sectors. As a result, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development developed 20 handbooks to inform the enhancement of gender and equity programming in priority sectors. The handbooks spell out each programme's gender and equity issues, the proposed NDP III interventions and performance indicators. In addition, the Equal Opportunities Commission developed Gender and Equity Guidelines for local governments as part of the efforts toward addressing the gender and equity capacity gaps to enhance compliance at the local government level.

2.3 PROGRESS ON THE PROMISE TO ‘LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND’

In the Common Country Analysis, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) identified groups most likely to be left behind in Uganda. These include orphans and vulnerable children, women and girls, children and youth, people with disabilities, persons with albinism, older people, indigenous people, ethnic minorities, people living in remote and hard-to-reach areas, sexual minorities, people living with HIV/AIDS, migrants and mobile population, refugees, and stateless persons. In 2021, the UNCT’s efforts to reach these groups included the following.

- The UN’s Human Rights and Gender Advisory Group remained active, with focal points from all UN agencies with a physical presence in Uganda supporting the UNCT’s advancement of human rights and gender equality and leaving no one behind through its operations, programming, and leadership.
- The UN conducted a gender parity and enabling environment assessment, from which it developed a UNCT Uganda Gender Parity Strategy and Action Plan. These helped in localizing the UN Secretary-General’s System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity.
- The UN supported the integration of human rights into sustainable development. The support included engagement with the Universal Periodic Review and the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Joint capacity building was conducted for the newly reconstituted Uganda Human Rights Commission, as well as ongoing advocacy and capacity building with law enforcement officials and other duty bearers on observing human rights principles and advancing gender equality and women empowerment.
- A Disability Inclusion Working Group was established, and conducted its first comprehensive assessment of the UNCT Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion.
- The UNCT provided technical support to the Government of Uganda to design 22 regional hubs to institutionalize the provision of vital population-friendly services within public health facilities. A total of 145,333 key populations and the community members with whom they interact were reached with HIV and SRH services.
- Empowerment initiatives were carried out for adolescent girls and young women facing intersecting forms of discrimination (females living with HIV, child mothers, transgender, rural poor, those with disability and refugees). Ninety-nine adolescent girls and young women completed the secondary school certification programme, with 93 completing their Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education.

KEY CHALLENGES

- i) Staff transition within the government and the UN caused slight delays in coordinating and implementing the UNSDCF.
- ii) Critical data gaps (regularity, comprehensiveness and timeliness of available data) still exist, making it difficult to monitor SDGs and other international and national priorities.
- iii) Delayed operationalization of the UNSDCF coordination structures within the UN and government hampered effective implementation and reporting for the Cooperation Framework. Key gaps exist in aligning the UNSDCF structures with NDP III programme working groups, SDG secretariat, and UNSDCF Strategic Priority working groups, among others.

2.4 SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING OF THE 2030 AGENDA

The integration of SDGs into NDP III, 2020/21-2024/25 offered an opportunity to prioritize and implement the SDGs at national and sub-national levels. In 2021, the UN Country Team leveraged its convening power to foster new partnerships for implementing and financing the SDGs. For instance, in line with the UN reforms, a new generation UNCT composed of representatives from the government, UN heads of agencies, development partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector was established. These strategic engagements resulted in the creation of the Uganda Private Sector Platform. The Platform mobilized the private sector by providing continuous support and guidance to facilitate its effective contribution to achieving the SDG targets and the NDP III objectives.

In addition, the UNCT and the Equity Group Foundation rolled out a partnership for SDG acceleration in Uganda. As a result, 14 UN agencies collaborated with Equity Bank to develop various initiatives in areas of supporting and de-risking vulnerable populations; capacity building of youth and women; collaboration on climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives; business development for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; scaling up financial inclusion and shared prosperity; creating enabling policy framework for execution; and digitization of national payments systems and social payments.

Furthermore, the UNCT partnered with Stanbic Bank to design the Economic Enterprise Restart Fund

worth \$85,662,500, initially established as a three-year COVID-19 impact relief fund. Through the Fund, the UNCT addressed the financing needs of vulnerable populations, especially women and youth, with limited access to the formal economy. The support was offered through savings and credit co-operatives and village savings loan associations across the country.

To further advance the financing for the 2030 Agenda, the UNCT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, implemented a joint programme on Integrating Policy and Financing for Accelerated Progress on SDGs in Uganda. The programme is co-funded by the UN SDG Fund and UNCT, and it supports the government in developing and implementing an integrated national financing framework. The programme aims to increase domestic revenue mobilization, align private finance and investment to government priorities, and strengthen the governance and coordination mechanisms around planning and financing for the SDGs. In 2021, significant milestones were achieved. For instance, 176 local government plans were reviewed for 31 municipalities and 10 new cities for quality assurance and alignment to the NDP III. Moreover, the government issued a Certificate of Compliance, an institutional benchmark for aligning annual budgets to the national development plans, the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility, and the National Budget Framework Paper.

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

To reduce transaction costs and redundancies, the UNCT embarked on innovative approaches that operationalized the UNSDCF. This included implementing a joint work plan and joint programmes and developing a funding framework for the UNSDCF. The UN implemented joint initiatives and programmes. For instance, the Resident Coordinator's Office, UNDP, UNFPA and OHCHR jointly imple-

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

Furthermore, the Strengthening Electoral Processes in Uganda Project implemented by UNDP, UN Women, OHCHR, UNESCO, and national actors contributed to a relatively peaceful 2021 election process. The Spotlight Initiative implemented by UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNDP contributed to eliminating violence against women and girls; and the Joint UN Programme of Support on HIV/AIDS (JUPSA) implemented by 11 UN agencies continued to address HIV/AIDS amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, UNDP, UNCDF and UN Women implemented a US\$2 million SDG Fund joint programme. The programme resulted in the development of the draft Public Investment Financing Strategy. The strategy identifies alternative financing mechanisms, including the mobilization of private sector stakeholders to finance SDG implementation. The UNODC and UNDP collaborated on the Youth Crime Prevention Initiative, which strengthened community-based strategies to prevent crime, drug use, violence, and radicalization to violent extremism.

EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE AND ADVOCATE TOGETHER

The UN Communication and Partnership Group provided joint communication support to a range of initiatives undertaken by the UNCT to deepen the localization of the SDGs. These included the launch of the UN-Equity Bank Partnership on Enhancing Social Impact through the SDGs in March 2021; the launch of the SDG Private Sector Platform in May 2021; the launch of the SDG Roadmap and SDG Secretariat in September 2021; and the commemoration of the 76th Anniversary of the United Nations on the theme 'Achieving the SDGs Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic' in October 2021.

The joint communication support provided to the above initiatives included organizing events, production visibility and branding items, media engagement and coordinated social media activity. The events were attended by many partners from the government, private sector, and civil society, including youth groups. The Communication and Partnership Group leveraged UN participation in other milestones such as the national commemora-

tion of international dates and other landmarks such as the private sector Chief Executive Officers Forum to promote awareness about the SDGs through the speeches delivered by the UN Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UN System, as well as through mainstream and social media.

PROVISION OF INTEGRATED POLICY ADVICE BY THE UN TO THE GOVERNMENT

The UNSDCF 2021-2025 for Uganda benefited from the contributions made by non-resident UN agencies such as UNCTAD, UNDESA and UNECA, which are also signatories to the Cooperation Framework. The integrated approach of the UN was further proven when the joint UNCT socio-economic impact analysis of COVID-19 was prepared with the contribution of resident and non-resident (UNDESA and UNECA) agencies. The study's recommendations informed the government's response and recovery measures, led by the government's Economic Response Unit, to which the UN Resident Coordinator was a committee member representing the UN System.

In addition, the UN in Uganda continued to collaborate with UNDESA and UNECA to build the capacity of national data and statistical systems, which has improved Uganda's readiness to track progress on SDGs. As a result, the country could identify 201 SDG indicators that apply to Uganda, out of which 117 can be reported on. This informed the development of an Open Data Platform for SDGs anchored on the Uganda Bureau of Statistics website with the support of UNDESA. Uganda's Voluntary National Review Report 2020, which demonstrates accountability and commitment to the 2030 Agenda, greatly benefited from the strengthened statistical capacities. With UNECA's support, Uganda completed a Voluntary Local Review to complement the National Review. As part of south-south learning, the Resident Coordinator's Office collaborated with UNDESA and the African Peer Review Mechanism and facilitated Uganda to share its experiences on integrated policy approaches to resilience and recovery from COVID-19 impacts. The Ugandan Minister of Trade was also facilitated to make a statement during the 15th Session of the UNCTAD Quadrennial Ministerial Conference.

2.6 LESSONS LEARNED



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

The following were the key lessons from implementing the UNSDCF in 2021.

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

2.7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



An overview of UNSDCF required, available and utilized financial resources in the year 2021



An overview of required, available and utilized financial resources in the year 2021 per UNSDCF Strategic Priority

RESULTS GROUPS	2021 RESOURCES PER RESULTS GROUP (US\$)			
	Resources required	Resources available	Resources spent	Delivery (%)
Results group 1	32,029,299	29,589,625	20,227,769	68.4
Results group 2.1	47,483,904	48,387,082	18,129,934	37.5
Results group 2.2	46,932,287	42,583,211	22,126,660	52.0
Results group 3.1	109,414,133	265,408,992	201,930,287	76.1
Results group 3.3	8,239,549	9,522,440	7,599,616	79.8
TOTAL	244,099,172	395,491,350	270,014,266	68.3

A summary of required, available and utilized financial resources in the year 2021 per UNSDCF results groups

2.8 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND QUALITY OF FUNDING

The Funding Frameworks for UNSDCF (2021-2025) were designed as financial planning, management, and mobilization tools. The estimated required resources for implementing the Uganda UNSDCF (2021-2025) account for approximately US\$ 1.02 billion.

Key contributing partners/donors of the UN System in Uganda which provided funding support to UN programmes can be classified through the following categories:

- Economic and political unions.
- UN Member States.
- Development cooperation agencies.
- International finance institutions.
- Foundations and philanthropic institutions.
- Private sector.

The European Union was the key contributor to Uganda's UN programmes and projects.

The UN Member States that have been among the key contributors to sustainable development can be categorized as (i) Nordic countries of the European Union: Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland; (ii) Central European Countries: Austria, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Ireland, Netherlands and Spain; (iii) the Americas: USA and Canada and (iv) East Asian countries: Japan, Korea, and China.

The European Union and the UN Member States and their affiliated development cooperation agencies, including Swedish International Development Agency, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and the Danish International Development Agency, supported the UN programmes in various humanitarian/development fields in 2021.

The World Bank is the leading international financial institution in Uganda regarding the scale and scope of the financial/strategic resource provided to the government. The African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, as multinational development banks, have also increasingly become operational in Uganda.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Montreal Protocol have been the key global vertical funds supporting UN-government efforts on supporting climate action and a green economy in Uganda. Thematic Multi-Partner Trust Funds (MPTFs) also constituted another source of funding for the UN System in Uganda.

Various private sector partners have supported UN programmes/projects in skills development and livelihoods, women's empowerment, rural development, decent work, green economy, sustainable production etc. Foundations and philanthropic institutions such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance, National Philanthropic Trust and Innovation Norway are among the funding sources for the UN System in Uganda.



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



03

Emerging issues and UNCT key focus for 2022

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

3.1 EMERGING ISSUES

As the universe continues to recover from the grasp of COVID-19, other forms of challenges are emerging, and each requires continuous monitoring and action by development actors in Uganda. The list below summarises the major issues noted for the next year.

- Recurring COVID-19 infections amid a low vaccine intake and availability. There is need to continue tracking and taking actions to address the residual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, support vaccination.
- Risks and emergencies emanating from hazards such as drought, floods, locust infestation and

disease outbreaks.

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

3.2 UNCT'S KEY FOCUS FOR 2022

The UNCT in Uganda will continue its engagement with the government and development partners through its interdependent and complementary strategic priorities defined in its Cooperation Framework. It will focus more on building greater synergies through joint initiatives such as joint programming and work plans as the Framework is rolled-out. The following are the key priority areas.

1. Data and statistics for SDGs: In line with the National SDG Road Map and UNSDCF strategic priorities, the UN intends to collaborate with the government to review SDG-related data and statistics in Uganda. The review findings will inform the development of a UN joint programme for data and statistics.

2. Empowering adolescents and youth: The UNCT will support the government with 'Empowering Adolescents and Youth in Uganda to Unleash their Full Potential' through the following components:

- i) Improve the development and implementation of policy for sexual and reproductive health/family planning and mental health for adolescents and youths.
- ii) Improve access to quality inclusive education and training for adolescents and youth.

iii) Enhance the capacity of duty bearers towards enforcement of laws and policies to empower and protect the rights of adolescents and youth.

iv) Enhance employment generation for youth.

v) Increase adolescent and youth engagement for peace, security, and environmental conservation.

3. Violence against women and girls and harmful practices: Building on the successful EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women, girls and children and other joint programmes combating gender-based violence, a key priority for 2022 is to develop and mobilize financing for a Spotlight successor programme, as well as strengthen cohesion and coordination with other gender-based violence initiatives.

4. Emergency response coordination: Inter-agency coordination in a non-refugee and acute emergency context in Uganda has been lacking clarity regarding roles and responsibilities in the UN, as well as quick response and decision-making. The UNCT will therefore develop a new emergency coordination architecture to ensure effective and agile inter-agency humanitarian coordination in taking actions to alleviate human suffering and protect the lives, livelihoods and dignity of people in need.

ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement	MSMEs	Micro, small and medium enterprises
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease	NAP	National Action Plan
CRVA	Climate change risk and vulnerability assessment	NDP	National Development Plan
CSOs	Civil society organizations	NECOC	National Emergency Operation and Coordination Centre
CVE	Countering violent extremism	NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
DECOC	District Emergency Coordination Centre	NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
DHIS	District health information system	NPA	National Planning Authority
DLG	District local government	OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
DRR	Disaster risk reduction	PSFU	Private Sector Foundation Uganda
EC	Electoral Commission	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ECD	Early childhood development	SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
EOC	Equal Opportunity Commission	SMEs	Small and medium enterprises
EU	European Union	SOPs	Standard operating procedures
FY	Financial year	SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
GBV	Gender-based violence	TEFU	The Elders Forum Uganda
GDP	Gross domestic product	UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus	UCDA	Uganda Coffee Development Authority
ICT	Information and communication technology	UGX	Uganda shillings
IEC	Information, education and communication	UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
JLOS	Justice, Law and Order Sector	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
JSC	Joint Steering Committee	UPF	Uganda Police Force
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority	UPS	Uganda Prisons Service
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
MDAs	Ministries, departments and agencies	USD	United States Dollar
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development	UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports	VAC	Violence against children
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	VAWG	Violence against women and girls
MOH	Ministry of Health	VNR	Voluntary national reviews
		WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
		WPS	Women in peace and security



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