2021
ANNUAL REPORT
Strengthening our Collective Pursuit of Uganda’s Development Beyond COVID-19
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ABOUT UNDP UGANDA

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to ending the challenges of poverty, inequality and climate change globally. Working with a broad network of experts and partners in over 170 countries, UNDP helps nations to build integrated and lasting solutions for people and the planet.

UNDP in Uganda is dedicated to supporting the Government to achieve sustainable development, create opportunities for empowerment, protect the environment, minimize natural and man-made disasters, build strategic partnerships, and improve the quality of life for all citizens, as set out in UNDP Uganda’s Country Programme Document 2021-2025.

In 2021, UNDP embarked on a new country programme offer for the period 2021–2025 premised on partnerships and cooperation. UNDP also accelerated sustainable solutions geared toward addressing poverty, inequality, climate change and fostering partnerships in this 2020–2030 Decade of Action, working in close collaboration with the Government and people of Uganda amid the challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNDP has played its integrator role in the UN system by offering a platform for stakeholder consultations during the development of the Government of Uganda’s Third National Development Plan (NDP III). UNDP has also ensured the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025 is aligned to Uganda’s development agenda and positions the UNDP Country Office and broader United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to deliver as one on Uganda’s Vision 2040 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AfCFTA</td>
<td>African Continental Free Trade Area</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>Common Country Assessment</td>
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<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Markets for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Novel Coronavirus Disease</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>DCIC</td>
<td>Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control</td>
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<td>DRM</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Management</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>Electoral Commission</td>
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<td>ELSA</td>
<td>Essential Life Support Area</td>
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<td>ENR</td>
<td>Environment Natural Resources</td>
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<td>ERA</td>
<td>Electricity Regulatory Authority</td>
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<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender-Based Violence</td>
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<td>Green Climate Fund</td>
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<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
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<td>GES</td>
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<td>Harmful Practices</td>
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<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
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<td>IGG</td>
<td>Inclusive Green Growth</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<td>IRCU</td>
<td>Inter-Religious Council of Uganda</td>
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<td>JLOS</td>
<td>Justice, Law and Order Sector</td>
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<td>KOICA</td>
<td>Korea International Cooperation Agency</td>
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<td>LASPNET</td>
<td>Legal Aid Service Providers Network</td>
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<td>MGLSD</td>
<td>Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development</td>
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<td>MSME</td>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise</td>
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<td>MTWA</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities</td>
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<td>NEMA</td>
<td>National Environment Management Authority</td>
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<td>NDC</td>
<td>Nationally Determined Contribution</td>
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<td>NDP</td>
<td>National Development Plan</td>
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<td>NDPIII</td>
<td>Third National Development Plan</td>
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<td>NECOC</td>
<td>National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre</td>
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<td>NFA</td>
<td>National Forestry Authority</td>
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<td>NPA</td>
<td>National Planning Authority</td>
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<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<td>PSFU</td>
<td>Private Sector Foundation Uganda</td>
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<td>RCO</td>
<td>Resident Coordinator’s Office</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SGBV</td>
<td>Sexual and Gender-Based Violence</td>
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<td>SIED</td>
<td>Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development</td>
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<td>SLM</td>
<td>Sustainable Land Management</td>
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<td>SME</td>
<td>Small and Medium Enterprise</td>
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<td>SOP</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedure</td>
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<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights</td>
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<td>SSC</td>
<td>South-South Cooperation</td>
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<td>UBOS</td>
<td>Uganda Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>UGVS</td>
<td>Uganda Graduate Volunteer Scheme</td>
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<td>UHRC</td>
<td>Uganda Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNDAF</td>
<td>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</td>
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<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNDS</td>
<td>United Nations Development System</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>UNSDCF</td>
<td>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</td>
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<td>UTB</td>
<td>Uganda Tourism Board</td>
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<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence Against Children</td>
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<td>VAWG</td>
<td>Violence Against Women and Girls</td>
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<td>WEE</td>
<td>Women Economic Empowerment</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>WSR</td>
<td>Women Situation Room</td>
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The year 2021 has been another year to remember, and another unprecedented year for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda. We have together remained resilient in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected development gains and disproportionately impacted youth, women, older persons, people with disabilities, those with refugee or migrant status, and marginalized groups. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), especially those working in the informal sector, continue to require our steadfast support. Meanwhile, harnessing opportunities that have surfaced during the pandemic remains a high priority, whether that means pursuing digital innovations, revitalizing the tourism sector, preparing Ugandan enterprises to harness opportunities arising from the AfCFTA, or strengthening new and existing partnerships in pursuit of Uganda's development aspirations.

While 2021 indeed proved challenging, the year also saw the realization of several key milestones. UNDP began implementation of our new Country Programme 2021-2025 which will see us accelerate progress toward achieving the “Uganda We Want” during this United Nations (UN) Decade of Action. We also witnessed the launch of the country’s new National Industrial Policy designed by the Government of Uganda in partnership with UNDP to spur industrial development and economic transformation, launch of the Roadmap for the Implementation of the SDGs in Uganda 2021-2025, deepened partnership between UNDP and the Government of Uganda to harness the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), as well as launching and scaling several innovative initiatives to support resilient livelihoods and enhance our pursuit of sustainable development in Uganda.
Throughout 2021, our programming ranged from supporting the Government to adequately respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; increasing support to youth entrepreneurs, impact-driven enterprises, and the broader entrepreneurship ecosystem through the Youth4Business Facility and several related initiatives; launching innovative mechanisms to encourage recovery of Uganda’s tourism sector; championing Uganda’s digitalization efforts through e-commerce, e-governance and e-justice initiatives; supporting refugees and refugee hosting communities through community empowerment projects; enhancing efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls; enhancing livelihood opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups; and supporting Uganda’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) through community action to curb the impacts of climate change. Through new and existing partnerships with the Government of Uganda, development partners, donors, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions, media, traditional leaders and the people of Uganda, we continue to push forward for deep and lasting solutions for Uganda and its people.

What has been achieved throughout 2021 demonstrates that UNDP Uganda is resilient, innovative, people-centred and continuously adapting to best serve the people of Uganda in our pursuit of sustainable development, while fully embracing UNDP’s role as an integrator and a development thought leader. What cannot be over-emphasized are the meaningful engagements we had with Uganda’s private sector, development partners and other key actors as we continue to focus on implementing initiatives based on principles of partnership, cooperation, value addition and subsidiarity.

I am pleased to present this 2021 Annual Report which chronicles many of the activities and accomplishments of UNDP Uganda during this past year. It is our collective honour to continue serving as Uganda’s partner of choice for sharing knowledge on development and strengthening national capacities, as we remain committed to empower lives and to build a resilient nation. The milestones achieved in 2021 could not have been made possible without the trusted partnership of the Government and people of Uganda and the dedicated team of UNDP Uganda staff members to whom I am most grateful. I also appreciate the strong partnerships with the broader (UNCT), development partners, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions, media, faith-based and traditional institutions, and non-state actors with whom we continue to deliver transformative development solutions.

With 2021 in the history books, I invite you to join me in looking forward to a new year of continued cooperation in our joint efforts to fight against the injustices of poverty, inequality and climate change, protect the planet, instill good governance, foster strong institutions, and promote a prosperous future for the people of Uganda.

Elsie G. Attafuah
Resident Representative
INTRODUCTION

Report in Summary

The year 2021 was the first year of implementation of UNDP’s County Programme for Uganda 2021-2025. This 2021 Annual Report highlights the key milestones and development results achieved by UNDP Uganda programmes. The report focuses on UNDP’s response to COVID-19 in Uganda and is organized into six integrated programmes:

This 2021 Annual Report highlights several UNDP programmes and initiatives with a focus on partnerships and within the broader programmatic context of COVID-19 response. In 2021, UNDP continued to receive great support of the sustainable development agenda in partnership with the Government of Uganda, which is helping to eradicate the injustices of poverty, inequality and climate change while responding to and recovering from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda. This ongoing partnership has strengthened national preparedness, effectively respond to crises and shocks, and promote the domestication of SDGs within the country’s development framework.

This report highlights key milestones of UNDP’s programmatic interventions through 2021, including protecting livelihoods of vulnerable groups, institutional strengthening, sustainable energy solutions, responding to climate change, peace and security, eliminating violence against women and girls, and UNDP’s complex role as a thought leader and integrator within the broader (UNCT) in Uganda.

The report also presents UNDP’s resource mobilization and partnership engagements, and outlines lessons learned as we approach 2022.
Installed with solar systems to improve health outcomes, enhance COVID-19 vaccination efforts, increase ability of health worker to handle emergency situations, and promote green energy solutions.

Supported in Kapchorwa, Bulambuli and Kween districts through innovative digital financing solutions to access agricultural products and services for increased productivity.

Being created indirectly through the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility, a multiplier effect from 20,000 new decent jobs and 50,000 youth skilled and trained.

Through several UNDP youth focused initiatives including the Jumia E-Commerce Platform, Innovation Challenge Fund, UNDP Climate Promise and Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility.

Reached through Youth IDEAthon information sessions discussing youth entrepreneurship in sectors including agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, energy, information technology and healthcare.
2021 IN NUMBERS

7,500 MICRO ENTERPRISES
equipped with business skills and resources to enhance entrepreneurial capacity to recover from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

500 STREET VENDORS
supported with skills training and tools for hygienic food preparation, food safety standard and entrepreneurship through the Rolexprenuer initiative.

22,000 HECTARES OF WETLANDS
have been restored under the Wetlands Restoration Project, designed to promote sustainable management and restoration of wetlands and to support target communities reduce risks posed by climate change.

10,700 BENEFICIARIES
participated in cash-for-work activities in Adjumani, Lamwo and Obongo districts, through the UNDP-KOICA Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project.

90 PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES
have adopted the UNDP Gender Equality Seal, recognizing their commitment, expertise and effectiveness in protecting and advancing gender equality in the workplace.
Uganda has a very youthful population, with 78% aged 30 years and below and more than 700,000 young people entering the job market annually. Leveraging the potential of this youthful segment of Uganda’s population is crucial for the social economic transformation Uganda aspires to attain by 2040.

UNDP is committed to addressing Uganda’s youth unemployment challenge through equipping youth with vocational skills, increasing competitiveness of youth within the labour market, building capacities of national institutions to mainstream youth employment, and supporting youth-led enterprises to pilot innovative ideas.

UNDP in 2021 has undertaken several initiatives designed to empower the youth of Uganda, with skilling, innovation and entrepreneurship serving as catalysts to enable UNDP’s broader development agenda in Uganda including the eradication of poverty, promotion of sustainable development, creation of opportunities for empowerment, and achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its central mission to leave no one behind.

Within UNDP’s Country Programme for Uganda 2021-2025, ‘Youth 4 Development’ serves as the Flagship Programme through positioning the youth of Uganda as leaders, innovators, changemakers and agents of sustainable development.
Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship

A significant focus of UNDP’s COVID-19 Offer throughout 2021 has been to support economic participation of Uganda’s youth, with entrepreneurship providing an empowering alternative livelihood opportunity for many of Uganda’s youth suffering from unemployment and underemployment. As such, building on the success of the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility, UNDP in 2021 partnered with over 50 youth-owned and focused enterprises in priority sectors of agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, renewable energy, construction, health and the creative arts sector to design, pilot and scale innovative business ideas.

Through the Youth4Business Facility, UNDP’s partnership with BRAC Uganda has equipped over 7,500 micro enterprises with skills and tools to enable recovery from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, while enhancing their entrepreneurial capacity. Meanwhile, nearly 150,000 farmers in Kapchorwa, Bulambuli and Kween districts have been able to access financial credit through Quest Digital Finance, fostering digital access to agricultural products and services for increased productivity. Through UNDP’s partnership with enterprising women and youth across the country, nearly 300 youth and farmers have also been equipped with skills in bird and cultural tourism guiding, and Youth4Business grantee EcoPlastile has successfully removed 360 metric tonnes of plastic from the environment to produce recycled plastic roofing tiles.

These and many more youth enterprises continue to have an innovative impact and empower the broader economic participation of youth.
Reviving Uganda’s Creative Sector

Following challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP launched the Creatives Innovation Challenge in 2021 to support the revival of Uganda’s creative sector. This initiative has established a dedicated creative arts facility to provide a more structured business environment for creative enterprises through catalytic financing, business mentorship, strategic engagement platforms, and promotion of an enabling regulatory environment for creative artists.

Following an initial open call which attracted over 600 unique submissions, 50 finalists have been identified to participate in Cohort 1 of this initiative, whereby each creative enterprise will be paired with industry mentors, attend monthly masterclasses on business management, receive monthly project execution support, business registration support, and project grants.

UNDP has also begun identifying up to 400 creative enterprises in categories of performing arts, audio-visual and interactive media, visual arts and crafts, design and creative services, books and press, and cultural heritage. Through the eventual onboarding of these 400 creative enterprises, UNDP is working to provide immediate relief to the creative sector while also supporting the creation of an enabling framework for Uganda’s creative and cultural sectors to explore trade and market linkages for creative export.
The Inclusive and Sustainable Growth programme promotes structural transformation in view of the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), advances competitiveness in the manufacturing sector while building robust and integrated value chains in the agriculture, tourism and mining sectors with a focus on integrating local economic actors, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), youth, women, people with disabilities, refugees and other vulnerable groups.

Emphasis is also placed on advocating for sustainable and inclusive business models, promoting financial inclusion, incentivizing innovation and promoting gender equality, while ensuring lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic strengthen national resilience to business shocks.

Significant investment is also being made in youth-led businesses and entrepreneurship in response to Uganda’s youth unemployment challenge, through accelerating Uganda’s industrialization agenda and capitalizing on the emerging digital economy.

These interventions, paired with the enhancement of local government capacity and e-governance systems, are envisaged to facilitate creation of more productive and inclusive jobs, strengthening Uganda’s position within regional and global value chains.

UNDP has partnered with business member organizations to build competitiveness of over 850 export-ready enterprises and seize trade and investment opportunities emerging from the AfCFTA.
UNDP’s COVID-19 offer, in alignment with Uganda’s National Response Plan for COVID-19 and the UN Response Plan, has been geared toward promoting robust, integrated and multisectoral approaches, interventions and digital solutions to support the Government of Uganda to prepare, respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2021, efforts have been strategically informed by UNDP’s COVID 2.0 offer, focusing on assisting decision-makers to look beyond recovery while promoting social protection, green economy and digital disruption.

UNDP took part in national efforts to strengthen structures and systems to enhance national resilience to disaster risks, deployed essential health workers to boost COVID-19 response, installed solar systems in 24 health centers to improve health outcomes and enhance COVID-19 vaccination efforts, supported Government business continuity in the wake of COVID-19 through extended deployment of Zoom Enterprise Licenses, promoted e-commerce and employment in the digital economy, and expansion of e-governance to boost efficiency, transparency and accountability. UNDP also protected livelihoods of vulnerable groups, supported refugee and host communities through cash-for-work activities and enhanced the effectiveness of the National Emergency Operation and Coordination Centre (NECOC) situated in the Office of the Prime Minister to facilitate early warning to avert disasters, and coordination of emergency and crisis response and recovery action.

Through NECOC’s early warning system, Uganda continued to save significant resources that would otherwise have been spent in addressing multiple natural disasters. Meanwhile, the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility continued to create opportunities for young people to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic and supported impact-driven entrepreneurship. UNDP has employed such initiatives to accelerate structural transformation and create opportunities for empowerment, through generating avenues for jobs and livelihoods creation.
Bringing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to Life

In March 2021, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat and UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa signed a strategic partnership agreement to promote trade as a stimulus for Africa’s socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and as a driver of sustainable development particularly for women and youth.

Signed by over 50 African countries including Uganda, the AfCFTA will lead to the realization of necessary enablers including business development services, skills training, access to trade financing, and regulatory reforms. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) owned and managed by youth and women are being prioritized, with a focus on interventions and trade innovations that support access to new continental markets, regional blocs, and digital solutions to facilitate easier and more successful trade.

To ensure that Uganda’s private sector can fully take advantage of opportunities presented by the AfCFTA, UNDP has partnered with four business member organizations - Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI), Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA), Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU), and the Federation of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (FSME) - to build competitiveness of over 850 export-ready enterprises. Through these partnerships, UNDP is building capacity of SMEs to seize trade and investment opportunities emerging from the AfCFTA while also fostering sustainable entrepreneurship and leveraging potential to create employment opportunities across multiple sectors.

Working with Government and other industry actors, UNDP facilitated an AfCFTA multi-stakeholder dialogue on harnessing the transformative potential presented by this trade agreement. The deliberations also informed the preparation of a draft comprehensive National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy, while the forum was used to exchange innovative ideas that align gender equality and women’s economic empowerment priorities within implementation.
Reactivating Uganda’s Industrialization Agenda

In 2021, UNDP provided support to the Government of Uganda to launch the National Industrial Policy (NIP) 2020 including through hiring experts to formulate the policy and its strategy, launching of the policy and production of policy briefs, with NIP 2020 expected to spur industrial development and inclusive economic transformation in Uganda. This serves as a review of the previous National Industrial Policy 2008 and places greater emphasis on agro-industries, extractive industries and knowledge-based industries to provide a framework for Uganda’s industrialization, employment and wealth creation.

Uganda’s pursuit of industrialization is highlighted within Vision 2040 and the third National Development Plan (NDP III), Uganda’s medium and longer-term plans that emphasize industrialization as a key driver for achieving Uganda’s development aspirations. NIP 2020 will address challenges faced by the sector including lowering the cost of manufacturing, increasing public investment, enhancing productivity and efficiency through strengthened human resources, and increasing the range of value-added competitive products to create more employment opportunities.

The National Industrial Policy 2020 will also address Uganda’s trade imbalance by enhancing import substitution, lowering the cost of industrial finance, widening the industrial base and improving integration with agriculture, mineral exploitation and other domestic natural resources.

The overarching theme of the Policy is “Sustainable Industrialization for Inclusive Growth, Employment and Sustainable Wealth Creation” seeking to promote resource efficient and environmentally sustainable industrialization in the country.
Reviving Uganda’s Tourism Sector

As part of national efforts to support Uganda’s tourism sector to recover from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP in 2021 partnered with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA), Uganda’s private sector, cultural institutions, academic institutions and media to pilot and scale-up natural, cultural and digital based solutions to enhance Uganda’s tourism product, stimulate recovery of the tourism sector, build resilience, while tackling biodiversity loss and climate change. Through numerous interventions, UNDP and partners continue to leverage new opportunities for the revival of Uganda’s tourism sector, and in 2021 we have seen a sharp increase in both domestic and international tourist traffic.

In partnership with the Government of Uganda and Tooro Kingdom, UNDP developed and piloted Ekyooto Ha Mpango, a cultural festival curated to showcase the rich history and cultural heritage of Uganda’s Rwenzori Region. The festival exhibited innovations originating in the region, marketed business and investment opportunities, and provided a platform to engage in conversations on the integration of culture in the conception, measurement, and practice of development with a view to advancing inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. The Ekyooto Ha Mpango festival also featured business clinics targeting youth, women and small business owners in the region, focusing on exploration of business opportunities within Uganda’s tourism sector, productive and profitable businesses in agriculture, and the monetization of the music industry. Sessions were conducted by expert facilitators and attended by more than 500 youth both physically and virtually, equipping them with knowledge and skills in business management.

Through UNDP’s Harnessing Nature, Climate and Digital Technology project to revive Uganda’s tourism industry, UNDP has partnered with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to build the capacity of 200 youth, women and ex-poachers to pursue alternative livelihoods such as apiary farming around targeted conservation areas in areas of Kibale, Rwenzori, Bwindi and Lake Mburo. UWA has been equipped with six unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and VHF radio communication systems to enhance wildlife monitoring and protection in the protected areas of Queen Elizabeth National Park and Murchison Falls National Park.

Through a partnership with the Rolex Initiative, UNDP has also established Rolexprenuer, a skills training programme to equip over 500 street food vendors in districts of Kabarole, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kyenjojo, Kyegwga, Bunyangabu, Kamwenge and the cities of Fort Portal and Kampala with essential skills and tools for hygienic food preparation, food safety standard and entrepreneurship. UNDP’s partnerships with UWA and Rolexprenuer has seen business practices, financial management and product packaging improve significantly among project beneficiaries.

UNDP and partners have promoted domestic tourism in Uganda, with a focus on the Rwenzori Region.
Empowering Refugee and Host Communities

UNDP and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) continue to implement the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project, an initiative to support improved economic empowerment of refugees and refugee hosting communities of Adjumani, Lamwo and Obongi. This initiative has served to strengthen economic capacities of beneficiaries – predominantly women and youth – through cash-for-work activities, financial literacy and business mentorship, and support to establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), thereby promoting the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Building Nexus.

10,720 beneficiaries have been supported through participation in cash-for-work livelihood activities such as road construction, tree planting, cooking stove construction and farming. Meanwhile, capacity of local authorities in Adjumani, Lamwo and Obongi has been strengthened through participation in gender-based violence (GBV) sensitization activities and training on delivery of psychosocial therapy, established to support refugee and host community resilience.

In partnership with the Government of Japan, UNDP has implemented the Building Resilient Refugee and Host Communities project, seeking to build community resilience for enhanced gender responsive livelihoods and sustainable environmental management. This project has reached 1,490 beneficiaries through cash-for-work activities which have so far constructed 8 kilometres of road through Palabek Refugee Settlements, repaired 400m of road through reinforcing technology, established over 50 acres of woodlots, and constructed over 1,000 energy savings stoves. Through this initiative, UNDP has also conducted sensitization in refugee and host communities on COVID-19 preventative measures and distributed essential personal protective equipment (PPE).

In 2021, UNDP and multisector partners also worked with the Government of Uganda to launch the Jobs and Livelihood Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP), a framework for addressing the socioeconomic needs of refugees and refugee hosting communities in Uganda, tackling environmental challenges and promoting investments. JLIRP is projected to benefit over 1.4 million refugees and 5.7 million Ugandan citizens in 31 settlements across 13 districts including Madi-Okollo, Terego, Koboko, Adjumani, Yumbe, Obongi, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kyegowa, Isingiro and Kampala.

Beyond the year 2021, UNDP will continue to offer its global expertise in economic recovery, inclusive economic growth, resilience, sustainable development peace building and social cohesion for the development nexus in the refugee response.
The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to create adverse impacts for vulnerable groups in Uganda, particularly women and girls. The nationwide lockdown brought a significant rise in cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Harmful Practices (HP), while instances of child marriage and teenage pregnancy have increased throughout Uganda in 2021.

In response to this shadow pandemic, UNDP has partnered on the joint United Nations and European Union Spotlight Initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Through partnership with UN agencies including UN Women, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNFPA; Implementing Partners including Joy for Children, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), Karamoja Women Umbrella Organization (KAWUO), Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), International Justice Mission (IJM) and Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS); and development actors from Government, Private Sector and Civil Society, UNDP has continued its important contribution to the Spotlight Initiative in 2021.

**Under Pillar 1:** Through ‘Promoting laws and policies to prevent violence, discrimination and address impunity’, UNDP supported capacity enhancement of District Local Government officials to develop ordinances and bylaws on ending violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices. The Legal Aid Service Providers’ Network (LASPNET) was also supported to table the Legal Aid Bill for a first reading at the 10th Parliament.

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UNDP and the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) awarded six private sector companies with grants to support delivery of innovative GBV interventions.
Under Pillar 2: Through ‘Strengthening national government and regional institutions’, UNDP launched the GBV Online Course and Multimedia Centre alongside the Ministry of Public Service (MoPS) and Civil Service College Uganda (CSCU), to build civil service capacity in GBV responsive planning. UNDP also worked with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) to design the GBV Dashboard to improve national and subnational coordination of GBV response and programming. Meanwhile, training and mentorship was offered to 11 Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and 6 District Local Governments (LGs) to mainstream GBV response in plans and budgets, with officials skilled in identification and integration of GBV and promotion of SRHR issues.

Under Pillar 3: Through ‘Promoting gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours’, UNDP provided livelihood interventions as a preventative measure against GBV, with 1079 (1010 female, 69 male) beneficiaries receiving startup kits and 335 (318 female, 17 male) trained in Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) methodologies in Kampala and Tororo. 180 women mining associations were also provided with small grants in Tororo and Kasese, with an additional 60 women groups equipped with vocational skills training. Meanwhile, 90 private sector companies have now adopted the UNDP Gender Equality Seal, recognizing their commitment, expertise and effectiveness in protecting and advancing women’s rights and gender equality in the workplace.

Under Pillar 4: Through ‘Making high-quality essential services available for survivors of violence’, UNDP and LASPNET hosted Legal Aid Open Days in Kyegge, Amudat and Isingiro to increase community access and awareness of legal aid services and referrals for GBV cases. Improved case management was also supported through mentorship of 57 Legal Aid Service Providers (35 female, 22 male) on trauma informed GBV reporting and response. As a result, improvements have been noted in areas of case management, referrals, forensic medical examinations, and trauma-informed care in Kasese and Tororo.

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, an annual campaign running from 25 November to 10 December, UNDP supported MGLSD in conducting a GBV Knowledge Fair to exhibit and disseminate GBV learning materials while sharing progress, lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of GBV prevention and response activities. Six private sector companies benefited from grants to support delivery of innovative GBV interventions in workplaces.
Action and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases

To strengthen and fast-track multi-sector action for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Uganda, the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force (UNIATF) in 2021 established the UNDP-WHO Global Joint Programme on Catalyzing Multisectoral Action for Non-Communicable Diseases. Funded by the European Union, the 2-year project will focus on briefing parliamentarians on NCD risk factors, supporting parliamentarians to develop effective and feasible laws, undertaking policy dialogues to facilitate whole of government and whole of society approaches to NCDs, develop Uganda’s National NCD Strategy, and strengthen the NCD multisectoral coordination structure.

This UNDP-WHO Global Joint Programme is one of the flagship projects of the UNIATF, with Uganda identified as one of three African countries to pilot this project. The UNIATF is working with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Uganda to provide technical support for scaling up multisectoral action on NCDs, enabling Uganda to develop a NCDs investment case and developing the Mental Health Investment Case to guide government on the most effective interventions to pursue.

In partnership with the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on NCDs, UNDP is also integrating prevention, screening and management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) into HIV/AIDs service delivery.

Reports indicate a number of NCDs that affect Ugandans include cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, substance abuse conditions, mental health conditions, and various cancers. According to the World Heath Organization (WHO), nearly one in four adults die from an NCD in Uganda before the age of 70, with NCDs estimated to kill around 100,000 Ugandans each year. Expected outcomes of this UNDP-WHO joint programme include evidence-based, effective and feasible laws and regulations for NCD risk factors, whole of society response to NCDs, and delivery of a National NCD Strategy for Uganda.
UNDP strengthens national capacity to restore, protect and sustainably manage natural resources and ecosystems, increase access to affordable and clean energy, and enable vulnerable communities to adapt to and mitigate climate change and disaster risk. Integral to these efforts is the promotion of sustainable land management, restoration of degraded forests and wetland ecosystems, restoration of ecosystems in refugee settlements and host communities, institutional capacity development in natural resource governance, and deeper citizen participation in environmental management and community resilience.

Promoting access to affordable renewable energy options in under-served rural and urban communities is also a key priority. UNDP continues to build on its climate promise through scaling up access to sustainable energy solutions, supporting innovative and inclusive financing mechanisms for low carbon technologies and implementation of the country’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in line with the Paris Agreement.

Resilience to climate and disaster risks has been strengthened by enhancing access and use of climate information, products and services for early warning and early action through the National Emergency Operation and Coordination Centre (NECOC). UNDP also continues to promote nature-based solutions and technologies, strengthen national, district and local level contingency planning, and integrate resilience building in development plans and budgets to ensure greater multi-sector coordination.

UNDP has supported development of the Uganda Disaster Management Plan and Disaster Assessment Toolkit, boosting national resilience to multi-hazard disasters and assisting national institutions to anticipate, prepare for and cope with disaster events. Given their power and influence in fostering social cohesion and behavioral change, UNDP also continues to deepen collaboration and strengthen capacities of cultural and religious institutions to govern natural resources and enhance resilience at the community level.

UNDP is driving Uganda’s energy transition in partnership with the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), through incentivizing large institutions to use electricity as an alternative energy source to biomass.
Accelerating Uganda’s Climate Action

In 2021 UNDP supported the Government of Uganda to revise the country’s NDC to the Paris Agreement. Uganda has updated the NDC to strengthen ownership for the implementation of Uganda’s climate change adaptation and mitigation action, and to explore opportunities to increase national ambition in climate action to deliver climate resilient development initiatives and reduce community vulnerabilities to the various impacts of climate change. Within the updated NDC, Uganda has increased its climate change mitigation ambition to reduce emissions by 25% below the business-as-usual (BAU) trajectory by 2030 in key sectors including agriculture, forestry and land use, industrial processes and product use, energy and waste.

Key actions that UNDP and the Government of Uganda are focusing on under the new NDC include:

▶ Improved water resource management to ensure best practice in hydro power.
▶ Increased water supply access to key economic sectors, especially agriculture.
▶ Enhanced waste efficient practices in domestic, commercial and institutional water use.
▶ Expanded climate smart agriculture.
▶ Improved water catchment protection.

UNDP has supported the establishment of an integrated Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) tool in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment's Climate Change Department. The MRV tool and database builds on Uganda’s national MRV framework and will assist to enhance data collection, reporting and tracking of greenhouse gas emissions, NDC adaptation and mitigation targets, climate finance flows and contribution toward achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Climate Action Challenge Grants have also been established with the objective to engage women and youth led non-government organizations and the local community to launch initiatives that can contribute to the implementation of Uganda’s NDC and build the capacity of communities to implement climate change mitigation projects. A total of 12 women and youth led community-based organizations have been supported with climate actions grants, implementing a wide range of technologies and practices contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. 50 women groups have also been supported with access to energy efficient cook stoves with the goal to reduce indoor air pollution, reduce the use of biomass during cooking, and therefore reduce the impact of deforestation.

Meanwhile, a gender analysis has been conducted to assess gender gaps in the implementation of priority climate change adaptation and mitigation sectors including energy, agriculture and waste management. UNDP has implemented this in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), with a Gender Action Plan being developed to guide the implementation of gender responsive climate change plans.
Wetlands Restoration

UNDP, the Ministry of Water and Environment and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) are partnering to restore wetlands and promote catchment based integrated, equitable and sustainable management of water and related resources.

In partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), UNDP has launched the Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Eastern Uganda project, to be implemented between 2021-2023 across the five districts of Kaliro, Namutumba, Kibuku, Budaka and Butaleja.

The project seeks to restore wetlands and promote catchment based integrated, equitable and sustainable management of water and related resources, complementing the UNDP, Government of Uganda and Green Climate Fund eight-year project Building Resilient Communities, Wetlands, Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda which has been implemented since 2016 in 12 districts of Eastern and South Western Uganda to promote sustainable management and restoration of wetlands and to support target communities reduce risks posed by climate change. Under the Wetlands Restoration project, a total of 22,021 hectares of wetlands have now been restored, 900 hectares of wetlands inlet streams demarcated, and 480 hectares of land in Eastern Uganda has been preserved through sustainable land management practices.

By supporting restoration efforts, this new partnership between UNDP, MWE and ADC will directly contribute to national efforts aimed at increasing coverage of wetlands from 11% to 12% by 2025 and build national resilience to climate change guided by Uganda’s National Development Plan (NDP III).

The partnership is also estimated to directly benefit 264,000 people from 66,000 households and indirectly benefit an estimated 1.1 million people in the target five districts. Interventions within the project will also promote sector cooperation to improve natural resource-based livelihoods and other ecosystem services.
The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for modern energy services in Uganda, with infrastructure and operations of Uganda’s health systems remaining strained due to immense pressure imposed by the pandemic. Throughout 2021, UNDP has helped to promote renewable energy access in public institutions with a focus on solarizing health centres to improve health outcomes for vulnerable communities and support COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Through partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), and the World Health Organization (WHO), UNDP has provided sustainable energy services to 24 health centres throughout Uganda through installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) technology. While assessments are being undertaken to support an additional 12 health centers. With many health centres across the country still dependent on an unstable electricity grid, this Solar PV green energy solutions is ensuring continued and quality healthcare services while also protecting the environment through utilization of sustainable energy. Healthcare workers have been enabled to provide uninterrupted care to patients, have increased ability to handle emergency situations and handle COVID-19 cases, and also have adequate refrigeration for COVID-19 vaccines.

UNDP has also contributed to Uganda’s renewable energy transition through partnership with the National Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), where the kitchens of Mulago Hospital’s Mwanamugimu Nutrition Unit have been fully converted from cooking with biomass (organic matter) to cooking with electricity. With Uganda’s forest cover in decline, promotion of alternative energy sources serves as a solution to deforestation and a mechanism for safeguarding biodiversity, easing the impact of climate change, and enhancing Uganda’s resilience to natural disasters.
Managing Crisis and Uncertainty

Throughout 2021, UNDP continued to support national efforts to strengthen structures and systems to enhance national resilience to multi-hazard induced disaster risks, with a focus on enhancing effectiveness of Uganda’s National Emergency Operation and Coordination Centre (NECOC) to effectively manage multiple disasters, including epidemics and pandemics. This support is helping to equip District Emergency Operational and Coordination Centres (DECOCs) to support integrated multi-hazard response, while boosting risk assessment and risk communication capacities.

Through the provision of specialized equipment, this initiative has enabled:
- Real-time disaster risk surveillance and communication.
- Teleworking and virtual meetings disaster coordination engagements.
- Data organization, analysis and visualization.

To strengthen the evidence based and provide frameworks for response and recovery, UNDP has also commissioned an Economic Impacts of Disasters study; development of NECOC business continuity plans; and development of the National Disaster Risk Management Plan.

Through funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNDP is also supporting NECOC to become a more integrated and robust system to confront a wider range of disaster risks. Through this partnership, UNDP has strengthened institutional capacity of NECOC by forming a “think tank” comprised of four critical experts – two resilience specialists, a knowledge management specialist, and a communications specialist – to further strengthen national disaster risk management.
UNDP is strengthening governance infrastructure in public and private sectors, whose functions remain catalytic to the attainment of national development aspirations. In 2021, UNDP continued to focus on building and strengthening governance infrastructure in the public and private sectors, institutionalizing e-governance systems in the public sector at national and sub national levels, while facilitating integration and effective delivery of services within the private sector.

UNDP is strengthening the effectiveness of key state institutions including Parliament, judicial institutions and anti-corruption agencies to promote accountability and civic engagement while ensuring effective participation of youth and women in governance processes. Meanwhile, the coordinating function of Government is also being strengthened to enhance planning, budgeting, advocacy, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs.

In partnership with UNDP country offices, UN organizations, development partners and civil society, cross-border programming is also being conducted to address regional governance challenges including prevention of violent extremism and natural resource conflict.

UNDP’s Peace Building Fund (PBF) Project offered vocational training to 410 youth from 5 districts.
Peace Building

UNDP has acted as the lead agency to implement the Peace Building Fund (PBF) Project in 2021, in partnership with UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Human Rights (OHCHR) and in coordination with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator. The project, an initiative to profile conflict hotspots, support youth livelihoods, leverage media impact to spread messages of peace, and provide training and capacity building activities to strengthen social cohesion, has targeted youth as its primary beneficiaries.

Working with government, cultural and religious leaders throughout Uganda’s Rwenzori region, the PBF project has leveraged community influence for peace messaging, conducted voter and civic education, and facilitated youth engagement with political leaders to advocate for youth inclusion within the political process.

Through youth camps and youth capacity building events in which 260 cultural leaders mentored 698 youth, this project has contributed to mindset change by imparting principles of Obuntubulumu (a concept that denotes humanity toward others) to create value systems favouring peace. The project also enhanced practical skills among youth, with training benefiting 410 youth from 5 districts in areas of tailoring, hairdressing, carpentry and welding.

UNDP continues to invest in peace, security and resilience at both national and local Government levels, ensuring the development of strengthened and equitable practices and systems for peace building, cohesion and conflict management.
Access to Justice

UNDP has continued to support business continuity at scale throughout 2021, through the extended deployment of Zoom Enterprise Licenses for whole of Government. This initiative has also included catalytic technical support to ensure government institutions continued to provide public services under COVID-19 restrictions. As such, video conferencing has since been embraced at scale within the public sector, while government engagement with the private sector, civil society and development partners has been sustained.

This initiative to enhance business continuity has seen UNDP strengthen access to justice through the establishment of e-governance systems, which have contributed to enhanced efficiency and accountability in both Government and non-government institutions. Through the establishment of a Judiciary Call Centre, capacity has been enhanced to respond to queries from the public regarding judicial processes.

Meanwhile, through the digitalization of select courts and prisons in Uganda and the provision of Zoom licenses and COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE), the total time of court proceedings has reduced. These measures have served to enhance public safety in the context of COVID-19 while reducing costs relating to court processes and transport.
One of the fundamental enablers of UNDP’s Country Programme for Uganda 2021-2025, the Digitalization, Innovation and Smart Cities Programme is accelerating digital transformation by promoting digital literacy and skills development, providing catalytic support within priority public services, and ensuring evidence-based strengthening of the enabling environment for digital transformation.

This programme is also strengthening the enabling environment for innovation and business start-ups, and providing catalytic support for innovation in priority production sectors including agriculture, sustainable energy, health, manufacturing and ICT. Business sector development has also remained a strong priority through the promotion of business growth and production for local and regional markets, while integrating digital ecosystems and connecting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and institutional service providers to digital platforms.

UNDP’s portfolio of digital solutions has led to high impact interventions such as supporting whole of Government business continuity through deployment of Zoom Enterprise Licenses; establishing e-courts to digitalize court hearings; fostering e-learning through the GBV Online Course and Multimedia Centre at Civil Service College Uganda; digitalizing tourism services and financial services through youth-led entrepreneurship and innovations; enhancing border management through digitalizing 53 gazette border posts; and strengthening digital instruments for the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Center (NECOC). Beyond 2021, digitalization and innovation will continue to shape how UNDP, the Government of Uganda and partners respond to development challenges in Uganda.

A milestone of the UNDP Uganda Accelerator Lab in 2021 has been the launch of the Uganda Natural Resource Information System (NARIS), an open-source data visualization platform being implemented to monitor and mediate deforestation through Uganda.
E-Commerce Sector Development

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that related restrictions were having on Uganda’s informal sector, UNDP partnered with Jumia Uganda – the country’s leading online shopping company – to establish the UNDP-Jumia E-Commerce Platform with the primary objective being to support the informal market sector respond to challenges stemming from COVID-19 through e-commerce and the online marketplace.

In 2021, this initiative has continued to operate in Kampala’s markets of Nakasero, Wandegeya, Nakawa, Naalya, Kalerwe, Bugolobi and Kibuye, having registered over 3,500 active market vendors on the platform and continuing to connect market vendors with consumers, connect rural markets with urban markets, fortify supply chains for agricultural produce, and champion e-commerce sector development in Uganda.

Market vendors registered on the E-Commerce Platform have since seen their daily turnover more than double, while 900 youths have been skilled and employed as market agents and produce pickers to support the platform. Meanwhile, over 300,000 unique products continue to be sold through the platform in the year 2021.

Through participation in UNDP’s Chief Digital Office (CDO) Digital X Scale Accelerator initiative, UNDP Uganda’s Accelerator Lab team has received additional support to replicate the success of UNDP-Jumia E-Commerce Platform in Kampala to Jinja City and Entebbe Municipality, and to formalize learnings from these pilots to prepare for future growth of the initiative both nationally and regionally.
Tackling Deforestation

One of the key milestones of the UNDP Uganda Accelerator Lab in 2021 has been the design, launch and implementation of the Uganda Natural Resource Information System (NARIS), an initiative developed in partnership with the National Forestry Authority (NFA). NARIS is a collaborative, open-source data visualization platform being implemented to monitor and mediate deforestation through Uganda, with potential to monitor forest cover loss, track field changes, track the impact of initiatives relating to deforestation, provide a data source for future initiatives, while offering potential to monitor population density, migration patterns, urban development and other variables.

Through the UNDP Anti-Corruption for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies (ACPIS) Programme, UNDP has mobilized additional resources to scale the NARIS platform and increase accountability and transparency of natural resource governance in Uganda.

NARIS forms part of a portfolio of experiments conducted by the UNDP Uganda Accelerator Lab in which over 200 solutions have been identified to combat deforestation. Through this portfolio of experiments, an Energy Audit was conducted to determine demand and supply dynamics of energy throughout Uganda and identify suitable energy efficient solutions which could lead to the reduced use of biomass (organic matter) as cooking fuel.

Uganda’s forestry cover is in decline due to a combination of rapid population growth, demand for agricultural land, infrastructure development, and use of biomass as fuel. With deforestation continuing to threaten Uganda’s biodiversity and exacerbate climate change, these initiatives are working to safeguard livelihoods of Uganda’s communities who rely on healthy forests.

Through partnership with the National Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), UNDP has also launched the Mulago Hospital Pilot Project, an initiative that is incentivizing large institutions to use electricity as an alternative energy source to biomass. This initiative has already led to policy change in Uganda, lowering the national electricity tariff rate from 556 Uganda Shillings (UGX) per kilowatt hour (kWh) to 451 UGX per kWh for eligible institutions.

UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Elsie Attafuah and Hon. Beatrice Anywar, State Minister for Water and Environment, launched the Uganda Natural Resource Information System (NARIS) platform to monitor and mediate deforestation in Uganda.
UNDP continues to support integration of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within national development planning and implementation through analysis of Uganda’s National Development Plan (NDP III) and Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs), streamlining resource allocation and implementation of NDP III, supporting government capacity building, and enhancing alignment of planning and budget frameworks at national and sub-national levels.

UNDP’s SDG Integration and Acceleration Programme is developing and implementing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) in partnership with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, promoting adoption of innovative financing mechanisms in selected SDG accelerator areas. Meanwhile, UNDP is supporting the improvement of SDG data, monitoring and evaluation systems with a view to reduce gaps in implementation and monitoring, while facilitating research, learning and knowledge sharing on SDGs to inform policy and programme interventions.

UNDP’s portfolio on SDG integration and acceleration has been influential in supporting the formulation of the Government of Uganda’s NDP III; launching the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025 aligned to the NDP III; supporting production of evidence-based knowledge products including the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) SDG16 Data Gap Analysis; supporting the Government of Uganda’s Apex Platform to strengthen effective public policy management, promotion of good governance and accountability practices; as well as launching the SDG Secretariat and ‘Roadmap for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Uganda 2021-2025’.

In 2021 the Government of Uganda launched the Roadmap for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Uganda 2021-2025 with support from UNDP in formulating the SDG Roadmap and launching on the national stage. Designed to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Uganda and the attainment of the third National Development Plan (NDP III) and Uganda Vision 2040, the SDG Roadmap has been launched to create an enabling environment for development actors to contribute to the realization of the SDGs in Uganda. It is also acting as a resource mobilization tool for the 2030 Agenda during the NDP III period, while ensuring that strategies employed to achieve the SDGs are in conformity with NDP III programme areas, with interventions under the three broad categories that have been identified as SDG accelerators: Environment, Governance and Industry.

To fast-track the realization of the SDGs and NDP III, SDG accelerator interventions have been integrated across 18 programme areas of NDP III including agro-industrialization, mineral development, digital transformation, tourism development and sustainable energy development.

The new UNDP Country Programme for Uganda 2021-2021 is also focusing on working with Government to integrate and accelerate progress on the SDGs through priority areas including Inclusive and Sustainable Growth to target integrated value chains in key economic sectors; Sustainable Management of Nature Resources and Resilient Development to target land management and restoration of degraded ecosystems; and Transformational and Inclusive Governance to strengthen governance infrastructure in public and private sectors through digitalization, local economic development, peace and security, accountability, and an enabling framework for the SDGs.

The SDG Roadmap is guided by the following five objectives:

1. To promote policy review mechanisms and coherence processes for the SDGs.
2. To revitalize the SDG Technical/Programme Working Groups and make them more effective.
3. To promote localization, popularization and mainstreaming of the SDGs into programmes, MDAs and Local Government Plans.
4. To enhance local resource mobilization efforts for SDGs.
5. To map out new partnerships and promote the potential of existing ones to harness synergies of the whole Government.

To accelerate implementation of the SDGs, the Government of Uganda and the UNCT have also established the SDG Secretariat – incorporating a SDG Impact Accelerator Lab and Knowledge Hub - within the Office of the Prime Minister, to serve as a centre for SDG integration and acceleration in Uganda.

The SDG Impact Accelerator has been modeled on principles of the UNDP Accelerator Lab Network, to accelerate innovative learning with the objective to achieve the SDGs and build a diverse knowledge and learning network among development actors. UNDP will continue to provide strategic advice, expertise and catalytic financial resources to build capacity of policy, planning and programme staff within Uganda’s public and private sectors to promote innovation in finding and testing solutions to complex and emergent development challenges.
PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Financial Delivery FY 2021

- **76%** (USD 15,644,762)  
  Non-TRAC Delivered

- **84%** (USD 25,709,096)  
  Total Delivered

- **100%** (USD 10,064,333)  
  TRAC Delivered

Contributions from Development Partners in FY 2021 (USD)

- **2,072,327** Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- **1,745,346** Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- **1,147,097** EU/UN Spotlight Initiative
- **925,287** Government of Japan
- **690,378** Government of Germany
- **456,819** Government of Norway
- **465,450** Peace Building Fund (PBF)
- **318,491** COMESA
- **301,045** European Commission
- **279,955** Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- **250,000** William and Flora Foundation
- **100,000** Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
LESSONS LEARNED

COVID-19 Response & Recovery: UNDP and the UNCT continue to support Uganda’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though, with much of Uganda’s social and economic activities beginning to open in 2022, our focus will inevitably shift further toward recovery from the pandemic and ensuring that vulnerable communities and sectors impacted most by COVID-19 are supported to build forward better for years to come.

Value of Partnerships: UNDP’s ongoing partnerships with the Government of Uganda, development partners, donors, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions, traditional leaders and the people of Uganda are key to accelerating resource delivery and accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our partnerships and collective expertise will continue to be central to the development of sustainable solutions that promote resilient livelihoods for those who are most vulnerable.

Uganda’s Youth: With 78% of Uganda’s population being under the age of 30, UNDP recognizes the important role that youth play as a conduit for sustainable development in the country for years to come. To tackle the ongoing challenge of youth unemployment and underemployment, UNDP is committed to continued investment in the youth of Uganda through skilling, innovation and entrepreneurship to ensure youth are given every opportunity to take a seat at the table.

Investing in Tourism: Uganda’s tourism sector has been one most significantly impacted by COVID-19 and will require our continued partnership and support to leverage new opportunities for strengthened community livelihoods and sustainable economic activity arising from tourism sector growth. The country’s natural and cultural tourism products are boundless, and UNDP will continue to promote tourism in Uganda through Ekyooto Ha Mpango and other unique tourism initiatives.
**Strengthening Institutions:** Empowering public and private institutions at all levels to promote peace, justice, good governance and transparency, as well as protecting key groups including youth, women and vulnerable communities, is key to enhancing institutional capacity in our pursuit of sustainable development in Uganda. UNDP will continue to work with partners to ensure the country’s institutions build forward better and stronger from COVID-19.

**Embracing Digitalization:** The COVID-19 pandemic continues to highlight the need for digital solutions to complex development challenges. Significant efforts have been made throughout 2021 to enhance Uganda’s digital economy and use of E-Systems such as e-governance, e-justice and e-commerce. Continued efforts are required in sensitizing key sectors on the use of technology as well as ensuring there is adequate infrastructure to support growth of the digital economy.

**Harnessing AfCFTA:** To ensure that Uganda’s private sector can fully take advantage of opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), UNDP and partners must continue to sensitize and build competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to ensure they are empowered to seize trade and investment opportunities. UNDP will continue to foster sustainable entrepreneurship and leverage potential to create livelihood opportunities across multiple sectors.
1 & 2 UNDP staff took the opportunity to reflect and reposition for 2022 with a Staff Retreat under the theme Unstoppable Starts with Me.

3 UNDP commemorated World AIDS Day, recognizing the urgent need to end inequalities that drive AIDS and other pandemics.

4 UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Elsie Attafuah and staff joined His Majesty King Oyo for Chimpanzee Tracking in Kibale National Park, part of the Royal Tour of Tooro during the Ekyooto Ha Mpango festival.

5 UNDP staff commemorated 2 years with Ms. Elsie Attafuah serving as Resident Representative.

6 UNDP and KOICA staff participate in a joint monitoring visit of cash-for-work project sites.
7 UNDP hosted Ms. Ruth Okowa, BRAC Africa Regional Director, discussing partnership opportunities in the area of increasing employment and livelihood opportunities for Uganda’s youth.

8 U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Natalie E. Brown met with UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Elsie Attafuah to discuss areas of collaboration between UNDP and the U.S. Mission.

9 UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Elsie Attafuah, Deputy Resident Representative MS. Sheila Ngatia and UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Susan Namondo visit Youth4Business grantees.

10 Development Partners under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, meet with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and Hon. Betty Amongi.

11 UNDP and the Ministry of Public Service through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative established the GBV Online Course and Multimedia Centre to build civil service capacity in mainstreaming gender-based violence (GBV) interventions.

12 Refugees and host community members participate in cash-for-work activities.
STRENGTHENING OUR COLLECTIVE PURSUIT OF UGANDA’S DEVELOPMENT BEYOND COVID-19

13 United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Susan Namondo Ngongi addresses participants at the 2021 UN Country Team (UNCT) Retreat.

14 UNDP Uganda staff during a visit from UNDP Africa Regional Director Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa.

15 UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Elsie Attafuah and UNCT Members at the 2021 UNCT Retreat.

16 UNDP Uganda Deputy Resident Representative Ms. Sheila Ngatia.

17 UNDP Africa Strategi Advisor Dr. Joy Kategekwa met with UNDP Uganda and partners to strategize how to ensure Uganda benefit from enhanced intra-African trade under the AfCFTA.

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UNDP Integrated Programmes in Uganda 2021-2025

The year 2021 was the first year of implementation of UNDP’s County Programme for Uganda 2021-2025, anchored on long-term solutions to Uganda’s development challenges.

Developed in consultation with the Government of Uganda, private sector and development partners, the Programme is aligned to support national efforts to realize Uganda’s third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020-2025 and Uganda’s long-term Vision 2040. It is also aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Uganda 2021-2025 which articulates the United Nations’ collective response to support the Government of Uganda in addressing national priorities and gaps in their pathway toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our current programme offer focuses on the three pillars of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth; Nature, Climate, Energy and Resilience; and Governance and Peace; as well as the two enablers of Digitalization, Innovation and Smart Cities; and SDG Integration and Acceleration. All five programmes are aligned under our flagship programme of Youth4Development which positions young people at the centre of UNDP’s development agenda.