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

UNDP is dedicated to supporting Uganda to achieve sustainable development, create opportunities for empowerment, protect the environment, minimize natural and human-caused 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.

UNDP Uganda acknowledges the Government of Uganda, development partners, civil society, the private sector, implementing partners and the people of Uganda who play an important role in achieving transformative and sustainable development.
2023 was indeed a transformative year for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda on our journey accompanying the Government and People of Uganda, development partners, private sector, civil society, cultural and academic institutions to maintain progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Significant milestones and development results have been achieved in the past year, with UNDP continuing to implement our Country Programme 2021-2025, accelerating progress toward realizing the ‘Uganda We Want’ and the SDGs during the United Nations Decade of Action. Through 2023, UNDP’s development interventions covered a broad variety of programmatic areas, including localization and popularization of the SDGs, climate action, environmental conservation, renewable energy transition, governance, peacebuilding, gender equality, refugee and host community empowerment, youth innovation and entrepreneurship, digital transformation, trade, tourism, health and more. Developed in consultation with the Government of Uganda, private sector and development partners, UNDP’s Country Programme 2021-2025 continues to support national efforts to realize Uganda’s third National Development Plan (NDP III) and long-term Vision 2040, while aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) to support the Government of Uganda in addressing national priorities toward achieving the SDGs.

Now halfway to the deadline for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, we know that progress on 50 percent of the SDGs is weak and insufficient, while 30 percent have stalled or gone into reverse. We as a global society risk leaving more than half the world behind if we do not collectively invest in actions to achieve the SDGs at national and international levels between now and 2030. The 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity - an agenda of justice and equality, of inclusive and sustainable development, and human rights and dignity for all – and we must collectively ensure that we leave no one behind in this decade of action.

UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025 recognizes the complexity of the development landscape and the challenges we face as a global community, providing a vision for a future-smart UNDP that embraces new ideas, innovations, partnerships, and development solutions. As uneven development progress across the world continues to leave the poorest behind and exacerbate inequalities, UNDP and partners must continue to strengthen development cooperation, invest in climate adaptation and resilience, empower youth and women to drive Uganda’s economic transformation, strengthen institutions and social services, and leverage the power of digital transformation to drive innovative and inclusive development solutions.

I am delighted to present this 2023 Annual Report detailing many of the transformative activities and accomplishment of UNDP and partners over the past year. This report demonstrates UNDP’s invaluable role as an innovator, integrator, thought leader and people-centered institution committed to serving the People of Uganda in their pursuit of sustainable development. These accomplishments could not have been achieved without the trusted partnership of the Government and People of Uganda and the dedicated team of UNDP staff, as well as the enduring partnerships with the UN Country Team (UNCT), development partners, private sector, civil society, cultural and academic institutions, media houses and non-state actors.

With 2023 behind us, I invite you to join me in reflecting on our past achievements and recommitting to a new year of cooperation in our joint efforts to fight the injustices of poverty, inequality, and climate change in this Decade of Action.
REPORT IN SUMMARY

2023 was the third year of implementation of UNDP’s Country Programme for Uganda 2021-2025. This Annual Report 2023 highlights key milestones and development results that UNDP achieved, alongside partners, through six integrated programmes:

ANCHOR PROGRAMMES

1. Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
3. Governance and Peace Strengthening

ENABLER PROGRAMMES

4. Digitalization, Innovation and Smart Cities
5. SDG Integration and Acceleration

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

6. Youth 4 Development

IN 2023, UNDP UGANDA’S PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS FOCUSED ON

- Empowering vulnerable groups including women, youth and refugees.
- Accelerating access to clean and renewable energy.
- Protecting the environment.
- Promoting sustainable and inclusive tourism.
- Promoting access to and administration of justice.
- Nurturing the country’s innovation ecosystem.
- Championing the digital transformation agenda.
- Creating employment and livelihoods opportunities including through facilitating intra-African trade.
- Enhancing national development planning.
- Brokering partnerships for sustainable development.
- Fulfilling UNDP’s role as a thought leader and support platform to accelerate the SDGs within the broader UNCT in Uganda.
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
AT A GLANCE
OVERVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

UGANDA IS A LAND-LINKED COUNTRY IN EAST AFRICA. It borders Kenya to the east, Tanzania and Rwanda to the south, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west and South Sudan to the north.

The country is one of the youngest in the world, with around 74% of the population under the age of 30.

The national population growth rate was estimated at 3.0% (2014 Census) and current population is projected at 45.5 million, about 76% of whom live in rural areas.

The adult unemployment rate was recorded at 11.9% in 2021 while the youth unemployment rate was recorded at 17%.

The youth labour force was estimated at 51% in 2021 compared to 43% in 2019/20 (UBOS).

UGANDA IN FACTS

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>HDI Score</th>
<th>Life Expectancy at Birth (SDG 3)</th>
<th>Expected Years of Schooling (SDG 4.3)</th>
<th>Mean Years of Schooling (SDG 4.4)</th>
<th>Gross National Income (GNI) per Capita</th>
<th>GDP Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>159</td>
<td>0.550</td>
<td>63 YEARS</td>
<td>11.5 YEARS</td>
<td>6.2 YEARS</td>
<td>US$2,241</td>
<td>2021 +4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2022 +5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SDG INTEGRATION AND ACCELERATION

UNDP continues to work closely with the Government of Uganda to align national policies, planning and annual budgets to Uganda’s Third National Development Plan (NDP III), while providing integrated, evidence-based policy advice and analysis on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting localization and popularization of the SDGs at national and sub-national levels.

In 2023, activities included:

- Conducting a Mid-Term Review of NDP III to inform the 2023/2024 national budget process and reprioritize interventions, reviewing 176 Local Government Development Plans. NDP III Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs) were reviewed, and interventions reprioritized to redirect the economy toward faster recovery in the face of the limited fiscal space.

- Launch of the Parish Development Model (PDM) Implementation Roadmap, a vital tool to transition subsistence households into the money economy, focusing on enhancing agricultural productivity, soil conservation, and micro-enterprise development at the grassroots level.

- Revival of the National Partnership Forum (NPF), a platform for fostering collaboration and cooperation between the Government of Uganda and development partners, and alignment with the National Partnership Dialogue Framework aiming to facilitate regular and constructive dialogue to support Uganda’s development agenda.

- Convening the 2nd Annual SDG Conference held in June 2023, a forum for sharing best practices, success stories and innovations to address SDG implementation challenges, while enhancing SDG awareness and localization.


- Strengthening SDG monitoring and reporting through production of SDG Progress Reports and Voluntary National Reviews.

Under the technical leadership of UNDP, the Government of Uganda reviewed the status of SDG data and statistics in Uganda, which informed the development of the UN Joint Programme for Data and Statistics (2023-2025) responding to the need for provision of more coordinated and innovative support to Uganda to address challenges related to SDG data and statistics. In 2023, the Joint Programme for Data and Statistics was launched by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in partnership with participating UN agencies, with UNDP as the technical lead.

DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

With support from UNDP and World Bank, the Government of Uganda development and launched the Public Investment Financing Strategy (PIFS) in May 2023 to identify innovative financing solutions and co-investment platforms, enhance business environments, advance financial deepening, and increase efficiency of public spending. PIFS forms part of Uganda’s broader Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to enhance integrated development planning, improve alignment among planning, financing, and reporting, and accelerate progress on NDP III and SDGs implementation. Throughout 2023, UNDP provided technical support to the development of policy frameworks and regulatory environments to attract both public and private investment that contribute to the SDGs under the INFF.

With the Government of Uganda recognizing the importance of utilizing innovative development financing solutions such as carbon markets, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), Ecological Fiscal Transfers (EFTs), debt-for-nature swaps, diaspora bonds and green bonds, UNDP undertook a Market and Pipeline Assessment and developed a Green Bonds Issuance Guidance Note to enable the Government of Uganda to issue green bonds.
TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

Through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Government of Uganda has made ambitious climate action commitments in line with the Paris Agreement treaty signed by 196 parties at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP21). In line with its commitments to climate action, UNDP continued in 2023 to build institutional capacity for nature and climate policy and planning, supporting over 135 targeted institutions to mainstream nature and climate into their plans and budgets to create opportunities for investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts such as raising awareness on climate change, development of carbon market guidelines and regulation, institutional commitment to initiatives, and recommendations aimed at implementing Uganda’s NDC.

In partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment, 533 people have been skilled to enhance data collection, reporting and tracking of climate information through the Integrated Monitoring, Reporting & Verification Tool (iMRV). In addition, UNDP continue to support the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and National Forestry Authority (NFA) to monitor natural resources such as forest and wetlands through the Natural Resources Information System (NARIS). Through NARIS, NEMA has been able to generate 2,500 maps to inform decision making during the Environment Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process, while NFA have developed land cover and land use maps, enhancing institutional and human capacity for environmental and natural resource management.

UNDP has also supported the Government of Uganda in developing carbon market regulations, guidelines and training manuals for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. With the development of a carbon market framework and subsequent stakeholder capacity workshops, this initiative is expected to enhance the landscape for climate finance, unlock potential for private sector participation, enhance capacity and adoption of technology, and broker climate investments at scale while building resilience of communities and the country to withstand climate vulnerabilities and shocks.

UNDP also supported the Government of Uganda to build capacity of Uganda’s climate change negotiators to participate effectively in the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 28th Conference of Parties (COP28), including youth climate change negotiators. This overall strengthening of capacity of individuals, institutions and systems has significantly boosted collective climate action in Uganda.

135 INSTITUTIONS
supported with nature and climate planning

533 PEOPLE
skilled in collecting climate information

2,500 NATURAL RESOURCE MAPS
generated by NEMA
Uganda's forests and wetlands provide an invaluable sanctuary for biodiversity, with the country's social, environmental, and economic well-being being tightly bound to the benefits that sustainable landscapes (healthy forests, wetlands, and water resources) provide. However, rapid population growth, demand for agricultural land, infrastructure development, as well as demand for forest products are straining the country’s forests. Wetlands also provide a source of water and livelihoods for communities and serve as a powerful tool to tackle climate change by capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

UNDP’s Wetlands Restoration Project continues to be implemented in 24 districts of eastern and southwestern Uganda in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment, with funding from the Green Climate Fund and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). The interventions are designed to promote sustainable management and restoration of wetlands and associated catchments by providing incentives to communities whose livelihoods depend on wetlands restoration. Through this effort, about 49,000 hectares of wetlands and associated catchments, as well as 555 hectares of inlet streams, have been restored.

This partnership with the ADC has also enabled over 4,000 households in the 24 districts to benefit from alternative livelihood interventions including apiary, fishponds, livestock, and improved land productivity through the application of sustainable land management practices. The interventions have also enabled about 70 percent of the target population to have access to improved weather and climate information to support farm and household level planning, enhancing the resilience of communities to climate change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMME ACTIONS AND RESULTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>24 DISTRICTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supported through wetlands restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>49,000 HECTARES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of wetlands restored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4,000 HOUSEHOLDS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benefited from alternative livelihoods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

UNDP continued to promote renewable energy access in public institutions throughout 2023, with a focus on solarizing health centres to improve health outcomes for vulnerable communities. In partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, solar photovoltaic systems are operating in 26 Health Centre IVs across the country, improving healthcare delivery to around 700,000 people, particularly women and children who historically have been unable to access quality maternal health services in rural health centres due to unreliable energy access.

To support the deployment of small-scale, low-carbon energy assets in the country, UNDP published the Financial Aggregation for Distributed Renewable Energy in Uganda Market Assessment and Action Plan, with the publication intended to build in-country pipelines of high-quality, standardized low-carbon energy assets and to develop new low-cost source of financing, building awareness and trust with investors in this new asset class.

Owino, Nakasero and Obongi markets have also been solarized, allowing 60,000 market vendors (70 percent women) to access renewable energy to fuel their business operations and enhancing the night economy. In Owino market alone, 226 solar lighting points were installed, providing reliable and sustainable energy, improved visibility, increased safety, and security, and extended operating hours for market vendors.

UNDP is also pioneering biogas solutions through the Integrated Waste Management and Biogas Production Project, constructing five biogas-to-electricity demonstration plants in the five cities of Jinja, Kampala, Masaka, Mbale and Mbarara. UNDP also supported development of the National Biogas Strategy and Action Plan as well as the National Waster Sorting Manual. Technical assistance was provided toward instilling an integrated waste management approach with the aim of reducing pollution, promoting natural resource management, and accelerating access to information for sustainable solid waste policies and frameworks.

In 2023, UNDP added its first electric vehicle (EV) to its fleet to lead by example in reducing carbon emissions and champion green solutions to power Uganda’s future. This is a contribution to the 2019 pledge by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner who committed to reduce UNDP’s operational carbon footprint by 50 percent by 2030.
In 2023, a pioneering collaboration between UNDP, the South African Government (through IBSA Fund), and the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) launched the Karamoja Green Belts women-led commercial farming project in semi-arid pastoral communities. The goal of this initiative was to empower women and marginalized groups through the establishment of women-led large-scale commercial agriculture enterprises. Despite facing challenges such as drought and crop limitations, the project made significant strides, with women in Nakapiripirit successfully cultivating 400 acres of land for large-scale commercial agriculture.

The project has placed significant emphasis on equipment procurement and land preparation. Considering the challenges encountered in accessing tractors for cultivation during the previous season, the project proactively acquired two tractors and a range of implements such as ploughs, harrows, and planters to overcome these obstacles particularly in remote areas. Strategic partnerships were also formed with the National Agricultural Research Organisation and Yellow Hill Farm to lease tractors and equipment for land preparation and cultivation.

Building upon the valuable insights gained from past accomplishments, the project is now set to broaden its impact by unlocking an additional 1,000 acres of land in 2024. This expansion showcases the project’s dedication to scaling up and further empowering women and marginalized communities in the agricultural sector. By leveraging previous successes and focusing on sustainable growth strategies, the initiative aims to continue promoting inclusive economic development and bolstering resilience in indigenous communities. The project’s unwavering commitment to empowering women in agriculture highlights its pivotal role in advancing sustainable development and fostering economic empowerment in the region.
Uganda’s innovation ecosystem is transforming, and UNDP continues to collaborate with pioneering multi-sector partners to ensure that this youthful and entrepreneurial ecosystem is ideating, creating, collaborating, and commercializing innovative solutions to contribute to Uganda’s development journey.

UNDP has supported youth entrepreneurs and the private sector to successfully pilot and scale up 45 inclusive green business models that have created 16,000 jobs and livelihood opportunities, especially for women and youth. Initiatives such as UNDP’s Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility, launched by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, have enabled young creators and innovators to pilot products and solutions across a variety of sectors including agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, creative arts, renewable energy, and ICT.

Some of the success stories to grow and scale under the Youth4Business Facility include:

- **Akellobanker**, a mobile and web-based digital platform, which has enabled over 150,000 farmers and entrepreneurs in Eastern and Northern Uganda to access agricultural finance and inputs on credit, connect with clients online, and actively take part in the growing digital economy. Akellobanker plans to scale this initiative to reach 350,000 farmers across Uganda.

- **Yo-Waste**, a waste-management startup, has connected recyclers with businesses and households to reduce waste transportation costs and save both environmental and economic resources. Their mobile application has connected over 1,000 households in Kampala and Entebbe to streamline waste collection, collecting 320 tons of waste monthly.

- **Texfad**, a textiles, fashion and design company, which utilizes banana fiber as an alternative material to produce eco-friendly briquettes and textile products. By training over 500 young people in banana fiber extraction, weaving and tailoring, Texfad continues to encourage job creation in the green economy.

In addition, UNDP’s Creatives Innovation Challenge has empowered 49 creative enterprises in the areas of visual and performing arts, fashion design, writing and publishing, digital media, film and animation, through business incubation and acceleration support equipping creative entrepreneurs with the knowledge, tools and skills to build profitable businesses with potential for job creation.

- **Helton Traders**, a textiles company that transforms plastic waste into high quality sewing threads, has benefited from business incubation support to procure machinery necessary for production, connect with stakeholders in Uganda’s manufacturing industry, and attract investment in their innovative technology.

- **Clay Cosmo**, a social enterprise and Uganda’s pioneer in clay-based skincare, committed to promoting refugee women’s self-reliance through education and employment. Through products crafted from natural clay and organic oils, Clay Cosmo is boosting the local economy and prioritizing environmental sustainability through reusable packaging and cruelty-free practices.

UNDP has also worked with Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to establish the KCCA Employment Services Bureau and Kabalagala One Stop Youth Center. 533 students (245 male and 288 female) have been equipped with skills in videography, photography, graphic design, hairdressing and beauty therapy through this initiative.
NURTURING UGANDA’S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

In 2023, UNDP established the Makerere University Innovation Pod (UniPod), one of 13 UniPods to be established across the continent under UNDP’s timbuktoo initiative, a new development model that aims to transform Africa’s public universities into centers of innovation. Timbuktoo is positioned to be the largest financing facility that aims to address critical gaps by working with African governments, investors, the private sector, and universities to support the African startup ecosystem. Timbuktoo’s ambition for Africa is to mobilize and invest US$ 1 billion of catalytic and commercial capital to transform 100 million livelihoods and create 10 million new jobs over the next 10 years. The newly established UniPod provides a unique opportunity for the exploration of development solutions that are contextualized and responsive to development challenges facing communities in Uganda and Africa at large. This initiative is designed to tap into the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of young people to promote impact-driven entrepreneurship, foster innovation, and influence business solutions to address youth unemployment on the continent. The 200 capacity UniPod is open to all Makerere University students as well as members of the public on request.

Through timbuktoo, the Makerere UniPod will provide young innovators with a Maker’s Space, Design Space and Collaboration Space to create a multidisciplinary approach to innovation, as well as a Technology Transfer Office to facilitate the transition of research and prototypes to market and allow for enterprises to be built from these innovations. Established strategically within Makerere University, the UniPod will seamlessly link with research and knowledge already in place at the institution through its faculty of technical experts.

UNDP has also provided technical support to the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance to redesign and refurbish the National ICT Innovation Hub, operationalized the Hub to effectively support youth skilling, innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

TIMBUKTOO IN FIGURES

- **10 YEARS**
- **10 MILLION JOBS**
- **100 MILLION LIVELIHOODS**
- **US$ 1 BILLION CAPITAL**
ACCELERATING UGANDA’S DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Digitalization is at the heart of Uganda’s development journey, spurring innovation, enhancing service delivery, and creating employment and livelihoods opportunities.

In August 2023, the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance launched Uganda’s Digital Transformation Roadmap 2023-2027, identifying key enablers to achieve the commitments set out in the Digital Uganda Vision 2040. UNDP provided technical support to the design of the Digital Transformation Roadmap through a blend of desk reviews, participatory stakeholder engagements and solutions mapping, cultivating a roadmap to strengthen the implementation of enabling policies and laws to accelerate Uganda’s digital revolution.

The Digital Transformation Roadmap has been positioned as a strategic framework to accelerate inclusive development and economic growth, enhance efficiency and effectiveness in government services, enhance data-driven decision making, encourage regional integration and collaboration, while providing an enabling environment for Uganda’s innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, through the following key objectives:

- **Enhance Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity:** Invest in the development of robust and reliable digital infrastructure including high-speed broadband networks, data centres and cloud computing capabilities, ensuring widespread access to digital services and enable seamless connectivity across urban and rural areas.

- **Promote Digital Services:** Embark on the development of digital and electronic services across priority government sectors to support the delivery of services to citizens and residents of Uganda.

- **Foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Create a conducive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship, promoting research and development, startup incubation and collaboration between academia, industry, and the government.

- **Empower Digital Skills and Literacy:** Equip citizens with necessary knowledge and skills through digital literacy programs, up-skilling, and re-skilling initiatives, and promoting STEM education to bridge the digital divide and ensure equal opportunities for all.

- **Promote Cybersecurity, Data Protection and Privacy:** Establish a robust framework for digital governance, ensuring data privacy, cyber security, and protection of intellectual property, to build a safe and secure digital environment for citizens and businesses.

Alongside the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, and the Ministry of Education and Sports, UNDP also provided technical support during the design of Uganda’s Digital Skills Acceleration Programme 2023-2027 to implement practical activities to accelerate planning, provision, monitoring, and evaluation of digital skills across the country. Support was also given to the design of Uganda’s Big Data Utilization Strategy, strengthening the capacity of government to make data-driven decisions that will drive economic growth through data governance, data services, data literacy and skills, data access and integration, and data security, privacy, and responsibility.
GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

In 2023, the UNDP Uganda Country Office continued to display exemplary leadership in the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment when it renewed and retained its Gold Certification under the Gender Equality Seal (GES) for development agencies, part of a global UNDP initiative promoting investment in systems that integrate gender equality within workplaces and business strategies. The GES is a tool for private enterprises and public institutions to contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by reducing gender gaps and promoting both equality in the workplace and women’s empowerment; promoting equality in employment, decent work, inclusive growth and economic empowerment; and encouraging fair, inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Gender Equality Seal Awards were held in 2023 in partnership with Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, recognizing 40 private sector companies with gold, silver and bronze seals for their contribution in promoting gender equality, women’s participation, leadership and elimination of gender-based violence in the workplace. Makerere University also became the first Ugandan public institution to sign up for the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions, with the university establishing a Gender Equality Committee and conducting a Gender Equality Terrain Survey to inform gender responsive strategies. The university also established a day care centre for staff and students to utilize.
ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

In 2023, UNDP continued to partner on the joint United Nations and European Union Spotlight Initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by promoting laws and policies to prevent violence; strengthening national government and regional institutions; promoting gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours; and making high-quality essential services available to survivors of violence.

Milestones under the Spotlight Initiative in 2023 include:

▷ Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Shelter established in Amudat, enabling local government to provide a safe public space for GBV survivors to access comprehensive services including legal aid, psychosocial support and reintegration of survivors into society.

▷ 220 men reached through advocacy campaigns and made public declarations on abandonment of harmful cultural practices including forced and early marriages and female genital mutilation, with 60 male champions developing joint community action plans to address violence against women and girls.

▷ 6,464 GBV Actors engaged in GBV prevention sensitization and oriented in preventing, reporting and responding to sexual harassment and GBV, and 2,444 community members reached through refugee and host community dialogues on prevention of domestic violence, forced marriage and child marriage, and GBV.

▷ Uganda Management Institute operationalized the curriculum on GBV responsive planning and budgeting. 4,080 participants enrolled in Master, Diploma and Certificate programmes were trained on GBV Responsive Planning and Budgeting.

UNDP also provided livelihoods opportunities for 1,205 women and girls in Tororo, Kasese and Amudat districts, skilled in baking, tailoring, entrepreneurship, value addition, and provided with business kits and grants. 13 women-led groups were also linked to government programmes through this initiative, with 5 women-led associations formalized. Additionally, two community vocational centers in Tororo and Kasese were equipped and continue to serve as skillling centers for women and girls. Additionally, 90 Local Court Councillors in Kitgum and Kyegegwa were facilitated to handle GBV-related court cases. Through the capacity building on procedures, case management and documentation, GBV referral pathways and adjudication of matters, over 120 cases were handled at local court level and 40 referred and handled by formal courts.

Lilian from Kasese, Uganda received support through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to build her own business.
EMPOWERING REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Uganda is home to the largest refugee population in Africa and the third largest in the world, with over 1.6 million refugees. In 2023, UNDP and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) continued to implement the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project, supporting economic empowerment of refugees and refugee hosting communities in Adjumani, Lamwo, and Obongi districts. This initiative provided emergency livelihoods and economic recovery services to 10,137 refugees and host community members through cash-for-work activities, small business grants, business and vocational training, market construction, Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) support, and MSME development support, thereby promoting the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus.

UNDP and partners also built the capacity of district local government to better respond to and manage refugee inflows and effectively implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) sector plans. Through gender-responsive livelihoods and environmental sustainability programmes, local integration through labor-intensive employment, training, and skilling, expansion of priority value chains, and creating local market space, there has been increased participation in local-level coordination of refugee programmes by different actors, resulting in efficiency in the delivery of development assistance to both refugees and host communities.

Recognizing the significance of markets as essential centers for social transformation through enhancing local governance, commerce, facilitating cultural exchange, and strengthening social interaction, UNDP and partners constructed and commissioned a community market in Itula Subcounty, Obongi District with the primary objectives of catalyzing local economic growth through trade. The market was constructed with oversight of the District Government to encourage ownership and establishment of a community committee to ensure effective market management.

This project also undertook an upgrade of the sesame value chain by facilitating community access to land and provided essential sesame farming inputs, bolstering the expansion of the sesame value chain in the districts of Adjumani, Lamwo and Obongi with a cumulative area of 1,932 acres cultivated, resulting in a harvest of 473,200 kilograms. 1,076 refugees and host community members were engaged in sesame crop production across 40 farmer groups and 3 cooperative societies. These 3 cooperatives were supported in setting up storage facilities which has streamlined the management of sesame production and serve as central hubs within the value chain, ensuring the timely availability of products to meet market demand.

| 10,137 Refugees and host community members participated in cash-for-work |
| 1,076 Refugees and host community members engaged in sesame production |
| 1,932 Acres of sesame cultivated |
| 473,400 Kilograms of sesame harvested |
ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

In 2023, UNDP continued to partner with the Uganda Judiciary to strengthen access to justice by establishing and operationalizing e-governance systems, enhancing efficiency and accountability within government institutions through embracing digital technologies within judicial and governance systems. Video Conferencing Systems were launched at Gulu High Court and Gulu Main Prison, adding to the systems already installed at Masaka Court and Prison, Mbale Court and Prison, Mubende Court and Kaweri Prison to strengthen access to and administration of justice by reducing case backlog, improving efficiency and reducing time and costs by speeding up hearings, reducing waiting times, and enhancing efficiency of the justice system in dispensing justice ensuring no one is left behind.

Digitalization measures were also implemented at the Judicial Training Institute through the procurement of desktop and laptop computers, while capacity development initiatives have been implemented in partnership with Uganda Judiciary to increase knowledge and capacity building of judicial officers. Over 60 newly appointed Grade One Magistrates were trained on reporting of case digests, online case research, law reporting and knowledge management. This has enabled them to undertake their roles with ease using online law platforms for drafting judgements that enhance access to justice by the public, practitioners, and academia.

UNDP also supported Court Open Days held in eastern, northern, and western regions where the Uganda Judiciary engaged with communities on legal issues, demonstrating a people-centered partnership to enhance administration of justice and bring services closer to the people at the community level. Through the joint United Nations and European Union Spotlight Initiative, Mobile Legal Aid Clinics were also implemented in Kasese, Tororo, Kitgum and Kampala, providing legal aid access for 2,367 gender-based violence (GBV) survivors. Through the legal aid mobile call centre, 118 beneficiaries were provided with legal advice, counselling, and appropriate referrals.

2,367 GBV SURVIVORS accessed legal aid services

118 BENEFICIARIES were provided with legal advice, counselling, and appropriate referrals.
STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND PEACE

In partnership with the Ministry of Local Government, UNDP conducted training of newly appointed council leaders from over 34 districts of Uganda, targeting District Councilors, Heads of Departments, Chairpersons of Boards and Commissions with 1,273 councillors (751 male and 522 female) attending. The training strengthened capacity of local leaders who were fully equipped to effectively execute their executive, legislative, oversight and representation mandates.

In partnership with the Julius Nyerere Leadership Center and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, UNDP supported leadership training for 86 guild leaders from fifteen universities across the country. This youth leadership initiative equipped guild leaders with effective leadership skills to respond to the fast changing economic, political, and social environment in the country, encouraging youth leaders to maximize their potential and improve their performance to effectively influence development policies and programmes.

In 2023, UNDP continued 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 peacebuilding, cohesion, and conflict management. UNDP and partners fostered a functional infrastructure for peace through strategic cross-border and national peace, security, cooperation, and sustainable development dialogues. Three alternative conflict resolution, mediation and consensus building mechanisms targeting marginalized groups, especially women and youth, were established, while 2 cross-border, regional, national and sub-national action plans were established for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Capacity of state and non-state actors at local, national and regional levels was also strengthened to sustain peace and security through the creation of resilience initiatives such as the Building Resilience in Conflict Affected and Fragile Communities of Karamoja (BRICK) initiative in partnership with KOICA, supporting the delivery of government strategies on improving livelihoods, building resilience, social cohesion, and peaceful co-existence.

To foster civic awareness, UNDP supported the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) to reach the public through 245 radio talk shows dedicated to disseminating human rights information and fostering community engagement, therefore contributing to advancement of human rights principles. 698 individuals benefited from guidance provided through UHRC toll-free lines, enabling accessible support for addressing human rights concerns. UHRC was also supported to enhance its regional outreach interventions on fostering human rights.

698 PEOPLE addressed human rights concerns through UHRC

86 GUILD LEADERS received leadership training

To foster civic awareness, UNDP supported the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) to reach the public through 245 radio talk shows dedicated to disseminating human rights information and fostering community engagement, therefore contributing to advancement of human rights principles. 698 individuals benefited from guidance provided through UHRC toll-free lines, enabling accessible support for addressing human rights concerns. UHRC was also supported to enhance its regional outreach interventions on fostering human rights.

698 PEOPLE addressed human rights concerns through UHRC

86 GUILD LEADERS received leadership training

86 GUILD LEADERS received leadership training

To foster civic awareness, UNDP supported the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) to reach the public through 245 radio talk shows dedicated to disseminating human rights information and fostering community engagement, therefore contributing to advancement of human rights principles. 698 individuals benefited from guidance provided through UHRC toll-free lines, enabling accessible support for addressing human rights concerns. UHRC was also supported to enhance its regional outreach interventions on fostering human rights.
UNDP continues to work alongside the Government of Uganda and private sector in enhancing the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to export and capitalize on opportunities to deepen intra-African trade through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Business membership organizations, including the Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (FSME), Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA), Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI) and Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), have worked alongside UNDP to strengthen competitiveness and export trade readiness of more than 1,000 SMEs through training in financial literacy, governance of business groups, market analysis tools, business formalization and growth.

UNDP recognizes trade, particularly cross-border trade as a catalyst for economic transformation and driver of sustainable development, particularly for women and youth. Promoting trade-led growth can unlock market opportunities, capital and financing necessary to expand economic growth opportunities and positively impact employment and poverty eradication trajectories thereby accelerating progress toward achieving the SDGs. In this regard, UNDP is contributing to efforts to harness trade as one of the strategic opportunities that can potentially reposition Uganda’s industrialization strategy and set the country on the path to inclusive and sustainable development.

In partnership with the Presidential Advisory Committee on Exports and Industrial Development (PACEID), Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) and Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI), UNDP has enabled women and youth-led SMEs to access markets in various African countries including Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, and South Africa. In 2023, UNDP supported the Governments of Republics of Uganda and South Africa and other partners to organize a two-day Trade, Investment and Tourism Summit on the sidelines of a state visit by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda to the Republic of South Africa. The Summit registered numerous successes including the signing of three agreements in the areas of Promotion and Protection of Investments, Bilateral Trade, and the establishment of a Joint Permanent Commission; an investment deal for the establishment an engineering hub in Uganda dedicated to manufacturing electricity motors and transformers; and trade deal for the export of 300 tonnes of beef to South Africa annually. Also, as a result of the Nigeria trade mission, Endiro (coffee value addition company), Kuunda (fintech company), and Malaika Vocational and Business Institute are expanding into the Nigeria market. In partnership with Uganda Airlines, UNDP also hosted the Uganda-Nigeria and Uganda-India Trade and Business Forums, platforms that provided strategic opportunities to unlock market prospects, attract capital necessary to expand economic growth opportunities, and fostered the exchange to accelerate mutually beneficial economic and commercial ties.

UNDP has also worked alongside the Government of Uganda to strengthen the regulatory frameworks in trade and mining sectors, including support to update the Mining and Minerals Act 2022, preparation of the Mining and Minerals Regulation 2023, development of the National Branding and Packaging Strategy, and Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Enterprises Formalization Strategy.
REVIVING UGANDA’S TOURISM SECTOR

Uganda’s tourism sector continues to be on a positive trend in its recovery since the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing 4.7 percent to the country’s GDP in 2022/23 on account of reopening of key tourism source markets across the country, diversification of the country’s tourism product offering, and an aggressive and ongoing marketing campaign. The sector has great potential to tackle poverty, generate employment, drive conservation, create a more inclusive and resilient economy, and accelerate Uganda’s social and economic transformation.

UNDP continues to collaborate with various partners to diversity Uganda’s tourism product offer and compliment efforts to market Uganda as a premier tourism destination, boasting 50 percent of Africa’s bird species, 50 percent of the world’s mountain gorillas, 11 national parks, the source of the Nile River, and mountaineering sites such as Elgon, Moroto and Rwenzori Mountains.

In September 2023, UNDP collaborated with the Joshua Cheptegei Development Foundation (JOCDEF) and partners to launch the UNDP Elgon Half Marathon with Joshua Cheptegei, a sports tourism product that drove tourism traffic to the Elgon region increasing the participation of women, youth, and the local community in the tourism value chain. Also, the second edition of the Rwenzori Marathon co-created by UNDP and the private sector, generating an estimated total direct expenditure of nearly USD $1 million with close to USD $400,000 spent by visitors and residents of Kasese region during the event.

Meanwhile, Rwenzori: The Source of Life premiered in 2023, a documentary and climate action advocacy product produced by UNDP and documenting King Oyo Kabamba Nyimba Iguru IV’s experience summiting Margherita Peak in the Rwenzori mountains, which has received critical global acclaim. Rwenzori: The Source of Life. The film received 3rd Place at the World Tourism Film Awards and received awards at the New York Festival, US International Awards, Art and Tur Travel Film Festival, and Terres Travel Festival. Premiering on national television stations UBC and NBS, Rwenzori: The Source of Life was watched by over 7 million viewers.

7,000,000 VIEWERS watched the tv premiere of Rwenzori: The Source of Life
Health centers across the country equipped with solar energy.
UNDP CONTINUES TO UTILIZE NEW, EXISTING, AND UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS AS A CATALYST FOR ACCELERATING THE SDGS IN UGANDA. IN 2023, KEY PARTNERSHIPS INCLUDED:

GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA
UNDP has over the last 50 years been supporting the Government of Uganda 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. Developed in consultation with the Government of Uganda, private sector and development partners, UNDP’s Country Programme 2021-2025 is aligned to support national efforts to realize Uganda’s third National Development Plan (NDP III) and Vision 2040.

PRIVATE SECTOR
UNDP partnered with Uganda Airlines to unlock market opportunities, attract capital necessary to expand economic growth opportunities and accelerate Uganda’s participation in regional and global trade. The partnership has enabled women and youth entrepreneurs to access markets in Nigeria and South Africa. UNDP also supported 90 private sector companies to promote gender-transformative practices in the workplace, promoting accountability and gender equality through the UNDP Gender Equality Seal.

UN COUNTRY TEAM
UNDP engaged with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office and the UN Partnership Group to develop common partnerships and a Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy for the United Nations in Uganda. This promoted a shared understanding of key concepts and articulate and agree on a joint UNCT vision of and approach, among UN agencies, to partner engagement, resource mobilization and development financing. UNDP also serves as the lead agency on the UN Joint Programme for Data and Statistics in Uganda, one of a series of joint programmes launched under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025. UNDP is also participating in the development of the UN Joint Programme for Gender Equality.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
UNDP worked with faith based and cultural institutions to capitalize on their position and platforms to influence and guide communities, through implementation of both the National Ebola Response Plan and the National Post-Ebola Plan, where UNDP recruited 18 volunteers in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Volunteers to improve standards of care for Ebola patients and minimize transmission in healthcare settings.

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Ms. Shoda Ngatia hands over equipment to National Forestry Authority (NFA) to aid natural resource mapping.

PRIVATE SECTOR
H.E. Jessica Alupo, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda and partners launch the Digital Transformation Roadmap.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
UNDP participates actively in Uganda’s Local Development Partners’ Group and chairs the Tourism Development Partners’ Group, whose members include the European Union, Enabel, GIZ and the World Bank. UNDP continues to promote development cooperation with partners to enhance the impact of collective interventions in climate, environment, energy, tourism, trade, digital transformation, refugee livelihoods, gender equality and more.

KCCA
UNDP partnered with the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) in the implementation of smart cities initiatives, including consultations to unlock inclusive investments for development of informal settlements in Kampala, support to initiative by the UNDP Accelerator Lab on waste management and drainage systems for Makerere Kavule, and support toward the establishment of the KCCA Employment Hub at Sseziwaba and Youth Training Center at Kabalagala.

JOSHUA CHEPTEGEI
UNDP partnered with the Joshua Cheptegei Development Foundation to co-curate the UNDP Elgon Half Marathon, a commercially viable yet innovative and inclusive development model that aims to transform Africa’s public universities into centers of innovation. The 200-person capacity unipod is open to all Makerere University students as well as members of the public on request. Meanwhile, the Kabale University Business Incubation Centre is under development. These initiatives seek to foster innovation ecosystems within public universities, leverage the role of universities in grassroots development, promote research and resilience, and strengthen gender equality in public institutions.

MEDIA
UNDP has brokered partnerships with media houses including Vision Group and Next Media, signing memoranda of understanding with both and agreeing on frameworks to advance awareness and investment in the Sustainable Development Goals.
FINANCIAL DELIVERY IN 2023

- **Non-TRAC Delivered**: USD 12,926,829 (77%)
- **TRAC Delivered**: USD 7,751,384 (99.9%)
- **Total Delivered**: USD 20,678,213 (84%)

AMOUNTS PROVIDED BY TOP 10 DONORS IN 2023

- **TOTAL CONTRIBUTION**: USD 10,157,556

- **USD 4,632,941**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 4,040,468**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 1,187,084**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 648,275**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 1,013,171**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 1,016,000**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 1,013,171**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 653,115**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 648,275**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 534,450**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 330,100**: [Donor Name]
- **USD 108,000**: [Donor Name]
Participants during the Youth and Innovation Expo at Makerere University.

Former UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Elsie Attafuah hands over washing machines to the Ministry of Health as part of national Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) response.

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa addresses participants at the YouthConnekt Africa Summit 2023.

UNDP staff during the construction of the Makerere University UniPod.

Champion athlete Mr. Joshua Cheptegei and Uganda Tourism Board CEO Ms. Lilly Ajarova promoting tourism in the Rwenzori region.

Andrew Kabuura meets with students in Mbale ahead of the UNDP Elgon Half Marathon.

UNDP and KOICA have opened 133km of community roads to sustain trade infrastructure and create livelihoods opportunities in Northern Uganda.

H.E. Elna Østebo Johansen, Ambassador of Norway to Uganda, meets with UNDP staff.

UNDP staff during the Youth and Innovation Expo at Makerere University.

Uganda Delegation at the YouthConnekt Africa Summit 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Youth attend a workshop at the National ICT Innovation hub.

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa addresses participants at the YouthConnekt Africa Summit 2023.