



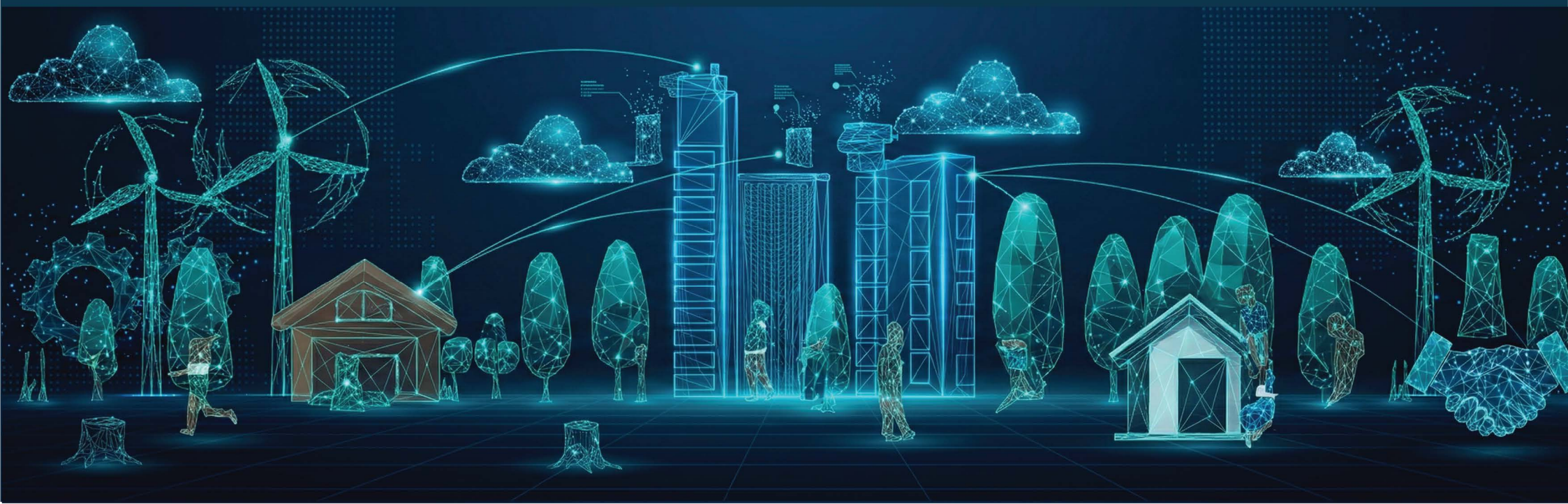
UNDP Uganda

Annual Report 2025

People & Possibilities

At the heart of our work is a deep commitment to development that elevates the people. We are proud to partner and shape the opportunities for the communities we serve, enabling them to access improvements in their quality of life. From urban settings, to communities living in hard-to-reach areas, we have demonstrated that indeed development is for all people,

By investing in people and nurturing collaborations that expand our joint efforts, we open new possibilities for sustainable impact to the very last mile. When more Ugandan youth, women and men equally have choices for improving their quality of life, there will be resilience today and tomorrow. Hereby contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) realisation.



ABOUT UNDP UGANDA

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 170 countries and territories, UNDP supports nations to build integrated and sustainable solutions for people and the planet.

As set out in the completed Country Programme Document (CPD) 2021-2025, UNDP has been dedicated to supporting Uganda's environmental and energy solutions; foundations for justice, social cohesion and health for development; digital transformation and innovation for jobs and trade; and in shaping national policies for SDGs intergration. This work has ensured inclusion of youth and women as key participants in Uganda's development.

For the period 2026–2030, UNDP Uganda will commence implementation of a new CPD. The implementation period coincides with the potential transition of Uganda to a lower-middle income country. Anchored in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2026-2030 and aligned with the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP-IV), the CPD is structured around three strategic pillars: Fostering Transformative Growth and Innovation; Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Resilient Development; Transformative Governance, Political Environment and Partnerships. Youth and Gender will remain central priorities over this period.

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.

DISCLAIMER

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We extend our sincere appreciation to the UNDP Uganda team, the Government and People of Uganda, our implementing partners, and all stakeholders who contributed to the achievements highlighted in this 2025 Annual Report. We are equally grateful to the Communications Team for the design and editorial production of this report.

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2021 - 2025**



Foreword



1. How would you describe the year 2025 overall?

2025 was a year of resilience amid uncertainties. Uganda sustained a 6.3% real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. While progress was positive, there remains opportunities to enhance gender equality, youth employment, climate action, and financing for development.

2. The annual report theme this year is “People and Possibilities.” What core narrative are you conveying?

People: Centering Innovation, justice, skills, livelihoods, health and peace, for women, youth, refugees and borderland communities, so gains are tangible and sustainable.

Possibilities: Opening new frontiers of deepening development impact, capitalising on AI readiness, climate resilient value chains and carbon markets, to future proof Uganda’s development pathway.

3. In such a rapidly evolving context, how did UNDP ensure its work remained aligned with the country’s most urgent development priorities?

UNDP offered an integrated package of policy and programme support aligned with national priorities on;



Enhanced Access to Justice

Digital justice systems interlinked more courts and prisons. Court Open Days addressed bottlenecks to justice for remote Islands. Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism brought justice to the last mile.



Strengthened Governance & Peace

First ever police post established and launched in Timu Subcounty. Cross-border trade, Safe and Orderly migration was enhanced through solarisation of six remote border posts - Cyanika, Amudat, Kazinga, Kikagati, Lia and Vurra.



Climate Resilience

Provided sustainable water access to water scarce communities through solarized water systems. Climate smart agriculture took root through mechanized production, safe storage and post harvest management. Access to clean energy was expanded to underserved people including in cross border communities.



Inclusive Productivity and Jobs

Upskilled the youth and Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME) for digital jobs/jobs for the future, and enabled the development of entrepreneurship ventures. Offered trade facilitation between Uganda and Nigeria through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Contributed to multi-stakeholder responses to pandemics and epidemics.



SDG Financing

Provided leadership on SDG implementation and monitoring aligned with the provision of SDG’s integrator functions to the UN System



Uganda can strengthen resilience and deepen development by empowering its youth and integrating responsible AI to enhance transparency, inclusion, and service delivery



4. Which achievements were most transformative for people and communities?



Women and youth skilling for economic empowerment

Over 8,600 youth were skilled and transitioned to decent employment. Specifically, under the initiatives: e-mobility at Kiira Motors Corporation, industry 4.0 skills with Lwera electronics, skills for digital jobs with refactory, 2D/3D animation with creature animations, vocational training through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) under the European Union - United Nations (EU-UN) Spotlight initiative.



Strengthened youth leadership capacity

Over 1,000 youth received transformative leadership development. Over 10 youth competing successfully in the 2026 Uganda elections.



Resilience and clean energy at scale

Solarized water, irrigation, and cooking systems benefitted 214,218 people across Uganda.



Justice that reaches people

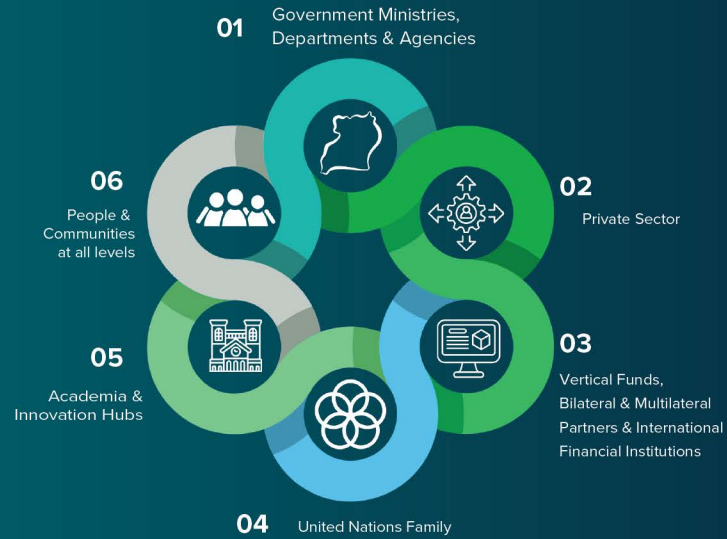
Digital justice systems interlinking courts and prisons, court open days in hard-to-reach Buvuma Islands, and districts of Kitgum, and Lamwo, increased access to justice for vulnerable groups. Contributing to case disposal rates increasing by 60% since 2023.



Inclusive markets and trade

MSME export readiness completed for 600 enterprises. Air cargo corridor operationalization between Nigeria-Uganda. Coffee market linkages with deals worth USD 3m between China-Uganda.

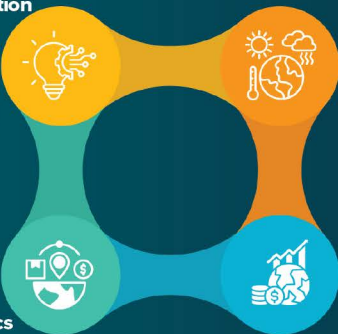
5. Which partnerships were most catalytic or transformative?



6. What emerging possibilities stood out for shaping future pathways?

AI and digital transformation

An AI ecosystem assessment and dialogues advancing a forthcoming National AI Strategy; digital public goods; MSME digital roadmaps, ASM digital administration system



Green and climate finance

National Climate Finance Strategy (2024–2030), green bonds groundwork, Article 6 readiness and carbon market frameworks, and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) mainstreamed into NDP IV.

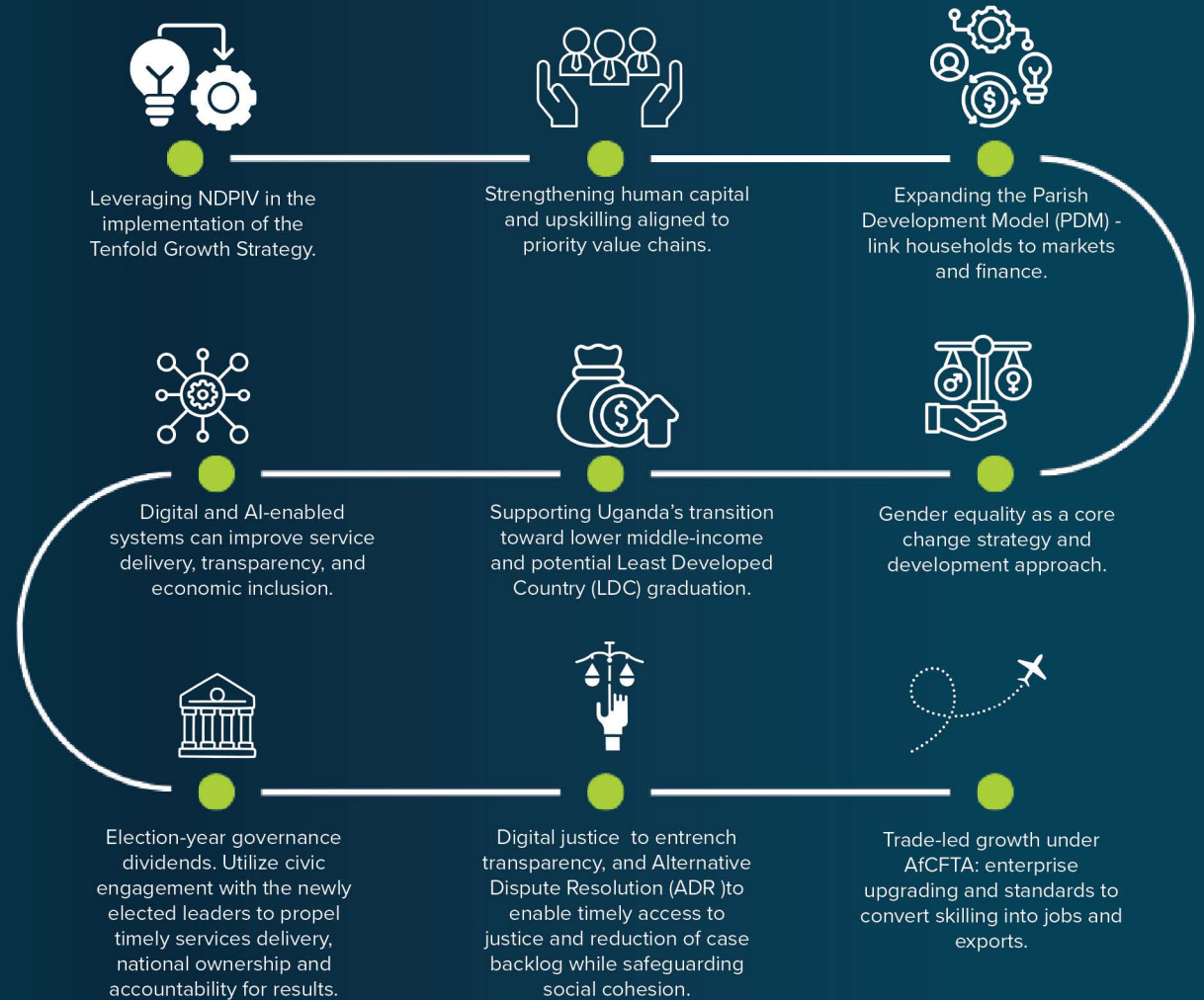
Regional trade & logistics

AfCFTA-linked air cargo solutions to unlock scale for agrifood and light manufacturing.

Local Economic Development:

Piloted the Market Vendor Management System (MVMS) in two markets using E-Systems. Efficiency enhanced in revenue collection and utilization linked to strengthening domestic resource mobilisation.

7. Looking to 2026, what key opportunities can accelerate Uganda’s development progress?



Overview of the Republic of Uganda

 **45.9 Million**
Population


 **74%** of the population
Under 30

 **2.9%**
Population Growth

- 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 2.9% (2024 Census) and current population is 45.9 million, about 76% of whom live in rural areas.



Human Development Index

 **0.582**
Uganda's 2023 HDI Value is above average for Sub-Saharan Africa

 **68 years**
Life expectancy at birth

 **11.5 years**
Expected years of schooling

 **0.524**
Gender Inequality Index

 **US \$2,241**
Gross national income (GNI) PER CAPITA

 **2024/25 +6.23%**
GDP growth rate

Report in Summary

Anchor Programmes

- 1. Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
- 2. Nature, Climate, Energy and Resilience
- 3. Governance and Peace Strengthening

Enabling Programmes

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

Flagship Programmes

- 6. Youth 4 Development

In 2025, UNDP Uganda's programmatic interventions focused on:

Empowering Vulnerable Groups



Graduation of youth in Tororo District

Protecting the Environment



Student watering trees brought under the Nehemiah Initiative

Nurturing Uganda's Innovation Ecosystem



Transforming the potato value chain at Kabale University

Championing the Digital Transformation Agenda



Students learning Robotics

Accelerating Access to Clean & Renewable Energy



Solarised water systems in Timu Sub-county, Karamoja.

Promoting Access to Justice



Launch of Video Conferencing System in Mukono High Court

Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism



Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary

Restoring and Strengthening Wise Use of Wetlands



Wetlands in Eastern Uganda being restored

UNDP UGANDA



UNDP Initiatives

Strategic Policy Pillar

- Sustainable Development Goals Localisation
- Statistical Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

Governance and Peace Strengthening Pillar

- Strengthening Gender Responsiveness of Justice Systems through Digitalization and Alternative Justice Systems
- Building Resilience in Conflict Affected and Fragile Communities in Karamoja (BRICK)
- Spotlight Initiative Gender for Development Programme
- Strengthening Women-led Civil Society Organisations and Environmental Human Rights Defenders Participation in Political Processes

Nature, Climate, Energy and Resilience Pillar

- The Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda project
- Biodiversity Financing for Conservation and Management
- Insurance and Risk Finance Facility (IRFFO)
- Enhancing conjunctive management of ground and surface water
- Karamoja Greenbelts' Women-Led Large-Scale Farming of Cereals, Legumes and Oil Seeds Projects
- Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action on Integrated waste management and Biogas in Uganda
- Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme
- Restoration of Wetlands and Associated Catchments in Eastern Uganda
- Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food security in Karamoja
- Promoting Socioeconomic development in the Borderlands of the Karamoja-Uganda-Kenya Cross-Border Project
- Strengthening Urban Resilience - Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Building
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
- Support Programme on Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contribution and National Adaptation Plans
- Climate Action
- Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use in Uganda
- Nehemiah Initiative: Greening Schools in Uganda

Inclusive Growth and Innovation Pillar

- Accelerator Lab
- Digitalisation, Innovation and Smart Cities
- Youth4Business
- Development Minerals Programme-Phase III
- Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
- HIV, Health and Development

Locations

West Nile

1. Adjumani
2. Arua
3. Koboko
4. Madi Okollo
5. Nebbi
6. Terego

Acholi

7. Gulu
8. Kitgum
9. Lamwo
10. Omoro
11. Yumbe

Karamoja

12. Moroto
13. Kaabong
14. Kotido
15. Napak
16. Nakapiripirit
17. Amudat

Bunyoro

18. Hoima
19. Kiryandongo
20. Masindi

Lango

21. Lira
22. Otuke
23. Oyam

Teso

24. Kumi
25. Bukedea
26. Ngora

Elgon

27. Mbale
28. Manafwa
29. Kapchorwa

Busoga

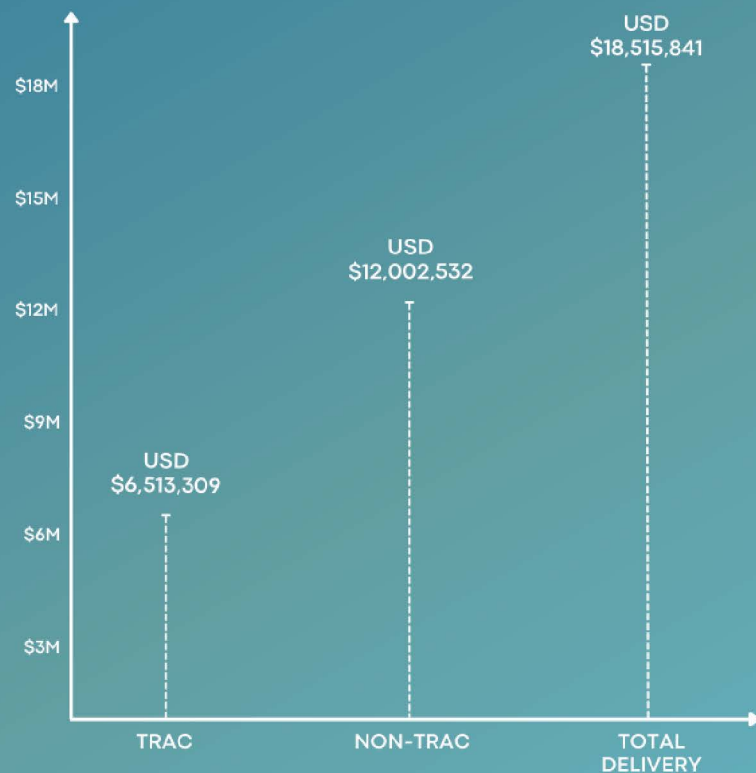
30. Bugiri
31. Iganga
32. Jinja
33. Kaliro
34. Kamuli
35. Namutumba

Financial Delivery in 2025

Total delivered: **\$18,515,841**

TRAC delivered: **\$6,513,309**

Non-TRAC delivered: **\$12,002,532**



*TRAC - Target for Resource Assignment from the Core

AMOUNTS PROVIDED BY TOP DONORS IN 2025

Global Environment Facility (GEF)	\$1,840,736
Government of Netherlands	\$1,798,841
European Union (EU)	\$1,397,554
The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	\$879,246
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$599,142
Norway Development Agency	\$421,127
Government of Germany	\$407,383
Gates Foundation	\$360,062
Government of the United Kingdom	\$270,000
TOTAL	\$7,974,091

Our Partners



2025 in Pictures



Youth in Kotido receive equipment for beekeeping under the BRICK project



Youth in Kotido receive gear for beekeeping under the BRICK project



Youth showcasing their products at The Pearl Marketplace



Graduation of youth from Smart Girls



Students from agriculture club as part of the Nehemiah Initiative



UNDP Resident Representative with Ambassadors and Ministers at the launch of the #WomenUganda2025+ campaign



UNDP Resident Representative with youth from the United Nations Association Uganda



Graduation of youth skilled in tech fields with Refractory Academy



Restored wetland in Eastern Uganda under the GCF project



Participants at the Elgon Half Marathon 3.0

Unlocking Uganda's Youth Potential to the last mile

The UNDP transformed Uganda's youth potential into tangible progress, demonstrating how people, strong partnerships, and bold initiatives drive inclusive development. Across underserved regions, UNDP equipped young people with practical and digital skills, leadership capabilities, and income-generating opportunities.

In partnership with Makerere University's Julius Nyerere Leadership Centre, UNDP strengthened leadership among youth and local council leaders. Participants learned practical decision-making, collaboration, and gender-inclusive approaches. These efforts expanded possibilities for young people in democratic processes, with 10 trained youth contesting for national elective positions and assuming leadership roles in governance. Targeting youth aged 18–35 from universities, tertiary institutions, and local councils across four regions, the initiative trained 846 young people, including 341 women.

In Karamoja, partnerships with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Republic of Korea enabled over 250 youth to acquire vocational skills and start-up tools, boosting local livelihoods. Meanwhile, the EU–UN Spotlight Initiative supported more than 70 vulnerable youth in Tororo and over 150 in Kampala with technical training, life skills, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention. Initiatives like "Girls with Tools" helped young women break barriers in trade, through gaining skills in areas such as mechanics, electrical work, engineering, and solar repair. This empowered them to lead community projects. Partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Kampala Capital City Authority, and district governments enhanced these efforts.

Innovation also flourished with the launch of the Kabale University Business Incubation Centre (KABIC), run by university students. The centre is expected to benefit over 150,000 farmers and create up to 10,000 jobs along the potato value chain.



470+
youth skilled in
Karamoja & Tororo



846
youth trained
in leadership



150,000+
farmers to benefit
from KABIC



10,000+
jobs to be created
along the potato value
chain



Graduation of youth in vocational skills in Karamoja

Equipping the Youth with Skills for the future

With the global skilling landscape changing rapidly, young people today need more than just skills; they need relevant capabilities that address 21st-century challenges. The world now demands youth who are digitally fluent, innovative, and able to harness AI to create solutions. That is why, UNDP in 2025, focused on equipping young people with market-relevant, future-ready skills that respond to the evolving labour market. Recognizing that traditional education alone is no longer enough to prepare them for decent work in a fast-transforming economy.

Through partnerships with Refactory Academy and Creatures Animations, UNDP supported intensive programmes in AI, software engineering, cloud computing, UI/UX design, data analytics, and animation. More than 370 young people graduated from these courses, gaining hands-on experience through mentorship, real-world projects, and exposure to industry standards. This *Skills for Digital Jobs* initiative emphasized applied learning, innovation, and employability going far beyond theory.

UNDP also prioritized creative and cultural industries as emerging engines of youth employment. Through the project "Kiroho" by creatures Animations, young creatives acquired skills to monetize digital storytelling. 2 editions of *The Pearl Marketplace* were held, a platform connecting over 500 of Uganda's creative talent to markets, partnerships, and new income opportunities.

AI Skilling



217

Youth Trained Across Learning Tracks



154

Graduates Completing Training and Capstone Projects

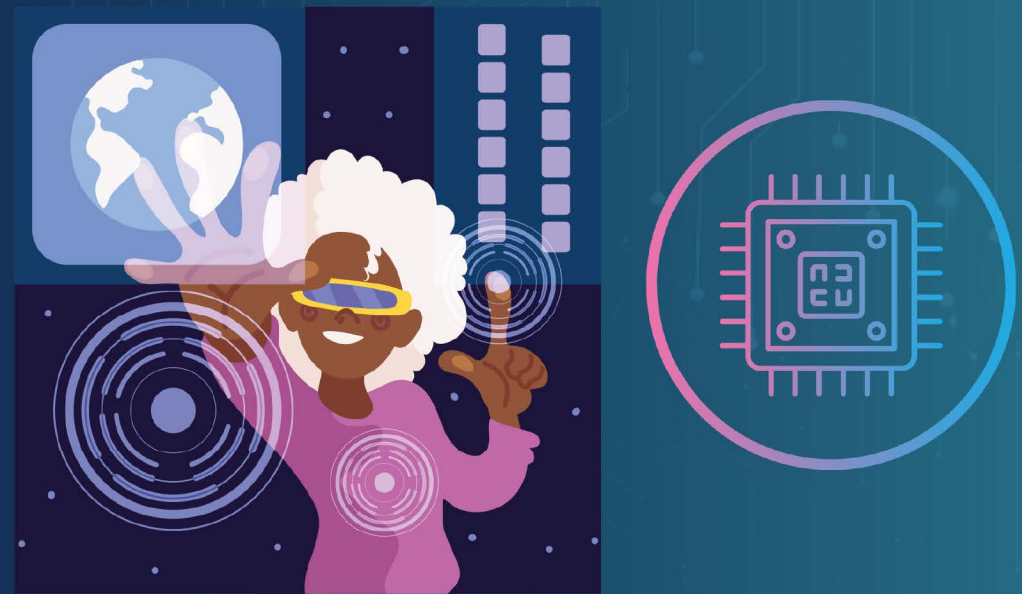


70%

Growing Placement into Jobs and Entrepreneurship

Innovation

UNDP implemented the innovative Industry 4.0 initiative, seeking to strengthen the foundation where electronics and digital technologies underpin every sector. It is a pioneering initiative jointly implemented by UNDP Uganda, Makerere University Innovation Pod (UNIPOD), and Uganda's indigenous Lwera Electronics and Semiconductors Ltd. The initiative equipped young Ugandans with skills to become makers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. This considering that the sector can create pathways for decent work and inclusive growth. Moreover, establishing Uganda as an electronics manufacturing and innovation hub enhances regional competitiveness, attracting investment and strengthening East Africa's technological ecosystem. 25 students and recent graduates were equipped with future-ready skills in electronics design, additive manufacturing, automation, Internet of Things (IoT), data analytics, and product innovation.



UNDP Resident Representative with youth at the Kiroho: Monetizing Animation townhall

Driving Climate Action & Resilience Through People



214,000+

People benefited from nature based solutions



8.6M

Climate finance mobilized



51

officers trained on Payment for Ecosystem Services



24

Automatic weather stations provided



50

Solar water pumps installed

Uganda is advancing its journey toward climate-resilient development, turning policy into action that strengthens livelihoods, protects communities, and creates sustainable opportunities. UNDP, working with government institutions, youth groups, women-led cooperatives, and the private sector, has supported initiatives that deliver real, people-centered impact.

In 2025, through UNDP and Green Climate Fund support, 24 Automatic Weather Stations provided timely climate and early warning information to over 3.7 million people across 24 districts. In Busia Municipality, 35 technical officers were trained in Disaster Risk Reduction, and community level disasters alert information reached residents through local radio.

Communities benefited from practical solutions that enhance food security, energy access, and urban resilience. 300+ cooperative members in Karamoja now have access to post harvest loss management hubs with rainwater harvesting capability and solar energy functionality, while 50 solar water pumps across several districts boosted climate-smart irrigation. Flood-resilient drainage in Makerere-Kavule protected nearly 4,000 residents. Ecosystem restoration enabled 4,000 former wetland users to adopt sustainable livelihoods, and a market in Kaliro now provides alternative livelihood opportunities for 200 traders who are former wetland users.

At the national level, 51 officers were trained on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). 26 solar-powered systems now provide clean energy to 77,000+ people across focus districts, advancing Uganda's sustainable development goals.



Regenerating Uganda's Natural Forest & Wetland Cover

Significant progress was registered in Uganda's efforts to restore and safeguard critical ecosystems, reflecting how people-centred action, strong partnerships and expanded possibilities are shaping the country's environmental future. Forest cover increased from 12% in 2024 to 15% in 2025, demonstrating collective national momentum toward the 2030 target of 21%. Similarly, wetland cover rose from 9% to 9.57%, underscoring government commitment and the sustained support of UNDP and partners in advancing ecosystem protection and climate resilience.

These improvements reflect strengthened national governance systems, driven by coordinated partnerships across government, communities, and development actors. They highlight what becomes possible when institutions work together to restore degraded landscapes, conserve biodiversity, and advance Uganda's climate action trajectory.

Targeted ecosystem restoration initiatives further deepened impact at the people level, ensuring that communities remain at the centre of environmental recovery. Training in tree nursery management reached 1,200 beneficiaries, enabling schools and communities to raise over 300,000 tree seedlings across 35 districts. An additional 303,000 seedlings were supplied to 41 secondary schools. As part of strengthening urban resilience, in Busia Municipality 1,900 trees were planted, benefiting more than 63,000 residents and expanding opportunities for greener, healthier communities. Under the Biodiversity Finance (BioFin) initiative, the Youth4Climate working group collectively planted over 10,000 trees.

Wetland recovery efforts also demonstrated the transformative power of partnerships. Following restoration activities, 4,000 former wetland users in 11 districts gained access to diversified alternative livelihoods, creating new possibilities for household resilience while reducing pressure on restored ecosystems. These achievements show how inclusive, community-driven and partnership-based approaches are unlocking sustainable climate solutions that protect Uganda's forests and wetlands for generations to come.



Students from Bweranyangi Girls Secondary School that benefited from tree seedlings under the Nehemiah project



600,000+
seedlings planted



3,984
wetland users found
alternative livelihoods



15%
rise in forest cover
in 2025



9.57%
rise in wetland cover
in 2025

Tourism as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development

Uganda, the “Pearl of Africa,” with its diverse landscapes, rich biodiversity, and vibrant cultures, saw a strong tourism rebound in 2024, attracting 1.37 million visitors, generating USD 1.28 billion, contributing 6.6% to GDP, and supporting over 800,000 jobs.

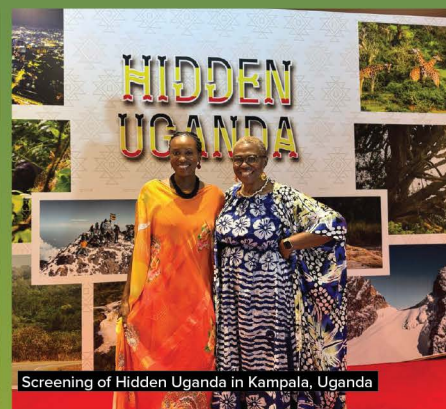
In 2025, UNDP strengthened this momentum by positioning tourism as a driver of sustainable development, cultural preservation, and community empowerment. This included supporting the development and launches of the film *HIDDEN UGANDA*, directed by Peter Greenberg, which showcased off-the-beaten-path destinations and promoted nature-based tourism.



Screening of Hidden Uganda in New York



Screening of Hidden Uganda in New York



Screening of Hidden Uganda in Kampala, Uganda

The Elgon Half Marathon 3.0 turned sports tourism into a force for positive change, celebrating the stunning landscapes and rich cultural heritage of the Elgon region while boosting the local economy. The marathon focused on empowering youth, promoting environmental conservation, and advancing gender equality while preventing gender-based violence. This demonstrates how sport can drive both community impact and sustainable development.



Official flag off of the 21km race at the Elgon Half Marathon

Building on these efforts, Uganda also marked significant progress in rhino conservation, with white rhino numbers rising to over 48, reflecting years of protection and strong community engagement. UNDP supported these efforts in wildlife conservation and named one of the re-introduced rhinos “Nakadanya,” A Ngakarimojong name in honor of Karamoja’s resilience. The name celebrates the region’s ability to adapt, protect, and coexist with nature, underscoring that conservation must be inclusive, rooted in local knowledge, and guided by community values.



Sustainable Mineral Development

In 2025, UNDP, through the African, Caribbean, Pacific States-European Union (ACP-EU) Development Minerals Programme, strengthened Uganda’s artisanal and small-scale mining sector by supporting over 100 enterprises, including youth owned enterprises, to formalize their operations and improve access to finance. Eight community-based organizations and mining associations also received grants and technical support to launch new income-generating activities. These initiatives directly benefited more than 1,000 miners through the provision of tools, protective gear, and support toward compliance with national mining regulations.

The rollout of Phase III of the Programme further positioned development minerals including stone, marble, limestone, salt, clay, and sand, as important drivers of construction, manufacturing, and local employment.


To build a more competitive and future-ready workforce, UNDP and the European Union, in partnership with the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals, trained 324 youth (43% women) from Kabale, Gulu, and Busitema Universities in business management, innovation, and employability within the mining sector. A Value Addition Learning Visit also provided 16 young professionals with practical exposure to modern mining technologies and environmentally responsible practices.

In addition, specialized Occupational Safety, Health and Environment training reached 188 enterprises and 1,522 miners (40.5% women) across 13 districts, while three model Artisanal Small-Scale Minerals (ASM) sites were initiated in Moroto, Katwe, and Mubende to promote safer, more organized mining communities. UNDP Uganda also contributed to a continental manual on best practices, supporting more inclusive and sustainable mining across Africa.



Salt Mining Site in Kasese District

 **1,391**
beneficiaries received start-up grants

 **104**
Artisanal Small- Scale Mining Enterprises formalized operations

 **324**
youth trained in business management & employability in the sector

 **1,522**
miners trained in occupational safety, health & environment standards



“Before the project, I struggled to support my children because I could only produce a few jerrycans of stones each day. With the new tools and training, my productivity has increased, and I can now pay school fees on time and improve my home with confidence. This support has changed my life and given my family a brighter, more stable future.”
- Mary Apio, Ngetta Stone Quarry

Expanding Trade Opportunities Through the AfCFTA

With 54 countries signed on, over 1.5 billion people, and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of nearly USD 3.7 trillion, the AfCFTA is the largest free trade area in the world by number of participating countries.

Uganda's participation in regional and global trade initiatives in 2025 underscored the transformative potential of the AfCFTA and the importance of targeted support for MSMEs. UNDP Uganda's work focused on enabling trade integration, expanding market access, and empowering women and youth entrepreneurs.

More than 150 SMEs, predominantly women-led, received training in branding, barcoding, traceability, and raising product standards for export readiness, enabling their entry into regional and global markets. UNDP Uganda, working with universities and government agencies, ensured that these initiatives were grounded in practical skills and market-oriented approaches, expanding income opportunities and fostering innovation among entrepreneurs.

Uganda's AfCFTA Implementation Strategy

The AfCFTA provides a vital framework for equitable and impactful trade across Africa, opening a market of 1.3 billion people to Ugandan enterprise. With the recent inauguration of its National Implementation Committee, Uganda has established a multi-stakeholder approach designed to deliver a robust trade agenda. This strategic move ensures that continental integration translates into inclusive and sustainable development for all Ugandans.

UNDP facilitated a strategic partnership between Uganda Airlines and key trade business institutions in Nigeria, transforming a new air route into a practical trade corridor that connects the economic hubs of West Africa to the dynamic markets of East and Southern Africa. This support reduced freight costs by 50–75 percent, expanded market access for MSMEs, and demonstrated how aviation connectivity can accelerate intra-African trade under the AfCFTA.



Launch of the air-cargo trade corridor

China Import Expo (CIE)

During the year, Ugandan SMEs took part in the **China Import Expo (CIE)** in Shanghai, exploring market opportunities for coffee, vanilla, shea butter, and artisanal products. The Expo facilitated strategic partnerships, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Agriculture and Cotti Coffee to establish value-addition facilities in Namusera. These facilities will introduce advanced processing technologies, create youth employment along tech-enabled value chains, and strengthen Uganda's coffee presence in Asian markets.



Ms. Nwanne, Amb. Judyth Nsababera and delegates at the CIE in Shanghai



Sustainable Agricultural Development

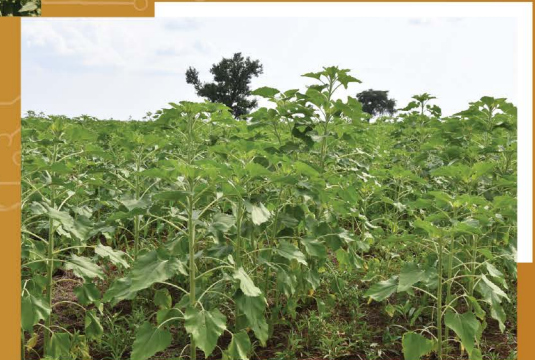
Agriculture remains central to Uganda's economy, employing large segments of the population and sustaining rural livelihoods. In 2025, UNDP's focus was on the resilience of smallholder farmers, financial inclusion, and agro-industrialization, with interventions designed to translate agricultural potential into sustainable economic impact.

Under the Insurance and Risk Finance Facility (IRFF), UNDP strengthened Uganda's agricultural insurance framework by supporting the tripling of the subsidy allocations to create a stronger financial foundation for farmer support and expand agri-insurance coverage of small holder farmers.

The 2025 Rural and Agricultural Finance State of the Sector Report introduced the "viability frontier," a framework for identifying where smallholder finance can be commercially viable and where innovation or concessional support is required. This guided national policy dialogues and informed UNDP's partnerships to expand access to climate-smart financing.



Sunflower growing in Karamoja under the IBSA Project



Launch of KABIC at Kabale University



A cornerstone of this effort was the launch of the [Kabale University Business Incubation Centre \(KABIC\)](#), a hub for innovation across the potato value chain. This links production, value addition, financial literacy, and market access, illustrating how an integrated approach can enhance job creation and income growth for farmers.

UNDP, through the [India, Brazil and South Africa Facility \(IBSA\)](#)–supported [Karamoja Green Belts Women-Led Large-Scale Farming Project](#), completed three modern storage and light-processing facilities in Naoi (Moroto), Apeitolim (Napak), and Namalu (Nakapiripirit) in the Karamoja sub region. All civil works including storage blocks, offices, drying slabs, sanitation units, solar and electrical installations, and fencing were finalized, and the sites are now ready for installation of processing machinery.

Value addition interventions also targeted agro-processors in key sectors. Trainings highlighted the potential of AfCFTA to boost incomes, expand markets, and transform businesses from local to global reach. By equipping entrepreneurs with skills in processing, quality standards, and market readiness, UNDP fostered inclusive growth in agricultural value chains.

Climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem restoration were integrated into livelihoods through wetland restoration and fish farming, providing alternative income streams while enhancing environmental resilience. Together, these initiatives demonstrate that economic empowerment and sustainability can go hand in hand, creating a resilient, inclusive, and market-driven agricultural sector that supports Uganda's rural communities and national development priorities.

Bringing Justice Services Closer to the People

UNDP and partners made significant strides in bringing justice services closer to the people. Interventions strengthened public trust and ensured that Uganda’s justice system serves everyone, especially the most vulnerable such as those living in hard-to-reach areas of Buvuma Islands.

The installation of digital justice systems in courts and prisons in Kitgum High Court, Kitgum Prison and Lamwo courts expanded access to justice for remote and vulnerable communities, lowered costs, minimized re-traumatization for Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors and improved efficiency across the justice chain. In the informal justice sector, 203 Local Council Court representatives across five districts and 50 Local Council Courts were equipped with knowledge and tools to strengthen documentation, referral pathways and case resolution. As a result, more than 2,500 GBV cases were resolved, with complex cases referred to formal courts, ensuring survivor-centred justice delivery and demonstrating how partnerships can open new possibilities for community-level justice.



Launch of the video conferencing system at Mukono High Court and Prison



82%

Improvement in public confidence in the justice system.



2,500

GBV cases were addressed.



50

Local Council representatives trained & equipped with tools to strengthen case resolution.



National Court Open Day Celebrations at Kololo Independence Grounds

At the local governance level, local council courts performance improved remarkably, rising from 59.7% in 2024 to 71% in 2025. This reflected stronger systems, improved accountability and more responsive service delivery. Capacity-building for Local Council Courts enhanced their effectiveness in resolving community disputes.

Real-time court transcription, enabled through high tech equipment, is removing administrative and procedural challenges, thereby enhancing efficiency in disputes management. Court Open Days are demystifying access to justice processes. They are also enhancing collaboration between the public and the justice chain-linked actors, especially in hard-to-reach islands, like the Buvuma Islands. Rolling out of application of ADR mechanisms is availing justice to the last mile, alongside supporting Judiciary case settlement. Through these interventions, more vulnerable women and girls are having various pathways for access to justice services, especially in rural communities.

Strengthening Governance and Peacebuilding for Shared Responsibility

Inclusive governance and peacebuilding were advanced by empowering citizens, strengthening institutions, and expanding pathways for meaningful participation ahead of Uganda's 2026 national elections. Through people-centred and partnership driven interventions, national and subnational institutions were equipped to deliver more accountable, responsive and participatory governance. UNDP provided financial and technical assistance to enhance youth engagement, leadership development, and civic participation.

UNDP and its partners also strengthened peace, security and cross-border cooperation in northern Uganda and the Karamoja subregion, through multi-level conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions. Over six alternative dispute resolution, mediation and consensus-building interventions were implemented at national, subnational and regional levels, focusing on marginalized groups especially women and youth who often bear the greatest burden of conflict.

Investments in peace infrastructure improved safety and trust. The construction of community police posts, such as the one in Timu sub-county under the Cash-for-Work programme, helped to reduce gender-based violence, cattle raiding and defilement, and strengthened Uganda–Kenya security coordination. Capacity-building complemented these investments, with 90 Peace Committee members, security officers and disaster management actors trained in conflict resolution, early warning and crisis response enhancing local peace mechanisms and stakeholder cooperation.

To promote social cohesion and regional solidarity, UNDP supported the annual Karamoja Cultural Celebration, attracting over 45,000 participants from the greater Karamoja cluster to celebrate indigenous heritage, strengthen cross-border relationships and explore community-driven approaches to conflict prevention. Cross-border dialogues and mediation training for local leaders have enhanced collaborative problem-solving across the Uganda–Kenya border. UNDP and KOICA supported the development of three large community water systems in 3 districts in Karamoja. Serving over 10,000 people, these water systems have connected villages, schools, health centres with water for consumption and production. Water availability is now positively impacting peace.

Working closely with government, UNDP advanced decentralization efforts through the rollout of Local Economic Development initiatives. A benchmarking mission to Kisumu, Kenya informed the design of a Market Vendor Management System (MVMS) that will improve local revenue collection, market governance and transparency.

Also, a nationwide radio campaign broadcast in 10 local languages across 16 subregions increased citizens' awareness of LC roles, services and voter responsibilities, strengthening civic engagement and reinforcing the possibility of more inclusive, accountable local governance.



Beneficiaries of the Cash for Work initiative under the BRICK project



Handover of the Timu Police Station in Karamoja



Solarized water systems in Karamoja under the BRICK project

Gender Equality & Women's Economic Empowerment

In 2025, advancing gender equality remained central to UNDP's work, addressing persistent social, economic, and political disparities affecting women and girls. Interventions focused on economic empowerment, skills development, and the prevention of GBV, creating practical pathways for inclusion and opportunity.

In education and skills development, initiatives with partners such as Smart Girls Uganda equipped young women with technical skills in motor vehicle mechanics, solar technology, electrical engineering, plumbing, and fashion design. Graduates emerged not only as skilled professionals, but also as job creators and community role models, challenging traditional gender norms and demonstrating that technical fields are not limited by gender.

Through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, efforts to combat GBV were strengthened, expanding access to survivor support services. A new shelter in Kasese now provides safe accommodation, counselling, legal aid, and skills training, addressing both immediate protection needs and long-term economic reintegration. Community platforms such as the Elgon Half Marathon also combined sport and advocacy to promote gender-equitable social norms while linking environmental conservation with social inclusion.

Women's economic empowerment was further supported through Gender Equality Seal training, equipping public sector actors with knowledge in procurement, access to credit, financial literacy, and business planning. More than 400 participants engaged in skills-building initiatives throughout the year, strengthening women-led enterprises and market participation.



"This Children's Centre is very important because it addresses a critical issue of the full emancipation of our students who have children."
- Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe

Through the EU-UN Global Spotlight initiative, a children's centre was launched at Makerere University allowing practical support to students & staff with young children, and break barriers to women's participation in academia.



Children's Centre at Makerere University



Graduation of girls in vocational skills at Smart Girls under the Spotlight 2.0 initiative



SDG Integration and Acceleration

In 2025, UNDP strengthened the integration and acceleration of the SDGs in Uganda by leveraging partnerships, multi-sector coordination, and programmatic innovation. The focus was on translating national development priorities into measurable outcomes across sectors.

A significant achievement was the launch of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2026–2030, which formalized joint planning with the Government of Uganda and UN agencies. The cooperation framework sets out the UN roadmap for development support to Uganda around the 3 priorities: Transformative and Inclusive Human Development; Sustainable Ecosystems and Climate-Smart Development; Integrated, Inclusive and Rights-Based Governance.

The UNSDCF is developed in alignment with the objectives and pillars of the NDP IV and the ambitious ten-fold strategy.

As the UN's integrator for sustainable development, UNDP provided technical, analytical, and coordination support throughout the process of development of the UNSDCF to ensure alignment with national priorities, the NDP IV, the 2030 Agenda, and the SDGs. UNDP contributed to the development of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) 2025, offering data, policy insights, and analytical expertise that identified key development challenges, opportunities, and structural barriers. UNDP continued to support the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team (UNCT) in implementing and monitoring the UNSDCF, promoting results-based management, integrated financing, and SDG acceleration. Ensuring that the UNSDCF and the NDP IV are evidence-based, inclusive, and catalytic frameworks that drive progress toward the 2030 Agenda and national development aspirations.

Recognition of local innovators through platforms such as the SDG Action Awards showcased individuals and organizations implementing impactful solutions, from supporting survivors of human trafficking to strengthening community resilience, demonstrating how local action can contribute to systemic change.



Launch of the UNSDCF 2026-2030



Technical Support to Government

Uganda strengthened its contribution to regional and continental development agendas, with UNDP playing a central role in supporting national participation, policy positioning, and knowledge exchange across key strategic platforms.

In April 2025, Uganda hosted the *Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-11)*, under the theme “Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence based solutions for the 2030 agenda and Agenda 2063.” The forum offered an opportunity for UNDP to highlight its contribution to inclusive, evidence-based development. Showcasing contributions to accelerating progress of women and youth in innovative and sustainable financing and universal energy access through Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

During the *Africa Industrialization Week (AIW)* in November 2025, UNDP offered technical and policy advice that informed Uganda’s industrialization and manufacturing agenda. In the same month, UNDP also facilitated Uganda’s engagement at the *All-Africa Pension Summit*, supporting the alignment of national financing frameworks with emerging continental opportunities for long-term SDG-aligned investment. These engagements enhanced Uganda’s regional visibility and reinforced UNDP’s role as a strategic development partner of choice for Uganda.



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni with delegates at the ARFSD-11



Ms. Nwanne Wwede-Obahor, Hon. David Bahati and other delegates at the AIW 2025

Claver Gatete, ECA Executive Secretary, at the ARFSD-11

Advocacy and Knowledge Management



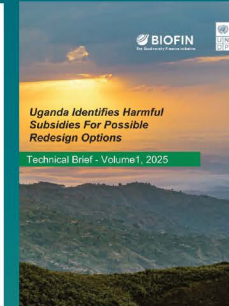
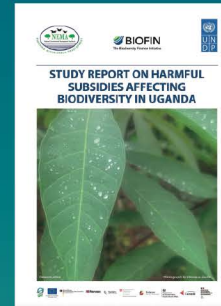
National launch of the Human Development Reprt at Kyambogo University



Advocacy and Knowledge management are essential tools for UNDP and its partners to shape effective policy and programming. In 2025, UNDP launched the global Human Development Report 2024/25 at the national level at Kyambogo University, under the theme “A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI.” This landmark report underscores the growing importance of equipping societies to navigate and harness the transformative power of artificial intelligence.

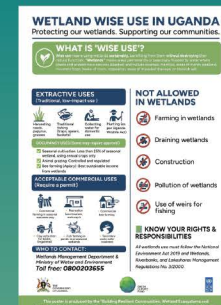
The report highlights the rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI), noting that while public debate often focuses on its risks, a new UNDP survey shows that people are already embracing the AI transition and see its potential to improve lives. Although concerns about job security remain, with one in eight respondents fearing possible job loss, the survey reveals high expectations for AI’s role in shaping the future.

For Uganda, the report indicates that human development has steadily improved, with its Human Development Index (HDI) reaching 0.582 in 2023, above the Sub-Saharan Africa average but below the global average. Long-term gains include higher life expectancy, expanded education, and rising incomes, though inequality reduces the HDI by 31.3%, bringing it to 0.400. Gender gaps persist, reflected in a Gender Development Index (GDI) of 0.908 and Gender Inequality Index (GII) of 0.524, showing better performance than the regional average but weaker than global levels. Adjusted for environmental pressures, Uganda’s HDI falls only 2.2%, indicating relatively low planetary impact compared to regional and global trends.

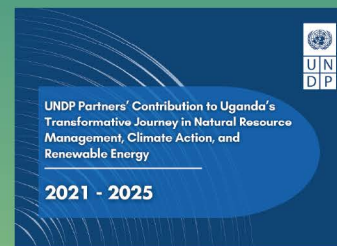


UNDP and NEMA, through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), have launched the Study Report on Harmful Subsidies Affecting Biodiversity in Uganda to advance national efforts to achieve Target 18 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The report highlights how tax exemptions on agricultural chemicals and packaging materials, though intended to boost productivity and competitiveness, are unintentionally driving soil and water pollution, harming ecosystems, and increasing reliance on non-biodegradable plastics, and offers a set of recommendations on how to address this.



UNDP, GCF and NEMA developed a poster on Wetland Wise Use in Uganda to provide clear guidance on sustainable and permissible wetland activities in line with national environmental laws. The poster highlights the importance of wetlands as vital ecosystems that sustain biodiversity, regulate water systems, and support livelihoods, while noting that increasing pressure from unsustainable use continues to threaten these resources. It outlines key practices that help balance conservation with community needs, promoting the protection of wetlands while enabling sustainable use and strengthening long-term environmental resilience



This publication highlights UNDP Uganda’s achievements in advancing sustainable natural resource management, climate action, energy transition, and community resilience. It underscores progress in wetland restoration, implementation of the NDCs and NBSAP, efforts to reverse land degradation, and expanded access to renewable energy. These results reflect the strength of collaborative partnerships with government, development partners, and communities, reinforcing UNDP’s commitment to delivering sustainable and inclusive development outcomes in Uganda.

Health for Development

UNDP provided technical and financial support to strengthen risk communication and community engagement in response to the 2025 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and Mpox outbreaks. The work further supported the Ministry of Health in integrating HIV prevention and care to expand differentiated services for vulnerable populations within emergency responses such as Mpox and Ebola. UNDP supported the Ministry of Health in developing investment cases for Malaria and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The investment cases highlighting the economic burden that NCDs and Malaria impose on Uganda’s economy and identifying cost-effective intervention pathways.



People for 2030

Throughout 2025, UNDP Uganda continued to invest in a resilient, knowledgeable, and well-supported workforce. This was undertaken in line with the final phase of the People for 2030 Strategy. These efforts promote a people-centered approach to delivering the organization's mission. Over the year, the Country Office organized a series of knowledge-sharing sessions through the 'Coffee Learning' sessions. They covered financial inclusion, mental health and well-being, cybersecurity, and programme-specific technical areas. These sessions strengthened staff capabilities, encouraged cross-team collaboration, and supported the development of a more adaptable, future-ready workforce.

To complement learning initiatives, the Staff Wellness Team also coordinated a range of fitness and wellness activities. These included staff participation in the 2025 Elgon Half Marathon, the United Nations Games, the acquisition of shared gym space in partnership with the UN Global Pulse, and interactive wellness quizzes. These efforts promoted healthier lifestyles, strengthened team cohesion, and reinforced a positive organisational culture. Together, these investments underscore UNDP's commitment to nurturing a workforce capable of delivering results-driven, impactful development outcomes across Uganda.

UNDP's third phase of the People for 2030 Strategy focuses on translating vision into action by building a high-performing and inclusive workforce equipped to respond to emerging development challenges. It reinforces a people-first approach that strengthens leadership, well-being, learning, and accountability at all levels, while positioning UNDP as a trusted provider of people-management solutions across the UN system and for Member States.

The success of the Strategy is anchored in shared ownership from managers and People Champions to every staff member ensuring that UNDP remains a place where people feel empowered to grow, contribute, and thrive. As UNDP enters a new Strategic Plan period and the second half of the Decade of Action, continued investment in staff capabilities and well-being will be essential to sustaining high performance and expanding the possibilities through which we deliver meaningful, inclusive development impact for the people and communities we serve.



UNDP Staff at the UN@80 celebrations



2025 end of year celebrations



Coffee learning session with Temidayo Ibitoye

UNDP Uganda CPD Snapshot 2021 - 2025

Between 2021 and 2025, UNDP Uganda delivered an integrated development portfolio designed to accelerate structural transformation while strengthening institutions and communities. This period was defined by catalytic investments in youth empowerment, climate resilience, digital innovation, justice reform, and Uganda's global positioning.



16,000+
Jobs & Livelihoods
Created



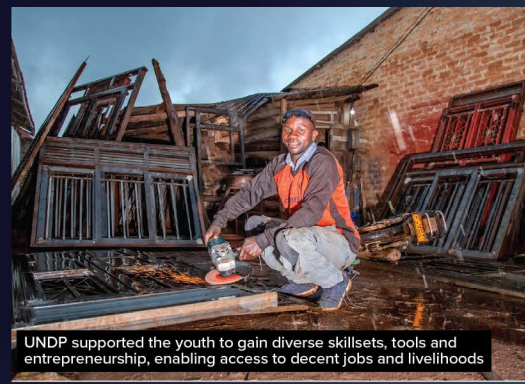
56,000+ Ha
Hectares of
Wetlands Restored



7 Million
Citizens with
Solar-Powered



UNDP enhanced systems for sustainable agriculture



UNDP supported the youth to gain diverse skillsets, tools and entrepreneurship, enabling access to decent jobs and livelihoods



UNDP supported the youth to gain diverse skillsets, tools and entrepreneurship, enabling access to decent jobs and livelihoods



UNDP supported the youth to gain diverse skillsets, tools and entrepreneurship, enabling access to decent jobs and livelihoods

Nature, Climate, Energy and Resilience

Working with partners, UNDP achieved a massive scale-up in ecosystem preservation, increasing the acreage of restored wetland areas to over 56,000 hectares supported by the GCF. Integrated energy initiatives solarized 26 Health Centre IVs, ensuring medical services for approximately 7 million citizens, and supported over 2.7 million households in accessing sustainable power sources.

Governance and Peace Strengthening

UNDP fortified the foundations of justice, contributing to an increase in Uganda's case disposal rates from 60% to 75% through support for judicial digitalization and ADR. Applying the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, the portfolio reached more than 10,000 refugees and hosts with economic stabilisation interventions.

Inclusive Growth and Innovation

UNDP placed youth and women at the heart of Uganda's economic transformation, successfully creating over 16,000 jobs and livelihoods. The portfolio strengthened the competitiveness of more than 1,000 export-ready SMEs to harness AfCFTA potential, while technical support for the Digital Transformation Roadmap helped secure a government funding increase to \$80.5 million for ICT in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

Health & Emergency Response

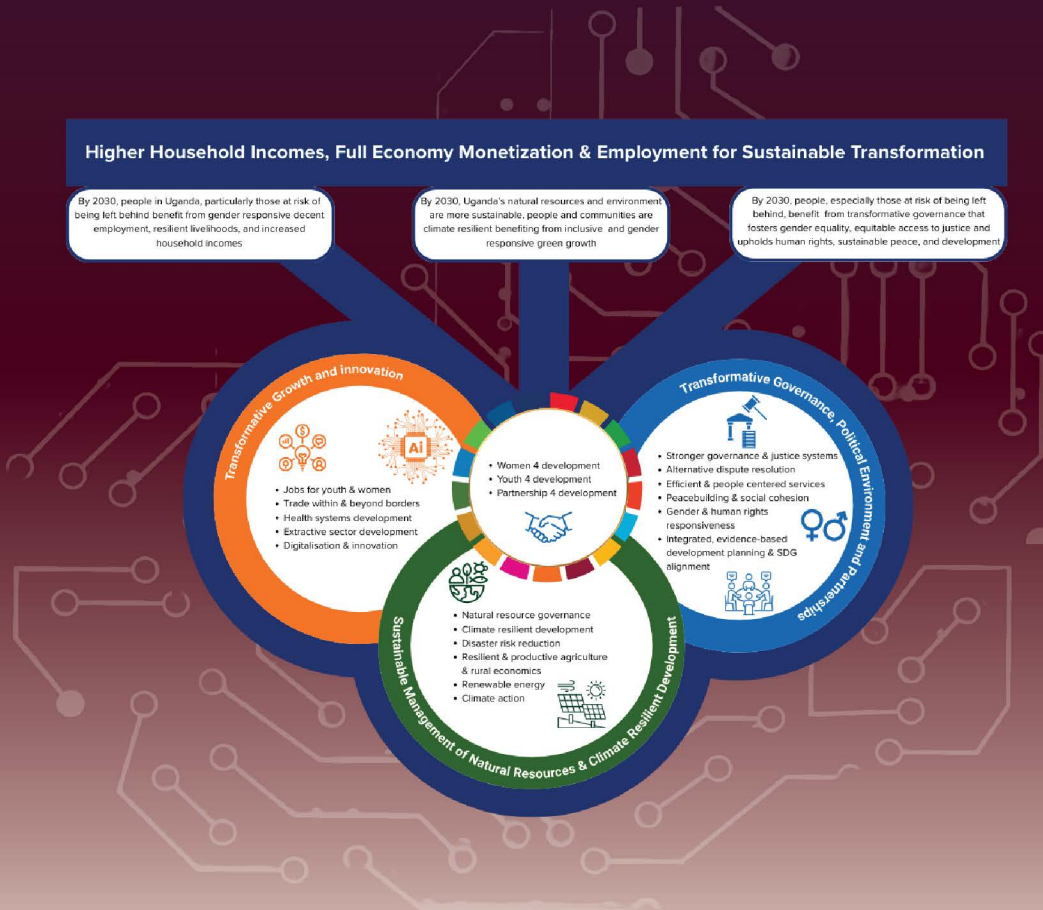
UNDP Uganda supported national emergency responses that helped contain the 2022 and 2024 Ebola outbreaks in under four months and sustained business continuity and vaccination efforts during COVID-19. The programme also strengthened NCD care and advanced digital health innovations, including Maisha malaria treatment solutions and Akellobanker's mobile medical credit services.

Policy & Strategy Engine

UNDP strengthened Uganda's regional and global leadership while reinforcing national systems for sustainable development. Support to the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Conference and the G77+China Summit in 2024 elevated Uganda's diplomatic profile, alongside facilitation of the third Voluntary National Review (VNR) and sustained engagement in COP27-COP30 climate negotiations. Regionally, UNDP advanced Uganda's integration under the AfCFTA through the National Implementation Strategy and trade platforms expanding women's participation in continental markets. At the national level, UNDP embedded the SDGs within NDP III, NDP IV, and the SDG Implementation Roadmap (2021-2025), strengthened climate and carbon market frameworks, and reinforced evidence-based policymaking through flagship research—laying a coherent foundation for long-term transformation under Vision 2040.

UNDP Uganda CPD Outline 2026 – 2030

To support Uganda’s progress in its growth and development trajectory, in 2026, UNDP will start implementing a new five-year Country Programme Document (CPD) - 2026-2030. The CPD was developed through consultations with civil society, government, partners and communities. Its development and implementation is aligned with principles and priority programmes under Uganda’s Fourth National Development Plan (NDP-IV) for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30. The CPD implementation will contribute to agro-industrialisation, tourism, mineral development and science, technology and innovation (ATMS), the key drivers for Uganda’s ambitious 10-fold growth by 2040. The CPD contributes directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2026 - 2030.



The CPD utilizes a systems-thinking and portfolio approach to contribute to addressing root causes of development challenges in Uganda, focusing on three interlinked strategic priority areas and two portfolios of action.

Portfolio 1: **Fostering Transformative Growth and Innovation:**

Under the CPD, UNDP seeks to empower youth and women, including those at risk of being left behind to access new market opportunities, enter the job market, and use new and emerging tech and artificial intelligence, to stimulate economic growth and strengthen health systems, while accelerating structural transformation and driving private sector-led growth.

Portfolio 2: **Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Resilient Development**

Under the CPD, UNDP will seek to fostering climate-resilient development, contribute to implementation of global and national environmental commitments, promote innovative solutions for conservation and restoration, mobilizing green and climate financing and address the rapid decline in forest cover and wetland cover.

Portfolio 3: **Transformative Governance, Political Environment and Partnerships**

Under this priority area, together with state and non-state partners and employing digital transformation, UNDP will seek to strengthen governance, legislative and justice systems, promote people-centred service delivery and advocate for wider application of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Additionally, UNDP will contribute to integrating and accelerating progress on the SDGs by supporting government to implement coherent national development plans, policies, and strategies that are human rights responsive; mobilise financing and advocate for sound public financial management; and provide evidence-based policy advice.

Youth, gender and disability as central priorities. UNDP will implement specialized portfolios on Gender for Development and Youth for Development that incorporate disability mainstreaming across interventions

The UNDP CPD will be driven by strong partnerships with United Nations agencies, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), bilateral partners, international financial institutions (IFIs), multilateral environmental financing institutions, public and private sectors, foundations, academia, CSO, and South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC).

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