

Country Brief

UGANDA

2023

A better quality of life for all in
an urbanizing world



A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

We promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



UN-HABITAT

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URBAN CONTEXT AND TRENDS

Urbanization in Uganda is one of the transformative and challenging trends with a fast pace of 4.5% growth per annum, and the urban population is projected to nearly double between 2010 and 2030. With 26 percent of the population classified as urbanized, Uganda is at present experiencing fast urbanization and transformation of its urban form and overall land use. After Niger, Uganda has the second youngest population in the world. With the youth bulge and potential youth dividend together with rapid urbanization, Uganda should be on course to sustainable development. However, there are notable developments that question whether the status quo of the development trajectory will take the country on a path to sustainable development, including sustainable urbanization. Some of these developments include adverse and changing weather conditions, increasingly uncompetitive cities, rapid mobility of displaced people into the country, and flagging economic growth among others.

In the last 30 years, Uganda has reported unusual changes in weather conditions and patterns. The rains are often infrequent and often inordinately more than usual. These changes have occasioned a reduction in wetlands, flooding in cities and rural areas, and an increase in landslides that have resulted in significant loss of lives and livelihoods.

In addition to the adverse changes of weather, the perpetual conflict in the Great Lakes region has triggered a growing movement of displaced people from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) into Uganda. In August, the refugee population alone was estimated at 1,525,197 people[. Whilst the effects of the adverse changes in weather conditions have also resulted in the disruption of livelihoods and displacements, the actual number of new climate migrants is not known. But the effects of displacement are slowly being felt as urban areas where the climate migrants settle face increasing pressure to provide additional urban basic infrastructure and provide livelihoods for distressed displaced populations.

During 2010-2011, with an economic growth rate of 9.7 percent, Uganda enjoyed one of its best growth rates. In recent years however, due to a myriad of causes, such as the COVID pandemic, EBOLA, changes in weather, and increasing world prices for oil and gas, the economy is now growing at an estimated 4.6 percent. Youth unemployment is estimated at an unprecedented 78% percent. An estimated 300 hundred people move to urban areas each year. Uganda's capital Kampala on the other hand accounts for an estimated 41 percent of Uganda's urban population and an estimated 40 percent of Uganda's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). With 202 urban areas, Uganda recently elevated another 15 towns to city status in a bid to improve urbanization and economic growth. It is against the above background that the Government of Uganda and UN-Habitat seek to formulate interventions that will improve urbanization, promote equitable economic growth, and secure livelihoods of the youth.



UN HABITAT IN UGANDA

The UN-Habitat Uganda country office maintains a close and collaborative relationship with the government of Uganda based on mutual cooperation, shared objectives, and a commitment to sustainable urban development. The collaboration focuses on supporting the government's efforts in achieving sustainable urban development, promoting inclusive growth, and addressing urban challenges. Through this partnership, UN-Habitat contributes to the government's efforts to create resilient, livable, and sustainable cities and towns in Uganda.

Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in Uganda through the following areas:



Climate change and environment

Addressing climate change and environmental challenges through supporting efforts to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience, environmental conservation and natural resource management, strengthening climate and environmental governance at national and local levels and fostering partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders.



Capacity Building and Strengthened institutions.

Strengthening the capacity of national and local stakeholders by enhancing their ability to address urban and land tenure issues and creating an enabling environment for sustainable development.



Sustainable mobility

Addressing sustainable mobility challenges through promoting non-motorized transport, partnerships and stakeholder engagement, integrated land-use and transport planning, capacity building and knowledge sharing to improve access to affordable and sustainable transportation options, reduce congestion and pollution, enhance urban mobility, and contribute to the development of environmentally friendly and socially inclusive cities and communities in Uganda.



Land tenure security


Addressing land tenure insecurity through various strategies and interventions like Policy and legal frameworks, Land administration and management, Community participation and empowerment, Gender equality and social inclusion and Data and research to promote land tenure security, reduce land disputes and conflicts, enhance land governance, and contribute to Uganda's sustainable development and inclusive growth.

About Our Projects




Land at Scale Project in four regions South-western, Kyoga Plains, West-Nile and Elgon regions in Uganda


 **Funding:** Netherlands Enterprise Agency from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

 **Budget:** 3,000,000 Euros

 **Regions of intervention:** South-western, Kyoga Plains, West-Nile and Elgon regions


 **Goal:** Land at Scale Uganda project aims to scaling up community-based land registration and land use planning on customary land in Uganda. The project is contributing to the development of a structured and scalable approach towards improved tenure security and sustainable land use for 30,000 small holder households in 4 regions of Uganda.


Participatory Slum Upgrading Project in Kampala, Mbarara and Mbale cities.

 **Funding:** European Union


 **Period:** 2008-2022

 **Budget:** 300,000 Euros

 **City of intervention:** Kampala, Mbarara, Mbale


 **Goal:** The PSUP became part of the country's joint efforts towards inclusive urban development in 2008- 2022. The government of Uganda has adapted the PSUP to national needs and the program principles and approach contributed to the review of national programs. The project closed in Uganda in 2022.

Growing Smarter: Sustainable mobility in East Africa Project in Kampala


 **Funding:** International Climate Initiative

 **Budget:** 78,000 USD


 **Areas of intervention:** Kampala


 **Goal:** This is being implemented in Uganda from 2021 to 2023. UN- Habitat) working in partnership with the institute of Transportation and Development policy are providing technical assistance on sustainable transport and urban planning projects and policies, including bus rapid transit (BRT), non-motorized transport (NMT), transit-oriented development (TOD), and parking management to government through Ministry of Works and Transport and Kampala Capital City Authority.

Disaggregated Land Indicators for Policies and Actions that Leave No One Behind in Africa.

 **Funding:** UNSD from the Development fund.

 **Period:** 2022-2023

 **Budget:** 29,750 USD


 **Goal:** UN-Habitat is supporting Government to strengthen its capacity to produce and use up-to-date, reliable, accurate and gender-disaggregated data on land governance and tenure security for evidence-based policy decisions that leave no one behind, while reporting on the SDG land-related indicators at the national, regional and global levels. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics from 2022 to 2023.


About Our Projects




Support to Urban Land Interventions in Uganda

 **Funding:** GLTN Basket funding

 **Budget:** 175,000 USD

 **Regions of intervention:** Mbale and Lira

 **Goal:** The project is a continuation of the previous project called “Support to tenure security improvement in Mbale City to promote and facilitate the adoption at the scale of land tools and practices that promote tenure security and to develop the capacity needed for fit-for-purpose implementation. The project aims to further strengthen and improve the tenure security of the urban poor and develop tenure-responsive neighborhood plans in selected informal settlements in Mbale and Lira cities in Uganda. It is being implemented in partnership with ACTogether Uganda in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the local governments of Mbale and Lira.

Concept Notes for Pipeline Projects



Uganda cities and municipalities infrastructure development project (UCMID/USMID II)



Goal: Promote liveable urban areas (cities and municipalities) that are organized, inclusive, productive, and sustainable.

The project is in line with the aspiration of Agenda 2030 which is to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation by 2030 (SDG 9).

The interventions will include areas surrounding urban infrastructure, service delivery, waste management, urban natural resources, slum upgrading, public spaces, and integrated spatial planning.

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved quality and stock of urban infrastructure by 20% by 2028
- Strengthened and competitive urban areas for urban service delivery of 75% by 2028

Urban Observatory



Goal: To strengthen the monitoring and reporting capacities of the MLHUD to monitor the process and the outcome of the country's urban transformation.

Expected Outcomes:

At the national level:

- A national urban observatory is set up.
- The UMF is customized as a national urban transformation index.
- The UMF/CPMF national frameworks adopted by the Ministry.
- Data is collected for sample cities and the UMF index estimated/KPI for CPMF is reported on dashboards.
- Training tools are created and capacity development activities are delivered.

At the regional level:

- National and regional coordination for monitoring and reporting is strengthened.
- Policy dialogue to analyze results, identify key issues, and identify policy interventions.
- Regional transformation index is developed and implemented.



Urban Observatory

Expected Outcomes

At the local level:

- CPMF as a transformative system is adjusted to city requirements and contextual needs.
- SDGs indicators are integrated into the UMF transformation index.
- City baseline data is created for selected cities.
- The national urban observatory is articulated to local initiatives and coordination mechanism reinforced.
- Best practices are defined according to UMF/CPMF results at the city level.

Our Achievements

Land at Scale Uganda Project

- Kabale District was supported with the development of the Physical Development Framework and Kitumba Sub-County has been supported to develop a land use plan in a participatory manner.
- Promoting sustainable wetland management and wise use through organizing communities into Wetland management Associations, wetlands management plans developed in a participatory way, and inventory of wetland present use.
- 16 capacity development initiatives have been conducted increasing the capacity of 890 land stakeholders (521 male, 369 female of which 223 were youth) on open geospatial technologies and STDM, tenure-responsive land use planning, gender and youth-responsive land governance, and alternative dispute resolution.
- So far, 3996 Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCOs) have been issued in Kabale and Butaleja districts benefitting 7878 beneficiaries (4479 male, 3399 females including 3573 youth) representing 2788 households. 903 CCOs are yet to be issued in Buhara sub-county Kabale district benefitting a total of 787 beneficiaries (463 males, 324 females, and 135 youth) representing 590 households. With 8544 CCOs applications in the process of being approved in Kabale district benefitting a total of 5975 beneficiaries (3166 males, 2809 females, and 1376 youth representing 4569 households)
- Supported the Ministry of Lands, Housing & Urban Development (MLHUD) to digitize the CCO registration process and issuance.
- Supported MLHUD to prepare a country implementation strategy for applying a Fit for Purpose (FfP) approach to Land Administration with the aim of providing secure land tenure for all.
- Establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms on land and land issues. Three multi-stakeholder workshops were organized using online platforms reaching out to a total of 19,549 stakeholders. .

Our Achievements

- Dispute resolution focusing on using existing Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms where 92 disputes were successfully resolved out of 118 recorded disputes. 11 capacity development initiatives have been conducted increasing the capacity of 675 stakeholders (326 females, 349 males including 40 youth) on open geospatial technologies and STDM, tenure responsive land use planning, gender and youth responsive land governance and alternative dispute resolution in Mbale.



Our Achievements

Support to Urban Land Interventions in Uganda

- 940 parcels of land were mapped in Mbale during the first phase benefitting 882 beneficiaries (319 females, 563 males including 26 youth).
- The first ever Certificates of Customary Ownership in urban areas were issued in Mbale City with UN-Habitat/GLTN support. Whereby 511 CCOs have been issued so far in 4 informal settlements in Mbale City to a total of 521 beneficiaries (328 males, 193 females including 36 youth). This intervention is being scaled-up in Mbale and Lira Cities to target additional 2,000 households and includes new activities on land use planning.
- Through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, 73 disputes resolved out of 85 disputes were registered in Mbale city.



Caption: Women empowered by training by UN Uganda
Photo: © UN Uganda

Our Achievements

PSUP (Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme)

- Supported the government through the Ministry of Lands to review its slum upgrading strategy.
- Supported 2 secondary cities (Mbarara and Mbale) to update their city-wide slum upgrading strategies and develop neighborhood plans for selected informal settlements. Transformative projects such as WASH, access roads, drainage, and waste management are supported.
- Supported implementation of Kampala and Mbale cities covid-19 response and recovery plan.

Disaggregated Land Indicators for Policies and Actions that Leave No One Behind in Africa.

- Technical Capacity Building Workshop successfully organized on Collecting Data and Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 on Land Tenure Security. The workshop brought together state and non-state actors in the field of land and statistics to dialogue on the synergy of actions to produce and use reliable SDGs-related land data.

Our Achievements

Growing Smarter Cities: Urban Mobility Project

- UN-Habitat in partnership with ITDP organized a study tour for government officials from the transport sector in Uganda including officials from the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), and the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA). The tour provided an opportunity to key players in the transport sector in Uganda to acquire insights into the technical and political aspects of a BRT and issues to consider for the system to function smoothly in tandem with other modes of transport such as water transport, Rail, and motorcycle taxis. The lessons learnt will be useful in the implementation of the BRT in Uganda.
- Kampala Open Streets Event: UN-Habitat together with KCCA, WRI, and ITDP held an Open Streets Event on 26th March 2023. The outcomes of the event were:
 - To demarcate road space for people and promote the use of Kampala's main corridors by people, not only as pedestrians, cyclists, or for transit, but also as a destination for play, recreation, and shopping.
 - To promote mindset, change towards positivity and confidence in NMT and mass transit; and to reduce the reliance on single occupancy vehicles.
 - To utilize the events as a platform for road safety messaging



Donors and Partners



Ministry Of Works & Transport
To provide Reliable, Safe works, Transport
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