

SDG Bulletin Uganda

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Global Events and Initiatives for Sustainable Development

Considerable progress has been made worldwide over the past decade across all areas of development, but the speed with which we are moving forward is insufficient and too uneven to meet the global targets by 2030. To achieve the Goals, all stakeholders must fast track efforts, ensure political buy in and build new partnerships. These were among the findings in the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 by the United Nations, which was released in July 2017. The report can be found [here](#).



H.E. President Yoweri Museveni addressing the UN General Assembly. UN Photo/Cia Pak

World leaders met at the 72nd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 18th – 29th in New York to discuss sustainable development under the theme: Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for all on a Sustainable Planet.

H.E. President Museveni used this opportunity to deliver a speech on the 19th September 2017. The speech focused on the fact that everyone wins if we live in a world with food security, access to immunization, education, health facilities, clean electricity, well paid jobs, decent living conditions and clean water, peace and security and effective infrastructure. He also emphasized the importance of protecting mother earth and stimulating business without nurturing greediness. The full speech can be read [here](#).

At the UNGA, Uganda organized several side events. One major event was the high-level dialogue by world leaders to renew the urgency to end AIDS as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. The official press release is available on the link [here](#).

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 by the United Nations was released in July 2017. The report provides a snapshot of where countries are in achieving the SDGs compared to others. According to findings in the report, considerable progress has been made worldwide over the past decade across all areas of development, but the speed with which we are moving forward is insufficient and too uneven to meet the global targets by 2030. To achieve the Goals, all stakeholders must fast track efforts, ensure political buy in and build new partnerships. The report can be found [here](#).



SDG Report 2017. The Interim Report was part of the preparations for Uganda’s participation in the UNGA, and is expected to be presented to Parliament by the Prime Minister in December 2017.

Partnerships and Coordination of the Global Goals Strengthened

The National SDG Roadmap will be the backbone of SDG efforts in Uganda and will foster the enabling environment for the achievement of the Goals. For that reason, the finalization of the Roadmap remains a priority. In December 2017, the National SDG Taskforce, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of OPM, met to finalise the National SDG Roadmap and to begin the process of producing the National SDG Report 2018. The Roadmap will undergo stakeholder validation in February 2018 and will be launched in March.

Strengthening partnerships and collaborations is central in the new development agenda, and the holistic approach of the 2030 Agenda means all stakeholders must rethink development. *On this backdrop, the 3rd Partners for Review (P4R) Networking Meeting took place in Kampala on October 24-25th 2017.* The P4R brought together representatives from Government, Civil Society, Academia, Private Sector, the UN and Development Partners to network and facilitate dialogue and peer learning about international and national SDG monitoring, review and follow up processes. The Meeting was hosted by OPM with support from UNDP and GIZ.

The 2030 Agenda in Uganda

In Uganda, the Agenda 2030, and thereby the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is implemented through approved national frameworks and structures where 69% of the SDG targets are part of Uganda’s current National Development Plan II (NDPII) (2016/2017 – 2019/2020). The SDGs will also be part of the plans by the national sectors, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and local government.

All SDG activities, initiatives and projects are coordinated under the National SDG Coordination Framework. The specific activities that will be carried out under the Framework will be spelled out in the National SDG Roadmap.

For the months of October - December 2017, the following are the key highlights of SDG activities and initiatives in Uganda:

SDGs Information Now Available in National Interim Report

An Interim Report on the Status of Implementation of SDGs was produced in September 2017. The Interim Report provides an overview of the structures in place for implementing the Global Goals and how Uganda is performing on international indicators compared to other countries. The Interim report will help inform the production of the official Uganda



The Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister delivering her opening remarks at the Partners For Review Meeting held in Kampala.

Sectors Embrace SDGs

The Global Goals in Uganda will be achieved as part of national and local plans, and the SDGs are mainstreamed into sector and local development plans. At national level, the SDGs are part of the National Development Plan II (NDPII).

In November 2017, the sectors made headway in aligning sector level indicators in the National Standard Indicator Framework (NSI) to SDGs and the National Development Plan II (NDPII). In a joint collaboration between the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and the National Planning Authority (NPA) a workshop was held for representatives from all 17 sectors to review the indicators at sector level in the National Standard Indicator Framework and align the indicators to specific SDG targets. The workshop was held on 27th – 30th November.

The workshop also provided a platform for the participating technical planners from various Ministries, Agencies and Departments to gain a better understanding of how to integrate SDGs in their planning, budgeting and monitoring of activities.

Uganda Takes Initial Steps for Producing Sustainable Development Data

The monitoring and review of the 169 targets and 232 indicators come with an unprecedented demand for data. To meet this demand, SDG data production and needs have been mapped and aligned to the Second National Strategy for Statistical Development and the Second Plan for National Statistical Development (NSDS II - PNSD II). SDG data needs are integrated into the survey and census framework, including the Uganda Household Socio-Economic Survey, the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, the National Labour Force Survey and the Manpower Survey to provide initial data points for SDGs baseline information. In addition to this, there are ongoing engagements to exploit new data sources, such as big-data and geospatial technologies, and information from private actors and civil society.

At national level, the National Standard Indicator Framework (NSI) is being finalised. National SDG indicators will be an integral part of the NSI. A team has been appointed to review the current framework prior to stakeholder consultations.

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and partners held the first ever *National Data Forum (NDF)* on 14th – 17th November. The aim was to “Leverage the Data Revolution for National Development”. One full day was dedicated to discussing Data for Sustainable Data.

The NDF highlighted the importance of administrative data, the need for new partnerships and for exploring new innovative ways of producing data to meet the data needs under the 2030 agenda. It also reconfirmed that Uganda’s National Statistical System is among the best in Africa.

Findings from the NDF will inform efforts to improve production and management of administrative data, exploring the use geo-spatial and big data, and including data and information from non-state actors, such as development partner, academia, civil society and private sector in the coming months and throughout 2018.

Improved Expenditure Efficiency and Enhanced Domestic Resources

Eradicating poverty and ensuring that no one is left behind comes with an unprecedented demand for coordinate and effective resource mobilisation.

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has improved both expenditure efficiency and enhanced domestic resources which are the largest contributor to financing the delivery of the SDGs. This includes strengthening tax administration to reduce inefficiencies and expansion of the tax base, including capturing the informal sector.

Leaving No One Behind

The SDGs are for everyone, from the village elder to the school girls in Kampala. Therefore, *the SDGs have been translated into 10 local languages* - Acholi, Ateso, Kiswahili, Luganda, Lugbarati, Lumasaaba, Lusoga, Nga Karimojong, Runyankore-Rukiga, Runyoro/Rutooro. The translated SDGs were launched by the UN Resident Coordinator at the UN day on October 24th 2017. The SDG were translated in partnership between UNDP Uganda, the Uganda National NGO Forum and the Government of Uganda.

One example of SDG advocacy, was when *selected members of the SDG Parliamentary Forum travelled to Kagadi District on October 18th-19th 2017* to

engage and sensitise district officials, local leaders and community members on the SDGs and their role as citizens for achieving the Goals. The SDG Coordination Specialist and a representative from the Ministry of Local Government also participated in the field trip.



Selected members of the SDG Parliamentary Forum outside Kagadi District Council

While celebrating the UN day on 24th October 2017, *UN, development partners, civil society, local leaders and members of the community took the SDGs to the communities through outreach activities* focusing on different themes in four division of Kampala: Health and Sanitation in Kawempe Division; Food and Nutrition in Nakawa Division; Education in Rubaga Division and Environment and Urban Development in Makindye Division. Participants later shared their experiences with a representative of the Office of the Prime Minister and senior government officials at the closing ceremony.

Civil Society: Are we on Track?

Uganda National NGO Forum together with members of the 2030 Agenda National Core Reference Group launched the *“Uganda Civil Society Report on the Implementation of SDGs 2017”* on 22nd November 2017 at Hotel Africana.

The report is an analysis of Uganda's progress towards achieving SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG3 (Health Lives and Well-Being), SDG5 (Gender Equality) and SDG17 (Partnership for the Goals), and presents critical factors for the attainment of the selected goals.

Findings indicate that inequality, vulnerability to poverty and prevalence of HIV remains high, especially among adolescents. Other challenges include poor health systems, high debt burden, low revenue performance, increasing gender inequality and limited enforcement of gender laws and policies to advance gender equality in Uganda.

As part of the recommendations, Mr Raymond Ruyoka, Reproductive Health Uganda called for increased domestic funding for health by government as well as increased investment in human resources for health. Ms. Eunice Musiime, Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), emphasized the need for male involvement and women's economic empowerment in achieving gender equality. Mr. Ali Kaviri, Youth Equality Centre, underscored that SDGs will only be achieved if the youth are not left behind. The representative of NUDIPU, Mr. David Nangosi challenged other CSOs to pressure government to scale up funding for PWDs programmes.



The Executive Director of UNNGOF launches the report accompanied by panelists

The Launch was officiated by Mr. Boaz Musiimenta from the Office of the Prime Minister who appreciated the efforts made by UNNGOF with members of National Core Reference Group for setting up structures for non-state actors which make it easier to engage Civil Society more broadly on delivering on the SDGs. He called for strengthened partnership and collaboration in implementing interventions that will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Connecting parliamentary researchers and expert communities to address the SDGs

In November 2017, Drs Holden and Turinawe of Queen Mary, University of London, organised three workshops that connected local experts with members of the Department of Research Services (DRS) in the Parliament of Uganda. The aim was to raise the profile of the DRS and to strengthen Uganda's knowledge base to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Parliament is responsible for ensuring that the SDGs are targeted in government policymaking and that programmes are implemented effectively. Parliamentary work is supported by research services and to be effective, researchers need to understand the composition of the SDGs and have access to a breadth of research and evidence.

The three days were divided into separate workshops that focused on clusters of related SDGs. The first day focused on science, innovation, and infrastructure. The second day focused on social services and gender, such as health and education, as well as equity, rights and justice, and the third day focused on the economy, industry and institutional strengthening.

The outcomes of the workshops showed that SDGs are constituted through different forms of research and evidence. Strengthening parliamentary research services through collaboration with external stakeholders can serve to support the whole of parliament in making informed decisions.

Learn more about the SDGs:

The official UN website for the Sustainable Development Goals:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

The Uganda SDG Bulletin is a quarterly update on global, national and sectoral activities, developments and initiatives related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Bulletin is produced by the Office of the Prime Minister.

All stakeholders working on SDGs are encouraged to submit updates in their areas of mandate for the next SDG Bulletin by sending an email to ps@opm.go.ug The deadline for submitting is the 15th March 2018.

For more information, please contact:

*The Permanent Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
ps@opm.go.ug*

