



SDG Bulletin Uganda

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Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Global Events and Initiatives for Sustainable Development

World Community celebrates SDGs

SDG champions and advocates from all over the world gathered in Bonn, Germany, for the annual Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development to celebrate, empower, and connect the global community driving Action for the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim was to bring together the global community to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality.

One of the key events at the Festival was the UN SDG Action Awards Ceremony where 8 changemakers from different corners of the world were awarded for their contributions to the sustainable development movement. The winners span over private and public sectors, as well as civil society and grassroots movements, and thereby reemphasize that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda relies on all stakeholders in all spheres of society. You can read more about the winners [here](#).

The organizer of the Festival and the Awards is the UN SDG Action Campaign, which is a special initiative by the UN - Secretary General to empower and inspire people across the world to achieve the SDGs while generating political will. Join the campaign [here](#).

African stakeholders build capacity on data governance for the SDGs

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with UNDP and partners are rolling out a new toolkit called StaTact to help countries improve data-related governance in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this connection, a delegation from Uganda made up of representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Office of the Prime Minister, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, and the National Planning Authority participated in the African workshops on Governance of data ecosystems for the SDGs.



The Uganda Delegation at the African Workshops on Governance of Data Ecosystems for the SDGs, Addis Ababa, 26th – 28th March, 2018.

In Uganda, SDG implementation is coordinated under the National Coordination Framework and the participation of the selected institutions at the workshops is a clear sign of the institutionalization of the Framework as the institutions also function as leads for Technical Working Groups on Data; Coordination, M&E and Reporting; Resource Mobilisation and Finance; and Planning and Mainstreaming.



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 Governments.

All SDG activities, initiatives and projects are coordinated under the National SDG Coordination Framework. Specific actions for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs are listed in the National SDG Roadmap.

For the months of January - March 2018, the following are the key highlights of SDG activities and initiatives in Uganda:

Which global SDG indicators are applicable in Uganda?

At global level, the UN - Inter Agency Expert Group (IAEG) has developed a Global indicator framework with 232 indicators applicable to all countries worldwide for measuring progress in achieving the 17 SDGs and 169 targets.

Out of the 232 global indicators, 202 are relevant to the Ugandan context and 29 are non-applicable. Uganda’s National Statistical System (NSS) has the capacity to compile 85 global indicators out of the 202 applicable indicators, of which 45 indicators are fully available whereas 40 indicators are easily feasible to have data available. This put Uganda at a level of 42 percent (%) applicable indicators¹.

The SDG on Climate Action (SDG13) has the highest share of indicators with available data, scoring 100%. Whereas the Goals on Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG9); Responsible Consumption (SDG12); and Peace and Justice (SDG16) are the three Goals with the least available indicators.

These findings are from an ongoing assessment made by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in collaboration with the UN Statistics Department (UNSD) on the applicability of the global SDG indicators in the Ugandan context.

¹ NOTE: The assessment of the availability of 39 indicators is pending. Once the pending indicators have been assessed, the percentage of available indicators is likely to increase.

SDGs aligned to the National Standard Indicator (NSI) Framework

The process of aligning the SDGs to the National Standard Indicator (NSI) Framework took a huge leap forward in March 2018, where the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) engaged Ministries, Departments and Agencies in finalising the alignment process by reviewing a mapping of the SDG targets and NSI indicators, and by providing available information on the baseline and data source for each indicator.

The alignment is based on a tool developed by UBOS to map NSI indicators that correspond to specific SDG targets, and identify gaps in cases where SDG targets do not have corresponding NSI indicators. Based on this tool and the information provided by the sectors and MDAs, the indicators will be shortlisted to form basis for the national SDG framework for Uganda. Indicators for SDG targets currently without corresponding NSI indicators will be subsequently developed and included in the NSI.

Protecting Human Rights through SDGs

Human rights are in the core of the 2030 Agenda through the principle of “leaving no one behind”. This means that all people have the right to sustainable development. The protection of human rights can be further strengthened through the SDGs by applying a Human Rights Based Approach in mainstreaming and data production for the Goals and by integrating international human rights standards and principles in the implementation and realization of results under Vision 2040, NDPII and the SDG framework for Uganda.

The increased focus and appreciation of the link between human rights and the 2030 Agenda in Uganda is evidenced by two training held in the first quarter of 2018: The National Planning Authority (NPA) in conjunction with GIZ Uganda organized a

training on a Human Rights Based approach to implementing the SDGs in Uganda on 31st Jan – 2nd Feb 2018. The training was facilitated by the Danish Institute of Human Rights. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) trained UN staff and members of the National SDG Taskforce and other stakeholders on a Human Rights Based Approach to Data on March 19rd -23rd 2018.

Learn more about the link between Human Rights and the SDGs here:

[The Human Rights Guide to SDGs](#) by the Danish Institute of Human Rights

[Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) by Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Parliamentary Forum develops new strategic plan

In an effort to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is integrated in government policies, legislation and resource allocation for the Sustainable Development Goals’ interventions, 216 Members of Parliament of Uganda have formed the Parliamentary Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum builds on the previous Parliamentary Forum on the Millennium Development Goals.

With support from UNDP Uganda, the Forum is developing its strategic plan, to provide strategic guidance in including SDGs in the oversight role of Parliament, advocacy for specific SDGs and collaborating with other stakeholders, such as civil society and academia.

Uganda is ready to validate the National SDG Roadmap

As one of the first countries in Africa, Uganda has developed a National SDG Roadmap to provide

priority actions to support the coordination of the implementation of SDGs across the country during the NDPII period (2015/16-2019/20).

The Roadmap is divided into five crosscutting areas that are fundamental for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs: i) coordination, M&E and reporting; ii) planning; iii) financing and resource mobilisation; iv) data; and v) advocacy and communication.

Auditing preparedness for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Uganda

Uganda as a member of the United Nations was among the countries that committed to the SDGs in September 2015, thereby adapting the UN 2030 agenda that replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

However, the MDGs performance assessment revealed a 33% (below average) attainment by Uganda. SDGs on the other hand are a new phenomenon to most of the UN member countries yet they had to adapt their national plans to the 2030 Agenda with no explicit guidance/process and support of undertaking that exercise. Secondly, among the key factors to achieving the 2030 Agenda is proper governance and transparency in the way governments handle public resources attainment of which requires the respective SAIs build to be at the watch closely.

On this backdrop, the Office of the Auditor General, as a member of the International Organization for Supreme Audit Institution (INTOSAI) and with support from the International Development Initiative (IDI) is undertaking an audit to assess the arrangements instituted by the Government of Uganda (GoU) in preparation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Audit will answer the following questions:

- i. To what extent has the government adapted the 2030 agenda into its national context?
- ii. Has the government of Uganda identified and secured resources and capacities (means of implementation) needed to implement the 2030 agenda?
- iii. Has the Government established a mechanism to monitor, follow-up, review and report on the progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Learn more about the implementation of the SDGs through the website of the Office of the Prime Minister: www.opm.go.ug

Implementing SDGs through national processes

In Uganda, SDGs are integrated into national processes through the recent National Standard Indicator (NSI) Framework. The NSI is a four-level hierarchical framework covering the Policy, Strategic, Programmatic and Operational functions of Government. The NSI operationalises indicators in the NDPII and also includes indicators for monitoring regional and international development frameworks such as the East African Community Agenda 2050, African Union Agenda 2063, and Agenda 2030.

Planning, budgeting and resource allocations are guided by the NSI. The NSI indicators derive from the existing development plans in the sectors, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Local Governments (LGs). Uganda uses Programme Based Budgeting (PBB), and resources are allocated to Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the various sectors, MDAs and LGs which have been selected from the NSI framework. Through the National Statistical

System (NSS) data is regularly produced on all indicators in the NSI. This data helps track progress towards national priorities, through the National M&E System.

The implementation and progress towards sustainable development is tracked through the National SDG Coordination Framework, where five Technical Working Groups (TWGs) reports on quarterly basis to the National SDG Taskforce. The progress reports include information from sector working groups and local governments. Vice versa sector working groups and local governments also receive information about SDG processes from the TWGs and the SDG Taskforce.

Reaching the Youth through Debates



A student from Baptist High School debating on Quality Education (SDG4)

Young people under 30 years of age constitute over 75% of Uganda's population and eight million are youth aged 15-30. About 25% of these are in institutions of higher learning like universities and vocational technical institutes.

The youth is the catalyst for sustainable development. Young people have the potential to come up with innovative solutions to development challenges, inspire positive behavioral change and drive economic development.

For this reason, several youth-based organisations are focusing on creating awareness in the young generation on the SDGs and how young persons can contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

One of these organisations is the youth-led Open Space Centre. Under the 'Youth SDGs Awareness through Debate' project, the organization targets young people aged between 13 – 18 years as these are critical learning years to create awareness of the goals as knowledge precedes action. This program is running in ten schools within Kampala and Wakiso and has seen over 800 Students and over 60 Teachers engaged on the SDGs.

Other organisations promoting SDGs through debates targeting the youth include: AIESEC, Uganda Youth Network and Youth Equity Center.

Integrating SRHR, Climate Change and Population

The SDGs are interlinked and interdependent. One example is how family planning can contribute to curbing the growing population that has become a threat to the environment, especially if tagged with access to information on other Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) services; for instance, ensuring quality education for both girl and boy child and economic empowerment through financial literacy.

Reproductive Health Uganda implemented a project in Bududa, which is a remote area found in eastern Uganda on the slopes of Mount Elgon. It is characterized by high population growth and enormous mudslides in nearby villages. Over 1,000 people have been affected, and property worth millions of Ugandan shillings has been destroyed in the previous years.

Due to the remoteness of Bududa, people do not have access to vital information about the importance of family planning and environmental protection synergies as an avenue to combat recurrence of landslides. Through a five-day sensitization, the result was that local community members in local supporters for SRHR and family planning services, which is crucial to affect change in rural areas.



SRHR Champions pose for a photo after the five-day training in Bududa

This project is an example of how to rethink development initiatives and to have a holistic approach to addressing challenges across sectors.

Achieving Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Uganda have undertaken interventions aimed at making SDG 16 a reality through capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy for transparency and accountability, improved access to justice and peaceful resolution of conflicts.



As we move towards 2030, CSOs both at local and national levels are on track in achieving this goal; there is increased realization of resource rights for marginalized citizens in areas like Karamoja and the Albertine; awareness on child abuse and human trafficking has improved due to the increased collaboration between security agencies and the public; the recent reforms in the Uganda Police Force aimed at promoting professionalism, curbing impunity and fostering accountability and transparency in the country's justice system which can be attributed to CSO advocacy. With the Open Governance Initiative and the setting up of the Government, Citizens Interaction Centre, information sharing between government and the citizens, and public access to information have improved.

Despite the notable milestones, corruption remains a challenge, the justice system is under-resourced, peace building interventions need more attention, and key government institutions need resources to effectively provide services. These call for greater commitment in terms of resources, and will power by all stakeholders.

Some of the CSOs that are working on SDG 16 include: Saferworld, The Uganda National NGO Forum, African Youth Network, Advocates for Natural Resources and Development, Uganda Debt Network, ActionAid Uganda, Oxfam, Conciliation Resources, CEFORD, International Centre for Transitional Justice, ACORD, International Refugee Rights Initiative, Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment in West Nile and Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative.



Reaching Persons With Disabilities through the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) currently provide for the overall global framework for development with a vision of leaving no one behind. However, a lack of awareness or limited awareness on SDGs by leaders of persons with disabilities has hampered the effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the SDG processes.

To reach out to a wider spectrum of persons with disabilities, National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDPU) organized three days training for leaders of persons with disabilities in Wakiso district to equip them with knowledge and advocacy skills on SDGs. This would enable them to effectively advocate for inclusion of persons with disabilities in planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of activities with specific disability indicators. Resultantly, Disability leadership in Wakiso district took the initiative of crafting a petition challenging the funding guidelines for special grant, realizing they were left behind per the SDGs slogan especially in mainstream planning and budgeting.

There is an increasing number of persons with disabilities warranting social and economic support. After reviewing data of 2002 National Census, 4% of the total population was classified as being disabled. According to the 2014 population census results, persons with disabilities constitute 12.4% and

majority of them are in the informal sector. This is a big number that cannot be ignored especially in planning and budgeting processes. By ensuring that persons with disabilities start income generating activities would in the long run lead to reduction of unemployment rates among persons with disabilities and poverty reduction.

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 June 2018.

For more information, please contact:

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

