IN RETROSPECT

FIGHTING CRISIS WITH CREATIVITY TO BUILD FORWARD BETTER
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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustices of poverty, inequality and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

In Uganda, UNDP supports the Government to achieve sustainable development, create opportunities for empowerment, protect the environment, minimize natural and man-made disasters, build strategic partnerships and improve the quality of life for all citizens.
Acknowledgements

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The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has brought with it a historic recession with record levels of deprivation and unemployment. This unprecedented humanitarian and development crisis is hitting the poor, women and young people hardest. In Uganda, the situation has been compounded by other crises, notably floods and locusts. While the negative impacts have been the pandemic’s hallmark, it has also created new opportunities; from digital innovations to a renewed discourse around industrialization and resilient livelihoods. For Uganda, this has come at an opportune time when the country also embarks on implementation of her third National Development Plan (NDP III) with a promise to deliver more inclusive growth and accelerated progress to the middle-income status.

The year 2020 marked the final year of implementation of UNDP’s current Country Programme Document (CPD), and the formulation of the new CPD 2021-2025 designed to accelerate progress towards the #UgandaWeWant in this UN Decade of Action. The year was also historic with H.E. President Yoweri Museveni signing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025 which articulates the UN’s collective response to support the Government of Uganda in addressing national development priorities.

As I reflect on what UNDP accomplished under the shadow of the pandemic, I am filled with great pride at the agility demonstrated as well as the swift response to support the Government and people of Uganda to stay ahead of the curve, respond to and recover from the pandemic. Whether it was fast-tracking the transition to e-governance to support government business continuity or establishing e-commerce platforms to empower Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and reconnect supply chains that have been hit by the pandemic (particularly for women and youth), UNDP has shown that we can respond quickly, efficiently and deliver transformative results to protect the most vulnerable. As we launch into the UN Decade of Action and tackle the new realities that COVID-19 presents, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must remain at the front of the country’s development aspirations.

Building on UNDP’s core mandate to support national development processes and to be the support platform to the UN Development System to accelerate the SDGs, UNDP has continued to support the SDG Secretariat. UNDP played a leading role in supporting the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and design of the VNR E-Platform which enabled the Secretariat to gather stakeholder inputs on SDG implementation in Uganda. UNDP also supported the formulation of Uganda’s NDP III by working with the National Planning Authority (NPA) and other partners to develop the iSDG Uganda model. This tool
helps identify and integrate SDG accelerators into the NDP III and aids the development of Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs) which detail activities, targets and resources required for delivery of the NDP III.

In addition to supporting national efforts to domesticate the SDGs in the planning frameworks and coordination structures, UNDP supported the Government to develop SDG Investor Maps as a tool to leverage Private Sector capital in delivering the SDGs. The Maps provide investors with insights into local market conditions, local SDG investment opportunities and highlight the business opportunities as well as the expected development impact of such investments.

During the year, UNDP increased its support to youth engagement and empowerment. In partnership with Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited, the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility was launched to leverage business solutions that address youth unemployment. Through the Facility, launched by the President of Uganda, UNDP partnered with over 30 enterprises engaged in agriculture, tourism, mining, manufacturing, ICT, renewable energy and the creative arts to promote impact-driven entrepreneurship. Youth4Business fosters innovation as a mechanism to create livelihood and employment opportunities for young people.

In addition to the above, UNDP supported the Government to formulate the National Graduate Scheme Bill to help youth transition from school to work and gain employability skills. The programme also drafted a work-based learning policy intended to offer opportunities for out-of-school youth with limited formal education to gain practical skills and certification for the labour market. To give impetus to this policy, UNDP collaborated with the Government to strengthen the Uganda Graduate Volunteer Scheme, the result of which graduate volunteers were placed in public and private sector institutions to gain practical skills to enhance their employment opportunities. As a result, over 38 percent of graduates have been able to secure employment after their internship, with others founding innovative businesses for themselves.

UNDP further provided thought leadership on critical development issues and opened spaces for dialogue on Uganda’s development pathways. Notably, UNDP led the UN-wide study on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 under the overall leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. An additional dialogue was convened to focus on national resilience building following the simultaneous shocks of COVID-19, locusts and floods that Uganda experienced in 2020. The study informed the revision and updating of key NDP III development strategies on import substitution; the promotion of local manufacturing; export promotion; and harnessing the country’s tourism potential. This valuable caucus framed discussions with the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development (MoFPED) on COVID-19 economic recovery.

With climate change as one of the most compelling development challenges of our time, UNDP sustained its efforts geared towards promoting climate resilient development and reduced vulnerabilities of the population. UNDP is also supporting the Government on disaster risk reduction, increasing access to clean energy, restoration of degraded wetlands, mobilizing climate finance, building climate resilient food systems and to meeting its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Finally, on behalf of UNDP, I extend our appreciation for the strong partnership with the Government, private sector, UN Agencies, development partners, donors, civil society and non-state actors with whom we have been able to deliver these high impact initiatives for the people of Uganda.
UNDP CONTRIBUTION TO UGANDA’S RESPONSE AND RECOVERY TO COVID-19

IN RETROSPECT

FIGHTING CRISIS WITH CREATIVITY TO BUILD FORWARD BETTER
SUPPORTING CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE 5P’S
HARNESSING THE POWER OF INNOVATION TO COMBAT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT
Uganda has one of the youngest and most rapidly growing populations in the world with over 78 percent of the population below the age of 35 and 23 percent between the age of 18 and 30. While NDP III aims to create more sustainable jobs for Uganda, multiple shocks and the pandemic have caused a sharp increase in youth unemployment. In response, UNDP in partnership with Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited, developed the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility. The Facility is an innovative instrument developed to support youth-owned enterprises and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through the provision of catalytic funding and technical assistance to enable them to recover from COVID-19. The facility is also designed to support the piloting and scaling of COVID-19 innovations with commercial viability.

The Facility has made available an initial US$10 million of grant resources and technical assistance, with up to $200 million in concessional loans at below-market rates. It is already providing a flexible funding mechanism that will stimulate the faster recovery of MSMEs that have borne the brunt of COVID-19.

The goal of the Facility is to create at least 20,000 new decent jobs for youth, retool and skill 50,000 youth, increase entrepreneurial success rates and have a multiplier effect by generating at least 100,000 indirect jobs and improved livelihood opportunities. It will also complement the country’s efforts to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda to end poverty, eliminate social inequity and tackle climate change.

UNDP’s Youth4Business is targeting youth-owned enterprises to support them in piloting, growing and diversifying sustainable business models that contribute to green growth and building forward better. In 2020, the facility had a strong start and great response, putting UNDP on the map for meaningful and innovative support to youth, MSMEs and entrepreneurs in Uganda. After two rounds of the Innovation Challenge Fund, the first 33 winning ventures have been selected from over 600 proposals in the priority sectors of agriculture, tourism, development minerals, manufacturing, renewable energy, creative industry and Information Technology (IT). These winners represent a catalytic investment of over $1,250,000 and has the potential to reach more than 28,000 youth.
PROMOTING THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-NEXUS THROUGH SUPPORT TO REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES
Uganda hosts more than 1.3 million refugees, making it the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa and the third largest in the world. In light of the pandemic, there has been an ongoing influx of refugees into Northern Uganda of which over 86 percent are women and children. In response, UNDP repurposed its programming to create emergency employment for 2,700 beneficiaries through cash-for-work activities funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Of the beneficiaries, 1,635 were female, 1,065 were male, with 1,889 refugees and 811 host community members. A total of $176,010 was paid to beneficiaries, while crop seeds were distributed and planted, resulting in the yield of 1,769 kilograms of beans, 569 kilograms of maize, and 1,739 sachets of okra, along with eggplant, cowpeas, rice, and potato vines throughout Adjumani and Lamwo districts. This effort contributed to improved food security as well as economic empowerment within refugee settlements and host communities. Cash-for-work activities under the project also resulted in 48.3 kilometres of community access roads opened, 51.8 acres of woodlots planted and 155 household energy-saving stoves constructed.
ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS
The COVID-19 pandemic brought a significant rise in Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). As part of its response efforts in Uganda, UNDP has achieved several important milestones through the joint United Nations and European Union Spotlight Initiative. In partnership with UN agencies like UN Women, UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNFPA and other development actors such as the International Organization of Migration (IOM), Civil Society and Private Sector, UNDP is working to tackle violence against women and girls.

Through trainings, mentorship, dialogues and coordination of stakeholders in the Kasese and Tororo Districts, 419 service providers including police, religious leaders, cultural leaders, health officials, judicial officers and others have increased capacity to provide trauma-informed services to women and youth survivors of SGBV. There has been noted improvements in areas of case management, referrals, forensic medical examinations, and trauma-informed care in Kasese and Tororo.

Approximately 5.9 million people have also increased their awareness of legal provisions, services and rights relating to SGBV through radio outreach, community awareness-raising campaigns, stakeholder dialogues and legal outreach conducted by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with support from UNDP.

The launch of the Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET) legal aid toll-free line and mobile call centre is providing access to justice for SGBV survivors.

In partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, UNDP supported the launch of the 50 Million African Women Speak Platform (50MAWSP), a digital network connecting women entrepreneurs and providing users with access to financial information. Over 2 million Ugandan women are targeted to use this platform in 2021. Economic empowerment of women is a crucial dimension of addressing violence against women and girls.
DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Panelists discuss how to mainstream crosscutting issues to enhance the delivery of the third National Development Plan (NDP III) during a series of dialogues organised by the National Planning Authority (NPA) in partnership with UNDP. The crosscutting issues include; gender equality and women empowerment, youth and children affairs, social protection, resilience to risks and sustainability, human rights, culture and mind-set, disability and HIV/AIDS. ©UNDP Uganda/Henry Mukasa Nsubuga

UNDP has played a critical integrator role in supporting the build of the Third National Development Plan (NDP III). This has been mainly through creating a platform for consultation on its strategic direction. The highly acclaimed NDP III Breakfast Series focused on five strategic thematic areas including human capital development, value addition and inclusive growth, good governance, financing and development cooperation, and cross-cutting issues. This event attracted close to 1,000 participants with subject matter experts from Government, UN agencies, private sector, civil society, development partners and research institutions. Consultations employed a “delivering as one” approach to encourage in-depth dialogues on policy and sectoral issues pertaining to national development with outcomes utilized by the NDP III drafting team.

UNDP provided technical support to strengthen the design of the NDP III Roadmap, resulting in the integration of the SDGs as well as youth, gender, and refugee considerations. For example, UNDP in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa supported the National Planning Authority to build a customized integrated SDG model (iSDG) for integrated policy analysis. This tool was used to identify Governance, Environment and Industry as the SDG accelerators that will spur achievement of other SDGs in Uganda. The model acts as a guide to help the Government allocate resources and ensure the most impactful development results.

UNDP supported the strengthening of governance mechanisms, systems, and tools that aligned policy and annual budgets to NDP III. Collectively, the team facilitated the development of Programme Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs) which detailed the activities, targets and resources required for programme delivery. Additionally in depth revisions were made to the methodology for the Certificate of Compliance (CoC) which assess the alignment of NDP III, Ministries, Departments and Agencies and Local Government plans with the annual budget. These actions will help the Government take forward Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms as part of the development of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) and their implementation. UNDP is working with the Government to facilitate alignment of PIAPs with the national budget, NDP III and programming on the local level.

1 https://www.ug.undp.org/content/uganda/en/home/library/-isdg-report.html
PROMOTION OF COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES
Through the Strengthening Electoral Process in Uganda project, UNDP partnered with WHO to undertake social mobilisation, provide critical health safety messaging and thereby prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the pre, during and post-election period of the 2020/2021 Uganda elections. UNDP supported WHO to strengthen capacities of national authorities in efforts to prevent COVID-19 infections during the general elections. The support focused on practical interventions to mitigate risks to election officials, health workers and other frontline workers in the election process, as well as communities. In addition, there was substantive support to risk communication to concurrently reduce the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 by intensifying the health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The support included, for instance, facilitating technical engagements with election officials and health workers; training of over 3,000 polling officials and 320 health staff from 86 districts; support to health staff to conduct supervision during preparations and on election days in the field; support for social mobilization on adherence to SOPs, including radio spots aired in 15 FM radios across the country. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials where also provided for the Electoral Commission’s field officers and for the public; provision of 600,000 surgical masks and 12,000 litres of alcohol hand rub to supplement those provided by the Electoral Commission. Based on analysis from WHO, the 86 target districts experienced a reduction in the incidence of COVID-19.
IN RETROSPECT

FIGHTING CRISIS WITH CREATIVITY TO BUILD FORWARD BETTER
SUPPORTING CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE 5P’S
HARNESSING THE YOUTH’S POTENTIAL FOR SUSTAINING PEACE IN UGANDA
UNDP strengthened ten platforms for dialogue through engaging key youth leaders, youth-led organizations, youth networks, insider mediators, religious figures and cultural leaders to elicit fundamental values critical to sustainable peace and preventive measures on COVID-19. Youth champions for peace and the engagement of cultural leaders were selected to promote greater youth inclusion through “Obuntubulamu” - a concept that denotes humanity towards others. This approach is a new way of employing positive cultural values to inculcate social cohesion, respect and empathy towards others in light of the pandemic.

UNDP supported the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) to carry out direct appeals demystifying COVID-19 to congregational members across the country through radio, television and social media channels. This effort aimed to decrease stigma, promote non-violence and counter misinformation while emphasizing the need for community early warning systems and mediation structures. Such mechanisms will promote peaceful co-existence amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This effort is in response to heightened incidences of violence, often related to stigma and fear within the public because of the pandemic. This intervention has provided an opportunity for youth to promote campaigns that address issues related to the mystery of the pandemic and protect peaceful living within families and communities.
ACCESS TO JUSTICE
UNDP supported business continuity for the Justice, Law and Order Sector through digital solutions. This significantly contributed to the sustained high level of case clearance by justice institutions amidst COVID-19 disruptions. Progress remains relatively high, averaging close to 90 percent according to Justice Law and Order Sector Annual Report 2019/2020.

E-justice programming was fostered through South-South knowledge sharing. UNDP supported two dialogues on building back better after COVID-19 and the future of e-justice. The dialogues covered the technological readiness for accountability in the justice sector. Further, it served as a learning platform for the UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation, and Sustainable Development, practitioners from Western and Southern Africa, and Uganda.

The discussions and outcomes of the dialogue are now shaping ongoing plans for the strategic use of e-solutions in justice service delivery, enhancing justice system management and access to justice. A key result is the setup of a video conferencing facility for the Masaka Court and Prison. This shift to digital has reduced hearing times for court cases, cuts costs for court processes, and promotes safety in the context of COVID-19. The upgrading of the Judiciary toll-free line to a call centre has enabled the Judiciary to receive feedback from the public while helping with justical outreach.
CONSOLIDATING PEACE AND SECURITY FOR RESILIENCE BUILDING

A truck is stuck in the flooded in Elego District. ©UNDP Uganda
In the wake of COVID-19, there is an increased need for effective border patrol and immigration monitoring in Uganda. UNDP has provided ICT equipment for 53 gazetted border posts to boost coordination, collaboration and data collection for improved border management. Additional equipment will also help effective migration management to mitigate cross-border health risks from COVID-19. The tools provided, worth approximately $500,000, offered support to the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (DCIC), which has been faced with significant operational challenges given the complicated nature of the Ugandan borders exacerbated by COVID-19. In particular, the border areas and entry points identified have been deemed key in fuelling the spread of the virus. Uganda lies in proximity with some of the world’s most fragile states, sharing complex land and lake borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania. These boundaries have considerable security challenges, with 53 gazetted border crossings and 336 unofficial yet extremely porous border crossings that have historically witnessed conflict driven by organized crime, terrorism, drugs, and human trafficking.
SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT
In anticipation of the 2020/2021 General Elections, anchored on the request from the Government of Uganda and based on recommendations from the UN Elections Needs Assessment, UNDP and the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office together with UN agencies including UN Women, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and electoral stakeholders developed a $10.5 million electoral assistance project to strengthen transparency and inclusion in the electoral process. Goals of this programme include enhancing institutional capacity for the Electoral Commission (EC) and other electoral stakeholders while improving peace-building mechanisms. Through a basket fund arrangement, $7 million was successfully mobilized for the project with contributions from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Iceland and UNDP. Consequently, the UN Agencies worked in partnership based on comparative advantage to contribute to the 2020/2021 Elections.

UNDP provided technical support to the Electoral Commission for analysis, scenario planning and the synthesis of best practices to inform the delivery of the elections in the context of COVID-19. This contributed to a review of the Electoral Road Map to help recover the three months of momentum lost because of pandemic. Further support was provided for strategic dialogues hosted by the Electoral Commission and attended by key stakeholders such as representatives from Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO), political parties, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the public. These events assisted the evolution of the election Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs). In partnership with the WHO, technical engagement on the SOPs with election officials and districts was facilitated; over 3,000 polling officials and 320 health staff from 86 districts were trained. In addition, support for social mobilization on SOPs adherence was supported through radio across the country.
UNDP CONTRIBUTION TO UGANDA’S RESPONSE AND RECOVERY TO COVID-19

FIGHTING CRISIS WITH CREATIVITY TO BUILD FORWARD BETTER
Partnerships

Supporting Creative Development Solutions Through the 5P's
UNDP CONTRIBUTION TO UGANDA’S RESPONSE AND RECOVERY TO COVID-19

UNDP AND JUMIA SUSTAIN MSME LIVELIHOODS THROUGH E-COMMERCE

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals
In partnership with Jumia Uganda, UNDP launched the Jumia E-Commerce Platform to connect informal market vendors with consumers online, connect rural farmers with urban markets, and sustain supply chains for agricultural produce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative has onboarded 2,000 market vendors through seven markets in Kampala, including Nakasero, Wandegeya, Nakawa, Naalya, Kalerwe, Bugoloobi and Kibuye; with 28 youth Market Agents and 50 Support Agents having been employed and equipped with training on food safety.

Early results indicate that over UGX 250,000,000 has been generated in sales through the platform, with an average monthly increase in vendor earnings of UGX 207,000. With over 300,000 unique products being sold through the platform monthly, the uptake of e-commerce within the informal sector has proven successful. This intervention is part of the broader effort to deploy digital solutions to respond to disruptions caused by COVID-19, building national capacity to harness the digital economy and expand the e-commerce sector. The intervention also supports the eventual realization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement by connecting Uganda to markets throughout the region.
UNDP AND THE KOREA INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY SUPPORT REFUGEES HOST COMMUNITIES

UNDP in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has targeted 2,700 beneficiaries within refugee and host communities to benefit from cash-for-work activities. The initiative has focused on opening community access roads, planting woodlots, constructing energy saving stoves and planting crops to boost beneficiary’s household food production.
UNDP AND STANBIC BANK FOSTER YOUTH INNOVATION

UNDP has launched the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility in partnership with Stanbic Bank Uganda which is designed to drive innovation, spur impact-driven entrepreneurship and leverage business solutions to address the youth unemployment challenge. The five-year initiative is expected to ensure skilling of 50,000 youth to increase their entrepreneurial success rate, create 20,000 new direct jobs for youth, and influence the creation of a further 100,000 indirect jobs. After two rounds of the Innovation Challenge Fund, the first 33 winning ventures have been selected in the priority sectors of the economy, namely agriculture, tourism, development minerals, manufacturing, renewable energy, creative industry and Information Technology (IT). These winners represent a catalytic investment of over $1,250,000 and potentially reaching more than 28,000 youth.

UNDP PARTNERS WITH JAPAN ON HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND SOCIAL STABILITY

UNDP has partnered with the Government of Japan to bridge the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus in refugee and host communities in Uganda with a focus on addressing the humanitarian needs, social stability and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNDP PARTNERS WITH SWEDEN TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO DISASTER RISKS

Through UNDP’s partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), capacity development for resilience programming, environmental management and integration of risk management in development planning at national and sub-national levels has been ongoing since 2018. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) has seconded two Resilience Planning and Coordination Advisors to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Local Government respectively. This support has played a significant complementary role to reinforce risk-sensitive planning. Disaster Risk Management (DRM) has been integrated into NDP III providing a vehicle to deliver resilience across all sectors and, in particular, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Guidance for the integration of resilience in district planning have been developed and a framework for resilience assessment targeting the refugee hosting districts has been prepared to support informed evidence-based resilience programming.
UNDP PARTNERS WITH THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION TO ENHANCE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO MULTI-HAZARD INDUCED DISASTERS
UNDP Uganda together with the National Emergency Coordination and Operation Centre (NECOC), with financial support of approximately $350,000 (UGX 1.3 billion) from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, began efforts to expand the management and resilience capacity of the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda (OPM). This project is geared to enhancing national response to multi-hazard induced disasters with benefits that stretch beyond COVID-19. This includes optimizing the efficiency of systemic processes within the National Emergency Coordination and Operation Centre (NECOC) together with its regional, district and cross-border supportive mechanisms through i) expanding the capacity for COVID-19 testing with increased border surveillance in Kampala City, high-risk cross border points, and transportation corridors; ii) strengthening national coordination capacities for emergency response and recovery with a robust knowledge management system for the NECOC; and iii) establishing a think tank to provide vital information on improving emergency response and coordination. This marks the first official collaboration between UNDP Uganda and the Gates Foundation, which is supporting the developing world to improve lives and eradicate poverty.
UNDP CONTRIBUTION TO UGANDA’S RESPONSE AND RECOVERY TO COVID-19

FIGHTING CRISIS WITH CREATIVITY TO BUILD FORWARD BETTER

IN RETROSPECT
PROMOTING INCLUSIVE BUSINESS IN TOURISM
UNDP launched the refurbishment of the 1520 AD Eclipse Monument – an archaeoastronomy symbol erected to commemorate the total solar eclipse that occurred in Biharwe, Mbarara over 500 years ago. The monument is an initiative of Igongo Cultural Centre and Country Hotel (a medium-sized enterprise that has previously partnered with UNDP to pilot UNDP’s inclusive business models). Such innovative business approaches directly improve the lives of poor and local communities by making them part of the value chain of companies’ core business as suppliers, distributors, retailers, employees or customers.

The monument reflects the fusion of traditional society and contemporary culture as well as fostering community-led experiential tourism activities such as local brew making, pottery, and tourism in the Ankole long-horned cattle farms. With the support of UNDP, Igongo Cultural Centre and Country Hotel have also partnered with neighbouring communities to provide mutually beneficial tourism experiences. Igongo has provided a guaranteed market for communal agricultural products and has tapped into their skills to offer tourism services and local cultural dishes.

UNDP has also partnered with several enterprises to pilot inclusive business models as a mechanism to unlock Uganda’s potential in both the tourism and mining sectors. This format aims to address gender inequalities and social exclusion, creating a strong foundation for profit and long-term sustainability and growth by bringing previously excluded people into the marketplace.
HARNESSING THE POWER OF TOURISM
With the support of UNDP, Uganda Tourism Board in partnership with Mr. Joshua Cheptegei, a holder of the 5,000m and 10,000m world records, undertook the Pearl of Africa Challenge to conquer the Rwenzori Mountains. The expedition is geared to showcase the beauty of the Rwenzori mountain range and drive domestic and international tourist traffic to experience the mountain and National Park, highlight the need for collective efforts to diversify Uganda’s tourism product range in an innovative manner that meaningfully integrates mountain communities in the tourism value chain whilst protecting natural and cultural resources; showcase the investment opportunities in the mountain destination, and complement the efforts of the Government of Uganda and the Private Sector to build an inclusive, sustainable and resilient tourism industry. As an outcome, the Uganda Tourism Board has already reported an increase in domestic tourism traffic, which will be crucial for the country in terms of increasing investments and finance from the tourism sector.

This initiative is being scaled up through a broader UNDP initiative, under the Rapid Financing Facility to harness nature and digital technology to stimulate the recovery and build a resilient tourism industry in Uganda. The initiative is focused on reinforcing tourism, protecting livelihoods of people working in the sector and strategically contributes to the Government’s efforts to leverage the country’s comparative advantage in the tourism sector, particularly its unique natural endowments. The project will be piloted in the Western Tourism Development Area starting in Fort Portal Tourism City – a hub for tourism in the Kingdom of Tooro and the Rwenzori region.
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FIGHTING CRISIS WITH CREATIVITY TO BUILD FORWARD BETTER
SUPPORTING CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE 5P’S
SAFEGUARDING UGANDA’S BIODIVERSITY
UNDP partnered with the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) to release its second phase results of Mapping Nature for People and Planet in Uganda, a project identifying the country’s Essential Life Support Areas (ELSAs). Stakeholders from across the country co-created this most recent iteration of the country’s ELSA map in real-time, an exercise noteworthy for the engagement of national experts and scientists to develop a map that reflects national priorities. The project continues to encourage leadership from national institutions in protecting areas essential for human life and biodiversity. Uganda, along with Colombia, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, and Peru, is one of five pilot countries creating ‘maps of hope’ to expand the use of spatial data in decision-making processes and promote the implementation of nature-based solutions.
DESIGN INNOVATION TO COMBAT DEFORESTATION
In partnership with the National Forest Authority (NFA), the UNDP Accelerator Lab has designed and implemented a real-time Data Visualization Platform to strengthen the evidence base and accountability mechanisms in the governance of forests and related natural resources. The platform utilizes satellite data through a mobile application to support forest coordinators’ efforts on the ground, whether online or offline. With the capacity to generate a land cover map within 1-month, compared with the 1-year timeline that traditional tools would expect, this platform is set to transform forest management in Uganda.

To combat deforestation, the UNDP Accelerator Lab has identified over 200 home-grown solutions and produced a portfolio of experiments geared toward scaling up the production, adoption and diffusion of sustainable cooking technologies and efficient energy solutions. Following a widespread Energy Audit, conducted to determine demand and supply dynamics of energy throughout Uganda and identify efficient energy solutions, the Lab has partnered with the National Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) to launch the Mulago Hospital Pilot Project. This joint experiment has served to incentivize large institutions to use electricity as an alternative to biomass (organic matter) fuels.
UPDATING UGANDA’S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION
UNDP is supporting the Government to revise its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to comply with the Paris Agreement requirements. This will increase national ambition in climate action to deliver climate resilient development and reduce vulnerabilities of the population to the impacts of climate change.

The NDC support programme aims to harmonize policies, strengthen institutional frameworks and establish a national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system. This offering will enhance tracking and monitoring climate action, policies, programmes, climate finance flows and relevant SDG impacts. This process is geared towards enhancing institutional capacity, strengthening the technical and financial feasibility of Uganda’s green growth strategies and policies, aligning the policies with NDC, and applying innovative financial de-risking to attract private sector investment in mitigation actions.

PAGE 40 LEFT:
More than 90% of basic cooking needs in Uganda are fulfilled using biomass resources in households, institutions and commercial building; energy efficient stoves can reduce the production of smoke and harmful gasses within households, reduce the use of biomass by up to 60 percent.
©UNDP Uganda

PAGE 40 RIGHT:
Energy efficient technologies such as use of briquets can reduce indoor air pollution and help mitigate the effects of climate change.
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2020 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT LAUNCHED
On 16 December 2020, UNDP launched the 30th Edition of the Human Development Report (HDR), a UNDP flagship research document that interrogates global human development progress and provides a simple but ingenious index. The Human Development Index is designed to measure the relative attainments of nations more comprehensively than most income measures. The 2030 Agenda is an opportunity to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure lasting peace and prosperity. In this context, with climate change and the other stressors humans are posing to the planetary system on the rise, scientists predict that we may be entering a new geological era, the Anthropocene – the Age of Humans. This era entails an unprecedented magnitude and speed of human pressures on the planet, manifesting in challenges ranging from disease to biodiversity collapse.

The report calls for the adoption of a new perspective on improving human development – one that continues to strive to expand human freedoms, choice and agency, while simultaneously easing planetary pressures. The 2020 Human Development Report introduces an experimental new measurement index, the Planetary Pressure Adjusted Human Development Index, which is the level of human development adjusted by carbon dioxide emissions per person and material footprint per capita to account for the excessive human pressure on the planet.