

Netherlands Institute for
Multiparty Democracy



THE 2026-2031 NATIONAL YOUTH MANIFESTO

**YOUTH AS DRIVERS OF A MODERN
AND PROSPEROUS UGANDA**

Netherlands Institute for
Multiparty Democracy



Youth Coalition on Electoral
Democracy in Uganda
(YCED)

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YOUTH AS DRIVERS OF A MODERN AND PROSPEROUS UGANDA

FOREWORD

The 2026-2031 National Youth Manifesto falls within the period of the 4th National Development Plan. The NDPIV entails strategic interventions to harness Uganda's Youth bulge and enable us as a country to reap the Demographic Dividend. For instance, the strategic focus of NDPIV on human capital development in **Objective 2** and strengthening the role of the state in governance and security in **Objective 5** among other proposed interventions augur well with the 4 pillars for reaping a demographic dividend identified in the African Union Agenda 2063. These four pillars are: employment and entrepreneurship; education and skills development; health and wellbeing; and rights, governance and youth empowerment.

As the Ministry charged with youth, we believe that investment in youth will be crucial in realizing the Vision 2040 targets of reaching upper middle-income status with a GDP of USD 581 billion and per capita income of USD 9,500 and revitalizing the aspirations of the 10-fold growth strategy which seeks to increase the size of the economy from USD 68.2 billion in FY2024/25. A large, youthful population can act as a powerful engine for economic growth if the country effectively utilizes their skills and potential.

Economists often refer to this potential economic benefit associated with a youthful population as the "demographic dividend." Uganda's Vision 2040 and the fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) identify harnessing the demographic dividend as a key strategy to enhance productivity, employment, and inclusive growth. Comparative cross-country analyses suggest that while demographic transitions can spur economic growth, they must be complemented by inclusive development policies tailored to each country's specific needs (Woldegiorgis, 2023). This calls upon us to create an enabling environment for youth to thrive, including improved access to education, healthcare and social protection programmes.

By addressing the challenges of youth unemployment through targeted investments in skills development, health, and education and by leveraging digital technologies, Uganda can harness the potential of its young population to drive sustainable development and economic growth. Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies will collaborate extensively with Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and young people's movements to realize a demographic dividend and the aspirations of this National Youth Manifesto.

Lastly, allow me appreciate the financial, logistical and technical contribution of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), African Youth Development Link (AYDL), Open Space Centre, CIDI Uganda and the National Secretariat for Special Interest Groups among others in the development of this Manifesto.

Betty Amongi Ongom

Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development.



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JOINT PREFACE

The realization of Uganda's Vision 2040, anchored on reaching a USD 581 billion GDP and leveraging the demographic dividend, demands targeted, youth-centered investments across sectors. With 78% of the population under 30 and urgent climate disruptions affecting youth wellbeing, government and private sector programming for young people must be underpinned by a financing strategy that is systemic, inclusive, and climate-resilient. There is no doubt that this manifesto raises ambitious plans and promises for the young people.

However, looking at past experiences, this manifesto is expected to face the same challenges faced by its predecessors like; limited implementation of its recommendations, lack of adequate funding for its policy recommendations among others. We are grateful for the warm political endorsement of this manifesto by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development and other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies like National Planning Authority, Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda Human Rights Commission among others that participated in the technical writing of this manifesto.

This manifesto employs a systems thinking model which is crucial for navigating the complexities of youth well-being, enabling stakeholders to better understand the system-wide effects of interventions, policies and behaviors. This approach allows for a more detailed understanding of the relationships between various factors, including social-cultural support, population dynamics, education and skilling, employment and mental health while also placing the young people to lead Uganda into a *"Modern and Prosperous Country"* by 2040 in line with the aspirations of Vision 2040.

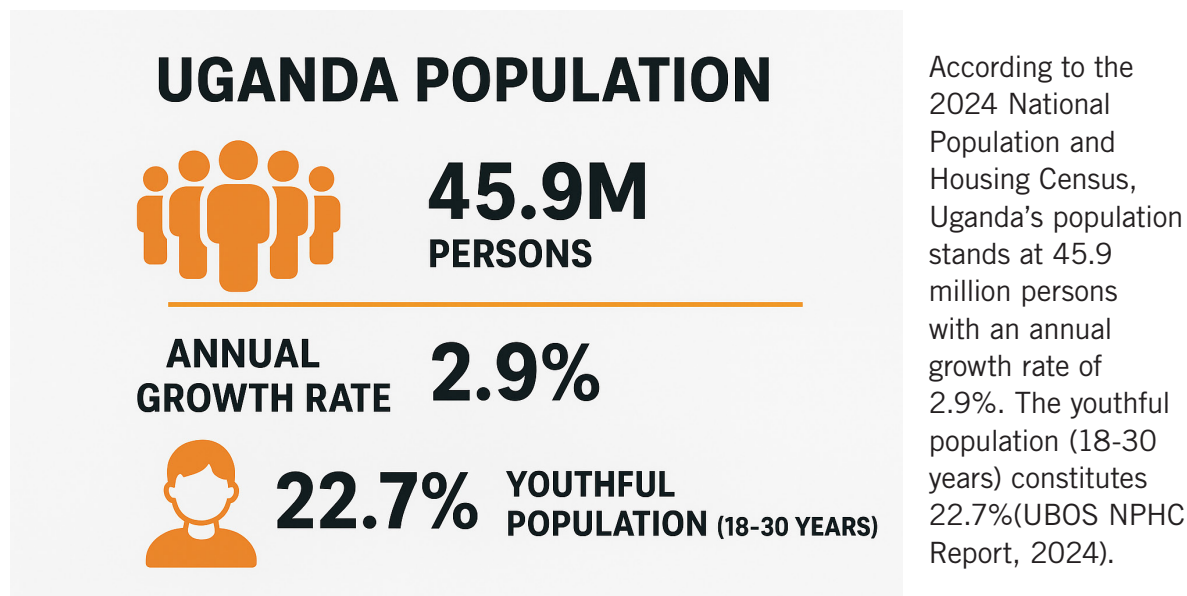
We express our gratitude to UNICEF for providing the UReport Platform that was essential in consultations; American Center for convening thematic conversations; YCED members for engaging grassroots youth and their associations and all partners for their financial, logistical and technical support. We also send our gratitude to the Technical Lead Mr. Prosper Mubangizi for his leadership in developing this manifesto, undertaking the consultations, synthesizing the issues that came out of the consultations and helping make this document a reality for the youth movement.

We hope that this manifesto guides the young people of Uganda to engage in issue-based politics during and after the electoral period. We make a clarion call to the political parties to integrate these proposals in their party manifestos and the leadership to work towards the realization of these policy proposals.

Name	Martin E Wanzala	Osborn Turyasingura	Primus Atukwatse Bahigi
Signature			
Position	Executive Director	Executive Secretary	Country Director
Organization	African Youth Development Link (AYDL)	National Secretariat for Special Interest Groups, MOGLSD	Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The global youth population is growing. In 2024, the world youth population aged 15 to 24 was estimated at 1.2 billion- representing the largest cohort ever to be transitioning to adulthood. Over 85% of them live in developing countries, and, in many places, the numbers keep growing. Demographic trends in Uganda reveal a rapidly growing population with high fertility and declining mortality rates, resulting in a predominantly young demographic. Over half of Uganda's population is under 18, presenting both opportunities and challenges for socio-economic development.



The National Youth Manifesto (NYM) is a social contract between youth, civil society organizations and the Government of Uganda. It is a policy document that articulates the key priorities and demands of Ugandan youth. Since its inception, the NYM has evolved through successive cycles 2011–2016, 2016–2021, and 2021–2026 serving as a collective youth voice and a framework for addressing critical issues, including employment, health, education, sports, creative arts, and youth participation in decision-making processes. The National Youth Manifesto agenda has continued to act as a cohesive framework for youth policy, and through collaborative approaches to the youth agenda, it has established opportunities for authentic youth voice in the political process and thereafter in governance sphere while encouraging youth participation in identifying ways in which policies and programs can better serve their needs.

Over the years, the National Youth Manifesto has been launched as a representative and consultative process seeking young people to offer views that political parties and government can push from with a focus on the youth agenda. Ahead of the 2026 general elections, the youth manifesto is again warranted, because it is obvious that young people are an increasing marginal group and often excluded from the political system. Their voices are under-represented, especially where public policy issues continue to take on less interest in young people's priorities, making them unable to take up policy positions on issues that affect them.

To ensure sustainable and effective youth focused programming and wellbeing, the 2026-2031 National Youth Manifesto (NYM) adopts a complete break with the past National Youth Manifestos which were linear, sector specific and concerned with advocating for fragmented interventions to address youth wellbeing issues. Realizing that the issue of youth well-being is a multifaceted and

pressing concern that demands a comprehensive and systemic approach, the 2026-2031 National Youth Manifesto calls for a paradigm shift from linear, to a holistic systems-based approach through adoption of a systems-thinking approach that recognizes the complex interplay of various elements within the youth ecosystem which can best be addressed through government of Uganda's Programme Based Budgeting (PBB).

1.1 Achievements Of The 2021/26 National Youth Manifesto (NYM).

The **2021/26 NYM** was assessed on an annual basis through the State of the Youth Reports- an initiative spearheaded by the Youth MPs under the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs. There was also a midterm assessment of the NYM and all these processes have documented the following successes linked to the demands made in the last Manifesto:

NYM DEMAND	ACTION
The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development should amend the Mining Act, 2003 to provide for youth participation in the extractive industry.	In order to modernize the legal framework for the mining sector, promote value addition, and strengthen regulatory oversight, the Mining Act 2003 was repealed and replaced with the Mining and Minerals Act 2022.
The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should expedite the passing and implementation of the National Graduate Scheme Bill	In FY2024/25, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Budget Committee set aside UGX 5bn to cater for the operationalisation of the National Apprenticeship and Graduate Volunteer Scheme
The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should consider affirmative provisions for youth participation in the ongoing wealth creation and COVID-19 (post pandemic) economic response interventions.	Shs200 billion made available to small and medium enterprises with special focus on women and the youth Uganda Development Bank disbursed another Shs351 billion by December 2022 for private sector enterprises engaged in the strategic industrial development of the country, such as agro-processing, manufacturing, and minerals benefiting
The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should expedite development, publishing, and gazetting of a national local content plan which contains mechanisms for achieving local content obligations prescribed by the Act.	Parliament passed the Local Content Act in 2023 and it imposes local content obligations on a person using public money or utilising Uganda's natural resources or carrying out an activity requiring a licence to prioritise Ugandan citizens and resident companies owned by citizens in public procurement.

NYM DEMAND	ACTION
The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should create a Cultural Capital Fund to build and renovate public libraries, museums, and galleries across the country to enable youth access to culture and support youths in the creative arts.	Though the Cultural Capital Fund was not created, the Museums and Monuments Act 2023 was legislated into force and provides for Public Private Partnerships funding for the cultural and creative arts sector.
The Uganda Registration Services Bureau should strictly enforce the Intellectual property (IP) Act (aka the copyright law) as a means to professionalizing the Arts and Creative Industries.	URSB in 2025 fully established Directorate of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights whose goal is to promote the awareness of intellectual property rights and to champion creativity among local talent. The establishment of this Directorate, comprising of 23 officials, speaks to the government's commitment to advancing intellectual property rights in Uganda.
The Ministry of Science and Technology should increase its investments in agri-business incubation centres to enable youths across the country access modern agribusiness equipment and technical advisory services.	The government through UDB launched a UGX50 billion climate finance facility intended to promote a green economy by financing investments in the sectors of climate- smart agriculture, renewable energy, sustainable waste management, climate resilient infrastructure, low carbon industry, and ecotourism
Capitalize and directly invest in sports towards talent development, expand venues community tourism motivate patriotism and income generation in the sector.	National Sports Act amended 480% increase in budget allocations to sports
The Ministry of Education and Sports should adopt a comprehensive School Feeding Policy to provide free meals to learners to enhance adequate learning	The National School Feeding Policy is awaiting approval by cabinet after a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) was completed.

NYM DEMAND	ACTION
The Ministry of Education and Sports together with the Directorate of Industrial Trainings should popularize the free skills training opportunities available through UPPET and BTVET institutions.	The TVET Policy was developed, approved and is being implemented.
The Ministry of Education and Sports should adopt and implement a schools ICT policy through which each student at secondary school level should receive a free laptop.	Ministry of Education and Sports developed the Digital Agenda. Provision of free laptops not yet achieved.
The Ministry of Health should develop, implement, and popularise the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and adolescent Health (RMNCAH) action plan with a strategy for scaling up Adolescent SRHR response services to health centers and communities.	Increased allocations to SRHR from UGX 14bn in FY2020/21 to UGX 25.4 bn in FY2024/25. MOH adopted the RMNCAH Sharpened Plan II in 2021.
The Office of the Prime Minister should expedite the Change Bill to enable effective implementation that enhances the NDCs across 3 dimensions; Mitigation, Adaptation and Communication across all sectors which clear indicators for young people.	Parliament passed the the National Climate Change Act, 2021 in May 2021. It provides a framework for implementing climate change response measures, including establishing institutional arrangements, monitoring and reporting on climate change impacts, and securing financing for climate change initiatives.
The Minister of Water and Environment should prioritise investment in adaptation actions to encourage youth participation in promotion of key sector steps towards Green House Gas emission reduction to achieve the below 2% emission	Government revised its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2022. In addition, government committed to i) restoration of 42,450 hectares of degraded wetlands; ii) demarcate a 750-kilometre boundary with concrete pillars along the following wetlands Kibimba, Tochi, Sezibwa, Mayanja, Muzizi, Awoja, Mpologoma, Ishasha, Kandekye-Ruhorobero, Nchwera, Chambura, Kiruruma and Naigombwa; iii) procurement and distribution of 15 million seedlings of assorted tree species to individual farmers in several districts refugee-hosting communities in the Albertine region and in West Nile, as well as individual farmers in FY2024/25.

1.2 DEFINITIONS OF KEY OPERATIONAL TERMS

YOUTH: The United Nations defines youth as the period between the ages of 15 and 24 years, marking the transition from childhood dependence to adult independence and the realization of their independence as members of a community. The Commonwealth classifies young people aged 15-29 as youths. The East African Community identifies youths as those between 15- 35 years. In Uganda, the National Youth Council classifies youth as individuals aged 18-30, and the revised National Youth Policy uses 15-30 years.

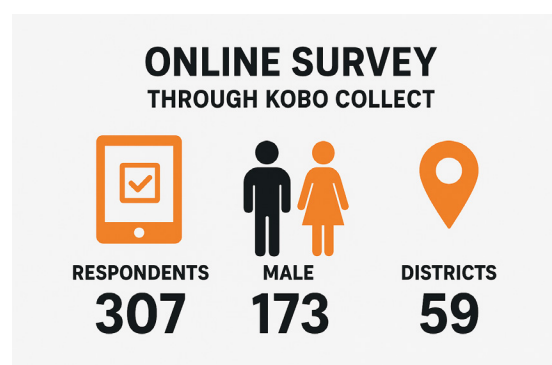
OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH: In Uganda, “out-of-school youth” generally refers to young people between the ages of 15 and 30 who are not currently enrolled in any formal or non-formal education program. This includes individuals who have dropped out of school, those who have completed secondary education but lack sufficient basic skills or are unemployed/underemployed and those who have not completed primary or secondary education.

JUA KALI SECTOR: Refers to youth involved in informal sector businesses most especially unregistered metal workers, furniture producers among others.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION: Refers to the ways in which young people can get involved in their communities and contribute to decision-making processes. It goes beyond participating in elections to undertaking their civic duties in day-to-day life.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

During the data collection, both qualitative and Quantitative methods were employed, combining digital surveys with more targeted engagements to capture perspectives from the targeted audiences. Through a partnership between the National Youth Council (NYC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a national survey- targeting Uganda's 146 districts, cities and municipalities- was launched under the U-report platform, a widely utilized mobile-based social messaging tool to collect quantitative data collection. A total of 18,916 respondents (5,796 Female and 12,490 Male) from a geographical coverage of 146 districts in Uganda were able to participate in the consultations ensuring extensive national representation.



An online survey through the Kobo Collect platform was utilized to complement the U-report data, offering a different modality for participation. The survey reached out to 307 youth (Male 173 and Female 134) with a targeted geographical scope of 59 districts, providing a substantial cross-section of responses, providing both qualitative and quantitative data.

Beyond broad surveys, focused discussions or consultations were conducted to delve deeper into specific thematic areas, capturing qualitative insights and detailed perspectives with a focus on Sports & Youth Development, Cultural Development & Creative Arts, Education & Skill Training, and Climate Action & Youth-Friendly Cities. These targeted 174 young people and the indepth sessions were organized in collaboration with the American Center in Uganda.

The youth leaders were consulted through the Multiparty Youth Forum (MYF) which brings together youth leagues of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), National Resistance Movement (NRM), Democratic Party (DP), People's Progressive Party (PPP), Alliance for National Transformation (ANT), Justice Forum (JEEMA), Uganda People's Congress (UPC) as well as the National Youth Council (NYC), Uganda National Students Association (UNSA) and the Youth Members of Parliament through the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA).

The Uganda Young Farmers Forum consulted 593 (307 Female; 288 Male) youth of whom 44 were youth with disabilities in the districts of Nebbi, Madi Okollo and Zombo. This consultation clearly targeted Refugee Hosting Districts.

Two validation workshops were held with representatives from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Youth Led Civil Society Organizations, academia, Uganda National Students' Association, Political Party Youth leagues among others. These brought over 80 participants.

2.1 Limitations

The consultations relied strongly on digital methods which left out youth that could not access digital platforms. The consultant endeavored to cure this limitation through thematic discussions and nationwide validation meetings as well as engagements with thematic experts, youth leaders from the National Youth Council, District Youth Councils and political parties. Furthermore, the use of extensive literature review was to cover some of the gaps and limitations of the consultation methodology.

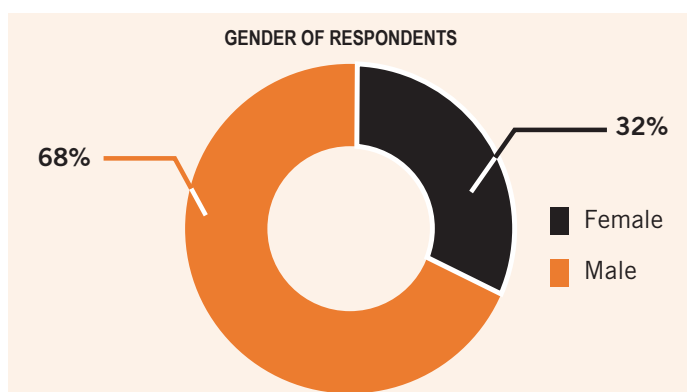
3.0 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

This is analysed on the basis of gender, disability status, location, education completion and employment status.

3.1 Gender

The nationwide consultations had a total of 19,361 respondents of which 6,031 were female and 12,699 were male as shown in the graph on the right:

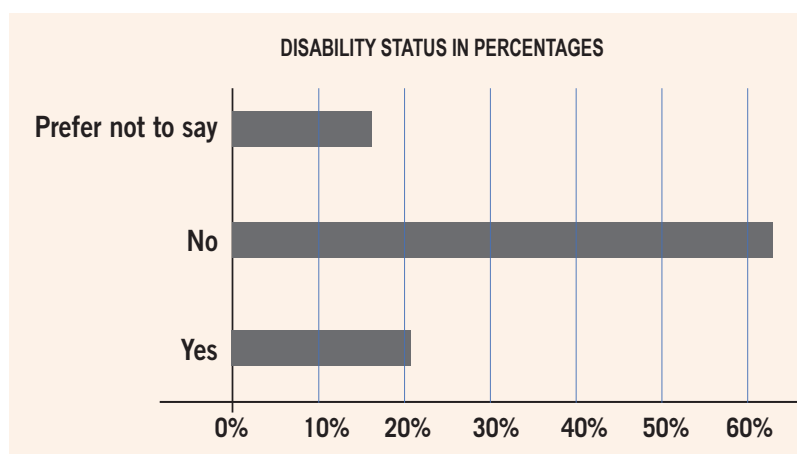
Figure 1 - Gender of Respondents



3.2 Disability Status

Most of the young people consulted during the development of this manifesto (63%) did not identify as having any form of disability while 21% identified as having any form of disability as shown on the right:

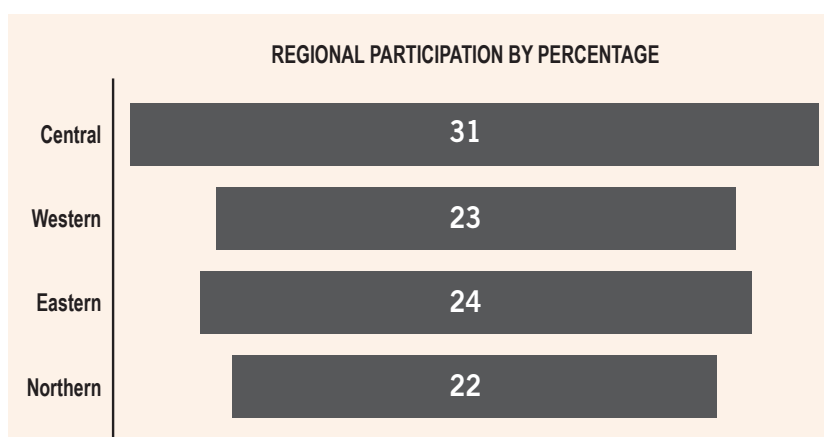
Figure 2 - Disability Status in Percentages



3.3 Location

Central region contributed the highest number of participants at 31% with Kampala contribution 1021 respondents, Wakiso at 910 respondents while Ssembabule at 22 respondents gave the least in Central region.

Figure 3 - Regional Participation by Percentage



Eastern region at 24% came second and the highest districts were Mbale (476 respondents), Tororo (318 respondents), Soroti (275 respondents), Bukedea (113), Kumi (106) while Amudat (35 respondents) and Bukwo (37 respondents) contributed the least number of respondents in the Eastern region.

At 23%, the western region was led by Kasese at 443 respondents, Mbarara (269), Isingiro (263) and Hoima (165) while Kitagwenda at 21 and Ntoroko at 29 respondents contributed the least number of respondents.

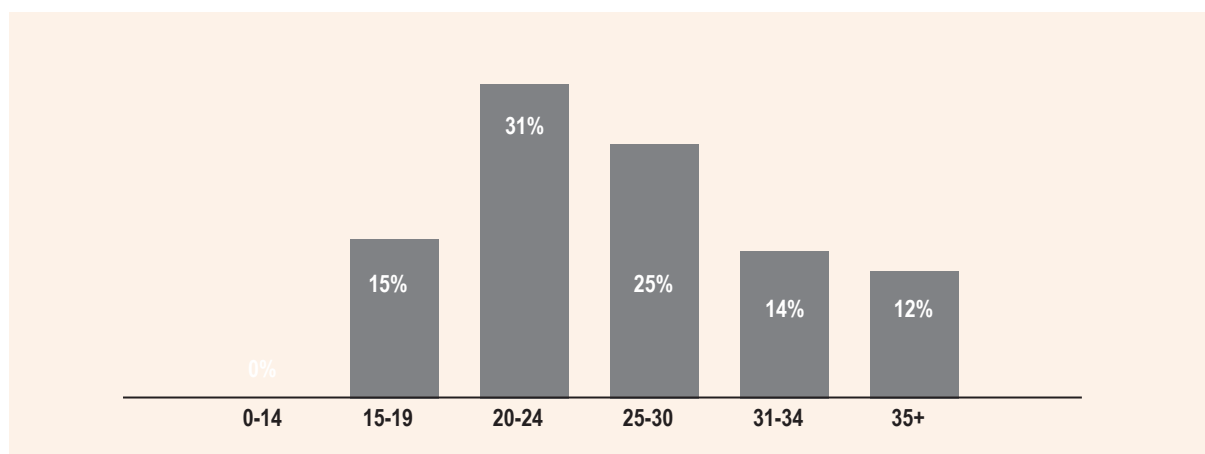
The Northern region contributed 22% of the responses. The leading participating districts and cities were Arua at 465, Lira at 433, Gulu at 431, Oyam (382 respondents) while Pakwach (26) and Otuke at 48 respondents had the participation rates in the national consultation process.

The Karamoja sub region had the least participation with Nabilatuk contributing 15 responses. Kaabong at 136 and Kotido at 108 had the highest responses within the sub region.

3.4 Age

Majority (31%) of the respondents were aged between 20-24 years while only 12% Of the respondents were 35 years and above as shown below:

Figure 4 - Age Ranges of the Respondents



Youth between 15 to 24 years, overall, constituted 48% of the respondents which tallies perfectly with their demands on prioritization of education and skilling programmes, interventions aimed at realizing holistic human capital development among others.

4.0 POLICY PRIORITIES AND ASKS

The policy demands made by the young people in this National Youth Manifesto have been aligned to the programmes contained in the fourth National Development Plan (NDP4). This is to ensure easy measurement of progress made in the realization of the policy asks as well as ensure that the asks are aligned to national development priorities.

4.1 Human Capital Development

The Human Capital Development Programme in the NDP4 aims to achieve a healthy, knowledgeable, skilled, ethical and productive population with a strategic focus on: strengthening the foundation for human capital; reducing knowledge and skills gaps; strengthening talent development and nurturing; developing and maintaining supportive infrastructure and facilities for the creative industry, sports, health and education; increasing adoption of preventive health measures; reducing child labor, child marriages, and teenage pregnancies; improving food and nutrition security; increasing access and coverage of WASH; increasing coverage of social protection; reducing gender inequality and inequities; increasing participation in government programmes and wealth creation initiatives; institutionalizing and integrating human resource planning and development; reducing the cost of provision and access to health and education services, and ensuring decent and productive work environment for all.

4.1.1 Access to Education

Access to education in Uganda is critical for youth wellbeing, significantly influencing their future prospects and overall development. Despite notable progress in expanding educational opportunities, substantial challenges remain, particularly regarding quality and equitable distribution of educational resources. Uganda's large youth population exacerbates these challenges, increasing demand for educational services and straining existing infrastructure.

The Ugandan government recognizes education's importance in its national policies, aligning its goals with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure the young population can accumulate the necessary human capital to reach their full productive potential. Uganda's demographic transition presents an opportunity to harness the youth dividend, but this potential can only be realized with a robust and inclusive education system. The young people of Uganda therefore make the following policy demands to improve the quality of education:

- i. Integrate digital literacy and rights into the education curriculum as this integration is essential for preparing youth to navigate the digital age effectively, meaningfully and safely. We suggest the roll out of a National Digital Learning System (online/offline) with infrastructure in every school. This will provide all students with accessible, modern education and build essential digital skills, regardless of location or disruptions.

YOUTH POLICY DEMANDS OR QUALITY EDUCATION IN UGANDA

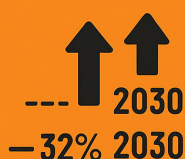


INTEGRATE DIGITAL LITERACY AND RIGHTS INTO THE EDUCATION CURRICULUM

ROLL OUT A NATIONAL DIGITAL
LEARNING SYSTEM (ONLINE/OFFLINE)
WITH INFRASTRUCTURE IN EVERY
SCHOOL

INCREASE CAPITATION GRANT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

ESPECIALLY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS



FULLY IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR THE COMPETENCY-BASED CURRICULUM

ESPECIALLY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- ii. Increase capitation grant for secondary schools with a view to increasing the enrollment rate from 32% to 45% of students eligible to enroll in secondary by 2030.
- iii. Fully implement and monitor the competency-based curriculum, especially in secondary schools as well as align university curricula with labor market demands and new secondary education curriculum and standards.
- iv. Provide a framework for standardizing skills programs and Expand access to TVET and entrepreneurship education across all districts. Students should be able to have a certificate in a certain practical skill at each level of education.
- v. Establish industry partnerships to ensure real-world application of education. The Graduate Scheme Bill should incorporate these industrial partnerships for tertiary students.

- vi. Create and fund a National Talent Promotion Program in schools beyond the MDD competitions. According to 2024 Census data, fewer than 20% of secondary schools offer consistent programming in music, drama, or art, while physical education is underfunded and undervalued. This narrow focus limits students' opportunities and wastes national talent.

4.1.2 Health care

Uganda's youth face a complex and evolving health landscape marked by significant unmet needs across sexual and reproductive health, mental health, nutrition, and chronic disease prevention. Although national policies and strategic plans endorse adolescent-friendly services, less than 10 % of public facilities currently meet those standards, limiting access to contraceptives, STI/HIV prevention and counselling which has contributed to persistently high teenage pregnancy rates, new HIV infections and other poor health seeking behavior. Beyond reproductive health, young people struggle with rising mental health burdens such as substance abuse, depression and anxiety while mental health services receive less than 1 % of the health budget and remain poorly integrated into the lower health centres. At the same time, nutrition deficits and undiagnosed Non Communicable Diseases like asthma and anaemia are on the rise.

The young people of Uganda make the following policy demands:

- i. Establish mental health services within the regional referral hospitals and allocate at least 2% of health budget towards mental health service provision including filling of the 501-staffing gap at Butabika National Referral Hospital.
- ii. Increase allocations to SRHR to at least 15% of the total health expenditure and fast-track the establishment of youth friendly corners in health centres
- iii. Fasttrack the National Insurance Scheme Bill as well as promotion of alternative health insurance schemes in order to increase insurance coverage from 1% in FY2023/24 to at least 5% by FY2029/30.
- iv. Roll out Programs equipping youth with essential life skills, including emotional regulation and stress management to empower them to seek help when needed and reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues.

THE NDPIV TARGET OF CREATING 47,413 ANNUAL JOBS BY FY2029/30 FROM 39,611 IN FY2023/24 DOES NOT CORRELATE WITH THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE AND THE NUMBERS OF YOUTH THAT ENTER THE JOB MARKET ANNUALLY

THEREFORE, TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT GOAL OF ENSURING HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFECYCLE, YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MAKING THE FOLLOWING KEY POLICY ASKS



**INCREASE INVESTMENT
IN EDUCATION**



**CREATE MORE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
YOUTH**



**SUPPORT YOUTH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

4.1.3 Employment Creation

The government has prioritized youth employment in its national development plans, recognizing the link between education and job prospects. We take cognizance that policies focusing on improving youth productivity and job prospects, especially for the most vulnerable, are crucial for harnessing the demographic dividend and contributing to sustainable development. However, existing youth employment programs have had limited success, often redistributing existing job opportunities rather than creating new ones, highlighting the need for more effective interventions.

The NDPIV target of creating 47,413 annual jobs by FY2029/30 from 39,611 in FY2023/24 does not correlate with the population growth rate and the numbers of youth that enter the job market annually.

Therefore, to meet the government goal of ensuring human capital development across the lifecycle, young people are making the following key policy asks:

- i. To meet the demand for the 1,000,000 labour market entrants, government should explore fostering a 24 hour economy using the cities as a springboard. In attracting investors, government should offer tax incentives and other benefits to businesses that adopt a 24-hour operational model¹.
- ii. Provide seed funding for Out of School Youth and formalize the jua kali sector to contribute to the money economy through a) expediting the passing of the Start Ups Bill into law and ii) providing seed funding for registration and financial training to enable the jua kali sector graduate into the formal money economy.
- iii. Leverage the digital technologies. For instance, the increased penetration of mobile devices and digital technologies has the potential to enhance access to information, markets and financial services, potentially improving productivity and earnings for informal sector workers.
- iv. The 18 business parks being developed should include initiatives providing business skills, life skills and mentorship to empower young people to navigate the challenges of the informal sector and build sustainable livelihoods.
- v. Expedite the passing of the Start Ups Bill to support young businesses blossom and live beyond their first birthdays through provision of financing, tax holidays and business development to formalize informal sector businesses.
- vi. As part of the tax measures and amendments in the FY 2025/2026 national budget, develop a clear implementation strategy for the three-year tax exemption targeting citizen-owned startup businesses with investment capital not exceeding UGX 500 million.
- vii. Actualize and enforce the implementation of PPDA Guidelines No. 11/2024 on Reservation Schemes, which mandate that: Central Government entities reserve all procurement requirements for supplies, works, consultancy, and non-consultancy services valued at UGX 30 million or less exclusively for registered associations of youth, women, and persons with disabilities. Local Government entities reserve similar procurements valued at UGX 10 million or less for the same target groups.

4.1.4 Sports and Creative Arts

The creative sector in Uganda remains under-recognized in policy and governance frameworks, operating as a sub-department under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development without a dedicated ministry or full directorate. This marginalization limits the sector's visibility in national planning and drastically reduces its budget allocation. The issue primarily affects youth, who dominate the creative economy but lack a centralized institutional champion to advocate for their needs. While Uganda is rich in talent, many youth in the creative economy lack the professional and entrepreneurial skills needed to scale and monetize their work. Poor branding, weak production quality, and lack of business planning often prevent youth-led creative ventures from accessing funding or markets. This results in unsustainable careers and missed economic opportunities.

¹ This operational model often entails the adoption of extended working hours, including morning, afternoon, and night shifts, along with heightened resource utilization, involving labour, capital, equipment, and finances.

According to the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), 78% of content creators surveyed in 2023 had never received training in intellectual property, branding, or digital marketing. According to the National Council of Culture and Creative Industries, fewer than 10% of districts have any form of government-supported artistic space. The absence of hubs stifles innovation, peer learning, and commercial growth for creatives. The young people of Uganda therefore make the following policy proposals:

- * Enact and implement a National Creative Economy Policy aligned with Vision 2040 and the NDP IV. This policy will provide a roadmap for investment, training, market access and intellectual property protection.
- * Institutionalize youth participation in the sector's policy processes through youth advisory boards and consultation forums, and ensure that reforms are grounded in the realities of Uganda's young creators.
- * Establish Regional Creative Arts and Innovation Hubs funded by the government, in partnership with development agencies. These hubs will serve as access points for equipment, mentorship, internet access and artistic production.
- * Create a national digital arts registry and online collaboration platform to connect creatives, promote their work, and stimulate cross-regional collaboration.
- * Roll out national training programs on branding, digital marketing, production, and intellectual property rights in collaboration with UCC, URSB, and private sector partners. This will empower youth with the tools to protect and market their work.
- * Recognize the creative arts under the PDM as a formal enterprise category, to allow creatives to access government micro-financing.
- * Ratify and Domestic the Malakesh Treaty to enable access to artistic innovations and publications in a disability friendly way.

4.1.4.1 Sports

Uganda's sports sector faces systemic challenges that undermine its potential to drive youth development, national unity and economic growth. The lack of equitable sports infrastructure remains a major hurdle, with only 18% of secondary schools having dedicated sports spaces and most quality facilities concentrated in the central region, leaving rural and peri-urban youth marginalized. This is further exacerbated by the absence of structured grassroots talent identification and development systems, as many public schools lack trained coaches, sports equipment, and regular programs. As a result, sporting achievements are largely driven by individual effort rather than institutional support. Additionally, the sector struggles with fragmented administration and weak implementation capacity, with only 27% of district sports officers having formal training, leading to inconsistent and poorly coordinated local sports initiatives. The young people of Uganda make the following policy proposals:

- * Expand and Upgrade Sports Infrastructure by investing in the construction and rehabilitation of modern, multi-purpose, and disability-inclusive sports facilities across all regions especially in underserved rural and peri-urban areas, schools, and community centers.

- * Increase and Streamline Sports Sector Financing by substantially raising the national sports budget and by fully implementing the 2022 National Sports Policy through provision of grants, tax incentives, and sponsorship schemes to support youth sports programs and attract private sector investment.
- * Professionalize Sports Administration and Human Capital through capacity building of sports administrators, coaches, and physical education teachers through national certification and training programs. Sports management should be integrated into teacher training and youth skilling initiatives.
- * Improve Athlete Welfare and Incentives through the introduction of performance-based remuneration, health insurance, and post-career support systems to motivate and retain talent in the sector.

4.2 Governance and Security

The Governance and Security Programme in NDPIV aims to ensure a peaceful and secure Uganda, adhering to the rule of law. The key focus areas are: enhancing the capacity of the security forces to respond to the existing and evolving threats; enhancing patriotism, national value system and civic awareness; improving JLOS delivery processes; strengthening the fight against corruption; strengthening application & integration of digital solutions; leveraging the capacity of the security forces in production, value addition and infrastructure development; promoting compliance with the Bill of Rights; strengthening democracy; strengthening regional and international relations; strengthening public policy analysis and management among others.

4.2.1 Youth Political Participation (YPP)

Studies on youth participation in governance, decision-making processes, policy formulation, and government programs have found it to be limited due to many local-level participatory structures described as inactive or ineffective (Afrobarometer, 2023; Vijana Corps, 2023). Decentralization and youth participation in local governance remain crucial for meaningful youth engagement. Giving young people a voice in decision-making processes that affect their lives allows them to actively contribute to shaping their communities and the country's future.

However, the current policy framework also advocates for increased youth representation and participation in decision-making processes at all levels of government and civil society, the low participation of youth in decision-making is attributed to several factors, including a lack of leadership and management skills, organizational regulatory barriers, and low resource allocation to youth programs. This lack of effective participation is further compounded by the fact that youth are often given nominal roles in political parties through youth wings and leagues, but their actual impact remains minimal (Wamajji & Mubangizi, 2022).

The youth of Uganda therefore make the following policy proposals to their leaders:

- * With the institutionalization of the Inter Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD), there is need to ringfence 20% of funds allocated to political parties to Youth Leagues to enable proper functioning of the Youth Leagues.
- * Allocate 50% of National Youth Council funding to the District Youth Councils to enable them establish functional structures that can supervise effectively youth empowerment programmes and support youth inclusion in government programmes.

- * Enact laws on campaign financing to regulate the commercialization of politics and facilitate increased participation of youth in politics and decision-making processes.
- * The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) through the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA) should formulate and adopt a National Policy on Civic Engagement and Participation.
- * The Uganda Electoral Commission should undertake campaigns on Voter education beyond election cycles.
- * Amend the National Youth Council Act to provide for a position of Youth with Disabilities from the village level.

4.2.2 Peace and Security

Violence and crime among youth in Uganda present significant challenges to their overall well-being. High unemployment rates and inadequate educational systems are the primary contributors. Theoretical education systems failing to equip students with practical skills have been identified as a major factor leading to youth unemployment and subsequent involvement in criminal activities. The high population growth rate, coupled with limited job opportunities, creates fertile ground for crime and violence. Youth, often seen as the driving force behind social and political upheavals, are particularly vulnerable to being drawn into criminal activities to express their frustrations and address their economic needs (Ssenyimba et al., 2023).

Additionally, the political landscape in Uganda plays a role in perpetuating youth involvement in crime. The political elites often manipulate the youth demographic to serve their interests, with little regard for addressing the actual issues faced by young people (UNFPA, 2020).

This exploitation disenfranchises youth and fosters an environment where crime and violence become viable options for those seeking to assert their agency and voice their grievances. The young people of Uganda therefore make the following policy proposals:

- i. Undertake Public education campaigns on violent extremism
- ii. Expedite the development of the National Policy on Peace and Security
- iii. Reform and Strengthen Community Policing by expanding and professionalizing community policing units with youth liaisons, especially in informal/slum settlements and refugee-hosting districts.
- iv. Counter Online Radicalization and Hate Speech by developing a national youth digital literacy framework to promote critical thinking, responsible online behavior and media literacy.

4.2.3 Rule of Law, Good Governance and Access to Justice

Uganda ranks 141st on the 2023 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index with a score of 26 out of 100 which is below the target of 35% set in the third National Development Plan (NDPIII). The Ibrahim Index of African Governance index for anti-corruption ranks Uganda 32nd out of 54 countries with a score of 31.8 out of 100. The estimated annual direct and indirect costs of corruption in Uganda is approximately UGX 9.144 trillion.² Corruption severely impacts economic development and restricts public access to basic resources, reduces the quality of government services, adversely affects social mobility, and reinforces existing inequalities. The young people of Uganda make the following policy proposals:

2 Fazekas, M., Adam, I. and Nikulina, O (2021). Study on the Cost of Corruption in Uganda, Inspectorate of Government.p.10. Accessed from www.igg.go.ug/media/files/publications/Cost_of_Corruption_Popular_Version.pdf

- i. Strengthen corporate governance and eliminate Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) such as tax evasion and trade mis-invoicing that cost the country over 2 trillion shillings annually. This money can go towards service provision, infrastructure development and job creation.



- ii. Reduce borrowing to improve service delivery. Uganda's public debt increased significantly over the implementation of the last 3 NDPs to an extent that each Ugandan is now indebted to a tune of UGX 2.6M. Public debt in June 2023 was at UGX 96.1 trillion/\$25.3 billion or 52% of GDP as of June 2023 (IMF, 2024). Of this, 44.6 trillion is domestic while 52.8 trillion is from foreign sources. This stifles service and revenue collection as UGX 32 of every UGX 100 collected in revenue goes to debt servicing instead of service delivery. Government should strive to reduce reliance on loans mostly domestic debt as it has far-reaching implications on Private Sector Development which is one of the NDPIV Programme areas.
- iii. Fasttrack a law on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as part of the judicial reforms in order to reduce case backlog and lower the cost of access to justice.
- iv. Reform the criminal justice system to take on a correctional approach that enhances the skills, economic participation and personal transformation of the inmates. This will help reduce recidivism rates and enable the youth inmates to participate in economic production while in prison and after the end of their sentences.
- v. Remand homes for children should be facilitated to support skilling and reform programs
- vi. Make courts of law disability friendly through installation of access points, sign language interpreters, braille among others.

AGRO-INDUSTRIALIZATION



Uganda has a total area of
241,550,000 hectares

AGRICULTURAL LAND

occupied 11,962,000 ha (60%) of the total area in 1994 and increased significantly to 14,415,000 ha (72%) in 2013 at an annual growth rate of 0.3%.



ARABLE LAND

increased from 0.54% annual growth in 2000 to 2.36% in 2012



PERMANENT CROPLAND

area decreased from an annual growth rate of 1.69% to 0.72%



Notably in the last decade, agricultural land has steadily increased at a rate of 1% per annum, and if this rate continues, agricultural land will account for 90% of Uganda's land by 2040.

4.3 Agro-Industrialization

Uganda has a total area of 241,550,000 hectares. Agricultural land occupied 11,962,000 ha (60%) of the total area in 1994 and increased significantly to 14,415,000 ha (72%) in 2013 at an annual growth rate of 0.3%. Arable land increased from 0.54% annual growth in 2000 to 2.36% in 2012, while permanent cropland area decreased from an annual growth rate of 1.69% to 0.72%. Notably in the last decade, agricultural land has steadily increased at a rate of 1% per annum, and if this rate continues agricultural land will account for 90% of Uganda's land by 2040.

The young people of Uganda make the following policy proposals:

- a. Develop a Youth Strategy on Agro-industrialization to enhance young people's participation in agriculture along the agricultural value chain through Increasing access to agriculture finance, insurance and contract farming.
- b. Provide training to young farmers on modern agricultural techniques, financial literacy and business management by investing in appropriate post-harvest handling, storage and agroprocessing facilities and technologies.
- c. Design youth friendly agricultural financing packages through the Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) to fund youth for agriculture and businesses, prioritizing Agro-industrialisation, tourism, manufacturing and Science, technology and innovation (ATMS).
- d. The government should invest in bilateral partnerships for agricultural-based labor externalization, adopting a brain-gain perspective, where return migrants with accumulated savings, and newly acquired knowledge and skills, invest in agribusiness.
- e. Utilize public land to establish large-scale, full-time irrigation farm projects, where youth can be allocated individual plots for year-round agricultural production. Each project should have at least two agronomists stationed on-site to provide technical guidance and support to both the youth on the farm and surrounding community members.
- f. Align with the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) goal to allocate 10% of the national budget to agriculture.

4.4 Climate Change, Natural Resource, Environment and Water Management

The Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme in NDPIV aims to ensure sustainable management and utilization of land, environment and natural resources as well as effective response to climate change and other disasters. The key focus areas are: strengthening land administration and management; restoration of wetlands & forest cover; reducing the country's vulnerability to climate change; reduction of air and water pollution levels; increasing research and application of STI; strengthening capacity to tap climate finance; value addition to forests & other natural resources; and strengthening institutional coordination, enforcement & implementation of policies & laws.

UGANDA'S COMMITMENTS

Uganda has committed to reducing its emissions by **24.7%** by 2030 through its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2022



Improve access and use of electricity from sustainable sources:

2020 **24%** → 2030 **75%**



Increase access to clean energy cooking:

2020 **15%** → 2030 **65%**

YOUNG PEOPLE OF UGANDA PROPOSE:



Enhance support for renewable energy projects



Increase public and private investment for green energy

4.4.1 Climate Change

Uganda has committed to reducing its emissions by 24.7% by 2030 through its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2022 which set specific energy targets to improve access and use of electricity from sustainable sources; from 24% in 2020 to 75% by 2030 and Increase access to clean energy cooking from 15% to 65% by 2030. In order to drive climate change adaptation and mitigation, the young people of Uganda make the following policy proposals:

- a. **Promote climate-smart agriculture.** We call upon the Government of Uganda to identify, develop and incentivize adoption of climate smart agriculture technologies and management practices that contribute to climate adaptation of agricultural value chains to sustainably increase productivity and household incomes while enhancing resilience to climatic shocks.
- b. **Increase awareness on government programs that support resilience and mitigation to climate shocks.** For example, the insurance provided by the Uganda Agricultural Insurance Scheme (UAIS) should be widened through increased capitalization of the scheme and raising awareness about its existence and how young people can benefit from its services.
- c. Adherence to the provisions of the 2015 Public Finance Management Act on the Contingency Fund. It is concerning that the budget for the Contingency Fund for FY 2024/25 is only UGX 169 billion against the required UGX 263.7 billion, which is 0.5% of the previous financial year. To ensure better response to natural and man made disasters, it is crucial that proper allocations to the Contingency Fund are made.
- d. Allocate a percentage of the environmental levy towards reducing air pollution. At least 5% of the Environmental levy should be applied to the establishment of green belts and the procurement of air quality monitoring equipment.

GREEN JOBS

UGANDA GREEN GROWTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The government has developed Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy to guide efforts around green growth, focusing on green skills and business development in green sectors (mostly recycling and pollution control)



HINDERED PROGRESS



Heavy donor dependency, scattered implementation of siloed programs with little coherence, low levels of public awareness, weak political support

(Lijfering & Lacey, 2022), inadequate skills particularly in renewable energies, and poor access to financing (UNREEA, 2022)

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digital technologies for fast-tracking progress in green jobs is underscored through bridging data gaps for diagnosis, monitoring and evaluation, creating online platforms for marketing and live time transacting (APRI, 2023)



4.4.2 Green Jobs

The government has developed the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy to guide efforts around green growth, focusing largely on green skills and business development in green sectors (mostly recycling and pollution control) through workbased placement programmes and business accelerators, such as the Uganda Green Incubation Programme (UGIP). Progress is however hindered due to heavy donor dependency, scattered implementation of siloed programs with little coherence, low levels of public awareness, weak political support (Lijfering & Lacey, 2022), inadequate skills particularly in renewable energies, and poor access to financing (UNREEA, 2022).

The transformative power of digital technologies for fast-tracking progress in green jobs is underscored, through bridging data gaps for diagnosis, monitoring and evaluation, creating online platforms for marketing and live time transacting (APRI, 2023).

Green growth strategies can potentially support a 10% boost to GDP and create 4 million jobs by 2040 hence making this sector very important to youth aspirations. The young people of Uganda make the following policy demands to their leaders:

- a. Fast-track the creation of a green taxonomy that aligns Uganda with international standards for sustainable investments. This will enhance access to global green finance by providing clear guidelines for green and sustainable economic activities. By acting swiftly, Uganda can capitalize on the growing interest in climate finance and attract investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green infrastructure.
- b. Develop and implement a National Green Jobs Policy. This is to ensure linkages between NDPV and the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy. For instance, whereas the Uganda Green Growth Strategy seeks to create 4 million jobs, NDPV seeks to only increase green jobs from 210,000 in FY 2023/24 to 650,000 by 2030.
- c. Mainstream climate change and green economy principles in all national development plans and ensure that the National Budget and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) are environmentally sustainable in line with Section 13(7) of the Public Finance Management Act


as amended and Section 30 of the National Climate Change Act 2021, which mandate assessment of the Budget Framework Paper compliance to climate change responsive budgeting.

- d. Establish a Green Jobs Coordination Secretariat within the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to lead the implementation of the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy, coordinate partners and government programmes and support resource mobilization efforts.


RENEWABLE ENERGY

Vision 2040
in aspiring to transform the country from a predominantly low income to a competitive upper middle income country within 30 years, recognizes energy as one of the fundamental drivers

Renewable energy offers a unique opportunity to address pressing challenges in Uganda, such as energy poverty, climate change, and economic inequalities.



Per capita electricity consumption:
3,668 kilowatt hours



Population with access to electricity:
80%

However, significant barriers remain: opportunity to address pressing challenges in Uganda, such as energy poverty, climate change, and economic inequalities.

However, significant barriers remain:

- Underdeveloped markets
- Limited infrastructure
- Inadequate financing
- Weak regulatory framework

4.4.3 Renewable Energy

Vision 2040 , in aspiring to change the country from a predominantly low-income to a competitive upper-middle income country within 30 years, acknowledges energy as one of the critical fundamentals required to harness the country's opportunities and drive the industrial and service sectors. Key energy related targets under vision 2040 includes; raising per capita electricity consumption to 3,668 kilowatt hours (kWh) and increasing the share of the population with access to electricity to 80%, by 2040. Renewable energy offers a unique opportunity to address pressing challenges in Uganda, such as energy poverty, climate change, and economic inequalities. However, significant barriers remain, including underdeveloped markets, limited infrastructure, inadequate financing, and a weak regulatory framework.

There are many opportunities for Uganda's youth in the Electricity Supply Industry. With the right support and training, young Ugandans can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the country's energy sector by: i) leading initiatives promoting renewable sources like solar, wind, and hydropower, ii) Innovating in Smart Grid Technologies to create a more reliable and efficient electricity supply, reducing outages and enhancing service delivery and ii) Advocacy and Education to raise awareness about energy efficiency and the need for expanded electricity access. Uganda's youth, with their fresh ideas and innovative approaches, are well-positioned to contribute to renewable energy projects, smart grid technologies, and more. As such, the youth make the following policy proposals:

- i. Invest in research and technology to enable Uganda harness her renewable energy whose potential is about 5.1 kWh/m² compared to countries like Germany whose potential is at about 3.5 kWh/m² but still harvests more solar energy.

- ii. Uganda Energy Credit Capitalization Company (UECCC) should design and roll out programs that train, skill and provide funding to youth in renewable energy technologies to empower them to become entrepreneurs and innovators in the sector.
- iii. Universities and Technical colleges should expand their offerings of specialized courses in Renewable Energy and Electrical Engineering to meet the urgent need for professionals in renewable energy, grid management and customer service.
- iv. Develop e-waste recycling systems and promote circular e-waste management.
- v. Support local manufacturing of solar and energy infrastructure. To achieve this, we suggest that Government of Uganda Supports green certification schemes such as eco-labels and organic certification to enhance market access as well as leading the promotion of export incentives for certified green products.

INTERNET ACCESS IN UGANDA



53% of the population
subscribed to the internet in 2022



**National Backbone
Infrastructure (NBI)**

1,380 km → **4,387 km**
FY2010/11 → FY2023/24

Internet costs remain high in Uganda, and the country hasn't fully capitalized on ICT growth and penetration to drive and benefit from the 4th Industrial Revolution.







4.5 Digital Transformation

The percentage of the population subscribed to the Internet rose to 53% in 2022 from 1.8% in 2010. In addition, the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) has increased to 4,387 km in FY2023/24 from 1,380 km in FY2010/11. Despite these improvements, internet costs are relatively high in Uganda while Uganda has also failed to harness these gains in ICT growth and penetration to drive and benefit from the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The digital revolution has also highlighted the importance of systems-based approaches in education and employment. The growing number of mobile technologies offers unique opportunities to enhance accessibility and usability in education. For example, a mobile-based e-learning system can promote lifelong learning and improve youth engagement and performance in employability skills development (Med & Lukyamuzi, 2019). This approach not only addresses technological barriers but also integrates informal learning systems, making education more accessible and relevant to the needs of young people.

The growing number of mobile technologies offers unique opportunities to enhance accessibility and usability in education. For example, a mobile-based e-learning system can promote lifelong learning and improve youth engagement and performance in employability skills development (Med & Lukyamuzi, 2019). This approach not only addresses technological barriers but also integrates informal learning systems, making education more accessible and relevant to the needs of young people.

The nationwide consultations revealed that young people believe that integrating digital technologies plays a crucial role in modern job creation strategies and alleviating many of the challenges that the youth in Uganda face. Uganda stands at the threshold of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), where digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), robotics and big data—are transforming economies globally. To unlock inclusive growth, job creation, and improved service delivery, Uganda must adopt bold, coordinated ICT policies that harness 4IR potential. In order to position Uganda to drive the 4th Industrial Revolution, the young people make the following policy asks:

REVISE ICT SECTOR TAXATION REGIME		
Layers of Taxation on Importation of Internet into the country		
	Reverse VAT	18%
	Withholding Tax	5%
	Telecom License Universal Access Levies	2%
	License	1%
	Excise Duty	12%
	Value Added Tax	12%

- Revise the ICT Sector taxation regime; Imported internet in the country is burdened by multiple taxes including Reverse VAT (18%), Withholding Tax (5%), Telecom License Universal Access Levies (2%), License Fee (1%), Excise Duty (12%), and Value Added Tax (12%). These layers of taxation limit investment and raise costs for youth innovators and digital entrepreneurs.
- Reduce the cost of the internet and increase last-mile connectivity by reducing the the price of Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) from USD 76 in 2023 to USD 41 by 2029/30.

- Integrate digital literacy, coding, AI and robotics into the national curriculum from primary to tertiary levels and invest in digital skills training for youth and the workforce.
- Develop an eGovernment framework and digitize government services and ensure interoperability across ministries, departments and agencies through a unified digital ID system. By adopting a digital approach, GoU could be aligned with global trends and effectively tackle the changing challenges and opportunities in the employment sector.
- A policy on AI and blockchain technology should be drafted, adopted and implemented as part of Uganda's Digital Transformation Agenda.
- Establishing innovation hubs and technology parks to nurture young innovators and tech entrepreneurs is a key strategy to harness the creativity and potential of the youth.
- Avail more investment in Information Communications Technology infrastructures such as Business process Outsourcing (ICT- BPO) because of its potential to boost growth of the economy through attracting investment and increasing employment. ICT-BPO is one of the key catalysts for establishing knowledge-based industries in Uganda, thereby creating higher-value

jobs for Uganda's youthful population and enhancing economic growth. It is estimated that the ICT-BPO industry will create more than 100,000 jobs (direct and indirect).

- h. There should be skills training and development within the ICT sector. Ugandans should use the internet penetration and ICT access to propel growth, productive, job creation and socioeconomic transformation. This requires targeted skilling programs by the Ministry of ICT and Agencies like NITA.

4.6 Integrated Transport Infrastructure And Services

Infrastructure funding currently comprises about 32.8% of the Government's total annual expenditure. During the NDPIV implementation period, Uganda's construction sector will grow at an average pace of 5.6% per annum. Investment in physical capital and infrastructure can shape the labor market dynamics and employment outcomes. Therefore, there is need to turn Uganda's huge investment into employment creation.

- i. Implement Skills and Technology Transfer Programs: The huge infrastructure development market is dominated by foreign companies and Ugandans are employed in low wage jobs due to the skills mismatch. We therefore call for technology and skills transfer programs so that Ugandans are able to gain the requisite skills and technology to be able to undertake these huge infrastructure projects both nationally and within the region.
- ii. Integrate road safety programming in road construction and maintenance to reduce the Road Traffic Incidents which claim the lives of young people.
- iii. Invest in railway, water and air transport infrastructure. Currently, transport infrastructure in Uganda largely biased towards roads (90%), which has led to significant inefficiencies. The low investment in other modes of transport has limited interoperability, increased the cost of transport and limited access to areas with potential for tourism, minerals, oil, or agriculture among others.

5.0 CROSS CUTTING



Meaningfully participate in the negotiations on a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation (UNFCITC) to create a more inclusive and effective framework for international tax cooperation, addressing issues like tax avoidance, evasion, and illicit financial flows.



Streamline tax incentives and publish a national incentive registry to reduce revenue loss. Make it mandatory to undertake a cost-benefit analysis before granting tax incentives. Tax incentives should only be granted to address identified market failures in the economy.



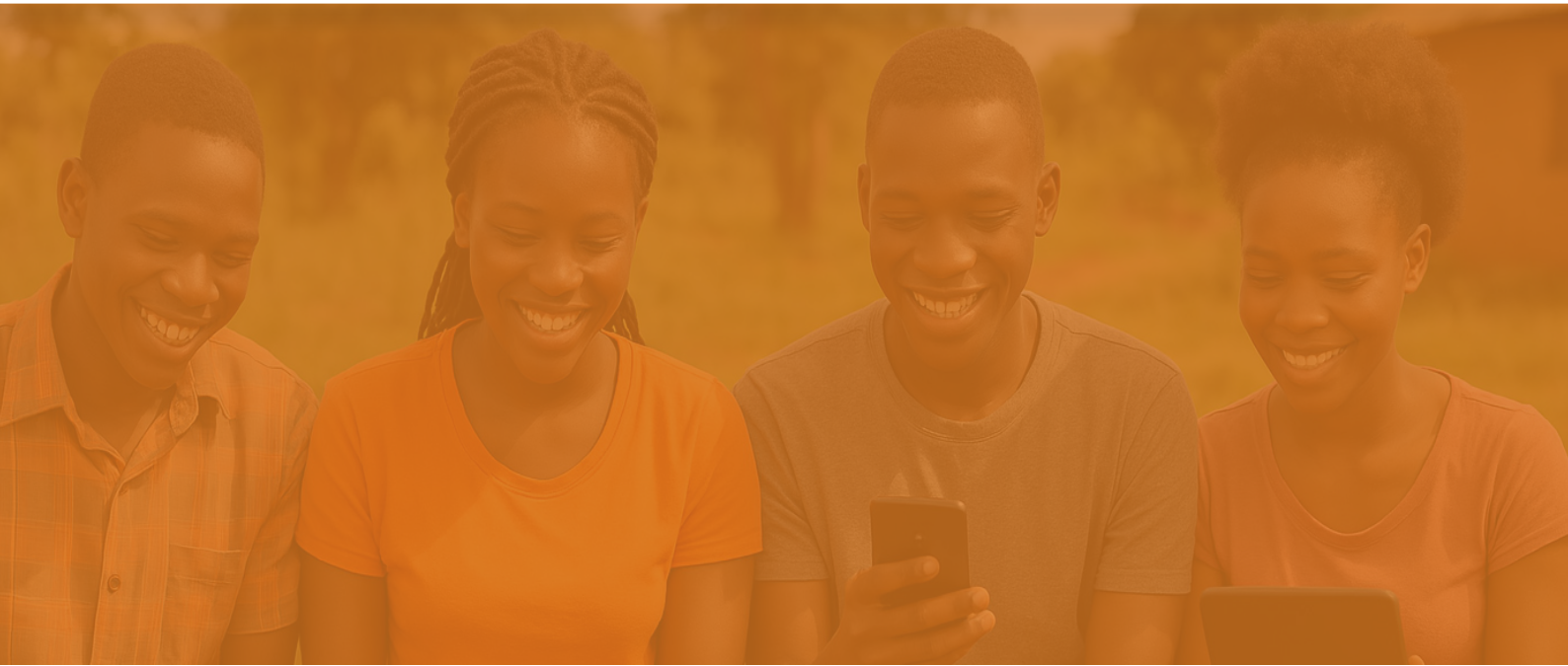
Introduce Youth Budget Tagging (YBT) under Programme Based Budgeting to track funding for youth priorities



Re-channel Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) toward youth-led green jobs, skilling and innovation. Implement the Lom6 Declaration on Debt 2025 commitments including enhancing transparency and inclusivity in debt restructuring for youth-targeted sectors, and advocating for debt cancellation as an instrument of economic justice

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+256 (0) 414 286 556



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