



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**COMBINED PERIODIC REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA**

**TO THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND
PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

**UNDER ARTICLE 62 OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES'
RIGHTS**

FOR THE PERIOD 2013 - 2022

Done at Kampala, October, 2022

FOREWORD

This is a combined report for the Republic of Uganda for the period 2013-2022 made under article 62 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. This report reflects Uganda's progressive journey to achieve social-economic development through a human rights-based approach. Our National Development Plan (NDPIII) is premised on good governance, constitutionalism and the rule of law. We believe that the observance of these will facilitate the achievement of the development goals enshrined in the NDPIII.

We believe in the indivisibility of human rights for equitable and meaningful development of the country. Our development plan is a Human Rights based plan, which prioritizes people and puts them at the forefront of Government programs. We are committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including the Human Rights aspirations contained therein.

We have taken great strides in the protection and promotion of individual freedoms, rights and liberties including enactment of several laws and establishment of institutions that promote and protect human Rights. While Government remains committed to implementation and realization of social-economic rights, the right to development remains a challenge primarily due to limited resources. Additionally, the adverse effects of climate change like drought have affected the realization of social and economic rights especially the right to food and health while the global Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a setback for some socio-economic milestones that had been achieved.

The Government of Uganda has maintained its momentum in mainstreaming human rights. The government is in advanced stages of developing the National Action Plan on Human Rights which will serve as a comprehensive guide to promote and implement human rights in Uganda.

We are delighted to have an opportunity to submit this combined report and we welcome comments and proposals as valuable contributions to a peaceful, safe and prosperous Uganda where all people can enjoy their rights, freedoms and perform the corresponding obligations.

Kiryowa Kiwanuka

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Commission on Human & People’s Rights
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
BOP	Balance of Payments
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CAT	United Nations Convention Against Torture
EMIS	Education Information Management System
FM	Female Genital Mutilation
FY	Financial Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOU	Government of Uganda
HIV / AIDS Syndrome	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICC	International Criminal Court
LRA	Lord’s Resistance Army
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoE&S	Ministry of Education & Sports
NDP	National Development Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa’s Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund

OPTCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture
PRDP	Peace Reconstruction Development Program
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UDHS	Uganda Demographic Health Survey
UNHS	Uganda National Household Survey
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UPF	Uganda Police Force
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UPS	Uganda Prison Service
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UHSSP	Uganda Health System Strengthening Project
UPE	Universal Primary Education
USE	Universal Secondary Education
UGX	Uganda Shillings
UPDF	Uganda People’s Defense Forces
USD	United States Dollars

INTRODUCTION

This is a combined report of the Government of Uganda for the period 2013-2022. This Report addresses the recommendations of the Commission made from its consideration of the previous report by highlighting the progress that has been achieved within the period in review by Uganda in regard to its obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In particular, the report showcases the areas of promotion and protection of human rights, enhancement of the independence of the judiciary and the capacity of Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments in the observance of human rights.

The report also considers the direct interventions implemented by Government which have a direct impact on the standard of living, security, quality of life and welfare of people within Uganda. The Government of Uganda reiterates her commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights which is evidenced in the enactment of various legislations, adoption of policies, strengthening of existing institutions and establishment of new mechanisms to enhance the realization of these rights in Uganda.

The Government of Uganda has made this report in accordance with the Reporting Guidelines set by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. This report was compiled in a consultative and participatory process by the advisory Inter-Ministerial Technical Steering Committee (IMC) on human rights, coordinated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, comprising of ministries, departments and agencies of Government. Other institutions that participated in the process included; Parliament of Uganda, Judiciary, UHRC, Governance and Security Program Secretariat (GSPS) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Structure of the Report:

The report is structured in accordance with the guidelines of the Commission.

The first part contains information and statistics on the general state of the country, namely; the status of the population, the economy and the conditions of social services.

The second part outlines the legal and administrative measures that the Government has adopted in order to implement the requirements of the Charter since its last report covering the period up to 2012. These interventions are herein arranged to correspond to each article of the Charter.

The third part highlights the status of implementation of the concluding observations of the Commission on the previous report of Uganda.

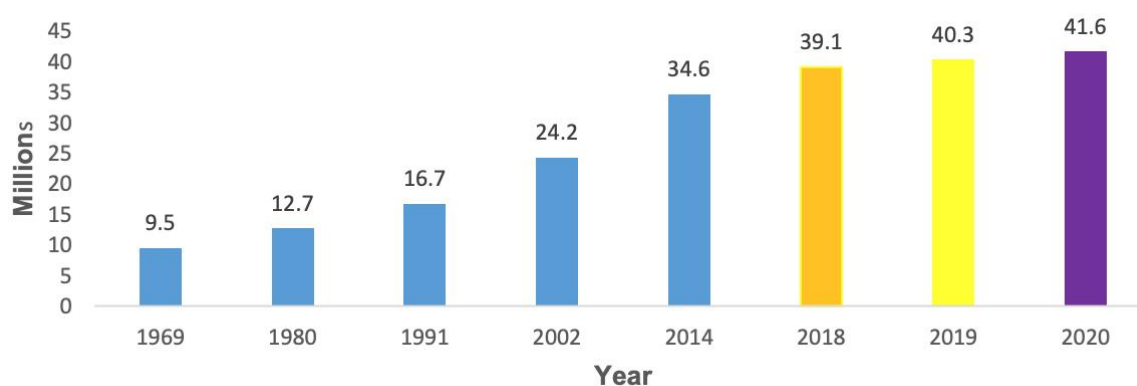
The fourth and last part of this report contains challenges that Government continues to face as it strives to implement the provisions of the Charter.

PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION AND COUNTRY STATISTICS

1.0. THE POPULATION

Uganda has conducted a decennial Population and Housing Census since 1911 and the latest was in 2014. According to the National Population and Housing Census Report of 2014 the population of Uganda has continued to grow from 9.5 million in 1969 to 34.6 million in 2014, representing an average annual growth rate of 3.0 percent. Uganda's population was estimated at 40.9 million persons in 2019/20 indicating an increase of about 3.2 million persons from 37.7 million estimated from the 2016/17 according to the Uganda National Household Survey of 2019/20.

Figure 1: Census population, 1969 - 2014 and Projected Population 2018 and 2020



Source: 2020 Statistical Abstract

1.2. Population Distribution

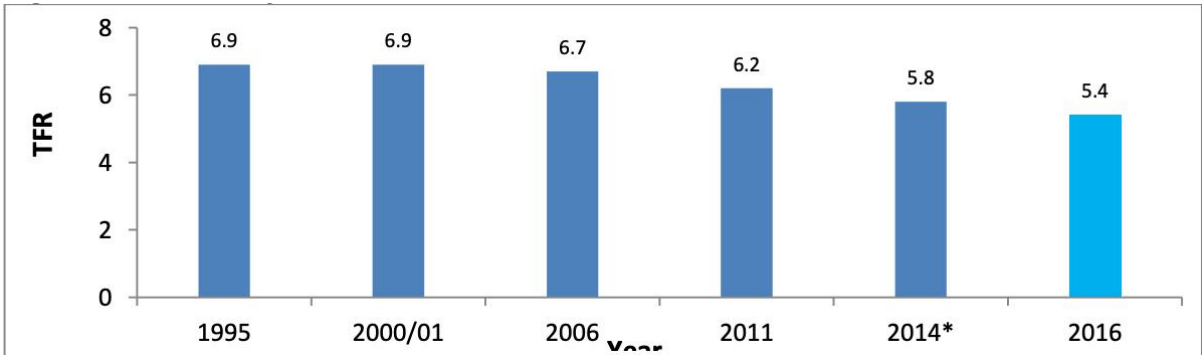
According to the 2020 Statistical Abstract, one in five persons of the population is of primary school going age (6-12 years) indicating that the highest proportion of Uganda's population is young (under 18 years). The young population increased from 51 percent in 1969 to 56 percent in 2002 and is projected at 53 percent in the year 2020.

The sex ratio of Uganda's population was estimated at 97 females per 100 males according to the National Household Survey Results of 2019/2020. The proportion of the population aged below 14 years constituted slightly less than half of the total population (44 %). The urban population increased by two percentage points from 25 percent in 2016/17 to 27 percent in 2019/20. The dependency ratio decreased between the two survey periods from 97 in 2016/17 to 92 in 2019/20. Fifty one percent of the population was female while 49 percent was male.

1.3. Fertility Rate

The fertility rate is the average number of children born by one woman while being of child-bearing age. Uganda's total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined over time. Between 2000- 01 and 2016, the TFR decreased by 1.5 children (6.9 in 2000-01 versus 5.4 in 2016). The TFR among women in rural areas declined from 7.4 in 2000-01 to 5.9 in 2016. In urban areas, the TFR has had a less consistent pattern, fluctuating around 4.0. This can be seen in the figure below.

Figure 2: Fertility Trends, 1995- 2016



Source: Source: UDHS Data (1995, 2000/2001, 2006, 2011, 2016), * Population and Housing Census Data (2014)

1.4. Life Expectancy at birth

Life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a person is expected to live if a particular pattern of mortality is maintained. Overall, Uganda’s life expectancy at birth in 2014 was 63.7 years. According to the 2020 WHO data, life expectancy in Uganda is at 63.2 for the Male, 70.1 for female, and total life expectancy is 66.7 giving Uganda a World Life Expectancy ranking of 136.

1.5. Mortality Rate

Mortality rate, or death rate, is a measure of the number of deaths in a particular population, scaled to the size of that population, per unit of time. The current infant mortality rate for Uganda in 2022 is 40.564 deaths per 1000 live births, a 3.32% decline from 2021.

2.0. THE ECONOMY

The global economy has changed rapidly over the last three years, requiring countries, especially developing ones to implement robust policy decisions. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic severely impeded economic activity, thereby pushing millions of vulnerable people across the globe into poverty. It further shrunk fiscal space in many developing countries leading to higher debt burdens.

The outbreak of the war between Russia and Ukraine exacerbated these effects with disruption of global supply chains, inflationary pressures and rising food insecurity, among others.

Nonetheless, the Ugandan economy grew at 4.6% during FY22, faster than had been anticipated due to an uptick in activity after the economy reopened in January 2022. On the supply side, services and industry were the main drivers of economic growth. There was also strong recovery in wholesale and retail trade, real estate and education, with industry rebounding through construction and manufacturing. On the demand side, private investment and private consumption headed towards pre-COVID levels.

Uganda is continuing to design and implement interventions in line with Her Vision 2040 through the various National Development Plans (NPDs). Through the current National Development Plan III (NPD III), the Government of Uganda has placed a first call on resources to interventions that have higher multiplier effects and dependencies, are directly linked to addressing household poverty and food security, are in position to aid quick economic recovery (directly impact production and consumption), and are in alignment with the operationalisation of the Parish Development Model (PDM).

At national level, new evidence that sheds light on the country's socioeconomic performance has emerged. According to the UNHS 2019/20, the national poverty rate reduced from 21.4 percent in FY 2016/17 to 20.3 percent in FY 2019/20, with a corresponding decline in income inequality by 1.4 percent (0.419 to 0.413). GDP per capita also increased from US\$ 889 in FY 2018/19 to US\$ 1046 in FY 2021/22, passing the annual NDPIII target of US\$ 1006 and effectively confirming Uganda's transition to lower middle-income status.

2.1 Real Sector Developments

All the three sectors of the economy registered growth in FY 2021/22, with strong recovery in industry and services sectors. The services sector was still the largest contributor to GDP (41.5 percent), followed by industry (26.8 percent), and the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector (24.1 percent).

Preliminary estimates from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics indicate that the size of the economy increased to US\$ 162,123 billion in FY 2021/22, from US\$ 148,310 billion registered in FY 2020/21. In real terms, the economy grew by 4.6 percent, compared to a revised growth rate of 3.5 percent in FY 2020/21. The improvement in economic activity is attributed to continued recovery in aggregate demand due to the full re-opening of the economy in January 2022; as well as government policy interventions to support private sector activity.

2.2 Monetary and Financial Sector Developments

The FY 2021/22 began on the back of a second nationwide lockdown that was imposed to curb the second wave of COVID-19 infections in Uganda. As the economy slowed due to the negative impacts of the pandemic, monetary policy support was necessary to support economic recovery. As such the Central Bank of Uganda (BOU) maintained an accommodative monetary policy stance, keeping the Central Bank Rate (CBR) unchanged throughout the year at a low of 6.5 percent while continuing to provide liquidity support to the banking sector.

2.3. Inflation

A combination of global factors, the recent drought and a weaker shilling to U.S. dollar exchange rate has increased inflation. This is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic that necessitated closure of the economy in a bid to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.

Accordingly, in the Monetary Policy Statement for October 2022, the annual headline inflation rose to 10 percent in September 2022 from 9 percent in August 2022. Annual core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy prices, rose to 8.1 percent in September 2022 from 7.2 percent in August 2022. Annual electricity, fuel and utilities inflation, which had been increasing since the beginning of the year, declined to 18.7 percent in September 2022 from 19.6 percent in August 2022, offering some relief against the price pressures.

Despite inflation pressures being projected to peak in the first half of 2023, as COVID-19 effects wane, supply chain pressures ease and as a result of the impact of recent policy actions. The recent increases in the CBR coupled with fiscal tightening have had an indirect effect in stabilising the shilling exchange rate, which is expected to cushion the inflationary pressures. Indeed, growth in private sector credit and monetary aggregates have moderated, signalling the eventual impact on aggregate demand.

2.4 Fiscal Sector Developments

Fiscal operations in FY 2021/22 were contractionary and the medium term were intended to focus on policy interventions that would sustain recovery from the socioeconomic setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the development objectives set out in the third National Development Plan (NDP III).

The revenue collection target of the FY21/22 budget was US\$ 22.425 trillion and the total revenue collection is now projected at US\$ 21.486 trillion which represents a shortfall of US\$ 939 billion. Despite this revenue shortfall, domestic revenue collection has improved compared to last year. This has been on account of improved tax administration and increased economic activity following the full reopening of the economy in January 2022.

The overall deficit (including grants) for the FY2021/22 is projected at 7.3 percent of GDP which is higher than 6.4 percent projected at budget time. The deficit for the FY2021/22 was largely driven by the need to finance investments during the NDPIII period and to sustain recovery from the socioeconomic setbacks caused by Covid-19. However, this is lower than the overall deficit including grants for the previous financial year of 9 percent of GDP.

2.5 External Sector Developments

Uganda's external position strengthened in the 12 months to February 2022, reflecting external sector resilience. The financial account surplus expanded, providing sufficient cover to finance the current account deficit, resulting in an overall Balance of Payment (BOP) surplus of US\$642.2 million as of February 2022, a turnaround from a BOP deficit of US\$ 74.9 million recorded in the previous year. The favourable external position was supported by the improved economic environment associated with diminishing pandemic-related restrictions – leading up to the full reopening of the economy by the end of the year, compared with the stringent restrictions imposed in the 12 months to February 2021.

2.6 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Through the Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF), the government of Uganda has continued to register significant performance over the last eleven years with a portfolio standing at US\$ 669.9 billion extended to 2,063 eligible agricultural projects across the country up from US\$ 21.0 billion in 2010 when the scheme was operationalized. The ACF performance demonstrates resilience despite the Covid-19 pandemic ravaging effects on the country's economy.

The ACF is playing a leading role in providing short, medium to long-term financing towards private sector investments and projects engaged in primary agriculture, agro-processing and value addition, post-harvest management, the grain trade, commercialization and modernization of agriculture. The core objective of the ACF is to enhance job creation, augment household income and boost export promotion.

Generally, agriculture, forestry and fishing sector grew by 4.3 percent, the same growth rate recorded the previous financial year. The sector contributed 24.1 percent to total economic output. This performance was largely driven by growth in food and cash crop production, livestock as well as recovery in fishing activities. Within the agriculture sector, there was a general increase in production of food and cash crops; and in particular, coffee receipts increased from USD 279 million to USD 811 million.

2.7. Industrial Production and Manufacturing

The industry sector registered growth of 5.4 percent from 3.5 percent the previous financial year 2021/2022. This was supported by strong growth in manufacturing, construction as well as mining and quarrying subsectors. Growth in manufacturing was largely on account of increased activity in processing and preserving of meat, grain milling, pharmaceuticals and production of edible oils & fats. Increase in public and private construction activities drove growth in the construction subsector while increase in mineral exploration activities drove growth in the mining and quarrying sub-sector. The industry sector is projected to contribute 28.6 percent to our GDP for the FY2022/23.

2.8. Services

Employment in services sector in Uganda was reported at 20.94 % in 2020, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators. It is no doubt that in the FY 2021/22 the services sector was still the largest contributor to GDP at 41.5 percent.

The services sector further grew by 3.8 percent in FY2021/22 from 2.8 percent registered the previous financial year. This was on account of strong recovery in wholesale and retail trade by 2.5 percent from a decline of 0.6 percent the previous financial year; growth in real estate activities by 9.4 percent from 3.9 percent in FY 2020/21; recovery in education services by 1.9 percent from an earlier decline of 4.2 percent; and recovery of tourism services following the reopening of the economy.

2.9. Terms of Trade

In 2016/17, both the price index of exports and imports increased. However, the price of exports relatively increased compared to imports, leading to terms of trade of 130.3 in 2016/17 from 130.2 in the previous year, reflecting an improvement in the demand of Ugandan exports in regional and international markets.

This is a short-term improvement that needs to be further boosted. Uganda still relies mainly on raw commodity exports with the contribution to total export earnings in FY 2016/17 from main commodities such as coffee at 15.5 per cent; gold (10.7 percent) fish and its products (4.1 percent) and oil re-export (3.9 percent). Part of the challenge arises from the high informal cross border trade exports which stand at 15.3 per cent of total exports.

2.10. Major destinations of Uganda's exports

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regional bloc remained the main destination for Uganda's exports throughout the last five years. The combined exports earnings (formal and informal exports) from COMESA increased from US\$ 1,129.95 million (42.2 percent) in 2015/16 to US\$ 1,243.3 million (46.4 percent) in 2016/17. Among the countries that recorded significant export earnings for Uganda within the COMESA region were; Kenya, South Sudan, and Democratic Republic of Congo accounting for US\$ 440.27 million, US\$ 297.99 million and US\$ 190.36 million respectively in 2016/17. Export earnings from Kenya were the highest among the COMESA countries, with a share of 16.4 percent in 2016/17.

The European Union and Middle East are the second largest destinations of exports, both bringing in a share of 18.9 percent of Uganda's export earnings.

3.0. EDUCATION

3.1. Primary Education

Government continues to implement its Universal Primary Education (UPE) program for all Government aided primary schools to ensure education for all children of school going age. This program was started in 1997. The key objective for its establishment was the realization of the right to education by every citizen enabling all children of school going age to access basic education. Government has implemented a policy of at least one primary school per parish which has enabled 84% of children living within 3km radius to access a primary school.

3.2. Enrollment trends

The enrollment of both girls and boys has been increasing over the years. Enrollment in UPE increased by 8% (536,376 pupils) from 7,036,366 pupils in FY 2015/2016 to 7,572,742 in FY 2020/2021. The Education Abstract, 2017 indicates that out of the 8,840,589 pupils enrolled in all primary schools, 11.8% were orphans and that there was a total enrolment of 172,846 Special Needs children in primary schools with 52.6 % male and 47.4 % female.

Secondary school enrollment increased by 33.8% from a total of 1,457,277 learners in FY 2015/16 to 1,949,248 learners in FY 2019/20. Enrollment of formal Business, Technical, Vocational Education Training (BTVET) skilling programs increased by 21.8% from 48,072 students in FY 2015/16 to 58,568 students in FY 2019/20. From FY 2016/20 females accounted for 60.9% of learners in non-formal BTVET programs. Enrollment in primary subsector increased by 24.5% from 8,655,924 learners in FY2016/17 to 10,777,846 in FY 2019 /2020.

Enrollment in Higher Education increased from 254,043 students in FY 2015/ 16 to 275,254 students by end of FY 2018/19. Female enrollment increased by 10.5% from 113,210 in FY 2015/16 to 125,064 in FY 2018/19 in the Higher Education sector.

3.3. Measures put in place by Government to maintain retention of learners in school.

With continuous guidance and counseling, all children are encouraged to stay in school and to complete school. The parents and guardians have been encouraged to feed their children while at school. Schools are required to ensure that the school environment is safe and friendly to the learners. Government outlawed corporal punishment and provided alternative forms of positive discipline to ensure correction of behavioral problems in children. It is mandatory for all schools to carry out co-curricular activities including games and sports as well as music, dance and drama and to organize career days. However, a number of factors still affect retention levels including orphanhood, teenage pregnancy, absenteeism, famine, floods and petty trade.

Nevertheless, Government has continued to put in place policies to ensure access to education including the revised National Gender in Education Policy, 2016; the National Girls Education Strategic Plan, 2014-2019; and the National Strategy to end Child Marriage and Teenage pregnancy, 2015-2020 which are undergoing review. Government has put in place various interventions to prevent girls from dropping out of school including Guidelines for Senior Women and Senior Men Teachers, 2020 to provide psychosocial support to school girls and boys, Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene Management for Schools, 2021; and Guidelines on Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy and Re-entry of Teenage Mothers in School, 2020; and has finalized the Regulatory Impact Assessment for school health policy for cabinet approval. Government developed the National Guidelines for Post Primary Institutions Guidance and Counseling Programme, 2017.

3.4. Secondary Education

A good number of children transit to secondary schools and other Universal Post Primary Education and Training (UPPET) institutions throughout the country. The Education and Sports Sector Fact Sheet 2002 to 2016 indicates a total of 1,058 Government schools of which 898 are Universal Secondary Education (USE) Schools and 136 are Non-USE Government Schools. The country has 840 USE Private Schools under the Public Private Partnership and 1,196 Non USE Private schools.

Enrolment in all Secondary schools stands at 1,457,277 with 765,406 boys and girls 691,871(47.5%) of total enrollment. The gender trends indicate the percentage of girls in Secondary schools between 2013 to 2016 as 47.0%,46.9%, 47.4% and 47.5% respectively. Enrolment growth rate rose from 8.9% in 2013 to 13.5% in 2016.

Increased enrolment and retention are partly due to the increased number of teachers (from 61,100 in 2013 to 67,209 in 2016), increased number of Government Seed Schools with additional 117 Seed Secondary Schools in sub counties without a public secondary school, and providing grants to 182 Community Secondary Schools to strengthen the Universal Secondary

Education (USE) program. An increased pass rates at primary as well as increased number of learners sitting Primary Leaving Examinations (from 494,839 in 2013 to 541,086 in 2016) have contributed to enrollment rates at secondary schools.

3.5. Tertiary Education

Government has continued to ensure access to education by opening up public universities at regional level. To date, the country has 9 Government (Public) Universities including; Makerere, Mbarara, Gulu, Kyambogo, Busitema, Muni, Kabale, Lira and Soroti. In addition to the universities, here are two Government Degree awarding institutions i.e. Uganda Management Institute (UMI) and Makerere University Business School (MUBS). The Government has also created an enabling environment that has supported the establishment 32 Private universities.

3.6 Literacy Levels

According to the last Population census conducted in 2014, the literacy rate of the population aged 10 years and above was 72.2 %. However, the Uganda National Survey Report 2019/2020 indicates that the literacy rate for persons aged 10 years and above was estimated at 76 percent, a slight increase from 74 percent in the 2016/17 and 72.2 % in 2014. The literacy rate was higher for males (81%) than females (72%) in 2019/20. Nine in every ten children aged 6-12 years (91%), eight in every ten persons aged 13-18 years (79%) and 23 percent persons aged 19-24 years were currently attending school in 2019/20. The Primary School Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for Uganda was estimated at 117 percent and the GER for girls was slightly higher than that of boys (118% and 116%, respectively).

In order to improve the quality of education a National Teacher Policy (2019) has been developed to among others to cater for training, recruitment, deployment and motivation of teachers. Secondary Teacher recruitment increased by 9,873 between FY 2015/16 and FY 2020/21 which improved the teacher: student ratio from 1:22 to 1:17 between 2016 to 2020.

Government increased budget allocation for inspection and supervision of education institutions by 73% from UGX 8.83 BN in FY 2016/17 to UGX 15.46 BN in FY 2020/21. The total budget allocation to the education sector has increased from 20,401.33BN in financial year 2016/2017 to 35,732.12BN in financial year 2020/2021. Funding of UGX 14.4BN annually has been provided to procure instructional materials for primary schools during the reporting period.

4.0.HEALTH

Government has continued to take steps to ensure the country achieves universal health care coverage including robust measures to reduce still births, infant and maternal mortality.

Access to healthcare (as measured by the proportion of people within a 5-kilometre radius of a health facility) is currently at 91% (UNHS 2019/20) compared to 84% in 2016, and with 81% of lower level primary health care facilities (Health Centre IVs) offering caesarean section compared to 60% 5 years ago. Quality of perinatal care improvement initiatives such as Maternal and perinatal death reviews to analyze maternal and perinatal deaths and institute measures to address causes of preventable deaths have been scaled up. Although the infant mortality rate is estimated at 43 per 1000 live births (UDHS 2016), other child health indicators such as still birth rates have markedly reduced from 13 per 1000 live births in FY 2015/16 to 9 per 1000 live births in FY 19/2020.

According to the Health Management Information System (HMIS), there has been a 17% reduction in maternal deaths from 119/100,000 facility delivery in FY 2015/16 to 99/100,000 in FY 2019/20. This is a result of multiple interventions such as improved financing for RMNCAH including implementation of Results Based Financing Schemes, improved supply chain for reproductive health commodities, recruitment of more health workers especially mid-wives, as well as increasing the number of lower level health facilities offering Basic Emergency obstetric and neonatal care among others.

A national HIV Legal-Policy Environment Assessment (LEA) commenced in 2021 to assess the extent to which the existing laws, regulations, and policies ensure protection for those affected by HIV which will inform development of an action plan. Uganda adopted the Test and Treat Policy and effectively optimized treatment with high efficacious Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) for children, adolescents and adults. A third line antiretroviral treatment to manage children, adolescents and adults failing on treatment has been rolled out. Uganda registered a 42% reduction in HIV new infections from 66,000 in 2015 to 37,000 in 2020. Both HIV prevalence, and incidence (new infections) have tremendously reduced in the past 9 years. New HIV infections have reduced and currently at 1.3 per 1000 susceptible infections, which is below the national target of reducing new infections to 3.5 /1000 by 2021/22.

Further the HIV prevalence reduced by 24% from 7.1% in 2014 to 5.5% 2022.

Mortality due to HIV has equally reduced by 61% from 56000 HIV related deaths to 22,000 in 2020.

Peri natal infections have dropped from over 20,000 new infections in 2011 to about 5,600 new infections in 2019. There was an increase in antiretroviral treatment coverage from 64% in FY 2015/16 to 89% FY 2019/20.

HMIS has been strengthened to ensure complete and timely reporting of quality data to facilitate evidence based decision making. The HMIS tools were revised to address the data needs at all levels and the (District Health Information Software (DHIS) 2 upgraded. Timeliness of the monthly HMIS reporting from health facilities improved by 8% from 79% in 2015/16 to 85% in 2019/20 and completeness of HMIS Reporting (HMIS monthly Report 105) has also been

sustained at over 95% completeness. Government has embarked on digitalisation of the health information system and with support from has rolled out the Electronic Medical Record System (EMRS) to 11 Regional Referral Hospitals to enhance efficiency and quality of data. The Ministry of Health is in the process of developing the National Health Information Exchange Registries (Client, Health Workers, Health Facilities and Health Product).

The Malaria Indicator Survey showed a 50% drop in prevalence of malaria from 19% in 2014 to 9.35% in 2019. Subsequently, the number of malaria deaths per 100,000 persons reduced from 21 in 2015 to 8.3 in 2019. At least 90% of malaria cases are appropriately managed in health facilities, and in communities to avert deaths that could arise due to delayed initiation of treatment. Although there has been an increase in new cases 2021/22 due to climate change (Flooding), the overall mortality due to malaria has markedly reduced by 60% from 22 deaths per 100,000 persons per year in 2015/15 to 8.9 deaths per 100,000 persons per year in 2021/22

4.1. Infant and Maternal Mortality.

The 6th UDHS report of 2016 places IMR and MMR at 43 deaths per 1,000 live births and 320 per 100,000 live births respectively. The 7th UDHS is underway which will facilitate evaluation of the impact of Government interventions that are targeting reduction of maternal and infant mortality, albeit there has been a significant reduction in institutional maternal mortality rate by 28% from 119/100,000 facility delivery in 2015/16 to 85/100,000 deliveries in 2021/22

In addition, institutional perinatal deaths have reduced by 51% from 37.8 deaths per 1000 live births in 2015/16 to 18.5 deaths per 1000 live births in 2021/22.

4.2. Governance and infrastructure

In Uganda, both the public and private sectors play an important role in health. The public sector includes all health facilities under the Ministry of Health, as well as the health services provided under the Ministries of Defense (the military), Internal Affairs (Police and Prisons), Education and Sports, and Local Government (MoLG). There are also Public-Private Partnerships for health (PPPH) framework where government and the private sector cooperate to deliver critically needed services including immunization and HIV/AIDS control.

The total number of facilities increased from 6,404 in 2016/17 to 6,937 in 2017/18 representing a percentage change of 8.3. Health services are provided by public, private not for profit (PNFP), private health providers (PHP) and traditional and complementary medicines practitioners (TCMP). As of 2018, there is a total of 6,937 health facilities. These include national and regional referral hospitals, administered at central level, and HC II-IV administered through Local Governments (LGs). The Government of Uganda (Gou) is undertaking the upgrade of all HC IIs and ensuring the presence of a HC IIIs in each sub-county.

Uganda's health facilities are classified into seven levels based on the services they provide and the catchment area they are intended to serve. The health facilities are designated as Health

Centre level one (HC I) to Health Centre Level four (HC IV) at the Parish, Sub-county and county levels; General hospital, Regional Referral hospital and National Referral hospital. The Special clinics are health facilities with specialized services provided e.g. The Aids Support Organisation (TASO) Sites offer HIV related services only.

Government is implementing a “Health center III” Per sub county policy and in order to realize this target, Health Center (HC) IIs have been upgraded to HC III, and selected HCIII to IVs. The goal is to extend quality primary health care service, reproductive health rights and especially emergency maternal neonatal and obstetric care services closest to all Ugandans.

Infrastructural upgrades to secondary and tertiary health institutional boosts have been undertaken, including construction of 4 National Referral Hospitals, 2 Regional Referral Hospitals, and renovation of General Hospitals. Construction of 3 blood Banks under construction at Soroti Regional Hospital, Arua Regional Referral Hospitals, Hoima Regional Referral Hospitals. The blood banks in Hoima and Arua serve refugees host communities.

Equipment have procured including advanced laboratory and imaging diagnostics to respond to emerging epidemics such as COVID-19 and Ebola, and further improve quality of care of patients at all levels.

The government has operationalized the emergency medical services policy. Government has targeted establishment of 12 regional ambulance hubs, 2 have been established at Naguru National referral hospital and Masaka Regional Referral Hospital. The country now has a total pool of 179 functional ambulances distributed equitably across the country.

4.3. Health Financing

Budget allocation to health in the past five years increased from UGX 1.271 trillion in FY 2015/16 to UGX 3.3 trillion in FY 2021/22. Funds are equitably rationed using a budget allocation formula which incorporates variables such as catchment population, disease burden and geographical location. In the last five years, Uganda National Referral Hospitals increased from 2 to 5; Specialised hospitals increased from 2 to 5; 2 general hospitals (Kayunga and Yumbe) have been renovated, expanded, equipped and upgraded to Regional Referral Hospitals. A total of 158 Health Centre (HC) IIs were completed in FY 2018/19 and 2019/20 under the Uganda Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer Reform Program and the remaining 173 are being upgraded in a phased manner under various programs; UgIFT, URMCHIP and Karamoja Infrastructure Development Project.

National Health Accounts (NHA) study findings revealed that Uganda’s total health expenditure (THE) was UGX 4.749 billion, UGX 5.241 billion, and UGX 5.492 billion for the FYs 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 respectively. This constituted current health expenditure (CHE) of UGX 4.607 billion, UGX 5.107 billion, and UGX 5.273 billion for the FYs 2016/17, 2017/18 and

2018/19 respectively. Capital health expenditure (HK) was UGX 0.141 billion, UGX 0.134 billion, and UGX 0.219 billion for the FYs 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 respectively. Given Uganda's estimated population of 37 million, 38 million and 39 million people for FYs 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 respectively, THE per capita was UGX 123,237 (\$36.0), UGX 136,019 (\$37.2) and UGX 138,073 (\$36.9).

4.4. Health Service Delivery

Staffing levels at the Central Government level institutions is at an average of 77%, Local Governments General hospitals and Health Centre's is at 69%, Municipal councils at 63% while the national average is 73%.

According to the National Hospital Census Report, 2015, there were 1,503 doctors, 1223 clinical officers, and 8453 nurses/midwives in hospitals/HC IVs. This translates into 0.43 doctors, 0.35 clinical officers and 2.43 nurses/midwives per 10,000 population or one doctor for 23,191 people, one clinical officer for 28,501 people, and one nurse/midwife for 4,124 people.

4.5. Access to Health Care Services.

Access to healthcare has improved with 91% living within 5km radius from a health facility compared to 81% in 2016. Further, 88% of lower level primary health care facilities (Health Centre IVs) offering caesarean section compared to 60% in 2017/18 (5 years ago).

There has been an increase in the modern contraceptive prevalence rate by 3.3% from 35% in 2015 to 38.8% in 2022 and as a result, 1,430,000 unintended pregnancies being prevented, over 355,000 unsafe abortions averted, and 3,900 maternal deaths averted.

4.6. Government interventions aimed at staff retention

Government enhanced the salary of all medical officers at all levels at all levels in Uganda. In addition, Government has also undertaken rehabilitation and equipping of the health facilities to provide a conducive environment for health workers in all the 14 regional referral hospitals under the capital development funds and 30 General hospitals and 22 HCIVs was health IVs funded largely by PHC development grant and project funding such as the World Bank supported Uganda Health System Strengthening Project (UHSSP, 2011-17). The hospitals were renovated under the UHSSP project include Entebbe, Nakaseke, Mityana, Kiryandongo, Nebbi, Anaka, Iganga and Moyo.

Under UHSSP, cumulatively since 2011 to date, up 797 health workers have been awarded scholarships and most of these have completed their studies. These covered hard to reach areas.

Because of the above investments in health infrastructure, the hospital census of 2014 indicated that 78% (11/14) of regional referral hospitals and 63% of general hospitals reported having

some form of staff accommodation. Although the analyses have not focused on the proportion of health workers accommodated, it is estimated that between 40% and 50% of the health workers are provided with accommodation.

4.7. Number of Health Centers/Hospitals and Ownership

YEAR	2004				2014/2015			
	Govt	PNFP	Private	Total	GOVT	PNFP	Private	Total
Hospitals	55	42	4	101	64	65	23	147
Health Centre IV	151	12	2	165	170	15	8	193
Health Centre III	718	164	22	904	937	272	70	1,279
Health Centre II					1696	522	1387	3,605
Total					2867	874	1488	5229

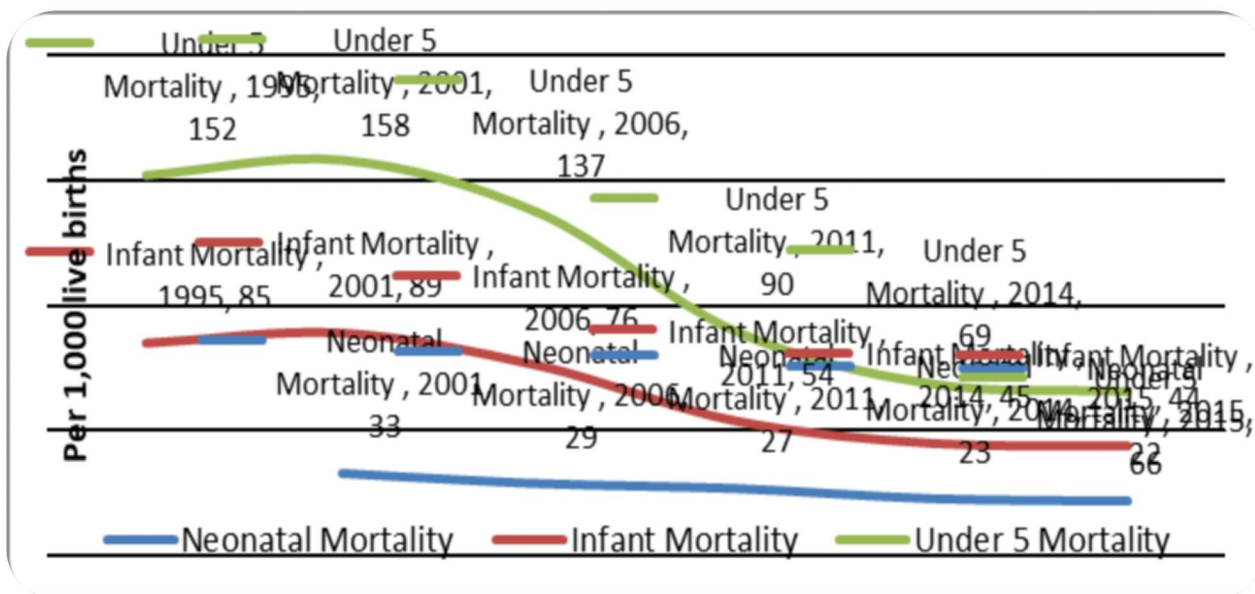
Currently with 147 hospitals and 193 Health Centre IVs, a target of having at least a hospital or Health Centre IV per 100,000 people has been achieved. Similarly, the country has on average a regional referral hospital per about 2,250,000 people while a Health Centre III and II covers 27,665 and 9,808 people respectively.

Average Distance to Health Facilities/Health Providers; over 80% of the population are within 5km to the nearest health facility.

4.8. Immunization coverage

The children under one year immunized with 3rd dose of Pentavalent vaccine was at 79% according to the UDHS 2016.

The under five children receiving doses of vitamin A is at 28% (28% for females and 27% males). This trend has been going down due to reduction in frequency of the Child Health Days. The DPT3 coverage stands at 79% in 2016 (UDHS 2016). Measles immunization coverage has improved from 72% in 2009/10 to 80% in 2015 (UDHS 2016).



The table shows trends in the child mortality rates from 1995 to 2015. The rates have been declining and the latest data for the UDHS 2016 also highlighted below;

Under 5 mortality trends moved from 90 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011 to 64 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016. (UDHS 2016)

The infant mortality rate has been reducing over time and it now stands at 43 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016 from 54% death per 1,000 live births in 2011. (UDHS, 2016)

Neonatal mortality has had a slow progress moving from 27 deaths per 1,000 live births to 22 deaths per 1000 live births in 2015. (AHSPR 2015/1)

PART II: LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MEASURES TAKEN BY UGANDA SINCE THE LAST REPORTING TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE CHARTER

ARTICLE 1 – LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES ADOPTED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE CHARTER.

Legislative measures

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda

As mentioned in our earlier reports, Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 domesticates the rights enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Constitution recognizes that fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals are inherent and not granted by the State and that they shall be respected, upheld and promoted by all organs and agencies of Government and by all persons.

In the period under review, the Government has enacted a number of laws and undertaken a number of administrative measures to give effect to the charter, namely;

- (a) The Children (Amendment) Act 2016 enhances protection of children in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC);
- (b) The Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019 protects the privacy of the individual and of personal data in compliance with the ICCPR;
- (c) The Mental Health Act, 2018 protects the rights of persons with mental illness in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
- (d) The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations, 2017 operationalizes the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture, Act, 2012 (PPTA) in compliance with the Convention Against Torture, Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);
- (e) The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Misc. (Amendment) Act, 2019 removes references to the mandatory penalty in specific legislation and restricts the application of the death penalty to the most serious offences in compliance with the ICCPR;
- (f) The Human Rights Enforcement Act, 2019 gives effect to Article 50 (4) of the Constitution by providing for the procedure of enforcing human rights under Chapter Four of the Constitution in conformity with the ICCPR; and the
- (g) Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 provides for the respect and promotion of the fundamental and other human rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities in compliance with the CRPD.
- (h) The Leadership Code (Amendment) Act, 2017 gives effect to article 235A of the Constitution by providing for the establishment, composition, jurisdiction and functions of the Leadership Code Tribunal and strengthens the enforcement of the Code .

- (i) National Environment Act 2019, provides for the management of the environment for sustainable development; continues the existence of National Environment Management Authority as a coordinating, monitoring, regulatory and supervisory body for all activities relating to the environment; provides for emerging environmental issues including climate change, the management of hazardous chemicals and biodiversity offsets and strategic environmental assessment; addresses environmental concerns arising out of petroleum activities and midstream operations, provides for the management of plastics and plastic products; establishes the Environmental Protection Force and provides for enhanced penalties for offences under the Act.
- (j) The Anti-Money Laundering(Amendment) Act 2017 amends the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2013 and provides for the carrying out of risk assessments by accountable persons; the identification of customers and clients of accountable persons; procedures relating to suspicious transactions; and harmonises the record keeping requirements and exchange of information obligations in compliance with international practice
- (k) The Labour Disputes (Arbitration and Settlement) (Amendment Act), 2020, amends the Labour Disputes (Arbitration and Settlement) Act,2006 and provides for the official seal, , the composition, and empowers the powers of the Industrial Court; the terms and conditions of appointment of the Head Judge and other Judges of the Industrial Court to be similar to those of the Judges of the High Court; and the appointment of the Registrar, Deputy Registrar and Assistant Registrar of the Industrial Court.
- (l) The Computer Misuse (Amendment) Act, 2022 amends the Computer Misuse Act, 2011 to enhance the provisions on unauthorised access to information or data; prohibits the sharing of any information relating to a child without authorisation from a parent or guardian; prohibits the sending or sharing of information that promotes hate speech; to provide for the prohibition of sending or sharing false, malicious and unsolicited information; restricts persons convicted of any offence under the Computer Misuse Act, 2011 from holding public office for a period of ten years
- (m)The Succession (Amendment) Act, 2022 seeks to refine the definition of a customary heir or heiress to eliminate discrimination and provides for the protection of principal residential property for the benefit of the surviving spouse and lineal dependants among other things. The law also enhances equal access to property rights for women and addresses cultural/traditional and historical injustices especially against women and girls on property ownership, access and control especially after the death of their spouses.
- (n) The National Council for Older Persons Act, 2013 provides for the establishment of the National Council for Older Persons the objects, composition and functions of The National Council; a Secretariat of the national council and the executive secretary and other staff; lower councils for older persons; election of representatives of older persons and provides for financial provisions of the national council. .

- (o) The Local Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020 amends the Local Governments Act, Cap.243 to remove the age requirements for a person to qualify for election as chairperson of a municipality, town, division or sub county.
- (p) The National Council for Disability (Amendment) Act, 2013 amends the National Council for Disability Act, 2003 to spell out the assistance the Council is required to give to the Electoral Commission under section 6(1) (i) of that Act and to introduce Schedule A to provide for elections of representatives of persons with disabilities and Schedule B to provide for disability coding.
- (q) The Building Control Act, 2013 consolidates, harmonizes and amends the law relating to the erection of buildings; provides for building standards establishes a National Building Review Board and Building Committees; promotes and ensures planned, decent and safe building structures that are developed in harmony with the environment.
- (r) The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (Amendment) Act, 2013 amends the Uganda National Bureau of Standards Act, reduces the number of the Council; provides for the term of service for members; provides for different penalties for offences under the Act; empowers the Bureau to administer the weights and measures Act; provides immunity to officers of the Bureau for acts done in good faith; empowers the director to suspend or seize premises for noncompliance with national standards or to destroy perishable goods not in compliance with national standards and detrimental to health and safety of consumers; and empowers the Minister to ban commodities, products and processes detrimental to the health and safety of consumers..
- (s) The Public Finance Management Act, 2015 requires that that plans and budgets are gender and equity responsive.
- (t) The Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, 2020 amends the Parliamentary Elections Act, 2005 to require the Electoral Commission to designate restricted areas and to provide for a special procedure for voting in restricted areas.
- (u) Government issued various statutory orders under the Public Health Act Cap. 281 in order to safeguard the right to life. These include the Public health (Prohibition of Entry into Uganda) Order SI 53/2020; the Public Health (Control of COVID -19) Rules SI 83/2020, and the Public Health (Notification of COVID-19) Order, SI 45/2020.

Other measures

The Government has adopted several policies in this reporting period. These include:

1. The Uganda National Youth Policy, 2016 which is premised on the need to address a range of challenges that the youth face in the development process as well as harness their potential to contribute to national development;

2. The National Social Protection Policy 2016 which is a policy framework aimed at reducing poverty and social economic inequalities for inclusive development through provision of platforms upon which Ugandans can build productive and sustainable livelihoods, improve social welfare and consequently reduce poverty among the vulnerable groups;
3. The National Child policy, 2020, aimed at improving the realization and enjoyment of all children’s rights to survival, development, protection and participation by all children in Uganda;
4. The National Equal Opportunities Policy, 2022 which replaced the National Equal Opportunities Policy, 2006 which became obsolete after 16 years of implementation. The Policy has been revised to provide solutions to new emerging issues that were affecting rights of individuals and aligning the Policy to the current legal and policy frameworks at international, regional and national levels, for instance the SDGs, Vision 2040 and NDPIII priorities.

Uganda Vision 2040 and National Development Plans (NDPs)

The Uganda Vision 2040 and National Development Plans (NDPs) are some of the mechanisms government has put in place to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights. The Uganda Vision 2040 aspires to transform Uganda from a peasant to a modern country within 30 years and underscores the importance of social protection to address risks and vulnerabilities. These aspirations were incorporated in NDPI (2010/11 – 2014/15), NDPII (2015/16-2019/20), and NDPIII (2020/21– 2024/25) which provide the planning framework for Uganda. The NDPs are implemented through five-year cycles.

NDP III aims to build on the progress made, lessons learnt from the planning and implementation experiences of NDP I and NDP II, and addresses some of the Challenges encountered. Government is implementing the NDP III with the overall aim of achieving sustainable industrialization for inclusive growth, employment and wealth creation.

To ensure inclusive development, the NDP III has adopted the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) with particular attention to human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination, empowerment and participation and attention to vulnerable groups.

Government registered several achievements under NDP I and II. These achievements include; prevalence of sustainable peace, security and macro-economic stability; expansion of the economy by more than 2 times from UGX 64 trillion in FY 2010/11 to UGX 128 trillion in FY 2018/19 in nominal terms; increase in national access to electricity from 11 % in 2010 to 24 % in FY 2018/19 and increase in the proportion of the labour force in paid employment from 17.3 %

in FY 2011/12 to 19.5 % in FY 2016/17. According to the Report of the Annual Labour Force Survey 2018/19, the percentage of the Population in paid employment, in FY 2016/17 was 58.7%, and FY 2017/2018 was 62.4% and FY 2018/2019 was 62.4%

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

Government is implementing the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR) 2021 which provides guidance for both state and non-state actors, in order to ensure that all business operations are conducted in line with human rights standards, so as to contribute to positive human rights outcomes including creation of jobs, provision of health services and contributing to the advancement of equality by providing opportunities for marginalized groups.

Covid-19 responses

The Government of Uganda's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been applauded worldwide. Government deliberately prioritized the right to life because without this right the other rights cannot be enjoyed. Government like in many other countries, came up with strategies and guidelines to fight the pandemic which included; suspension of public transport, closure of places of entertainment, schools, places of worship, markets and public rallies. In addition, Government through Ministry of Health inevitably put in place Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Government also constituted the Anti-COVID-19 National Taskforce which was mandated with the enforcement of the Ministry of Health guidelines and presidential directives geared towards public health and safety. Government has gradually lifted a number of Covid-19 restrictions and the Country is back to normalcy.

Other social protection measures implemented by Government to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic include the distribution of relief aid to the vulnerable persons. The Covid-19 relief aid was in the form of funds as well as food to the urban poor, low income households, nursing mothers, persons with disabilities and older persons. In order to support children who were out of school due to lockdown measures, Government introduced online learning and home learning through the distribution of education materials to all school going children in the Country

In addition, Government has vaccinated 16, 672,943 million people and administered 22,965,496 total Covid-19 doses as of July 2022. Vaccination is still on going. These measures achieved relative success in limiting transmission and fatalities.

The National Action Plan on Human Rights (NAP)

The Government is in the final stages of developing the NAP on Human Rights.

The NAP is being developed through a consultative and participatory process by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights composed of various Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government and had input from a number of actors, including civil society, academia, community-based organizations, religious and cultural leaders, among others. The NAP has the vision of: A Ugandan Society Based on Respect for Human Rights and Committed to the Human Rights Based Approach for Sustainable and Inclusive Development. The objective of the NAP is to provide a comprehensive guide on the promotion and protection of human rights in Uganda.

Publication of Annual Reports

The UHRC and EOC in line with their statutory mandates compile and publish annual reports on the situation of human rights in the country. The reports are submitted to the Human Rights Committee of Parliament for follow up and accountability on the implementation of its recommendations by all ministries, departments and agencies of Government.

The Annual Reports of the UHRC and EOC reflect government efforts or interventions in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as highlight the concerns that require redress to victims and castigation of the perpetrators of human rights violations. In this regard, the Annual Reports of the UHRC and EOC provide a benchmark for accountability for human rights observance in the country.

Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights

Government established an Inter-Ministerial Technical Steering Committee on Human Rights. The Committee is composed of representatives of ministries, departments and agencies of Government. The mandate of this Committee is to provide technical support, to coordinate and assess Uganda's state reporting and human rights recommendations from treaty bodies and other foreign mechanisms.

Focal points have been created to ensure that human rights programs and policies are mainstreamed in their respective institutions.

ARTICLE 2: THE RIGHT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION

Legislative measures

The Government is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination by putting in place legislative, policy and institutional frameworks to fight any form of discrimination in line with SDG 5.

Article 21 of the Constitution provides for equality of all persons before the law in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. This in essence guarantees protection of the right to

employment, health, housing and other related rights for all persons. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability.

Uganda is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Government has domesticated its provisions in the laws, for instance in the Domestic Violence Act 2010, and There are specific legislations to protect vulnerable groups against any form of discrimination. These include; the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007, the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016, the Mental Health Act, 2018, the Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Act, 2021, the Succession(Amendment) Act, 2021, the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2009 and the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020.

There are deliberate Government interventions intended to address any form of discrimination arising from historical imbalances in line with article 21 of the Constitution. In this regard, the Constitution under article 32 recognizes affirmative action as one of the measures to bridge the discrimination caused by the imbalances.

The Government of Uganda has continued to show commitment towards the right to equality and non-discrimination through different Government programs as well as supporting the Equal Opportunities Commission which is mandated to give effect to the State's constitutional mandate to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, creed, religion, social or economic standing, political opinion, disability, gender, age or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom.

The Equal Opportunities Commission developed and implemented the National Capacity Development Plan on Gender and Equity (2017/18-2021/22). This Plan guided a range of interventions to ensure compliance of policy and legal frameworks with non-discrimination and equal opportunities. These interventions include building the capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on affirmative action and gender and equity planning and budgeting, developing assessment tools for Budget Framework Papers and Ministerial Policy Statements to ensure their compliance with equal opportunities and affirmative action; developing gender and equity compacts for different sectors; As a result, the overall national compliance to Gender and Equity requirements has been increasing over the years.

ARTICLE 3: THE RIGHT TO EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

Legislative measures

Article 21(2) of the Constitution provides that all persons are equal before and under the law in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life and in every other respect and shall

enjoy equal protection of the law. There are other national laws that reiterate the right to equality before the law. These include the Uganda Human Rights Commission Act, Cap. 24, the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007; and the Human Rights Enforcement Act, 2019.

Government has put in place laws and policies that are of uniform application to all persons, and do not have a discriminatory effect. All Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, including the courts of law, tribunals and other quasi-judicial bodies, are required to treat all people equally when applying the law. It is also a requirement that the laws themselves provide equal protection for everyone. In this regard for example, the Government adopted the Constitution (Sentencing Guidelines for Courts of Judicature) (Practice) Directions, 2013 to provide a mechanism that promotes uniformity, consistency and transparency in sentencing.

The Courts have also effectively outlawed various provisions of the law that had sought to give an edge of protection to specific people over others. For example, in the case of *Uganda Association of Women Lawyers and Others Vs Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No. 2 of 2003 [2004] UGCC 1/2004* the provisions of the Divorce Act, Cap 249 that had sought to provide different grounds for divorce for women were outlawed. The same was done to the provisions of the succession Act in the case of *Law Advocacy for Women in Uganda Vs Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 13 of 2005, UGSC 71/2007)*. This was done in compliance with article 21 on equality before the law.

Government has intensified its efforts geared towards to the development of a legal Aid policy which will culminate into the enactment of a legal aid law intended to facilitate the right to fair hearing of indigent persons and thus affording them representation and equal footing before the courts.

ARTICLE 4: THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND INTEGRITY OF PERSONS

Legislative

Article 22 of the Constitution of Uganda provides that no person shall be deprived of the right to life except in the execution of a sentence passed in a fair trial in a court of competent jurisdiction, in respect of a criminal offence under the laws of Uganda, and the conviction and sentence has been confirmed by the highest appellate court. In furtherance to this Article, the Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Misc. (Amendment) Act, 2019 removes references to the mandatory penalty in specific legislation and restricts the application of the death penalty to the most serious offences. This enactment was prompted by the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Attorney General v Susan Kigula & 417 Others (Constitutional Appeal No.03 of 2006)* which outlawed mandatory death sentences. Similarly, the Penal Code Act, Cap 120 and the Anti-Terrorism Act 2002 which provided for mandatory death sentencing have been amended to

restrict the death penalty to the most serious crimes under those laws and to remove the restriction on mitigation in the case of convictions that carry a death penalty.

Other measures

In 2013, the Judiciary issued the Constitutional (Sentencing Guidelines for Courts of Judicature) (Practice) Directions to ensure uniformity in the exercise of discretionary powers to sentence convicts. These have highlighted the fact that the death penalty is no longer mandatory. Indeed, the last execution took place in 1999.

ARTICLE 5: THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM TORTURE, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT AND SLAVERY

Legislative measures

Article 24 of the Constitution prohibits subjecting any person to any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 44 (a) further makes this fundamental right non-derogable.

The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012 was enacted to give effect to Article 24 of the Constitution and to also domesticate the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Government also formulated the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations, 2017 to operationalize the Act. The Regulations provide a complaint and investigation procedure, among others. **Other Measures**

Security agencies have taken steps to ensure adherence to the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act. The Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) has a human rights training manual in place that has been integrated into the military training curriculum, and the Uganda Police Force (UPF) passed a human rights policy to improve the operating framework and to strengthen the police officers' observance of human rights. The Uganda Prisons Service Standing Orders 2017 incorporated the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (PPTA) provisions including prohibition and criminalization of torture.

The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) developed an Interpretive Guide to the PPTA which explains the provisions of the Act. A Guide Booklet on application of Human Rights Standards and Principles when enforcing the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act was compiled by HRCU together with the UHRC and the ACTV and distributed to prison officers. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials like posters on the PPTA were produced by HRCU together with copies of the Act.

In addition, the use of technology through acquisition of modern equipment that aids investigations and interviews to ensure that the same are carried out in a manner that is compliant with international human rights standards. Surveillance tools among security agencies have also been installed to monitor the actions of the security personnel to eliminate torture as a method of extracting information during interviews. This has led to the reduction of torture allegations against security agencies as per the UHRC Annual Reports.

The Commander in Chief of the UPDF has publicly issued several directives to all security agencies with regard to zero tolerance to torture in the course of their duties. Additionally, a circular warning from the Inspector General of Police (IGP) was issued to all Police Units in Uganda warning that Police Officers will be personally held accountable for their torturous actions.

ARTICLE 6: THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF PERSONS

Legislative measures

The right to liberty is guaranteed under Article 23 of the Constitution of Uganda which provides that no person shall be deprived of personal liberty except in execution of a sentence or an order of court; to prevent the spread of infectious or contagious diseases or; for the welfare of a person who has not attained the age of 18 years; for rehabilitation of persons who are reasonably suspected to be with mental illness. The Police Act Cap.303 gives police officers a duty to detect and bring suspects to justice which invariably empowers police officers to arrest persons who are reasonably suspected of having committed or about to commit crimes.

In the event that the right to liberty is interfered with contrary to the law, Articles 23(9) and 44(d) of the Constitution of Uganda re-affirm that the right to an order of habeas corpus is non-derogable and inviolable and therefore, cannot not be suspended. The Constitution also entitles a person who is unlawfully arrested, detained or restrained to compensation from the responsible person or authority whether it is the State, an agent of the State or a private person. The Constitution also guarantees the right to apply for bail and enjoins the State to produce arrested suspects before the courts within forty-eight hours of their arrest.

Other Measures

The Inspector General of Police and the Minister of Internal Affairs have issued guidelines to police officers in relation to the performance of their duties for instances that necessitate the deprivation of the right to liberty. The police officers have been instructed to only conduct arrests following complete investigations linking the suspects to the crimes. This is intended to safeguard the right to liberty.

ARTICLE 7: THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

Legislative measures

Article 28 provides that in the determination of civil rights and obligations or any criminal charge, a person shall be entitled to a fair, speedy and public hearing before an independent and impartial court or tribunal established by law

The Government of Uganda has introduced procedural measures within the justice system with a view to facilitating speedy and fair trials before courts of law. These include the Judicature (Plea Bargaining) Rules of 2016; the Judicature (Mediation) Rules 2013; Judicature (Amicus Curie) Rules of 2022; The Judicature (Visual-Audio Link) Rules, 2016.

The Administration of Judiciary Act, 2020 augments article 128 (1) and (2) of the Constitution which provides for the independence of the courts of law in execution of their judicial duties, devoid of the control or direction of any person or authority.

The right to legal representation is guaranteed under article 28 (3) (d) and (e). This article was further operationalized by the Judicature (Legal Representation) at the Expense of the State Rules, 2022.

Other measures

Government is in the process of developing a National Legal Aid Policy and a National Legal Aid Act to facilitate Government funded delivery of legal aid services to all poor and vulnerable persons in order to enhance speedy processing of cases and promote fair and impartial trials.

All citizens and none citizens operating in Ugandan Space have access to the judiciary and therefore have a right to have a day in court. Even at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic Government put in place measures to ensure access to the courts and legal representation.

The independence of the Judiciary has been strengthened by the enactment of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020 making it a self-accounting institution and providing for its effective and efficient administration, thus the budget of the judiciary was enhanced. Parliament passed a resolution to increase the number of high court judges to 82. The Judicial Service Commission has progressively implemented the resolution of Parliament and as at August, 2022 the Judiciary has been sourced with 8 Supreme Court Judges, 15 Court of Appeal Judges, and 72 High Court Judges and 394 Magistrates and 54 Registrars.

ARTICLE 8: THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE, PROFESSION AND PRACTICE OF RELIGION

Legislative measures

Article 29 (1) (c) of the Constitution of Uganda Article 29(1) (c) provides for freedom to practice any religion and manifest such practice which shall include the right to belong to and participate in the practices of any religious body or organization in a manner consistent with the Constitution. The Constitution under Article 21 out-laws discrimination based on many grounds including religion or belief.

Other measures

The Government of Uganda has also taken measures to not only avoid religious based discrimination or persecution but also facilitate the right to practice religion. The National Curriculum Development Centre launched the ordinary level curriculum in 2017 that encourages teaching and practicing of all faiths in both primary and secondary schools.

The people have the liberty to establish centres of worship without any hindrance provided that they do not contravene the law. The government considers religious institutions as important partners for development especially in areas of family protection, gender equality, prevention of domestic and gender-based violence, justice and moral restoration among others. Government is developing a policy framework to promote the coordination of religious and faith based organization activities. A draft policy was generated in 2018 and is currently under discussion among the relevant stakeholders.

In addition to the above, there is also the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda which is an indigenous, national faith-based organization uniting efforts of religious institutions to jointly address issues of common concern. The inter-Religious Council of Uganda is affiliated to Religions for peace international, the African Council for Religions leaders, the East African Community-inter Religions Council and the Global Women and Youth of Faith Networks.

In order to promote a more religiously tolerant environment, the Government continues to adhere to the Constitution which encourages diverse religious population and the exercise of various faiths.

ARTICLE 9: THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Legislative measures

The Government continues to respect existing legislations that protect the right to access to information as contained in the laws that were enumerated in our previous reports.

The Ministry of Information and National Guidance issued guidelines under the Access to Information Act to ease access to information in Uganda.

The Data Protection and Privacy Act was passed in February, 2019 to protect the privacy of the individual and of personal data by regulating the collection and processing of personal information; to provide for the rights of the persons whose data is collected and the obligations of data processors and data controllers; to regulate the use or disclosure of personal information; and for related matters.

Other measures

The Government has progressively enhanced access to information and communication with the public on matters of national interest and development. Government has established various ways of releasing information to members of the public and also respects the right of members to seek and receive public information regarding the various government programmes. These include publication of various Government reports on official websites and in the media (for example, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is obliged to publish in local newspapers Quarterly Financial Releases made to all Government Agencies) as well as communicating to the public key decisions and programmes of Government after Cabinet meetings. In addition, government institutions have been accorded free air time on radios and televisions to communicate various government programmes. This is further complimented by community outreaches to inform and educate members of the public about government programmes, human rights and economic empowerment initiatives among others. All ministries and agencies are obliged to develop and publish client charters to inform the users of performance standards.

Uganda's liberalized private media has exponentially grown over the years with an increase in private radio and television stations, that serve as a major medium of mass communication. The emergence and extensive use of social media platforms for communication by both public institutions and the general public has enhanced access and use of public information.

ARTICLE 10: THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Legislative measures

Article 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of Uganda provides that every person shall have the right to freedom of association which includes the freedom to form and join associations or unions, including trade unions and political and other civic organizations. Uganda continues to abide by these constitutional provisions.

Government enacted the Non-Government Organizations Act, 2016 to provide a conducive and an enabling environment for the NGO sector, to strengthen and promote the capacity of NGOs

and their mutual partnership with Government, among others. In addition, the Non-Governmental Organizations Regulations, 2017 were issued to operationalize the Act.

ARTICLE 11: THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Legislative Measures

Article 29 (1) (d) of the Constitution of Uganda provides that every person shall have the freedom to assemble and to demonstrate together with others peacefully and unarmed and to petition.

The Public Order Management Act, 2013 provides for the regulation of public meetings; the duties and responsibilities of the police, organizers and participants in relation to public meetings; and prescribes measures for safeguarding public order. However, Section 8 of the POMA was declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional court in the case of Human Rights Network Uganda and four others vs. Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No. 56 of 2013. Consequently, the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC) is in the process of reviewing the law to give effect to this decision.

The Uganda Police Force developed and implements a Police Human Rights Policy as a measure to ensure a human rights based approach in policing that includes regulation of public assemblies.

In addition, the Interparty Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD) was formed by political parties to enhance cooperation and collaboration cross party lines as a commitment to put Uganda first. Government is also in the process of drafting Regulation to operationalize the implementation of the Public Order Management Act.

ARTICLE 12: THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE WITHIN THE BORDERS OF THE STATE

Legislative Measures

Uganda continues to abide by its Constitutional obligations. The Constitution under Article 29 (2) provides that every Ugandan shall have the right to move freely throughout Uganda and to reside and settle in any part of the country, to enter or leave and return to the country and to possess a passport or other travel documents prescribed for under the law.

In 2021, the Government of Uganda enacted the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control (fees) Regulations which inter alia provide for a waiver of work permit fees for some East African foreign resident workers in the country and also make provision for a waiver of work permit fees for refugees who are in gainful employment. These regulations have further bolstered the country's commitment under the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

In order to make it possible for its nationals to move with ease within and out of the East African Community region, the Government of Uganda, in April 2022, fully switched to rolling out of the East African Community e-Passports. The decision to switch to the e-passport is an achieved milestone in guaranteeing the quality of Ugandan passports whilst enabling Ugandans to access travel documents with ease. The shift to the e-passport meets the ICAO Internationally recognized standards for travel documents and was done in conformity to Uganda's commitments under the EAC Common Market Protocol and also the adoption of the decision by the EAC Heads of State in Arusha, Tanzania in March 2016.

In 2015, Uganda enacted the Registration of Persons Act, 2015 which among others provides for mandatory registration of every Ugandan citizen and allocation of a unique National Identification Number. The Government of Uganda has so far registered more than 12.7 million Ugandans and issued them with national identity cards. The Uganda National Identity Card also serves as a travel document within the East African region as it complies with International Travel Standards.

Uganda recognizes the rights of foreigners who are resident, to work anywhere and move freely within the country. The Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act, Cap. 66 allows foreign migrants to engage in business, investment, agriculture, education, mining among others, depending on the class of work permit one holds.

Uganda also recognizes the rights of foreigners who are resident to live with their families as dependents. Regulation 4 of the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Regulations S.I No 16 makes provision for persons who are lawfully residing in the country by virtue of any entry permit, certificate of residence or pass to be issued with dependent passes in respect of any of their dependents.

Other Measures:

The Government of Uganda acknowledges the significance that the right to freedom of movement of its nationals and residents within country has on the economic development of the country. The Government is in the process of developing a migration policy to ensure that its nationals and foreign-migrant workers fully enjoy the right to freedom of movement within the country as envisaged under the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

Having signed, ratified and acceded to the 1969 OAU Convention, relating to specific Aspects of Refugee problems in Africa, the Government of Uganda recognizes the rights of refugees in the country to travel out of the country. Uganda allows refugees to move freely within and out of the country and has recently transitioned from issuing the old manual Conventional Travel Document to the e-Conventional Travel Document. The e- Travel Document has enabled refugees easily access travel documents and enjoy their full rights as residents in Uganda under the auspices of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

The Government of Uganda has also recently (as of 2022) signed several and actively operationalized the work of the Joint Permanent Commissions'(JPCs) and entered into several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with other African countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Somalia and South Africa, in order to allow the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of movement by its nationals and residents anywhere on the African Continent.

ARTICLE 13: THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

Legislative Measures

Article 59 of the Constitution grants every Ugandan citizen of eighteen years of age or above the right to vote. The same Article enjoins the state to take all necessary steps to ensure that all citizens qualified to vote register and exercise their right to vote.

The right to participate in Governance is further buttressed in the Electoral Commission Act CAP 40 and other electoral laws. Government has taken steps to ensure the right of citizens to participate in political and public affairs.

Government amended electoral laws, namely The Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act 2020; The Political Parties and Organisations (Amendment) Act, 2020; The Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act, 2020, The Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, 2020; The Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 2020; The Local Governments (Amendment) Act, 2020, and The Local Governments (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 2020 to among others, incorporate recommendations made by the Supreme Court arising from *Supreme Court Presidential Petition No. 01 of 2016: Amama Mbabazi Versus Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Electoral Commission and the Attorney General.*

Other Measures

Mass registration of citizens was conducted to ensure everyone participates in political and public affairs. The National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) continues to register all citizens to facilitate citizens' right to vote. The Electoral Commission (EC) registered a total of 18,103,603 voters to participate in the 2020/2021 General Elections out of an estimated 19.5 million eligible voters. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges it presented, the Electoral Commission conducted and concluded a free and fair general election.

The appointment of the EC, subject to Article 60 of the Constitution is through nomination of members who are approved by the Appointments Committee of Parliament and are appointed by the President. The Appointments Committee of Parliament is chaired by the Speaker with membership comprising of the Deputy Speaker, Leader of Opposition and members of Parliament representing Political parties and Independents. The Committee is fully empowered

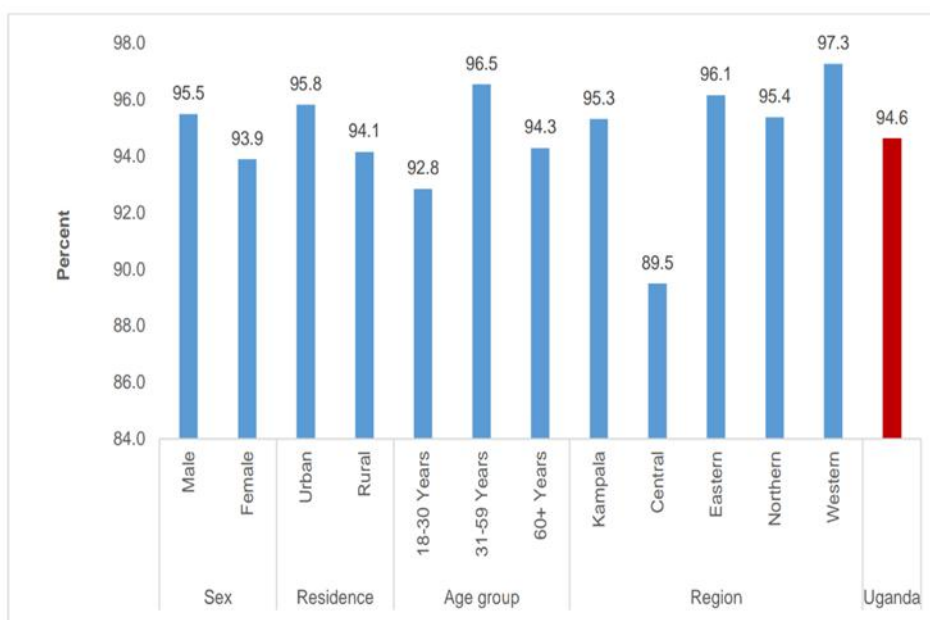
to endorse or reject any nomination hence, the Electoral Commission is fully independent in fulfilling its mandate as stipulated under Article 62 of the Constitution.

The EC accredits observers for the entire electoral process and encourages political parties and independent candidates to nominate agents to participate in all electoral activities. The EC further harmonises campaign time tables of all candidates to ensure that they are allocated equal time and space to conduct campaigns. The UHRC in line with its mandate to monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country, is accredited with observer status during elections and monitors and produces a special report on the respect of human rights during the electoral cycle.

Mechanisms have been put in place to address contentious issues that arise during the electoral process. The National Consultative Forum (NCF) brings together all political parties; the Elders Forum with representation from senior statesmen and women provides an impartial space for dialogue and provides a non-state platform for citizens and political actors to exchange ideas and build consensus on issues of national importance; and the Inter Party Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD) brings together political parties represented in Parliament to address differences that arise between political parties.

During the 2020/21 General elections the EC heard and determined a total of 462 complaints. Several election petitions against election fraud and violence, including the presidential election petition were filed in the various courts; and all were concluded.

Free and Fair elections have been held periodically (every five years) since 1996 after the inauguration of the 1995 Constitution. The Government has in the reporting period invested resources and time in voter education, in order to educate people on their right to vote. An April 2018 Survey by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics shows that benefits have been obtained out of this, with the population aware of their right to vote and the modalities of exercising the same. The Government together with its institutions in collaboration with private stakeholders and civil society organizations have continued to carry out civic education to citizens among the population. The Table Below Shows Persons above 18 years who were aware of their right to vote in 2021.



Source: UBOS 2017 National Governance, Peace and Security Survey Report.

ARTICLE 14: THE RIGHT TO PROPERTY

Legislative measures

Article 26 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda guarantees the right to own property either individually or in association with others.

The above article provides that in cases of acquisition of land for public use or in the interest of defense, public safety, public order, public morality or public health, there shall be prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation prior to taking of possession or acquisition of the property.

The Government has developed the Guidelines for Compensation Assessment Under Land Acquisition, 2017 to guide the determination of quantum of compensation in case of compulsory acquisition of property. In addition, the Chief Justice issued the Constitution (Land Evictions) (Practice Directions), 2021 to guide the courts on the issuance of land eviction orders. The Succession (Amendment) Act, 2022 seeks to refine the definition of a customary heir or heiress to eliminate discrimination and inequality in sharing of property and to provide for the protection of principal residential property for the benefit of the surviving spouses and lineal dependents. .

Other measures.

Illegal land eviction is taken seriously in Uganda. Apart from the guidelines issued by the Judiciary, H.E the President has issued guidelines to ensure protection of the property rights of individuals.

ARTICLE 15: THE RIGHT TO WORK UNDER EQUITABLE AND SATISFACTORY CONDITIONS

Government continues to strengthen existing measures to guarantee the right to work including policy, legislative and institutional measures.

Legislative Measures

Article 40 of the Constitution provides for the right to work. The article further provides for economic rights of the workers in employment, that is to say, workers right to work under satisfactory, safe, and healthy conditions.

In addition to the legislative measures indicated in our earlier reports, Government issued the Employment (Recruitment of Migrant Workers Abroad) Regulations, 2017.

Government is in the process of amending the Employment Act, 2006 and developing the Employment (Breast Feeding and Child Care Facilities at Workplaces) Regulations, and the Employment (Domestic Workers) Regulations.

The Workers Compensation Act 2006 and the Minimum Wage Bill 2006 are under review.

Other Measures

Government has established various mechanisms to improve the implementation of the labour laws. The Government has a presence of labour officers in all districts to facilitate and guide the implementation of national labour laws. The current number of Labour Officers are 154 in Local Governments (LGs) and 43 at the Ministry headquarters. Trainings for all Labour Officers is ongoing in different regions. Efforts to improve the Labour Inspectorate are underway through the formulation of the Labour Inspection guidelines and Code of Conduct; revision of the Labour Inspection Checklist, development of a Labour Inspection Management Information System (MIS), appointment of members of the Labour Advisory Board, and inauguration of National Child Labour Steering Committee. MoGLSD is also developing an information pack on Labour laws for investors, Uganda National Prosecution Guidelines for Labour Officers and Inspectors and National Guidelines for the development of Labour – force management plans for Infrastructure Development Projects are ongoing.

The proportion of workplaces adhering to Occupation Safety and Health (OSH) standards has increased from 38% in 2014/15 to 41.9% in 2019/20. This was a result of enforcement of workplace OSH standards. In the first half of FY2020/21, Ministry of Labour undertook 97 inspections, 19 shopping arcades were inspected for COVID-19 preparedness, 150 Statutory equipment were examined and certified and reviewed seven (7) architectural plans for

infrastructural development projects. The Government recognizes the role of the Industrial Court in promoting industrial harmony and resolution of labour related disputes. The Court receives quarterly funds from the MoGLSD. The budget of the Court is protected and is not subjected to cuts arising out of cash limits.

In addition, the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights 2021/2022-2025/2026 was approved by Government and implementation commenced. It seeks to promote a harmonious relationship in which businesses and communities can thrive by providing a comprehensive framework for coordination of multi-sectorial efforts to ensure respect for human rights in business operations.

ARTICLE 16: THE RIGHT TO BEST ATTAINABLE STATE OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Government continues to take necessary measures to ensure that every individual attains the best state of physical and mental health.

Legislative and Policy measures;

According to the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy No. XIV under the Constitution, the State has the obligation to ensure that all Ugandans enjoy rights and opportunities and access to health services.

The Mental Health Act, 2018 provides for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness to ensure that persons with mental illness are enabled to seek treatment, basic mental health services are provided, the safety and protection of persons with mental illness and protection of their rights and safety of persons who are in contact with them, that community mental health services are integrated in the treatment and care of persons with mental illness and to establish the Mental Health Advisory Board. The Board is charged with various functions including the monitoring of mental health services in Uganda, accreditation of private mental health units to treat mental illness, the setting of standards for mental health units, inspection and monitoring of mental health units to ensure that they meet prescribed standards and promote public awareness on mental health and mental illness.

In addition, Government has enacted other laws such as the Tobacco Control Act, 2015 which aims at promoting the health of persons and reduce tobacco related illnesses and deaths, the Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic and Substances (Control) Act, 2016 to control the possession, trafficking in, and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Other Measures:

The Government recognizes that mental health is an integral and essential component of health and therefore, continues to facilitate Butabika National Referral Hospital where every patient

receives a specialized and patient specific rehabilitation plan. The hospital is resourced with expert teams that use state of the art equipment and highly effective evidence based procedures. Additionally, steps have been taken to strengthen the presence of qualified mental health personnel in rural based health facilities.

ARTICLE 17: THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Legislative and Policy Measures

Article 30 of the Constitution provides that all persons have a right to education.

As a matter of policy, therefore, Government has put great emphasis on access to education through Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education programs so as to improve literacy levels among Ugandans as opposed to education for a few who can afford. In this regard, student enrollment has significantly grown over the years.

Other Measures

Government adopted a number of policies to facilitate the right to education. The Gender in Education Policy of 2009 was reviewed and a Second Gender in Education on Sector Policy (GEP II), 2016 was developed to facilitate inclusive and equitable quality education and sports and lifelong learning opportunities for all girls and boys, women and men in Uganda. The Education Sector Strategic Plan (2004-2015) is also under review and takes care of key girls' concerns including reducing social cultural barriers to their education. The National Strategy for Girls Education focuses on retention of girls in school, development of Gender sensitive education materials and provision of separate sanitary facilities for boys and girls in mixed schools. The National Teacher Policy, 2019 which provides for among others; teacher training, recruitment, deployment, teacher motivation has been developed and launched.

The NDP 2016 to 2020 called upon the Ministry of Education to increase girls' access to Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) institutions and programs. Affirmative action at entry into tertiary institutions and Universities is still ongoing. A Gender Working Group and a Gender Unit now exist at the Ministry of Education. Annual collection of key Girls related Data in the Annual School Census is undertaken to feed the Education Management Information System (EMIS) for effective planning. Training of teachers on Gender Responsive Pedagogy and life skills education for teachers and learners has been undertaken. All schools are required to have a comprehensive school guidance and counseling program and to avail a counseling room or space. Mixed Schools are required to have a senior woman teacher.

Furthermore, Government liberalized education. A full department for Private Schools and Institutions exists at the Ministry of Education to register, license, regulate and monitor quality at the private secondary schools and institutions. The Basic Education Department at the same Ministry also regulates Private Primary Schools and Early Child Development (ECD) centers.

Government continues to fulfil the policy of establishing a Government primary school in every Parish as well as a Secondary school in every sub county.

Government has over the years, increased investment in education. The Government continues to allocate a percentage of the National Budget to the education sector and ensures timely delivery of capitation grants to schools and gets support from various education development partners

Government remains committed to the provision of quality education to all children. Quality education starts with early childhood development. The National Integrated Childhood Development Policy (NIECD) and Action Plan 2016 was developed and launched in 2016, to standardize and ensure coherence in terms of curriculum of early childhood education and development.

Government has also put in place coordination structures both at national and local government levels to institutionalize community based training and retraining of concerned persons on pre-school preparatory nurturing as part of the cognitive development programme. The revised curriculum in primary teacher colleges includes Early Childhood Development (ECD) as a compulsory module in year one and an elective in year two. Currently, a total of 15,826 trainee teachers from 46 government Primary Teachers Colleges (PTCs) have received training in ECD in year one. There is also an ongoing review of the ECD policy to strengthen regulation and supervision of the sub sectors.

Government has taken several measures to prevent the girl-child from dropping out of school. Government developed Guidelines on Prevention and Management of Teenage Pregnancy and Re-entry of Teenage Mothers in school (2020) and Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene management for Schools (2021). A circular to schools on Menstrual Hygiene Management (2016) was issued, a National Strategic Plan on Violence against children in schools (2015- 2020) has been implemented.

Guidelines for Senior Women and Senior Men Teachers (2020) have been developed to guide senior teachers in providing psychosocial support to school girls and boys. Guidelines for setting up and management of school clubs (2020) have been developed to provide safe spaces for girls to receive reproductive health information and freely open up on their school challenges.

Government has integrated Reproductive Health Education into the Revised Lower Secondary Education Curriculum (2020) to equip girls and boys with information on their growth and development.

Government annually provides UGX 14.4 billion to procure instructional materials for primary schools in FY 2016-2017. Subsequently textbooks to pupils' ratio in public primary schools improved from 12 pupils per textbook in FY 2015/16 to one textbook per pupil for English and Math in FY 2016/17 in all public primary schools in the country.

Government has increased budget allocation for inspection and supervision of education institutions by 73% from UGX 8.83 BN in FY 2016/17 to UGX 15.46 BN in FY 2020/21. Government has also invested in inclusive education for children with disabilities over the past five years. Government has procured specialized equipment for learners with special learning needs for full participation in inclusive classroom setting such as braille machines, laptops with jaws, embossers, victor readers, MP players, braille papers and other assortment special materials. A national learning needs identification tool with its resource guide for early identification of learners with special needs for appropriate inclusion and planning for their needs within an inclusive setting, was developed. In FY 2015/16 Government provided subvention grants to 100 schools that have learners with special needs. In FY 2016/17, Government procured 28 braille machines, 300 cartons of braille papers, 50 cartons of embossing papers, 250 Sign Language Dictionaries, 6 Braille Embossers. In FY 2017/18, Government procured 28 braille machines, 350 cartons of braille papers, 500 Sign Language Dictionaries. In FY2018/19, Government Procured 28 braille machines, 300 cartons of braille papers, 50 cartons of embossing papers, 250 Sign Language Dictionaries, 5 Braille Embossers. In FY 2019/20 Government Procured 200 magnifying glasses, 20 computers with Jaws software, 200 cartons of braille papers and 25 braille machines; Construction works of Dormitories, bathrooms and VIP latrines at Wakiso and Mbale schools for the deaf; Procured 100 tables and chairs for Wakiso school for the deaf. In FY 2020/21 Government Procured 200 White Canes, 20 Wheel chairs, 220 cartons of braille papers; Assorted materials for learners with Intellectual Impairment (300 Building blocks packets, 200 Multi-colored charts, 500 art pencils packets, 200 beginners pencils packets, 400 Reams of Art paper, 300 drawing slates, 400 Multi-colored ropes, 500 object jigsaw puzzles packets, 400 Scissors, 500 office glue bottles, 500 powder art paint packets, 800 painting brushes packets, 600 Rubber Clay packets); 8 Embossers, 20 cartons of embossing papers, 20 braille machines, 20 victor readers, 20 screen readers, license keys of 80 units for 10 laptops, 10 laptops, 10 speakers, 10 adapters, 10 SD cards and 10 metallic cases for storage (lower secondary supporting learners with special needs).

ARTICLE 15- RIGHT TO CULTURE (SDG 5- GENDER EQUALITY)

Uganda's Vision 2040 emphasizes the development of a national value system to promote patriotism and enhancement of national identity and nurturing an appropriate ideological orientation.

Government continues to implement the Uganda National Culture Policy, 2006 in line with SDG 5. The policy classifies indigenous people or ethnic minorities in accordance with the United Nations (UN) classification system of indigenous persons. Progress has been realized by the setting up of a national Indigenous People's Reference Committee and a National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to address issues of ethnic minorities in an integrated manner. MoGLSD together with UNDAF is developing an affirmative action program of

intervention for ethnic minorities which is to address the livelihood challenges of these communities.

Government continues to provide financial support in honorarium to individual cultural leaders whereby UGX 60 million is released to the 14 traditional cultural leaders annually and in FY 2020/2021 allocated 840 Million UGX to culture and local bodies to promote cultural activities. The Uganda National Cultural Forum has been formed and operationalized and a Kings' Forum has been established. In addition, four intangible cultural heritages including Acholi, Iki, Aluru and Basongora have been documented. Community inventory mapping has been conducted in four communities of Alur in Nebbi, Iki in Kaabong, Basongora in Kasese and Acholi in Gulu. The Busoga Cultural institution has been supported to make Bigwala instruments and the inventorying of Empaako has been conducted in Kabarole and neighbouring districts.

ARTICLE 18: THE RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY

Legislative Measures

Article 31 of the Constitution provides for the rights of the family.

The Constitution under Objective XIX, of the National Objectives and Direct Principles of State Policy recognizes that the family is the natural and basic unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State. There is a Marriage Bill, 2022 before Parliament for consideration. The Bill seeks to reform and consolidate the laws governing marriage, provide for the types of legal marriage, marital and property rights and duties arising from marriage and grounds for divorce.

Parliament passed the Succession (Amendment) Act, 2022. The Act aims to transform the law on succession in Uganda by providing for gender equality, solidifying the principles for the distribution of the estate of deceased persons in Uganda. The Domestic Violence Act, 2010 continues to provide for the protection and relief of victims of domestic violence, punishment of perpetrators, procedures and guidelines for courts in relation to protection and compensation of victims, as well as empowering family and children courts to handle cases.

Other measures

MoGLSD has mobilized men through male action groups to raise awareness, through peer to peer engagement on GBV and the negative effects of it. Government has put in place 13 shelters in all regions of Uganda in collaboration with CSOs to provide immediate protection from SGBV and offer services to victims including counselling and treatment of victims. Support supervision on compliance to GBV Shelter Management Guidelines provided to 10 GBV shelters of Kamuli, Namutumba, Nyonga, and Pallisa from Eastern region; Kalangala, Buikwe, Luwero, Nakasongola, Kayunga and Mukono from Central region.

The Government has developed a National Gender Based Violence (NGBV) data base that documents GBV cases for ease of follow-up and response. The data contains disaggregated data by sex, age and location and informs policy formulation, planning and budgeting.

Government developed the National Parenting Guidelines, 2018, that target parents, guardians and care givers as primary users in ensuring that the role of parenting is duly fulfilled. Further, the Government through the Office of the Director of public prosecutions established a department of gender, children and sexual offenses to oversee the handling of sexual gender based violence cases in accordance with prosecution standards. It has also established the witness protection and victim empowerment department to employ a victim centered approach while handling criminal cases particularly those of sexual violence, in an effort to empower the victims for purposes of accessing justice.

Government has effectively participated in four phases of specialized criminal sessions of sexual and gender based violence intended to ensure speedy prosecution of cases and as of 2022, the Office handled a total 2413 in specialized criminal sessions at a conviction rate of approximately 62%.

Government established the National working committee to fight online sexual abuse against children and has participated in a number of trainings facilitated by Ministry of gender on how to pursue, identify and prosecute such offenses.

The child helpline at MGLSD has registered success and cases have been brought before the DPP for prosecution.

Designation and tooling of children rooms within the ODDP offices have been established to act as waiting rooms for child victims and witnesses in a child friendly atmosphere across the Country.

Government institutions continue to carry out extensive training on GBV and SGBV in order to create awareness and enhance skills of investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers in handling cases of GBV and SGBV.

Government has developed a bill for the protection of older persons in regards to their physical and psychosocial needs such as health care, community support, food, shelter, older person's homes and other basic necessities. The Bill also creates obligations for children and communities to take care of the older persons. This is intended to ensure that all older persons in the Country are protected.

ARTICLE 19: THE RIGHT TO NON-DOMINATION OF A PEOPLE BY ANOTHER

Legislative Measures

Article 20 provides that the rights and freedoms for all individuals in Uganda shall be respected, upheld and promoted by all organs of State in Uganda. Article 21(1) provides that all persons are equal before and under the law in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life and in every other aspect and shall enjoy equal protection of the law.

In view of the above, Uganda capitalizes on equality, non-discrimination, non-dominance and upholds the respect for rule of law and good governance.

ARTICLE 20: THE RIGHT TO EXISTENCE AND SELF DETERMINATION

Legislative Measures

Government is committed to using the Human Rights Based Approach to development in all political, economic and cultural sectors of governance. Citizens freely participate in all spheres of political governance and all matters that concern them.

Article 1 of the Constitution entrenches the sovereignty of the people of Uganda. It provides that all power belongs to the people who shall express their will and consent on who shall govern them and how they should be governed, through regular, free and fair elections of their representative or through referenda.

The Parliamentary Election Act, 2005 was amended in 2020 to provide for national representation of older persons in Parliament. It was further amended to subject the parliamentary elections to the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020.

Further the Political Parties and Organisation Act, 2005 as amended in 2020 re-enforced the mandate of the National Consultative Forum to coordinate political parties as an umbrella institution of all registered Political Parties and organizations.

Further, Article 29 of the Constitution provides for the right of freedom of speech and expression including media freedoms. In addition, the Constitution guarantees the right of every person to exercise freedom of thought, conscience, and belief which shall include; academic freedom in institutions of learning. It also guarantees the right to freedom to practice any religion and manifest such practices which include the right to belong to and participate in the practices of any religious body or organization in a manner consistent with the Constitution.

Other measures

In regard to development, Uganda's vision 2040 and the National Development Plans focuses on the Human Rights Based Approach where the citizenry is involved in planning and development processes that concern them. Citizens are able to determine their development priorities and hold leaders accountable.

ARTICLE 21: THE RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF WEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Legislative Measures

Article 244 of the Constitution provides for the enactment of legislation by Parliament to regulate the exploitation of minerals and the sharing of royalties. Parliament has to this effect passed the the National Local Content Act,2020; the National Environmental Management Act, 2020; the Mining and Minerals Act, 2022; the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) (Special provisions) Act, 2022. Government continues to implement the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production Act), 2012, Petroleum (Refining, Conversion, Transmission and Midstream Storage) Act 4 of 2013, the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act, 2013, the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 and the production areas of Uganda the National Forestry Authority Act.

Other Measures

UHRC published a Human Rights and Business Country Guide, Uganda, 2016 which provides country-specific guidance to help companies or businesses respect human rights and contribute to development. Government through UHRC conducted a training of senior management on human rights in the oil and gas sector in 2016 with an aim to ensure that there is equitable, inclusive, protection and respect for the rights of resource rich communities in the exploration and exploitation of Uganda's nascent natural resources.

In addition to the above, Government has adopted policies and regulations intended to promote local content in natural resource use and deposition. These are aimed at involving Ugandans in the exploitation and sharing of the benefits of oil and gas. The policies and regulations include the following:

The National Oil and Gas Talent Register (NOGTR) was launched on 1st February 2019 by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda. This initiative is intended to boost local content and bridge the gap between employers and employees in the Oil and Gas Sector. This is seen as one of the initiatives of fostering the participation of Ugandan citizens in the nascent Oil and Gas Sector. This is in line with regulation 31 of the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) (National Content) Regulations of 2016 which require the Petroleum Authority to maintain and operate a national Human Capacity Register. Accordingly, the Ministry of Internal Affairs can only issue work permits to expatriates after the Petroleum Authority furnishes evidence of lack of local expertise in the field;

Most recently, in 2018, Government adopted The Local Content Policy for the Oil and Gas Industry. This Policy is aimed at building the capacity of Ugandans for employment in the industry. The policy aims at guiding the country in positioning citizens to take advantage of the opportunities in the nascent oil and gas industry by putting in place a framework that clearly states government's commitment to developing and promoting the participation of citizens in the petroleum sector; lays out a strong regulatory, institutional and administrative framework for

national content development in Uganda; ensures MDAs decisions in the Sector align to the spirit of local content development; sets out mechanisms to ensure the private sector supports local content; and fosters linkage with other sectors and ensures enterprise development, among others. The policy is based on the principles of efficiency and productivity in the Oil and Gas Sector. This is in addition to promoting forward and backward linkages, capacity building, transparency and skills and technology transfer, among others;

The Local Content Policy has been followed by the National Local Content Act, 2020 which seeks to provide for the establishment of the National Local Content Committee to oversee the implementation of the Act, and maximise value addition of local produce for them to compete and job creation using local expertise; and

The Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) (National Content) Regulations, 2016 which provide for training and employment of Ugandans in the sector, giving priority to Ugandan companies in procurement processes in the sector and enterprise development through provision of support to Ugandan citizens and Companies, encouragement of joint ventures between local companies and foreign companies in case of absence of local capacity, among others. These regulations will enable locals to benefit from the natural resources in their country.

ARTICLE 22: THE RIGHT TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Legislative Measures

The Constitution provides for the right to economic, social and cultural development under Articles 26, 29, 30, 31, 37 and 40.

Uganda is a party to the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. As a State party, Uganda is required to take deliberate measures to enable the populace to enjoy their economic and cultural rights.

Other measures

In this regard Government has undertaken various interventions. These include the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) which is intended to facilitate socio- economic transformation with a focus on raising house hold incomes and wealth creation by transforming subsistence agriculture to commercial farming to end or reduce poverty; the Presidential Initiative on Wealth and Job Creation (Emyooga) was launched in August 2019 as part of a broad Government strategy targeting to transform 68% of homesteads from subsistence to market oriented production with the overall objective of promoting job creation and improving household incomes. Government is currently implementing the Parish Development Model.

Government is also implementing the Girl child and the Ghetto Youth initiatives all aimed at wealth creation. Government has developed a communication strategy on promotion of norms, values and positive mindsets among young people in Uganda (2016). This aims at mobilizing the young people to appreciate culture and promote their traditions amidst modernity.

Government has also developed a National Strategy on Inventorying Intangible Cultural Heritage, A practical Guide, 2014. Intangible cultural aspect of culture has a key attribute to promotion of culture among the people thus this document guides in identifying and documenting intangible aspects of culture

A Social Development Sector Plan, 2016 was developed by Government through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to empower communities particularly the vulnerable and marginalized groups for wealth creation and inclusive development. The SDSP restates Government's commitment to address the concerns of the vulnerable and marginalized groups in line with the National Development Plan.

ARTICLE 23: THE RIGHT TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AS AFFIRMED BY THE CHARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS & AFRICAN UNION

Uganda was the first country to deploy troops under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in March, 2007. Uganda's troops are still part of the successor mission now called the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) with the mandate to support the Government of Somalia in stabilizing the country and reduce the threat posed by Al Shabaab and other armed groups. Uganda has also continued to actively support regional initiatives for peace in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo under the auspices of IGAD and EAC respectively.

Other Measures

The UPDF Directorate of Human Rights in partnership with the UHRC, has carried out trainings and sensitization of UPDF personnel on International Humanitarian Law, Gender Based Violence, human rights and in partnership with Save the Children, on child protection.

The UPDF has provided the first sanctuary to refugees from neighboring countries and ensured safety for all.

ARTICLE 24: THE RIGHT TO A GENERAL SATISFACTORY ENVIRONMENT FAVORABLE TO DEVELOPMENT

Legislative Measures

The Government has taken several legislative measures in this regard.

The Public Private Partnerships Act, 2015 promotes the participation of the private sector, whether Ugandans or foreigners, as private parties in public private partnerships and guarantees protection and respect of the rights and interests of users of infrastructure or services offered under a Public Private Partnership project. The principles guiding the implementation of the Act include stimulating growth and development through harnessing private sector innovation and efficiency and providing policy stability in order to reduce private sector uncertainty on investment returns.

The Business License (Miscellaneous Repeals) Act, 2015 repealed redundant business licenses and rationalized and simplified business licensing practices and procedures in order to eliminate multiplicity and overlap of business licenses. This led to the reduction in the cost of time, procedures and money and thus improved the ease of doing business in Uganda.

The Investment Code Act, 2019 was enacted with the objective of promoting and encouraging investment in new technologies, skills upgrading, automation, training, research and product development; establishing and managing a one stop center; publishing and availing periodical reports on the state of investment in the country; assessing for matters of incentives and utilization of local resources and services by the investments.

In addition to all the Government measures to promote human rights, and therefore promote favorable environment for development, Uganda implemented a Second National Development Plan (NDP II), 2015/16 – 2019/20 which prioritizes investment in agriculture; tourism; minerals, oil and gas; infrastructure development and human capital development.

The Plan was anchored on four key objectives to be attained during the five-year period. These are: (i) increasing sustainable production, productivity and value addition in key growth opportunities; (ii) increasing the stock and quality of strategic infrastructure to accelerate the country's competitiveness; (iii) enhancing human capital development; and (iv) strengthening mechanisms for quality, effective and efficient service delivery. In order to achieve these objectives, Government pursued a number of development strategies including: (i) ensuring macro-economic stability with fiscal expansion for frontloading infrastructure investments; (ii) industrialization and export oriented growth through value addition, agro processing, mineral beneficiation, selected heavy and light manufacturing; (iii) an employment creation strategy through fast tracking skills development and harnessing the demographic dividend; (iv) strong Public/Private Partnerships (PPPs) for sustainable development; (v) a private sector led growth and a quasi-market approach; and (vi) strengthening governance mechanisms and structures.

ARTICLE 25: THE STATE'S DUTY TO EDUCATE THE MASSES ON THE RESPECT OF THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER

Policy Measures

The Government of Uganda is making arrangement to design a comprehensive national program to promote the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in line with the UHRC's mandate to carryout comprehensive civic education of the public on their rights, by conducting Human Rights Education and outreach activities comprised of workshops/trainings, community outreach activities, media campaigns, and commemoration of international human rights days intended to enhance the levels of human rights awareness, nurture a culture of respect for human rights and emphasize the importance of citizens' duties and responsibilities.

UHRC sensitization activities in 2013

UHRC sensitized a total of 41,530 persons from law enforcement agencies, local government, schools and grass root communities. In addition, the UHRC noted that an estimated 127,558,261 listeners were sensitized through TV/Radio programmes.

A total of 2,111 members of the Uganda police Force and the Uganda Prisons Service were trained in 2013. The training enhanced participants' knowledge and appreciation of human rights and key laws relevant to their work. Participants enhanced their understanding of the Constitution of Uganda, the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012, the Penal Code Act, Cap 120 among other laws. They also gained knowledge in enhancement of human rights in law enforcement, the role of the Police in the promotion and protection of human rights, rights of suspects, rights of prisoners, use of force, community policing, collecting and adducing evidence in Court, Police Code of Conduct and Professional Standards in law enforcement. However, it was noted that male participants, 1,676 (79%) outnumbered females, 435 (21%) in all the trainings conducted for law enforcement agencies. This could be attributed to the fact that generally fewer women get recruited into the UPF and UPS.

UHRC also trained 84 members of the Human Rights Committee of Gulu Central Government Prison. Of these, 35 were prison officers and 49 were inmates.

UHRC trained 48 district officials on the human rights based approach to development. These 25 males and 23 females were drawn from Masaka, Rakai, Lwengo, Kalungu, and Bukomansimbi districts. The participation gained knowledge and skills of basing development programming on human rights and human rights principles.

The UHRC conducted human rights sensitization programmes for 13,063 pupils and students and 20 teachers in primary and secondary schools. These were conducted in Arua, Moroto, Napak, Jinja, Busia, Tororo, Mbaale, Kiryandongo, Apac, Lira, Kitgum, Pader, and Agago district.

The UHRC conducted grass root human rights awareness activities reaching 20,217 members of the communities through community meetings (barazas); 12,420 were male and 7,797 were female.

The UHRC also facilitated a consultative process of developing a draft national civic education policy. This policy was drafted by a multi-sectorial working group comprising members of the UHRC, the Office of the President, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Education and Sports, the MoGLSD, the Judicial Service Commission, the Electoral Commission, Human Rights Network Uganda (HURINET), National NGO forum, Uganda Joint Christian Council, Inter-religious Council of Uganda and the Uganda Journalist Association.

The UHRC participated in 50 human rights awareness activities organized by other stakeholders such as CSOs, faith-based organizations, and international organizations. The UHRC made presentations on selected human rights topics such as the role of the media in the protection and promotion of human rights, the rights of the children and women, protection mechanisms for human rights defenders, the impact of corruption on human rights, reproductive health rights, and the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act.

UHRC sensitization activities in 2014

UHRC sensitized a total of 28,488 persons drawn from law enforcement and security agencies, the medical profession, the media fraternity, district local government, schools and grass root communities. There was a 46% reduction in the number of people sensitized compared to the 41,530 who were reached in 2013. This is mainly attributed to the limited financial resources that hampered the UHRC's human rights education and awareness campaigns.

The UHRC conducted HRE programmes for 918 members of UPF of whom 730 were male and 188 females. Trainings were conducted for police officers from the districts of Mpigi, Kalungu, Lwengo, Rakai, Serere, Soroti, Mbarara, Ntungamo, Isingiro, Kiruhura, Bushenyi, Buhweju, Mitooma, and Ruburizi.

UHRC also trained 124 members of the UPDF from Pader district, of whom 106 were male and 18 females.

UHRC also trained 109 district officials from Amuru, Kalangala and Ibanda districts in the human rights based approach to development planning. The participants comprised 59 males and 50 females and they gained knowledge and skills in how to base development programming on human rights and human rights principles and understanding the importance of integrating human rights in local government programming and budgeting.

UHRC conducted grass root human rights awareness campaigns reaching 22,621 people in communities through 186 community meetings (baraza).

UHRC conducted a training workshop for members of the media, which was attended by 60 participants from various media houses in Kampala. UHRC convened the workshop in recognition of the vital role the media play in the protection and promotion of human rights in Uganda.

UHRC used the media to raise awareness on human rights and to engage the general public on human rights issues. The commission conducted a total of 95 live phone-in-radio-talk shows on 55 radio stations country wide.

Through the interactive nature of the radio talk shows, a total of 462 listeners called in to contribute to the discussion on the various human rights topics. Of the callers, 389 were male (84%) and 73 females (16%).

UHRC rolled out the use of toll free lines in all its regional and field offices. During its HRE and awareness programmes, UHRC publicized the toll free lines and encouraged the public to use them. A total of 1,665 people (1367 were male and 298 female) used the toll free telephone services in 2014.

UHRC sensitization activities in 2015

UHRC Sensitized a total of 43,878 persons drawn from Government institutions, security agencies, schools, cultural and religious institutions and grass root communities. It was attributed to the increase in the human rights awareness activities conducted by UHRC as a result of more funding. Furthermore, UHRC enhanced its civic education interventions in preparation for the 2016 general elections.

UHRC conducted community meetings (baraza) as a platform for creating awareness, sharing vital information and providing citizens with an opportunity to discuss human rights issues relevant to their context.

A total of 31,694 people attended the grass root human rights awareness campaigns in 72 districts where UHRC conducted baraza. Of the 31,649 baraza participants in 2015, 20,664 were male and 11,030 females. The women were fewer due to various influences, including; the patriarchal nature of most societies, which dictates that women should not attend public meetings with men, the poor attitude of women towards attending meetings, and domestic chores and demands that keep women at home or in their gardens.

UHRC sensitization activities in 2016

A total of 102,013 persons drawn from Government institutions and grass root communities were sensitized. UHRC also targeted the youth in secondary schools. There was a 132% increase in the number of people sensitized in 2016 from the 43,878 reached in 2015. This was because of the enhanced human rights education activities owing to the increase in funding. Through a GIZ-

supported strengthening human rights of vulnerable persons in Uganda project, UHRC focused on human rights education for grass root communities.

UHRC conducted community meetings (Barazas) in 78 districts which were attended by 51,986 participants, up by 64% from the 31,694 people who attended UHRC community baraza in 2015. Of the 51,986 baraza participants, 37,263 were male and 14,723 females. Despite being fewer than the men, more women attended in 2016 as shown by the 33% increase in their number from 11,030 of 2015. This was attributed to mobilization strategies that targeted the increase participation of women. The women were mobilized through their leaders at the grass root level as well as their existing women groups. The GIZ project specifically targeted vulnerable persons including women to enhance their participation, and this led to the increased number of women attending and participating in the community baraza.

Using its two civic education vans, UHRC conducted civic education activities in 66 districts of the country. Through the use of civic education vans, UHRC was able to reach people in trading centers and villages and engage them through drama shows, screening of short videos and interactive question and answer sessions on human rights. The mobile nature of civic education van activities enabled UHRC to reach more people and dismantled number of 46,065 people, of whom 27,454 were male and 18,611 females.

UHRC sensitization activities in 2017

UHRC sensitized a total of 23,469 people through 178 community meetings conducted in 56 districts. Out of the 23,469 people sensitized, 13,345 were male and 10,124 females.

UHRC used several media platforms as one way of carrying out human rights education. The Commission organized television talk shows, radio talk shows, radio spot messages, press conferences, and media statements.

Equal Opportunities Commission

Since inception, the Equal Opportunities Commission has mobilized and sensitized marginalized and discriminated groups in their various categories to participate in Government programmes. These include the youth constituting of 22.5% of the National population, persons with disabilities (12.5%), women (51%), older persons (4%) and ethnic minorities (1.4%). Policy makers and implementers have also been trained on inclusion of these marginalized and discriminated groups in development. This has been possible through sensitization and training sessions, media engagements, public and community dialogues, as well as production and use of information, education and communication materials in major languages of the country. As a result, the Commission has covered over 60% of the country through these interventions and the marginalized and discriminated groups are increasingly demonstrating interest to participate in government programmes like Operation Wealth Creation, Youth Livelihood Programme, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme and Senior Citizens' Grant among others.

A Committee on Equal Opportunities was established in Parliament and is mandated to monitor and promote measures designed to enhance the equalization of opportunities and improvement in the quality of life and status of all peoples including marginalized groups on the basis of gender, age (elderly, youth, children) disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them.

ARTICLE 26: INDEPENDENCE OF THE COURTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

The Courts

Article 128 of the Constitution provides that in the exercise of judicial power, the courts shall be independent and shall not be subject to the control or direction of any person or authority.

Parliament passed the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020 thereby operationalizing the concept of separation of powers of the arms of Government.

National Human Rights Institutions

Article 51 of the Constitution establishes the Uganda Human Rights Commission with the mandate to investigate complaints against violations of human rights, visit jails and other places of detention to assess and inspect conditions of inmates and make recommendations among others.

The Equal Opportunities Commission

Article 32(3) of the Constitution mandates State to take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom, for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them.

Article 32 (3) of the Constitution establishes the Equal Opportunities Commission. The mandate of the Equal Opportunities Commission according to the Equal Opportunities Commission Act 2, 2007 is to, among others, eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons on the ground of sex, age, race, color, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, health status, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability, and take affirmative action in favor of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them. The Commission was inaugurated in 2010.

ARTICLE 27: THE DUTY OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL TOWARDS HIS FAMILY AND SOCIETY, THE STATE AND OTHER LEGALLY RECOGNIZED COMMUNITIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE EXERCISED WITH DUE REGARD TO THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MORALITY AND COMMON INTEREST

Legislative Measures

Article 43 (1) of the Constitution provides that in the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms prescribed in this Chapter, no person shall prejudice the fundamental or other human rights and freedoms of others or the public interest. Furthermore, under the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, the foreign Policy Objectives are laid out under clause XVIII to include the respect of international law and treaty obligations, the peaceful co-existence and non-alignment, the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and opposition to all forms of domination, racism and other forms of oppression and exploitation.

ARTICLE 28: THE DUTY OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL TO RESPECT AND CONSIDER HIS FELLOW BEINGS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AND TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS AIMED AT PROMOTING, SAFEGUARDING AND REINFORCING MUTUAL RESPECT AND TOLERANCE

Legislative Measures

Chapter 4 Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the right of all persons to equal treatment before and under the law in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life and in every other respect.

It also stipulates that a person shall not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, race, color, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability. Article 20 enjoins every person to respect, uphold and promote the rights of all individuals and groups as articulated in the Constitution.

The Inter-Religious Council, established in 2001, promotes co-existence and tolerance, multi-religious collaborative dialogue on issues of common interest and concern among the different faiths and advocate for peaceful co-existence, tolerance, human rights, justice and reconciliation for harnessing the unique similarities and differences in faiths, traditions, ethnicity, beliefs and actions.

PART III: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS REPORT

Following the presentation of Uganda's 5th Periodic Report in 2015, a number of observations were made on various issues. This section seeks to highlight actions taken to address the observations.

1. Ratification of outstanding regional and international instruments, domesticate all relevant regional and international instruments that have been ratified and expedite enactment of all bills in Parliament which have potential to enhance framework for promotion and protection of human rights

Uganda has progressively aligned its laws and regulations with its commitments under regional and international human rights treaties, through the domestication of these treaties. The following laws have been enacted to domesticate the various treaties and conventions since the last reporting period:

- (a) The Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019 was enacted to give effect to Article 50(4) of the Constitution by providing for the procedure of enforcing human rights under Chapter Four of the Constitution.
- (b) The Children (Amendment) Act, 2016 enhances protection of children in conformity with the Convention of the Rights of a Child (CRC).
- (c) The Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019 protects the privacy of the individual and of personal data in compliance with the ICCPR;
- (d) The Mental Health Act, 2018 protects the rights of persons with mental illness in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
- (e) The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations, 2017 operationalize the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture, Act, 2012 (PPTA) in compliance with the Convention Against Torture, Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);
- (f) The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Misc. (Amendment) Act, 2019 removes references to the mandatory penalty in specific legislation and restricts the

application of the death penalty to the most serious offences in compliance with the ICCPR;

- (g) Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 provides for the respect and promotion of the fundamental and other human rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities in compliance with the CRPD; and
- (h) The Succession (Amendment) Act, 2022 expands the distribution of property of an intestate to apply to both male and female dependants as well as spouses.

2. Non-Discrimination and Equality

- i. Strengthen legal framework for the protection of people living with HIV to discourage HIV-related human rights violations**
- ii. Adequately resource the Equal Opportunities Commission in order to effectively discharge its mandate**

Uganda has continued to fight against the HIV pandemic through provision of an enabling legal and Policy Environment to ensure protection of all People affected by HIV.

The HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act, 2014 provides for the prevention and control of HIV and AIDS, including protection, counseling, testing, care of persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, rights and obligations of persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS and establishes the HIV and AIDS Trust Fund.

Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development developed the National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work. The policy spells out the key principles underlying its implementation namely: nondiscrimination; confidentiality; HIV testing and greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA); promotion of prevention, treatment, care and support; and gender concerns in the world of work.

In addition, Government strongly addresses HIV associated stigma and discrimination through intensified behavioral change communication, and involvement of HIV affected persons at all levels of HIV programming. The test and Treat Policy has effectively optimized treatment with high efficacious antiretroviral drugs for children, adolescents, adults including marginalized communities.

Currently >90% of the population knows their HIV status, >90% have accessed treatment, >90% have virally suppressed. The Government has since set the bar higher at 95% for each of the above indicators.

As a result, the country registered a reduction in new HIV infections and HIV prevalence.

The National Development Plan III (2020/21 – 2024/25) considers the Equal Opportunities Commission as a major stakeholder in the development of our country, for instance under Chapter 18 of the said plan, it is emphasized that the Commission will sensitize and mobilize communities to demand for equal treatment or consideration in the enjoyment opportunities. It is against this backdrop that the Government has progressively increased the budget resources of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The Government of Uganda is the major funder of the EOC programs. The Commission also received complimentary funding from Development Partners. During FY 2020/2021, the Commission had a total appropriated budget of UGX 12.01 BN under GOU funding (excluding off-budget/project funding from Development Partners). By the close of the financial year, 99.5% had been received, and 98.4% of the received budget was absorbed as per the approved annual work plan and budget.

In the financial year 2021/2021, the Commission received 99.4% (8.57BN) of the planned recurrent budget and utilized 98.7% to implement the intervention addressing equal opportunities in the country. The Commission also received 100% of the planned Development Budget.

3. Right to life and abolition of death penalty

- i. Adopt an official moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards the definitive abolition of the death penalty.**
- ii. Expedite the processes for the consideration of the draft private members' bill in Parliament, pertaining to the abolition of the death penalty.**
- iii. Provide statistics on death sentences commuted to life imprisonment, in line with the Supreme Court decision in the Susan Kigula case.**

The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Misc. (Amendment) Act, 2019 removes references to the mandatory penalty in specific legislation and restricts the application of the death penalty to the most serious offences.

Government has taken action to implement the decision in the case of *Attorney versus Susan Kigula and 417 others; Constitutional Appeal No. 03 OF 2006* Three prisoners who had been sentenced to death prior to 1989 were immediately released. All death sentences confirmed by the Supreme Court before 2006 and not carried out were commuted to life imprisonment, benefiting approximately 139 prisoners. In 2009 the courts commenced the re-sentencing of prisoners on death row and as a result of this, the number of death row inmates drastically reduced from 505 in 2011 to 124 in 2022.

4. Prohibition of torture and ill treatment

- I. Comprehensive statistical information and disaggregated data in relation to cases of torture or how the Government addresses the problem**
- II. Develop Regulations for purposes of operationalizing the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012**

Government has put in place effective measures including legislative, policy and institutional frameworks to prevent acts of torture and other forms of ill treatment.

The legislative measures taken include, the adoption of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations, 2017 which operationalized the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012 to provide a complaint and investigation procedure. In addition, Government enacted the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019 which prohibits the torture of detainees and other related violations.

In order to fast track and streamline compensation to victims of human rights violations, Government adopted a policy for individual MDAs to be responsible for the payment of victims of human rights violations. This was a major policy shift from the earlier processes that required all payments to be effected by the office of the Attorney General. The call for the implementation of the new policy was effected by Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) through a Budget Call Circular (Ref: BPD 86/107/02), 2016 which instructed that all obligations on payment of Court awards arising out of actions of MDAs are to be paid against their Medium-Term Expenditure Framework provisions. It is also Government policy to hold perpetrators of torture personally accountable and liable for any torturous acts committed. This has translated into cautious handling of matters by responsible MDAs in view of the call on their budgets and has ultimately led to increased respect for human rights in the course of duty.

In regard to institutional framework reforms, security agencies have taken steps to ensure adherence to the PPTA; the UPDF has a human rights training manual in place that has been integrated into the military training curriculum, and the Uganda Police Force (UPF) passed a human rights policy to improve the framework to strengthen the police officers' observance of human rights. Uganda Prisons Service Standing Orders 2017 incorporated the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (PPTA) provisions.

In addition, capacity building measures have been undertaken by security agencies to prevent acts of torture. The Uganda Peoples' Defense Forces (UPDF), the UPF, Uganda Prisons Service Services (UPS) in collaboration with UHRC, CSOs such as African Centre For Treatment of Torture Victims (ACTV), Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) have continued to train officers on the use of non-coercive means of extracting information and on the provisions of the PPTA in order to prevent torture.

UPDF trained over 10,000 officers on the PPTA and has integrated the PPTA in the military training schools' curriculum. In FY 2020/21 UPF trained 10,515 police officers on PPTA. Over 95% of the prison staff have undergone human rights training as one of the basic modules at Prisons Academy and Training Schools. Human rights committees for staff and prisoners were established in all the prisons to monitor human rights observance, awareness and adherence to human rights standards besides addressing human rights issues

Over 30 UPS and 85 UPF staff have been sponsored by the GSPS to undertake a diploma course in human rights at the Law Development Centre, Kampala.

Over the last three years UHRC conducted 3,207 inspections of places of detention. Interventions by the UHRC during monitoring visits include demotion of ward leaders who have been accused of harassing and beating up inmates, reprimand of officials including requesting for disciplinary action to be taken against officers and opening up of complaints against officials who have been accused among others of acts of torture.

5. Administration of Justice/Access to Justice

- I. Intensify the recruitment process in the Judiciary in order to adequately address the current human resource challenge;**
- II. Expedite the processes of assessing mentally ill persons remanded in prisons and for the issuance of relevant orders by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for the release of such persons;**
- III. Establish a Victims Compensation Fund to enhance the Government's efforts in ensuring timely payment of the compensation to victims of human rights violations;**
- IV. Establish an independent civilian oversight mechanism on policing, as recommended in ACHPR/Res. 103a (XXXX)06 on Police Reform Accountability and Civilian Police Oversight in Africa, adopted during the 40th Ordinary Session of the Commission.**

The independence of the Judiciary has been strengthened by the enactment of the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020 making it a self-accounting institution and providing for its effective and efficient administration. Parliament passed a resolution to increase the number of high court judges to 82. The Judicial Service Commission has progressively implemented the resolution of Parliament and as at August, 2022 the Judiciary has been sourced with 8 Supreme Court Judges, 15 Court of Appeal Judges, and 72 High Court Judges and 394 Magistrates and 54 Registrars.

The mandate to grant orders in respect of persons to whom a special finding of "*not guilty by reason of insanity*" under section 48 of the Trial on Indictments Act, Cap. 23 is no longer with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Judicial decisions of the High Court and

Constitutional Court have shifted this responsibility to the Judiciary in line with the Constitutional principle of separation of powers. Ideally, an executive institution should not be involved in making decisions on matters before Courts of law. The gist of the decision of Justice Batema N.D.A in the case of *Bushoborozi Eric V Uganda HCT-01-CV-MC-0011* is as follows;

- a) Where the trial court makes a special finding that the criminal lunatic is not guilty by reason of being insane, the judge must make special orders as to the discharge or continued incarceration of the prisoner in an appropriate place and the superintendent of the mental hospital, prison or other place detaining the prisoner makes periodic reports to the court which may issue appropriate special orders.
- b) The Registrar of the Court shall periodically, and in any case not later than three years from the date of the last court order or report from the institution keeping the prisoner, make a production warrant for the prisoner and present the case file before the High Court or any other Court of competent jurisdiction for appropriate special orders.

This position was re-echoed in the case of *Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), and Iga Daniel vs. Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No. 64 of 2011*.

In light of the above decisions, the grant of orders in respect of persons to whom a special finding of “*not guilty by reason of insanity*” currently lies with the Judiciary. Given the recent enhanced resourcing of the Judiciary, these cases should and will be expeditiously handled.

In addition, Government through the Uganda Prisons Service is constructing a specialized detention facility at Butabika Hospital where such persons can be detained while under the specialized medical care. As part of a long term remedy, there are ongoing efforts by MoJCA to amend the Trial on Indictment Act and other criminal justice procedural laws to conform to the judicial decisions.

Government continues to strengthen the Professional Standards Unit of Police that monitors performance of officers and ensures that there is accountability of its officers for human rights transgressions, among others. The Unit has been decentralized to twenty-one regions all over the country and are accessible by the public who can lodge a complaint against any officer and the unit will investigate and ensure that there is disciplinary action taken.

6. Right to Liberty and Security of Person/Conditions of Prisons and Detention Centres
Systematically review prison conditions with the goal of relieving overcrowding and poor living conditions, provide funds for the construction of new prisons, and also provide clean, safe, and adequate prison conditions, together with adequate food for prisoners, in compliance with international standards for prisoners and pre-trial detainees.

The Uganda Prison Service is commended as one of the best performing prison services in Africa. Government continues to take measures to improve the prison conditions in the country. In a bid to improve the accommodation needs for the prisoners, new prisons have been constructed and others expanded. The new prisons include Kyangwali, Butyaba and Kitalya Minimax. Expanded prisons include Mutukula, Nebbi, Adjumani, Ragem and Orom-Tikau, Mutufu and Rukungiri.

The strategy to install PWD friendly facilities in all new prison constructions is being implemented. All new prisons have provisions for ramps at entry points and arm supports in toilets. Crutches are also being provided to those inmates who need them, but most of them come with these crutches.

All prisoners have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination. UPS has taken measures to ensure that the right to health of all categories of prisoners is observed. The health care coverage of prisons has increased over time – Village Health Teams have been established in 98% of the prisons. It is the responsibility of UPS, as soon as possible after a person is admitted to prison, to conduct a medical examination by a properly qualified medical officer and any necessary medical treatment is then offered.

Sanitary requirements like soap, razor blades, sanitary products for women, uniforms and beddings are provided regularly to the prisoners. Mothers incarcerated with their children are given special care for growth and development; they are provided with milk, clothing, food supplements and some stations have day care centres.

Measures are in place to ensure that all prisoners can access safe and clean water and 63.8% of the prisons have access to safe and clean water supply.

In line with the Prisons Act, 2006, all the prison units offer three wholesome, nutritious and well prepared meals per day. Prisoners living with HIV/AIDS are provided an extra special diet.

Subject to the permission of the Commissioner General, inspection may be carried out by teams composed of persons coming from other official or external bodies or non-governmental organisations and human rights groups. An independent oversight mechanism known as Visiting Justices was appointed in 73 districts to carry out monitoring and inspection visits to assess the prison living and working conditions vis-a-vis international, regional and national human rights standards. In addition, the Uganda Human Rights Commission makes regular and unannounced visits to prisons to assess whether the prison service is in compliance with the international human rights standards for prisoners and pretrial detainees.

Formal education/ Functional Adult Literacy (FAL)

UPS provides tertiary, secondary and primary levels of education, based on the National Curriculum and/or Higher Education Institutions Academic Programs. The purpose is to provide inmates with education and equip them with skills that would contribute towards their

rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration back into community as economically productive law abiding citizens. The rate of recidivism among inmates who receive formal education while in prison is very low.

The Uganda Prison Service partners with NGOs, FBOs and CSOs in building the capacity of prisoners in various ways. A case in point is the trainings of inmates in the Northern and Mid Northern Regions where inmates have received entrepreneurship training by Advance Africa. Some inmates were equipped with business kits. Ex-inmates in the two regions have started businesses to sustain them and employ relatives and neighbors

7. Access to Information

- I. Expedite the processes of amending the Access to Information Act (2006) (ATI Act), including reviewing the wide scope of exemptions thereunder, and for putting in place in practice, an accessible, simple and transparent complaints and appeals mechanism under the Act;**
- II. Expedite the process of effective implementation of the ATI Act**
- III. Expedite and support the process initiated by the Uganda Law Reform Commission towards the repeal of the provisions on criminal defamation contained in the Uganda Penal Code Act Cap 120;**
- IV. Expedite the process of reviewing and amending existing laws that restrict access to information**

The Access to Information Act, 2005 operationalises article 41 of the constitution. This law mandates all public bodies and government entities to have an information officer who shall avail to the public all public documents that form part of the record of that institution.

It is pertinent to note that the grant of access to information by a public body is couched in mandatory terms and the only exception is in section 5 of the Access to Information Act where the release of the information is likely to prejudice the security or sovereignty of the State *or interfere with the right to the privacy of any other person*. The, information and records to which a person is entitled to have access under the Act should be accurate and up to date so far as is practicable.

The public body is required to provide the requested information or a response with regards to the access within 21 days – there is no exception to this rule. Failure to do so gives the person requesting for information recourse to the courts of law that can compel the institution to provide the said information or response to the request.

Government of Uganda has made legal reforms under the Leadership Code Act. The Minister of Ethics and Integrity revoked the Leadership Code Regulations, 2018 and replaced them with the Leadership Code Regulations, 2022. The Regulations address the issue of lowering barriers to Public access to information on asset declaration.

8. Protection of Women and Children

- I. Expedite the enactment of draft legislation pending in Parliament which have a bearing on the protection of the rights of women;**
- II. Strengthen its ongoing initiatives towards eliminating low retention rates for the girl child in school at all levels of education (primary, secondary, and tertiary), and for ensuring full and equal access to quality education for all children**

A number of laws that have a bearing on the protection of the rights of women and children have been passed by Parliament. These include; -

- (a) The Succession (Amendment) Act, 2022 which amended the Succession Act Cap. 162 to bring it in conformity with the Constitution to provide for gender equality in accordance with articles 21 and 33, repealed sections that were declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court, to refine the definition of customary heir or heiress to remove discrimination, among others.
- (b) The Public Finance Management Act, 2015 which requires that plans and budgets of Ministries, departments and agencies of Government are gender and equity responsive.
- (c) The Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2022 currently before Parliament also seeks to mandate employers to establish reasonable lactation stations for breastfeeding mothers at workplaces.

Currently, the percentage of girls to total enrolment has been at 50.1%. The balance in Gender enrollment is mainly due to the interventions that the Government has put in place to increase enrollment and retention of girls in school which include:

- a) The Gender in Education Policy of 2009 was reviewed and a Second Gender in Education on Sector Policy (GEP II), 2016 was developed to facilitate inclusive and equitable quality education and sports and lifelong learning opportunities for all girls and boys, women and men in Uganda.
- b) The Education Sector Strategic Plan (2004-2015) is also under review and takes care of key girls' concerns including reducing social cultural barriers to their education.
- c) The National Strategy for Girls education focuses on retention of girls in school, development of Gender sensitive education materials and provision of separate sanitary facilities for boys and girls in mixed schools.
- d) The NDP 2016 to 2020 calls upon the Ministry of Education to increase girls' access to Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) institutions and programs.
- e) Affirmative action for female students at entry into tertiary institutions and Universities is still ongoing.

- f) A Gender Working Group and a Gender Unit now exist at the Ministry of Education.
- g) Annual collection of key girls' related data in the Annual School census to feed the Education Management Information System (EMIS) for effective planning and monitoring.
- h) Training of teachers on Gender Responsive Pedagogy
- i) Life Skills Education for teachers and learners.
- j) Senior women teachers in every mixed school who handle female related socio issues for learners.
- k) A comprehensive school Guidance and counseling program in all schools.
- l) A counseling room or space in each school.

9. Rights of Refugees, Asylum seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons

- I. Provide adequate information on the situation of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and internally displaced persons;**
- II. Expedite the completion of the Government's project for the establishment of a resident status for refugees to bring a solution to long-term displacements**

Uganda does not generate any refugees, however, the situation of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons has over the years significantly improved in Uganda. Uganda is now globally acknowledged as a haven of peace and freedom, thus becoming one of the biggest destination for refugees from all over the world. To date Uganda hosts over 1.5 Million refugees making it the largest host country in Africa and the fourth in the world. Uganda continues to receive refugees largely from South Sudan and other countries like Somalia, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Burundi among others.

These refugees are settled in the following areas;

- Oruchinga and Nakivale Refugee Settlements in Isingiro district currently hosting 156,134 refugees
- Kyangwali Refugee settlement in Kikuube District which has 124, 430 refugees
- Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in Kyegegwa District which has 118,266 refugees
- Rwamwanja Refugee settlement in Kamwenge District which has 85, 729 refugees
- Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in Kiryandongo which accommodates 63,156 refugees
- In West Nile region refugees are hosted in districts of Moyo, Arua, Yumbe, Adjumani, Koboko, Lamwo and these districts are currently still receiving a big number of refugees from South Sudan and more settlements are being created in order to accommodate the increasing number of south Sudanese refugees.

Uganda's Refugee policy aims at empowering refugees and grants a wide range of socio-economic rights, aimed at making refugees self-reliant. Uganda, has a Strategic Settlement Transformation Agenda which is a holistic integrated framework for refugee management that takes cognizance of the protracted nature of displacement and the impact on host communities.

Uganda is one of the first countries in the world to align its Refugee response agenda with the national planning frameworks i.e the National Development Plan (III) and Agenda 2030 upholding the principle of “Leave no one behind”.

All Refugee settlements have services such as police protection, health facilities, psychosocial services, legal services and livelihood support which provide a safe space for refugees especially girls and women. On 25th January 2019, MoH launched the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan, 2019-2024 (HSIRRP) which is modelled along the national health priorities, principles of strengthening health systems and integrated service provision to ensure equitable and well-coordinated access to health services for refugees and host communities.

With support from Regional/National Referral Hospitals to the settlements, specialized outreach services are routinely available and carried out by specialist medical associations and medical schools. At the community level, Village Health Teams (VHTs) have been established in refugee settlements in line with the MoH’s strategy. VHTs are responsible for health promotion, health education, identification and referral of sick or malnourished individuals and follow-up in the community, including linking the sick or malnourished community members to ambulatory service. The Government has also provided free of charge COVID-19 testing and vaccination to the refugee communities.

- Refugees are free to access other health facilities outside their settlements either within the districts where their settlements are located or in any other districts of their choice. Some of the Health Facilities constructed in various Refugee Settlements include;

Nakivale Refugee Settlement	-Ribondo Health Centre II -Julu Health Centre II (Unchr) -Kibengo Health Centre II (Unchr) - Nakivale Health Centre III -Rwekubo Health Centre IV
Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement	-Kyempango Health Centre II -Mahenga Health Centre II -Rwamwanja Health Centre II -Rukuyu Referral Hospital -Ntenungi Health Post -Kikurura Health Post
Kyaka Refugee Settlement	-Munkonda Health Centre II -Bujumburi Health Centre III
Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement	-Nyankandoni Health Centre II -Panyandori Health Centre II -Panyandori Hills Health Centre II -Kiryandongo Referral Hospital
Kyangwali Refugee Settlement	-Malembo Health Centre II

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kasonga Health Centre II -Ngurwe Health Centre II -Kyangwali Health Centre III -Rwenyawawa Health Centre III -Mukunyu Health Post
Rhino Refugee Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Oclea Health Centre II -Odoboo Health Centre II -Okwa Health Centre II -Okuaa Health Centre II -Orujobo Health Centre III Siripi Health Centre III
Impevi Refugee Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Impevi Health Centre II -Iyinga Health Centre III
Bidibidi Refugee settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bidibidi Health Centre III -Twajiji Health Centre III -Iyele Health Centre III -Koro Health Centre III -Yayari Health Centre III -Swing Health Centre III -Jomorogo Health Centre III -Luzira Health Centre III -Kongbe Health Centre III -Banga tuti Health Centre III -Miguru Health Centre III -Igamara Health Centre III -Mbulumuru Health Centre (is which health Centre) -Okubani Health Centre III -Ayiru Health Centre III -Yangam Health Centre III

The Police Refugee Coordination Desk at UPF Headquarters coordinates refugee issues in the Refugee settlements across the country, ensures security in the settlements and follows up on all investigations concerning refugees. Mobile court sessions have been conducted by the Judiciary to increase access to justice, referral systems at the districts have been put in place, GBV information data collection system has been set up, a toll-free VAC helpline, Sauti #116 has been put in place, and a Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) has been put in place to address some of the refugee complaints.

While in Uganda, Refugees have the right to;

1. Be issued with an identity card for purposes of identification and protection. All recognized refugees as per the guidelines of Uganda's Refugees Act, 2006 are issued refugee identity cards which are renewable every 5 years. Refugee Identity Cards are issued to refugees that are 18 years and above.
2. Be permitted to remain in Uganda until a person willingly returns to his/ her country of origin or is resettled to a third country. The principle of non-refoulement is embodied in the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter of Human and People's Rights. This principle strictly prohibits the deportation or forcible return of refugees to the countries from which they have fled due to a well-founded fear. Therefore, Uganda as country signatory to the conventions has an obligation not to expel, deport, or forcibly return refugees and Ugandan public officials at border entry points and elsewhere generally maintain this obligation.
3. Fair and just treatment without discrimination on grounds of race, religion, sex, nationality, ethnic identity, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.
4. Elementary Education; Refugees receive the same treatment as nationals with particular regard to access to particular studies, recognition of foreign certificates, diplomas and degrees. The Government of Uganda ensures that all refugees at least obtain elementary education. Below are the statistics as of 30th June, 2017.

Primary Education Statistics for refugees in Uganda.

Settlement	Gross Enrollment						R+N	Net Enrollment			
	Refugees			Nationals				Refugees			
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total		M	F	Total	
Adjumani	20,285	14,666	34,951	3,524	3,298	6,822	41,773	11,471	9,684	21,155	
Rhino Camp	8,468	7,820	16,288	4,460	4,389	8,849	25,137	4,399	4,089	8,488	
Yumbe	27,478	24,477	51,955	3,832	3,305	7,137	59,092	17,487	16,160	33,647	
Moyo	15,414	16,112	31,526	1,282	1,228	2,510	34,036	11,640	12,226	23,866	
Imvepi	4,609	4,180	8,789	722	642	1,364	10,153				
Kiryandongo	8,022	6,281	14,303	3,990	3,649	3,365	17,668	6,010	4,655	10,665	
Nakivale	9,274	9,319	18,593	2,760	2,737	5,497	24,090	8,046	8,085	16,131	
Oruchinga	853	847	1,700	1,663	1,893	3,556	5,256	798	783	1,581	
Rwamwanja	5,151	4,138	9,289	923	890	1,813	11,102	4,525	3,713	8,238	
Kyaka II	3,206	3,040	6,246	1,605	1,693	3,298	9,544	2,669	2,573	5,242	

Refugee Net and Gross Enrollment Rates

	Population group (6-13 years)	Gross/refugees Enrolled	GER	Net Refugee Enrollment	NER
Adjumani	63,316	34,951	55%	21,155	33%
Rhino Camp	23,428	16,288	70%	8,488	36%
Yumbe	73,496	51,955	71%	33,647	46%
Moyo	46,367	31,526	68%	23,866	51%
Imvepi	28,979	8,789	30%		
Kiryandongo	15,871	14,303	90%	10,665	67%
Nakivale	25,478	18,593	73%	16,131	63%
Oruchinga	1,972	1,700	86%	1,581	80%
Rwamwanja	13,059	9,289	71%	8,238	63%
Kyaka II	5,535	6,246	113%	5,242	95%

Secondary Education Statistics

Settlement	Gross Enrollment							Net Enrollment		
	Refugees			Nationals			R + N	Refugees		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total		M	F	Total
Adjumani	1,678	938	2,616	1,970	1,432	3,402	6,018	1,364	805	2,169
Rhino Camp	471	172	643	41	23	64	707	126	63	189
Yumbe	2,776	1,116	3,892	253	95	348	4,240	1,755	1,497	3,252
Moyo	1,517	907	2,424	151	91	242	2,666	1,329	802	2,131
Imvepi	587	193	780	12	1	13	793			
Kiryandongo	1,451	586	2,037	97	60	157	2,194	987	269	1,256
Nakivale	723	494	1,217	190	216	406	1,623	547	543	1,090
Oruchinga	53	47	100	77	73	150	250	35	36	71
Rwamwanja	97	68	165	403	254	657	822	80	66	146
Kyaka II	182	119	301	133	129	262	563	138	80	218

	Population group (14-17)years	Gross refugee Enrolled	GER	Net refugee Enrolment	NER
Adjumani	24,396	2,616	11%	2,169	9%
Rhino Camp	11,063	643	6%	189	2%
Yumbe	34,706	3,892	11%	3,252	9%
Moyo	21,895	2,424	11%	2,131	10%
Imvepi	13,685				
Kiryandongo	9,323	2,037	22%	1,256	13%
Nakivale	9,680	1,217	13%	1,090	11%
Oruchinga	674	100	15%	71	11%
Rwamwanja	6,334	165	3%	146	2%
Kyaka II	2,543	301	12%	218	9%

Enrollment statistics for all Schools (Supported & Non-Supported in the refugee settlement area) at end of 2018

Settlement	Gross Enrollment							Net Enrollment		
	Refugees			Nationals			R+N	Refugees		
	M	F	T	M	F	T		M	F	T
Adjumani	5,571	6,827	12,398	547	497	1,044	13,442	4,338	5,119	9,457
Rhino Camp	3,739	4,029	7,768	878	932	1,810	9,578	3,095	3,313	6,409
Yumbe	8,203	8,180	16,383	976	1,074	2,050	18,433	7,416	7,410	14,826
Moyo	3,782	4,010	7,792	750	159	309	8,101	2,642	2,865	5,507
Imvepi	3,532	3,796	7,328	260	277	537	7,865	2,839	3,000	5,839
Lamwo	2,258	2,190	4,448	400	391	791	5,239	1,368	1,340	2,708
Kiryandongo	2,753	2,554	5,307	1,422	1,293	2,715	8,022	2,066	1,814	3,880
Kyangwali	3,498	2,734	6,232	79	84	163	6,395	2,655	2,088	4,743
Nakivale	2,993	2,942	5,935	995	1,008	2,003	7,938	2,271	2,142	4,413
Oruchinga	507	484	991	507	491	998	1,989	430	418	848
Rwamwanja	2,164	2,157	4,321	382	357	739	5,060	1,821	1,811	3,632
Kyaka II	615	651	1,266	293	277	570	1,836	518	570	1,088
Total	39,615	40,554	80,169	6,889	6,840	13,729	93,898	31,459	31,890	63,350

5. Access employment opportunities and engage in gainful employment. Employed refugees are entitled to their right payment just like Nationals. Refugees are given work permits and under the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control (fees) Regulations, 2021 work permit fees were waived, a move that's intended to facilitate local integration and self-reliance.
6. Refugees in Uganda are entitled to freedom of movement, subject to "reasonable restrictions" on grounds of national security or public order. Refugees residing in gazetted rural settlements are required to obtain administrative permits allowing them to leave and return to their designated settlements. A refugee who wishes to travel beyond the borders of Uganda is issued with a travel document valid for all countries except the refugee's country of origin and those countries with which Uganda has restrictions.
7. Refugees are accorded access to land for the purpose of cultivation or pasturing and do not have the right to sell or lease the land allocated to them.

The situation of IDPs in Uganda is attributed to the occurrence of Natural hazards and some human induced crises. The Government addresses the needs for internally displaced persons through provision of humanitarian assistance in form of Food, water, medicines, temporary shelter, land and other Non-food items (NFIs). The support to displaced persons is anchored on the National Internally Displaced Persons Policy (2004) and the National Policy on Disaster Preparedness, 2010 and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, 2021.

These policies are all intended to ensure that IDPs live in dignity and continue to enjoy the same rights and freedoms under the Constitution as other Ugandans. The National Internally Displaced Persons Policy (2004) also assists in the safe and voluntary return of IDPs and to develop sectorial programs for rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure and support sustainable livelihood projects.

Government continues to employ a coordinated response mechanism to address the effects of internal displacement through cooperation between relevant government institutions, the Civil Society and the private sector.

10. Protection of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities

- i) Intensify efforts to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities so as to ensure that they enjoy equal access to all public facilities and services,**
- ii) Take the necessary measures to ensure that the national HIV prevention strategy specifically addresses the needs of persons with disabilities.**
- iii) Provide detailed information on the activities of Government department in charge of disability and elderly and the National Council for Older Persons.**

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development launched the National Social Protection Policy in 2016. It seeks to promote coordination and harmonization of social protection in the country. Its objectives are to increase access to social security, enhance care, protection and support for vulnerable people and strengthen the institutional framework for social protection service delivery.

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 provides for the respect and promotion and other human rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities and reestablishes the National Council for Disability as the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCD) and provides for job quotas for persons living with disabilities. During FY, 2020/21, 243 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) groups benefited from the special grant for PWDs amounting to UGX 1.239 billion reaching 943 males and 906 females. Government increased resources allocated to the NCD to monitor and coordinate disability related work. The NCD has compiled an Annual Disability Report and has conducted research and disseminated findings on economic empowerment and participation of PWDs in order to advocate for disability inclusion.

EOC, UHRC, NCD have continued to raise awareness on rights of PWDs; Television stations employ sign language interpreters, annual reports of the UHRC are printed in braille and Government has been at the forefront of celebration of the International day of PWDs on 3rd December in order to raise awareness of rights of PWDs. In addition, the PPDA Act 2003 was amended in 2019 to reserve 30% of public procurement contracts to PWDs, women and youths.

In addition, the Government of Uganda enacted the Building Control Act, 2013 which empowers the building committee to stop construction of a building for which the public is to have access but does not provide access for persons with disabilities.

Government is in the process of developing the prevention and management of disabilities strategy aimed at early detection and management of situations and sickness that could lead to the occurrence of disabilities.

The Government continues to take necessary measures to improve the human rights standards of older persons. The Government through Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development is implementing the Senior Citizen's Grant targeting older persons with an unconditional cash transfer aimed at reducing the intergenerational poverty and providing social protection/income security to them.

Uganda rolled out Direct Income Support Programme under SAGE to 146 districts to all older persons aged 80 and above in order to empower the older persons who are vulnerable. Each beneficiary older person receives US\$ 25,000 monthly benefit paid quarterly. By June 2020, 304,555 older persons (179,750 females and 124,805 males) were benefitting from the programme.

PART IV: CHALLENGES FACED BY UGANDA IN IMPLEMENTING THE CHARTER

Within the reporting period, Government of Uganda made great strides in implementing the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Some of the efforts included enactment of laws and adoption of policies, institutional reforms and establishments and putting in place the requisite regulatory frameworks. However, there were some challenges in the implementation of the charter as indicated below.

1. Global warming and climate change has had multiple effects on observance of various rights, in particular social economic rights. As a result of climate change, Uganda has experienced severe flooding and landslides that have led to an increase in internally displaced persons, loss of lives, property and infrastructure and lowered agricultural productivity. Despite the challenges, Government is committed to combatting the adverse effects of climate change and has, in that regard, ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol as well as the Paris Agreement. These international instruments were domesticated in the National Climate Change Act, 2021 which was informed by the National Climate Change Policy (2015). Government has therefore put in place a comprehensive legal, policy and institutional framework to curb the effects of climate change. The meaningful realization of these interventions requires climate financing which is not readily available to developing countries and thus further constrains the national resources.
2. The Covid-19 pandemic that ravaged the world, necessitated that Government imposes a lockdown in order to mitigate the spread of the deadly virus. This led to disruption of livelihoods which affected the meaningful enjoyment of rights and implementation of Government programs and projects as planned. Government deliberately prioritized the right to life because without this right the other rights cannot be enjoyed. Government through Ministry of Health inevitably put in place Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Online learning was introduced, relief aid distributed to vulnerable persons and stimulus packages were rolled out through the Uganda Development Bank. The Anti-COVID-19 National Taskforce was duly established to help with the enforcement of the Ministry of Health guidelines and Presidential directives geared towards public safety. Government gradually lifted the Covid-19 restrictions.
3. Government continues to grapple with inadequate funding to key sectors and institutions that are responsible for the implementation of human rights standards due to a limited resource envelope. This was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that greatly affected the economy and mobilisation of resources.

4. The advancement of technology in the human rights space is a double edged sword. On the one hand technology facilitates e-governance and the enhancement of human rights such as the right of access to information, freedom of speech and expression. right to education, and the right to health, among others. On the other hand, technology facilitates violation of rights such as the right to privacy, economic rights, right to health, misinformation and disinformation, inciting violence, cyber bullying, mental health issues and sexual exploitation, among others.

CONCLUSION

The Government of Uganda prioritizes promotion and protection of human rights as a national value due to our history of gross violations from colonialism and previous regimes. The lessons learnt from our history have convinced us about the importance of the principles of human rights being indivisible and inter-dependent. Since the promulgation of the 1995 Constitution, continuous progress has been achieved in the enhancement of the enjoyment of individual and collective rights by all persons in the country. Human rights are respected because they are good for the people in Uganda.

Deliberate efforts and measures have been made to progressively improve the legal framework. International and Regional Instruments were acceded to or ratified and domesticated. Best practices such as the Human Rights Based Approach were introduced into all agencies of Government and a computerized data base created to monitor compliance. Many new legislations were enacted and operationalized by regulations to give effect to the enjoyment of individual and group rights especially in political representation at all levels. The data provided in this report indicates that the Government of Uganda has demonstrated its willingness to discharge its obligations through putting in place principal legislation, policies, programmes, and administrative measures for the realization of the provisions of the Charter.

However, many challenges still exist and new ones continue to emerge. External factors like climate change affect food production and cause serious shortages to some communities. This adversely affects the economy and hence social and economic rights of the people and government. The influx of refugees also continues to increase pressure on land and social services. Improved awareness of civil and political rights has increased the demand for access and participation in the civil liberties such as rights to association, assembly and information.

In spite of the challenges, the Government of Uganda continues to subject herself to the international and regional voluntary mechanisms to be assessed of her performance under the Universal Periodic Review and African Peer Review Mechanism. The Government of Uganda remains committed to uphold the objectives and principles of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights because we believe it is our cause. We welcome constructive criticism to support our effort to develop a society with a culture that respects, promotes and observes human rights.

I thank you for your attention.