



THE **2023** STATE OF THE YOUTH REPORT

ASSESSING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT
IN YOUNG PEOPLE.



WESTMINSTER
FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRACY





LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Annual Budget
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
DLG	District Local Government
FY	Financial Year
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
MHM	Menstrual Health Management
NYC	National Youth Council
NYM	National Youth Manifesto
NRM	National Resistance Movement
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
UPFYA	Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs
UNSA	Uganda National Students' Association
USE	Universal Secondary Education
UPE	Universal Primary Education
UPOLET	Universal Post O'Level Education and Training



FOREWORD

Every year, the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) undertakes an annual assessment of government investment in young people measured against the priority areas set out in the National Youth Manifesto which are employment, education, access to health care, youth participation in decision-making as well as Climate Change and Youth Friendly cities. This assessment helps us take stock of the progress made in realizing the demands made in the 2021-26 National Youth Manifesto and the Youth Legislative Agenda.

The development of this report followed a highly consultative process involving over 55,000 respondents reached through the NYC initiated U-Report platform and two town hall meetings as well as a series of Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), comprehensive literature review and physical verification exercises to at least 20 District Local Governments. The findings give us a ray of hope of a country where the potential of its young people is put to full use. Government has invested significantly in young people. For instance 60 billion was invested in skilling youth, the ICT sector which is youth facing received a 49% budgetary increment, increased capitation grants to aid education, construction of more schools and recruitment of more teachers on top of salary enhancements, the rollout of BPO under Ministry of ICT, availability of funds under UDB and other ventures to support youth in business among others are all visible and plausible public investments in the young people of this country.

However, significant challenges still abound. To mention but a few is the minimal investment in SRHR services, stringent criteria for accessing funding for youth businesses and innovations, double taxation on youth facing services like internet and the ICT infrastructure, minimal investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation while the scourge of youth unemployment and underemployment still looms large and needs to be arrested.

It is my honor to present to you this report. I join my colleagues the youth MPs in calling upon the donor community, civil society partners and government to take serious the recommendations of this report. I extend our appreciation to partners that have enabled the development of this report. They include VSO, SRHR Alliance, Akina Mama Wa Afrika, Reproductive Health Uganda.

I wish to appreciate the team of consultants led by Prosper Mubangizi for their expertise in putting together this report. This is testament to the knowledge, agency, expertise and potential of our young people.

Appreciation also goes out to the leadership of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) for coordinating the resource mobilization, data collection, publication and launch of this report.

Phionah Nyamuturo, MP
National Female Youth MP/ Chairperson UPFYA.



1.0 | INTRODUCTION

The State of the Youth Report is an annual assessment of the public and private investment in the young people of Uganda, as examined through the prism of young people’s aspirations and the government’s commitments to addressing the youth issues as stated in the National Youth Manifesto and government policy documents, including the National Development Plan III.

More critically, the report examines the gains and gaps occasioned by government policies in the 5 critical areas of health, education, employment, climate change and, youth political participation in decision making, juxtaposed against the priority areas set out in the annual State of the Nation Address, Annual Budget Speeches, Ministerial Policy Statements, Medium Term Expenditure Framework(MTEF), Parliament’s legislative agenda among other policy areas.

Beyond assessing government investment in young people, this report attempts to provide information to young people on existing opportunities created by the various government initiatives, laws, programmes and policies in the short, medium and long term. This is a paradigm shift away from the previous State of the Youth Reports.

1.1 Approach

The author undertook a comprehensive literature review of key policy documents such as the Public Investment Plan (PIP), Annual Budget Performance Reports, State of the Nation Address, 2021/26 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), National Development Plan III, Vision 2040, Program Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs), Ministerial Policy Statements. These were measured against the government NDP 3 priorities, the 2021-26 National Youth Manifesto indicators, The 2021-26 NRM Manifesto, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063.

There were also participatory and consultative meetings with different stakeholders. Three virtual “National Youth Townhalls” attracting over 180 participants were held to get views of the young people. There were also Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with youth in selected districts including Kalangala, Nebbi, Kampala, Wakiso, Hoima, Bunyangabu, Mbale, Arua and Napak.

Through the National Youth Council (NYC), a poll was sent to young people using the UReport platform and 54,559 respondents participated in the poll which focussed on youth economic empowerment and participation in decision-making. Of the 54,559 respondents, 36.1% were from the Northern region while Karamoja had the least responses at 0.5% as shown below:



This was on top of consultative meetings held by the National Youth Council executive in 17 districts of Uganda. These districts are: Buvuma, Ngora, Namutumba, Sironko, Pallisa, Ibanda, Masaka city, Rwampara, Bundibugyo, Napak, Nwoya, Pakwach, Arua City, Luweero, Yumbe, Kiryandongo

The consultant also carried out Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with respondents from Civil Society Organizations, National Youth Council, Uganda National Students Association, Members of Parliament, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development among others.

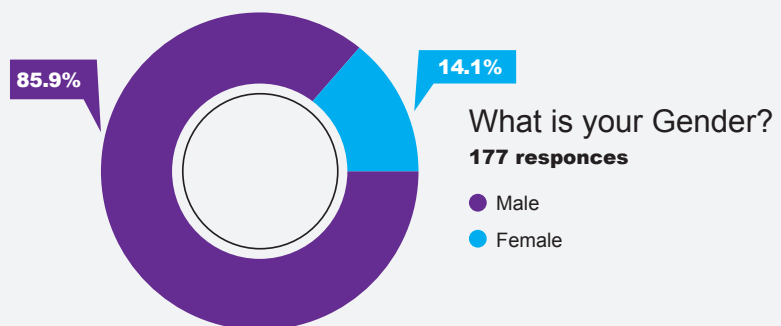
1.2 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

This subsection provides the demographic details of the respondents in terms of gender, age, employment status and residential location.

1.2.1 GENDER COMPOSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS

This study had 177 participants via the google forms, 54,559 participants via the U-Report platform and 234 participants via the nationwide tour which was led by the National Youth Council (NYC) leadership. There were more males participating in the study than females. Via the U-Report Platform, 70% of the study participants were male while females constituted only 30%.

Via the google forms, only 14.1% of the respondents were female while the remaining 85.9% were male as shown here:

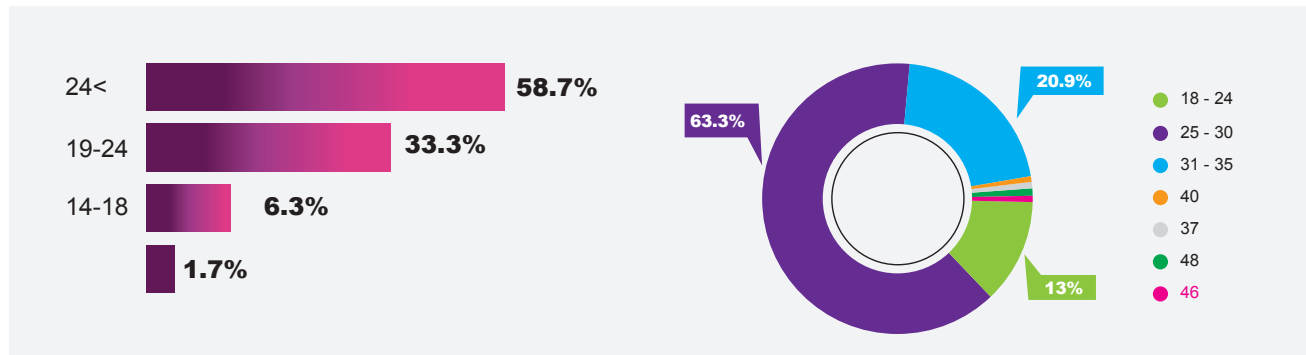


The study could not verify why female participation in the survey was very low. This is however a clear indication that more needs to be done to attract female youth to take an active role in the governance affairs of their country and communities.



1.2.2 AGE COMPOSITION

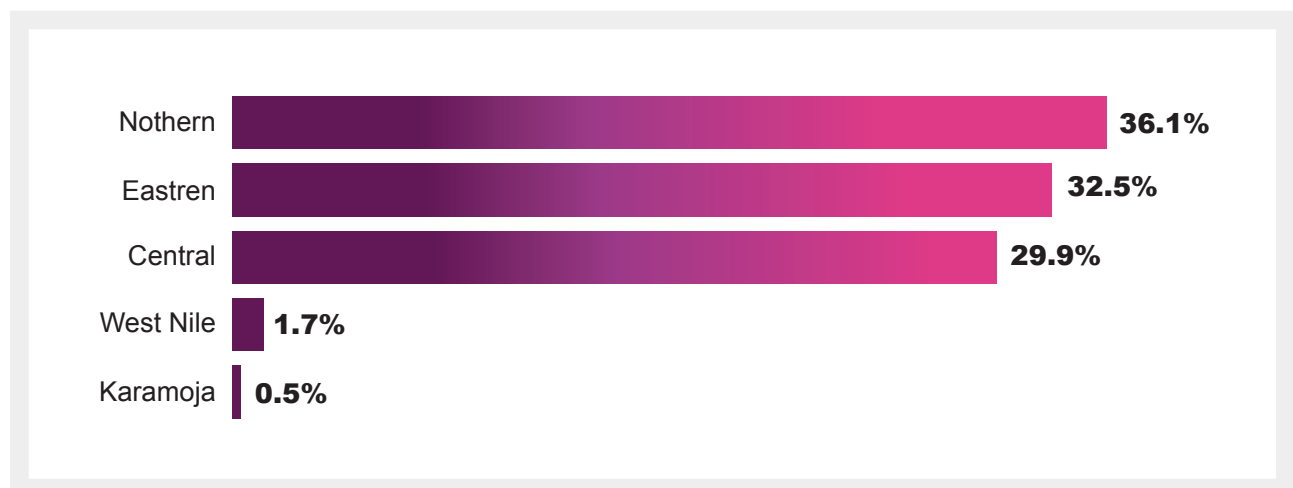
In terms of the age composition, majority of the respondents (58.7 %) were above 24 years as shown below;



Broken down, there were more responses with the age bracket of 25-30 years constituting over 63% and modest responses from people outside the youth category who were consulted due to their positions in the districts where the national tour was conducted.

1.2.3 REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

In terms of regional representation of the responses, there were more respondents from the Northern region had the highest responses at 36.1% with Karamoja posing the least responses (0.5%) as shown below:



A further breakdown of the regional responses into sub regions indicates Kampala/Wakiso (42.3%), Bugisu (39.1%), Ankole (37.0%), Lango (34.8) and Teso (30.9%) had the highest number of participants in this national youth survey while Greater Mpigi (4.8%), Sebei (6.5%), Karamoja (11.6%) and Kigezi (13.3%) had the fewest number of participants in the study.

This is mainly due to the choice of the survey tools which was elitist and sought the participation of youth that understand English and not the illiterate and semi literate youth. The survey also largely favoured urban youth at the expense of the rural youth. This defect in the study design was however cured by the nationwide tour to selected districts in all the sub regions of Uganda where youth were engaged by the National Youth Council (NYC) using the tool that had been developed for the survey.



2.0 ASSESSMENT OF GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE

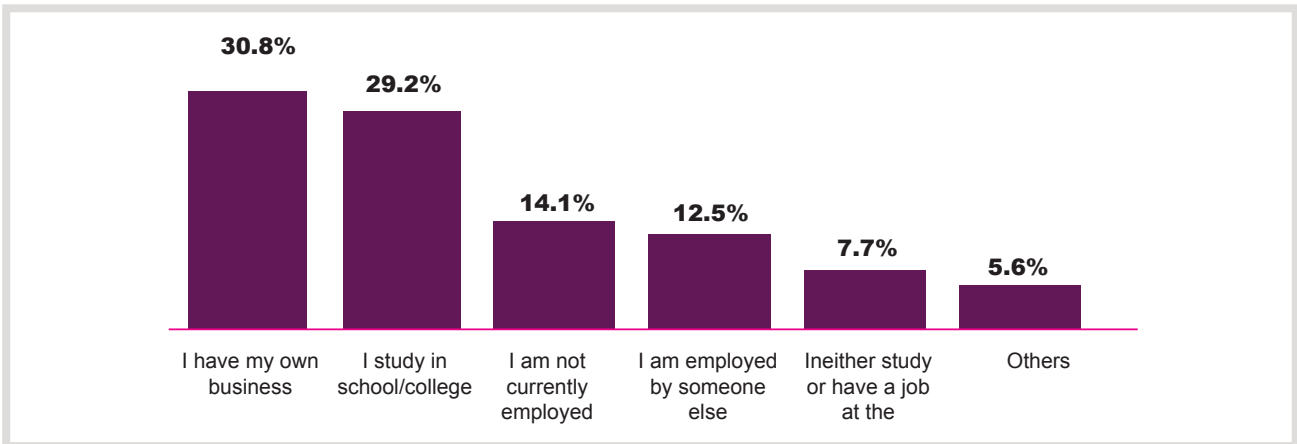
This section is divided into 5 subsections based on the five thematic areas in the 2021/26 National Youth Manifesto.

2.1 EMPLOYMENT AND JOB CREATION.

This section on the thematic area of “Employment and Job Creation” is divided into i) Youth in ICT; ii) Youth in Agriculture; iii) Youth in Sports and Creative Arts and iv) Youth in Tourism and Hospitality Industry. It also entails a sub section tracking government investment in other demands in the 2021/26 National Youth Manifesto.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The majority of respondents are either self-employed (30.8%) or students (29.2%), with a significant portion employed by someone else (12.5%), while 14.1% are currently not employed, and 7.7% neither study nor have a job. Another 5.6% fall into other categories but also mentioned activities that with in the already specified categories as shown in the graph below:

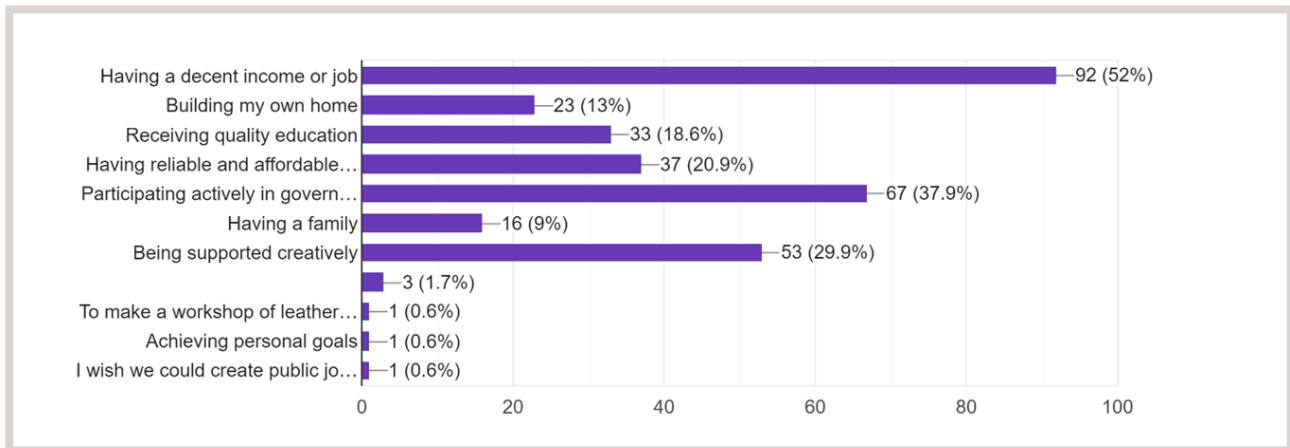


The study respondents were also asked to state what their major priorities in life were at the moment. The top priorities for respondents vary, with a focus on having a decent income or job (27.61%), followed by completing their education (21.65%), while other important priorities include home ownership (16.27%) and reliable access to healthcare.

Biggest Priority	% GT Count of Biggest Priority
Being supported creatively	9.17%
Building my own home	16.91%
Finishing my study at school/college/University	22.51%
Having a decent Income or job	28.70%
Having a family	5.70%
Participating actively in governance processes	4.65%
Receiving quality education	12.36%
Total	100.00%



To get a better understanding of the youth priorities, the google form allowed the participants to give multiple answers.



Majority had decent income/employment (52%), Active participation in governance (37.9%), Being supported by government/ private sector (29.9%), Access to quality and affordable healthcare (20.9%) as their top life priorities.

2.1.1 Youth In ICT Sector

In today's digital era, information and communication technology (ICT) has become an integral part of people's everyday lives, revolutionizing the way people work, communicate, and access information. For young people in Uganda, acquiring ICT training skills can be a game-changer, offering a plethora of opportunities and transforming their lives for the better. In this sub section, we will explore the policy direction of the government of Uganda to ICT for youth empowerment via budgets and policies.

In the FY2023/24 National Budget, the Government has set aside UGX 185.1 billion in FY for the ICT sector. This is a 49% increase from the UGX 124 billion allocated that was allocated to ICT in FY 2022/23. This is intended to among others achieve the following targets:

1. Deploy Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) to 820 locations (targeting schools, hospitals, markets) in the selected sub-regions.
2. Continue facilitating scientific research and innovation.
3. Develop detailed designs for the construction of the National Automotive Park and initiate its construction.
4. Upgrade the metropolitan area network to monitor service provision over the NBI.

Whereas the ICT sector received a 49% increase in budget allocations, this is still little to fully harness Uganda's potential and drive the digital revolution. Facebook remains closed while the Computer Misuse Act which was enacted this year also poses a significant threat to realizing a real digital revolution.

There is also need for increased prioritization of initiatives such as Business Process Outsourcing. For instance, the support rendered by the National Information Technologies Authority (NITA-U) to a total of 10 Business Process Outsourcing centers through the extension of NBI connectivity and price stabilization created 452 employment opportunities to benefit the youths in FY 2022/23. Such initiatives should be scaled up.

2.1.2 YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE.

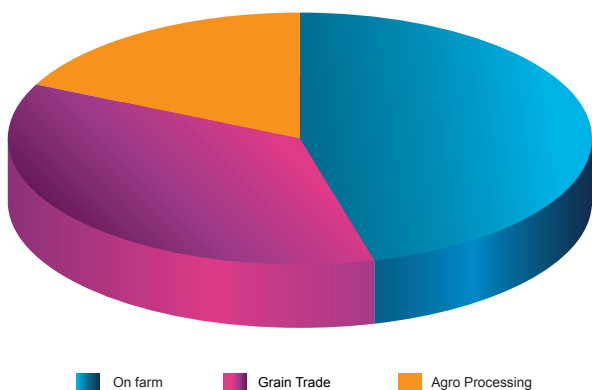
Agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda’s economy, with approximately 70% of the population engaged in agricultural activities. The sector plays a vital role in food security, export earnings, and rural development. The value added for agriculture, forestry and fishing sector grew by 5% in the FY 2022/23, registering 0.8 percentage points higher than growth rate registered in the FY2021/22. In nominal terms, the gross value added was UGX 44,179 billion in FY2022/23, higher than the UGX 39,161 billion registered in FY2021/22.

The government has allocated UGX 2.2 trillion to agriculture and this is a considerable increase of 52% from **UGX 1.45 trillion** in FY 2022/23. as well as identified the following priority actions to commercialize agriculture in FY 2023/24:

- i. Support agricultural research for the development of climate resilient crops and animal species.
- ii. Promote environmental conservation, restoration and protection of degraded water catchment areas and forest cover.
- iii. Construct small, medium and large-scale irrigation schemes in water stressed areas. These will include the construction of earth dams at Unyama in Gulu, Namalu in Nakapiripirit, Sipi in Bulambuli, Kabuyanda in Isingiro, among others.
- iv. Implement large-scale mechanization and irrigation.
- v. Improve farmer mobilization, education and partnerships with large commercial farmers for the production of strategic commodities, such as coffee maize and tea to meet national and international demand.

The Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) remains the flagship funding program for citizens involved in agriculture. 62.5% of the projects funded by ACF comprise of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which constitute the majority of the agriculture sector in Uganda.

ACF FUNDING AREAS



In 2022, the Government of Uganda initiated a 7 year UGX 232.73 Billion National Oil Seed Project. The National Oil Seeds Project is an IFAD/GoU funded project targeting oil seed production and its value chain development in Uganda being implemented in 76 districts in the Sub-regions of West-Nile, Acholi, Karamoja, Lango, Bukedi, Bugisu, Teso, Buganda, Busoga and Bunyoro. The project which is planned over a seven year period targets 120,000 smallholder households in

the six hubs country wide. Within the targeted households the primary beneficiaries are the women, men and youth involved in growing of oil seeds. Other partners will be the processors, input suppliers, service providers, agents, traders, transporters and financiers, scientific and academic research (MoFPED, 2023).

- i. *There is need to robustly raise awareness about the various government programmes in agriculture so that young people are aware and able to benefit from them.*
- ii. *The youth-led agro-based cooperatives should be promoted so to enhance young people’s chances of access to credit and technical advisory services from existing initiatives such as PDM, Emyooga etc*



2.1.3 Tourism and Hospitality Industry.

Tourism is a youth facing sector and it contributes enormously to Uganda's economy. The industry is slowly recovering from the COVID19 pandemic as indicated in the table below with increasing revenue generation and tourism arrivals as shown in the table below:

FINANCIAL YEAR	NUMBER OF TOURISTS	INCOME GENERATED (USD)
FY 2021/22	500,000	503,000,000
FY2022/23	814,508	1,014,000,000

For FY2023/24, UGX 249 billion has been allocated to tourism which is an increase from UGX 194.7 billion allocated in FY 2022/23. This allocation is intended to realize the following;

- i. Supporting the rolling out of the 'Explore Uganda' destination brand as well as domestic marketing promotions to increase competitiveness, attractiveness and identity of Uganda.
- ii. Positioning Uganda as a global and regional centre for Meetings, Incentives, Conference and Exhibitions (MICE).
- iii. Strengthening enforcement and adherence to tourism standards through licensing, grading and classification of tourism facilities.
- iv. Establishing the Fort Portal Regional Museum and handcraft for addition onto the tourism products along the western tourism circuit.
- v. Completing the Kikorongo Equator monument.
- vi. Reconstruction and equipping of the Karamoja Museum and handcraft centre. It is expected to add on the tourism products along the Karamoja tourism circuit and also enhance the handcraft and souvenir industry training facilities, workshops and market access.
- vii. Complete the Rock Art file through research and archaeological excavations and submit it to UNESCO for consideration so as to nominate Uganda's Rock art sites into the World Heritage List.
- viii. Target to achieve 100 percent of wildlife import/export permit applications being processed within one week of application.
- ix. Establishment of a modern pier at the Source of the Nile entailing a dock, viewing bridge, restaurant, zip line infrastructure, an access road, among others.
- x. Pursuing expansion of Airport routes to boost Tourism by increasing the number of destinations to which Uganda Airlines will go. These include London, Guangzhou, Mumbai, Jeddah, Istanbul, Lagos, Accra, Goma, Lubumbashi, Harare and Lusaka.

Whereas all these priorities are plausible, there is need to i) make young people the drivers of tourism sector in the country as marketers of the nation's tourism potential and ii) build the skills of the youth to be able to run the sector through enhanced marketing, leisure and hospitality skilling programmes.

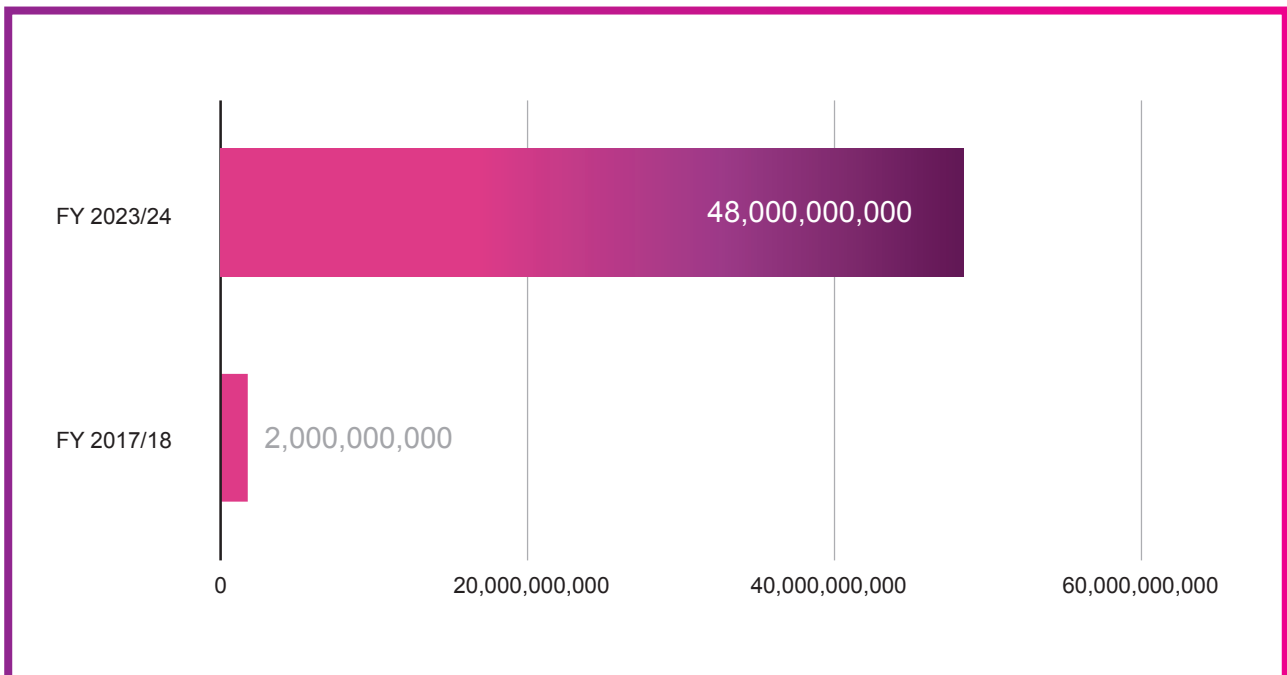


2.1.4 Sports and Creative Arts

Sports is increasingly emerging as an important enabler of economic development in the world with a share in national economies comparable to agriculture, tourism, real estate, industry and trade (MoFPED, 2022). The Global Sports Impact Report (2016) estimated that the sports industry generates as much as US\$700billion(bn) annually or a 1% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Government’s deliberate plans and ambitions to develop and promote sports is further stipulated in Uganda’s Vision 2040 and in the third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020/21-2024/25, which aspires to improve the country’ world ranking in niche sports. The plan provides a sound basis for improving funding for promotion of sports as a real economic contributor to GDP and to enhance sports related employment.



According to Salary Explorer (2022), an average person working in sports sector in Uganda typically earns around **UGX 25,700,000** annually.



As shown above, Government of Uganda has embarked on processes to enable it tap into the enormous potential of its young people. Critical is the increased allocation to the sports sector from UGX 2 billion in FY2017/18 to UGX 48 billion in FY 2023/24. In FY2022/23, the 1964 National Council of Sports Act was amended to provide for a sports sector that responds to 21st century realities.



CASE STUDY: KENYA'S INVESTMENT IN THE SPORTS SECTOR

In order to tap into the abundant potential in the country, the Government of Kenya adapted aggressive funding strategies through the establishment of the Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund in February 2019. The Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund was established to support sports federations, training, and technical capacity building (All Africa News, 2021). By 2021, the fund had collected Kshs 30.3bn and in FY 2022/23, Kenya increased allocation to sports by 38.8% for refurbishment of the regional stadia (Nation, 2022). This has seen Kenya establish herself among the global giants in the sports arena especially in athletics.

Sports can also drive tourism- a phenomenon known as Sports Tourism. A classic example is South Africa whose sports tourism market was estimated at US\$3,666 million in 2022 representing a market share of 2%-5% of the global sports tourism market (Future Markets Insights, 2022).

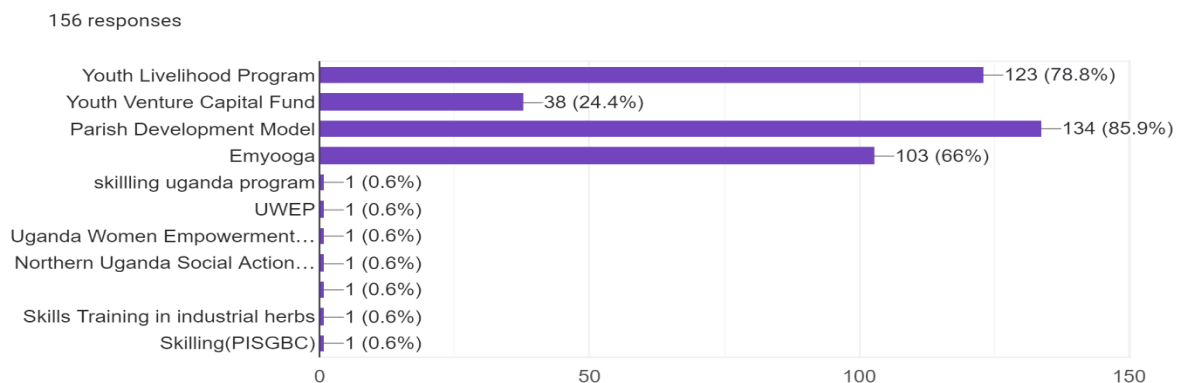
2.1.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Study respondents were asked whether they knew of any government youth empowerment programs most of the respondents replied in the affirmative as shown below;



However, the awareness of the existence of government empowerment programmes was not high among the respondents targeted using the U-Report platform. These respondents are equally divided, with 50% aware of government programs for youth in their area and another 50% not aware of such programs. This difference in awareness is attributed to the targeting. Whereas the respondents reached using the google form were mainly Civil Society leaders and youth in tertiary education institutions, those targeted with the U-Report platform are more evenly spread and no as tech savvy as the other target group.

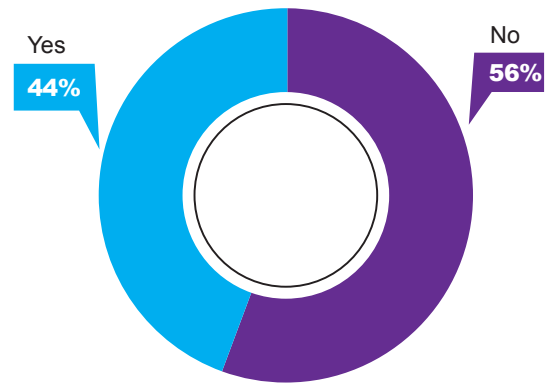
The most known government programs targeting people are the Parish Development Model (85.9%), Youth Livelihood Program (78.8%), Emyooga (66%) and Youth Venture Capital Fund (24.4%).



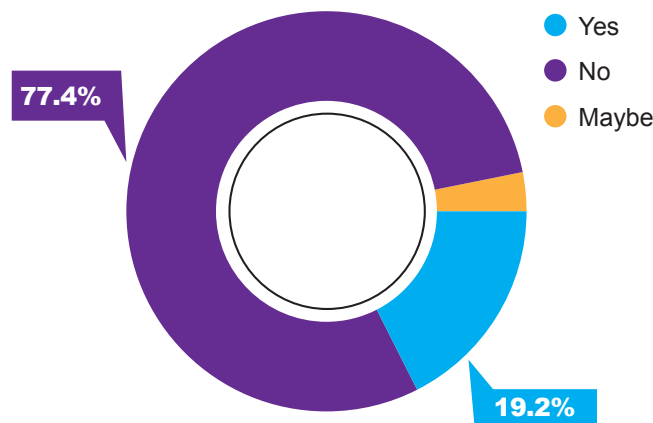
Also critical to note is that less than numbers of young people knew about the beneficiaries of these very programs. A case in point is that whereas, 88.1% of the respondents knew about the existence of government programs targeting young people, only 69.6% had knowledge of who was benefitting from these programs as shown below;



The knowledge of youth that have benefitted from these programs reduces to 44% among survey participants that were targeted via the U-Report platform



Furthermore, only 19.2% of the respondents intimated that they had benefited from any government program as shown in the pie-chart below:



The implication here is that knowledge does not translate into access to the government programs. The assessment found that more young people know that there are government programs set up to help them but few of the young people are able to utilize and benefit from these programs despite their awareness of the existence of these programs.

- i. *The National Youth Council and the District Youth Councils should be supported technically and financially to be one stop centres for information on empowerment programmes*
- ii. *Social Protection/empowerment programmes should be designed with flexibility and based on different contextual realities if they are to be fully effective.*



2.1.6 PROGRESS WITH THE DEMANDS IN THE NATIONAL YOUTH MANIFESTO TOWARDS JOB CREATION.

Youth Demands	Government policy response/ Progress Status
Participation in government procurement through ring fencing at least 30% local contracts for youth owned companies.	UPFYA engaged PPDA to reserve government contracts below UGX 100 million for young people. Guidelines on this are being revised by Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.
Amend the Mining Act, 2003 to provide for youth participation in the extractive industry by mainstreaming Artisanal and Small Scale (ASM) into the Act and thereby formalize their activities.	The president assented to the Mining and Minerals Act 2022 on 14 th October 2022 and it provides for Artisanal and Small Scale Miners.
Establishment of the Graduate service scheme	The Youth Bill and the National Graduate Scheme Bill set to be introduced in Parliament for debate
Expanding Agricultural financing and access to markets	Shs67 billion made available to 1,000 borrowers under the Agricultural Credit Facility.
Increase access to credit and financing	<p>By March 2023, seed capital worth Shs. 249 billion had been disbursed to 6,721 constituency-based <i>Emyooga</i> SACCOs. Over 600,000 individuals had successfully applied for credit from their Parish-based Associations. 25% of the beneficiaries are youth.</p> <p>The Income Tax Act was amended to allow taxpayers who obtain credit facilities from SACCOs, non-deposit taking microfinance institutions, self-help groups, and community based microfinance institutions to deduct the entire interest on loans from these institutions as a business expense while determining their taxable income. This legislative measure is expected to support low-income individuals and groups to enable them access financial services and improve profitability and survival rate of SMEs.</p>
Regularisation of labor externalization	<p>A select Committee by Parliament has been set up in conjunction with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to investigate and provide recommendations on how to better the lives of migrant workers.</p> <p>The Externalization of Labour Bill is set to be reintroduced on the floor of Parliament.</p>



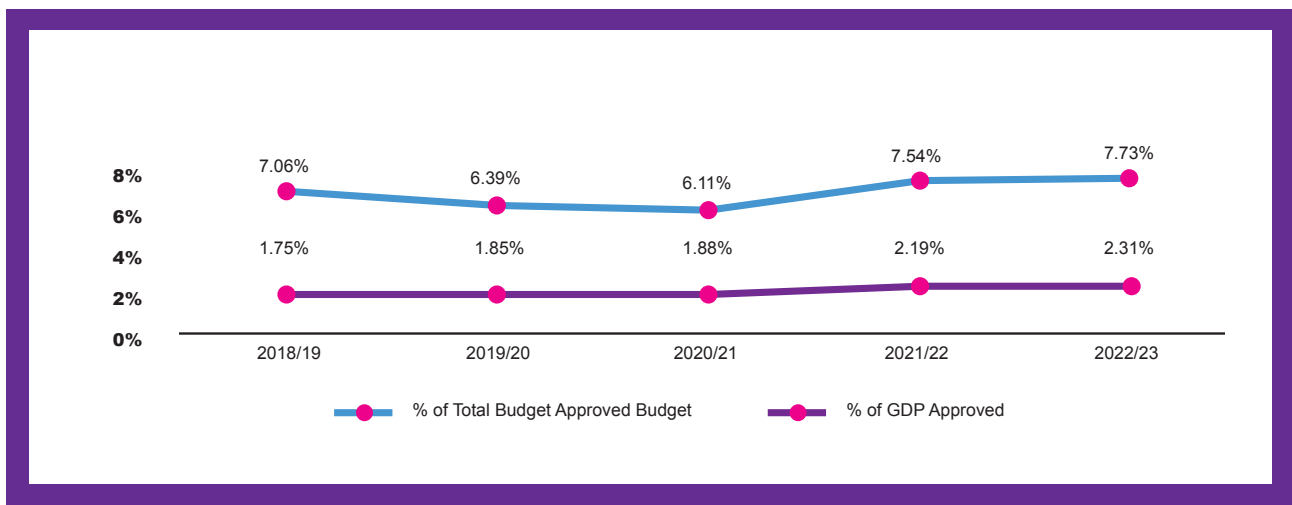
<p>Promotion of local content to create affirmative action</p>	<p>Local Content Act was enacted by Parliament and assented to by the President of the Republic of Uganda</p> <p>Government has adopted an ICT-led socio- economic policy for accelerated development with a focus on ICT entrepreneurship development, rejuvenation of the private sector, and wealth creation in the National Development Plan III.</p> <p>Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) is being implemented by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance.</p>
<p>Affirmative action for youth in the post covid economic recovery plans</p>	<p>Shs200 billion made available to small and medium enterprises with special focus on women and the youth.</p> <p>Uganda Development Bank disbursed another Shs351 billion by December 2022 for private sector enterprises engaged in the strategic industrial development of the country, such as agro-processing, manufacturing, and minerals beneficiating</p> <p>In FY2023/24, Government committed to support SMEs in the manufacturing and export sectors with the US\$ 200 million World Bank Investment for Industrial Transformation and Employment (INVITE) Project that will provide grants and concessional credit to qualifying SMEs. These SMEs will access new and innovative financing products with long term financing of up to 15 years. This intervention aims at increasing Ugandan manufactured export products, generate direct and indirect jobs for more than 200,000 workers, and safeguard existing jobs for 530,000 workers.</p>
<p>Skilling young people to bridge the gap between knowledge and job/labor requirements</p>	<p>MOGLSD has undertaken various skilling programs on top of the Presidential Initiatives on Skilling the youth . 19 skilling centers have been established across the country under the Presidential Industrial Hubs initiative. So far, 28,750 trainees have successfully completed training in skills programs and 6,110 are under-going training in various fields.</p> <p>60 billion shillings set apart in the FY2023/24 National Budget for skilling youth under the Presidential Skilling Initiative.</p>



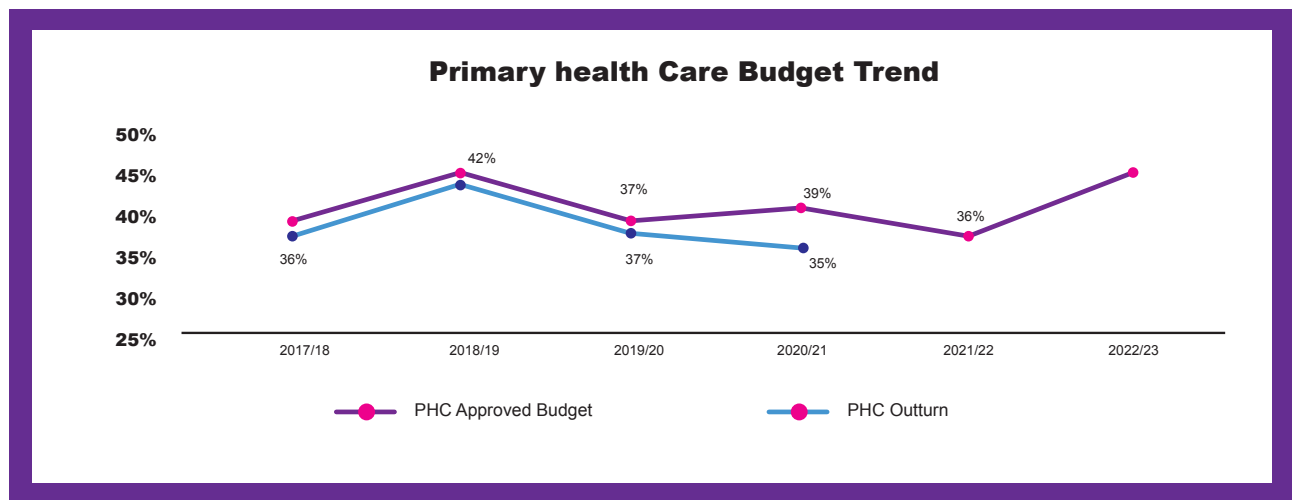
2.2 ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR ALL.

2.2.1 Healthcare Expenditure

During the period under review, the health sector budget increased partly due to the need to respond to COVID19 and its effects. Health sector spending has increased to 2.31% of GDP as illustrated below;



At Primary Health Care level, funding has been provided for the upgrading of 384 Health Centre IIs to IIIs and the construction of 31 Health Centre IIIs in sub-counties. However, our analysis showed that the Share of Primary Health Care financing has been declining since 2018/19. On actual expenditure basis, primary health spending has been declining, from 42% of total expenditures in 2018/19 to 35% in 2020/21 but increased to 36% spending for 2021/22 and to 43% of total government spending on health in FY2022/23 as shown below;



Source: Government Budget Documents (2018/19 – 2022/23)

Considering that there were increases in health spending, including through supplementary budgets, a decline in primary health care spending signifies that such resources were not flowing to local levels to support COVID'19 health containment measures.

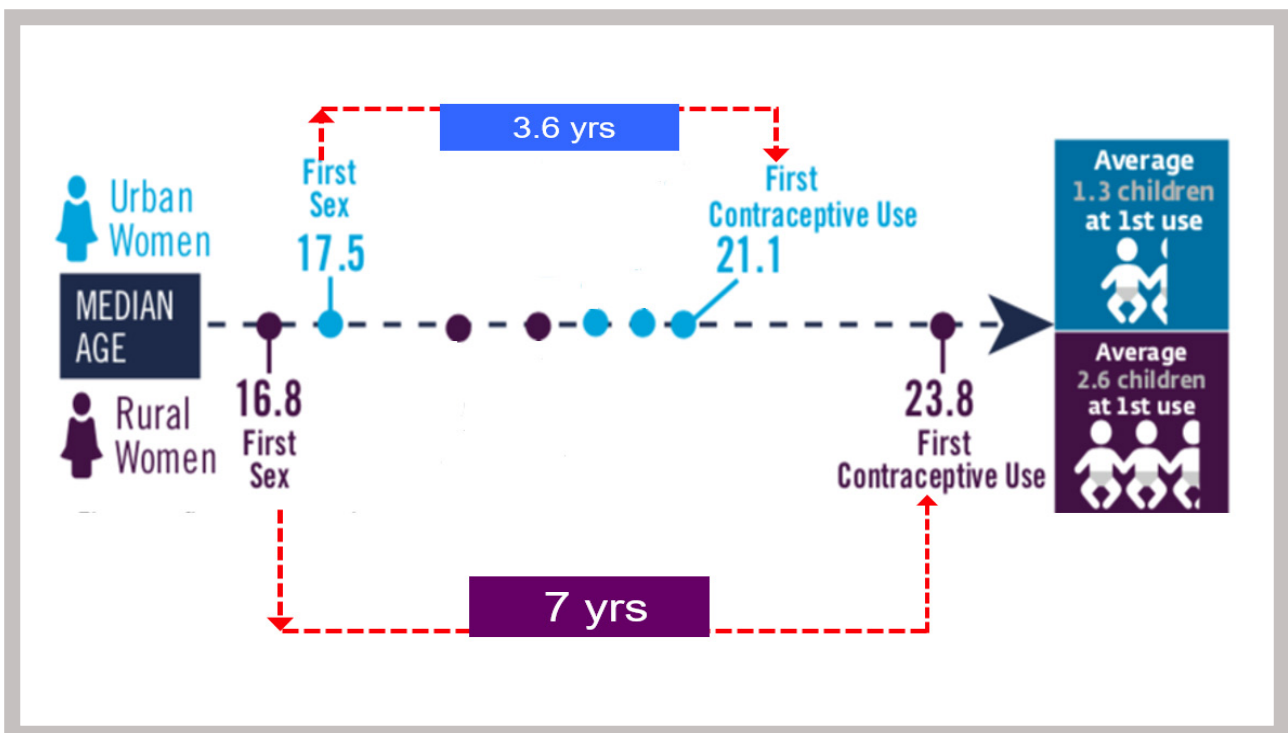
In line with decentralization, and the need to focus on primary health as the anchor of the health system, it is critical to ensure that more resources are channeled to primary health care, which plays a critical role in service delivery to the poor and marginalized.

“
Seventy- five percent of the disease burden in Uganda is still preventable through health promotion and disease prevention
(Parliament of Uganda, 2022)
”

2.2.2 PRIORITIZATION OF MHM AND SRHR

Budget allocations for reproductive health supplies increased from UGX 11.5 billion in 2017/18 to UGX 14.7 billion in 2019/20 and 14.7 billion maintained for 2020/2021. This was a decline from UGX 16 billion in 2018/19. It should be however noted that 80% of the Reproductive health budget line is allocated towards Mama Kits.

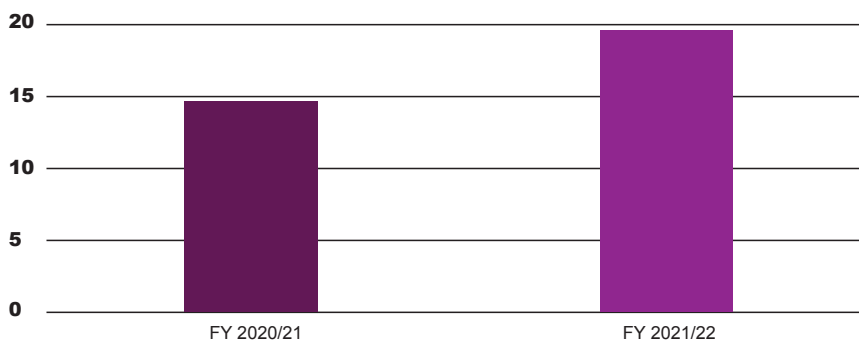
Districts like Kalangala are reeling from the effects of non prioritization of SRHR services. During the data collection process, the team was able to analyse district records on the prevalence of GBV cases in the island district





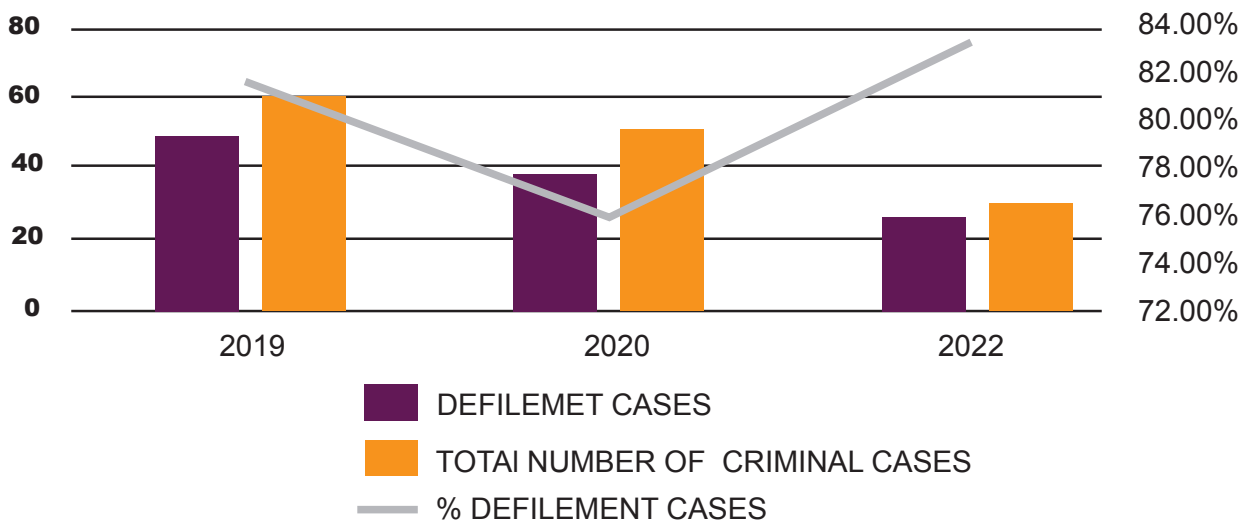
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Supply of SRHR Commodities (Value in Billions)



Districts like Kalangala are reeling from the effects of non prioritization of SRHR services. During the data collection process, the team was able to analyse district records on the prevalence of GBV cases in the island district

Trends Analysis of Defilement Cases in Kalangala District



2.2.4 UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE THROUGH HEALTH INSURANCE

Health Management Organizations (HMOs) generated UGX 39.93 billion growing from UGX 33.04 billion in Q3 of 2022, representing a decline of 17.26 percent when compared to the corresponding period in 2021, during which UGX 48.26 billion was underwritten. The significant decline was a combined effect of the acquisition of one of the biggest HMOs, IAA Healthcare by Prudential Life Assurance and the suspension of International Medical Link (IML).



2.2.5 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

The Public Health Act was amended. It provides 21st century solutions to public health concerns as opposed to the obsolete 1945 Act which was enacted in the colonial years.

The Uganda Nutrition Action Plan and the RMNACH Sharpened Plan among other new policies were adopted.

The School Health Policy is under discussion by Cabinet and all indications show it will be approved and launched soon.

Other key investment priorities include:

- The Ministry is in the process of establishing port health services (laboratory and staff houses) at the points of entry – Malaba, Busia, Elegu, Cyanika and Vurra. This will strengthen disease surveillance at the border points of entry.
- The Entebbe and Mulago Isolation wards have been constructed and equipped to handle any disease outbreaks.
- Renovation and equipping of Mulago National Referral Hospital to provide super specialised health care services such as organ transplants—which is awaiting the passing of the bill—super specialized diagnostic, medical, and surgical services.
- Construction of the 450-bed Mulago Specialized Women and Neonatal Hospital which can now offer assisted reproductive therapy in case of infertility.
- Construction, equipping, and operationalization of Kawempe and Kiruddu National Referral Hospitals to decongest Mulago.
- Renovation, expansion and equipping of Kayunga and Yumbe hospitals which have been upgraded to Regional Referral Hospitals thus increasing the number of RRHs from 15 to 17.
- Enhancement of oxygen supply in the National and Regional Referral Hospitals as well as setting up a 60,000-litre cryogenic oxygen storage tank at National Medical Stores in Kajjansi.

2.3 EDUCATION THAT DRIVES GROWTH

The Education, Skills Development and Sports Sub Programme contributes to the Human Capital Development in the NDPIII identified as a key driver of economic transformation and development through harnessing of the potential Demographic Dividend (DD). The Human Capital Development Programme contributes to the third National Development Plan (NDP III) goal through improving productivity of labor for increased competitiveness and better quality of life for all.

2.3.1 GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

One of the key government policies on education is to “Ensure that children complete at least 11 years of school (P.1-S.4) and acquire skills required for the job market”. In line with the NRM Manifesto 2021-26 and the third National Development Plan, the government has continued to ensure increased access to education, especially for the disadvantaged learners through the continued implementation of UPE, USE and UPOLET programmes. In FY 2021/22, UPE enrolment was 7,704,224 and with an allocation of Shs148.6 billion, USE and UPOLET enrolment was 681,992 and 62,945 respectively.



In FY 2022/23, UPE enrolment rose to **8,628,264** with an allocation of **Shs125.1 billion**, USE and UPOLET enrolment stood at **761,884** and **73,037** with a combined allocation of **Shs142.5 billion**.

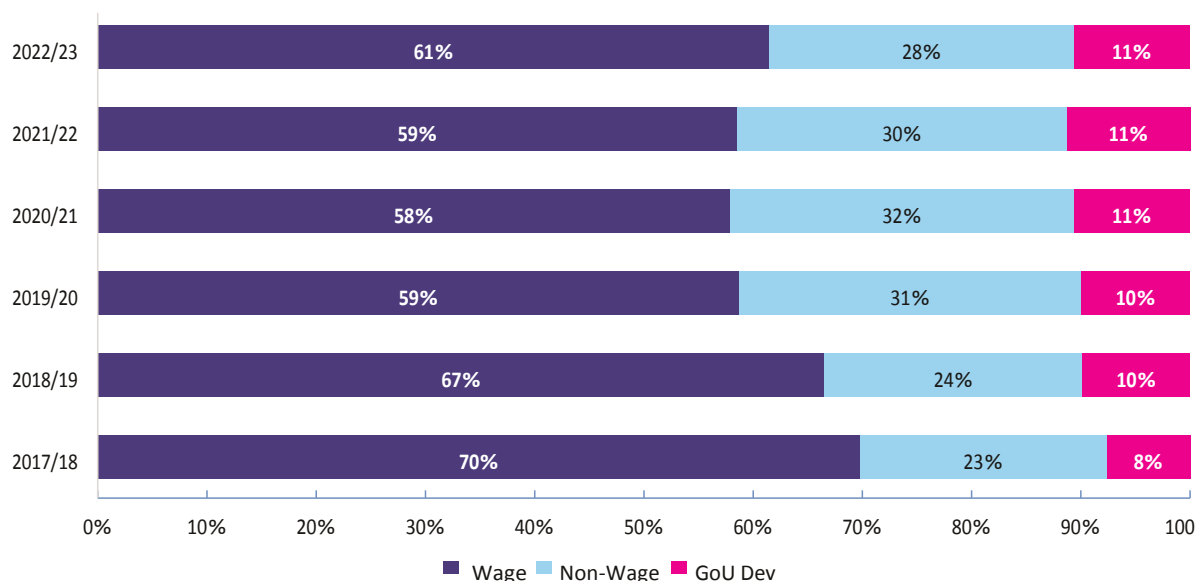
2.3.2 PRIORITIZATION OF SKILLING

There is observed increase in enrolment in TVET. A case in point is the fact that the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) assessed 65,056 (i.e. female 38,522 and male 26,534) candidates against a target of 41,000 who were assessed in both modular and formal assessment across 61 occupations. The number increased to 71,942 (Male 28,820 and Female 43,122) learners in 2022.

2.3.3 INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

In the period under review, government increased capitation grants. The purpose of the grant is to cater for operational costs, provision of scholastic materials, facilitation of co-curricular activities and payment of salary to support staff. This FY, the annual capitation rates were revised upwards for Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools from UGX 15,000 to UGX 17,000, Universal Secondary Education (USE) “O” Level to UGX 174,000 “A” level is UGX 255,000, Special Needs Education at UGX 400,000 while Technical Colleges are at UGX 163,800. The Vocational Technical Colleges (VTCs) however do not have a standard rate.

The largest proportion of government expenditure is allocated towards wage recurrent expenditure and nonwage recurrent expenditure compared to the development resources. Despite a declining trend in wage proportion, from 70% in 2017/18 to 58% in 2020/21, wage proportion increased slightly from 59% of the budget in 2021/22, and projected at 61% in 2022/23. On the other hand, development support has stagnated at 11% since 2020/21.



Source: National Budget Performance Reports



The low level of development expenditure undermines provision of infrastructure development in schools which affects the access and quality of education provided in the rural areas which have a deficit in wash facilities, classrooms, and teacher houses, among others. Notably, the pupil classroom ratio (PTR) has stagnated at 55:1 compared to the recommended 30:1 by UNESCO standards.

Furthermore, funding under the Higher Education Students Financing Board (HESFB) has been halted in FY2023/24 and the body has been recommended for dissolution. This threatens financing for vulnerable students who intend to pursue tertiary education.

2.3.3.1 GOVERNMENT FUNDING COMMITMENTS IN FY2023/24.

- Commence the construction and equipping of two-Unit Laboratories in 21 secondary schools currently without any in line with the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Policy.
- continue with the construction of 115 Seed secondary schools in sub-counties without any, under the Uganda inter-Government Fiscal Transfer programme.

2.3.4 POLICY SUMMARY TABLE

NYM AFFILIATED DEMAND	GOVERNMENT ACTION
Reform the Education System	The Education Policy Review Commission (EPRC) was set up to review the 1992 Government White Paper on Education and align the education sector to the 21 st century needs and realities.
Fast track a practical curriculum as opposed to the theory based curriculum	TVET Policy passed
Fast track teacher recruitment, professionalization and incentivization	The National Teacher Policy was adopted and the UNITE secretariat is being established. The National Teacher Bill has been drafted and is under consultations
Improve school feeding	The Ministry is developing the National School Feeding Policy. Preparation of the Regulatory Impact Assessment was completed which informed the drafting process of the Policy.
Improve access to education	The Ministry is constructing 259 Seed Secondary Schools (117 Phase I, 115 Phase II & 27 Phase III) under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIFT) Program. The first phase is in its final stages with 102 Seed Schools completed; 68 were commissioned; the 15 schools are at different stages. The Ministry shall also construct 116 Secondary Schools under the Uganda Secondary Education
Digitize education	The Ministry has developed a digital agenda that is being designed to support the development of ICT infrastructure of schools and educational institutions to support e-learning. The Ministry has also drafted an ICT in Education Policy which is pending consultations from stakeholders



2.4 CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUTH FRIENDLY CITIES

Uganda needs **up to 28.1 billion dollars** to finance climate mitigation measures according to its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)¹, a commitment it made in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement, for the period 2020-2030. It is worthwhile noting that Uganda is a party to the Paris Agreement², which mandates each party or country to develop an NDC plan and update it every five years.

2.4.1 CLIMATE FINANCING IN UGANDA

In FY2022/23, Uganda updated and launched her NDC plan aids nations in understanding and coordinating efforts geared towards reducing emissions, adapting, and preserving lives and livelihoods.

According to the National Budget Framework Paper for 2023/2024, the votes mapped under the Natural resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme were allocated a total budget of Shs 547 billion, of which 269 billion is domestic funding and Shs 279 billion is external financing.

The current funding levels are still way below the estimated annual targets. Like many other developing countries, the Covid-19 pandemic has constrained the fiscal space for Uganda, making into more challenging to mobilise the resources for climate change domestically.

2.4.2 Enabling Policy Environment

Besides raising her ambition of reducing greenhouse gases from 22% to 24.7% by 2030, in the updated NDC, Uganda also identifies additional targets to be achieved by 2030. These include having 152,622 hectares under irrigation, ensuring access to electricity to 75% of the population and having 50% of local governments with climate action plans. Others are having 2.5 million hectares of forest landscape restored and 11 million people aware of climate change by 2030.

Uganda has made substantial progress in establishing the modalities of this trade. With support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), a national taskforce on Climate Change Mechanisms was inaugurated in October 2022.

2.4.3 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY SUMMARY TABLE

DEMAND IN THE NYM	GOVERNMENT ACTION
Expedite the Change Bill to enable effective implementation that enhances the NDCs across 3 dimensions; Mitigation, Adaptation and Communication across all sectors which clear indicators for young people.	Parliament enacted the Climate Change Act with great input by the young people.

1 NDC covers 13 sectors of agriculture, forestry, energy, health, ecosystems (wetlands, biodiversity, and mountains), water and sanitation, fisheries, transport, manufacturing, industry, mining, cities, and built environment, disaster risk reduction, tourism, and education.

2 <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement>

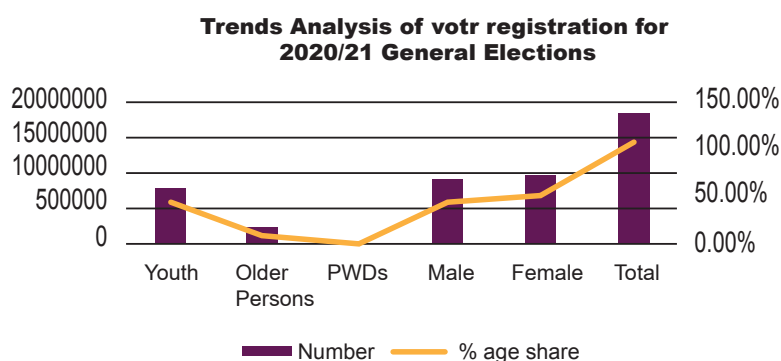


2.5 YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING.

Uganda has for decades been a global leader and pioneer in providing formal structures that cater for the special interests and needs of the youth population. There are reserved seats for the youth at all levels of government (including parliament). The 1993 National Youth Council Act creates a youth representative structure known as the National Youth Council, and all the political parties are mandated to have a youth league.

2.5.1 OVERVIEW OF YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The establishment of the National Youth Council and its structures right from the grassroots is credited for increasing the agency of young people and their desire to participate in democratic processes as seen through their high representation in voter registration here:



Source: Author's calculations based on various Electoral Commission Reports

This comprehensive structure for youth representation brings thousands of young citizens into politics from a young age. For example, the National Youth Council constituted over 752,000 elective positions in the 2020/21 General Elections.

Special Interest Group Category	Number
Youth Councils	752,535
Councils for Older Persons	418,075
PWDs Councils	418,075
Non unionized workers	23,610
Total	1,612,295

Source: Electoral Commission Report of the 2020/21 General Elections.

Although Uganda has been a pioneer country in including the youth in political decision-making as shown above, youth representation in the country has evolved in an autocratic context, which denotes limited access to several rights available in a democratic context (Aalen & Muriaas, 2017; 2018). A classic elucidation of this argument is on youth participation at grassroots level where almost 33% of youth elective positions were unopposed. Of the 2,972 sub county female councilors representing the youth, 1,328 were unopposed. Similarly, 989 of the 3,588 Subcounty Male Councilors representing the Youth were unopposed. This indicates limited interest by female youth in taking up elective position.

At cabinet level, whereas there is noted increased gender parity with a higher representation of females at 43.8% of the main cabinet positions, than any previously, the youth are not ably engaged. The assessment noted that only seven senior ministers are below the age of 50 and the average age of the cabinet is about 59 years (down only modestly from 65 years—the average age of the original 2016 cabinet).



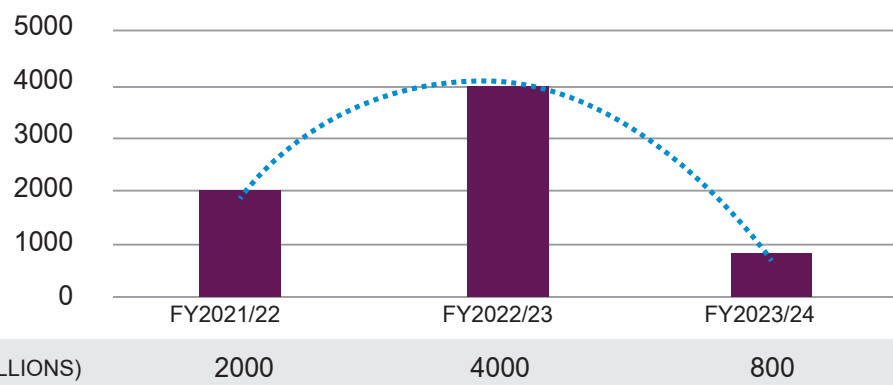
SNAPSHOT ON THE COMPOSITION OF UGANDA'S CABINET

- The average age of the cabinet is 56 years old, with the youngest member being 36 years old and the oldest being 84 years old.
- About 45% of the cabinet members are between the ages of 50 and 59, while about 25% are between the ages of 60 and 69. The remaining 30% are evenly if not sparsely distributed among the other age groups.
- Out of 80 cabinet members, 27 are female, making up about 34% of the cabinet. This represents an improvement from the previous cabinet in which there were only 21 female members.

2.5.2 FUNDING FOR YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION THROUGH NYC

The view that the structures for youth political participation are merely superficial is seen in the low funding for the National Youth Council which has been subjected to further budget cuts rendering it more ineffective in carrying out its representative function as shown in the graph below:

ALLOCATION TO NYC (MILLION UGX)

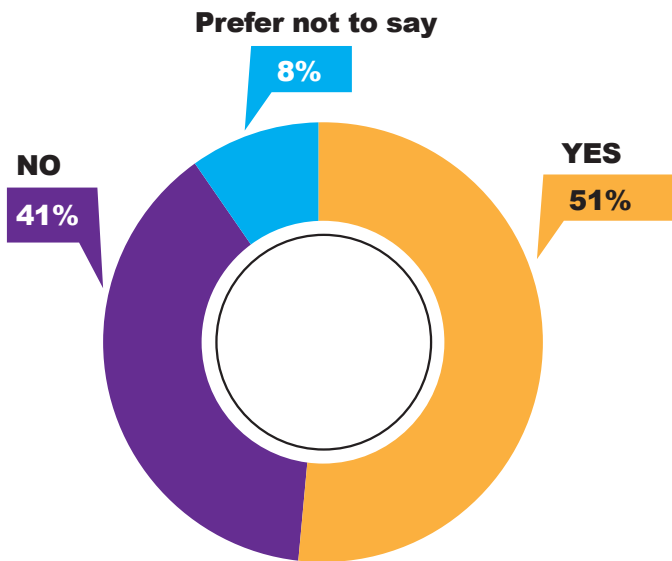


Source: P Mubangizi (2023): Analysis of the 2023/24 National Budget.

As if the cutting of subventions is not enough, the National Youth Council (NYC) is among the government agencies that have been put up for rationalization and dissolution. This means that without significant action by the youth, the NYC will be no more if government rationalization plans are successful.

2.5.3 RESPONDENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN LEADERSHIP

The National Youth Council (NYC) had over 752,121 elective positions filled during the 2020/21 General Elections. Statistically, this implies a youth leader per 11 youth in Uganda. Of the 54,559 respondents, 27,825 (51%) said that they hold a leadership position which signifies a statistical correlation with the depth of youth leadership in the country.

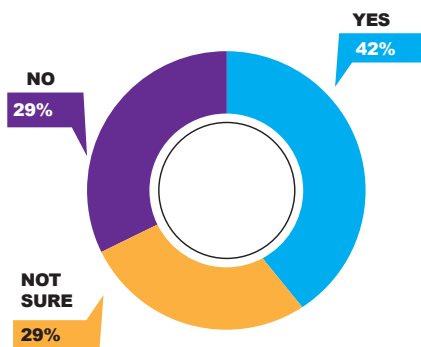


Respondents' current involvement in leadership roles varies, with 51% indicating they do hold such positions, while 41% do not have leadership roles, and 8% preferred not to disclose their status. The challenge therefore shifts from having youth in leadership positions to how to ensure that the presence of youth in leadership translates into better programming, budgeting and legislation for the young people of youth.

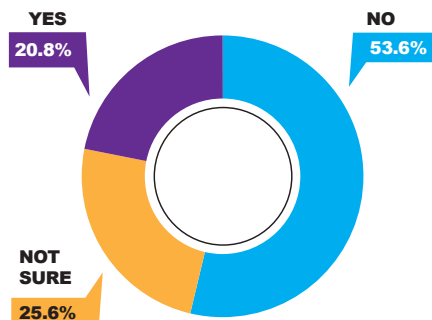
2.5.4 ROLE AND RELEVANCE OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL (NYC)

It should be noted that one of the major mandate by the National Youth Council (NYC) is to mobilize all the youth of Uganda to participate in various decision-making processes for policy and development. As such, the National Youth Council is called upon to be the leading monitor of government programmes targeting young people. The respondents were asked to state their perception on the relevance of the National Youth Council (NYC) in informing youth about government programmes.

Views on the National Youth Council's role in informing youth about government programs are divided: 42% see it as effective, 29% do not, and 29% are unsure as shown below:



This was further broken down to the District Youth Councils and respondents were asked to state their views on whether the District Youth Councils are doing enough to monitor government programs and ensure youth benefit from government programs in their districts. The performance of the District Youth Councils (DYCs) is alarming as majority of the respondents (53.6%) felt that the District Youth Councils are not doing enough in that regard as shown below;





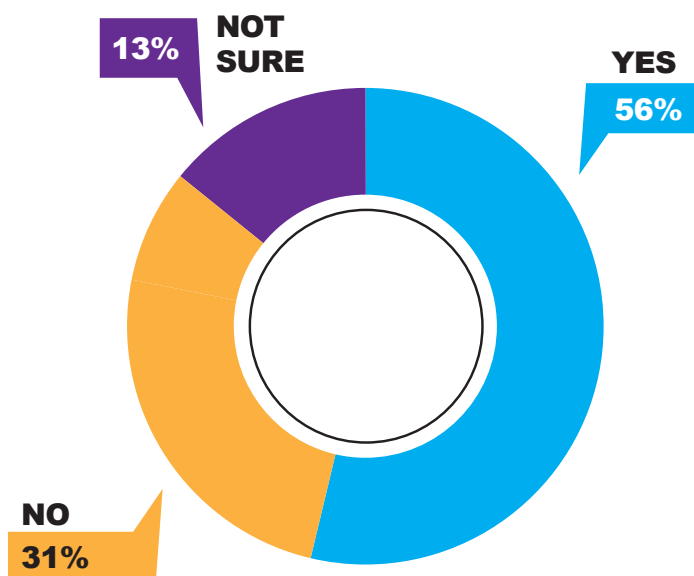
Majority (53.6%) believe District Youth Councils aren't sufficiently monitoring government programs for youth, while 20.8% think they are, with 25.6% unsure. The dismal performance and score card of the District Youth Councils (DYCs) was attributed to various factors among them the centralization of government programs. One youth leader complained that the centralization of the government youth empowerment programs actually disempowers the youth and their leadership structures at both the Higher Local Government (HLG) as well as the Lower Local Government (LLG) with the Lower Local Government structures more disadvantaged. He argued that:

Instead of involving the sub county youth leaders, these programs are put at the district whereby the district youth council is bribing everything and also funding of the sub county youth council to run the activities. I myself I ask why I was elected as chairperson for youth with no responsibility.

To further delve into this issue, respondents were asked whether they are empowered enough and know how to access government services. This was to correlate the relevance of the National Youth Council (NYC) as well as youth access to leadership to access to services/ government programs.

2.5.5 YOUTH ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

The survey revealed that most youths (56%) know how to access youth services in their community, while 31% do not, and 13% are unsure as shown below:



What the study couldn't verify, however, is whether the knowledge on how to access government programs and services by young people is attributable to the work of the National Youth Council and District Youth Councils in mobilizing young people to be beneficiaries of government programmes.

It is clear from the research findings that whereas more young people (56%) know how to access and benefit from government programmes, only 42% believe that the body mandated to lead, represent and mobilize them is actually doing enough to monitor and ensure effectiveness of these very programmes.



2.5.6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The use of electoral college to vote most of the youth leaders also creates voter apathy and has exposed the National Youth Council to capture by the state and other interests. The lack of universal suffrage makes the voting of youth leaders a preserve of the few. For instance, in the western region the estimate headcount of youth is two million while the electoral college is composed of about 800-900 voters (Aalen, Orre & Muriaas, 2023). The election of youth leaders should be done through adult suffrage.

There is need to encourage and mentor more youth to focus on Local Government leadership through contesting for and participating in LG elections. An analysis of Uganda's political space shows that there are multiple positions at the grassroots (Lower and Higher Local Government) levels where young people stand a chance to contest and win. A trend analysis of elective positions at various LG levels is provided below:

CATEGORY OF ELECTIVE POSITIONS	NUMBER OF ELECTIVE POSITIONS BY YEAR				
	2001/02	2005/06	2010/11	2015/16	2020/21
1. District/City Chairperson	56	69	112	112	146
2. District/City Directly Elected Councillors	967	998	1,339	1,409	2,211
3. District/City Women Councillors forming of Councils	609	653	921	959	1,514
4. District/City Councillors Representing Special Interest Groups (Youth, PwDs, Older Persons)	224	276	448	676	1,168
5. Municipality/City Division Chairperson	18	18	27	39	56
6. Municipality/City Division Directly Elected Councillors	249	267	385	578	1,161
7. Municipality/City Division Women Councillors forming $\frac{1}{3}$ of Councils	167	171	249	373	778
8. Municipality/City Councillors Representing Special Interest Groups (Youth, PwDs, Older Persons)	72	72	108	234	336
9. Subcounty/ Town/Municipal Division Chairperson	969	970	1,321	1,392	2,211
10. Subcounty/ Town/Municipal Division Directly Elected Councillors	5,187	5,590	7,332	7,529	10,690
12. Subcounty/ Town/Municipal Division Women Councillors forming $\frac{1}{3}$ of Councils	4,728	4,976	6,600	6,867	12,222
13. Subcounty/Town/Municipal Division Councillors Representing Special Interest Groups (Youth, PwDs, Older Persons)	3,876	3,880	5,280	8,352	12,942
Total	12,950	17,592	24,122	28,520	45,435

Source: Author's computations based on Electoral Commission Reports



3.0 | RECOMMENDATIONS

The report includes recommendations on each thematic area and sub themes of the National Youth Manifesto. This section endeavors to summarize key policy and legislative recommendations against the thematic areas of the manifesto.

THEMATIC AREA	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RECOMMENDATION
Employment and Job Creation	<p>Reduced unemployment</p> <p>Youth at the centre of business growth and investment and contribute to the NRM pillar of private sector led growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development should create a Cultural Capital Fund to build and renovate public libraries, museums, and galleries across the country to enable youth access to culture and support youth in the creative arts. The Ministry of Science and Technology should increase its investments in agribusiness incubation centres to enable youth across the country access modern agribusiness equipment and technical advisory services. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should expedite development, publishing, and gazetting of a national local content plan which contains mechanisms for achieving local content obligations prescribed by the Act.
Education that drives growth	<p>Increased enrollment, retention and completion rates.</p> <p>Youth as drivers of research and innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize research and innovation funding to universities with students and graduates at the centre. Fast track the adoption of the National School Feeding Policy. The Ministry of Education and Sports should adopt and implement a schools ICT policy through which each student at secondary school level should receive a free laptop. MOES should also increase a share for enrolment of students with disabilities in the public Universities through the National Disability Scheme to promote access to equitable education.



<p>Access to healthcare</p>	<p>Increased productivity as a result of better health care services.</p> <p>More youth complete school and are healthy because of the life style choices available to them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment into SRHR. All constructions of health centres and hospitals should have a Youth Friendly Centre as part of the design and plan. • The Ministry of Health should support the production and distribution of reusable pads to unprivileged school going girls as part of its sexual reproductive minimum care package. • The Ministry of Health should also enhance mental health care services for young people within regional referral health care systems/networks through target financing by 2% to provide for prevention and rehabilitation programs or services.
<p>Climate Change and Youth Friendly Cities</p>	<p>Youth as drivers of sustainable development contributing to the realization of the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development capitalise on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (2016) to further domesticate taking action for innovative, socially minded, green cities • The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development should fast track the adoption of the Urban Development Policy and mainstream the involvement of young people in shaping the urban development path as well as developing their urban skills that enable them to become responsible leaders, create a sense of citizen ownership and support the realisation of integrated, inclusive and sustainable cities. • GOU should adopt a policy that uses our cities and towns to propel a 24 hour economy. • The Minister of Water and Environment should prioritise investment in adaptation actions to encourage youth participation in promotion of key sector steps towards Green House Gas emission reduction to achieve the below 2% emission country target along Agricultural extension pathway, renewable energy sources and technologies and promotion of sustainable transport/ mobility options in cities.



<p>Youth Participation in Decision Making</p>	<p>Increased relevance of youth representative structures like the NYC, UNSA.</p> <p>Reduced cost of political participation through reducing nomination fees and regulating campaign financing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parliament should amend the i) Presidential Elections Act and ii) Parliamentary Elections Act and reduce nomination fees from UGX 20,000,000 and UGX 3,000,000 respectively to allow more youth to compete for elective positions• The Electoral Commission should draft and introduce to Parliament a law that regulates campaign financing. The commercialization of politics and elections has been cited as a hindrance to youth participation in politics.• Political parties strengthen their youth wings/ leagues and create mentorship programs for their youth leaders. Youth wings should be think-tanks that influence the policy direction of different political parties.• The Inter Party Youth Platform (IYOP) is gazetted as a youth structure of the Inter Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD). An amendment of the Political Parties and Organizations Act should be brought to Parliament so that by law, 15% of the monies appropriated by Parliament to Political parties with representation in Parliament are directed to youth wings under their umbrella organization IYOP.• Political Parties should introduce affirmative action policies of removing fees for youth seeking nomination for party tickets during election.
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4.0 | CONCLUSION.

Uganda is having a youthful population whose potential must be tapped into in the journey to an upper middle-income nation by 2040 with an average GDP per capita of US \$ 9500. To tap into the potential of the young people and realize a demographic dividend, clearly targeted and tailor-made interventions and efforts should be invested into bringing up a crop of young Ugandans ready to lead an upper middle-income Uganda into a first world country. These investments are in areas of education, skills development, health care access, sustainable use of nature and the environment, environmental stewardship, diversification of the economy and good governance.

This report avers that systemic, structural and institutional barriers to youth empowerment must be removed. These include taxation barriers that hinder and hold back youth businesses and innovations; stringent criteria for accessing capital for investment, start ups and innovation; rural urban divide and cultural myths and practices that disadvantage young girls and women; obsolete theory based education systems that promote job seeking not job creation mentalities; policies and laws that turn youth into a majority with a minority status and mentality among others.



THE 2023 STATE OF THE YOUTH REPORT
Assessing Government Investment In Young People.



THE **2023** STATE OF THE YOUTH REPORT

ASSESSING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE.



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