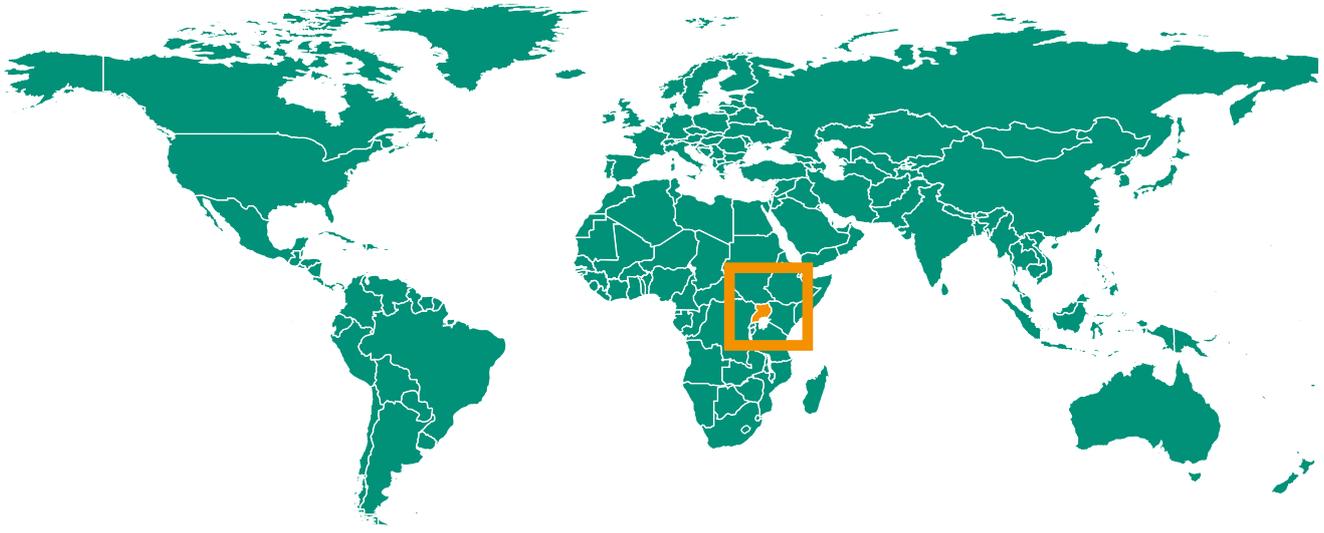


COUNTRY  
PROGRAMME  
DOCUMENT  
2008 – 2009

# UGANDA





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## FOREWORDS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In April 2007, the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT approved our 2008-2013 Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan. This plan intends to promote the alignment of UN-HABITAT normative and operational activities at country level.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents (HCPD) are tangible components of this Plan as well as a genuine endeavour of UN-HABITAT to better coordinate normative and operational activities in a consultative and inclusive process involving UN-HABITAT's in-country focal points, UN-HABITAT Programme Managers, national governments, UN country teams, sister-UN agencies, development partners and all divisions of our Agency. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents are strategic tools meant as a guide for all UN-HABITAT activities over a two-year period. A major dimension of the UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document is to advocate UN-HABITAT's mandate and address the urban challenges facing the world's developing countries.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents identify national urban development goals and priorities including shelter, urban governance, access to basic services and credit. Important cross-cutting issues such as the environment, gender, responses to disasters, and vulnerability reduction are also addressed. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents focus on UN-HABITAT country programming. They

serve as a work plan for UN-HABITAT Programme Managers and a reference tool for national and local actors involved in sustainable urban development. According to the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Action Plan adopted by the UN-HABITAT Committee of Permanent Representatives on 6 December 2007, twenty UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents were completed during 2008, including the One-UN Pilot countries where UN-HABITAT is active.

In line with the United Nations reform process, UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents seek to strengthen the role of the United Nations and to demonstrate our commitment. I wish to thank our UN-HABITAT Programme Managers for their input and dedication and for putting together these documents under guidance of the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division and with support from all branches and programmes of the Agency.

Anna K. Tibaijuka  
Executive Director, UN-HABITATs

## MINISTER



Uganda is a signatory to the Habitat Agenda and recognizing the importance of the Millennium Development Goals 7 target 11, to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. There is urgent need to address this challenge within the Ugandan context

Urbanization trends in Uganda and indeed world over cannot be stopped but needs to be managed well or else economic development and poverty reduction will be stalled. In 1997, the Government of Uganda developed a Poverty Eradication Action Plan as a national planning framework which spelled out Government's priority areas for public spending.

This Habitat Programme Document (HCPD) recognizes the contribution of the urban sector as very significant provided the urban sector is enabled to function efficiently. The urban sector should be regarded as a social economic entity with many sub-systems that are inter-linked and work together to stimulate economic growth. Tackling some of the problems in piecemeal manner does not enhance the functionality of the urban sector as an economic entity. Often urban managers have adopted sectoral priorities and marginalised other sectors rendering the urban sector uncompetitive. This in essence has not optimized the functioning of the city as an engine of economic growth. The HCPD proposals have been designed to adopt a holistic approach in addressing the urban development and management issues. This implies that planning has been integrated i.e. physical planning and based on social economic and environmental considerations. At present, socio-economic planning is not linked in any way to physical planning. This has undermined the economic competitiveness of urban sector and eventually perpetuated urban poverty.

The urban sector plays a dual role as a producer and consumer; it is therefore important to balance investments in the urban centres in order to enhance their role as producers as opposed to focusing predominantly on their consumer demands. As a producer, the urban centre should be enabled to produce more jobs, revenue, houses, skills, more value on goods, finished goods, knowledge, urban culture and above all it should have the capacity to effectively manage waste in order to secure quality environment. On the other hand, as consumers, the urban centres should be enabled to have the necessary social and infrastructural services such as water, electricity, roads, including adequate land; security to meet the needs of the urban citizens.

As we move into the future, the government will strengthen policy measures and institutional frameworks for dealing with these challenges. Government will institute strong measures for the review monitoring of implementation process and results across and levels of government.

I would like to thank UN-Habitat and all development partners for their continued support to poverty eradication in Uganda. The government remains committed to the millennium declaration and to the achievement of the goals.

Hon. Michael K Werikhe  
Minster of State for Housing  
Government of Uganda

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

### NATIONAL URBAN POLICY CONTEXT

Uganda is located in East Africa astride the equator. It is bordered by the Sudan in the North, Kenya in the East, Tanzania and Rwanda in the South and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the West. It shares Lake Victoria with Tanzania and Kenya. Uganda is landlocked and elevated to an altitude of 1000-1500 metres above sea level, covering 241,038 Km<sup>2</sup> (5½ times the size of Denmark). It lies in the equatorial belt with temperatures between 20 to 30 degrees Celsius. Regular rainfall is experienced throughout the year in most parts, with the rainy season taking place between April-May and October-November.

Uganda's population has grown at a rate of 3.2% in 2002 from 24.2 millions to an estimated population today of 29 million people. It is estimated that about 15% of Uganda's population live in urban areas. Whereas the level of urbanisation remains fairly low, the rate of urban growth is remarkably high. The urban population is estimated to be growing at 5.1% per annum. Uganda's population

is projected to rise to 68.4 million in 2035, 30% of whom will live in urban areas. This will have serious implications for the demand for land, housing, water, health, education, jobs and other basic services.

The urban population in Uganda has increased rapidly from less than one million in 1980 to 3 million in 2002, representing a three-fold increase. During the same period, the share of the population that lived in urban areas has increased from 6.7 percent to 12.3 percent. Urban areas are characterised by high growth rate of 5.1 percent between 1991 and 2002. The 2005/06 Uganda National Household Survey also reported an increase in the urban population which further confirms the census findings; it revealed that 15.4 percent of the population lives in urban areas.

Urbanisation in Uganda is relatively young compared to Kenya and Tanzania. The roots of urbanisation in Uganda are traced back to the 1890s when a European presence was established in the country – a period that defined Uganda's spatial and urban development pattern. With the building of the Kenya - Uganda Railway, economic and administrative centres was established. Nothing much has changed since this pattern was established after independence.

#### STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

##### Urbanisation (2008)

- Total population: 32 m
- Urban population: 4.1 m (13 %)

##### Annual growth rates (2005-2010)

- National: 3.2 %
- Urban: 4.4 %

##### Major cities (2008)

- Kampala: 1.4 m

*Source: UN DESA*

##### Slum indicators

- Slum to urban population: 67 %

##### % urban population with access to:

- Improved water: 89 %
- Piped water: 59
- Improved sanitation: 66 %
- Sufficient living area: 71 %
- Durable housing: 73 %

*Source: UN-HABITAT, 2006*

The urban centres created "pressure zones", a phenomenon punctuated by heavy demographic shifts from rural areas to urban centres. The urban migrants later over-ran existing facilities culminating in increased pressure on housing utilities, land resources and other infrastructure. The railway line accelerated growth of urban centres such as Tororo, Kasese, Gulu. Colonial policy also regarded towns as centres of non-African settlement and shaped legislation and administration to that end. Later, the colonial government set up administrative centres in various parts of the country to stabilise settlements, which laid the foundation for the early growth of urban centres. In later years, urbanisation in the country has been influenced by long distance truck drivers.

From the 1950s up to the early 1980s, the development focus in many developing countries has been on the rural areas. There was a presumption among social policy architects, urban managers, and researchers that the urban areas were better off in terms of social and economic infrastructure. The British colonial government regulated the planning and administration of almost all of the urban areas in Uganda under the Urban Authorities Act 1958, which was later, amended to Urban Authorities Act, 1964. During this era, the British virtually ignored the pre-existence of well established and sophisticated land settlement and local governance or urban administrative systems like the "Kibuga" in



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Kampala, which had in many cases, been in existence long before the arrival of the British (MLWE, 2002).

Planning policies and outline schemes had the effect of segregating income and racial groups which gave preference to upper and middle-income groups. The implications of the colonial and post colonial policy frameworks was that emerging urban authorities were empowered to initiate urban plans, “coordinate and facilitate construction of public utility services, transport, communications and other public services, as well as conserve and develop the resources of the area concerned”. This left the authorities with full responsibility for responding to the movement en masse and to an ever soaring urban population in the urban nucleus without a corresponding increase in investment in the infrastructure - a condition that rendered them unable to respond to the problems of urbanisation. The consequences of this lack of foresight have been an unprecedented pressure on infrastructure, like water supply, residential accommodation and sanitation services in the urban areas.

Most of the settlements in Ugandan towns have sprung up without proper urban planning and development controls. Consequently, these settlements have not been recognised by city authorities, described as ‘illegal’, and not conforming to health regulations. Due to their informal status, urban authorities have also tended to ignore them in the provision of basic services such as water, refuse collection, electricity and sewerage disposal. However, the authorities have

tolerated them as their densities have far reaching economic and political implications, making them difficult to stop. In the 1970s and 1980s, the political turmoil meant a total collapse of the Ugandan economy: the industrial sector collapsed; major property owners in the country were expelled leading to a decline in institutional capacity of urban authorities. By 1979, the economy was in the doldrums with an income per capita of USD120 as compared to the income per capita of USD450 in 1970 (MFED, 1987). Population growth in the urban centres continued to rise. For example, between 1969 and 1980, Kampala grew by 3.14%. The single most important characteristic describing this period was the urbanisation of poverty.

## FOCUS AREA 1: ADVOCACY, MONITORING AND PARTNERSHIPS

### VULNERABILITY

The government of Uganda is committed to creating and promoting a system of safeguards against disasters that ensure the continued productive capacity of citizens. The main thrust of the government’s policy is to ensure that Disaster Risk Reduction and Management is adopted as an integral part of the development process. It recognises the profound impact of human activity on the natural environment; the influence of population growth,



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high population density, increased urbanisation, industrial expansion, predatory resource exploitation, and the expanding technological advances.

This policy approaches disaster management focusing on reducing risk and vulnerability to households, communities, the work place, society and on a national level. The approach involves a shift from being reactive to anticipating disasters and adopting preventative measures. The policy aims at establishing and sustaining capacity to detect, track, monitor and disseminate information on phenomena and activities that trigger disaster events. The policy calls for institutional emergency preparedness and response capacity at

persons in Uganda. They shall not be discriminated against in the fulfillment of any rights and freedoms and the grounds that they are internally displaced.

In this policy government commits itself to:

- Protecting its citizens against arbitrary displacement e.g. evictions
- Promoting the search for durable solutions to causes of displacement
- Facilitating the voluntary return, resettlement, integration and re-integration of the Internally Displaced Persons

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