



**FEASIBILITY REPORT  
ON THE SOCIAL REGISTRY  
UGANDA**



**July 2024**

## FOREWORD

The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD) remains committed to fulfilling Uganda's vision of ensuring social security and resilience for all its citizens, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized groups. The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) of 2015 laid a strong foundation for these efforts, culminating in the launch of the National Single Registry (NSR) in 2021. This registry has become an invaluable tool for coordinating and monitoring social protection programs. However, as the demand for accurate, integrated beneficiary data increases, it became clear that the NSR alone would not be sufficient to meet Uganda's growing needs.

In response to this challenge, MGLSD, with support from the World Food Programme (WFP), commissioned a feasibility study on expanding the NSR to incorporate a national Social Registry. This Social Registry will serve as a consolidated database, designed to enhance data accuracy, coherence, accessibility, and informed decision-making across various social protection and government programs. The study explores the potential of this Social Registry to improve service delivery, ensure that the right individuals are reached by the appropriate programs, and foster greater efficiency and transparency in social protection systems.

I am pleased to present the final report of this feasibility study. The findings and recommendations contained herein have been validated by a broad range of stakeholders, and they provide a roadmap for establishing an integrated Social Registry. The successful implementation of this initiative will be a crucial step towards a more inclusive, equitable, and resilient society, as envisioned by the National Development Plan (NDP) III and Uganda Vision 2040.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders, including our development partners, for their valuable contributions to this report. I also recognize the technical expertise provided by the consulting team from Development Pathways, whose efforts were instrumental in ensuring the success of this study.

It is my hope that this report will guide the Ministry and all relevant stakeholders in advancing social protection efforts in Uganda, ensuring that no one is left behind in our shared mission to enhance the well-being of all Ugandans.



James Ebitu

**For; PERMANENT SECRETARY**

# Table of Contents

<b>Acronyms .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Methodology.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 Social protection landscape in Uganda .....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 Background: poverty trends .....	10
3.2 Policies and frameworks .....	11
3.3 Existing social protection programmes.....	17
3.3.1 Direct Income Support.....	18
3.3.2 Social Insurance .....	19
<b>4 Assessment of the current integrated social protection information system.....</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1 National Single Registry .....	22
4.2 Review of existing social registries and information systems .....	23
4.2.1 Karamoja Social Registry.....	24
4.2.2 NUSAF 3 MIS .....	25
4.2.3 The OVC MIS .....	26
4.2.4 The Parish Development Model (PDM) MIS .....	27
4.2.5 The National Identification Register .....	28
4.3 Review of digital assets and capabilities.....	30
4.3.1 National Data sharing .....	30
4.3.2 Frameworks and policies .....	30
<b>5 International experiences with integrated social protection information systems .....</b>	<b>31</b>
5.1 Overview .....	31
5.2 International case studies.....	32
<b>6 Overview of proposed social registry.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>7 Feasibility analysis .....</b>	<b>45</b>
7.1 Institutional capacity and implementation feasibility .....	45
7.2 Financial costs .....	47
7.3 Potential impacts .....	49
7.4 Alignment with development goals.....	50

*Table of contents*

7.5	Technological suitability.....	51
7.6	Data security and privacy.....	53
7.7	Legal and regulatory compliance.....	54
7.8	High level cost-benefit analysis.....	56
<b>8</b>	<b>Conclusion and recommendations .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Annex 1</b>	<b>List of consultations.....</b>	<b>60</b>

## Acronyms

<b>CDO</b>	Community Development Officers
<b>CEIS</b>	Central Electronic Information System
<b>CNIS</b>	Cadastro Nacional de Informações Sociais
<b>DRDIP</b>	Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project
<b>ESR</b>	Enhanced Single Registry
<b>GNHR</b>	Ghana National Household Registry
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IPRS</b>	Integrated Population Registration System
<b>KSR</b>	Karamoja Social Registry
<b>MIS</b>	Management Information Systems
<b>MLSP</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
<b>MoGCSP</b>	Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection
<b>MoICT&amp;NG</b>	Ministry of ICT & National Guidance
<b>MGLSD</b>	Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>NIRA</b>	National Identification and Registration Authority
<b>NIR</b>	National Identification Register
<b>NSR</b>	National Single Registry
<b>NSSF</b>	National Social Security Fund
<b>NUSAF</b>	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
<b>OVC</b>	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
<b>PDM</b>	Parish Development Model
<b>PSPS</b>	Public Service Pension Scheme
<b>SAGE</b>	Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment
<b>SCG</b>	Senior Citizens Grant
<b>UBOS</b>	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
<b>UBR</b>	Unified Beneficiary Registry
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

# 1 Introduction

In the context of Uganda's commitment to social protection as outlined in the Uganda Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan III, the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) of 2015 laid the foundation for a comprehensive social protection system. A significant development from this was the launch of the National Single Registry (NSR) for Social Protection in 2021, aligning with the NSPP's vision of a socially secure and resilient society. The NSR will support more integrative programme delivery by improving sector-wide coordination and monitoring of the current social protection system.

Building upon this momentum, the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD), with support from the World Food Programme (WFP), has commissioned Development Pathways to undertake a feasibility study on developing a national social registry for Uganda. The envisioned social registry seeks to serve as a unified repository of accurate information on potential beneficiaries for social protection and government programmes. This study provides an examination of the feasibility and potential benefits of expanding the NSR in Uganda to include a social registry module.

The expansion of the NSR presents an opportunity to integrate and leverage existing information systems, enhancing data quality, coherence, and accessibility for informed decision-making and improved service delivery in Uganda's social protection sector. Grounded in the principles of the NSPP, the study will emphasise the importance of strengthening coordination and delivery of social protection initiatives. The study aims to provide a feasibility analysis for rolling out a social registry in Uganda, reviewing existing infrastructure and other components of the proposed social registry.

In addition to this short introduction, the report includes the following sections:

- **Methodology** - An overview of the study's objectives, as well as a detailed description of the research methods and analytical framework used to conduct the feasibility study.
- **Social Protection Landscape in Uganda** - An analysis of the existing social protection policies, frameworks, and programmes.
- **Assessment of the Current Integrated Social Protection Information System** – An evaluation of the existing systems and their capabilities.
- **International Experiences with Integrated Social Protection Information Systems** - Overview and case studies from other countries.
- **Overview of Proposed Social Registry** - Conceptualisation and intended functionalities of the proposed registry.
- **Feasibility Analysis** – An examination of various factors of the proposed social registry
- **Recommendations and Conclusion** - Summary of findings and actionable recommendations for the development of the social registry.

## 2 Methodology

The primary goal of this study is to assess the feasibility of implementing a national social registry for social protection in Uganda, thereby increasing the likelihood of a successful and sustainable implementation of Uganda's Social Registry. The analysis in this report considered the following guiding questions to assess the feasibility of a national social registry in Uganda:

- What is the national social protection context in Uganda?
- What is the current e-governance context in Uganda?
- What are the existing social protection programmes and their business processes?
- What are the information need/requirements of key social protection stakeholders in Uganda?
- What is the current institutional capacity in Uganda to expand nationally a social registry?
- What is the current implementation capacity in Uganda to expand nationally a social registry?
- What are the infrastructure requirements to expand nationally a social registry, given the design parameters?
- What are the costs and sustainability considerations?
- Who are the intended users?
- What are the potential positive and negative impacts?

The analysis followed a structured approach. First, to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the existing landscape, a desk review of key documents was undertaken, alongside in-country consultations with key stakeholders. These engagements provided a better understanding of the parameters of the proposed social registry. Subsequently, the analysis evaluated the feasibility of the proposed social registry.

Below is a detailed description of the approach and methods used to conduct the feasibility study.

### **Desk Review and Mapping of Existing Information Systems for Social Protection**

The study commenced with a comprehensive review of Uganda's Vision 2040, National Development Plan (NDP) III, the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), and the 2019 Social Protection Sector Review to understand the social and economic context, as well as the social protection landscape in Uganda. By beginning with an understanding of Uganda's broader social and economic context, the study was informed with the necessary background to align the social registry development with national goals and policies.

In addition to reviewing relevant documents, the existing National Single Registry (NSR) was assessed to understand its current functionality and limitations. Existing information systems for social protection within Uganda were also identified and mapped. Identifying these systems allowed for the potential integration of existing systems into the social registry.

Following the desk review and mapping, a comparative analysis of social registries in Sub-Saharan Africa and other countries with similar contexts was undertaken. This involved identifying the strengths and weaknesses of these models, which provided useful insights for Uganda's Social Registry development. This comparative analysis enabled the study to benefit from the experiences of other countries, understanding what worked well and what did not. This learning will inform the design of Uganda's Social Registry, potentially avoiding pitfalls and adopting best practices.

The table below outlines the framework and criteria used to assess the strengths and weaknesses of different information systems. Key areas of focus included coverage, targeting approaches, interoperability, and governance structures.

**Table 1: Strategy and Criteria for Assessing Strengths and Weaknesses of Comparable Social Registries**

Key Components	Review	Key Criteria
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	Understand the objectives and scope of the social registry.	Clarity of objectives
	Evaluate its alignment with broader social protection goals and national development priorities.	Alignment with broader social protection goals and national development priorities
Coverage and Targeting	Assess the extent of coverage and inclusion of target populations.	Extent of coverage Inclusion of target populations
	Evaluate targeting mechanisms for accuracy and effectiveness in reaching the intended beneficiaries.	Accuracy of targeting mechanisms Effectiveness in reaching intended beneficiaries <sup>1</sup>
Data Quality and Management	Examine data collection methods and processes.	Data collection methods Data processing procedures
	Assess the quality, reliability, and timeliness of data.	Data quality Reliability of data
	Evaluate data management systems for efficiency and security.	Efficiency of data management systems Security of data
Interoperability and Integration	Analyse interoperability with other social protection systems and databases.	Compatibility with other systems
	Assess integration potential with existing government systems and services.	Integration potential with existing government systems and services
Accessibility and Transparency	Evaluate accessibility of the registry for stakeholders, including beneficiaries and service providers.	Accessibility for stakeholders Transparency in data handling
	Assess transparency in data handling, decision-making processes, and accountability mechanisms.	Transparency in decision-making processes Accountability mechanisms
Functionality and User Experience	Assess usability and functionality of the registry interface.	Usability of interface Functionality of interface
	Evaluate user experience for different stakeholders, including administrators, beneficiaries, and policymakers.	User experience for different stakeholders
	Examine governance structures and institutional arrangements.	Governance structures Institutional arrangements

<sup>1</sup> Intended beneficiaries are potential recipients of social protection programmes identified through the social registry. One of the main objectives of social registries is to capture detailed data on individuals and households to ensure effective delivery of social protection programmes

## Methodology

Governance and Institutional Framework	Assess coordination mechanisms among stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and development partners.	Coordination mechanisms among stakeholders
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	Evaluate resource allocation for registry development, operation, and maintenance.	Resource allocation Sustainability measures
	Assess sustainability measures, including funding mechanisms and capacity building initiatives.	Funding mechanisms Capacity building initiatives
Monitoring and Evaluation	Examine mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating registry performance.	Monitoring mechanisms Evaluation of registry performance
	Assess feedback loops for continuous improvement and adaptation.	Feedback loops for continuous improvement
Software and Hardware Requirements	Identify software and hardware requirements for the social registry.	Software requirements Hardware requirements
	Assess compatibility, scalability, and technical specifications of required software and hardware.	Compatibility with existing systems Scalability of the system

### Key Informant Interviews

A comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted to identify key actors managing information systems for social protection programmes in Uganda. The stakeholders possessed expert knowledge or significant experience related to the social protection and information systems landscape in Uganda. Once stakeholders were mapped, key informant interviews (KIIs) were carried out both in-person and online.

The interviews served as an invaluable source of qualitative data, providing deep insights into social protection policies, existing registries, and challenges faced by beneficiaries and implementing agencies. Interviews with experts and practitioners also helped clarify any ambiguities or gaps identified during the desk review and initial analysis phases. Understanding the viewpoints of key stakeholders, including government officials, social protection practitioners, and community leaders, enriched the study by incorporating local and regional perspectives.

The interviews were conducted using semi-structured questionnaires or interview guides, ensuring consistency in the topics covered while allowing for open-ended discussions. Informants were questioned on topics such as existing social protection schemes, challenges faced in implementation, data management issues, and suggestions for improving the proposed social registry. Interviews were conducted with utmost respect for ethical guidelines and the participants' perspectives.

The table in Annex 1 provides a full list of the consultations carried out for this study

### Feasibility Analysis

A SWOT analysis was performed on the proposed social registry, weighing the advantages and disadvantages of different areas. By evaluating different areas and conducting a SWOT analysis, the study systematically weighed the pros and cons of adopting a social registry in Uganda. This analytical approach helped in making an informed decision about the feasibility of Uganda's social registry. The

table below provides an overview the framework for evaluating the different areas of a national social registry in Uganda.

**Table 2: Evaluation Framework for Uganda's Social Registry**

Evaluation criteria	Description	SWOT analysis
Institutional Capacity	Assess the capacity of relevant institutions to implement and manage the chosen option effectively.	Strengths: identify institutional strengths. Weaknesses: recognize institutional weaknesses. Opportunities: determine opportunities for leveraging institutional capacity. Threats: identify potential threats to effective implementation.
Implementation Feasibility	Evaluate the feasibility of implementing the chosen option within the given timeframe and available resources.	Strengths: assess factors facilitating implementation. Weaknesses: identify challenges hindering implementation. Opportunities: explore opportunities for successful implementation. Threats: recognize potential obstacles to implementation.
Financial Costs	Analyse the financial implications of implementing and sustaining the chosen option, including initial investment, operational expenses, and long-term maintenance.	Strengths: identify cost-saving measures. Weaknesses: recognize potential budget constraints. Opportunities: explore avenues for securing funding. Threats: identify financial risks and uncertainties.
Potential Impacts	Assess the potential positive and negative impacts of the chosen option on various stakeholders, communities, and the overall social protection system.	Strengths: recognize potential benefits and positive outcomes. Weaknesses: identify potential negative consequences. Opportunities: explore ways to maximize positive impacts. Threats: recognize potential risks and adverse effects.
Alignment with Development Goals	Evaluate the extent to which the chosen option aligns with Uganda's national development goals, social protection objectives, and poverty reduction strategies.	Strengths: align with national development priorities. Weaknesses: identify areas where alignment is lacking. Opportunities: leverage alignment for greater impact. Threats: recognize misalignment risks.
Technological Suitability	Assess the compatibility and suitability of the chosen technology or it infrastructure with	Strengths: identify technology advantages and compatibility. Weaknesses: recognize technology limitations and challenges.

## Methodology

	Uganda's existing systems and infrastructure.	Opportunities: explore potential for technological advancements. Threats: identify technology-related risks and vulnerabilities.
Data Security and Privacy	Analyse the measures in place to ensure the security and privacy of sensitive data collected and managed by the chosen option.	Strengths: assess robust data security measures. Weaknesses: recognize potential data security vulnerabilities. Opportunities: enhance data protection mechanisms. Threats: identify risks to data security and privacy breaches.
Legal and Regulatory Compliance	Assess the extent to which the chosen option complies with relevant laws, regulations, and international standards governing social protection and data management.	Strengths: identify legal and regulatory compliance measures. Weaknesses: recognize areas of non-compliance or legal risks. Opportunities: ensure full compliance with regulations and standards. Threats: identify risks associated with non-compliance and legal challenges.

## 3 Social Protection Landscape in Uganda

Uganda's social protection landscape is framed by comprehensive policies and strategic frameworks, which set out the blueprint for the nation's social protection initiatives. These policies cover a range of current programmes designed to offer both immediate and long-term support to different groups of the population. To improve data coordination and beneficiary management, a National Single Registry has been developed and aims to ensure cohesion and efficient service delivery across the social protection services. Alongside this central system, a number of social registries and MISs operate, tailored to address the distinct needs of individual programmes. The following subsections provide more detail into the nuances of the social protection landscape in Uganda.

### 3.1 Background: Poverty Trends

Uganda has experienced mixed trends in poverty reduction over recent years. According to the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2019/2020, the national poverty rate slightly decreased from 21.4 per cent in 2016/2017 to 20.3 per cent in 2019/2020. However, this change is not statistically significant, and in absolute terms, the number of people living in poverty increased from 8.0 million to 8.3 million during the same period.<sup>2</sup> The slowdown in economic growth, partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has also likely further affected poverty reduction efforts. The pandemic has highlighted vulnerabilities, particularly in urban areas where poverty increased significantly during the period.

Poverty remains predominantly a rural phenomenon in Uganda. Approximately 73.4 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, where the poverty rate is higher (23.4 per cent) compared to urban areas (11.7 per cent). This disparity is primarily due to the high dependence on low productivity agriculture in rural areas.<sup>3</sup> There are also significant regional disparities in poverty levels across Uganda. The Northern and Eastern regions are the most affected. The poverty headcount in the Northern region is 35.9 per cent, and in the Eastern region, it is 25.9 per cent. In contrast, the Central region has a much lower poverty rate of 8.7 per cent.<sup>4</sup>

Uganda's poverty estimates using international poverty lines can also provide a comparable perspective on the country's poverty situation. At US\$2.15 (2017 PPP) per day, 42.1 per cent of Uganda's population lives below the international extreme poverty line. This highlights a significant portion of the population living in extreme poverty. At US\$3.65 (2017 PPP) per day, 71.8 per cent of the population falls below this threshold, indicating that a large majority of Ugandans struggle with low-income challenges. At US\$6.85 (2017 PPP) per day, 91.1 per cent of the population falls below this line, highlighting the extensive economic vulnerability across the country.<sup>5</sup>

Income inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, is a growing concern in Uganda. The UNHS (2019/20) indicates that while there have been some improvements in mean consumption per adult equivalent, the distribution of income remains unequal, especially in rural areas. This inequality has implications for the depth and severity of poverty, as reflected in the squared poverty gap (P2), which has worsened slightly from 1.8 per cent in 2016/17 to 2 per cent 2019/20.

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<sup>2</sup> Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). "Uganda National Household Survey Report 2019/2020"

<sup>3</sup> Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). "Uganda National Household Survey Report 2019/2020"

<sup>4</sup> Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). "Uganda National Household Survey Report 2019/2020"

<sup>5</sup> World Bank. "Poverty & Equity Brief: Uganda." April 2024

While these statistics give an indication of current trends in poverty, it is worth highlighting that accurately identifying the extreme poor or the poorest among the poor in Uganda will pose significant challenges, especially because of the large poverty headcount rates. High poverty headcount rates indicate a widespread prevalence of poverty, making it difficult to distinguish between different levels of poverty and identify those who are most in need. This complexity is compounded by the dynamic nature of poverty, where households can move in and out of poverty due to various factors such as economic shocks, health emergencies, and changes in household composition.

This is why many social registries, when not well-designed or having limited coverage, fail to accurately identify those in poverty. Poorly designed registries may suffer from incomplete data, inaccuracies, and biases that can exclude the most vulnerable populations. Limited coverage means that entire regions or communities may be left out of the social protection system, further exacerbating inequalities. Additionally, without regular updates and robust mechanisms for data verification and validation, social registries can become outdated, leading to ineffective delivery of social protection programmes.

## **3.2 Policies and Frameworks**

Uganda has made significant strides in recent years towards building an inclusive social protection system, especially in terms of policies and strategic documents. The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) of 2015 serves as a foundation, articulating the vision of a society where all individuals are socially secure and resilient. In addition to the NSPP, there are a number of policies and frameworks that provide the basis for Uganda's social protection system.

In terms of international agreements, Uganda is a signatory to the main conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These international instruments commit Uganda to uphold the socioeconomic rights of women and persons with disabilities, facilitating their participation in economic life and safeguarding them from discrimination and marginalisation.

Uganda has made significant strides in recent years towards building an inclusive social protection system, especially in terms of policies and strategic documents. The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) of 2015 serves as a foundation, articulating the vision of a society where all individuals are socially secure and resilient. The NSPP aims to establish a comprehensive social protection system that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable populations through effective and coordinated interventions. By setting clear objectives and strategies, the NSPP has significantly influenced the structure and development of the social protection sector in Uganda, promoting a cohesive approach that integrates various social protection programmes and services. Furthermore, the National Social Protection Strategy operationalises the NSPP by detailing specific actions and initiatives to achieve the policy's goals. This strategy emphasises the importance of expanding social protection coverage, improving targeting mechanisms, and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of programme delivery. Through these efforts, the NSPP and its strategy have laid the groundwork for a social protection framework in Uganda.

However, the implementation of the NSPP has faced several challenges, including limited financial resources, inadequate coordination among implementing agencies, and weak institutional capacity, as highlighted in the Social Protection Sector Review 2019. Despite these challenges, the NSPP has prompted the government to prioritise social protection in its national agenda, leading to incremental improvements in programme delivery. The policy has also driven efforts to streamline various SP programmes under a unified framework, resulting in the establishment of the National Single Registry

(NSR) for Social Protection in 2021. The NSR aims to improve coordination, data management, and monitoring of social protection interventions.

The NSPP has had an impact on certain population groups, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and children, guiding the development of targeted interventions like the Senior Citizens Grant and the Disability Grant. Additionally, the NSPP has influenced broader policy and institutional reforms, leading to the revision of existing laws and the introduction of new regulations to better align with the policy's goals. Nevertheless, ensuring sustainable financing remains a key challenge, as actual funding has often fallen short of the policy's ambitions. The NSPP's strategy has advocated for increased resource allocation to social protection, but ongoing advocacy and policy support are needed to secure sustainable funding for these initiatives.

In addition to the NSPP, there are a number of policies and frameworks that provide the basis for Uganda's social protection system. For example, Uganda is a signatory to international agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These international instruments commit Uganda to uphold the socioeconomic rights of women and persons with disabilities, facilitating their participation in economic life and safeguarding them from discrimination and marginalisation.

At the national level, Uganda's commitment is mirrored in comprehensive legal frameworks. The Local Government Act Cap 243 is instrumental in decentralising governance, providing autonomy to local governments for tailored development planning and service delivery. The National Social Security Fund Act Cap 222 of 2022 oversees a key component of the social protection system, while the Registration of Persons Act of 2015 unifies and modernises the process of individual registration, strengthening the administration of national identification.

The Persons with Disabilities Act of 2020 underscores inclusivity, reinforcing the rights and opportunities for people with disabilities. Similarly, the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority Act of 2011 regulates retirement schemes, ensuring the orderly management of retirement benefits.

The Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007 is designed to establish guidelines for the Equal Opportunities Commission as outlined in Articles 32(3) and 32(4) of the Constitution. It specifies the structure and responsibilities of the Commission, aiming to fulfil the state's constitutional duty to combat discrimination and inequalities based on various factors such as sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion, health status, economic status, political views, or disability. Additionally, it mandates affirmative action to support marginalized groups due to historical, traditional, or cultural reasons, with the goal of addressing existing imbalances. The Act also addresses other relevant issues.

The Personal Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019 provides to the evolving needs of data protection, setting the stage for responsible data handling. This is complemented by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics Act of 1998, which consolidates statistical responsibilities within a central bureau, crucial for data-driven policy formulation.

These national legislations are supported by policy frameworks that address gender equality, equal opportunities, and disaster preparedness, such as the Uganda Gender Policy and the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management. The National Social Protection Policy of Uganda envisions a cohesive approach to social protection, while the National Council for Older Persons Act and the National Child Policy reinforce the state's role in ensuring the well-being of its vulnerable populations.

Further to this, the objective of NDP III is to elevate household incomes and enhance the quality of life for Ugandans through a range of key objectives and strategies, among these strategies is the pursuit of increased access to social protection, recognized as integral to Uganda's national planning

process. NDP III, particularly through the Human Capital Development Programme, prioritizes expanding social protection access for the population. This plan emphasizes enhancing productivity and competitiveness while ensuring a better quality of life for all. Specifically, within the Human Capital Development Programme, Objective 4 aims to mitigate vulnerability and gender inequality across the lifecycle by broadening the scope and coverage of care, support, and social protection services for the most vulnerable groups. Thus, alongside its overarching goal, NDP III highlights the importance of social protection as a key development strategy.

Collectively, these instruments build a coherent legal and policy environment for social protection in Uganda, embodying the principles of inclusion, equity, and respect for human dignity in the design and delivery of social protection.

**Table 3: Overview of Key Policies and Frameworks**

Policy / Framework	Short Description
<b>International Regulatory Framework</b>	
Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979	It provides for gender equality and particularly for the rights of women all over the world, including their socioeconomic rights, and protects them from all forms of abuse, discrimination and marginalisation. The Convention provides special protection to vulnerable women groups, including women with disability and refugee women, emphasising their rights to socioeconomic benefits. Uganda is one of the signatories to this convention.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006	This Convention provides for the protection of rights of Persons with Disabilities all over the world, including the right to participate in economic activities and processes at all levels. Uganda has ratified this Convention with most of its provisions translated into local policies and laws.
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, 1990	This Convention advocates for the fundamental rights of children. It protects children from abuse, child labour, and promotes their right to health and education. It also upholds to the rights of children in decision making.
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1976	This Convention provides for the right to social, economic and cultural rights of all people, including women and other VMGs all over the world. Among the right the Convention advocates for include the right to work, right to social security, right to cultural identity, right to health and education, etc.
The World Bank's International Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards (ESSS)	The Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) provides detailed guidelines on the planning, implementation, management and monitoring of projects with substantial environmental and social risks and potentially adverse impact. To execute these projects in a responsible manner, the Bank advocates for full information disclosure and open, consultative SEs throughout a given project's life cycle as detailed
<b>National legal frameworks</b>	
Republic of Uganda, (Cap 243) The Local Government Act.	This legislation establishes a decentralized governance system, devolving functions, powers, and services from the central government to local governments with independent political and administrative frameworks. The Act outlines local governance structures around local councils and community participation. It grants authority over

	development planning, budgeting, financial management, human resources, and service provision, including safety and security service delivery needs, to locally elected governments.
Republic of Uganda, (2007) The Equal Opportunities Commission Act.	This Act is designed to establish guidelines for the Equal Opportunities Commission as outlined in Articles 32(3) and 32(4) of the Constitution. It specifies the structure and responsibilities of the Commission, aiming to fulfil the state's constitutional duty to combat discrimination and inequalities based on various factors such as sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion, health status, economic status, political views, or disability. Additionally, it mandates affirmative action to support marginalized groups due to historical, traditional, or cultural reasons, with the goal of addressing existing imbalances which exist against them. The Act also addresses other related matters.
The National Social Security Fund Act, Cap 222	This Act to provides for the establishment of a National Social Security Fund detailing its membership, the process of contributing to the fund, disbursing benefits from it, and addressing other related matters.
The Registration of Persons Act, 2015	A law designed to unify and streamline regulations concerning the registration of individuals, creating provisions for the registration process, the establishment of a national identification register, and the formation of a national registration and identification authority. The Act also addresses the issuance of national identification cards and alien identification cards, along with related matters.
Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020	The Persons with Disability Act (2020) provides for comprehensive protection of PWDs against all forms of discrimination and equalization of opportunities. This Act aims at ensuring the recognition and advancement of the fundamental and additional rights and freedoms of individuals with disabilities.
The Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority Act, (2011)	This Act provides for an Institution to regulate the establishment, management and operation of retirement benefits schemes in Uganda in both the private and public sectors.
The Personal Data Protection and Privacy Act (2019)	The Act applies to different individuals participating in the transmission of data, such as data subjects, data collectors, data processors, and data controllers. Additionally, it outlines the rights of data subjects, establishes a data protection register, and specifies offenses for non-compliance with statutory obligations. The Act extends its applicability beyond individuals in Uganda to include those outside the jurisdiction who possess information concerning a Ugandan citizen. This implies that any company, organization, or institution engaging in the collection or processing of data falls under the purview of this Act.
Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) Act (1998)	The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) Act of 1998 outlines the establishment and functions of the National Statistical System (NSS), emphasizing the importance of collecting, analysing, and disseminating integrated, pertinent, dependable, and timely statistical data. This legislation designates the Bureau as the apex body responsible for coordinating, monitoring, and supervising the NSS. Alongside its role as the primary source of official statistical data, the Bureau is mandated with several key responsibilities: providing high-quality central statistical information services, promoting standardization in statistical collection, analysis, and dissemination, offering guidance and support to users and

	<p>providers of statistics, fostering cooperation and coordination among stakeholders at national and local levels, and facilitating cooperation with regional and international partners in the field of statistics.</p>
<p><b>Policy Frameworks</b></p>	
<p>Republic of Uganda, (2007) The Uganda Gender Policy.</p>	<p>The National Gender Policy (NGP), 1997 (as revised), Aims to attain gender equality and empower women as an essential component of Uganda's socio-economic advancement. One of the policy's goals is to diminish gender disparities, ensuring that all individuals—women and men, girls and boys—can break free from poverty and attain enhanced, sustainable livelihoods. The policy serves as a directive for all stakeholders involved in planning, allocating resources, implementing, and monitoring and evaluating programs from a gender perspective.</p>
<p>Republic of Uganda, (2006) The National Equal Opportunities Policy.</p>	<p>This policy translates Article 21 of the Constitution and other rights-sensitive provisions such as Articles 35 and 36 on the rights of persons with disabilities and the protection of minorities, respectively, with the aims of ensuring equal access to opportunities and prohibition of any kind of discrimination.</p>
<p>The National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management (2010)</p>	<p>This policy underscores emphasizes the critical importance of preserving and enhancing the well-being and development of individuals within their surroundings. It promotes an approach to disaster response that prioritizes minimizing the risks associated with the loss of life, property, and livelihoods.</p>
<p>Republic of Uganda, (2009) The Older Persons Policy and the National Older Persons Policy 2024.</p>	<p>The policy guarantees older persons (aged 60 years and above) a dignified life by enhancing the recognition of the contribution of older persons and eliminating all forms of neglect, abuse and violence. The policy recognises that people reaching old age should continue enjoying dignified lives through active participation in economic, culture and political spheres. The Policy is based on the principles of rights-based approach; participation; inclusion; gender responsiveness; dignity; equity and social choice; adaptability; transparency and accountability. The policy prioritises among others comprehensive support and care of older persons. This means programmes targeting older persons should ensure they are satisfied with the services delivered and their dignity is upheld.</p> <p>Building on the 2009 policy, the National Older Persons Policy 2024 in Uganda will introduce stronger legal protections, greater emphasis on participation, improved social and economic support, expanded community-based approaches, and a stronger focus on health and wellbeing. The Policy will be a comprehensive framework designed to address the needs and rights of the elderly. It aims to protect older persons from abuse, ensure their participation in decision-making, and enhance their social and economic wellbeing. The policy promotes community-based interventions, encouraging local governments to implement programmes that address the specific needs of older persons. Additionally, it will focus on improving access to healthcare and social services to support a dignified and active life for the elderly. This updated policy stresses the importance of recognising the contributions of older persons and ensuring their rights are upheld within the community and by the state.</p>

<p>Republic of Uganda, (2023) National Policy on Persons with Disabilities</p>	<p>This policy aims at promoting equal opportunities for enhanced empowerment, participation and protection of rights of persons with disabilities irrespective of gender, age and type of disability.</p> <p>The policy aims to overcome the main obstacles hindering the complete achievement of inclusion and resilience for individuals with disabilities, while proposing practical measures for the government to undertake in order to fulfil its inclusion objectives.</p> <p>This policy offers essential direction for promoting disability inclusion throughout the entire development spectrum and among stakeholders at various levels, ranging from the national to household levels.</p>
<p>Republic of Uganda, (2015) The National social protection policy of Uganda (NSPP).</p>	<p>This policy aims to tackle specific vulnerabilities and risks faced by impoverished segments of the population. Key objectives include expanding social protection coverage and improving service delivery efficiency. Priority actions involve establishing a comprehensive social protection system, integrating various programmes, and ensuring sustainable funding. These measures aim to create a more resilient and socially secure society, addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The policy is crucial for unpacking social protection concerns in the country, enabling a comprehensive approach to addressing risks and vulnerabilities faced by various groups of people. As part of its implementation, the policy has outlined eight guiding principles that must be adhered to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual, family and community involvement: Whereas Government at all levels shall take leadership in the implementation of this policy, communities, target groups and duty bearers shall be actively involved in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection interventions.</li> <li>• Human Rights-Based Approach to Service delivery: Communities shall be empowered to know and claim their rights and demand accountability from duty bearers and institutions implementing social protection interventions.</li> <li>• Timeliness, reliability and sustainability: Systems shall be strengthened to facilitate timely delivery of social protection services and generate reliable information for decision making</li> <li>• Universalism and inclusiveness: Appropriate measures shall put in place to protect every Ugandan from risks and shocks.</li> <li>• Transparency and Accountability: Openness and value for money shall be emphasized in the provision of social protection services.</li> <li>• Gender Responsiveness: All social protection interventions shall address specific risks and vulnerabilities that affect boys and girls, men and women.</li> <li>• Equity: Fairness and justice shall underpin the provision of social protection services across different demographic categories and geographical locations.</li> <li>• Dignity: All beneficiaries of social protection interventions shall be treated with respect regardless of their sex, cultural, religious, and socio-economic status.</li> </ul>

<p>Republic of Uganda, (2013) National Council for Older Persons Act.</p>	<p>Article 32 of the Ugandan Constitution stipulates that the State is mandated to implement affirmative action in support of marginalized groups based on factors such as gender, age, disability, or any other conditions arising from historical, traditional, or customary practices. The objective is to rectify imbalances that currently disadvantage these groups.</p> <p>National Council for Older Persons Act was enacted to establish the National Council for Older Persons, outlining the purposes, composition, and functions of the national council. It further addresses the establishment of a Secretariat, the roles of the executive secretary and additional staff, as well as the creation of lower councils for older persons. The act includes provisions for the election of representatives from the older population, financial matters related to the national council, and other associated concerns in order to fulfil the vision and mission of article 32 of the constitution.</p>
<p>Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. (2020). National Child Policy 2020. Government of Uganda</p>	<p>The National Child Policy is a manifestation of the Government of Uganda's constitutional obligation regarding children's welfare and aligns with the mission of the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development to mobilize and empower communities while safeguarding the rights of vulnerable population groups.</p> <p>This policy underscores the government's dedication to the well-being of all children, marking a significant step in the Uganda's endeavours to uphold children's rights and shield them from various forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. Recognizing the paramount importance of children's four fundamental rights—survival, development, protection and participation—the Government of Uganda emphasizes a well-established and coordinated protection system.</p> <p>In addition to prioritizing the four cardinal rights, the policy acknowledges the necessity for a reinforced protection system, hence incorporating the fifth priority area of system strengthening. Consequently, the policy offers a national framework for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to strategically plan and implement interventions that comprehensively address children's rights. The policy includes an institutional mechanism to ensure its implementation in a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary manner.</p>

### 3.3 Existing Social Protection Programmes

According to the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), Uganda's social protection framework is structured around two pillars: social security and social care and support. The social security pillar, includes contributory social insurance schemes, and tax-financed schemes, also known as direct income support (DIS) programmes. DIS schemes which aim to cover vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and households facing poverty and deprivation, have slowly been introduced in Uganda over the past 10-15 years. Notable tax-financed programmes include the Senior Citizens' Grant (SCG), and the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF), which ended recently but focused on poverty reduction and community empowerment in post-conflict regions.

The Social Care and Support pillar of the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) also includes non-contributory social protection measures designed to provide assistance, care, and support to

individuals and groups who are particularly vulnerable due to age, disability, or socio-economic circumstances. One example is the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme in Uganda, which addresses the needs of children who are orphaned or otherwise vulnerable, offering a range of social care services.

Despite progress, challenges persist, including limited social security coverage—only about 4 and 12 per cent of the population are directly or indirectly covered by tax-financed schemes and contributory programmes respectively—, fragmented implementation, and inadequate coordination among stakeholders.<sup>6</sup> According to the latest numbers from the NSR, as of June 2024, there were a total of 2,208,929 registered beneficiaries across all programmes already in the system (Table 4).<sup>7</sup>

**Table 4: Number of Registered Beneficiaries According to the NSR, June 2024**

Pillar/Programme	Number of Registered Beneficiaries
<b>Pillar 1: Social Security</b>	<b>1,868,060</b>
<i>Direct Income Support</i>	394,514
SAGE	298,340
NUSAF-3	93,073
DRDIP	3,101
<i>Social Insurance</i>	1,473,546
NSSF	1,410,242
HCM(PSPS)	63,304
<b>Pillar 2: Social Care and Support Programmes</b>	<b>339,995</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,208,055</b>

Source: National Single Registry (extracted June 2024)

### 3.3.1 Direct Income Support

#### Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE)

The SAGE initiative operates nationwide and is central to Uganda’s strategy for supporting the elderly and other vulnerable groups. It provides regular cash transfers to senior citizens aged 80 years and above, with the aim of enhancing their access to basic services and improving their living standards. This unconditional cash transfer programme is vital for empowering older persons, helping them to meet their daily needs and reducing their economic vulnerability.

#### Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF)

NUSAF, which recently finalised its third phase, was targeted at 66 of the 146 districts in Uganda, focusing on those affected by the two-decade-long conflict in Northern Uganda. It sought to restore livelihoods, enhance access to income-generating activities, and rebuild infrastructure. Through community-driven development projects, NUSAF played a significant role in post-conflict recovery and development in the region. Supported by the World Bank, plans are underway to launch NUSAF-4 in the second half of 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Social Protection Sector Review (2019).

<sup>7</sup> This also includes beneficiaries in NUSAF and DRDIP, which is currently not in operation.

### **Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP)**

DRDIP operates in 15 districts, primarily those that host refugees and are impacted by the refugee influx. It aims to improve access to social services, enhance economic opportunities, and strengthen environmental management for both the host communities and the refugee population. By focusing on enhancing infrastructure and service delivery, DRDIP addresses the increased demand on resources brought about by displacement.

### **3.3.2 Social Insurance**

#### **National Social Security Fund (NSSF)**

The NSSF is a compulsory saving scheme countrywide that provides financial security to workers in the formal sector upon retirement. It collects contributions from employees and employers, which are then invested to yield returns, ensuring that members have a source of income once they retire.

#### **URBRA / Licensed Retirement Benefits Scheme**

Under the regulation of the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA), licensed retirement benefits schemes encompass both private and public sectors. These schemes are an essential part of Uganda's social insurance structure, offering various retirement benefits and safeguarding the savings of contributors.

#### **Public Service Pension Scheme (PSPS)**

The PSPS is a defined benefit scheme for public service employees in Uganda. It ensures that government workers receive a pension upon retirement, calculated based on their salary and length of service. This scheme provides financial security for retired public servants, allowing them to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

## 4 Assessment of the Current Integrated Social Protection Information System

Good quality data and information are critical for the effective delivery of social protection programmes in any country. Developing an integrated social protection information system is a vital step towards building an efficient social protection system that can operate seamlessly in both normal and emergency situations. An integrated information system for social protection facilitates efficient flows of information within social protection programmes and across social sectors (e.g., health, education, labour). It enhances a country's capacity to care for its people and respond to their needs, helps identify those in need, and provides tailored benefits and services.

Furthermore, an integrated information system enables governments to monitor, track, and plan programmes more effectively. Ultimately, such a system improves inclusion, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, citizen empowerment, accuracy, and integrity. A fully integrated information system can be conceptualised as an 'ecosystem' based on three main pillars. As illustrated in Figure 1, these pillars represent different aspects of an integrated social protection system:

- Pillar 1: Individual programme functions within the social protection delivery chain – including registration, eligibility assessment, enrolment, payments, complaint management, beneficiary updates, monitoring, and reporting – supported by standalone Management Information Systems (MISs). These systems ensure that each programme can operate independently while maintaining high standards of data management and service delivery.
- Pillar 2: Integration of programme functions within the social protection delivery chain to serve multiple programmes. This integration enables the sharing of information across different programmes, reducing duplication of efforts and ensuring that beneficiaries receive comprehensive support. The National Single Registry (NSR) in Uganda serves as the central hub in this pillar, offering an integrated beneficiary management platform.
- Pillar 3: Leveraging broader government registries to verify applications for social protection programmes and support linkages and referrals. This pillar ensures that social protection programmes are interconnected with other governmental systems, such as civil registration and vital statistics, national identification databases, and other sectoral information systems. This connectivity enhances the accuracy of beneficiary data and streamlines the verification process.

Following this conceptual model, Figure 2 illustrates the current model of the integrated social protection information system in Uganda, overlaid by the three pillars. In Pillar 1, numerous social protection programmes operate with their own MISs, managing their respective programme operations and functions. These MISs include systems for programmes such as the Senior Citizens Grant, the Youth Livelihood Programme, and the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE). These standalone systems are crucial for the efficient management of individual programme activities.

In Pillar 2, the MISs from various programmes are linked to the National Single Registry (NSR), which provides an integrated beneficiary management platform. The NSR enables the centralised collection, storage, and management of beneficiary data, facilitating better coordination among different programmes. However, there is no integrated gateway system for registration and needs assessments, which limits the full potential of the integrated approach.

In Pillar 3, a few broader registries and information systems are currently linked to the NSR. These include the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) database, which provides vital identification information, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) databases, which offer socio-

economic data. This linkage helps in verifying beneficiary information and ensuring that the right individuals receive support.

Figure 1: Concept of an Integrated Social Protection Information System Based on Three Pillars

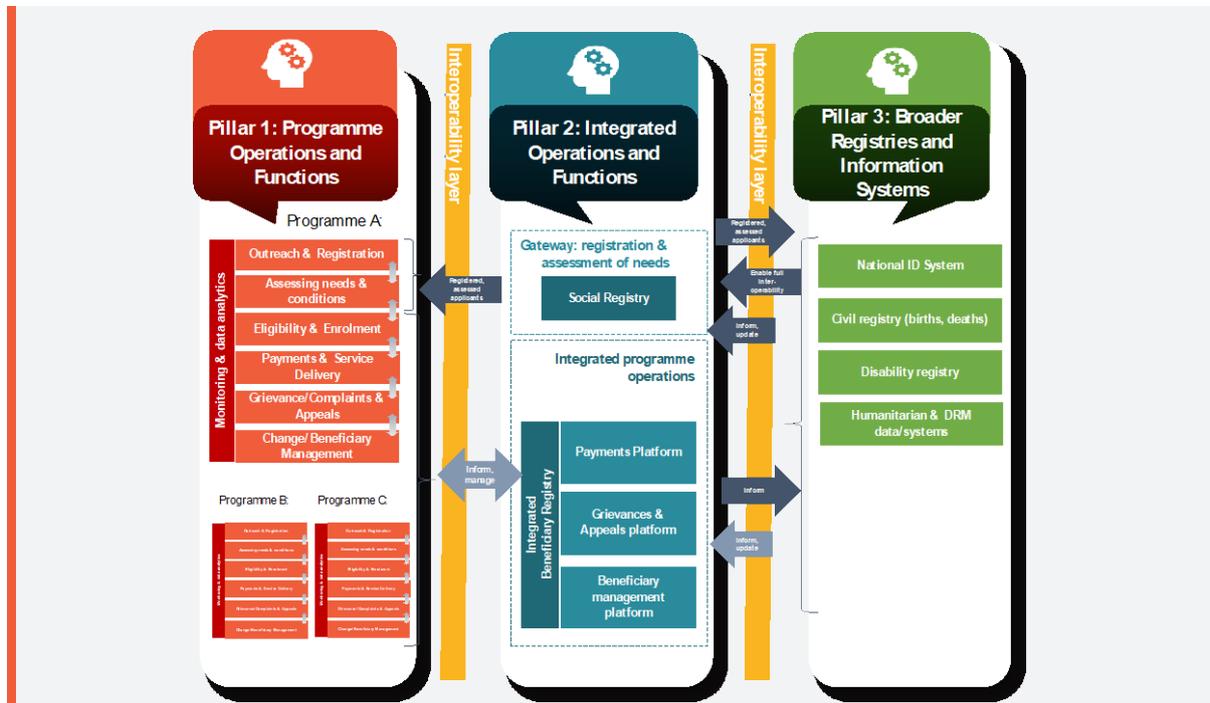
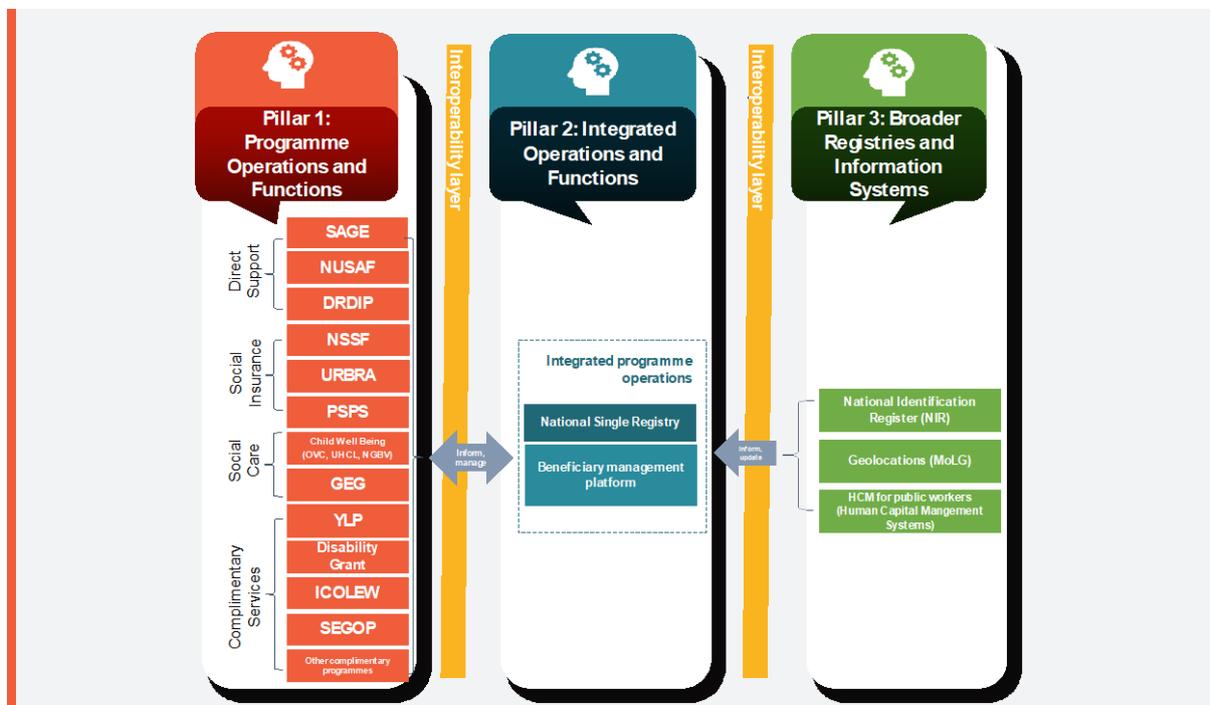


Figure 2: The Current Model of Integrated Information System for Social Protection in Uganda



The detailed description and assessment below of the NSR, as well as other programme-specific MISs and information systems available in Uganda, highlight the strengths and areas for improvement in the current system. The NSR, while effective in centralising data, could benefit from enhanced

integration with registration and assessment gateways. Additionally, expanding linkages with other government registries would further streamline processes and improve data accuracy.

## **4.1 National Single Registry**

The launch of Uganda's National Single Registry (NSR) in 2021 represented a considerable advancement in Uganda's social protection system. Developed under the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD), the NSR now functions as the central repository of information concerning existing beneficiaries of social protection programmes. This initiative is a key step towards increasing transparency, efficiency, and coordination in the provision of social protection services throughout the country.

The NSR is consistent with the objectives stipulated in the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), offering a platform that enhances the monitoring and assessment of social protection interventions in Uganda. By integrating data from a multitude of programmes and initiatives, the NSR facilitates the harmonisation and coordination amongst stakeholders, thus reinforcing the synergy and amplifying the impact of social protection.

The NSR acts as a unified portal that combines essential information on beneficiaries of social protection programmes, establishing linkages with programme individual programme MISs and the national ID database (NIRA). This consolidation of data remedies the previously encountered issues of duplication and inconsistency, paving the way for a more unified platform that bolsters essential beneficiary information. The initiative is instrumental in fostering accountability and transparency within Uganda's social protection framework, and by supporting the implementation of the NSPP, which delineates a coordinated framework for implementing social protection programmes, the Single Registry aims to streamline and augment the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Currently, the NSR encompasses all social protection programmes across four thematic areas as delineated by the NSPP:

1. **Direct Income Support** – tax financed or non-contributory programmes (cash or in-kind transfers) that provide income support to vulnerable groups. Programmes include the Senior Citizen Grant and public works schemes.
2. **Social Insurance** – contributory schemes targeting the working-age population that seek to mitigate shocks arising from ill-health, retirement, disability. Programmes include the National Social Security Fund, Public Service Pensions Scheme, and health insurance.
3. **Social Care and Support Services** – programmes that provide care, support, protection, and empowerment to vulnerable individuals who are unable to fully care for themselves. Programme examples include:
  - a. Integration/re-integration of abandoned and street children within society.
  - b. Care and protection of children in conflict with the law; institutional support to vulnerable children, people with disabilities and older persons.
  - c. Care and support to gender-based violence victims and survivors, community-based rehabilitation for people with disabilities.
  - d. Community-based care and support for older persons.
4. **Complementary Services** – interventions articulated in policies for agriculture, health, education, employment, and finance sectors.

The table below provides a summary of the programmes integrated to the NSR.

**Table 5: Programmes Integrated to the NSR**

Thematic Area	Programme	Geographic coverage
Direct Income Support	SAGE (Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment)	Country wide
	NUSAF (Northern Uganda Social Action Fund)	66/146 Districts
	DRDIP	15/146 Districts
Social Insurance	NSSF (National Social Security Fund)	Country Wide
	URBRA / Licensed Retirement Benefits Scheme (Private & Public Retirement Schemes Regulated by GoU)	Country Wide
	PSPS (Public Service Pension Scheme)	Country Wide
Social Care	Child Well Being: OVC (Orphans & Vulnerable Children) NGBV (National Gender Based Violence) UHCL (Uganda Child Helpline)	Country Wide
	Girls Empowering Girls (GEG)	Kampala
Complimentary Services	YLP (Youth Livelihood Programme)	Country Wide
	Disability Grant	Country Wide
	(ICOLEW) Integrated Community Learning for Wealth Creation	Country Wide
	JuaKali /Green Jobs Programme	Country Wide
	Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises	Country Wide
	SEGOP (Social Enterprise Grant for Older Persons)	Country Wide

The technological infrastructure of the NSR is robust. It operates within a virtual environment to facilitate optimal resource allocation and scalability. The servers, equipped with dual Intel Xeon Gold CPUs and substantial RAM capacity, are designed to manage significant data flows effortlessly. The data is managed using Microsoft SQL Server 2019, which possesses modern features for performance, security, and analytics. In terms of security, the NSR employs sophisticated endpoint protection and a rigorous firewall, ensuring a secure operating.

## 4.2 Review of Existing Social Registries and Information Systems

Alongside the National Single Registry (NSR), Uganda operates a number of social registries and information systems. The most widely known among these is the Karamoja Social Registry (KSR), designed for the Karamoja region. Additionally, the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) maintained a comprehensive registry of current and prospective beneficiaries across 66 districts. These instruments, comprising extensive databases and management information systems (MIS), are key in delivering crucial data and insights. However, they are not without their challenges. Issues such as lack of data integration, data redundancy, compartmentalised data repositories, and constraints in system compatibility can impede their efficacy. Nonetheless, these registries are critical resources for gaining insights and should be integrated thoughtfully in the ongoing development of Uganda’s social registry framework.

Another challenge identified is that current systems examined in Uganda often lack well-functioning feedback, grievance, and appeals mechanism. For instance, the Karamoja Social Registry does not explicitly incorporate such a mechanism, leaving beneficiaries without a formal channel to raise concerns or seek redress. Typically, feedback and grievance mechanisms are implemented at the

programme level, which can result in fragmented and inconsistent handling of complaints and appeals across different social protection initiatives. This decentralised approach can cause delays in addressing issues, inefficiencies, and varying standards of response. However, there are ongoing efforts in Uganda to harmonise and centralise these functions within the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD).

#### 4.2.1 Karamoja Social Registry

The Karamoja Social Registry (KSR), operated by the World Food Programme (WFP), serves as a dedicated database for managing social protection programmes within the Karamoja sub-region of Uganda. While not as comprehensive in registration parameters as more traditional social registries, its design and functionality are crafted to support the objectives of the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP).

**Table 6: Overview of the Karamoja Social Registry**

Key components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The KSR is primarily utilised to target and streamline social protection programmes, assisting individuals and families potentially eligible for specific support in the Karamoja Sub Region. Integrated with WFP’s beneficiary and transfer management system, SCOPE, the KSR underpins government digital identity management efforts in the region by utilising unique identifiers and capturing data on current and potential beneficiaries to reduce information gaps and feed into the National Social Registry (NSR).
Coverage and Targeting	Currently, the KSR has about 900,000 individuals registered, which is approximately 2 per cent of Uganda’s projected population for 2024, according to UBOS. Utilising WFP’s SCOPE system, the KSR provides some level of accountability as well as a targeting mechanism for delivery of programmes in the region.
Data Quality and Management	Registration is a collaborative process with District Local Governments, involving data updates, quality assurance, and community engagement. Registrants are required to provide a photograph and biometric data, which aids in eliminating duplicate identities and ensures assistance reaches the right beneficiaries.  Census surveys conducted in Karamoja’s nine districts form the foundation of the KSR. The quality of this data remains unspecified, but personal data is managed under legal frameworks with the Government of Uganda, and WFP has implemented technical security measures to safeguard the data. The last census was conducted in 2018.
Interoperability and Integration	The KSR is primarily integrated with external databases for data verification. It currently does not link directly with other social sectors or the national ID system.
Accessibility and Transparency	The outcomes of the registration efforts are disseminated to stakeholders at the national level, with plans for subnational dissemination. Specifics on transparency measures are not provided.
Governance and Institutional Framework	WFP aids the Ugandan government in improving beneficiary information and assistance management systems. Progress includes integrating the KSR with the NSR for better oversight of social assistance. The KSR database has also

	supported the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) programme with eligibility verifications in Karamoja.
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	WFP supports the Ugandan government in developing and maintaining the KSR, with ongoing efforts to expand the registry's reach beyond the Karamoja region under governmental leadership.
Monitoring and Evaluation	As of 2021, a needs assessment for the KSR has been completed, and a clean-up of the household database is in progress, alongside harmonisation efforts between WFP and third-party users for data updates.
Software and Hardware Requirements	The KSR's design and functionality mirror those of other social registries, aiming to bolster coordination in line with the government's social protection policies. It utilises the same platform as WFP's SCOPE system. Details regarding specific hardware requirements are not disclosed.

#### 4.2.2 NUSAF 3 MIS

The Northern Uganda Social Action Fund 3 (NUSAF 3) MIS supported the programme in the selection of poor and vulnerable households across Northern Uganda with a social registry component. The system also integrates programme components for comprehensive support, while linking with systems like the NSR and the NIRA MIS for data interchange and validation, respectively. Funded by the World Bank alongside the Government of Uganda, NUSAF 3 is dedicated to improving poor communities in the region. NUSAF 3, which commenced in 2016, is the latest iteration, succeeding NUSAF 2 (2010-2015), NUSAF 1 (2003–2009), and the Northern Uganda Reconstruction Programme (NURP, 1992–1996).

**Table 7: Overview of the NUSAF 3 MIS**

Key Components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The NUSAF 3 MIS plays a key role in the programme's operational processes and design. It aid the programme's to provide income support and assistance to selected beneficiaries. It plays a role in determining programme reach based on a watershed methodology, design, budget specifications, and the apportionment of quotas. Additionally, the system's decentralised nature down to the community levels where implementation occurs, ensures accessibility for District Local Government (DLG) staff and enhances data transparency.
Coverage and Targeting	The project served approximately 593,232 households, equating to 1 per cent of Uganda's population projection for 2024 by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). The selection of poor and vulnerable households is carried through a three-level targeting mechanism, including geographical selection at the district level, community-based targeting at the local level, and the application of specific poverty and vulnerability criteria at the household level.
Data Quality and Management	Baseline data on potential beneficiaries were collected through census surveys in selected regions of Northern Uganda, encompassing eight sub-regions within 66 districts. Ongoing training and quality assurance procedures were in place to maintain data integrity and uniformity across districts and sub-projects. The MIS captures data throughout each phase of the subproject life cycle, facilitating seamless and punctual data amalgamation for reports.

Interoperability and Integration	The MIS is adept at interfacing with external databases for data validation, oversight, and reporting functions. It links to other social sectors through electronic data interchange and, while not incorporating social insurance. The MIS interlinks with NIRA for beneficiary checks, the NSR for data exchange, and the OPM Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) MIS for project outcome reporting.
Accessibility and Transparency	The web-based nature of the MIS permits user access from any location with an internet connection, and an offline application enables data collection on handheld devices in internet-absent locales. The system's centralised structure affords real-time access and updates from a singular data source.
Functionality and User Experience	Reliable and consistent power and internet supply are maintained by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to ensure system availability. Security measures safeguard against intrusion and unauthorised access.
Governance and Institutional Framework	NUSAF3 operates within government structures, headed by the OPM and collaborating with multiple institutions at central, district, and sub-county levels. The project's governance framework was designed to promote transparency and accountability, with the Permanent Secretary of OPM coordinating nationwide and local government overseeing community-level execution.
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	The World Bank has funded the MIS development, which includes training for operators and maintenance of infrastructure, thereby ensuring the system's sustainability.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Initial reliance on community-based M&E systems evolved with the MIS's establishment, enabling a better assessment of project impacts and welfare changes, because of the integrated indicators. The enhanced M&E system aided project implementation, with technical support plans derived from M&E reports to address any district-specific needs.
Software and Hardware Requirements	A contracted software firm developed the MIS under NUSAF guidance, and it is managed by the MIS Unit at NUSAF headquarters in Kampala. The system server is securely hosted in the OPM server room with a backup in a secure, undisclosed location, ensuring access to data post-project closure.

### 4.2.3 The OVC MIS

The Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme in Uganda represents an large-scale effort to cater to the needs and enhance the wellbeing of children who are without one or both parents or who face vulnerability due to poverty, disease, and conflict. The initiative collaborates with various government agencies, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and development partners, broad sectors such as healthcare, education, protection, livelihood support, and social services. Central to the programme is the MIS, designed to gather, catalogue, and administer data pertinent to OVC throughout Uganda. By integrating with existing data repositories, the OVC MIS elevates data interoperability and provides insightful reports and analyses that influence policy development and foster improved outcomes for OVC.

**Table 8: Overview of the OVC MIS**

Key Components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The OVC MIS is a digital framework that collects, preserves, and organises data concerning OVC in Uganda. This MIS underpins the delivery of

	<p>healthcare, education, psychosocial support, and economic upliftment initiatives for OVC. Furthermore, it is instrumental in creating reports and analyses that steer decision-making and policy design, thereby enhancing OVC programmes and related policies in Uganda.</p> <p>This system is a centralised database, enabling child welfare organisations to monitor and evaluate the welfare of OVC as well as the impact of various programmes and interventions. With centralised information on demographics, socio-economic status, health, and education, the system guarantees better case management and bespoke support and services for OVC.</p>
Coverage and Targeting	<p>The OVC MIS supports approximately 74,500 household beneficiaries (0.2 per cent of Uganda's population, as projected for 2024 by UBOS). It maintains case management by tracking the unique needs and circumstances of individuals, facilitating tailored support and services. Additionally, the system synchronises service delivery across multiple sectors while providing monitoring and evaluation to assess programme efficacy.</p>
Data Quality and Management	<p>Data collection occurs on-demand via institutional collaborations with district community development officers, aligning closely with civil society organisations, NGOs, faith-based organisations, community-based organisations, and childcare and protection institutions. The collected data spans demographics, socio-economic, health, educational, and household information regarding OVC.</p>
Interoperability and Integration	<p>The OVC MIS is interlinked with other social sectors through electronic data exchange and maintains a direct link with the national ID system (NIRA) and the NSR. This integration, however, is primarily for data verification, monitoring, and reporting.</p>
Accessibility and Transparency	<p>The MIS's online platform allows users to access it from anywhere with an internet connection, with a centralized structure, the system enables real-time access and updates from a single data source.</p>
Functionality and User Experience	<p>The OVC MIS contributes to informed policy making and the shaping of OVC-related decisions.</p>
Governance and Institutional Framework	<p>There is a multi-faceted approach to governance withing the OVC MIS, as it is an output of the collaborative efforts amongst government entities, NGOs, CBOs, and development partners</p>
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	<p>Not available</p>
Monitoring and Evaluation	<p>A conceptual M&amp;E framework within the OVC MIS establishes links between the needs and characteristics of OVC and their households, the service delivery by national and local government bodies, donors, NGOs, and CSOs, and the subsequent utilisation of these services.</p>
Software and Hardware Requirements	<p>Not available</p>

#### 4.2.4 The Parish Development Model (PDM) MIS

The Parish Development Model (PDM) MIS is a government initiative aimed at economic transformation of households across Uganda. It focuses on converting subsistence activities to market-oriented production, using the parish as an administrative hub.

**Table 9: Overview of the PDM MIS**

Key components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The PDM MIS is integral to the PDM's strategy, serving to bolster service delivery at the grassroots level. This system is critical in gathering parish-centric data for government bodies and facilitates the management and tracking of information pertinent to the PDM's implementation.
Coverage and Targeting	Targeting around 946,000 households, which constitutes approximately 2 per cent of Uganda's population according to UBOS projections for 2024, the PDM MIS is employed to register individuals and households at the parish level, using a method akin to a census.
Data Quality and Management	The PDM MIS is employed in various districts to collect comprehensive demographic and economic data on households. This includes details on household heads, economic indicators, and basic services access. The system is also designed to build profiles of villages and parishes. However, concerns have been raised over privacy and the potential misuse of sensitive information. Additionally, there is a lack of available information on the measures taken to ensure the quality of the data collected.
Interoperability and Integration	The PDM MIS is linked to the national ID system (NIRA) and various payment platforms for disbursing funds. Its integration with external databases is primarily for data verification purposes, as well as for monitoring and reporting.
Accessibility and Transparency	The system includes a web-based platform with mobile application support for both online and offline data collection. Details on the system's transparency measures are not provided.
Functionality and User Experience	The PDM MIS is designed for comprehensive data management and analysis to support decision-making. However, the user experience and system functionality are not detailed.
Governance and Institutional Framework	The PDM promotes a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach, aiming for improvements in household livelihoods and economic status with parishes. Government agencies are coordinated to ensure services are delivered effectively at the parish level.
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	Not available
Monitoring and Evaluation	The PDM MIS is a tool for monitoring initiatives across the PDM's pillars, although specifics on the framework and outcomes of these evaluations are not disclosed.
Software and Hardware Requirements	The MIS is tailored to the PDM's principles, acting as a tool for data collection and analysis pertinent to parish development. Information on software and hardware requirements and system specifics is not available.

#### 4.2.5 The National Identification Register

The National Identification Register (NIR) in Uganda, managed by the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), was established in 2014 to issue a 14-digit national identification number (NIN) to citizens and legal residents. Its creation underpins efforts to modernise and improve governance and socio-economic development through improved data management and verification.

**Table 10: Overview of the NIR**

Key Components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	Instituted by the Registration of Persons Act (2015), NIRA’s mandate includes the creation, management, and maintenance of the NIR for all persons in Uganda. Since the initial mass registration, NIRA has aimed to enhance public service delivery and socio-economic development. The NIR records life events such as births, deaths, and marriages and issues corresponding certificates alongside NINs, vital for identifying legal residents for both governance and socio-economic activities.
Coverage and Targeting	The NIR encompasses all legal residents of Uganda, with nearly 26.9 million people (58 per cent) registered. Plans for a 2024 mass registration at the parish level aim to improve the registry's comprehensiveness. The registry is pivotal in formalising individuals' presence in national records, contributing to national statistics and aiding the government's socio-economic planning and service provision.
Data Quality and Management	Initial mass registrations began in 2014 for individuals aged 16 and over, with ongoing data collection efforts through various campaigns and on-demand registration. The NIR records critical personal information and is regularly updated to reflect changes. While not deleted, records of deceased or emigrated persons are appropriately modified to maintain historical accuracy.
Interoperability and Integration	The NIR's design facilitates linkages across multiple sectors, enabling data verification and sharing. This interconnectivity extends to UBOS and other agencies, enhancing the accuracy of national statistics and the efficiency of services such as SIM card issuance and voter verification.
Accessibility and Transparency	Hosted by NIRA, the NIR’s online platform enhances its accessibility within Uganda, allowing for efficient data interactions nationwide. However, details regarding the transparency of its operations are not specified.
Functionality and User Experience	Under the framework set by the 2015 Act, the NIR supports a coherent civil registration process across Uganda. Its establishment by NIRA is a step towards standardising the registration process and ensuring uniform data collection for all residents.
Governance and Institutional Framework	The NIR’s utility extends to various government ministries and the private sector, demonstrating integrated efforts to ensure data integrity and efficient process management. From transport to national security, its usage signifies the central role of data in modern governance. NIRA has signed an MoU with the MGLSD which permit the Ministry access and use NIRA data in the National ID registry for use with the NSR in beneficiary’s verification across the various social protection interventions in the ministry, MGLSD is also part of NIRA’s technical working group.
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	Not available
Monitoring and Evaluation	Not available
Software and Hardware Requirements	Not available

## **4.3 Review of Digital Assets and Capabilities**

Uganda is witnessing the development of an expanding array of national resources and infrastructure aimed at facilitating digital transformation across sectors. While previous enterprise architecture endeavours have predominantly emphasized interoperability, there is currently a concerted effort underway to formulate a comprehensive digital strategy that encompasses broader objectives and initiatives.

In examining Uganda's digital assets and capabilities, we review the country's digital landscape, exploring its technological resources and capacities in relation to the social registry.

### **4.3.1 National Data Sharing**

To advance data sharing and utilization at the national level, NITA-U has rolled out an open-source Data and Application Integration Platform known as UGHub. Employing the “WSO2” technology stack, the UGHub Systems and Data Integration Platform operates from within the Government of Uganda Data Centre. Notably, it is technology-agnostic, allowing seamless integration with systems irrespective of their technological framework.

Furthermore, the platform facilitates the consumption of services from external entities while also providing its services to others. Presently, UGHub is linked with over 135 institutions, encompassing 62 public and 73 private entities. This initiative serves as a pivotal step in encouraging sectors to leverage data from both within their sector and across different domains.

### **4.3.2 Frameworks and Policies**

The Government of Uganda, in partnership with NITA-U, has established frameworks and implemented policies to enhance secure data sharing nationwide. One significant initiative introduced in 2021 is the GoU e-Government Web Application Security Architecture Framework (WASA), aimed at safeguarding information stored on web-based digital platforms. WASA serves as a robust defence mechanism against various cyber threats, including system compromise and data leakage.

Notably, the WASA framework supports two vital scenarios: firstly, it provides guidance for the development of new secure web applications, emphasizing the security-by-design principle from inception, secondly, it offers comprehensive guidance for validating the security controls of existing web applications through security assessment, auditing, and penetration testing. Through these measures, Uganda is reinforcing its commitment to ensuring the security and integrity of digital data sharing initiatives across the nation.

## 5 International Experiences with Integrated Social Protection Information Systems

Social protection systems are central to a nation's efforts to ensure income security to its citizens. Implementing and maintaining integrated social protection information systems is an important component of social protection systems. As such, registries that support the effective delivery of social programmes by consolidating socio-economic data and enabling better identification of recipients are critical. Around the world, various countries have developed their own unique registries and databases to streamline this process. Each system reflects a country's commitment to using data and technology to improve social outcomes. These systems serve as national frameworks for social protection, each with distinctive objectives, scopes, and challenges. They demonstrate how digital platforms can support social protection delivery, improve coordination, and facilitate allocation of resources, ensuring that social protection reaches its population. This section provides some key lessons learned from international experiences, as well some international case studies.

### 5.1 Overview

Countries worldwide have implemented social registries to enhance the delivery of social protection programmes, with varying outcomes. These integrated databases collect and manage socio-economic information with goal of enabling governments to identify and support vulnerable populations more effectively. Often, social registries have been developed on the back of national flagship social protection programmes, leveraging their infrastructure and systems. Key strategies for effective implementation include thorough planning and design, robust data collection and management methods, and integration of data from various sources, especially to maintain the data up to date. Engaging stakeholders, establishing a solid legal framework, and utilising advanced technological infrastructure are also crucial for building a comprehensive and reliable social registry.

However, not all implementations have been without challenges. Some countries have experienced high targeting errors, where the social registry fails to accurately identify eligible beneficiaries, resulting in either inclusion errors (supporting those who are not eligible) or exclusion errors (failing to support those who are eligible). For instance, Brazil's Cadastro Único, developed through the Bolsa Família programme, and which has been praised for its relative success, still experiences considerable targeting errors, with inaccuracies estimated to be around 50 per cent. Similarly, Indonesia's Unified Database for Social Protection Programmes (UDB), established through the Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH), has faced challenges with high targeting errors and issues in maintaining up-to-date data. These challenges highlight the importance of continuous data verification, regular updates, and incorporating feedback mechanisms to improve targeting accuracy.

Furthermore, social registries often suffer from systematic exclusion of the poorest members of society because of design errors, especially when using proxy means tests. These errors are exacerbated by the assumption that household conditions remain static, which is rarely the case. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the limitations of outdated registries, as rapidly changing economic conditions rendered pre-pandemic data largely obsolete. This emphasises the need for dynamic and flexible systems capable of frequent updates and adjustments to reflect real-time socio-economic conditions.

Another important factor for the sustainability of social registries is clear budget allocation. Adequate and consistent funding is necessary to maintain and update the registry, train staff, and invest in technological improvements. Several social registries have faced difficulties or have been short-lived

due to a lack of resources. For example, in some regions, social registries initiated with donor funding have struggled to sustain operations once initial funds were exhausted, as seen in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Ensuring that there is a dedicated budget for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the social registry can help prevent these issues and ensure that the registry remains functional and effective over the long term. Securing sustainable funding sources, especially through annual budgets, are crucial steps that governments must take to support the continuous operation and improvement of integrated information system for social protection.

By learning from international experiences, including both successes and challenges, countries can develop social registries that are more inclusive, efficient, and capable of supporting their social protection goals while minimising errors and enhancing accuracy. Key lessons include the necessity of political commitment, robust data integration, advanced technological infrastructure, continuous stakeholder engagement, regular data updates and verification, capacity building for staff, and ensuring financial and institutional sustainability.

## 5.2 International Case Studies

An overview of five international social registries is presented below as well as key lessons. The international cases include:

- Azerbaijan’s Central Electronic Information System
- Brazil’s Cadastro Único
- Ghana’s National Household Registry
- Kenya’s Enhanced Single Registry
- Malawi’s Unified Beneficiary Registry

### Azerbaijan’s Central Electronic Information System

Azerbaijan’s Central Electronic Information System (CEIS) provides a sophisticated e-government platform, integral to administering social assistance and social insurance schemes.

**Table 11: Overview of Azerbaijan’s Central Electronic Information System**

Key components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The CEIS was established to automate various administrative tasks related to labour, employment, social protection, and social security in line with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection’s (MLSP) mandate. It is set across 15 subsystems, supported by registries covering employment, disability, martyrs, and war veterans, aiming to consolidate information for the social protection network and link policies effectively.
Coverage and Targeting	The CEIS achieves nearly complete national coverage through its connection with national ID systems. It registers life events, including births, deaths, and marriages, through the Ministry of Justice, contributing to the precise targeting of social protection initiatives. Within the CEIS, there is a subsystem called VEMTAS, which is targeted social assistance subsystem and uses per-capita income to assess eligibility for the poverty-targeted programmes. Income is self-reported but then through the VEMTAS it is cross-checked with other government databases.

Data Quality and Management	Data collection is primarily electronic, yet the digitisation of the household book is ongoing. CEIS uses data analytics to enhance the decision-making process, though challenges remain in addressing the reliability of historical and address data. The quality of current data benefits from robust linkages with approximately 80 government databases, facilitating strong verification processes.
Interoperability and Integration	Supported by the E-Gov BRIDGE service, the CEIS exhibits strong interoperability, allowing the proactive assignment of various government services. It contains multiple e-government services such as MYGOV, e-government portals, and open data platforms, indicating a sophisticated level of data mechanism and system integration.
Accessibility and Transparency	The Super Portal offers citizens online access to services, with some areas still pending digitalisation. Data exchanges within CEIS are regulated by presidential decree, enhancing the transparency of operations within the system.
Functionality and User Experience	CEIS is reported to have a strong operational capacity, facilitating its users in utilising the data effectively for decision-making. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement in the advanced digital skills of the population, which is necessary to produce IT products and services.
Governance and Institutional Framework	CEIS's governance structure benefits from a clear separation of policy and delivery, integrating functions across government with a largely digitised system. The Digital Innovations Agency leads the build of information systems and database integration, indicating a centralised and efficient approach to system management.
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	The maintenance of CEIS is technically managed by the Digital Innovations Agency, with a sustainable income that ensures the system's financial viability.
Monitoring and Evaluation	The CEIS includes a monitoring subsystem for maintaining a unified register for inspections aligned with the MLSP's mandate. Additionally, an integrated beneficiary registry offers a consolidated view of social protection beneficiaries.
Software and Hardware Requirements	CEIS is developed with C# and SQL Server technologies, hosted on a government cloud managed by the Digital Innovations Agency, which oversees maintenance and security.

Azerbaijan's CEIS exemplifies a strong legislative and institutional framework that supports an innovative e-government platform, underpinned by robust software and hardware infrastructure. For countries like Uganda, developing their social registries, Azerbaijan's CEIS provides insights into the benefits of centralisation, strong governance, and the effective use of digital technologies for public services. Emphasising sustainable financial models and prioritising the enhancement of digital literacy can further advance the effectiveness of such systems.

### **Brazil's Cadastro Único**

The Cadastro Único of Brazil is an established social registry that has been internationally recognised for its role in integrating social protection programmes since its inception in 2001. It was created to streamline the efficiency and coordination of social assistance programmes, addressing duplication of beneficiary information and reducing administrative costs.

**Table 12: Overview of Brazil’s Cadastro Único**

Key components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The primary function of Cadastro Único is to assist in identifying and registering low-income households across Brazil. The information is crucial for selecting beneficiaries for various federal, state, and municipal social assistance initiatives. While the Cadastro Único has several goals including identifying vulnerable populations, it is distinct from Brazil’s Cadastro Nacional de Informacoes Sociais (CNIS), which is a broader database encompassing a larger number of citizens.
Coverage and Targeting	Cadastro Único maintains data on over 23 million low-income families. The targeting process is on-demand and involves a multi-step approach, encompassing data collection at the local level and management by the central authorities. The main programmes target beneficiaries base on self-reported incomes, which are often checked with other databases.
Data Quality and Management	Data collection is extensive and continuous, utilising a questionnaire that captures various household details. While initial data quality had challenges, mechanisms have been put in place for regular updates and data verification. The system employs electronic data collection and has protocols to validate data immediately upon entry. The Cadastro Único does not apply a PMT.
Interoperability and Integration	Cadastro Único is used across numerous national social programmes and integrates with external databases for data verification. However, the absence of a common national identification number somewhat limited the extent of automatic data integration in its earlier versions. Efforts are ongoing to improve real-time interoperability with other public registries.
Accessibility and Transparency	Managed online, the registry faces accessibility challenges, particularly in the northern regions of Brazil. The system’s online management is intended to ensure broad access, but disparities in regional development can affect its utilisation.
Functionality and User Experience	The system has been praised for harmonising the criteria and delivery mechanisms for social assistance, improving policy consistency. It operates as an efficient mechanism for delivering benefits, reducing the risks of data manipulation, fraud, and clientelism.
Governance and Institutional Framework	While centrally managed by the Ministry of Social Development, the responsibility for data collection and entry lies with Brazil’s numerous municipalities. There is a cooperative structure across federal, state, and local levels, ensuring that the registry is comprehensive and up-to-date.
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	The federal government currently provide financial support to municipalities and the Federal District assisting registration processes, updating entries, and maintaining data quality. Although funding is provided at the federal level, municipalities and states use their own resources for the management of the registry at their local level. While funding for the registry if provided at the federal level, between 2005 and 2010 the MDS signed a series of loan agreements with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank for strengthening the registry.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Brazil has made strides in monitoring and evaluation of the Cadastro Único, utilising internal tools like the Information Consultation, Selection and

	Extraction Tool (CECAD) to detect and address issues within the database. Regular assessments and data cross-checking are instrumental in ensuring the registry's data remains current and reliable.
Software and Hardware Requirements	The Cadastro Único has undergone software updates to enhance its functionality and user experience, with the latest iteration being Cadastro Único v7. The software, developed by Caixa, is accessed online, which has addressed consistency and synchronisation issues. Hardware improvements have also contributed to increased transparency and system traceability.

The Cadastro Único is a globally referenced social registry, used by over 30 programmes in Brazil. Through continual improvement Cadastro Único is of the standard that it is today, however further improvement must continue to ensure the registry remains integrated, accurate and accessible. For Uganda's development of a social registry within its NSR, Cadastro Único exemplifies the importance of having a centralised information system that fosters collaboration across different levels of government and integrates with other social programmes. It underscores the value of leveraging technology to improve access and transparency while addressing the need for ongoing investment to maintain data quality and system functionality. The evolution of Cadastro Único offers key insights into achieving a holistic, responsive, and inclusive social protection framework.

### Ghana's National Household Registry

The Ghana National Household Registry (GNHR) is a component of the country's social protection strategy. The GNHR main objective is to streamline the identification and support of vulnerable households through comprehensive data collection.

**Table 13: Overview of Ghana's National Household Registry**

Key components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The GNHR aims to accurately target and support poor and vulnerable households, and facilitate the operations of Ghana's social protection system. It is intended to increase transparency and accountability within social protection programmes while minimising overlap in beneficiary coverage. The registry also aims to support policy and budget planning by providing a centralised overview of resource needs and allocation.
Coverage and Targeting	Currently, the GNHR encompasses 56 districts, registering around 880,000 households, which represents about 3 per cent of households based on projections from the Ghana Statistical Services. The World Bank notes that data on over 800,000 households have been collected in regions with significant poverty to aid targeted social protection programme selection. Poor households and individuals are identified through a proxy-means test validated through community-based targeting.
Data Quality and Management	The registry undertakes data collection, which informs its understanding of poverty at the regional, district, and community levels. This data includes educational, health, and accessibility information, gathered both through area-based census methods and mobile registration centres. The GNHR has adopted electronic data collection methods to ensure data accuracy and facilitate efficient processing.

Interoperability and Integration	While the GNHR currently lacks linkage to Ghana’s national ID system, it integrates with external databases for data verification, aiding in the accuracy of social protection interventions.
Accessibility and Transparency	Not available
Functionality and User Experience	The GNHR’s data is used to target beneficiaries for assistance programmes, utilising an updated Proxy Means Test model to rank households according to vulnerability. This ranking is meant to be dynamic, which would ideally capture changes in socioeconomic status over time.
Governance and Institutional Framework	The GNHR is operated under the MoGCSP, with the World Bank’s financial support. It seeks to enhance coordination between government agencies, NGOs, and other social development stakeholders. However, the registry has yet to fully engage local assemblies in enumerator recruitment to overcome language barriers and other local challenges.
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	Under the supervision of the MoGCSP, with financial backing from the World Bank, the registry functions as a resource to assist social protection programmes in identifying, prioritising, and selecting households facing vulnerable conditions.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Not available
Software and Hardware Requirements	Not available

The GNHR has been considered a significant advancement in Ghana's social protection landscape, aiming to enhance the coordination and targeting of interventions. While challenges such as local engagement and potential politicisation exist, the GNHR has made significant strides in improving the delivery of social protection services. For Uganda’s development of a social registry within its National Single Registry, the GNHR offers lessons in leveraging technology to streamline processes, the necessity of continued investment to overcome operational challenges, and the importance of integrating local knowledge and capacities to enhance the registry’s effectiveness and sustainability. The GNHR model shows the potential impact of a well-designed and implemented social registry on achieving inclusive socioeconomic development.

### Kenya’s Enhanced Single Registry

Kenya’s Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) represents an innovative approach in social protection, merging single and social registry functionalities to manage a socio-economic database of vulnerable households. The ESR supports social protection programmes by aiding in the identification of potential beneficiaries and monitoring existing ones, thus facilitating cash transfer programmes and hunger relief initiatives.

**Table 14: Overview of Kenya’s Enhanced Single Registry**

Key Components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The ESR functions as a hybrid model, with its single registry serving as a central repository for beneficiary information, enhancing operational processes and maintaining quality assurance. The social registry aspect provides a socio-economic repository, automating both social registry and

	integrated beneficiary registry functions. The registry's primary aim is to support the delivery of comprehensive social protection services, addressing issues of food security, health, education, livelihoods, and social justice.
Coverage and Targeting	Covering 28 of the 47 counties, the ESR has registered approximately 1.99 million households. Individual programmes access the registry for targeting and beneficiary assistance, utilising data such as national ID numbers and location details, which then feed back into the registry to update beneficiaries' records. A proxy-means test is being developed to rank household welfare levels, which some of the poverty-targeted programmes will use to identify potential beneficiaries.
Data Quality and Management	Data is collected through mass registrations and on-demand, using tools such as the Harmonised Targeting Methodology (HTM) to identify and record vulnerable households' details. Data integrity is ensured through integration with the Integrated Population Registration System (IPRS), with built-in controls and validations in place for data quality assurance.
Interoperability and Integration	The ESR links with various social sectors and integrates with external databases primarily for data sharing, validation, and verification, improving the accuracy and effectiveness of social protection interventions.
Accessibility and Transparency	With web-based and mobile capabilities, the ESR allows digital handling of data, improving the responsiveness of social protection programmes to beneficiaries' needs. Feedback mechanisms from these programmes help to keep the registry up-to-date and comprehensive.
Functionality and User Experience	The ESR provides a centralised system for managing grievances and complaints, integrating seamlessly into social protection programmes and offering essential functions for data transmission and management of enrolled beneficiaries.
Governance and Institutional Framework	A range of social protection programmes utilise the ESR, under the oversight of various ministries. The social registry component serves as a repository for detailed information on beneficiaries, integrating multiple MIS to streamline information across welfare initiatives.
Resource Allocation and Sustainability	Not available
Monitoring and Evaluation	The ESR enables monitoring of social protection programmes, with dynamic dashboards for analysing beneficiary data, managing complaints, and evaluating programme impact.
Software and Hardware Requirements	Not available

Kenya's ESR is an important development in Kenya's social protection infrastructure, enhancing efficiency in social protection delivery. The lessons for Uganda in developing a social registry within its National Single Registry include the importance of integrating single and social registry functions to streamline data access, the necessity of robust data quality and management systems, and the value of interoperability for comprehensive social protection service delivery. Kenya's ESR is built around a strong and developing social protection system with key flagship programmes across the lifecycle. Finally, the ESR model would also provide to some extent how effective feedback mechanisms and data management is possible in a country of similar context, and which will be critical for the continuous improvement and refinement of social protection interventions.

### Malawi's Unified Beneficiary Registry

Malawi's Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) is a centralised system designed to enhance the coordination of social protection programs, aiming to improve the targeting of resources and streamline the delivery of services to those most in need.

**Table 15: Overview of Malawi's Unified Beneficiary Registry**

Key components	Review
Objectives and Scope of Social Registry	The UBR's principal goal is to establish a singular, integrated repository for social protection information, aiming to cut down on repetitive administrative tasks and improve the strategic deployment of resources. It also endeavours to underpin the government's wider goal of crafting effective and inclusive policy, striving to ensure that all disadvantaged individuals and households are fairly represented, and their needs met.
Coverage and Targeting	The registry encompasses 13 of the 28 districts, accounting for approximately 9 per cent of the population. While primarily targeting the most economically vulnerable, it ambitiously includes both current beneficiaries of aid and those not directly receiving assistance, seeking to capture data on at least half of Malawi's impoverished population. For welfare ranking, the UBR uses proxy-means tests which are validated through community-based targeting mechanisms.
Data Quality and Management	Data collection employs a census-like methodology, targeting specific households and collecting detailed information ranging from income levels to educational attainment. The quality of the data is improved by cross-programme validation checks, and the management of this data involves a feedback loop between the UBR and various social programmes, which enhances the accuracy of beneficiary support and facilitates the assessment of programme efficiency.
Interoperability and Integration	While direct connections to a national ID system are absent, thereby complicating the integration of databases, the UBR still ensures compatibility with other social protection programmes, positioning it as a principal data source and averting beneficiary duplication through robust validation processes.
Accessibility and Transparency	The UBR comprises advanced web and mobile-based systems designed for adept data management. By centralising beneficiary information and facilitating data interchange between programmes, it engenders a collaborative and transparent social support ecosystem.
Functionality and User Experience	Information from the UBR relieves individual programmes of data collection duties. It allows for the classification of households by poverty levels, subject to community validation. Programmes then apply these classifications for targeting, with each retaining autonomy over specific targeting and data extraction protocols from the UBR.
Governance and Institutional Framework	Governed by the Government of Malawi and supported by partners like GIZ, the UBR involves district-level staff in its data collection and software development, signifying an integrated approach across governmental echelons.

Resource Allocation and Sustainability	The UBR's resource management and sustainability are underpinned by a balanced mix of government commitment and partner support, ensuring the platform's enduring functionality.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitoring is a crucial function within the UBR, providing oversight for linkages and functionality across the social protection sector. The UBR also serves as a repository of information on the performance and coverage of various programmes.
Software and Hardware Requirements	Predominantly an online system, the UBR's technical details on specific software and hardware needs are not extensively outlined.

The UBR of Malawi, whilst useful for the coordination of social protection, encounters challenges including inclusion and exclusion errors, attributed to the limitations within identification processes and the need for timely updates. Addressing these will solidify its role in enhancing the effectiveness of social support mechanisms. The UBR exemplifies a strategic approach that could inform similar developments in Uganda, highlighting the importance of adaptable, integrated data systems for social policy formation and implementation.

### **Overall**

The international case studies reveal different approaches to developing and implementing social registries for social protection. These registries support the coordination and delivery of social protection services, each with distinctive objectives, scopes, and challenges. A key takeaway is the critical role that digital technology plays in enhancing these frameworks, facilitating the collection, integration, and management of vast amounts of data. Registries like Azerbaijan's CEIS and Brazil's Cadastro Único demonstrate the potential of centralised systems in reducing redundancy and better beneficiary targeting. They show how technology can streamline processes and foster transparency in social protection.

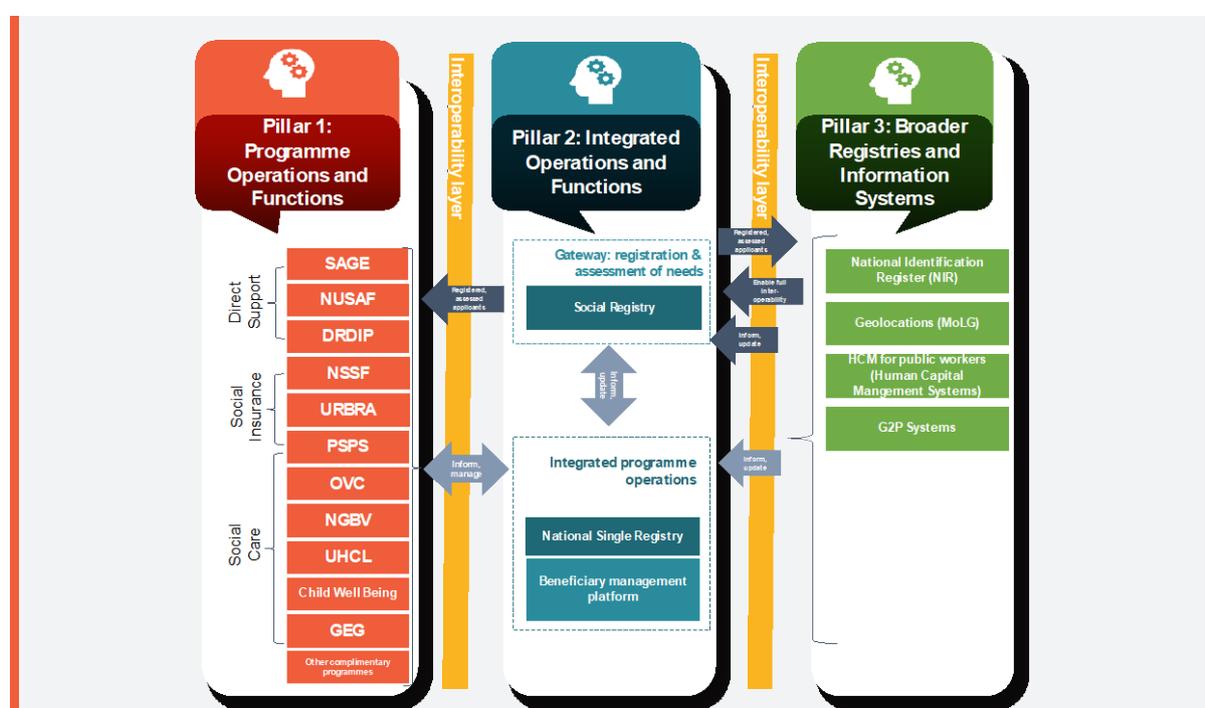
In terms of targeting mechanism, integrated social registries employ different mechanisms to target potential beneficiaries for poverty-targeted programmes. In middle-income and high-income countries, welfare assessment is often based on means testing, where applicants self-report their income, which is then verified against other databases to ensure accuracy and prevent fraud. In contrast, social registries in low-income countries are more likely to use proxy-means testing. Income thresholds for eligibility are typically defined by individual programmes and are not necessarily binding, as many programmes have quotas on the number of beneficiaries they can support. This means that even if households meet the income criteria, they might not receive benefits if the programme's capacity is exceeded.

Another recurring aspect across these cases is the importance of strong governance and sustainability. Effective governance structures enable social registries to operate efficiently and respond to evolving social needs. These cases underscore the need for robust resource allocation and ongoing investment to maintain data quality and system functionality. Additionally, they highlight the benefits of interoperability, with social registries integrating with national ID systems and external databases to ensure accuracy and prevent duplication. Overall, these international case studies provide valuable insights into the components of a successful social registry, emphasising the need for adaptable, integrated data systems that support comprehensive social protection services.

## 6 Overview of Proposed Social Registry

Due to the growing need for an integrated solution for registration and assessment of needs across social protection programmes in Uganda, the current social protection information system, as described in Section 4, is insufficient. It is anticipated that with a well-functioning integrated social registry, Uganda will be able to apply registration operations and functions that integrate with multiple broader information systems, thereby improving the delivery of social protection programmes. By providing up-to-date information on potential beneficiaries, integrated social registries can ensure that the social protection system reaches the right people at the right time. The social registry would also further facilitate the integration and coordination of various programmes, reducing overlaps and inefficiencies. The result is a more responsive and effective gateway to the social protection system. Figure 3 highlights the envisioned structure of Uganda’s social protection information system with the integration of an integrated social registry.

Figure 3: Key Drivers for the Social Registry



Based on consultations with key stakeholders in social protection in Uganda, there is a strong desire for a national social registry integrated with existing systems. Most stakeholders supported the development of a social registry, though there were reservations about potential duplication of efforts with parallel systems currently being developed (e.g., NSR, Parish MIS, and the proposed Social Registry). Additionally, there were misunderstandings about the differences between the NSR and the proposed Social Registry.

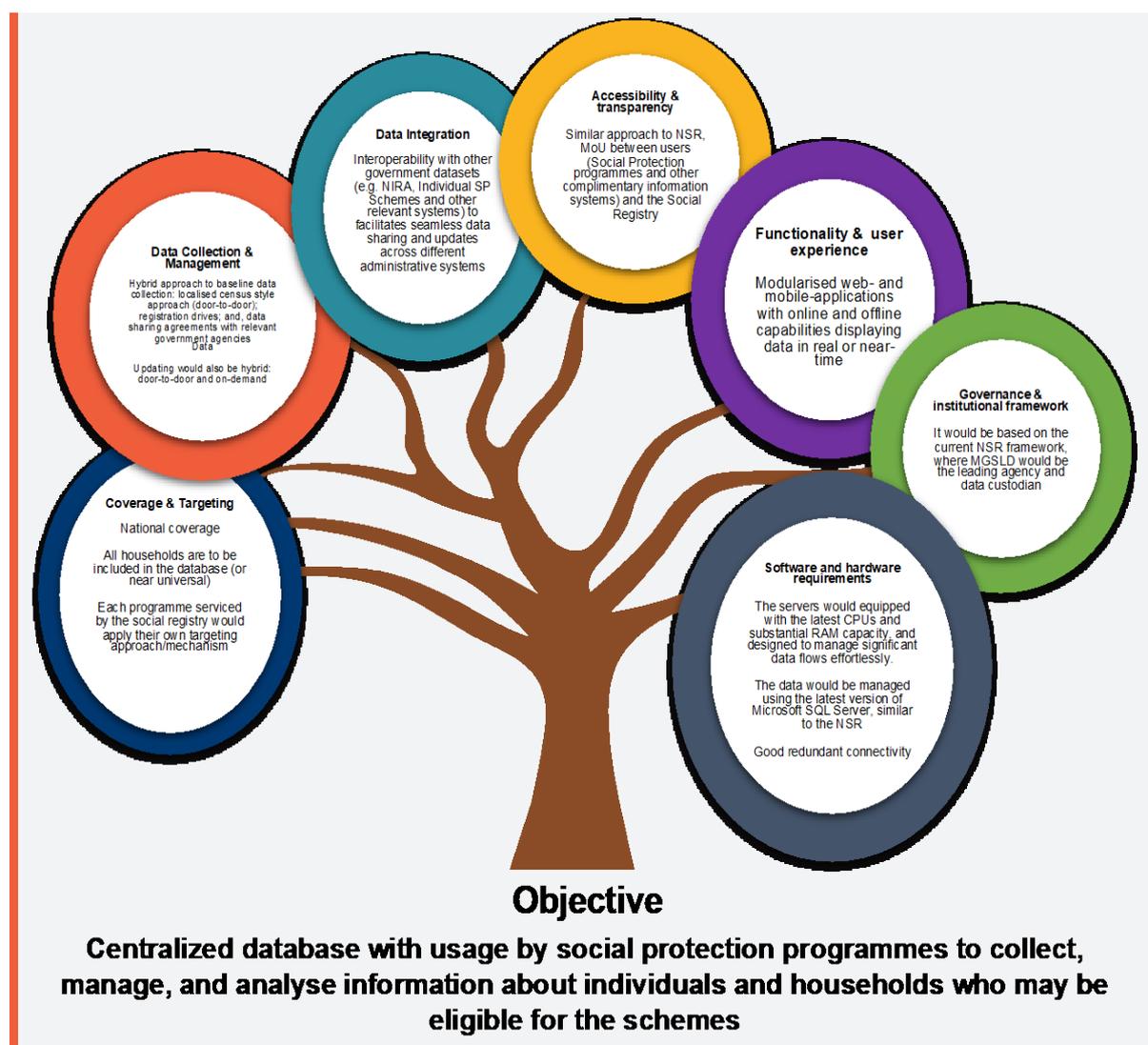
The necessity for an improved integrated system to identify beneficiaries for social protection programmes became evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when the government faced significant challenges in reaching households and families not yet covered by existing programmes.

Following examples from other countries in the region, the World Bank is advancing discussions with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to build a national social registry through the next phase of the Northern Uganda Social Action

Fund (NUSAF), expected to commence in the second semester of this year. The vision is to implement a phased plan during the first years of the new NUSAF programme, with an estimated budget between 25 and 30 million dollars. While the primary focus of the social registry would be to support NUSAF 4, it is intended to be integrated into other social protection programmes and social services over time.

Although there is some clarity within the World Bank regarding the main parameters of the Social Registry, these parameters have not been fully shared by the MGLSD. Below are some desirable parameters for the social registry based on consultations with government stakeholders and technical members, which are also summarised in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Overview of Proposed Social Registry



### Objective

The primary objective of the proposed social registry is to establish a centralised database used by social protection programmes to collect, manage, and analyse information about individuals and households who may be eligible for various schemes. This centralised system aims to enhance the efficiency, accuracy, and effectiveness of social protection delivery by providing a unified platform for beneficiary management.

## Coverage and Targeting

The social registry aims for national coverage, striving for the inclusion of all households (or near-universal inclusion). Each social protection programme that utilises the registry will apply its own targeting approach or mechanism. This comprehensive coverage ensures that no vulnerable group is overlooked and that all eligible individuals and households can access the support they need.

- National coverage: The goal is to include every household in Uganda, ensuring that the social registry is truly comprehensive.
- Targeting mechanisms: Each programme will use the registry to apply its specific targeting methods, which may include means testing, categorical targeting, or community-based targeting, to identify and support the most vulnerable groups effectively.

## Data Collection and Management

A hybrid approach to baseline data collection will be employed to ensure comprehensive and accurate data gathering. This will involve:

- Localised census-style approach: Conducting door-to-door surveys to collect detailed information about individuals and households.
- Registration drives: Organising specific events and campaigns to encourage people to register in the social registry.
- Data sharing agreements: Establishing agreements with relevant government agencies to share existing data, reducing duplication of effort and ensuring that the registry is populated with up-to-date information.

Data updating will also follow a hybrid model, including both door-to-door updates and on-demand updates, where individuals can update their information as needed.

- Regular updates: Ensuring that data is regularly updated through both proactive outreach and reactive, on-demand updates to maintain the accuracy and relevance of the information.
- Data verification: Implementing robust verification processes to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data collected.

## Data Integration

Interoperability with other government datasets is crucial to facilitate seamless data sharing and updates across different administrative systems. This integration will enhance the registry's utility and ensure that all relevant information is consolidated in a single platform.

- Integration with NIRA: Leveraging the National Identification and Registration Authority's database to verify the identities of individuals registered in the social registry.
- Linkages with sectoral systems: Establishing connections with other sectoral information systems, such as health, education, and labour, to create a comprehensive view of individuals' socio-economic conditions.
- Seamless data sharing: Ensuring that data can be easily shared and updated across different systems to avoid duplication and enhance the accuracy of beneficiary information.

## Accessibility and Transparency

The social registry will adopt a similar approach to the National Single Registry (NSR), involving Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between users (social protection programmes and other

complementary information systems) and the social registry. This approach ensures that data sharing and usage are governed by clear agreements that protect data privacy and security.

- MoUs and agreements: Formal agreements between the social registry and various users to govern data access and usage, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- User access: Providing different levels of access to various stakeholders, ensuring that only authorised personnel can access sensitive information.

### Functionality and User Experience

The social registry will feature modular web and mobile applications with both online and offline capabilities, allowing data to be displayed in real or near-real-time. This functionality ensures that the system remains accessible and usable even in areas with limited internet connectivity.

- User-friendly interface: Designing the interface to be intuitive and user-friendly, ensuring that all users, including programme administrators and field workers, can use the system effectively.
- Real-time data access: Enabling real-time or near-real-time access to data, enhancing decision-making and response times.
- Offline capabilities: Allowing data to be collected and accessed offline, ensuring that the system is functional even in remote areas with limited connectivity.

### Governance and Institutional Framework

The governance structure will be based on the current NSR framework, with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) acting as the leading agency and data custodian. This framework ensures that there is clear leadership and accountability for the management and operation of the social registry.

- Leadership and coordination: MGLSD will lead the initiative, ensuring that there is coherent and coordinated management of the social registry.
- Data custodianship: MGLSD will act as the custodian of the data, ensuring its security and integrity.
- Stakeholder coordination: Establishing mechanisms for coordinating with various stakeholders, including other government agencies, NGOs, and development partners.

### Resource Allocation and Sustainability

Resource allocation and sustainability are critical for the long-term success of the social registry. Utilising the MGLSD data centre and the National Tier 3 data centre, with improvements funded by the World Bank, will ensure that the system is robust and scalable.

- Funding and budgeting: Ensuring that annual budgets are programmed for the maintenance and ongoing implementation of the social registry.
- Capacity building: Investing in training and capacity building for staff to ensure that they can effectively manage and use the social registry.
- Sustainable infrastructure: Using state-of-the-art infrastructure to ensure that the registry can handle significant data flows and is resilient to technical issues.

### **Software and Hardware Requirements**

The servers used for the social registry will be equipped with the latest CPUs and substantial RAM capacity, designed to manage significant data flows effortlessly. The data will be managed using the latest version of Microsoft SQL Server, like the NSR, and ensure good redundant connectivity.

- **Advanced hardware:** Deploying high-performance servers with the latest technology to handle the extensive data requirements.
- **Reliable software:** Using proven software solutions like Microsoft SQL Server to ensure data integrity and reliability.
- **Redundant connectivity:** Ensuring that there is robust and redundant connectivity to prevent data loss and ensure continuous operation

## 7 Feasibility Analysis

This section evaluates the feasibility of developing an integrated social registry in Uganda using SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis across different components of a social registry.

### 7.1 Institutional Capacity and Implementation Feasibility

Implementing an integrated social registry in Uganda requires a comprehensive assessment of the capacity of relevant institutions to manage and sustain the system effectively. The primary institutions involved in this initiative are the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD), the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance (MoICT&NG), and the National IT Authority (NITA-U). These institutions, supported by agencies and programmes such as the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), and the Expanding Social Protection Programme team within the MGLSD, form the backbone of Uganda's social protection framework within government. Other development partners will include the World Food Programme, UNICEF, UNCHR and the World Bank.

The MGLSD is set to lead and coordinate the social registry's implementation, leveraging its mandate and extensive reach across all districts and sub-districts. This is facilitated by senior development officers and community development officers (CDOs) who will play crucial roles in ensuring community-level engagement and data collection. However, there is a need for additional staff, training, office space, and equipment to support these efforts effectively.

The OPM, supported by World Bank-funded initiatives like NUSAF, provides additional implementation support, although its coverage is currently limited to 66 districts under the DRDIP and NUSAF infrastructure. NITA-U is tasked with managing data centres and providing technology advisory services. They offer leadership, coordination, support, and advocacy in shaping policies, laws, and regulations for Uganda's ICT sector. While NITA-U has the capacity to maintain developed systems and provide training, it does not develop systems in-house, necessitating outsourcing for the social registry's development.

Supporting agencies like NIRA and UBOS bring valuable technical expertise in data collection and management. NIRA will soon be undergoing a mass registration exercise to increase coverage of the National Identification Register (NIR) and consistently register births and deaths. UBOS, with its extensive experience in collecting socio-economic data, will be able to provide valuable knowhow for the success of the social registry in collecting and analysing socio-economic data. SAGE, on behalf of the MGLSD, oversees and develops social protection policies and implements the Senior Citizens Grant (SCG), the main income support programme in term of national coverage.

Despite these strengths, challenges such as the lack of dedicated staff and programmes within the MGLSD, as well as capacity constraints within NIRA, pose significant hurdles. The need for a dedicated programme to manage the integrated social protection information system (NSR and social registry) is critical to ensure focused efforts and priority.

Further complicating the implementation landscape is the overlapping responsibilities and the potential for inefficiencies due to the fragmented nature of existing social protection programmes. For instance, while the MGLSD is the lead agency, other institutions like OPM will have a significant role, which necessitates a robust coordination mechanism to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure streamlined operations.

Moreover, the likely reliance on external funding and technical support from international organisations such as the World Bank introduces an element of dependency that could impact the sustainability of the social registry. While these partnerships bring in necessary resources and expertise, there is a need to build internal capacities to reduce long-term dependency and ensure that the social registry remains functional even after external support ends.

Engaging with various stakeholders, including community leaders, civil society organisations, and beneficiaries, is crucial for the successful implementation of the social registry. Effective stakeholder engagement can enhance the design, implementation, and acceptance of the social registry, ensuring that it meets the needs of the intended beneficiaries and aligns with local contexts.

**Table 16: SWOT Analysis of Institutional Capacity and Implementation Feasibility for Uganda's Social Registry**

### Strengths

- The leading institution has extensive experience in implementing social protection interventions and a presence in all districts and sub-districts, which facilitates effective outreach and data collection.
- Well-defined roles and responsibilities among implementation agencies ensure coordinated efforts.
- The institutional experience in implementing the National Single Registry (NSR) provides a solid foundation for expanding to include a social registry.
- Agencies like UBOS have significant experience in socio-economic data collection, which is critical for the registry's success.
- The current digital infrastructure, such as data centres managed by NITA-U and the NSR framework, supports the implementation of the social registry.
- The institutions involved have personnel experienced in socio-economic data collection and ICT management, which can facilitate the registry's setup and maintenance.
- Uganda's robust policy and regulatory framework, including the National Social Protection Policy and ICT policies, provide a supportive environment for implementing the social registry.

### Weaknesses

- There is a shortage of dedicated and trained staff within the MGLSD to manage and operate the social registry.
- The lack of a specific programme for the NSR means that there is no focused effort or priority given to the social registry.
- NIRA currently lacks the capacity to register all individuals into the National Identification Register (NIR), with coverage at only 58%.
- Limited financial and human resources can hinder the timely and effective implementation of the social registry.
- Significant training and capacity-building efforts are required to equip staff with the necessary skills to manage and operate the registry effectively.
- Bureaucratic inefficiencies and lack of streamlined processes may delay implementation and affect the registry's overall efficiency.

### Opportunities

- The recent development and implementation of the NSR provide a strong institutional capacity opportunity.
- The 2024 census by UBOS presents an opportunity to validate socio-economic data collected, which can be leveraged for the social registry.

- Engaging various stakeholders can enhance the registry's design, implementation, and acceptance.
- Leveraging support from international organisations and donors, such as the World Bank, can provide the necessary financial and technical assistance for implementation.
- Advances in ICT and digital solutions can be harnessed to develop a robust and efficient social registry.

#### Threats

- The lack of in-house software development capacity means reliance on third-party developers, which could pose risks related to control and sustainability.
- There is no dedicated budget for social protection information systems, leading to potential funding challenges amidst other governmental priorities.
- Economic constraints and political interference could affect the continuity and effectiveness of the social registry implementation.
- Ensuring data privacy and security is critical, and any breaches or mishandling of data can undermine trust and effectiveness.

## 7.2 Financial Costs

Implementing and sustaining a social registry in Uganda will involve significant financial implications, encompassing initial investments, operational expenses, and long-term maintenance costs. Drawing insights from international experiences, including Indonesia's extensive registration efforts, provides valuable context for understanding the financial landscape of such an undertaking in Uganda.

#### Initial Investment

The initial investment for developing a social registry includes costs for system development, data collection, and infrastructure setup. For instance, during a 2022 registration phase in Indonesia, the government spent approximately IDR 2.7 trillion (USD 179 million). This figure highlights the substantial financial commitment required for comprehensive data collection and system setup. Adjusting for population differences, Uganda, with a population of around 45 million compared to Indonesia's 270 million, would need to scale its financial commitment proportionately.

Uganda's National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) is expected to incur significant costs during its mass registration exercise expected to happen in the second semester of 2024, totalling approximately 293 billion UGX (USD 80 million). This includes expenses for staffing, equipment, logistics, and system upgrades, underscoring the scale of investment required for large-scale data collection and system establishment.

The World Bank's budget in Uganda's social registry through the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) IV further highlights the financial scale which is required to setup a social registry. NUSAF IV's total budget is estimated at USD 250 million, with USD 25 million allocated specifically for the social registry. This budget covers essential components such as system development, data collection, and other necessary elements for successful implementation, in a phased manner.

#### Operational Expenses

Operational expenses for the social registry include costs related to maintaining the system, updating data, and managing the registry. These expenses encompass staff salaries, training, and capacity-building initiatives to ensure efficient operations. For instance, NIRA's operational costs include salaries for approximately 400 staff members and expenses related to data verification and updates.

Continuous data intake methods might require a network of touchpoints, such as trained social workers and IT equipment in local offices. These ongoing operational expenses could be more manageable over time as regular operational costs, especially if well-integrated with existing infrastructures.

### Long-term Maintenance

Long-term maintenance involves ensuring the sustainability and continuous improvement of the social registry. This includes regular updates to the system, integration with other national databases, and periodic data validation exercises. The World Bank's funding for NUSAF IV includes provisions for sustaining the social registry beyond its initial implementation phase, ensuring that the system remains functional and up to date.

Securing additional funding from international organizations and donor agencies may be crucial for sustaining the social registry during its initial phases. However, economic uncertainties and potential financial mismanagement pose significant threats to the registry's long-term sustainability. Overall, strategic planning and efficient use of resources are essential for the successful implementation and maintenance of the social registry in Uganda. By leveraging existing investments, securing additional funding, and addressing potential challenges, the social registry can become a sustainable tool for enhancing social protection in Uganda.

**Table 17: SWOT Analysis of Financial Costs for Uganda's Social Registry**

#### Strengths

- Implementing a centralized social registry can lead to cost savings by reducing duplication of data collection efforts across different social protection programmes. Integrating the social registry with existing systems like NIRA and the National Social Registry (NSR) can streamline operations and reduce redundancy.
- Utilizing infrastructure and resources from existing programmes, such as NUSAF and the Parish Development Model (PDM), can minimize additional costs. The World Bank's substantial investment provides a strong financial foundation.

#### Weaknesses

- The significant upfront costs may strain national budgets, especially given Uganda's economic context. Ensuring sufficient funding for both initial setup and ongoing operations can be challenging.
- High operational costs can arise from maintaining up-to-date data and managing the registry effectively, particularly if there are inefficiencies in the current administrative and bureaucratic processes.

#### Opportunities

- Opportunities exist to secure funding from international organizations, donor agencies, and public-private partnerships. Collaboration with entities like the World Bank and WFP can provide technical and financial support.
- Exploring innovative funding mechanisms, such as leveraging digital financial services or utilizing community-based financing models, can help sustain the registry.

#### Threats

- Economic downturns and budgetary constraints can jeopardize the availability of funds necessary for the registry's long-term sustainability.

- Risks related to corruption and financial mismanagement can divert resources away from intended uses, undermining the effectiveness of the social registry.

## 7.3 Potential Impacts

Implementing a social registry in Uganda holds significant potential for enhancing the country's social protection system. A well-designed social registry can improve the identification of vulnerable populations, support evidence-based policy formulation, and strengthen the social contract between the government and its citizens. By providing reliable data on beneficiaries' needs, the registry can facilitate more inclusive social protection programmes, promoting equity and resilience across diverse communities.

However, several challenges need to be addressed to maximize these positive impacts. Without a flagship social protection programme, the fragmented nature of Uganda's existing social protection system could undermine the registry's effectiveness. There are also risks related to targeting errors, data privacy, and public fatigue due to multiple socio-economic data collection initiatives. Political interference, economic instability, and potential mismanagement could further threaten the sustainability of the social registry. To overcome these challenges, it is essential to maintain accurate and up-to-date data, engage communities, and ensure robust data protection measures, thereby aligning the social registry with Uganda's broader development goals.

**Table 18: SWOT Analysis of Potential Impacts for Uganda's Social Registry**

### Strengths

- A well-designed social registry can significantly improve the identification of vulnerable populations. By maintaining up-to-date data, it can ensure that marginalized groups are included, thus enhancing the effectiveness of social protection programmes.
- The registry can support evidence-based policy formulation and implementation, providing reliable data on beneficiaries' needs and socio-economic conditions. This can lead to more effective and targeted social protection measures.
- By demonstrating a commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, the social registry can reinforce the social contract between the government and its citizens, fostering trust and social cohesion.

### Weaknesses

- Without a flagship social protection programme, integrating the social registry into Uganda's fragmented system of social protection programmes may be challenging. This fragmentation can undermine the registry's credibility and effectiveness.
- If not well-designed, the social registry may exclude certain groups systematically, leading to significant targeting errors. Ensuring data accuracy and inclusiveness is critical to avoid these negative consequences.
- Issues related to data privacy and the perception of data usage can negatively impact public trust. Ensuring robust data protection measures and transparency about data usage is essential.

### Opportunities

- Implementing continuous updates and verification mechanisms can help maintain data accuracy, ensuring that all vulnerable groups are identified and included. This can enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection programmes.

- Utilizing advanced data management technologies and mobile applications can improve the efficiency and reach of the social registry, making it easier to keep data current and accurate.
- Actively involving communities in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the social registry can increase ownership and accountability. This engagement can also ensure that the registry is culturally appropriate and responsive to local needs.

#### Threats

- The population may experience fatigue due to multiple socio-economic data collection initiatives, including the Parish Development Model (PDM), Census 2024, NIRA's mass registration campaign, and future elections. This fatigue can reduce participation and affect the quality of data collected for the social registry.
- Political interference and economic challenges, such as budgetary constraints and inflation, can disrupt the implementation and sustainability of the social registry. These factors can affect the continuity and effectiveness of social protection programmes.
- Inadequate data privacy measures and potential mismanagement can lead to unauthorized access, data breaches, and misuse of information. These risks can undermine public trust and the overall effectiveness of the social registry.

## 7.4 Alignment with Development Goals

Aligning the social registry with development goals in Uganda is crucial for effective policy implementation and achieving desired outcomes. By integrating the social registry with objectives such as poverty reduction, inclusive growth, and social protection, Uganda can aim for more targeted and efficient allocation of resources. A well-structured social registry should ideally enable better identification of vulnerable populations, facilitating tailored social assistance programmes and services. Additionally, it supports evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation by providing reliable data on beneficiaries' needs and socio-economic conditions. Through strategic alignment with development goals, the social registry can become a tool for promoting equity, resilience, and sustainable development across Uganda's diverse communities.

Uganda's Constitution highlights the importance of social and economic objectives, advocating for social justice and economic development. Vision 2040 outlines the nation's aspirations for economic and social transformation, focusing on poverty reduction, social inclusion, and sustainable development. The National Development Plans (NDPs) elaborate on these goals, highlighting the need to expand social protection, enhance quality of life, and mitigate vulnerabilities. The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) aligns with these objectives by aiming to build a resilient society and reduce socio-economic disparities. Uganda's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 further underscores the importance of investing in social protection systems to ensure comprehensive coverage for all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable.

**Table 19: SWOT Analysis of Alignment with Development Goals for Uganda's Social Registry**

#### Strengths

- The integration of the social registry with Uganda's development goals demonstrates a strong commitment to addressing societal needs comprehensively. This alignment ensures that the registry supports broader national objectives such as poverty reduction and social inclusion.

#### Weaknesses

- Despite robust policies and plans, actual implementation may face challenges such as limited resources, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and capacity constraints. These challenges

can hinder the effective rollout and management of the social registry, limiting its alignment with development goals.

- There is a risk that the social registry may not effectively identify all vulnerable groups due to design flaws. This could result in some populations being overlooked or misclassified, undermining the registry's objectives.
- The effectiveness of the social registry depends on accurate and accessible data, which may be compromised by issues such as data gaps, outdated information, and limited technological infrastructure. Poor data quality can compromise the alignment of the registry with development objectives.
- Ensuring inclusivity and reaching marginalised groups, such as rural populations or ethnic minorities, may require additional strategies and resources to overcome access barriers.

### Opportunities

- By ensuring that the social registry captures data on all vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, the system can help design programmes that promote inclusive growth. This focus can enhance social cohesion and economic development.
- Leveraging the social registry to support the goals outlined in Vision 2040 and the National Development Plans can improve the coherence and effectiveness of development strategies. This integration can facilitate coordinated efforts across different sectors.

### Threats

- Changes in government priorities or political interference may disrupt continuity in social protection policies and programmes, affecting the sustainability of interventions. Such disruptions can undermine the alignment of the social registry with long-term development goals.
- Economic downturns, inflation, and budgetary constraints can limit the government's ability to allocate sufficient resources to social protection, jeopardizing the welfare of vulnerable populations. These financial constraints can hinder the alignment of the social registry with development objectives.
- Corruption and mismanagement in administering social protection programmes can undermine trust, erode public confidence, and divert resources away from intended beneficiaries, compromising the effectiveness of interventions. This can significantly affect the alignment of the social registry with development goals focused on equity and justice.

## 7.5 Technological Suitability

Uganda's digital technologies landscape is guided by a diverse array of strategies, policies, and laws aimed at harnessing the potential of ICTs for socio-economic development. These frameworks provide a roadmap for leveraging digital assets and capabilities to enhance service delivery, foster innovation, and promote inclusive growth across various sectors. Key stakeholders, including government agencies, regulatory bodies, and private sector entities, play pivotal roles in driving the adoption and implementation of digital solutions.

Uganda's Vision 2040 recognises ICT as a crucial component for propelling the country towards modernisation and prosperity. The Third National Development Plan (NDPIII) emphasises the importance of digitalising government processes and enhancing ICT usage across all sectors. The Digital Transformation Roadmap (2023/2024 - 2027/2028) further outlines strategic focus areas to foster a digitally empowered society.

Key regulatory frameworks supporting this digital transformation include the Data Privacy Act 2019 and the Data Protection and Privacy Regulations 2021, which safeguard personal data and outline the responsibilities of data handlers. Additionally, the Access to Information Act (ATIA) 2005 ensures citizens' right to access non-confidential information from public institutions. Uganda has also enacted the Computer Misuse Act 2011 and the Electronic Transactions Act 2011 to regulate electronic communications and promote e-Government services.

Several governance institutions oversee the ICT sector, including the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance (MoICT & NG), the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and the National IT Authority, Uganda (NITA-U). These bodies coordinate and regulate IT advancements, ensuring alignment with national development goals.

Uganda's digital assets include the National Data Transmission Backbone Infrastructure project and the Uganda Digital Acceleration Project (UDAP), which enhance connectivity and digital inclusion. The country's Tier III National Data Centre supports centralised hosting services and data management, while initiatives like UGHub promote data sharing across public and private sectors.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain in implementation and compliance with data protection regulations, as well as addressing the digital divide in rural and underserved areas. Furthermore, the development of the social registry should be based on open-source and interoperability principles to ensure flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and integration with existing systems.

**Table 20: SWOT Analysis of Technological Suitability for Uganda's Social Registry**

### Strengths

- The coordination structure outlined in the Third National Development Plan (NDPIII) ensures effective oversight and coordination of digital initiatives across various government ministries and agencies. This structure facilitates collaboration and alignment of efforts towards the implementation of the social registry.
- Uganda's digital transformation roadmap emphasises expanding ICT infrastructure, promoting digital literacy, and fostering digital entrepreneurship. Initiatives like the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) and the Uganda Digital Acceleration Project (UDAP) enhance connectivity and digital inclusion, providing a strong technological backbone for the social registry.
- Basing the development of the social registry on open-source technologies and ensuring interoperability with existing systems can enhance flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and seamless integration across different platforms and stakeholders.

### Weaknesses

- Despite the existence of comprehensive policies and regulations, challenges related to implementation and compliance mechanisms may hinder the effective rollout of the social registry system. Ensuring adherence to data protection regulations and building capacity within government agencies for system deployment and maintenance are potential challenges.
- While efforts are underway to expand ICT infrastructure and promote digital literacy, disparities in internet penetration and access to technology persist, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Addressing the digital divide is crucial to ensure equitable access to the social registry and prevent marginalised populations from being left behind.

### Opportunities

- The availability of comprehensive data through the social registry presents an opportunity for evidence-based policy formulation and targeted service delivery. By leveraging data analytics

and insights, policymakers can identify areas of need more effectively and allocate resources efficiently to address socio-economic challenges.

- Collaboration with international organisations, academic institutions, and industry partners can enhance the capacity and expertise available for the development and implementation of the social registry. Public-private partnerships can also facilitate innovation and sustainability in the management of the registry.
- Leveraging advancements in technology, such as blockchain and encryption, can strengthen data security measures and enhance the protection of personal information in electronic transactions.

#### Threats

- Limited funding and human resources may pose challenges to the successful implementation and maintenance of the social registry system. Securing sustainable funding sources and building capacity within government agencies are essential to overcome resource constraints and ensure the long-term viability of the registry.
- Changes in government priorities or political interference could disrupt the continuity and funding of social protection programmes, including the social registry. Such disruptions can lead to gaps in compliance and enforcement.

## 7.6 Data Security and Privacy

Uganda's Data Privacy Act of 2019 provides a comprehensive legal framework for safeguarding individual and personal data. This legislation regulates the collection and processing of personal data, ensuring the rights of data subjects and outlining obligations for data collectors, processors, and controllers. The subsequent Data Protection and Privacy Regulations of 2021 established the Personal Data Protection Office within the National Information Technology Authority of Uganda (NITA-U). This office oversees the registration and compliance of data handlers across public and private sectors, further strengthening data protection measures.

The Act permits the processing and storage of personal data outside Uganda, provided that equivalent data protection measures are in place or the data subject consents. This facilitates regional data sharing under protective measures. Additionally, Uganda's Access to Information Act of 2005 provides procedures for accessing information held by government entities, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Uganda also has laws governing electronic transactions and data security, including the Computer Misuse Act of 2011, the Electronic Transactions Act of 2011, and the Electronic Signatures Act of 2011. These laws promote e-Government services and regulate electronic communications and transactions. Despite these robust legislative frameworks, Uganda faces implementation challenges such as weak compliance mechanisms, regulatory overlaps, and limited investment in managing changes.

Overall, while Uganda has made significant strides in establishing data protection laws and regulatory mechanisms, addressing implementation challenges and seizing opportunities for capacity building and collaboration will be crucial for effectively safeguarding personal data and promoting digital innovation and trust in the digital economy.

**Table 21: SWOT Analysis of Data Security and Privacy for Uganda’s Social Registry**

### Strengths

- Uganda has robust data protection laws, such as the Data Privacy Act of 2019 and the Data Protection and Privacy Regulations of 2021, providing a strong legal framework for data privacy and security.
- The adoption of these regulations aligns Uganda's data protection standards with international best practices, potentially enhancing trust and cooperation in regional data sharing initiatives.
- The creation of the Personal Data Protection Office within NITA-U signifies a dedicated entity responsible for overseeing compliance and registration of data handlers, contributing to better enforcement and accountability.

### Weaknesses

- Despite robust legislation, Uganda faces challenges in effectively implementing data protection laws, including weak compliance mechanisms and limited resources for enforcement, which may undermine the effectiveness of the social registry.
- There may be overlaps in regulatory responsibilities between different laws governing electronic transactions and data security, leading to confusion and potential gaps in enforcement.
- The absence of substantial investment in change management initiatives could hinder the adoption of digital services and compliance with data protection regulations among government agencies and private sector entities.

### Opportunities

- Investing in capacity-building programmes and awareness campaigns can enhance understanding and compliance with data protection laws among stakeholders, fostering a culture of data privacy and security, strengthening the foundation for the social registry's effectiveness.
- Collaborating with international partners and regional organisations can provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, technical assistance, and capacity building in data protection enforcement and implementation, contributing to the success of the social registry.
- Leveraging advancements in technology, such as blockchain and encryption, can strengthen data security measures and enhance the protection of personal information in electronic transactions.

### Threats

- Rapid technological advancements may outpace regulatory frameworks, leaving loopholes that cybercriminals could exploit, posing significant threats to data security and privacy.
- Strict compliance requirements and regulatory complexities could impose significant burdens on businesses and government agencies, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with limited resources and technical expertise.
- Evolving global data protection trends and regulatory developments may necessitate frequent updates and amendments to existing laws, requiring continuous adaptation and investment in compliance efforts.

## 7.7 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Uganda has developed a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to support its inclusive social protection system. The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) of 2015 serves as a foundational document, outlining the vision of a socially secure and resilient society. This policy is complemented

by several national laws and policies aimed at protecting vulnerable groups, including the Local Government Act Cap 243, the Children Act Cap 59, the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007 and the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020.

Uganda is also a signatory to several international conventions that guide its commitment to protecting the rights of vulnerable populations. These conventions include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which reinforce the country's efforts towards gender equality, protection of persons with disabilities, and the upholding of children's rights.

Furthermore, Uganda has enacted legislation to address data protection and privacy, crucial for the implementation of a social registry. The Personal Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019, along with the Data Protection and Privacy Regulations of 2021, provides a legal framework for safeguarding personal data. These regulations established the Personal Data Protection Office within the National Information Technology Authority of Uganda (NITA-U), which oversees compliance and ensures that data collectors, processors, and controllers adhere to statutory obligations.

Despite these comprehensive policies and laws, Uganda faces challenges in implementation due to resource constraints, capacity limitations, and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Addressing implementation challenges and leveraging opportunities for capacity building and collaboration will be crucial for the successful introduction and sustainability of an integrated social registry.

**Table 22: SWOT Analysis of Legal and Regulatory Compliance for Uganda's Social Registry**

### Strengths

- Uganda has established a robust set of laws and policies that supports its social protection system, and which can provide a solid foundation for the social registry.
- Uganda's adherence to international conventions enhances the credibility and effectiveness of its social protection efforts.
- The Local Government Act empowers local authorities to tailor social protection interventions based on local needs.
- The Personal Data Protection and Privacy Act ensures the protection of individuals' data, promoting trust and transparency.

### Weaknesses

- Limited information, literacy, and awareness of legal and regulatory compliance in remote areas can restrict access to and utilization of the social registry.
- Resource constraints and capacity limitations hinder effective implementation and enforcement of existing laws and policies. Additionally, bureaucratic inefficiencies can lead to delays and inconsistencies in applying regulations, impacting the overall effectiveness of the social registry.
- Weak enforcement mechanisms may lead to instances of discrimination and exclusion, particularly among marginalized groups.

### Opportunities

- Engaging with international organisations and NGOs can enhance the effectiveness of social protection programmes by leveraging additional expertise and resources. These partnerships can provide technical assistance and support in navigating complex regulatory requirements.

- investing in training for local authorities and community leaders can strengthen their ability to manage and utilise the social registry effectively. Improved understanding of legal and regulatory requirements can enhance compliance and operational efficiency.

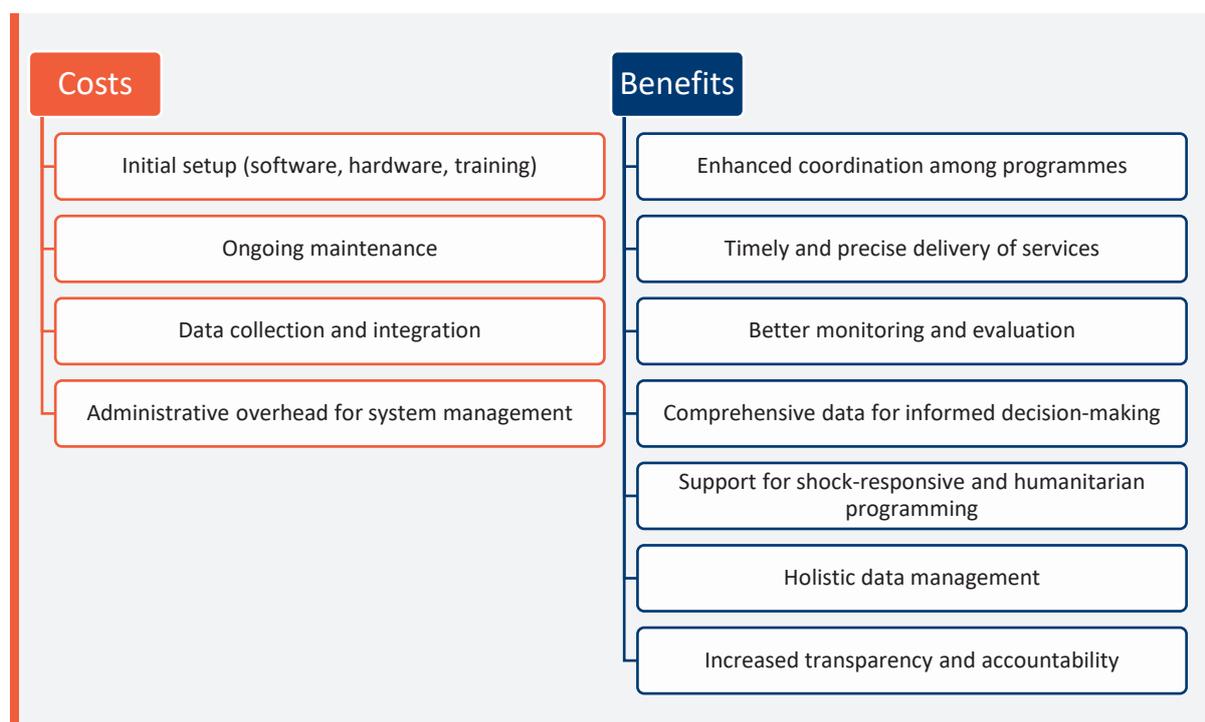
#### Threats

- Changes in government priorities or political interference could disrupt the continuity and funding of social protection programmes, including the social registry. Such disruptions can lead to gaps in compliance and enforcement.
- Inadequate data security measures could lead to unauthorised access, data breaches, and misuse of personal information, undermining trust in the social registry. Ensuring robust data protection practices is essential to mitigate these risks.
- Deep-rooted social norms and stigma against certain groups may hinder their willingness to register or access services through the social registry. Legal and regulatory frameworks need to address and mitigate these risks to ensure inclusivity
- Changes in government priorities or political interference disrupting continuity.
- Inadequate data security measures leading to unauthorised access and misuse.
- Deep-rooted social norms and stigma hindering willingness to register or access services.

## 7.8 High Level Cost-Benefit Analysis

Overall, as discussed above, developing an integrated social registry in Uganda presents both costs and benefits compared to the existing system of individual registries. The initial setup and ongoing maintenance of a unified social registry involve significant investments in software, hardware, and personnel training. However, these costs could be offset by the efficiency improvements, such as streamlined registration processes, enhanced coordination among social protection programmes, and better identification of beneficiaries. An integrated registry would facilitate more precise and timely delivery of social protection programme and reduce administrative burden. Furthermore, in the context of already having developed a National Single Registry (NSR), there are already clear areas to build from, minimising the development and setup costs. Figure 5 lists some of the costs and benefits. Figure 5 lists some of the costs and benefits identified in this feasibility analysis.

Figure 5: Costs and Benefits of Implementing a Social Registry



Additionally, an integrated social registry provides a holistic approach to managing social protection data. By consolidating data across various programmes, it allows for more accurate and real-time analysis of beneficiary needs and programme impacts. This integration helps in identifying gaps and overlaps in service provision, ensuring that resources are allocated more efficiently and effectively. The registry also enhances transparency and accountability by providing a single source of truth for social protection data, which can be accessed and audited by relevant stakeholders, thus promoting trust and confidence in the system.

While the initial costs of developing an integrated social registry are substantial, the long-term benefits outweigh these expenses if the registry is well-designed and maintained. A precise and up-to-date social registry can lead to significant social and economic gains by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection programmes. However, conversely, an imprecise or obsolete registry can incur large social costs and unrest, which highlight the importance of investing in a robust system and continuous updates to maximize the registry's impact will be critical.

## 8 Conclusion and Recommendations

The development of a social registry in Uganda may present a significant opportunity to improve integration between social protection programmes. By leveraging existing infrastructure, building institutional capacity, and ensuring robust stakeholder engagement, Uganda can develop a social registry that aligns with its broader development goals. Addressing the identified challenges and risks through strategic planning and continuous improvement will be crucial for the sustainability and success of the social registry, ultimately contributing to a more equitable and resilient society.

The MGLSD, with its mandate and reach, is well-positioned to lead this initiative but requires strengthening through additional resources and dedicated units. Collaboration with NITA-U for technological support and UBOS for data collection expertise will be essential. The planned mass registration by NIRA provides a timely opportunity to integrate comprehensive socio-economic data into the registry.

However, the path towards a functional social registry is full of challenges. Institutional weaknesses such as staff shortages, fragmented and low coverage of social protection programmes, and limited budget allocations must be addressed. The socio-political environment presents potential risks, including political interference and economic constraints.

To mitigate these challenges, the social registry must be designed with flexibility in mind. This includes adopting open-source technologies for scalability and ensuring robust data protection measures to maintain public trust. Continuous stakeholder engagement will be critical, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability across all levels of implementation.

In conclusion, the successful implementation of the social registry will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, backed by clear planning and strategic investment. By aligning the registry with national development goals and leveraging international support, Uganda can establish a robust and sustainable social protection system that addresses current needs and adapts to future challenges.

### Recommendations

Drawing from the analysis and stakeholder consultations, the following recommendations are provided to guide the successful development and implementation of the social registry.

#### 1. Institutional Strengthening:

- Articulate the governance and institutional structure for the registry in an agreed document to strengthen institutional capacity
- Invest in training and development for staff across all implementing agencies, especially within the MGLSD and NIRA, to enhance their ability to manage and maintain the social registry effectively.
- Develop a dedicated programme within the MGLSD specifically for managing the National Single Registry and social registry, ensuring focused efforts and better resource allocation.
- Do not separate the Social Registry (SR) from the National Single Registry (NSR). Build and improve on the existing infrastructure of the NSR. Include the SR discussions in the NSR's technical working groups, thematic working groups, and steering committees
- Prepare a cabinet paper to support the rollout of the social registry.
- Draft an issues paper for NDP IV from MGLSD, highlighting the relevance of a social registry in both the issues paper and NDP IV.
- Link the social registry to flagship national social protection programmes and ensure dedicated management and integration within the broader social protection system.

**2. Technological Enhancement:**

- Utilize the robust digital infrastructure provided by NITA-U, including the National Data Transmission Backbone Infrastructure and the UGHub platform, to support the social registry.
- Ensure the social registry is built on open-source platforms with strong interoperability features to integrate seamlessly with existing systems like the NSR and NIR. Design considerations should follow the Government of Uganda's general guidelines and recommendations.
- Recommend a phased approach for implementing the social registry, potentially employing a hybrid model that integrates existing data systems with new technological solutions for registering potential beneficiaries through on-demand applications.

**3. Data Quality and Management:**

- **Continuous Data Updates:** Implement mechanisms for regular data verification and updates to maintain accuracy and relevance. This includes leveraging the upcoming 2024 census and ongoing NIRA mass registration efforts.
- **Data Privacy and Security:** Strengthen data protection measures in line with the Data Privacy Act of 2019 to ensure the security and confidentiality of personal data. Ensure conformity with local and international regulations and conventions.
- Address concerns about data synchronisation at lower administrative levels and its availability at the national level.

**4. Stakeholder Engagement:**

- **Inclusive Design and Implementation:** Engage a wide range of stakeholders, including community leaders, civil society organisations, and beneficiaries, in the design and implementation of the social registry to ensure it meets local needs and contexts.
- **Collaboration with Development Partners:** Continue collaboration with international organizations such as the World Bank, UNICEF, and WFP to secure technical and financial support.
- Leverage existing social protection programmes and identify various advocacy opportunities within the MGLSD to promote the social registry.

**5. Financial Sustainability:**

- **Secure Funding:** Explore diverse funding avenues, including government budget allocations, international donor support, and public-private partnerships, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the social registry.
- **Cost Management:** Implement cost-saving measures by integrating the social registry with existing programmes and infrastructure to avoid redundancy and optimize resource use.
- **Sustainability and Resource Allocation:** Ensure the social registry's sustainability through strategic resource allocation, ongoing advocacy efforts, and continuous capacity building.

## Annex 1 List of Consultations

Name	Role	Organisation	Meeting Date	Meeting Mode
Allan Munabi	Manager –Strategic Planning	NSSF	11-03-2024	Hybrid
Brian Lance Mugabi	Head of ICT	DRDIP/NUSAF	12-03-2024	In-person
Raymond Mutebi	ICT Officer			
Peter James Malinga	Livelihood Officer			
Emily Awili	Programme Policy Officer Social Protection and Resilience	WFP	12-03-2024	In-person
Daniel Winter Putan	Technical Coordinator – Social Protection Systems Strengthening			
Patience Masika	Programme Policy Officer Social Protection and Resilience			
Christopher Nambale	ICT Officer			
Aggrey Kibet	Shock Responsive SP/PROACT(WFP)	UNHCR	13-03-2024	In-person
Mohamed Solayman	Associate Information Officer- Protection Sectors			
Sam Acodu	SAGE Coordinator			
Moses Odoch	MIS Coordinator	SAGE	13-03-2024	In-person
Sichei Moses	Chief of Social Policy	UNICEF	14-03-2024	In-person
Allen Nakalo	Social Policy Specialist			
Patrick Mundua	Assistant Commissioner for information Technology	Ministry of Public Service	14-03-2024	In-person
Annet Nakimuli	M&E Officer for GEG	Kampala Capital City Authority	14-03-2024	In-person
Malcom Kawooya	IT Officer-GEG			
Michael Newman Byamugisha	Manager –IT Enabled Services	NITA-U	14-03-2024	In-person
Rosemary Kisembo	Executive Director	NIRA	15-03-2024	In-person
Bahemuka John Toa	Manager Compliance Department			
Teddy Angida	Manager Planning and Strategy			
James Ebitu	Director Social Protection	MGLSD	15-03-2024	In-person
Isaac Niwamanya	ICT Officer/System Administrator			
Najibu Mwaje	ICT Officer			
Michael Ozero	HoD E-Services	MoICT & NG	20-03-2024	Online

### Conclusion and recommendations

Dr Vincent Fred Ssenono	Chief Statistician	UBOS	26-03-2024	Online
Aggrey Kibet	Shock Responsive SP/PROACT(WFP)	WFP/ Moroto DLG	08-04-2024	Online
Janan Eden	Community Development Officer (DLG)			
Derick Loumo	Community Development Officer (DLG)			
Fatma Naqvi	Task Team Leader (NUSAF)/Senior Social Protection Specialist (WB)	World Bank - Uganda	17-04-2024	Online
Naseer Udin Khan	Senior Social Protection Specialist (WB)			
Catherin Joy Obitre Gama	Team Assistant Supporting Social Protection (WB)			
Emmanuel Yeka (MGLSD)	Senior Principal Information & Communication Technology Officer (MGLSD)			
Christopher Nambale	ICT Officer (WFP)			



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