



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



better life chances for all

EXPANDING
**SOCIAL
PROTECTION**

THE STATE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN UGANDA



ANNUAL REPORT

September, 2024

Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development,
Plot 2, Lumumba Avenue, P.O. Box 7136, Kampala.

FOREWORD

It is with great pride and responsibility that I present the Annual Report on the State of Social Protection (ARSSP) in Uganda for the Financial Year 2023/24. This Report is a demonstration to our untiring commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable members of our society, ensuring that every Ugandan has access to the social safety nets necessary for a dignified and secure life.

Social protection remains a cornerstone of Uganda's development agenda. The progress we have made in recent years is a clear indication of our determination to uplift the lives of those in need, guided by national aspirations and international benchmarks, including Uganda Vision 2040, the National Development Plan III, the Strategic Direction for NDP IV, the National Social Protection Policy, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The findings detailed in this Report highlight the strides we have taken, as well as the challenges that persist. The demographic overview underscores the necessity of robust and inclusive social protection systems, particularly for our youthful population, older persons, Persons with Disabilities, Children, the Poor and other vulnerable groups. The analysis of social security schemes, both contributory and non-contributory, reveals critical insights into the effectiveness and reach of these programs, while also identifying areas where improvements are essential.

Therefore, as we move forward, this report serves as a reflection of our achievements. It is crucial that we continue to strengthen our social protection frameworks, ensuring that they are resilient, inclusive, and capable of addressing the evolving needs of our population.

I extend my deepest gratitude to World Food programme (WFP) all other stakeholders who contributed to the development of this Report. Your dedication and collaboration are invaluable as we work together to enhance the social protection landscape in Uganda. Let us all commit to using the insights from this Report to drive positive change and ensure that social protection remains a central pillar of our nation's development.



A.D. Kibenge

PERMANENT SECRETARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Annual Report on the State of Social Protection (ARSSP) in Uganda for the Financial Year 2023/2024 is the result of the collective efforts and contributions of numerous individuals and organisations dedicated to advancing social protection in Uganda.

First, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the leadership and staff of the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, whose vision and commitment have been instrumental in the preparation and completion of this report. Special thanks go to the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Aggrey Kibenge, for his guidance and support throughout this process.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the members of the National Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Group under the chairmanship of the Assistant Commissioner Planning in the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development and Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme - Programme Management Unit (PMU) for their tireless work in coordinating the collection, analysis, and synthesis of the data and information that form the basis of this report. Their efforts have ensured that this document provides a comprehensive and accurate reflection of the state of social protection in Uganda.

We would also like to thank the various stakeholders, including government ministries, departments, and agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, and research institutions, for their valuable inputs and insights. Their collaboration and contributions have enriched the report, ensuring that it reflects the diverse perspectives and experiences of those involved in the social protection sector.

Additionally, we extend our gratitude to the individuals and communities who participated in the data collection process. Their willingness to share their experiences and challenges has been invaluable in shaping the findings and recommendations presented in this report.

Finally, we acknowledge the technical and financial support provided by our World Food Programme (development partners, whose continued commitment to social protection in Uganda has been vital in making this report a reality. Their partnership remains essential as we work together to strengthen and expand social protection for all Ugandans.

To all those who have contributed to this report, we offer our heartfelt thanks. We deeply appreciate your dedication and hard work and look forward to your continued collaboration in pursuing social protection for all.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|--|
| BOU | Bank of Uganda |
| BOS | Bureau of Statistics |
| C&G | Complaints and Grievances |
| CDO | Community Development Officer(s) |
| CERUDEB | Centenary Rural Development Bank |
| DB | Defined Benefit |
| DLG | District Local Government(s) |
| EC | European Commission |
| EOC | Equal Opportunities Commission |
| ESP | Expanding Social Protection |
| ESPP | Expanding Social Protection Programme |
| FCDO | Foreign Commonwealth Development Office |
| FM | Fund Management |
| ILO | International Labour Organisation |
| KCCA | Kampala Capital City Authority |
| MDAs | Ministries Departments and Agencies |
| MIS | Management Information System |
| MLSD | Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development |
| MFPE | Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development |
| NDP | National Development Programme |
| NIA | National Identification and Registration Authority |
| NIN | National Identity Number |
| NPA | National Planning Authority |
| NSR | National Single Registry |
| NSSF | National Social Security Fund |
| NUSAF | Northern Uganda Social Action Fund |
| NSPP | National Social Protection Policy |
| OPM | Office of the Prime Minister |
| PAU | Policy and Advocacy Unit |
| PBU | Post Bank Uganda |

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| PCR | Programme Completion Review |
| PDM | Parish Development Model |
| PMU | Programme Management Unit |
| PPI | Programme Performance Indicators |
| PSPS | Public Service Pension Scheme |
| PSP | Payment Service Provider(s) |
| PWDS | People with Disabilities |
| RTSU | Regional Technical Support Units |
| SAFR | Safeguarding and Fiduciary Risk |
| SCG | Senior Citizens Grant |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SIDA | Swedish International Development Agency |
| SLA | Service Level Agreements |
| SPD | Social Protection Directorate |
| SP | Social Protection |
| SR | Strategic Review |
| UDHS | Uganda Demographic Health Survey |
| UNHS | Uganda National Household Survey |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| USPP | Uganda Social Protection Platform |
| VFG | Vulnerable Families Grant |
| WFP | World Food Programme |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 Introduction

This Annual Report on the State of Social Protection (ARSSP) in Uganda covers the Financial Year 2023/2024. The Report has been developed to provide a structured mechanism for tracking progress against national and international benchmarks such as the Uganda Vision 2040, NDPIII 2020/21-2024/25, Strategic Direction for the NDPIV 2025/26-2029/30, NSPP 2015, NSPS 2023-2028, NRM Manifesto 2021-2026 and SDGs. The primary purpose of this ARSSP in Uganda for the fiscal year 2023/2024 is to thoroughly analyse Uganda's social protection landscape. Using triangulation of both qualitative and quantitative approaches, the report analyses relevant data and information to assess the impact and effectiveness of social protection interventions in Uganda. This evidence-based assessment helps to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement in the social protection system.

2.0 Key Findings

2.1 Demographic and Vulnerable Groups Overview

- i. **Population Growth:** Uganda's population increased to 45.9 million in 2024 from 34.6 million in 2014, with a growth rate reduction to 2.9 per cent from 3.3 per cent annually.
- ii. **Population Structure:** A youthful population with a median age of 16.7 years and 50.5 per cent under 17 years old, highlighting the need for robust educational and healthcare systems.
- iii. **Urban-Rural Distribution:** 76 per cent of the population resides in rural areas, which often lack adequate social services compared to urban centres.
- iv. **Children:** 56 per cent of children aged 0 -17 years are multi-dimensionally poor, indicating significant vulnerability.
- v. **Older Persons:** Only 5 per cent of those aged 60+ receive a pension, pointing to economic insecurity.
- vi. **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs):** Comprise 12 per cent of the population and face marginalisation despite legal protections.
- vii. **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees:** Over 1.5 million, straining resources and humanitarian efforts.

2.2 Status of Social Security Schemes (Contributory)

2.2.1 Status of the national social security fund (NSSF)

- i. Compliance level in remitting contributions has improved over the years to 57 per cent in FY2022/2023 from 51 per cent in FY2020/2021.
- ii. Annual contributions to NSSF have consistently grown over the years increasing to UGX1,717 billion in FY2022/2023 from UGX1,272 billion in FY2019/2020.
- iii. Benefits payments have more than doubled from UGX496 billion in FY2019/2020 to UGX1,199 billion in FY2022/2023.
- iv. The benefits turnaround time, which indicates how quickly benefits are processed and paid out to members, remained relatively stable at around eight (8) days in FY2019/2020 and

FY2020/2021. However, there was a slight increase to 12.3 days in FY2021/2022, which improved to 11.9 days in FY2022/2023.

2.2.2 Social security schemes in the private sector

- i. The average cost-contribution rate among the private schemes is approximately 5.1 per cent, with the highest being Kinyara Sugar Works Limited Staff Provident Scheme at 16.3%, and the lowest at 0.1% for Equity Bank and Britam Umbrella Scheme.
- ii. The average benefit-contribution rate stands at 87.2 per cent, indicating that most schemes are paying out substantial benefits relative to the contributions received.
- iii. The highest benefit-contribution rate is observed in Heifer Projects International. Uganda Retirement Benefits Scheme is at 388.6 per cent, suggesting exceptional benefit returns for members. The average cost per member across all schemes is UGX322,350, with significant variability depending on the scheme.
- iv. The cost-income ratio averages 8.7 per cent, indicating that, on average, the income generated by the schemes is utilised for operating expenses.
- v. The cost-to-assets ratio averages at 0.9 per cent, reflecting efficient asset management across most schemes, with low operational costs relative to their asset base.
- vi. The schemes collectively manage total assets amounting to UGX978 billion, with the Centenary Group Staff Defined Contribution Scheme managing the largest asset base at UGX154.6 billion. The declared interest rates range from 5% to 17.7%, with an average of 10.5 per cent, ensuring a competitive return on investment for members.

2.2.3 Overall performance of contributory social security schemes

- i. The NSSF dominates in terms of total assets, with over UGX18.5 trillion, contributing significantly to the national economy.
- ii. On average, the schemes reported a contribution rate of 9 per cent, with an average benefits-to-contribution ratio of 63%, indicating a substantial return for beneficiaries.
- iii. Most schemes maintained a cost-income ratio under 10 per cent, reflecting efficient administration. The cost-to-assets ratio averaged 1.02 per cent, highlighting prudent management of assets. Interest rates declared by the schemes averaged 10.09 per cent.

2.2.4 Membership in retirement benefits schemes

- i. The total membership of retirement benefits schemes increased by 4.2 per cent, to 3,142,311 in FY2022/23 from 3,015,807 in FY2021/22. This indicates a positive trend in the uptake of retirement benefits schemes across the country.
- ii. The NSSF saw a 5.9 per cent increase in membership, rising to 2,344,737 from 2,213,257, further solidifying its position as the largest retirement scheme.
- iii. The Parliamentary Pension Scheme experienced a substantial 14.6 per cent growth, increasing to 1,398 from 1,220 members, indicating greater participation among parliamentary staff.
- iv. The Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme also showed a significant 14.9 per cent increase in membership, from 7,162 to 8,229 members.
- v. Conversely, the Public Service Pension Scheme saw a slight decline in membership by 0.6 per cent, from 410,000 to 407,515 members.

2.2.5 Coverage of different social protection programmes

During the Financial Year under review, the coverage of different social protection programmes were as follows:

-
- i. Wh6.2 per cent of the total population received at least one social protection benefit, such as those provided by the NSSF or the Public Service Pension Scheme (PSPS),
 - ii. Only 1.2 per cent of the vulnerable population, which includes individuals eligible for programmes like Labor Intensive Public Works (LIPW) and the Senior Citizens Grant (SCG), received social assistance.
 - iii. 21.9 per cent of the elderly population aged 60+ years were beneficiaries of social protection schemes.
 - iv. This indicates a relatively higher coverage compared to the general population. 15.2 per cent of the employed population was covered by social security schemes, such as NSSF or PSPS.
 - v. 16 per cent of the employed population had coverage for work-related injuries, ensuring they received benefits or compensation if injured while working.
 - vi. Only 2.5 per cent of the population had health insurance coverage, indicating a very low penetration of health insurance in the general population.

2.3 Non-Contributory Social Security Schemes in Uganda

2.3.1 The Public Service Pensions Scheme (PSPS)

- i. Current annual pension obligations constitute 0.4 per cent of GDP and cover 407,515 Older persons (17.795%) who retired from the Public Service out of 2.29 million people aged 60+ years.
- ii. The resource requirement for pensions is bound to increase, as the average age of the estimated 350,000 civil service is currently at 38.8 years.
- iii. This implies that annually, over 15,000 employees are bound to retire. In addition, the increase in life expectancy (now estimated at 63 years) is likely to increase the pension obligations in the national budget and a burden on the working population.

2.3.2 Senior Citizens Grant (SCG)

- i. At inception, SAGE beneficiaries totalled 12,274, of which males constituted 4,890 (39.8%) while females constituted 7,384 (61.2%).
- ii. The number of beneficiaries has since increased to 325,095 Older persons (Male 123,671; female 201,424).
- iii. Beneficiaries of the Senior Citizens Grants receive a monthly stipend of UGX 25,000 - about USD8. This amount represents about 20 per cent of the monthly household consumption of the poorest of Uganda's population.
- iv. In the period (2019/20 - 2023/24), UGX481.64 billion was paid out to Older persons, of which UGX292.431 Billion (61%) was paid to female beneficiaries and UGX189.2095 Billion (39%) was paid to male Older persons.
- v. The total amount paid out to SAGE beneficiaries increased steadily from UGX 74.57 billion in FY 2019/2020 to a peak of UGX103.14 billion in FY 2021/2022. However, there was a slight decline in the subsequent years, with UGX101.25 billion paid out in FY 2023/2024.
- vi. The amount paid to female beneficiaries consistently exceeded that paid to male beneficiaries each year. This reflects the higher number of female beneficiaries in the programme.
- vii. In the FY 2019/2020, the programme disbursed UGX74.57 billion, with females receiving 59.4 per cent and males getting 40.6 per cent. In FY 2020/2021, the total payout increased significantly by 34.9 per cent to UGX 100.56 billion. Females received 59.7 per cent, while males got 40.3 per cent.

viii. In the FY 2021/2022, the total payout further increased by 2.6 per cent, reaching UGX103.14 billion. Females received 60.3%, and males got 39.7%. In FY 2022/2023, the total payout slightly decreased by 1 per cent to UGX102.12 billion. Females received 61.6%, and males got 38.4%.

ix. In FY 2023/2024, there was a marginal decrease of 0.85 per cent to UGX101.25 billion. Females received 62.3%, and males received 37.7%.

2.4 Social Care and Support Services,

2.4.1 Child labour

- i. Overall, 18 per cent of children aged 5 -17 years were involved in child labour. Of the children aged 5 -11 years, eighteen per cent were in child labour.
- ii. Sex differentials showed that more males (20%) than females (15%) aged 5 -17 years were engaged in child labour. About eighteen per cent of the children aged 5 -17 years currently attending school were in child labour.
- iii. Busoga and Bukedi sub-regions had the highest proportion of children aged 5 -17 years in child labour (29% and 28% respectively).
- iv. 18.3% of children aged 5 -11 years are engaged in economic activities. This indicates that nearly one in five children in this age group are involved in work, which could include various forms of labour, contributing to family income, or other economic activities.
- v. 26.4 per cent of children aged 12 -13 years are involved in economic activities, excluding light activities. 10% of the children's households reported that they paid only official fees for services.
- vi. Regarding the percentage of children aged 5 -17 years engaged in child labour, Uganda made moderate advancements in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.
- vii. Accordingly, the percentage of children aged 5 -17 years engaged in child labour reduced from 30.9 per cent in 2017/2018 to 18 per cent (male 20%; female 15%) above the NDPIII target of 28.9 per cent. Busoga and Bukedi sub-regions had the highest proportion of children aged 5 -17 years in child labour (males 29% and females 28%).

2.4.2 Child protection from abuse and violence

Approximately 40 per cent of children in Uganda are protected from various forms of abuse and violence. The decrease in the alcohol abuse rate from 5.8 per cent to 2.5 per cent may positively affect children by potentially reducing risks associated with parental substance abuse.

2.4.3 Status of malnourishment

In the period under review, the status of mal-nourishment was as follows:

- i. 24.4 per cent of children are classified as stunted; 3.2% wasted, 3.4% overweight, and 9.7% underweight.
- ii. Stunting rates were notably higher in refugee communities (26.9%) compared to host communities (30.1%), while childhood wasting was more prevalent in refugee settings (4.6%) than in host communities (2.5%).
- iii. From 2006 to 2022, the percentage of stunted children decreased from 38% to 26%, while underweight rates dropped from 16% to 10.2% and Improvements in wasting rates, from 6% to 2.9%.
- iv. Stunting affected 26.9 per cent of children in refugee communities compared to 30.1 per cent in host communities. Additionally, childhood wasting was reported at 4.6 per cent in refugee settings versus 2.5 per cent in host communities.
- v. The prevalence of underweight status also was different, with 12.1 per cent in refugee communities compared to 10.2 per cent in host communities.

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- vi. Children from lower wealth quintiles experienced higher rates of stunting (30.3%) and underweight (16.3%) compared to their counterparts from higher wealth quintiles, who exhibited higher rates of overweight (4%).

2.4.4 Support to GBV prevention and response

- i. In 2021 (January - June), RRP partners managed 2,541 new GBV incidents in 13 refugee-hosting districts in Uganda, reaching 55 per cent of the expected target of 4,350. 94% of the survivors were female, while 4% were male. Rape was registered highest at 29%, followed by physical assault (26%).
- ii. During the period under review, a total of 34,695 people received GBV services, of which 30,294 (87%) were female, 4,157 were male (12%), and 244 PWDs (1%).
- iii. **Among women and Men aged 15 – 49 years:** 23% of women and 14% of men experienced physical violence in the 12 months preceding the survey. 11% of women and 4% of men experienced sexual violence in the last 12 months before the survey. 84% of women whose husbands are often drunk have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence.
- iv. **Among currently married women aged 15 – 49 years:** 52 per cent of married women with cash earnings participate in decisions about how to use their earnings. 80 per cent of married women can say no to their husbands if they do not want to have sexual intercourse. 40 per cent of married women do not participate in specific household decision-making.

2.4.5 Health insurance scheme

- i. 3.9 per cent of Uganda's population has health insurance coverage. Medical insurance remains the fastest-growing class of insurance business in Uganda, contributing about 20 per cent of the overall gross written premiums in the industry.
- ii. Medical Insurance Gross Written premiums have consistently been growing year-on-year from UGX107.6 billion in 2014 to about UGX244.98 billion in 2021 and UGX321.33 billion in 2022.
- iii. Medical Insurance claims have also significantly increased over the past eight years, culminating in UGX117.8 billion in 2021 and UGX170.6 billion in 2022.
- iv. Overall, only 13.4 per cent of individuals aged 15 years and above are aware of health insurance, indicating limited awareness.
- v. Males (15.4%) have a slightly higher awareness than females (11.5%), suggesting a gender disparity in knowledge about health insurance.
- vi. Awareness increases with age, peaking at 18 - 30 years (17.8%) and then slightly declining. Young adults (15 -19 years) have the least awareness (6.1%), indicating the need for targeted educational campaigns for younger populations.
- vii. Regarding residence, urban residents (22.7%) are more knowledgeable than rural residents (9.6%), highlighting the urban-rural divide in health insurance awareness.
- viii. Kampala leads with 7.3 per cent coverage, while regions like Teso (1.0%) and Karamoja (1.4%) lag significantly behind, indicating regional inequities in health insurance coverage.

2.5 Social Protection Complementary Services

2.5.1 Labour-intensive public works (LIPW) programmes

- i. The total number of beneficiaries/households across the 15 districts is 149,022, with the highest concentration in Yumbe (16,526 beneficiaries), Lamwo (13,958 beneficiaries), and Kamwenge (13,567 beneficiaries). These three districts alone account for 29.4 per cent of the total beneficiaries.

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- ii. Districts such as Hoima (4,848 beneficiaries) and Arua (5,369 beneficiaries) represent the lower end of the beneficiary spectrum, together comprising only about 6.9 per cent of the total.
 - iii. The top five districts — Yumbe, Lamwo, Kamwenge, Isingiro (13,159 beneficiaries), and Adjumani (13,126 beneficiaries) — collectively account for 70,336 beneficiaries, representing approximately 47.2 per cent of the total.

2.5.2 Special grant for persons with disability

- i. 12.4 per cent (4.5 million people) of the Ugandan population lives with some form of disability. Cumulatively, 8,239 PWDs, of which 4,140 are males and 4,099 females, have benefited from the special grant, representing 0.81 per cent of the targeted number. Likewise, 817 groups have been funded in 61 districts.
- ii. The government has invested UGX4.04 billion in the Special Grant programme for PWDs cumulatively since FY2009/2010. The above funds have benefited 6,794 PWDs, of which females constituted 3,380 (49.7%).
Taking a crude assumption of a fairly equal share of the total funds allocated, it implies that, on average, UGX2.011 billion benefited female PWDs while UGX 2.032 billion benefited Male PWDs. In total, the funds have been utilised to establish 817 projects to benefit PWDs.

2.5.3 Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP)

- i. Since the inception of the programme, a total of UGX187.93 billion has been appropriated towards UWEP, of which UGX134.68 billion was released (72%).
- ii. A total of UGX53.3 billion was not released as per the approved budget for the period under review (2015/16 - 2020/21).
- iii. Over the years, findings reveal deviation from the approved budget and release. The highest deviations were registered in the FYs 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- iv. Since project inception, the government has released UGX105.63 billion under UWEP, of which UGX96.135 billion has been disbursed to 15,294 women enterprises, directly reaching 180,914 women beneficiaries.
- v. At inception in FY2015/16, 94 projects were funded, and these have since increased to 4,041 in FY2020/21. UGX20.192 billion has recovered the amount (UGX27.614 billion) that is due, representing 73.1 per cent. UGX10.703 billion has been revolving around funding new groups in the respective local governments.
- vi. 732 groups have to date fully paid up (100% Repayment).

2.5.4 Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP)

- i. Cabinet and Parliament approved a budget of UGX265 billion for the first Five (5) years of implementation from FY2013/14 to FY2017/18.
- ii. During the period under review, a total of UGX243.63 billion was appropriated towards YLP, of which UGX161.99 billion was released (66%). A total of UGX81.64 billion was not released as per the approved budget.
- iii. Since project inception, UGX169.512 billion has been disbursed to 13,822 youth enterprises benefitting 251,940 youth, of which 136,881 were males and 115,059 females.
- iv. As at the end of June 2021, 22.5889 billion had already been revolved to the Local Governments to finance 2,173 Projects benefitting 20,086 youth.
- v. 335 projects have completed 100% recovery of funds and are ready to transition into Small and medium-sized (SMS) enterprises.

2.6 Impact of Social Protection Programmes in Uganda

2.6.1 Poverty and income distribution

- i. **Poverty Rates:** Poverty prevalence declined from 38.8 per cent (2002/03) to 20.3 per cent (2019/20), though progress has slowed.
- ii. **Food Poverty:** 8.5 per cent of Ugandans are food-poor, with notable regional disparities.
- iii. **Income Inequality:** The Gini coefficient decreased slightly from 0.415 (2016/17) to 0.413 (2019/20), with higher inequality in urban areas.

2.6.2 Employment

- i. **Unemployment:** Reduced slightly to 12.7 per cent in FY2020/21, below the NDP III target of 12.2 per cent.
- ii. **Sector Shifts:** Employment in agriculture decreased from 68.1 per cent to 61.4 per cent, with increases in industry and services sectors.

2.6.3 Education and literacy rates

- i. **Literacy:** 76.5 per cent literacy rate for individuals aged 15 years and above, with significant gender disparities (82.6% males vs. 70.8% females).
- ii. **School Enrolment:** High primary school enrolment but a significant drop in secondary and tertiary completion rates.

2.6.4 Health and life expectancy

- i. **Child Mortality:** Under-5 mortality reduced from 151 per 1,000 live births (2001) to 52 (2022).
- ii. **Maternal Mortality:** Dropped from 505 per 100,000 live births (2001) to 189 (2022).
- iii. **Life Expectancy:** Increased from 48 years (2001) to 63 years (2022).

3.0 Lessons Learnt

- i. **Importance of Comprehensive Policy Frameworks:** The NSPP, 2015 has provided a robust framework for social protection initiatives, guiding implementation and ensuring alignment with national goals.
- ii. **Need for Robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems:** The NSPP M&E Plan from 2018 underscores the necessity of effective tracking and assessment mechanisms to evaluate programme impacts and inform policy decisions.
- iii. **Significance of Inclusive Programme Design:** Programmes like the SCG and NutriCash have effectively targeted vulnerable groups, showing the impact of inclusive design.
- iv. **Challenges of Limited Coverage and Funding:** Social protection programmes face challenges related to limited coverage and insufficient funding, which affect their reach and effectiveness.
- v. **Role of Multi-Sectoral Collaboration:** Effective social protection requires coordination among government entities, development partners, and local authorities.

4.0 Success Factors

- i. **Political Commitment and Policy Support:** Strong political support has been crucial in advancing social protection initiatives and securing resources.

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- ii. **Effective Targeting Mechanisms:** Successful programmes have benefited from precise targeting mechanisms, ensuring resources reach those in greatest need.
 - iii. **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships:** Active engagement with stakeholders has strengthened programme implementation and sustainability.
 - iv. **Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening:** Investments in capacity building have improved programme delivery and management.
 - v. **Innovative Programme Design and Implementation:** Innovations like digital payment technologies and cash transfers combined with public works have improved programme efficiency.
 - vi. **Continuous Learning and Adaptation:** Programmes that embrace continuous learning and adaptation remain relevant and effective.

5.0 Identified Gaps

- i. **Limited Coverage and Design Issues:** Current social protection programmes have inadequate coverage, especially for informal sector workers and other vulnerable groups.
- ii. **Declining Value of Grants:** The value of grants, such as the SCG, has eroded due to inflation, reducing their effectiveness.
- iii. **Need for Increased Financial Resources:** There is a need for increased funding to meet social protection objectives and cover identified gaps.
- iv. **Current Commitments and Funding Gaps:** There are significant funding gaps in various social protection programmes, which impact their effectiveness.
- v. **Fragmentation in Legal and Operational Frameworks:** The lack of a single comprehensive social protection law leads to fragmentation and inefficiencies.
- vi. **Absence of a Single Social Registry:** Efforts to create a National Social Registry have not yet succeeded, impacting coordination and data management.
- vii. **Weak M&E Systems:** The M&E framework is not yet fully operational, limiting the ability to track and assess programme performance.
- viii. **Incapacity of Informal Sector Workers to Contribute to Retirement Pensions:** Many informal sector workers cannot contribute to retirement pensions due to financial constraints.

6.0 Recommendations

- i. **Enhance Social Protection Coverage;** Broaden the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) to include a larger number of elderly and vulnerable households, ensuring wider coverage and support. Strengthen systems that provide support to PWDs and extend pension schemes to cover more Older persons.
- ii. **Focus on Child and Youth Development;** Increase funding for education and healthcare to leverage the demographic dividend and ensure future generations are well-equipped. Implement programmes specifically designed to reduce child poverty and improve educational outcomes, focusing on the most disadvantaged areas.
- iii. **Promote Employment and Skills Development;** Enhance programmes like the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) and Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) to boost youth

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- employment opportunities. Expand vocational training and skills development programmes to improve employment outcomes and support economic stability.
- iv. **Ensure Sustainable Financing for Social Protection;** Advocate for higher budget allocations to social protection programmes to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness. Consider innovative financing mechanisms, including public-private partnerships and international support, to sustain and expand social protection initiatives.
 - v. **Monitor and Evaluate Social Protection Programmes;** Develop robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of social protection interventions and guide improvements. Employ data-driven methods to identify gaps and areas for enhancement in social protection delivery.
 - vi. **Enhance Compliance with Gender and Equity Requirements;** Strengthen monitoring mechanisms to ensure continuous improvement in compliance with gender and equity requirements in Ministerial Policy Statements.
 - vii. **Increase Funding for the Social Development Sector;** Advocate for increased budget allocations to the social development sector to address decreasing expenditure shares and ensure adequate support for vulnerable groups.
 - viii. **Sustain and Increase Government Funding for Direct Income Support Programmes:** Maintain the government's commitment to funding programmes like the Senior Citizens Grant and explore alternative funding sources to counteract reductions in international donor financing.
 - ix. **Strengthen Social Security Services in the Private Sector;** Expand social security services in the private sector, particularly targeting informal sector workers and small and medium-sized enterprises through ongoing reforms.
 - x. **Enhance Institutional Capacity and Public Awareness:** Invest in capacity-building programmes and public awareness campaigns to improve the implementation and uptake of social protection services across various sectors.
 - xi. **Expand Skill Development Components:** Enhance skill development aspects of LIPW programmes to ensure long-term employability and economic stability for beneficiaries.
 - xii. **Strengthen Data Collection and Analysis:** Establish comprehensive data systems to monitor social protection programmes, guide policy adjustments and improve targeting.
 - xiii. **Enhance Coordination among Ministries;** Foster inter-ministerial collaboration to ensure cohesive social protection strategies, minimising overlaps and gaps.
 - xiv. **Invest in Capacity Building:** Develop training programmes to enhance the design, implementation, and monitoring of social protection initiatives.

7.0 Conclusion

This report highlights critical areas where strategic enhancements can make a substantial impact on the well-being of the nation's most vulnerable populations. By focusing on expanding coverage, addressing urban-rural disparities, tackling poverty and inequality, and investing in essential services like health and education, Uganda can strengthen its social protection framework to serve its citizens better. The recommendations outlined emphasise the need for a comprehensive approach that includes increasing funding, improving policy compliance, and fostering inter-ministerial coordination. Innovative financing mechanisms, enhanced monitoring and evaluation, and a commitment to inclusive policy design are essential for achieving sustainable and effective social protection. Implementing these recommendations will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including government ministries, private sector partners, and civil society organisations.

CHAPTER ONE

General Introduction

1.0 Introduction

This Annual Report on the State of Social Protection (ARSSP) in Uganda covers the Financial Year 2023/2024. Since the issuance of the Social Protection Policy in 2015, the Government has been providing social protection services to various population categories as a strategic action to achieve a high standard of living for its citizens by 2040¹.

In the implementation of the 2015 National Social Policy, Government of Uganda committed to prioritise seven key strategic areas: (i) Reform the Public Service Pensions Scheme; (ii) Expand social security services in the private sector to include the provision of pensions; (iii) Develop appropriate social security products for the informal sector; (iv) Introduce an affordable health insurance scheme; (v) Expand access to direct income support for vulnerable groups in need; (vi) Strengthen family and community capacity to provide and care for children, persons with disabilities, Older persons, and other individuals in need of care; and (vii) Enhance the institutional capacity for the provision of comprehensive social protection services.

The ARSSP focuses on Uganda's social protection system, which is built on two pillars: social security and social care and support services. The social security pillar includes contributory schemes targeting the working population in both formal and informal sectors (social insurance) and non-contributory transfers targeting vulnerable children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, and Older persons (direct income transfers). The social care and support services pillar focuses on care, support, protection, and empowerment for the most vulnerable individuals who cannot fully care for and protect themselves.

While the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD) leads the social protection efforts, social protection in Uganda is multi-sectoral. The Government of Uganda, through the MGLSD, in collaboration with development partners, civil society organisations, and the private sector, remains committed to advancing social protection initiatives to improve the well-being of its citizens. Social protection is a cornerstone of Uganda's development agenda, addressing vulnerabilities and promoting inclusive growth. It encompasses a range of policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion while enhancing the capacity of individuals and communities to manage risks and shocks.

This Report reflects Uganda's commitment to social protection as enshrined in Uganda Vision 2040, the Third National Development Plan (NDPIII) 2020/21-2024/25, the Strategic Direction for the NDPIV

¹ The Government recognises the need to guarantee social security to the population and to provide assistance to people who are vulnerable either by age, social class, location, disability, gender, disaster or who do not earn any income in order to promote equity and the policy addresses the commitment and capacity for disaster and crisis risk management for agriculture, food and nutrition (NSPP, 2015).

2025/26-2029/30, the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) 2015, Uganda's National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) 2023-2028, and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Manifesto 2021-2026. These frameworks underscore the strategic importance of social protection in fostering economic growth and reducing poverty. The report also aims to strengthen capacities for improved programming and policy formulation.

1.1 Background

Formal social protection in Uganda began in 1967 with the establishment of the Public Service Pension Scheme (PSPS) under the Social Security Act No. 21, covering central government public officers, local government staff, teachers, the army, police, and prison officers. Over the past 30 years, the MGLSD has led numerous initiatives within broader policy frameworks like the Poverty Eradication Action Plan and various National Development Plans. These efforts culminated in the Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP) in 2010 and the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) in 2015, encompassing social security and social care services.

In the past two decades, Uganda has implemented several flagship social assistance or Direct Income Support (DIS) programmes. These include the Senior Citizens' Grant (SCG), which provides regular cash transfers to Older persons; the Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPWs), offering temporary employment through public works projects; the Disability Grant, supporting individuals with disabilities; and the NutriCash Programme, operational from 2022 to 2024, providing direct income support to pregnant and lactating mothers in West Nile. Additionally, the Urban Cash for Work programme offers temporary employment in urban settings.

Under the social insurance pillar, Uganda has two main schemes: the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), a contributory provident fund revised in 2022 to include all employers and individual contributions, and the Public Service Pension Scheme (PSPS), a non-contributory scheme for civil servants. The NSPP also highlights child protection, care for Older persons, care for the chronically sick, community-based rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, and mitigation of gender-based violence (GBV) as essential social care and support services. The MGLSD provides direction, guidance, and technical support for these services, while implementation occurs within various sectoral entities through the Community-Based Services Department (CBSD).

The National Social Protection Policy - NSPP 2015, approved by the Cabinet in November, is the cornerstone of Uganda's social protection framework. It aims to expand access to social security, improve care and support for vulnerable populations, and strengthen the institutional framework for service delivery. Despite significant progress, challenges persist, including limited coverage, inadequate financing, and coordination gaps among stakeholders. Robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are essential to address these challenges effectively. The development of the NSPP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan in 2018 was a significant milestone, but operationalising the M&E system remains imperative.

The national poverty rate in Uganda, according to UBOS (2020/2021), stands at 20.4 per cent, with rural areas experiencing higher poverty incidence at 25.8 per cent compared to 16.2 per cent in urban areas. Factors such as climate shocks, limited access to essential services, and demographic characteristics contribute to heightened vulnerability to poverty. Uganda's commitment to social protection aligns with international agendas, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities). The NDPIII underscores the strategic importance of social protection in human capital development and poverty reduction, proposing the extension of contributory social security to informal sector workers, who constitute more than 60 per cent of employed Ugandans.

Despite substantial efforts, no comprehensive report on social protection indicators has been produced since the NSPP M&E plan's development. Therefore, compiling the first-ever Annual Report on the State of Social Protection in Uganda for FY 2023/2024 is pivotal. This report aims to share achievements, identify areas for improvement, and guide evidence-based policymaking and programme implementation. The MGLSD has compiled this annual report to provide a detailed analysis of priority social protection indicators, serving as a critical accountability tool and informing policy as well as programmatic decisions to enhance stakeholder engagement and contribute to broader development targets and commitments.

1.2 Rationale

The Annual Report on the State of Social Protection in Uganda has been developed to provide a structured mechanism for tracking progress against national and international benchmarks such as the Uganda Vision 2040, NDPIII 2020/21-2024/25, Strategic Direction for the NDPIV 2025/26-2029/30, NSPP 2015, NSPS 2023-2028, NRM Manifesto 2021-2026 and SDGs. The report has been designed to equip policymakers, DPs, and stakeholders with robust data to make informed decisions and foster better coordination and collaboration among various players in social protection. Additionally, the report is designed to raise public awareness about the importance and impact of social protection.

1.3 Purpose and Objectives of the Report

1.3.1 Purpose

The primary purpose of this ARSSP in Uganda for the fiscal year 2023/2024 is to give a thorough analysis of Uganda's social protection landscape, including existing policies, programmes, and initiatives. The report assesses progress towards key social protection indicators outlined in the NSPP 2015 and other national and international frameworks. The Report further analyses relevant data and information to assess the impact and effectiveness of social protection interventions in Uganda. This evidence-based assessment helps to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement in the social protection system.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

- i. **Mapping of social protection programmes:** The Report maps and documents the major Social Protection Programmes in Uganda, including public and private programmes.
- ii. **Situation analysis:** The report gives a thorough analysis of Uganda's current state of social protection initiatives, including assessing progress towards meeting targets and goals outlined in relevant policies and frameworks.
- iii. **Identifying key Indicators** relevant to social protection, such as poverty rates, access to essential services, social assistance coverage, and vulnerability levels.
- iv. **Evaluating the impact of existing social protection programmes:** The Report evaluates the impact of existing social protection programmes on beneficiaries and communities, assessing their effectiveness in reducing poverty, improving livelihoods, and enhancing social inclusion.
- v. Identification of gaps, challenges, and areas for improvement in social protection policies, programmes, and implementation strategies.
- vi. **Policy recommendations:** The report provides evidence-based policy recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, coverage, and impact of social protection initiatives in Uganda.

1.4 Methodology and Data Sources

A triangulation of both qualitative and quantitative approaches was used in the process of developing the Annual Report on the State of Social Protection in Uganda for FY2023/24. The approach involved several key steps aimed at ensuring a rigorous and evidence-based analysis of Uganda's social protection landscape. They include:

- i. **Desk review and data collection:** A thorough desk review of relevant documents was conducted, including the NSPP 2015, NDPIII, the National Social Protection Strategy 2015, previous reports, and other policy documents. Secondary data from key sources such as UBOS, MGLSD, and implementing partners was obtained following data mapping requirements.
- ii. **Stakeholder engagement and consultations:** The stakeholders engaged and consulted included government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), civil society organisations (CSOs), and other relevant entities as listed below:
 - a. **Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD);** This is the Lead ministry responsible for social protection policies, programmes, and initiatives. The Ministry provided all the National Social Protection Policy, programme implementation reports and beneficiary data.
 - b. **Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED)** provided funding and economic planning for social protection programmes.

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- c. **Ministry of Health (MoH):** This oversees health-related social protection programmes, including health insurance. The data of focus included Health insurance coverage data, health facility access, and disease prevalence rates.
 - d. **National Social Security Fund (NSSF):** The fund manages social security contributions and benefits for formal sector workers. The data obtained included enrollment data, benefit disbursement reports, and financial performance, among others.
 - e. **The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)** provided statistical data on various social and economic indicators. The specific data sources included Population projections, national surveys, poverty statistics, and demographic data.
- iii. **Mapping of social protection programmes:** Mapping identified and documented major social protection programmes in Uganda, both public and private, focusing on coverage, target groups, and impact. The report gives an analysis of the effectiveness and reach of existing social protection initiatives.
 - iv. **Situation analysis and performance assessment:** A comprehensive situation analysis of Uganda's social protection initiatives was conducted, while assessing progress towards key indicators outlined in the NSPP and NDPIII.
 - v. **Identification of key indicators and trends:** Key social protection indicators such as poverty rates, access to essential services, social assistance coverage, and vulnerability levels were identified and highlighted. The report analyses trends and patterns over time and identifies areas of improvement and success.
 - vi. **Gap analysis and policy recommendations:** Gaps, challenges, and areas for improvement in social protection policies, programmes, and implementation strategies were identified. Evidence-based policy recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, coverage, and impact of social protection initiatives in Uganda were developed.

The above methodology was participatory, inclusive, and transparent, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered in the analysis and recommendations. Using existing data sources and engaging with relevant stakeholders, this outcome report contains high-quality data and information that can be used to inform policy and programming decisions in the field of social protection.

1.5 Structure of the Report

The Report on the State of Social Protection in Uganda for the FY2023/2024 is presented in five chapters, each focusing on different aspects of the social protection landscape. The structure of the report is as follows:

Chapter One presents the general introduction which provides an overview of the report, outlining the background, rationale, purpose, objectives, methodology and data sources; **Chapter Two** details the policy, legal and institutional frameworks that underpin the social protection in the country; **Chapter Three** highlights the state of social protection in Uganda; **Chapter Four** covers multi-sectoral strategies to enhance social protection; **Chapter Five** presents recommendations and conclusions; **Annexes and Appendices** have also been provided.

CHAPTER TWO

Policy, Legislative and Institutional Framework

2.0 Introduction

This chapter provides an in-depth examination of the policy, legal, and institutional frameworks that support and govern social protection in Uganda. Uganda's Social Protection Policy is profoundly entrenched in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 (as amended), the various national laws addressing risks and vulnerabilities, and regional and international instruments to which Uganda is a signatory. On the other hand, Uganda's policy framework on social protection is aligned with other national policies and planning frameworks to create a cohesive approach to social protection.

2.1 Legal Framework

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 (as amended) forms the foundation of the country's legal framework for social protection. It outlines several key National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, guiding the State's responsibilities towards its citizens and these are:

- i. **Objective VII:** The State is tasked with ensuring the welfare and maintenance of the aged.
- ii. **Objective XI (i):** Priority must be given to legislation that establishes measures protecting and enhancing the right to equal opportunities in development.
- iii. **Objective XIV (b):** Guarantees that all Ugandans enjoy rights and access to education, health services, clean and safe water, work, decent shelter, adequate clothing, food security, and retirement benefits.

Chapter Four of the Constitution focuses on the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms, including affirmative action for marginalised groups, protection of women, children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and economic rights.

Several specific laws further detail various aspects of social protection, and these are;

- i. **The Pensions Act (Cap. 286):** Regulates pensions, gratuities, and other allowances for public service officers.
- ii. **The National Social Security Fund Act (Cap. 222):** Provides social security benefits for private sector employees.
- iii. **The Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority Act 2011:** Regulates retirement benefits schemes in both private and public sectors.
- iv. **The Workers Compensation Act (Cap. 225):** Mandates compensation for workers injured or suffering from scheduled diseases incurred in the course of employment.
- v. **The Domestic Violence Act 2010:** Defines domestic violence and legal protections for victims.
- vi. **Employment Act No. 6 of 2006:** Addresses workers' rights and employers' obligations, including leave entitlements and protections against hazardous child labour.

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- vii. **The Children Act (Cap 59):** Protects children’s rights and welfare, including provisions for children with disabilities.
 - viii. **The Succession Act (Cap 162):** Governs succession matters for testate and intestate succession.
 - ix. **The Land Act (Cap 227):** Includes provisions on family land transactions requiring spousal consent.
 - x. **The Birth and Death Registration Act (Cap 309):** Mandates the registration of births and deaths for government planning purposes.
 - xi. **The Persons with Disability Act 2006:** Protects persons with disabilities against discrimination and promotes equal opportunities.
 - xii. **The Minimum Wages Board and Wages Councils Act (Cap 221):** Establishes minimum wage boards and councils for regulating employee remuneration.
 - xiii. **The Occupational Safety and Health Act No. 9 of 2006:** Regulates workplace safety and health, requiring employers to ensure safe working conditions.

2.2 Policy Framework

Uganda Vision 2040 underscores social protection as vital for addressing risks and vulnerabilities. It envisions a system including universal pensions for Older persons, public works schemes for the vulnerable unemployed, and social assistance for children, persons with disabilities, and the destitute. Universal health insurance is also highlighted as a key strategy.

National Development Plans (NDPs): The Third National Development Plan (NDPIII) 2020/2021-2024/2025 identifies social protection as crucial for transforming Uganda from a peasant society to a modern, prosperous nation. Social Protection is essential for enhancing human capital, reducing poverty, and promoting inclusive growth. On the other hand, the Strategic Direction for the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV) 2025/2026 - 2029/2030 provides the following undertakings;

- i. Implement direct income interventions to help build resilience among the poor and vulnerable across the lifecycle. Under this, we shall;
 - a. Progressively lower the eligibility age for accessing SCG from 80 years to at least 75 years.
 - b. Develop and Implement a Severe Disability Child Grant.
 - c. Scale up implementation of Nutrition-sensitive Cash Transfers across the Country.
 - d. Design and expand LIPW Programmes for the poor and vulnerable (Through NUSAF4, DRDIP2 and the Urban Cash for Work Programmes)
 - e. Develop and progressively expand coverage of School Feeding Programmes, especially for highly vulnerable areas.
 - f. Implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework to expand the Provision of Social Protection to Refugees.
- ii. Expand the Scope and Coverage of Social Security to cover the Informal Sector Workers;

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- a. Review and adapt the legal framework to include previously uncovered workers in the existing social security schemes, such as temporary and seasonal workers, domestic workers, part-time workers, migrant workers, and platform workers.
 - b. Design and implement specific social insurance schemes for own-account/self-employed workers.
 - c. Promote “social security literacy” in entrepreneurship and business development programmes such as the Parish Development Model, Emyooga, etc.
 - d. Reform the Public Service Scheme to make it contributory.
 - e. Implement a strategy for Expanding Social Security to the Informal Sector.
- iii. Develop and implement Health Insurance Schemes;
- a. Develop and implement a national health Insurance Scheme.
 - b. Support Community Health Insurance Schemes.
- iv. Provide Social Care and Support for the Poor and Vulnerable across the Lifecycle;
- a. Implement the Operational Framework for Social Care and Support.
 - b. Provide Rehabilitative and assistive devices for Persons with Disabilities.
 - c. Rehabilitate and equip Social Care and Support institutions to provide care and support.
 - d. Design and rollout of Integrated ECD programmes for the poor & vulnerable across the country.
 - e. Strengthen case management system on child abuse, neglect and exploitation.
 - f. Provide support (livelihood, psycho-social, health, legal, etc.) to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and other forms of violence.
 - g. Promote community-based response mechanisms for supporting vulnerable people.
- v. Strengthen Social Protection Systems;
- a. Strengthen Social Protection Management Information systems (functionalisation of the National Single Registry, development of a National Social Registry and Management Information Systems for SP Programmes, enhance interoperability of MIS for SP programmes to the NSR, NID systems and other administrative databases of government).
 - b. Build and Strengthen the Capacity of key Stakeholders in the design and implementation of Social Protection.
 - c. Review the Social Protection Policy and other relevant Social Protection Legal and Policy Framework.
 - d. Strengthen Social protection Complaints and Grievance-handling mechanisms.
 - e. Strengthen Social protection coordination mechanisms at the national and local level.
 - f. Strengthen Research, monitoring and evaluation for Social Protection.

Other related policies include:

- i. **The National Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children Policy 2004:** Focuses on the survival, development, participation, and protection of vulnerable children.
- ii. **The National Child Labour Policy 2020:** Provides a framework for addressing child labour.

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- iii. **The Revised National Policy on Persons with Disabilities 2023:** Promotes equal opportunities and support for persons with disabilities.
 - iv. **The National Policy for Older Persons 2009:** Advocates for equal treatment, social inclusion, and livelihood support for Older persons.
 - v. **The National Employment Policy 2010:** Supports social security for workers, detailing employer responsibilities such as paid leave.
 - vi. **The Uganda Gender Policy 2007:** Promotes gender equality and women's empowerment.
 - vii. **The National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management 2010:** Focuses on reducing the risk of disasters and maintaining human welfare and development.
 - viii. **The Special Needs and Inclusive Education Policy 2012:** Ensures equal education opportunities for learners with special needs.
 - ix. **The National HIV/AIDS Policy 2011:** Provides a framework for delivering HIV/AIDS-related services.
 - x. **The National Health Policy 2010:** Aims for a high standard of health for all Ugandans.
 - xi. **The National Food and Nutrition Policy 2003:** Promotes improved nutrition and food security through multi-sectoral interventions.

2.3 Regional and International Frameworks

2.3.1 East African Community (EAC)

- i. **EAC Common Market Protocol 2010:** Allows workers to move freely within member states and guarantees social security rights and benefits.
- ii. **EAC Social Development Policy:** Harmonises social protection policies across member states, focusing on social security, poverty reduction, and welfare.

2.3.2 African Union (AU)

- i. **Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action 2004:** Calls for improved and extended social protection schemes.
- ii. **Livingstone Call to Action 2006:** Obliges African states to implement Direct Income Support programmes.
- iii. **AU Social Policy Framework 2008:** Recognises social protection as a state obligation, calling for national legislative provisions.

2.3.3 United Nations (UN)

- i. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948:** Recognises the right to social security in cases of unemployment, sickness, disability, old age, and other circumstances.
- ii. **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966:** Commits states to provide social protection.
- iii. **Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979, Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006:** These are International treaties protecting vulnerable groups.

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- iv. **ILO Conventions:** Uganda adheres to various ILO conventions on employment policy, public contracts, and child labour, establishing international benchmarks for social security and labour standards.

Uganda's commitment to social protection is demonstrated through an extensive and integrated framework of national, regional, and international policies, laws, and institutions. These frameworks collectively aim to reduce poverty, promote equality, and enhance the well-being of all citizens, underpinning Uganda's efforts towards sustainable development. Strengthening and harmonising these frameworks remains crucial for advancing social protection in Uganda.

CHAPTER THREE

Status of Social Protection in Uganda

3.0 Introduction

Social protection plays a critical role in promoting economic stability, reducing poverty, and enhancing the well-being of vulnerable populations in Uganda. This chapter explores the current status of social protection in the country, providing a comprehensive analysis of the social protection situation, stakeholder undertakings, major achievements, challenges and opportunities for improvement. It examines the following areas:

- i. Demographic, Social, and Economic Overview of Vulnerability in Uganda: Analysing the key factors that contribute to vulnerability within the population, including age, gender, geographic location, and socio-economic status. Understanding the population dynamics, economic conditions, and social trends is essential to contextualising the needs and priorities for social protection interventions.
- ii. The second sub-section of this Chapter examines key aspects of social protection, starting with Social security. This section covers both social contributory schemes, which involve contributions from employers and employees, and direct non-contributory schemes, which assist those unable to contribute due to poverty or vulnerability.
- iii. The third sub-section explores Social Care and Support Services, which are designed to provide essential care and assistance to the most vulnerable groups, including Older persons, children, and people with disabilities. These services are crucial in ensuring that all citizens can live with dignity and access basic needs.
- iv. The fourth sub-section explores systems for Social Protection Strengthening, focusing on the mechanisms and frameworks necessary to enhance the delivery, efficiency, and coverage of social protection programmes. Strengthening these systems is vital for achieving a more inclusive and sustainable social protection landscape.
- v. The fifth sub-section details the Complementary Services that support social protection efforts, such as Labour Market Interventions, the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP), the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) and the Parish Development Model, among others.
- vi. The sixth section presents the status of Financing Social Protection in Uganda, reviewing the sources and adequacy of funding for social protection programmes, including government budgets, international aid, and other financial contributions.
- vii. Finally sub-section seven presents the realised Outcomes/Impact. Assessing the outcomes and impacts of social protection initiatives on reducing poverty, inequality, and vulnerability and highlighting success stories and areas needing further attention.

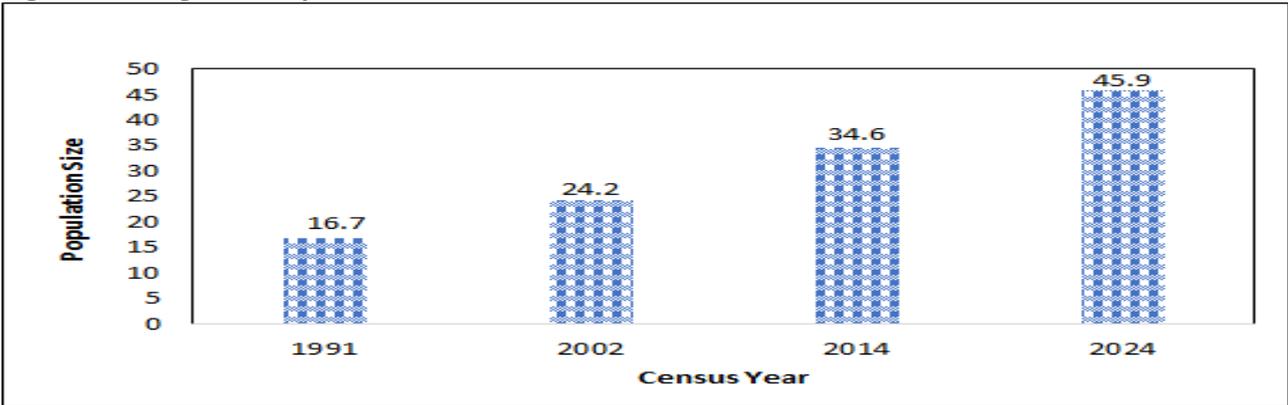
Examining these areas, this chapter aims to present a comprehensive analysis of Uganda's current social protection status, identify key challenges, and suggest opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness of social protection interventions for FY 2023/2024.

3.1 Socio-Economic Overview

3.1.1 Demographic overview

According to the National Population and Housing Census (2024), conducted from 10th to 26th May 2024 under the Uganda Bureau of Statistics Act 1998 CAP. 310 Section 13, Uganda's population stood at 45.9 million people. This translated into an increase of 1.3 million people from 2014 when the National Population Census recorded a total population of 34.6 million people. Uganda's population growth rate reduced from 3.3 per cent in 2014 to 2.9 per cent in 2024 but remains one of the highest in the world. This rapid growth presents both opportunities and challenges for the implementation of social protection programmes. Figure 3.1 below presents the Uganda Population Size for the last four National Population and Housing Censuses:

Figure 3.1: Uganda Population Size 1991-2024



Source: National Population and Housing Census 1991-2024

The population has grown significantly over the years, from 16.7 million in 1991 to 45.9 million in 2024. This represents an increase of approximately 175 per cent over 33 years. Such rapid growth has substantial implications for the planning and implementation of social protection programmes in the country.

3.1.2 Population age distribution

According to the National Population and Housing Census 2024, Uganda has a youthful population with a median age of approximately 16.7 years. This age structure emphasises the need for social protection systems that accommodate the young, including education and healthcare services, while also preparing for the future needs of an ageing population. Table 3.1 below shows Uganda's population by Age Group;

Table 3.1: Population Distribution by Social Protection Critical Age Category

| S/N | Population Age Category | Male | Female | Total |
|-----|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | Children aged 0 -17 | 11,856,864 | 11,322,636 | 23,179,500 |
| 2 | Working Population aged 14 - 64 | 12,057,862 | 13,462,538 | 25,520,400 |
| 3 | 60+ Years | 1,043,364 | 1,251,636 | 2,295,000 |
| 4 | 65+ Years | 699,570 | 859,146 | 1,558,716 |
| 5 | 70+ Years | 480,394 | 602,078 | 1,082,471 |
| 6 | 75+ Years | 302,568 | 375,117 | 677,685 |
| 7 | 79+ Years | 212,809 | 266,970 | 479,780 |
| 8 | 80+ Years | 196,151 | 245,048 | 441,199 |

Source: National Population Censuses and Housing, 2024

According to the National Population and Housing Census 2024, 50.5% of the population is made up of children aged 0 -17 years, while those aged 18 - 30 years constitute 22.7%. The Older persons (60+ years) constitute 5%, while the working-age population (14 - 64 years) constitutes 55.6%. The country needs to be prepared to take advantage of this demographic transition, especially through adequate investments in children to increase the likelihood of high labour productivity in the future. Lack of preparation would mean increasing under-employment and unemployment and missed opportunities for the demographic dividend².

3.1.3 Urban vs. rural population

The majority of Ugandans reside in rural areas, with approximately 76% of the population living in rural settings and 24% residing in urban areas (UBOS, 2024). Urbanisation is gradually increasing, with urban growth rates significantly higher than rural growth rates. This urban-rural divide has implications for social protection, as rural areas often have limited access to social services and infrastructure compared to urban centres.

3.1.4 Vulnerable groups

Uganda has made significant strides in social protection across various demographics, albeit with ongoing challenges. For children and youth, approximately 56% of children aged 0 -17 years are considered multi-dimensionally poor, indicating vulnerability despite efforts to expand social safety nets (UNICEF, 2020). Older persons, defined as those aged 60 years and above, face significant economic insecurity, with only 5% receiving a pension, underscoring gaps in care and support systems for Older persons (HelpAge International, 2021). Persons with disabilities comprise about 12% of Uganda's population and are often marginalised in employment and social services despite legal protection (World Bank, 2020/21). Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, primarily from neighbouring conflict zones, total over 1.5 million, straining Uganda's resources and humanitarian efforts despite progressive refugee policies (UNHCR, 2021). These statistics highlight Uganda's mixed

² Bloom, David E., David Canning and Jaypee Sevilla (2003). The Demographic Dividend: A New Perspective on the Economic Consequences of Population.

- vii. Enhance the institutional capacity for the provision of comprehensive social protection services.

3.2.1.1.1 National Social Security Fund (NSSF)

The NSSF is a mandatory savings scheme for employees in the formal sector, providing benefits such as pensions, invalidity benefits, and survivor benefits. Contributions are made by both employers and employees. NSSF plays a pivotal role in Uganda's social protection framework, providing retirement benefits, disability benefits, and other social security services to its members. As a key financial institution, NSSF manages substantial funds contributed by employers and employees across various sectors of the economy.

3.2.1.1.1.1 Status of the NSSF

Table 3.2 presents the status of NSSF for the fiscal years spanning from 2019/2020 to 2022/2023.

Table 3.2: Performance Status of NSSF for the Period 2019/20 - 2022/23

| S/N | Performance Indicator | 2019/2020 | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023 |
|-----|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Compliance level in remitting contributions (%) | 55% | 51% | 55% | 57% |
| 2 | Annual Contributions (UGX Billions) | 1,272 | 1,367 | 1,486 | 1,717 |
| 3 | Accumulated Members Fund (UGX Billions) | 13,062 | 15,299 | 16,962 | 19,068 |
| 4 | Benefits Payments (UGX Billionns) | 496 | 642 | 1,189 | 1,199 |
| 5 | Benefits Turnaround Time (days) | 8 | 8 | 12.3 | 11.9 |

Source: NSSF, 2022/2023

- i. Table 3.2 above reveals that the compliance level in remitting contributions shows a slight improvement over the years, with an increase from 51 per cent in 2020/2021 to 57 per cent in 2022/2023. This indicates that more employers are adhering to their obligation to remit contributions to NSSF, which is positive for the fund's stability and ability to meet its obligations.
- ii. Annual contributions to NSSF have shown consistent growth over the years, increasing from UGX1,272 billion in 2019/2020 to UGX1,717 billion in 2022/2023. This growth indicates a positive trend in member participation and contributions to the fund, reflecting economic activity and employment levels.
- iii. The accumulated members' fund has consistently increased over the years, demonstrating growth in assets managed by NSSF. This growth is crucial for the fund's sustainability and its ability to meet future benefit obligations to members.

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- iv. Benefits payments have increased significantly over the years, more than doubling from UGX496 billion in 2019/2020 to UGX1,199 billion in 2022/2023. This suggests an increasing payout to members, potentially due to higher retirement or other benefit claims.
 - v. The benefits turnaround time, which indicates how quickly benefits are processed and paid out to members, remained relatively stable at around eight (8) days in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. However, there was a slight increase to 12.3 days in 2021/2022, which improved to 11.9 days in 2022/2023. This suggests efforts to maintain efficient benefit processing despite increased workload.

3.2.1.1.1.2 Major reforms/achievements in social security services by NSSF

Over the past decade, Uganda has implemented significant reforms in social security services within the private sector, aiming to enhance governance, expand coverage, and improve service delivery. These reforms, driven primarily by NSSF, have resulted in increased financial security for a broader segment of the population. This section outlines the key reforms and achievements from 2015 to 2024 as follows:

- i. **Introduction of the NSSF Amendment Act:** The NSSF Amendment Act 2015 was passed to enhance the governance and operational efficiency of the NSSF. This legislation expanded the scope of mandatory contributions to include more employees and employers, thus increasing the fund's coverage and financial sustainability. Following the amendment, NSSF membership increased by 10 per cent in the first year (NSSF Annual Report, 2015).
- ii. **Implementation of the Voluntary Membership Scheme:** In 2016, the NSSF launched a voluntary membership scheme, allowing self-employed individuals and informal sector workers to join the fund. By the end of 2016, voluntary membership enrolment reached 50,000, up from 5,000 at the beginning of the year (NSSF Annual Report, 2016).
- iii. **Digital Transformation of Social Security Services:** The NSSF undertook a digital transformation project in 2017, introducing an online portal and mobile application for member registration, contributions, and benefits tracking. Usage of the digital platforms increased by 40 per cent within the first six months of implementation (NSSF IT System Upgrade Report, 2017).
- iv. **Public Awareness and Education Campaigns:** Comprehensive public awareness and education campaigns were rolled out in 2018 to inform the private sector about social security benefits and obligations. Public awareness campaigns led to a 15 per cent increase in new member registrations (NSSF Media Reports, 2018).
- v. **Enhancement of Investment Strategies:** The NSSF revised its investment strategies in 2019 to ensure higher returns for its members. This included diversification of the investment portfolio and adoption of best practices in fund management, as detailed in NSSF's annual financial statements and investment performance reports. The fund's annual return on investment increased by 5 per cent after the strategy enhancement (NSSF Annual Financial Statements, 2019).

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- vi. **Introduction of a Pensionable Age Framework:** In 2020, the government introduced a framework for pensionable age within the private sector, aligning it with international standards. The framework led to a 10 per cent increase in long-term membership retention (Government Policy Briefs, 2020).
 - vii. **Strengthening Regulatory Oversight:** Regulatory oversight of private sector social security services was strengthened in 2021 through the establishment of the Social Security Regulatory Authority (SSRA). This authority was tasked with ensuring compliance with social security laws and protecting member interests, as reported in government publications and regulatory audits. Regulatory audits showed a 20 per cent increase in compliance rates among employers (SSRA Regulatory Audits, 2021).
 - viii. **Expansion of Benefits and Services:** The scope of benefits provided by the NSSF was expanded in 2022 to include health insurance, unemployment benefits, and maternity leave allowances. The inclusion of additional benefits resulted in a 25 per cent increase in member satisfaction ratings (NSSF Member Surveys, 2022).
 - ix. **Launch of Pension Schemes for SMEs:** In 2023, pension schemes specifically tailored for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were launched to increase social security coverage among smaller businesses. Enrolment of SMEs into the pension schemes increased by 30 per cent within the first year (NSSF Strategic Plans, 2023).
 - x. **Continuous Improvement and Member Services:** Continuous improvements in member services, including faster benefit disbursements and enhanced customer service, were made in 2024. Customer service satisfaction ratings increased by 15 per cent following the improvements (NSSF Customer Satisfaction Surveys, 2024).

3.2.1.1.1.3 Major challenges of the NSSF

- i. **Low Compliance Rates:** Despite efforts to improve, compliance in remitting contributions remains relatively low. As of 2022/2023, only 57 per cent of employers were fully compliant with their obligation to remit contributions to the NSSF. This low compliance undermines the fund's financial stability and its ability to provide timely benefits to its members.
- ii. **Limited Coverage:** The NSSF primarily covers employees in the formal sector, leaving a significant portion of Uganda's workforce, especially those in the informal sector, without access to social security benefits. This limited coverage poses a challenge to achieving universal social protection for all workers in the country.
- iii. **Investment Risks:** While the NSSF has made efforts to diversify its investment portfolio, there are still inherent risks associated with managing a large pool of funds. Economic fluctuations and poor investment decisions can affect the returns on investments, which in turn impacts the benefits paid out to members.
- iv. **Benefit Payment Delays:** Despite improvements in the turnaround time for benefit payments, there are still occasional delays due to administrative inefficiencies and the complexity of

processing large volumes of claims. These delays can cause financial hardship for retirees and other beneficiaries who rely on timely disbursements.

3.2.1.1.1.4 Recommendations for the NSSF

- i. **Enhance Compliance Mechanisms:** Strengthen enforcement of contribution remittance by implementing stricter penalties for non-compliant employers and increasing the frequency of audits. Additionally, simplifying the process for employers to remit contributions could improve compliance rates.
- ii. **Expand Coverage to the Informal Sector:** Develop tailored schemes and incentives to encourage participation from informal sector workers. This could include flexible contribution plans, education campaigns, and partnerships with microfinance institutions to facilitate savings.
- iii. **Improve Investment Strategies:** Continue to diversify the investment portfolio while adopting a more cautious approach to high-risk investments. Establish a robust risk management framework to monitor and mitigate potential economic fluctuations that could impact returns.
- iv. **Streamline Benefit Processing:** Invest in further automation of the claims processing system to reduce delays. Regularly review and update the administrative processes to enhance efficiency, ensuring that members receive their benefits promptly.
- v. **Strengthen Public Awareness and Member Education:** Conduct ongoing public education campaigns to inform both employers and employees about the importance of social security and the benefits of timely contributions. Enhanced communication can improve trust and participation in the NSSF.
- vi. **Regular Review and Update of Policies:** Periodically, review the NSSF's policies and regulations to ensure they remain relevant and effective in addressing the evolving needs of its members and the economic environment. This includes adjusting contribution rates and benefits to match inflation and cost of living changes.

3.2.2 Social security schemes in the private sector

Social security schemes in the private sector are crucial in providing financial protection and stability for employees throughout their working lives and into retirement. In Uganda, these services have undergone significant reforms and improvements to expand coverage, strengthen governance, and improve service delivery.

3.2.2.1 Status of social security schemes in the private sector

Social security schemes within the private sector are diverse and robust, characterised by a multitude of pension and provident fund schemes tailored to meet the retirement needs of employees across various industries. These schemes play a crucial role in ensuring financial security and stability for individuals post-retirement, offering a structured framework for savings and investment. Table 3.3

below presents a comprehensive overview of several private sector schemes, each uniquely designed to accommodate the specific needs and demographics of their respective members.

Table 3.3: Overview of Several Private Sector Schemes

| S/N | Scheme | Cost – contribution (%) | Benefits- contribution (%) | Cost - Member | Cost- income (%) | Cost- Assets (%) | Interest Declared (%) | Total Assets |
|-----|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Centenary Group Staff Defined Contribution Scheme | 6.9 | 59.5 | 289,340.42 | 4.8 | 0.5 | 12.2 | 154,581,345,000 |
| 2 | Stanbic Uganda Holdings Limited Staff Provident Fund | 5.7 | 88.7 | 296,736.22 | 6 | 0.6 | 12.8 | 103,007,477,000 |
| 3 | ICEA(U) Limited Retirement Benefits Scheme | 0 | 36.3 | 1,628.25 | 0.2 | 0 | 10 | 84,853,730,000 |
| 4 | ABSA Bank Uganda Limited Staff Pension Scheme | 6.3 | 68.4 | 665,493.64 | 8.6 | 1 | 11.5 | 58,772,412,000 |
| 5 | Zamara Retirement Fund | 3.6 | 79.4 | 310,352.73 | 12.6 | 1.1 | 9 | 56,603,694,000 |
| 6 | MTN Uganda Retirement Benefits Scheme | 6.4 | 122.6 | 474,730.39 | 8.2 | 0.6 | 9.8 | 50,305,799,000 |
| 7 | Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Pension Trust Fund | 8.2 | 151.3 | 988,306.01 | 6.2 | 0.8 | 10.49 | 47,737,743,000 |
| 8 | UAP Life Umbrella Retirement Benefits Scheme | 3 | 77 | 47,385.50 | 9 | 1.1 | 12.27 | 41,164,226,000 |
| 9 | Umeme Limited Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 4.4 | 0 | 172,261.71 | 16 | 0.7 | 5 | 34,222,925,000 |
| 10 | Coca-Cola Beverages Uganda Limited Provident Fund | 3.2 | 36.4 | 240,938.20 | 6.7 | 0.7 | 10.2 | 30,095,675,567 |
| 11 | DFCU Ltd Staff Provident Fund | 3.7 | 93.4 | 302,187.41 | 9.8 | 0.8 | 7.08 | 25,997,949,000 |
| 12 | Housing Finance Bank Retirement Benefits Scheme | 4.8 | 71.4 | 447,560.83 | 6 | 0.8 | 11.73 | 19,187,877,000 |
| 13 | Jubilee Life Umbrella Retirement Scheme | 4 | 150.7 | 115,169.06 | 8.1 | 1 | 10.7 | 18,810,425,000 |
| 14 | The Laison Umbrella Fund | 5.8 | 71.7 | 508,854.40 | 9.4 | 1.1 | 10.2 | 17,433,199,000 |
| 15 | Bank Of Africa Staff Provident Fund | 4.8 | 84.2 | 334,241.05 | 6.2 | 0.7 | 10.76 | 17,359,452,900 |

| S/N | Scheme | Cost – contribution (%) | Benefits-contribution(%) | Cost - Member | Cost-income(%) | Cost-Assets(%) | Interest Declared (%) | Total Assets |
|-----|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 16 | Equity Bank Staff Provident Fund Scheme | 0.1 | 42.6 | 3,119.10 | 0.3 | 0 | 10 | 16,436,883,000 |
| 17 | Britam Umbrella Scheme | 0.1 | 58 | 6,344.42 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 10.4 | 16,372,746,000 |
| 18 | Octagon Uganda Umbrella Retirement Benefits Scheme | 5.7 | 75.4 | 183,853.74 | 11.6 | 1.4 | 10.11 | 15,334,025,000 |
| 19 | VIVO Energy Uganda Retirement Benefits Scheme | 6.9 | 194.9 | 1,340,551.40 | 12 | 0.9 | 11.62 | 15,126,865,000 |
| 20 | Kinyara Sugar Works Limited Staff Provident Scheme | 16.3 | 100.6 | 307,005.91 | 9.7 | 1.1 | 9.2 | 14,556,979,000 |
| 21 | Crown Beverages Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 3.8 | 72.8 | 358,421.05 | 7.5 | 0.8 | 9.6 | 14,470,775,000 |
| 22 | ICEA Lion Teleka Umbrella Fund | 5 | 92.6 | 167,579.27 | 10.3 | 1.4 | 13.7 | 13,827,449,000 |
| 23 | Pride Micro Finance Retirement Benefits Scheme | 10 | 41.3 | 420,615.82 | 28 | 2.2 | 5.8 | 13,816,912,000 |
| 24 | Watoto Ministries Provident Fund | 13.8 | 123.3 | 150,852.73 | 20.8 | 1.4 | 8.8 | 13,764,827,484 |
| 25 | Post Bank Uganda Staff Provident Fund | 3.7 | 69.9 | 131,169.35 | 8.0 | 0.8 | 9.28 | 12,224,756,000 |
| 26 | Opportunity Bank Staff Provident Fund | 3.9 | 104.7 | 211,702.53 | 6.1 | 0.8 | 11.29 | 8,340,517,000 |
| 27 | I&M Bank Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 5.1 | 130.6 | 340,215.45 | 6.5 | 1.1 | 17.7 | 7,748,018,000 |

| S/N | Scheme | Cost – contribution (%) | Benefits-contribution (%) | Cost - Member | Cost-income(%) | Cost-Assets(%) | Interest Declared (%) | Total Assets |
|-----|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 28 | KCB Bank Uganda Staff Provident Fund | 4.7 | 100.6 | 287,692.04 | 9.3 | 1.1 | 11.27 | 7,301,779,000 |
| 29 | Uganda Christian University Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 5.4 | 65.2 | 170,331.54 | 7.3 | 0.9 | 10.89 | 7,276,004,000 |
| 30 | UAP Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 6.8 | 98.6 | 552,550.00 | 9.3 | 1.2 | 12.3 | 7,119,517,000 |
| 31 | Uganda Clays Staff Contributory Provident Fund | 6.0 | 182.8 | 363,591.67 | 11.3 | 1.3 | 8.82 | 6,894,732,000 |
| 32 | MINET Limited Staff Benefits Scheme | 12.1 | 50.8 | 1,325,621.62 | 8.4 | 1.0 | 11.2 | 4,862,458,000 |
| 33 | ENWEALTH Uganda Umbrella Retirement Scheme | 0.4 | 46.6 | 20,433.00 | 11.1 | 0.7 | 11.28 | 4,534,358,544 |
| 34 | EXIM Bank Retirement Benefits Scheme | 4.4 | 47.3 | 305,471.54 | 7.6 | 0.9 | 12.37 | 4,069,359,000 |
| 35 | UMOJA Umbrella Retirement Benefits scheme | 5.5 | 43.3 | 415,914.30 | 17.5 | 2.0 | 10.7 | 3,681,817,431 |
| 36 | Toyota Uganda Limited Staff Provident Fund Scheme | 0.5 | 10.3 | 12,766.67 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 10 | 3,453,244,000 |
| 37 | United Bank For Africa Staff Provident Fund | 3.8 | 60.6 | 123,625.98 | 7.4 | 0.9 | 11.88 | 3,445,718,000 |
| 38 | Xeno Umbrella Scheme | 1.9 | 9.5 | 104,930.38 | 10.0 | 0.8 | 9.7 | 2,151,842,000 |
| 39 | Heifer Projects International Uganda Retirement Benefit Scheme | 0.6 | 388.6 | 72,111.11 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 10 | 1,095,357,000 |
| | Total/ Average | 5.1 | 87.2 | 322,350 | 8.7 | 0.9 | 10.5 | 978,050,864,926 |
| 40 | National Housing and Construction Company Staff Provident | | | | Winding-up in the period under review | | | |
| 41 | Uganda Communications Employees Contributory Pension Scheme | | | | Under interim administration in the period under review | | | |

Source: URBRA, 2022

Overall, the analysis underscores the vital role of private sector-led social security schemes in Uganda's social protection framework, providing a safety net for employees and retirees while contributing to economic stability through prudent asset management and efficient resource allocation. Continued regulatory vigilance and stakeholder engagement are essential to addressing challenges and optimising the impact of these schemes on social welfare.

3.2.2.2 Major reforms under private social security schemes in Uganda

- i. **Introduction of Defined Contribution Schemes:** Many private employers have transitioned from defined benefit schemes to defined contribution schemes, where the benefits are directly tied to the contributions made by employees and employers, plus investment returns. This shift has provided more transparency and predictability in pension benefits.
- ii. **Enhanced Regulatory Framework:** The establishment and enforcement of the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA) have strengthened the governance and oversight of private social security schemes. This includes stricter compliance requirements, improved reporting standards, and better protection for members' funds.
- iii. **Improved Transparency and Accountability:** Reforms have been introduced to enhance the transparency and accountability of private schemes, including the requirement for regular financial disclosures and audits. This has increased trust among members and stakeholders.
- iv. **Investment Policy Reforms:** Private schemes have adopted more robust and diversified investment strategies, guided by revised investment policies that emphasise risk management, sustainable returns, and long-term asset growth. These reforms aim to optimise returns while safeguarding members' contributions.
- v. **Expansion of Coverage:** Reforms have been implemented to broaden the coverage of private social security schemes, including extending benefits to previously underserved sectors and categories of employees, such as casual and contract workers.
- vi. **Digitalisation and Process Automation:** The adoption of digital platforms and automated processes for managing contributions, benefit payments, and member communication has been a key reform. This has led to more efficient service delivery, reduced administrative costs, and improved member experience.

3.2.2.3 Challenges

- i. **Limited Awareness and Understanding:** Despite the achievements, there is still limited awareness and understanding among employees regarding the benefits of participating in private social security schemes, leading to sub-optimal enrollment rates in some sectors.
- ii. **High Administrative Costs:** Some schemes face challenges with high administrative costs, which can erode the returns to members and reduce the overall efficiency of the schemes.

-
- iii. **Inconsistent Performance:** The performance of private schemes varies significantly, with some underperforming due to factors such as poor investment decisions, leading to dissatisfaction among members.
 - iv. **Regulatory and Compliance Gaps:** Although there have been improvements, gaps in regulatory compliance and oversight still exist, posing risks to the sustainability and reliability of certain schemes.

3.2.2.4 Recommendations

- i. **Enhancing Public Awareness:** There is a need for comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate employees on the benefits of private social security schemes, encouraging higher participation and contribution rates.
- ii. **Reducing Administrative Costs:** Implementing cost-effective management practices and leveraging technology can help reduce administrative costs, thereby maximising returns to members.
- iii. **Strengthening Regulatory Oversight:** Strengthening regulatory oversight and ensuring strict compliance with existing laws will enhance the reliability and sustainability of private schemes, protecting members' interests.
- iv. **Promoting Scheme Portability:** Introducing mechanisms that promote the portability of benefits across different employers and schemes will ensure continuous coverage and reduce the risk of coverage gaps when employees change jobs.
- v. **Encouraging Investment in High-Performing Assets:** Private schemes should be encouraged to invest in high-performing assets, balancing risk and return to optimise members' benefits while ensuring long-term sustainability.
- vi. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Collaboration between regulators, employers, and scheme administrators is essential to address challenges and ensure that private social security schemes effectively contribute to the overall social protection framework.

3.2.3 Overall performance of contributory social security schemes

Social protection plays a crucial role in ensuring the well-being and stability of individuals and communities across societies. At the heart of social protection are social security schemes, designed to provide financial and social support to individuals and families during various life stages and in times of need. The performance of these schemes is pivotal in determining their effectiveness in achieving equitable and sustainable outcomes for beneficiaries. Table 3.4 below presents the performance of social security schemes for the FY 2022/2023;

Table 3.4: Performance of Social Security Schemes for the FY 2022/2023;

| S/N | Scheme | Cost – contribution (%) | Benefits-contribution (%) | Cost - Member | Cost-income(%) | Cost-Assets (%) | Interest Declared(%) | Total Assets |
|-----|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | National Social Security Fund | 12 | 70 | 87,746 | 17.5 | 1.1 | 10 | 18,559,857,586,103 |
| 2 | Bank of Uganda Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 24 | 176 | 4,831,061 | 4.9 | 0.8 | N/A | 674,117,732,000 |
| 3 | Parliament Pension Scheme | 16 | 19 | 5,437,856 | 11.9 | 1.8 | 8 | 430,996,777,894 |
| 4 | Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme | 10 | 53 | 441,169 | 8 | 1 | 12.34 | 356,923,606,000 |
| 5 | Uganda Revenue Authority Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 6 | 29 | 562,324 | 6.1 | 0.7 | 10.89 | 266,059,616,010 |
| 6 | NSSF Staff Provident Fund | 4 | 93 | 713,262 | 4.1 | 0.5 | 10.75 | 86,294,069,269 |
| 7 | Uganda National Roads Authority Retirement Benefits Scheme | 4 | 21 | 190,564 | 4.6 | 0.5 | 11.65 | 50,409,017,000 |
| 8 | Bank of Uganda Defined Contribution Scheme | 11 | 40 | 1,376,151 | 7.70 | 1.30 | 11.00 | 48,477,210,000 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|----|-----------|------|------|-------|----------------|
| 9 | Uganda Breweries Ltd Retirement Benefits Scheme | 5 | 20 | 638,559 | 4.20 | 0.50 | 11.18 | 41,427,493,000 |
| 10 | Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 3 | 40 | 962,628 | 4.30 | 0.50 | 12.07 | 40,546,720,000 |
| 11 | Uganda Communic ations Commissio n Staff Provident Fund | 10 | 64 | 1,638,342 | 7.00 | 1.00 | 12.96 | 33,253,667,417 |

| Performance of Schemes Reporting as of June 31 st , 2023 | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| S / N | Scheme | Cost – contribution(%) | Benefits-contribution(%) | Cost - Member | Cost-income(%) | Cost-Assets (%) | Interest Declared (%) | Total Assets |
| 1 2 | NWSC Staff Provident Fund | 3 | 6 | 64,558 | 10.00 | 0.80 | 11.20 | 28,147,197,000 |
| 1 3 | Nile Breweries Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 7 | 165 | 418,521 | 9.10 | 1.10 | 9.50 | 25,777,783,000 |
| 1 4 | Uganda National Examination Board Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 22 | 112 | 1,001,261 | 9.90 | 1.30 | 11.00 | 20,351,135,000 |
| 1 5 | Airtel Uganda Staff Provident Fund | 5 | 53 | 501,213 | 8.80 | 1.00 | 10.40 | 13,588,184,870 |
| 1 6 | Makerere University Business School Retirement Benefits Scheme | 16 | 19 | 135,029 | 80.70 | 2.10 | 8.00 | 12,084,026,000 |
| 1 7 | Uganda Coffee Development Authority Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 3 | 57 | 440,823 | 5.90 | 0.70 | 10.00 | 9,578,259,535 |
| 1 8 | Sara Umbrella Retirement Benefits Scheme | 3 | 165 | 348,512 | 4.90 | 0.70 | 11.89 | 4,132,969,502 |
| 1 9 | URBRA Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme | 4 | 13 | 564,390 | 8.80 | 0.80 | 8.20 | 2,881,697,540 |
| 2 0 | Mazima Voluntary Individual Retirement Benefits Scheme | 12 | 53 | 9,939 | 14.10 | 2.10 | 10.72 | 1,194,734,656 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--|----------|-----------|------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | Total/ Average | 9 | 63 | 1,018,195 | 8.63 | 1.02% | 10.09% | 20,706,099,481,796 |
| 2 1 | Finance Trust Bank Staff Provident Fund | | | New Scheme | | | | |
| 2 2 | World Vision Provident Fund | | | New Scheme | | | | |

Source: URBRA, 2023

3.2.3.1 Membership in retirement benefits schemes

Social protection in Uganda encompasses a range of contributory social security and other retirement benefits schemes designed to ensure financial security for the working population upon retirement. Over the years, the membership and financial health of these schemes have seen significant growth, reflecting both the increasing coverage and the enhanced regulatory environment. For the year under review, NSSF remains the largest scheme, covering the majority of formal sector employees, while other schemes, such as the Parliamentary Pension Scheme (PPS) and various smaller pension funds, also contribute to the social safety net for retirees. The table below provides an overview of the membership of retirement benefit schemes in Uganda for the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23;

Table 3.5: Overview of the Membership of Retirement Benefit Schemes in Uganda

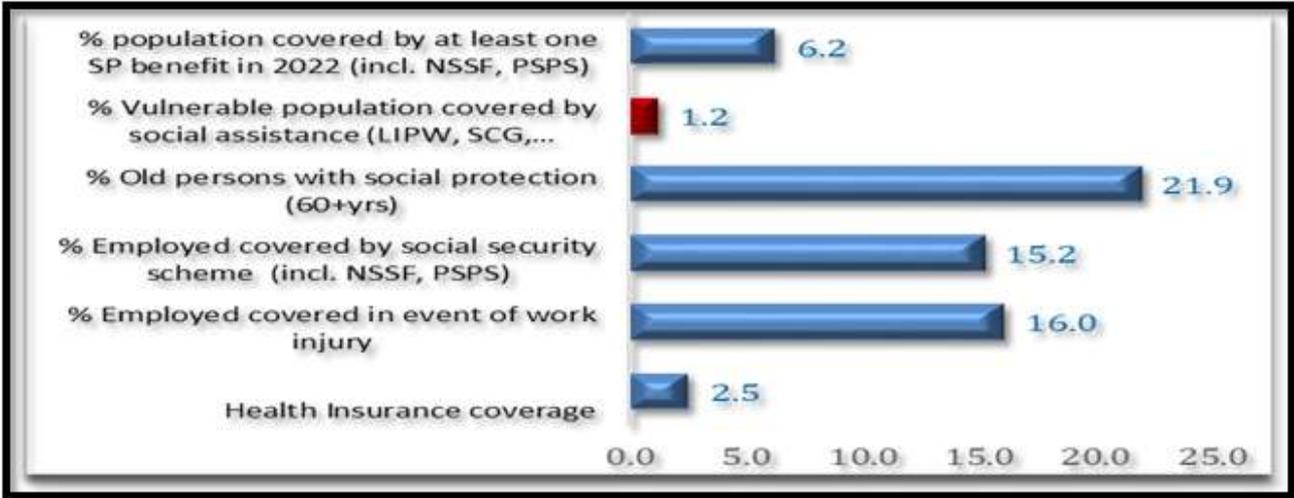
| Licensed Entities and Membership | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Licensed Entities | FY2021/22 | FY2022/23 |
| Retirement Benefit Schemes | 65 | 64 |
| Individual Trustees | 191 | 214 |
| Corporate Trustees | 4 | 4 |
| Administrators | 10 | 10 |
| Fund Managers | 6 | 6 |
| Custodians | 5 | 5 |
| Segregated Voluntary Schemes | 48 | 47 |
| Mandatory Schemes | 3 | 3 |
| Umbrella Schemes | 12 (223 Employers) | 13 (248 Employers) |
| Individual Schemes | 2 | 2 |
| Membership | FY2021/22 | FY2022/23 |
| National Social Security Fund | 2,213,257 | 2,344,737 |
| Public Service Pension Scheme | 410,000 | 407,515 |
| Parliamentary Pension Scheme | 1,220 | 1,398 |
| Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme | 7,162 | 8,229 |
| Voluntary Segregated Occupational & Umbrella schemes | 51,375 | 57,117 |
| Senior Citizens Grants | 332,793 | 323,315 |
| Total | 3,015,807 | 3,142,311 |

Total membership across all schemes increased to 3,142,311 in FY2020/23 from 3,015,807 in FY2021/22, reflecting overall growth in retirement scheme participation despite fluctuations in individual scheme memberships. Generally, while there are variations in specific scheme memberships, the overall increase in total membership indicates a positive trend in retirement benefits scheme participation in Uganda.

3.2.3.2 Coverage of different social protection programmes

Social protection programmes encompass a wide array of schemes designed to support individuals and families in times of need, including pensions, health insurance, unemployment benefits, and social assistance. Understanding the coverage and efficiency of these programmes is essential for policymakers and stakeholders to ensure they meet the needs of the population effectively. Figure 3.2 below provides coverage statistics for different social protection programmes for the year under review.

Figure 3.2: Coverage of Different Social Protection Programmes



Source: URBRA, 2023

From Figure 3.2 above, 6.2 per cent of the total population received at least one social protection benefit, such as those provided by NSSF or the Public Service Pension Scheme (PSPS). Only 1.2 per cent of the vulnerable population, which includes individuals eligible for programmes like Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) and the Senior Citizens Grant (SCG), received social assistance. 21.9 per cent of the elderly population aged 60+ years were beneficiaries of social protection schemes. This indicates a relatively higher coverage compared to the general population. 15.2 per cent of the employed population was covered by social security schemes, such as NSSF or PSPS. 16 per cent of the employed population had coverage for work-related injuries, ensuring they received benefits or compensation if injured while working. Only 2.5 per cent of the population had health insurance coverage, indicating a very low penetration of health insurance in the general population.

The data reveals significant gaps in social protection coverage across different demographics and programmes. While the elderly have relatively better coverage, overall access to social protection benefits, social assistance for the vulnerable, and health insurance remain low. This highlights the need for expanded and improved social protection policies to ensure broader coverage.

3.3 Non-Contributory Social Security Schemes in Uganda

In Uganda, non-contributory social security schemes are government-funded programmes designed to provide financial support to individuals without requiring contributions during their working years. These schemes typically target vulnerable groups, including the elderly, PWDs, and those living in poverty. The two key non-contributory social security schemes in Uganda include (i) the Public Service Pension Scheme and (ii) the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) programme.

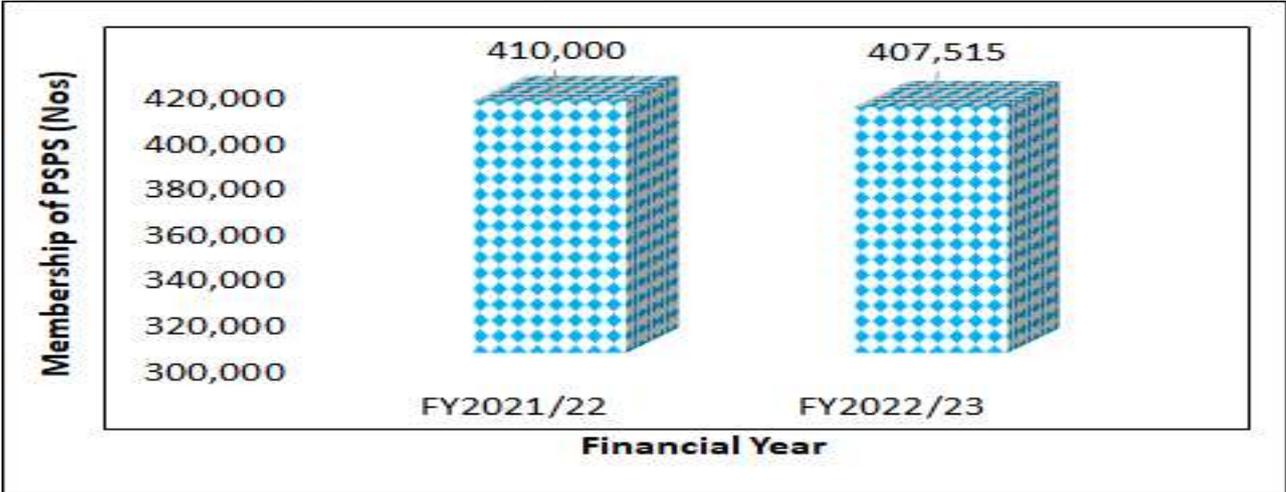
3.3.1 The Public Service Pensions Scheme (PSPS)

This scheme caters for civil servants, offering pensions and gratuities upon retirement. The PSPS is a Defined Benefit (DB), non-contributory, pay-as-you-go scheme governed by the Pensions Act (Cap) 286. It is fully funded by the Government through budget allocations from the Consolidated Fund.

3.3.1.1 Membership of the PSPS

The PSPS in Uganda serves as a vital social protection mechanism for government employees, offering retirement benefits and financial security after years of public service. Figure 3.3 presents membership of the PSPS in Uganda;

Figure 3.3: Membership of the PSPS in Uganda



Source: MoPS 2021/22-2022/23

Current annual pension obligations constitute 0.4 per cent of GDP and cover 407,515 Older persons (17.795%) who retired from the Public Service out of 2.29 million people aged 60+. The resource requirement for pensions is bound to increase, as the average age of the estimated 350,000 civil servants is currently at 38.8 years. This implies that annually, over 15,000 employees are bound to

retire. In addition, the increase in life expectancy (now estimated at 63 years) is likely to increase the pension obligations in the national budget and a burden on the working population.

3.3.1.2 Major reforms in the PSPS in Uganda

The PSPS in Uganda has undergone significant reforms over the past decade, aimed at enhancing the sustainability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the pension system. This section outlines the major reforms introduced from 2015 to 2024;

- i. **Automation of the Pension Management System:** The Ministry of Public Service launched the Integrated Personnel and Payroll System (IPPS) in 2016 to streamline pension processing and reduce delays.
- ii. **Capacity Building and Training:** To ensure the successful implementation of the new pension system, extensive training programmes for public servants and pension managers were conducted in 2017. These efforts focused on the new system and financial literacy.
- iii. **Strengthened Institutional Frameworks:** In 2018, the Ministry enhanced institutional capacities by improving staffing and infrastructure, demonstrating a commitment to robust administrative support for the pension system.
- iv. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Nationwide public awareness campaigns were rolled out in 2019 to educate public servants about the ongoing pension reforms, emphasising the importance of informed participation.
- v. **Improvement in Pension Calculations:** The pension calculation formula was revised in 2020 to more accurately reflect actual earnings and years of service. This adjustment is aimed at fairer pension outcomes.
- vi. **Introduction of Pensionable Age Adjustments:** Adjustments to retirement and pensionable age criteria were made in 2021 to enhance the system's sustainability, showcasing a data-driven approach to reform.
- vii. **Pension Reforms Bill:** The Pension Reforms Act 2022 was introduced to modernise the pension system, including comprehensive amendments to existing pension laws. The legislative changes are evidenced by the passage of this critical reform bill.
- viii. **Pension Appeals Tribunal:** In 2023, a tribunal was established to handle pension disputes, providing a formal mechanism for addressing grievances.
- ix. **Continuous Enhancement of Automated Systems:** Further improvements to the electronic pension management system were made in 2024, as outlined in the Ministry of Public Service's strategic plan and IT system upgrade reports. These enhancements aim to keep the pension management system current and efficient.

These reforms represent key measures taken to enhance social protection for public servants in Uganda, ensuring a more sustainable and effective pension system.

3.3.1.3 Major challenges of the PSPS in Uganda

- i. **Pension Arrears:** One of the most significant issues is the accumulation of pension arrears due to underfunding and inefficiencies in processing payments. By 2020, pension arrears had accumulated to over UGX500 billion (Ministry of Public Service Report, 2020). Although efforts have been made to clear these arrears, the backlog remains substantial.
- ii. **Underfunding:** The scheme is non-contributory and entirely funded by the government, leading to financial strain, especially when there are budget shortfalls. The annual budget allocation has often been insufficient to meet the growing pension obligations. For instance, in the FY2021/2022, the budget shortfall was estimated at UGX200 billion (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 2021).
- iii. **Inefficient Payment Systems:** The pension payment process has been plagued by inefficiencies due to some manual processes that continue to exist, leading to delays in processing and disbursing pensions. It took an average of 18 months for retirees to start receiving their pensions due to bureaucratic bottlenecks and a lack of automation in the payment system (World Bank report, 2021).
- iv. **Growing Pension Liability:** The pension liability continues to grow due to an ageing public service workforce, putting increasing pressure on the government's budget. In 2022, the pension liability had reached UGX9 trillion, with projections indicating that it could rise further if reforms are not implemented (Ministry of Public Service, 2022).
- v. **Corruption and Fraud:** Cases of corruption and fraud have been reported within the PSPS, including the mismanagement of funds and fraudulent claims. The Auditor General's Report (2022) revealed that fraudulent payments amounting to UGX3 billion were made to ghost pensioners, highlighting significant governance issues within the scheme.
- vi. **Inadequate Record-Keeping:** Poor record-keeping has led to issues such as missing files, which complicate the verification process and delay pension payments. According to a report by the Public Accounts Committee (2021), 15 per cent of pensioners experienced delays in receiving their benefits due to missing or incomplete records, exacerbating the backlog of unpaid pensions.
- vii. **Lack of Sustainability:** The non-contributory nature of the PSPS is increasingly seen as unsustainable, given the growing number of retirees and the rising cost of pension obligations. A policy brief by the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA) in 2023 emphasised that without transitioning to a contributory scheme, the PSPS could become unsustainable within the next decade.

3.3.1.4 Recommendations to improve the PSPS

- i. **Transition to a Contributory Pension Scheme:** Transitioning from the current non-contributory, defined benefit scheme to a contributory scheme could alleviate the financial burden on the government and enhance the sustainability of the PSPS. This would involve mandatory contributions from both employees and the government, ensuring that funds are set aside and invested to meet future pension obligations. Countries like Kenya and Tanzania have successfully transitioned to contributory schemes, providing valuable lessons for Uganda.
- ii. **Increase Budget Allocations for Pension Payments:** The government should consider increasing the budgetary allocation to the PSPS to address existing pension arrears and ensure timely payment of future obligations. Clearing the backlog of pension arrears and ensuring sufficient funding for ongoing obligations will help restore confidence in the system and improve the financial security of retirees.
- iii. **Enhance and Expand Automation of Pension Management:** Continue to enhance the Integrated Personnel and Payroll System (IPPS) and expand automation to all aspects of pension management, including processing, disbursement, and record-keeping. Further automation will reduce bureaucratic delays, minimise human error, and improve the efficiency of pension payments. This will also help in tracking pension liabilities more accurately.
- iv. **Strengthen Governance and Accountability Mechanisms:** Implement stricter oversight and accountability measures to combat corruption and fraud within the PSPS, including regular audits, transparent reporting, and the use of technology to track payments and beneficiaries. Strengthening governance will reduce instances of fraud and ensure that pension funds are used for their intended purpose. The establishment of a robust internal audit function and external oversight by agencies like the Auditor General can provide additional safeguards.

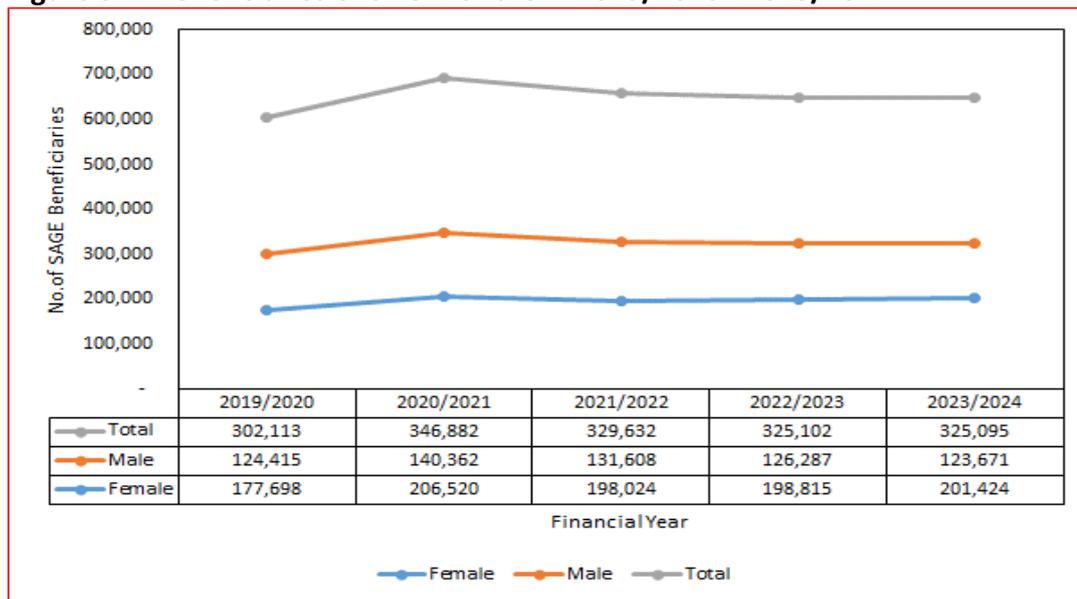
3.3.2 Senior Citizens Grant (SCG)

3.3.2.1 Beneficiaries of the SCG

The Senior Citizens Grant targets Older persons aged 80 years and above (effective 2020) from 65+ years for the Karamoja sub-region and 60+ years for the rest of the 12 sub-regions in Uganda.

The Senior Citizens Grant is designed to reduce old age poverty by providing a minimum level of income security to Older people. As a social grant, the SCG responds to public concerns on the welfare of Older persons – which reflects Ugandan values for their support. The SCGs (also known as social pensions) do not only reduce poverty among Older persons and their families but also build social cohesion and are effective at reaching other vulnerable groups, e.g. PWDs and orphans. Figure 3.4 below presents the number of Older persons that have benefited from SAGE for the period 2019-2023/24

Figure 3.4: Beneficiaries of SAGE for the FY2019/2020 - 2023/2024



Source: MGLSD SAGE Programme 2019/2020 - 2023/2024

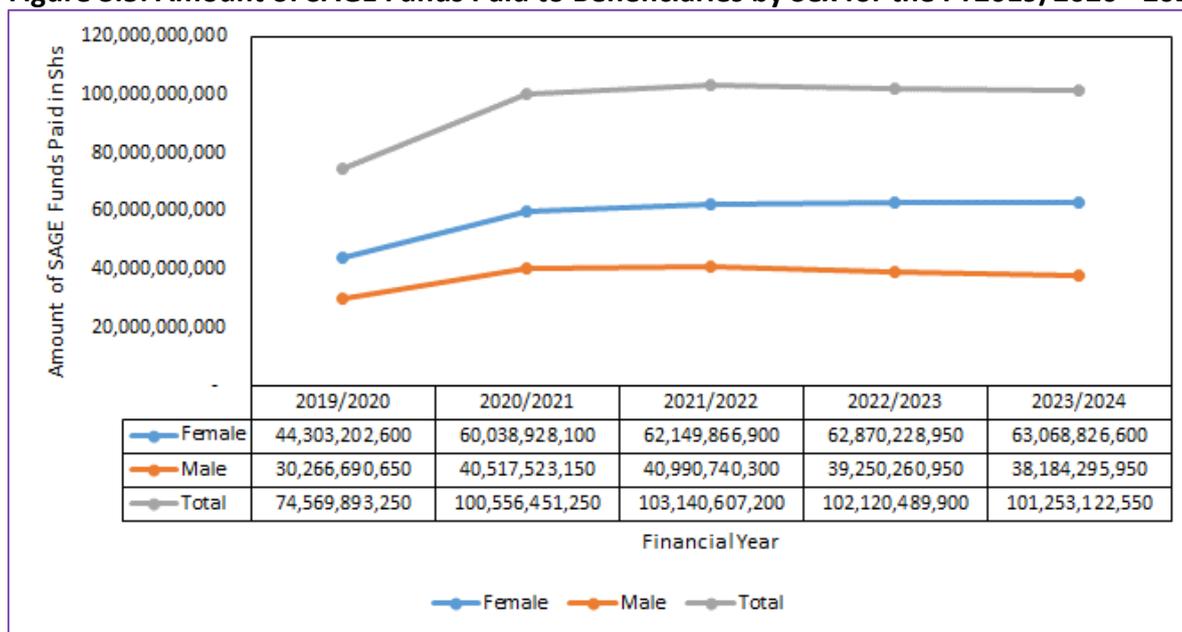
Since the inception of the SAGE Programme in FY2011/2012 - 2023/2024, the number of beneficiaries has been growing over time. At the start, SAGE beneficiaries totalled 12,274, of which males constituted 4,890 (39.8%) while females were 7,384 (61.2%). The number of beneficiaries has since increased to 325,095 Older persons (males 123,671; females 201,424).

3.3.2.2 Payments to the beneficiaries of SAGE

Beneficiaries of the Senior Citizens Grants receive a monthly stipend of UGX25,000 (-an equivalent of about USD8). This amount represents about 20 per cent of the monthly household consumption of the poorest of Uganda’s population.

In the period (2019/20 - 2023/24), UGX481.64 billion was paid out to Older persons. UGX292.431 billion (61%) was paid to female beneficiaries while UGX189.2095 billion (39%) was paid to male Older persons. For all the years, more women enrolled in the Programme than men. Figure 3.5 below presents the amount of SAGE funds paid to beneficiaries by sex for the period FY2019/20 - 2023/24;

Figure 3.5: Amount of SAGE Funds Paid to Beneficiaries by Sex for the FY2019/2020 - 2023/2024



Source: MGLSD SAGE Programme 2019/2020 - 2023/2024

The total amount paid out to SAGE beneficiaries increased steadily to a peak of UGX103.14 billion in FY2021/2022 from UGX74.57 billion in FY2019/2020. However, there was a slight decline in the subsequent years, with UGX101.25 billion paid out in FY2023/2024.

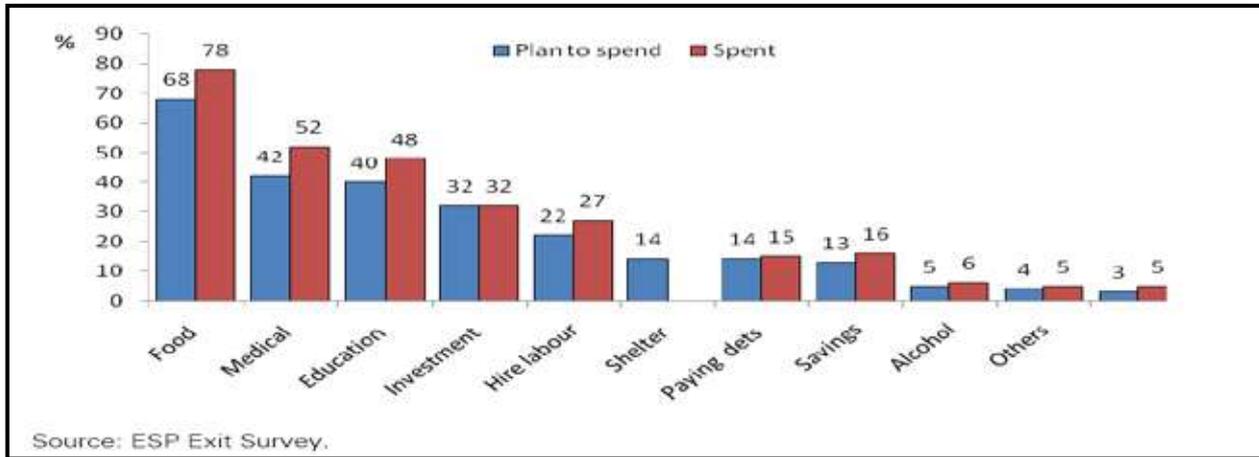
The amount paid to female beneficiaries consistently exceeded that paid to male beneficiaries each year. This reflects the higher number of female beneficiaries in the programme. In the FY2019/2020, the SAGE programme disbursed UGX74.57 billion, with females receiving 59.4% while males got 40.6%. In FY2020/2021, the total payout increased significantly by 34.9 per cent to UGX 100.56 billion. Females received 59.7%, while males got 40.3%.

In FY2021/2022, the total payout further increased by 2.6 per cent, reaching UGX103.14 billion. Females received 60.3%, and males got 39.7%. In FY 2022/2023, the total payout slightly decreased by 1 per cent to UGX102.12 billion. Females received 61.6%, and males got 38.4%. In FY 2023/2024, there was a marginal decrease of 0.85 per cent to UGX101.25 billion. Females received 62.3%, and males got 37.7%.

3.3.2.3 Utilisation of SAGE grants by beneficiaries

With reference made to the ESP Exit Survey, utilisation of SAGE Grants by beneficiaries was ascertained, and the findings are presented in Figure 3.6 below;

Figure 3.6: Utilisation of SAGE Grants by Beneficiaries



The ESP Exit Survey revealed that the majority of the SAGE beneficiaries utilise the funds mainly for food, medical care, education, and investment.

3.3.2.4 Sample Success Stories

“I feel safer with my pieces of land,” Nabakooza.

MADALENA NABAKOOZA lives in Nyakagera Village, Kisijja Parish, Birembo Sub-County, Kakumiro district. (Ben: ID 720008, NIN: CF39016106PFDf)

Ageing comes with a lot of challenges and diseases that limit one’s productivity, hence leading to undignified lives. To reduce old-age poverty, the government of Uganda provides a minimum level of income security of UGX25,000/= to eligible beneficiaries. The 82-year-old Madalena started receiving the senior citizens grant in 2017 at a point when she used to struggle to find what to feed her 7 dependants. She used to stay in a very tiny house by the roadside, and the plot was not big enough for food production.

Nabakooza, in 2021 received a cumulative amount of UGX200,000, as payment for 9 months. Her son provided her with a top-up to acquire a 100ft x 120ft plot of land in the same village. The acquisition of the piece of land was a significant story because Nabakooza feels safer owning land in her name. “I have always wanted to own my pieces of land; I bought the first one from my late husband at UGX100,000/=; buying another piece of land was a great achievement for me because land is getting scarce,” She narrated. Her morale was boosted, and she has been able to grow crops for consumption. This, in turn, improved the quality and quantity of food production in her household.



The following time she accessed the grant, Nabakooza used the cash to buy piglets which she rears for about a year and when they give birth, she sells off the piglets at about UGX60,000/= each. At the time of our visit, there was an expectant pig, an indication of more sales coming in when the pig delivers.

She appreciated the government for the grant and requested that the quarterly payments be maintained because when they receive it as a lump sum, it helps them make some investments, while they use the balances to buy household items like salt, sugar, and access to medication.

The multiplier effect of the Senior Citizens Grant

John Sebugwawo comes from Lugala Village, Kagoma Parish, Kitenga Sub-County, in Mubende district (Ben ID: 1095348, NIN: CM4003110730XH)

To reduce chronic poverty and improve life chances for poor men, women, and children in Uganda, the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, through the Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme implements the Senior Citizens Grant. The elderly aged 80 years and above receive UGX25,000/=, which is cashed out quarterly.

Mzee Sebugwawo in December 2020, received his first payment of the Senior Citizens Grant, totalling UGX300,000/=, which was the entitlement for the entire year. Being a motivated goat keeper, Sebugwawo bought 2 female goats to the tune of UGX275,000/=, adding to the 3 he already had.



Currently, Mzee Sebugwawo owns over 10 goats, which he plans to sell off at the right time to raise money for surgery. He is nursing prostate cancer and has been using most of the recent funds from SAGE to buy medicines. "Mzee has been home for over year and it's our children that graze the goats, the children are supportive and they enjoy grazing because it is like a game for them", the wife added.

Mzee Sebugwawo with his accumulated goats

Kapere Finally Sees Light in his Home

Kapere Deogracious hails from Isingiro Village, Igomanda Parish, in Hamurwa Sub- County, Rubanda District. Kapere enrolled on the programme on 21st May, 2018. He is currently 87 years old. He is the head of household with eight (08) children. For a couple of years, Kapere has been looming in darkness

in his home. The only source of light was “Tadooba” – a small lantern and lighting firewood during evening hours. However, his prayer was answered in 2018 when he started benefiting from the SAGE funds. He got a lump sum of UGX150,000/=, which he used to buy two sheep, each at UGX60,000/=. After two years, the sheep multiplied and they became seven. He sold five of them, which earned him UGX280,000/=:, which he used to purchase a solar lighting system.

Kapere’s family now enjoys lighting during the night, and he uses the power to charge his phones. Not only does this power help Kapere, but he also helps his neighbours to charge their phones. Besides, Kapere has also used his funds to buy cement, which he plans to use for flooring his house. He is too thankful to the Programme for support. However, Mzee Kapere needs to learn how to manage livestock-related challenges like disease management.



Kapere showing his lighting system acquired

Sheep project where Kapere’s story started

Mzee Byaruhanga uses the SAGE Grant to Conserve the Environment

The Senior Citizens Grant has enabled Older persons in different areas of the country to engage in climate change practices that have contributed to the rejuvenation of the environment. Environment degradation and wetland encroachment are on the rise in Kyenjojo district, which has brought the elderly on board to fight environmental degradation by planting trees using their earnings from the Senior Citizens Grant.

Mzee Byaruhanga Kasoro, 75 years old, from Kawanyana Village in Kyenjojo district, is one of the beneficiaries of SAGE, and he has done a tremendous job with the cash he receives. He is among the first SAGE beneficiaries in the district, having started receiving the grant in 2012. According to him, the grant came at the right moment when he was thinking of ways to raise money to start a tree-planting project.

“When I received the first payment of UGX50,000/=:, I used UGX10,000/=: to buy tree seedlings, and part of the balance went into offsetting household needs. I am happy with the Programme because my 5 acres of land were underutilised before I ventured into the project. Since I started planting trees, I have never looked back. I still receive the SAGE Grant but additionally earn from the forest,” says Mzee Byaruhanga.

Owing to the fact that Mzee Byaruhanga plants his trees in phases keeps him in business all year round as he sells full-grown trees and poles. His market stretches from Kyenjojo, his home district, to other neighbouring districts.

“I do not struggle to look for a market for my trees. Customers find me here and pay for the trees. Each tree costs between UGX40,000/= to UGX50,000/=, depending on the size. The forest additionally helps to conserve the environment and control water runoffs,” he added.

Mzee Byaruhanga with supplementary income from the sale of trees, he has been able to construct a commercial building at a nearby trading centre. The construction costs were not something to worry about since all the timber used was obtained from his forest.

Byaruhanga urges fellow Older persons to save part of the grant received and engage in other income-generating activities, like farming and trading, to ensure sustainability.

SAGE is a government social protection initiative that extends monthly grants of UGX25,000/= to Older persons, with 80+ years across the country.



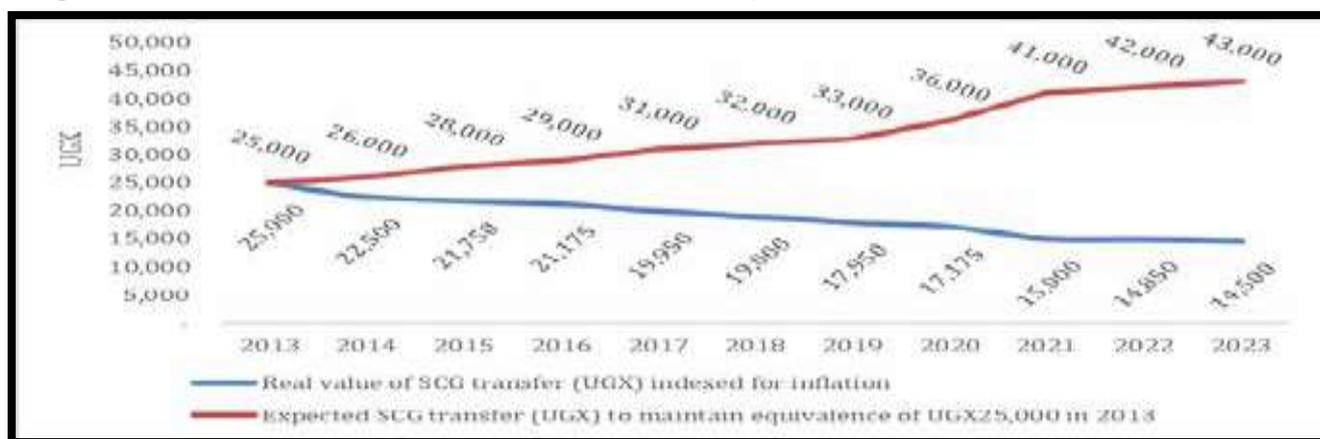
3.3.2.5 Major reforms under SAGE

- i. **Expansion of Coverage:** Initially piloted in a few districts, the SAGE Programme has expanded to cover all districts in Uganda, with the eligibility age for the SCG reduced to 80 years nationwide (and 65 years for Karamoja) to increase the number of beneficiaries.
- ii. **Enhanced Targeting:** The Programme adopted more sophisticated targeting mechanisms to ensure that the most vulnerable and poor elderly persons are prioritised, including the integration of the National Identification System to streamline beneficiary identification and reduce fraud.
- iii. **Increased Financial Inclusion:** The implementation of mobile money and bank transfers as payment methods has enhanced financial inclusion among Older persons, reducing the risks associated with cash payments.
- iv. **Strengthening Institutional Capacity:** There has been a concerted effort to build the capacity of local governments and community structures to manage and monitor the Programme more effectively, ensuring timely payments and reducing administrative errors.

3.3.2.6 Main challenges

Declining value of the grant: In addition to coverage issues, especially for Direct Income Support (DIS), the amounts received by beneficiaries are not responsive to changing macroeconomic indicators. A notable example is the lack of adjustment for inflation in the cash transfer under the SCG. The impact of inflation on SCG amounts is illustrated in Figure 3.7. It shows that the value of UGX 25,000/= in 2013 now has a current purchasing power of about UGX14,500/=, which is less than 10 per cent of GDP per capita. Thus, inflation is eroding the economy-wide gains from SCG cash transfers.

Figure 3.7: The Current Purchasing Power Value of the SCG Cash Transfer (adjusted for inflation using data from IMF World Economic Outlook and UBOS) Relative to its Value in 2013 - 2023



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook and UBOS 2013-2023

The Need for More Financial Resources: The vision, currently being developed by the government, aims to expand tax-financed direct income support to 1.5 per cent of GDP by the fiscal year 2030/31. According to government projections, real economic growth and a gradual increase in tax revenue as a proportion of GDP are expected, with GDP projected to recover to a 6 per cent growth rate per year by 2030/31. This economic growth will generate additional revenues for the government. Allocating a small portion of these revenues can significantly increase direct income transfer spending without substantially affecting increased spending in other sectors in real terms up to FY2030/31. Furthermore, once the reform of the PSPS is implemented, additional fiscal space will be freed up.

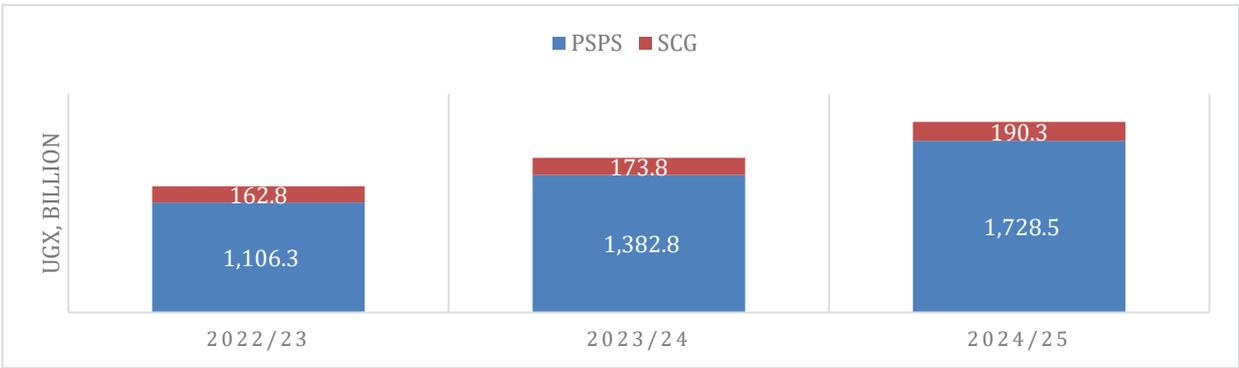
The social protection investment case presents various scenarios that showcase the feasibility, affordability, and sustainability of cash transfer schemes and Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPWs). These scenarios are summarised in the Social Protection (SP) priority areas sub-section below:

Current Commitments and Funding Gaps: The government has committed to budgetary allocations for PSPS, SCG, social care and support services, and livelihood programmes targeting Older persons, persons living with disabilities, and other social development programmes. In FY2021/22, the government allocated approximately UGX14.6 billion for both the existing disability grant and the

special grant for PWDs. Additionally, UGX10 billion was allocated for a special enterprise grant for Older persons (SEGO) in FY2022/23. These grants are expected to be maintained at these funding levels. For instance, it is planned to maintain the budgetary allocation for SEGO at about UGX10 billion per year, totalling UGX50.2 billion over the next five years. In FY2022/23, UGX5 billion was provided to initiate SEGO activities.

For PSPS and SCG funding, if the current status quo is maintained without adjustments for inflation effects and changing eligibility criteria, the projected funds required over the next three years will be similar to what is shown in Figure 3.8. This projection assumes delays in the government reforming the PSPS, as 2 - 3 years might be needed to witness the impact of the reform.

Figure 3.8: Required budgetary expenditures for PSPS, SCG, and livelihood programmes (special disability grant and SEGO) in FY2022/23 – FY2024/25



SCG Funding Gaps: According to the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, in FY 2022/23, out of the UGX146.7 billion required for the SCG, only UGX120.7 billion is projected to be available, leaving a funding gap of UGX26 billion. This shortfall may significantly impact beneficiary verification, registration, enrolment, and payments, leading to the accumulation of beneficiary payment arrears.

Failure to Honour or Raise Funds for Government Commitments: Poor disbursement rates for the SCG are a consequence of the government's failure to honour or raise funds for its commitments. For example, in FY 2020/21, the budgetary allocation for the SCG was UGX62.9 billion, out of which only UGX49.7 billion was released. This affected beneficiary verification, registration, enrolment, and payments, leading to the accumulation of beneficiary payment arrears. Similarly, the PSPS has faced challenges in releases; less than 75 per cent of the pension arrears accumulated by June 2022 have been paid, and 30 per cent of PSPS arrears from previous years up to June 2022 are yet to be cleared.

3.3.2.7 Recommendations

- i. **Increase Funding:** The government should allocate more resources to the SAGE Programme to allow for the expansion of beneficiary coverage and an increase in the value of the grants to better meet the needs of the elderly.
- ii. **Improve Payment Systems:** Strengthening the payment systems, including expanding the use of digital payment platforms, can help reduce delays and ensure timely disbursements to beneficiaries.
- iii. **Enhance Community Engagement:** Increased efforts should be made to raise awareness about the SAGE Programme among potential beneficiaries, particularly in underserved and remote areas, through targeted outreach and community sensitisation campaigns.
- iv. **Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework is essential to identify and address implementation gaps, ensuring that all eligible elderly persons receive their grants consistently and equitably.
- v. **Promote Financial Literacy:** Providing financial literacy training to beneficiaries can help them make better use of their grants, including investing in income-generating activities to enhance their economic security.
- vi. **Policy Integration:** The SAGE Programme should be integrated with other social protection and poverty alleviation initiatives to create synergies and maximise its impact on reducing old-age poverty in Uganda.

3.4 Social Care and Support Services (SCSS)

Social care and support services (SCSS) constitute the second pillar of social protection and are vital in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations in Uganda, including those affected by age, disability, or other limiting circumstances. These services aim to enhance the well-being of individuals unable to fully participate in society and are crucial for ensuring that the most vulnerable members of society receive the necessary support for a dignified life.

3.4.1 Current status of SCSS

In Uganda, SCSS encompass both formal services provided by government and non-governmental organisations, as well as informal community-based support systems. This section explores the current status of these services, highlighting key programmes, evaluating their effectiveness, and identifying areas for improvement.

3.4.1.1 Child labour

Child labour remains a significant issue in Uganda, defined as hazardous or exploitative work that threatens children's health, safety, and development.

Table 3.6: Child Labour Estimates Excluding Household Chores

| Background Characteristics | Proportion as a percentage of total children | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|---|
| | aged 5 -11 years in economic activity | aged 12-13 years in economic activity, excluding light activity | Only official fees paid | Service was free, and only paid a token of thanks |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 20.9 | 30.9 | 12.3 | 20.3 |
| Female | 15.5 | 22 | 7.6 | 14.5 |
| Residence | | | | |
| Rural | 10.9 | 17.2 | 8.9 | 11.3 |
| Urban | 20.8 | 29.3 | 10.3 | 19.5 |
| Schooling status | | | | |
| Attending school | 19.4 | 26.4 | 7.2 | 17.7 |
| Not in school | 11.2 | 27.1 | 20.9 | 16.1 |
| Sub-regions | | | | |
| Kampala | 0.5 | 2.6 | 6.9 | 2.7 |
| Buganda- South | 10.6 | 20.6 | 9.9 | 11.9 |
| Buganda -North | 18.1 | 25.9 | 16.4 | 18.9 |
| Busoga | 34.6 | 36.3 | 8.2 | 28.6 |
| Bukedi | 31.6 | 44.9 | 11.2 | 28.3 |
| Elgon | 23.2 | 22.1 | 9.9 | 19.3 |
| Teso | 16.6 | 22.5 | 13.2 | 16.7 |
| Karamoja | 12.6 | 31.1 | 19.8 | 16.9 |
| Lango | 21.9 | 32.8 | 2.9 | 18.2 |
| Acholi | 7.6 | 15 | 3.5 | 7.7 |
| West Nile | 20.4 | 28.1 | 14.3 | 20.1 |
| Bunyoro | 10.4 | 31.2 | 7.3 | 13.2 |
| Tooro | 17.6 | 21.9 | 6.6 | 15.4 |
| Ankole | 14 | 22.2 | 10.1 | 14.2 |
| Kigezi | 16.3 | 23.7 | 8 | 15.2 |
| Uganda | 18.3 | 26.4 | 10 | 17.5 |

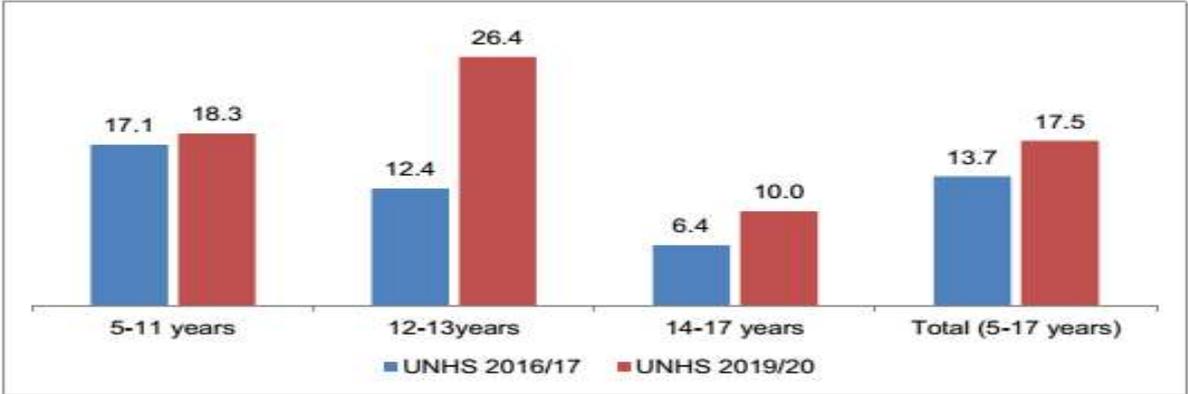
Source: UNHS, 2020

Overall, 18 per cent of children aged 5 -17 years were involved in child labour. Out of the children aged 5 -11 years, eighteen per cent were in child labour. Sex differentials showed that more males (20%) than females (15%) aged 5 -17 years were engaged in child labour. About eighteen per cent of the children aged 5 -17 years currently attending school were in child labour. Busoga and Bukedi sub-regions had the highest proportion of children aged 5 -17 years in child labour (29% and 28% respectively).

18.3 per cent of children aged 5 -11 years are engaged in economic activities. This indicates that nearly one in five children in this age group are involved in work, which could include various forms of labour, contributing to family income, or other economic activities. 26.4 per cent of children aged 12 -13 years are involved in economic activities, excluding light activities. This suggests that over a quarter of children in this age group are engaged in more substantial forms of labour, which could interfere with their education and development. 10 per cent of the children’s households reported that they paid only official fees for services.

Regarding the percentage of children aged 5 -17 years engaged in child labour, Uganda made moderate advancements in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. Accordingly, the percentage of children aged 5 -17 years engaged in child labour reduced from 30.9 per cent in FY2017/2018 to 18 per cent (male 20%; female 15%) above the NDPIII target of 28.9 per cent. Busoga and Bukedi sub-regions had the highest proportion of children aged 5 -17 years in child labour (male 29% and female 28%). Figure 3.9 below presents trends in child labour estimates excluding household chores (%).

Figure 3.9 Trends in Child Labour Estimates Excluding Household Chores (%)



Source: UNHS, 2020

There is a general trend of increase in child labour across all age groups except for a moderate increase in the 5 -11 years group. The most significant rise is observed in the 12 -13 years age group. The age group 12 -13 years shows a drastic increase, which could indicate a shift or intensification of child labour issues within this specific age bracket. The percentage change in the 12 -13 years age group is notably high, which suggests a need for targeted interventions.

The reduction is attributed to the fact that government increased its efforts to investigate, prosecute, and sentence culprits complicit in facilitating the worst forms of child labour. Uganda also reconstituted its National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour. In addition, the government approved a new national action plan to address child labour. However, some children in Uganda are still subjected to the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in gold mining.

The lack of a centralised supervisory authority, along with inadequate funding, training, and resources, hampered the capacity of law enforcement agencies to conduct child labour inspections and investigations. There is need to empower the National Children's Authority along with inadequate funding, training, and resources to conduct child labour inspections and investigations.

3.4.1.2 Child protection from abuse and violence

Approximately 40 per cent of children in Uganda are protected from various forms of abuse and violence. Efforts by organisations such as UNICEF and Save the Children are crucial in improving child protection and reducing poverty through social protection programmes and community-based interventions. Table 3.7 below shows the current status of indicators on child protection from abuse and violence.

Table 3.7: Current Status of Indicators on Child Protection from Abuse and Violence

| Indicators | Disaggregation | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Component 3- Social Care and Support Services | | | | | |
| Alcohol abuse Rate (%) | National | 5.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 | N/A |
| ART Coverage (%) | National | 91 | 95 | 98 | N/A |
| No. of children's institutions provided food and non-food items | Remand Homes | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | Rehabilitation Centre | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Reception Centre | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Total | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| No. of children accessing social care and support in the remand homes | Boys | 1,149 | 1,286 | 668 | 730 |
| | Girls | 70 | 60 | 21 | 35 |
| | Total | 1,219 | 1,346 | 689 | 765 |
| No. of new HIV infections per 1,000 susceptible population | National | 1.30 | 1.34 | 1.37 | N/A |
| Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population | National | N/A | 200 | 198 | N/A |
| Annual Cancer Incident Cases | National | 80,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Annual Cardio-vascular Incident cases | National | N/A | N/A | 2,539 | N/A |

High alcohol abuse rates can indirectly impact children through family instability and increased risk of neglect or abuse. The decrease in the alcohol abuse rate from 5.8 per cent to 2.5 per cent may positively affect children by potentially reducing risks associated with parental substance abuse.

ART coverage is crucial for children living with HIV/AIDS, as it directly impacts their health outcomes and quality of life. The increase in ART coverage from 91 per cent to 98 per cent suggests improved access to essential HIV treatment for children, which is vital for their survival and health.

Nine institutions have continued to provide SCSS to children during the period under review. The number of boys provided care decreased from 1,149 in FY2020/21 to 730 in FY2023/24, sharply dropping in 2022/23. The number of girls on the other hand decreased from 70 in FY2020/21 to 35 in FY2023/24, with fluctuations over the years. The total number of children receiving support decreased from 1,219 in FY2020/21 to 765 in FY2023/24.

The decrease in the number of children accessing care may indicate a reduction in the population of children in remand homes or changes in service provision. The gender disparity suggests different impacts or needs for boys and girls, warranting further investigation.

New HIV infections among children can impact their health and access to care services. The slight increase to 1.37 from 1.30 per 1,000 susceptible population indicates ongoing challenges in preventing new HIV infections among children. This trend highlights the need for enhanced prevention strategies and support.

High tuberculosis incidence affects children’s health, especially those in high-risk environments. Although data is missing for FY2020/21, the incidence was 200 per 100,000 in FY2021/22 and slightly decreased to 198 in FY2022/23. Addressing tuberculosis is crucial for improving children's health, and the slight decrease suggests some progress.

The high number of cancer cases (80,000 in FY2020/21) points to a significant health concern. The lack of recent data makes it challenging to assess current trends and their impact on children.

3.4.1.3 Households that are food secure

Ensuring that all individuals have reliable access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life is a fundamental aspect of social protection. It is a crucial determinant of health, well-being, and economic productivity. Achieving food security is a primary objective of social protection programmes, particularly in regions prone to food shortages and economic instability. Table 3.8 below presents the percentage of food-secure households in Uganda;

Table 3.8: Percentage of food-secure households in Uganda

| GEB Indicators | Baseline 2017/18 | Target 2020/21 | Status 2020/21 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| % of food-secure households | 69.0 | 75.2 | 78.3 |

Source: MAAIF, Agro Industrialisation Programme Annual Performance Report FY2020/21

The percentage of food-secure households increased by 9.3 per cent to 78.7 per cent in FY2020/21, from 69 per cent in FY2018/2019, above the NDP III target of 75.2 per cent. However, despite the reported increase in the percentage of food-secure households, food insecurity is a critical problem that affects households in Uganda. Most recently, several families in the Karamoja sub-region were faced with starvation.

3.4.1.4 Status of malnourishment

Malnourishment remains a pressing issue affecting millions of children globally, and Uganda is no exception. The status of malnourishment among children is a key indicator of public health and socio-economic conditions, revealing critical insights into the effectiveness of health interventions and social protection measures. Malnutrition, which encompasses stunting, wasting, overweight, and underweight, can have profound and lasting impacts on a child's physical growth, cognitive development, and overall well-being. Table 3.9 below presents the percentage distribution of children aged 0 - 59 months classified as malnourished.

Table 3.9: Percentage of Children Aged 0 - 59 Months Classified as Malnourished

| Malnutrition Category | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Stunted (too short for age) | 24.4 |
| Wasted (too thin for height) | 3.2 |
| Overweight (too heavy for weight) | 3.4 |
| Underweight (too thin for age) | 9.7 |

Source: UDHS, 2022

In Uganda, the prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 0 - 59 months presents a multi-faceted challenge. Recent statistics show that 24.4% of children are classified as stunted, 3.2% as wasted, 3.4% as overweight, and 9.7% as underweight. These figures not only highlight the scope of the problem but also underscore the need for targeted interventions to address the underlying causes of malnutrition. Table 3.10 below presents the trends of the percentage of children aged 6 - 59 months by nutrition status.

Table 3.10: Trends of Percentage Children Aged 6-59 Months by Nutrition Status

| Malnutrition Category | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Stunted | 38 | 33 | 29 | 26 |
| Underweight | 16 | 14 | 11 | 10.2 |
| Wasted | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2.9 |
| Overweight | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2.8 |

Source: UDHS, 2022

Disparities within different communities, including refugee and host settings, further complicate the malnutrition landscape. For example, stunting rates are notably higher in refugee communities (26.9%) compared to host communities (30.1%), while childhood wasting is more prevalent in refugee settings (4.6%) than in host communities (2.5%).

Examining historical trends provides a clearer picture of progress and persistent issues. From 2006 to 2022, the percentage of stunted children has decreased from 38% to 26%, while underweight rates have dropped from 16% to 10.2%. Improvements in wasting rates, from 6% to 2.9%, reflect positive changes, although the fluctuating rates of overweight indicate an evolving nutritional challenge.

3.4.1.5 Nutrition status among children in refugee and host communities

In Uganda, the nutritional status of children in both refugee and host communities is a crucial aspect of social protection and public health. With Uganda hosting approximately 1.5 million refugees, particularly from neighbouring countries, understanding the nutritional challenges faced by these populations is essential for effective policy-making and intervention. Table 3.11 below shows the percentage of children under five (5) years by nutrition status among refugees and the host communities;

Table 3.11: Percentage of Children Under Five(5) Years by Nutrition Status

| | Refugee | Host community | National |
|--------------------|---------|----------------|----------|
| Stunting | 26.9 | 30.1 | 24.4 |
| Childhood wasting | 4.6 | 2.5 | 3.2 |
| Underweight status | 12.1 | 10.2 | 9.7 |

Source: UDHS, 2022

Recent data reveals that stunting affects 26.9% of children in refugee communities compared to 30.1% in host communities, indicating a complex interplay of factors influencing nutritional outcomes. Additionally, childhood wasting is reported at 4.6% in refugee settings versus 2.5% in host communities, suggesting differences in the effectiveness of nutrition and health interventions. The prevalence of underweight status also differs, with 12.1% in refugee communities compared to 10.2% in host communities.

3.4.1.6 Child growth measure by wealth

In Uganda, socioeconomic disparities significantly influence the nutritional health and growth of children. Understanding how wealth impacts child growth measures is essential for evaluating the effectiveness of social protection programmes and identifying gaps that need to be addressed. Table 3.12 below shows the Percentage of malnourished children aged 6 - 59 months by wealth quintiles;

Table 3.12: Percentage of Malnourished Children Aged 6 - 59 Months by Wealth Quintiles

| | Lowest | Second | Middle | Fourth | Highest |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Stunted | 30.3 | 26.2 | 29.7 | 24.6 | 18.9 |
| Wasted | 4.9 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 1.1 |
| Overweight | 1.8 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 4 |
| Underweight | 16.3 | 9.6 | 11.3 | 8.2 | 4.8 |

Source: UDHS, 2022

Socio-economic factors play a significant role in malnutrition. Children from lower wealth quintiles experience higher rates of stunting (30.3%) and underweight (16.3%) compared to their counterparts from higher wealth quintiles, who exhibit higher rates of overweight (4%). These disparities highlight the importance of tailored social protection strategies that address the unique needs of refugee populations while also supporting host communities. Effective social protection measures are crucial for ensuring that both groups have access to adequate nutrition, healthcare, and other essential services.

3.4.2 Support to GBV prevention and response

Among women and Men aged 15 – 49 Years:

- 23% of women and 14% of men experienced physical Violence in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 11% of women and 4% of men experienced sexual violence in the last 12 months before the survey.
- 84% of women whose husbands are often drunk have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence.

Among currently married women aged 15 – 49 Years:

- 52% of married women with cash earnings participate in decisions about how to use their earnings.
- 80% of married women can say no to their husbands if they do not want to have sexual intercourse.
- 40% of married women do not participate in specific household decision-making.

Table 3.13: GBV Prevalence

| GEB Indicators | Baseline 2017/18 | Target 2020/21 | Status 2020/21 |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GBV prevalence | 56.0 | 50.0 | 55% |

Source: UNHS (2019/2020)

In 2021 (January - June), RRP partners managed 2,541 new GBV incidents in 13 refugee hosting districts in Uganda, reaching 55% of the expected target of 4,350. 94% of the survivors were female, while 4% were male. Rape was registered highest at 29%, followed by physical assault (26%).

Gender-based violence and poor management of victims have led to increased exclusion and discrimination (social isolation), a continuous cycle of violence (suicide, hatred, and attitude of revenge), physical injuries, death, health, and psychological problems. As a measure, the Government instituted a sub-programme under the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development to address the vice. Table 3.14 below presents funding (in billions) towards the fight against GBV for the period 2015/16 - 2020/21;

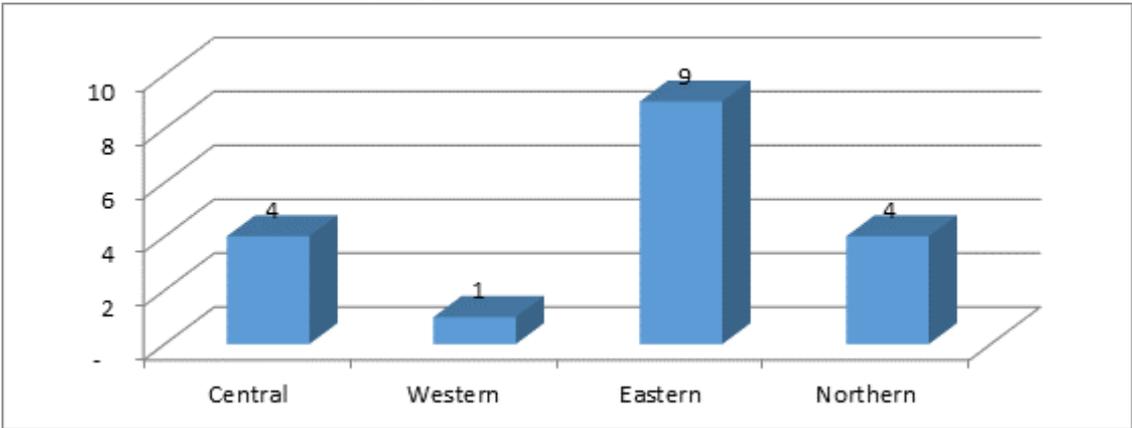
Table 3.14: Presents Funding Towards the Fight against GBV for the Period 2015/16 -2020/21

| FY | UNFPA | UN-WOMEN | UNDP | GoU to REACH | MGLSD Support to GBV Prevention | Total |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 2019/2020 | 1.438 | 0.157 | 0.2905 | 0.2 | 0.01 | 2.096 |
| 2020/2021 | 3.017 | 0.000 | 0.551 | 0.2 | 0.02 | 3.788 |
| Total | 9.174 | 0.356 | 0.842 | 1.200 | 0.030 | 11.601 |

Source: MGLSD, 2015/16 - 2020/21

During the period under review, UGX11.601 billion was invested in the fight against GBV. The funding was contributed by both the Government of Uganda and the Development Partners, with UNFPA making the highest investment. Given the widespread cases of GBV across the Country, GBV shelters have been established by region, as presented in Figure 3.24 below;

Figure 3.10: GBV Shelters by Region

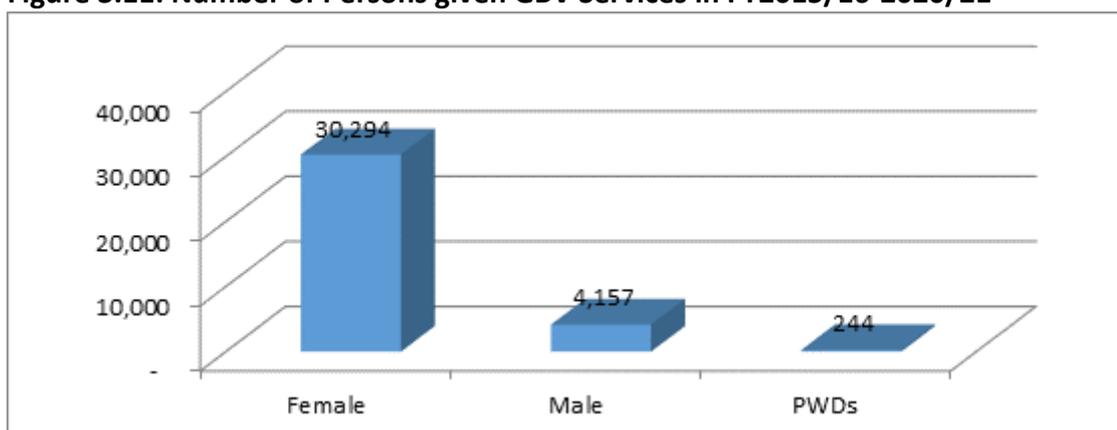


| Central | Western | Eastern | Northern |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| Bwaise Ntinda Mubende Masaka | Mbarara | Pallisa Tororo Kumi Katakwi Kween Moroto Jinja Kamuli Namutumba | Lira Gulu Amuru Nebbi |

Source: MGLSD, 2020/21

Services provided include psychosocial support, temporary sheltering, legal aid, mediation, re-integration, and medical treatment support. However, Government funding for GBV remains very low and not in tandem with the rising cases, especially targeting women. Figure 3.11 below presents the number of GBV cases handled in the period under review;

Figure 3.11: Number of Persons given GBV Services in FY2015/16-2020/21



Source: MGLSD, 2020/21

During the period under review, a total of 34,695 people received GBV services, out of which 30,294 (87%) were female, while 4,157 were male (12%), and 244 PWDs (1%).

3.4.3 Health Insurance Scheme

The government recognises that ill health has two implications for the well-being of affected households. The first implication of ill health is that it interrupts the economic activities of households as a result of days lost in the course of the illness or taking care of a sick family member; secondly, it reduces the disposable income of households through increased expenditure on transport to health facilities, consultation fees in private health facilities, medical examinations and drugs. Uganda has been working on implementing a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) scheme to expand access to healthcare services across the country. Here are some of the achievements regarding the Universal Health Insurance scheme in Uganda

-
- i. **National Health Insurance Bill 2019:** The National Health Insurance Bill was drafted to establish a National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) aimed at achieving UHC. The bill seeks to pool resources for health financing, ensure equity in access to healthcare services, and protect individuals from financial hardship due to healthcare costs.
 - ii. **Pilot Projects and Rollout:** Pilot projects were initiated to test the feasibility and effectiveness of the NHIS in selected districts. These pilots provided valuable insights into implementation challenges, service delivery improvements, and community acceptance, guiding the nationwide rollout.
 - iii. **Health Financing Reforms:** Government efforts focused on increasing health financing through budgetary allocations and mobilisation of resources. Enhanced funding has supported infrastructure development, procurement of medical supplies, and capacity building of healthcare providers, thereby improving service delivery.
 - iv. **Expansion of Healthcare Services:** Emphasis on expanding access to essential health services, including maternal and child health, immunisation, and treatment for communicable diseases. Increased coverage and utilisation of healthcare services have been observed, contributing to improved health outcomes and reduced mortality rates.
 - v. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** Encouraging PPPs in healthcare delivery to leverage private sector expertise and resources. Partnerships have facilitated the establishment of health facilities, provision of specialised services, and innovation in healthcare management, enhancing overall service quality.
 - vi. **Community Engagement and Awareness:** Public awareness campaigns and community engagement initiatives to promote understanding of UHC benefits and rights.

These achievements underline Uganda's commitment to achieving UHC, aiming to ensure that all citizens have access to essential healthcare services without suffering financial hardship. Ongoing efforts continue to focus on overcoming challenges such as funding gaps, infrastructure limitations, and disparities in healthcare access between urban and rural areas.

3.4.3.1 Population access to health insurance

Access to health insurance plays a crucial role in ensuring equitable healthcare provision and financial protection for individuals and families. In Uganda, as in many countries, the availability and accessibility of health insurance have significant implications for population health outcomes and economic stability. This section examines the landscape of health insurance coverage within the broader context of social protection initiatives in Uganda.

Health insurance serves as a vital component of social protection, aiming to mitigate financial barriers to healthcare services and promote UHC. It does not only shield individuals from the high costs of medical care but also fosters preventive healthcare measures, thereby improving overall public health indicators.

Table 3.15: Percentage of the Population Accessing Health Insurance

| Sex | 2019/2020 |
|--------------|------------------|
| Male | 3.9% |
| Female | 3.9% |
| Rural | 2.0% |
| Urban | 6.4% |
| Total | 3.9% |

Source: UNHS, 2019/2020

Approximately 3.9% of Uganda's population has health insurance coverage. Medical insurance remains the fastest-growing class of insurance business in Uganda, contributing about 20 per cent of the overall gross written premiums in the industry. It has gained appeal for most corporate organisations over the years, accounting for about 95 per cent of all registered health insurance businesses because it is offered by employers as a benefit to staff and a form of staff motivation.

However, there is very little enrollment from individual policyholders. This is because individual health insurance packages tend to be expensive. In addition, insurance companies have mainly concentrated on corporate entities for medical insurance products, leaving out the majority of Ugandans.

In terms of performance, Medical Insurance Gross Written premiums have consistently been growing year-on-year from UGX107.6 billion in 2014 to about UGX244.98 billion in 2021 and also UGX321.33 billion in 2022. The positive trend is likely to continue as more and more corporate organisations and individuals appreciate the benefits of medical insurance coverage. Conversely, medical Insurance has also experienced a significant increase in claims over the past eight years, culminating in UGX117.8 billion in 2021 and UGX170.6 billion in 2022.

Despite the overall good picture, the medical insurance business remains fraught with significant challenges, including fraud, high loss ratios, delayed claims payments, and abuse of insurance policies by clients and service providers.

3.4.4 Health insurance among persons aged 15 years and above by background characteristics

Health insurance is a crucial component of social protection, providing individuals with financial security and access to necessary medical services. In many countries, the distribution of health insurance coverage varies significantly across different demographic and socio-economic groups. Understanding these variations is essential for designing inclusive policies that ensure equitable

access to healthcare for all segments of the population. Table 3.16 below presents health insurance coverage among persons aged 15 years and above by background characteristics.

Table 3.16: Health Insurance among Persons Aged 15 Years and Above by Background Characteristics

| Back ground Characteristics | | Knowledge about health insurance | Have health insurance cover (%) | Type of insurance cover used | | | Proportion who considers joining |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | Fully paid by employer | Partially paid by employer | Fully paid by household | |
| Sex | Female | 11.5 | 3.9 | 60.2 | 10.0 | 29.8 | 42.1 |
| | Male | 15.4 | 3.9 | 63.8 | 17.3 | 18.9 | 36.1 |
| Age (years) | 15 - 19 | 6.1 | 0.9 | 46.1 | 14.0 | 39.9 | 29.3 |
| | 20 - 24 | 14.0 | 1.9 | 31.8 | 7.3 | 60.8 | 40.4 |
| | 18 - 30 | 17.8 | 4.4 | 56.5 | 14.6 | 28.9 | 43.7 |
| | 31 -59 | 15.9 | 5.8 | 67.0 | 15.9 | 17.1 | 39.6 |
| | 60 years & | 10.1 | 2.2 | 87.5 | 0.0 | 12.5 | 37.1 |
| Residence | Rural | 9.6 | 2.0 | 54.4 | 13.7 | 31.9 | 37.5 |
| | Urban | 22.7 | 6.4 | 65.6 | 14.6 | 19.8 | 40.0 |
| Sub-regions | Kampala | 33.6 | 7.3 | 72.2 | 11.8 | 16.0 | 37.7 |
| | Buganda North | 24.5 | 6.3 | 58.9 | 13.1 | 28.0 | 37.5 |
| | Buganda South | 16.9 | 3.0 | 50.3 | 23.6 | 26.1 | 27.2 |
| | Busoga | 10.6 | 2.4 | 61.8 | 26.1 | 12.1 | 26.6 |
| | Bukedi | 6.5 | 2.6 | 63.2 | 0.0 | 36.8 | 36.3 |
| | Elgon | 20.5 | 2.0 | 75.5 | 19.5 | 5.0 | 54.6 |
| | Teso | 7.2 | 1.0 | 55.9 | 0.0 | 44.1 | 19.5 |
| | Karamoja | 3.2 | 1.4 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 19.8 |
| | Lango | 5.6 | 5.2 | 83.4 | 4.1 | 12.4 | 42.5 |
| | Acholi | 10.5 | 2.5 | 62.3 | 37.7 | 0.0 | 57.0 |
| | West Nile | 8.3 | 3.8 | 71.5 | 13.0 | 15.5 | 50.9 |
| | Bunyoro | 13.7 | 2.8 | 44.5 | 26.8 | 28.7 | 47.4 |
| | Tooro | 9.0 | 1.6 | 31.0 | 0.0 | 69.0 | 48.5 |
| | Ankole | 7.9 | 2.2 | 66.4 | 0.0 | 33.6 | 46.5 |
| Kigezi | 5.7 | 1.5 | 20.7 | 0.0 | 79.3 | 34.8 | |
| PRDP Districts | Sporadically | 8.2 | 3.4 | 77.2 | 1.0 | 21.7 | 47.4 |
| | Severely | 8.1 | 2.2 | 74.8 | 25.2 | 0.0 | 45.5 |
| | Spill overs | 12.3 | 2.1 | 69.1 | 12.6 | 18.3 | 44.6 |
| | Rest of the | 15.4 | 4.4 | 59.8 | 15.3 | 24.8 | 36.0 |
| Mountainous | Mountainous | 14.3 | 2.2 | 76.2 | 11.6 | 12.2 | 49.2 |
| | Non- | 13.3 | 4.1 | 61.6 | 14.5 | 23.9 | 37.6 |
| Uganda | | 13.4 | 3.9 | 62.3 | 14.3 | 23.4 | 38.6 |

Source: UDHS 2022

Overall, only 13.4% of individuals aged 15 years and above are aware of health insurance, indicating limited awareness across the population. This low level of awareness is a significant barrier to achieving comprehensive social protection. Males (15.4%) have slightly higher awareness levels than females (11.5%), suggesting a gender disparity in knowledge about health insurance. Awareness increases with age, peaking at 18 - 30 years (17.8%) and then slightly declining. Young adults (15 -19 years) have the least awareness (6.1%), indicating the need for targeted educational campaigns for younger populations. Regarding residence, urban residents (22.7%) are more knowledgeable than rural residents (9.6%), highlighting the urban-rural divide in health insurance awareness. Significant regional disparities exist, with Kampala showing the highest awareness (33.6%) and Karamoja the lowest (3.2%).

Regarding Health Insurance Coverage, only 3.9% of individuals aged 15 years and above have health insurance, revealing a critical gap in social protection coverage. Coverage is equal for both males and females (3.9%), suggesting no significant gender disparity in access to health insurance. About age, coverage is highest among individuals aged 1- 59 years (5.8%) and lowest among those aged 15 - 19 years (0.9%). The low coverage among the youngest age group is concerning and indicates the need for policies that encourage early enrollment in health insurance schemes. Urban areas have higher coverage (6.4%) compared to rural areas (2.0%), emphasising the urban-rural gap in access to health insurance. Kampala leads with 7.3% coverage, while regions like Teso (1.0%) and Karamoja (1.4%) lag significantly behind, indicating regional inequities in health insurance coverage.

3.4.5 Population living within 5km radius of a health facility

Access to health services is a crucial component of social protection, ensuring that individuals can receive necessary medical care promptly. In Uganda, the geographical distribution of health facilities plays a significant role in determining the accessibility and quality of healthcare. One key metric for assessing this accessibility is the proportion of the population living within a 5km radius of a health facility. This measure reflects how well the health infrastructure is positioned to serve the population, particularly in rural and underserved areas. According to the UDHS (2022), 91 per cent (*Rural 89.9%: Urban 93.8%*) of the population in Uganda lives within 5kms radius of a health facility.

3.4.6 Household access to basic social services (education and health)

Access to basic social services such as education and healthcare is fundamental to the well-being and development of individuals and communities. These services are cornerstones of social protection systems, playing a pivotal role in reducing poverty, promoting equality, and fostering sustainable development. Ensuring that all households have access to quality education and healthcare is a primary goal of social protection policies worldwide. Table 3.17 below presents the percentage of the population in Uganda accessing socio-economic services over recent years.

Table 3.17: Percentage of the Population in Uganda Accessing Socio-Economic Services 2020-2023

| Year | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2020 | 47 |
| 2021 | 50 |
| 2022 | 52 |
| 2023 | 55 |

Source: UBOS 2020-2023

The percentage of the population in Uganda accessing socio-economic services has shown gradual improvement over recent years, reflecting efforts to enhance public service delivery and infrastructure development. These socio-economic services include health, education, sanitation, and social protection measures. The incremental improvements are attributed to ongoing government initiatives and international support aimed at enhancing infrastructure and service delivery systems.

3.4.7 Family and community capacity to provide and care

In Uganda, the capacity of families and communities to support and care for vulnerable individuals has been a cornerstone of social protection efforts. Recognising the important role that families and communities play in ensuring the well-being of their members, the government and various stakeholders have implemented numerous initiatives aimed at strengthening these foundational units. Over the past decade, significant achievements and reforms have been made to enhance the ability of families and communities to provide essential care and support. These efforts have not only improved access to direct income support but have also fostered resilience and self-reliance at the grassroots level. The major accomplishments and policy reforms from 2015 to 2024 that have bolstered family and community capacities, ensuring a more inclusive and supportive social protection system in Uganda, include the following:

- i. **Implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM):** Launched to drive socio-economic transformation at the parish level by empowering communities to identify and address their needs. The PDM Secretariat, which is housed within the Ministry of Local Government and is the lead implementing agency, reported that 946,000 households had received funds as of November 10, 2023. The goal is to reach 3.5 million households among the 39 per cent of households who are not part of the money economy.
- ii. **Expansion of Community-Based Health Services:** Strengthened the delivery of health services at the community level, including maternal and child health, immunisations, and HIV/AIDS care. In 2022, community health workers (CHWs) had reached over 80 per cent of households, improving health outcomes and reducing child and maternal mortality rates (MoH, 2022).
- iii. **Strengthening of Community Development Programmes:** Enhanced programmes aimed at building community resilience, such as the Community-Driven Development (CDD) initiative.
- iv. **Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC):** Programmes providing education, health, and psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children. By 2022, over 600,000 OVCs had received support through various government and NGO initiatives, improving their well-being and access to essential services (Uganda National OVC Policy, 2022).

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- v. **Promotion of Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations (SACCOs):** Encouraged the formation and strengthening of SACCOs to provide financial services at the community level. There are over 8,000 active SACCOs with a membership of over 3 million people, enhancing financial inclusion and economic stability (Uganda Microfinance Support Centre, 2023).
 - vi. **Decentralisation of Social Protection Services:** Transferred the delivery of social protection services to local governments to improve accessibility and responsiveness. Over 85 per cent of districts had established functional social protection units, enhancing service delivery at the grassroots level (MoLG, 2021).
 - vii. **Integration of Social Protection in National Development Plans:** Incorporated social protection goals into Uganda's National Development Plans (NDPII and NDPIII). These plans prioritised social protection as a key strategy for poverty reduction, leading to increased investment and programmatic support (National Planning Authority, 2020).

Uganda has made significant progress in enhancing the capacity of families and communities to provide and care for individuals in need. Key achievements include implementation of the PDM, expansion of community-based health services, and support for OVC. These efforts have been supported by key reforms such as the adoption of the National Social Protection Policy Framework, decentralisation of services, and strengthening of public-private partnerships.

3.5 Systems for Social Protection Strengthening

Uganda has made significant strides in establishing systems to strengthen social protection, aiming to provide a robust framework for the welfare and security of its citizens. These systems are vital in ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of social protection services across the country. This section outlines the current status of key components essential for social protection strengthening in Uganda, including Human Resources, the Legal and Policy Framework, Payment Systems, the National Single Registry, Programme Information Management Systems, and Complaints and Grievance Mechanisms.

- i. **Human Resources;** The development and deployment of skilled human resources are key for the effective implementation of social protection programmes. Uganda has invested in training and capacity-building initiatives to enhance the competencies of personnel involved in social protection. As of the latest data, Uganda has approximately 10,000 professionals dedicated to social protection across various sectors, including social workers, community development officers, and programme managers. However, challenges such as inadequate staffing levels, particularly in rural areas, and the need for continuous professional development remain.
- ii. **Legal and Policy Framework;** Uganda's social protection landscape is guided by a comprehensive legal and policy framework that provides the foundation for programme implementation. The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), enacted in 2015, serves as the cornerstone for these efforts, supported by related laws such as the Public Service Pension Act

and the NSSF Act. The recent amendments to these laws aim to improve coverage and inclusiveness. Despite these advancements, gaps remain in enforcement and the need for further harmonisation of policies to cover emerging social protection needs.

- iii. **Payment Systems;** Efficient and reliable payment systems are vital for the timely disbursement of social protection benefits. Uganda has made progress by adopting digital payment platforms to enhance the distribution of social protection funds. The use of mobile money and bank transfers has increased accessibility, particularly in remote areas. As of 2024, over 70 per cent of social protection payments are processed through digital means, reducing the risks of fraud and ensuring that beneficiaries receive their entitlements promptly. However, the challenge of digital literacy among beneficiaries and infrastructure limitations in certain regions persist.
- iv. **National Single Registry;** The establishment of a National Single Registry is a significant milestone in Uganda's efforts to streamline social protection programmes. This registry consolidates data from various social protection initiatives, enabling better targeting and coordination of services. As of 2023, the registry covers over 80 per cent of social protection beneficiaries, with ongoing efforts to integrate data from additional programmes and regions. The registry has improved transparency and reduced duplication of benefits, though challenges remain in data accuracy and regular updates.
- v. **Programme Information Management System;** Uganda has developed a Programme Information Management System (PIMS) to support the monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes. This system allows for real-time data collection, analysis, and reporting, facilitating evidence-based decision-making. The PIMS is currently operational in all districts, covering key programmes such as SAGE and YLP. The system has enhanced programme management, but there is a need for further integration with other government databases to improve overall efficiency.
- vi. **Complaints and Grievance Mechanisms;** The establishment of robust complaints and grievance mechanisms is essential for ensuring accountability and responsiveness in social protection delivery. Uganda has implemented various channels, including toll-free hotlines, community feedback forums, and digital platforms, to allow beneficiaries to report issues and seek redress. As of 2023, over 60 per cent of complaints are resolved within 30 days, reflecting a commitment to improving service delivery. However, challenges such as limited awareness of these mechanisms among beneficiaries and the need for more localised grievance handling processes remain.

Uganda has made notable progress in establishing systems for social protection strengthening, but there are still areas requiring further development and investment. Continuous efforts to enhance human resource capacities, refine legal frameworks, expand payment systems, improve data management, and strengthen grievance mechanisms will be important in ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of social protection programmes in Uganda.

3.6 Status of Institutional Capacity for Provision of Social Protection Services

Institutional capacity is a critical determinant of the effectiveness and reach of social protection services. In Uganda, significant efforts have been made over the past decade to enhance the capabilities of institutions responsible for delivering these vital services. From policy reforms and increased budget allocations to the decentralisation of service delivery and the strengthening of human resources, these measures have collectively bolstered the nation's ability to support its vulnerable populations. The major reforms and achievements in Uganda's institutional capacity for social protection services from 2015 to 2024 include:

- i. **Establishment of the Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme:** Launched in 2010 and scaled up significantly since 2015, the ESP programme aims to build a comprehensive social protection system. By 2023, the programme had expanded to cover all districts in Uganda, with over 500,000 beneficiaries under the Senior Citizens Grant (ESP Secretariat, 2023).
- ii. **Creation of the National Social Protection Policy Framework:** Adopted in 2015, this framework provides a structured approach to the development and implementation of social protection programmes. It facilitated the coordination of social protection interventions across different sectors, improving policy coherence and service delivery (MGLSD, 2016).
- iii. **Strengthening of the Uganda Social Protection Secretariat:** The Secretariat was reinforced to enhance its capacity for policy development, programme implementation, and monitoring. By 2020, the Secretariat had successfully coordinated multiple social protection programmes, benefiting over 1.2 million people (MGLSD, 2020).
- iv. **Social Protection Thematic Committees:** There are functional technical reference committees for the three components of social protection; direct income support, social insurance, and social care and support services. Additionally, there is a functional equity and social inclusion technical reference committee. These four committees meet quarterly to discuss Social Protection issues and report to the members of the Thematic Committee at the top. This structure highlights the robust institutional capacity for the provision of social protection services, ensuring comprehensive oversight and coordination across all areas.
- v. **Decentralisation of Social Protection Services:** Devolution of social protection services to local governments aimed at improving accessibility and responsiveness. By 2021, over 90 per cent of districts had established functional social protection units, enhancing local implementation capacity (MoLG, 2021).
- vi. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Social Protection:** Promoted collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society to expand social protection coverage and improve service delivery. By 2023, PPPs had mobilised additional resources amounting to USD15 million for various social protection initiatives, benefiting over 2 million individuals (Uganda Social Protection Platform, 2023).
- vii. **Increased Budget Allocation for Social Protection:** The government has progressively increased funding for social protection programmes. By 2022, the budget allocation for social

protection had increased by 50 per cent compared to 2015 levels, reflecting a stronger commitment to supporting vulnerable populations (MFPED, 2022).

- viii. **Improvement in Human Resource Capacity:** Enhanced training and recruitment of social protection officers and community workers. Over 4,000 social protection officers and community workers, both at the national and local government levels, have been trained to improve the quality of service delivery over the years (MGLSD, 2023).
- ix. **Functional Management Information Systems (MISs) for Social Protection:** The implementation of robust Management Information Systems (MIS) for social protection programmes has significantly strengthened the institutional capacity to deliver these essential services. The 15 SP MISs provide a comprehensive and integrated platform for managing data, tracking beneficiaries, and monitoring programme performance for the respective SP programmes. This technological advancement has brought several key benefits, including improved targeting, verification, registration, enrollments and extension of SP services, including payments.
- x. **Implementation of the National Single Registry for Social Protection:** A centralised database to manage beneficiary information and track programme performance. The registry has integrated data from over 15 social protection programmes, covering more than 2 million beneficiaries, enhancing efficiency and reducing duplication of services (ESP Secretariat, 2023).

3.7 Social Protection Complementary Services

Social Protection Complementary Services in Uganda refer to additional interventions and programmes that support and enhance the effectiveness of core social protection systems, such as social security schemes, social assistance, and social care services. These complementary services help address broader issues related to poverty, vulnerability, and social inclusion, often by targeting specific groups or needs.

3.7.1 Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) Programmes

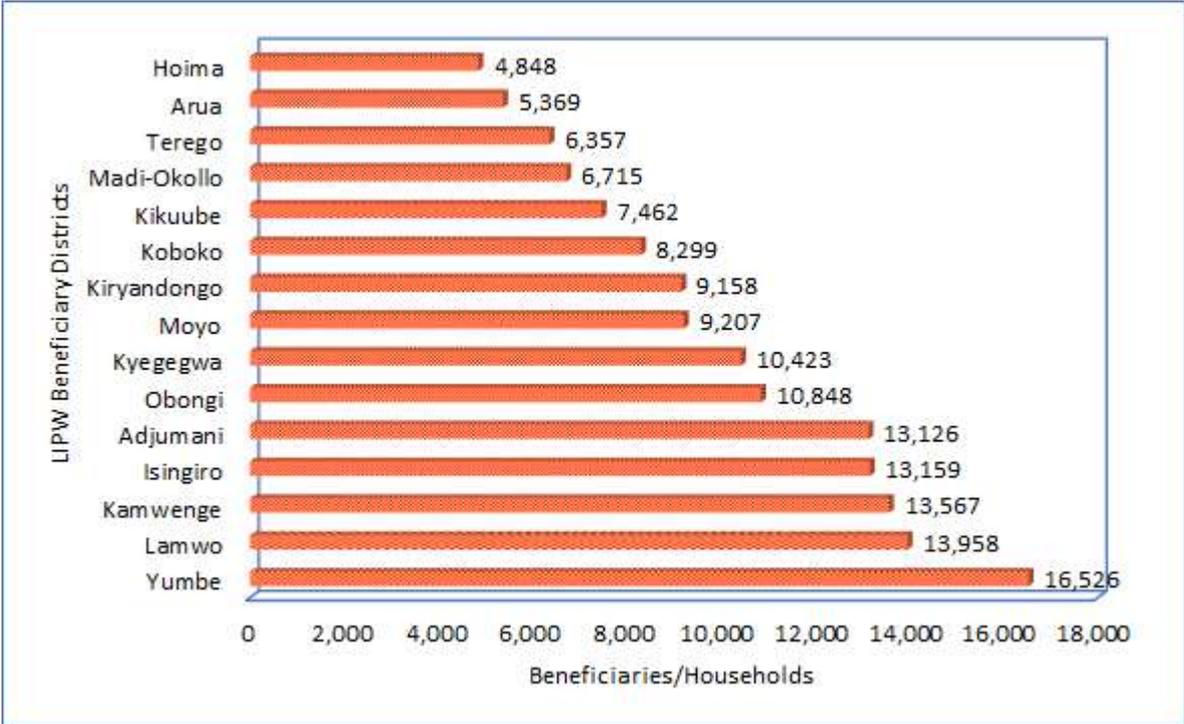
As Uganda continues to grapple with socio-economic challenges, including high levels of poverty and unemployment, the need for effective social protection mechanisms has become increasingly critical. The LIPW Programmes have emerged as a significant component of the country's social protection strategy. These programmes are designed to address immediate economic needs while simultaneously contributing to the development of essential infrastructure.

LIPW programmes focus on creating temporary employment opportunities for the most vulnerable and marginalised segments of the population, including women, youth, and PWDs. The Programmes are designed to engage vulnerable individuals in labour-intensive public works, such as the

construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and water conservation structures; the programmes aim to provide not only a source of income but also skills development and empowerment.

LIPW programmes enhance community resilience, reduce poverty and foster sustainable development. These initiatives align with the broader national development goals and contribute significantly to the government's efforts to build an inclusive and equitable society.

Figure 3.12: Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) Programmes Beneficiaries/Households by District



Source: OPM, 2023/2024

The analysis of Figure 3.12 underscores the significant role of LIPW programmes in Uganda's social protection strategy, particularly in districts with high vulnerability. The table shows that the total number of beneficiaries/households across the 15 districts is 149,022, with the highest concentration in Yumbe (16,526 beneficiaries), Lamwo (13,958 beneficiaries), and Kamwenge (13,567 beneficiaries). These three districts alone account for 29.4 per cent of the total beneficiaries.

Districts such as Hoima (4,848 beneficiaries) and Arua (5,369 beneficiaries) represent the lower end of the beneficiary spectrum, together comprising only about 6.9 per cent of the total. This distribution indicates an effective targeting of areas with greater needs, such as regions with higher poverty rates or significant refugee populations.

The top five districts — Yumbe, Lamwo, Kamwenge, Isingiro (13,159 beneficiaries), and Adjumani (13,126 beneficiaries) — collectively account for 70,336 beneficiaries, representing approximately

47.2 per cent of the total. This significant concentration highlights the prioritisation of these regions in addressing socio-economic challenges through LIPW programmes.

However, the varied distribution also points to the need for continuous assessment and adaptation to ensure equitable and efficient implementation across all regions. Ensuring that resources reach all vulnerable populations effectively remains a critical component of Uganda's social protection efforts. As such, ongoing monitoring and evaluation are necessary to optimise the impact of LIPW programmes and achieve more balanced regional development.

3.7.2 Special grant for PWDs

It is estimated that 12.4 per cent (4.5 million people) of the Ugandan population lives with some form of disability. Cumulatively, 8,239 PWDs, out of which 4,140 are males and 4,099 females, have benefited from the special grant, representing 0.81 per cent of the targeted number.

The Special Grant Programme for PWDs is one of those initiatives of the Government of Uganda, which has been in existence since FY 2009/2010. Cumulatively, 817 groups have been funded in 61 districts. Table 3.18 below presents PWD Projects funded per region since Programme inception concerning sex;

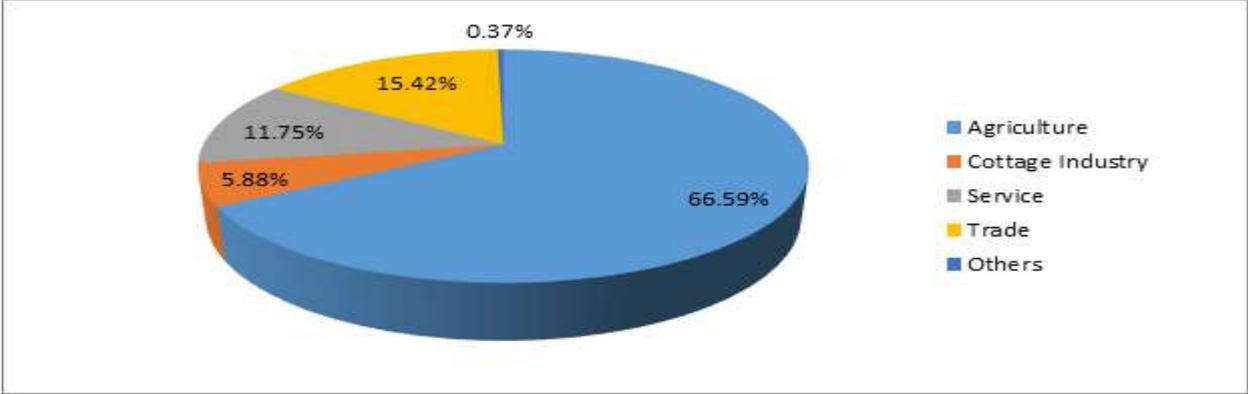
Table 3.18: PWD Projects Funded Per Region since Programme Inception 2010-2021

| S/N | Sub-Regions | Total PWD Projects Funded Per Region | Beneficiaries | | Amount Disbursed (UGX) |
|-----|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| | | | Males | Females | |
| 1. | Acholi | 54 | 266 | 280 | 270,000,000 |
| 2. | Ankole | 71 | 331 | 296 | 349,060,000 |
| 3. | Bukedi | 53 | 197 | 200 | 269,755,000 |
| 4. | Bunyoro | 48 | 170 | 183 | 221,375,000 |
| 5. | Busoga | 126 | 461 | 403 | 624,365,800 |
| 6. | Elgon | 40 | 135 | 131 | 200,000,000 |
| 7. | Karamoja | 13 | 67 | 82 | 65,000,000 |
| 8. | Kigezi | 37 | 196 | 183 | 183,745,000 |
| 9. | Lango | 39 | 188 | 216 | 195,000,000 |
| 10. | N.Buganda | 114 | 320 | 326 | 569,712,000 |
| 11. | S. Buganda | 78 | 251 | 301 | 388,797,500 |
| 12. | Teso | 25 | 141 | 111 | 124,500,000 |
| 13. | Tooro | 41 | 204 | 216 | 202,030,000 |
| 14. | West Nile | 78 | 487 | 452 | 380,320,000 |
| | Total | 817 | 3,414 | 3,380 | 4,043,660,300 |

Source: MGLSD, 2021

The government has invested UGX4.04 billion in the Special Grant programme for PWDs cumulatively since FY2009/2010. The above funds have benefited 6,794 PWDs, out of which females constituted 3,380 (49.7%). Taking a crude assumption of a fairly equal share of the total funds allocated, it implies that, on average, UGX2.011 billion benefited female PWDs while UGX2.032 billion helped male counterparts. The projects funded by sector varied, as presented in Figure 3.13 below;

Figure 3.13: PWD Projects Funded by Sectors



Source: MGLSD, 2021

In total, the funds have been utilised to establish 817 projects to benefit PWDs. However, the majority were Agriculture related projects (66.57%) followed by Trade (15.42%). However, studies conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission reveal the tendency to deny PWDs from benefiting from other government programmes under the guise that they have a Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities.

3.7.3 Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP)

UWEP is an initiative by the Government of the Republic of Uganda to improve women’s access to financial services and equip them with the skills for enterprise growth, value addition, and marketing of their products and services. The women are availed interest-free revolving credit to initiate or strengthen their enterprises. The table below presents budget allocations/release to the Programme since inception;

Table 3.19: Budget Allocations/Release to the UWEP Programme

| Category | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Approved Budget | 1 | 43 | 40.18 | 38.73 | 33.02 | 32 | 32 |
| Released Budget | 0.78 | 24.34 | 30.76 | 33.22 | 16.53 | 29.05 | 32 |
| Utilised Budget | 0.78 | 24.34 | 30.76 | 33.22 | 16.53 | 29.05 | 32 |

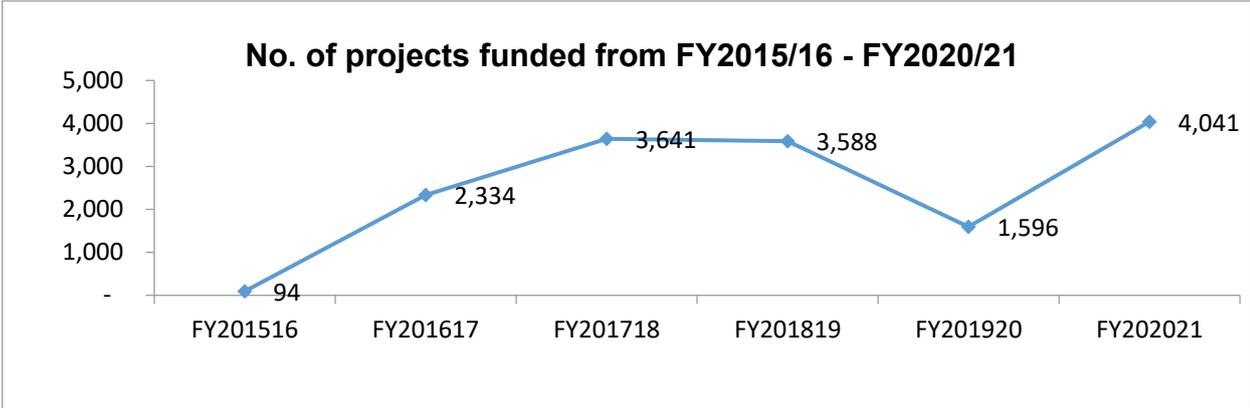
Source: MFPED, Annual Budget Performance Reports 2015/16 - 2020/21

Since inception of the Programme, a total of UGX187.93 billion has been appropriated towards UWEP, out of which UGX134.68 billion was released (72%). A total of UGX53.3 billion was not released as per the approved budget for the period under review (2015/16 - 2020/21). Over the years, findings reveal deviation from the approved budget and release. The highest deviations were registered in the FY 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Since project inception, the government has released UGX105.63 billion under UWEP, out of which UGX96.135 billion has been disbursed to 15,294 women enterprises, directly reaching 180,914 women beneficiaries.

Generally, on an annual basis, the government has been increasing funding towards UWEP except for the FY 2019/20. Accordingly, the number of female groups benefiting has been increasing over time, as presented in Figure 3.20 below;

Figure 3.14: Women Enterprise Groups Funded



Source: MGLSD 2015/16 - 2020/21

Over time, the number of UWEP-funded projects has increased. At inception in 2015/16, 94 projects were funded, and these have since increased to 4,041 in the FY 2020/21. UGX20.192 billion has recovered the amount (UGX27.614 billion) that is due, representing 73.1 per cent. UGX10.703 billion has been revolved, funding new groups in the respective local governments. 732 groups have to date fully paid up (100% Repayment). However, there are a lot of funds pending recovery (26.9%), which compromises the opportunity for other women groups to benefit. In addition, there is a need to inspect some of the projects to ensure value for money and actualisation of the purpose for which the Programme is intended.

3.7.4 Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP)

YLP is a Government of Uganda financed Programme designed as one of the interventions in response to the high unemployment rate and poverty among the youth in the country. It covers all the Districts of Uganda (including Kampala Capital City Authority). Cabinet and Parliament approved a budget of UGX265 billion (Approx. USD100 million) for the first five (5) years of implementation from FY2013/14 - 2017/18. The Programme was launched on January 24, 2014. Table 3.20 below presents the budget appropriation, release, and utilisation of YLP Funds;

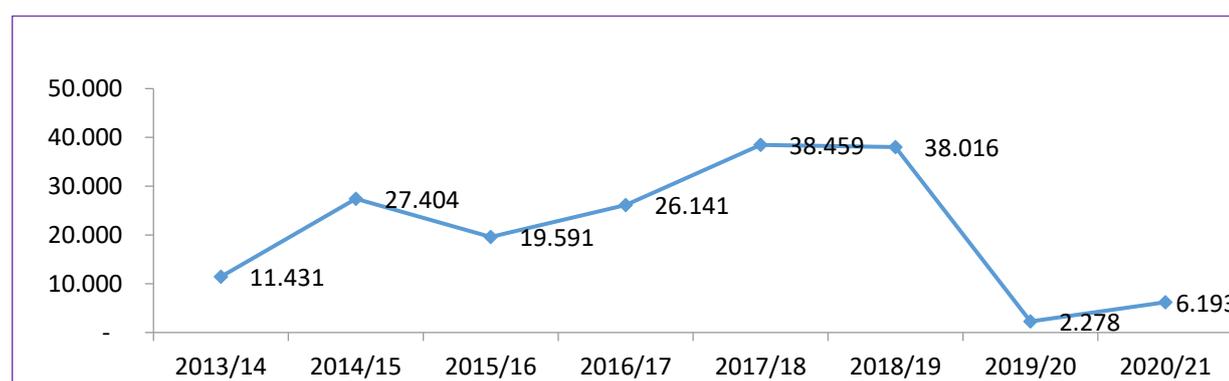
Table 3.20: Budget Appropriation, Release, and Utilisation of YLP Funds for FY2015/16 -2020/21 (Bns)

| Category | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| YLP Approved Budget | 33 | 75 | 66.66 | 65.67 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| YLP Released Budget | 24.32 | 37.52 | 44.79 | 52.62 | 2.74 | 2.7 |
| YLP Utilised Budget | 24.63 | 37.52 | 44.79 | 52.62 | 2.74 | 2.71 |

Source: MFPED, Annual Budget Performance Reports 2015/16 - 2020/21

During the period under review, a total of UGX243.63 billion was appropriated towards YLP, out of which UGX161.99 billion was released (66%). A total of UGX81.64 billion was not released as per the approved budget. Over the years, findings reveal deviation from the approved budget and release. The highest deviations were registered in the FY2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. Findings further revealed that in FY 2019/20, government funding for YLP was drastically reduced. Figure 3.15 below presents the funds disbursed to youth groups since the inception of the Programme;

Figure 3.15: Funds disbursed to youth groups since the inception of the programme



Source: MGLSD, 2015/16-2019/20

Since project inception, UGX169.512 billion has been disbursed to 13,822 youth enterprises benefitting 251,940 youth, out of which 136,881 were males and 115,059 females. By proxy, on average, UGX77.41478 billion (46%) benefited females.

3.7.4.1 Recoveries and funds revolved

- i. UGX42.4 billion has recovered the amount (UGX75.563 billion) that is due, representing 56 per cent.
- ii. As at the end of June 2021, UGX22.5889 billion had already been revolved to the Local Governments to finance 2,173 Projects benefitting 20,086 youth.
- iii. 335 projects have completed 100% recovery of funds and are ready to transition into Small and medium-sized (SMS) enterprises.

3.7.5 Urban Cash Programme

The Urban Cash Programme in Uganda is a pivotal initiative within the broader framework of the country's social protection strategy. As urbanisation accelerates and economic disparities in urban areas become more pronounced, this programme aims to address the unique challenges faced by the urban poor. The Urban Cash Programme provides direct cash transfers to vulnerable households in urban settings, helping to mitigate the effects of poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion.

3.8 Financing for Social Protection in Uganda

Financing for social protection in Uganda constitutes a critical component of the country's efforts to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. As Uganda navigates the complexities of a rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape, ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for social protection programmes has emerged as a pressing priority. These programmes encompass a wide array of interventions aimed at mitigating poverty, promoting equity, and enhancing resilience among vulnerable populations such as children, Older persons, PWDs, and refugees. The government of Uganda has been allocating funds to the NDPIII development programmes over the last four FYs. Table 3.21 below presents a highlight of budget appropriation by development programme for the last three FYs;

Table 3.21: Total Resource Envelope Allocated by Development Programme for FY 2021/22 - 2023/24

| SN | NDPIII Programme | Budget Allocation (in billions) | | | % Share of the National Budget | % Change |
|----|---|---------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| | | FY 2021/22 | FY 2022/23 | FY 2023/24 | | |
| 1 | Agro-Industrialisation | 1,465.71 | 1,666.900 | 1,329 | 4.2% | 1.9% |
| 2 | Mineral Development | 48.98 | 34.870 | 159 | 0.5% | -0.4% |
| 3 | Sustainable Development of Petroleum Resources | 102.36 | 100.910 | 872 | 2.7% | -2.4% |
| 4 | Tourism Development | 178.96 | 176.890 | 195 | 0.6% | 0.0% |
| 5 | Natural Resources, environment, climate change, land and water management Programme | 577.16 | 1,442.720 | 1,519 | 4.8% | 0.5% |
| 6 | Private Sector Development | 588.59 | 698.240 | 1,621 | 5.1% | -2.5% |
| 7 | Manufacturing | 83.00 | 82.550 | 442 | 1.4% | -1.1% |
| 8 | Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services | 4,960.66 | 4,776.040 | 6,097 | 19.1% | -1.6% |
| 9 | Sustainable Energy Development | 1,103.33 | 1,107.830 | 1,254 | 3.9% | 0.1% |
| 10 | Digital Transformation | 194.70 | 206.730 | 243 | 0.8% | 0.0% |
| 11 | Sustainable Urbanisation and Housing | 124.91 | 345.790 | 193 | 0.6% | 0.7% |

| SN | NDPIII Programme | Budget Allocation (in billions) | | | % Share of the National Budget | % Change |
|----|--|---------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| | | FY 2021/22 | FY 2022/23 | FY 2023/24 | | |
| 12 | Human Capital Development | 8,062.05 | 6,461.730 | 8,971 | 28.1% | -4.4% |
| 13 | Innovation Technology Development and Transfer | 285.15 | 228.120 | 230 | 0.7% | 0.1% |
| 14 | Community Mobilisation and Mindset Change | 81.84 | 81.020 | 75 | 0.2% | 0.1% |
| 15 | Governance and Security | 6,989.89 | 6,221.090 | 5,904 | 18.5% | 4.3% |
| 16 | Public Sector Transformation | 427.34 | 294.700 | | 0.0% | 1.1% |
| 17 | Regional Development | 1,562.13 | 1,248.040 | 75 | 0.2% | 4.3% |
| 18 | Development Plan Implementation | 1,093.42 | 1,041.060 | 1,433 | 4.5% | -0.7% |
| 19 | Administration of Justice | 373.40 | 371.370 | 400 | 1.3% | 0.1% |
| 20 | Parliamentary Commission | 834.94 | 686.570 | 915 | 2.9% | -0.3% |
| | | 29,138.52 | 27,273.17 | 31,927 | 100.0% | |

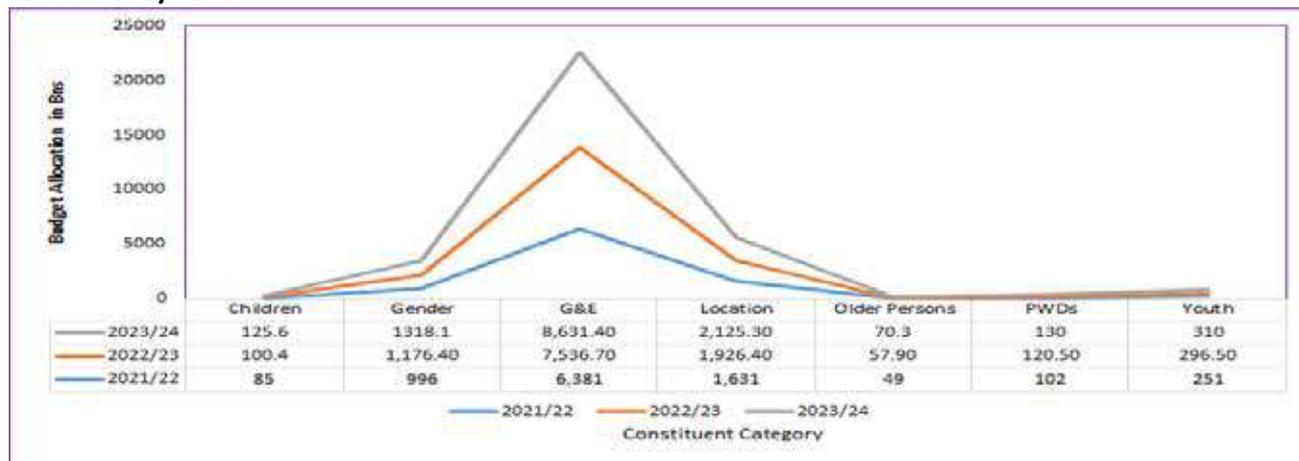
Source: 1st BCC, MFPED 2022/23

The table provides insights into Uganda's budget allocations across various sectors for fiscal years 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24, reflecting the government's priorities and resource allocation strategies. Human Capital Development stands out with substantial funding, although experiencing a decrease in percentage share from 28.1% to 23.6% over the period, indicating ongoing commitment to social protection through investments in education, healthcare, and social services. Conversely, sectors like Governance and Security and Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services maintain significant shares, reflecting broader developmental goals but with varying changes in allocation percentages. Notably, sectors directly related to social protection, such as Community mobilisation and Mindset Change, show stable or marginal changes in budget allocation.

3.8.1 National budgetary commitment towards social protection responsive interventions

In the quest to enhance social protection in Uganda, the national budgetary commitment towards gender and equity-responsive interventions has emerged as a vital area of focus. These interventions aim to address the disparities and vulnerabilities faced by different segments of the population, including women, children, PWDs, and other marginalised groups. Recognising the importance of inclusive development, the Ugandan government has integrated gender and equity considerations into its budgeting processes to ensure that resource allocation supports the equitable distribution of social protection services. Figure 3.16 below presents the national budgetary commitment towards gender and equity-responsive interventions for the FY 2023/2024;

Figure 3.16: National Budgetary Commitment towards Social Protection Responsive Interventions for FY 2023/2024



Source: Computed by EOC using MPSs and work plans for the FY 2023/24

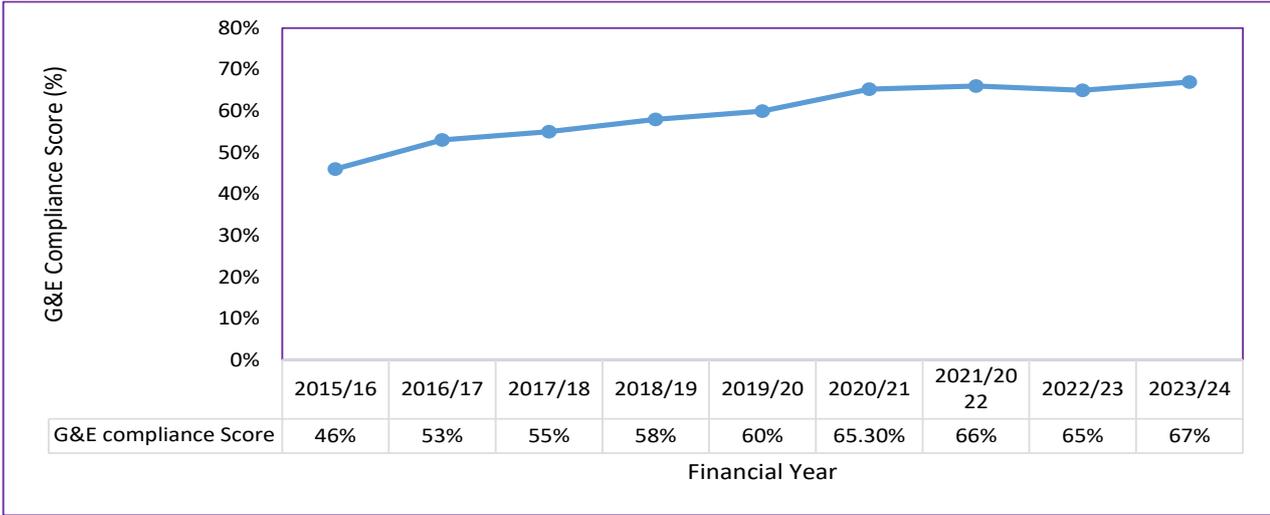
The estimated national budget for FY 2023/2024 is UGX50.871 trillion, out of which UGX 30.4687 trillion has been appropriated to the twenty Development Programmes under NDPIII. A total of UGX12.711 trillion (41.7%) is allocated towards gender and equity interventions.

The highest share (68%) of the budget was allocated towards interventions that inclusively address the needs of various vulnerable categories simultaneously. This was followed by interventions targeting disadvantaged locations (17%) and women and girls (10%). The youth were allocated 2%, while the rest of the categories, including children, Older persons, and PWDs, were each allocated 1%-2%.

3.8.2 Trends in Compliance of MPS with G&E Requirements

Overall, there has been an increase in the level of compliance of Ministerial Policy Statements with gender and equity requirements in the FY 2023/2024 of Two percentage points (from 65% in FY2022/2023 to 67% in the FY 2023/2024). Figure 3.17 below presents national compliance with gender and equity for the FYs 2015/2016 - 2023/2024;

Figure 3.17: National Compliance with Gender and Equity for the FYs 2015/16 - 2023/24



Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2019/2020-2023/2024

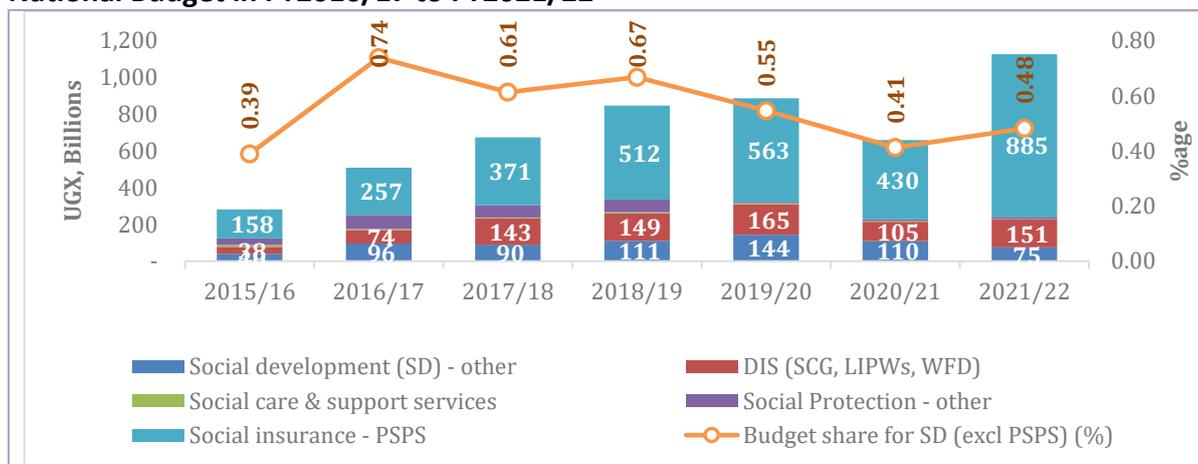
3.8.3 Social development sector allocations and aggregate allocations

The allocation trends for various social development initiatives during the review period are detailed in Table 3.5, where the social development sector emerged as one of the least funded sectors. Despite advocacy efforts in Parliament, such as proposing a supplementary budget for the SCG, final decisions on funding and budget allocations are determined by MFPED and ratified by the Cabinet.

Expenditure shares on the social development sector (excluding LIPWs and PSPS) decreased from 0.74 per cent in FY2016/17 to 0.48 per cent in FY2021/22, despite overall budget growth. Conversely, the share of PSPS expenditures rose to 2.0 per cent in FY2021/22 from 0.66 per cent in FY2016/17 due to improved wage structures for public servants. FY2020/21 saw notable impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and government revenue sources, significantly affecting budget allocations.

Under the social protection "other category," funding for initiatives like the disability grant and the youth livelihood programme (YLP) decreased, particularly affecting YLP funding. The disability grant remained steady at approximately UGX2.1 billion until FY2020/21 when the introduction of the Special Disability Grant under MGLSD allocated UGX9.6 billion in FY2021/22. Overall, direct income support through public financing, funded by tax revenues, loans, and grants, increased from UGX36 billion in FY2016/17 to about UGX165 billion by FY2019/20 before adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the conclusion of NUSAF3 in June 2021 (Figure 3.18).

Figure 3.18: Social Development Sector Allocations and Aggregate Allocations as a Share of the National Budget in FY2016/17 to FY2021/22

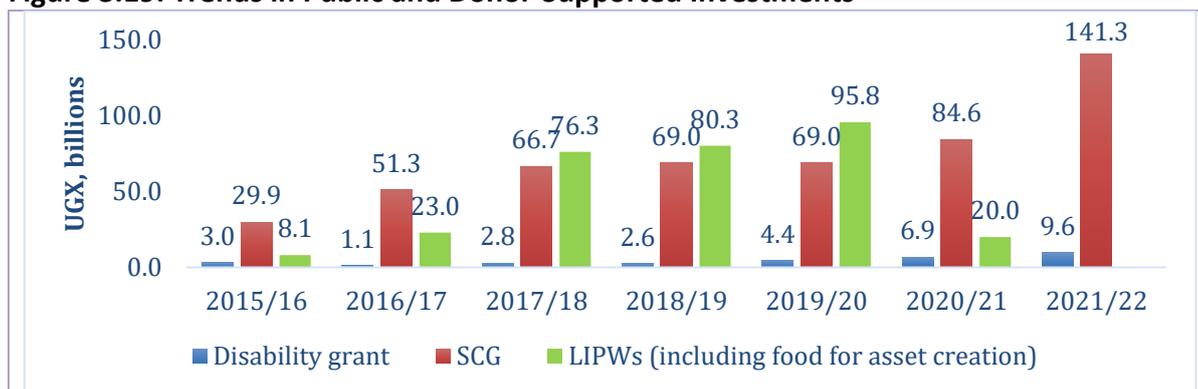


Source: MFPED 2022/23

Nonetheless, there were specific direct income support and food assistance programmes, such as urban cash-for-work, specifically designed for post-COVID-19 lockdown recovery. Figure 3.18 illustrates increases in absolute public allocations disaggregated for SCG, LIPW, and the disability grant. Funding for both the SCG and the disability grant has consistently increased in monetary terms over time. In contrast, funding for LIPWs decreased toward the end of FY2019/20, highlighting the difficulties associated with project-based implementation of social protection initiatives.

Figure 3.19 presents Trends in public and donor-supported investments in direct income support programmes and the disability grant, a livelihood programme for PWDs.

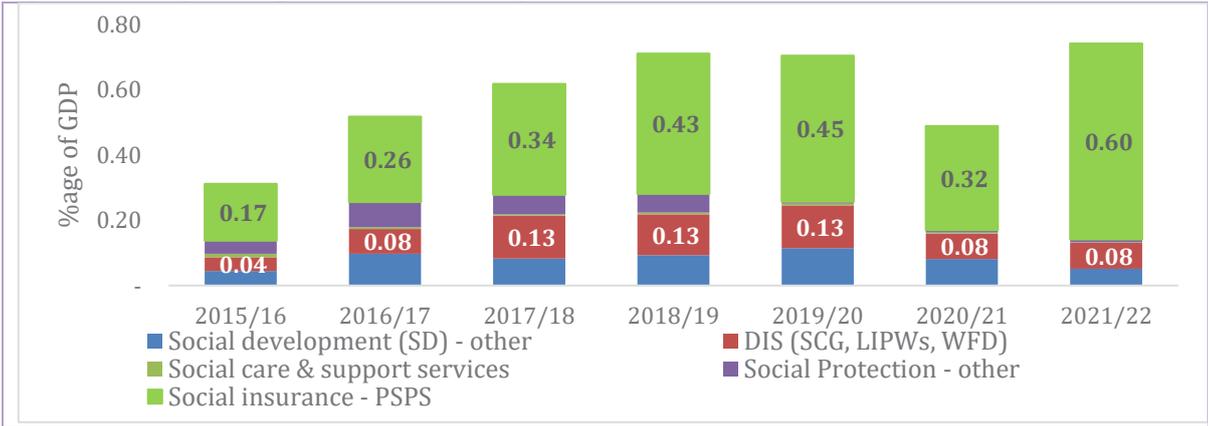
Figure 3.19: Trends in Public and Donor-Supported Investments



Source: MFPED 2022/23

In FY2021/22, total expenditure on social protection constituted approximately 0.66% of GDP. Direct income support (DIS), which includes SCG, NUSAF3, and DRDIP, accounted for about 0.06% of GDP (or 0.04% if LIPWs are excluded), while public service pension schemes (PSPS) amounted to 0.6% of GDP (Figure 3.20). Spending on smaller programmes, such as the disability grant and community-based rehabilitation programmes, was less than 0.01% of GDP, totalling approximately UGX13 billion in FY2021/22.

Figure 3.20: Spending on Social Development as a Share of GDP



Source: MFPEd 2022/23

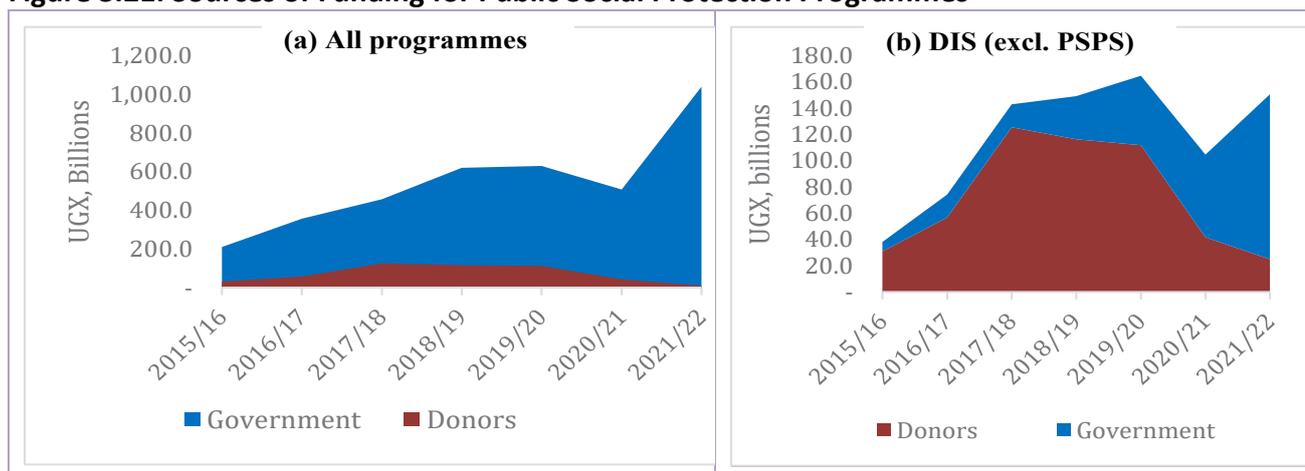
Overall, despite the increasing institutionalisation of social protection within national development plans and budgets, government spending on social assistance as a percentage of GDP has either remained stagnant or trended downward over the past five years, particularly following the closure of the loan-financed NUSAF3 project in FY2020/21. The bulk of overall expenditure is primarily attributed to contributions to the PSPS, which has risen due to an expanding base of recipients and increased payout amounts.

3.8.4 Public funding sources for direct income support programmes

Public social protection programmes in Uganda are primarily financed by tax revenue. Over the last six years, there has been a significant reduction in funding from international partners. However, direct income support (DIS) schemes continue to be mainly funded by donors. Most of the government's tax-financed spending is allocated to the PSPS.

The reduction in donor financing between FY2019/20 and FY2021/22 can be attributed to the government taking over the financing of the SCG (Figure 3.21) and the conclusion of the NUSAF3 project in 2021. Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPWs) have been almost exclusively financed by loans, grants, or donor support, whereas the PSPS is financed by the government's tax revenue.

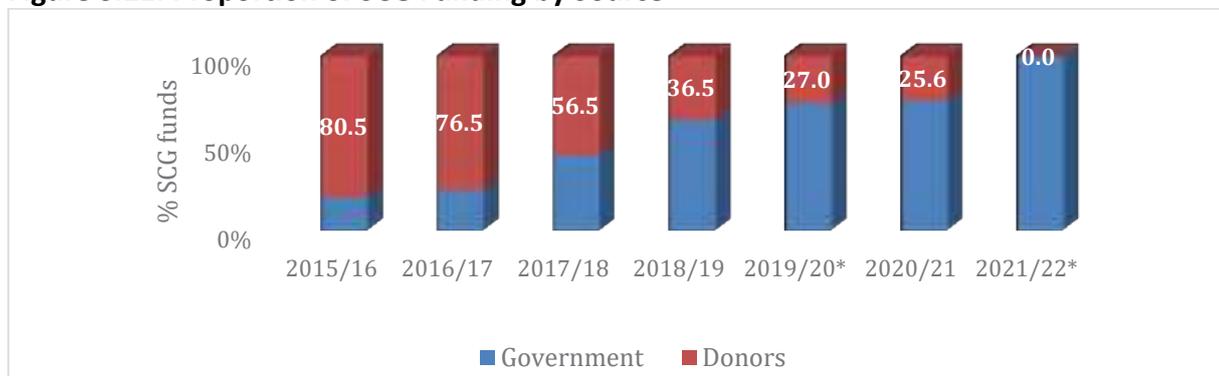
Figure 3.21: Sources of Funding for Public Social Protection Programmes



Source: MFPEd 2022/23

The government's takeover of SCG funding represents a significant milestone in government ownership and commitment to improving the quality of life for senior citizens. It should be noted that the financing of LIPWs through NUSAF3 and DRDIP via a combination of World Bank loan agreements and grants is not, in a strict sense, a government financing mechanism. Instead, it is an international loan from the World Bank at a favourable interest rate, with repayment scheduled for the future.

Figure 3.22: Proportion of SCG Funding by Source



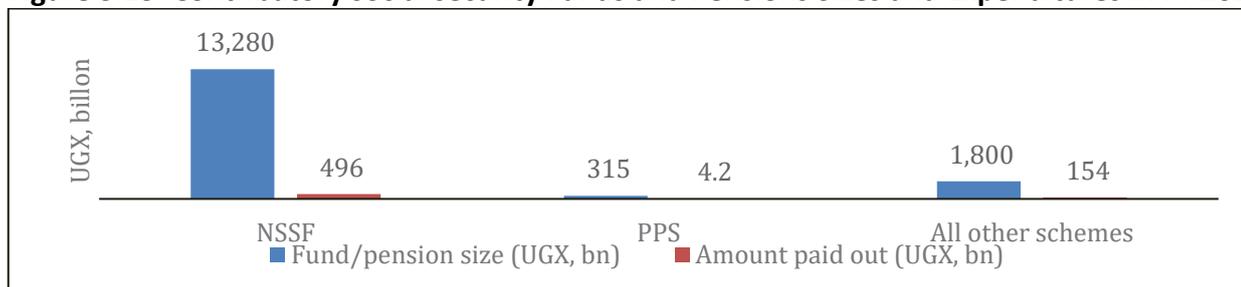
Source: MFPEd 2022/23

3.8.5 Financing landscape under contributory social security and other schemes

In addition to social assistance programmes, including direct income support schemes, Uganda has several pension schemes or provident funds. The largest of these is the NSSF, which covers the working population in formal employment. According to the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA) Quarterly Investment Snapshot as of March 31, 2022, the NSSF had grown from UGX13.3 billion in 2020 to UGX16.7 trillion (about 10% of GDP) by March 31, 2022, with approximately 800,000 active members. In FY2021/22, the NSSF paid out UGX642 billion to its members. Other schemes include the Parliamentary Pension Scheme (PPS), which had accumulated to UGX315 billion (about 0.2% of GDP) from 989 members in 2020 and paid out UGX4.2 billion. Additionally, several

smaller pension schemes or funds with 51,404 members had accumulated to UGX1.8 trillion (about 1.3% of GDP) and paid out UGX154 billion to their members in 2020.

Figure 3.23: Contributory social security Funds and Pensions Sizes and Expenditures in FY 2019/20



Source: URBRA, 2022/23

3.9 Lessons Learnt, Success Factors, Gaps and Challenges

3.9.1 Lessons learnt

- i. **Importance of Comprehensive Policy Frameworks:** The establishment of the NSPP 2015 was a significant milestone, providing a clear and comprehensive framework for social protection initiatives. A well-defined policy framework is important for guiding the implementation of social protection programmes, ensuring consistency, and aligning with national development goals.
- ii. **Need for Robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems:** The development of the NSPP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan in 2018 highlighted the need for effective tracking and assessment mechanisms. Robust M&E systems are essential for evaluating programme impact, identifying gaps, and informing evidence-based policy-making. Continuous improvement of these systems is necessary to enhance accountability and programme effectiveness.
- iii. **Significance of Inclusive Programme Design:** Programmes like the SCG and the NutriCash Programme have shown positive impacts by targeting specific vulnerable groups such as Older persons and pregnant and lactating mothers. An inclusive programme design that addresses the needs of various vulnerable groups can significantly improve social protection outcomes and ensure that no one is left behind.
- iv. **Challenges of Limited Coverage and Funding:** Despite significant efforts, social protection programmes still face challenges of limited coverage and inadequate funding, affecting their overall reach and effectiveness. Expanding coverage and securing sustainable funding are critical to enhancing the impact of social protection programmes. Innovative financing mechanisms and increased budget allocations are needed to address these challenges.
- v. **Role of Multi-Sectoral Collaboration:** Effective implementation of social protection initiatives involves coordination among various government entities, development partners, and local authorities. Strong multi-sectoral collaboration is essential for the successful delivery of social

protection services. Clear roles, responsibilities, and communication channels among stakeholders can enhance programme efficiency and effectiveness.

- vi. **Adaptability to Emerging Needs:** The introduction of programmes like the Urban Cash for Work and the NutriCash Programme in response to specific local needs underscores the importance of adaptability. Social protection programmes must remain flexible and responsive to emerging needs and contextual changes to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

3.9.2 Success Factors

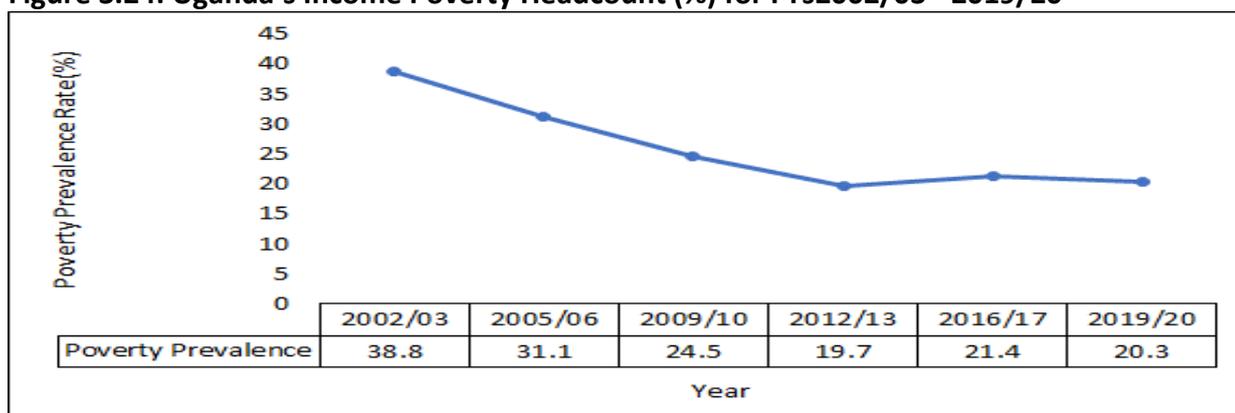
- i. **Political Commitment and Policy Support:** Strong political commitment and support from the highest levels of government have been instrumental in advancing social protection initiatives. This commitment has facilitated the formulation of key policies like the NSPP and the allocation of resources to critical programmes, ensuring a sustained focus on social protection.
- ii. **Effective Targeting Mechanisms:** Implementing effective targeting mechanisms to identify and reach the most vulnerable populations has been a cornerstone of successful programmes. Programmes like the SCG have benefited from precise targeting, ensuring that resources reach those in greatest need and maximise impact.
- iii. **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships:** Active engagement with stakeholders, including development partners, civil society, and local communities, has strengthened programme implementation. Partnerships have provided additional resources, technical expertise, and community buy-in, enhancing the overall effectiveness and sustainability of social protection initiatives.
- iv. **Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening:** Investments in capacity building and institutional strengthening for entities involved in social protection have improved programme delivery. Enhanced capacity at the national and local levels has led to better programme management, monitoring, and service delivery, contributing to the success of various initiatives.
- v. **Innovative Programme Design and Implementation:** Innovative approaches in programme design and implementation, such as the integration of cash transfers with public works and the use of digital technologies for payments, have driven success. These innovations have improved efficiency, reduced administrative costs, and increased accessibility for beneficiaries, making social protection programmes more effective.
- vi. **Continuous Learning and Adaptation:** A culture of continuous learning and adaptation has enabled programmes to evolve based on lessons learned and emerging best practices. This adaptability has allowed social protection programmes to remain relevant and responsive to changing needs and contexts, ensuring sustained positive outcomes.

3.10 Impact of Social Protection Programmes in Uganda

3.10.1 Poverty prevalence in Uganda

According to NDPIII, Uganda needs to achieve an average growth rate of 7 per cent to facilitate faster and more sustainable poverty reduction. However, this target has been elusive due to several challenges, including climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and changes in the global economic environment. Figure 3.24 below shows Uganda's income poverty headcount (%) for FYs2002/03 - 2019/20;

Figure 3.24: Uganda's Income Poverty Headcount (%) for FYs2002/03 - 2019/20



Source: UNHS 2019/2020

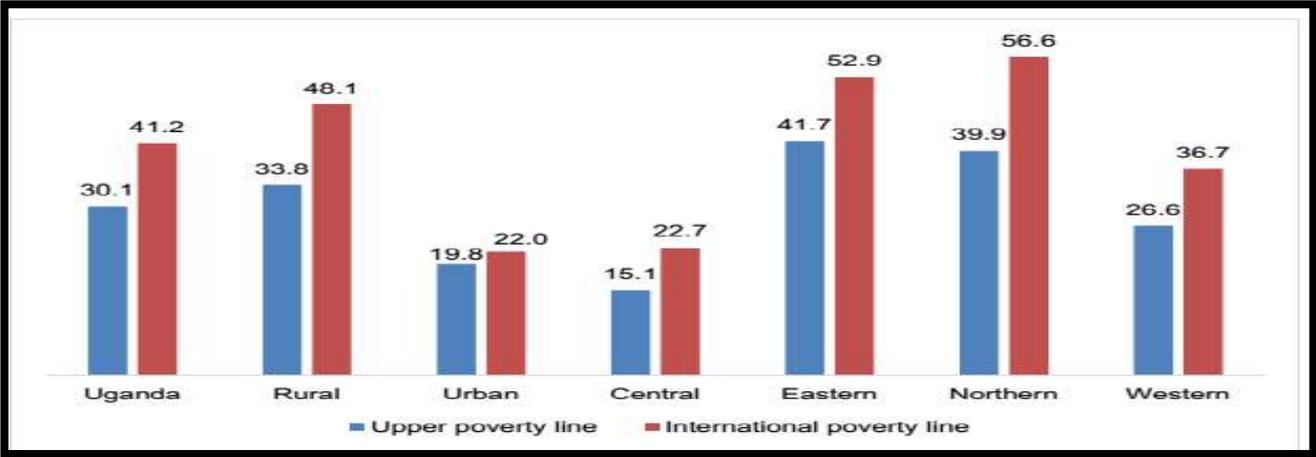
From 2002/03 to 2012/13, there was a significant and steady decline in the poverty prevalence rate, dropping from 38.8% to 19.7%. After 2012/13, the rate saw a slight increase in 2016/17 to 21.4%, followed by a decrease to 20.3% in 2019/20. Between 2002/03 and 2005/06, the poverty rate decreased by 7.7 percentage points (from 38.8% to 31.1%). From 2005/06 to 2009/10, the rate further declined by 6.6 percentage points. Between 2009/10 and 2012/13, the decline was 4.8 percentage points. The trend shows a slowing rate of decline over the years up to 2012/13. The increase to 21.4 per cent in FY2016/17 from 19.7 per cent in 2012/13 suggests a reversal in the declining trend, possibly due to economic challenges or other social factors. By 2019/20, the poverty rate slightly decreased to 20.3 per cent, indicating some level of stabilisation.

3.10.2 Upper poverty line and the international poverty line

The Upper Poverty Line is a national threshold determined by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) to reflect the minimum income required for an individual to meet basic needs, including food and non-food essentials. On the other hand, the International Poverty Line, set by the World Bank, is a global standard used to compare poverty levels across different countries. It is often expressed in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) to account for differences in the cost of living between countries.

Nearly 8.5 per cent of Ugandans are classified as food poor, with little difference between surveys. However, the number of food-poor persons increased to 3.5 million in FY2019/20 from 3.2 million in 2016/17. During the same period, the urban population experiencing food insufficiency rose to 4.1 per cent from 2.3 per cent, effectively doubling the number of urban food-poor individuals. The eastern region saw a significant reduction in food poverty, while the northern region experienced an increase. In 2019/20, the north accounted for 56.7 per cent of the total food-poor population, while eastern region accounted for about 35 per cent. Figure 3.25 below presents the Upper Poverty Line and the International Poverty Line in 2020;

Figure 3.25: Upper Poverty Line and the International Poverty Line 2020



Source: UNHS 2019/2020

Using the upper poverty line of USD1.77 per person per month, 30.1% of Ugandans, or 12.3 million people, live in poverty. This figure increases the number of poor individuals by 4 million compared to the existing poverty line estimate of 8.3 million. Approximately 33.8% of the rural population and 19.8% of the urban population live in poverty. Regionally, poverty rates range from 15.1% in the central region to 41.7% in the eastern region. The poverty patterns remain unchanged when using the upper poverty line, with the eastern region having a slightly higher poverty headcount than the northern region, contrary to the current official poverty line figures. The poverty headcount at USD1.9 per person per day (2011 PPP) is 41.1%, translating to an estimated 16.9 million income-poor individuals. These estimates are significantly higher than those based on national poverty lines, though the overall poverty patterns remain consistent.

3.10.3 Disability and poverty

Poverty is both a driver and effect of disability and vice versa. A person in poverty is more at risk of disability due to factors such as lack of healthcare, increased vulnerability to malnutrition and preventable diseases, precarious working environments and low-quality housing, with reduced access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Around half of Ugandans living in households with PWDs are living in extreme poverty (less than USD1.9 PPP), and over three-quarters are living in poverty (less

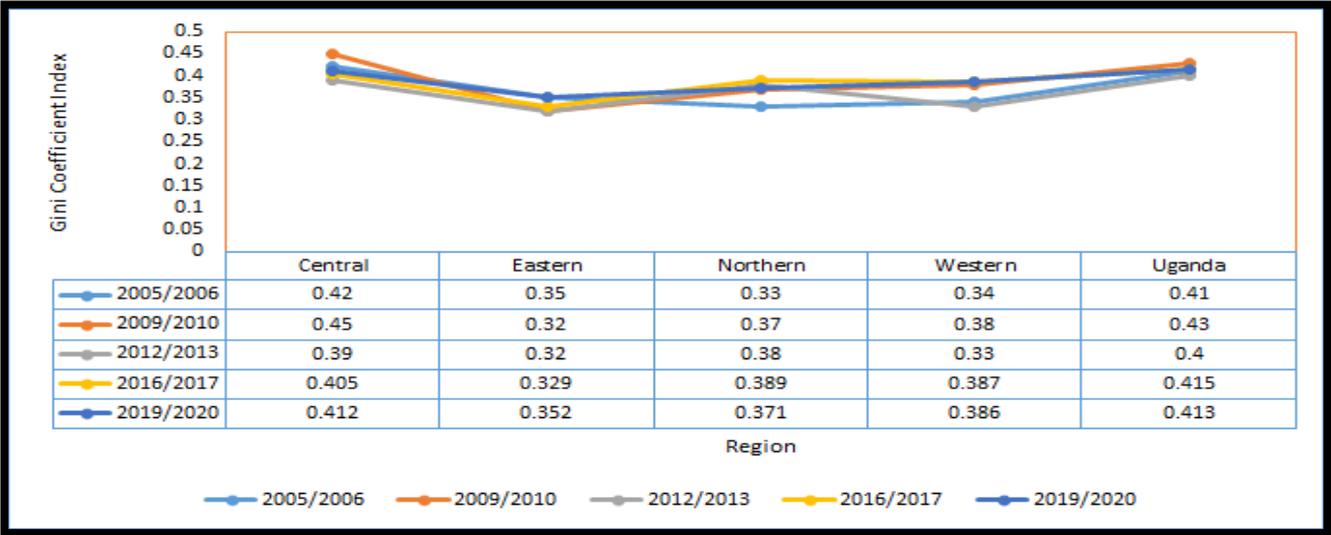
than USD3.2 PPP). Poverty in households living with PWDs stands at 31% as compared to 28% in households without a person with disabilities. These factors are magnified by the associated discrimination and exclusion many PWDsexperience across the lifecycle.

The drivers of poverty among PWDs include limited access to economic opportunities – with unemployment among PWDs being at 17.1 per cent; extra cost of living with a disability such as additional household expenses (at 39%), health, rehabilitation and medical related costs and; other indirect costs of disability such as loss of education and employment opportunities.

3.10.4 Income inequality (Gini Coefficient)

Addressing regional income inequalities is a necessary measure to bring about balanced development in all regions of Uganda. According to the UNHS Report (2016/2017), Uganda registered a decrease in overall income inequality (Gini coefficient) from 0.415 in 2016/2017 to 0.413 in 2019/2020. These observations notwithstanding, inequality remains substantially higher in urban (0.389) than rural (0.335) areas. At the Regional level, high-income inequalities were recorded in the Central Region, followed by Western Region and Northern Uganda. Figure 3.26 below shows the regional trends of the Gini coefficient in Uganda.

Figure 3.26: Trends of Gini Coefficient in Uganda 2005/06 - 2019/20



Source: UNHS 2005/2006-2019/2020

The Gini coefficient for Uganda shows fluctuations over the years, indicating varying levels of income inequality. There was a notable decrease in inequality from 2012/2013 to 2016/2017, followed by a slight decrease from 2016/2017 to 2019/2020. The Central region has consistently shown high income inequality, with the highest Gini coefficient in 2009/2010. The data indicates that while Uganda has seen some improvements in income inequality, significant regional disparities persist. Addressing these inequalities requires targeted policy interventions to ensure more equitable economic growth and development across the country.

3.10.5 Employment

Employment in Uganda plays a pivotal role in shaping the economic landscape and ensuring the well-being of its citizens. As of FY2023/2024, the labour market is characterised by a mix of formal and informal employment, with a significant portion of the workforce engaged in agriculture, trade, and services. Despite the country's efforts to boost job creation, challenges remain, including high unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, and the prevalence of underemployment.

In response to these challenges, the Government of Uganda has prioritised social protection as a strategic framework to enhance employment outcomes and safeguard vulnerable groups. The Social Protection Policy, established in 2015, aims to create a safety net that supports individuals in times of need, thereby fostering a more resilient workforce. The policy emphasises the need for comprehensive social security services that address the unique circumstances of both formal and informal sector workers. Table 3.22 below presents Uganda's employment and direct income support performance status.

Table 3.22: Uganda's Performance Status on Employment and Direct Income Support

| Indicators | Disaggregation | Baseline | Targets | Status |
|--|----------------|----------|---------|---------|
| | | | 2020/21 | 2020/21 |
| Youth unemployment rate (%) | Total | 13.3 | 12.2 | 13 |
| | Male | | | 13 |
| | Female | | | 13 |
| | Central | | | 8.8 |
| | North | | | 13.3 |
| | East | | | 17.4 |
| | West | | | 16.6 |
| % population receiving direct income support | Total | 0.5 | 0.7 | 13 |
| | Central | | | 6.3 |
| | North | | | 19.0 |
| | East | | | 13.3 |
| | West | | | 12.7 |

Source: UNHS, 2019/2020

Unemployment has reduced by only 0.3 per cent, from 13% in FY2017/2018 to 12.7% in FY2020/2021, which is below the NDPIII target of 12.2 per cent. However, the government has undertaken several measures to create employment, including the establishment of over 22 Industrial parks. Due to COVID-19 and the global economic recession, a significant number of people have lost their jobs. Additionally, the government is effecting the rationalisation of MDAs, and some employees have already been affected by job losses.

The UNHS (2019/20) and the National Labour Force Survey (2021) indicate a shift in the proportion of the working population from agriculture to the industry and services sectors. The proportion of the

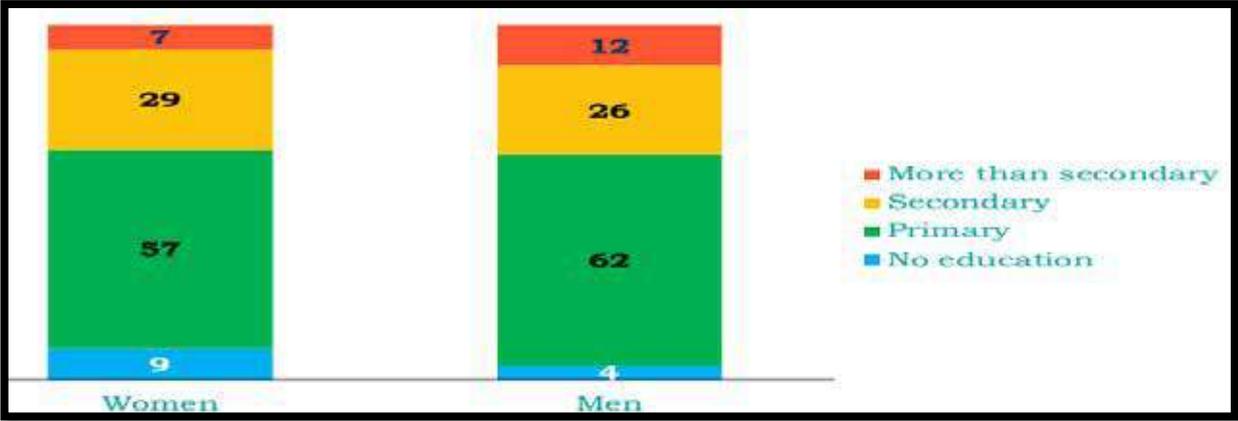
working population employed in agriculture reduced from 68.1% to 61.4%, while employment in the industry and services sectors increased to 13.4% from 7.2% and to 24.8% from 23.9%, respectively.

Further, the proportion of the labour force in paid employment has improved slightly over the last ten years, increasing to 18% in 2016/17 and 38.0% in 2019/20 from 17% in 2011/12. Among the labour force employed outside the agricultural sector, over 70% are in the informal sector. Overall, among the employed, at least one in two is in vulnerable employment. In FY2019/20, 53% of households reported subsistence agriculture as their primary source of income.

3.10.6 Education and literacy rates

Education is a key factor in social protection, with Uganda making strides in improving literacy rates and educational attainment. The national literacy rate for individuals aged 15 years and above is around 76.5 per cent. However, disparities exist between genders, with male literacy at 82.6 per cent and female literacy at 70.8 per cent. Primary school enrollment is high, but completion rates drop significantly at the secondary and tertiary levels. Figure 3.27 below shows the distribution of Uganda’s population by education level and sex;

Figure 3.27: Percentage Distribution of Uganda’s Population by Education Level



Source: UDHS 2022

The Figure above indicates a relatively low percentage of both women and men who have education levels beyond secondary school (Women 2%; Men 12%). In terms of social protection, individuals with higher education levels generally have better employment prospects and income potential, potentially needing less immediate social protection support. However, ensuring social protection for this group could focus on unemployment benefits, retraining programmes, or support during transitional phases in their careers.

On the other hand, a significant portion of both genders have completed secondary education (Women 29%; Men 26%). They are likely more equipped for skilled employment compared to those

with lower education levels. Social protection efforts here might focus on ensuring access to decent work, vocational training opportunities, and protection against discrimination or exploitation in the workplace.

The majority of the population, particularly women, have completed only primary education (Women (57%); Men (62%). Social protection initiatives can target this group to enhance their employability through adult education, skills training, and microfinance support for entrepreneurship. Additionally, ensuring access to basic healthcare and social safety nets is crucial for this group, as they may be more vulnerable to economic shocks.

Although the percentage is lower among men, a notable proportion of both genders have no formal education (Women 9%; Men 4%). This group is likely the most vulnerable in terms of social protection needs. Programmes could focus on basic literacy and numeracy skills, vocational training adapted for adults, healthcare access, and social assistance to alleviate immediate poverty and improve their long-term prospects.

3.10.7 Health and life expectancy

Uganda's progress in healthcare and social protection over the past two decades has been marked by significant advancements in key health indicators. This report examines Uganda's performance on critical health metrics from 2001 to 2022, reflecting the country's efforts in enhancing social protection and healthcare services. The indicators analysed include under-5 mortality, infant mortality, neonatal mortality, maternal mortality, and life expectancy. These indicators not only gauge the effectiveness of health interventions but also reflect the broader impact of social protection policies on population health outcomes. Table 3.23 below presents Uganda's Performance on key health Indicators in 2001-2022;

Table 3.23: Uganda's Performance on Key Health Indicators 2001-2022

| Health Indicator | 2001 | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 | 2022 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Under-5 mortality | 151 | 128 | 90 | 64 | 52 |
| Infant mortality | 88 | 71 | 54 | 43 | 36 |
| Neonatal mortality | 33 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 22 |
| Maternal Mortality | 505 | 435 | 438 | 336 | 189 |
| Life Expectancy (Years) | 48 | 51 | 56 | 60 | 63 |

Source: UBOS 2001- 2022

Results in the Table above reveal that there has been a significant improvement from 151 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 52 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022. This indicates improved child healthcare, nutrition, and access to healthcare services. Similarly, infant mortality has decreased from

88 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 36 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022. This reflects better maternal and child health services and overall healthcare improvements. Neonatal mortality has remained relatively stable, with around 27 deaths per 1,000 live births from 2006 to 2022. Further efforts may be needed to reduce these rates, focusing on prenatal care and skilled birth attendance.

Maternal mortality has shown significant improvement, dropping from 505 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2001 to 189 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022. This decline may be attributed to improved maternal healthcare services and access to skilled birth attendants. Life expectancy has steadily increased to 63 years in 2022 from 48 years in 2001.. This improvement is indicative of better overall healthcare, nutrition, sanitation, and disease prevention programmes.

Table 3.24 below presents the current status of infant and under five (5) mortality by sub-region;

Table 3.24: Current Status of Infant and Under Five (5) Mortality by Sub-Region;

| S/n | Region | Infant Mortality | Under 5 Mortality |
|-----|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Kigezi | 33.7 | 42.6 |
| 2 | Ankole | 49.0 | 58.7 |
| 3 | Kampala | 32.8 | 39.6 |
| 4 | Elgon | 34.6 | 45.0 |
| 5 | West Nile | 54.9 | 79.5 |
| 6 | Acholi | 28.9 | 45.8 |
| 7 | Teso | 21.1 | 30.6 |
| 8 | Bunyoro | 42.7 | 59.9 |
| 9 | Buganda | 37.4 | 55.7 |
| 10 | Karamoja | 26.1 | 55.7 |
| 11 | Toro | 36.9 | 49.8 |
| 12 | Lango | 34.8 | 50.2 |
| 13 | Busoga | 41.4 | 65.1 |
| 14 | Bukedi | 33.8 | 54.2 |

Source: UDHS 2022

The table presents infant mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births) and under-5 mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births before the age of 5) across various regions in Uganda. Kampala and Acholi have the lowest infant mortality rates at 32.8 and 28.9, respectively, indicating relatively better healthcare access and maternal care. Teso records the lowest under-5 mortality rate at 30.6, suggesting effective healthcare interventions for children under 5 years old. Conversely, West Nile shows the highest rates, with 54.9 for infant mortality and 79.5 for under-5 mortality, highlighting significant health challenges in these regions, likely due to limited healthcare infrastructure and access to essential services. Overall, the data underscores disparities in healthcare outcomes across Uganda's regions, emphasising the need for targeted health interventions and improvements in healthcare access and quality, particularly in regions with higher mortality rates.

CHAPTER FOUR

Multi-Sectoral Strategies to Enhance Social Protection

4.0 Introduction

Social protection is a multi-faceted approach essential for promoting economic stability, reducing poverty, and enhancing the well-being of vulnerable populations. In Uganda, the complexities of social issues require comprehensive and integrated strategies that leverage the strengths of various sectors. This chapter, delves into the coordinated efforts that have been undertaken to improve social protection systems and their outcomes.

4.1 Ministry of Health

4.1.1 Status of key social protection indicators under the health sector

- i. **Maternal and Neonatal Health:** Maternal and neonatal health is a priority area within Uganda's health sector, given its critical role in reducing mortality rates and improving long-term health outcomes. Skilled obstetric care during delivery is essential for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. According to the Ministry of Health, the percentage of pregnant women who attended at least four Antenatal Care (ANC) visits increased to 60% in the FY2020/21 from 48% in 2011. This improvement reflects enhanced access to and utilisation of maternal health services, which are crucial components of social protection.
- ii. Similarly, the proportion of childbirths attended by skilled health professionals has seen a substantial increase, rising from 37% in 2001 to 73% in 2020. This improvement is particularly significant for first births, with 86 per cent of these deliveries being attended by a skilled health professional, compared to 64 per cent for sixth or higher-order births. This trend underscores the importance of continuous investment in maternal health services and education to further reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates.
- iii. **Child Health and Mortality Rates:** Child health is another vital area linked to social protection, as early health interventions can have long-lasting impacts on individual and community health outcomes. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Uganda was reported at 43 per 1,000 live births, slightly missing the FY 2020/21 target of 41.2. Similarly, the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) stood at 27 per 1,000 live births against a target of 24. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) was 336 per 100,000 live births, also missing the target of 311. These statistics highlight ongoing challenges in achieving targeted health outcomes and the need for enhanced health services and social protection measures.
- iv. **Nutrition and Child Growth:** Malnutrition remains a significant public health issue, impacting children's growth and development. The proportion of stunted children under five years of age was 29 per cent in FY 2020/21, slightly above the target of 27 per cent. Addressing malnutrition

through integrated health and social protection programmes is essential for improving child health outcomes and reducing the burden of disease.

v. Health Insurance and Financial Protection: Access to health insurance is a vital element of social protection, providing financial security against health-related expenses. However, in FY2020/21, only 3.9 per cent of the Ugandan population had access to health insurance, falling short of the 7 per cent target. This shortfall was exacerbated by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to job losses and reduced income, thereby limiting individuals' ability to afford health insurance. Out-of-pocket health expenditure remained high at 41 per cent, against a target of 38 per cent, indicating a need for more comprehensive health financing mechanisms to protect households from catastrophic health expenditures.

vi. Health Services and Facility Readiness: The readiness capacity of health facilities to provide general services was reported at 58 per cent in FY2020/21, slightly below the target of 60 per cent. The focus on COVID-19 interventions significantly affected the range of services offered by public health facilities, highlighting the need for a balanced approach to healthcare service provision that ensures readiness for both routine and emergency health needs.

vii. Adolescent Health: Adolescent health, particularly sexual and reproductive health, is a critical area of concern. The UDHS (2016) reported that 25% of women aged 15 - 19 years had begun childbearing, with significant regional disparities. Teenage childbearing was highest in regions such as North Central, Bukedi, Teso, and Tooro (30 - 31%) and lowest in Kigezi and Kampala (16 - 17%). These statistics indicate the need for targeted social protection and health interventions to address the unique health challenges faced by adolescents.

4.1.2 Compliance of the ministry of health with gender and equity requirements in FYs 2020/21 - 2023/24

Table 4.1 below presents trends of the Ministry of Health regarding the Vote's compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Table 4.1: Compliance of the Votes Under Health with G&E Requirements for FYs2020/21-2023/24

| S/N | MDA | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Ministry of Health | 72.40% | 78.00% | 65% | 91% |
| 2 | Mulago National Referral Hospital | 65.70% | 66.00% | 63.85% | 77% |
| 3 | Lira Regional Referral Hospital | 77.10% | 78.00% | 59.36% | 73% |
| 4 | Arua Regional Referral Hospital | 64.10% | 66.00% | 63.05% | 70% |
| 5 | Gulu Regional Referral Hospital | 63.10% | 69.00% | 64.05% | 70% |
| 6 | Butabika National Referral Hospital | 66.40% | 67.00% | 64.70% | 68% |
| 7 | Yumbe Referral Hospital | | | 61% | 68% |

| S/N | MDA | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|-----|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 8 | Hoima Regional Referral Hospital | 59.70% | 72.00% | 63.85% | 66% |
| 9 | Kabale Regional Referral Hospital | 70.10% | 71.00% | 71.05% | 66% |
| 10 | Naguru Referral Hospital | 68.10% | 70.00% | 66.10% | 66% |
| 11 | Uganda Cancer Institute | 68.40% | 60.00% | 62.20% | 66% |
| 12 | Soroti Regional Referral Hospital | 75.40% | 76.00% | 76.50% | 64% |
| 13 | Uganda Heart Institute | 60.10% | 60.00% | 62.05% | 61% |
| 14 | Mbale Regional Referral Hospital | 66.40% | 68.00% | 61.64% | 59% |
| 15 | Kawempe Referral Hospital | 67.40% | 66.00% | 68.95% | 57% |
| 16 | Moroto Regional Referral Hospital | 64.40% | 66.00% | 63.20% | 57% |
| 17 | Health Service Commission | 70.10% | 60.00% | 63.05% | 55% |
| 18 | Kiruddu Referral Hospital | 59.70% | 60.00% | 61.64% | 55% |
| 19 | Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital | 79.10% | 80.00% | 71.53% | 55% |
| 20 | Mubende Regional Referral Hospital | 67.40% | 63.00% | 63.20% | 55% |
| 21 | Uganda Blood Transfusion Service (UBTS) | 54.70% | 61.00% | 60.85% | 55% |
| 22 | Entebbe Regional Referral Hospital | 52.40% | 69.00% | 71.20% | 52.27% |
| 23 | Jinja Regional Referral Hospital | 72.70% | 74.00% | 74.15% | 52% |
| 24 | Mulago Specialised Women & Neonatal Hospital | 70.40% | 71.00% | 63.91% | 52% |
| 25 | Kayunga Referral Hospital | | | 62% | 50% |
| 26 | Masaka Regional Referral Hospital | 68.70% | 61.00% | 62.85% | 50% |
| 27 | Uganda Virus Research Institute | 54.10% | 54.00% | 66.18% | 14% |
| | National Average | 63.93% | 66.08% | 65% | 67% |

Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

The Ministry of Health has registered great improvement regarding its commitment to undertake specific measures to equalise opportunities, most of which relate to social protection. In FY 2020/2021, the Ministry's compliance level was 72.4%, which has since improved to 91% (FY 2023/24).

4.1.3 Social protection measures taken under health in FYs2021/22-23/24

- i. **Emergency Medical Services:** The government procured a fleet of 26 ambulances, comprising 14 road ambulances and 12 water ambulances. Two additional boat ambulances were expected for emergency response and transporting vaccination teams. These water ambulances will primarily benefit residents of Buvuma, Kalangala, and Amolatar and extend services to districts such as Mukono, Ntoroko, Serere, Jinja, Obongi, Mayuge, Namayingo, Kabale, and Kumi. The ambulances aim to enhance emergency medical response and healthcare services in island areas, demonstrating the government's commitment to improving healthcare accessibility and quality for

all populations, particularly those in remote locations. The boat ambulances were flagged off by H.E., the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni at Marine Battalion Headquarters in Entebbe.

- ii. Infrastructure Development:** The Ministry of Health invested UGX11,986,715,000 to construct a Health Centre III in Bunambutye, Bulambuli district, in the Mt. Elgon region. This facility provides primary healthcare services to the resettled victims and survivors of the Bududa landslides and the surrounding community. The health centre, commissioned on 27th August 2021 by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja is a critical component of social protection, offering essential medical services to vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters.
- iii. Oxygen Plants and Village Health Teams:** The ministry maintained and operationalised 11 oxygen plants across various hospitals, including Mulago National Referral Hospital, CUFH-Naguru, and regional referral hospitals in Fort-Portal, Hoima, Mubende, Jinja, Moroto, Gulu, Arua, Kabale, and Mbarara. Additionally, 1,110 Village Health Teams were equipped with phones to enhance health service delivery, ensuring that essential medical information and services reach even the most remote areas.
- iv. Zoonotic Disease Prevention and Control:** Four high-risk districts, namely; Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Kaberamaido and Arua received support for the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases. These measures are vital for safeguarding public health and protecting communities from disease outbreaks that can exacerbate vulnerabilities.
- v. Drug Supplies and Medical Equipment:** The government has prioritised timely supplies of drugs to address stock-outs and the provision of relevant medical equipment. This initiative is vital for maintaining continuous and effective healthcare delivery, particularly in underserved areas.
- vi. Operationalising Health Facilities:** Efforts to operationalise Mulago Super Specialised Hospital and all existing HCIVs and HCIIIs have been intensified. Funds have been earmarked to functionalise Health Centre IIs that were upgraded to HC IIIs, aiming to improve access to quality healthcare services at lower local government levels and ensure universal health coverage.
- vii. Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs):** The Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) strategy has been piloted to shift from a predominantly curative, disease-oriented healthcare system to a preventive, health-promoting system. This approach is expected to enhance public health outcomes and integrate preventive health measures into daily practices.
- viii. Integration of Refugee Health Services:** The integration of refugee response activities into the government health systems is important for preserving the historical gains of peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities. This measure ensures that refugees receive the same level of healthcare and social protection as the host population.

ix. Nutrition Services: There has been increased coverage of nutrition-specific services, reaching at least 80 per cent of infants, young children, and pregnant and lactating mothers in both stable and emergency circumstances. These services are essential for addressing malnutrition and ensuring the healthy development of children and mothers.

4.1.4 Emerging social protection issues in health

- i. Increasing Burden of Cancer:** The burden of cancer in Uganda is on a significant upward trajectory. Projections indicate that the incidence of cancer is expected to increase by 40% by 2030 due to changes in risk factors and population growth (Ministry of Health, 2021). The Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) currently handles approximately 65,000 patients annually, a substantial increase to 7,400 in 2021 from 3,500 new cases in 2015 (UCI, 2021). This surge in cancer cases has outpaced the growth in healthcare capacity, particularly in terms of trained oncology nurses, creating a critical shortage that hampers effective cancer care delivery.
- ii. Rising HIV/AIDS Infection Rates among Adolescents:** HIV/AIDS remains a significant public health issue in Uganda, with a troubling increase in infection rates among adolescents, particularly girls. According to the UDHS (2016), girls aged 15 - 19 years are four times more likely to be infected with HIV compared to boys of the same age group. This disparity highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions focusing on education, prevention, and support services for young women and girls to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- iii. High Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates:** Despite progress in healthcare, maternal and infant mortality rates in Uganda remain high. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was reported at 43 per 1,000 live births in the FY2020/21, against a target of 41.2 (UBOS Statistical Abstract, 2020). The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) stood at 336 per 100,000 live births, missing the target of 311. These high mortality rates underscore the need for enhanced maternal and child health services as integral components of social protection.
- iv. Malnutrition and Child Health:** Malnutrition continues to affect a significant portion of Uganda's young population. The proportion of stunted children under five years of age was 29% in FY2020/21, slightly above the target of 27% (Ministry of Health, 2021). Malnutrition impedes physical and cognitive development, leading to long-term adverse effects on health and productivity. Expanding nutrition-specific services and integrating them into broader social protection programmes is essential to address this issue.
- v. Limited Access to Health Insurance:** Access to health insurance in Uganda is critically low, with only 3.9% of the population covered in FY2020/21, far below the target of 7% (Ministry of Health, 2021). This shortfall is attributed to economic hardships exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to widespread job losses and reduced incomes. Without adequate health insurance, many Ugandans face substantial out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, leading to financial strain and reduced access to necessary medical care.

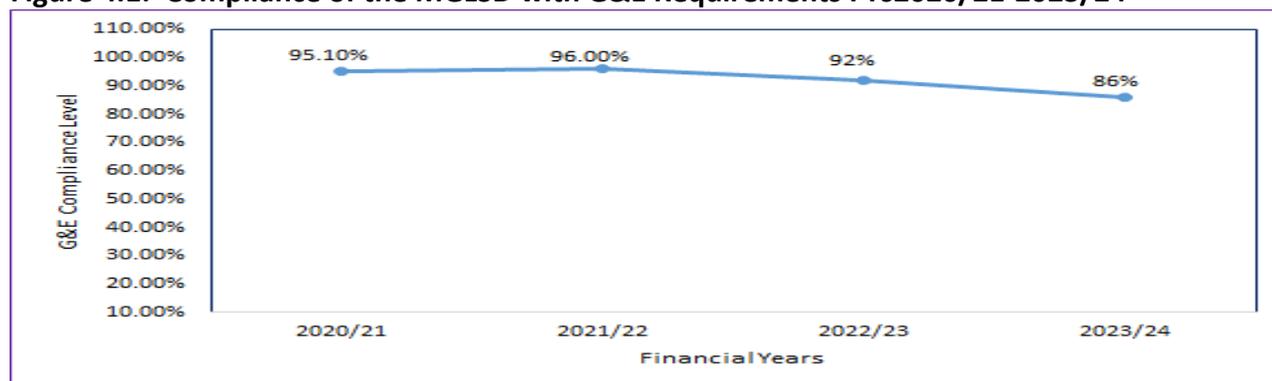
- vi. **Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health:** Adolescent sexual and reproductive health remains a pressing issue, with high rates of teenage pregnancies. According to UDHS (2016), 25% of women aged 15 - 19 years have begun childbearing. This rate is higher in rural areas (27%) compared to urban areas (19%). Teenage childbearing is particularly prevalent in regions such as North Central, Bukedi, Teso, and Tooro, where rates range from 30% to 31%. These statistics reflect the need for enhanced youth-friendly health services and comprehensive sexual education programmes to address and mitigate the factors contributing to early childbearing.

4.2 Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

4.2.1 Compliance of the MGLSD with gender and equity requirements in FYs2020/21 - 2023/24

Figure 4.1 below presents trends of the MGLSD regarding the Vote’s compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Figure 4.1: Compliance of the MGLSD with G&E Requirements FYs2020/21-2023/24



Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

The MGLSD has maintained its high compliance level of 86 per cent and above over the years.

4.2.2 Key social protection measures taken by MGLSD FYs 2021/22-23

- In the FY2022/2023, the government utilised UGX6.6 billion to boost income-generating activities for PWDs.
- In the FY2022/2023, UGX1,059 billion was earmarked for PDM as a revolving fund, with each Parish receiving UGX100 million. In addition, UGX10.5 billion was provided as administrative costs for the implementation of PDM activities and UGX28.79 billion to cater for the wages of the newly recruited Parish Chiefs. This model is the vehicle of socio-economic transformation at the parish level and the monetisation of the Ugandan economy.
- Capacity building on gender and equity budgeting, as well as GBV mainstreaming in workplans and budgets, was undertaken by 276 Political leaders, Parish Chiefs, and Technical Officers (114 female, 162 male) in 23 local governments.

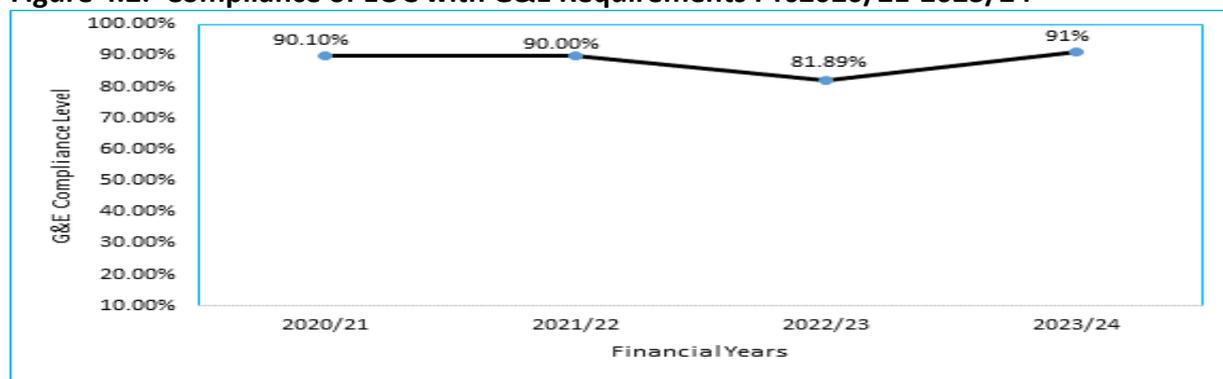
- iv. Capacity building of 1,168 youth and women on value addition of their products undertaken for 56 Women groups and 25 Youth groups in six (6) local governments;
- v. In FY2022/2023 basic rights of 1,275 children in conflict with the law were promoted through the provision of food and non-food items to nine (9) Ministry institutions of Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre, Gulu Remand Home, Kabale Remand Home, Fort-Portal Remand Home, Naguru Remand Home, Mbale Remand Home, Naguru Reception Centre, Arua Remand Home and Ihungu Remand Home;
- vi. 962 PWD groups were supported under the Special Grant for persons with disabilities, reaching 7,377 PWDs, out of which 3,752 were males and 4,265 females in 66 local governments.
- vii. Orientation of the Parish Development Committee members and local leaders on their roles and responsibilities in GBV prevention and response held in 49 parishes in the local governments of Arua (Logiri Sub-county), Kitgum (Lagoro Sub-county), Kasese (Maliba Sub-county) and Kyegegwa (Mpala Sub-county).
- viii. At a cost of UGX5.37 million, Care and protection were provided to 200 abandoned and lost children at the Naguru Reception Centre.
- ix. The government utilised UGX16.6 billion to boost income-generating activities for PWDs. This translates into an increase of UGX7 billion from UGX9.6 billion as of FY2022/2023. The population with disabilities in Uganda is 6,466,798 (12.4% (male 49.26; 50.74% female)).
- x. The government introduced a special grant for Older persons aged 60 - 79 years who are not beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) programme amounting to UGX5 billion.

4.3 Equal Opportunities Commission

4.3.1 Compliance of EOC with gender and equity requirements FYs2020/21 - 2023/24

Figure 4.2 below presents trends of EOC regarding the Vote’s compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Figure 4.2: Compliance of EOC with G&E Requirements FYs2020/21-2023/24



Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FYs2020/2021-2023/2024

EOC has maintained its high compliance level of 80 per cent and above over the years.

4.3.2 Social protection measures taken by EOC 2021/22 - 2023/24

- i. The Commission produced and disseminated the 10th annual report on the state of equal opportunities in Uganda for FY2021/2022 at a cost of UGX584 million. The Report provides specific recommendations to MDAs aimed at equalising opportunities and promoting social protection.
- ii. The Commission conducted four (4) engagements with education stakeholders on completion dropout rates, fees, and other topical issues. The engagements guided stakeholders on how to intervene and ensure inclusive education for all children, as well as come up with measures that help reduce the high dropout rates in schools.
- iii. At the cost of UGX31 million, EOC conducted a study on access to social services among youth, Older persons, PWDs, and children living in slums in major urban centres in Uganda. The study findings were used to write recommendations to the responsible stakeholders on how best to intervene and ensure Gender and equity responsive allocation of resources as well as increased access, benefit, and participation.
- iv. At a cost of UGX1.467 billion, EOC conducted tribunal sittings, ADR sessions and public inquiries. The tribunal sessions held in the different districts supported the vulnerable and marginalised persons who can't afford fees for accessing social justice in courts of law.
- v. 4 Mobile Legal Clinics were carried out in the four regions of the country. Mobile clinics target the marginalised and vulnerable people who are seeking legal justice but can't afford it.

4.4 Ministry of Education and Sports

4.4.1 Status of key social protection indicators under the education sector

- i. **Access to pre-primary education:** According to EMIS (2017), less than 10 per cent of the children aged 3 - 5 years in Uganda are attending pre-school, meaning that over 5 million children are denied the opportunity to attend pre-primary education. Busoga sub-region has the lowest (3.2%), followed by Teso at 4% and Bukedi at 4.8%. In addition, there is low coverage of Early Childhood Development Centres. As a result, there is a missed opportunity for social interaction skills, character development, and a foundation for early literacy as well as numeracy development. There is also observed physical inaccessibility of the available pre-school facilities and the general environment for children with disabilities besides the lack of SNE Teachers. This results in denying an opportunity to children with disabilities to access pre-primary education.
- ii. **Net Enrollment rates in Island districts, Karamoja, Acholi, and Lango Subregions:** While the average Net Enrollment rate was 93.5 per cent in 2017, in Karamoja, Lango, and Acholi they were below 60%. The worst Net Enrollment Rates are in Amudat (18%), Kotido (35%) and Nakapiripirit (37%). According to the 2014 Census, there were 605,380 children with disability aged 6 – 12 years. EMIS data (2017) indicates that pupils with special needs enrolled in school were only

-
- 172,846, which is 29 per cent of PWDs aged 6 – 12 years. This implies that there is physical inaccessibility of the available Primary school facilities and the general environment for children with disabilities. The situation breeds regional imbalance in skilling, accessing, and benefiting from economic, social, and political opportunities.
- iii. **Gender disparity in primary school enrolment:** Whereas Uganda attained gender parity at the Primary Education Level in 2009, to date, 26 districts are yet to attain gender parity, and these include Kaabong, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Amudat, Zombo, Adjumani, Yumbe, Nebbi, Amuru, Moroto, Kiryandongo, Bullisa, Pakwach, Moyo, Pader, Alebtong, Otuke, Nwoya, Abim, Namayingo, Oyam, Lamwo, Agago, Omoro and Maracha. This breeds gender imbalance in skilling, accessing, and benefiting from economic, social, and political opportunities.
- iv. **PLE performance disparities between rural and urban regions by gender:** In 2017, the PLE performance index for schools in the municipalities was 71%, while that of the main local government districts was 55%. Whereas Bugiri, Mbale, and Kitgum municipalities were among the best local governments, the main districts were among the poor performers. According to the UBOS Statistical Abstract (2018), the PLE performance index shows that girls performed better than boys at 59% and 55%, respectively. At the sub-regional level, some regions were below the national average (58%), and these included Elgon at 49%, Lango (51%), Bukedi (53%), West Nile (54%), Busoga (55%), as well as Teso and Acholi at 56%. High teacher turnover in rural, especially hard-to-reach areas, results in poor performance of pupils, which hinders them from competing at the national level.
- v. **Sanitation facilities, especially for girls and children with disabilities:** The Education Sector Statistical Abstract (2016) indicated that a total of 4,604 latrine stances did not have doors and no reporting on PWDs as users. The construction of user-friendly facilities will keep girls and children with disabilities in schools and also reduce school dropouts. Sexual violence in schools, especially among the girl children is high; During the 2018 PLE, a total of 6 girls in one of the schools in Masindi were expecting. In addition, over 10 girls delivered while sitting their exams.
- vi. **The Select Committee report of Parliament (2019)** on the inquiry into allegations of sexual violence in institutions of learning in Uganda revealed that 77.7 per cent of primary school-going children experienced sexual abuse while at school. The report also indicated that 82 per cent of students in secondary schools experienced sexual abuse, out of which 8 per cent had been defiled. This breed has low completion rates, poor performance, contraction of HIV/AIDs, early marriages and motherhood, and high infant and maternal mortality.
- vii. **A total of 533 sub-counties do not have** secondary schools, which has affected access to education, especially in Karamoja districts, Kasese, Manafwa, and Namisindwa. Education data (2017) shows that 25.4% of orphans aged 13 – 18 years were enrolled in secondary education. Enrollment was 26.9% males and 24% females. According to the National Census (2014), PWDs aged 13 – 18 years were 370,380. In 2017, the number of students with special needs totalled 8,945, implying that only 2.4% of the special needs students were enrolled in school. There is a challenge of accessibility in the general environment for students with disabilities and a lack

of SNE Teachers. According to the UBOS statistical abstract (2018), the transition rate to senior five for boys is 28.4% compared to 21% for girls.

- viii. **Disparity in access to secondary education:** According to the UNHS (2016/17), the net enrollment ratio for urban areas was 44% compared to 23% for rural. A total of 22 districts have low female enrollment at secondary. Among these are Yumbe, Moroto, Zombo, Nwoya, Nebbi, Kaabong, and Agago, which account for less than 40 per cent of the total. As a result, there is a low, transitional rate from primary to secondary.
- ix. **Limited access to BTVET education:** According to UBOS abstract (2018), 36% of the enrolled students are females. In addition, there are marked variations in enrollments by sub-region. Buganda and Ankole sub-regions account for 46% of the enrollments. The worst enrollments are Karamoja (0.8%), Elgon (2.2%), Bunyoro (3.2%) and West Nile (3.7%). There is a low number of BTVET institutions in rural areas and a limited number of female and special needs instructors for science and technical fields due to stereotyping. There is also absence of a policy on security and safety in tertiary institutions, especially on gender-based violence. Further, there is a mismatch between the required skills and the job market. Therefore, the limited access to BTVET education hinders skilling for structural transformation. Students with disabilities have missed an opportunity to join the technical fields due to a lack of SNE instructors.
- x. **Disparities in access to university loan schemes:** A total of 5,242 students benefited. Out of these, 72% were male and 28% female. For the last four years, 37% were from the Western region, Eastern 28% and Northern 11%.
- xi. **Cases of sexual harassment in universities:** According to the Makerere University report (2018) on the investigation of sexual harassment, there have been cases of sexual harassment reported in most of the colleges. The increased cases of sexual harassment affect student performance in institutions of higher learning.

4.4.2 Compliance of vote under the education sector with gender and equity requirements 2020/21 - 2023/24

Table 4.2 below presents trends of the votes in the education sector regarding their compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Table 4.2: Compliance of the Votes Under Education Sector with G&E Requirements FYs2020/21-2023/24

| S/N | MDA | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Ministry of Education and Sports | 80.10% | 81.00% | 73.10% | 84% |
| 2 | Kyambogo University | 82.40% | 70.00% | 79.62% | 80% |
| 3 | Soroti University | 60.10% | 61.00% | 68.45% | 77% |
| 4 | Muni University | 69.40% | 70.00% | 67.70% | 66% |
| 5 | Busitema University | 75.70% | 70.00% | 59% | 61% |

| S/N | MDA | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|-----|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 6 | National Curriculum Development Center | 60.40% | 70.00% | 63.20% | 61% |
| 7 | Education Service Commission | 53.40% | 67.00% | 62.20% | 55% |
| 8 | Gulu University | 67.70% | 69.00% | 59.82% | 55% |
| 9 | Uganda Management Institute | 59.40% | 72.00% | 61.64% | 55% |
| 10 | Lira University | 77.10% | 78.00% | 76.35% | 52% |
| 11 | Makerere University Business School | 62.40% | 69.00% | 63.70% | 52% |
| 12 | Mbarara University | 79.10% | 76.00% | 76.35% | 52% |
| 13 | Makerere University | 65.40% | 67.00% | 64.20% | 50% |
| 14 | Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) | 61.40% | 70.00% | 63.70% | 50% |
| 15 | National Council for Higher Education | | | 62% | 27% |

Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

4.4.3 Social protection measures taken by the MES 2021/22 – 2023/24

- i. Rolled out the Teacher Effectiveness and Learners Achievement (TELA) system in the eastern part of the country, covering all government primary, secondary, and certificate-awarding institutions. Also, rolled out the e-inspection system to all 177 Local Governments. Commenced the national rollout of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) in November 2022.
- ii. Evaluation measures to establish sub-counties without a government secondary school have been initiated with a commitment to mobilising resources to have the seed secondary schools constructed in the affected sub-counties.
- iii. A total of 625 students out of 3,089 applicants across the country have been approved to benefit from a UGX2.6 billion loan scheme. Beneficiaries were picked from 12 Universities and 37 Tertiary institutions. However, initially, the number of applicants averaged 2,000, and the demand is now close to 10,000 applicants. The increase in demand necessitates the allocation of quotas by the sub-region for balanced development.
- iv. In a bid to support PWDs, Kabale University purchased Assistive technology equipment for PWDs usage in information access and use.
- v. UGX2.6 billion has been earmarked for the Student Loan Scheme. HESFB will be awarding study loans to Ugandan students seeking to pursue higher education but who are financially constrained. The objectives of the Students' Financing Scheme are: - (1) To increase equitable access to higher education in Uganda; (2) To support highly qualified students who may not afford higher education; (3) To ensure regional balance in higher education services in Uganda; (4) To create a revolving fund. The Students' Loan shall cover tuition fees and functional fees. The loan shall also cover aids and appliances for PWDS, while research funds may be covered as and when the budget allows.
- vi. A total of 117 seed secondary schools were constructed in the first phase in an attempt to ensure that there was a secondary school in every sub-county.

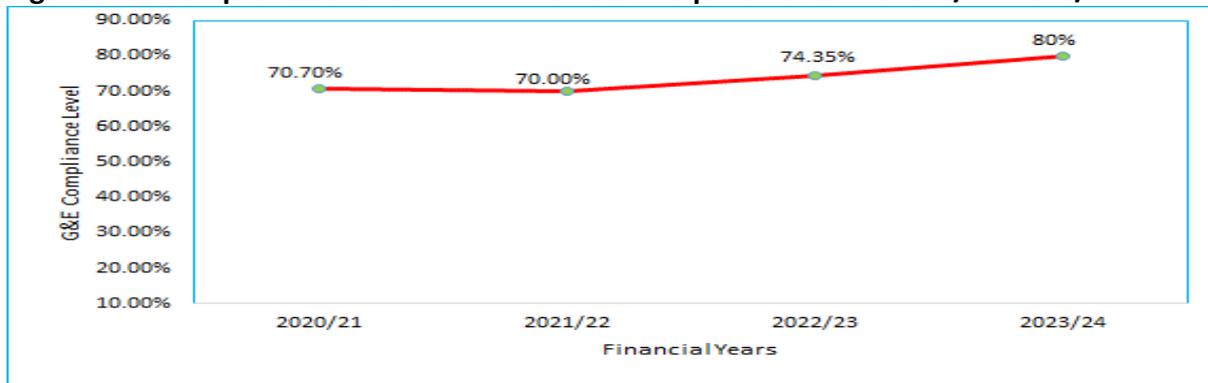
- vii. Built capacity of 650 disadvantaged youth in non-formal vocational training for self-employment and wealth creation, Conducted capacity building of 1,668 youth in entrepreneurial and life skills for livelihood and also Mentored and monitored 100 beneficiaries of the Youth Venture Capital Fund.

4.5. Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development

4.5.1 Compliance of the MFPED with gender and equity requirements 2020/21-2023/24

Figure 4.3 below presents trends of the MFPED regarding the vote’s compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Figure 4.3: Compliance of the MFPED with G&E Requirements FYs2020/21-2023/24



Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

The MFPED registered its highest gender and equity compliance level of 80 per cent since the commencement of the Public Finance Management Act 2015.

4.5.2 Specific measures taken by MFPED 2022/23 - 2023/24

- The Ministry rolled out and capitalised the PDM SACCOs by conducting quarterly visits to the 18 sub-regions to ascertain their readiness to receive funds. Over 8,000 PDM SACCOs had been capitalised with UGX50,000,000 each.
- The Ministry implemented the Emyooga programme and has so far disbursed seed capital worth UGX258.24 billion benefiting over 6,714 Emyooga SACCOs with over 1.9 million people and 118,504 member Associations.
- 145 projects worth UGX5.655 billion were supported under conventional financing and 28 Sharia-compliant projects worth UGX955 million under Islamic financing. Under the support, 79 per cent of the financing was to the Agriculture sector. The total beneficiary reach was 2,762,342 including women, men, youth and PWDs.
- Extended the Agriculture Insurance scheme for more 4 years under the second phase from FY2021/22 to FY2024/25 to consolidate efforts made under first phase with the inclusion of

crops under PDM. So far, 375,640 farmers have benefited from the scheme since its incorporation.

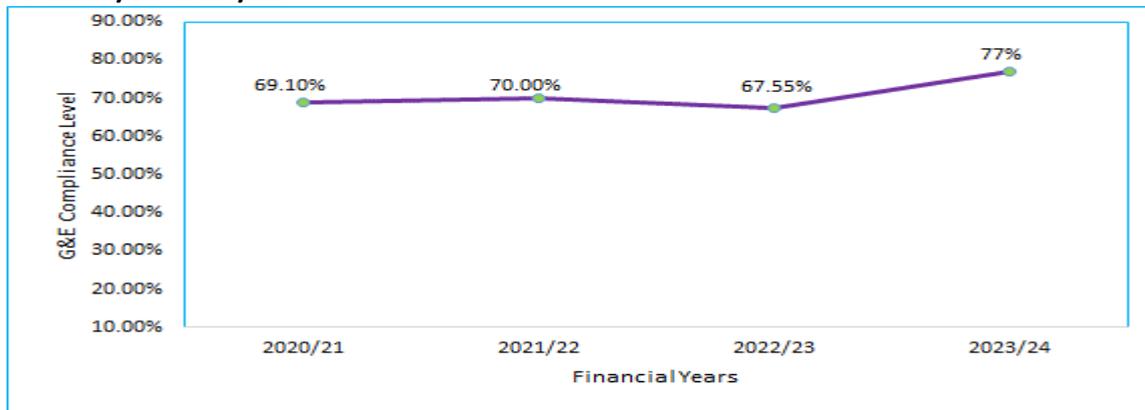
- v. 3,033 District Officials from 175 Local Governments trained in PDM SACCO formation and capacity building for PDM SACCO leadership to manage the Parish Revolving Fund.
- vi. The Ministry supported 8,535 MSMEs (51% Female) through the provision of business development services, including Entrepreneurship, Business Skills, Agribusiness, and Business Management Training in districts of Buvuma, Jinja, Mayuge, Luuka, Namutumba, Bugiri, Ntungamo and Ruhama.

4.6 Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs

4.6.1 Compliance of the Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs with gender and equity requirements 2020/21-2023/24

Figure 4.4 below presents trends of the Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs vote compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Figure 4.4: Compliance of the Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs with G&E Requirements FYs2020/21-2023/24



Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

The Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs registered its highest gender and equity compliance level of 77 per cent since the commencement of the Public Finance Management Act 2015.

4.6.2 Specific measures taken by MJCA 2022/23 - 2023/24

- i. Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECCMIS) rolled out in Court Stations of Jinja High Court, Jinja Chief Magistrate (CM), Kamuli CM Bugembe G1, Kakira G1, and Kagoma GI.
- ii. The video conferencing system was rolled out to 6 New High Court Stations and their respective prisons: Rukungiri, Moroto, Iganga, Hoima, Luwero, and Tororo.
- iii. 10 Institutional Houses were constructed in Hard-to-live areas of Kaabong, Moroto, Karenga, Bukwo, Kanungu, Bundibugyo, Nabilatuk, Buhweju, Nakapiriti, and Moyo.

- iv. 20 Breastfeeding and children's playrooms established.

4.7 Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries

4.7.1 Compliance of Vote MPs under the Agriculture sector with gender and equity requirements 2020/21 - 2023/24

Table 4.3 below presents trends of the Agriculture vote compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Table 4.3: Compliance of the Agriculture Votes with G&E Requirements FYs2020/21 - 2023/24

| S/N | MDA | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|-----|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Ministry of Agriculture, Animal & Fisheries | 74.10% | 84.00% | 61.64% | 77% |
| 2 | National Agricultural Research Organisation | 67.70% | 69.00% | 76.07% | 73% |
| 3 | Dairy Development Authority | 66.70% | 68.00% | 58.27% | 64% |
| 4 | National Animal Genetic Res. Centre and Data Bank | 56.70% | 67.00% | 63.85% | 64% |
| 5 | Uganda Coffee Development Authority | 71.40% | 60.00% | 59.82% | 50% |
| 6 | Uganda Cotton Development Organisation | 69.70% | 65.00% | 57.55% | 50% |
| | National Average | 63.93% | 66.08% | 65% | 67% |

Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

4.7.2 Specific measures taken by MAAF FYs 2022/23-2023/24

- i. The MAAIF utilised UGX69,720,000,000 among other costs to train 30 farmers and 2 extension staff in water management and irrigation techniques to enhance their skills in managing the established water infrastructures across the country.
- ii. The MAAIF utilised UGX151,850,000, among other costs, to support 100 private sector operators to establish Hass Avocado nurseries in different ecological zones.
- iii. For UGX23,562,000 among others, MAAIF constructed a one-acre pond and community cages for the youth in Kiboga district to enhance their fishing skills and provide employment.
- iv. MAAIF facilitated health workers and VHTs to carry out school-based nutrition education for school children.
- v. MAAIF trained 50 Artificial Insemination technicians from the central region on emerging technologies in animal breeding. Artificial insemination of cattle is one of the quickest ways to control and increase livestock production. The participants included PWDs.
- vi. Constructed 34 valley tanks, each with a capacity ranging from 10,000m³ to 20,000m³ in the water-stricken districts of Sembabule, Amolatar, Kyenjojo, Kumi, and Bukedea for UGX1,981,570,000, among others. The valley tanks increased access to water for livestock production and ultimately controlled the movement of animals.

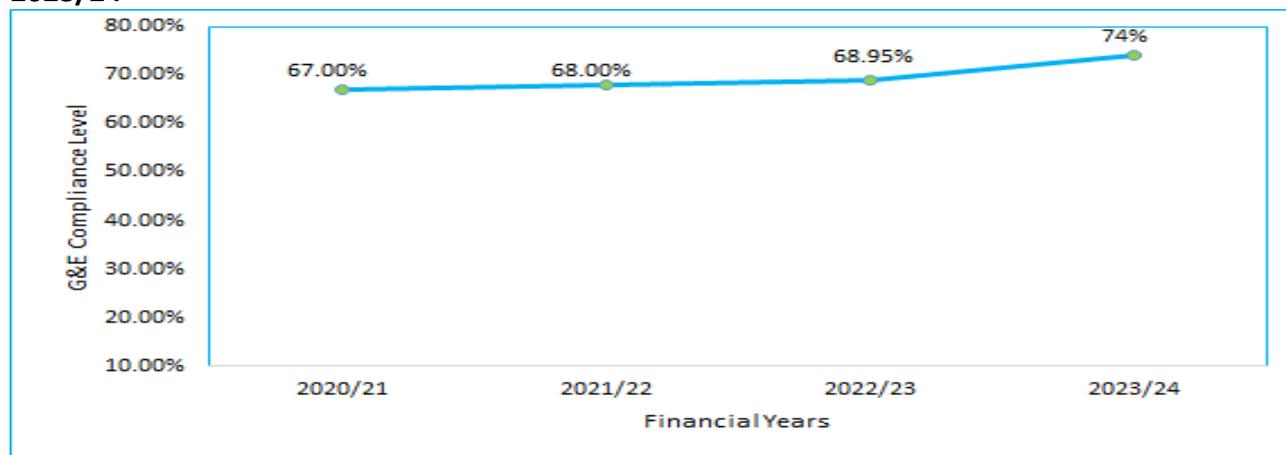
- vii. 11,517,340 plantlets were procured under a Cabinet Directive and distributed in 6 regions of Rwenzori, South-western to 2442 farmers, Central (4021 farmers), Greater Masaka (4872 farmers), Eastern (1210 farmers) & Western (1281 farmers).
- viii. Conducted a barista training course for 42 youths to build skills in coffee brewing techniques & create employment.
- ix. 350 women and 200 youth groups were mobilised and they participated in cotton growing in West Nile, Acholi, Lango, North Eastern, South Eastern, Mid-West and Kazinga Channel Regions.
- x. 135,000 farmers were registered, including members of 350 women and 200 youth groups, who were mobilised and they participated in cotton growing. 4,960 demonstration plots were also established and used to train farmers on cotton production techniques.
- xi. Provision of cotton inputs, 2,519 pumps, and 239,766 units of pesticides procured by CDOs in Q3 of FY2021/22 were received. CDOs also mobilised pesticides. A total of 744,173 units of pesticides, 2,489 spray pumps, and 323 Mt of fertilisers were distributed to farmers.
- xii. The 10 hard-to-reach districts of Amuria, Katakwi, Abim, Napak, Koboko, Karenga, Adjumani, Moyo, Yumbe, and Obongi were supported to undertake cotton growing. A total of 105 Mt of seed, 44 pumps, 60,583 units of pesticides, 141 Mt of fertilisers, and 750 litres of herbicides were supplied to these districts.

4.8 Ministry of Works and Transport

4.8.1 Compliance of the MWT vote MPs with gender and equity requirements 2020/21 - 2023/24

Figure 4.5 below presents trends of the MW&T vote ministerial policy statements compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Figure 4.5: Compliance of the MWT Vote MPs Compliance with G&E Requirements FYs2020/21 - 2023/24



Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

The Ministry of Works and Transport registered its highest gender and equity compliance level of 74 per cent since the commencement of the Public Finance Management Act 2015.

4.8.2 Social protection measures taken by MWT 2021/22 - 2023/24

- i. Search and Rescue Centres and women's fish drying sheds were completed.
- ii. Cable footbridges under B2P in hard-to-reach areas in western Uganda to provide access to school children completed.
- iii. 70km of Meter Gauge Railway (MGR) have been rehabilitated under the emergency repairs of Malaba-Kampala line.
- iv. Development of Kabale Airport is nearing completion; 88 per cent of cumulative works of Kabale International Airport were completed.
- v. The Ministry of Works and Transport utilised a total of UGX8,098,062,000 to construct one cable footbridge in Ibanda district, Western Uganda. This is a hard-to-reach area, and the cable footbridge is a very good intervention for increasing accessibility from the hills to the lowlands. This has eased transportation of the residents from and to the hilly places to access social services, markets among others (85% completion).

4.9 Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)

4.9.1 Compliance of KCCA vote MPs with gender and equity requirements 2020/21 - 2023/24

Figure 4.6 below presents trends of the KCCA vote ministerial policy statements compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Figure 4.6: Compliance of the KCCA Vote MPs Compliance with G&E Requirements 2020/21 - 2023/24



Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

4.9.2 Social security measures taken by KCCA 2021/22 – 2022/23

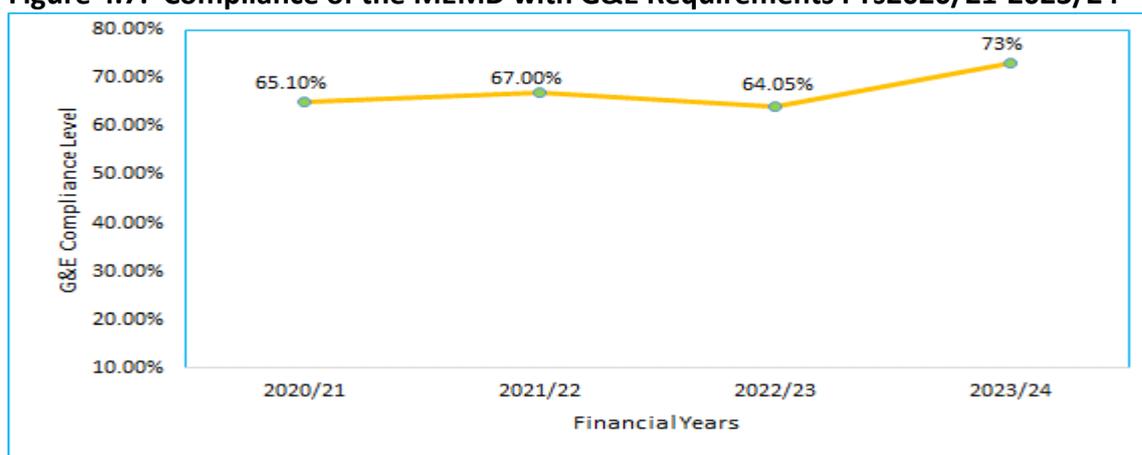
| SN | Category | Interventions | Amounts Utilised |
|----|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Gender | A total of UGX466,077,750 was transferred to 1,414 vulnerable adolescent girls both in and out of school as social protection support under the Girls Empowering Girls Programme. The programme works to ensure that girls transit safely into adulthood. It further ensures that girls receive education training and are empowered to achieve their goals. | UGX466,077,750 |
| | | The Old Taxi Park is the biggest and busiest public transport terminal in the country. KCCA completed the renovation of this hub by reconstructing the carpet, improving drainage and installing lights to enhance the security of the area and the public. | No funds mentioned |
| 2 | Equity by Age-Youth | A total of 442 youth accessed UGX1,517,100,000 under the KCCA Youth fund housed at Centenary Bank. The funds aimed at providing youth with marketable vocational skills and tool kits for self-employment and job creation. Furthermore, it provided financial support to enable the youth to establish Income Generating Activities (IGAs). | UGX1,517,100,000 |
| | | The vote sensitised a total of 800 youth groups on dynamics in revolving schemes management. They included 363 males and 437 females. | No funds mentioned |
| 3 | Older Persons | Under the SAGE Programme, a total of 1,059 beneficiaries from across the 5 City Division of the city received their stipends. SAGE is a cash transfer scheme that is a key element of the Government of Uganda's Expanded Social Protection Programme. It aims to help tackle chronic poverty among the elderly in the city and the entire country. It supports the poor elderly to access healthcare and other key services. | No funds mentioned |
| 4 | Children | The vote completed the renovation of administrative blocks and installed solar power in 2 schools of Mulago and Ntinda for the deaf contributing to better learning conditions for pupils in the 2 schools. | No funds mentioned |
| | | Phase 2 of the construction of a perimeter wall at Ntinda Primary School was completed. | No funds mentioned |

| SN | Category | Interventions | Amounts Utilised |
|----|------------|--|--------------------|
| | | The vote promoted Children's rights as per Uganda Child Policy 2020 by rescuing 305 children from the streets and reunifying them with their parents. 3,379 vulnerable children were provided with care and protection services. | No funds mentioned |
| 5 | Disability | A total of UGX13.9 billion was spent on salaries for 1,262 primary, 1,418 secondary, and 324 school teachers. The teachers included PWDs. | UGX13.9 billion |
| 6 | Location | The vote trained 26 Local Council One (LC1) leaders trained in child care and protection under the Kampala Capital Child Protection Ordinance | No funds mentioned |
| | | The vote completed the construction of 8.577 Km of drainage channels and 51.4 Km of roads under KIIDP2, Batch2. The improved road network contributed to increased business, leading to improved standards of living. | No funds mentioned |

4.10 Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

4.10.1 Compliance of MEMD with gender and equity requirements 2020/21-2023/24

Figure 4.7: Compliance of the MEMD with G&E Requirements FYs2020/21-2023/24



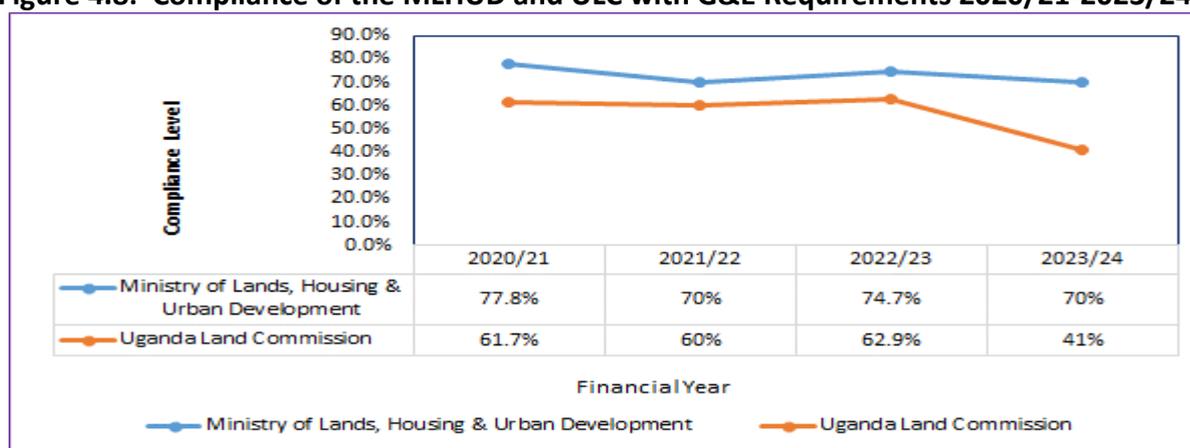
Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

4.11 Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the Uganda Land Commission

4.11.1 Compliance of MLHUD and ULC with gender and equity requirements 2020/21 - 2023/24

Figure 4.8 below presents trends of the MLHUD and ULC vote ministerial policy statements compliance with gender and equity requirements for the last four Financial Years;

Figure 4.8: Compliance of the MLHUD and ULC with G&E Requirements 2020/21-2023/24



Source: EOC MPS G&E Assessment FY 2020/2021-2023/2024

4.11.2 Social security measures taken by MLHUD and ULC 2021/22 – 2022/23

- i. The government distributed over 4,000 customary certificates of land registration to residents of Kabale district. The objective of the exercise was to secure the land of vulnerable persons and also ensure their safety of tenure.
- ii. Held Barazas and public sensitisations on land rights and other land-related matters in Acholi, West Nile, Lango and Buganda regions, ensuring representation of all groups, especially women, youth and PWDs.
- iii. Handled land disputes and conflicts with threats to destruction of properties for both men, women and vulnerable persons and loss of lives.
- iv. Processed and issued 24,985 land titles for the public, taking into account gender and equity issues to enhance the security of tenure.
- v. Reviewed and approved compensation rates for 5 districts of Kikuube, Mitooma, Mbarara, Kyenjojo, and Mukono.
- vi. Finalised the development of the National Land Acquisition, Resettlement, and Rehabilitation Policy 2023.
- vii. Continued with the implementation of the National Land Information System and computerisation of land records in the 22 Ministry Zonal Offices.

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- viii. Carried out Stakeholder sensitisations on physical planning in 5 Districts of Luwero, Nakaseke, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi and Kakumiro ensuring representation of all groups especially women, youth, vulnerable groups and PWDs.

4.12 Office of the Prime Minister

4.12.1 Social security measures taken by OPM 2021/22 – 2022/23

- i. Responded to disaster occurrences and completed the development of the Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP), which provides a framework for disaster preparedness and response. In this regard, OPM supported approximately 142,025 disaster-affected Households (710,127 people) across the country with relief food and non-food items.
- ii. A number of infrastructures were established to support both refugees and host communities. i.e., construction of ninety (90) school infrastructure (classrooms, office blocks, stance latrines, and ICT libraries) in Madi-Okollo, Adjumani, and Lamwo District Local Governments.
- iii. A number of infrastructures were established to support both refugees and host communities. i.e, construction and rehabilitation of 26 km roads in Lamwo district.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

5.1 Evidence-Based Recommendations for Policy Enhancements

Based on the statistical evidence presented in this report, the following evidence-based recommendations are proposed to enhance Uganda's social protection system:

- i. **Expand Coverage of Social Assistance Programmes:** With 56% of children aged 0 - 17 years multidimensionally poor and only 5% of Older persons receiving a pension, there is a clear need to broaden the scope of social assistance programmes. Increasing the coverage of SAGE and similar programmes can help address these gaps, particularly in regions with high poverty rates and among vulnerable populations.
- ii. **Increase Financial Investment in Social Protection:** Despite a rise in direct income support from UGX36 billion in FY2016/17 to UGX165 billion by FY 2019/20, this funding has been adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To maintain and expand support, it is crucial to advocate for higher budget allocations to the social protection sector and explore innovative financing mechanisms to supplement government funding.
- iii. **Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks:** The current M&E systems are insufficient, as evidenced by the need for better tracking and assessment mechanisms. Developing a comprehensive M&E framework will enable a more effective evaluation of programme impacts, ensuring that interventions are both efficient and responsive to emerging needs.
- iv. **Enhance Policy Frameworks for Inclusivity:** The compliance level of Ministerial Policy Statements with gender and equity requirements has improved marginally from 65% to 67%. Continued efforts to integrate gender and equity considerations into policy design and implementation are essential to ensure that all vulnerable groups benefit equally from social protection initiatives.
- v. **Improve Rural and Urban Disparities:** With 76 per cent of the population residing in rural areas, it is crucial to enhance access to social services and infrastructure in these regions. This includes investing in rural healthcare, education, and transportation to reduce disparities between urban and rural areas.

5.2 Strategies to Improve Coverage, Effectiveness, and Impact

- i. **Expand and Target Social Protection Programmes:** Programmes like SAGE should be expanded to cover more elderly and vulnerable households. Specific targeting mechanisms should be developed to address the needs of PWDs, IDPs, and refugees, ensuring that assistance reaches those in greatest need.
- ii. **Strengthen Support for Informal Sector Workers:** With approximately 85 per cent of informal sector workers lacking access to social security, there is a need to introduce and promote social security products tailored to this sector. Voluntary savings schemes and micro-insurance options should be developed to bridge this coverage gap.
- iii. **Boost Investment in Health and Education:** The increase in life expectancy from 48 years in 2001 to 63 years in 2022, along with improvements in child and maternal mortality rates, highlights the progress made. However, further investment in healthcare and education is needed to sustain and build on these gains. Increased funding should be directed towards maternal and child health services, educational infrastructure, and vocational training programmes.
- iv. **Promote Inclusive Economic Growth:** Strategies to reduce income inequality, as indicated by the slight decrease in the Gini coefficient from 0.415 to 0.413, should be implemented. These strategies should focus on boosting youth employment through programmes like the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) and enhancing vocational training to improve overall economic stability.
- v. **Enhance Urban-Rural Linkages:** Developing infrastructure and services in rural areas should be complemented by efforts to strengthen connections between urban and rural areas. This approach will enhance economic opportunities and service delivery, contributing to balanced regional development.

5.3 Suggested Reforms and New Initiatives

- i. **Reform and Consolidate Social Protection Legislation:** Introduce comprehensive legislation that consolidates existing social protection laws and policies. This reform should address legal fragmentation and streamline service delivery, providing a unified framework for social protection.
- ii. **Establish a National Social Registry:** Develop a National Social Registry to improve data management and coordination of social protection programmes. This registry will serve as a centralised platform for tracking beneficiaries and ensuring efficient service delivery.

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- iii. **Implement New Social Assistance Programmes:** Launch new initiatives to address emerging needs, such as those arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. These programmes should focus on supporting economic recovery, enhancing resilience, and addressing new vulnerabilities in the population.
 - iv. **Strengthen Public Awareness and Engagement:** Increase public awareness of social protection programmes through targeted communication campaigns. Engage stakeholders, including civil society organisations and community leaders, in the design and implementation of programmes to ensure they meet the needs of the population effectively.
 - v. **Promote Innovative Financing Mechanisms:** Explore innovative financing options, such as public-private partnerships, to sustain and expand social protection initiatives. This approach will help mitigate the impact of reductions in international donor funding and ensure the long-term sustainability of social protection programmes.

5.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, Uganda's social protection system has made significant strides, but challenges remain that must be addressed to enhance its effectiveness and impact. This chapter has outlined evidence-based recommendations, strategies, and reforms needed to improve coverage, address disparities, and ensure that social protection programmes effectively support the most vulnerable populations.

Implementing these recommendations will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, and civil society organisations. By expanding coverage, increasing financial investment, improving monitoring and evaluation, and fostering better coordination, Uganda can strengthen its social protection framework and build a more resilient and inclusive system.

This chapter also provides a roadmap for advancing social protection in Uganda, aiming to ensure that every citizen has access to the support and opportunities they need to thrive. Through collaborative action and strategic investments, Uganda can achieve its social protection goals and promote equitable development across the nation.

Annexes

Annex 1 : Beneficiaries of SAGE for the FY2019/2020 - 2023/2024

| Sub Region | 2019/2020 | | | 2020/2021 | | | 2021/2022 | | | 2022/2023 | | | 2023/2024 | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Female | Male | Total |
| Acholi | 6,173 | 3,745 | 9,918 | 7,059 | 3,846 | 10,905 | 6,728 | 3,380 | 10,108 | 6,936 | 3,295 | 10,231 | 7,134 | 3,300 | 10,434 |
| Ankole | 14,926 | 11,197 | 26,123 | 17,975 | 12,906 | 30,881 | 19,463 | 13,610 | 33,073 | 18,133 | 11,886 | 30,019 | 18,230 | 11,647 | 29,877 |
| Buganda North | 15,201 | 13,325 | 28,526 | 18,281 | 15,312 | 33,593 | 16,702 | 13,668 | 30,370 | 18,076 | 14,286 | 32,362 | 17,951 | 13,714 | 31,665 |
| Buganda South | 11,199 | 8,559 | 19,758 | 14,332 | 10,378 | 24,710 | 15,899 | 11,088 | 26,987 | 15,638 | 10,256 | 25,894 | 16,653 | 10,321 | 26,974 |
| Bukedi | 8,629 | 6,773 | 15,402 | 10,234 | 7,741 | 17,975 | 11,362 | 7,952 | 19,314 | 11,226 | 7,426 | 18,652 | 11,410 | 7,139 | 18,549 |
| Bunyoro | 4,560 | 3,891 | 8,451 | 6,560 | 5,292 | 11,852 | 6,297 | 4,972 | 11,269 | 6,401 | 4,839 | 11,240 | 7,517 | 5,324 | 12,841 |
| Busoga | 12,191 | 10,072 | 22,263 | 15,097 | 11,760 | 26,857 | 16,571 | 12,260 | 28,831 | 16,154 | 11,543 | 27,697 | 15,592 | 10,804 | 26,396 |
| Elgon | 9,206 | 6,385 | 15,591 | 10,488 | 7,176 | 17,664 | 10,549 | 6,921 | 17,470 | 10,447 | 6,578 | 17,025 | 11,080 | 6,670 | 17,750 |
| Kampala | 1,098 | 706 | 1,804 | 1,459 | 910 | 2,369 | 1,569 | 975 | 2,544 | 1,747 | 1,086 | 2,833 | 1,636 | 969 | 2,605 |
| Karamoja | 17,129 | 8,869 | 25,998 | 16,855 | 8,588 | 25,443 | 12,039 | 5,951 | 17,990 | 13,557 | 6,533 | 20,090 | 13,382 | 6,464 | 19,846 |
| Kigezi | 7,369 | 5,195 | 12,564 | 11,765 | 7,521 | 19,286 | 12,096 | 7,443 | 19,539 | 10,144 | 5,753 | 15,897 | 10,316 | 5,787 | 16,103 |
| Lango | 16,841 | 11,114 | 27,955 | 17,821 | 11,394 | 29,215 | 17,386 | 10,952 | 28,338 | 17,142 | 10,479 | 27,621 | 16,952 | 9,952 | 26,904 |
| Teso | 16,264 | 10,103 | 26,367 | 16,959 | 10,420 | 27,379 | 15,006 | 8,999 | 24,005 | 16,888 | 9,699 | 26,587 | 17,281 | 9,534 | 26,815 |
| Tooro | 16,046 | 11,578 | 27,624 | 17,764 | 12,614 | 30,378 | 16,737 | 11,733 | 28,470 | 16,715 | 11,396 | 28,111 | 17,310 | 11,441 | 28,751 |
| West Nile | 20,866 | 12,903 | 33,769 | 23,871 | 14,504 | 38,375 | 19,620 | 11,704 | 31,324 | 19,611 | 11,232 | 30,843 | 18,980 | 10,605 | 29,585 |
| Grand Total | 177,698 | 124,415 | 302,113 | 206,520 | 140,362 | 346,882 | 198,024 | 131,608 | 329,632 | 198,815 | 126,287 | 325,102 | 201,424 | 123,671 | 325,095 |

Source: MGLSD SAGE Programme 2019/2020 - 2023/2024

Annex 2: Amount of SAGE Funds Paid to Beneficiaries by Sex and Sub-Region for the FY 2019/2020 - 2023/2024

| Sub Region | 2019/2020 | | | 2020/2021 | | | 2021/2022 | | | 2022/2023 | | | 2023/2024 | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total | Female | Male | Total |
| Acholi | 1,852,883,000 | 1,092,937,500 | 2,945,820,500 | 2,039,933,650 | 1,091,885,850 | 3,131,819,500 | 2,147,658,750 | 1,072,075,050 | 3,219,733,800 | 2,203,136,050 | 1,024,942,700 | 3,228,078,750 | 2,277,895,500 | 1,037,217,600 | 3,315,113,100 |
| Ankole | 2,568,301,500 | 1,930,598,850 | 4,498,900,350 | 5,498,073,650 | 3,930,961,200 | 9,429,034,850 | 6,127,680,600 | 4,236,439,200 | 10,364,119,800 | 5,761,707,300 | 3,724,102,950 | 9,485,810,250 | 5,777,555,700 | 3,658,549,200 | 9,436,104,900 |
| Buganda North | 3,829,988,600 | 3,352,591,950 | 7,182,580,550 | 5,348,210,100 | 4,441,296,250 | 9,789,506,350 | 5,407,800,150 | 4,394,728,050 | 9,802,528,200 | 5,707,908,050 | 4,414,400,300 | 10,122,308,350 | 5,746,569,000 | 4,312,162,500 | 10,058,731,500 |
| Buganda South | 1,862,511,150 | 1,456,651,350 | 3,319,162,500 | 4,273,654,550 | 3,118,201,300 | 7,391,855,850 | 4,903,522,950 | 3,370,243,500 | 8,273,766,450 | 4,917,537,050 | 3,133,375,050 | 8,050,912,100 | 4,907,797,050 | 2,972,213,700 | 7,880,010,750 |
| Bukedi | 1,611,413,550 | 1,278,272,550 | 2,889,686,100 | 3,224,905,050 | 2,388,968,550 | 5,613,873,600 | 3,692,200,650 | 2,581,645,350 | 6,273,846,000 | 3,569,019,000 | 2,300,363,500 | 5,869,382,500 | 3,535,692,150 | 2,202,238,050 | 5,737,930,200 |
| Bunyoro | 1,062,580,300 | 865,904,700 | 1,928,485,000 | 1,636,628,000 | 1,314,207,700 | 2,950,835,700 | 1,842,755,250 | 1,453,557,750 | 3,296,313,000 | 2,012,260,350 | 1,481,019,200 | 3,493,279,550 | 2,069,319,150 | 1,464,599,100 | 3,533,918,250 |
| Busoga | 2,601,108,800 | 2,236,573,300 | 4,837,682,100 | 4,813,543,400 | 3,670,323,000 | 8,483,866,400 | 5,162,763,600 | 3,804,897,150 | 8,967,660,750 | 5,057,920,400 | 3,543,185,200 | 8,601,105,600 | 4,942,539,300 | 3,397,364,550 | 8,339,903,850 |
| Eigon | 1,654,134,850 | 1,138,894,400 | 2,793,029,250 | 3,082,802,250 | 2,085,274,700 | 5,168,076,950 | 3,344,487,150 | 2,179,857,300 | 5,524,344,450 | 3,329,584,600 | 2,051,492,100 | 5,381,076,700 | 3,463,459,800 | 2,057,123,100 | 5,520,582,600 |
| Kampala | 176,064,300 | 113,207,100 | 289,271,400 | 429,108,600 | 268,341,600 | 697,450,200 | 511,703,250 | 318,064,500 | 829,767,750 | 536,640,300 | 328,917,000 | 865,557,300 | 522,526,200 | 303,526,500 | 826,052,700 |
| Karamoja | 5,555,671,100 | 2,861,257,400 | 8,416,928,500 | 4,810,368,800 | 2,413,963,050 | 7,224,331,850 | 3,908,116,350 | 1,933,449,750 | 5,841,566,100 | 4,143,664,200 | 2,024,881,900 | 6,168,546,100 | 4,288,085,250 | 2,064,569,250 | 6,352,654,500 |
| Kigezi | 1,817,558,300 | 1,279,058,450 | 3,096,616,750 | 3,241,364,000 | 2,025,977,250 | 5,267,341,250 | 3,364,904,250 | 2,015,421,450 | 5,380,325,700 | 3,229,089,000 | 1,814,810,200 | 5,043,899,200 | 3,264,917,850 | 1,806,172,200 | 5,071,090,050 |
| Lango | 4,835,739,750 | 3,138,142,050 | 7,973,881,800 | 5,135,011,700 | 3,263,966,200 | 8,398,977,900 | 5,394,272,400 | 3,383,444,850 | 8,777,717,250 | 5,472,793,000 | 3,292,419,000 | 8,765,212,000 | 5,456,426,100 | 3,172,126,050 | 8,628,552,150 |
| Teso | 4,307,153,350 | 2,648,854,550 | 6,956,007,900 | 4,805,963,450 | 2,921,522,450 | 7,727,485,900 | 4,816,790,100 | 2,865,113,100 | 7,681,903,200 | 5,405,936,600 | 3,044,690,300 | 8,450,626,900 | 5,529,616,800 | 3,003,621,450 | 8,533,238,250 |
| Tooro | 4,394,758,750 | 3,147,552,100 | 7,542,310,850 | 5,470,213,350 | 3,862,480,250 | 9,332,693,600 | 5,373,347,700 | 3,769,114,950 | 9,142,462,650 | 5,324,139,450 | 3,558,115,300 | 8,882,254,750 | 5,206,182,300 | 3,380,437,350 | 8,586,619,650 |
| West Nile | 6,173,335,300 | 3,726,194,400 | 9,899,529,700 | 6,229,147,550 | 3,720,153,800 | 9,949,301,350 | 6,151,863,750 | 3,612,688,350 | 9,764,552,100 | 6,198,893,600 | 3,513,546,250 | 9,712,439,850 | 6,080,244,750 | 3,352,375,350 | 9,432,620,100 |
| Grand Total | 44,303,202,600 | 30,266,690,650 | 74,569,893,250 | 60,038,928,100 | 40,517,523,150 | 100,556,451,250 | 62,149,866,900 | 40,990,740,300 | 103,140,607,200 | 62,870,228,950 | 39,250,260,950 | 102,120,489,900 | 63,068,826,600 | 38,184,295,950 | 101,253,122,550 |

Annex 3: Status of Social Protection Performance Indicators

| Indicators | Disaggregation | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| % of the population below the poverty line | National | 20.3 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| % of the population with access to Social Security | National | 7.5% | 10% | 12.5% | 15% |
| % of Social Protection Beneficiaries living below the poverty line | National | 33% | 32% | 31% | 29% |
| % of the population accessing socio-economic services | National | 47% | 50% | 52% | 55% |
| % of the population enrolled for health insurance (UNHS 2019/2020) | Male | 3.9 | 3.9 | 2.1 | N/A |
| | Female | 3.9 | 3.9 | N/A | N/A |
| | Total | 3.9 | 3.9 | N/A | N/A |
| No. of laws for implementing social protection | | N/A | N/A | N/A | 013 |
| Component 1 - Direct Income Support | | | | | |
| % of eligible beneficiaries receiving regular, predictable income support (SAGE) | Male | 19.3% | 17.3% | 15.9% | 11.9% |
| | Female | 22.3% | 20.6% | 19.9% | 10.8% |
| | Total | 21.0% | 19.2% | 18.1% | 17.4% |
| % of DIS beneficiary households that are food insecure | Rural | 10.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Urban | 4.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Total | 8.5 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| % increase in membership in retirement benefits schemes | Retirement benefits schemes | | 3,015,807 | 3,142,311 | N/A |
| No. of eligible Older persons accessing the Senior Citizen's Grant ('000s) | Male | 140,362 | 131,608 | 126,287 | 123,671 |
| | Female | 206,520 | 198,024 | 198,815 | 201,424 |
| | Total | 346,882 | 329,632 | 325,102 | 325,095 |
| No. of eligible households enrolled in Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) Programmes | Total | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| % of LGs implementing LIPW Programme | National | 11.1% | 11.1% | 11.1% | 11.1% |
| No. of eligible children accessing child benefits ('000s) | Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Component 2 - Social Insurance | | | | | |
| % of the population accessing health insurance (UNHS, 2019/2020) | Male | 3.9 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Female | 3.9 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Rural | 2.0 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Urban | 6.4 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Total | 3.9 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Out-of-pocket health expenditure | National | N/A | N/A | 29% | N/A |
| % of the population living within 5 Km radius of a health facility | Rural | 89.9% | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Urban | 93.8% | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Total | 91% | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| No. of occupational retirement benefits schemes | National | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 |
| No. of workers enrolled in occupational retirement benefits scheme. | Total | | 3,015,807 | 3,142,311 | N/A |
| % of formal sector workers enrolled in the NHIS | Male | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | Female | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

| Indicators | Disaggregation | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|---|------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| | Total | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| % of informal sector workers enrolled in the NHIS | Male | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | Female | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | Total | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| % of accredited health facilities under the NHIS by level | Level 1 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | Level 2 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | Level 3 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| % of the population enrolled for Health Insurance | Male | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | Female | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| | Total | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| No. of Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) schemes established | | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| % of districts covered by CBHI schemes | | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| No. of eligible workers accessing timely compensation | | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Component 3 - Social Care and Support Services | | | | | |
| % of children aged 5 -17 years engaged in child labour, by sex | Male | 20.3 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Female | 14.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Rural | 11.3 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Urban | 19.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Total | 17.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Prevalence of under 5 Stunting (%) | National | 24.4% | 25% | 26% | N/A |
| Alcohol abuse Rate (%) | National | 5.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 | N/A |
| ART Coverage (%) | National | 91 | 95 | 98 | N/A |
| No. of children's institutions provided food and non-food items | Remand Homes | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | Rehabilitation Centres | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Reception Centres | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Total | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| No. of laws amended and enacted | National | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. of children accessing social care and support in the remand homes | Boys | 1,149 | 1,286 | 668 | 730 |
| | Girls | 70 | 60 | 21 | 35 |
| | Total | 1,219 | 1,346 | 689 | 765 |
| No. of new HIV infections per 1,000 susceptible population | National | 1.30 | 1.34 | 1.37 | N/A |
| Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population | National | N/A | 200 | 198 | N/A |
| Annual Cancer Incident Cases | National | 80,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Annual Cardiovascular Incident cases | National | N/A | N/A | 2,539 | N/A |

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