



# Uganda

Uganda has seen steady economic growth in the past few years, including a robust [6.3% growth](#) in the financial year 2024–25. Agriculture drives a significant portion of the country's €50 billion economy, accounting for roughly a quarter of total GDP. However, persistent poverty, population growth, youth unemployment, and climate vulnerability pose significant challenges to national development. In addition, rural electrification stands at 42.4%, [access to safe water stands at 67%](#), and [sanitation in rural households with at least a basic sanitation facility remains at 19%](#).

SNV has been working in Uganda for over 35 years and has reached over 100 districts. In 2024 alone, SNV programmes impacted nearly 600,000 individuals. Recent programmes have expanded access to safe water and hygiene in Northern Uganda, promoted clean cooking technologies in several districts, and supported smallholder farmers in adopting climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies in Eastern and Southwestern Uganda.

As Uganda advances its [Vision 2040](#) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change and youth unemployment are reshaping the country's development model. SNV is responding to these shifts by supporting resilient food systems, clean energy, access to professional WASH services, water security, and youth entrepreneurship. It is improving systems by empowering local actors and scaling impact through strong partnerships.



**206K people**

gained access to improved water services



**198K people**

now have access to sustainable and affordable energy



**189K people**

whose resilience has been strengthened through agri-food interventions



**Approximately 43K tonnes**

of CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions achieved through clean energy solutions

\*\* 2024 achievements



## Responding to the climate crisis

Even as a low emitter of greenhouse gases, Uganda faces escalating climate-induced challenges, including increasingly erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, floods, and rising temperatures, all of which threaten food security, livelihoods, and water resources. In response, the Government of Uganda, alongside partners, launched key initiatives, including a [National Climate Finance Strategy \(2025-2030\)](#), setting out a clear roadmap to address its financing gap of US\$28.1 billion (€23.8 billion) by 2030. This presents opportunities for climate-smart agriculture, water resources management, and renewable energy solutions, especially in rural areas. Increased climate financing can help smallholder farmers adopt resilient practices, such as soil conservation and growing drought-tolerant crops. SNV supports these efforts, strengthening local capacity, promoting inclusive adaptation, and fostering sustainable, community-driven solutions to meet Uganda's climate goals.

### CRAFT | Multi-country | 2018-25 | €40M

Despite growing food and livestock production, smallholder farmers remain exposed to climate shocks, weak infrastructure, and limited services. The Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) initiative has equipped over 120,000 smallholder farmers in Uganda with the skills and knowledge to implement climate-resilient farming and water-conservation methods. As a result, more than 90,000 people became more climate resilient, and over 75,000 experienced income growth.

CRAFT has mobilised nearly €4.25 million in co-investment through collaborations with agribusinesses and rolled out the Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) programme, mentoring business champions and co-developing climate-smart business cases in key value chains. Through its investments, CRAFT helped enhance agribusiness performance and boost further climate-smart investments.

**Partners:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, SNV, WUR, Agriterria, Rabo Partnerships, and AICCRA

### ABC | Multi-country | 2022-25 | €3.5M

The African Biogas Component (ABC) is boosting Uganda's biogas market to reduce reliance on firewood and improve waste management for better health and environmental outcomes. To date, more than 3,500 units have been installed across Uganda's districts. These units provide clean cooking options, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and minimise methane release from unmanaged animal waste. In addition, the utilisation of bio-slurry as an organic fertiliser has increased agricultural productivity and sustainably enhanced soil health and crop yields. ABC contributes to climate resilience by advancing low-cost energy security solutions, reducing deforestation, and strengthening local value chains in renewable energy. It also offers results-based financing options to facilitate private sector engagement and long-term market sustainability.

**Partners:** RVO, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, SNV, Biogas Solutions Uganda Ltd., and GIZ

### IMEU | Several regions | 2021-28 | €16.6M

The Inclusive Markets for Energy Efficiency in Uganda (IMEU) project promotes energy efficiency in agriculture and buildings, thereby enhancing energy security and reducing costs and carbon emissions. The project is being implemented across Uganda's central, western, and northern regions, benefiting households, businesses, and social institutions.

By mid-2024, IMEU I facilitated the transition of 16,360 households, 86 institutions, and 113 businesses to clean technologies. It applied a systems approach by strengthening supply chains, building technical capacity, leveraging private financing, and collaborating with policymakers and industry associations to shape enabling policies. IMEU II (2025–2028, €9.6 million) builds on these successes and aims to scale up the adoption of energy-efficient solutions across 36 districts in Uganda.

**Partners:** Embassy of Sweden, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, SNV, and Makerere University

## Accelerating inclusive development

Uganda faces challenges in achieving inclusive development, particularly for youth, women, and rural populations. Despite being one of the youngest countries globally, with over 75% of the [population](#) under 30, unemployment, underemployment, and limited access to productive assets continue to constrain economic participation. Rural communities, comprising over 70% of Uganda's [population](#), often lack access to basic and quality services, financial inclusion, and market linkages.

However, enabling opportunities are emerging. The [Parish Development Model](#), backed by over UGX 1.1 trillion (€273 million) in the national budget, is strengthening local-level service delivery and inclusive planning. Government vocational skills training and entrepreneurship programmes, developed with SNV's support, are contributing to advancing the country's inclusivity goals.

### INCLUDE | Four regions | 2024-29 | €17.2M

The Inclusive Livestock Development for Smallholder Farmers (INCLUDE) project aims to transform the livelihoods of 75,000 smallholder farmers in the Kigezi, Greater Ankole, Rwenzori, and Busoga regions through sustainable, participatory livestock-based farming systems.

By 2025, the project had mobilised 51 communities and engaged over 4,000 farmers in Participatory Integrated Planning to co-design climate-smart farm plans that promote rotational grazing, improved forage cultivation, and manure management. These plans bolster community representation in drought-zone management, increase livestock productivity, and support soil restoration and water retention efforts.

INCLUDE has expanded economic opportunities for women and youth and strengthened demand for its school milk programme, now reaching 100,000 children.

This programme, while positively impacting child nutrition, also provides a reliable market for local dairy farmers.

**Partners:** Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and SNV

### IAP III | Multi-country | 2024-27 | €6.4M

Leveraging its in-country presence and extensive networks, earlier Innovations Against Poverty (IAP) III portfolios in Uganda raised an estimated €759,000 in grants and advisory support. This amount was subsequently invested in agribusinesses that integrate women into value chains and promote fintech innovations that expand access to affordable credit for rural populations.

While financial grants help enterprises, investment matchmaking and leadership training are driving genuine impact by enhancing governance and boosting their confidence to attract follow-up investment. Training in adaptive management enables businesses to expand services into hard-to-reach areas and engage people living in poverty as suppliers of raw materials. This relationship between companies and communities is driving growth and profitability and creating a more inclusive economy for all.

**Partners:** Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SNV, BoP Inc., Inclusive Business

**'Through the IAP investment, I have seen Chap Chap grow from employing just five staff to now over 40, with our gross monthly value rising from US\$100,000 to US\$3 million in just five years'**

**Emmanuel Emodek**  
Managing Director, Chap Chap



## Strengthening governance and institutions

Uganda is making progress in decentralisation through initiatives such as the Parish Development Model, increased local government budgets, and improved service delivery. However, challenges remain, particularly with transparency, institutional accountability, gender and social inclusion, and coordination. Many local governments face limited capacity and resources, hindering effective policy implementation and meaningful citizen engagement.

The government's recently launched [Fourth National Development Plan](#) presents key opportunities for institutional strengthening, regulatory oversight, and transparency in financial markets. A Technical Committee preparing the Uganda 2025–2029 Public Sector Reform Agenda is exploring measures to enhance the delivery of public services.

SNV has been contributing to institutional strengthening through partnerships, capacity-building, and coordinated stakeholder action. When governance is inclusive and effective, policies are more responsive, institutions are more accountable, and outcomes are more equitable.

### SWaSSH4A | Northern Uganda | 2023-25 | €1.5M

Access to clean water and adequate sanitation remains a challenge in many rural communities, leading to serious health issues and perpetuating cycles of poverty. In response, the Sustainable Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All (SWaSSH4A) project constructed or upgraded more than 6,000 latrines, enabling nearly 240,000 people across Northern Uganda to access safely managed sanitation. Furthermore, close to 325,000 people gained access to safely managed water.

Capacity-strengthening of duty bearers, 950 Water User Committees, 140 handpump mechanics, and two private emptier associations have been instrumental in securing these gains. SWaSSH4A has demonstrated that multi-stakeholder governance and partnerships can achieve public health improvements and strengthen a culture of hygiene, dignity, and social cohesion.

**Partners:** Austrian Development Agency, MWE, SNV, GLOFORD, Caritas, four HPMA's, Water User Committees, and local governments

### Power for Food Partnership | Multi-country | 2025-29 | €45M

Low crop output growth, well below the country's 3.3% population growth rate, limited access to modern technologies, and reliance on rain-fed agriculture [restrain](#) the country's agriculture sector. Through the Power for Food Partnership, SNV works with government and development actors to build partnerships and co-create pathways to a more food-secure Uganda. It introduces smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs to Regenerative Agriculture (RA) and the Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) approach.

By bringing together farmers, RA/PURE service providers, innovators, financiers, NGOs, and government, the partnership fosters collaboration, generates practice-based evidence, and supports sustainable markets. Furthermore, it strengthens enabling policies and financing conditions to catalyse a growing movement of food systems driven by renewable energy and regenerative agriculture, rooted in equity and inclusion. The partnership is active in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.

**Partners:** IKEA Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, and SNV

SNV is a global development partner deeply rooted in the African and Asian countries where we operate. With 60 years of experience and a team of approximately 1,600 people, we strengthen capacities and catalyse partnerships that transform agri-food, energy and water systems. Working on the core themes of gender equality and social inclusion, climate adaptation and mitigation, and strong institutions and effective governance, we tailor our approaches to different contexts to achieve large-scale impact and create sustainable and more equitable lives for all.

#### Contact SNV in Uganda

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Visit the SNV website for an overview of our projects in Uganda.

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