



THE PARTNERSHIP

BETWEEN

THE EUROPEAN UNION

AND UGANDA



Crested Towers Building, 15th Floor, Plot 17-23,
Hannington Road, P.O.BOX 5244, Kampala Uganda
Email: Delegation-Uganda@eeas.europa.eu
Tel: +256 312-701 000 and Fax: +256 414-233 708



In a world marked by global uncertainties, the European Union remains a reliable and predictable partner for Uganda. Our partnership is both comprehensive and deep-rooted, based on shared political, trade, and development goals, as well as shared values. As Uganda's largest development partner, the European Union allocates grants from a unified EU budget to support key common priorities: Green Transition, Sustainable Growth and Jobs, and Democratic Governance and Social Inclusion. This commitment is reinforced by the diverse initiatives of EU Member States and accessible financing from European development finance institutions, including the European Investment Bank. These efforts are harmonised through the Team Europe approach, ensuring greater impact.

The EU and Uganda have also fostered a mutually beneficial trade relationship that has significantly contributed to Uganda's economic growth and development over the past 50 years, with ongoing advantages for both parties. The EU offers Uganda a vast, lucrative and stable market, free from tariffs on Ugandan exports. In fact, in 2024, Uganda's export to the EU increased 58 percent to 1.25 billion EUR/5 trillion UGX and it achieved a significant trade surplus of 500 million EUR/2 trillion UGX with the EU. Coffee is the largest export commodity.

As the European Union and Uganda look to the future, the Global Gateway initiative is set to play a key role in driving national and regional economic growth, improving infrastructure as part of the Green Transition, and strengthen trade and cooperation both with Europe and within the region. Flagship projects like the rehabilitation of the Nalubaale-Kiira Hydropower Plant, support for coffee value chain development, the Uganda-South Sudan Power Interconnection Project, and the Team Europe Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme in schools are set to deliver substantial impact. Through these projects, the Global Gateway initiative will help unlock more opportunities for investment and cooperation, promoting sustainable development and poverty reduction, ultimately leading to a more prosperous and interconnected future for all.

This document is not a comprehensive guide to all aspects of our relationship, but captures key highlights of the EU-Uganda partnership, showcasing our broad areas of cooperation, including our support to civil society and the promotion of human rights, as well as our humanitarian assistance and refugee response. I hope you will enjoy learning more about these initiatives and some of our flagship projects, and I look forward to future collaborations on our common journey towards development and lasting impact.

Jan Sadek

Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Uganda

A close-up photograph of a man in a coffee plantation. He is holding a branch of coffee cherries, which are green and red. He is looking up at the cherries with a smile. The background shows more coffee trees and a clear sky. A blue semi-transparent box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing text.

Strengthening Uganda's future through lasting partnerships and tangible impact

Rooted in a history of collaboration, the European Union's enduring partnership with the Republic of Uganda — political dialogue, development cooperation, economic instruments, and humanitarian aid—addresses the multifaceted challenges Uganda faces while supporting its ambitious development goals. The shared vision between the EU and Uganda targets economic growth, job creation, entrepreneurship, trade, poverty reduction, and improvements in health and education, aligning with the EU's strategic interests in the green agenda. Our partnership is intricately aligned with Uganda's National Development Plans. It is structured around three main priorities: Promoting Green and Climate Transition, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth and Jobs, and Democratic Governance and Social Inclusion. Since 2020, the European Union institutions and EU Member States have contributed 1.9 billion Euros (7,600 billion UGX) to Uganda, underscoring unwavering support and lasting legacy.

SUPPORTING COFFEE VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA

The European Union has been a strong supporter of Uganda's coffee sector - a vital part of Uganda's economy - for more than 40 years. The EU currently funds numerous projects that support the development of coffee value chain in Uganda.

The Coffee and Cocoa Value Chains Development Project (CoCoDev), jointly designed and implemented with the Ministry of Agriculture animal Industry & Fisheries (MAAIF) aims to support MAAIF in implementing a matching grant scheme for small and medium coffee farmers to increase coffee production and contribute to achieving the targets of the Coffee Road Map. It also aims to support the National Coffee Research Institute (NaCORI) to avail disease and climatic change tolerant coffee varieties to coffee nurseries for multiplication and later distribution to farmers.

Boosting the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from the five East African Community (EAC) partner states in intra-regional trade is at the heart of the **Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP II)**, which also seeks to expand access to European Union and African regional markets. It was jointly designed by the EU and the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat and is implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC).

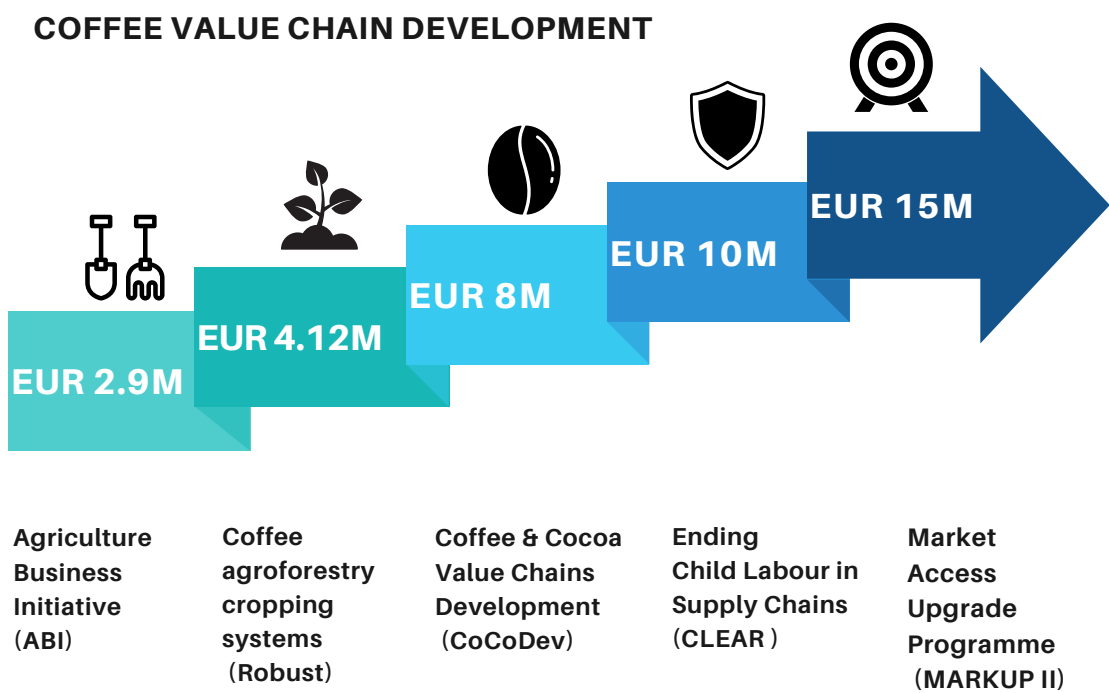
In a bold move, a European Union-backed project is using agroforestry to shield Uganda's Robusta coffee sector from climate change. By integrating trees into coffee farms, the initiative aims to mitigate droughts, enhance biodiversity, and ensure the long-term sustainability of Uganda's coffee industry: **Robust** is jointly implemented with the French Agriculture Research Institute (CIRAD), the National Research Organization, Makerere University, the Uganda Coffee Farmers Alliance and other organizations.

The European Union and Denmark are partnering with **aBi Development** to strengthen Uganda's agribusiness, helping **500,000+ farmers** comply with new **EU deforestation rules (EUDR)** by 2025. Key initiatives include farm mapping, climate-smart training, and access to finance – securing Uganda's position as Africa's #2 coffee exporter to the EU.

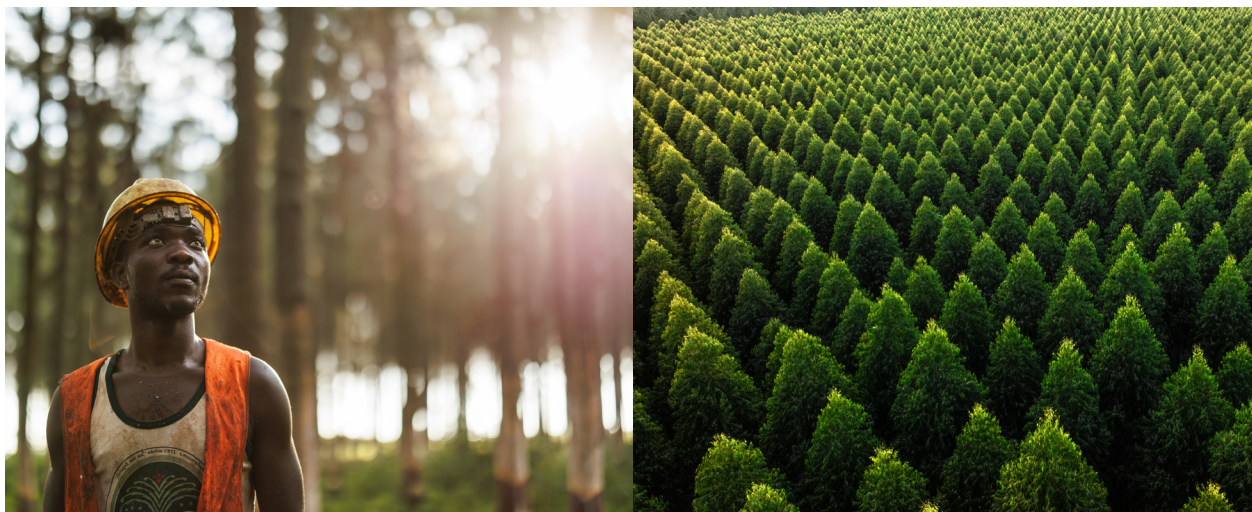
Children in Uganda's coffee-growing regions are still engaged in child labor, with boys (51%) disproportionately affected compared to girls (42%). The crisis peaks during harvest seasons, when up to 80% of students abandon school temporarily to work on family farms. The €10M **CLEAR Supply Chains** project, led by ILO, FAO, UNICEF, and ITC, is targeting three high-risk districts: Kalungu, Masaka, and Manafwa. It focuses on intensive farmer support and child labor prevention systems, and downstream supply chain reforms. Light-touch awareness campaigns are being implemented in Manafwa to raise community awareness about the risks of child labor.

The European Union is one of the largest coffee markets globally, accounting for approximately 40% of global coffee imports. In 2023, the EU imported 2.7 million tonnes of coffee from non-EU countries, valued at €10.6 billion. Uganda contributes 8% (206,500 tonnes) of total EU coffee imports. Italy is the largest importer within the EU, handling about 38% of extra-EU imports, while Germany (13%), Belgium, Spain, and France are also significant importers. European Market is projected to grow of 4.5% between 2025 and 2034 due to evolving lifestyles and increased consumption in HoReCa (hotels, restaurants, cafes) sectors.

Strengthening value chains, climate resilience, market access, and social safeguards for farmers — to ensure sustainable growth, compliance with EU standards, and protection of vulnerable communities.



EU - UGANDA FOREST PARTNERSHIP: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT



Busoga Forestry, March 2025

Uganda's forests face major challenges from rapid population growth, and heavy dependence on wood fuel, all of which drive deforestation. These issues, severely complicates Uganda's goal to reduce net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 24.7% by 2030 under the Paris Agreement. With land-use change and forestry contributing nearly 40% of Uganda's GHG emissions, ongoing deforestation undermines mitigation efforts.

Forestry has represented a sector of close cooperation between EU and the Government of Uganda for many years in conservation, governance, capacity building, sustainable wood fuel and, most recently commercial forestry.

The Forest Partnership (2022) between the EU and Government of Uganda is a vehicle to reach the objectives of the Green Deal and the Global Gateway – the EU's sustainable connectivity strategy which includes increasing the **role of forests in the bio-economy and fostering our trade flows**. The purpose of this programme is to promote the protection, restoration, management and use of forests, aimed at enhancing the role of Ugandan forests in a sustainable and inclusive national development. This action also aims at addressing challenges related to deforestation, forest degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

The most recent EUR 48 million Forestry programme has been developed and aligned to the priorities of the Forest Partnership.

The Forest Partnership

EUR 48 M

EUR 14 M

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
Reforestation for Communities Prosperity in Eastern Uganda - ReForEst Uganda

- 1) Disease resistant varieties are developed and brought to market.
- 2) Reduced production, harvest and post-harvest losses and increased marketing opportunities for small-holders.
- 3) Increased small-holders price incentive through diversification into higher value export markets.
- 4) Strengthened institutional capacities for trade analysis, market surveillance and project management.

EUR 5.8 M

Ministry of Water and Environment
Partnerships for Forests Development Project - Governance and Coordination

- 1) Forest cover protected, restored and conserved.
- 2) Investment in sustainable forest management for increased economic growth, jobs, income and fiscal revenues.
- 3) Forest governance and management strengthened.

EUR 5.2 M

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Combating deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda through the criminal justice system

- 1) A strong legislative foundation to combat and deter forest crimes built.
- 2) Capacity to investigate and prosecute forest crime and related offenses improved.
- 3) Enhanced Organizational capacities within forest and land management authorities to prevent corruption and increase accountability.
- 4) Inter - agency cooperation, exchange of information and coordination improved.

EUR 15 M

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Sustainable Wood-Based Value Chains in Uganda

- 1) Sustainable supply of legal wood raw material from planted forests ensured.
- 2) Processing capacity and market demand for wood products enhanced.
- 3) Availability of and access to affordable finance for the timber and wood processing industry is improved.

EUR 8 M

Danish Embassy - Contribution to the EU Forestry programme - Financing for Forests

This top up is intended to contribute to the overall objective of the programme, namely tackling the root causes of deforestation in Uganda while promoting reforestation and sustainable economic development in an integrated and comprehensive manner. The focus of the additional financing will be to strengthen the innovative financing for forests components of the action.

SUPPORT FOR TOURISM IN THE PEARL OF AFRICA

The EU and its Member States are dedicated to supporting the tourism sector in Uganda to ensure many more people from all over the world come and visit this beautiful and unique country.

To support the recovery of the tourism sector, the EU in partnership with Uganda Development Bank, launched at the end of 2020 a recovery fund of EUR 16 million (EU - EUR 6 million + UDB - EUR 10 million) to support businesses in the tourism sector in form of soft loans combined with grants. The Facility is intended to give operators access to working capital to fast track recovery post Covid-19, and support initiatives to become more environmentally friendly. The EU is also developing programmes that support biodiversity, majorly looking at the protected areas, climate change, and support to tourism host communities.

Other European Union initiatives to support the sector include the Green Tourism Project whose aim is to boost the transformation of Uganda towards an inclusive green economy, the training of tourism entrepreneurs in partnership with the Agha Khan Foundation, the establishment of the Uganda Railway Museum in Jinja' the first of its kind in East Africa, and the Handicraft and Souvenir Development Project among others.

Apart from these EU initiatives, some EU Member States are also making important contributions to the tourism sector in Uganda like Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, and the Netherlands, in sectors like skilling and training, product development, marketing and promotion.

Unlocking Synergies. The intersection of the EU support for forestry, tourism and conservation brings with it a significant opportunity for synergy and complementarity. One example is through the NaturAfrica initiative whose EUR 7 million (EUR 5.4M EU contribution) "Supporting new and existing Community Conservancies and the adjacent parks and forests in the Kidepo-Turkana landscape of Uganda and Kenya" aims to strengthen the resilience of communities and sustainability of ecosystems in Karamoja sub-region. By leveraging investments in these areas, the EU can promote sustainable development, preserve natural capital and support green economy and livelihoods for an increased impact. By unlocking synergies, the EU is working for a more sustainable and greener future for Ugandans.

Lorokul friends of wildlife. Performance in local community tours



EU-UDB Tourism Facility – preserve the contribution of the tourism sector towards Uganda’s socio-economic development.



- Hospitality sector supported, including small, medium and large hotels, with the objective of increasing employment and to re-instate the role of the hospitality sector in the economy.
- Tour operator sector supported including generating employment and avoiding closure of businesses to ensure their continued role in the tourism sector as a whole.
- Support the transition of the Tourism sector towards a green and competitive low carbon economy (optimization and energy consumption, clean sources of energy, improve waste management, etc.)

2. Green Tourism Project



Implementing partners - Uganda Tourism Association (UTA), Gaiker, Uganda Community Tourism Association (UCOTA)

- To improve sustainability of the Tourism Accommodation Sector in Uganda
- To implement the best sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in a representative sample of 30 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the Tourist Accommodation Sector in Uganda.
- To implement environmental management system (EMS ISO 14001) in 30 MSMEs of the Tourist Accommodation Sector in Uganda.
- To implement EMA labelling scheme in 50 MSMEs of the Tourist Accommodation Sector in Uganda.

SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY IN UGANDA



Uganda-EU Youth Sounding Board Completes First Term The inaugural season of the EU Youth Sounding Board Uganda (YSB-UG), launched in August 2023, concluded its term after amplifying youth voices in EU development cooperation. The board of 20 young leaders engaged in consultative dialogues with the EU Delegation and member states, integrating youth perspectives into key sectors like employment and education. Through various activities, including monitoring missions and advocacy campaigns, they raised awareness about EU initiatives and ensured young Ugandans' voices were heard in development conversations. The first season laid a strong foundation for ongoing youth involvement in shaping Uganda's development agenda

As part of the European Union's support to civil society, the EU launches a competitive call for proposals for grants on average once a year. These calls complement other EU programmes by focusing on specific issues and groups.

Since 2022, the EU Delegation to Uganda has launched three calls for proposals for a total amount of EUR 13.7 million to support civil society's action in the areas of social accountability, youth empowerment, human rights, child labour and teenage pregnancy.

In addition, the Team Europe Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP), funded by the EU and Germany and implemented by GIZ, aims to reduce poverty through improved democratic governance, strengthened civil society engagement and public adherence to development processes, leaving no one behind.

With a total budget of EUR 20 million, CUSP works with both the government and civil society around three objectives: (i) create a more conducive operational environment for CSOs, (ii) strengthen the participation of civil society in sub-national and national development processes and (iii) develop the capacities of CSOs.

CUSP contributes to the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) "Demography and social inclusion" (see page 15) and supports rural and urban vulnerable populations in Uganda, including women, youth and marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities and refugees.

Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme II (CUSP II)

Total Budget:

EUR 20 M

Implementing Partner: **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**

EUR 16 M

European Union

EUR 4 M

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Building upon the results of CUSP I the programme focuses on:

- A more conducive regulatory and operational environment for civil society organisations.
- Strengthening meaningful and structured participation of civil society in inclusive sub-national and national development processes.
- Enhancing civil society organisations responsiveness, sustainability and resilience.

Call for proposals

2022

EUR 5.2 M

Total grants awarded

2023

EUR 4 M

Total grants awarded

2024

EUR 4.5 M

Ongoing awards

Objectives of the Roadmap for Civil Society Organisations:

- To promote a conducive environment for civil society organisation operations in Uganda.
- To promote supportive government actions and an improved working relationship between civil society organisations and the government.
- To facilitate meaningful and structured participation of civil society organisations in domestic policies, the EU programming cycle and in international processes.
- To enhance social inclusion of vulnerable categories such as women, youth and person with disabilities at all governance levels.
- To invest in civil society organisation capacity building.
- To promote a resilient, responsive and sustainable civil society organisations in the Covid-19 context and beyond.

EU REFUGEE RESPONSE IN UGANDA - A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

EU support is crucial to providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to refugees, as well as to host communities. Since 2016, the EU has supported humanitarian action in Uganda with more than EUR 362 million. For 2024, the EU has allocated EUR 29 million in humanitarian aid, focusing on providing rapid and effective emergency assistance to recently arrived refugees, improving access to Health and Education in refugee settlements and anticipating and responding to disasters. This initial budget was reinforced throughout the year to respond to the influx of refugees from Sudan to the consequences of natural disasters or the MPOX epidemic. By the end of 2024 DG ECHO had allocated a total of EUR 36.4 million in humanitarian assistance to Uganda. In 2025 DG ECHO started the year with EUR 20.5 million which has already been reinforced with EUR 1.4 million to support the government to respond to the Ebola outbreak.

Since 2016, the main financial tool for EU Development Support to the refugee response has been the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUR 82 million). With the closure of the trust fund in 2025, the refugee response has been mainstreamed across EU bilateral cooperation with Uganda. Refugee hosting districts are prominently integrated across programmes and in 2025, post Trust Fund commitments to the refugee response amount to EUR 160 million, enhancing government support in sectors that benefit both refugees and host communities.

EU's approach reflects a transformative strategy in Uganda, bridging short-term humanitarian aid with long-term developmental interventions. By emphasizing resilience, self-reliance, and integration of basic services, the EU aims to foster sustainable and inclusive opportunities for both refugee and host communities.





Turning Adversity into Prosperity: Stella's Triumph in Economic Empowerment

"My children are my only source of motivation; their well-being is the driving force behind my relentless efforts to secure a brighter future for them," asserts Stella, a 35-year-old mother of four.

She reflects on a painful chapter when she was forced into marriage with an older man, initially experiencing two years of support that later turned to betrayal as her husband engaged with other women and neglected his family responsibilities.

A turning point came when a friend introduced her to the Ombavule Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), part of World Vision's Security, Protection, and Economic Empowerment (SUPREME) project, funded by EU Delegation. Through financial literacy training, Stella gained the skills needed to improve her circumstances. She joined the savings group and rapidly learned to manage her finances. In just six months, Stella established a successful milling business, securing a loan to purchase a milling machine at the local market. This business has transformed her family's situation, allowing her children to attend school without the fear of hunger.

Now, Stella earns a steady income from her milling services and has expanded her operations, acquiring land for farming and livestock. Through her participation in the savings group, Stella has not only uplifted her family but has also become a source of inspiration and support for other single mothers in her community, promoting empowerment and resilience in the face of adversity.

"I want my children to enjoy their childhood without the fear of going hungry or witnessing violence in our home," Stella passionately declares. "I now ensure that my children attend school to become responsible adults," she concludes.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

SELF RELIANCE

Self-reliance is fundamental for reducing dependence on humanitarian aid and fostering economic independence

Economic inclusion
Resilience
Social cohesion
Livelihoods
Graduation

SERVICE INTEGRATION

The integration of basic services ensures that refugees and host communities have equitable access to essential services, contributing to long-term stability

Education WASH



Energy

Healthcare

EUROPE TEAMS UP FOR MORE IMPACT

Team Europe Initiatives (‘TEIs’) focus on identifying critical priorities that constrain development in a given country or region, where a coordinated and coherent effort by ‘Team Europe’ would ensure results with a transformative impact. They are a practical illustration of how European Union priorities are turned into concrete results on the ground.

In Uganda, Team Europe brings together the EU Delegation, the EU’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the European Investment Bank (EIB), 10 Member State missions to Uganda: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden, Member State implementing agencies: Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Danish International Development Agency (Danida), Belgian Development Agency (Enabel), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) the French Development Agency (AFD) and the German Development Bank (KfW).

The Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) is an international standard for measuring the full array of resources to promote sustainable development. It is broader than traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA), as it includes not only grants and concessional loans, but also non-concessional flows, peace and security expenditures, and support to global public goods like climate change mitigation, health, or biodiversity.

Team Europe’s Total Official Support for Sustainable Development to Uganda (2019-2022)



Uganda faces one of the world's highest fertility rates and levels of unmet need for family planning, high rates of teenage pregnancies and maternal mortality, a high prevalence of Sexual and Gender based violence, and a low transition rate to secondary school. The implementation of Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997 led to a remarkable increase in primary school enrolment. Nevertheless, education suffers from stagnation in access, retention, and learning achievements, with only 43% of girls continuing to the last grade of primary school or beyond.

Janani Luwum college, Uganda, March 2025



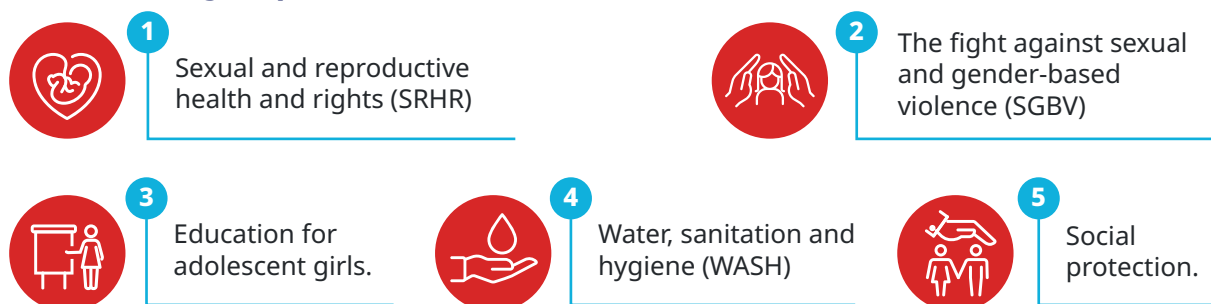
Team Europe Initiative #1

“Social Inclusion”

The Team Europe Initiative (TEI) is a collaborative and coordinated effort to provide support, leveraging resources and joint expertise from the EU and its Member States. It is one of the main vehicles for implementing the EU's Global Gateway strategy and directly contributes to the Global Gateway priorities on education, health and access to water.

The policy objective of this initiative is to **support Uganda's progress towards reaching the sustainable development goals (SDGs)**, which are essential for enabling the country's sustainable demographic transition and dividend. Gender is at the heart of the initiative, due to the transformative and intergenerational impact of girls and women's empowerment. The TEI gives priority to underserved districts and the most vulnerable groups, including refugees and their host communities, aiming to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, while also contributing to the implementation of Uganda's Demographic Dividend Roadmap.

This is through 5 pillars:



The overall indicative budget for the TEI for the period 2022-2027 is over EUR 914 million with funding from the EU, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden. Since 2022, Team Europe has committed some EUR 238 million of new funding for the implementation of the TEI.

The TEI has already achieved important results since its inception in 2022, including: 3.9 million women supported with maternal health care, over 3.5 million women of reproductive age using modern contraception methods, over 24 million individuals informed on how to prevent SGBV and over 370.000 GBV survivors supported, over 1 million adolescents supported to complete primary and to transition to lower secondary and over 8 million people provided access to improved WASH services. Moreover, 24 institutions increased their internal capacities to integrate and mainstream social protection in their programming, thanks to TEI support.

The Team Europe Initiative (TEI) comprises numerous projects funded by the EU and its Member States. Among them is a significant new joint financial commitment by several Member States: the Gender for Development Uganda (G4DU) Action (see infographic next page) is a direct result of working better together and a major new joined-up EU and Member States' contribution to the TEI for Social Inclusion. In a Team Europe approach, EUR 53 million from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands will complement the EU contribution to increase the scope and impact of the Action, which directly contributes to 4 out of 5 of the TEI's pillars. Team Europe Partners: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, European Union.



GENDER FOR DEVELOPMENT UGANDA

EUR 23 M - EU
EUR 2.3 M - UNICEF

Access to education

- Reduced financial barriers
- Capacity of local governments, communities and schools to extend learning opportunities for adolescent girls



EUR 14.1 M - ENABEL
EUR 12.2 M - EU

Quality Education/Safe Learning

- Increased teachers' capacity to improve learning for adolescent girls
- Improved school management capacity for improved teaching quality and safe learning
- Enhanced schools infrastructure

EUR 20 M – EU
EUR 7.1 M - NETHERLANDS
EUR 1.8 M – UN

Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Sexual Gender Based Violence

- Strengthened capacity of institutions to implement and monitor laws, policies and plans
- Enhanced awareness of gender equitable social norms
- Increased SRHR and SGBV information and services



EUR 31.8 M - GERMANY
EUR 29.8M - EU

WASH/Infrastructures

- Enhanced water, sanitation, hygiene and schools infrastructure
- Improved skills for enhanced sanitation and hygiene practice



**Spotlight
Initiative**



Team Europe Initiative #2

“Sustainable Business For Uganda (SB4U)”

The Uganda-EU partnership is extremely positive when it comes to private sector engagement. This is most clearly visible in terms of the trade trends. Since 2019, Ugandan trade with the EU has almost tripled from EUR 500 million to 1.4 billion. Over the period 2023 to 2024 alone, Ugandan exports to the EU grew by a hugely impressive 58%. This substantial increase has led to Uganda registering a positive trade balance with the EU since 2022. This period coincides with our Uganda-EU Business Fora, with 4 editions held since 2020, as a means to promote our trade and investment.

Through the sustainable business for Uganda platform (SB4U), the EU has taken a leading role in improving investment flows and promoting a partnership of equals by bringing together the Ugandan and EU private sectors with Uganda, EU and EU Member State public actors. The initiative aims to identify and overcome obstacles to investments and private sector development, facilitate concrete technical cooperation, and create a partnership maximizing the potential for trade and strategic economic cooperation.



The Uganda-EU Business Insights (UEUBI) 2025 event, held on 13 February 2025 in Kampala, focused on strengthening partnerships between Uganda and the EU in Agri-Technology (AgTech) and Sustainable Mining. The event highlighted AgTech's potential to transform agriculture and explored sustainable mining practices.

The EU is committed to continue supporting Uganda's trade and investment objectives, in particular to generate long-term employment. The EU already provides tariff free access to its markets for Ugandan products, thanks to the Everything But Arms agreement. As a trusted and reliable partner, the EU will continue to provide this beneficial access to its lucrative markets for Uganda. To ensure that Uganda takes full advantage of the opportunities offered by the tariff free market access, the EU is leveraging its resources to strengthen capacities within the Ugandan public and private sectors, to enable them to compete better on the international market for exports and for attracting foreign investments. A new EUR 8 million project on trade and investment development will support the strengthening of the policy framework for priority value chains, enhance business capacity to export, streamline cross-border trade procedures, and promote quality compliance and e-commerce.

Team Europe partners: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands and Sweden.



5 PILLARS FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR POLICY DIALOGUE AND ACTIONS:



Access to finance

Providing affordable finance for SMEs

The EU supports access to finance in Uganda by helping MSMEs—especially those led by women and youth—improve their business capacity and secure funding through technical assistance, tailored financial products, and various financing options. It also partners with local banks to expand financial services and share risk, while training financial institutions to better serve key sectors like agriculture and the green economy. Under the EFSD+, the EU mobilizes Team Europe resources, including recent initiatives by the European Investment Bank with local banks, to boost private sector development and economic growth.



Governance and Accountability

EUR 5M to promote human rights standards within business activities

The EU is working on advancing the respect for business and human rights in Uganda by strengthening the commitment among government, business and civil society stakeholders to implement the agenda.



Skills and decent jobs

EUR 50M New EU-Belgium WeWork programme to create green and decent jobs for the youth

Team Europe also addresses the skills gap, a key bottleneck for private sector development in Uganda. Under the WeWork programme, the EU and Belgium are working to increase the availability of qualified workers, the employability of the youth with a dedicated focus on soft skills, and new job opportunities – including from self-employment. The programme is focusing its efforts on the Global Gateway priority value chains and on digital and energy.



Productive infrastructures

EUR 10M support Uganda-DRC cross-border trade infrastructure

The EU supports Uganda-DRC trade by funding energy projects, improving regional transport corridors, and boosting private sector capacity.



Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

EUR 18M support to horticulture exports

The EU has recently launched a support on strengthening the local application of national and international sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for horticulture exports. As a complementary measure, the EU is seeking to promote cross-border trade through targeted infrastructure development to facilitate the movement of goods amongst Uganda and its neighbours – notably DRC and South Sudan.

Global Gateway New European Strategy

The Global Gateway stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet. It helps to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from fighting climate change, to improving health systems, and boosting competitiveness and security of global supply chains.

In a Team Europe Approach, Global Gateway connects the world with investments and partnerships. Europe provides a positive choice for countries that need investment for the creation of jobs, skilling and better living conditions for people. The initiative aims to build links between partners rather than creating dependencies. Between 2021 and 2027 the Global Gateway will mobilise up to EUR300 billion in investments, by working with Member States, European financial institutions and the private sector to leverage investments.

The key principles of the Global Gateway approach prioritize democratic values and high standards, as well as good governance and transparency. It aims to foster equal partnerships, promote green and clean initiatives, and remain security focused while catalysing private sector involvement.

The European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) is one of the financing tools of Global Gateway, promoting sustainable investments in the European Union's partner countries. Offering a variety of risk-sharing instruments of up to EUR40 billion, the EFSD+ aims to mobilise up to EUR 135 billion of public and private financing to help partner countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Climate and Energy

Supporting investments and rules paving the way to the clean energy transition.

Rehabilitation of Nalubaale-Kiira hydropower Plant (380MW). EUR 170M support package through grants from the EU - EUR 30M, and loans from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) - EUR 75 M, and the European Investment Bank (EIB) - EUR 65M, will allow the refurbishment / upscaling of the hydropower plant turbines and related equipment and capacity building of Uganda Energy Generation Company Limited (UEGCL) to manage electricity production and flood control.



Transport

Supporting all modes of green, smart and safe transport.

EU-Africa strategic corridors will create strategic, sustainable, and secure transport corridors and support value chains, services and jobs which will benefit industries both in Africa and in Europe.



Education and Research

Investing in high quality education, with a special focus on girls, women and vulnerable groups.

Building WASH facilities in schools in Uganda. Construction of WASH facilities to empower adolescent girls and women through greater access to inclusive quality education.



Digital

Supporting open and secure internet

The European Investment Bank supports the construction of more than 500 new telecom towers in rural Uganda with a EUR25 million loan. TOWERCO will enhance mobile network coverage with the objective of ensuring last mile connectivity up to the most underserved regions, and enable access to 4G and 5G data services



Health

Supporting the strengthening of supply chains and local vaccines production.

Strengthen regional mechanisms to address supply-side constraints and improve access to quality assured SRH-commodities, notably by improving supply chain management systems.

Opportunities for Higher Education: **ERASMUS+**



110

**Ugandan university
staff and 83 students**

benefited from
short-term mobility
to EU universities



11

**Ugandan students
received full 3-year
scholarships**

under the Erasmus
Mundus Joint Masters



100+

partnerships

fostering ongoing
collaboration between
Ugandan and European
universities



14

**capacity
building projects**

being implemented
across diverse
academic fields



www.facebook.com/EUErasmusPlusProgramme



www.instagram.com/european_youth_eu



www.x.com/euerasmusplus



Inside the Nalubale Kira power plant, March 2025.



www.eeas.europa.eu/uganda



@EUinUG



European Union in Uganda



@euinuganda