Report to the Ugandan People
From the United States Mission to Uganda
The United States invests in Uganda because we want to see its people live up to their full potential.
It is my honor to present to you the first-ever Report to the Ugandan People. This book represents the efforts of countless individuals working for the United States government at the U.S. Mission in Kampala and throughout the country. While not a comprehensive accounting of every U.S.-supported activity in Uganda, this Report highlights some of our most important initiatives. In the pages that follow, we hope you will see the dedication of American diplomats, development professionals, health experts, Peace Corps Volunteers, and military officials to achieving our common goal of building a better and brighter future for all Ugandans.

The Report is really two stories we want to share with you. The first is about what the U.S. government does in Uganda, why we do it, and what difference it makes in the lives of Ugandans. In Fiscal Year 2016*, the United States provided more than $840 million (UGX 2.9 trillion) in assistance to NGOs, local communities, government agencies, and other partners, making Uganda one of the largest recipients of U.S. aid in sub-Saharan Africa and the world. This figure is a reflection of the strong bilateral relationship our countries have developed since Uganda became independent in 1962. The objective of our programs is simple: we want to help Ugandans create a healthy, prosperous and stable country with just and democratic governance, which will in turn produce an inclusive, educated, and empowered population. We believe this is the future that all Ugandans – regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or
political beliefs – deserve. That’s why the United States invests in Uganda: we want to see its people live up to their full potential.

It’s also why the bulk of our assistance – nearly $500 million (UGX 1.7 trillion) last year – is dedicated to the health sector. These programs are reducing mortality rates among mothers and newborns; helping HIV-positive Ugandans live longer, more productive lives; and training a new generation of health professionals to care for their fellow citizens.

At the same time, we’re helping Ugandans become more prosperous. We encourage bilateral trade and U.S. investment in Uganda, as well as opportunities for Ugandan products to reach American consumers. Our programs seek to keep Uganda and its young entrepreneurs competitive in a rapidly changing global market.

Stability, too, is an important goal for both our countries. We value the strong partnership developed with the Ugandan military to build a professional force that contributes to peace and security across the region. In addition, U.S. support has helped the country build a world-class capacity to detect and control the outbreak of infectious diseases. We’re also supporting Ugandan and international humanitarian efforts to protect refugees and assist the local communities hosting them.

We also recognize that for any society to succeed its people must have a say in how they are governed. This is why we support programs that train and improve the capacity of civil society to work on behalf of the Ugandan people: holding elected officials accountable, eliminating corruption, and giving a voice to all citizens so their needs are fully represented in government.

Finally, to unlock Uganda’s potential, the United States is working to create the conditions for an inclusive, educated, and empowered society. We believe every Ugandan should enjoy the benefits of the country’s continued development and that every child should have the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Ultimately, though, these are stories about you, the people of Uganda. These are your accomplishments driving Uganda’s progress. These are your dreams becoming reality through your hard work and dedication. And we are immensely proud and humble to be your partners in these efforts.

But we can’t ignore the fact that there is a lot of work remaining, and that many Ugandans still have not shared in the country’s progress. Today, based on current demographic statistics, the average Ugandan is a 14-year-old girl – a child living in a family of six that remains extremely vulnerable to sudden changes in

More HIV-positive Ugandans are living longer and healthier lives thanks to life-saving medicines provided by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

A young mother and her child at a communal soap-making activity in Gulu, northern Uganda.
Our training programs provide farmers and young entrepreneurs the skills they need to be competitive in a rapidly changing global market.

Zirian Masereka, a 28-year-old coffee farmer in Kabarole, has seen increased harvest yields thanks to training from the U.S.-backed National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises.

the environment or the economy. This child will likely drop out of school before reaching secondary level, has a one-in-four chance of becoming pregnant, and will likely be married as a teenager. Her story, and her future, is what must change if Uganda is to become the healthy, prosperous, and democratic country that its entire population wants.

The U.S. Mission to Uganda and its officials, myself included, are dedicated to the goal of creating that future for Uganda. We want to remain your partners in promoting and advancing health, prosperity, security, democracy, and education. The road ahead will include challenges and setbacks, but I am confident that together we can provide these opportunities to every Ugandan. This Report is proof that these goals are well within our grasp.

Ambassador Deborah R. Malac
U.S. Mission to Uganda
Healthy

Improving the health and well-being of every Ugandan is critical to achieving the country’s full potential.
The health and well-being of a country’s population, particularly in a developing nation, are keys to generating prosperity and progress. Healthy children are more likely to stay in school and grow into productive citizens. Healthy adults live longer and are more effective and productive workers. That’s why the majority of U.S. assistance in Uganda is dedicated to the health sector: a healthy life produces a prosperous future. Through our programs, we are helping to ensure all Ugandans have access to a strong, high-quality health care system that can deliver medicine and services to those who need them most. Our programs are reducing the threats of infectious diseases and improving the health of mothers and newborn children. We support initiatives that provide Ugandans with adequate nutrition and educate the public on family planning and reproductive health. As the largest single provider of health assistance to Uganda, the United States is committed to improving the health of all citizens so they can live longer, more prosperous lives.

HIV/AIDS
Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Communicable Diseases
Maternal and Child Health
Family Planning and Reproductive Health
Nutrition
Health System Strengthening

Total U.S. government assistance to promote a healthy Uganda
$488.3 million
UGX 1.7 trillion

94% of HIV-positive Ugandans on lifelong antiretroviral therapy receive their medications through PEPFAR

Rosaline Alum and her daughter, Amongi, benefit from improved maternal and child health services in northern Uganda.
More Ugandans living with HIV are enjoying longer and better lives with life-saving medications and treatment.

An estimated 1.35 million Ugandans are living with HIV, but contracting the disease is no longer a death sentence. With U.S. assistance to help reduce the number of new infections and the spread of HIV, Uganda is starting to gain control over this deadly disease. Certain vulnerable populations remain at high risk of contracting the virus, but more Ugandans are now seeking and receiving treatment. Uganda is making progress toward achieving the goal of creating an AIDS-free generation by 2030.

Our assistance plays a crucial role in these efforts. Through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), we deliver prevention, care, treatment, and support services to those affected by HIV/AIDS. Last year, PEPFAR-supported programs provided more than 850,000 Ugandans with lifelong and life-saving antiretroviral (ARV) therapy – roughly 94 percent of all those receiving such treatment. More than 54,000 of these recipients were children.

**8.1 million people were tested for HIV/AIDS through PEPFAR initiatives in 2016.**

PEPFAR programs also focus on preventing the spread of HIV, including through efforts to increase voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC), a key component of HIV prevention in countries with high prevalence rates. Since 2010, more than 2.8 million Ugandan men have participated in VMMC initiatives, which can help reduce the risk of HIV infection in men by nearly 60 percent.

**SUCCESS STORY**

**Preventing Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission**

In the past, one problem contributing to Uganda’s high HIV rate was the disease’s transmission from mothers to their children during pregnancy, labor, delivery, or breastfeeding. Thanks to initiatives funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through PEPFAR, the incidence of mother-to-child transmission is now significantly lower. HIV infection rates among tested babies have dropped from 12 percent in 2010 to 3.9 percent in 2016. Additionally, some 98 percent of HIV-positive Ugandan women at PEPFAR-supported health facilities have received ARV therapy to help reduce the risk of passing on the disease. These initiatives provided HIV-positive mothers with treatment called Option B+, which provides lifelong therapy and medicines, keeping them and their children safe and healthy.

A mother and her newborn baby at a U.S.-supported hospital in Apac District, northern Uganda.
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I used to be shy, but right now I can speak amongst people. I can teach other girls about family planning because of the trainings I received. I love encouraging the other girls that no matter what kind of situation you find yourself in, always believe in yourself.”

Victoria Nanyonjo, DREAMS participant, Mityana District

Uganda’s adolescent girls and young women are becoming empowered to combat HIV.

Despite an overall reduction in new HIV infections, studies show increasing prevalence rates among young women and girls throughout Uganda. The epidemic disproportionately affects younger women, who are twice as likely to contract HIV than boys the same age. To address this problem, the U.S. government supports the DREAMS program in Uganda, an initiative to create a generation of determined, resilient, empowered, AIDS-free, mentored, and safe girls and young women. DREAMS seeks to help these young women take control of their lives and their futures. Activities include methods to prevent gender-based violence, educational and economic opportunities, plus counseling on condom use and safe sex practices. Students from 164 schools in 10 districts across the country are now participating in this program.

Thanks to DREAMS, Ugandan women like Victoria Nanyonjo are becoming leaders in their communities. Through the program, they are helping empower young women like themselves with education and support that encourage healthy behaviors and improve sexual and reproductive health.
More Ugandans have greater access to malaria control and prevention methods.

Malaria is a persistent problem in Uganda. It remains the country’s leading cause of death, particularly for children under the age of five. Our assistance, through the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), is working to reduce this burden and provide Ugandans across the country with the means to control the disease. PMI supports the Uganda National Malaria Control Program by funding efforts such as indoor residual spraying, distributing insecticide-treated bed nets, and providing appropriate and adequate treatment at health facilities. Together, we are reaching millions of people, with the goal of reducing malaria deaths to near zero by 2020. Ugandan families, like Caroline Akello and her three children – Monica, Stephen, and Joshua – now face a reduced risk of malaria thanks to this important partnership.

PMI last year provided $41.4 million to fund a five-year project to prevent and eradicate malaria in 43 districts. This effort will help more than 13 million Ugandans stay safe from malaria.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I am a peasant farmer. I am the sole provider of my family. It is important to me that my children are not sick – that they are healthy. Before this net, we could not afford one because of financial restraints. I am glad because this will reduce the risk of malaria for me and my children.”

Caroline Akello and her son under their new insecticide-treated mosquito net, at home in northern Uganda.
Ugandan health facilities are becoming better equipped to detect and treat tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis threatens the health of many Ugandans: the country has one of the highest number of TB cases in the world. The disease is a leading cause of death among those living with HIV. U.S. government funding is helping reduce the threat of TB through improved testing and treatment methods. Our assistance helped renovate 11 regional referral hospital TB wards, bringing them up to World Health Organization standards. Additionally, 113 sites received cutting-edge TB diagnostic machines to enable rapid and accurate testing of suspected patients.

Our assistance programs are focused in the 54 districts with the country’s highest HIV prevalence rates, which account for 50 percent of Uganda’s TB cases. This approach integrates treatment for both diseases and is ultimately saving lives through improved diagnosis and earlier identification of TB.

1,022 Ugandans obtained multi-drug resistant tuberculosis medication, a 2,000% increase since 2012.

A TB patient receives treatment at the Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, Kabarole District.
Maternal and Child Health

**Mothers are facing reduced risks during childbirth, and newborns are receiving better care in the first months of life.**

Women and children are some of Uganda’s most vulnerable populations, often lacking access to adequate health services. Ensuring that new mothers and babies receive proper care is important for building healthy families, especially during the child’s first few months. U.S.-supported programs in this area focus on preventing maternal, newborn, and child deaths by improving antenatal, postnatal, and neonatal care. Our assistance offered training in child health and nutrition to more than 2,600 health workers last year. Other initiatives seek to provide immunizations and clean water sources to every child.

For mothers, our programs provide a range of comprehensive services, such as education on sanitation and hygiene, fistula prevention and repair, and safe delivery services. Such initiatives also help address barriers that limit women’s access to health services by promoting gender equity and offering innovative financing for economic activities.

93% of children in Uganda have been immunized against bacterial infections like pneumonia and meningitis through U.S.-funded programs.

**SUCCESS STORY**

**Delivering Safe and Healthy Babies**

Evelyn Natukunda – a 17-year-old mother from Kabale, Kyenjojo District – received life-saving care when she arrived at the hospital already beginning to go into labor and suffering from a high fever resulting from malaria. Her labor was complicated by the baby being in the breech position and she required a C-section to give birth. Thanks to U.S. government support, Evelyn and her baby received the skilled care necessary for a safe and healthy delivery.

Evelyn Natukunda and her son in Kyenjojo District.
Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Family planning efforts are helping lower the risk of death during childbirth, produce healthier children, and reduce pressures on the economy.

Uganda has one of the highest fertility rates in the world, as well as one of the world’s youngest populations. The average Ugandan woman will have 5.4 children during her lifetime, and more than 40 percent of women do not have access to adequate family planning services. These factors place additional burdens on officials to provide quality health care, education, and other services to a quickly-growing population. Sustainable population growth can ease these pressures and help create a healthier environment for everyone.

We work closely with the Ministry of Health to increase the availability, affordability, and quality of voluntary family planning services – including contraceptives – within the public health system. The U.S. government partners with the public and private sector, as well as international donors, to help Ugandan families gain access to such services. These partnerships provide a range of comprehensive care – both free and for-service – through social marketing, vouchers, franchising, outreach camps, and workplace programs.

Spotlight Program

Saving Mothers, Giving Life

Saving Mothers, Giving Life is a U.S. government initiative to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality in four districts: Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kyenjojo, and Kibaale. The program has helped lower the maternal mortality rate in these districts by 44 percent, and the perinatal mortality rate by 9 percent.

Mothers like Stella Kabasinguzi are benefitting from the care they receive through Saving Mothers, Giving Life. Facing a high-risk pregnancy with twins, Stella gave birth by C-section at Kyenjojo Hospital, which participates in the initiative, to two boys who arrived preterm. Weighing only 2 kg and 1.7 kg at birth, Stella's young sons were in danger. But in the hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit incubator, they received life-saving treatment that stabilized their condition. They are now safe and healthy.
**Nutrition**

**Authorities are identifying and preventing the core causes of malnutrition that limit Uganda’s health and development.**

Without a proper diet or nutrition, Ugandans cannot be truly healthy or realize their full economic potential. Malnutrition remains a leading cause of death among children and contributes to the high rates of stunting and low birth weights among children. A poor diet also weakens the body’s immune system, making both children and adults more susceptible to disease and infection. Despite Uganda’s economic growth, a significant percentage of the population faces food insecurity, further endangering the country’s health.

U.S. government-supported initiatives are working to reduce these trends. We collaborate with the Government of Uganda to strengthen its nutrition policies and health systems, including through programs to help reduce poverty and promote livelihoods training for the most vulnerable families. These activities are not just treating the symptoms of malnutrition; they are also addressing its root causes, such as inadequate food diversity, a lack of food availability, and economic inequality.

Nurse Jennifer Nyakana measures the upper arm of a patient suffering from malnutrition in Kabarole District.
U.S. assistance funded 390 metric tons of food to 17,699 malnourished children and adults last year.

As part of these efforts, last year USAID provided the Ministry of Health with assistance that helped local industries produce quality fortified wheat flour, maize flour, and edible cooking oil. Another USAID program helped the Government of Uganda introduce bio-fortified beans and Vitamin A-enriched sweet potatoes, both of which provide important nutrients that improve overall health. These initiatives are providing Ugandans with the food and nutrition they need to stay healthy.

**SUCCESS STORY**

**Improving Nutrition for Vulnerable Populations**

U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers are helping Ugandans living with HIV to enjoy more positive and productive lives by forming care groups like Abakyala Twezimbe. Organizations like this one empower HIV-positive women by providing them opportunities to gain confidence and reduce their economic vulnerabilities.

Formed at Kinoni Health Center III, Abakyala Twezimbe consists of female entrepreneurs who cook and sell protein-rich porridge, which contributes to improved nutrition in their communities and generates income for their families. The group’s accomplishments demonstrate how empowered women can successfully start and run their own businesses while supporting their families and surrounding communities. Abakyala Twezimbwe members promote peer-education programs for people living with HIV. They also created an emergency fund to aid members during family deaths or illnesses.

Nalukenge Mastula, member of Abakyala Twezimbe and resident of Kijui village, demonstrating the packaging material used to sell the porridge.
Health System Strengthening

**Uganda is developing a stronger, more effective health system to meet the needs of a young and quickly-growing population.**

Uganda’s population is among the fastest growing in the world, with nearly 80 percent of its citizens under age 30. Experts estimate the country’s population will reach 50 million by 2020, and perhaps 100 million by 2050. This rapid growth puts increased burdens on the country’s health care system and prevents men, women, and especially children from receiving the kind of quality health care they need to become prosperous and productive.

The U.S. government – through the activities of USAID, CDC, PEPFAR, and the Defense Department – is working with its Ugandan partners to build a responsive and effective health care system that can keep the entire population healthy. U.S. assistance has helped build new laboratories and provide state-of-the-art testing equipment to improve diagnoses. We provide life-saving medications to help treat HIV and malaria, among other illnesses. U.S.-funded initiatives offer technical assistance and advice to government authorities to help strengthen supply chain systems, so Ugandans can receive the medicine and care they need.

The United States is also working with health officials to improve the transparency of Uganda’s health system to ensure that corruption and mismanagement do not endanger the health and well-being of its citizens.

Medical providers are the heart of a strong health system. That is why our programs have helped train hundreds of health workers throughout the country last year. These initiatives provide front-line medical providers, nurses, lab technicians, and other officials with the latest information and techniques to improve the efficiency and quality of their care. U.S. assistance also supports officials at the local level, helping provide health services to a larger number of people.

A scientist tests samples at the U.S.-funded Uganda National Health Laboratory Services building in Butabika, Kampala.
SUCCESS STORY

Keeping Children Healthy

Angel Maskar was born HIV-positive with a viral load that risked the disease’s rapid progression and his own well-being. But health teams at Palabek Kal HCIII, who received USAID-funded training on improved antiretroviral therapy methods, helped Angel stay healthy. With routine visits to his home, team members taught Angel about the importance of maintaining a regular therapy regimen and the dangers of skipping his medication. Through these interventions, Angel’s grandfather made sure his grandson visited his local health facility every month. By last year, Angel was sick less frequently, and his viral load had dropped significantly. Thanks to the health team’s support, Angel enjoys improved health – and he is now thriving in school.
Prosperous

Transforming the country into a prosperous, modern economy requires sustainable growth that benefits every Ugandan.
As the country’s economy continues to grow, more Ugandans are enjoying increased prosperity, but too many still face dire poverty and unemployment. To help generate a stronger economic climate, we invest in activities that do more than reduce poverty: they also increase business opportunities. U.S. assistance helps to improve the country’s agricultural production, so that with increased food security, Ugandans can feed themselves and market their goods abroad. Our funding of training programs and microfinance projects sharpens the skills of Ugandan entrepreneurs and allows them to discover new sources of credit. At the same time, we encourage greater U.S. investment in Uganda’s economy and assist Ugandan companies in gaining access to U.S. markets. Just as important for ensuring continued growth is our work with wildlife authorities to end illegal trafficking and environmental destruction. Together, these efforts are helping to create a modern economy through sustained and sustainable growth that can benefit all Ugandans.
Agriculture

Agricultural initiatives are helping to alleviate hunger, reduce food insecurity, and empower Uganda’s farmers.

Agriculture and farming are the main engines of Uganda’s economy. More than 70 percent of the country’s population works in the sector, contributing to more than 85 percent of Uganda’s export earnings and representing significant potential to drive future growth. But low agricultural output and high business costs, coupled with a poor transportation network, limit prosperity for most, especially smallholder farmers. The lack of agricultural productivity in particular contributes to persistent poverty and hunger for a large percentage of Ugandans. To help address these difficulties, we invest in programs that add value to the production of maize, coffee, and beans – crops with the greatest marketing possibilities, nutritional benefits, and income potential for Ugandan farmers and their families.

**SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM**

**Feed the Future**

Through the U.S. government’s Feed the Future initiative, implemented by USAID, we are helping reduce hunger and food insecurity. This program is working to make products more competitive in local and international markets, help farmers generate greater incomes, and improve productivity. Feed the Future activities also support farmers in learning how to manage the effects of climate change, pest infestations, and crop diseases.

Joshua Otinwingye, a coffee farmer from the village of Ndhew, in Nebbi District, benefits from assistance gained through the Alur Highlands Coffee Alliance (AHCA), an initiative supported by USAID. AHCA has helped Joshua upgrade and expand his coffee nursery from 15,000 seedlings to 52,000, trained him to manage his nursery more effectively, and increased his income. Joshua’s nursery will also benefit local coffee farmers by helping them to replace old trees and expand their farms with high-quality seedlings.

$68.8 million worth of coffee was sold by farmers associated with Feed the Future programs last year.
An employee at The Joseph Initiative, a grain management and trading company in Masindi District supported by Feed the Future, stands among sacks of white maize ready for distribution.

**Peace Corps Permagardens**

U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers are working in local communities to strengthen food security through permagarden programs. These small-scale, bio-intensive gardens allow families to grow their own grains, fruits, and vegetables, and enjoy better nutrition and health. Permagardens are helping more Ugandans combat malnutrition and take control of their futures, like Margret Tukahirwa, a permagarden farmer in Kafuga Village, Kisoro District. “We now have greens every day. I even get money through selling the balance of the vegetables,” says Margret. “The money pays for books for my children. I buy soap and salt. I am a bit rich now.”

Last year, more than 500,000 farmers participated in Feed the Future activities, helping Uganda export 604,843 metric tons of maize, a 50% increase from five years ago.

Permagarden farmers in Kisoro District tend to their crops using techniques learned thanks to assistance from the Peace Corps.
Trade

New trade practices and standards help Ugandans produce higher quality products and benefit from greater market access.

To compete in the global market, Ugandan companies – whether farmers or manufacturers – need to produce consistently high-quality products. They also need regulations that facilitate market access and remove barriers to trade. Through USAID, we are building the capacity of key agriculture and trade sector partners to enable Uganda to expand its economic reach regionally and internationally. We have worked with the government to adjust policies that have constrained development and create new ones to promote trade – such as a simplified certificate of origin for maize grain – helping small-scale exporters. These programs are making Ugandan companies more competitive.

USAID-sponsored initiatives support efforts to improve the quality of Ugandan exports. We continue to work with the government to enact policies that provide better regulation of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs, to ensure consistent and quality production. U.S. government assistance is also developing district-level regulations to enforce standards among farmers and traders, ensuring high-value products reach the market.

The Embassy encourages increased trade between Uganda and the United States through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). In partnership with the government and the private sector, we are advancing efforts to create a National AGOA Response Strategy that will allow Ugandan exporters to take advantage of AGOA’s trade preferences and U.S. market access. USAID also has organized workshops throughout the country to educate Ugandan businesses about the benefits of AGOA and help them prepare their products for export. In addition, through collaboration with the American Chamber of Commerce in Uganda, we have sponsored an annual agriculture exposition to link U.S. companies with Ugandan counterparts.

SUCCESS STORY

Growing Businesses

Ugandan companies are benefiting directly from U.S. assistance, investment, and trade. U.S. efforts have significantly increased bilateral trade and investment in Uganda’s agricultural sector, and they are enabling Ugandan companies, like Jakana Foods Ltd., to increase their capacity and access to international markets. Last year, Jakana Foods received more than $20,000 in U.S. private sector investment, and there are plans for additional funding that would expand the company by more than 300 percent.

Fruit being dried at Jakana Foods Ltd. In addition to supplying local supermarkets in Uganda, Jakana exports its products to the United States and other international markets.
Exporters like Sseko Designs, a Ugandan fashion business, use duty-free access to the United States through AGOA to export goods to American consumers. This market access has enabled Sseko to increase its sales to more than 3,000 pairs of shoes per month and reach nearly 400 U.S. retail outlets. The resulting revenue gains allowed Sseko to expand its workforce from three workers to more than 50, give its employees higher salaries, and grant scholarships for women to attend university.
Entrepreneurship

More small enterprises and entrepreneurs are gaining access to credit to help expand their businesses.

Limited access to formal sources of credit limits the growth of small and medium enterprises. Ugandan entrepreneurs often rank the lack of available financing as one of the top challenges they face in building a successful business. Programs supported by USAID are helping smallholder farmers and small business owners find these sources through the creation of Village Savings Associations and training of Village Agents to pool resources and capital. Last year, USAID helped form more than 500 of these associations, which provided farmers with financing to purchase agricultural equipment and materials and linked microentrepreneurs with Ugandan financial institutions.

$2.6 million worth of trade and production credit was accessed by microentrepreneurs through U.S.-sponsored initiatives.

USAID also supported youth-related microenterprise development through the Uganda Youth Leadership for Agriculture activity. This initiative, which helps young men and women under age 35 create sustainable and cost-effective enterprises, assisted more than 9,500 Ugandan youth in gaining access to economic opportunities in agriculture.

SUCCESS STORY

Providing Skills and Livelihoods

Beekeeping for honey production provides economic opportunities for men and women in Karamoja. This project, made possible by USAID support through the Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition (RWANU) program, has trained more than 700 people in beekeeping techniques and business skills, enabling them to earn income for their families.

Honey production generates additional income for farmers, enabling them to buy more food for their families and more supplies for their farms, leading to healthier families, increased farm productivity, and greater economic stability.

Ambassador Malac presses a honeycomb with beekeepers in Kondoyo village, Karamoja.
Greater energy efficiency is lowering costs, curtailing consumption, and reducing threats to the environment.

Creating a more efficient power system in Uganda will have a profound effect on energy costs and the country’s economy. As Uganda’s population grows, and with it demands for energy, officials will need to manage such expansion responsibly and sustainably. USAID’s Power Africa Initiative is helping Uganda plan for that future through the drafting of the Electricity Efficiency Roadmap for Uganda (EERU). The EERU, which addresses some of the most serious challenges faced by growing African cities, promotes energy efficiency to reduce the costs of power generation and distribution. In turn, these savings can increase energy access through the expansion of the national grid and development of off-grid solutions. Renewable energy growth and consumption will also lessen negative effects on the environment.

Through projects like the Kalangala Infrastructure Services’ hybrid solar-diesel power plant and electricity distribution system, Power Africa in Uganda has made 56,777 electricity connections that benefit nearly 300,000 Ugandans.
Environment and Biodiversity

Wildlife authorities are gaining the skills and tools to help protect Uganda’s abundant natural heritage.

Uganda is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world – home to endangered mountain gorillas, more than a thousand species of birds, and vast expanses of wetlands. Protecting the country’s biodiversity will be critical not just for the environment, but also for improving Uganda’s economy and increasing potential tourism revenue. Agricultural, industrial, and residential development, however, is creating negative consequences: between 2000 and 2010, Uganda lost more than 70 percent of its natural lands and habitats to these activities. U.S. assistance is helping Ugandans manage their ecosystems responsibly through programs that help preserve protected areas and educate the public on issues like climate change.

An elephant feeds in Murchison Falls National Park, home to 76 species of mammals and over 450 species of birds.
SUCCESS STORY

Combating Wildlife Crimes

To help protect Uganda’s biodiversity, USAID works with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the National Forestry Authority, and local communities on programs to monitor environmental degradation and manage lands in a sustainable fashion. USAID also has partnered with public and private sector actors to mitigate the environmental effects of oil and gas exploration in the wildlife-abundant Albertine Rift Valley. U.S. programs also support and train wildlife officials to improve their ability to combat illicit wildlife trafficking.

Law enforcement and forensic science experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior – trained 17 investigators from UWA, the Uganda Police Force, and the Natural Resource Conservation Network. With support from the Uganda Conservation Foundation, these American experts helped Ugandan investigators develop the skills to conduct wildlife crime scene investigations. USAID donated 10 wildlife crime scene investigation kits containing materials necessary for collecting and preserving evidence from wildlife crime scenes, which is crucial for the successful prosecution of wildlife crimes. The kits are now in use by the trained investigators. Combating wildlife trafficking reduces its negative impacts on Uganda’s tourism industry and the revenues generated from visits to national parks. In 2014, those revenues amounted to more than $1 billion (UGX 3.4 trillion).
Ensuring Uganda’s continued stability requires investments in health and conflict resolution, not just military training.
The United States partners with Uganda through multiple initiatives to promote peace and stability in Uganda and the region. The U.S. Department of Defense provides Ugandan soldiers with world-class training in peacekeeping methods, human rights, logistics, and trauma care. As a result, the Ugandan military plays a leading role in providing security to the wider East Africa region. U.S. programs funded by CDC, the Defense Department, and USAID also help to enhance Uganda’s ability to detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. Initiatives sponsored by USAID, meanwhile, foster peaceful dialogue and reconciliation among local populations to resolve conflicts and reduce the chance for violence. Finally, Uganda stands as a model for its progressive treatment of refugees fleeing violence in neighboring countries. The U.S. supports the country’s refugee population with food assistance and other aid to both international humanitarian organizations and local relief agencies. We also assist local communities to ensure they do not suffer economically from refugee inflows.

Food assistance from the U.S. government sustains refugees at the Bidi Bidi refugee camp in northern Uganda.
Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation

Dispute resolution mechanisms and a greater awareness of land rights are helping to reduce violence and promote peace.

Years of conflict and displacement in Uganda have contributed to increased violence and disputes related to land rights. Uncertainties over land ownership, along with limited assistance to returning populations, undermine security and investment, often fueling additional cycles of violence. Activities funded by USAID are working to reverse these trends and support enhanced land rights, especially for women, in areas of northern Uganda. Through legal aid programs, last year we helped more than 200 Ugandans peacefully resolve more than 100 land disputes. U.S.-supported community dialogues brought together nearly 1,000 people in three districts of northern Uganda to promote conflict resolution.

565 traditional and local leaders in western Uganda were trained in conflict resolution methods.

Supported by USAID’s Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Peace and Equity program, the Area Land Committee in Nebbi District conducts as many as 26 land inspections each month to improve land administration and conflict resolution.
Suluhu

With support from USAID, War Child Canada’s Suluhu project at the Kiryandongo refugee settlement is working to resolve social conflicts and strengthen peaceful relationships between refugees and their host communities. The project focuses on engaging vulnerable youth, like Jonah Nyende, in education and peace-building activities.

Before joining Suluhu, Jonah was a frequent source of conflict in his community. He had stopped going to school and began associating with other troublemakers. At community gatherings, Jonah would often fight with other youth.

Suluhu helped Jonah to change his life. Since joining his Suluhu youth group, Jonah has returned to school and is now a strong advocate for peace in his community. He was even elected team leader by his Suluhu peers because they consider him a trustworthy, approachable, and thoughtful conflict mediator.
Defense and Peacekeeping

The United States and Uganda have built a robust military partnership that contributes to regional peace and security.

The American and Ugandan militaries have a strong relationship after years of close collaboration to counter terrorism and provide peace and security throughout Africa. Through U.S. military training programs, the Uganda People’s Defence Force (UPDF) has developed into one of the most professional and well-respected militaries on the continent. UPDF soldiers receive instruction from U.S. counterparts not just on military tactics, but also on respect for human rights and the rule of law. U.S. military advisers have trained hundreds of Ugandan soldiers to help keep the peace in places like Somalia and provide assistance in the joint mission to counter the Lord’s Resistance Army.

The Embassy’s Office of Security Cooperation also funds multiple programs that provide security assistance beyond military training. These activities include efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, conduct medical research on infectious diseases, and improve the military’s logistics and maintenance capabilities.

Over 5,000 soldiers from the Uganda People’s Defence Force completed training in peacekeeping support operations.

U.S. Marine Sgt. Alfred Darsey (center), assists Uganda People’s Defence Force soldiers as they construct a security post during an exercise at Camp Singo, Uganda.
Uganda is rightfully lauded for its policies towards refugees.

A record number of refugees has entered Uganda in the past year due to chronic and increased violence in neighboring countries. Despite the strains these arrivals put on the country’s economy and services, Uganda serves as a model for its treatment and care of these vulnerable populations. The United States helps Uganda manage this responsibility through programs that benefit both refugees and the communities that host them.

U.S. assistance has helped provide food and shelter to the more than one million refugees in Uganda.

We provide funding in 12 districts for activities that protect refugees, address the trauma of gender-based violence, and provide health care, clean water, and livelihoods training. The United States is the largest donor of humanitarian assistance to international relief organizations that are providing food and shelter for these populations. This funding is helping to ease the impact on local communities and reduce conflict between Ugandans and refugees.
Global Health Security Agenda

Uganda has developed world-class capabilities to detect and control infectious disease outbreaks.

Uganda's security also depends on its ability to detect and respond to the threats posed by infectious diseases such as Ebola, yellow fever, and cholera. In the past decade, Uganda has experienced outbreaks of all these diseases, but thanks to its detection capabilities, authorities have managed to contain them. Uganda’s participation in the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) is helping the country maintain and enhance those abilities. GHSA – a partnership of more than 50 countries, international organizations, and NGOs – contributes to Uganda’s stability by ensuring health officials have the tools and skills to respond in the case of a health emergency. With assistance from CDC, USAID, and other U.S. government partners, we are helping improve the country’s preparedness and emergency management capacity by establishing Uganda’s Public Health Emergency Operation Center and training workers to detect diseases before they spread.

Spotlight Program

Advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program

U.S. government programs like the Advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) are creating a cadre of so-called “disease detectives.” The Advanced FETP is a two-year, training-in-service program that aims to equip public health professionals with the skills they need to manage public health challenges. The program also supports the development of Uganda’s public health workforce, which helps to keep all citizens, and people around the world, safe and healthy.

A scientist with the Advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program testing samples at a laboratory.
In its first two years of existence, the Advanced FETP has investigated nearly 50 disease outbreaks in Uganda.
Promoting human rights, the rule of law, and civil society gives all Ugandans a voice in determining how they are governed.
Elections alone are not the measure of a true democracy. For any country to succeed and thrive, its laws should be fair, its citizens’ rights should be protected, and its leaders should be accountable for their actions. U.S. government programs in Uganda focus on creating a just and democratic system of governance that works to ensure all voices are heard and respected and that all citizens can have a say in how their country is governed. Much of our effort focuses on building the capacity of civil society actors to advocate on behalf of all Ugandans, especially those traditionally neglected or discriminated against – such as women, LGBT individuals, ethnic and religious minorities, and persons with disabilities. We work with citizens to improve their abilities to identify and combat corruption, a significant problem in nearly every aspect of society and government. We also support training programs for Ugandan journalists to help them become more professional and responsible in reporting on their country and its people.

ASSISTANCE FOCUS AREAS

- Rule of Law and Human Rights
- Good Governance and Anti-Corruption
- Free and Fair Elections
- Media Training

Total U.S. government assistance to promote a more just and democratic Uganda

$10.3 million

UGX 35 billion

1,379 Ugandan election observers received training on free and fair elections

A community member speaks during a peace-building meeting in Kasese District.
Rule of Law and Human Rights

Ugandan citizens are better able to articulate, protect, and demand their rights.

A just and democratic society rests on a foundation of laws that uphold the rights of citizens, protect the most vulnerable, and ensure equal treatment of all. Central to a functioning legal system and rule of law is a fair and independent judiciary. The U.S. government is supporting activities to enhance judicial independence, which in turn can help build public confidence in Uganda’s courts, its laws, and its government. USAID programs last year provided human rights training to nearly two dozen female judges and judicial officials. USAID also provided support for strategic litigation efforts that sought to uphold human rights, as well as for programs that promoted gender equality in northern Uganda.

U.S.-funded activities in Uganda are also working to end human trafficking and child labor and to improve protection for the country’s youngest and most vulnerable. More than 4,200 out-of-school teens benefitted from our programs that provided education and skills training, two crucial components in efforts to eliminate child labor and exploitation. We helped establish more than 100 Village Savings and Loans Associations nationwide, which increased incomes for nearly 2,000 caregivers, further reducing the need to have their children work. U.S. assistance also went towards the creation of 75 community child labor committees that monitored employers’ compliance with Uganda’s child labor laws.

African Youth Empowerment Development Initiative

U.S.-supported programs like the African Youth Empowerment Development Initiative (AYEDI) are providing young Ugandans like Gerald Ntale the opportunity to transition away from hazardous forms of employment and benefit from skills training and education. Such efforts are keeping Gerald, and hundreds of other young Ugandans, safe from potential trafficking and exploitation.

After laboring in the sand mining industry, Gerald joined his local AYEDI club in Kikunya, Iganga District. There he learned motorcycle repair skills that enabled him to gain full-time employment at the Double Solution Motorcycle Garage.

AYEDI is giving Gerald, and other youth like him, the opportunity to build a productive and prosperous future.
“We do not face the problems of murder and violence in my community any longer. We have achieved a peace. It’s with peace that you develop.”

Lucy Kamya, Peace Monitor in Muhokya, Kasese District

SUCCESS STORY

Promoting Peace in Kasese

USAID supports programs that promote dialogue as a means of peaceful conflict resolution. Last year, we provided assistance to the Rwenzori Peace Bridge of Reconciliation, which is working to sensitize communities and cultural leaders in the region on human rights and the rule of law. Under the initiative, this local NGO is encouraging cultural leaders to take a more active role in peace-building activities.

Lucy Kamya is one such leader supporting efforts to maintain peace at the Muhokya Trading Centre in Kasese District. Muhokya is home to several ethnic groups, including the Bakonzo, Banyabindi, and Basongora. Area politicians have a history of exploiting historical prejudices among these groups, which can result in ethnic violence.

Lucy received training through Rwenzori Peace Bridge of Reconciliation workshops to become a peace monitor, and she is now helping her fellow Basongora to coexist peacefully with other groups.
Good Governance and Anti-Corruption

Efforts to eliminate corruption are creating conditions for better and more transparent governance.

Ugandan public opinion surveys routinely cite corruption as one of the country’s biggest obstacles to development, undermining rule of law and wasting scarce resources. The U.S. government is working with Ugandan authorities and civil society on programs that improve government transparency, increase official accountability, and promote public oversight. Last year, USAID supported a series of public hearings to review local government audit recommendations to ensure districts were implementing instructions to improve their performance. As a result of these hearings, more districts appointed public accounts committees that helped reform procurement practices, improve fiscal management, and ensure accountability in service delivery.

SUCCESS STORY

Protecting Human Rights Through Justice

USAID programs last year provided human rights training to nearly two dozen female judges and judiciary officials to improve judicial independence, which is essential for the protection of human rights and the rule of law in Uganda. Honorable Lady Justice Lydia Mugambe, Civil Division of the High Court, is one of those beneficiaries.

Through USAID’s training programs and Rights and Rule of Law Activity, Justice Mugambe says the capacity of judicial officers in Uganda to administer justice effectively has been greatly enhanced. “This has led to improved access to justice for the public. My schedule is very busy but I found the engagement a valuable use of my time,” she says.

USAID has also provided support for strategic litigation efforts that sought to uphold human rights, as well as programs that promote gender equality in northern Uganda.

Hon. Lady Justice Lydia Mugambe, High Court of Uganda
Free and Fair Elections

More Ugandans are having their voices heard in the country’s politics and electoral processes.

A just system of democratic governance requires that all voices are heard and respected – before, during, and after elections. During Uganda’s 2016 elections, the United States supported programs to empower women and youth to become proactively involved in politics. We provided assistance to groups like the Women’s Situation Room, a local NGO that empowers women to be a leading force for peaceful elections. Through groups like this one, more Ugandans were able to engage political actors and make their concerns known to their elected representatives. We also helped foster dialogue among civil society organizations, government officials, and electoral authorities on campaign finance regulations and electoral reforms. These dialogues were critical in bringing diverse actors and viewpoints together on issues of national importance, and contributed to lower levels of violence during the electoral process.

Our assistance also offered Ugandans the skills and tools to ensure elections were as free, fair, and transparent as possible. The U.S. Mission supported election observation efforts and the work of organizations like the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa. USAID-funded activities trained nearly 1,400 domestic election observers and sponsored voter education drives throughout the country. Other efforts sought to improve citizens’ access to the national voter register and increase overall transparency of the entire voting process. Together, these programs contributed to higher voter turnout in the 2016 elections, giving Ugandans a greater voice in how they are governed. In addition, our assistance programs provided capacity training to eight political parties, enabling them to connect with voters and to compete openly in the general elections.

Media Training

Training programs for Ugandan journalists are producing more reliable and accurate reporting.

A free and independent media plays an important role in a democracy by holding officials accountable and providing citizens with accurate information. In Uganda, the U.S. government funds a variety of journalism training programs that promote ethical and responsible reporting, expand knowledge and understanding of key issues, and introduce the use of new technologies.

Last year, more than 500 journalists across the country received training through U.S.-funded programs.

We also sponsored initiatives to improve the media’s coverage of health issues and the problem of gender-based violence, among other topics. These initiatives are helping uphold freedoms of the press and expression, in addition to creating a more professional Ugandan media.
Creating an inclusive, educated, and empowered society will unlock the talents of every Ugandan.
Uganda’s continued development and ultimate success depend on ensuring all citizens benefit from improvements in health, the economy, governance, and security. It is especially important for women and girls – who traditionally face many obstacles in their lives – to have the same opportunities for success as men and boys. Every Ugandan should benefit from the country’s economic growth; every Ugandan should have a quality education; and every Ugandan should be welcome and able to contribute to society. U.S. government programs in Uganda aim to ensure all voices, especially those of women and youth, are fully represented in all aspects of life and development. We also invest in education initiatives, whether to promote literacy, to ensure children stay in school, or to enhance teacher training. Many of our programs include a special focus on developing the skills of Uganda’s youth, the future leaders of the country. These programs are long-term investments in the Ugandan people, because we believe in their talents and want to see them and their children succeed.
Basic Education and Literacy

Ugandan schools are becoming safer spaces where children can learn and thrive.

More than half of Uganda's population is under 18 years old, putting ever-increasing demands on schools and teachers to provide a quality education to millions of children. Without acquiring the necessary learning skills at an early age, including the ability to read, Uganda's children will not be able to benefit from the country's development or become productive, prosperous citizens.

Students in the early grades learning to read in their local language.

16,880 teachers received USAID-funded training in early grade teaching methodologies.

USAID-funded programs partner with the Ministry of Education and Sports to strengthen early grade reading skills. Our efforts aim to improve literacy for 3.5 million children nationwide. As part of this initiative, we have provided more than 1.3 million books in English and local languages to Ugandan schools, as studies show that learning to read in a mother tongue is key to improving literacy.

USAID activities also help strengthen teachers' skills through advanced training sessions, as well as efforts to improve teacher retention and supervision. We work closely with Ugandan officials to introduce evidence-based curriculum reforms and update the country's education policies. At the community level, our programs engage with local leaders and parents to become more actively involved in their children's education. Together, these programs are improving the quality of Uganda's schools and creating better-educated children.
SUCCESS STORY

Improving Learning in Ugandan Classrooms

Olivia Tumwegamire, a P.2 teacher at Buranga School in Kabale District, attributes improvement in teaching and learning at her school to USAID’s School Health and Reading Program. The initiative provided her school with books and teachers’ guides, as well as training in effective instructional methods. Olivia credits the program with helping her to learn ways of teaching reading, writing, and phonics, as well as broader strategies to engage and involve all students during lessons. As a result of improved teaching and resources, students across Uganda, like 10-year-old Mafabi Fizal in Mbale District, are becoming more engaged learners. When he entered school, he could not read or write. Today, after participating in this program, Mafabi says reading and writing have become his best and favorite subjects.

Mafabi Fizal, a P.3 student at Buzalaginzo Primary School, Mbale District, reads aloud in front of his classmates.

Schools also must be violence-free so that children can feel safe outside of their homes and engage in learning. Unfortunately, recent surveys reveal that violence and sexual abuse are far too prevalent in Ugandan schools. Nearly 80 percent of primary students report they have experienced some form of physical or sexual abuse at school, and most fail to report it out of fear of further victimization. This violence poses significant barriers to learning and retention – abused students are more likely to drop out of school, exhibit poor academic performance, and have health problems. U.S. government assistance invests in programs to address the underlying causes of school-related violence, help make schools safe and supportive environments, and promote healthy behaviors among students.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I am glad that now every learner has access to a textbook. This has helped improve reading and writing abilities. Attending the Early Grade Reading teacher training, my teaching skills on reading and writing were enhanced.”

Olivia Tumwegamire, P.2 teacher, Buranga School, Kabale District
INCLUSIVE, EDUCATED, AND EMPOWERED

Children in Adversity

The most vulnerable children are able to receive support and assistance that improves their well-being.

Of Uganda’s 17 million children under age 18, more than half are in vulnerable situations that require external support. An estimated eight percent of all Ugandan children are orphans. Such conditions negatively affect the health, skills development, and nutrition of these children, jeopardizing their chances for a prosperous future. The U.S. government, through USAID programs, partners with the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development to ensure orphans and other vulnerable children receive support services that reduce their vulnerability during times of need.

SUCCESS STORY

Aiding Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Last year, 287,641 children and caregivers facing adversity – including more than 26,700 children who are orphaned and vulnerable – received services from USAID that supported household economic empowerment, education, food and nutrition, legal protection, psycho-social development, and health. Similar types of programming are also delivered by CDC, the Defense Department, and the Peace Corps. Household vulnerability assessments ensure that comprehensive services are provided to those most in need and are tailored to individual circumstances, promoting child well-being. We are also supporting initiatives to prevent and respond to cases of child exploitation, abuse, and neglect, and to provide protection to victims.

Ensuring that vulnerable children have access to education gives them an opportunity for a prosperous future.
Exchange Programs

The U.S. government sponsors a number of exchange programs that bring Ugandan scholars, journalists, and politicians, as well as cultural and religious leaders, to America for educational and training opportunities that help strengthen the relationship between our two countries. These exchanges identify up-and-coming leaders in a variety of fields and professions, exposing them to different ideas and people from the United States and around the world. Last year alone, nearly 100 Ugandans participated in various exchange programs, ranging in topics from human rights to education.

The Fulbright Program, a competitive, merit-based scholarship for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists, and artists, is our flagship international education exchange program. Uganda participates in the full range of Fulbright activities, including lectures, research, and study programs for both American and Ugandan students and scholars. Fulbright’s Visiting Student Program is one of the most active elements in the country, bringing Ugandan students to the United States each year to enroll in master’s or doctorate degree programs. Since the program’s founding 70 years ago, hundreds of Ugandans have participated in the Fulbright Program, including Africa’s very first Fulbright Scholar.

Additionally, each year nearly 5,000 exchange participants come to the United States on the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). In 2016, nearly 20 were from Uganda. IVLP participants take part in projects focused on various topics, including the rule of law, human rights, and environmental protection. Other topics include journalism, the judicial system, transparency, and good governance.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I was always good at math, and my parents said I was forever tinkering with things. As I grew, I became more interested in physics and chemistry, and my teachers encouraged me in this area. At the time, it was quite revolutionary to encourage a girl in this field. I went on to be given the Fulbright Scholarship and did my master’s program in the U.S. I also became the first woman to receive a first-class honors degree and was the first elected female president of the Engineers Association.”

Dorothy Okello, Ugandan Fulbright Scholar and Engineer
The U.S. government is also investing in the next generation of African leaders through a variety of activities, including in Uganda, because we recognize the potential and creativity of the country’s youth. Our signature effort is the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), which aims to support youth leaders in their work to spur economic growth, strengthen democratic governance, and promote peace and stability. YALI’s flagship program is the prestigious Mandela Washington Fellowship, which brings the best and brightest to the United States for six intensive weeks of mentoring, leadership training, and networking opportunities with colleagues from across the continent. Nearly 100 Ugandans have participated in the Fellowship, including Emmanuel Odama of the National Agricultural Research Organization, who had the honor of introducing President Barack Obama at the 2016 YALI Summit in Washington, DC.

220 Ugandans have participated in YALI programs in the United States and Kenya.

YALI alumni are already making a difference in Uganda. Program participants are creating jobs and economic opportunities in their communities, expanding access to health care, and promoting peace and reconciliation. In addition to the Mandela Fellowship, the U.S. government also supports the YALI Regional Leadership Center in Kenya, where more than 100 Ugandans have graduated from courses in business, leadership, and management. Such investments are helping prepare a new generation of Ugandans to lead the country towards peace and prosperity.

Education Advising and Study in the U.S.A.

The U.S. government encourages international students to study at one of the thousands of colleges and universities in the United States and gain a world-class education. International students enrich U.S. universities and communities with their perspectives and make American institutions more competitive. At the same time, the knowledge and skills international students develop in the United States help them to become the next generation of leaders in their home countries.

Our Embassy in Kampala helps Ugandans navigate the U.S. higher education system through its Education Advising Center, providing comprehensive information on academic programs, the admissions process, and test preparation. We also identify financial aid and scholarship opportunities offered by U.S. colleges and universities to help students pay for their educations. Hundreds of prospective students each year participate in our advising sessions to help plan their educational paths.

776 Ugandan students studied in the United States last year.
Self-Help and Small Grant Programs

In addition to our large-scale assistance projects, the Embassy funds a variety of smaller programs focused on making a difference at the local and individual level. These projects encourage communities to become more self-reliant, improve their economic conditions, reduce the risks from HIV and other diseases, and create opportunities for a healthier and more prosperous future.

The Ambassador’s Special Self-Help Fund provides assistance to community-based organizations for small-scale, sustainable development projects. These programs concentrate on income-generating activities and efforts to improve quality of life for community residents. Young mothers like Amina Namulinda are benefitting from locally-run health programs the Self-Help Fund supports. Amina attended lessons at the S.O.U.L. Foundation (Supporting Opportunities for Ugandans to Learn) – a nonprofit organization that serves 14 villages in Jinja and Iganga Districts – where she learned about antenatal care and hygiene methods to keep her new baby healthy and safe. In addition, the Community Grants Program, funded through PEPFAR, assists grassroots organizations that promote HIV prevention and provide care to orphans, vulnerable children, and other at-risk populations.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“Many of my friends told me about a place called S.O.U.L. and the lessons that were taking place. I went along and they taught me how to prepare for my baby, be clean, care for the baby and care for myself during pregnancy.”

Amina Namulinda, S.O.U.L. Foundation participant

SUCCESS STORY

Educating Vulnerable Children

The Embassy is supporting Ugandan efforts to strengthen local communities and address the needs of vulnerable children. In Kampala, Teddyrose Namakula and her husband struggled to find a school that could support the needs of their two visually impaired children. With support from the Embassy, they started their own school, the Center for Visually Impaired Children (CVIC), in 2003. Beginning with just three students, CVIC is now thriving and provides an education to more than 20 students.

Students use braille typewriters at the Center for Visually Impaired Children in Kampala.
Funding by Assistance Area, FY 2016

U.S. government assistance reaches into nearly every corner of Uganda. While some of the programs we support target the needs of specific populations and districts, the majority of our activities touch the lives of millions throughout the country. Our work to improve health, increase literacy, protect refugees, promote dialogue, and expand economic growth seeks to reach every Ugandan and help build the future every citizen wants and deserves. The map on the following page provides a brief overview of where some of our programs operate, but it is by no means a comprehensive account of every U.S.-supported activity in Uganda.
U.S. Assistance to Uganda By Region, FY 2016

**Just and Democratic**
The United States promotes efforts at peaceful conflict management and resolution, encouraging local leaders to engage in dialogue and uphold the rule of law and human rights.

**Prosperous**
Feed the Future and other U.S.-funded initiatives are improving agricultural production, increasing food security, and helping farmers earn greater incomes.

**Healthy**
U.S. assistance seeks to improve the health of all Ugandans by helping expand medical treatment programs, prevent epidemic outbreaks, and treat diseases like HIV and malaria.

**Stable**
The United States partners with international aid groups and NGOs to provide food security assistance to local communities and protect the growing refugee population.

**Inclusive, Educated, and Empowered**
The U.S. government supports early reading programs that are improving literacy and providing children with better trained, more effective teachers.
The U.S. government, in cooperation with its Ugandan partners, supports programs and activities that support health initiatives, spur economic growth and development, ensure regional stability, and promote democracy and human rights throughout the country. The U.S. Mission to Uganda is composed of several U.S. agencies and offices that work under the auspices of the American Embassy in Kampala and at the direction of the U.S. Ambassador.