



COUNTRY PROFILE



RENUKA NAI/USAID

Molly is a coffee farmer who attends one of USAID's field schools, which have contributed to 36 percent increase in average income for more than 260,000 Ugandan households. She has seen the price of her coffee crop more than double since 2008.

OVERVIEW

USAID began its assistance to Uganda immediately after independence in 1962. USAID recognized the country's potential as the "bread basket" of Africa, with its rich natural resources, and significant rural population. Although priorities have evolved over the past five decades, USAID's commitment to Uganda continues to focus on improving people's livelihoods. Strong economic growth has lowered poverty, reduced the rate of HIV/AIDS infections, and improved education. USAID's work in Uganda supports U.S. policy objectives in peace and security, democracy and governance, health and education, economic growth, and humanitarian assistance.



PROGRAMS

PEACE AND SECURITY

Uganda continues to recover from the protracted conflict instigated by the Lord's Resistance Army that distorted social and economic development, especially in the north. In addition, the Karamoja region is slowly recovering from decades of recurrent conflict between ethnic groups characterized by violent raiding of livestock. Although relative peace has emerged in the two regions, underlying grievances over land rights, discovery of oil, political processes, and ethnic diversity provide fertile ground for potential new conflicts. USAID is working to mitigate this possibility by facilitating the resolution of land conflicts, promoting reconciliation, addressing the root causes of emerging conflicts, and supporting dialogues and capacity building among local government institutions and civil society.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

USAID supports Parliament, political parties, local governments, civil society, and local communities in consolidating a multiparty system in Uganda, enhancing governance and accountability, and strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights. Capacity building for human development is the primary approach of USAID Uganda's program. By supporting key anticorruption institutions in the country and national democratic instruments and institutions, the program plays a significant role in Uganda's democratic transition. USAID also works to develop effective local governance structures and civil society organizations to ensure the sustainability of a strong participatory and consultative culture in the country.

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1962
Population: 32.7 million (2009)
GDP (nominal): \$16 billion (yr)

Source: U.S. State Department

USAID IN COUNTRY

http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/countries/uganda



COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS

Although health indicators are steadily improving, Uganda's population is among the fastest growing in the world, and efforts to further strengthen the country's health systems are critical to keeping up with rising demand. USAID trains health and community outreach workers in treating tuberculosis and malaria and supports the large-scale delivery of highly effective services including immunization against childhood diseases, nutritional assistance, and distribution of insecticide-treated bednets that help prevent malaria. Programs also strengthen Uganda's decentralized health system and improve the quality of and access to family planning services and maternal and newborn health. Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, USAID collaborates with government, religious, private, and community-based institutions to scale up innovative, effective HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment efforts.

EDUCATION

By investing in literacy and HIV/AIDS prevention, USAID expects to increase students' success and retention in school, promote healthy behaviors, and lay the foundation for the socio-economic benefits that have been demonstrated to accrue from students'—especially girls'—education attainment.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

USAID focuses on advancing broad-based growth by working comprehensively in specific crops (maize, beans and coffee), on improving nutrition, especially among the most vulnerable people, and on addressing the environmental aspects of the oil industry and ecotourism. USAID assistance for agriculture is aligned with the Government of Uganda's development strategy and investment plan as outlined in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program Compact. Other programs will build Uganda's capability to mitigate the environmental impacts of oil exploration and production. USAID's ecotourism programs provide local communities opportunities to develop tourism businesses and services that will enhance communities' connection to Uganda's natural resources, which will reduce threats to biodiversity and protect Uganda's diverse landscapes.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

USAID is committed to supporting the Government of Uganda's peace recovery and development plan in northern and northeastern Uganda. In addition, USAID focuses on programs that target Uganda's most vulnerable and food insecure populations in the sub-region of Karamoja, where USAID supports food security, conflict mitigation, peace-building, livelihoods, and health programs.

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