



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

**STATEMENT ON PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
UGANDA'S COUNTRY PROGRAMMING PAPER**

**BY THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE FOR RELIEF,
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES,
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

9TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE IDDRSI PLATFORM

AT

LAKE VICTORIA HOTEL

ENTEBBE, UGANDA, 22-24 NOVEMBER, 2023.

**H.E, The Executive Secretary, IGAD
Hon. Ministers from IGAD Member States,
Heads of Delegations and Representatives of Development
Partners, UN Agencies & Non-Governmental Organizations
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I wish to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to our beautiful country, Uganda. I would also like to congratulate the IDDRSI Platform and IGAD in general upon the 10 years' milestone of promoting resilience against drought, and wish you many more productive and engaging years ahead, as we “***consolidate the path to resilience and sustainability***”, through profiling lessons learnt over the years.

Colleagues, Uganda is implementing its second 5-year Country Programming Paper (CPP), whose focus is **Consolidating the Path to Resilience and Sustainability**. The second phase builds on the foundation laid in the 1st CPP and particularly in addressing the key constraints in managing drought emergencies.

The CPP contributes to the realization of **Uganda Vision 2040** aspirations and it is also aligned to the **Third National Development Plan** whose goal is to increase household incomes and improve quality of life of Ugandans.

As we celebrate the 10-year journey of IDDRSI, it is my pleasure to provide you a highlight of our progress over the last decade towards improving livelihoods and enhancing resilience of communities to drought by transforming the agro-pastoralist and pastoralist sector into a more profitable, integrated and resilient economic system.

Uganda recognizes coordination as a driver for efficiency in multi-sectoral programme implementation and service delivery. In line with **recommendation 15.3** from the 8th General Assembly, **calling Member States to step up their inter-ministerial and stakeholder**

coordination mechanisms, to improve resilience programming; Office of the Prime Minister (**OPM**) in Uganda **coordinates all government programmes, policies and plans**, and hosts the **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** which brings together multi-sector and inter-agency stakeholders in disaster risk management including resilience. OPM also annually assesses and produces the **Government Annual Performance report that encompasses resilience initiatives implemented by government.**

Recommendation 15.5 called for intensification of investment in water development to ensure sustainable access to safe water. **Access to safe water in urban areas in Uganda increased from 72.1% in FY2021/22 to 72.8% in FY2022/23.** The rate of investment in urban water supply infrastructure is however still lower than the rate of population growth rate in urban areas, estimated at 5% per year.

Recommendation 15.11 called upon IGAD Member States to **remove barriers and strengthen trade between member states to facilitate the movement of foodstuff from the food surplus to deficit regions.** According to the EAC Time Bound Program (TBP), there **were 256 NTBs reported between 2004 and 2022, of which 234 were resolved.** Over the last 7 years the rate of resolution has improved, increasing from 76%, from 2004 to 2015, to 94.9% in the years since then.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AREAS(PIAs)

Uganda's Programming Paper has eight Programme Implementation Areas (PIAs), and progress has been made across all PIAs as highlighted below;

A total of **30 projects have been implemented**, with some still on-going, covering areas like; water for production, irrigation, climate

resilience, solar powered water supply, farm income enhancement, forestry conservation, drought resilience, pastoral livelihood improvement, market and agricultural trade improvement, livelihoods diversification, peace and conflict resolution, disaster risk management, among others. The above projects have a total estimated investment portfolio of **USD 3.6 Billion**.

- The above project investments have yielded impact, for example; the **area under irrigation increased from 14,418 hectares in 2015 to 22,976 hectares in 2023**; the cumulative water for production storage **capacity increased from 31.7 million cubic meters in 2015 to 52.6 million cubic meters in 2023**.
- Market access has increased with construction of 21 markets, 12 slaughter sheds, 4 quarantine stations and 72 community crashes. Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) are being eliminated and **average time taken to resolve NTBs improved, dropping from 328.4 days in 2016 to 76.6 days in 2021**.
- **Markets have been negotiated** namely; East African Community (EAC); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); African Continent Free Trade Area (ACFTA) including Specific Bilateral engagements such as Algeria, Serbia, Iran, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as strategy to expand market development and expansion opportunities aimed at achieving resilience and sustainability of the citizens of Uganda.
- Government of Uganda has put in place the **Fisheries Protection Unit (FPU) to eliminate illegal fishing and overfishing** in the lakes, smuggling and syndicated corruption.

This resulted into **significant increase in the fish volume up to 2019.**

- **Community resilience is being strengthened** through dedicated programmes and projects focusing on community resilience to climate change and disaster risks, humanitarian assistance, resettlement of landless and disaster displaced persons and refugees. **47 districts have been supported to develop multi-hazard District Disaster Contingency plans, and a Health Sector multi-hazard Contingency and preparedness Plan public health emergencies,** exists at national level.
- In 2022, Uganda developed a comprehensive **Disaster Risk Management Plan, 2022**, whose vision is “a disaster-resilient Uganda capable to anticipate, prepare for and coping with all disaster risks. A year before in 2021, Uganda launched the first ever **National Risk Atlas, 2021** which identifies seven priority hazards namely; drought, flood, landslides, lightning, hailstorm, windstorm and earthquake. The Atlas was a product of a synthesis of 135 district hazard profiles.
- A National Peace Building and Conflict Transformation policy is under development, and **Peace Committees Established in 5 districts** of; Abim, Napak, Nakapiripirit, Lwengo and Kapelebyong, and trained in Conflict Prevention and Management Resolution skills.
- Seven transformative projects are under implementation towards institutional strengthening, coordination and partnerships. There is also an IDDRSI National Expert Panel (NEP) with membership

from the 8 PIA implementing Agencies; and the National IDDRSI Steering Committee to foster the IDDRSI agenda in Uganda, including coordinating and carrying out joint monitoring and review of the resilience projects implemented in the country.

- To improve human capital and social development, 405 health facilities have been upgraded from one level to another, equipped and staffed with 11,000 health workers to improve minimum facility staffing levels.

Challenges

The above achievements and progress notwithstanding, some challenges still pertain that hinder our resilience goal, and these include;

- Absence of a law on Disaster Risk Management to legislate on resilience programming, among other aspects.
- High demand for Water for Production Infrastructure and facilities which outstrips the planned investments.
- Land disputes in some of the areas, community resistance to construction of agricultural production facilities as well as expensive land compensation, all which delay project implementation.
- Continued degradation of water catchments and the general environment, inadequate protection of lake shores, river banks and wetlands, and inadequate enforcement of water and environmental laws and regulations.
- Insecurity in Karamoja Sub region continues to constrain project implementation in the sub region and this has a cross-border dimension.

In light of the above challenges, the following recommendations are put forward;

- Take stock of the poor and the vulnerable by developing a database of all the people in the Arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) for better management of the beneficiaries from livelihood interventions.
- Develop and implement a strong Monitoring and Evaluation framework for interventions in the ASAL region.
- Develop Resource Mobilization Strategy.
- Continued sensitization and involvement of Local Governments and beneficiaries. In particular, on their roles and responsibilities especially on the projects implemented in their areas.
- Promote Risk identification through systematic hazard, risk and vulnerability mapping and review and update of such profiles to ensure the country is informed of all potential risk at all times.
- Continue institutional support to Non-Tariff Barriers elimination.
- Continuously document success stories to inform the future and effective programme implementation.

In conclusion; Uganda, has made positive progress across all the 8 PIAs. The Uganda Government remains committed to implementing the Country Programming Paper to enhance resilience of communities at risk of drought and other related hazards.

I thank you and declare this General Assembly opened.

For God and my Country

Anyakun Esther Davina (**MP**)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES