

Taking Measures to Reduce Development Gap Between Northern Uganda and Rest of the Country

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Student Officer: KyungChan Min, Deputy President

Introduction

Since the mid-1980s, the civil war between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda has caused a significant deal of misery for the Acholiland people. Since 2005, the Ugandan government has begun splitting districts into smaller administrative divisions. This decentralization is meant to avoid principal towns from receiving a disproportionate share of the district's resources, leaving the balance of each district ignored. Uganda possesses many of the basics necessary for growth and poverty reduction as a result of the accumulation of these elements.

Background

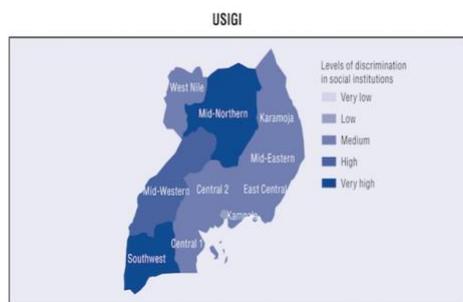
After Obote's overthrow in 1985, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) and its armed wing controlled major portions of southern Uganda. The NRA was comprised of a significant number of Rwandan refugee Tutsi families. In 1985, in response to international pressure, the NRM signed the "Nairobi Agreement," a peace treaty negotiated by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. During the Bush War, the UNLA and ally forces, primarily Acholi and Langi from the north, had perpetrated numerous



Children soldiers participating Civil War

war crimes in the south. Civil Society Organisations For Peace in Northern Uganda (CSOPNU) determined that the violence has cost at least \$1,33 billion over the past sixteen years, which is equivalent to around 3% of Uganda's GDP during that time frame. The human toll has also been severe and is difficult to estimate, given that over 500,000 people have been displaced, with the majority living in camps. Despite considerable development efforts, certain issues remain. Although Uganda is on track to achieve a number of its Millennium Development Goals, achieving them would require robust economic growth. Uganda confronts various problems, including addressing regional disparities in poverty, high population growth, lowering child and maternal mortality, increasing the capacities of public management institutions, and mitigating the consequences of climate change, despite robust economic growth patterns.

In addition to the past struggle, the existence of poverty in Uganda, despite a major reduction in poverty, highlights the need for increased government commitment, ethics and



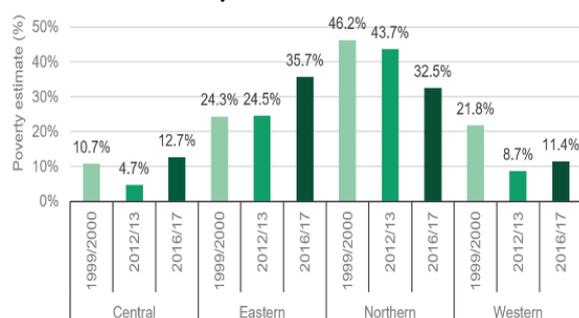
Levels of Discrimination per Regions

ecological justice, and global participation. Land in Uganda is self-renewing and generally does not require the addition of artificial fertilizers, indicating that adequate utilization of resources will contribute to economic stability. Specifically, discrimination in Uganda is one of the greatest challenges they face. There are significant gaps between Uganda's extremely favorable legal environment and the absence of effective implementation or enforcement of gender-

responsive policies. This indicates that the legal standing of women is fragile, that their potential as economic agents is limited, and that their rights are not properly protected.

International Actions

Large portions of Uganda's population are unable to afford food, clothing, and shelter due to the country's low income levels. Additionally, low incomes result in poor health and little



Poverty Estimate per Regions

education. The levels of consumption poverty are high. In 1997, it was estimated that 44% of the population consumed less than was necessary to meet their basic necessities.

Poverty grew between 2012/13 and 2016/17 in all of Uganda's regions, with the exception of Northern Uganda, indicating that economic disparities between Uganda's regions have widened, while Northern Uganda's inequality remains unresolved. The data indicates that the

majority of Uganda's poverty is concentrated in the country's northern and eastern regions. While poverty rates in the central and western regions of Uganda have generally been lower than those in the eastern and northern regions, these two regions have experienced rises in poverty in recent years.

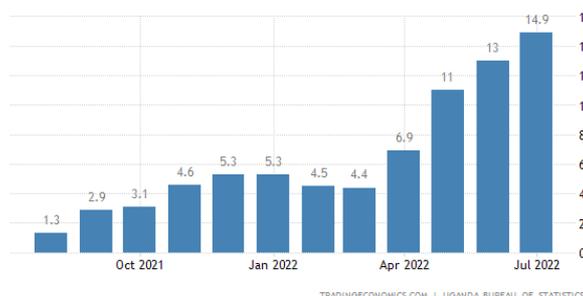
Low economic growth rates and the effects of civil unrest are significant historical causes of poverty in Uganda. Additionally, incomes are highly unequally distributed, diminishing the influence of economic expansion on poverty reduction. At the household level, poverty is associated with rural residency (particularly living in the north or east), land scarcity, low levels of education, and lack of security being headed by a female widow or an elderly person, and limited market access. In addition to cultural reasons, unequal distribution of household resources reflects unequal access to education and physical assets such as land, in which women are disadvantaged. In 2005, with the conclusion of the insurgency in Northern Uganda, UN agencies began supporting economic recovery efforts in the region. The United Nations and its partners in Uganda, including a number of nations, strive towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 linked and ambitious objectives that address the most significant development concerns faced by people in Uganda and around the world. Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025 in conjunction with the government and other stakeholders. According to the UN, there are a total of \$132.9 million available, of which 15.2% and 20.2%, respectively, are devoted to reducing poverty and promoting

gender equality.

Problems Raised

Acute Food Insecurity Situation (AFI)

Northeastern Karamoja is one of Uganda's poorest regions, with income poverty at 61% and food poverty at 70% (UNHS, 2016/17). The majority of the population lives in rural areas, with livelihoods centered on livestock and crop farming and, more recently, an expanding spectrum of diverse livelihood activities. Due to inadequate food, poor dietary diversity, structural poverty, limited livelihood options, poor hygiene and sanitation, and disease, the region continues to have the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in Uganda, despite a recent overall improvement in access to safe water sources but low water use. In addition, the region is susceptible to periodic climate-related shocks, such as prolonged mid-season dry spells/drought, irregular rainfall that frequently causes flooding/waterlogging, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

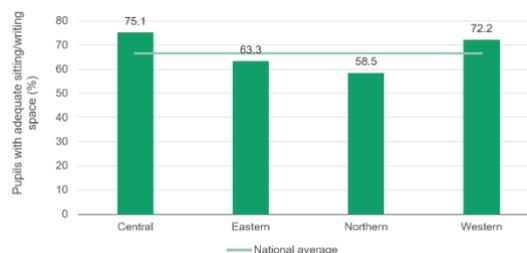
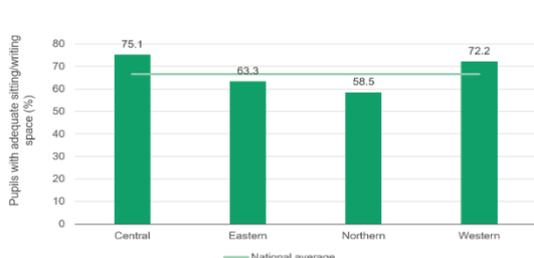


Growing Food Insecurity Among Uganda

Polarization of Population Between Regions

About 25.6% of Uganda's population resides in urban areas, such as the capital city of Kampala. The metropolitan area of Kampala is home to around 3.5 million people. While the northern region is the country's largest in terms of land area, it has the smallest population. About 29% of the total population of Uganda has access to electricity (or covered by the national grid). Although Kampala and other large cities and towns are covered, only about 17% of rural and sub-urban settlements are connected to the national electricity grid (Uganda Electricity Transmission, which is controlled by Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Ltd or UETCL).

Lack of Education and Infrastructures



Students with Adequate Educations

Northern Uganda, the region with the country's greatest average poverty rate, has the lowest proportion of students with appropriate room for sitting and writing. Northern and eastern districts scored worse on average than districts in the center and western regions. This means that the quality of health services in regions with lower health scores was inferior to those

Household Sanitation Coverage

in regions with higher health scores.

The Stances of the P5 Nations

United States of America

The United States is one of the countries that invests the greatest money to create economic growth and jobs, enhance health care and education, refugee and humanitarian programs, and bolster democratic principles and national security. The U.S. mission is also collaborating with the Ugandan government to strengthen tax collection and oil revenue management, as well as to bolster domestic funding for public services and the national response.

United Kingdom

In the Karamoja region, the United Kingdom is also an important provider of aid that mostly provides nutrition, food assistance, and protection to refugees, their host communities, and vulnerable women and children. In addition to funding research and improving access to water, the United Kingdom has responded to health emergencies such as Ebola and COVID-19. To date, nearly £120 million in financing has been awarded under the initiative.

France

France is Uganda's tenth major economic provider, with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) present in the nation since 2009 and committing about €240 million to the water, sanitation, and energy sectors over the past three years. Supporting Kampala's low-carbon policy, it is currently positioning itself to expand the scope of its interventions to include "sustainable cities."

China

The Chinese government only backed Uganda. While Chinese corporations have contributed to a number of Ugandan infrastructure projects, numerous important infrastructure projects have been awarded to Chinese construction firms, including the Mandela National Stadium and the country's largest hydroelectric plant at Karuma Falls. Contributing to Uganda's socioeconomic transformation through cooperation in numerous domains, including the financing of infrastructure projects such as hydroelectric dams, roads, and industrial parks, as well as programs for sustaining livelihoods.

Russian Federation

On October 11–12, 1962, the Russian Federation established diplomatic relations with Uganda, forming a bilateral relationship. The USSR and Uganda inked a trade deal and an economic and technical cooperation pact in 1964, which included a 14 million ruble loan to Uganda.

Possible Solutions

As there are many aspects to this problem, many solutions can be proposed. Among the many problems that exist within this issue, the three of the most grave are the following:

1. The fact that the infrastructure is poorly developed in Northern Uganda compared to the rest of the regions,
2. Support from international only limited to the Ugandan Government instead of the

specific regions,

3. The fact that there are too many discriminations and inequality although regions, gender, and ethnicity.

Therefore, it is essential that the restoration of infrastructures and the industrial system in Northern Uganda be accelerated, and that NGOs such as the Global Infrastructure Hub and Future Builders Uganda work to build sustainable infrastructure in certain regions of Uganda. In addition, cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would be an efficient means of preserving human rights in Uganda, ultimately contributing to the development of a prosperous economy. Clearly, the Ugandan government must provide further ideas to broaden the National Standard Indicator Framework in order to narrow the disparity between their country's regions.

Glossary

LRA (Lord's Resistance Army): a rebel and heterodox Christian group active in northern Uganda, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Originally known as the United Holy Salvation Army and Uganda Christian Army, its claimed objectives include the development of multi-party democracy, the administration of Uganda in accordance with the Ten Commandments, and Acholi nationalism.

Poverty: not having enough resources to meet basic needs It can be quantified in economic terms such as income, expenditure, or wealth, as well as social, nutritional, and cultural indicators.

CSOPNU (Civil Society Organisations for Peace in Northern Uganda): a coalition of over fifty Ugandan and international non-governmental organizations working with women, men, and children affected by the crisis in the north. It believes that the needs and rights of conflict-affected people must be at the center of the discussion about northern Uganda.

UNSDCF (The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework): a strategic, medium-term results framework that describes the collective vision and response of the UN system to national development priorities and results based on normative programming principles.

(NSI) National Standard Indicator Framework: a four level hierarchical framework covering the Policy, Strategic, Programmatic and Operational functions of Government.

Sources

- “Uganda Map and Regions | Mappr.” Mappr, 19 Feb. 2020, www.mappr.co/political-maps/uganda-map. "Asylum and Its Discontents in the United States." *The Asylumist*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 July 2012. <<http://www.asylumist.com/>>.
- “Terms of Reference Consultancy to Support the Development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) | United Nations Development Programme.” UNDP, https://www.undp.org/gambia/terms-reference-consultancy-support-development-un-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-unsdcf?utm_source=EN
- “Northern Uganda | Conciliation Resources.” Northern Uganda | Conciliation Resources, 1 May 2002, www.c-r.org/accord/northern-uganda?gclid=CjwKCAiAoL6eBhA3EiwAXDom5kLIUZIbsXsZsvWXCLk35fXjhFXp1cdY5mwGnaqCT-q3J2U0488sLBoC0iMQAvD_BwE
- “Major Problems Facing Uganda Today.” Major Problems Facing Uganda Today, 30 Sept. 2018, www.africaw.com/major-problems-facing-uganda-today.
- “Economic Cost of the Conflict in Northern Uganda - Uganda.” ReliefWeb, 13 Nov. 2002, reliefweb.int/report/uganda/economic-cost-conflict-northern-uganda.
- “Poverty in Uganda: National and Regional Data and Trends.” Development Initiatives, devinit.org/resources/poverty-uganda-national-and-regional-data-and-trends. Accessed 26 Jan. 2023.
- “Uganda: Acute Food Insecurity Situation March - July 2021 and August 2021 - January 2022 (Karamoja) | IPC Global Platform.” Uganda: Acute Food Insecurity Situation March - July 2021 and August 2021 - January 2022 (Karamoja) | IPC Global Platform, www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/es/c/1155032/?iso3=UGA. Accessed 26 Jan. 2023.
- “Poverty in Uganda: National and Regional Data and Trends.” Development Initiatives, devinit.org/resources/poverty-uganda-national-and-regional-data-and-trends. Accessed 26 Jan. 2023.
- “Violence and Discrimination Among Ugandan Residents During the COVID-19 Lockdown - BMC Public Health.” BioMed Central, 8 Mar. 2021, bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-021-10532-2.
- “Uganda Needs a Mind Shift to Address Poor Growth and Persistent Inequality.” The Conversation, 18 Feb. 2022, theconversation.com/uganda-needs-a-mind-shift-to-address-poor-growth-and-persistent-inequality-169469.
- “UN Agency Seeks Funds for ‘critical’ Refugee Situation in South Sudan.” *UN News Center*. UN, 22 June 2012. Web. 02 July 2012. <<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42313>>.
- “10 Major Causes of Poverty and How We Can Help Solve Them.” 10 Major Causes of Poverty | World Vision Canada, 1 Mar. 2022, www.worldvision.ca/stories/child-sponsorship/major-causes-of-poverty.
- “Uganda Archives.” Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/east-africa-the-horn-and-great-lakes/uganda/report-uganda. Accessed 26 Jan. 2023.