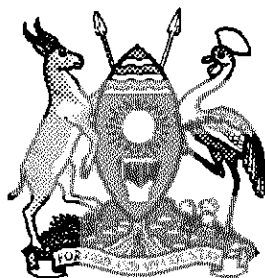


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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

NATIONAL REPORT

ISTANBUL+5

Date: August 2000

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INTRODUCTION

The National Report has been prepared by the National Habitat Committee to provide information on conditions and trends of human settlements in Uganda. It also assesses progress in implementing the National and Local Plans of Action for Development of Human Settlements within the framework of the Habitat Agenda.

The National Plan of Action, which was prepared in 1996, emphasised three priority actions crucial in ensuring adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. These included; **poverty eradication and job creation, access to land and decent shelter, and development of integrated environmental infrastructural services.**

This Plan of Action provided a framework for priority action at local levels. Government and other stakeholders in implementing the plans of action undertook various initiatives.

Some of the major highlights that have impacted on the development of human settlements in Uganda in the past decade:

- The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, under its general and social objectives, sought to ensure access to decent shelter. It further vested ownership of land with the citizens of Uganda.
- The 1998 Land Act was formulated to ensure security of tenure.
- The 1997 Local Government Act which gave full powers and effected the decentralisation of functions responsibilities and service delivery at all levels of the Local Governments through a democratic, political and Gender sensitive administrative set-up.
- The Government pursuing enabling policies to stimulate participation of other actors in the development of human settlements.
- In its overall national development priorities, Government:
 - Deployed resources to ensure security, peace and stability;
 - Adopted economic liberalisation policies;
 - Formulated and implemented Poverty Eradication Action Plan;
 - Supported Universal Primary Education; and
 - Funded infrastructural development programmes to stimulate production and ease access to facilities,

The major issues that have negatively impacted on the human settlement development are:

- Inadequate institutional capacities;
- Policy gaps and legal bottlenecks; and
- Resource constraints.

This report therefore discusses shelter and related issues of social development, environmental management, economic development, governance and international co-operation issues.

For each of the themes addressed a descriptive analysis of the conditions, major issues, obstacles including lessons learnt and steps taken have been made.

Recommendations have also been proposed for priority action in policy development, capacity building and action planning among others.

CHAPTER 1: SHELTER

1.1 Adequate and Affordable Housing

The Istanbul Declaration of which Uganda subscribes endorsed the universal goals of ensuring adequate shelter for all and making human settlements safer, healthier and more liveable, equitable, sustainable and productive. Improving the quality of life within human settlements requires combating deteriorating conditions, which have reached crisis proportions. This includes addressing unsustainable population changes, lack of basic infrastructure and services, adequate planning, environmental degradation and increased vulnerability to disaster.

1.1.1 Conditions and Trends

Uganda's current housing stock stands at 3.8 million housing units with an average household size of 4.8 persons (4.0 persons in urban areas and 4.9 persons in rural areas). The national occupancy density is 1.02 persons, giving a total national backlog of 270,000 units. The urban areas have 680,000 housing units with a backlog of 73,000 units while the rural stands at 3.14 million housing units with a backlog of 197,000 units.

From the physical and structural conditions of shelter and number the situation has been improving in that, the housing units in good conditions have increased from 16% to 23%, while in the urban areas increase in number and improvement is from 49% to 58%.

There has been a general improvement in the construction industry and access to shelter by people in various income groups since 1996. This improvement is attributed to the enabling policies, increased supply of a variety of building materials both local and imported, utilization of improved building materials, application of appropriate construction technologies and improved household incomes. A number of NGOs, CBOs, parastatals, private sector and Government have also initiated and implemented housing projects in different parts of the country, focusing on empowering vulnerable groups for shelter development. These projects have also promoted income generation, skills development and credit provisions.

Another trend that has come into play is the formation of partnership among stakeholders – for example, the divestiture of government responsibility to house public servants since 1994 has increased private sector participation as partners in the provision housing units. It has also increased housing ownership. This has resulted into a decline in rent levels and overcrowding.

1.1.2 Major Issues

The following issues have been identified to negatively impact access to adequate shelter and affordable housing:-

- i. Lack of a comprehensive National Housing Policy
- ii. Lack of building and contract management skills both in the private and public sectors
- iii. High taxation on locally manufactured and imported building materials
- iv. High cost of infrastructure and construction works caused by:
 - Initial cost of suitable land for development
 - Professional fees for building services
 - High cost of building materials and transport

- Lengthy bureaucratic processes in approving development plans
 - High managerial and overhead contractor's costs and profit margin.
- v. Lack of co-ordination both at the planning and implementation stages by service and infrastructure providers.
 - vi. Poverty and unemployment which negatively affects and incapacitates most households in their efforts to improve their housing conditions and quality of life.
 - vii. Institutional weaknesses caused by inadequate capacity at all levels among stakeholders

Because of the above-mentioned issues among others, affordable decent shelter continues to elude many Ugandans.

1.1.3 Lessons Learnt

- Partnerships greatly enhance local initiatives in the mobilisation of resources for shelter development.
- Self-help by local communities in planning and implementing local programmes can increase affordability and sustainability of development projects.
- Pilot projects can demonstrate a number of innovative ways of developing and improving housing for the local community e.g. technology, integration of income generating activities and fast ways of building houses by communities.
- Complementary enabling policies can stimulate private investment and participation in the development of shelter

1.1.4 Recommendations / Way Forward

- Develop a comprehensive National Housing Policy that articulates shelter strategies and National Development Agenda.
- Establish technical training programmes for public and private sectors, to train local contractors, builders and artisans to upgrade their technical and managerial skills.
- Streamline the taxation mechanism to avoid double taxation on building materials and construction works.

The following steps are further recommended to be taken in order to address several factors that affect construction cost;

- (i) Urban and local authorities should provide information on land availability and prices.
- (ii) The Ministry of Works, Housing & Communication, urban and local authorities as well as NH&CC should provide standard house type plans at reduced costs and enforce the guidelines on the professional fees charged.
- (iii) Have simplified and transparent procedures of approving simple house plans
- (iv) Increase competition in the production and supply of building materials,
- (v) Make specifications that take into account affordability of the client
- (vi) Improve management of building materials at site to minimise wastage
- (vii) Develop and intensify the use of locally available building materials and construction technology

- (viii) Increase competition and transparency while reducing bureaucracy in the bidding contract process.
- Put in place a national joint utility and infrastructure body to be responsible for the effective co-ordination of both infrastructure and service providers.

1.2 Security of tenure for Housing:

1.2.1 Conditions

- (a) Security of tenure for housing in Uganda is in three categories of owner-occupier, tenants and homeless. An estimated 85% of housing units in the country are owner occupied mainly in rural areas. This represents a stable, secure tenure unlike the 15% made up of tenants, mostly in urban areas, which category is threatened by evictions at short notice.

Given Uganda's social network, it hardly has a homeless population in the rural areas, as each person is able to find a relative to stay with. The phenomena of homelessness (absence of a house to live in) have been growing steadily in the urban areas since the late 1980s. At present, an estimated 3% of the total urban population is homeless in terms of having no accommodation or very sub-standard housing.

The category of the homeless is mostly the people with disabilities and street children. They have no permanent place and are on the move most of the time to avoid security harassment or the vagaries of the weather.

The security of tenure for housing for owner-occupier has been affected only in a few cases; e.g. in cases of new or expansion of roads but appropriate compensation is made. Tenants have suffered from arbitrary evictions and harassment from landlords particularly in the low income high-density settlements because of poor payment of rent or arbitrary increment of rents by landlords.

Renting is mostly predominant in urban areas and particularly among the low-income high-density settlements where the units are in the form of tenements.

Rental arrangement in the middle and higher income categories tend to be more formal (written contracts) exercises respect between the concerned parties and are more stable than that of low income high density settlements.

1.2.2 Major Issues

- In most of the low-income high-density settlements, the tenant has limited privacy and respect from the landlord. There are no mutual agreements and tenants are always at the receiving end to take whatever is given.
- Tenants generally are unaware of their rights and tend to be exploited by the landlords.
- There is no established mechanism of arbitration and guidelines between tenants and landlords.

1.2.2 Recommendations / Way forward

- Government should formulate a Tenant Landlord law to regulate and provide guidance to the tenant/landlord relationship and be made aware of each party's rights and responsibilities.

1.3 Access to Land and Security of Tenure

1.3.1 Conditions

Land is one of the basic requirements for shelter development for homeowners, therefore, access to it by the population or agents of housing development are very important.

The 1995 Constitution brought fundamental reforms in the tenure ownership and management of land. It addressed the issue of security of tenure whereby all the land in Uganda was vested with the citizens of Uganda instead of the Government holding it in trust with the people of Uganda.

Before 1996 the majority of Ugandans lacked security of tenure over the land on which they lived. Subsequently, the quality of their developments, attached to land was mostly temporary. They could not use the land as collateral to secure credit facilities. Hence they lacked the essential security to develop the land, environment and housing

1.3.2 Trends

In 1998 a new land law was enacted to operationalize the 1995 Constitutional reforms. The Act provides for the formalization and registration of customary tenure, establishes new mechanisms for land administration and dispute resolution and creates a Land Fund to be used for lending and paying compensation.

To ensure gender equality in respect of access to land, the protection and rights of disadvantaged groups (women, children, orphans and widows), the following legal provisions have been put in place:

Article 31 (1) of the Constitution provides that men and women are entitled to equal rights in marriage, during marriage and its dissolution.

The women in Uganda are currently lobbying for an amendment to the Land Act to provide for the co-ownership of family home and land by spouses.

- (i) The Land Act requires mandatory consent by spouses to transactions involving matrimonial home and land from which the family derives sustenance.
- (ii) Article 33 (6) of the Constitution of Uganda outlaws all cultures and practices that abuse the dignity of women. This provision has been operationalized in the Land Act and has outlawed all customs, traditions against children or persons with disability access to ownership, occupation or use of any land.

1.3.3 Major Issues:

- (i) The biggest challenge to implementing all the reforms detailed above is the establishment of many new institutions created by the Land Act and operationalising them. Equally challenging is how to co-ordinate the big number of institutions, which are involved in land matters as proper co-ordination, is essential for effective implementation.
- (ii) There are significant capacity constraints both in terms of resources and expertise at the disposal of existing institutions, the ability to source and fund these many institutions.
- (iii) Absence of a comprehensive, codified national land policy.

- (iv) There is poor inter-sectoral planning and consultations between different line ministries and departments involved with land utilization. Line ministries and department have a long tradition of independent and lack of consultation among each other when formulating policies under their line sectors.

1.3.4 Institutional Weaknesses

- (i) The Constitutional and legislative framework within which the key institutions must operate is somewhat ambiguous, especially in terms of the boundaries of their various mandates. There is already tension between the Central Government and local governments over ownership and management of forest reserves and share of land fees.
- (ii) There is inadequate capacity in local governments to efficiently run the developed systems. The heaviest burden of implementation the reform Programme lies with local governments, which are seriously incapacitated with resources.

1.3.5 Lessons Learnt

It is important to build and promote partnership between the public and private sectors, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations and Civil Society to promote access to land and security of tenure

1.3.6 Recommendations

- (i) There is need to review the institutional set up regarding funding, personnel and required logistics to implement the Programme on sustainable basis and avoid duplication of activities.
- (ii) Assistance is required to build capacity for operationalization and implementation of the land law.
- (iii) There is need to revamp and rationalize the various bureaucracies that have jurisdictions in the land and the agrarian sectors with the aim, inter-alia of eliminating overlaps, conflicts, contradictions and inertia.
- (iv) A clear and comprehensive national land policy is necessary to guide the provisions in the new land law, streamline the objectives and eliminate contradiction and inconsistencies.

1.4 Access to Finances

1.4.1 Conditions

Uganda has only one formal Housing Finance Institution in the whole Country and only extends credit to construction/purchase of housing units **located in gazzetted urban areas**.

Last year, Government took deliberate steps to strengthen this institution by appointing it as the Government agent for handling the sale of pool houses and retaining the proceeds for on lending to the general public. So far US\$7 million has accrued on this account over the last 5 years during which time, Housing Finance Company of Uganda Mortgage portfolio has increased from US\$. 4Million (1995) to US\$. 30 million (1999). Mortgage loans offered range from US\$ 4000 – US\$ 40,000 per unit repayable monthly over a period of 15 years. The volume of mortgages has also increased from 324 cases in 1995 to over 1570 cases in 1999.

Other finance institutions have limited sources of real capital for on-lending for housing development. However, there are over 500 small registered savings and credit societies and many co-operatives which are in the business of mobilizing members savings and lending to their members at considerably low rates but for short periods which are not conducive to housing development.

The co-operative movement in the country has also suffered over the years from mismanagement and since the liberalization of the country from intense competition. This has made them less viable and unattractive to new membership. Their capital base declined overtime mainly due to the devaluation of the currency in 1987. The Building societies, which had been stated in the 1990, had enormous potential to mobilize finances for housing development but again collapsed due to mismanagement.

1.4.2 Trends

Housing construction is funded through several methods among which individual income is the dominant one. In a country where the level of saving is very low, housing development is unable to compete with other commercial ventures given its low rate of return. This implies that most household have to fund their housing construction from current incomes hence a long duration (several years) of construction before the house is completed.

There are other formal modes of lending for housing development but are limited by the capital base and consideration that the lending-institutions have other main activities to which most of their resources are committed. These are mostly employers who extend loans to long serving members of staff for housing development. The amounts advanced reflect the sizes, operations and willingness of those organisations to deploy resources in housing development.

1.4.3 Issues

- (i) The culture of saving in Uganda is still low. However, savings as a percentage of GDP have increased from 2.7% in 1993/94 to 4.1% in 1998/99. These savings are not adequate for housing investment considering the competing alternatives.
- (ii) There is only one formal specialized institutions for mobilizing mortgage finance in the whole country and lending is limited to construction or purchase of housing units in gazetted urban areas.
- (iii) Lending interest rates in the market are very high, ranging from 15% to 25% and not conducive to housing development given its low rate of return.
- (iv) Mismanagement and devaluation have greatly eroded the viability and potential of housing and building societies, savings and credit co-operatives.

1.4.4 Lessons Learnt and effective steps taken

- (i) Proceeds from sale of pool houses have enabled housing finance to access capital for on lending to the public.
- (ii) A prudent handling of revolving funds could lead to increased access to housing finance by the less privileged member of society.

1.4.5 Recommendations

- (i) Institutions such as National Social Security Fund should put some of their reserves to the development of housing and residential accommodation especially at the workers who are the contributors to the fund.

- (ii) Community participation should be encouraged as it reduces construction costs to affordable levels
- (iii) Micro-finance institutions should be encouraged to finance main housing construction elements such as roofing and/or shell houses.

1.5 Access to Basic Services

Uganda is placing a lot of emphasis on the provision of infrastructure services given the role it plays in accelerating sustainable, social, political and economic development which currently stands at over 5% p.a. It is also one of the key areas targeted for investments towards poverty eradication.

1.5.1 Water and Sanitation

Clean water is essential for health and for improving the quality of life. In rural areas where clean water sources are scarce, water coverage has been increasing at a rate of 2% annually from 40% in June 1998 to 49% in June 2000. Meanwhile, urban safe water coverage has also been increasing at an even higher rate estimated at about 3% per annum from 50% in 1998 to 68% in the year 2000.

A baseline survey done in 1998 covering 30 districts found the coverage of sanitation facilities to be 48% both in the rural and urban areas. Households having access to waterborne sanitation constitute less than 2% while 70% are using pit-latrines and 28% do not have proper sanitation facilities.

Another recent survey which covered 35 out of the 49 districts reveal that about 2 million out of a total stock of 3.8 million households are considered to be having clean water with adequate sanitation facilities. The same number has facilities for kitchen and just about 1.5 million HH have both shelter and ways of disposing waste, while more than 1 million houses are without toilet facilities.

The National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) a Government parastatal currently operating in 12 towns and has extended its services from 47% in 1979/98 to 54% (1999). It has a total network of 1,560-km water pipe line plus several kiosks installed to serve the public as opposed to direct connections to houses. It also aims at serving the peri-urban areas as a social mission in the future.

TABLE: CURRENT AND PROJECTED WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES BY TECHNOLOGY

	CURRENT POINT WATER SOURCES (DEC. 1998)					POINT WATER SOURCES REQUIRED BY 2015			
	Deep Bore Holes	Shallow wells	Protected springs	Gravity supply	Other domestic	Deep bore holes	Shallow wells Protected springs	Gravity supply taps	Other domestic
REGION									
South West	2,154	364	9,058	1,504	1,626	3,199	7,704	1,266	1,031
Central	3,165	815	2,965	72	90	7,134	6,448	142	249
Northern	6,191	551	3,019	97	70	10,004	4,488	169	119
Eastern	3,548	860	2,290	246	63	9,543	6,273	235	118
Total	15,058	2,590	17,404	1,919	1,849	29,880	24,913	1,812	1,517

In order to achieve 100% water distribution, there is need for drilling over 29,000 bore holes and construction over 25,000 shallow wells/protected springs. This is the most viable option for the majority of the population particularly in rural areas and has enormous potential for community participation. Numerous local committees have been set up which use water all over the country to manage and maintain water sources in their respective local areas.

Distances to water sources vary considerably, depending on the geographical location and season. It averages between 0.5 km in the south and central regions to as much as 5km in the dry parts of the North and Northeast Uganda, where water sources tend to be seasonal and water is particularly scarce during the dry seasons.

1.5.2 Electricity

Uganda has an installed capacity of 300 MW and the growing demand is estimated at 2% per month. It is estimated that another 250MW will be generated after construction of the third hydropower site at Bujagali. However, the majority of households both in urban and rural Uganda use petroleum products (paraffin) as a major source of energy for lighting.

1.5.3 Major Issues

The following are some of the major issues, which have affected access of households to basic services.

- (i) High cost for provision and maintenance of individual and communal connections.
- (ii) Utility providers have inadequate capacity in terms of manpower, finance and logistics
- (iii) They also lack the fore sight planning to extend their services where there is demand.

1.5.4 Lessons Learnt and Steps Taken

- (i) Community participation in the maintenance of basic services ensures sustainability, especially where user communities have been educated and sensitised.
- (ii) Consumers get better and less costly services as a result of competition from liberalization.

1.5.5 Recommendations

- (i) There is need for interested planning and effective co-ordination to enhance the provision of basic services; basic services providers should be able to anticipate and plan before crisis levels.
- (ii) Potential beneficiary communities should get involved in primary identification, planning and implementation of basic services to ensure affordability and sustainability of social service provision.

1.6 Transport and Mobility

1.6.1 Conditions and Trends

The major mode of transport in Uganda is by road. Other modes of transport include rail, water and air transport. Most Ugandans walk on foot to and from places of work followed by the use of bicycles mostly in rural areas. The use of motorcycles has recently increased throughout the country so is the use of min-buses, buses and private cars. Currently, Uganda has an estimated 185,000 vehicles of all categories and the number is increasing steadily. There is limited marine transport or boat and canoes (manual and motorized) on the lakes and airplanes for both internal and international travel.

(a) Road transport:

Uganda has a well-laid out road network in the following categories. Trunk (National) roads mainly made up of International roads joining Uganda to neighbouring countries and major domestic routes internally linking large population, commercial and administrative centres. The network totals 9,600 km. The district (feeder) roads, which comprise of 22,300 km connect communities to commercial and social economic centres either directly or through linkages to the trunk roads. District roads are of great importance to the livelihood of both the rural and urban communities as they facilitate delivery of farm inputs, marketing of Agriculture products, social and administrative services. Urban roads total to 2,800 km, serving 13 municipalities and 50 town councils. They are a responsibility of the respective urban authorities. Community roads total to 30,000 km and link various rural communities to each other. Their development and maintenance is a responsibility of the communities.

Type of Roads	MILEAGE KM
Trunk roads	9,600
District feeder roads	22,300
Urban roads	2,800
Community roads	30,000

The emphasis during the last 5 years has been to upgrade, repair and maintain these roads in a motorable state to allow for easy transport of people, goods and services.

(b) Railways

The Uganda railways network totals to 2,879 km including 1,244 km of the Ferry Services from Port Bell to Kisumu (Kenya) and Mwanza (Tanzania). Only 21% of the total network capacity is utilised due to intense competition by road as an alternative means of transport.

(c) Water Transport

This is relatively the cheapest mode of moving of people, agricultural produce raw materials and products of fishermen to markets and processing centres. In-land water transport is dominated by private sector apart from the ferries operated by government.

(d) Air Transport

Though the most expensive, it is the fastest and most viable for the movement of high value and perishable goods especially beyond Uganda borders.

(e) Communications

The communications sector was recently liberalised resulting in the licensing of three companies as major operators;

The telephone density has also increased from 0.25% to 0.5% since 1997. There are also other minor operators who provide mainly value-added services e.g. e-mail, internet, paging, private data lines, terminal equipment among others. The Postal services are mainly dominated by Uganda Posts Ltd. a government parastatal, with nine other small private operators.

1.6.2 Major Issues:

- The use of communication services is still more urban based though there are plans to expand this usage to the rural areas using the Rural Development Fund. Radio call facilities are used mostly by big organisations with extensive networks.
- Safety on roads and water has remained a major issue as a result of inadequate capacity to enforce safety regulations.

1.6.3 Major Steps taken

- (i) The Uganda Communications Commission was established by law to co-ordinate and regulates all matters relating to the communications sector.
- (ii) The communications sector was liberalised which brought in more providers and has resulted in improved service provision

1.6.4 Recommendations

There is urgent need to strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible for safety on road, water and air transport.

CHAPTER 2: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Conditions and Trends

According to the Habitat Agenda, the eradication of poverty is essential for sustainable human settlements development. Sustainable human development entails promotion of economic and social development, human health, education and conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components. In 1997, the proportion of Uganda's below poverty line was 44% although by international standards, most Ugandans are considered poor. In response to the prevailing poverty in the country, Uganda put in place the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) since 1997. PEAP articulates a national vision for poverty actions as focus for Governmental and NGOs' efforts over the next two decades up to the year 2017. The three major goals of the action plans are:

- creating a framework for economic growth and transformation.
- ensuring good governance and security
- directly increasing the ability of the poor to raise their incomes,

PEAP recognizes access as a major issue for the poor, hence most of the budgetary expenditure has been on access to services, information, knowledge and skills in addition to achieve the above set goals.

2.2 Education and learning

2.2.1 Conditions and Trends

Sustainable human settlements are those that generate a sense of citizenry and identity. Co-operation and dialogue for the common good and a spirit of voluntarism and civic engagement where people are encouraged and have equal opportunities to participate in decision making process.

Basic Education is also recognised as a pre-requisite for acquisition of skills that enables a person to access services and improve the quality of life. To this end, the policy for Universal Primary Education (UPE) has been put in place. However, due to limited resources, only four children per family are being supported. Consequently, primary school enrolment has more than doubled from 2.5 million pupils in 1996 to over 6.0 million in 1999. Government expenditure on primary education has also increased by 307% from Uganda shillings. 44 billion in 1995/96 to Uganda shillings 136 billion in 1998/99 budget

2.2.2 Major Issues

The increased enrolment has also resulted in issues such as:

- Quantities have been released at the expense of quality education.
- Pupil-teacher has more than doubled
- Physical facilities and infrastructure are inadequate shortage

- Institutional capacity is also very inadequate

2.3 Health and Safety

2.3.1 Conditions and Trends

Healthy is one of the areas where Government is putting emphasis in its resource allocation because it contributes to increase the quality of life. The overall health policy is to attainment of sustainable standards of health and promoting a healthy and productive life. However, the Participatory Poverty Assessment (1997) indicates that, health services in Uganda are inadequate.

Life expectancy in Uganda was estimated at 42 in 1997, this is exceptionally low mainly because of the AIDS epidemic, child mortality is high though it is falling. In addition, illness such as AIDS and Malaria incapacitate a significant numbers of people. However, there is a marked fall in AIDS incidences, especially in urban areas.

Household Survey data (1997) on utilisation of health services identified a staggering 51% of Ugandans not seeking medical care when ill. The reason being the high cost of health services in terms of distance, actual cost of drugs, treatment and time.

Government health policy updates of 1993 and 1997 focus on Primary Health Care, targets the most vulnerable social groups, notably the women and children. Resources have been committed to implement the Health Plan framework 1998 – 2002 for the following elements of primary health care:- Immunisation against preventable diseases; Clean water and sanitation; Health education; Maternal child health / family planning; Prevention and control of HIV/AIDS/STDs; control of locally endemic diseases among others.

2.3.2 Major Issues

- The cost of drugs and medical services cannot be afforded by the majority of the ordinary Ugandans especially the vulnerable groups.
- Resistance of some diseases to treatment.

2.3.3 Institutional Weaknesses includes lack of capacity and inadequate Health services

2.3.4 Lessons Learnt

Government adopted Private Health Care policy as its strategic intervention for prevention and control of diseases.

2.3.5 Recommendations

There is need to establish health centres at local level preferable at parish levels to increase access of health services to vulnerable groups.

2.4 Social inclusion

2.4.1 Conditions and Trends

Equitable human settlements are those in which all people without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion etc have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food, clean water, education and open spaces. The

empowerment of women and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society is fundamental to sustainable human development.

Social inclusion calls for both remedial and preventive policies and measures to reduce these exclusions and provide opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups which includes Women, Children, Elderly, People with Disabilities (PWDs), Orphans from war and HIV. Uganda's Constitution of 1995 under Article 35 covers these groups well.

2.4.2 Major Issues

Most of the safety nets under the structural adjustment programme have been poorly designed and lack a clear profile for the country's poor.

Lack of capacity in terms of human expertise, financial and materials, especially at the District and local levels to formulate and implement programmes that support the vulnerable groups outlined above.

2.4.3 Institutional Weaknesses is also due to lack of capacity and infrastructure at the local levels

2.4.4 Lessons Learnt and Steps taken

There is widespread ignorance about the rights of the marginalised groups among the public, which also contributes to lack of capacity for their programmes.

2.4.5 Recommendations

There is need for increased publicity and education of I.E.C Programme to increase awareness of the public about the rights and needs of the vulnerable groups.

2.5 Gender Equality

2.5.1 Conditions and Trends

Women in Uganda are faced with culturally rooted disadvantages, which hinder their effective participation in national development. The Government responded by taking a gender approach to explicitly articulate and focus on the relationship between men and women, to identify and eliminate gender gaps to achieve equality and the related issues of equity and social justice. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development was hence created to spearhead national efforts and to "mainstream" gender issues in all sections of life. The Ministry has since developed a National Gender Policy currently being implemented.

Government has put in place a series of policies and affirmative action for women toward equal opportunities for social – economic development. Some of these include the Local Government Statute 1987 for women representation on local councils. The 1995 Constitution of Uganda, Article 33 (3) provides for the protection of the rights of women and the Land Act ensures security of tenure and increased access to use of land by women. Furthermore, educational programmes in higher institutions and a large number of Women NGOs have been set up to support women economically, socially and legally.

2.5.2 Major Issues

- Lack of awareness and sensitisation about gender issues including cultural biases.
- Some of the poverty alleviation and social-economic sectoral policies and programmes have made it difficult for the target groups to participate in their implementation and evaluation of their impact.

2.5.3 Institutional Weaknesses is due to lack of capacity for institutions responsible for gender issues

2.5.4 Lessons Learnt

Employment and education of women through legislation, institutional development and access to resources can enhance their contributions to the development process.

2.5.5 Recommendations

There is need for increased training and sensitisation of the public about gender issues.

CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Population And Urban Growth

3.1.1 Demographic Conditions and Trends

By June 2000, Uganda's population was estimated at 22,210,000 of whom

11,010,000 were males and 11,200,000 were females. Of these, 18,646,000 (84%) are living in rural areas, while 3,565,000 (16%) are living in urban areas.

Those living in urban areas, 1,717,000 are males while 1,847,000 are females. Between 1991 and the year 2000, Uganda's population grew at an annual average rate of 3.2% while the urban and rural annual average population growth rates were 5.2% and 2.5% respectively.

The table below gives Uganda's population growth and urban population increases since 1950.

Index	1950	1959	1969	1980	1991	1996	2000
Population ('000)	4,958	6,537	9,535	12,636	16,672	19,848	22,210
Growth Rates	x	2.5	3.9	2.7	2.5	3.5	2.3
Sex Ratios	100.2	100.9	101.9	98.2	96.5	97.6	98.3
Percent Urban	x	4.8	7.8	8.7	11.3	14	16

The analysis of the national population trends indicates that between 1950 – 1969, there were more males for every 100 females which trend reversed between 1980 and 2000.

This reverse may be due to the civil and military unrest, which the country faced from early 1970's to the late 1980's, which resulted in more men dying and others going in exile.

3.1.2 Population Growth Rates and Urbanisation

Between 1993 and 2000, the urban population has been growing at a higher rate (6.9%) than its rural counterpart (2.4%), resulting in a higher level of urbanisation.

This high urbanisation rate is characterised by the mushrooming of new urban centres due to a number of factors including:

- Presumed better employment opportunities and incomes in urban areas,
- Better infrastructure and services ; and the
- Extension of urban boundaries

However, there is lack of proper planning for this rapid urban growth and as such, the centres are expanding with little guidance from responsible authorities.

3.1.3 Weaknesses and Obstacles/challenges

- (i) Lack of capacity for developing a comprehensive policy framework which articulates fully other components of human settlements.

- (ii) Lack of effective co-ordination amongst different institutions both at national and local levels to undertake proper urbanisation planning.

3.2 Heritage Conservation

The UN Member States Uganda included committed themselves to the protection and maintenance of the historical, religious, cultural and natural heritage. They adopted strategies for promotion of the cultural identity and continuity in a rapidly changing world through conservation, rehabilitation, culturally sensitive, adaptive re-use and access to the urban, rural and architectural heritage.

3.2.1 Existing Conditions Trends and Major Issues

Uganda has set up legal and institutional framework for identification, rehabilitation and maintenance of historical sites and natural heritage. Some of these sites include: Kasubi Tombs at Kasubi on Kampala-Hoima Road, national game reserves, forest reserves. The Government has also promoted the restoration of traditional and cultural institutions and rulers, which are symbol of identity, unity and diversity.

3.2.2 Institutional Weakness and Obstacles;

These include:

- Lack of capacity at national and local levels,
- Inadequate institutional infrastructure and facilities for enhanced co-ordination and
- Lack of policy and implementation bottlenecks

3.2.3 Steps Taken

- Cultural institutional Kingdoms have been restored
- Constitution provides for protection of historical sites and natural heritage
- A Co-ordinating Department has been established.
- Uganda National Cultural Centre has been established to enhance exchange of cultural heritage

3.2.4 Recommendations

There is need for an explicit policy and funding to address identification, conservation and rehabilitation of historical sites and natural heritage.

3.3 Air and Water Quality

Uganda committed itself to give priority to policies and programmes aimed at reducing pollution in respect to air, water and soil and to place the cost of pollution to the polluters. It also pledged to adopt strategies for creation of institutional, legal and policy framework to ensure quality of air and water

3.3.1 Conditions, Trends and Major Issues

i) Air Quality

The major sources of air pollution is in form of particular matter arising mainly from roads, cement industries, coffee factories, sawmill and motor vehicles. Vehicles used in Uganda use normal petroleum fuels. However, lead free fuels would be the best but are too costly to be afforded.

Another form of air pollution is within the domestic dwelling units from stoves and candles using kerosene fuel.

ii) Water Pollution

Uganda is endowed with large bodies of fresh water including Lake Victoria, Kyoga, George, Albert, Edward, Bunyonyi and River Nile, Katonga and other small ones found in various parts of the country.

Water pollution is mainly by two major causes:

- Direct disposal of liquid waste including industrial effluents into rivers and lakes; and
- Contamination of the water table below the surface due to inappropriate sanitation arrangement such as pit latrines, especially in urban high design areas.

3.3.2 Steps Taken

- (i) Government established a National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) by an Act of Parliament, "The National Environment Statues 1995"
 - (ii) NEMA is responsible for co-ordination, supervision and monitoring of all environmental matters in Uganda
 - (iii) Standards pertaining to water pollution are already in place while those relating to air, noise and soil are in draft form and yet to be finalized.
 - (iv) The regulation controlling discharge of waste water into river and Lake Waters or land was gazetted in February 1999.
 - (v) All development projects are required to have an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted before NEMA approves their implementation to ensure that negative impacts on the environment are mitigated, thus;
- Industries, which came into existence before 1995, are required to carry out environmental audits to assess the impact and advise on the necessary measures to mitigate the negative impacts.
 - In order to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion in the City, the Ministry of Works, Housing and Communications is planning a Northern by pass around Kampala.

3.3.3 Institutional Weakness and Obstacles

NEMA still lacks capacity both in terms of staffing and funding to ensure effective inspection, supervision and monitoring.

- Laws relating to country and town planning are outdated and no longer effective in enhancing land use planning.

3.3.4 Recommendations for Priority Action.

- There is urgent need for National Land Use Policy and National Urbanisation Policy.
- There is need for training of staff in fields relating to urban pollution.
- There is need for capacity building to monitor pollution levels.

3.4 Waste Management

The UN Members States Uganda included pledged their commitment to promote changes in unsustainable production and construction patterns and called for strategies to minimise waste production and discharge while maximising recycling and re-use of solid wastes.

3.4.1 Conditions, Trends and Key Issues

The challenges of waste management have become apparent in the urban areas due to increased solid waste generated by the rapid growing urban population. However, solid waste management practices have not improved yet in terms of collection and disposed. More than 60% of the solid waste collected is organic matter from the foodstuffs consumed in the urban areas but its recycling is still negligible.

- Most Urban Councils find difficulties in acquiring land to be used as dumping sites
- Plastic waste disposal has posed an enormous problem as plastics are non-bio-degradable and affect the soils wherever they are dumped
- Disposal of garbage in open dump sites present a serious environmental health risk as it becomes a breeding ground for vermins, obnoxious smells polluting the air and result in seepage of chemical compounds into the soils, hence contaminating the ground and the underground water.

3.4.2 Institutional Weakness and Obstacles

Local Authorities are mainly responsible for management of solid waste in their respective areas of jurisdiction. However, the majority of them lack capacity for effective collection and disposal of the waste. They are incapacitated in terms of funding, staffing and logistics.

3.4.3 Steps Taken

A number of steps have been taken including:

- Separation of solid waste at source, recycling and re-use being adopted in Jinja Municipality and amending the law to allow the private sector to undertake solid waste management.
- A number of private companies have been contracted to collect and dispose of solid waste and some charge a fee for their services to ensure sustainability.

3.4.4 Recommendations for Priority Action

- Urban Councils should play a regulatory and monitoring role and promote the private sector to take a lead in solid waste management.

- Separation of waste at source and recycling should be promoted as a more effective solid waste management practice
- The principle for solid waste generator to pay for the disposal should be promoted and adopted by all the Urban Authorities.

3.5 Disaster Mitigation

3.5.1 Conditions and Trends

Government of Uganda like other UN Member States committed itself to ensuring regulatory measures to avoid man-made disasters as well as providing planning mechanisms and resources for people-centred responses to disasters and reduction of future risk.

The Habitat Agenda advocated for strategies to enhance disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness as well as strengthening capacities for post disaster rehabilitation.

Uganda has experienced the following disasters over the past decade:-

- Earthquake tremors measuring 6.2 on Richter Scale which hit Western Uganda in 1994 affecting 50,000 people.
- Land slide along slopes of Mt. Elgon in Mbale and Mt. Rwenzori in Western Uganda occurred in 1998 and 1999 affecting more than 40,000 people.
- Floods along the shores of Lake Kyoga, which occurred in 1998, resulted in displacement of population and destruction of farms.
- Displacement of population due to armed conflicts in Northern and Western Uganda.
- Cattle rustling in the Karamoja region
- Famine in the north and eastern part of Uganda due to long periods of drought and rebel insurgency.
- Collapse of buildings under construction due to poor site planning / structural weakness and lack of effective enforcement of building regulations.
- Other disasters that have occurred include:-
 - Epidemics
 - Industrial/Technology disasters and
 - Pest infestation

Generally, there is awareness of the need for disaster preparedness and management at National level. The Constitution of Uganda has provided for creation of the Uganda Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission. The Law supporting the operationalisation of this provision is in the making. The existing environmental legislation prohibits settlement in wetlands, riverbanks, lake shores and slopes of hilly areas and mountains.

3.5.2 Institutional Weakness

Though the concern for disaster preparedness and management was realised way back in 1981, a fully-fledged Department responsible for co-ordination of disaster management was only created in 1997. This Department still lacks capacity in terms of staffing, resources and infrastructure. The District Disaster Committees, which exist, are grossly incapacitated.

The policies, legislation, standards and institutional structures needed for effective disaster preparedness and management are taking too long to be operationalised.

3.5.3 Steps Taken

- The 1995 Constitution of Uganda provides for creation of Uganda National Disaster Preparedness Management Commission to oversee all matters relating to disaster management.
- Government has put in place a Department responsible for co-ordinating disaster preparedness and management programmes and also assigned a Minister in-charge of disaster management.
- A National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy framework has been drafted awaiting adoption by Parliament
- The National Disaster Preparedness and Management legal framework is in the making.
- District Disaster Preparedness and Management Committees have been formed and are operational.

3.5.4 Issues

- (i) Inadequate provision of infrastructure and services
- (ii) Absence of planning control which has lead to haphazard developments
- (iii) Most of the new urban areas are dependent on the use of pit-latrines for their sanitation. The high concentration of pit-latrines in small areas has led to the pollution of underground water, which in most cases is the same water used for household use.
- (iv) There is high dependency ratio, which impacts on resource utilization and infrastructure constraints.

3.5.5 Recommendations

- (i) Government and other urban authorities should take positive steps to put such a policy framework in place so that the emerging urban problems can be properly addressed and incorporated in the National Development Agenda.
- (ii) The urbanisation policy framework to be put in place should adequately be supported by the existing institutional structures to ensure its effective implementation. This also calls for capacity building of those institutions at both national and local levels.
- (iii) Government and urban authorities need to put in place policies and strategies to address the issue of the ever-increasing state of homelessness. The policies and strategies should be incorporated in the NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY.

CHAPTER 4: THE URBAN ECONOMY

4.1 Urban Economy

4.1.1 Conditions and Trends

- i) Uganda's urban population is estimated at 3.6 million people of which 1.06 million live in Kampala which is the capital, main administrative and commercial centre. The rest of the population is distributed in 13 municipalities, 210 gazetted urban areas and numerous smaller concentrations. Uganda's urban areas are characterized by a mix of several local ethnic groups reflecting a high degree of rural-urban migration.
- ii) Uganda's per capita income is about US\$300 with a slightly higher average for urban areas. 44% of the population live below the poverty line (live on less than US\$1 a day) and 25% are characterised as living in absolute poverty (have inadequate resources to meet the recommended 3000 calorie intake of food per day).
- iii) The major economic activity in all the urban areas is trading in goods and services though Kampala, the 13 Municipalities and 31 other urban areas also serve as District Administrative Centres. Kampala, Jinja, Mbale and a few other towns have big manufacturing industries though the majority are characterised by shops and small scale manufacturing or processing activities
- iv) Trading accounts for over 95% of the urban economic activities including shop keeping, market vending, small-scale retailers, food vendors etc. There is also a small category regarded as professionals e.g lawyers, doctors, teachers, bankers etc who offer their services for payment. These are found mainly in big urban areas mostly in Kampala.

All urban areas tend to have small / medium scale workshops providing various services to the surrounding communities. These workshops are in two categories; those that produce materials and goods and those that carry out repair works e.g. car garages, bicycle repairs, radios, television and other household items.

Urban agriculture is practiced in all urban areas either for commercial purposes or subsistence consumption. This varies from the growing of perennial crops e.g. maize, bananas, sweet potatoes tomatoes etc to keeping of livestock (zero grazing which is on the increase) to rearing poultry for sale. Most people who engage in urban agriculture also carry on other economic activities.

- v) Based on the ILO definition of formal and informal sectors, the dominant sector in all Uganda's Urban Economy is the informal one, characterized by individual or family ownership and management with no established organizational structures and hardly any distinction between labour and capital.
- vi) The informal sector activities are characterised by small retail shops, dealing in the sale of consumer goods, depending on the sophistication of the customers in the area. Others are transport operators, mechanical repair workshops and vehicle garages, metal goods fabrication by artisans, restaurants and other eating places, tailoring, foot wear and textile manufacturing, market and other vending activities, carpentry and furniture production and several roadside trading.

- vii) The urban economy is dominated by the informal sector because most indigenous businessmen economic activities and investments are limited by inadequate capital and lack of entrepreneurial skills for them to mobilize, organise and make or grow into large scale economic activities.
- viii) The fast growth of the informal sector in Uganda's Urban Economy has further been accelerated by the shrinkage in the formal sector due mainly to the liberalization of the economy that has introduced more competition and forced organization to cut costs. In the process of reducing costs, organizations have had to restructure and reduce staff. The retrenched staffs with their individual small packages have joined the already sizeable informal sector.
- ix) Other reasons for the fast growth of the informal sector is the rural urban migration, which is estimated at 2.4% per annum. Minimal numbers in this category finding their way in the formal sector. The majority end up in the informal sector mostly at the lowest ranks of casual labourers.
- x) The National economic, social and political collapse of the 1970's and 80's and subsequent programmes that were geared at restarting the economy on a more competitive basis e.g. structural adjustment programmes has also contributed to the current size of the informal sector.
- xi) Uganda's formal economic sector in urban areas is characterized by relatively large scale establishments engaged in administration, industrial production, provision of goods and services e.g. banking, insurance, government, parastatals, NGOs, etc.
- xii) Between 1990 and 2000, the urban informal sector has become a powerful source/force for employment creation. Estimates show that in 1989/90, the informal sector provided up to 45% of the total urban employment and this percentage was expected to have reached 60% by the year 2000 while the formal sector declined from 55% to 40%.

4.1.2 Major Issues

- (i) There is rapid expansion of the informal sector activities, which need to be promoted and monitored with a view of transformation to a more sustainable formal sector.
- (ii) The informal sector is increasingly absorbing more urban dwellers which is an easy mode for reducing all forms of unemployment but lacks capacity to improve its planning and management.
- (iii) Lack of proper planning and organization of the informal sector activities so that they do not disrupt other planned activities and facilities.

4.2 Employment and Income

4.2.1 Conditions and Trends

Based on the 1990 population and housing census, the labour force in Uganda is estimated at 8 million people and growing at 3.5%. This means that the economy has to create approximately 280,000 new jobs annually just to stop the situation from deteriorating.

On the contrary, just about 100,000 jobs are created, resulting in a cumulative effect of approximately 20% of the population being under-employed and earning less than what they require to satisfy their basic requirements.

The majority of the urban populations (52.2%) are children, old, disabled or students with 8.5% unemployed. The rest are employed as per table below.

Distribution of household population by usual activity status in urban Uganda (1995/96)

Activity Status		Urban %		
		Male	Female	Average Total
1.	Children / Old or Disabled	26.8	24.7	25.7
2.	Students	29.2	23.9	26.5
3.	Self Employed	24	15.2	19.5
4.	Govt. / Parastatal Employee	2.1	0.8	1.5
5.	Private Sector Employees	6.5	1.9	4.1
6.	Helpers Household Enterprises	--	--	--
7.	Attending Domestic Duties	6.8	19.9	13.4
8.	Unemployed	3.6	13.2	8.5
9.	Political / Religious / Others	0.9	0.3	0.6
10.		0.2	0.1	0.2

Source: MOF&ED, 1995/96: Uganda Bureau of Statistics

The urban poor are mostly involved in petty trading whose incomes are quite low due to increased competitiveness in business, an increasing number of the poor without skills or capital to invest in business. This is coupled with the limited demand for their commodities. Low volumes of sale and low prices because of the "Over supply" of similar commodities. This frustration and lack of alternative gainful employment opportunities has led to some people particularly the youth to take on anti-social activities.

Impact of unemployment on urban economy and social development

- i) impoverishment
- ii) reduction of taxes paid and revenue collected
- iii) increase in violence and insecurity in urban areas
- iv) high rates of homelessness as individuals and households are unable to provide for their housing
- v) Increased illiterate rates as more families can not afford to pay for their children education, this in turn increases unemployment.
- vi) Increased unhealthy conditions and death, thus reducing the life expectancy.

Qualitative analysis of the employment status reveals that unemployment in the country manifests itself in acute forms of under employment and disguised unemployment.

The National manpower survey of 1989 indicated that in Kampala alone, the private (informal) sector provided up to 45% job opportunities of the entire work force, yet, the unemployment rate was increasing averagely at 3.6% (per annum).

In 1996, the National Housing and urban indicators programme studies conducted indicated that informal employment opportunities provided by the private sector had gone up by at least 3 percent in Kampala and the situation was expected to improve since many sectors of the economy were recovering with more jobs being created.

Employment as a rural-urban link:

As mentioned above, one factor that contributes to high urban population growth rates in Uganda is rural-urban migration (RUM). RUM is a result of people seeking for better employment opportunities and services in urban areas (which are not available in the rural). However, this link has a negative effect in that, the unemployment rate increased by more than 10 fold over the period 1993/98.

Rural– Urban link to Economic Growth:

The rapid urban population growth due to RUM has created a big problem in that Government and the local authorities have no adequate resources to provide, sustain and maintain basic infrastructure (roads etc.), services consumed by the urban residents

4.2.2 Institutional Weaknesses and Challenges

- i) Currently, the most notable challenge is the attempt to put in place a National Employment Policy/Framework to address the issue of unemployment effectively. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has prepared a draft for discussions with stakeholders.
- ii) The other challenge is to do with the after effects of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) whose continuous implementation has left more people unemployment as a result of retrenchment.

4.2.3 Effective steps taken by Government to address unemployment since Habitat II

Government is proposing to adjust the implementation process of its other development programmes to make them more work oriented by encouraging more job creation through promotion of labour intensive techniques.

In order to achieve the above, Government has considered the following policies and strategies.

- i) Increasing awareness about the economic benefits of labour based methods.
- ii) Promoting practical training and capacity building to ensure technical quality and standards in infrastructure development.

4.2.4 Household Income Distribution and poverty lines.

Based on the 1998 poverty line measure, the household income distribution and poverty lines established vary among various group in urban and rural areas. There seems to be a better distribution of income in rural areas than in the urban areas as reflected in the table below.

Distribution of income (Gini-coef) – 1993-1996 by Rural and Urban Location

Year	1993	1994	1995	1996
Urban	0.44	0.39	0.41	0.40
Rural	0.33	0.31	0.32	0.34

National	0.38	0.35	0.37	0.37
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By 1992, more than 75% of total household were in the lowest income category of less than US\$50 per month. The 1997/98 survey revealed a decline to 50% indicating an increase in household incomes.

4.2.5 Steps taken to ensure improvement in households and individual incomes include:

- i) Government has continued to put poverty eradication a top priority in its economic development programmes and for the private sector.
- ii) Measures put in place to foster higher growth in sectors where the majority of the poor are engaged including modernising the agriculture sector so that it can continue to grow and create more employment opportunities.
- iii) It has also adopted the policy of sensitizing people to optimise the use of their resources and assets to maximize their homestead incomes.
- iv) Micro credit funds have been set up for individuals to establish income-generating projects.

CHAPTER 5: GOVERNANCE

5.1 Introduction

Governance refers to efficient and accountable exercise of political, administrative and management authority to achieve society's objectives including the welfare of the whole population, sustainable development and personal freedom.

Uganda has undergone a process of transformation on governance particularly in respect of empowering local governments to elect their local leadership and determine their own destiny.

The 1995 constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides for the local Government system in chapter 11 under Article 176, which lays down principles and structures of decentralized governance. The constitution further provides for the state to promote public awareness on the provisions of the constitution in Article 4.

A National Programme and Action Plan on democratic governance, prepared in 1997 identified decentralization, democratization, transparency, accountability and public information among others as key areas in good governance.

Information and Communication

5.2.1 Conditions and Trends

The Government has liberalised the information and communications sectors to improve service delivery to the public. Government established the Uganda Communication Commission to co-ordinate and regulate all the service providers. Since 1998, over 500 private dealers have been licensed to operate spectrum usage, broadcasting, VIAT data lines, International Data Gateway among others.

	1996	2000
Major Telephone providers	01	03
Telephone lines	46,000	285,000
Radio stations	03	14
Television Stations	02	06+
Internet providers	--	08+
Newspapers Producers	05	
Internet outlets		
Radio receivers	105	

Over all there has been increased dissemination of information relating to Government policies and programmes, human and civil rights especially through radio, print media, communication and companies libraries, churches, mosques, NGOs, theatres, among others.

5.2.2 Major Issues

- Inadequate infrastructure such as power supply especially in rural areas.
- High cost of Information Technology which can't be afforded by the majority poor.

5.2.3 Institutional weaknesses result from limited coverage of service provision

5.2.4 Lessons Learnt

Privatization of the communication and information sector improves service delivery due to competition.

5.2.5 Recommendations

- Sectoral ministries should co-operate in developing communications strategies, which expose the most cost-effective methods of delivering well-designed and targeted messages.
- There is need for public investment in broadcasting infrastructure to ensure radio coverage of remote areas.

5.3 Participation and Civic Engagement

5.3.1 Conditions and Trends

The 1995 Constitution of Uganda in the National Objectives provides for the state to take all necessary steps to involve the people in the formulation and implementation of development plans and programmes which affect them.

Uganda has established an institutionalised framework of Local Councils, which promote broad-based involvement of all people at local levels. The Local Government Act and the LC Statute provide legal framework to facilitate the functioning of three organs.

Government has implemented strategies to enhance partnerships in human settlement development. These include:

- The involvement of the communities, private sector, NGOs, CBOs, Local Authorities in policy development Programme design and implementation. For example the maintenance of feeder roads, provision and maintenance of water and sensitization projects.

5.3.2 The major issue with mobilization of communities is the time consuming process.

5.3.3 The major lessons learnt is that community involvement in project identification, design and implementation ensures sustainability.

5.3.4 Recommendations should include public awareness programmes to enhance participation and promote civic engagement.

5.4 Governments

5.4.1 Conditions and Trends

The situation prevailing before 1996 was of a centralized system where central government decided on investments and development for the local governments without involving them. The districts and urban authorities would prepare recurrent and capital budgets and bring them to the Ministry of Local Government for approval and guidance. The 1993 Local Council Statute was meant to initiate the process of decentralization. This statute allowed local councils to elect their leaders by lining up behind their candidates as

a matter of ensuring transparency in elections. This also applied to election of Members of Parliament.

(i) Decentralization of powers functions and services.

Following the 1995 Constitution provision for decentralization as the most suitable form of governance, the 1997 Local Government Act was enacted. This Act gave effect to the decentralization and devolution of functions, powers and service in order to:

- Ensure good governance and democratic participation in, and control of decision making by the people.
- Provide revenue, political and administrative set up of Local Governments.
- Provide for election of Local Councils and any other matters relating to the above.
- (ii) The following are among the guiding principles to Local Government System.
- The system ensures those functions, powers and responsibilities are devolved and transferred from the central government to Local Government Units in a co-ordinated manner.
- Decentralization applies to all levels of Local Governments and in particular from higher to Lower Local Government Units to ensure people participation and democratic control in decision making.
- The system ensures the full realization of democratic governance at all Local Government levels
- The system provides for establishment for each Local Government Unit a sound financial base with reliable sources of revenue.
- Appropriate measures are taken to enable Local Government Units plan initiate and execute policies in respect of all matters affecting the people within their jurisdiction.
- Persons in the service of Local Government shall be employed by the Local Governments; and
- The Local Governments shall oversee the performance of the Government in providing services in their areas and in monitoring the provision of Government Services or the implementation of projects in their areas.

The system of Local Government shall be based on democratically elected councils on the basis of universal adult suffrage in accordance with clause (4) of article 181 of the Constitution. The clause states "All Local Government Councils shall be elected every 4 years".

Under this arrangement, Local Governments elect their own leadership from Local Council 1 (village) to Local Council V (District)

CHAPTER 6: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Uganda as one of the member states of the UN has ratified a number of international treaties, conventions and declarations aimed at fostering international co-operation in the development of human settlements.

It has largely been a recipient of development assistance from key partners notably DANIDA, World Bank, ADF, EU, The Netherlands, DFID, GTZ, JICA, IFAD, UCDE, ADB among others.

Assistance from development partners contributes a large proportion of the resources required to finance national programmes.

Uganda's development endeavour to focus on programmes and projects that have a bearing on poverty eradication.

Uganda has been collaborating with other international development partners in the following areas with respect to human settlement development section.

- International development particularly participation in funding priorities in the NAP.
- Creating environment that will attract investment
- Promotion of technology transfer
- Funding of training programmes in human settlements development sector
- International participation in institutional development and capacity building
- Poverty eradication
- Technical and financial support.

CHAPTER 7: FUTURE ACTION AND INITIATIVES

7.0 Introduction

The government of Uganda lays emphasis on poverty eradication as a crucial in the overall national development. All development programmes have therefore been oriented to address the challenges of poverty. The following priorities are hereby recommended for sustainable human settlement development in Uganda.

7.1 Priorities for sustainable human settlements development

- Promote an enabling environment specifically for low cost housing improvement, affordable by the poor
- Pursue strategies to increase production of local materials to bring the cost within range of the poor
- Formulate an appropriate legislation and adopt standards to take into account provision of facility for the disabled in the design of public building.
- Undertake development of basic infrastructure to promote housing development in areas planned for human settlements
- Build capacity for land use planning both at national and local levels.

7.2 Priorities for Reduction of Poverty.

- Modernise agriculture
- Promote access to credit
- Ensure effective recovery of loans
- Develop necessary infrastructure required to increase access of rural population to markets for their produce
- Promote labour intensive employment opportunities to enable the poor access labour market.
- Undertake training and skills development programmes to equip the majority poor with necessary skills

7.3 Priority for policy development

- Formulation of a comprehensive housing policy supported with necessary legislation to ensure implementation
- Formulate the National Urbanization Policy to streamline the development and management of urbanization.
- The Town and Country Planning Act (19964) should be updated as a matter of priority.

7.4 Priority for Capacity Building

- Promote training and skills development strategies to enhance institutional capacities at both national and local levels
- Educational curriculum and programmes should be adjusted to impart practical skills to students.

7.5 Priorities for Action Planning

- Adopt an effective realistic planning methodology, which are responsive to the short-term as well as long-term need of society.

7.6 Priorities for International Co-operation

- Development assistance should be channeled in areas that will enhance local capacities to ensure sustainability.
- Priorities for the reduction of poverty
- Priorities for policy development, capacity building and action planning
- Priorities for international cooperation