



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of The
Netherlands

The Netherlands' Multi Annual Country Strategy (MACS) 2026-2029 - Uganda (Condensed Version)

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INTRODUCTION

This Multi-Annual Country Strategy (MACS) outlines the areas of international cooperation in which The Netherlands wishes to collaborate with Uganda for the period 2026-2029. This document is a condensed version containing the policy priority areas. Where applicable, multilateral and international civil society programmes are included. The resources supporting this strategy are assigned through the annual budget and annual planning cycles. The implementation of this strategy is monitored on a regular basis and adjustments are formalized through subsequent annual plans.

I. Dutch Policy goals and strategy with Uganda

A. Overarching policy goal

This Multi-Annual Country Strategy (MACS) outlines the areas of international cooperation in which the Netherlands wishes to collaborate with Uganda for the period 2026-2029.

The Netherlands and Uganda maintain a broad and strong relationship, based on shared interests. Dutch engagement is guided by the conviction that a stable, prosperous, and democratic Uganda contributes to regional stability in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, as well as to broader European and Dutch interests in security, migration management, trade and economy. A stable Uganda is essential for creating predictability for Dutch investors.

In line with the Dutch Africa strategy, this MACS contributes to economic development founded on equality, poverty reduction, respect for human rights, and limiting irregular migration. The MACS is aligned with Uganda's national priorities and policies, such as the National Development Plan IV, Vision 2040, and the Tenfold Strategy. The Government of Uganda, the private sector, knowledge institutions, civil society, and development partners were consulted with a view to drafting this MACS.

B. Strategic focus

Uganda is a pivotal country in East Africa: politically influential, a hub for regional trade, and host to the largest refugee population in Africa. Uganda contributes significantly to regional peace and security, and is engaged in peace support operations in Somalia, Eastern DRC and

South Sudan. As Uganda approaches lower-middle income status, the coming years offer an opportunity to deepen the bilateral cooperation. The Multi-Annual Country Strategy (MACS) focuses on three interconnected pillars: security and stability, trade and economy, and migration.

Security and Stability

Regional instability in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region poses direct risks to European security and migration management. The Netherlands will partner with Uganda to enhance the rule of law, equitable access to justice, and institutional accountability. By supporting conflict prevention, local cohesion and community resilience, it aims to reinforce Uganda's internal stability and its positive role for stability in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region. We also help to reduce cycles of violent conflict and the root causes of conflict. We do this by, among other things, focusing on fair access to basic services. Strengthening Uganda's rule of law serves as a fundamental prerequisite for a predictable investment climate and sustainable regional stability.

Trade and economy

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth will be pursued through joint efforts to improve the business environment, enhance access to finance for agri-MSMEs, and promote responsible trade and investment. The Netherlands will take a leading role in the Northern Corridor initiative, transforming it into a green and digital trade artery that connects East Africa to global markets, including the EU. Trade and economic initiatives generate jobs and strengthen the (Dutch) private sector, while also contributing directly to stability by reducing poverty.

Migration

The Netherlands supports Uganda's inclusive refugee model, promoting self-reliance and integration of refugees and host communities. It is in the interest of the Netherlands to support the Government of Uganda in hosting the largest refugee population in Africa. The Netherlands will explore innovative solutions to navigate the migration landscape.

II. Other Remarks

The MACS aligns Dutch and Ugandan interests while fostering collaboration with partners, including the EU, multilateral organisations, (I)NGOs and (local) knowledge institutions. The MACS aims to:

- Strengthen security and rule of law.
- Enhance public health and pandemic preparedness.
- Enhance food and nutrition security, resilient and equitable rural livelihoods & legal regional trade.
- Optimise the business enabling environment and inclusive value chains.
- Support the Government of Uganda in their refugee response.
- Mainstream youth, gender and climate.

In all areas the strategy prioritizes private sector engagement - particularly with Dutch companies - and supports scalable, sustainable, and innovative interventions. The Netherlands will align with the EU's priorities for Uganda, focusing on sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs and promoting democratic governance and social inclusion. The Netherlands will contribute to relevant Team Europe Initiatives and the Global Gateway, leveraging strengths like the large Dutch private sector in Uganda.

Contact addresses:

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda

KAM@minbuza.nl

6th Floor, DFCU Towers, 26 Kyadondo Road Nakasero, Kampala, Uganda

Directie Sub Sahara Afrika, Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Rijnstraat 8 | 2515 XP Den Haag | The Netherlands

DAF@minbuza.nl