

RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT UGANDA

Strategic Plan 2023–2030



**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**



YOUTH POWER



**UNLEASHING THE POWER
OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

Youth Peak

Over 75 per cent of Uganda's population is under the age of 30. Through the Uganda Vision 2040 and National Development Plans, the Uganda government has prioritized the realization of this demographic dividend as a historic opportunity thus developed plans to listen to and prioritize the needs of young people in all aspects of development to achieve the middle-income status for the country.

Uganda is one of the countries with the world's youngest population with over 75 percent of its population below the age of 30. Uganda's population problem is not its size but the rate at which it is growing. The rate of growth is currently 3% per annum which makes it one of the highest globally and given the force of demographic momentum, Uganda will see high rates of population growth for decades to come.

Uganda's demographic situation impacts all aspects of its development, from economic growth to the quality of education to health care provisions, governance, political stability, security and adaptation to climate change. The government has prioritized the realization of this demographic dividend as a historic opportunity and has put in place plans to drive the country towards a middle-income status. This is captured in the Vision 2040 and National Development Plans. It is evident that to realize Uganda's ambitious plans in its Vision 2040, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and NDP-III, three-quarters of Uganda's population, its young people, need to be heard and prioritized in all aspects of development.

Situation in Uganda

Youth unemployment



The growing population presents a significant gap between the number of young people seeking jobs and the limited employment opportunities available to them. According to the Uganda Labour force survey 2021 report, 41% of the youth aged 18–30 years were neither in education nor employment or Training. The high youth unemployment rate is attributed to the discrepancy between the skills that are sought by employers and the skills that are possessed by individuals. Therefore, it is imperative to develop strategies linking development initiatives for youth with job creation and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is one of the most widespread human rights violations, globally affecting more than one-third of women and girls in their lifetime and yet access to justice for survivors, has continued to be a farfetched reality. Despite the existence of a strong legal framework for responding to the threat and incidence of SGBV, many societies are still characterized by high levels of violence against women and girls, a problem that is becoming normalized and remains under-reported. There is a need to design interventions to address gender-based violence in the communities and school ecosystem that will enhance women and girls' self-esteem and contribution toward productivity.



High Teenage pregnancies and HIV prevalence rates.



According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2020 report teenage pregnancies & child marriages remain very high at 25% and have persisted for the last two decades with more than 300,000 pregnancies ending in unsafe abortions annually.

The existing cultural norms and attitudes have created a stigma around access to sexual reproductive health and rights information, hence the surge in cases of teenage pregnancies and HIV prevalence rates.

Lack of young people's effective participation in governance processes.



The education system does not train or develop the necessary skills for critical thinking through active learning and appropriate information that would enable them to make informed decisions. More so, socio-cultural norms further inhibit the participation of young people in the planning and decision-making processes, on the basis of gender, age and (dis)ability. Young people being the biggest percentage of Uganda's population, there is a need to ensure they play an active role to inform governance and democratic processes.

Climate Change

There has been a significant increase in droughts, floods/heavy rains, landslides, and locust invasion in Uganda which has greatly affected the livelihood of young people. From our Living in the climate crisis Research, 76% of young people reported their livelihoods, especially those involved in Agriculture, had been disrupted, leading to food



insecurity as a result of environmental changes. A lack of climate education, training and resources led many young people to adapt their livelihoods to the changing climate without feeling they could do anything about it. The effects of climate change are exacerbated by deforestation, land degradation and wetland degradation and encroachment. This is due to Climate change illiteracy and weak policies on environmental protection.

Restless Development Uganda response to young people



At the heart of everything we do is Youth Power. Restless Development Uganda will invest in the collective power of young people and youth civil society to lead change in their communities. Through youth-led change, we shall ensure young people have access to quality education, Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights information and services, decent jobs and take part in the co-creation of solutions to enhance Climate justice.

Our vision is therefore to create “a resilient generation of diverse young people shaping sustainable, healthy and decent lives by 2027”.

Our Ambition

Working towards this goal, we will deliver our interventions under 4 strategic objectives:

✳️ Education & Livelihoods ✳️

To ensure that vulnerable young people have access to quality education, and decent sustainable employment.

We want all young people to have the skills, knowledge, resilience and opportunities that enable them to thrive. We take a youth-led approach to ensuring that every young person has a quality education, and access to training and opportunities that set them up for life. We want all young people, especially women and girls, to be able to stay in school, and be able to make a sustainable fulfilling living when they leave.

✳️ Gender and Sexual Health ✳️

To create an enabling environment for young people to access and utilise SRHR information and services.

We know that bodies, identities, gender and sexualities are subject to discrimination and violation. We empower young people to change attitudes and behaviours, as well as services and policies, to advance and uphold youth friendly sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender equality. We shall collaborate with the respective partners to ensure SRHR services are available and accessible to young people.

✳️ Voice and Democracy ✳️

To support young people to lead as active citizens and create change in their communities.

We believe more just and participatory democracies are possible, where institutions are accessible and responsive to young people. We support young people to lead as active citizens and create change in their communities by influencing

social and political structures, and those in power, with evidence-based solutions.

✳️ Climate Justice ✳️

To equip young people with knowledge and skills to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and be able to influence Climate Change policies.

Young people risk losing the most from climate change, yet they are systematically excluded from conversations to address it. We support young people to be leaders in transitioning to a just and sustainable world by strengthening youth civil society and an intergenerational response. We shall equip young people with knowledge to find solutions to the climate crisis and be able to influence policies and practices to ensure that climate change is addressed in a fair and just manner.

Cross-cutting priorities

Our strategic priorities are core to our work. However, we are not restricted to working under only these priorities: we focus on priorities identified by young people as they emerge. Our cross-cutting priorities of **Youth Leadership**, **Digital Innovation** and **Gender Transformation** enable this inherent flexibility.



About Restless Development Uganda

Restless Development Uganda has been working in Uganda since 1997 and engages approximately 30,000 young people on an annual basis across 24 districts of Uganda. We have engaged over 240 peer educators working in communities and an ever-growing alumni network of over 1,200 members.



Restless Development Uganda supports the collective power of young leaders to create a better world. We make sure that young people's voices are heard and that they have the power to mobilise action in their communities to respond to long-standing challenges. Our impact goal areas include:

- 1) Voice and democracy,
- 2) Climate Justice
- 3) Education and livelihoods
- 4) Gender and Sexual Health .



CONTACT US

KAMPALA (HEADQUARTERS)

Plot 194 Kigobe/Kyambogo Road
Ministers Village, Ntinda
Kampala
+256 200 906450

JINJA

Plot 40
Ngonde Ntende Road,
Block P 9/10
Walukuba West, Jinja
+256 755 097827

MOROTO

Moroto Local Government
Offices (Next to RDC's Office)
Independence Avenue
Moroto+256 393 241133

ARUA

Block A, Plot 4
Ceaser Ochama Close
Arua City
+256 200 906450