



Uganda

Uganda is located in east Africa and is bordered by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

It is a country of great natural beauty and tropical landscapes and is often called the 'Pearl of Africa'. With many large lakes, such as Lake Victoria, Lake Kyoga and Lake Albert, Uganda is very fertile and is rich in natural resources such as cobalt and copper. The climate is generally tropical with two dry seasons, although it is wetter in the south.

Gaining independence in 1962, Uganda at first experienced some stability before two decades of turmoil and oppression under the regimes of Idi Amin and Milton Obote, during which almost half a million lives were lost. In 2011, President Museveni was re-elected for a fourth term by multiparty elections. Although much progress has been made and the elections themselves were conducted in a transparent, generally peaceful atmosphere, some concerns about governance and human rights remain.

Northern Uganda, afflicted by a twenty-year military conflict, has seen much suffering and the conflict has been destabilising for the region and the country. However, peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army resulted in the signing of a permanent ceasefire in February 2008.

Development in Uganda

From being almost a "failed state" for two decades, Uganda has, since 1986, achieved consistently high economic growth rates. Poverty levels declined significantly from 56 per cent in 1992 to 23 per cent in 2009. In the areas of health and education, growth has also been achieved: rates of immunisation have increased, as have levels of primary school enrollment. There are now 8.3 million pupils in primary schools, compared with 2.5 million in 1997 and Uganda is one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa that will meet the second Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. Uganda has also done well in the fight against HIV and AIDS; the HIV prevalence rate has been reduced to 5.4 per cent, from 18 per cent in the 1990s.

Peace and security was restored to most of Uganda in 2009 and an estimated 80% of the people displaced by the war in Northern Uganda returned to their homes. However, while Uganda is now relatively peaceful and prosperous, many challenges remain, such as a high population growth rate, income inequality, high maternal and infant mortality rates. Around seven million people live in chronic poverty with Northern Uganda, due to the legacy of brutal rebellion, continuing to be severely affected by poverty. However, the discovery of oil deposits in Western Uganda could, if well managed, make significant inroads on poverty reduction.

Irish Aid's poverty reduction work in Uganda

Uganda has been an Irish Aid partner country since 1994. In 2010, Irish Aid's bilateral support to Uganda was over €43 million.

Irish Aid works with the Government of Uganda to reduce poverty and promote environmentally sustainable economic development through Uganda's *Poverty Eradication Action Plan*.

Irish Aid has contributed to improvements in education, and supports the participation of poor children in secondary education in the Karamoja region through a bursary scheme. In collaboration with other donors, Irish Aid contributes to the prevention and control of HIV and AIDS and provision of treatment and care for those affected.

Ireland also supports the Ugandan Government in the areas of social protection, strengthening governance and access to justice, and legislative reforms to promote gender equality.

Comparison table

Source: UNDP, 2011 ¹	Ireland	Uganda
UNDP Human Development Index Rank (of 187 countries)	7	161
Population	4.5 million	34.5 million
GNI (Gross National Income) per capita	US \$29,332	US \$1,124
Life expectancy from birth	80 years	54 years
Number of doctors per 100,00 people²	310	10
HIV prevalence³ (15-49 years)	0.2%	5.4%

¹UNDP Human Development Report 2011 (November 2011)

²UNDP Human Development Report 2010 (November 2010)

³UNDP Human Development Report 2010 (November 2010)

Facts about Uganda Did you know...?

Full name:	Republic of Uganda
Head of State:	President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
Capital:	Kampala
Area:	241,038 sq km
Major languages:	English (official), Swahili (official), Luganda
Major religions:	Christianity, Islam
Monetary unit:	Ugandan Shilling
Main exports:	Coffee, fish and fish products, tea, cotton, tobacco, beans

Find out more

www.irishaid.ie - Learn more here about Irish Aid's work in Uganda

www.undp.org – the United Nations Development Programme in Uganda

www.concern.net and www.trocaire.org - Both Concern and Trocaire work in Uganda and have background information about the country on their websites



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Irish Aid is the Government's programme of assistance to developing countries, and is administered through the Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

You can visit the

**Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre,
27 - 31 Upper O'Connell Street,
Dublin 1.
Phone number: 01 854 69 20**

Organised visits to the Centre, including workshops, are available for school and college groups by arrangement.

 www.irishaid.gov.ie