Ugandan-German Development Cooperation – an Overview on programmes and institutions

Context

Over the past decades, Uganda has made significant strides towards social and economic development. The National Development Plan (NDP) provides guidance on main development goals and objectives. As a development partner of Uganda, Germany has been and remains committed to supporting the Ugandan Government and the Ugandan people in implementing these strategies and in moving forward on the development path towards becoming a middle-income country.

Programmes

Government-to-Government cooperation:

Since 2004, the German Government has committed grants worth more than EUR 410 million (over UGX 1.35 trillion) for Ugandan-German development cooperation. As agreed with the Government of Uganda, the bulk of these funds (EUR 370 million; over UGX 1.23 trillion) aim at promoting development in three sectors:

- Water and sanitation
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Financial systems development and agricultural finance

Across these sectors, German Development Cooperation co-finances investments through KfW Development Bank and provides Technical Assistance through GIZ – both state-owned implementing agencies.

Enhancing access of Ugandans to safe water, electricity or credit does not only require investments and technical advice. It also requires a sound enabling environment for the sector programmes. This is why German Development Cooperation also addresses cross-cutting issues, in particular

- by supporting reforms in Public Financial Management
- by promoting human rights
- by contributing to peace-consolidation and improving livelihoods, particularly in Karamoja and other parts of Northern Uganda
- by cooperating with the private sector
- by providing scholarships

In the various programme areas, German bilateral development cooperation collaborates with Ugandan partners on all levels. Partnerships exist on the national level with ministries, the Bank of Uganda, autonomous bodies like the Uganda Human Rights Commission and state-owned enterprises such as the National Water and Sewerage Corporation and on the intermediate level with local governments, universities and the private sector. Germany emphasises also the collaboration on local level, directly with the community groups such as Village Saving Organizations, farmer associations, trader groups etc. Project implementation from central government to local level, as well as the input from about 120 qualified Ugandan employees of GIZ and KfW, ensure that “on the ground experiences” feeds into policy advice and programme planning.
Cooperation through non-state actors

Besides government-to-government cooperation, implemented by KfW and GIZ, Germany also promotes development in Uganda through non-state actors, namely German foundations, and other Non-Government-Organizations. The German Government has co-funded projects of these organizations in Uganda with more than EUR 30 million (UGX 99 billion) since 2004.

Regional programmes

The German Government funds various regional development programmes. Some funding is open to all African countries while other funds are specifically aimed at supporting regional organizations like the African Union (AU), the East African Community (EAC) or the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and their member states including Uganda. A regional organization based in Uganda that has been receiving support by German Technical Cooperation is the Nile Basin Initiative.

Multilateral support

Germany extends substantial financial support to Uganda through its contributions to multilateral organizations that fund programmes in Uganda. As the largest single contributor to the European Development Fund and one of the top contributors to World Bank, African Development Bank and United Nations development activities, the German Government indirectly contributes an estimated EUR 60 million (UGX 200 billion annually) to Uganda’s development, in addition to the bilateral and regional programmes.

Institutions

Three main actors coordinate to implement German bilateral development cooperation in Uganda.

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany:

The Embassy’s role is to coordinate German development cooperation with the Government of Uganda and other development partners, engaging in general and sector policy dialogue. The Embassy coordinates the activities of the state-owned German implementing agencies GIZ and KfW and offers its services to German NGOs engaged in development programmes in Uganda.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ):

GIZ is the implementing agency for Germany’s Technical Cooperation. Its activities are mainly targeted on policy advice and capacity development. This includes the deployment of technical advisers as well as human resource development and training activities. Although sometimes commissioned by other institutions, GIZ mostly works on behalf of the German government.

KfW Bankengruppe

Being part of state-owned KfW Bankengruppe, KfW Development Bank is in charge of Financial Cooperation on behalf of the German Government, providing grants for development investments. KfW, in agreement with the German Government, can raise additional resources on the capital markets to provide loans to complement grant financing and extend the programme volumes.