

Stakeholder mapping Uganda

Summary

Despite recent economic growth, poverty rates in Uganda are still high. One of the problems is the lack of capacity to generate sufficient jobs. To give economic and social perspective to the fast growing and increasingly young Ugandan population, a structural transformation of the Ugandan economy and the social security system is urgently needed. This stakeholder mapping report on Uganda identifies key policies regarding inclusive development (with a focus on issues of productive employment and social protection) as well as relevant policy makers, knowledge institutions, and knowledge sharing activities. These strands come together in the description of two research projects in Uganda that fall under INCLUDE's umbrella and started in 2014.

Uganda Vision 2040 is Uganda's visionary policy document for the coming decades. Its ambition is to transform Uganda from a predominantly peasant and low income country to a competitive upper middle income country. The goals of Uganda Vision 2040 are translated in five-year National Development Plans (NDPs), the current NDP I covering the period 2010/11 - 2014/15 and NDP II being in preparation. A key role is for the private sector, being considered the engine of growth and development. NDP II will focus on agriculture, tourism, minerals, infrastructure and human capital development. The NDPs form Uganda's overarching national development framework for guiding policy formulation and implementation. Its objectives are specified in thematic and/or sectoral policies, such as the National Employment Policy (2011) and the Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESPP, 2010). Other relevant policies include the Uganda Gender Policy (2007); the National Youth Policy (2010); the Business, Technical and Vocational Training Strategic Plan 2011-2020; and the National Agriculture Policy (2014).

Influential policy makers concerned with issues of inclusive development include the National Planning Authority (NPA), the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD). A key think tank working on these issues is the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC). EPRC and many other stakeholders (research institutes, think tanks, NGOs/CSOs, public-private institutions) are actively engaged in knowledge sharing with policy makers on these issues. Activities that may contribute to making policies more inclusive comprise the organization of forums, seminars and other events; (policy) research publications; sharing statistical data; lobbying; providing training to officials; and (social) media performances.

Two research projects, funded by INCLUDE through NWO/WOTRO, are conducted in Uganda. Firstly, encouraging women entrepreneurship is the focus of a research project led by Dr Henny Romijn (Eindhoven University of Technology), in collaboration with the Ugandan Investment Authority (UIA), Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association (UWEAL) and Makerere University Business School (MUBS). The study investigates the conditions under which female and rural entrepreneurs innovate and make their businesses more dynamic so that small businesses grow. The research links to Uganda policies on employment issues as well as to the Netherlands Embassy's Multiannual Strategic Plan 2014-2017 in Uganda insofar as it targets women (and youth) in its food security programme.

Secondly, the question of how inclusive business strategies contribute to inclusive development in Africa is central in an action-research project of Erasmus University Rotterdam/RSM (project leader: Prof. Rob van Tulder) in partnership with the NABC, ESAMI business school and a non-exhaustive list of Dutch frontrunner companies, banks, academia and international development NGOs operating in five African countries including Uganda. Ugandan consortium partners are ESAMI Uganda, the Bank of Africa, and Barefoot Power. The integration of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in business models is often seen as a means to enhance sustainable development. This project explores the characteristics and critical success factors of inclusive business models. Inclusive business is not yet a topic in policy (research) in Uganda, but is increasingly being taken up by international donors and development organizations working in agriculture.