

Denmark strengthens Uganda's agriculture against climate change



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Rising temperatures, droughts, floods and landslides are pressuring farmers in Uganda. Denmark aims to enhance the resilience of Uganda's agriculture to climate change as part of its new development programme in Uganda, totalling to approx. UGX 360 Billion. The program was launched last week by Denmark's Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Dan Jørgensen, during his visit to the country.

Drought makes it harder to cultivate crops like maize or coffee, which many rural, Ugandan residents depend on. Increasing temperatures pose challenges for coffee, one of the world's best, while heavy rainfall leads to floods and landslides on Uganda's many hillsides. The poor rural population forms the largest part of Ugandans. They live off their land and have no amenities like artificial irrigation.

"Uganda has little means to withstand changing temperatures. This is especially the case for local agriculture and the entire food production, threatened by prolonged drought periods and

more severe floods — a trend we unfortunately see in many countries. Therefore, in Denmark, we have decided to use much more resources on climate initiatives in our development cooperation, so we can help countries like Uganda become more resilient to climate change," says Dan Jørgensen.

With a new development program, Denmark will now focus its support to Uganda even more on green transformation. Climate adaptation is a particular focus to better equip the population against the significant climate changes experienced in the country. The number of so-called heat days, with temperatures above 35 degrees, has already increased by 20 percent since 1960 and is expected to rise by up to 40 percent more by 2050. Denmark will, among other things, ensure that small-scale farmers have access to loans for investments necessary to cope with climate change. This will happen in close collaboration with the private sector and local banks. Denmark will also support better access to the European Union market for Ugandan products such as drought resistant seeds or small scale irrigation.



(Left to right): Danish Ambassador to Uganda H.E. Signe Winding Albjerg, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Dan Jørgensen with H.E. President Yoweri Museveni during a recent visit by the minister to Uganda.

Biodiversity in the rain forest

Dan Jørgensen has also used his visit to Uganda to explore the enormous importance of forests for agriculture, the environment, and climate. Deforestation is a massive challenge for Uganda and the entire region, leading to landslides, loss of biodiversity, and significant CO2 emissions. Denmark will explore how it can contribute to support more sustainable development in that area.

Climate, Refugees and Rights

The overall vision for Denmark's engagement in Uganda is to strengthen regional and national stability as well as the country's prosperity by supporting Uganda in a green, sustainable, and

inclusive economic transformation while respecting human rights. Uganda hosts Africa's largest refugee population, around 1.6 million refugees, and continues to receive large refugee flows



Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Dan Jørgensen interacting with refugees hosted by Uganda in Kisoro, at the Nyakabande refugee transit centre, that is supported by Denmark.

from neighbouring countries, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), marked by long-term armed conflict. With the new development programme, Denmark will continue its support for refugees and affected local Ugandan communities, focusing on initiatives that promote resilience to climate change and the rights of women and girls in areas affected by the regional refugee crisis and refugee affected areas.

In addition to climate change, Denmark's development programme with Uganda focuses on a strengthened civil society and the protection of human rights and democratic values, contributing to responsible, transparent, and fair management of natural resources. Denmark will continue to support human rights for all and contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind.

Denmark's engagement in Uganda is based on various instruments, including development cooperation, political dialogue, business collaboration, humanitarian assistance, and strategic partnerships. The new bilateral development program (2023-2028) amounts to more than UGX 360 Billion distributed across seven projects.

In the bilateral development program, nearly 60 percent of the budget will contribute to the green agenda, with the majority focusing on climate adaptation.

Seven projects funded

- Promotion of green, inclusive growth in the agricultural and food sector, appr. UGX 35 Billion.
- Improved access to green, inclusive financing, appr. UGX 11 Billion.
- Strengthening financing for climate adaptation in Uganda's rural areas, appr. UGX 28 Billion.
- Promotion of green and inclusive trade, appr. UGX 16,5 Billion.
- Climate adaptation and enhanced resilience in Uganda's refugee areas, appr. UGX 199 Billion.
- Empowerment and rights for youth in refugee areas, appr. UGX 53,4 Billion.
- Strengthened accountability, civil society engagement, and human rights, appr. UGX 41 Billion.