

UGANDA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN III: MID-TERM REVIEW SHOWS MINIMAL PROGRESS

INTRODUCTION



The National Development Plan III (NDP III) is the third in a series of six development plans whose primary goal is to increase average household incomes and improve the quality of life of Ugandans. The NDP III covers the period 2020/21-2024/25 and is designed to guide and operationalize the National Vision 2040. The mid-term review (MTR) of the NDP

III was conducted to assess progress on NDP implementation, highlight challenges encountered during implementation, and make recommendations for corrective implementation measures over the remaining period. According to the recently concluded MTR, minimal success has been registered by NDP III so far. The MTR focused on reviewing the 5-year plans with a focus on the development assumptions of the plan, progress made towards attainment of anticipated results in the two and a half years' vis a vis targets of the plan, the macroeconomic framework, financing arrangements, and the implementation arrangements in light of the program approach. The MTR identified lessons learned, structural and institutional reforms aimed at achieving enhanced productivity, efficiency, competitiveness, and effectiveness, challenges and emerging issues encountered, and made recommendations for addressing the challenges and emerging issues, both in the remaining lifetime of the NDP and in the next Development Plan.

The MTR report is divided into six thematic areas, including policy and strategic direction, economic management, results framework, political economy, institutional framework, and development partnerships. The report highlights that less than a quarter of the project program outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and outputs have been achieved so far, while more than half of their indicators have no data to track what has been accomplished mid-way the development plan period. Regarding the NDP III goal and objectives, 64% and 78% have not yet been achieved, respectively. Therefore, it is necessary to fast-track the implementation of NDP III projects to achieve its goal and objectives by 2024/25 and avoid the highlighted implications of the delays.

The implementation of the National Development Plan III (NDP III) has faced several challenges, as highlighted by the mid-term review report. These challenges include:

- ◆ Limited coordination and cooperation among government agencies, leading to overlapping roles and responsibilities, duplication of interventions/budgets, and limited funding to implement interventions.
- ◆ Slow implementation of public investments, limited progress in value addition and the agriculture sector, and coordination challenges across government.
- ◆ Design challenges of the NDP III programs, which have made it difficult to achieve the set targets.
- ◆ Operational challenges to NDP III program implementation, such as inadequate monitoring and evaluation, limited capacity, and weak institutional frameworks.
- ◆ Other specific development planning challenges, such as inadequate financing, weak private sector engagement, and limited access to technology and innovation.
- ◆ Lack of a common framework for mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in all sectors of development, leading to poorly facilitated desks in various ministries to champion issues of refugees, gender mainstreaming, and associated budgeting

These challenges have contributed to the minimal success registered by NDP III so far, with less than a quarter of the project program outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and outputs achieved. To address these challenges, the mid-term review report recommends structural and institutional reforms aimed at achieving enhanced productivity, efficiency, competitiveness, and effectiveness. It is necessary to fast-track the implementation of NDP III projects to achieve its goal and objectives by 2024/25 and avoid the implications of the delays.

The mid-term review of the National Development Plan III (NDP III) was conducted to assess progress on NDP implementation, highlight challenges encountered during implementation, and make recommendations for corrective implementation measures over the remaining period. The report highlights that minimal success has been registered by NDP III so far, and less than a quarter of the project program outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and outputs have been achieved so far. Therefore, it is necessary to fast-track the implementation of NDP III projects to achieve its goal and objectives by 2024/25 and avoid the highlighted implications of the delays.

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