

DASHBOARD: JUNE 2021

Version 1.0

Issues	Indicators	Frequency	Status		Issues	Indicators	Frequency	Status			
Employment	Jobs	Formal Sector ¹	Monthly	653(-7.3%)	▼	Productivity	Literacy Rate (Grade 6)	Yearly (-1)	51.9%(1.2)	▼	
		Informal Sector	Yearly (-3)	8,824,252	▲		Numeracy Rate (Grade 6)	Yearly (-1)	52.6%(1.3)	▲	
		Migrant Workers	Monthly ⁸	8,830 (-138%)	▲		Morbidity Rate (Malaria Incidence) ^a	Monthly	3.04 (4.8%)	▲	
		LIPW ² (Average)	Monthly	98,783 (-)	▲		PIP Budget Absorption ^b (GoU, IFMS %)	Quarterly	N/A	▲	
	Incomes	Per-capita GDP (US\$): 2020/21	Yearly (0)	932(1.7%)	▲		Power Tariff (Ushs per Unit)	Medium	Quarterly	556(0.73%)	▼
		Income Poverty (%)	Yearly (-1)	20.3% (1.1)	▼	Large		Quarterly	361.0 (0%)	▲	
Remittances (US\$,M)		Yearly	1,456 (11.4%)	▲	Extra Large	Quarterly	301.7 (0%)	▲			
Living Standards	Utilities (Retail Tariff Rates)	Water (M ³)	Quarterly	3,516 (0%)	▲	Competitiveness	Av. Freight Costs (US\$, Mom-Kla, 40ft)	Monthly	3,800 (0%)	▲	
		Power/Domestic	Quarterly	750.9 (0%)	▲		Commercial Case Backlog ^c	Yearly (-2)	1,122 (36%)	▼	
		Data (Ushs, 1GB)	Monthly	5,000*	▲		Fuel Prices (Liquid Energy Fuel Inflation)	Monthly	-0.6(7%)	▼	
	Education Expenditure ³ (HH,Ushs)	Yearly (-3)	1,179,000(-)	▲	Customs Clearance (Hours)		Monthly	5.13 (0%)	▲		
	Healthcare Expenditure (HH, Ushs)	Yearly (-3)	273,000(-)	▲	Transit Times (Mom-Kla, Days)		Monthly	9 (0%)	▲		
	Food Inflation ¹ (%)	Monthly	-0.8 (-1.6)	▼	Investment Registration (Days)		Yearly	2	▲		
	EFU ⁴ Inflation (%)	Monthly	0.6 (-1.5)	▼	Business Registration (Days)		Yearly	3	▲		
	Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) for GKMA	Quarterly	114.8 (5.6%)	▼	Electricity Connection (Days)		Monthly	30 (0%)	▲		
	Crime Rate (per 100,000):2020	Yearly	502(8.9%)	▼	Water Connection (Days)		Monthly	3 (0%)	▲		
	Equity and Economic Inclusion	Private Pension: Active Members ^h	Quarterly	644,000 (0%)	▲		Markets and Regulations	IMF Primary Commodity Price Index	Monthly	171.7(10.6%)	▲
		Private Pension: Registered Members	Yearly	2,000,000+(Est)	▲			Average Monthly Net Salary (After Tax) ^f	Yearly	N/A	▲
Public Pension (Beneficiaries)		Monthly	83,373 (1.0%)	▲	Retail Sales/EFRIS ⁵		Monthly	N/A	▼		
SAGE (Beneficiaries)		Quarterly	304,555 (0%)	▲	USE All Share Price Index		Monthly	1490.4(5.3%)	▲		
Agent Banking (Transactions)		Quarterly	N/A	▲	New Business Registrations		Monthly	3,246 (36%)	▼		
Environmental Sustainability	Water Quality (PM _{2.5}) ⁸	Monthly	Low, 15.91	▼	Local Content		Hotel Occupancy Rate ^e (Kla)	Quarterly	44% (37%)	▲	
	Air Quality (PM _{2.5}) ⁸	Monthly	High, 66 (16.6%)	▼		Plant Utilisation Rates (SME-Large Firms)	Quarterly	30-50%	▼		
	Noise Pollution (Decibels, Kampala)	Monthly ^f	High, 63.1(3.1%)	▼		MUG Shelf-Presence ⁶	Yearly	48% (8.0)	▲		
	Seasonal Changes in Rainfall	Monthly	Normal Plus	▲		Trade Balance ^h (US\$, Millions)	Monthly	-322(20%)	▲		
	Natural Disaster Incidences	Monthly	N/A	▲		Contracts Awarded to Local Providers ⁷	Yearly	97.5%	▲		

*Unless indicated all quarterly figures are for Q3, FY2020/21 and annual figures for FY2019/20 | ¹Active PAYE Register Jobs | ²Labour Intensive Public Works | ³Primary Education | ⁴Energy, Fuel and Utilities | ⁵Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing System | ⁶Made in Uganda (MUG) | ⁷By Value (and 99.8 by number -2,595) | ⁸Particulate Matter (April 2020) | ^aCases per 1,000 population | ^bCumulative Absorption in Q1 (31st Sep, 2020) | ^c2019 | Average monthly price of data bundles for MTN (170GB) and Smile (150GB). Source: kompare Uganda | ^eMay 2021 | ^fJuly 2021 | ^gJune 2021 | ^hNational Average is Ushs 168,000 (2016/17) | ⁸Migrant Labour in 2021 | ⁹NSSF: As at December 2020 | *Market Average (MTN and Airtel)

Policy Briefs: May 2021

COVID-19 Series

Emerging Microeconomic Trends and Patterns for Policy Attention in FY 2020/21 and the Medium Term

A) Microeconomic Developments: This Section provides a summary commentary on the eight thematic issues of the MIND.

Issue	Market Updates
Employment	Employment growth has been constrained by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Formal sector employment declined from 714,048 employees in May, 2021 to 653,066 employees in June, 2021. However, migrant labour numbers rebounded – albeit below April numbers (11,114), from 3,706 in May 2021 to 8,830 in June 2021 on account of people travelling for work (especially to Saudi Arabia).
Living Standards	Monthly Food Inflation registered a further decrease of 0.8% in June 2021 from the 0.4% recorded for May 2021. This was due to a fall in general food prices, which decreased by 0.9% for the month of June 2021.
Equity and Economic Inclusion	The number of public pensioners increased from 82,548 in May 2021 to 83,373 in June 2021, largely on the back of new entrants into the retirement age bracket. Government approved a budget of Ushs50 billion to support vulnerable families affected by the 2 nd Lockdown.
Environmental Sustainability	Air quality and noise pollution reduced between the months of May and June 2021. This is largely attributed to 2 nd lockdown that curtailed movements of people. Although the air quality improved to 66 µg/m ³ (PM 2.5) in June 2021 from 79 µg/m ³ (PM 2.5) in May 2021, this is still higher than the WHO recommended threshold of 25 µg/m ³ (PM 2.5). Noise pollution reduced to 61.1 decibels in June 2021 from 63.1 decibels in May 2021.
Productivity	The average national monthly incidence of malaria increased slightly to 3.04 per 1,000 persons in June 2021 from 2.9 per 1,000 persons in May 2021. A number of districts including Bunyangabu, Buikwe have reported a rise in malaria deaths as more attention has been directed to managing COVID-19 infections.
Competitiveness	ERA approved the guidelines of the Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariffs which encourage private sector participation in power generation from renewable technologies. This will contribute to lowering the cost of electricity. The cost of data also rose slightly, possibly due to service providers making early adjustments in response to the new taxes that take effect in FY2021/22. Furthermore, the Chief Justice of Uganda announced a 42-day suspension of Court cases, following H.E. the President’s pronouncement of the 2 nd lockdown in early June 2021.
Markets & Regulation	International commodity prices rose by 10.6% between May and June 2021. This was partly attributed to the disruptions brought about by the imposition of travel restrictions owing to rising COVID-19 infections, amidst lower production. Also, new business registrations declined by 36%, from 5,073 to 3,246. The USE All Share Price Index also rose by 5.25% in June to 1,490.4 compared to 1,416.01 in May 2021.
Local Content	Trade balance deficit widened by 20% from US\$269.3m in April 2021 to US\$322.2m in May 2021 ¹ . The growth rate of the import bill however reduced to 1% in May from 8% in April while that of exports increased by 7% in May compared to a 4% decrease in May 2021.

¹ Bank of Uganda Website

B) Policy Response Measures: This edition of the MIND discusses Productivity as a Thematic Area, with a specific focus on the malaria incidence indicator in particular. It also highlights measures related to responding to increasing vulnerabilities. Furthermore, it also outlines both ongoing and forthcoming policy measures and interventions of Government aimed at addressing the issues on rising incidence of malaria.

Objective	Interventions
<p>Better Health Outcomes for Improved Labour Productivity</p>	<p>Productivity: Malaria poses significant health, economic and social costs on society. One study revealed that malaria cost the Ugandan economy US\$ 25 per capita (Orem, Kirigia and Azairwe and Zikuuzoka, 2003). NDP III accordingly provides for the reduction of mortality due to high risk Communicable Diseases (Malaria, TB & HIV/AIDS) from 60% in 2017 to 30% in 2025. To this end. Government has undertaken the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Uganda is currently implementing the Uganda Malaria Reduction and Elimination Strategic Plan 2021-2025, which aims to reduce malaria infections by 50%, morbidity by 50% and mortality by 75% by 2025 compared to 2015. The Plan aims to ensure appropriate tailoring of intervention mixes for the various epidemiologic contexts and universal coverage of services (including in the private sector); b) In FY 2020/21, Government through the ‘Under the Net’ campaign saw 27 million nets distributed. This led to a significant reduction in malaria incidence, save for the period May – June 2021, where the incidence increased slightly; c) Through the National Malaria Control Program, Ministry of Health provided guidance on continuity of Essential Health Services during the COVID-19 pandemic. These Guidelines spelt out clear procedures for the provision of essential health services, especially regarding malaria. They also ensure that provision of health services remained uninterrupted; d) The US President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) led by USAID has continued to deliver cost-effective, life-saving malaria interventions alongside technical and operational assistance to support Uganda to end malaria since 2006. The proposed PMI FY2021/22 planning budget for Uganda is US\$31 million with the planned activities outlined in the Malaria Operational Plan; e) Strengthening Uganda’s Response to Malaria (SURMa) programme, has worked closely with health officials in 27 districts to resume the implementation of key malaria-related activities, including continued availability of essential medicines and diagnostics at health facilities, with redistribution of supplies where necessary. f) InFY2020/21, National Medical Stores (NMS) delivered anti-malarial medicines and supplies to all public health facilities across the country worth Ushs.2.5bn, including the hard-to-reach areas. Malaria drugs account for 20% of the stock at the NMS. <p>Vulnerability: To mitigate against increasing vulnerabilities of households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Government plans to distribute COVID-19 relief funds to the tune of Ushs.53bn to the vulnerable people. These constitute mostly those daily wage earners affected by the second lockdown. A direct payment of Ushs.100,000 will be given to vulnerable folks across the country. Generation of lists of the vulnerable and subsequent verification is on-going with distribution slated to start in July 2021. b) A Community Information System (CIS) dataset is to be established by UBoS under the Parish Development Model, as the basis for generation of Parish Registers to inform Government interventions.

c) Microeconomic Outlook:

In June 2021, a partial lockdown and subsequent total lockdown was pronounced to stem the spread of COVID-19 and limit the adverse impact of the 2nd wave of the pandemic. Although this will inevitably slowdown economic activities, increase vulnerabilities and strain the healthcare system, Government efforts to mitigate against these setbacks could bear results in the latter half of the FY2021/22 and the medium-term.

**MEDIA
WATCH
POST**
**MICROECONOMIC ISSUES
IN THE NEWS & REPORTS**
JUNE 2021
Productivity and Vulnerability
**Malaria
Prevalence and
Impacts**

Malaria incidence has been declining for the most part of FY2020/21 (from 4.82 per 1,000 persons in August 2020 to 2.0 per 1,000 persons in February 2021), before fluctuating between March 2021 – June 2021 (2.2 to 3.04 per 1,000 persons). The increase in malaria incidence in the latter part of the FY is attributed to a shift in attention to the 2nd wave of COVID-19:

- a) Government continued with the distribution of mosquito nets in Kampala and Wakiso districts in January 2021. The distribution is part of Government's move to eliminate malaria in Uganda by the year 2030. By the close of FY 2020/21, Government had distributed over 27 million nets in 122 districts.
- b) In 2020, Malaria Consortium together with the Ministry of Health, undertook research to better characterize COVID-19 cases in a high malaria burden setting. Preliminary findings, recently published in *The Lancet*, show that high exposure to malaria appears to reduce the risk of severity of COVID-19. The research will help identify potential implications of clinical interactions between COVID-19 and malaria which is a major public health concern in Africa.
- c) Indoor residual spraying has significantly decreased malaria prevalence in children under the age of five, lowered malaria prevalence during pregnancy, and reduced risk of low birth weight, pre-term birth, and fetal/neonatal deaths. It protects more than four million people in Uganda annually, including 950,000 children under five years old and more than 130,000 pregnant women.
- d) The United States PMI launched 15 years ago has reduced child mortality by 53% and lower malaria prevalence among children under five by more than 75%. This was highlighted by U.S. Mission in Uganda at World Malaria Day commemoration on April 25, 2021.
- e) Malaria contributes significantly to worker absenteeism, impacting productivity and performance. According to a recent study on Effects of Malaria on Productivity in a Workplace, the likelihood of one worker's absence from work due to malaria could be 1.6 times more when compared to those who were not sick.

**Poverty and
Vulnerability**

According to the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS), 2019/20:

- a) Income poverty reduced from 21.4% in 2016/17 to 20.3% in 2019/20. Within 2019/20, poverty levels increased from 18.7% (before COVID-19) to 22% during COVID-19.
- b) The proportion of poor people in urban areas increased from 900,000 in 2016/17 to 1.3 million in 2019/20 after the COVID-19 induced lockdown;
- c) The number of households in the subsistence economy increased from 3.3 million to 3.5 million; and
- d) COVID-19 pandemic pushed as many as 400,000 people in urban areas into poverty by the break of 2020.

MIND is compiled by Economic Development Policy and Research Department (EDP&RD) in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

EDPRD: Simplified, seamless and speedy knowledge services for monitoring, assessment and communication of Uganda's economic development policy and its results