

2025 Outlook Uganda

Setting the tone for 2025

Uganda's economic outlook for 2025 is promising, with growth projected to surpass 2024 levels. The IMF and World Bank forecast 7.5% and 6.2% increases in GDP in 2025; slightly higher than 2024's figures. This growth is expected to be driven by agro-industrialization, tourism development, mineral development, including oil and gas, and science, technology, and innovation.

Uganda is expected to start oil production in 2025. The oil & gas projects are expected to produce over 1 billion barrels of oil over the next 20 years. These projects are currently under development, with multiple wells being drilled and a central processing facility being constructed. A refinery with a capacity of 60,000 barrels of oil per day is also being planned. The oil and gas sector is expected to have a significant impact on Uganda's economy, with an estimated revenue of US\$8.6 billion per year and over 12,000 jobs created.

Investment in agriculture is also expected to be driven by a focus on commercial farming, value addition, and agricultural technology. This will increase the competitiveness of Ugandan

agricultural products in both domestic and international markets. Uganda's coffee exports have been increasing steadily, with exports worth US\$ 1.14 billion during 2023-2024 FY. This trend is expected to continue. There is a growing demand for value-added coffee products, and investors can tap into this opportunity by setting up coffee processing and roasting facilities.

On 20 January 2025, the new US administration issued an order to freeze federal funding which includes foreign aid. The order imposes a 90 day pause on new obligations and disbursements of development assistance funds to foreign countries, including Uganda. This pause affects various foreign assistance programs including those related to health, education, and economic development. This means that Uganda may experience delays or disruptions in receiving U.S. foreign aid, which would impact various development projects. The full impact of the order remains to be seen after a US federal judge on the 28 January 2025 temporarily blocked the order.

Whereas we expect intense political activity, we don't expect major political changes translating into major economic changes.

Protecting and preparing your business

The EU's Regulations on Deforestation-Free Products: Assessing their impact on Ugandan traders exporting products to the European Union (EU)

As the world comes to terms with the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss, countries are increasingly implementing different laws, regulations and policies geared to sustainability. According to the European Commission, deforestation and forest degradation are among the main drivers of the global environmental crisis.

Following the 12 month extension to the implementation of new Regulations on Deforestation-Free Products (Regulations) approved by the European Parliament in November 2024, foreign businesses exporting their products to the EU, such as Ugandan businesses, are preparing to establish the necessary systems and to engage with countries outside the EU as they prepare to comply with the new requirements by 31 December 2025.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the impact of the new Regulations on Ugandan traders.

New Dentons report: Infrastructure is the gateway to Africa's global investment breakthrough

With abundant natural resources, excellent conditions for renewable energy generation, and a young population, Africa offers exceptional opportunities for growth and innovation. However, its economic potential remains largely untapped, with infrastructure gaps, particularly in transport and energy, remaining a critical bottleneck. To fill this void and unlock both current opportunities and long-term prosperity, Africa needs an annual investment of between US\$130 billion and US\$170 billion.

Dentons' report, From Riches to Returns, examines foreign direct investment (FDI) trends across Africa and identifies sectors such as renewable energy, conventional energy, metals and minerals and carbon markets, that offer growth opportunities for international investors and could attract the capital African nations need to fuel their development.

The publication also examines what African sovereigns need to do to create an attractive and stable investment environment that encourages sustainable economic development.

Click [here](#) to download the Dentons report.

Client experience (CX)

The experience our clients have of working with us matters. We don't take our clients' loyalty for granted. We are constantly striving to improve and innovate our service offering and the value we provide. As the world's largest law firm, we leverage our expertise and resources to provide additional value to you, our clients.

Our CX programs will help you gain the insights you need to successfully drive the in-house legal agenda. We are excited to share the programs below, which are available to every client, everywhere.

30 January 2025, Exploring AI use in legal functions (download available)

13 February 2025, Global cybersecurity legal risk essentials

13 March 2025, Being an effective change leader

[Register now](#) for complimentary webinars.

What you might have missed in 2024

AI regulation and policy in Africa

One of our most popular articles in 2024, this Dentons insight from June 2024 illustrates the varying levels of AI regulation in Africa by unpacking the approaches of some key African jurisdictions, in the context of the draft AI policy of the African Union (AU), to AI regulation.

Check it out [here](#).



New rankings solidifying our global capabilities and position as a go-to firm in Uganda

In December 2024, Dentons Uganda was upgraded by IFLR1000 to Tier 3 for both financial and corporate legal services in Uganda, and our Managing Partner Pearl Nyakabwa was ranked alongside our Chairman and Senior Partner David Mpanga as Highly Regarded, as well as Senior Associate Esther Ntale being listed as a Rising Star.



Dentons was also ranked among the top law firms in Uganda by Chambers Global Legal Guide 2025 (Band 3: General Business Law), with Chairman and Senior Partner David Mpanga, Managing Partner Pearl Nyakabwa and Partner Dennis Otiatiina also being recognised among the top business lawyers in Uganda.



Dentons’ team is efficient, knowledgeable and balanced. They cut across from small deals to the big deals and offer strong market and sector knowledge.

The firm is able to understand matters quickly and provide advice that is commercial and practical.

— Clients’ quotes – Dentons

Dennis Otiatiina “takes time to go through every aspect of each circumstance. If I have questions, he breaks them down in more detail.”

— Client’s quote – Dennis Otiatiina

“When complex issues arise, we know we can call on [Pearl Nyakabwa’s] expertise”.

— Client’s quote – Pearl Nyakabwa



Dentons Uganda is the law firm of choice for clients and top talent, and we thank all our clients for their feedback and recognising our commitment to enhancing client services!

Dentons leads industry with women at the helm in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania

At Dentons, our commitment to excellence in leadership and delivering the best solutions for our clients is unwavering. We know that more representative teams deliver better results. We were thrilled to announce a significant milestone for our Firm in October 2024 - women now lead more than half of our Dentons offices in Africa: [Sigee Koech](#), Managing Partner, Kenya, [Pearl Nyakabwa](#), Managing Partner, Uganda, [Stella Ndikimi](#), Managing Partner, Tanzania, [Priscilla Balgobin-Bhojrul](#), Senior Partner, Mauritius, [Emanuela Vunge](#), Managing Partner, Angola, [Amalia Garrine](#), Partner, Mozambique and [Taiwo Afonja](#), Managing Partner, Nigeria.

We remain deeply committed to providing outstanding service and innovative solutions to our clients across Africa and beyond. Our Africa leaders recently joined Kate Broer, Global Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Officer, at our Africa Partner Meeting to share the experiences that led to their current roles and how they have used their positions to provide better service to clients and deliver exceptional results – within their countries, across Africa and around the world.

Read more about this significant milestone [here](#).

Stronger in 2025

We hope you have enjoyed our Outlook 2025 as we all look forward to a stronger 2025 together.

At Dentons Uganda, we are committed to supporting our clients in navigating the complexities of legal and regulatory developments. Whether it is new laws, policies or guidelines, or groundbreaking court decisions or even global best practices that influence business in Uganda, our expert team is here to assist you every step of the way.

Contact us today via email at pearl.nyakabwa@dentons.com to learn how we can help address your needs in 2025.

