



## Uganda's Vision 2040 and Human Needs Promotion

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### Abstract

In 2013 the President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni launched Uganda's Vision 2040, a thirty-year development master plan which has received both praise and criticism from Ugandans. Although Vision 2040 has received both praise and criticism in almost equal measure, in this article I argue that Vision 2040 does not adequately promote the satisfaction of the human needs of Ugandans, yet the satisfaction of these needs is a prerequisite for achieving genuine development. Using a human needs framework in general, and Doyal and Gough's intermediate needs in particular, I show that the Vision's strategies adequately promote the satisfaction of only three intermediate needs of Ugandans, partially promote the satisfaction of seven intermediate needs of Ugandans, and that there is no single strategy to promote the satisfaction of one of the intermediate needs. This is because some of the Vision strategies do not adequately tackle the current and likely future challenges and bottlenecks to the satisfaction of the human needs of Ugandans. This is mainly due to the central role placed on the private capital (sector) in Vision 2040. I argue that in order for Vision 2040 to adequately promote the satisfaction of the human needs of Ugandans, all and not just some of the needs must be adequately satisfied since human needs are interrelated and interdependent. In addition, Vision 2040 should also be in position to satisfy the human needs of all Ugandans and not just some.

### Résumé

En 2013, le président de l'Ouganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, a lancé la Vision 2040 de l'Ouganda, un plan directeur de développement de trente ans qui a reçu des éloges mais aussi des critiques de la part des Ougandais. Bien que la Vision 2040 ait reçu des éloges et des critiques à parts presque égales, je soutiens dans cet article que la Vision 2040 ne favorise pas suffisamment

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la satisfaction des besoins humains des Ougandais. Cependant, la satisfaction de ces besoins est une condition préalable à la réalisation d'un véritable développement. En utilisant le cadre des besoins humains en général, et les besoins intermédiaires de Doyal et Gough en particulier, je montre que les stratégies de la vision promeuvent de manière adéquate la satisfaction de seulement trois besoins intermédiaires des Ougandais, promeuvent partiellement la satisfaction des sept besoins intermédiaires des Ougandais, et qu'il n'y a aucune stratégie pour promouvoir la satisfaction de l'un de ces besoins intermédiaires. C'est parce que certaines des stratégies de la Vision n'abordent pas de manière adéquate les actuels et éventuels défis et goulets d'étranglement liés à la satisfaction des besoins humains des Ougandais. Ceci est principalement dû au rôle central placé sur le capital (secteur) privé dans la Vision 2040. Je soutiens que, pour une promotion adéquate par la Vision 2040 de la satisfaction des besoins humains des Ougandais, tous les besoins, et pas seulement quelques-uns, doivent être satisfaits adéquatement, puisque les besoins humains sont interdépendants. En outre, la Vision 2040 devrait également être en mesure de satisfaire les besoins humains de tous les Ougandais mais pas seulement ceux de quelques-uns.

## **Introduction**

“Development” is a seductive term which has had connotations historically of the unfolding of a necessary path of progress. Its usage has often combined ideas of a necessity, influenceable change and fundamental improvement’ (Gasper 2004: 25). Gasper’s statement clearly explains why individuals, groups, governments and intergovernmental organizations engage in development agenda setting, which includes formulation of policies and plans. Development agenda-setting is all about achieving progress. In the same breath, the government of Uganda has designed and plans to implement Vision 2040 as a strategic master plan for Uganda’s development and progress. The master plan will guide the government’s investment actions, decisions and priorities. It contains strategies and interventions that target the physical, economic, political and social development of Uganda.

Although achieving progress/development is a good thing in itself, Streeten et al. (1981) remind us in their work on the basic needs approach that the main objective of any development undertaking is to offer opportunity for a full life to all human beings. This means that meeting human needs is a prerequisite for achieving human well-being and development. The government of Uganda, through Vision 2040, elaborates on what it intends to do in order to achieve development in Uganda. However, it is not clear how adequately the Vision promotes the satisfaction of the human needs of Ugandans. The objective of this article is to assess whether the Vision’s

proposed strategies adequately promote the satisfaction of human needs of Ugandans. Put differently, do the Vision's strategies promote the meeting of the human needs of all Ugandans? This will be judged based on whether the proposed strategies can adequately tackle the current and likely future challenges and bottlenecks to meeting the human needs of Ugandans.

I start by giving a brief summary of Vision 2040, where the Vision's statement, challenges to Uganda's development, aspirations, targets, fundamentals and opportunities, social transformation, and governance strategies are discussed. The justification for using the human needs framework in general, and a theory of human need in particular, in analysing the adequacy of the Vision's strategies in terms of meeting the human needs of Ugandans is given. Here, the meaning of human needs and reasons for choosing the needs framework are presented. In addition, a theory of human need is discussed, including the meaning of needs, primary and intermediate needs. This is followed by the analysis of adequacy of the Vision's strategies to meet the human needs of Ugandans using the satisfaction of intermediate needs as a yardstick. The conclusion shows that the Vision does not adequately promote the meeting of human needs of all Ugandans because it only partially promotes the satisfaction of most of the intermediate needs of Ugandans.

### **Summary of Vision 2040**

The National Planning Authority, in line with its mandate of designing comprehensive, visionary and integrated plans for the country, developed Uganda's Vision 2040 (Republic of Uganda (ROU) 2002). As earlier indicated, the Vision is a thirty-year strategic development plan for Uganda. It was launched by the President of Uganda in 2013; meaning that by the time of its launch, its implementation had already commenced. The Vision has many attributes but the key ones are the Vision statement, aspirations, targets, Vision fundamentals and opportunities, social transformation and governance (ROU n.d.). The Vision statement, which is its overall objective is 'a transformed Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years' (ROU n.d.: 4). According to the Vision, this statement means transforming Uganda from a predominantly low income country to a competitive upper middle income country (ROU n.d.).

In order for the Vision statement to become a reality, Vision 2040 has to tackle ten challenges to Uganda's development. These are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Challenges to Uganda's Development

<b>Challenges to Uganda's development</b>	
1	Slow accumulation of modern infrastructure
2	Low industrialization and value addition on (GDP is dominated by primary products)
3	Inadequate properly skilled and educated human resource
4	High rates of corruption which increases the cost of doing business and service delivery
5	Limited government investment in strategic industries which stimulate establishment of secondary and tertiary industries
6	Low level of saving and inadequate revenue collection which have hindered government's ability to finance public investments and availability of cheap investment capital
7	Unfavourable demographic profile where half of the population is below 15 years. Since they are dependants, they cannot work and use a bulk of the public services
8	Low competitiveness of Uganda's goods and services on the global market
9	Weak public sector management and administration (weak policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, inadequate civic participation, overlapping mandates, oversized public administration, etc.)
10	Lack of a clear and well defined national ideology to guide the country's development.

*Source:* adapted from Vision 2040, pp. 5–7.

Through nationwide consultations with Ugandans, the agreed upon Vision aspirations concerning the development of Uganda are: living and working in a peaceful, secure and harmonious country; having access to affordable quality health care and education, clean environment and green economy; world class infrastructure and services; unity in diversity and equal opportunities; a highly moral and ethical society; and a resourceful and prosperous population (ROU n.d.). Pages 13–15 spell out the Vision's targets, which are also considered as the development indicators. These will be used to assess and measure progress in achieving the Vision. These are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Vision targets

No	Vision target	Baseline status: 2010	Target 2040
1	Increase per capita income	US\$ 506	US\$ 9,500
2	Reduce the percentage of population below the poverty line	24.5	5
3	Reduce GINI coefficient (income distribution)	0.43	0.32
4	Increase the percentage share of national labour force employed	70.9	94
5	Reduce population growth rate	3.2	2.4
6	Increase the percentage of population accessing safe piped water	15	100
7	Increase the percentage of population having access to electricity	11	80
8	Increase the percentage of population in planned settlements	0 rural 51 urban	100
9	Increase life expectancy at birth	51.5 years	85 years
10	Reduce infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	63	4
11	Reduce maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	438	15
12	Reduce under 5 mortality rate per 1000	96	8
13	Reduce the percentage of under 5 child stunting	33	0
14	Increase literacy rate	73%	95%
15	Increase electricity consumption (kWh per capita)	75	3668
16	Increase water consumption (cubic meters per capita)	26	600
17	Increase innovations as measured by patents registered per year	3	6000
18	Increase the percentage of standard paved roads to total road network	4	80
19	Increase labour productivity (GDP per worker)	USD 1017	USD 19770
20	Increase forest cover (percentage land area)	15	24
21	Increase wetland cover – percentage of total area	8	13

Source: adapted from Vision 2040, pp. 13–15.

In order to achieve the above Vision targets, the government plans to strengthen the fundamentals so as to harness opportunities. The fundamentals are resources with capacity to maximize benefits and returns from the economy. The fundamentals to be strengthened include science, technology, engineering and innovation, peace, security and defence, the country's human resource, transport infrastructure and services, energy, urbanization, and land use and management. The opportunities to be harnessed as a result of strengthening of the fundamentals are tourism potential, an abundant labour force, potential growth of ICT services, abundant water resources, industrialization potential, the availability of a variety of minerals, the availability of commercially viable oil and gas deposits, strategic geographical location within Africa and trade opportunities, and agriculture potential (ROU n.d.).

In terms of social transformation, the Vision aspires to improve the health and nutrition of the population, education and literacy, housing, care and protection of vulnerable groups, develop a national culture, promote gender equality and women's empowerment, protect the environment and natural resources, and tackle climate change and its challenges. These will ensure that Ugandans enjoy a high quality standard of living. On the side of governance, the government plans to consolidate good governance by promoting constitutional democracy, the protection of human rights, rule of law, free and fair electoral and political processes, transparency and accountability, citizen participation in the development processes, and peace, defence and security of citizens and the country (ROU n.d.).

The summary of the Vision shows that it is comprehensive, having aspirations in the physical, political, economic and social aspects of development. It also shows that it has clear targets to be achieved, and a well laid down strategy (strengthening the fundamentals to harness the opportunities) of achieving the targets. However, what remains to be understood is whether implementation and achieving of the Vision automatically translate into adequate satisfaction of the human needs of all Ugandans. This puzzle is solved by using the needs framework in general and a theory of human need in particular to analyse the adequacy of the Vision's strategies. The analysis will show whether the Vision's strategies adequately address the present and likely future challenges and bottlenecks to meeting of the human needs of Ugandans.

### **Justification for Using the Human Needs Framework**

There is substantial literature (Alkire 2005; Doyal and Gough 1991; Gasper 2004; International Labour Organization (ILO) 1976; Max-Neef 1991; Stewart 1996; 2006; Streeten et al. 1981) discussing the role of human

needs in societies' development. Although this is the case, it is a very hard task to define the term 'needs'. This is because the term is used variously in everyday life and academic fields (philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics and development studies). However, this article adopts Gasper's (2004: 134) definition of needs as 'requisites for meeting a given end'. This is because, as Gasper argues, this definition leads to policy-oriented definitions which focus on specified justified requisites. Since this paper is analysing a development policy document, this definition serves the purpose. Important to note is that the term 'needs' is used in both dispositional (needing by virtue of being human) and occurrent (needing as a state of lack) senses in this article (Reader 2006).

The reason for using this framework is that human needs focus on the real concerns of people for guaranteeing their quality of life (Doyal and Gough 1991; ILO 1976; Max-Neef 1991; Streeten et al. 1981). In order to achieve an acceptable quality of life of a particular society, the human needs of its population must be adequately satisfied (Doyal and Gough 1991). This means that it is only through the satisfaction of human needs that human well-being can be promoted and guaranteed. I maintain that to assess how developed a particular society is, one has to look at the level of satisfaction of the needs of its population. Satisfaction of needs in a particular society, as Clarke and Langan (1998) argue, reveals much about the nature of that particular society. Apart from the satisfaction of human needs ensuring human survival, it also ensures that human beings are healthy (physically, mentally, socially and emotionally) and function normally (flourish). Secondly, if people are to genuinely participate in the development process of their country, their basic needs must be adequately satisfied. This is because it is only the healthy who can optimally participate in any form of activity (Doyal and Gough 1991). Non-satisfaction of human needs or inadequately meeting human needs implies denying some people the opportunity to optimally participate in development. Such a situation undermines development since, as Max-Neef (1991: 16) argues: 'development is about people and not about objects'.

If development is about people, as Max-Neef (1991) argues, then there should be adequate satisfaction of the human needs of a concerned population if development is to take place. I argue that satisfaction of human needs is both an end and a means to development. A means to development in that it ensures that members of a particular society have health, which is a prerequisite for optimally participating in any activity and normal functioning. As I have already noted, it is only the healthy who can genuinely participate in the development process. Genuine development is development that ensures mutual benefits and opportunities to all

members of a particular society. Development should be for all regardless of age, gender, level of education, location/place of residence and family background, etc. and not only for some members of society. It is an end in itself in that adequate satisfaction of human needs in a particular society is an indicator of development since it guarantees people's well-being and quality of life. This understanding is shared by Doyal and Gough (1991) in their theory of human need.

### **A Theory of Human Need**

Although there are a number of needs theories such as Abraham Maslow's hierarchical theory (Maslow 1970), Manfred Max-Neef's matrix (Max-Neef 1991) and the ILO's basic needs approach (ILO 1976), Len Doyal and Ian Gough's theory of human need (THN) (1991) is selected for the task of analysing the Vision's adequacy in promoting the satisfaction of the human needs of Ugandans. This is because THN looks at human needs as universal goals which apply to all human beings regardless of one's culture or society. Secondly, THN maintains that societies have an obligation to meet these human needs (Dean 2010; Doyal and Gough 1991; Phillip 2006; Scott 2012). This means that Uganda as a state and community has an obligation to meet the needs of all Ugandans.

In addition, THN conforms to Alkire's (2005) suggestion of framing needs in a general way, which allows both universal application and local specification and implementation. In line with Alkire's suggestion, THN needs are universal, but their satisfiers (actual goods and services) vary from one society to another (Gough 2000). This means that although the primary and intermediate needs apply to all cultures, their satisfiers are relative (applying to specific local contexts). Also, THN looks at these universal goals as prerequisites for a given end and not merely satisfying human biological desires. This is in line with Gasper's definition of needs adopted by this paper as earlier indicated. Lastly, the theory has a logical and relational four-step process of explaining human needs. This also fits well with Braybrooke's (1987) suggested relational formula to be followed while discussing human needs. The relational formula helps us to understand the importance of the claimed needs, and reduce the confusion that arises due to the various usages of the term needs (Braybrooke 1987).

According to THN, human needs are universal goals that every individual is pursuing. The universal goal is avoiding serious objective harm. Put differently, the objective harm is the impaired social participation of an individual. This is because individuals pursue their goals, whether private or public, with others. When human needs are not adequately satisfied,

individuals suffer from serious objective harm (impaired social participation). In order to void the serious objective harm, human beings have two primary needs, physical health and autonomy, which must be optimally satisfied. For any individual to successfully participate in the life of their society or any form of activity, s/he needs both physical health and autonomy. Physical health includes manual, mental and emotional abilities of an individual while autonomy refers to an individual's capability to initiate action by formulating and implementing aims and strategies to achieve his or her goals. In order to optimally satisfy primary needs, an individual should minimally satisfy universal intermediate needs (Doyal and Gough 1991; Scott 2012).

Doyal and Gough (1991) define intermediate needs as objects, activities, relationships, goods and services that satisfy the primary needs, physical health and autonomy. They are universal because they share universal satisfier characteristics in all cultures and societies. Intermediate needs include adequate nutritional food and safe water, protective housing, a non-hazardous work environment, a non-hazardous physical environment, adequate health care, appropriate education, security in childhood, physical security, economic security, safe birth control and child-bearing, and significant primary relationships. The specific satisfiers to the intermediate needs vary from one culture and society.

In addition, Doyal and Gough (1991) discuss four societal pre-conditions (production, reproduction, cultural transmission and authority) that must be satisfied in order for societies to survive and flourish. However, these pre-conditions are not useful for the current task. This article is assessing the adequacy of the Vision's strategies in promoting the meeting of intermediate needs of individual Ugandans. As earlier indicated, it is the satisfaction of intermediate needs that results in optimal satisfaction of the primary needs (physical health and autonomy), which leads to achieving the end of avoiding serious objective harm. When the harm is avoided, one can genuinely participate in development processes. However, avoidance of objective harm is also an indicator of one's well-being or quality of life. In the next section, the analysis of the adequacy of the Vision's strategies in promoting the satisfaction of human needs follows.

### **Analysis of the Vision's Adequacy Using THN**

This article uses intermediate needs for the analysis because it is the intermediate needs which are the universal satisfiers of the two universal basic needs (physical health and autonomy). Again, satisfying the two universal basic needs leads to achievement of the universal goal of avoidance of serious objective harm (impaired participation). Important to note from

the onset of the analysis of the Vision is that it makes a commitment to provide assistance to vulnerable groups based on age, social class, gender, location, disability, disaster and income so that these groups are able to meet their intermediate needs. The government plans to achieve this by establishing social welfare systems (ROU n.d.).

### ***Adequate Nutritional Food and Safe Water***

According to the THN, the first intermediate need is adequate nutritional food and water. Individuals need an adequate intake of energy and other nutrients such as proteins, vitamins and iodine if they are to have physical health and function normally (Doyal and Gough 1991). The Vision contains aspects that are promoting the satisfaction of this need, especially in the sections on strengthening the fundamentals for harnessing opportunities and social transformation. For instance, the Vision targets 10, 12 and 13 in Table 2 are related to nutritious food and safe water (ROU n.d.). It is inadequate nutritional food and unsafe water which are partly responsible for child stunting and infant mortality.

The government plans to achieve the above targets by improving the nutritional status of the population, especially of young children and women of reproductive age, and improving access to safe water. This will partly be achieved through the modernization of the country's agricultural sector from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. The government plans to invest in the development of irrigation schemes, mechanization and improved technology especially in seed and animal breeding. Agricultural extension services will also be prioritized so that farmers have improved access to information, knowledge and technologies. Also, in order to reduce wastage and guarantee food security and livelihoods of Ugandans, agro-processing will be championed (ROU n.d.).

If the above strategies are implemented, food quantities and agricultural production may increase. However, it is not clear whether the likely increased agricultural production and food quantities will improve the nutritional status of Ugandans so as to achieve the above targets. It is one thing for the population to have plenty of food and another thing to have nutritious food. A country may produce a lot of food, but the population ends up not consuming the required nutrient combinations so as to have a balanced diet. For instance, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) (2011) reports that child stunting was higher (42 per cent) among children with mothers with no education than among children with mothers with secondary or higher education (25 per cent). In addition, urban areas had lower levels (19 per cent) of child stunting than rural areas (36 per cent). This means that it

is mothers with good enough knowledge on food intake combinations that will avoid having stunted children while those, especially in the rural areas with little knowledge, will have stunted children even if food availability improves.

Also related to the availability of food not directly translating into having adequate nutritional food is that a country can produce a lot of food which is not consumed by those who produce it. This is likely to happen, especially with the expanding regional food market in South Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda. For instance, a report on fish production, supply and demand in eastern Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo by Defaux and Hjort (2012) indicates an increase in demand for fish, a very important source of body building elements, in Burundi, Egypt, DRC, Kenya and Rwanda among other countries. Without a policy regulating trade in some important food items, most families or producers may choose to sell their food products to where demand and prices are highest. This will result in prices of these products being high in Uganda. This probably explains why it is only 27 per cent of children between 0 and 23 months who consumed meat, fish or poultry, and 8 per cent who consumed eggs (UBOS 2011).

One may argue that income from food sales can be used to meet other needs. This is however not likely to happen. Uganda is still a predominantly a patriarchal society, especially in rural areas, where money from food sales is likely to be spent on meeting men's (family heads') wants rather than the needs of family members. For instance, UBOS (2011: 217) notes that 'only 38 percent of currently married women participate in all three decisions pertaining to their health care, major household purchases, and visits to their family or relatives'. Such a situation does not guarantee that the finances from sales will be used to meet other human family needs.

Although the government plans to increase food security and the livelihood of Ugandans, it seems this is not its main focus. For instance, the Vision in relation to food production indicates:

The opportunity for value addition through agro-processing is enormous. This will enhance Uganda's competitiveness on the world market, boost foreign exchange earnings and employment. It can also reduce wastage, enhance food security, improve livelihoods for low-income groups of society like rural women, youth and the disabled (ROU n.d.: 45).

From the quote, it is clear that food security is secondary while the primary objective is to improve the performance of the economy. In any case, as earlier indicated, food security does not necessarily mean improvement in one's nutritional status. One can have food security but that food may not offer all the required or recommended food nutrients.

It also remains to be seen whether the stated strategies to transform the agricultural sector will be implemented. The government has invested very few resources in the agriculture sector. For instance, in the budget of the financial year 2012/13 the agricultural sector was allocated 585.3 billion shillings, and this figure went down to 394.4 billion shillings in the budget of 2013/14 (GOU 2012; 2013). This is because, in the words of the finance minister: 'agriculture is a private sector activity, for which Government will continue to provide targeted support towards its further development in research, seed multiplication and certification, extension services and disease control' (GOU 2013: 32). It is however a known fact that private capital, whether local or foreign, only invests where it anticipates quick and high profits. The private sector, as is the case currently, may be reluctant to invest in the agricultural sector which is affected by multiple uncertainties and where it is hard to accurately predict likely profits.

In terms of access to safe water, the government plans to extend piped water to all regions of the country and also engage in the bulk treatment of water as Vision targets 6 and 16 in Table 2 indicate (ROU n.d.). According to the Vision, access to safe water will reduce hygiene- and sanitation-related diseases, and hence improve the health status of the population. Although the Vision says a lot on water consumption and development, it seems commercial consumption (that is water for irrigation, livestock rearing, fisheries and aqua-culture, water transport and tourism) rather than human consumption is the primary objective. This is because, the Vision states, 'the water related economic activities are expected to generate revenue for the country over the vision period. It is projected that it will provide employment and more jobs are expected in the secondary and tertiary industries associated to this' (ROU n.d.: 65).

It may be argued that the revenue mentioned in the above quote can also accrue from domestic consumption rather than commercial consumption. Granted, however, we should not ignore the fact that if the goal is revenue generation, water prices are likely to be high so as to achieve the goal. As such, some domestic consumers may be unable to pay, and resort to unsafe alternatives. It is also a known fact that in a market economy, goods and services go not only to where demand is highest, but also where prices are highest. And Uganda is a free market economy in practice. In support of this argument, the government in a bid to generate more revenue in the national budget proposals for the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14 imposed 18 per cent Value Added Tax on piped water for domestic consumption (GOU 2012; 2013). Important to note is that all this is happening when the Vision is already in place and supposedly being implemented. The implication

of this tax is that safe piped water automatically becomes more costly to domestic consumers. This means that Ugandans in low income brackets previously using piped water may not be able to afford it, and thus resort to unsafe alternatives. This exposes them to water-borne infections and diseases which will negatively affect their health. Since the government's main concern is to generate revenue, priority to access safe water is likely to be given to commercial entities that are able to pay higher fees.

The government's total suggested strategies in terms of food and water production do not address the challenges to meeting adequately the need of nutritional food and safe water. This means that the nutritional and safe water needs of Ugandan mothers with less or no education and their children, of Ugandans in low income brackets and of less empowered women will not adequately be met. Therefore, health and autonomy will elude them, and they will end up not genuinely participating in the development process of the country.

### ***Protective Housing***

If the needs of physical health and autonomy are to be satisfied, human beings need adequate protective housing. According to Doyal and Gough (1991), a person's housing should be able to protect him or her from physical, social and environmental related dangers such as pests, dangerous animals, heat, rain, cold and interruptions from others. Housing should be of adequate space to guarantee privacy and avoid crowding, and of adequate quality to protect someone from dangerous animals and weather conditions (Doyal and Gough 1991). The Vision notes the problems associated with housing for Ugandans. Although 60 per cent of Ugandans live in relatively decent housing (iron sheet roofing and brick walls), most of the houses in Uganda have poor facilities. Only 12 per cent use electricity for lighting while 66 per cent use 'Tadooba'; 95 per cent use wood fuels (fire wood and charcoal) for cooking, and 86 per cent use a pit latrine. The use of wood fuels and 'Tadooba' pose health risks to the occupants due to the heat, smoke and dust emitted (ROU n.d.).

In order to address the housing challenges and promote satisfaction of the need of protective housing, the government has set out to achieve Vision targets 6, 7, 8 and 15 as shown in Table 2. In addition, all Ugandans will have access to modern toilet facilities by 2040. This will be achieved through a country-wide rural electrification programme. The government specifically plans to achieve the target of all Ugandans having decent housing by constructing 12.6 million new housing units through a public-private partnership. This will improve the sanitation status of households (ROU

n.d.). If all these strategies are implemented, Ugandans may have access to protective housing, especially from mosquitoes since malaria/fever was the second most reported illness (19 per cent) Ugandans suffered from in 2012/13 (UBOS 2013a). In addition, the reported cases of house break-ins (1,820 in 2012) (Uganda Police 2013) are likely to substantially decline.

Satisfying the need for protective housing may however remain a dream. The government of Uganda believes in private sector-led development as the President of Uganda has stressed over and over again. In fact, the Vision's strategy of constructing the 12.6 million housing units will be through a public-private partnership. However, private capital only invests where it will maximize profit. It is therefore unlikely that private capital will invest in the housing sector where most Ugandans will not be able to buy or rent houses at a desirable and competitive profit margin. Although 81.5 per cent of Uganda's working population are self-employed, most of them are engaged in subsistence activities such as fishing and crop farming. In fact, in 2012/13, the population of working poor (below the national poverty line of \$1 per day) was 2.3 million (UBOS 2013a). These Ugandans may not be able to either buy or rent houses built through a public-private partnership. They may opt to continue residing in poor quality houses where they pay affordable rental fees or reside free of charge. In addition, they may not be able to pay the electricity and water bills, hence hindering the utilization of the two services. For instance, UBOS (2013a) reports a very big variance between the use of electricity for lighting (14 per cent) and cooking (1 per cent). It is only the one per cent who can afford to pay electricity bills for both lighting and cooking. The remaining 13 per cent resorts to wood fuels, as earlier indicated. This means achieving health will remain elusive to this segment of the population. And that this need will not be adequately met.

### ***A Non-hazardous Work Environment***

Adequate satisfaction of the need of a non-hazardous work environment promotes physical health and autonomy. Doyal and Gough (1991) argue that work can negatively affect health and autonomy in three ways: excessive working hours, occupational injury and illnesses, and excessively repetitive work. The government's Vision has targets 4 and 19 (in Table 2) and strategies of achieving the targets which are related to the population's work (ROU n.d.). Although the government does not have strategies specifically focusing on creating employment and labour productivity of the population, investment in all the identified Vision's opportunities save for two (abundant labour force, and geographical location and trade opportunities) will in one way or another create employment opportunities.

The Vision's employment opportunities include tourism, agriculture, oil and gas, mineral, industrialization, ICT sector and water resources. For instance, in relation to the creation of employment through agriculture development, the Vision states:

Uganda aspires to transform the agriculture sector from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. This will make agriculture profitable, competitive and sustainable to provide food and income security to all the people of Uganda. It will also create employment opportunities along the entire commodity value chain of production, processing and marketing (ROU n.d.: 45).

Development in the above sectors in general and the agriculture sector in particular, as indicated by the above quote, if implemented, may stem the high youth unemployment rate which is around 61.6 per cent (Action Aid International Uganda 2012). This is because the agricultural, forestry and fishing sectors in their current subsistence state employ a majority (73 per cent) of Ugandans (UBOS 2013a). This means that its commercial transformation will create more employment opportunities that will absorb the un- and under-employed youth.

Although the Vision aspires to create employment opportunities by developing the above seven sectors, the Vision is silent about whether the employment opportunities to be created will be non-hazardous. As earlier indicated, development in Uganda is private sector-led, and the government only plays the role of guaranteeing a conducive investment environment. Because the government's objective is to create employment opportunities, it may not be bothered about ensuring that private companies guarantee a non-hazardous work environment to their workers. Private capital in a bid to maximize profits, since that is its main goal, may attempt to avoid incurring costs that would guarantee a non-hazardous work environment.

In such a situation, workers may work for long hours, without adequate safety gear and equipment and in an unhygienic environment. For instance, the government of Uganda has resisted demands by workers to establish a realistic minimum wage. This is on account that doing so will scare away private investors who are creating employment opportunities. The government argues that when jobs become plenty, wages will automatically rise. Uganda's minimum wage was last set in 1984 and fixed at 6,000 shillings (= \$2.4) per month. This minimum wage is outdated and cannot guarantee a decent living. Although only 18.5 per cent of Uganda's working population is in paid employment (UBOS 2013a), this population is at the mercy of employers over matters of remuneration. It is employers who decide how much and when wages will be paid. For instance, the monthly median pay for secondary teachers is 140,000 shillings (= \$56) (UBOS

n.d.). This means that there are teachers who receive monthly pay below 140,000 shillings. In addition, there is a huge difference in the monthly average pay for secondary school teachers in private (209,658 shillings = \$84) and public (340,000 shillings = \$136) sectors (UBOS n.d.). These two examples illustrate my point of workers being at the mercy of employers in a situation of the absence of a realistic minimum wage.

These low wages may force workers to work for long hours or take on an extra job so as to earn extra income. In addition, a person paid low wages will always be thinking about how to make ends meet. Although not identifying it as the cause, UBOS (n.d.) indicates that the lowest paid occupation had the highest number of hours worked per week. For instance, school matrons and waitress/waiters with a median monthly pay of 80,000 shillings (= \$32) worked for 74.5 and 62.7 hours per week respectively. Security guards and cooks/chefs with a median monthly pay of 65,000 shillings (= \$26) and 70,000 shillings (= \$28) worked for 72 and 61.3 hours per week respectively. The hours worked in each of these four occupations are far above the average hours worked (53 per week) by all the occupations considered in the study, and the statutory maximum hours (48) per week (GOU 2006). This is detrimental to one's health. In a country where the majority of the country's labour force are ignorant of existing labour and employment laws, both physical and emotional abuse is inevitable. All this is likely to continue to happen because the main focus of the Vision is creating employment opportunities rather than creating non-hazardous employment opportunities which guarantee employees' physical, economic, social and emotional well-being. This means that the need of a non-hazardous work environment for some Ugandans will not be adequately met, and thus some Ugandans will not be able to genuinely participate in the country's development processes.

### ***A Non-hazardous Physical Environment***

This need focuses on a community's physical environment. The environment (air, water and land) must be free from pollution (Doyal and Gough 1991). Pollution of the environment can negatively affect one's health. The Vision has some targets (20 and 21) in Table 2 and strategies that relate to improvement of the physical environment. The Vision also aims to create a green and clean environment, where water and air pollution will be non-existent. The government will achieve this through ensuring compliance with the existing environment and laws and policies on natural resources such as the National Environment Act and the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (ROU n.d.).

Still, the government aims at ensuring sustainable environment utilization by making a commitment to adhering to the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and implementing the resolutions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Efforts to restore and add value to the eco-system (wetlands, forests, range lands and catchments) will be implemented. This will mainly include re-forestation and afforestation on both private and public land. The population's participation will be promoted. In addition, gazettement of vital wetlands will be implemented so as to increase their protection. The government will also adopt patterns of production, consumption and reproduction that safeguard the environment. There will also be development, adoption and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. It will also engage in partnership and cooperation with the international community on environmental sustainability. In all these, the engagement and role of civil society will be championed (ROU n.d.). If all these strategies are implemented, the need of a non-hazardous physical environment is likely to be adequately satisfied.

### ***Appropriate Health Care***

In addition to the above intermediate needs, one needs health care in order to satisfy the need of physical health and autonomy. The health care need focuses on preventive, curative and palliative medical services (Doyal and Gough 1991). In order for this need to be adequately satisfied, health care must be available, accessible and utilized. The Vision has targets (9, 10, 11, 12 and 13) in Table 2 and achieving them one way or another means improvements in meeting health care needs.

In order to achieve the above targets, the Vision has clear strategies in the health sector. The government plans to move away from the facility-based health service delivery system to a household one, where healthy practices and lifestyles will be promoted. The government will also move away from a public-centred to a public-private partnership system. This new system will prioritize preventive services over curative ones. The Vision maintains that preventive services are cheaper and sustainable since they are rarely delivered by highly skilled professionals. These services will be provided at a community level. In addition, the government plans to roll out a universal health insurance system, which will guarantee easy access to health care services. The government, in partnership with the private sector, also plans to build specialist health care centres to treat specialized health conditions that are currently treated outside the country. Specialized training and increasing remuneration for health workers are integral to this strategy (ROU n.d.).

The proposed strategies, if implemented, may address current health care availability, access and utilization challenges. For instance, only one in every ten people who were sick (40 per cent) consulted a health provider. The reasons for not seeking health care are indicated in Table 3.

**Table 3:** Reasons for not seeking health care

Reason	Percentage
Illness was mild	42
Available health facilities being costly	17
Health facility being far	10
Health facility being inaccessible	4
Health facility having no drugs	8
Staff related reasons	3
Other reasons	15

*Source:* adapted from UBOS 2013a: 78.

In fact, 17 and 33 per cent of health centres II and III respectively experienced staff absenteeism in the twelve months preceding the study. On the side of drugs, 32.6, 33.4 and 32.4 per cent of health centres IIs, IIIs and IVs respectively experienced drug stock out of the six tracer drugs in the two months preceding the study (UBOS 2013a). Implementation of these strategies is likely also to reduce health facility-based mortality from malaria (21.5 per cent), pneumonia (9.7 per cent), anaemia (5.9 per cent), and respiratory infections (5.3 per cent) (UBOS 2013b). This will ensure that the population's need for physical health is satisfied and hence they will genuinely participate in the development process of the country.

However, what is not clear is whether the government will subsidize universal health insurance for the poor. As earlier indicated, the population of Uganda's working poor is 2.3 million and 7.5 million are below the poverty line (UBOS 2013a). It is possible these were among the 17 per cent who could not utilize health care services because they were perceived to be costly.

### ***Security in Childhood***

Unlike the other intermediate needs that apply to all human beings, this applies only to children. This is because of the length and centrality of the childhood development phase. Secondly, its satisfaction has an impact on human autonomy in adulthood. In order to adequately satisfy this need, children should have a dependable and strong relationship with parents or parent substitutes, opportunities for new experiences to foster emotional,

cognitive and social development, praise, recognition and positive feedback, and parents gradually extending responsibilities to children (Doyal and Gough 1991). The Vision has three targets (10, 12 and 13) in Table 2 that relate to security in childhood.

The government plans to achieve the above targets through food security and improvement in the nutritional status of children and women of reproductive age, formulating and implementing a school feeding policy, and a preventive health services delivery system (ROU n.d.). In addition, adoption and implementation of gender-based policies will allow women with young children to have flexible working conditions (working from home and flexible working hours) which will also contribute to the satisfaction of the need of security in childhood. This is because these mothers will be able to engage in longer periods of breast feeding, have time to play with the children, and also develop emotional attachment with their children.

In addition, the commitment by the government to eliminate gender-based violence will aid the satisfaction of this need. This is because children will be protected from the physical and psychological effects of gender-based violence. The effects include physical bodily harm, mental breakdown and trauma, poor performance at school, and children learning violent behaviours which they may practice in adulthood. The government, in collaboration with social, cultural and community groups, will also put emphasis on ensuring that girls stay in school by removing institutional, gender and cultural barriers. It will also eliminate early marriage and child sacrifice (ROU n.d.). If all these strategies are implemented, problems such as girl or child marriages, child labour, malnutrition, etc. may be reduced, and thus the need of security in childhood adequately satisfied. This will ensure that children will genuinely participate in the country's development process in their adulthood.

### ***Significant Primary Relationships***

According to Doyal and Gough (1991), in order for human beings to have their need for autonomy satisfied, they should have adequate significant primary relationships. These relationships (networks of individuals and friends) provide an educative and emotionally secure environment to an individual. The relationships are made up of both primary support groups (moral networks/normative reference groups) and close and confiding groups. These networks are very crucial, especially since they are a source of support when one has problems. Since human beings are social beings (live and do things with others), isolation or loneliness negatively affect their physical health, particularly mental and emotional health. Relationships act

as buffers against the negative effects of loneliness and isolation. Doyal and Gough (1991) argue that people in developed and industrialized countries are more affected by the absence of strong primary support groups than those in the developing countries.

Apart from the strategy of granting nursing mothers flexible working hours and working from home so that they can spend more time with their children, the Vision has nothing more that relates to the satisfaction of this need. This could be because this need is currently adequately satisfied since in most developing countries, residents or citizens still have relatively strong primary relationships. However, the Vision should have spelt out strategies to ensure that the continued meeting of this need is not compromised in future.

### ***Economic Security***

In order to ensure that an individual has both physical health and autonomy, s/he has to have acceptable economic security. Economic security is about having financial, income or other resources to guarantee acceptable standards of living. This includes having an adequate diet or meals, amenities and other services that enable human beings to play their roles in society (Doyal and Gough 1991). This seems to be the main goal of the Vision. The government explains that transforming Uganda ‘involves changing from a predominantly low income country to a competitive upper middle income country within 30 years’ (ROU n.d.: 4). As such, the Vision has targets 1 to 4 in Table 2 aimed at achieving upper middle income status.

The government plans to achieve these targets by harnessing the identified opportunities presented above. The government will financially invest in these sectors by developing the infrastructure (roads, rail, water and air transport, hotels and energy) needed to accelerate investment in these opportunities. In addition, the government will invest in the training and development of Uganda’s human resource so that it can take up the employment opportunities created in the above sectors. Easy access to land for investment purposes will also be prioritized and promoted. In addition, the country’s stability in terms of peace and security will be promoted. In essence, the government will try to create a conducive investment environment which will attract both private and public-private investments in the above opportunities. In the case of the agriculture and mineral sectors, the government will develop processing industries so as to add value to the products from the two sectors. Apart from developments in these sectors bringing direct revenue to the government through taxation, they will also create employment opportunities for Ugandans. This way, Ugandans will earn incomes which will guarantee their economic security.

Developments in these sectors are likely to increase Ugandans' incomes. However, apart from the Vision having a target of reducing income inequality among Ugandans, it has no strategy aimed at ensuring equitable distribution of incomes from these sectors among Ugandans. It is likely that the incomes of the working poor (2.3 million) or the 7.5 million below the poverty line will not substantially change. It is possible for Uganda to achieve a per capita income of \$9,500 by 2040. However, this does not mean that each Ugandan will be earning \$9,500. This figure is a mere mean income, combining together Ugandans in high income brackets with those in low income brackets. For instance, although the average monthly household real income for Uganda is 223,000 shillings (= \$89.2), there is a huge difference between the real income of urban households at 392,000 shillings (= \$156.8) and rural households with 163,000 shillings (= \$65.2). In fact, there are also differences between households headed by males (243,000 shillings = \$97.2) and those headed by females (176,000 shillings = \$70.4) respectively. In addition, there are also differences between households headed by literate people (278,000 shillings = \$111.2) and those headed by illiterate people (117,000 shillings = \$46.8) respectively (UBOS 2013a).

To further illustrate my point, although urban households have a higher real income (392,000 shillings) than the rural households (163,000 shillings), there is higher income inequality among urban Ugandans (GINI co-efficient of 0.45) than among rural Ugandans (GINI co-efficient of 0.38) (UBSO 2013a). In a country with a private sector-led economy, it is the individual Ugandans who invest in strategic opportunities whose incomes will significantly increase. Without the government coming up with a clear strategy of ensuring equitable income distribution, the \$9,500 may well be the income of a small proportion of Ugandans. Income inequality, instead of reducing as aimed at by the Vision, may end up increasing.

As indicated earlier, the government may be able to create employment opportunities when it invests in the above sectors. However, having the availability of employment does not necessarily mean being paid decent wages comparable to the cost of living. A case in point is the 2.3 million working poor Ugandans. They are working but their income is below the national poverty line of one US dollar. As already pointed out, in a country where the government has resisted any demands for fixing a realistic minimum wage, it is possible that employees will be exploited by employers, especially in the private sector whose main aim is profit maximization. This means that this population segment will not be able to meet their daily necessities such as nutritional food, safe water and decent housing. Failure to meet these necessities means that this population cannot adequately

satisfy the need of economic security. This implies that they will not be able to genuinely participate in the country's development process.

### ***Physical Security***

In order for one's physical health and autonomy to be guaranteed, one needs physical security. This includes an environment free from criminality and generalized violence. This criminality and violence could be perpetuated by individuals, organized groups or state agencies (Doyal and Gough 1991) such as the police and military. Unlike most of the needs discussed above, the Vision has no outlined target to achieve the needs of physical security. However, the Vision has strategies that will ensure the security of individuals, their property and the country at large. At all levels, the government will promote good governance, peace building and conflict management. This will entail practising principles of justice, equality and the rule of law, democracy, equal representation, tolerance, equity and constructive dialogues and openness to others at local, national and international levels (ROU n.d.).

At a national level, the Vision plans to secure the country from any form of aggression by strengthening defence systems and having a professional army. Peaceful co-existence with neighbouring countries and the international community will also be prioritized. Measures to combat terrorism acts will also be adopted and promoted. On the side of securing people's security and their property, the Vision outlines strategies of promoting public-private cooperation and civil/community involvement in security matters, national and inter-community dialogue among ethnic groups and other interest groups as a way of conflict resolution, carrying out policy, legal and institutional reforms to ensure effective enforcement of law and order and reconciliation through increased access to information by the population (ROU n.d.). All these strategies are likely to ensure Ugandans' physical security. For instance, the involvement of all stakeholders (public, private and community sectors) in security matters means that physical security in any community is everybody's responsibility. This will increase community members' vigilance over security matters and ensure that criminality and physical violence are detected early and preventive measures taken.

It is important to point out that the Vision makes special mention of gender-based violence and criminality. The Vision makes a commitment to tackle it so as to ensure the physical security of all Ugandans currently suffering from it. The Vision states:

The total elimination of harmful and non-progressive practices that affect the health, wellbeing and progress of both men and women will be tackled

during the 30 year period to allow and give opportunity to every Ugandan to fulfil their desired potential and live a life of dignity. These include among others; the elimination of practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), Gender based violence, early marriages, child sacrifice, denial of right to education and participation in employment (ROU n.d.: 97).

Although the Vision makes the above commitment, it is silent about the specific actions or strategies that will be undertaken to ensure that gender-based violence is eliminated. For instance, Uganda passed laws prohibiting female genital mutilation and domestic violence (ROU 2010a; 2010b), but the practices are still carried out in Uganda. According to UBOS (2011), 26.4 per cent of women and 21.4 per cent of men between the ages of fifteen and forty-nine had often or sometimes experienced physical violence in the twelve months preceding the study. In terms of sexual violence, 16.3 per cent of women and 3.95 per cent of men between ages fifteen and forty-nine had experienced it in the twelve months preceding the study. This shows that gender-based violence is still a challenge in the country and that the Vision needed to come up with clear strategies of tackling it.

In addition, the Vision's strategies that relate to counteracting physical violence and criminality are silent about road accidents, yet all police crime reports (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013) indicate that the leading causes of these accidents are human factors (careless and reckless driving, careless pedestrians, speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol, etc.). Most, if not all, of these causes should fall under criminality. Road accidents create a situation where Ugandans are physically insecure while using roads in Uganda. In 2012 alone, there were 2,611 fatal road accidents as opposed to 9,030 which were serious; 3,124 people died while 13,137 were seriously injured in these accidents. Out of the 3,124 killed in the road accidents, 1,143 were pedestrians while 3,401 pedestrians were seriously injured (Uganda Police 2013). These figures show the magnitude of physical insecurity on Uganda's roads. Since the leading causes of road accidents are human factors, this means that even if the road infrastructure is improved as planned by the government, road accidents will continue to be a threat to the physical security of Ugandans.

The continued existence of gender-based violence and road accidents means that some members of the population will not be guaranteed physical security, and thus the need of physical security will not be adequately satisfied. This will result in this segment of the population not genuinely participating in the development process of the country. This is because those seriously injured will have impaired health (manual, mental and emotional), and therefore be unable to genuinely participate in the development process. On

the other hand, some of the relatives of the injured will lose valued time while taking care of their seriously injured loved ones in hospitals. They will also suffer from both psychological and emotional problems because of seeing their loved ones seriously physically deformed and unable to support themselves.

### ***Appropriate Education***

This need focuses on formal learning and literacy which lead to changes in, or development of, behaviours, knowledge, attitudes, skills, capacities, information and understanding, which do not depend on physical growth or instinctive inherence. It looks at content and how it is delivered during the process of learning. This means that it does not only focus on the curriculum but also on the environment in which the curriculum is delivered. Providing an appropriate education is crucial for an individual's active participation in any activity. Appropriate education develops and expands one's autonomy (Doyal and Gough 1991). The Vision target 14 in Table 2 relates to this need. In addition to this target, the Vision has strategies in the sections of strengthening the fundamentals and social transformation that will be implemented so as to improve the education status of Ugandans. The Vision also notes the achievements made so far and the challenges that still remain.

Among the achievements is the increase in literacy rates from 69 per cent in 2006 to 73 per cent in 2010 because of the implementation of universal primary and secondary education policies and programmes. Due to these policies and programmes, primary education enrolment has increased to 8.7 million over a fifteen year period. In the case of secondary education, enrolment increased to 1,088,744 in 2008 from 814,087 in 2006. However, the major challenge to these achievements is retention of students in schools. For instance, the primary education retention rate in 2006 was 53 per cent for boys as opposed to 42 per cent for girls (ROU n.d.). This means that a staggering 47 and 58 per cent of boys and girls respectively dropped out of primary schools in 2006.

In order to improve the education sector, the government plans to build a world class education system to provide first-rate education, compared to that offered in developed or emerging economies. Under this, the entire education system will be changed so that its main focus is to impart practical skills, aptitude and moral values. Through this change, primary and secondary education, to be known as basic education, is set to become a human right for all Ugandans. Basic education will focus on character formation and talent and skill identification whereas tertiary education will focus on skills development. All undergraduate students will be required to undertake a compulsory year of internship so as to develop the practical skills required in workplaces. In order to

develop a good work culture, a national service programme will be introduced to inculcate work ethics, patriotism and voluntarism. The curriculum, instruction and examinations will be changed to suit the proposed changes and market demands. Keeping girls in school by addressing institutional, gender and cultural barriers will be emphasised (ROU n.d.).

In areas of tertiary education, the government plans to attract the world's top-rated universities in specialist fields (engineering, human medicine, geosciences, management, space science, biotechnology, ICT etc.) from advanced countries to establish their campuses in Uganda. Virtual replicas of these universities will be established in different parts of the country by the government. Internationally relevant research will also be promoted by inviting private companies such as Shell, Exxon-Mobil and Microsoft to set up research centres in universities in Uganda. The government will also support promising and talented Ugandans to access education in priority areas from leading universities abroad. There will be partnerships with institutions specializing in business, technical and vocational education, and training (BTJET) in countries like Germany, Israel and Japan (ROU n.d.). All these actions will ensure that Ugandans have access to appropriate education.

Although the Vision has all these strategies about education, it seems they are aimed at ensuring that the country transitions from a low to a middle income country. For instance, in relation to human resource development the Vision states:

Uganda will adopt a similar approach for it to take off and reach an upper middle income country level by 2040. This will help address the critical skills gap, technology deficiency, lack of creativity and innovativeness, low productivity and negative attitudes towards work, to spur faster development (ROU n.d.: 68).

This is likely to result in students studying programmes and courses, not of their choice and liking, but those perceived to have a high market demand that can lead to increased productivity of the economy. This is likely to happen because government resources will only support students taking programmes perceived to improve the productivity of the economy. From the above discussion, these seem to only include the natural sciences (biological, chemical and physical sciences), vocational and technical programmes. For instance, 70 per cent of the 4,000 government undergraduate university scholarships are awarded to science programmes or courses (natural sciences), and the arts and social sciences are excluded. Moreover, the President has repeatedly made clear that even the recently introduced loan financing scheme for university students will initially only cater for students studying natural science programmes. This does not

ensure equal opportunity to accessing appropriate education because not all human beings are natural scientists by gift or talent. This means that some children who are gifted in the social sciences and arts, especially those from financially poor families, may not have access to appropriate education due to a lack of access to government support. In the end, they will not be able to genuinely participate in the development process of the country since they will be lacking the required knowledge and skills.

It also remains doubtful whether the good and promising strategies in the education sector will materialize. In a country where teachers from primary to university levels are poorly remunerated, quality education will remain a wish or dream. Currently a grade three teacher is paid a gross monthly salary of between 270,000 and 280,000 Uganda shillings (\$108–112). Because of the poor remuneration, teachers and university lecturers have always held strikes, and the students have been the victims of these strikes. It is the teachers' poor remuneration which is in part responsible for their absenteeism and poor quality of teaching. A report by Yiga and Wandega (2010) indicates that on the first day of their unexpected monitoring of the teachers' attendance in their respective (thirty) schools in Iganga district, a staggering 48.5 per cent were absent from their duty station. The government, as it has become a practice, can threaten and force poorly remunerated teachers to attend to their classes, but it will never be able to force them to provide quality teaching without addressing issues related to their remuneration. This can partly explain the low retention rate, especially at primary level. For instance, 46 and 15 per cent of the boys who dropped out of primary schools respectively cited lack of interest and search for jobs as reasons for doing so (UBOS 2013a). The lack of interest and the eventual dropping out could be due to the realization that they were not receiving appropriate education.

This situation means that as long as the issue of teacher remuneration is not adequately addressed, some students, especially those from poor families, will never access appropriate education. This will negatively affect their health and autonomy, which will in turn affect their participation in the development process of the country. Without strategies that support all fields of study and teachers' remuneration, this need is not adequately promoted by the Vision.

### ***Safe Birth Control and Child-bearing***

This need does not apply to all human beings, like all the above discussed intermediate needs. Safe birth control and child-bearing applies only to women/mothers of reproductive age and probably their babies. Adequately satisfying this need ensures the physical health and autonomy of women of

child-bearing age. This need is about women of reproductive age having safe control over their reproductive lives. This is because unsafe child birth conditions involve risks of contracting infectious diseases and mortality to both mothers and their babies. In addition, not having control over one's reproductive life, that is, choosing when to have children, how many, which contraceptives to use and child spacing, can negatively affect one's autonomy. Decisions about these matters should be taken by a mother, and not by the state, social group or her husband (Doyal and Gough 1991).

Vision targets 10 and 11 in Table 2 relate to this need. The government plans to achieve these targets and also promote safe birth control and childbearing by changing the health care delivery system from being curative and facility-based to a preventive one, where healthy practices and lifestyles will be promoted at the household level. This will empower households to have control over their health. The benefits of the proposed delivery system were discussed in the above section on appropriate health care. In addition, in a bid to reduce both maternal and child deaths, the government plans to improve the nutritional status of children and women of reproductive age. For instance, the Vision states:

It is projected that that this strategy will reduce the number of maternal deaths by over 6,000 and child deaths by over 16,000 every year; and increase national economic productivity, both physical and intellectual, by an estimated UGX 130 billion (USD 65 million) per year at present values; and provide a strong return on public investment – for every one thousand shillings invested, an estimated six thousand shillings worth of increased productivity will result from reduced child stunting, improved maternal health, enhanced micronutrient intake, and improved nutritional care (ROU n.d.: 90).

However, from the above quote, the government's plan to improve the nutritional status of children and women of reproductive age is not only aimed to reduce maternal and child deaths, but also to improve the productivity of the economy.

As a way of improving the quality of the population by reducing the proportion of the population under 15 years, currently 51.2 per cent of 33.9 million (UBOS 2013a), the Vision plans to increase access to quality reproductive health services. Through this, the current fertility rate of 6.7 children per woman will reduce to 4 children per woman (ROU n.d.). Although this strategy is being implemented in order to improve the quality of the population, it directly promotes the satisfaction of safe birth control and child-bearing needs since reproductive health services for improving the quality of the population are in part the same services used for ensuring safe birth control and child-bearing. If all the above strategies are implemented,

the need for safe birth control and child-bearing may be adequately promoted and this segment of the population will be guaranteed physical health and autonomy. Thus, it will be able to participate genuinely in the development process of the country.

## **Conclusion**

This article has shown that Vision 2040 is a comprehensive master plan with several sections looking at different development aspects. However, it is the sections on the targets, fundamentals, opportunities and social transformation which spell out where Uganda aspires to be in terms of development and how to get there. The article has shown that for development to be achieved, human needs must be adequately satisfied because it is through their satisfaction that human beings are able to have health, which is a prerequisite for their participation in development processes. In addition, satisfaction of human needs is an indicator of development since it is a determinant of one's quality of life, which is the ultimate goal of any development processes and strategies. This is the kind of development which can be termed as genuine development since it guarantees mutual benefits and opportunities to all members of a given society.

Specifically the THN was discussed and adopted for analysing the adequacy of the Vision's strategies in meeting the human needs of Ugandans. This is because THN spells out universal primary and intermediate needs. According to its main purpose, the article has analysed the adequacy of the Vision's strategies in meeting the eleven intermediate needs of Ugandans. The Vision strategies are likely, if implemented, to adequately meet safe birth control and child-bearing, security in childhood and a non-hazardous physical environment while inadequately meeting appropriate education, physical security, economic security, health care, a non-hazardous work environment, protective housing and adequate nutritional food and safe water needs. Where needs will be adequately met, the strategies will tackle the current and likely future challenges and bottlenecks to meeting these needs; the opposite is true for the needs that will be inadequately satisfied. One of the challenges to meeting some of these needs is the central role placed on the private sector and capital, yet its main objective is profit maximization and not the satisfaction of needs. The Vision has no strategy aimed at meeting the need for significant primary relationships.

The guiding question of this paper is whether Vision 2040 adequately promotes the satisfaction of the human needs of Ugandans? The answer is no. The Vision's strategies only adequately promote the satisfaction of three intermediate needs, inadequately promote the satisfaction of seven needs, while

there are no strategies to promote the satisfaction of one need. In addition, as Max-Neef (1991) argues, human needs are interrelated, interactive and interdependent. This means that all of them have to be adequately satisfied if people are to have health and are to genuinely participate in development. Additionally, human needs for all members of a given society have to be adequately satisfied if genuine development is to take place.

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