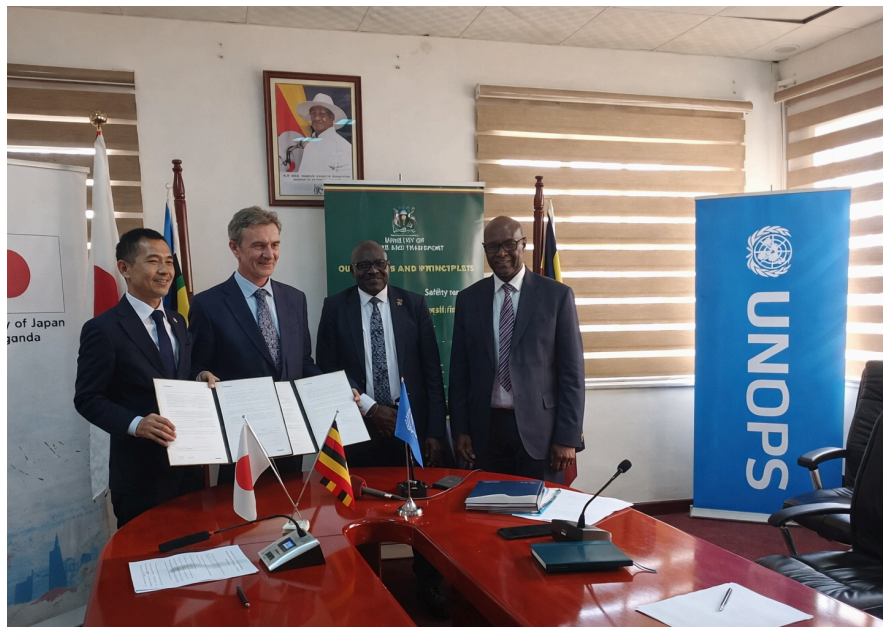


Press release  
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## Government of Japan, Government of Uganda and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Partner to Rebuild Vital Bridges and Digitally Transform Bridge Infrastructure Management in Uganda



- Japan is providing USD 6.29 million to Uganda to rebuild three critical bridges in West Nile and introduce a digital bridge maintenance system, for which the project implementation will be led by UNOPS.
- The project will improve access to health care, education and markets for refugee-hosting and climate-vulnerable communities across nine districts in West Nile, Sebei and Bugisu sub regions.

*Kampala.*—The Government of Japan, the Government of Uganda and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) today launched a USD 6.29 million, three-year project to rebuild critical bridges and strengthen how infrastructure is managed across Uganda.

The project will reconstruct three key bridges in the West Nile sub-region -Ayi (Maracha), Kochi-2 (Koboko) and Woi (Yumbe)- and introduce an Electronic Bridge Management System, enabling engineers to monitor bridge conditions and plan maintenance for District Urban and Community Access Roads Network.

The initiative targets some of the country's most climate-vulnerable and refugee-hosting areas, benefiting more than 35,000 people directly and an estimated 1.17 million people indirectly across nine districts by improving access to health care, schools, humanitarian services and markets.

"Reliable bridges save lives and protect livelihoods," said **Rainer Frauenfeld, Director of UNOPS East and Southern Africa Multi-Country Office**. "By combining climate-resilient construction with digital tools, this project helps Uganda move from emergency repairs to smart, preventive infrastructure management that serves both host communities and refugees."

The West Nile region hosts more than 810,000 refugees, including residents of the Bidibidi settlement. Failing bridges in these areas often cut communities off during heavy rains, delaying emergency care, disrupting education and limiting trade.

"This project is a major step forward in ensuring safe, reliable infrastructure across Uganda," said the **Honourable Minister for Works and Transport, General Katumba Wamala**. "By rebuilding these bridges and introducing modern monitoring systems, we are not only improving access to essential services but also strengthening national capacity for sustainable infrastructure management."

"This partnership reflects Japan's commitment to supporting stability, resilience and inclusive development. Safe infrastructure is essential for people to access services and economic opportunities," said **Mr. Norimasa Yoshida, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Uganda**. The project directly operationalizes Japan's Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach, supporting both refugees and host communities while strengthening trade corridors vital to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Alongside construction, 120 government engineers and officials will be trained in climate-resilient building and digital asset management to ensure national ownership and sustainability.

Funded by the people of Japan, the initiative builds on a long-standing partnership between Japan and Uganda and earlier projects such as the design and construction of Nyara Bridge, which significantly reduced travel times and improved lives for local communities and was implemented with support from UNOPS.

## **ENDS**

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### **About UNOPS**

UNOPS offers practical solutions across peace and security, humanitarian and development operations. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners, to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement across the world.

Read more: [www.unops.org](http://www.unops.org).

### **About the Embassy of Japan**

Since 1997, the Embassy of Japan has supported development cooperation in Uganda. Read more: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/uganda>

### **About Ministry of Works and transport**

The Ministry of Works and Transport formulates policies, plans, sets standards, builds capacity, carries out advocacy, regulates, monitors and evaluates the Works and Transport sector. Read

More: <https://www.works.go.ug/>