



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

Building Safer Communities: The Role of Community Policing in Substance Use, Violence and Crime Prevention in Uganda

By Mutaawe Rogers

Senior Programme Manager, UYDEL

ISSUP Uganda Chapter

Juvenile and Youth Crime in Uganda..... 2017-2024

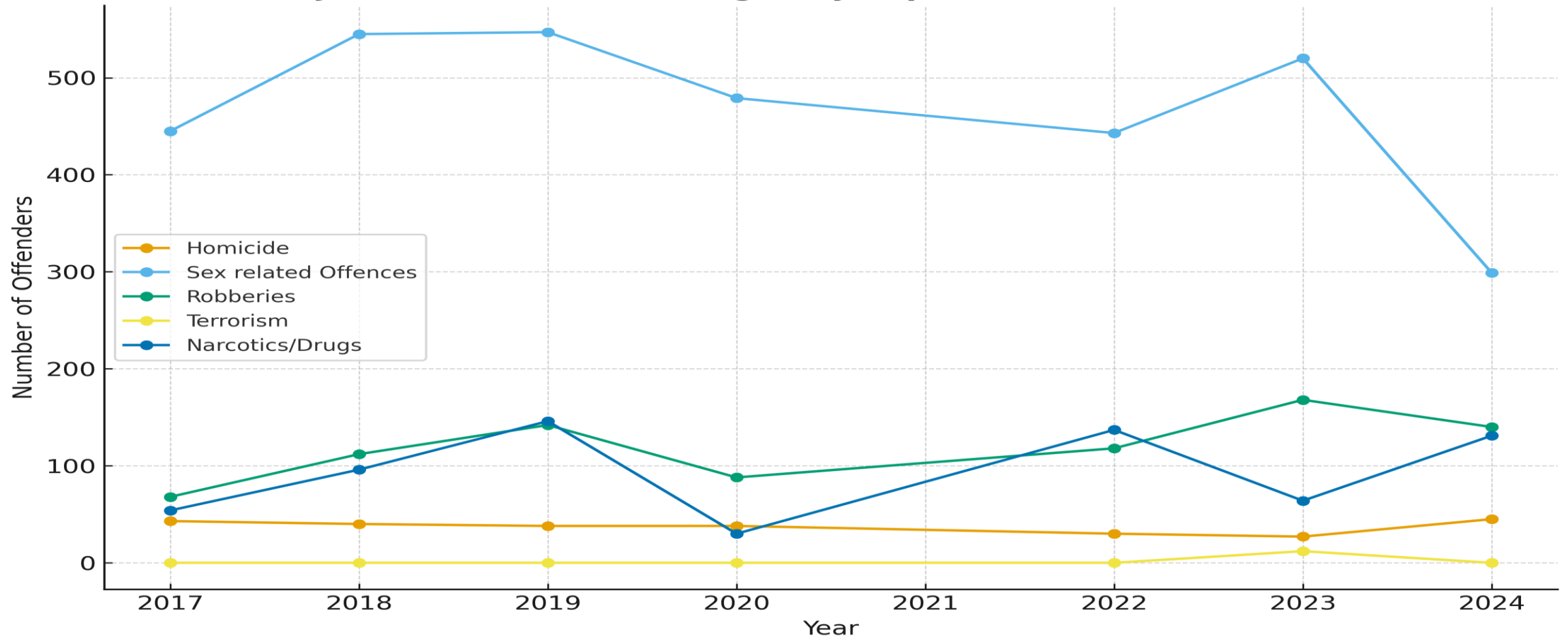
A Youth Crime Report:
Youth and Juvenile
Offending in Uganda



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

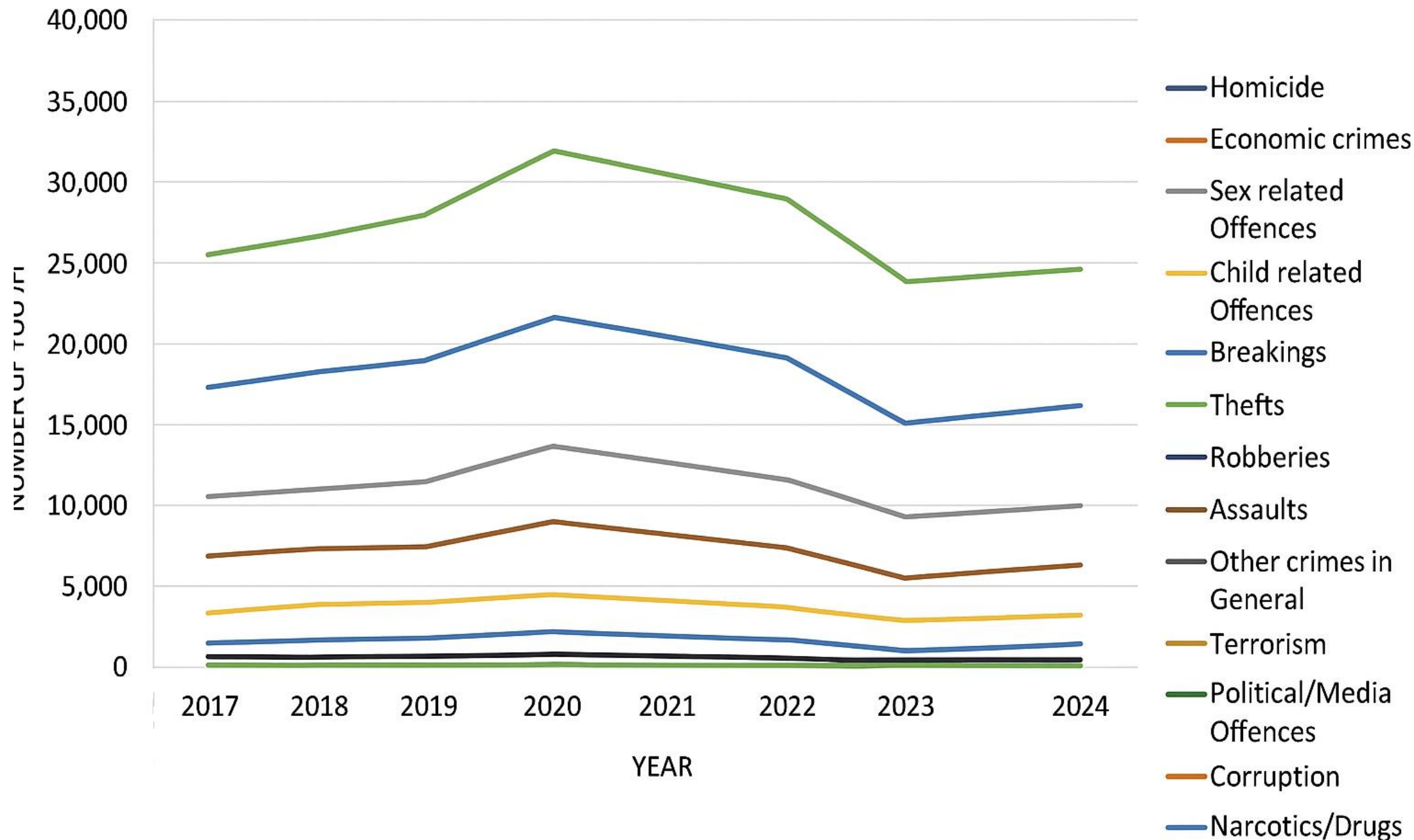


Juvenile Offenders Charged by Capital Crimes (2017-2024)

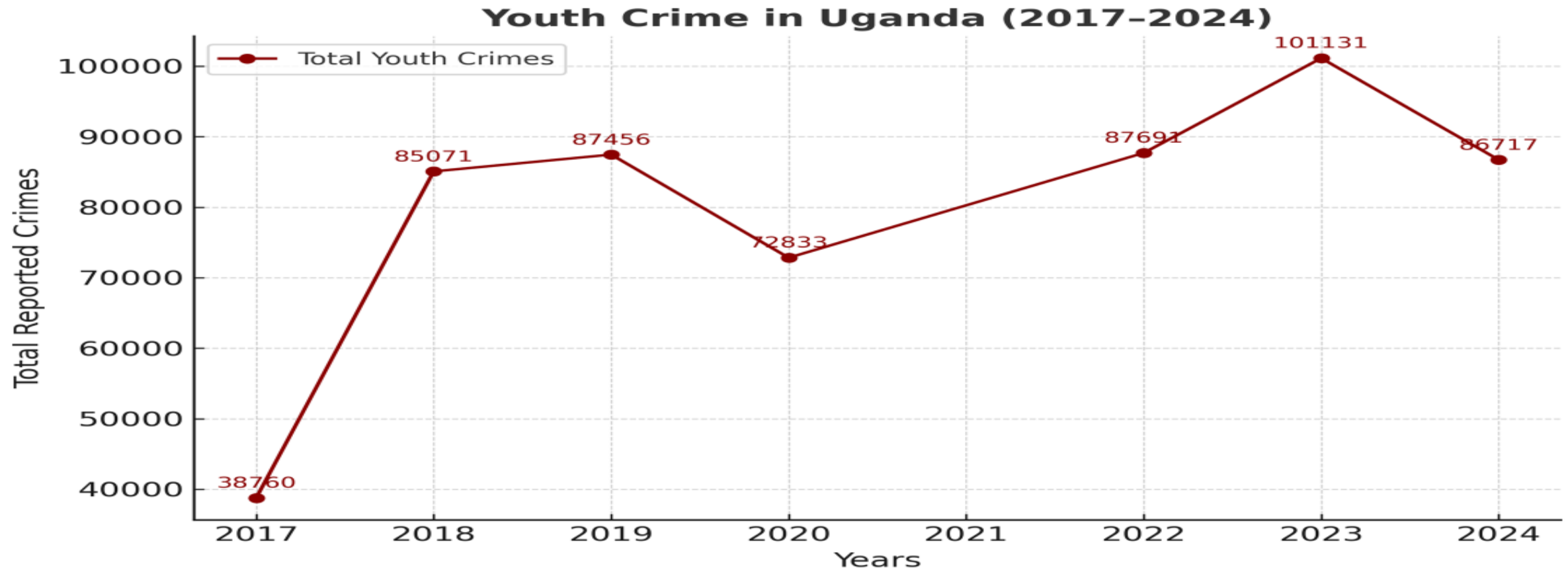


- Juvenile crime is dominated by sex-related offences, but recent decline in 2024 signals potential for progress.
- Robberies and drug-related crimes show fluctuating trends, highlighting ongoing risks for youth.
- Sustained prevention efforts are needed to curb high-risk behaviors and address root causes driving juvenile offences.

Youth charged by nature of crime over the years (2017-2024).

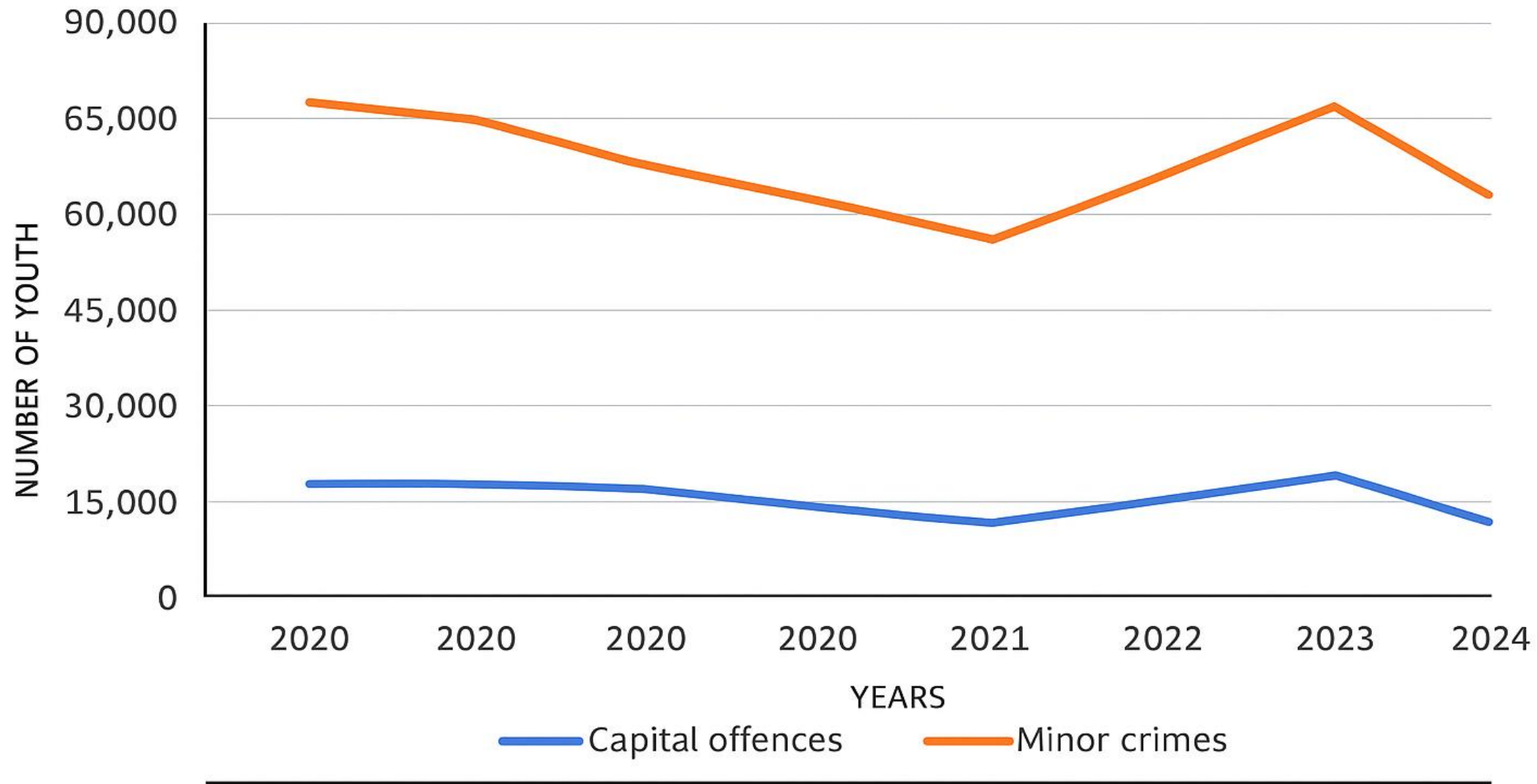


Youth crime in Uganda (2017–2024) - Big picture



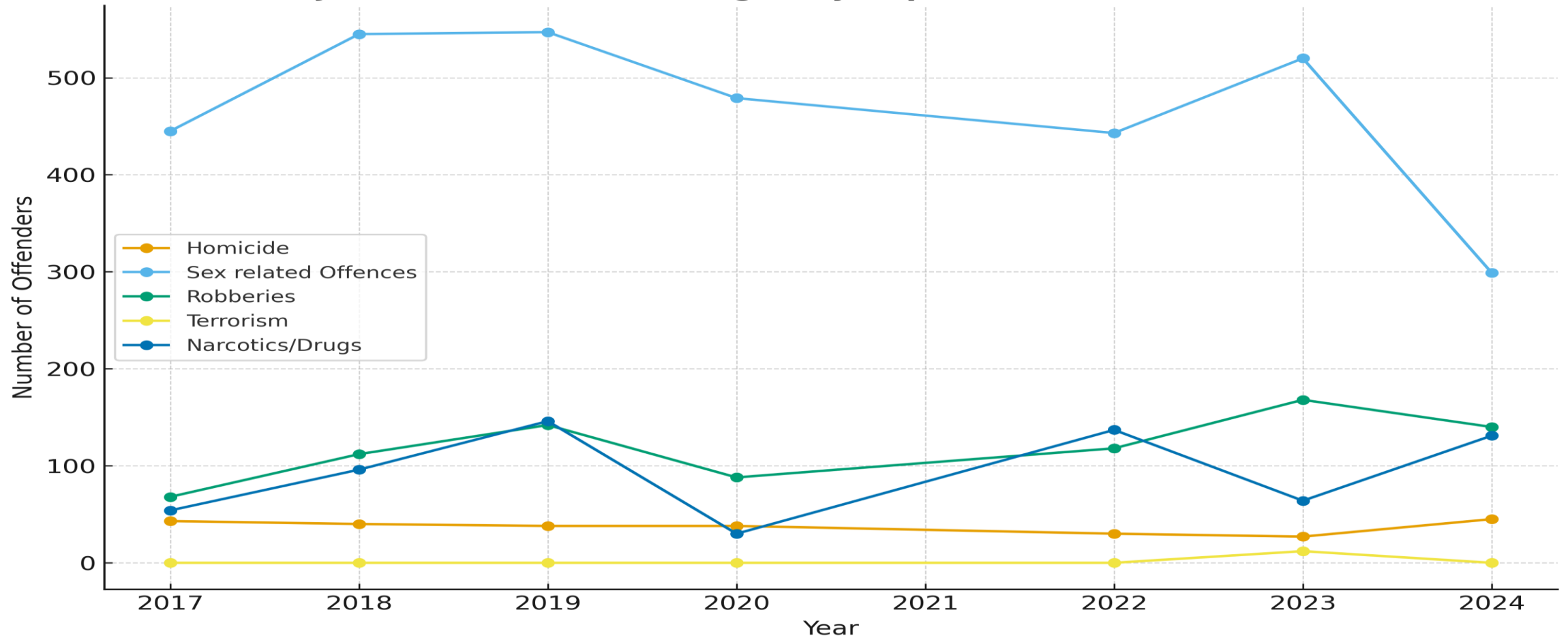
Although yearly fluctuations exist, the overall trend reveals a steady rise in youth crime, underscoring ongoing challenges in prevention and enforcement.

YOUTH CHARGED BY NATURE OF CRIME OVER THE YEARS (2017-2024)



TAKEAWAY: Youth are far more frequently charged with minor crimes. While capital charges decline, minor crime charges rise and fall but remain dominant overall.

Juvenile Offenders Charged by Capital Crimes (2017-2024)



- Juvenile crime is dominated by sex-related offences, but recent decline in 2024 signals potential for progress.
- Robberies and drug-related crimes show fluctuating trends, highlighting ongoing risks for youth.
- Sustained prevention efforts are needed to curb high-risk behaviors and address root causes driving juvenile offences.

Overview of CPCJ Project

- The Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CPCJ) Project is a five-year UNODC-led initiative (2022–2027) designed to enhance Uganda's rule of law by promoting fair, humane, and accountable criminal-justice systems and community-based crime-prevention approaches.
- It unites government institutions, civil society, and international partners to improve access to justice, reduce crime, and build community resilience

Overview of CPCJ Programme

- **Funding Agency:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
– Uganda Office
- **Duration:** 2022 – 2027
- **Lead National Partners:** Uganda Judiciary, Uganda Police Force, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Uganda Prisons Service, FIA and civil-society organizations such as UYDEL and LASPNET

CPCJ overall Objective:

- To contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law **through crime prevention** and the promotion of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in line with the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and other relevant international instruments.

Specific objectives

1. Strengthen mechanisms for court administration and case management by criminal justice institutions in Uganda
2. Increase access to quality legal aid and legal information targeting vulnerable groups
3. Enhance efficiency in the criminal justice system and promote alternatives to imprisonment
- 4. Increase access to comprehensive and evidence-based crime prevention and prevention of violent extremism programmes targeting women and youth in at-risk settings**
5. The economy of Uganda is better protected from illicit financial flows and money-laundering and illicitly obtained assets are recovered and returned

Geographic Coverage

- Central region: Kampala, Wakiso,
- Eastern region: Bugiri, Namayingo, Mayuge, Iganga, Kaliro, Luuka
- Northern region: Lira, Oyam, Gulu, Kole, Kiryandongo

Implementing Team

- Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)
- Uganda Police Force
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- District Local Government Structures
- Other CPCJ stakeholders and partners

Objectives of the Community Policing sessions

- To raise awareness on the prevention of crime, substance abuse, and violence
- o promote cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the community
- To educate youth and parents on their role in crime prevention.
- To address concerns related to law enforcement, youth behavior, and community safety.

Community Policing Approach

- Hosting community meetings to form community partnerships.
- Providing activities for young people, especially from at-risk populations.
- Aimed at proactively identifying problems, developing innovative responses, and evaluating the results.
- Determining the nature of the problem, and the scope of the problem.
- Emphasises youth participation since these are the groups most involved in and affected by crime and conflict.

Community policing cont'd

- **Community Policing Sessions:** More effective, community and knowledge-based youth crime prevention and prevention of violent extremism responses among the youth in vulnerable communities in Uganda.
- **School Outreach Sessions:** The sessions are designed to empower young people with knowledge and skills to prevent crime, drug abuse, and violence through awareness creation and peer engagement.

Community policing cont'd

- Community policing strengthen collaboration between the law enforcement, local leaders, communities, and other stakeholders to address the root causes of crime and promote public safety.
- Community policing empowers citizens to actively participate in identifying, preventing, and responding to crime within their communities.
- Emphasizes proactive rather than reactive approaches to crime. Through awareness creation, education, and community engagement, these sessions equip community members with knowledge and practical skills to identify risk factors, resolve conflicts peacefully, and prevent criminal activities before they escalate.

Community Policing Sessions Busoga Region

• Busoga Region

N o.	Name of sessions conducted Bugiri	Location	Male	Female	Total
01	7	Busowa T/C Bugiri	544	397	941
02		Nankoma Bugiri	987	289	1,276
03		Bugiri T/C	390	254	644
04		Iwemba Village Bugiri	432	364	796
05		Naluwerere	213	156	369
06		Kigulu	278	199	477
07		Muterere	256	241	497
	GRAND TOTAL		3,100	1,900	5,000

No.	Name of sessions conducted Namayingo	Location	Male	Female	Total
01	7	Banda	344	297	641
02		Kifuyo	587	290	877
03		Bukewa	190	89	279
04		Namayingo Central Market	232	164	396
05		Manga Landing Site	122	136	258
06		Lwangosia	133	97	230
07		Nagusera	134	67	201
	GRAND TOTAL		1,742	1,140	2,882

No.	Name of sessions conducted Iganga	Location	Male	Female	Total
01		Namungalwe Iganga	145	76	221
02		Bunyiiro Iganga	80	21	101
03		CMS Corner Iganga	155	50	205
04		Nawandala T/C Iganga	216	190	406
	GRAND TOTAL		596	337	933

Community Policing Sessions/Barazas

• Northern Uganda Region

No.	Area	District	Male	Female	Total
1.	Myene Irimi Town Council	OYAM DISTRICT	88	42	130
2.	Minakulu Subcounty		68	21	89
3.	Corner Kamdini		91	165	256
4.	Loro Subcounty		91	56	147
5.	Otwal Subcounty		106	71	177
6.	Iceme Town Council		185	89	274
7.	Oyam Town Council		192	106	298
	Sub Total		821	550	1,371

1.	Abilonino	KOLE DISTICT	139	51	190
2.	Corner Park		179	92	271
3.	Bala Subcounty		192	106	298
4.	Ayer Te-Kidi Trading Centre		139	51	190
5.	Corner Mowlem		99	101	200
6.	Aliyat		75	42	117
7.	Acul Banya		55	25	80
8.	Okwerodot		88	41	129
9.	Alito		62	23	85
	Sub Total		1,028	532	1,149

No	Name of sessions conducted in Lira	Location	Male	Female	Total
01	10	Amach	244	197	441
02		Ogur	487	390	877
03		Barapwo	294	189	483
04		Anai Ober	332	251	583
05		Amuca	422	256	678
06		Starch Factory	133	144	277
07		Amach	185	136	321
08		Teso bar	234	154	388
09		Ojwina	101	89	190
10		Uganda Martyrs	278	342	620
	GRAND TOTAL		2,710	2,148	4,858

Community Policing Sessions



Community Policing Sessions



Outcomes

- The sensitization sessions led to increased community knowledge on crime prevention and violent extremism among participants, improving citizens' understanding of lawful conduct, reporting procedures, and community responsibility.
- This increased awareness contributed to reduced misinformation and improved cooperation between communities and law enforcement.
- For local government and law enforcement institutions, the activity enhanced operational efficiency by clarifying reporting pathways and strengthening referral mechanisms at community level.

Outcomes

- The engagement platforms strengthened coordination structures by establishing routine dialogue mechanisms between communities and district authorities.
- At the systems level, the activity contributed to the establishment of functional community-police interfaces, laying the foundation for sustainable prevention mechanisms.
- Through strengthening trust, information flow, and institutional linkages, the intervention improved service delivery efficiency and reinforced community-based crime prevention systems.

School Outreach Sessions Busoga Region

No.	School	District	Male	Female	Total
1.	Nabukalu Secondary School	BUGIRI DISTRICT	381	468	849
2.	Muterere Secondary School		484	643	1,127
3.	Bukooli Secondary school		498	814	1,312
4.	Standard College Nankoma		408	676	1,084
5.	St. Stephen's Secondary School		757	997	1,754
6.	Iwemba Seed Secondary School		481	519	1,000
7.	Standard College-Bugiri		350	447	797
8.	St. Paul Busowa Secondary School		263	255	518
9.	Namasere Secondary School		344	438	782
10.	Naminyagwe Secondary School		234	543	777
	GRAND TOTAL		4,200	5,800	10,000

No.	School	District	Male	Female	Total
1.	Buhemba High School	NAMAYINGO DISTRICT	162	80	242
2.	Mutumba SEED Secondary School		227	157	384
3.	Buswale Secondary School		183	115	298
4.	Lwangosia Secondary School		190	158	348
5.	Kifuyo Secondary school		571	469	1,040
6.	Budidi Secondary school		92	135	227
	GRAND TOTAL		1,425	1,114	2,539

No	School	District	Male	Female	Total
1.	Nkuutu Memorial Secondary school	IGANGA DSITRICT	299	301	600
2.	St. Paul Secondary school-Nasuti		348	403	751
3.	Prime Vocational Institute		120	99	219
4.	Kiribaki Secondary School		90	146	236
5.	Kaliro High School		469	729	1,198
6.	Iganga Technical Institute		93	36	129
7.	Iganga Girls Secondary School		00	986	986
8.	Bukoyo Secondary school		24	158	182
9.	Kigulu College the Giant School		223	443	666
10.	Nakalama Secondary School		402	437	839
11.	Nawandala Secondary School		304	497	801
			2,372	4,235	6,607

School Sessions Busoga Region

District (First Visit)	No.	School	Male	Female	Total
Mayuge District	1.	Bunya Secondary School	1,900	2,250	4,150
	2.	St. Johns Secondary School	113	304	417
	3.	M. M College Wairaka	199	176	375
	4.	Kalubu High School	126	205	331
	5.	Delta High School	188	117	305
	6.	Mayuge Light Secondary School	95	137	232
	7.	Mayuge High Secondary School	89	111	200
	8.	Mayuge Hill Secondary School	75	65	140
	9.	Kigandalo Secondary School	21	29	50
	10.	Walibo SEED Secondary School	12	19	31
		TOTAL	2,818	3,413	6,231

Second Visit Mayuge					
	1.	Kigandalo Secondary School	880	920	1,800
	2.	New Hope High School	295	379	674
	3.	Waitambogwe Secondary School	506	694	1,200
	4.	St. Andrews Secondary School	270	289	559
	5.	Rena College	114	184	298
	6.	Sarah Ntiro High School	79	187	266
	7.	Global High School	87	172	259
	8.	Bufulubi Secondary School	89	162	251
		TOTAL	2,320	2,987	5,307
		Overall Total	5,138	6,400	11,538

School Sessions Northern Region

No.	School	District	Male	Female	Total
1.	Loro Secondary School	OYAM DISTRICT	198	296	494
2.	Everest Secondary School		158	240	398
3.	Ngai Secondary School		79	87	166
4.	Atapara Secondary School		149	177	326
5.	Acaba Secondary School		940	680	1,620
6.	Iceme Girls Secondary School		00	307	307
	GRAND TOTAL		1,524	1,787	3,311

Number	School Gulu	Male	Female	Total
1	Awach SS	43	30	73
2	Gulu SS	54	96	150
3	Mt. Olive SS	23	32	55
4	PP Newton High School	45	69	114
5	Keyo SS	45	64	109
6	Koch Goma SS	201	149	350
7	Gulu High School	146	132	278
8	Archbishop Janan Luwum Vocational Training Institute	56	68	124
9	Gulu Town School	179	77	256

Northern Region and Kampala

Number	School	Male	Female	Total
1	Kigumba SS	100	137	237
2	Kigumba Town Community seed SS	97	205	302
3	Nyangahya SS	117	99	216
4	St. Dominic Savio SS	170	199	369
5	Ikoba Girls' SS	0	170	170
6	Masindi SS	164	204	368
7	Masindi Kitara Christian HS	45	83	128
8	Jordan Pride SS	145	164	309
9	Kabalega SS	167	0	167
10	Kings College High School	81	48	129
Total		1,086	1,309	2,395

• Kampala

District	No.	School	Male	Female	Total
Kampala and Wakiso District	1.	Sam Yiga Memorial College	425	480	905
	2.	Luzira Secondary School	1,780	2,550	4,330
	3.	City High School	200	220	420
		TOTAL	2,405	3,250	5,655

School Outreach Sessions



School Outreach sessions



School Outreach Sessions (2025-2026)



Community Policing Sessions From 2025 to 2026





World Drug Day Celebrations at Medical Grounds Bugiri – 26th June 2026 -



Outcomes

- The outreach programme contributed to improved prevention knowledge among students, enhancing understanding of crime-related risks and personal protection strategies.
- Learners demonstrated increased awareness of referral pathways for support and showed greater confidence in seeking assistance when exposed to risky situations.
- Schools reported strengthened internal prevention mechanisms, improved student engagement, and reduced behavioural challenges. The strong participation of girls enhanced gender inclusion and positioned female learners as peer advocates for prevention.

Outcomes

- A notable institutional outcome was registered at Nakalama Secondary School, where a school-based prevention club was established as a direct result of the sensitization efforts.
- A follow-up visit confirmed that the club had expanded in membership and was actively disseminating information to other students, thereby extending programme impact through peer-to-peer learning.

- Website: www.uydel.org
- Email: mutaawe2@gmail.com
- X: [uydel_2019](#)



Thank you

Thank you for listening

- **Questions and Discussions**