

# MASS GATHERINGS - UGANDA

## EPIWIN WEBINAR

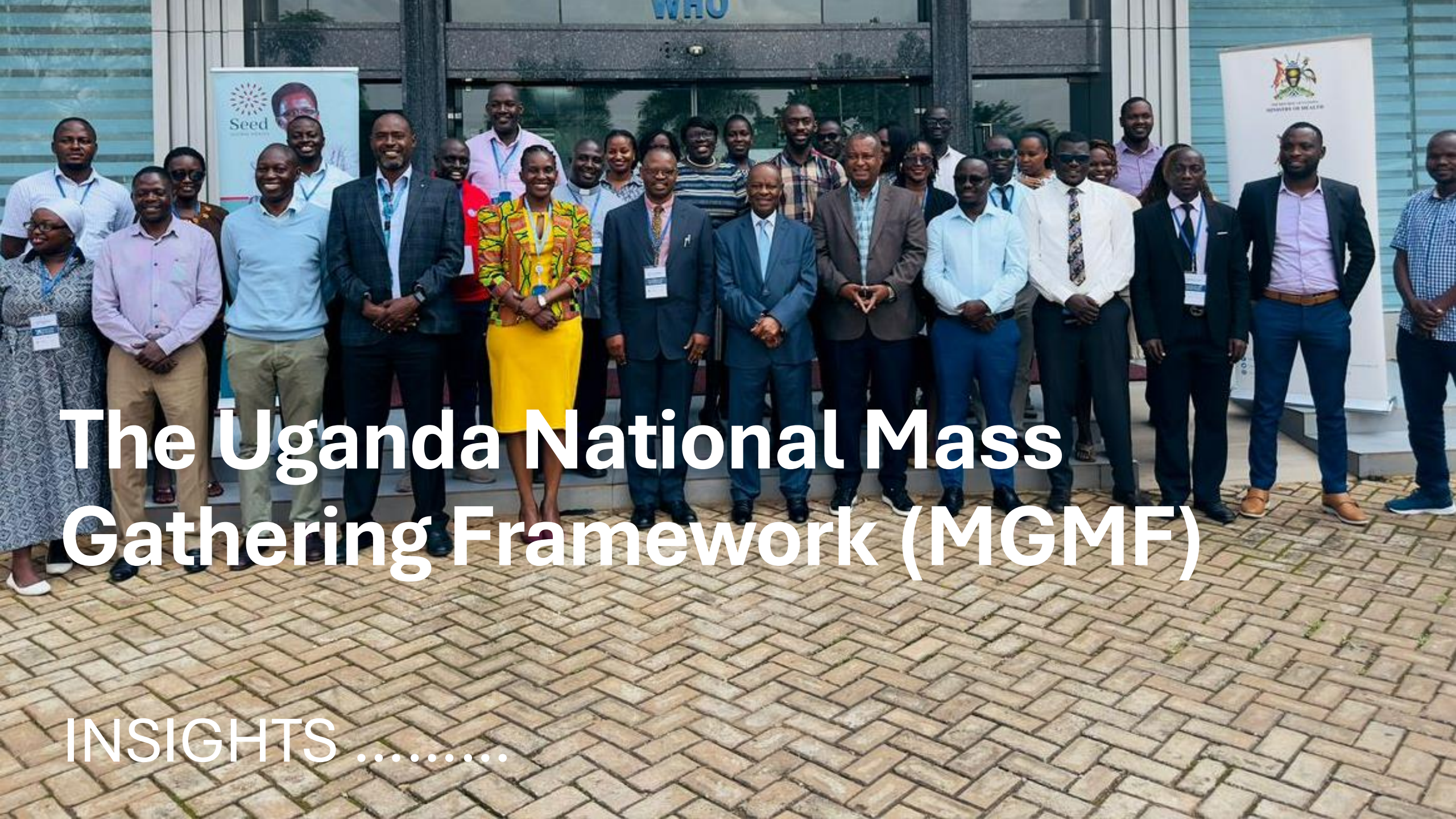
Dr. John Baptist Waniaye

Commissioner Emergency Medical Services

Ministry of Health







# The Uganda National Mass Gathering Framework (MGMF)

INSIGHTS .....





Uganda National  
Mass Gathering Management Framework

(MGMF)



September 2024

# The MGMF

## Applicability and scope

This document describes issues relevant to those planning public health activities for a Mass Gathering in Uganda.

It provides a guide for those involved in the planning, management, review of a mass gathering event.

- **Vision:** Uganda's population protected from health risks and consequences of any form of mass gathering within the country.
- **Mission:** Improve safety of safe mass gathering through a structured multi-stakeholder approach to mitigate risks and health consequences of mass gatherings in Uganda.



# Objectives

1. Provide guidance for government and non-government actors to uniformly assess existing public health capacities with respect to a mass gathering.
2. Provide action packages to be considered for managing mass gathering-related incidents that may threaten health security.
3. Encourage collaboration and coordination between public health leads and key policy and decision-makers throughout the planning process for mass gatherings.
4. Ensure that the activities of those planning for MGs are based on and meet the requirements of the IHR (2005) for enhancing global health security and preventing and responding to international spread of disease.

# MGMF Implementation

The implementation of the National Mass Gathering Management framework will be achieved through the following pillars;

- 1.Coordination
- 2.Risk communication, public information, and Health promotion.
- 3.Security, registration and documentation
- 4.Environmental health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and food protection
- 5.Public Health Surveillance, laboratory, and Points of Entry
- 6.Event Medical Services (EMS, onsite clinics, and referral facilities)
- 7.Logistics



## **Part 2: Early preparations and coordination for the 2026 elections**

# Draft calendar of events- 2026 election roadmap



Uganda's Electoral Commission (EC) released a revised electoral roadmap announcing the **date for the 2026 presidential and parliamentary elections.**

The **nominations for presidential and parliamentary elections will be conducted between Sept. 17 and Oct. 3, 2025**, said Justice Simon Byabakama, Chairperson of the electoral body.

Byabakama said the **campaigns will commence in the second week of October 2025**, with the **polling for presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on January 12, 2026.**





What can go wrong?



# Example of risk analysis

<i>Month</i>	<i>Mass Gathering name</i>	<i>Level (international/national/regional/district)</i>	<i>Specific location (if applicable)</i>	<i>Specific Hazard</i>	<i>Risk/ Anticipated Health consequences</i>
<i>September</i>	16 and 17 Parliamentary nominations	district	146 districts & cities	Uncontrolled crowds, Stampedes, Road Traffic Incidents	Alcohol and substance abuse, Infectious diseases outbreaks, injuries
<i>October</i>	2-3- presidential nominations	national	national	Uncontrolled crowds Demonstrations Terror attacks	Injuries, infectious disease outbreaks, deaths
<i>November</i>	27 and 29-youth council elections	district	146 districts & cities	Uncontrolled crowds, Stampedes, Road Traffic Incidents	Alcohol and substance abuse, Infectious diseases outbreaks, injuries



# Planning per the MGMF

Phases:

## 1. **Pre-event**

(From 12 weeks before the election season)

## 2. **During event**

(Throughout election period from declaration till swearing-in)

## 3. **Post-event**

(Up to 4 weeks post-event)

Pillars

1. Coordination
2. Risk communication, public information, and health promotion.
3. Security, registration and documentation
4. Environmental health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and food protection
5. Public Health Surveillance, laboratory, and Points of Entry
6. Event Medical Services (EMS, on-site clinics, and referral facilities)
7. Logistics



# Anticipated challenges:

- Unplanned/ spontaneous events leading to coordination and control challenges.
- Social media and AI driven misinformation, disinformation and violence.
- The youth demographic (18 - 30 years) constitutes 22.7 percent of the total population---need for youth centric interventions and messages.
- Alcohol and substance use combined with crowd mentality---high violence.
- Urban traffic challenges—crowds versus vehicles.



# Mitigation plan:

- Early messages with use of social media.
- Targeted messages against disinformation and misinformation.
- Collaboration with police force for better and safer crowd control.
- Utilization of armed forces medical teams for any potential “red zones”.



# Conclusion:

- Mass Gatherings in Uganda are increasingly more complex.
- The Uganda Mass Gathering Management Framework offers an opportunity for a structured coordinated response for better public health outcomes.
- The various elements of the framework are being tested in real and simulated scenarios to improve it.
- More stakeholder engagement is needed to fully integrate use of the framework.



# Appreciation

