



UNFPA

UGANDA



WITH YOU (TH)

UNFPA work with young people in Uganda

Uganda's young population challenges, opportunities

More than three out of ten people in Uganda are young people age 10-24ⁱ, making Uganda one of the youngest countries in the world. Young people are shaping Social and economic development, challenging social norms and values, and building the foundation of the country's future. If the right investments are made for their empowerment to enable them explore possibilities and fulfill their potential, young people have the potential to drive the county's socio-economic development.ⁱⁱ

Uganda's youthful population can be turned into a valuable demographic dividend—the economic benefit a society enjoys when fertility and mortality decline rapidly and the ratio of working-age adults significantly increases relative to non-working dependents.ⁱⁱⁱ

For this to happen, critical investments should be made to protect young people's rights, improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, and provide skills and knowledge to build their capabilities and agency.

Despite evidence that Uganda, like other developing countries is paying greater attention to youth through public policy initiatives, young people still confront many obstacles that prevent them from having a safe transition into adulthood.^{iv}

At a glance: Issues affecting young people:



Almost 8 out of 10 (83%) of young people 15-24 are unemployed^v



One out of every 10 children of primary school going age has never been to school^{vi}



Three out of four 13-18 year olds who start primary school never make it to secondary school^{vii}



Twenty two percent of secondary school age (13-18) students have left school^{viii}



One in four teenage girls in Uganda is pregnant or has had a child^{ix}



One in every two girls is married before age 18.^x



570 young women infected with HIV every week.^{xi}



58% of 15-19 year old women have experienced physical or sexual violence^{xii}

i. Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2016, The National Population and Housing Census 2014 – Main Report, Kampala, Uganda
 ii. UNFPA 2013. UNFPA Strategy on Adolescents and Youth: Towards realizing the full potential of adolescents and youth
 iii. National Planning Authority 2014. Harnessing the Demographic Dividend. Accelerating Socio-economic transformation in Uganda
 iv. UNFPA 2014. State of World Population 2014. The Power of 1.8 Billion Adolescents, Youth and the Transformation of the Future
 v. The World Bank. 2008. African Development Indicators 2008/2009. Washington, DC: World Bank
 vi. Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2016, The National Population and Housing Census 2014 – Main Report, Kampala, Uganda
 vii. Ibid
 viii. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and ICF. 2017. Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2016: Key Indicators Report. Kampala, Uganda: UBOS, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: UBOS and ICF.
 ix. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and ICF International Inc. 2012. Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011. Kampala, Uganda: UBOS and Calverton, Maryland: ICF International Inc.
 xii. Uganda AIDS Indicator Survey 2011
 xiii. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and ICF International Inc. 2012. Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011. Kampala, Uganda: UBOS and Calverton, Maryland: ICF International Inc
 xv. UNFPA 2015. Women & Girls Safe Spaces: A guidance note based on lessons learned from the Syrian crisis

Leaving no young person behind: What UNFPA does

In partnership with young people, the government and other stakeholders, UNFPA supports the development of policies, strategies and programmes to secure the health, development and human rights of all adolescents and youth. UNFPA's programming is focused on reaching the most vulnerable adolescents and youth first, with particular attention given to adolescent girls, young people with disabilities and refugees.





HEALTH

Making services fit for young people

With the onset of adolescence, young people are exposed to heightened vulnerability to sexual and reproductive (SRH) ill-health, as well as to negative social practices that jeopardize their right to a healthy, successful transition into adulthood. UNFPA supports the government to strengthen the health system to reach young people with information and services that respond to their specific health needs.

Priority interventions

- Research on young people's knowledge, behaviours and values in relation to their health
- Technical support for the development and review of national policies and guidelines on adolescent health.
- Building capacity of health workers to provide quality and youth-responsive health services.
- Testing and rolling out of innovative approaches to provide health services for hard-to-reach populations of adolescents and youth.
- Multimedia social behavior change campaigns on child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- Partnership with cultural and religious institutions to promote abandonment of harmful practices including child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Snapshots from 2016



271 health facilities equipped to provide quality health services for young people.



726 health workers were trained on delivery of quality youth-responsive Sexual and Reproductive Health services.



867,404 young people accessed quality adolescent and youth-responsive Sexual and Reproductive Health services.



EDUCATION

Inspiring young minds

Access to quality education is a precondition for adolescents and youth to develop their skills and to acquire knowledge to keep them healthy. UNFPA works with the government to create safe and supportive school and community environments that promote school (re)entry, retention and completion among adolescents and youth. In addition, UNFPA supports efforts to improve access to age-appropriate and culturally-sensitive sexuality education, both in schools and through community-based programmes.

Priority interventions:

- Technical support to the government to develop national policies and guidelines on school health and sexuality education.
- Training of teachers and development of resource materials for SRH/HIV counselling and sexuality education.
- Provision of menstrual management solutions as a means to prevent school dropout.
- Creation of peer-to-peer networks to improve access to health services among young people in and out of school.
- Innovative ICT platforms and social behavioral change communications campaigns on female genital mutilation and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Snapshots from 2016



673 primary and secondary schools supported to provide SRH/HIV information and services



1,346 teachers trained on adolescent sexual and reproductive health



52,920 students accessed SRH/HIV prevention services



EMPOWERMENT

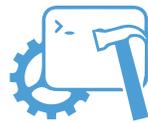
Building resilience, innovating for health and wealth

Young Ugandans are exposed to recurrent cycles of vulnerability that increase their risk of sexual and reproductive ill-health. Building their resilience requires increasing their ability to protect themselves, make informed decisions, adapt, and grow. UNFPA works with the government and civil society partners to provide young people with access to skilling, platforms for collaboration and mentorship to tap opportunities and turn their ideas into transformative solutions.

Priority interventions:

- Technical support for integration of sexual and reproductive health information and services in skilling and empowerment programmes.
- Technical support for the development and review of national policies and guidelines on human capital development
- Safe spaces, (formal or informal place where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe) , skilling and livelihood clubs for vulnerable adolescent girls and youth, including in humanitarian settings.
- Provision of platforms for youth-led innovations and business start-ups in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

Snapshots from 2016



76,198 young people in humanitarian settings trained in life skills and livelihoods



22,259 marginalized girls trained in life skills and livelihoods



PARTICIPATION

Creating space for young people to lead

To ensure that young people have space to participate meaningfully in programme development processes, it is necessary to create an enabling environment for adolescent and youth engagement. UNFPA works with the youth, the government and civil society organizations to improve youth coordination, build the capacity of youth-led organizations, and link them to decision-making platforms and stakeholders.

Priority interventions

- Convening government, civil society, donors, the private sector and youth-led organizations to advocate for more investment in young people as a development priority.
- Building leadership of young people and youth-led organizations and networks to advocate for their human rights and development priorities through the Uganda chapter of the African Youth and Adolescents Network (AfriYAN).
- Creation of platforms for youth-led advocacy and accountability such as Karamoja Connect, a youth-led e-reporting platform empowering young people to monitor sexual and reproductive health processes and programmes in their communities.

Snapshots from 2016



supported finalization of National Youth Policy



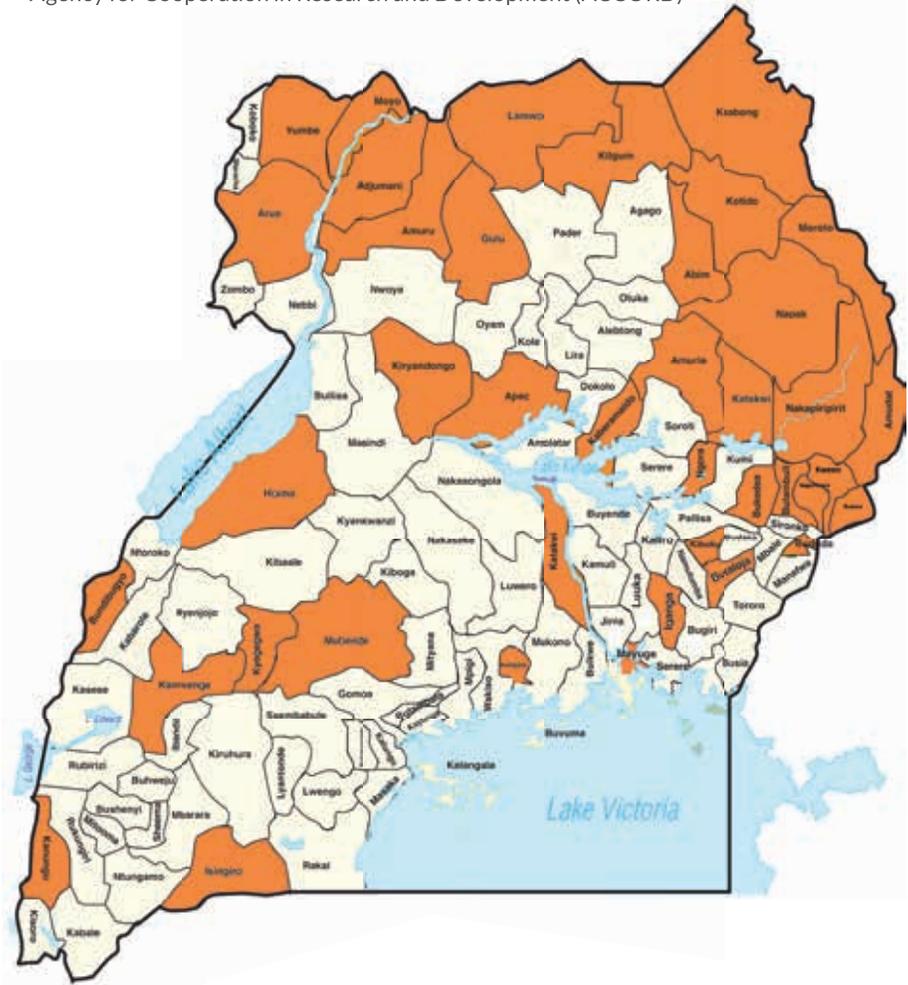
23 youth-led organizations have been supported to form a network to engage in advocacy on human rights and sexual and reproductive health



Establishment of an innovation café for youth at UNFPA offices

Our partners

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Gender Labour and social Development
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Straight Talk Foundation
- BRAC Uganda
- Communication for Development Foundation Uganda
- Reach A Hand Uganda
- AIDS Information Centre
- National Youth Council
- Office of the First Lady,
- Inter Religious Council of Uganda
- Reproductive Health Uganda
- CARE International
- Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development (ACCORD)



#LiveYourDreamUG

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