

# GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND HARMFUL PRACTICES, UGANDA - 2021



**Introduction:** The persons with disabilities Act (2006) define disability as, ‘a substantial functional limitation of daily life activities caused by physical, mental or sensory impairment and environment barriers resulting in limited participation’.



## Gender Based Violence Prevalence Rates

- The national prevalence of Violence against ever married women by partner: physical violence: 22.3%, sexual (16.6%), physical and sexual (9.3%); all lower than violence against teenagers aged 15-19 years; Physical (23.5%), sexual (16.8%), and physical and sexual violence at 9.4% respectively (UDHS 2016, UBOS)
- Bukedi sub-region registered the highest percent of physical violence (32.6%), Sexual violence (37.1%), and physical and sexual violence (18.6%) whereas Ankole registered the highest percent in emotional violence at 48.6% (UDHS 2016, UBOS).
- 14,134 defilement cases (3.8% increase) were reported to Police in 2020 up from 13,613 cases in 2019: Meaning 1,186 defilement cases reported every month, 40 cases reported daily, up from 1,140 cases reported every month and 38 cases reported daily in 2019.
- On defilement victims, 1,280 girls aged 0-8 were defiled in 2020, up from 1,026 in 2019 and 2,986 girls aged 9-14 defiled in 2020, up from 2,100 in 2019.
- 9,954 girls aged 15-17 defiled in 2020, down from 10,556 in 2019.
- Over 300 victims of defilement were by HIV positive persons (301 in 2020 down from 390 in 2019).
- 120 girls defiled by parents in 2020 up (42.9% increase) from 84 in 2019.
- 17,664 domestic violence cases in 2020, up by 29% from 13,693 in 2019.
- 18,872 victims of domestic violence in 2020: 3,408 male adults, 13,145 female adults, 1,133 male juveniles and 1,186 female juveniles (Annual Police Crime Report, 2020).

- 0.3 percent was the National Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevalence in 2016, down from 0.6 percent in 2006 in nearly ten years (UBOS, 2018).
- 26.6 percent was the average FGM prevalence in Six districts in Karamoja and Sebei in Eastern Uganda: Moroto (51.5%), Nakapiripirit (49.2%); Amudat (42%), Bukwo (27.7%), Kween (21%), and Kapchorwa (12.9%) (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).
- 12.4 percent of the population had disability prevalence in 2014 (National Population Census-2014) and 47 percent of people with disabilities are more likely to experience violence than those without 39 percent (Cheshire, 2018; UBOS, 2018).

### Trend of GBV cases from 2017 to 2020 (Ministry of Health-DHIS-2 2017-2020)

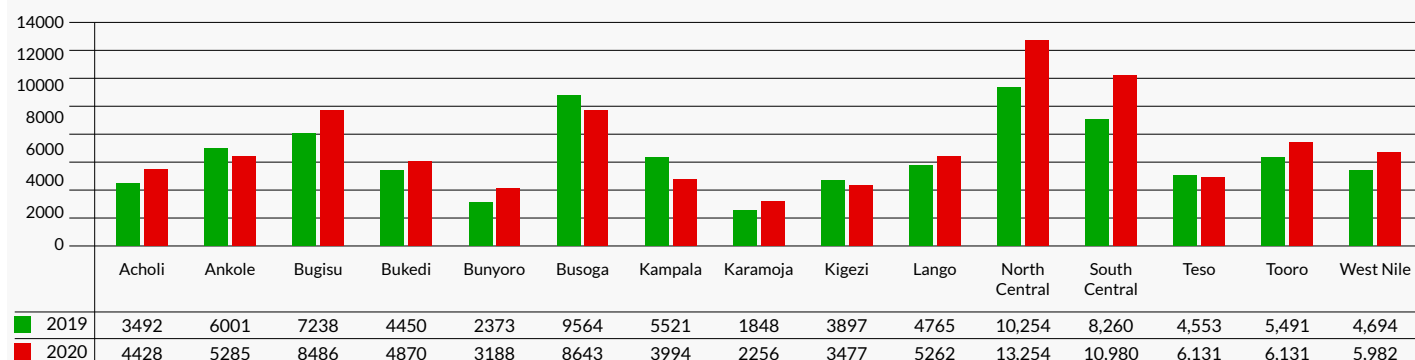
- GBV cases reduced from 85,101 in 2017 to 79,888 in 2018, a drop of 6.1 percent
- The number of GBV cases increased consistently from 79,888 in 2018 to 82,401 in 2019 (3.1 percent increase) then by 9.8 percent from 82,401 in 2019 to 90,489 in 2020
- 7,541 GBV cases every month and 251 every day in 2020, up from 6,867 cases every month and 228 cases daily in 2019, and
- 48,650 GBV cases from January to June 2021, about 1142 cases monthly and 38 daily.

- 12,483 exposures reported due to sexual/rape or assault in 2020 and 10,982 (88%) were initiated on Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)/ART drugs.

### UNFPA's Response through the Uganda Judiciary and Justice, Law and Order Sector

- In 2020, the Uganda Judiciary with the Justice Law and Order Sector with the support of UNFPA organized Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) court sessions held out of courts in 14 districts Overall 629 in 711 cause-listed cases were successfully completed and 82 cases were re-scheduled.

### GBV trends by region



- 64.7 percent (88/136) of the districts had increase in GBV cases from 2019 to 2020.
- 18 districts had over 100% increases in GBV cases from 2019 to 2020. Koboko (836.3%), Kayunga (538.9%) and Kapchorwa (538.5%) followed by: Bududa (248.3%), Amolatar (225.2%), Maracha (220.5%), Kakumiro (212.5%), Lyatonde (179%), Rakai (158.2%), Kween (57.3%), Lamwo (142.9%), Kaliro (135.3%), Nwoya (134.9%), Moyo (128.1%), Nakapiripirit (124.4%), Bulambuli (114.2%), Manafwa (104.4%) and Omoro (102.9%).

### Abortions due to Gender Based Violence (GBV) by region

- 2,102 women had abortions due to GBV in 2020 which was 28.8% increase from 1,632 abortion cases in 2019, implying 175 abortions monthly and 6 every day.
- 11 in 15 regions registered some increases in cases of abortions due to GBV from 2019 to 2020.

### Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) due to GBV

- In 2020, 29,494 cases of STI due to GBV were registered (29.7% males; 70.3% females), 5.6% increase from 27,933 cases in 2019.

- 9 in 15 regions registered increase in STI due to GBV from 2019 to 2020. The highest cases in 2020 were in: Bunyoro (1,421), South central (4100) and Tooro (3,368).

### Injuries due to GBV

- 58,902 injuries due to GBV in 2020, up by 11.5% from 52,836 in 2019.
- 8 in 15 regions registered increase in STI due to GBV from 2019 to 2020
- STI cases due to GBV were the highest in North central (6,676 to 9,309), Bugisu (5,300 to 6,767), South central (4,329 to 6,654).



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