

## UGANDA: INTEGRATING WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



REGION- AFRICAN		
	Male	Female
Population (Estimated,000)	20714	20710
Population Density (2014 -per sq. km)	188	
Human Development Index (HDI RANK -2015)	164	
Global Gender Gap Report (2014)	0.728	

SOCIAL INDICATORS		
	Male	Female
Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI, 2011)	0.367	
Percentage of Women in Parliament (2013)	35%	
Life Expectancy at birth in years (2013)	58	60
Labour Force Participation rate	82	85
Population with at least some secondary education (% aged 25 and above)	34	23
Estimated Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (USD)	\$1502	\$1167
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) (2010)	310	
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19) (2010-15)	127	



## UGANDA

### EAST AFRICA - INDIA UNITE: INTEGRATING WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Introduction

The Republic of Uganda, located in Eastern Africa, is a landlocked country. Liberalisation initiatives undertaken have succeeded to stabilise the economy in the period from 1987-2010. While Uganda has done well in areas of poverty, hunger and gender, there is scope for improvement in its economic prospects including domestic revenue mobilisation, low levels of productivity and impeding growth of infrastructure.

### Gender Profile

On the Gender Inequality Index (GII) developed by the UNDP in 2013, Uganda is ranked 110 among 148 countries. In Uganda, 35% of parliamentary seats are held by women.

### Socio-Economic Profile

The labour participation rate among women is high – 82% (2013) and only 15% of women have an account in a financial institution (26% for men) pointing towards low economic independence. As per World Economic

Forum's Gender Gap Report 2013, women earn 76% of men's wages for performing similar work.

In the social context, girls are mostly married between 15-19 years of age and 50% of them are susceptible to domestic violence.

### Education Profile

Education in Uganda remains relatively low for women (65%) when compared to men (83%), while female youth literacy rates are at par (85% versus 90% for male youth). Women on the other hand surpass men in terms of enrolment in primary education at 93%.

Major barriers to girl education in Uganda include inadequate hygiene and sanitation facilities, sexual harassment and discrimination in schools, armed conflicts, scarcity of female teachers coupled with child marriage, pregnancy, negative attitude towards girl education and unresponsiveness of policymakers to their needs.

### Health Profile

Of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that has made some progress in Uganda, albeit slow, is **MDG 5: Improving maternal health**. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has constantly been falling since 1990, but is still missing the MDG target by a considerable margin (160). Other factors like pregnancy care, prevention of HIV transmission, nutrition & breastfeeding are also improving, yet low.

### National Framework: Policies, Programmes and Initiatives

The Uganda Gender Policy is an integral part of the national development policies. It is a framework for addressing gender imbalances as well as a guide to all development practitioners. Major priority areas include:

- Poverty, income generation and economic empowerment for women
- Reproductive health and rights
- Legal framework and decision making for women
- The Girl child and education; and

- Violence against females and peace building

Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has the overall responsibility of spearheading and coordinating gender responsive development, and in particular ensuring improvement in the status of women. The specific strategies shall include:

- Formulating and implementing capacity building programmes for women leaders
- Developing strategies to address discrimination against women in elective and appointment structures and systems of governance
- Broadening the scope of affirmative action to enhance its effectiveness in reducing gender disparities
- Developing strategies to address gender inequalities in policies, plans and programmes at all levels
- Developing strategies to empower the girl child to take up leadership positions in schools and tertiary institutions.

(Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Government of Uganda)



**Addressing Violence Against Women**

Women productivity in the economic progress is greatly impeded by violence where they live and in communities where they carry out their productive and reproductive roles. The causes & effects of violence, combined with poverty, discrimination and subordination magnify the manifestation converging numerous inequities in women’s life and their development as human beings (Report on Government of

**STORIES OF CHANGE: UGANDA WOMEN IN BUSINESS PROGRAMME**



*Supported by Development Finance Corporation Uganda (DFCU) and the International Finance Corporation*

To address the collateral challenges faced by female entrepreneurs in Uganda, Development Finance Corporation Uganda (DFCU) created a land loan, enabling women in the programme to purchase property that could eventually be used as collateral for a future business loan.

Expanding other non-traditional loan options for women, DFCU created an investment club that also served as a savings scheme, allowing female entrepreneurs to raise funds together for future business investments and for use as collateral for business loans. Since the inception of the Women in Business Program, DFCU has lent over \$16 million in term loans, mortgages, leases, and land loans to 300 women small business owners and trained over 400 in finance and business management skills. DFCU has opened more than 1,800 deposit accounts through the programme, leading other banks in Uganda in demonstrating how to effectively cater to the needs of female entrepreneurs. *(Source: Gender and Development, World Bank Group)*

Uganda’s implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, 2000). Major priority areas include legal support, institutional strengthening, and capacity building for economic independence and support stakeholder systems adding to women’s economic growth.

**Opportunities and Challenges**

Women of Uganda face a wide range of challenges including discrimination, low social status, lack of economic self-sufficiency, and greater risk of HIV/AIDS infection. Early indulgence in sexual activity makes girls prone to HIV infection. In some districts, HIV prevalence among 13–19 year old girls is at least 10 times higher than in males of the same age.

**The Way Forward**

From ending all gender discrimination to inclusion in leadership positions, the

government plans to ensure complete participation. The priority interventions and action areas are arranged into four thematic areas; livelihoods, rights, governance and macro-economic management.

The government also plans to enhance the use of enabling technologies to build capacity along with introduction of reforms for equal economic stake as well as access to ownership over land property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources (in accordance with national laws)

*\* Compiled from various internet sources. The figures may not be accurate.*

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