



LIVE YOUR DREAM

Addressing gender-based violence is a key driver to sustainable development

Fifty eight (58) Percent of women and girls in Uganda think that wife beating is justified (UDHS, 2011). Yet, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5 calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, the end of all forms of gender-based discrimination, and the elimination of harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Survivors of gender-based violence often suffer significant sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and resulting in deaths, traumatic fistula and higher risks of sexually transmitted infections and HIV - issues that are at the core of the UNFPA's mandate. UNFPA's work to mobilize key stakeholders in violence prevention contributes to the Fund's larger task of leading the United Nations system in furthering gender equality and women's empowerment. Women and girls' rights to dignity through access to health, ensuring their education, and giving them critical information and a say in her own life will transform not only their future but that of their entire community and the nation. This brief makes a case that investing in GBV prevention is a key driver for the attainment of the sustainable development goals.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence that is directed against a person on the basis of their gender. It can be physical, sexual, economical or psychological/ emotional violence.

DID YOU KNOW?

51%

Females constitute 51 percent of the total population in Uganda?



More than 1 in 5 women age 15-49 have experienced sexual violence at some point in life compared to men, with less than 1 in 10.

Coordination of GBV interventions, policy formulation and advocacy

Through the following mechanisms, UNFPA supports Government of Uganda's coordination of GBV prevention and response interventions:

- Supports multi-sectoral GBV coordination mechanisms at national and districts level.
- Co-chairs with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the National GBV Reference Group meetings that take place four times a year.
- Co-chairs the GBViE Coordination mechanisms together with UNHCR, with national level meetings taking place bi-weekly and field level meetings taking place monthly.
- UNFPA has co-leads, with UNICEF, the Joint Programme to End Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting and on the Joint Programme to End Child Marriage.



IMPLICATIONS ON HEALTH

Violence and sexual reproductive health problems are a leading cause of ill-health and death for women and girls of child bearing age in Uganda. Harmful social and cultural practices such as sexual violence, child marriage and associated teenage pregnancy expose women and girls to health risks. According to 2011 UDHS, 49% of women between the ages 20 and 24 years report having been married before their 18th birthday, and 12% before they are 15 years. Formalizing defilement, child marriage one of the most significant drivers of teenage pregnancy. One out of every four girls age 15-19 have given birth or are pregnant with their first child. Due to power imbalances, decisions such as family planning – choosing when, how often and the number of their children are made by men and in-laws (MoH, 2016). As such, only 35% of married women in Uganda use a modern method of contraception (UDHS, 2016).

DID YOU KNOW?

20%

1 in 5 girls and women age 15-49 have experienced sexual violence (UDHS, 2016)

25%

of girls age 15-19 have given birth or are pregnant with their first child.

28%

Teenage pregnancies contribute up 28% of maternal death in Uganda.

Strategic Interventions by UNFPA

- Ensures that GBV survivors access critical services including health, psychosocial and legal support.
- UNFPA supports data collection for GBV prevention and response. The National GBV database is a tool that service providers and those consolidating data use to facilitate the safe and ethical collection, storage, analysis and sharing of reported GBV incident data.
- Supports efforts to mobilize communities to ensure that women and girls are supported to fulfill sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Provides a wide range of services, including healthcare, psychosocial counselling and assistance with livelihoods for out-of-school girls.

Key Achievements

- Supported Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development to collect data and to centralize data on GBV in the National Gender Based Violence Database (NGBVD, [see: http://ngbvd.mglsd.go.ug](http://ngbvd.mglsd.go.ug))
- 514 community activists were trained in GBV prevention
- 240 health care providers were trained in handling GBV cases and filling the Police Form 3.
- 2,473 survivors received psychosocial support counselling in 2016
- 16,500 GBV cases were recorded in the NGBV database in 2016, with 81% of survivors being women and 19% are men
- Supported the training of 1,200 civil servants including health workers, teachers, Community Development Officers and selected CSOs on psychosocial support guidelines to ensure quality services to survivors of GBV



IMPLICATIONS ON EDUCATION

According to a 2017 Ministry of Education/UNICEF study, 22.7% of school dropout are due to teenage pregnancy. When a girl becomes pregnant or has a child, her health, education, earning potential and her entire future may be in jeopardy, trapping her in a lifetime of poverty, exclusion and powerlessness.

Child marriage is the most significant driver of teenage pregnancy; ninety per cent of adolescent pregnancies occur to girls who are married before 18 years. In Uganda, 49% of women between the ages 20 and 24 years report having been married before their 18th birthday, and 12% before they are 15 years. Girls who drop out of school to get married are expected to get pregnant as soon as possible.

DID YOU KNOW?



22.7% of school dropouts are due to teenage pregnancy



The lifetime opportunity cost related to teenage pregnancy is 30% of Uganda's annual GDP.

Strategic Interventions by UNFPA

- Support to Government of Uganda initiatives to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy through multi-media campaigns and economic empowerment programmes for girls.
- Support to Government of Uganda to develop national policies, guidelines and curriculum modules on school health and sexuality education.
- Support to develop SafePal, a platform that young people (aged 10 to 24) can use to confidentially report cases of sexual violence and get linked to the nearest service providers for help.

Key Achievements

- A total of 34,423 girls aged between 10 and 19 years have benefited from the livelihood empowerment for adolescents (ELA) programme
- UNFPA supported the development of the school health policy



IMPLICATIONS ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Sustainable development is only attainable when the needs and interests of both men and women are fully recognized. But there are huge inequalities between men and women's control of, access to and benefit from natural resources, especially land, despite their reliance on them for their livelihoods.

Degraded environments mean that women will suffer the economic implications as a result of poor agricultural yields as a result of climate change. They will have to walk further to collect water and fuel wood. Evidence presented has demonstrate that women and girls face an increased risk of violence when they have to walk long distances to collect water.

DID YOU KNOW?



The annual economic burden of domestic violence in Uganda is USD 30.7million (UGX 77.5 billion)



The cost of responding to domestic violence is equivalent to about 0.35% of Uganda's GDP in 2011

Strategic interventions by UNFPA

- UNFPA supports efforts for community mobilization to prevent GBV including: support to role models, male activists and Male Action Groups; and implementation of the SASA! Methodology, a tool for mobilizing communities to prevent violence against women and HIV.
- Supports innovative programmes such as the YEM 2.0 that integrate sexuality education into youth venture capital funds, financial literacy training programme as well as in vocational training colleges and higher institutions of learning.
- Supports efforts to ensure equal social protection; and increase women's leadership and participation in public and private decision-making.

Key Achievements

- Support to Ministry of Gender to create a national GBV referral system to assist survivors of GBV to get support from service providers.
- Supported the development of handbooks that integrate the scientific basis of messages on sexual and reproductive health with religious doctrines for use by clergy and laity structures of all major denominations in Uganda.
- Supported the development of a reporting and referral mobile application to help young people report GBV and get linked to the nearest service providers.



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Government of Uganda has initiated different policies to combat GBV in the country e.g. the National GBV Policy and National Action Plan, the Male Involvement Strategy, the Domestic Violence Act 2010 and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2010. UNFPA supports the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development facilitate the processes and provides financial and technical support.

DID YOU KNOW?



Defilement is among the top 10 leading crimes reported to police in Uganda. In 2014 for instance, a total of 12,077 defilement cases were investigated compared to 9,598 cases in 2013

Strategic Interventions by UNFPA

- Supports capacity strengthening interventions for police officers, lawyers and judges to ensure safe and ethical care for survivors and end impunity for perpetrators.
- Supports Ministry of Gender to strengthen national GBV referral systems to assist survivors of GBV to get support from service providers.
- Supports work on the process to review the Evidence Act

Key Achievements

- Supported the passing of the Domestic Violence Act 2010
- Supported the revision of the “Police Form 3” (PF3). The form is filled by police med medical workers when a survivor reports a GBV case.
- In 2016, UNFPA supported the training of 315 Police Officers and 111 UPDF officers on GBV prevention and response and commissioned the trained personnel to teach others.
- In 2016, UNFPA working with partners conducted special GBV Courts session to address case backlog leading to completion of 350 cases.



RESPONDING TO GBV IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

While gender-based violence is pervasive in times of peace, it is often exacerbated during disasters and conflicts. Uganda has hosted refugees ever since its independence in 1962. However, especially the renewed outbreak of fighting in July 2016 in South Sudan triggered massive displacement and mass influx of refugees to the country. In a humanitarian crisis, families and communities are broken down, making women and young people also become more vulnerable to violence and forced marriage, sexual violence, exploitation and HIV infection.

DID YOU KNOW?



Uganda currently hosts 1,338,887 refugees (as of August 15, 2017) and is among the top ten countries in the world that host the largest number of refugees



82% of Uganda's refugee population are women and children below 18 years

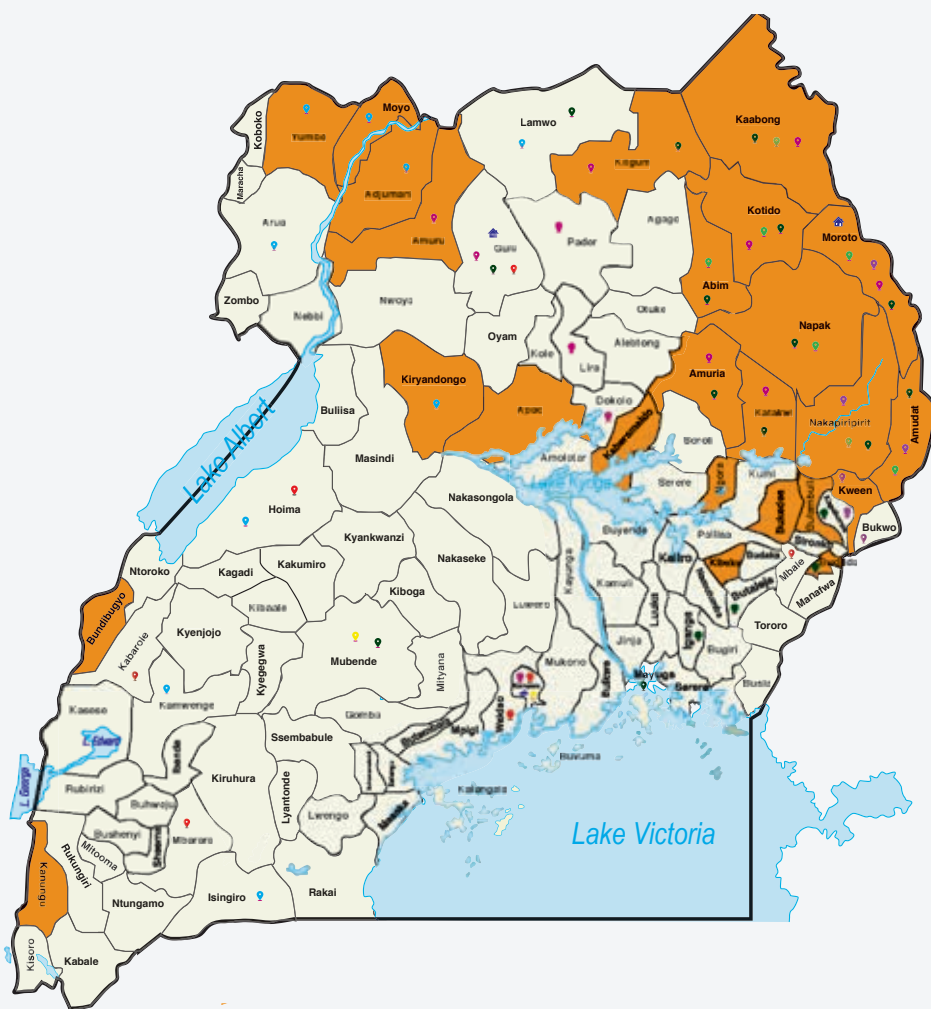
Strategic Interventions by UNFPA

- Supports the establishment of fully functioning Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response coordination mechanisms that include standard operating procedures, referral pathway and co-leads in the coordination of the GBV working group
- Supports the identification of GBV survivors and their access to psychosocial & medical services including referral to legal care in refugee settlements
- Supports the development of manuals such as the Psychosocial Manual
- Trains health workers in clinical management of rape
- Provides post rape kit to the health centers providing services to refugees and host communities.

Key Achievements

- 542 Health workers were trained in the clinical management of rape.
- 1,283,845 people reached with SRH/HIV and GBV services
- 3,351 GBV survivors received appropriate care (medical, psychosocial and legal)
- 640 sexual violence survivors received post rape care/services within 72 hours
- UNFPA supported the development of a protocol for GBV management and printed 1,000 copies of the clinical management of rape referral posters that were disseminated to health facilities.

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Gender Labour and Social development
- Parliament of Uganda
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- Directorate of Public Prosecution
- Uganda Police Force
- Uganda Peoples' Defense Forces
- Ministry of Local Government
- District Local Governments
- FAO
- UNICEF
- UNWOMEN
- UNHCR
- CARE International, Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization (GWED-G), WORUDET
- Child Fund International
- International Rescue Committee
- Action Aid in Uganda with FIDA Uganda



United Nations Population Fund
Plot 12A Baskerville Avenue, Kololo
P.O. BOX 7184, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256-4177-44500
<http://uganda.unfpa.org/>