

Gender Disparities in Health, Education and Economic Development

Health

1. Women carry a disproportionately high burden of disease. More than a quarter of all women are anaemic and it is they that carry the primary responsibility of caring for the 53% of children under five that are anaemic. Deficits in health services therefore impact women's lives more than men's. The National Unity Platforms proposals shall make health and education services (human development services) more gender responsive.
2. In addition to deficits in health services, the effects of death, abductions, rape, forced marriages as a result of conflict impact on women's health.
3. Nationally women's well-being and development is adversely affected by gender, ethnic, and resource conflicts as well as political violence.

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Education

Illiteracy

4. Seventy-six percent of Ugandans are literate (seventy percent of females and eighty-two percent of males). That means 5,322,655 Ugandans aged fifteen and above are illiterate, 64 percent of those being female (2018). Female illiteracy is more common among older women. Among those aged between fifteen and twenty-four, more women than men are literate (89.9% women to 88.8% men).

School Drop-out Rate

5. Although a higher proportion of girls than boys is enrolled for Early Childhood Development and Primary One (59.9 girls and 57.5 boys in 2017) a higher proportion of girls than boys drop out of secondary education.
6. While the primary school drop-out rate is higher for boys (5.7% primary school-age boys is out of school compared to 2.9% girls in the same age group), the secondary school drop-out rate is higher for girls. Girls are forced out of school by a lack of infrastructure giving them privacy during their menstrual cycle, pregnancy and early marriage. Absenteeism among girls has been recorded at 25 percent in Karamoja and Lango sub-Regions. 18 percent of girls surveyed by Plan Uganda gave menstruation as the reason.
7. Social barriers like distance to school, distance to water sources (water collected before and after school), lack of menstrual supplies, poor school infrastructure including a lack of doors on toilets and a lack of running water, contribute to the higher drop-out rate among girls.

8. Girls face the added challenge of early marriages and pregnancy. Although a higher proportion of girls than boys completes primary school, a lower proportion of girls progresses to secondary school (29.9 percent of girls and 31.5 percent of boys).
9. The percentage of Uganda's female population age 15+ with no education at all was 17.36 percent which is above the national average of 12.18 percent [2010].

Socio-economic Development of Adult Women

10. A quarter of households are headed by women (26.9% in 2015). Women form 49% of the labour force. There are more women employed in the informal (non-agricultural) sector – 86% of women and 81% of men. In the formal sector just 26.6% of firms are owned by women.
11. Bank or mobile-money account ownership is much lower among women (52%) than among men (66%).
12. Regional inequalities are seen in Northern Uganda. 69% of women surveyed in 2011 report had low access to finances with the highest rate of 80% in Karamoja. See the Women's Taskforce for a Gender-Responsive PRDP 2011