

UGANDA

Focus on Regional Secondary Cities



Population growth: From 24.2 million (2002) to 34.9 million (2014), at an average annual rate of 3.03%. Projected to triple by 2050, reaching 101.9 million.

Urban population growth: Doubled between 2002 and 2014 from 3 million (12%) to 6 million (16%). Projected to increase fivefold by 2050 reaching 32.7 million (32%).

Population density: From 127 (2002) to 188 (2014) people/km²

GNI per capita: USD 1,740 (2014)

GDP growth rate: 4.5% (2014)

Urban poverty: 9.6% (2012)

*World Bank & UBOS

Governance

National focus on urban planning. Uganda's National Development Plan II (2015/16-2019/20) acknowledges the potential of cities as engines of inclusive growth and prioritises the need for strategic urban planning. Implementation includes developing Municipal Development Plans.

A favourable environment for cities. Uganda scored 34 out of 40 in the Cities Alliance City Enabling Environment Rating, meaning it has a very favourable enabling environment for the actions of cities and local authorities. This is due to devolution measures put in place since the 1990s, including the National Programme and Action Plan on Democratic Governance (1997) and the Local Government Act (1997).

Challenges in urban governance are mainly in finance and human resource capacity domains, including limited delegation of local fiscal authority, difficulties in local revenue generation, and insufficient capacity to manage urban areas.

Economy

Impressive economic growth. Uganda's economy has grown impressively over the past decade, with GDP growth rates of up to 9.7% (2011). GDP has almost doubled from USD 8.5 billion in 2004 to USD 16.4 billion in 2014.

Structural change in the economy has seen a declining share of GDP from the agricultural sector without an expected increase from manufacturing. Service sector employment dominates the urban economies of Uganda's towns and cities.

The translation of GDP growth to real development is challenged by rapid population expansion, and a high age dependency ratio of 103%. Uganda's HDI in 2014 was 0.484 (164 out of 187).

Inequality persists, especially among women. Economic drawbacks have a greater impact on females, who make up 51% of Uganda's labour force. The unemployment rate among females is 5.2%, compared to 3% overall. Inequality remains a major challenge within and between regions; the national GINI coefficient is 42.4 (2012) and is higher in cities.

Citizenship

Uganda is making positive strides in citizen participation and respect for rights. Strong civil society, a recognition of cultural institutions, and

SECONDARY CITIES

<500,000

Uganda is urbanising rapidly, mainly in small cities and towns with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants.



40.4%

The population of Arua district grew by 40.4% between 2002 and 2014.

Only Kampala, the capital, exceeds this threshold. Of 112 districts, 11 have populations greater than 500,000.

THE YOUTH BULGE



Uganda is one of the world's youngest countries. **The median population age is 14, with 57% under 18.**

This creates a challenge in terms of dependency and a growing labour force that will need employment.

A large, unoccupied young population also increases the risk of civic unrest.

institutionalised participatory planning and budgeting through *Barazas* and Municipal Development Forums provide a sound foundation for active citizenship.

Findings from FCA workshops carried out across Uganda point to evidence of civil unrest, some uncomfortable levels of human rights violations, and low levels of trust in institutions. In the 2011 elections, an average of 46% of registered voters in secondary cities cast ballots.

Services

Providing basic and social services is an uphill task. Access to land remains a binding constraint on the effective delivery of municipal services. Across Uganda's 14 secondary cities, safe water coverage is only 72% for urban areas, with improved sanitation coverage only 8%. Sewerage systems are virtually non-existent; fewer than 1% of urban households are connected in secondary cities. Solid waste collection is only 45 - 50%.

In urban areas, 70% of residents have access to modern sources of electricity. The average per capita electricity consumption is one of the lowest in the world at 215kwh, compared to 552kwh for Sub-Saharan Africa and 2,975kwh globally. Only 18.1% of the 78,100-km national road network is paved.

Health and education. Despite great improvements in school enrollment, much remains to be done. Up to 35% of urban dwellers aged 6 to 24 do not attend school, and teacher-pupil ratios often exceed the average for Sub-Saharan Africa. Health services have improved; the number of functional healthcare facilities increased from 3,443 to 5,229 between 2004 and 2013, but the rising population is stressing health services and leaving youth particularly vulnerable.

Environment

At-risk informal settlements. The built environment has increased more than tenfold between 2005 and 2010, but about 60% of urbanites live in informal settlements. Many are located on precarious land at risk from floods and landslides – by far the major natural disaster risk in Uganda. Landslides account for 68.1% of natural disaster mortality, followed by droughts (10.8%) and floods (9.6%). Between 2000 and 2005, 65.7% of households experienced at least one type of disaster.

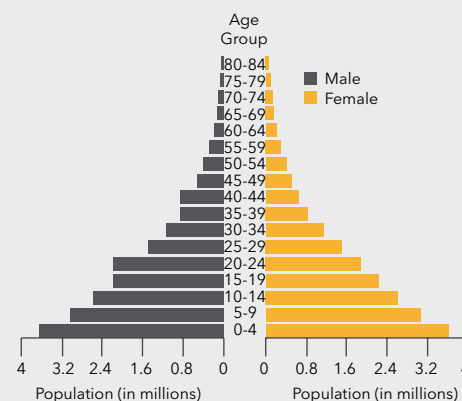
Firewood provides 90% of Uganda's energy needs. Most of the urban poor use firewood for cooking, leading to deforestation and respiratory problems. Deforestation is happening at an average annual rate of 1.8%, with up to 28.5% of forest area lost between 2005 and 2010. Wood production increased by 1,818,000 tonnes (4.2%) in 2013, mainly as firewood for domestic use in cooking. Girls and women are more exposed to the health risks of using firewood due to domestic roles within the household.

National efforts to protect the environment. Uganda's constitution provides for protection of the environment, mainly overseen by the Ministry of Water and the Environment. Policies include the National Environment Act, the National Land Policy, National Climate Change Policy, and the Water Act. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development has the National Urban Solid Waste Management Strategy, supported by DFID, while local governments have engaged in tree planting programmes to prevent soil erosion and mudslides.

Recommendations for Strategic Interventions

- Continue to support the Municipal Development Forum process and encourage greater citizen participation in local decision making.
- Empower cities to enhance and use own-source revenue.
- Foster Local Economic Development planning that integrates spatial and economic planning to address urban inequality.
- Develop a coordinated response to managing liquid and solid waste, notably in high density, informally settled areas.
- Support the development and uptake of sustainable energy solutions to shift away from solid fuel use.

POPULATION PYRAMID IN FIVE-YEAR AGE GROUPS
(UBOS 2014)



THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

- The informal sector is the fastest growing sector in Uganda, accounting for some 43% of the total economy and 60% of the urban economy.
- Informal enterprises typically do not become formal operations, and Uganda's small and medium-sized enterprises rarely develop into medium or large scale companies.
- Informal economies are marked by low productivity and low return activity, with personal services and basic manufacturing activities dominating the space.
- Municipal governments lack the skills and knowledge to engage effectively with informal workers and develop inclusive local economic development plans.