

FACT SHEET

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAW/G) IN UGANDA

Definition:

VAW/G means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (CEDAW Preamble).

FORMS OF VAW/G:

Physical violence:

Physical force that results in bodily injury, pain or impairment

Psychological violence:

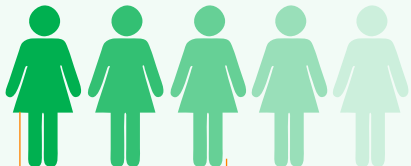
An action or set of actions that directly impair the woman's psychological integrity.

Economic violence:

Used to deny and control a woman's access to resources, including time, money, transportation, food and clothing.

Sexual violence:

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise direct against a person's sexuality, using coercion, by any person, regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including, but not limited to home and work.



35%

21.9%

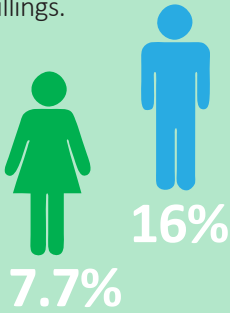
According to WHO (2016), **35%** of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner in their lifetime. **30%** of women who have been in a relationship report to have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their partner in their lifetime.

21.9% of women in Uganda have ever experienced sexual violence. Women in Uganda are more than twice as likely to experience sexual violence as men (Uganda Demographic Health Survey, 2016).

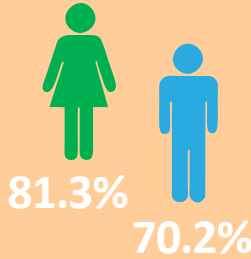
25% of adolescents aged **15-19** in Uganda have begun childbearing. Adolescent childbearing is more common in rural than in urban areas (**27%** versus **19%**, respectively)- UDHS 2016. By 2015, the teenage pregnancy rate in Uganda was **24%** with regional variations. In rural areas **24%** of girls experienced early pregnancy compared with 21% of urban girls (UNICEF, 2015). **35%** of girls dropped out of school because of early marriage and 23% did so because of early pregnancy (UNICEF, 2015).

Enforcement of laws on domestic violence remains a pervasive challenge including; lack of clear procedures for law enforcement, negative attitudes of law enforcement officers towards survivors of DV, high disregard of cases of DV by police officers and prosecutors, low prosecution rates, low conviction rates, failure of courts to protect survivors and witnesses, high costs of legal representation in court, prolonged and intimidating court processes, charges involved in reporting and following up cases, corruption, among others (ACFODE's 2016 Policy brief highlighting gaps in implementation of the DVA – 2010).

According to the Uganda National Population Study Report (2013/14), **16%** of men are in paid employment in comparison to **7.7%** of women. Of these, **10.6%** females in comparison to **9.1** males earn less than **50,000** Uganda Shilling. **9.3%** males in comparison to **2.5%** females earn more than **500,000** Uganda shillings.



More females (**81.3%**) derive their livelihood from the agricultural sector compared to **70.2%** males. One woman in every seven households obtains their livelihood from subsistence farming with a majority in rural areas (**82%**). Many rural women are over worked **12-18** hours/day compared to **8-10** hours per/day for men (Uganda National Population Study Report- 2013/14).



The National Development Plan (2010/11-2014/15) indicates that only 27% of women own land, which is a major factor of production and can be sold to get money for use for various purposes. The NDP further indicates that only 51% of women participate in decision-making at household level which is a reflection of their participation in society generally.



Causes of VAW/G:

- Power imbalance between men and women.
- Poverty
- Alcoholism
- Stereotyping or cultural beliefs.
- Communication breakdown between couples.
- Unfaithfulness
- Failure to produce children.
- Political reasons (support for different political parties/ candidates).
- Food storage issues.
- Intolerance/ spousal rage.
- Lack of love.

Effects of VAW/G:

- Sexual and reproductive health problems, such as Sexually Transmitted Infections (including HIV), unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion.
- Mental illnesses including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, attempted suicide.
- Immediate injuries such as fractures and hemorrhaging and long-term physical conditions such as central nervous system disorders and chronic pain.

Other effects include:

- Separation of families.
- Increased poverty. Reduced productivity which drains family and public budgets.
- Increased number of orphans and child headed families.
- School drop outs
- Early marriages
- Street children
- High crime rate

Why prevent VAW/G?

- Fulfill Global and regional commitments made to uphold the dignity and rights of every citizen
- Fulfillment of government's obligation on the sustainable development goals particularly: Goal number **5** which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Protect the rights of women and create a safe political social and economic environment for them [**1995** Constitution of the Republic of Uganda; Chapter **4**, section **20 (1)**]
- To save costs at individual, family, community and national level. An annual estimate of economic burden of domestic violence in Uganda by **2015** was UGX **77.5** billion.
- Prevent HIV/AIDS and other related health consequences.

WE ALL HAVE A RIGHT TO BE SAFE:

TOGETHER WE CAN END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS!