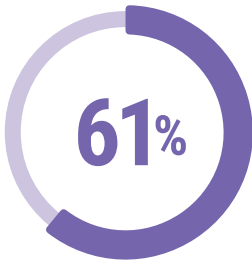


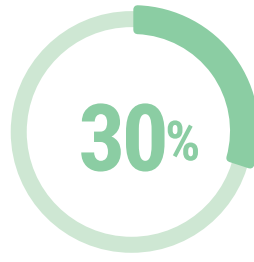
Uganda's Future Relies on Investments in Adolescent and Youth Family Planning



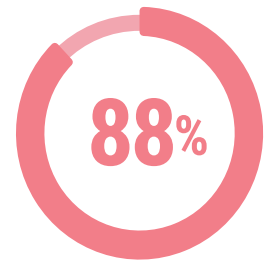
Adolescents and Youth in Uganda Have a Need for Contraceptive Services That Is Not Being Met



Married women ages 15 to 19 who wish to avoid pregnancy but are not using modern contraception.¹



Unintended pregnancies among adolescents that end in abortion, which can lead to long-term damage, disease, or death if performed in an unsafe environment or by an unskilled provider.²



Unintended pregnancies among adolescents ages 15 to 19 that occur to those not using modern contraception.³

If young people cannot use the family planning services they need, their futures—and the future of our nation—are threatened.⁴

Uganda Lacks a Protected Budget Line for Family Planning

The Government of Uganda made a financial commitment of US\$5 million annually to family planning under Family Planning 2020. However, not only has the government fallen short of that commitment, as shown by its contribution to the reproductive health budget line, but **the majority of these funds have been spent on other reproductive health products instead of family planning commodities.** In fiscal year 2019-2020, more than 95% of domestic financing (about US\$4 million) for reproductive health was used to procure mama kits (affordable safe delivery kits that include the basic supplies needed to give birth), leaving little for contraceptive commodities.⁵

Without a protected and specific budget line for family planning commodities and services, health facilities cannot provide adolescents and youth with the family planning services they need.

Improving Young People's Family Planning Services Can Save Lives and Money

Contraceptives prevent unintended pregnancy, reduce the number of unsafe abortions, and lower death and disability related to complications from pregnancy and childbirth.⁶

UGX

3,500 UGX spent = 9,000 UGX saved

For every 3,500 shillings spent on contraceptive services for adolescents, more than 9,000 shillings is saved on maternal and newborn health care.⁷



Unintended pregnancies would drop by **72%**

Adolescent maternal deaths would decrease by **35%**

Anticipated results if all women ages 15 to 19 in Uganda who did not want to become pregnant were able to access modern contraception.⁸

Engaging Young Ugandans in Family Planning Policy Decisions Can Help to Ensure Their Needs Are Met

Policymakers can ensure that the diverse sexual and reproductive health needs of young Ugandans are met by including them in the decision-making process. **Programs are more effective and resources are used more efficiently at institutions that take this step.**⁹

Uganda has the opportunity to involve diverse young people in policy decisions, which is critical to improving youth access to inclusive family planning (see box). As young people become advocates for programs and services, they can play a role in contributing to Uganda's national commitments to improve the health of all Ugandans.

Young People Have Diverse Family Planning Needs

Young people are not a homogenous group and have different family planning needs. Depending on several factors, including their **residence, gender, economic situation, and whether they have a disability**, youth may face different barriers to accessing or using family planning services.¹⁰ Engaging these diverse youth groups in policy decisions can help ensure family planning programs address the needs of **all** youth.

Recommendations

To meet young people's family planning needs, national and local decisionmakers must act now.

- **The Ministry of Health** should create an independent budget line for adolescent and youth family planning services under the national health budget.
- **Members of Parliament** should meaningfully involve existing youth organizations and work with youth and adolescents as partners to ensure that funding decisions for family planning are inclusive and meet the diverse needs of youth.
- **District local governments** should allocate 10% of their health budgets to inclusive adolescent and youth family planning programming.



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