

INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL IS THE KEY TO ELIMINATING POVERTY IN KASESE DISTRICT



Uganda aspires to become a competitive upper middle-income country by 2040. Aligned with this goal, Kasese District seeks to eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic development. By investing in human capital, Kasese can accelerate progress toward Uganda’s goals and help the country achieve a demographic dividend.

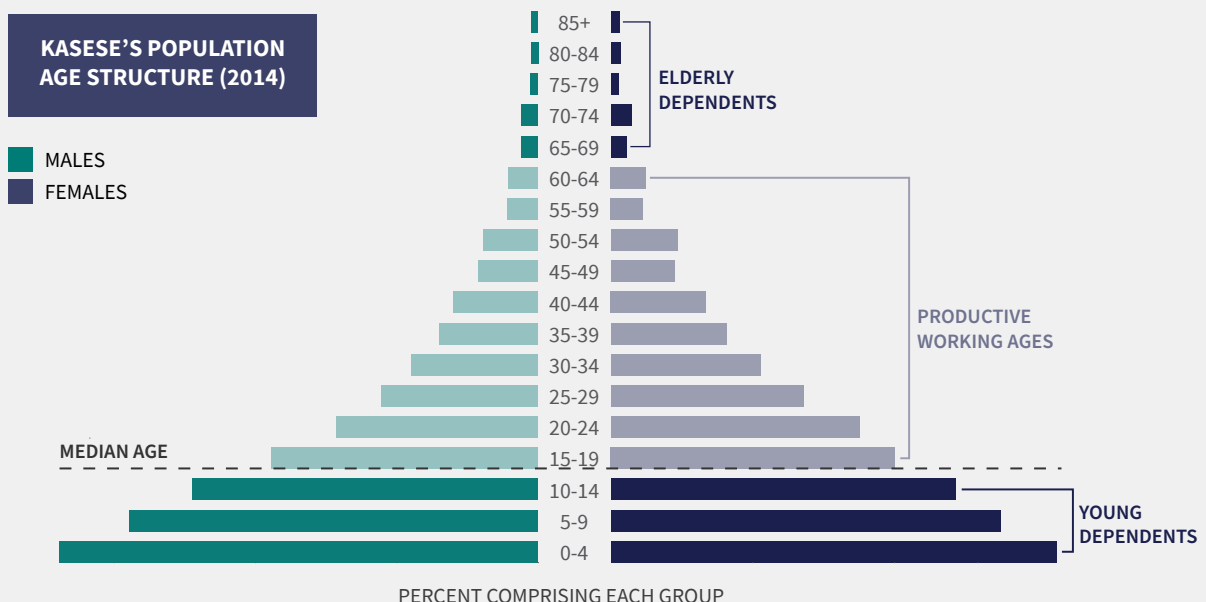
The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that can result from a decline in a country’s birth and death rates and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. With fewer births each year, the share of the population in the young dependent age groups grows smaller relative to the share in the working ages, thereby reducing the dependency burden. This shift creates a window of opportunity to attain the dividend if the right investments in health, education, the economy, and good governance are made.

SPOTLIGHT ON KASESE

Population Age Structure and Human Capital Development

Kasese’s population age structure is young, as seen in the broad base of the population pyramid. Fertility is high, with an average of 6.1 births per woman, compared to the national average of 5.4.

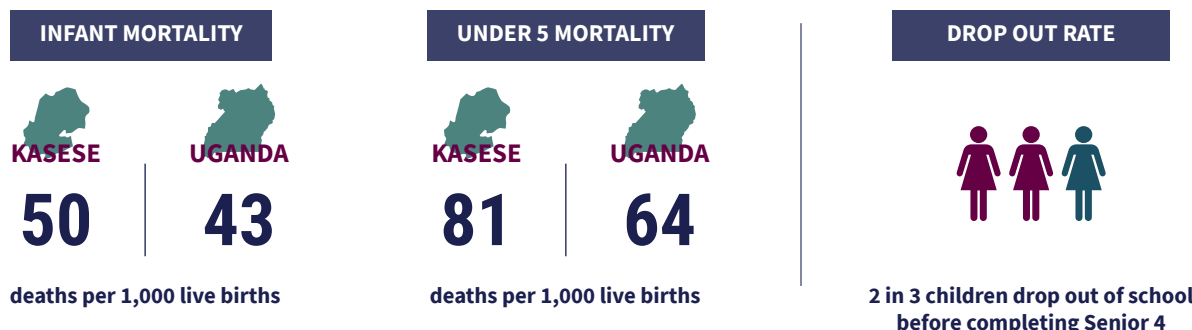
The median age of the population in Kasese, or the age at which half the population is older and half is younger, is 15. When the median age of the population is between 25 and 40, Kasese is more likely to achieve its goals to improve child survival, increase educational attainment, accelerate economic growth, and reduce poverty.



Source: Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), *National Population and Housing Census 2014–Main Report* (Kampala, Uganda: UBOS, 2016).

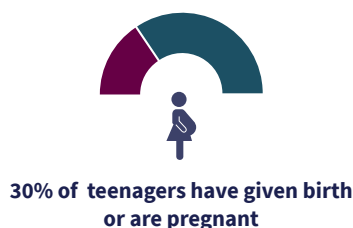
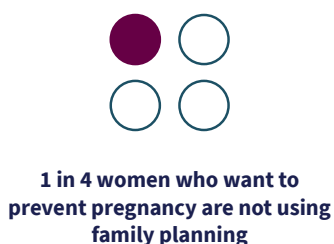
Family Planning Is Critical to Achieve a Demographic Dividend

Investments in family planning, education, and skills development are the surest way to help Uganda achieve a demographic dividend. Access to voluntary family planning can drive rapid improvements in maternal health and child survival by enabling healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy. With fewer children to support, couples are more likely to keep their children in school and are able to grow household wealth.



Access to Family Planning Among Women and Couples in Kasese Remains Limited

Kasese can accelerate progress towards its five-year development goals by prioritizing family planning as a key human capital investment in the district development plan.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KASESE

- Adopt priority interventions outlined in Uganda’s Demographic Dividend Roadmap in Kasese’s District Development Plan.
- Improve access to and quality of affordable health, education, and agricultural extension services.
- Communicate the benefits of family planning, including healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy and improved quality of life.
- Advocate for more funding for family planning interventions aimed at reducing unmet need.
- Recruit more health workers to ensure all clients in health facilities receive services in a timely manner, thereby building trust in government health facilities.
- Establish policies that enable girls to complete schooling, including after giving birth.

SOURCES

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Kasese District Local Government, *Five Year District Development Plan 2020/21-2024/25*.

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