

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



Uganda aspires to become a competitive upper middle-income country by 2040. Aligned with this goal, Agago District, in the Acholi Region, seeks to create a more conducive socioeconomic and political environment to achieve sustainable development. By investing in human capital, Agago can accelerate progress toward Uganda’s goals and help the country achieve a demographic dividend.

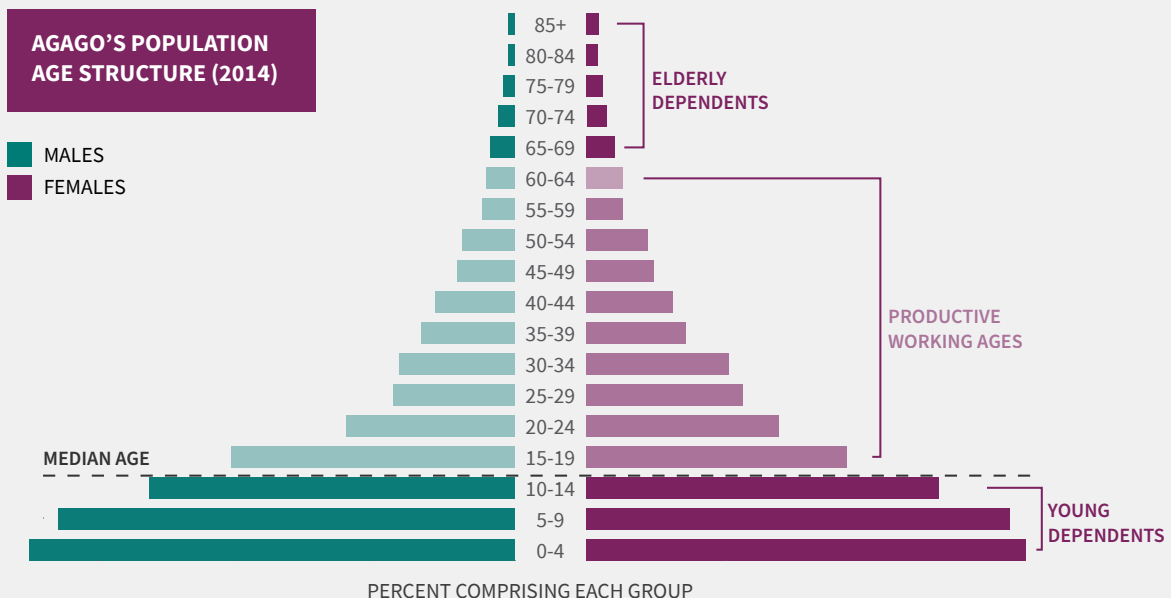
The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that can result from a decline in a country’s birth and death rates and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. With fewer births each year, the share of the population in the young dependent age groups grows smaller relative 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 AGAGO

Population Age Structure and Human Capital Development

Agago’s population is growing rapidly, which has had negative effects on the environment (as most people settle in wetlands) and job opportunities. The population age structure is young, as seen in the broad base of the population pyramid. Fertility is high, with an average of 7.8 births per woman, compared to the national average of 5.4.

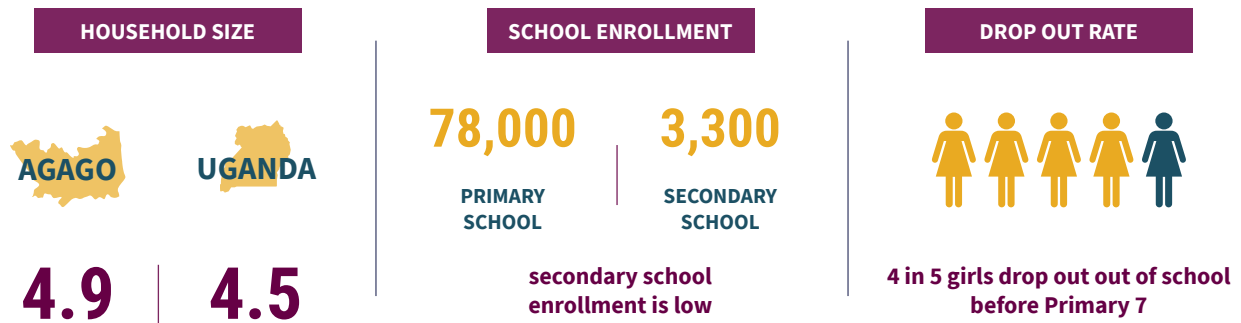
The median age of the population in Agago, or the age at which half the population is older and half is younger, is 14. When the median age of the population is between 25 and 40, Agago is more likely to achieve its goals to improve child survival, increase educational attainment, accelerate economic growth, and reduce poverty.



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

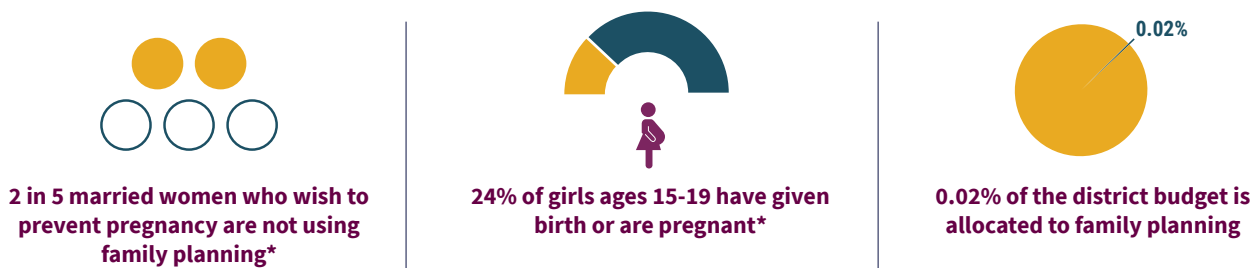
Family Planning Is Critical to Achieve a Demographic Dividend

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 Girls in Agago Remains Limited

Agago can accelerate progress towards its five-year development goals by prioritizing family planning as a key human capital investment in the district development plan. Prioritizing family planning means addressing unmet need, especially for adolescents, and increasing health and family planning budget allocations. Improved access to quality family planning services and education enables women and couples to make the best decisions for themselves about the size of their family.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AGAGO

- Improve access to and quality of affordable health and education services, particularly those related to sexual and reproductive health.
- Communicate the benefits of small household size via family planning, including healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy and improved quality of life.
- Increase funding allocation for family planning programming aimed at reducing unmet need, particularly for adolescents.
- Establish community awareness campaigns and public service announcements describing health facility services, including immunizations and antenatal care.
- Establish policies that encourage secondary school enrollment and that enable girls to complete their education, including after giving birth.

NOTE

Asterisk (*) indicates cases where data were not available at the district level so data from the region in which the district is located are applied.

SOURCES

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