



Projections of demographic trends in Uganda 2007-2017

Volume I

UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Plot 9, Colville Street
P. O. Box 7186, Kampala
Tel: 256 41 706 000
Fax: 256 41 237 553
Email: ubos@ubos.org
Website: www.ubos.org

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FOREWORD

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics was established in 1998 as a semi-autonomous Government agency responsible for coordinating, monitoring and supervising the National Statistical System. The Bureau continues to support Government's results-based agenda by providing statistics needed for planning, monitoring development performance and progress in the implementation of major national development policies and initiatives.

In its continued commitment to make statistics a 'public good', the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) generates and publishes population projections to inform the national development policies and targets as outlined in the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). This report focuses on demographic trends in Uganda taking into account HIV/AIDS. The report provides the projected population of Uganda broken down by sex, age and geographical distribution. In order to make readers appreciate better the projections, the report also has information on the socio-economic profile of Uganda, need for demographic projections, projection methods, assumptions and scenarios, and the impact of AIDS on the population size and composition. Illustrative uses of the projections results in planning for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are also included.

In order to support the decentralized planning policy, UBOS produced detailed projections at district level broken down by sex. These will be published in separate report (vol. II). Further, sub county population projection estimates have also been produced in collaboration with staff from the District Planning Units.

The process of development of this report on projections of demographic trends in Uganda is a result of many consultative discussions. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics wishes to recognize the fundamental input of all stakeholders who participated in the production of this report. The Bureau is grateful to the many institutions and individuals who contributed in various ways to the success of generating these projections. They include those who participated in making assumptions and actual projections and providing the input data: Ministry of Health-AIDS Control Programme, Uganda AIDS Commission, the World Health Organisation and the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics. We also acknowledge the input of various officers from the Ministry of Health, Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics and the Population Secretariat. The contribution of several UBOS staff who actively participated in the production of this report is appreciated.

We are particularly grateful to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the financial and technical support. The United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) is also greatly acknowledged for the financial input to the production of this report. Uganda Bureau of Statistics further wishes to recognize and appreciate the technical support from Prof. Eric .O. Ujdo and for his dedication towards ensuring that this report is written.

The Bureau appeals to the people of Uganda to make maximum use of the population projections as a basis for evidence-based policy debate and design; decision-making at every level of society; investment and business transactions; and for many other purposes.

John B. Male - Mukasa

Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Population projections are essential for planning at the national, regional and district levels in the private and public sectors. In order for planners and policy makers to efficiently allocate the scarce resources, they need to know the future size and structure of the country's population as well as their characteristics.

Two population projection scenarios have been made including the high and low scenarios. The low variant scenario is essentially an AIDS impact scenario while the High variant projection does not explicitly take into account HIV / AIDS in the assumptions. Thus the low variant projections are considered to be the more probable situation. However, by comparing the results of the low variant projections with those of the High variants, we are able to examine the projected impact of HIV/AIDS on the population size and structure.

In the High Variant the population of Uganda is estimated to be 43.4 million in 2017 while in the low Variant projections it is estimated at 40.6 million. On this basis, AIDS is projected to reduce the size of the population of Uganda's population by 2.8 million persons (7%) by 2017.

The annual number of births is projected to increase to 1.9 million in 2017. The HIV epidemic seems not to have a significant impact on the number of births through out the projection period. However more deaths (531,000) are recorded in the low variant than in the high variant, which is attributed to the impact of HIV/AIDS. The gap between the low and high variant is narrowing probably due to the introduction of ARVs.

The population of Uganda is youthful and will continue to be throughout the projection period due to the prevailing high fertility. The projected median age of the population by 2017 is 15 years. The size of the working age population in Uganda is projected to increase steadily from about 14 million in 2007 to about 21million in 2017. The population of school going age (6-18 years) is generally increasing over the projection period irrespective of the existence of HIV/AIDS. The primary school age population (6-12 years) would increase from an estimated 6.3 million in 2007 to approximately 8.9 million in 2017 and the size of the secondary school age population (13-19 years would increase from an estimated 4.7 million in 2007 to approximately 6.6 million in 2017.

With the prevailing HIV/AIDS epidemic the dependency burden is generally high but given the lowering fertility and increase in the number of persons in the working age group (15-64 years), it is projected that the dependency burden would smoothly reduce from 110 for every 100 working persons in 2007 to 103 dependants for every 100 working persons in 2017.

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CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND

1.1 General Information about Uganda

1.1.1 Location and Size

Uganda is located in East Africa and lies across the equator, about 800 kilometres inland from the Indian Ocean. It lies between 1° 29' South and 4° 12' North latitude, 29° 34' East and 35° 0' East longitude. The country is landlocked, bordered by Kenya in the East; Sudan in the North; Democratic Republic of Congo in the West; Tanzania in the South; and Rwanda in South West. It has an area of 241,038 square kilometers, of which the land area covers 197,323 square kilometres.

1.1.2 Administration

The country is currently divided into 80 districts. The districts are sub divided into lower administrative units. These are counties, sub-counties and parishes. Overtime, the numbers of districts and lower level administrative units have continuously increased (see table 1) with the aim of making administration and delivery of services easier. The total number of districts increased from 56 districts at the time of the 2002 Population and Housing Census to 80 in 2007. This however, had a negative element in that most of the districts do not have time series data and hence it is not possible to do a district level trend analysis and demographic behaviour.

Table 1: Number of Administrative Units by Census 1969 – 2002

Level of Administrative Unit	Census Year			
	1969	1980	1991	2002
District	21	33	38	56
County	111	140	163	163
Sub-county	594	668	884	958
Parish	3,141	3,478	4,636	5,238

In addition to the administrative system, Uganda has a parallel Local Governments System at different levels. These are LC V (District); LC IV (County / Municipality); LC III (Sub – County); LC II (Parish); and LC I (Village). The role of the local governments is to implement and monitor government programmes at the respective levels.

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