

Poverty & Equity Brief

Africa Eastern & Southern

Uganda

April 2022

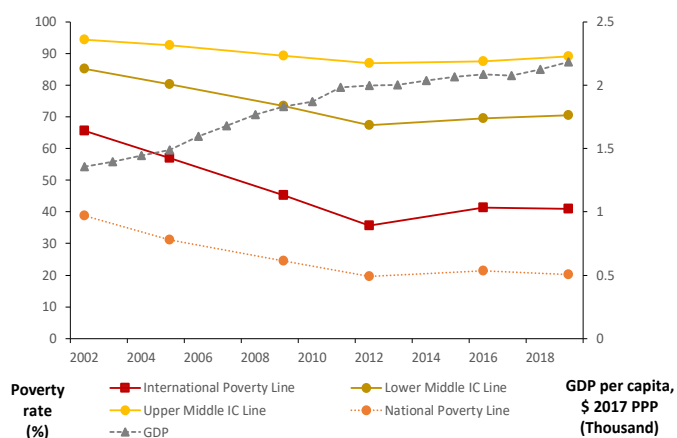
The most recent poverty estimate from the Uganda National Household Survey 2019/20 (UNHS) is equal to 20.3 percent. If split into pre-COVID-19 and pandemic time, the UNHS 2019/20 shows a decline in poverty from 21.4 percent in 2016/17 to 18.7 percent in 2019, before the COVID-19 outbreak and a subsequent increase in poverty to 21.9 percent afterwards. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) has also released new poverty rates using a revised poverty line. According to it, the national poverty rate in 2019/20 was about 30 percent, being closer to but still lower than the international poverty rate of 41 percent. The annualized consumption growth for the bottom 40 percent of population during 2016/17 and 2019/20 was close to zero, but still slightly higher than the negative mean consumption growth of -0.26 percent. Lower work stoppages in the agriculture sector during COVID-19 and favorable weather conditions in 2019 and 2020 likely helped the most vulnerable to sustain positive consumption growth on average. Multidimensional poverty declined between 2016/17 and 2019/20 mainly due to increased access to electricity through wider usage of solar panels, but still remained higher than 50 percent.

Regarding the most recent outcomes, the High-Frequency Phone Survey conducted in October/November 2021 showed that employment dropped from 92 percent in March/April 2021 to 81 percent in October/November 2021 after the second lockdown, falling below the pre-March 2020 level used as a pre-pandemic baseline number (87 percent). The incidence of work stoppages reported in October/November 2021 were more universally distributed compared to June 2020, when work stoppages concentrated in urban areas and in the services sector. Work stoppages after the second lockdown were at least partially related to prolonged dry spells observed in different parts of the country in 2021. Weather shocks could also be responsible for higher food insecurity, which increased dramatically in October/November 2021 in all regions. Still, the expected acceleration of economic growth may reduce poverty in 2023 and 2024, but this will depend on how COVID-19 evolves, how long Russia's invasion continues, the pace of food inflation, and any environmental shocks.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	9.0	20.3	2019
International Poverty Line 2775.4 in Uganda shilling (2019) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	18.1	41.0	2019
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 4674.3 in Uganda shilling (2019) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	31.2	70.5	2019
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 8034 in Uganda shilling (2019) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	39.4	89.0	2019
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		51.3	2019
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		0.05	2016-2019
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		42.7	2019
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		0.31	2016-2019
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		1.48	2016-2019
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		-0.26	2016-2019
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		0.31	2016-2019

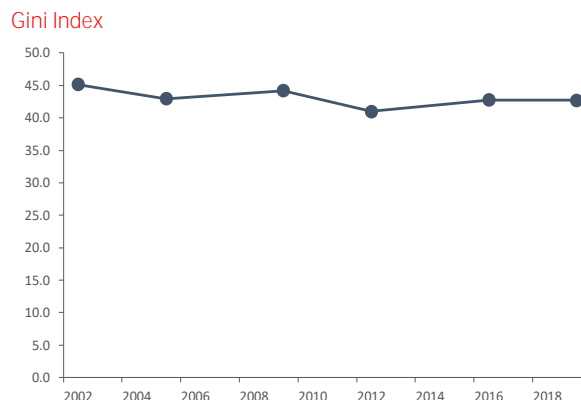
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of April 2022, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2002-2019



Source: World Bank using UNHS/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2002-2019



Source: World Bank using UNHS/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

Distribution among groups: 2019	International Poverty Line(%)		Relative group (%)		Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2019 (% of population)	
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60		
Urban population	78	22	21	79	Monetary poverty (Consumption)	
Rural population	52	48	47	53	Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person	41.0
Males	59	41	40	60	Education	
Females	59	41	40	60	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	11.8
0 to 14 years old	53	47	46	54	No adult has completed primary education	31.4
15 to 64 years old	64	36	35	65	Access to basic infrastructure	
65 and older	65	35	34	66	No access to limited-standard drinking water	23.7
Without education (16+)	46	54	53	47	No access to limited-standard sanitation	71.1
Primary education (16+)	59	41	40	60	No access to electricity	41.3
Secondary education (16+)	77	23	22	78		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	94	6	6	94		

Source: World Bank using UNHS/SSAPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using UNHS/SSAPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Uganda is one of the few countries in the region to have frequent high-quality surveys to monitor the overall wellbeing and poverty level of the population, and scores 71 (out of 100) in the Statistical Capacity Index. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) has conducted household surveys (Uganda National Household Survey—UNHS) every three to four years since the 1990s. Results from the most recent UNHS survey conducted in 2019/20 were announced in summer 2021. The data collection was done in September 2019–February 2020 and July 2020–November 2020 with a break during the strict lockdown in March–June 2020. Uganda uses the cost-of-basic needs method to measure the level of poverty. It estimates the expenditure needed to satisfy a minimum caloric requirement (3,000 per adult equivalent) and basic non-food needs (the non-food expenditure of those households on the food poverty line). There are adjustments for differences in regional prices and for changes in prices during the duration of the survey. The current national poverty line was set in 1998 (using 1993 data) and it might no longer reflect the reality in which poor Ugandan households live. In order to address this issue, UBOS has estimated a new poverty line using consumer basket from 2016/17 year. New poverty line, called upper poverty line, resulted in shift of poverty rates from about 20 to 30 percent in 2019/20. New poverty rate is still lower than poverty obtained from using international poverty line of 1.9 USD 2011 PPP which is based on the average of the poverty lines of the poorest 15 countries in the world.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.