

UGANDA HIV EPIDEMIC PROFILE

2014

UGANDA

Overview

Uganda is located in East Africa, with Kenya lying to the east, South Sudan to the north, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west and Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania to the south. The population is estimated at 35.4 million people [mid 2013 estimates] and the population continues to grow rapidly at a rate of 3.2% annually. The total fertility rate¹ is estimated at 6.2 while the average life expectancy is 53.5 years. Seventy-eight percent of the population is below 30 years of age while 52% is below 15 years. The prevalence of HIV among the general population in the country is estimated at 7.0% [7.4–8.0%], but higher among women (8.3%) than men (6.1%), and higher among the fishing communities (22%), commercial sex workers (35%) and men who have sex with men (13%). HIV prevalence is higher in urban areas (8.7%) compared to rural areas (7%).

Table 1
HIV epidemic indicators

	2010	2013
People living with HIV	1 300 000 [1 300 000–1 400 000]	1 600 000 [1 500 000–1 700 000]
New HIV infections	160 000 [150 000–170 000]	140 000 [120 000–160 000]
Adult 15+ new HIV infections	130 000 [120 000–140 000]	120 000 [110 000–140 000]
AIDS-related deaths	67 000 [60 000–75 000]	63 000 [56 000–71 000]
HIV prevalence (adults aged 15-49)	7.0% [6.6–7.4%]	7.4% [7.0–8.0%]
HIV incidence (adults aged 15-49)	0.91% [0.84–1.00%]	0.80% [0.70–0.92%]
Children (0-14 years) living with HIV	200 000 [180 000–230 000]	190 000 [170 000–220 000]
Children (0-14 years) newly infected with HIV	31 000 [27 000–35 000]	16 000 [10 000–21 000]
Adults 15+ living with HIV	1 100 000 [1 100 000–1 200 000]	1 400 000 [1 300 000–1 500 000]
Women 15+ living with HIV	650 000 [620 000–700 000]	790 000 [740 000–850 000]
HIV prevalence among young women (15-24 years)	4.1% [3.7–4.8%]	4.2% [3.7–5.0%]
HIV prevalence among young men (15-24 years)	2.4% [1.7–3.2%]	2.4% [1.7–3.3%]
New HIV infections among young women (15-24 years)	30 000 [27 000–34 000]	29 000 [25 000–35 000]
New HIV infections among young men (15-24 years)	17 000 [13 000–21 000]	17 000 [12 000–21 000]
HIV-positive incident TB cases*	—	—
Percentage of men circumcised (adults aged 15-49) †	26%	33.2%

Sources: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates²; † Uganda Global AIDS Response Progress Report, 2013.

1. POPSEC (2012). The State of Uganda Population Report 2012. Population Secretariat. Kampala.
2. UNAIDS 2014 Gap Report and unpublished estimates of the Gap Report

Fig. 1
HIV prevalence by geographical region

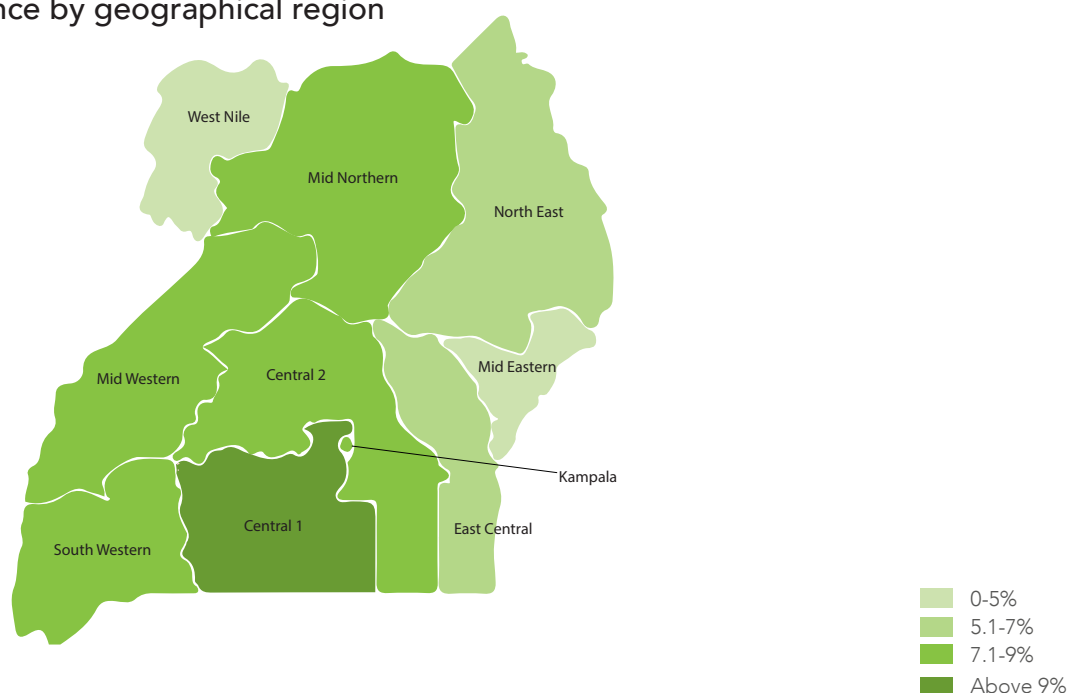


Table 2
HIV prevalence among populations at high risk of infection

Population group	HIV Prevalence
Men who have sex with men	13%
Fishing communities	22%

Source: Uganda Investment Case, 2014.

Table 3
HIV programme data

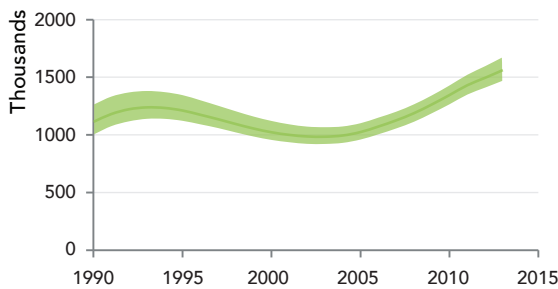
	2010	2013	June 2014
Number of adults living with HIV receiving ART	239 103	551 650	629 212
Number of children living with HIV receiving ART	21 763	43 525	51 302
Adult ART coverage (of all adults living with HIV)	21% [20–22%]	40% [38–43%]	
Child ART coverage (of all children living with HIV)	11% [10–12%]	22% [20–26%]	
Number of women receiving PMTCT services*	28 590	88 266	
Number of women needing PMTCT services	100 000 [90 000–110 000]	120 000 [100 000–130 000]	
PMTCT coverage	28% [25–32%]	75% [68–85%]	

* Pregnant HIV-positive women receiving ARVs

Sources: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates; UNAIDS 2014 Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting; MOH Quarterly Report, October–December 2011; MOH Quarterly Report, October–December 2013.

HIV trend data

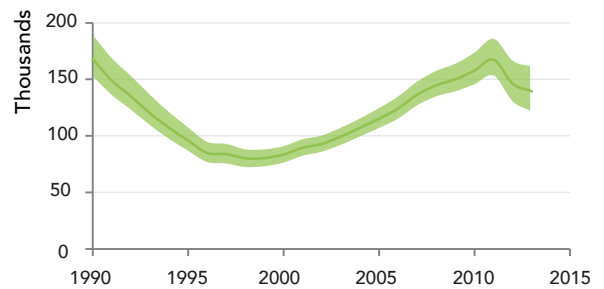
Fig. 2
Number of people living with HIV



There has been an increase in HIV prevalence since the mid 2000's.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

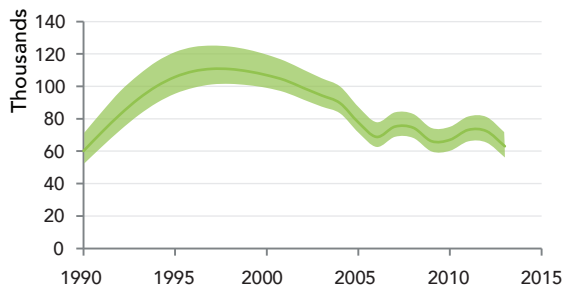
Fig. 3
Number of new HIV infections



New HIV infections declined from about 160 000 to 140 000 over the period 2010 to 2013.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

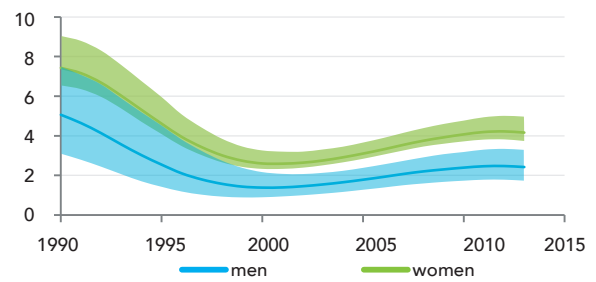
Fig. 4
Number of AIDS-related deaths



HIV-related deaths have declined because of increased access to ART.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

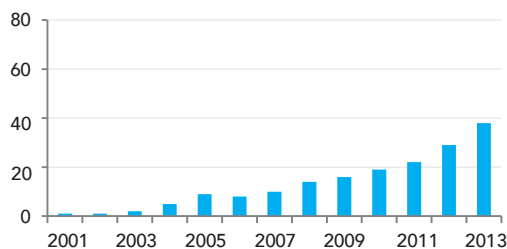
Fig. 5
Prevalence (%) among young people (15–24)



HIV prevalence among young men and women has not shown a decline since 2000.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

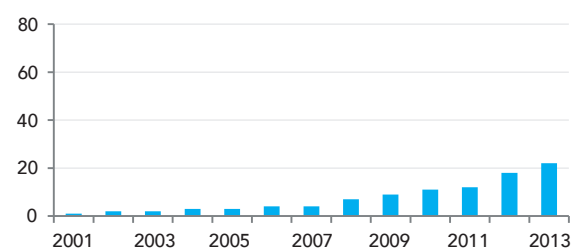
Fig. 6
ART coverage (%) of all people living with HIV



The rapid scale-up of ART has led to a reduction in AIDS-related deaths. More needs to be done to ensure that people who are enrolled for treatment are retained in care.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

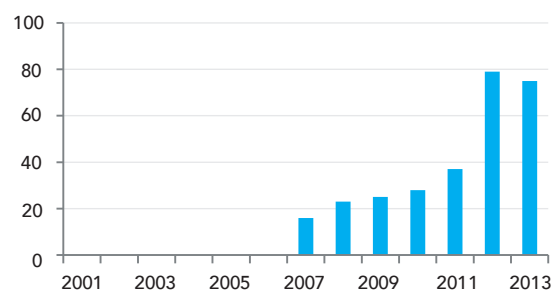
Fig. 7
ART coverage (%) of children living with HIV



ART coverage among children remains below expected levels.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

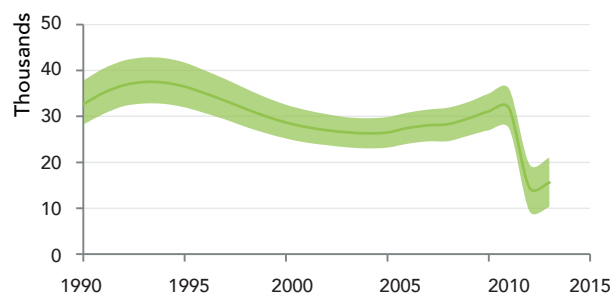
Fig. 8
PMTCT coverage (%)



PMTCT services have been scaled up rapidly, resulting in a substantial reduction in the number of children who are born HIV-positive.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

Fig. 9
Number of new child HIV infections



Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

Table 4
HIV knowledge, attitude and practice

	Men	Women	Total
Percentage of young women and men aged 15–24 who correctly identified ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission and prevention	39.3%	38.6%	38.9%
Percentage of young women and men aged 15–24 who have had sexual intercourse before age 15	11.9%	13.1%	12.6%
Percentage of adults aged 15–49 who had sexual intercourse with more than one partner in the last 12 months	18.7%	3.0%	13.3%
Percentage of adults aged 15–49 with more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months who reported the use of a condom during last intercourse	14.8%	15.8%	15.0%
Percentage of sex workers reporting the use of a condom with their most recent client	ND	66%	—
Percentage of men reporting the use of a condom the last time they had anal sex with a male partner	Casual = 43% Steady = 50%	—	—
Percentage of women and men aged 15–49 who received an HIV test in the last 12 months and who know their results.	30.4%	41.7%	38.9%

Source: Uganda Progress report, 2013.

Fig. 10
Gender equality

Present at national level

- Women living with and affected by HIV participated in CEDAW monitoring
- Integrating services for sexual and reproductive health and for HIV
- HIV plans and budgets in ministries responsible for gender
- Social protection includes women living with HIV
- Women living with HIV participate in response review
- Data available on gender-based violence and HIV
- Disaggregated data available (age and sex)
- Health sector policy on gender-based violence
- Response budget for women's organization
- Qualitative assessments conducted

Available on project basis

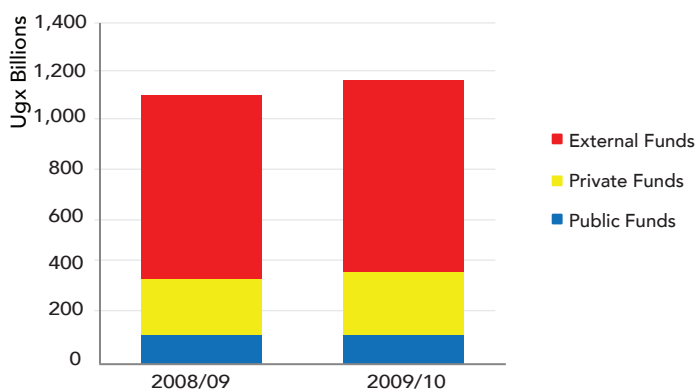
- Funding gender-equity programmes for men and boys
- Data on resources used for women's programmes
- National Response gender review undertaken
- Female condoms procured and distributed

Not Available

Source: Scorecards on gender equality in national HIV responses, 2013

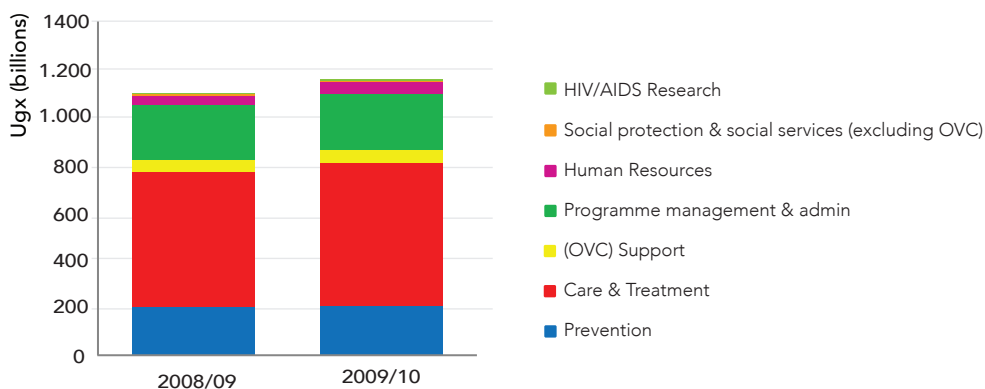
Spending on HIV response

Fig. 11
Spending proportions by source of funding (UGX billions)



Source: Uganda NASA, 2012.

Fig.t 12
Distribution per AIDS spending categories



Source: Uganda NASA, 2012.

Commitment to HIV prevention, treatment and care

- Uganda is committed to reaching the global targets outlined in the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. It has intensified and refocused the national response by declaring the period 2010 and 2011 a time to re-launch and reinvigorate its HIV and AIDS control efforts. This has led to a reduction in AIDS-related deaths, new HIV infections and PMTCT scale-up.
- The country has concluded a programme review of the current National Strategic Plan (NSP) and is developing a 2015/16–2019/2020 NSP with aggressive targets to reduce new HIV infections and to achieve the vision of zero new infections, zero deaths and zero discrimination

Achievements/progress in the national HIV response

- The number of new HIV infections has declined over the last three years, from 170,000 in 2011 and 150,000 in 2012 to 140,000 in 2013, though this is far from the 2015 target of 72,000.
- Political and cultural leaders have played various roles as champions of Uganda's HIV/AIDS response. The Parliamentary HIV/AIDS Standing Committee, Sessional Committee on Social Services and the Presidential Affairs Committee have participated actively in discussing matters concerning HIV/AIDS.
- To further strengthen governance and leadership of the multi-sectoral response, UAC partnered with traditional and cultural leaders from over 17 cultural institutions to educate and sensitise them on the roles of cultural beliefs and practices in fuelling the HIV epidemic.
- The Ugandan Government has demonstrated its commitment by increasingly allocating more funds to the health sector. The funding increased from UGX 375.38bn (US\$ 156m) in 2008/09 to UGX 852bn (US\$ 340.8m) in 2012/13.
- The percentage of pregnant women receiving antiretroviral therapy to prevent mother-to-child transmission has increased from 37% in 2011 to 75% in 2013. The target set for treatment provision to eligible adults and children, using the 2010 treatment criteria of CD4 cell count < 250 / μ L, has been met. The current total number of adults and children receiving ART is 595,175; 551,650 adults and 43,525 children.
- There has been a reduction in the number of people living with HIV and persons most vulnerable to exposure to HIV who reported experiencing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), from 39% to 25% in 2013.

Challenges in the national HIV response

- Male health seeking behaviour with low disclosure of HIV status to spouses remains a challenge.
- Frequent shortages of supplies and 'stock-outs' of safe male circumcision kits. The demand for related services in targeted key population remains high.
- A combination of challenges has affected Uganda's HIV prevention efforts. For example, condom use has been declining partly because of condom stock-outs and condom fatigue.
- Providing services to key and vulnerable populations is still a challenge because of structural and environmental barriers.
- Despite improvements in the geographical coverage of ART, persistent disparities in ART distribution by sex and age remain. Paediatric ART coverage remains low at 22%. There are still high levels of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.
- Reduced levels of funding for the HIV/AIDS response are worrisome. Funding from external sources has decreased because of Uganda's classification as an upper middle income country, and the global economic environment.



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