



Buyamba News

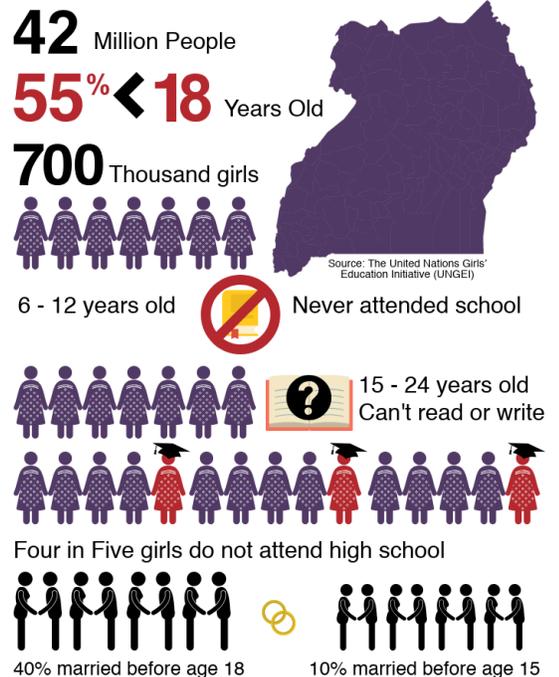
Helping Uganda...one child at a time

The Importance of Education for Girls in Uganda

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in Africa. It is estimated that 55% of its population (now estimated at 42 million) is below 18 years old. However, the girls face a particularly challenging life and the need for education is even more pronounced in many cases. The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) reported that more than 700,000 girls in Uganda between the ages of 6 to 12 have never attended school. Half of the girls between the ages of 15 to 24 are illiterate, and 4 in 5 girls do not attend high school. Some of this has to do with the fact that 40% of the girls are married before age 18 with 10% of these being under 15. Local traditions, especially in rural areas, dictate that girls can be married in exchange for a dowry, a sum of money given to the daughter's family as payment.

Teenage pregnancy in Uganda is also one of the highest in the world (with the highest percentage in Uganda among the poorest of the poor). There are even superstitions that if a man with HIV has sex with a virgin girl, it may take the disease away...so there are often cases of kidnapping or sex without mutual consent, or tempting payments offered that could reduce a girl's poverty for a time. Needless to say, the girls also have a high rate of sexually transmitted diseases.

Population Facts: Uganda



A volunteer from the Buyamba office, Meachun Clarke, visited God Cares School and other ministries in Uganda with a short term mission trip with Claris Health of LA, to help educate the students and other groups about health and sex education. Meachun recalls one image that stands out in her mind more than others which was when they went to a women's shelter where there were at least 20 pregnant girls around the age of 14 united together in one room to greet them with a song. She was taken aback by how young they were. The team brought the women supplies, birthing kits, and blankets for the babies to encourage these young mothers, many of them shunned by their families because they were raped and pregnant. The team's objective was to support them and educate them on their pregnancy, but as Meachun explained, "These future moms were children themselves, and were trying to grasp what was really happening to them and what their lives would look like very soon."

Your Sponsorship Changes A Life

The call is simple, but the need is vast; **there are over 2.5 million orphans in Uganda**, primarily due to communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, respiratory tract infections, and diarrheal diseases, and even simple viruses. One out of six children walking the streets is orphaned by at least one parent. Buyamba's vision is to empower the orphaned and needy children of Uganda to impact their nation for Christ by offering love, hope, and a future through education and discipleship...one child at a time.

Life is often hard in Uganda. Many parents may want their children to have a better experience than they did, but the harsh economic reality is that if they are not working, they're often a financial hardship to their parents. However, if children are not



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going to school, they are merely bound to repeat the cycle of poverty. **When you sponsor a child, your commitment is helping to break that cycle.** Because of your generosity, your child now has the opportunity to receive an education. Once sponsored, these children will have their tuition paid, the required uniforms, and the school supplies needed in the classroom, and two to three meals a day—something they don't always get at home. Best of all, these children will have a brighter future and a faith to carry them. That's what education does. It opens up the world.

Thank you for opening your heart to get involved with helping the Ugandan children. The bond between a sponsor and a sponsored child can be a strong one, especially when your child learns of your care and commitment to their future. We look forward to building a meaningful relationship with you, one where you can have a voice in changing a child's life, and a nation's future.

Education for Girls in Uganda

Extreme poverty is another deterrent to school in that there is no “free education” in Uganda, there are always school fees, supplies, and uniforms involved with every school, and with the fact that there are also multiple kids usually in the family, a son's education will usually be prioritized. All of these factors lead the girls to usually find themselves in the workplace, caring for the needs of the whole family. The Global Partnership for Education reported that “Instead of studying books, their girls are brewing and selling beer, traipsing to town to sell charcoal, working in restaurants, weeding or rearing animals. In short, families cannot afford to send their girls to school when an extra pair of hands can bring in some money.” Statistics show that a woman who is educated will educate their children if at all possible. Half of the time, an uneducated woman will not bother teaching her own children, especial the girls. Giving girls a chance in school will also result in a reduction of child marriages and births. The statistics are also linked to lower mortality rates, higher pay jobs and the possibility of improving the standard of living overall for when a woman is educated; statistics show that she will invest roughly 90% of her income back into her family.

When I asked Worship Dongo, head of the Buyamba Orphan Outreach ministry at God Cares School in Uganda, why is education so important for women. She passionately explained, **“Back in the day women were only known for kitchen jobs and nothing more. So with education, it gives the girls a chance to express themselves more. Women grow up and get to make an income, and they reduce both the number of single mothers who can't take care of their children and early pregnancies.”**

Buyamba is proud of the fact that there are just a little more girls than boys at every level of education sponsored at God Cares Schools, at the Primary, Secondary, and University levels. We understand that education is valuable for all and specifically essential for women to succeed. It is right and good to invest in these future moms and dads of Uganda through education and discipleship, as this empowerment may eventually lead to a changed nation with fruitful citizens who will impact both the government, the economy, and local communities for Christ.