



NATIONAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2024 MONOGRAPH

# ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVC)



**Volume 4**

March 2026

This report presents findings on the profile of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) using data from the National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2024.

Images courtesy of Action Hope Uganda and <https://www.embracerelief.org/how-to-take-care-of-orphans-and-vulnerable-children/>

Additional information about the NPHC 2024 and the OVC Monograph can be obtained from the UBOS Head Office, Statistics House. Plot 9 Colville Street, P. O. Box 7186, Kampala, Uganda; Telephone: +256-414 706000; E-mail: [ubos@ubos.org](mailto:ubos@ubos.org); Website: [www.ubos.org](http://www.ubos.org)

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## PREFACE

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The Uganda Bureau of Statistics published the National Population and Housing Census 2024 Final Report – Volume 1 (Main) in December 2024. This was followed by dissemination of the Population Projections report 2025-2050 and two monographs namely, the 15 Sub-region profiles (Volume 2), and Disability Monograph (Volume 3) using data from the NPHC 2024.

The Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVCs) monograph (Volume 4), derived from the NPHC 2024, provides statistical information on the status of OVCs in Uganda. OVCs include children who have lost one or both parents or are otherwise at increased risk of vulnerability due to factors like poverty, disability, forced displacement, or living in situations of inadequate adult support. Information on OVCs is also critical for tracking progress toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals on Good Health and Well-being (3), Gender equality (5), and Quality Education (4), among others.

The Bureau is appreciative of UNICEF and a team of resource persons led by Professor Yovani Adulamu Moses Lubaale for their financial and technical support in the compilation of this monograph.

Finally, the Bureau urges the public to utilise the report for evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, further research and appropriate resource allocation to meet the evolving needs of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in Uganda.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris N. Mukiza', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris N. Mukiza (PhD)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Uganda Bureau of Statistics is grateful to the following people who contributed to the production of this monograph.

- The senior team at UBOS provided technical support in compilation and review of the report. These include Chris N. Mukiza (PhD) – Executive Director, Vincent F. Ssenono (PhD)-Deputy ED, Mrs. Hellen Namirembe Nviri - Director Population and Social Statistics, and Mrs. Sharon Apio Basala – Head of Department Demography and Social Statistics.
- The UBOS team that handled the data analysis was comprised of Mr. Galande Johnstone, Mr. Eric Okiria, Mr. Emmanuel Ariong, Mr. Wakooli Brian and Mr. Okello Daniel. The cartographic team who produced maps included, Mr. Kavuma Sulaiman and Mr. Ntalo Norman.
- Mrs. Oliver Taremwa, Mrs. Flavia Ouma and Mr. Ronald Otyek, who designed, proofread and formatted the report.
- The team from Busitema University, Faculty of Health Sciences, led by Professor Yovani Adulamu Moses Lubaale, the lead author of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) monograph.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The OVC monograph presents the status of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in Uganda based on the 2024 National Population and Housing Census while observing trends through a re-analysis of the 2002 and 2014 Census datasets.

The data shows a continuous growth in the number of children between 2002 and 2024. In 2002, the total number of children was 13,374,904, which rose to 18,866,480 in 2014, and further increased to 22,152,538 in 2024. This significant increase indicates that the number of children aged 0-17 years nearly doubled over the 22-year period.

**Orphanhood:** 86.3 percent (19,115,735) of the children enumerated had both their parents alive while 2,873,622 (13.0%) of the children had either lost one or both parents. Of the orphans, 42.4 percent the survivor status of both parents was not known, 8.5 percent whose mother is dead did not know the survivorship of their father, and 6.6 percent whose father is dead did not know the survivorship of their mother.

**Child marriage:** 610,790 children aged 10-17 (6.7%) were either currently married or have ever been married, and 197,031 did not state if they have ever married or not. The lowest proportion was among children with some primary education (5.4%) then 6.9 percent among those with some secondary education and 11.9 percent among those with post-secondary or higher. Findings further show that orphaned children are more likely to be married (9.5%) compared to their counterparts who are not orphaned (6.1%). The Karamoja Sub region had the highest proportion of married children in Uganda at 12.6%, followed by Sebei (8.4%), Lango (7.9%), and Bugisu (7.3%).

**Child motherhood:** Out of the 4,619,063 girls aged 10–17 years in 2024, a total of 68,787 (1.5%) were child mothers. The highest proportion of child mothers was recorded in the Bunyoro sub-region (2.2%), followed by the Rwenzori sub-region (2.07%). Namayingo district had the highest proportion of child mothers at 31.2 child mothers per 1,000 girls aged 10-17 years, closely followed by Buvuma District at 30.3 per 1,000. The prevalence of child mothers was higher among orphans (2.1%) than non-orphans at 1.4 percent.

**Refugee Children:** 430,575 children (1.9% of total children population) were Refugees/Asylum seekers. The level of orphanhood among refugee children (24.5%) is more than two times that of the non-refugee children (12.7%). Among refugee children, 10,562 out of 430,575 had an unknown parental survival status.

**Birth registration:** In 2024, 2,267,947 (10.2%) of children aged 0-17 had their births registered with a birth certificate, while another 8,086,641 had a birth notification but without a birth certificate. The possession of a birth certificate by orphanhood status showed that the prevalence of birth registration was higher among non-orphans (10.4%) than orphans (9.3%).

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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AHH	Adult Headed Household
CHH	Child Headed Household
CM	Child Mothers
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DK	Don't Know
FHH	Female Headed Household
MHH	Male Headed Household
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UN	United Nations
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census

## DEFINITIONS

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**Child:** A person aged less than 18 complete years. That is someone who has not yet celebrated their 18th birthday.

**Orphanhood:** A child who has lost either one or both parents. This definition can be extended to include children whose parental status is not known based on the compendium of statistical definitions in Uganda (UBOS, 2005, cited in Lubaale, 2010). The age of less than 18 years was adopted by the UN and has been incorporated in the Convention on the rights of the child (CRC) and the African Charter (UN 2002), for which the Government of Uganda is a signatory.

**Vulnerable Child:** A child who is currently either experiencing or likely to experience lack of adequate care and protection. In order to avoid bias of defining vulnerable children as including orphans only, it is at times recommended that the term “most vulnerable” be used. One can define “Most Vulnerable Children (MVC)” as children who have lost either one parent or both; or have been abandoned or lost contact with their biological parent(s), either experiencing or likely to experience lack of adequate care and protection (Kaare 2005). This definition differentiates vulnerable children from those who are both orphans and vulnerable. In the case of MVC/OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children), vulnerability is defined as living in an environment that is a breeding ground for denial of privileges and basic rights for a decent life, such as education, food, housing, parental love etc. (Kaare 2005).

**Child Mother:** Any female child who has ever given birth, irrespective of the survival status of the baby.

**Child Marriage:** Anybody (male or female) below the age of 18 years staying or having stayed with someone of the opposite sex as though husband and wife, irrespective of the legality of the Union.

# CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

---

## 1.1 Background

All over the world, children suffer violations of their human rights ranging from violence and exploitation to the deprivation of basic needs against which they have no defense, which results into vulnerability<sup>1</sup>. The vulnerability affects different children uniquely. Using the 2024 National Population and Housing Census, this OVC monograph presents some categories of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children. Though the census mainly produces absolute figures for consumption by the Government, and other stakeholders, this report presents both the absolute figures, and their underlying implications and meaning.

## 1.2 Objective

This monograph provides an in-depth analysis of the status of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in Uganda. Specifically, the report provides:

- a) Levels and distribution of categories of orphans and other vulnerable children in Uganda
- b) Key Socio-economic Characteristics Associated with vulnerability among children

## 1.3 Methodology for compiling the Report

**Data Source:** The main source of data for the OVC monograph was the NPHC 2024. In order to present trends and changes overtime, a re-analysis of data for NPHC 2002 and 2014 was conducted.

**Data Scope:** The report focuses on children who are orphans, child mothers, children ever married, Refugee children and Birth registration. This answers the question of how many children are affected, who are they, and where do they live.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Key stakeholders from Government, Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Academia and Development partners participated in stakeholder consultative meetings to develop tabulation plans, prioritize on key indicators, and review of the final report.

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<sup>1</sup> 2025: The Peak of Child Rights Violations, *the Media and Communication Department at ANECD, UNICEF*

## 1.4 Variable selection

In writing this OVC monograph, the following variables were considered in showing the levels and distribution of vulnerable children.

**Table 1.1 Variables considered during analysis**

Dependent variables	Independent variables
Orphanhood (survival status of parents)	Economic activity status
Survival status of parents; unknown	Age of child
Child mothers	Place of enumeration, spatial analysis
Child marriage	Ethnicity
Refugee children (migration status)	Sex of child
Ownership of a birth certificate	Household size
	Relationship to household head
	Age of household head
	Sex of household head
	Religion
	School attendance status,
	Main source of livelihood,
	Type of dwelling unit
	Orphanhood status
	Type of housing
	Place of Residence (Sub region, District, and Rural-Urban)

**Note:** *The categories of other vulnerable children not considered in this publication are the non-household children (floating /street children and institutional children), children with disability, which are in volume 1 and 3 of the Census monographs.*

## 1.5 Data Presentation

The data in this monograph is presented based on the 17 Sub region groupings as classified in the First Schedule of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Districts, which are the higher Local Government units in Uganda (Map1).

Map 1: Districts in Uganda by Sub - region

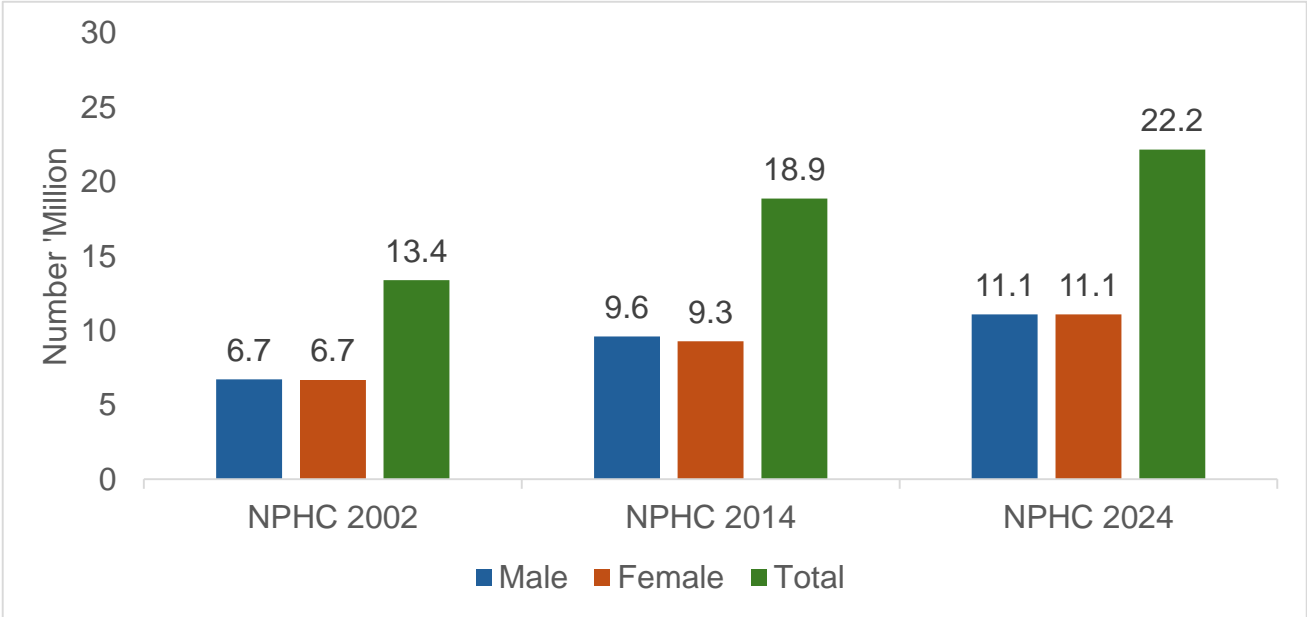


### 1.6 Characteristics of Children

A child is defined as a person aged 0 -17 years. **Table 1.2** displays the number of persons in this age group for the three censuses. The data from the three Censuses shows a continuous growth in the number of children between 2002 and 2024. In 2002, the total number of children was 13.4million, which rose to 18.9million in 2014, and further increased to 22.2million in 2024. This significant increase indicates that the number of children aged 0-17 years nearly doubled over the 22-year period. Between 2002 and 2014, the number of children grew by 5.5million, representing an average annual increase of 457,631 children. Between 2014 and 2024, the number of children in this age group grew by 3.3million, averaging about 328,606 children per year.

In percentage terms, the number of children increased by 41 percent between 2002 and 2014, and by 65.6 percent between 2002 and 2024. These figures imply that the number of children born in Uganda has risen from approximately 2,721 children per day in 2002 to 3,332 children per day in 2014, and to 3,600 children per day in 2024. Notably, this rapid growth in the child population has occurred despite a decline in the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) during the same period from 7.0 children per woman in 2002 to 5.8 children per woman in 2014 to 4.5 children per woman in 2024.

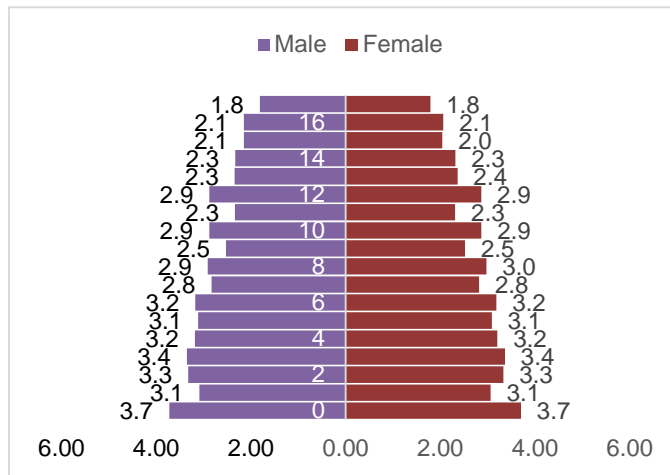
**Figure 1.1: Trend in Number of Children aged 0-17 Years**



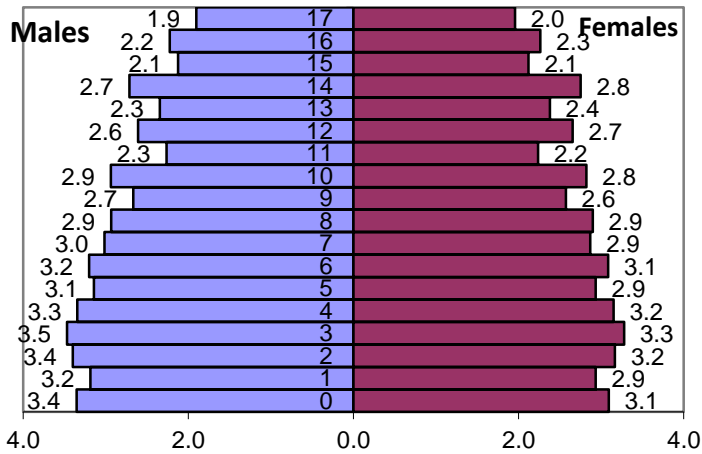
**Table 1.2. Number of Children aged 0-17**

Age	NPHC 2002			NPHC 2014			NPHC 2024		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
0	993,336	498,108	495,228	1,216,390	632,848	583,542	1,313,958	662,401	651,557
1	822,756	412,908	409,848	1,154,189	600,893	553,296	1,265,411	639,047	626,364
2	890,440	445,011	445,429	1,238,299	641,002	597,297	1,317,445	664,755	652,690
3	898,373	448,413	449,960	1,272,817	654,696	618,121	1,317,395	661,472	655,923
4	854,792	425,950	428,842	1,225,460	631,123	594,337	1,405,858	711,238	694,620
5	829,878	416,746	413,132	1,146,495	592,787	553,708	1,386,520	699,551	686,969
6	850,727	424,542	426,185	1,185,837	604,282	581,555	1,309,874	656,947	652,927
7	755,740	378,710	377,030	1,110,526	569,324	541,202	1,264,532	635,850	628,682
8	787,620	389,804	397,816	1,100,744	553,905	546,839	1,249,465	622,940	626,525
9	674,971	337,779	337,192	988,628	503,356	485,272	1,167,347	586,515	580,832
10	768,871	385,038	383,833	1,086,685	554,402	532,283	1,252,299	629,806	622,493
11	622,275	312,590	309,685	848,980	427,188	421,792	1,112,813	553,188	559,625
12	768,148	384,904	383,244	992,770	492,088	500,682	1,215,475	608,014	607,461
13	629,605	313,411	316,194	891,136	442,417	448,719	1,170,429	582,574	587,855
14	622,191	311,999	310,192	1,031,355	512,275	519,080	1,144,215	568,829	575,386
15	560,481	287,079	273,402	800,546	400,519	400,027	1,157,825	569,519	588,306
16	563,036	286,957	276,079	846,899	419,689	427,210	1,088,643	533,441	555,202
17	481,664	242,278	239,386	728,724	359,386	369,338	1,013,034	490,299	522,735
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,374,904</b>	<b>6,702,227</b>	<b>6,672,677</b>	<b>18,866,480</b>	<b>9,592,180</b>	<b>9,274,300</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>11,076,386</b>	<b>11,076,152</b>
<b>Growth rate</b>				141.1	143.1	139.0	165.6	165.3	166
<b>Sex ratio</b>			100.4			103.4			100

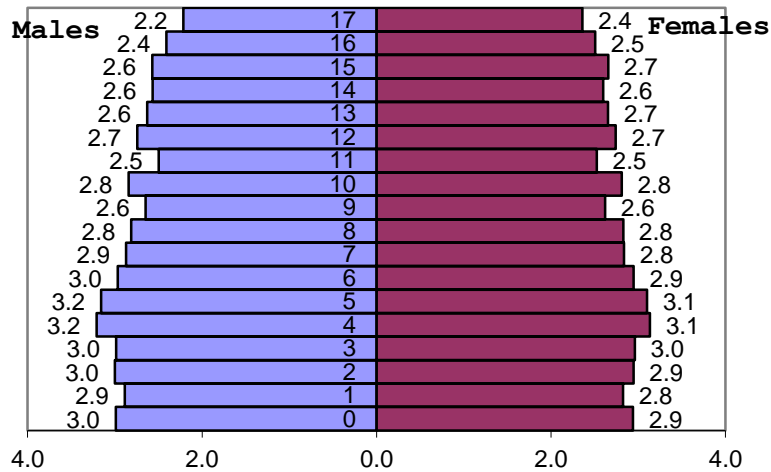
**Figure 1.2 Population pyramid for persons aged 0-17 years**



Source: NPHC 2002



Source: NPHC 2014



Source: NPHC 2024

## 1.7 Sex Ratio of Children

Sex Ratio is the proportion of males to females within a population. A ratio of 100 indicates an equal number of males and females, while a ratio below 100 indicates more females than males and a ratio above 100 indicates more males than females. During all three censuses, the number of boys aged 0-17 was slightly higher than the number of girls in the same age category, resulting into a sex ratio of 100.4, 103.4, and 100.0 for the NPHC of 2002, 2014 and 2024 respectively. The population pyramids for children in 2002, 2014, and 2024 show a systematic shift from a broad base to a more cylindrical shape, indicating a declining rate of population growth. Therefore, we can conclude that Uganda's population is growing at a decreasing rate.

## 1.8 Vulnerable Children

Vulnerability in this report includes but is not limited to children having no parents (orphanhood), being a child mother/ child father (ever given birth), though its only asked of girls, child bride (ever married/currently married), having no Birth certificate and being a refugee or asylum seeker (migration status). These were compared by sex of the child, residence (Sub region, District, and Rural/urban), Household size, Ethnicity, residence, School attendance (with UPE, all children are expected to be in school), religion, activity status of the household member (to understand child labour) and source of livelihood, household headship (age and sex of the household head), and type of housing as displayed in Table 1.1.

## 1.9 Report Outlay

The report is composed of eight (8) chapters; Chapter one provides the Introduction, chapter two discusses the characteristics of children, chapters three and four shed light on Orphanhood and children whose parent's survival status is not known. Chapter four and five present findings on child marriage and child motherhood respectively. Chapters six and seven show a profile of refugee children and birth registration among children. Chapter eight provides conclusion of the findings on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in Uganda.

## CHAPTER TWO: ORPHANHOOD

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### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the proportion and number of orphaned children by selected characteristics and provides comparison to the 2002 and 2014 Censuses. The first category of vulnerable children or a condition that can cause child vulnerability is orphanhood.

### 2.2 Orphanhood level

During the NPHC 2024, 86.3 percent (19,115,735) of the children out of the 22,152,538 enumerated had both their parents alive. This means that 3,036,803 (13.7%) of the children either had lost one or both parents or the survival status of their parents was not known thus for every 8 children, one was an orphan. In comparison to 2014, there were 18,866,480 children, of whom 17,345,781 had both parents alive, while 1,520,699 had lost either one or both parents, or the survival status of their parents was unknown. In absolute figures, the number of orphans within a period of about 10 years increased by 1,516,104. Considering 2014 as the base year, this is an increase of 20.3 percent (the number of orphans has doubled).

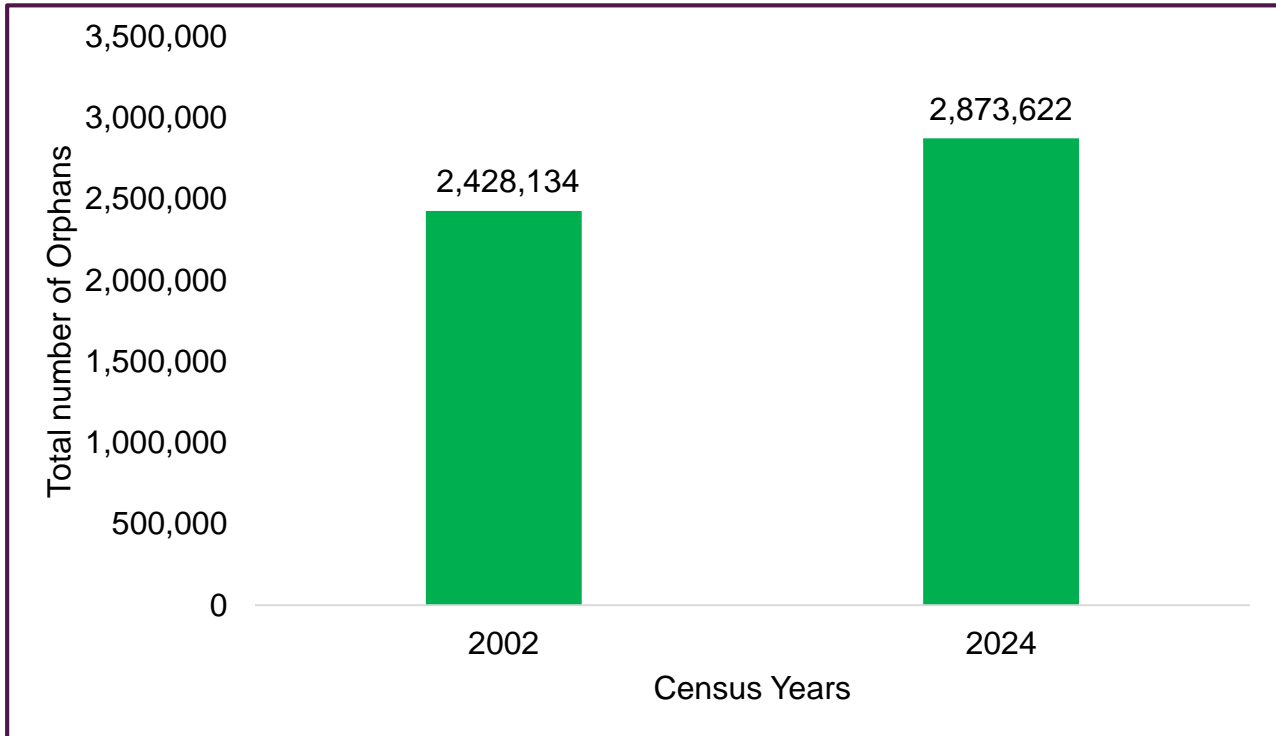
The number of paternal orphans was higher than the number of maternal orphans. Overall, 2,464,493 children had lost their father, or the survival status of their father was not known. This accounts for 11.1 percent, meaning that for every 10 children in Uganda aged less than 18 years, one does not have a father or does not know if their father is alive or not. On the contrary, 7.2 percent of the children do not have a mother, or one in fourteen children do not have a mother. Of these, 921,334 children aged less than 18 years, do not have both their parents. This means that for every 25 children in the country, one had lost both parents (**Table 2.1**).

**Table 2.1 Levels and Trends of Orphanhood by selected characteristics**

Characteristics	NPHC 2024	
	Number	Percent
<b>Survival Status of Parents</b>		
Both parents alive	19,115,735	86.3
Mother alive, father dead	1,372,229	6.2
Father alive, mother dead	550,925	2.5
Both parents' dead	921,334	4.2
Mother alive, father Don't know	60,324	0.3
Mother dead, father Don't know	16,395	0.1
Father alive, Mother Don't know	21,385	0.1
Father dead, Mother Don't know	12,739	0.1
Don't know	81,472	0.4
<b>Orphan hood Status</b>		
No	19,278,916	87.0
Yes	2,873,622	13.0
<b>Orphan hood Type</b>		
Lost father or survival unknown	2,464,493	11.1
Lost mother or survival unknown	1,604,250	7.2
Orphan hood /survival parent unknown	3,036,803	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>100</b>

The trends of Orphanhood show that the number of orphans in 2002 was 2,428,134 children (both or one of the parents dead), this increased to 2,873,622 (**Figure 2.1**).

**Figure 2.1: Number of Orphans, 2002-2024**



Source: National Population and Housing Census

### **2.3 Distribution of Children for whom the Parent’s Survival Status is unknown**

In 2024, 0.7 percent (192,315) of persons below 18 years had the survival status of at least one of their parents not known (**Table 2.2**). Of these children, 42.2 percent did not know the survival status of both parents while 31.4 percent of these children had their mothers alive and the survival status of their fathers was not known. In addition, 11.1 percent of the children’s fathers were alive, but the survival status of their mother was not known.

Specifically, this category of children is what will be referred to in this OVC monograph as **most vulnerable** children. These include 42.4 percent children who did not know the survival status of both parents, 8.5 percent whose mother is dead and they did not know the survivorship of their father, and another 6.6 percent whose father is dead and they did not know the survivorship of their mother.

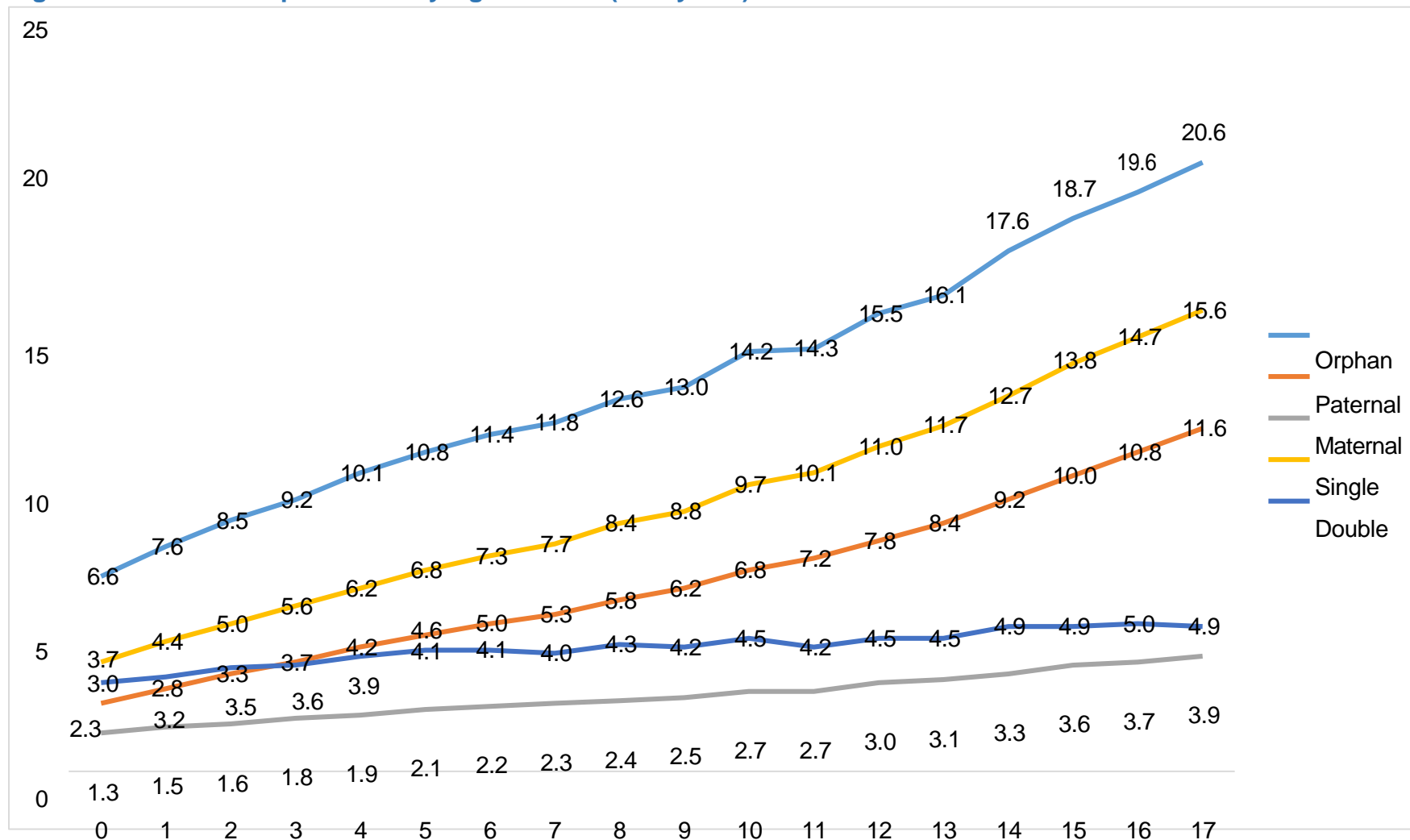
**Table 2.2: Distribution of Children for whom the survival status of Parents is unknown**

Survival Status of Parent	NPHC 2024	
	No.	Percent
Mother alive, Father Don't know	60,324	31.4
Mother dead, Father Don't know	16,395	8.5
Father alive, Mother Don't know	21,385	11.1
Father dead, Mother Don't know	12,739	6.6
Don't know both	81,472	42.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **2.4 Orphanhood by the age of the child**

Orphanhood level increases with increasing age of the child. Whereas only 6.6 percent of the children below one year had lost at least one parent (**Figure 2.2**), by age 6, when they were of primary school going age, 10.8 percent had lost at least one parent (One in ten children in primary one is an orphan). By the time they were about to transform into adults (at age 17), one in every five children (20.6%) had lost at least one parent. These are high levels of orphanhood in a country where life expectancy is improving and the country has been able to control HIV/AIDS and insurgencies in Northern Uganda, especially in the Acholi Sub region in the last 20 years.

**Figure 2.2: Level of Orphanhood by Age of Child (0-17 years)**



Source: NPHC 2024

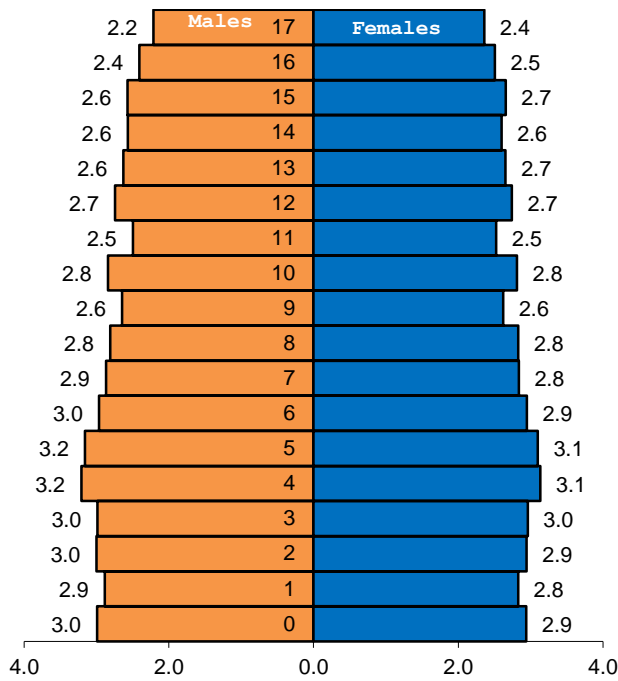
A comparison by category of orphanhood shows that maternal orphanhood increased at the lowest rate, from 1.3 percent among children aged 0 to 3.9 percent among those aged 17, an increase of 2.6 percentage points (**Figure 2.3**). Similarly, the proportion of double orphans rose from 3.0 percent among children aged 0 to 5.0 percent among those aged 16, an increase of 2.0 percentage points. In contrast, the death of the father is the greatest contributor to orphanhood. The proportion of paternal orphans increases from 2.3 percent among children aged 0 to 11.6 percent among those aged 17, an increase of 9.3 percentage points, which is more than three times the increase in either double or maternal orphans. This significant increase contributes substantially to single orphanhood, with the proportion of children who have lost one parent rising from 3.7 percent at age 0 to 15.6 percent at age 17, an increase of 11.9 percentage points.

Overall, one in every five children aged 17 in Uganda is an orphan, despite improvements in health status, as reflected in the increase in life expectancy at birth from 51.4 years to 68.5 years between 2002 and 2024. Figure 2.3 displays four pyramids: one for all children, one for orphaned children, one for paternal orphans, and one for maternal orphans. The pyramid for all children exhibits the expected broad-based shape, while the other three groups show an inverted pattern, indicating that the proportion of orphanhood increases with the child's age.

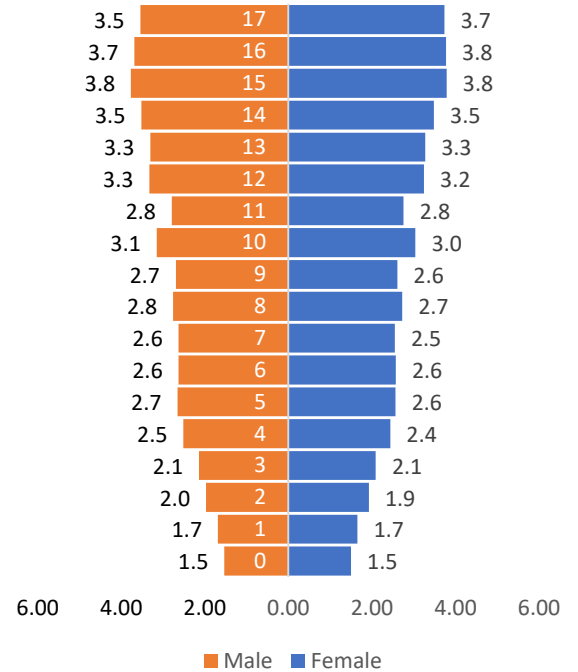
Several patterns are common across the graphs. Firstly, there appears to be age heaping, with a preference for certain digits, such as even numbers and multiples of five. Secondly, the number of children at age 11 is lower than at age 10 in all groups. Thirdly, in the orphanhood graphs, children aged 0 are the least likely to be orphans, compared to those in higher age groups. Finally, no differences are observed by sex across all the pyramids

**Figure 2.3: Population Pyramids for various categories of children**

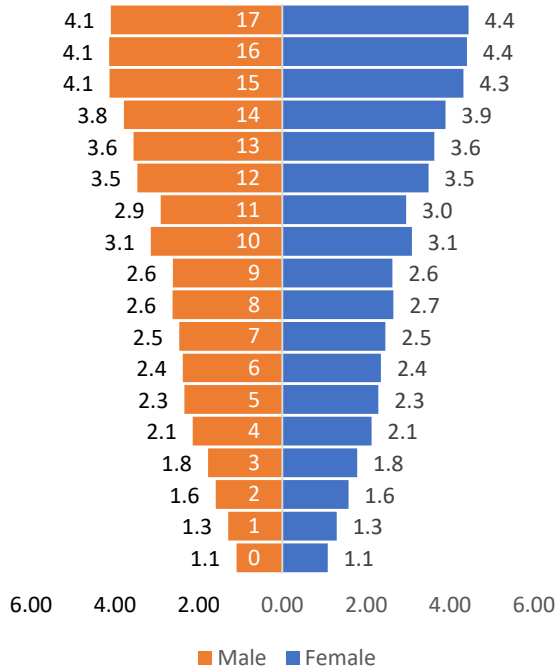
**Population Pyramid all children**



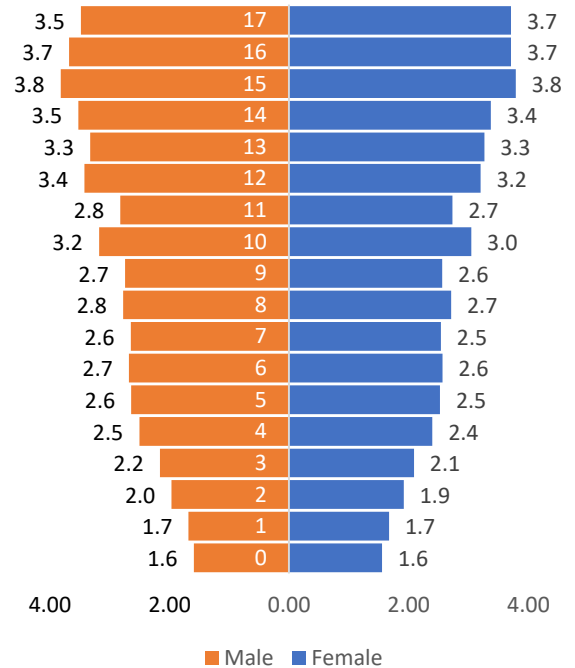
**Population Pyramid orphaned children**



**Population Pyramid Paternal Orphans**



**Population Pyramid Maternal Orphans**



Source: NPHC 2024

**Table 2.3A: Orphanhood level by Age of the child, 2024**

Age	Non-Orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Single		Double		All children
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
0	1,226,590	93.4	87,368	6.6	29,884	2.3	17,339	1.3	48,312	3.7	39,056	3.0	1,313,958
1	1,169,169	92.4	96,242	7.6	35,521	2.8	18,473	1.5	55,204	4.4	41,038	3.2	1,265,411
2	1,205,199	91.5	112,246	8.5	43,491	3.3	21,402	1.6	66,241	5.0	46,005	3.5	1,317,445
3	1,195,568	90.8	121,827	9.2	48,876	3.7	23,398	1.8	73,795	5.6	48,032	3.6	1,317,395
4	1,263,239	89.9	142,619	10.1	58,545	4.2	26,987	1.9	87,234	6.2	55,385	3.9	1,405,858
5	1,236,234	89.2	150,286	10.8	63,519	4.6	28,449	2.1	93,804	6.8	56,482	4.1	1,386,520
6	1,160,318	88.6	149,556	11.4	64,904	5.0	28,878	2.2	95,524	7.3	54,032	4.1	1,309,874
7	1,115,789	88.2	148,743	11.8	67,543	5.3	28,577	2.3	97,767	7.7	50,976	4.0	1,264,532
8	1,091,844	87.4	157,621	12.6	72,397	5.8	30,222	2.4	104,346	8.4	53,275	4.3	1,249,465
9	1,015,044	87.0	152,303	13.0	71,952	6.2	29,225	2.5	102,766	8.8	49,537	4.2	1,167,347
10	1,074,414	85.8	177,885	14.2	85,473	6.8	34,287	2.7	121,554	9.7	56,331	4.5	1,252,299
11	953,483	85.7	159,330	14.3	80,440	7.2	30,591	2.7	112,579	10.1	46,751	4.2	1,112,813
12	1,026,878	84.5	188,597	15.5	95,381	7.8	36,509	3.0	133,653	11.0	54,944	4.5	1,215,475
13	981,538	83.9	188,891	16.1	98,550	8.4	36,315	3.1	136,639	11.7	52,252	4.5	1,170,429
14	943,111	82.4	201,104	17.6	105,390	9.2	37,997	3.3	145,241	12.7	55,863	4.9	1,144,215
15	941,096	81.3	216,729	18.7	115,938	10.0	41,925	3.6	159,727	13.8	57,002	4.9	1,157,825
16	874,854	80.4	213,789	19.6	117,186	10.8	40,738	3.7	159,522	14.7	54,267	5.0	1,088,643
17	804,548	79.4	208,486	20.6	117,239	11.6	39,613	3.9	158,380	15.6	50,106	4.9	1,013,034
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,278,916</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>2,873,622</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>1,372,229</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>550,925</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1,952,288</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>921,334</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

**Table 2.3B: Orphanhood level by age of the child, 2014**

Age	Non orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Single		Double		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
0	1,201,658	98.8	14,732	1.2	10,669	0.9	3,147	0.3	13,816	1.1	916	0.1	1,216,390
1	1,133,392	98.2	20,797	1.8	15,364	1.3	4,178	0.4	19,542	1.7	1,255	0.1	1,154,189
2	1,207,496	97.5	30,803	2.5	22,228	1.8	6,505	0.5	28,733	2.3	2,070	0.2	1,238,299
3	1,232,397	96.8	40,420	3.2	28,614	2.2	8,827	0.7	37,441	2.9	2,979	0.2	1,272,817
4	1,177,619	96.1	47,841	3.9	33,484	2.7	10,481	0.9	43,965	3.6	3,876	0.3	1,225,460
5	1,091,411	95.2	55,084	4.8	37,802	3.3	12,511	1.1	50,313	4.4	4,771	0.4	1,146,495
6	1,120,428	94.5	65,409	5.5	44,948	3.8	14,869	1.3	59,817	5.0	5,592	0.5	1,185,837
7	1,039,787	93.6	70,739	6.4	48,720	4.4	15,787	1.4	64,507	5.8	6,232	0.6	1,110,526
8	1,021,709	92.8	79,035	7.2	53,966	4.9	17,787	1.6	71,753	6.5	7,282	0.7	1,100,744
9	909,062	92.0	79,566	8.0	54,009	5.5	17,851	1.8	71,860	7.3	7,706	0.8	988,628
10	982,809	90.4	103,876	9.6	69,280	6.4	23,406	2.2	92,686	8.5	11,190	1.0	1,086,685
11	762,467	89.8	86,513	10.2	58,991	6.9	18,848	2.2	77,839	9.2	8,674	1.0	848,980
12	874,374	88.1	118,396	11.9	78,500	7.9	26,385	2.7	104,885	10.6	13,511	1.4	992,770
13	772,105	86.6	119,031	13.4	78,426	8.8	26,019	2.9	104,445	11.7	14,586	1.6	891,136
14	879,483	85.3	151,872	14.7	100,116	9.7	32,592	3.2	132,708	12.9	19,164	1.9	1,031,355
15	667,496	83.4	133,050	16.6	85,995	10.7	28,019	3.5	114,014	14.2	19,036	2.4	800,546
16	691,010	81.6	155,889	18.4	99,715	11.8	32,762	3.9	132,477	15.6	23,412	2.8	846,899
17	581,078	79.7	147,646	20.3	94,264	12.9	30,303	4.2	124,567	17.1	23,079	3.2	728,724
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,345,781</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>1,520,699</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>1,015,091</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>330,277</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1,345,368</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>175,331</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>18,866,480</b>

Source: NPHC 2014

**Table 2.3C Orphanhood level by age of the child, 2002**

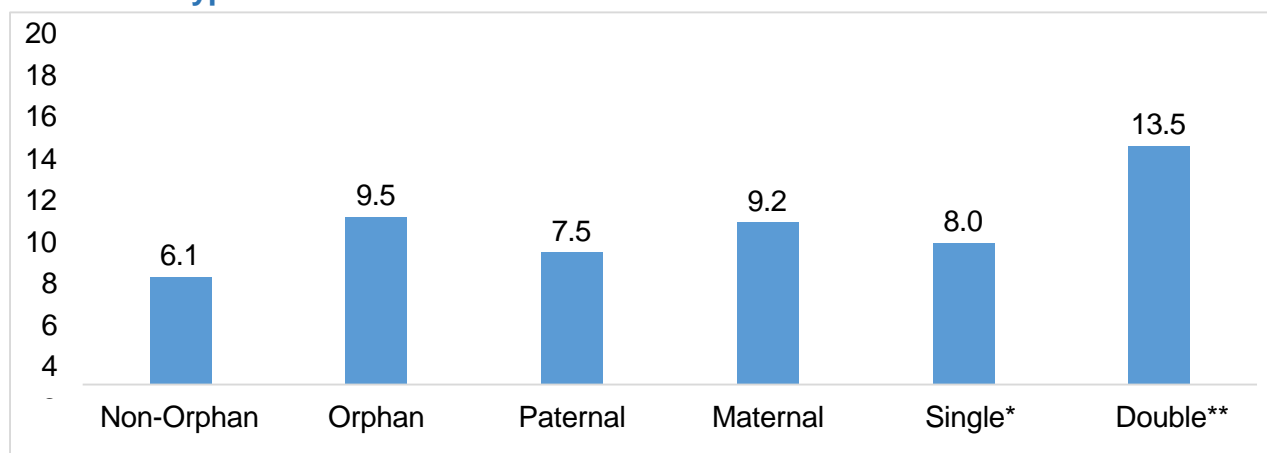
Age	Non Orphan		Orphan		Double Orphan		Maternal Orphan		Paternal Orphan		Single Orphan		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
0	972,005	97.9	21,331	2.1	607	0.1	4,550	0.5	17,388	1.8	20,724	2.1	993,336
1	796,964	96.9	25,792	3.1	1,036	0.1	5,892	0.7	20,936	2.5	24,756	3.0	822,756
2	853,092	95.8	37,348	4.2	2,364	0.3	10,113	1.1	29,599	3.3	34,984	3.9	890,440
3	847,424	94.3	50,949	5.7	4,075	0.5	15,383	1.7	39,641	4.4	46,874	5.2	898,373
4	794,409	92.9	60,383	7.1	6,070	0.7	19,794	2.3	46,659	5.5	54,313	6.4	854,792
5	758,471	91.4	71,407	8.6	7,964	1.0	23,845	2.9	55,526	6.7	63,443	7.6	829,878
6	766,247	90.1	84,480	9.9	10,491	1.2	29,348	3.4	65,623	7.7	73,989	8.7	850,727
7	668,269	88.4	87,471	11.6	12,263	1.6	31,505	4.2	68,229	9.0	75,208	10.0	755,740
8	685,221	87.0	102,399	13.0	15,677	2.0	38,011	4.8	80,065	10.2	86,722	11.0	787,620
9	575,558	85.3	99,413	14.7	16,590	2.5	38,037	5.6	77,966	11.6	82,823	12.3	674,971
10	636,608	82.8	132,263	17.2	24,463	3.2	53,093	6.9	103,633	13.5	107,800	14.0	768,871
11	508,124	81.7	114,151	18.3	21,939	3.5	46,229	7.4	89,861	14.4	92,212	14.8	622,275
12	607,815	79.1	160,333	20.9	33,367	4.3	67,658	8.8	126,042	16.4	126,966	16.5	768,148
13	485,000	77.0	144,605	23.0	31,470	5.0	62,206	9.9	113,869	18.1	113,135	18.0	629,605
14	471,213	75.7	150,978	24.3	32,655	5.2	64,205	10.3	119,428	19.2	118,323	19.0	622,191
15	413,623	73.8	146,858	26.2	31,729	5.7	62,177	11.1	116,410	20.8	115,129	20.5	560,481
16	406,368	72.2	156,668	27.8	33,858	6.0	66,472	11.8	124,054	22.0	122,810	21.8	563,036
17	337,075	70.0	144,589	30.0	31,740	6.6	62,158	12.9	114,171	23.7	112,849	23.4	481,664
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,583,486</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>1,791,418</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>318,358</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>700,676</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>1,409,100</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>1,473,060</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>13,374,904</b>

Source: NPHC 2002

## 2.5 Married children by Orphanhood status

Orphanhood is one of the key drivers of early marriages in Uganda; a harmful practice according to the National Child Policy 2020. Information on current marital status was collected among persons aged 10 and above. The results in **Figure 2.4** show that married 9.5 percent of orphans were ever married, which is greater than that of non-orphans at 6.1 percent. This means that orphans are more likely to marry earlier compared to non-orphans. The lowest proportion of married orphans was among the paternal orphans at 7.5 percent, followed by maternal orphans at 9.2 percent. Similarly, a comparison between double orphans and single orphans showed that whereas 8 percent of single orphans were married during the census, this proportion was higher (13.5%) among double orphans.

**Figure 2.4: Proportion of children 10-17 years ever/currently married by Orphanhood status and type**



\* Lost either father or mother

\*\* Lost both parents

Source: NPHC 2024

Among persons aged 0-17 years, the sex ratio was 100.0. Similarly, the orphanhood levels by category do not differ by sex of the child. A comparison of the marital status of orphaned and non-orphaned children shows that 24.3 percent (one in four) of orphaned children were married compared to 16.5 percent (one in six) of non-orphaned children (more details on marital status are presented in the section of child marriages.).

## 2.6 Orphanhood Level and Religious Affiliation

In Uganda, freedom of worship is enshrined in the country's 1995 constitution. In Uganda, religion is a significant aspect of daily life influencing culture, social norms and community dynamics. The NPHC 2024 results show that the Bahai religion had the highest proportion of orphaned children at 38.8 percent. Worse still, among the Bahai believers, 25.8 percent, that is, one in four children, were double orphans (**Table 2.4**). The other religious affiliation with a very high proportion of orphaned children were the Buddhist, where 26.3 percent of the children were orphaned. Among the big religious affiliations, the proportion orphaned was the same for SDA and Islam at 13.6 percent. The Anglicans (COU) and Pentecostal had the same proportion of 12.1 percent. In terms of absolute numbers, the bigger the number of children affiliated to the religious denomination, the higher the number of orphaned children.

**Table 2.4 Orphanhood levels by sex, marital status and religious affiliation of the child, 2024**

Characteristics	Non-orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Single		Double		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>Sex</b>													
Male	9,632,287	87.0	1,444,099	13.0	679,891	6.1	278,969	2.5	973,744	8.8	470,355	4.2	11,076,386
Female	9,646,629	87.1	1,429,523	12.9	692,338	6.3	271,956	2.5	978,544	8.8	450,979	4.1	11,076,152
<b>Religion</b>													
Roman Catholic	7,079,972	86.5	1,101,459	13.5	547,272	6.7	206,338	2.5	762,849	9.3	338,610	4.1	8,181,431
Anglican / COU	5,745,279	87.9	788,098	12.1	382,580	5.9	156,943	2.4	546,226	8.4	241,872	3.7	6,533,377
Pentecostal / Evangelicals (Born Again)	2,872,337	87.9	397,065	12.1	204,144	6.2	73,204	2.2	281,013	8.6	116,052	3.5	3,269,402
Seventh Day Adventist (SDA)	387,991	86.4	61,059	13.6	26,193	5.8	11,883	2.6	38,995	8.7	22,064	4.9	449,050
Islam	2,792,434	86.4	437,977	13.6	182,763	5.7	87,847	2.7	276,319	8.6	161,658	5.0	3,230,411
Orthodox	23,357	80.0	5,835	20.0	1,797	6.2	939	3.2	2,974	10.2	2,861	9.8	29,192
Bahai	3,275	61.2	2,078	38.8	270	5.0	298	5.6	699	13.1	1,379	25.8	5,353
Budhist	3,505	73.7	1,252	26.3	291	6.1	180	3.8	540	11.4	712	15.0	4,757
Jehovah's witness	17,962	85.1	3,140	14.9	1,498	7.1	537	2.5	2,090	9.9	1,050	5.0	21,102
Traditional	18,312	80.0	4,569	20.0	1,539	6.7	909	4.0	2,547	11.1	2,022	8.8	22,881
No Religion	26,416	79.0	7,026	21.0	2,198	6.6	1,139	3.4	3,628	10.8	3,398	10.2	33,442
Others	308,076	82.8	64,064	17.2	21,684	5.8	10,708	2.9	34,408	9.2	29,656	8.0	372,140
<b>Children married/ever married</b>													
No	7,137,453	93.9	1,406,490	90.5	754,123	92.5	270,608	90.8	1,036,675	92.0	369,815	86.5	8,543,943
Yes	462,469	6.1	148,321	9.5	61,474	7.5	27,367	9.2	90,620	8.0	57,701	13.5	610,790

Source: NPHC 2024

## 2.7 Orphanhood by Characteristics of the Household Head

Characteristics of the household head are categorised into three namely; child headed households (headed by persons below the age of 18 years), adult headed households (headed by persons aged 18-59 years), and households headed by the older persons (aged 60 years and above).

### 2.7.1 Orphanhood and age of household head

*Who do children stay with as the household head?* When children become orphans, a number of times they either stay on their own or they are taken to stay with their grandparents if the grandparents are still alive. Households headed by a person below 18 years had more orphans compared to those headed by adults. One in four (24.7%) of the children in child-headed households were orphans compared to one in eight (12%) of the children in households headed by adults. This means that most children choose to stay on their own once they lose their parents. A big proportion of orphans live among households headed by older persons aged 60 or more years (**Table 2.5**).

The results further show that children who were living in child-headed households are more vulnerable to abuse, deprivation and may end up being exploited or forced to do adult activities, while on the other hand, although children in households headed by older persons as caregivers are also vulnerable, at least they have guidance from an adult on what to do and these provide them with vital companionship, care and support.

Considering various forms of orphanhood, child headed households lead in each type, for example, 10.3 percent (one in ten) of the children living in child headed households were paternal orphans, and 9.5 percent were double orphans. The corresponding proportion for the adult headed households and households headed by older persons was 5.8 percent, 8.0 percent for paternal orphans, 3.8 percent and 5.6 percent for double orphans, respectively, which is below what was observed in the child headed households.

### **2.7.2 Orphanhood and sex of the household head**

Earlier, it was shown that there were more paternal orphans than maternal orphans. A number of times, when the father passes on, the mother assumes the headship of the household. The results in Table 2.5 further reveal that of the proportion of orphans by sex of the household head shows that 20.8 percent of the households headed by women had orphaned children, which is more than two times the percentage of orphans in male headed households at 9.2 percent. Even though, overall, higher proportions of children stayed in male headed households, the number of paternal orphans in the female headed households (950,318) was twice that of male headed households (421,911).

The implication of this is that many paternal children end up missing the father figure in their lives. The proportion of maternal orphans who were living in male headed households (2.5%) and female headed households (2.4%) during the Census was similar; implying that girls who lose a mother have a chance of growing up in homes with a mother figure (**Table 2.5**).

### **2.7.3 Orphanhood and Relationship to Household Head**

Among non-orphans, three in four of the children lived in households where the household head was their biological parent. On the other hand, among orphans, three in five children stayed in households where the head was their parent during the Census. Whereas among children who were non-orphans, 0.4 percent were already household heads, the percentage doubles for orphaned children. Irrespective of the type of orphanhood, 0.9 percent of orphans were household heads, which is double the proportion of non-orphans. One in five of the orphans (19.5%) lived with their grandparents, while 15.3 percent of the non-orphans live with their grandparents. This scenario was observed mainly in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the main cause of orphanhood was HIV/AIDS.

No variation were observed by type of orphanhood among orphans who lived with their grandparents. Whereas 1.7 percent of the non-orphaned children lived with their brother or sister, 5.2 percent for the orphaned children stayed with their brother or sister.

Slightly a higher percentage of orphans (1.9%) than non-orphans (0.9%) lived with people they were not related to (**Table 2.5**). Also observed was that 3.6 percent of the children lived in households where they were stepchildren. The proportion of orphaned children who were spouses to the household head (0.71%) was more than double that of non-orphaned children (0.32%). A higher percentage of orphaned children stayed with their brothers, especially the double orphans (7.02%) as opposed to 1.65 percent of the non-orphans who lived with their brother or sister as the household head.

**Table 2.5: Orphanhood by Characteristics of the household Head, 2024**

Characteristics of Household Head	Non-orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Single		Double	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Sex of household head</b>												
Male	13,634,631	90.8	1,388,483	9.2	421,911	2.8	376,613	2.5	815,522	5.4	572,961	3.8
Female	5,644,285	79.2	1,485,139	20.8	950,318	13.3	174,312	2.4	1,136,766	15.9	348,373	4.9
<b>Age of Household head</b>												
<18 years' (child headed)	152,474	75.3	49,906	24.7	20,792	10.3	9,336	4.6	30,674	15.2	19,232	9.5
18-59 (Adult headed)	16,460,245	88.0	2,251,187	12.0	1,092,148	5.8	417,200	2.2	1,531,397	8.2	719,790	3.8
60+ (Older persons headed)	2,666,197	82.3	572,529	17.7	259,289	8.0	124,389	3.8	390,217	12	182,312	5.6
<b>Relationship to Household head</b>												
Usual head of household head-Present	74,298	0.39	24,732	0.87	12,052	0.88	4,780	0.87	16,832	17	7,900	0.86
Spouse	61,554	0.32	20,196	0.71	10,897	0.79	4,128	0.75	15,025	18.4	5,171	0.56
Son/daughter	14,260,032	74.60	1,689,627	59.40	824,809	60.11	316,540	57.5	1,141,349	7.2	548,278	59.51
Brother/sister	315,326	1.65	146,670	5.16	54,573	3.98	27,396	4.97	81,969	17.7	64,701	7.02
Nice/Nephew	408,212	2.14	110,262	3.88	53,643	3.91	23,490	4.26	77,133	14.9	33,129	3.60
Stepson/daughter	419,305	2.19	98,116	3.45	47,167	3.44	21,451	3.89	68,618	13.3	29,498	3.20
Grandson/daughter	2,920,188	15.28	554,533	19.50	274,486	20.00	113,296	20.56	387,782	11.2	166,751	18.10
Brother/sister spouse	110,464	0.58	33,481	1.18	16,732	1.22	7,379	1.34	24,111	16.8	9,370	1.02
Other relative	385,972	2.02	113,817	4.00	52,059	3.79	22,569	4.10	74,628	14.9	39,189	4.25
Non-relative	160,383	0.84	53,054	1.87	25,811	1.88	9,896	1.80	35,707	16.7	17,347	1.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,115,735</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,844,488</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,372,229</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>550,925</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,923,154</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>921,334</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

## 2.8 Orphanhood by Residence and Sub region

### 2.8.1 Orphanhood by Residence

Orphanhood level was higher in rural areas than urban areas. The rural areas had slightly higher levels of all three different types of orphanhood. The proportion of paternal orphans living in rural areas (6.3%) was higher compared to 6.0 percent in urban areas, while more maternal orphans lived in rural areas (2.6%) compared to 2.3 percent in urban areas. Similarly, 13.5 percent compared to 11.9 percent were double orphans in rural and urban areas respectively (**Table 2.6**).

### 2.8.2 Orphanhood by Sub region

Analysis of orphanhood based on the 17 Sub regions revealed that Madi had the highest proportion of orphaned children at 20 percent followed by Karamoja at 19.3 percent and West Nile at 18.3 percent (Table 2.6). Following in the fourth position was Acholi Sub region at 14.8 percent. All these Sub regions are part of the Northern region, which have been known for either political instability, higher numbers of refugees, cattle rustling, among others, as probable explanations as to why they have these high proportions of orphanhood.

With the exception of West Nile, the other Sub regions with more than 1 million children, all had orphanhood levels below the national average. Buganda, with over 4.4 million children, had an orphanhood levels of 12.2 percent while Busoga, with over 1.9 million children, orphanhood level stood at 11.9 percent. Kampala Capital City and Teso Sub region had the lowest proportion of orphans at 9.3 percent and 9.5 percent respectively.

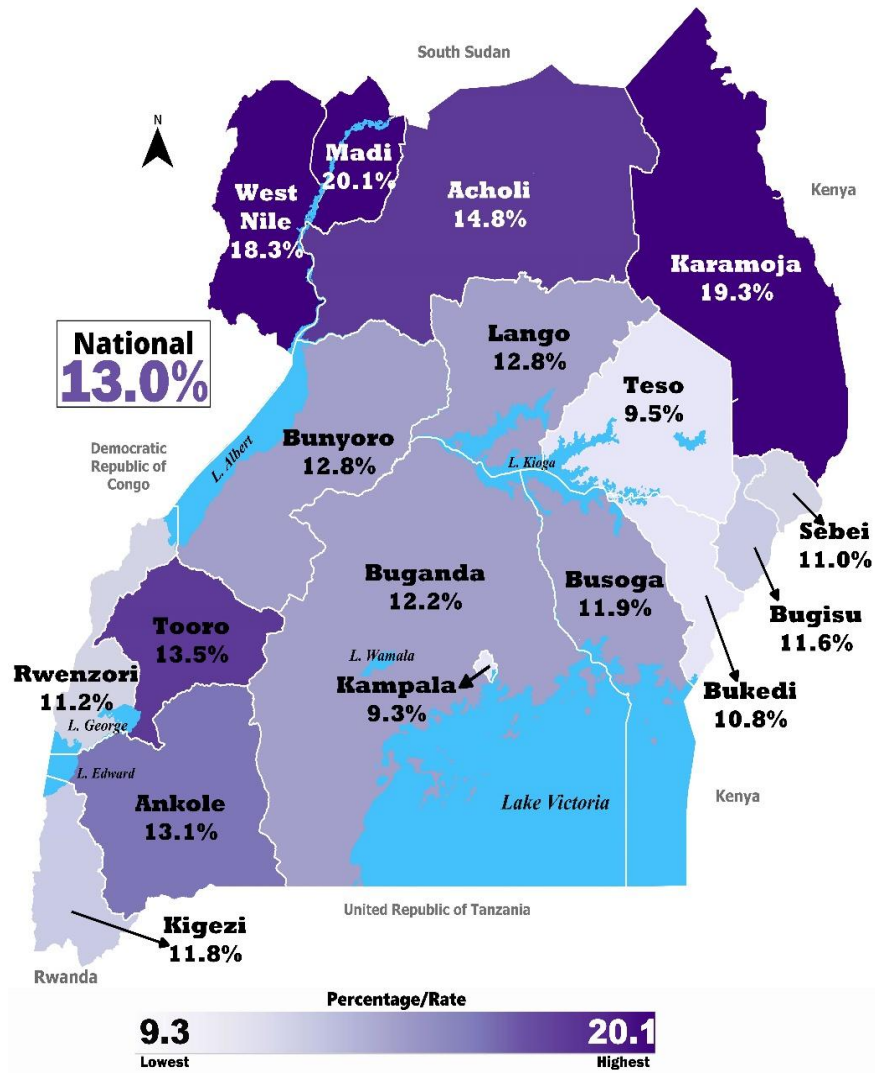
In addition, other Sub regions with low proportions of orphanhood were Bukedi at 10.8 percent, and Sebei (11.0%). With the exception of Kampala, all these three are found in the Eastern part of the country. The orphanhood levels were generally high and could be explained by the recent COVID -19, pandemic, the landslides in the Elgon Sub region, the floods in the Toro Sub region, especially in places like Ntoroko, and the unrest within the neighboring countries (specifically South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda, having many refugee children who have lost both parents).

**Table 2.6 Orphanhood levels by Location**

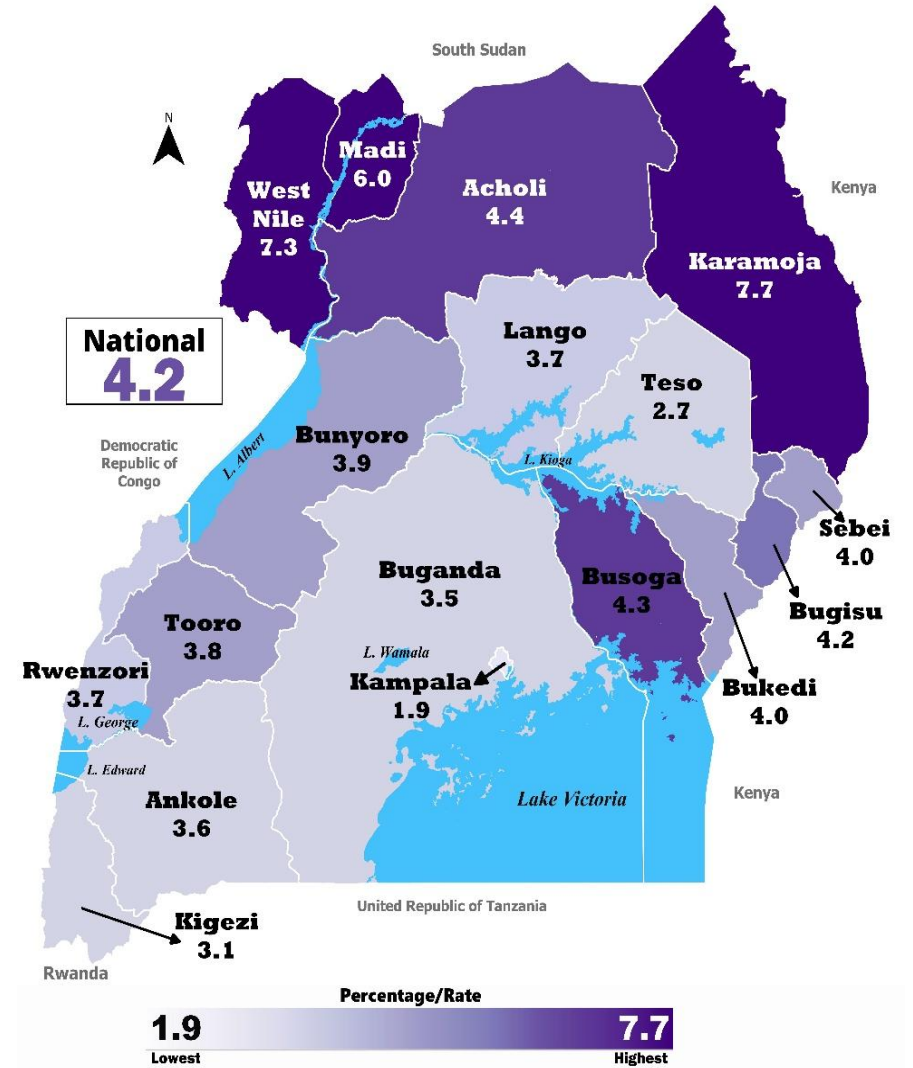
Characteristics	Father dead		Mother dead		Both Parents dead		Orphan (One or both parents dead)		Both Parents Alive (Non-Orphan)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	455,606	6.0	172,370	2.3	260,557	3.5	897,371	11.9	6,651,827	88.1
Rural	916,623	6.3	378,555	2.6	660,777	4.5	1,976,251	13.5	12,627,089	86.5
<b>Sub region</b>										
Madi	31,775	11.1	7,991	2.8	17,060	6.0	57,421	20.1	227,886	79.9
Karamoja	67,655	8.2	26,667	3.2	63,702	7.7	159,194	19.3	666,249	80.7
West Nile	134,565	7.5	58,069	3.2	131,143	7.3	328,225	18.3	1,466,044	81.7
Acholi	80,505	7.9	24,643	2.4	45,396	4.4	151,718	14.8	871,118	85.2
Tooro	76,067	7.0	28,136	2.6	41,289	3.8	146,920	13.5	945,167	86.5
Ankole	111,588	6.9	39,762	2.5	59,138	3.6	212,549	13.1	1,408,795	86.9
Lango	84,489	6.8	26,854	2.2	45,607	3.7	158,114	12.8	1,076,057	87.2
Bunyoro	91,183	6.3	36,837	2.5	56,980	3.9	186,457	12.8	1,264,692	87.2
Buganda	303,424	6.0	123,116	2.5	177,519	3.5	611,050	12.2	4,411,109	87.8
Busoga	111,683	5.0	55,777	2.5	96,636	4.3	267,750	11.9	1,974,357	88.1
Kigezi	50,681	6.4	17,287	2.2	24,700	3.1	93,456	11.8	696,340	88.2
Bugisu	39,896	4.6	23,307	2.7	35,814	4.2	99,777	11.6	760,048	88.4
Rwenzori	32,378	5.0	15,278	2.4	24,065	3.7	72,399	11.2	575,927	88.8
Sebei	8,617	4.5	4,644	2.4	7,601	4.0	20,998	11.0	169,802	89.0
Bukedi	55,588	4.5	28,530	2.3	49,265	4.0	134,872	10.8	1,108,782	89.2
Teso	61,728	4.8	24,219	1.9	34,989	2.7	121,658	9.5	1,157,212	90.5
Kampala Capital City	30,407	5.5	9,808	1.8	10,430	1.9	51,064	9.3	499,331	90.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,372,229</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>550,925</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>921,334</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2,873,622</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>19,278,916</b>	<b>87.0</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

Map 2: Orphanhood levels by Sub region

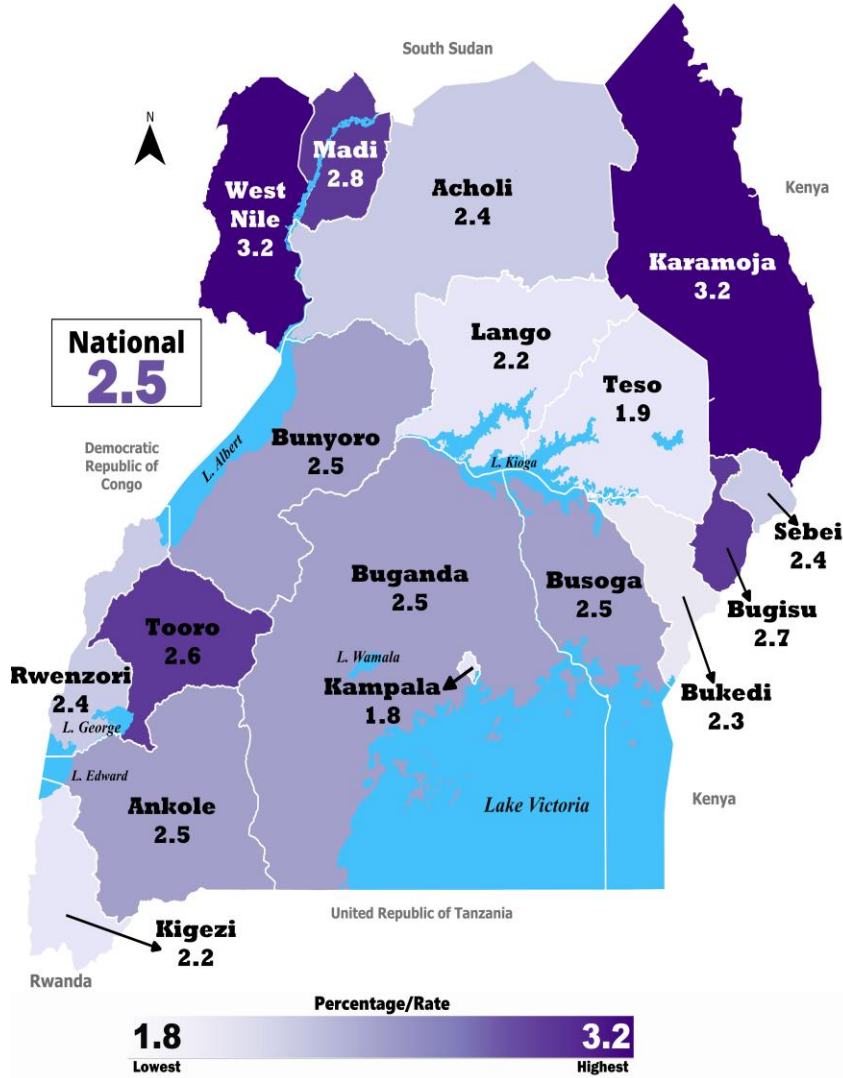


Map 3: Double orphanhood levels by Sub region

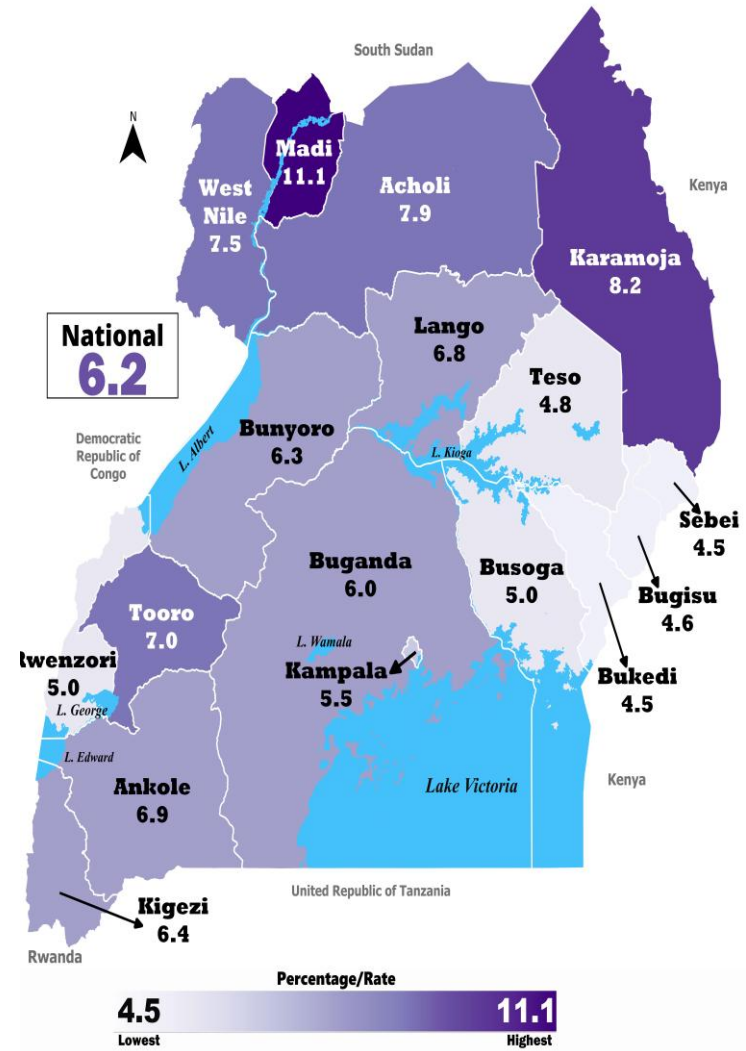


Source: NPHC 2024

Map 4: Maternal orphanhood levels by Sub region



Map 5: Paternal orphanhood levels by Sub region



Source: NPHC 2024

### 2.8.3 Levels of orphanhood between 2014 and 2024 by Sub region

Table 2.7 shows that both in 2014 and 2024, Madi Sub region had the highest percentage of orphans. In 2014, Acholi was number two, but in 2024, it took on the 4<sup>th</sup> position. Noteworthy is that in 1991, the Acholi Sub region had the highest proportion of orphans and had the worst indicators on childhood mortality. Across all Sub regions, the proportion of orphans increased between 2014 and 2024.

In 2024, Buganda had the highest number of orphans followed by West Nile and Busoga in the third position. Sebei had the lowest number of orphans in 2024. All Sub regions had an increase in the number and proportion of orphaned children between 2014 and 2024. West Nile had the highest increase in the number of orphans, and this is not surprising as the Districts and Ethnic groups that had high numbers of orphans are found in the West Nile Sub region.

**Table 2.7: Orphanhood levels by Sub regions, 2014 & 2024**

Sub Region	NPHC 2014			NPHC 2024		
	All children	Orphaned	%	All children	Orphaned	%
Sebei	160,596	8,730	5.4	190,800	20,998	11.0
Kampala	607,582	47,730	7.9	550,395	51,064	9.3
Madi	209,788	26,672	12.7	285,307	57,421	20.1
Rwenzori	547,435	30,312	5.5	648,326	72,399	11.2
Kigezi	571,331	51,586	9.0	789,796	93,456	11.8
Bugisu	693,871	49,008	7.1	859,825	99,777	11.6
Teso	1,049,019	76,306	7.3	1,278,870	121,658	9.5
Bukedi	1,011,130	60,770	6.0	1,243,654	134,872	10.8
Tooro	776,238	70,185	9.0	1,092,087	146,920	13.5
Acholi	759,650	84,911	11.2	1,022,836	151,718	14.8
Lango	1,153,701	116,056	10.1	1,234,171	158,114	12.8
Karamoja	539,447	59,100	11.0	825,443	159,194	19.3
Bunyoro	750,194	55,547	7.4	1,451,149	186,457	12.8
Ankole	1,522,095	130,599	8.6	1,621,344	212,549	13.1
Busoga	2,080,999	118,745	5.7	2,242,107	267,750	11.9
West Nile	1,237,987	113,972	9.2	1,794,269	328,225	18.3
Buganda	4,068,725	330,287	8.1	5,022,159	611,050	12.2

#### **2.8.4 Orphanhood by District**

The results in Table 2.8 show that Yumbe District had the highest proportion of orphans. More than one in every four children in Yumbe District was an orphan (27.3%). This was followed by Kaabong, where almost two in every four children were orphans. Nabilatuk followed in the third position closely, then Adjumani, both with slightly more than one in five of the children as orphans.

Overall, 17 Districts had an orphanhood level of 16 percent and above. Of these, excluding Bududa, all are found in the Northern region. Within the Northern region, Karamoja Sub region had the highest number of Districts with a higher orphanhood status. In absolute numbers, Yumbe District had the highest number of orphaned children (152,741), followed by Wakiso (118,784), Kampala (51,064), Isingiro (48,572), Kasese (46,474), Mukono (45,898) and Kyegegwa (40,764). In total, 7 Districts had more than 40,000 orphans.

In the second category of Districts with the highest orphanhood status, 9 of them are below 16 percent. Of these, four are from Western Uganda, 3 from the North, and 2 from the Central region. Lwengo District, which was number 16<sup>th</sup>, is the District from Central Uganda with the highest proportion of orphaned children.

In Western Uganda, Kikuube District had the highest proportion of orphans at 15.6 percent. Districts outside the Northern region like Bududa (18.3%), Lwengo (15.9%), and Kikuube (15.6), with high proportions of orphans, could have mainly been due to natural calamities like landslides and floods in Bududa and Kikuube District.

The presence of refugees in Kyangwali refugee camp could also have contributed to the increase in the number of orphans in Kikuube. The other important factor on orphanhood is the proportion of the refugee population in the District. For example, Yumbe is a refugee hosting District, Kikuube and Isingiro all had a very high proportion of refugee children.

Ten of the fifteen Districts with the lowest proportion of orphans were found in Eastern Uganda. Of these, Kumi (8.3%), Ngora (8.4%), Soroti City (8.5%), Soroti (8.6%), Kalaki (9.0%), are found in Teso Sub region.

In the category of Districts with the lowest proportion of orphans, the highly urbanized Districts like Wakiso (9.3%), Kampala (9.3%), Soroti City, Hoima city, and Mbarara City had the lowest proportion of orphans. The probable explanation for this may be that when parents pass on, then life in the City becomes hard, hence children migrate back to their roots in the rural areas to stay with grandparents or on ancestral land. The other reason could be that adoption of children among urban dwellers seems to be lower than that of rural dwellers. The least populated District in Uganda is Kalangala and had the least number (2,284) of orphaned children in 2024. To put it in context, *the total number of orphaned children in Yumbe is more than the population of Kalangala District.*

### **2.8.5 Paternal orphanhood level by District**

Adjuman District had the highest proportion of paternal orphans at 12.3 percent followed by Obongi District with 10.9 percent, and Lamwo at 10.3 percent. In these Districts, one in every 10 children had lost their father. Among the Districts from Western Uganda, Isingiro had the highest proportion of paternal orphans at 8.2 percent, closely followed by Kikuube at 8.1 percent.

All the first ten Districts with the highest orphanhood levels were from Northern Uganda. Similarly, considering the first 30 Districts, only three from Western Uganda were among those with the highest level of paternal orphans. Kalungu District (7.2%) and Bukomansimbi District, which rank 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> among the Districts with the highest paternal orphans, were the Districts with the highest paternal orphans in Central Uganda. For the Eastern region, Jinja City and Katakwi District had the highest proportion of paternal orphans. Surprisingly, these rank 92<sup>nd</sup> and 93<sup>rd</sup> respectively, among all the Districts in Uganda. This shows that the level of paternal orphans in Eastern Uganda is very low.

Three Districts neighboring each other namely Kibuuku, Butaleja, and Butebo, had the lowest proportion of paternal orphans at 4 percent each. All the least 20 Districts in terms of proportion of paternal orphans were from Eastern Uganda. Wakiso District (64,493), Yumbe (44,612), and Kampala (30,407) had the highest number of paternal orphans in the country. Similarly, Kalangala (1,446), Bukwo (2,494) and Ntoroko (2,832) Districts had the lowest number of paternal orphaned children.

### **2.8.6 Maternal Orphanhood level by District**

Yumbe District had the highest proportion of maternal orphans at 4.6 percent. Bududa District, which has suffered a lot of landslides, took 2<sup>nd</sup> position at 4.0 percent maternal orphans, while Kaabong was in third position at 3.8 percent. Soroti City (1.5%), Kumi (1.6%), and Soroti Districts (1.6%) had the lowest proportion of maternal orphans; all these are found in the Teso Sub region.

Adjuman District had the highest difference of 9.3 percent in share of paternal orphans over maternal orphans. Obongi District (8.1%) and Lamwo District (7.7%) were the other Districts with a high difference between maternal and paternal orphans. Districts with higher differences also had higher proportions of orphanhood overall. Bududa District and Amudat had the lowest difference between maternal and paternal orphans of less than one percent. The implication for this is that the factors causing orphanhood in these Districts with the lowest difference in maternal and paternal orphans, affects the death of a father or mother almost equally. For example, in Bududa, it could have mainly been due to landslides which have affected this area for the last 10 years since the last census.

### **2.8.7 Double Orphanhood level by District**

Double orphaned children are more vulnerable than the paternal or maternal orphans in terms of love, physical and emotional support. Yumbe (14.2%), Amudat (11.6%), and Kaabong (10.0%) Districts had the highest proportion of double orphans. Of the 11 Districts with higher proportions of double orphans (more than 6%), 9 were from Northern Uganda, one from Eastern Uganda (Bududa), and one from Western Uganda (Ntoroko). Bududa and Ntoroko have both suffered landslides the flooding, 2024 inclusive.

**Table 2.8: Different Orphanhood levels by District, 2024**

DISTRICT / CITY	Paternal		Maternal		Double		Orphan		Non-orphan	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yumbe	44,612	8.0	25,951	4.6	79,275	14.2	152,741	27.3	407,278	72.7
Kaabong	14,621	9.4	5,822	3.8	15,499	10.0	36,300	23.4	118,858	76.6
Nabilatuk	7,693	9.8	2,566	3.3	7,605	9.7	17,941	22.8	60,577	77.2
Adjumani	19,877	12.3	4,859	3.0	10,841	6.7	35,986	22.3	125,614	77.7
Obongi	8,170	10.9	2,104	2.8	5,076	6.8	15,518	20.7	59,537	79.3
Amudat	4,556	4.2	3,672	3.4	12,564	11.6	21,033	19.5	86,860	80.5
Nakapiripirit	4,826	7.8	1,967	3.2	4,665	7.6	11,537	18.8	49,967	81.2
Bududa	5,787	4.5	5,217	4.0	12,594	9.7	23,752	18.3	105,987	81.7
Karenga	5,224	8.7	2,074	3.5	3,636	6.1	10,965	18.3	49,101	81.7
Lamwo	11,590	10.3	2,899	2.6	5,685	5.1	20,275	18.0	92,131	82.0
Napak	8,903	7.7	3,586	3.1	8,003	6.9	20,705	17.9	95,043	82.1
Ntoroko	2,832	6.0	1,550	3.3	3,844	8.1	8,297	17.5	39,250	82.5
Moroto	5,114	9.7	1,665	3.2	1,968	3.7	8,787	16.7	43,873	83.3
Kotido	10,527	8.7	3,409	2.8	6,103	5.1	20,110	16.6	100,677	83.4
Terego	15,549	9.1	4,779	2.8	7,460	4.4	27,954	16.4	143,009	83.6
Kitgum	9,263	7.7	3,247	2.7	6,607	5.5	19,414	16.2	100,603	83.8
Abim	6,191	8.5	1,906	2.6	3,659	5.0	11,816	16.2	61,293	83.8
Lwengo	10,810	7.0	4,985	3.2	8,478	5.5	24,623	15.9	130,065	84.1
Madi-Okollo	7,433	7.6	2,508	2.6	5,430	5.5	15,523	15.8	82,490	84.2
Kikuube	16,151	8.1	5,202	2.6	9,510	4.8	31,209	15.6	168,692	84.4
Kiryandongo	13,796	7.2	5,415	2.8	10,287	5.4	29,717	15.5	162,382	84.5
Amuru	8,266	6.6	3,557	2.8	7,078	5.6	19,124	15.2	106,416	84.8
Omoro	7,964	7.6	2,482	2.4	5,310	5.1	15,911	15.2	88,811	84.8
Isingiro	26,433	8.2	7,861	2.5	13,781	4.3	48,572	15.2	271,914	84.8
Ssembabule	8,835	6.0	4,522	3.1	8,370	5.7	22,148	15.1	124,087	84.9
Kyegegwa	21,650	7.9	6,855	2.5	11,768	4.3	40,764	15.0	231,699	85.0
Arua City	14,478	7.6	5,045	2.6	8,485	4.4	28,502	14.9	162,618	85.1
Kamwenge	14,147	8.0	4,408	2.5	7,587	4.3	26,360	14.9	150,954	85.1
Pader	9,965	8.1	3,118	2.5	5,197	4.2	18,375	14.9	105,321	85.1

**Table 2.8: Different Orphanhood levels by District, 2024**

DISTRICT / CITY	Paternal		Maternal		Double		Orphan		Non-orphan	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Rakai	11,119	6.8	4,963	3.0	7,944	4.8	24,278	14.7	140,358	85.3
Kassanda	10,095	6.5	4,587	3.0	7,648	4.9	22,725	14.6	132,700	85.4
Arua	5,253	6.6	2,405	3.0	3,801	4.8	11,548	14.5	68,280	85.5
Kalungu	7,688	7.2	3,141	2.9	4,474	4.2	15,472	14.5	91,417	85.5
Pakwach	7,929	7.3	2,827	2.6	4,638	4.3	15,471	14.3	92,415	85.7
Nakaseke	8,217	6.9	3,111	2.6	5,406	4.5	16,999	14.2	102,798	85.8
Bukomansimbi	6,914	7.2	2,721	2.9	3,709	3.9	13,520	14.2	81,854	85.8
Kazo	6,161	6.7	2,560	2.8	4,129	4.5	12,967	14.0	79,374	86.0
Gulu	4,646	7.3	1,501	2.4	2,718	4.3	8,934	14.0	54,700	86.0
Ntungamo	18,199	7.1	6,512	2.5	10,867	4.2	35,929	14.0	220,298	86.0
Agago	13,146	8.1	3,712	2.3	5,852	3.6	22,818	14.0	139,986	86.0
Koboko	9,509	6.5	3,734	2.5	6,827	4.7	20,229	13.8	126,281	86.2
Butambala	4,234	6.0	2,123	3.0	3,335	4.7	9,795	13.8	61,036	86.2
Maracha	8,465	7.3	2,912	2.5	4,530	3.9	16,080	13.8	100,388	86.2
Masaka	3,884	6.8	1,649	2.9	2,225	3.9	7,825	13.8	49,060	86.2
Kyankwanzi	8,721	6.3	3,817	2.7	6,204	4.5	18,991	13.6	120,398	86.4
Oyam	17,454	7.2	5,379	2.2	9,607	4.0	32,665	13.6	208,118	86.4
Rwampara	4,689	6.6	1,858	2.6	2,882	4.1	9,558	13.5	61,316	86.5
Gomba	6,272	6.2	3,025	3.0	4,176	4.1	13,648	13.5	87,724	86.5
Rubirizi	5,239	7.0	1,966	2.6	2,791	3.8	10,065	13.5	64,265	86.5
Rukiga	3,913	7.3	1,406	2.6	1,907	3.5	7,274	13.5	46,476	86.5
Apac	6,804	6.4	2,467	2.3	4,911	4.6	14,314	13.4	92,620	86.6
Nwoya	7,680	7.1	2,334	2.2	4,407	4.1	14,497	13.4	94,019	86.6
Mityana	14,368	7.1	5,069	2.5	7,506	3.7	27,176	13.4	175,188	86.6
Kiboga	5,393	6.1	2,522	2.8	3,848	4.3	11,857	13.3	77,183	86.7
Mubende	16,040	6.0	7,358	2.7	11,650	4.3	35,522	13.3	232,322	86.7
Mpigi	9,586	6.2	4,422	2.9	6,417	4.1	20,663	13.3	134,346	86.7
Kwania	7,269	6.7	2,554	2.4	4,327	4.0	14,307	13.3	93,639	86.7
Kagadi	15,857	6.3	6,658	2.6	10,334	4.1	33,060	13.1	218,943	86.9
Kiruhura	5,627	6.6	2,132	2.5	3,271	3.8	11,133	13.1	74,082	86.9
Mayuge	15,185	5.2	7,586	2.6	14,227	4.9	37,600	13.0	252,528	87.0

**Table 2.8: Different Orphanhood levels by District, 2024**

DISTRICT / CITY	Paternal		Maternal		Double		Orphan		Non-orphan	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bundibugyo	8,073	5.9	3,978	2.9	5,474	4.0	17,628	13.0	118,409	87.0
Kyenjojo	18,813	6.6	7,552	2.6	10,358	3.6	37,106	13.0	248,611	87.0
Kayunga	13,944	6.1	5,793	2.5	9,437	4.1	29,592	12.9	200,581	87.1
Kaliro	6,461	4.3	4,264	2.8	8,312	5.5	19,258	12.8	131,211	87.2
Kanungu	9,475	6.8	3,140	2.2	5,142	3.7	17,894	12.8	122,283	87.2
Buvuma	3,394	6.4	1,301	2.5	1,925	3.6	6,743	12.8	46,037	87.2
Lira City	7,165	7.3	1,982	2.0	3,429	3.5	12,642	12.8	86,017	87.2
Kyotera	9,367	6.7	3,561	2.6	4,716	3.4	17,835	12.8	121,220	87.2
Dokolo	7,084	6.6	2,275	2.1	4,159	3.9	13,652	12.7	93,784	87.3
Lyantonde	3,535	6.2	1,466	2.6	2,191	3.8	7,244	12.7	49,677	87.3
Lira	8,346	6.9	2,545	2.1	4,324	3.6	15,368	12.7	105,497	87.3
Luweero	20,047	6.6	7,246	2.4	10,796	3.6	38,388	12.7	263,747	87.3
Alebtong	9,716	7.1	3,072	2.2	4,608	3.3	17,487	12.7	120,165	87.3
Mitooma	7,115	6.8	2,630	2.5	3,386	3.3	13,229	12.7	90,865	87.3
Bugweri	5,469	4.9	2,753	2.5	5,674	5.1	14,098	12.6	97,639	87.4
Masaka City	7,938	6.4	3,422	2.8	4,005	3.3	15,561	12.6	107,562	87.4
Iganga	11,186	5.1	5,506	2.5	10,246	4.7	27,181	12.5	190,167	87.5
Kabarole	6,951	6.1	3,029	2.7	4,110	3.6	14,199	12.5	99,462	87.5
Zombo	11,013	6.7	4,127	2.5	5,490	3.3	20,764	12.5	144,765	87.5
Ibanda	9,369	6.8	3,380	2.4	4,302	3.1	17,188	12.5	120,860	87.5
Kamuli	15,260	5.3	7,317	2.6	12,059	4.2	35,367	12.4	250,166	87.6
Mbarara	5,121	6.7	1,794	2.4	2,414	3.2	9,431	12.4	66,608	87.6
Buikwe	15,911	6.2	5,979	2.3	9,156	3.6	31,423	12.3	223,322	87.7
Kole	9,520	6.8	2,888	2.1	4,669	3.3	17,171	12.3	122,691	87.7
Nebbi	10,324	6.5	3,781	2.4	5,207	3.3	19,413	12.3	138,520	87.7
Rukungiri	12,204	7.2	3,853	2.3	4,792	2.8	21,010	12.3	149,213	87.7
Kibuku	5,710	4.0	3,849	2.7	7,354	5.2	17,244	12.2	124,204	87.8
Buyende	9,986	4.5	6,054	2.7	10,820	4.8	27,289	12.2	196,762	87.8
Kitagwenda	5,163	6.2	2,152	2.6	2,789	3.3	10,186	12.2	73,635	87.8
Fortportal City	3,541	6.4	1,450	2.6	1,655	3.0	6,730	12.2	48,289	87.8
Gulu City	7,985	7.9	1,793	1.8	2,542	2.5	12,370	12.2	89,131	87.8

**Table 2.8: Different Orphanhood levels by District, 2024**

DISTRICT / CITY	Paternal		Maternal		Double		Orphan		Non-orphan	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Moyo	3,728	7.7	1,028	2.1	1,143	2.3	5,917	12.2	42,735	87.8
Kakumiro	12,756	5.6	5,669	2.5	8,918	3.9	27,538	12.1	199,707	87.9
Masindi	10,067	6.0	4,063	2.4	6,077	3.6	20,385	12.1	148,141	87.9
Namisindwa	6,096	4.7	3,812	2.9	5,584	4.3	15,616	11.9	115,388	88.1
Amolatar	6,047	6.3	2,083	2.2	3,221	3.4	11,411	11.9	84,586	88.1
Buhweju	4,237	5.7	1,955	2.6	2,531	3.4	8,836	11.9	65,691	88.1
Kapchorwa	2,920	4.5	1,765	2.7	2,923	4.5	7,672	11.8	57,109	88.2
Otuke	5,084	6.5	1,609	2.1	2,352	3.0	9,097	11.7	68,940	88.3
Hoima	7,642	5.8	3,268	2.5	4,218	3.2	15,227	11.6	115,660	88.4
Bushenyi	7,069	5.9	2,789	2.3	3,739	3.1	13,730	11.5	105,148	88.5
Namutumba	7,456	4.4	4,075	2.4	7,544	4.5	19,274	11.4	150,155	88.6
Luuka	7,346	5.0	3,604	2.4	5,537	3.8	16,776	11.4	130,637	88.6
Rubanda	7,645	6.0	2,687	2.1	4,043	3.2	14,509	11.4	112,842	88.6
Jinja	7,195	5.3	3,348	2.5	4,682	3.5	15,397	11.3	120,279	88.7
Kabale	7,802	6.5	2,476	2.1	3,082	2.6	13,470	11.3	105,758	88.7
Budaka	5,729	4.1	3,386	2.5	6,095	4.4	15,490	11.2	122,560	88.8
Tororo	14,631	4.7	7,059	2.3	12,489	4.0	34,553	11.2	275,152	88.8
Kween	3,203	4.9	1,497	2.3	2,592	3.9	7,341	11.2	58,455	88.8
Busia	11,232	5.4	4,537	2.2	7,263	3.5	23,141	11.1	186,181	88.9
Namayingo	7,545	5.3	3,280	2.3	4,796	3.4	15,770	11.1	126,773	88.9
Bunyangabu	5,802	5.6	2,690	2.6	3,022	2.9	11,575	11.1	92,517	88.9
Sheema	6,489	6.0	2,428	2.3	2,779	2.6	11,801	11.0	95,532	89.0
Buliisa	5,130	5.8	2,299	2.6	2,310	2.6	9,798	11.0	79,069	89.0
Jinja City	7,111	5.9	2,436	2.0	3,426	2.8	13,072	10.9	107,248	89.1
Mukono	24,602	5.8	9,185	2.2	11,821	2.8	45,898	10.9	377,006	89.1
Bugiri	11,483	4.6	5,554	2.2	9,313	3.8	26,668	10.8	220,792	89.2
Kapelebyong	4,107	5.3	1,592	2.0	2,678	3.4	8,432	10.8	69,795	89.2
Kisoro	9,642	5.4	3,725	2.1	5,734	3.2	19,299	10.8	159,768	89.2
Katakwi	7,185	5.9	2,466	2.0	3,311	2.7	13,026	10.8	107,876	89.2
Kibaale	6,394	5.0	3,016	2.4	4,088	3.2	13,592	10.6	114,688	89.4
Nakasongola	6,571	5.7	2,575	2.2	2,823	2.5	12,056	10.5	102,492	89.5

**Table 2.8: Different Orphanhood levels by District, 2024**

DISTRICT / CITY	Paternal		Maternal		Double		Orphan		Non-orphan	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mbale City	7,055	5.1	2,999	2.2	4,096	3.0	14,241	10.4	123,256	89.6
Bulambuli	4,545	4.9	2,307	2.5	2,744	3.0	9,696	10.4	83,306	89.6
Serere	9,184	4.7	3,941	2.0	6,846	3.5	20,051	10.3	174,479	89.7
Kaberamaido	4,244	5.8	1,526	2.1	1,702	2.3	7,518	10.2	65,969	89.8
Manafwa	4,349	4.6	2,269	2.4	2,816	3.0	9,506	10.1	84,414	89.9
Butaleja	6,878	4.0	3,752	2.2	6,413	3.7	17,244	10.0	155,673	90.0
Pallisa	7,726	4.3	3,799	2.1	6,411	3.5	18,115	10.0	162,520	90.0
Kasese	21,473	4.6	9,750	2.1	14,747	3.2	46,474	10.0	418,268	90.0
Sironko	6,326	4.4	3,481	2.4	4,301	3.0	14,246	10.0	128,229	90.0
Bukwo	2,494	4.1	1,382	2.3	2,086	3.5	5,985	9.9	54,238	90.1
Butebo	3,682	4.0	2,148	2.3	3,240	3.5	9,085	9.9	82,492	90.1
Mbarara City	5,840	5.7	1,897	1.8	2,266	2.2	10,110	9.8	92,842	90.2
Bukedea	6,518	4.3	3,124	2.1	5,051	3.3	14,762	9.7	137,490	90.3
Amuria	6,487	4.7	2,811	2.1	3,891	2.8	13,292	9.7	123,512	90.3
Kalangala	1,446	6.1	430	1.8	392	1.7	2,284	9.7	21,274	90.3
Mbale	5,738	4.3	3,222	2.4	3,679	2.8	12,720	9.6	119,468	90.4
Hoima City	3,390	5.4	1,247	2.0	1,238	2.0	5,931	9.4	57,410	90.6
Wakiso	64,493	5.1	24,143	1.9	28,867	2.3	118,784	9.3	1,157,655	90.7
Kampala	30,407	5.5	9,808	1.8	10,430	1.9	51,064	9.3	499,331	90.7
Kalaki	4,002	5.0	1,373	1.7	1,726	2.2	7,138	9.0	72,111	91.0
Soroti	6,474	4.5	2,302	1.6	3,379	2.4	12,230	8.6	130,279	91.4
Soroti City	2,924	4.9	912	1.5	1,176	2.0	5,062	8.5	54,523	91.5
Ngora	4,165	4.5	1,803	1.9	1,792	1.9	7,818	8.4	85,646	91.6
Kumi	6,438	4.4	2,369	1.6	3,437	2.3	12,329	8.3	135,532	91.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,372,229</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>550,925</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>921,334</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2,873,622</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>19,278,916</b>	<b>87.0</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

### 2.8.8 Levels of Orphanhood in 2014

In 2014, during the National Population and Housing Census, the country was divided into 116 Districts. Of these, the District which had the highest proportion of orphans was Abim at 14.5 percent followed by Adjuman (13.7%), Pader (12.8%), Gulu (12.4%), and Otuke (12.3%) as shown in **Table 2.9**. Yumbe, which had the highest proportion in 2024, was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in 2014. While the Districts with the lowest level of orphanhood were Kibuku (4.3%), Kaliro (4.4%), Butaleja (4.6%), Pallisa (4.7%), and Namutumba (4.8%), all of them neighboring each other. This is not surprising as these Districts had the lowest proportion of orphaned children during the 2002 Uganda National Population and Housing Census.

The Districts with high population had the highest number of orphaned children. These were Wakiso (68,499), Kampala (47,730), Arua (36,514), and Yumbe (36,452). The reason for Yumbe being among the highest four was because it had a high proportion of orphaned children at 11.8 percent and also a high number of children. Kalangala District, with a population of 18,119 children, had 1,606 orphaned children. This was followed by Kween with 2,574, Buvuma (2,587), Bukwo (2,654) and Ntoroko (2,895).

In regard to paternal orphans, the overall orphanhood rate was 13.7 percent, 10.6 percent were paternal, 1.7 percent maternal and 1.4 percent double orphans. Adjumani District had the highest proportion of paternal orphans at 10.6 percent. This was followed by Otuke (9.4%), Pader (9.4%), and Gulu (9%). All the Districts that had high paternal orphans were from places that had experienced insecurity, hence the likelihood that most fathers died as a result of insurgency. Kibuku (2.9%), Kaliro (3%), Kween (3.2%), Namutumba (3.2%) and Butaleja (3.2%) were the Districts with the lowest paternal orphans in the country in 2014. In addition, these Districts are found in the Eastern part of the country and neighbor each other, apart from Kween, which is slightly far away in the hills forming Mt. Elgon. Yumbe District had the highest proportion of maternal orphans at 3.6 percent, followed by Nakapiripirit (2.9%) and Bulambuli (2.8%) in 2014. Ngora (1%), Pallisa (1%), Kibuku (1.1%), Kaliro (1.1%) Butaleja (1.1%), Namutumba, (1.1) all of them neighbouring each other, had the lowest proportion of maternal orphans.

**Table 2.9: Different orphanhood levels by District, 2014**

DISTRICT / CITY	Non Orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Single orphan		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Abim	54,478	85.5	9,268	14.5	5,468	8.6	1,577	2.5	2,223	3.5	7,045	11.1	63,746
Adjumani	115,106	86.3	18,294	13.7	14,094	10.6	2,318	1.7	1,882	1.4	16,412	12.3	133,400
Pader	89,689	87.2	13,123	12.8	9,685	9.4	1,750	1.7	1,688	1.6	11,435	11.1	102,812
Gulu	124,515	87.6	17,596	12.4	12,720	9.0	2,512	1.8	2,364	1.7	15,232	10.7	142,111
Otuke	52,195	87.7	7,337	12.3	5,574	9.4	1,000	1.7	763	1.3	6,574	11.0	59,532
Kaabong	81,710	88.0	11,138	12.0	8,145	8.8	1,915	2.1	1,078	1.2	10,060	10.8	92,848
Nakapiripirit	76,693	88.2	10,259	11.8	6,288	7.2	2,541	2.9	1,430	1.6	8,829	10.2	86,952
Yumbe	273,751	88.2	36,452	11.8	18,157	5.9	11,038	3.6	7,257	2.3	29,195	9.4	310,203
Moroto	48,538	88.3	6,437	11.7	4,423	8.0	1,220	2.2	794	1.4	5,643	10.3	54,975
Napak	72,037	88.3	9,567	11.7	6,438	7.9	1,983	2.4	1,146	1.4	8,421	10.3	81,604
Agago	119,585	88.6	15,439	11.4	11,215	8.3	2,315	1.7	1,909	1.4	13,530	10.0	135,024
Lira	191,799	88.9	23,903	11.1	17,280	8.0	3,587	1.7	3,036	1.4	20,867	9.7	215,702
Kitgum	101,980	89.0	12,598	11.0	9,305	8.1	1,911	1.7	1,382	1.2	11,216	9.8	114,578
Moyo	68,010	89.0	8,378	11.0	5,699	7.5	1,718	2.2	961	1.3	7,417	9.7	76,388
Omoro	81,246	89.1	9,945	10.9	7,520	8.2	1,268	1.4	1,157	1.3	8,788	9.6	91,191
Alebtong	116,771	89.2	14,085	10.8	10,698	8.2	2,033	1.6	1,354	1.0	12,731	9.7	130,856
Nwoya	68,685	89.3	8,193	10.7	6,070	7.9	1,138	1.5	985	1.3	7,208	9.4	76,878
Katakwi	83,242	89.7	9,509	10.3	7,201	7.8	1,412	1.5	896	1.0	8,613	9.3	92,751
Rukungiri	148,265	89.7	16,986	10.3	11,541	7.0	3,153	1.9	2,292	1.4	14,694	8.9	165,251
Kabarole	220,327	90.0	24,445	10.0	14,945	6.1	5,807	2.4	3,693	1.5	20,752	8.5	244,772
Lamwo	70,412	90.2	7,682	9.8	5,413	6.9	1,352	1.7	917	1.2	6,765	8.7	78,094
Apac	186,703	90.4	19,817	9.6	13,816	6.7	3,256	1.6	2,745	1.3	17,072	8.3	206,520
Kole	122,830	90.5	12,882	9.5	9,414	6.9	1,897	1.4	1,571	1.2	11,311	8.3	135,712
Oyam	198,003	90.5	20,694	9.5	14,708	6.7	3,817	1.7	2,169	1.0	18,525	8.5	218,697
Dokolo	94,788	90.6	9,856	9.4	7,140	6.8	1,747	1.7	969	0.9	8,887	8.5	104,644
Mityana	159,219	90.6	16,515	9.4	9,925	5.6	4,208	2.4	2,382	1.4	14,133	8.0	175,734

**Table 2.9: Different orphanhood levels by District, 2014**

DISTRICT / CITY	Non Orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Single orphan		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Amuru	99,873	90.7	10,280	9.3	7,434	6.7	1,623	1.5	1,223	1.1	9,057	8.2	110,153
Kiboga	71,071	90.7	7,277	9.3	4,619	5.9	1,788	2.3	870	1.1	6,407	8.2	78,348
Kotido	88,930	90.7	9,093	9.3	6,293	6.4	1,791	1.8	1,009	1.0	8,084	8.2	98,023
Kyenjojo	214,396	90.7	21,923	9.3	14,059	5.9	5,013	2.1	2,851	1.2	19,072	8.1	236,319
Mitooma	91,759	90.7	9,355	9.3	6,415	6.3	1,893	1.9	1,047	1.0	8,308	8.2	101,114
Kabale	148,050	90.8	14,968	9.2	10,670	6.5	2,524	1.5	1,774	1.1	13,194	8.1	163,018
Kanungu	122,507	90.8	12,481	9.2	8,594	6.4	2,443	1.8	1,444	1.1	11,037	8.2	134,988
Nebbi	202,113	90.8	20,557	9.2	14,676	6.6	3,852	1.7	2,029	0.9	18,528	8.3	222,670
Amolatar	74,556	90.9	7,482	9.1	5,348	6.5	1,337	1.6	797	1.0	6,685	8.1	82,038
Kalungu	92,840	90.9	9,339	9.1	5,605	5.5	2,424	2.4	1,310	1.3	8,029	7.9	102,179
Gomba	81,972	91.0	8,126	9.0	4,853	5.4	2,220	2.5	1,053	1.2	7,073	7.9	90,098
Masaka	137,674	91.0	13,639	9.0	7,982	5.3	3,641	2.4	2,016	1.3	11,623	7.7	151,313
Sheema	94,295	91.0	9,307	9.0	6,215	6.0	2,052	2.0	1,040	1.0	8,267	8.0	103,602
Bukomansimbi	79,093	91.1	7,731	8.9	4,577	5.3	2,127	2.4	1,027	1.2	6,704	7.7	86,824
Kalangala	16,513	91.1	1,606	8.9	1,017	5.6	377	2.1	212	1.2	1,394	7.7	18,119
Lwengo	144,459	91.1	14,099	8.9	8,851	5.6	3,387	2.1	1,861	1.2	12,238	7.7	158,558
Ntungamo	238,833	91.1	23,205	8.9	16,335	6.2	4,453	1.7	2,417	0.9	20,788	7.9	262,038
Rubirizi	65,423	91.1	6,401	8.9	4,287	6.0	1,362	1.9	752	1.0	5,649	7.9	71,824
Bushenyi	107,175	91.2	10,283	8.8	6,771	5.8	2,218	1.9	1,294	1.1	8,989	7.7	117,458
Bulambuli	89,217	91.3	8,495	8.7	4,010	4.1	2,760	2.8	1,725	1.8	6,770	6.9	97,712
Kiruhura	154,996	91.3	14,717	8.7	9,620	5.7	3,516	2.1	1,581	0.9	13,136	7.7	169,713
Mpigi	122,331	91.3	11,685	8.7	6,881	5.1	3,077	2.3	1,727	1.3	9,958	7.4	134,016
Rakai	264,274	91.3	25,316	8.7	15,805	5.5	6,170	2.1	3,341	1.2	21,975	7.6	289,590
Ibanda	118,805	91.4	11,129	8.6	7,599	5.8	2,391	1.8	1,139	0.9	9,990	7.7	129,934
Mbarara	208,721	91.4	19,755	8.6	13,609	6.0	4,033	1.8	2,113	0.9	17,642	7.7	228,476
Nakaseke	91,088	91.4	8,531	8.6	5,270	5.3	2,175	2.2	1,086	1.1	7,445	7.5	99,619

**Table 2.9: Different orphanhood levels by District, 2014**

DISTRICT / CITY	Non Orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Single orphan		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Arua	392,681	91.5	36,514	8.5	26,905	6.3	7,143	1.7	2,466	0.6	34,048	7.9	429,195
Kamwenge	211,300	91.5	19,656	8.5	13,280	5.8	4,492	1.9	1,884	0.8	17,772	7.7	230,956
Lyantonde	46,061	91.5	4,272	8.5	2,790	5.5	975	1.9	507	1.0	3,765	7.5	50,333
Zombo	126,828	91.5	11,825	8.5	8,198	5.9	2586	1.9	1,041	0.8	10,784	7.8	138,653
Buikwe	205,176	91.6	18,695	8.4	11,766	5.3	4,415	2.0	2,514	1.1	16,181	7.2	223,871
Buliisa	55,624	91.6	5,115	8.4	3,572	5.9	1,071	1.8	472	0.8	4,643	7.6	60,739
Mukono	277,086	91.6	25,298	8.4	15,300	5.1	6,468	2.1	3,530	1.2	21,768	7.2	302,384
Ssembabule	130,003	91.6	11,875	8.4	7,536	5.3	2,997	2.1	1,342	0.9	10,533	7.4	141,878
Maracha	97,332	91.7	8,857	8.3	6,681	6.3	1,709	1.6	467	0.4	8,390	7.9	106,189
Luwero	228,887	91.8	20,383	8.2	12,596	5.1	5,267	2.1	2,520	1.0	17,863	7.2	249,270
Butambala	54,016	91.9	4,775	8.1	2,833	4.8	1,224	2.1	718	1.2	4,057	6.9	58,791
Isingiro	248,499	91.9	21,854	8.1	15,598	5.8	3,942	1.5	2,314	0.9	19,540	7.2	270,353
Kagadi	186,140	91.9	16,438	8.1	10,898	5.4	3,968	2.0	1,572	0.8	14,866	7.3	202,578
Kiryandongo	139,689	91.9	12,315	8.1	8,659	5.7	2,353	1.5	1,303	0.9	11,012	7.2	152,004
Kyegegwa	145,657	91.9	12,782	8.1	8,384	5.3	3,023	1.9	1,375	0.9	11,407	7.2	158,439
Amuria	148,490	92.0	12,954	8.0	9,921	6.1	2,005	1.2	1,028	0.6	11,926	7.4	161,444
Bududa	112,721	92.0	9,855	8.0	4,727	3.9	3,181	2.6	1,947	1.6	7,908	6.5	122,576
Mubende	342,832	92.0	29,835	8.0	19,136	5.1	7,350	2.0	3,349	0.9	26,486	7.1	372,667
Ntoroko	33,375	92.0	2,895	8.0	1,846	5.1	765	2.1	284	0.8	2,611	7.2	36,270
Rubanda	98,064	92.0	8,546	8.0	6,368	6.0	1,478	1.4	700	0.7	7,846	7.4	106,610
Kaberamaido	116,175	92.1	9,918	7.9	7,399	5.9	1,696	1.3	823	0.7	9,095	7.2	126,093
Kampala	559,852	92.1	47,730	7.9	29,879	4.9	10,883	1.8	6,968	1.1	40,762	6.7	607,582
Nakasongola	92,079	92.1	7,846	7.9	5,366	5.4	1,651	1.7	829	0.8	7,017	7.0	99,925
Busia	170,259	92.3	14,234	7.7	9,979	5.4	2,731	1.5	1,524	0.8	12,710	6.9	184,493
Kisoro	147,545	92.6	11,719	7.4	8,874	5.6	1,982	1.2	863	0.5	10,856	6.8	159,264
Kyankwanzi	107,091	92.6	8,535	7.4	5,250	4.5	2,412	2.1	873	0.8	7,662	6.6	115,626

**Table 2.9: Different orphanhood levels by District, 2014**

DISTRICT / CITY	Non Orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Single orphan		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Kayunga	198,064	92.7	15,608	7.3	10,265	4.8	3,715	1.7	1,628	0.8	13,980	6.5	213,672
Wakiso	867,814	92.7	68,499	7.3	41,391	4.4	17,275	1.8	9,833	1.1	58,666	6.3	936,313
Hoima	283,727	92.8	21,925	7.2	14,559	4.8	5,154	1.7	2,212	0.7	19,713	6.4	305,652
Koboko	110,326	92.8	8,539	7.2	5,951	5.0	1,848	1.6	740	0.6	7,799	6.6	118,865
Masindi	139,884	92.8	10,909	7.2	7,145	4.7	2,601	1.7	1,163	0.8	9,746	6.5	150,793
Soroti	151,697	92.8	11,823	7.2	8,948	5.5	1,872	1.1	1,003	0.6	10,820	6.6	163,520
Tororo	269,956	92.8	21,087	7.2	14,806	5.1	4,199	1.4	2,082	0.7	19,005	6.5	291,043
Kakumiro	153,287	93.0	11,557	7.0	7,614	4.6	2,920	1.8	1,023	0.6	10,534	6.4	164,844
Bundibugyo	116,833	93.1	8,668	6.9	5,640	4.5	2,256	1.8	772	0.6	7,896	6.3	125,501
Buhweju	62,990	93.2	4,593	6.8	3,471	5.1	830	1.2	292	0.4	4,301	6.4	67,583
Jinja	227,812	93.2	16,740	6.8	11,116	4.5	3,664	1.5	1,960	0.8	14,780	6.0	244,552
Kumi	127,837	93.2	9,357	6.8	7,070	5.2	1,541	1.1	746	0.5	8,611	6.3	137,194
Mbale	239,970	93.3	17,235	6.7	9,309	3.6	6,237	2.4	1,689	0.7	15,546	6.0	257,205
Namayingo	117,280	93.4	8,308	6.6	5,831	4.6	1,671	1.3	806	0.6	7,502	6.0	125,588
Ngora	75,750	93.4	5,346	6.6	4,136	5.1	814	1.0	396	0.5	4,950	6.1	81,096
Kibaale	75,723	93.5	5,283	6.5	3,463	4.3	1,352	1.7	468	0.6	4,815	5.9	81,006
Sironko	123,180	93.5	8,505	6.5	4,926	3.7	2,453	1.9	1,126	0.9	7,379	5.6	131,685
Bukedea	111,574	93.8	7,386	6.2	5,274	4.4	1,483	1.2	629	0.5	6,757	5.7	118,960
Buvuma	39,466	93.8	2,587	6.2	1,725	4.1	577	1.4	285	0.7	2,302	5.5	42,053
Kapchorwa	52,673	93.8	3,502	6.2	2,074	3.7	1,073	1.9	355	0.6	3,147	5.6	56,175
Mayuge	259,399	93.8	17,145	6.2	10,776	3.9	4,785	1.7	1,584	0.6	15,561	5.6	276,544
Serere	157,948	94.0	10,013	6.0	7,348	4.4	1,884	1.1	781	0.5	9,232	5.5	167,961
Kamuli	268,527	94.2	16,662	5.8	11,229	3.9	3,613	1.3	1,820	0.6	14,842	5.2	285,189
Bugiri	216,587	94.3	12,985	5.7	9,120	4.0	2,707	1.2	1,158	0.5	11,827	5.2	229,572
Luuka	134,310	94.5	7,871	5.5	5,469	3.8	1,692	1.2	710	0.5	7,161	5.0	142,181
Amudat	57,961	94.6	3,338	5.4	2,064	3.4	827	1.3	447	0.7	2,891	4.7	61,299

**Table 2.9: Different orphanhood levels by District, 2014**

DISTRICT / CITY	Non Orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Single orphan		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Buyende	187,810	94.6	10,667	5.4	7,208	3.6	2,531	1.3	928	0.5	9,739	4.9	198,477
Manafwa	192,515	94.6	11,043	5.4	7,193	3.5	3,015	1.5	835	0.4	10,208	5	203,558
Iganga	271,782	94.8	14,898	5.2	10,077	3.5	3,294	1.1	1,527	0.5	13,371	4.7	286,680
Budaka	116,743	94.9	6,293	5.1	4,315	3.5	1,441	1.2	537	0.4	5,756	4.7	123,036
Bukwo	49,124	94.9	2,654	5.1	1,862	3.6	597	1.2	195	0.4	2,459	4.7	51,778
Kasese	366,915	95.1	18,749	4.9	13,071	3.4	4,318	1.1	1,360	0.4	17,389	4.5	385,664
Kween	50,069	95.1	2,574	4.9	1,687	3.2	744	1.4	143	0.3	2,431	4.6	52,643
Namutumba	144,463	95.2	7,223	4.8	4,807	3.2	1,627	1.1	789	0.5	6,434	4.2	151,686
Pallisa	220,026	95.3	10,896	4.7	7,738	3.4	2,394	1.0	764	0.3	10,132	4.4	230,922
Butaleja	139,864	95.4	6,789	4.6	4,653	3.2	1,585	1.1	551	0.4	6,238	4.3	146,653
Kaliro	134,284	95.6	6,246	4.4	4,225	3.0	1,492	1.1	529	0.4	5,717	4.1	140,530
Kibuku	116,608	95.7	5,297	4.3	3,517	2.9	1,309	1.1	471	0.4	4,826	4.0	121,905
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,345,781</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>1,520,699</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>1,015,091</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>330,277</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>175,331</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1,345,368</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>18,866,480</b>

## 2.9 Orphanhood levels by Ethnicity

The NPHC 2024 classified Ethnic groups in the country into 69 as per the Constitution of Uganda. Orphanhood levels by Ethnicity varied from the minimum of 9.3 percent among the Kumam and Iteso (9.5%), to the maximum of 34.6 percent among the Aliba. This implies that among the Aliba Ethnic group, one in every three children is an orphan. The proportion of double orphans in this Ethnic group stood at 21.7 percent. That is, one in every five children among the Aliba Ethnic group does not have both parents. The next Ethnic group with high orphanhood levels is Aringa and Mvuba at 26.8 percent and 25.5 percent respectively. The Aringa have a similar pattern of having more double orphans like the Aliba. However, the Mvuba have an equal proportion of double and paternal orphans. Among the ten Ethnic groups with a higher proportion of orphans (above 20%), all of them have more than double proportion of orphans, followed by Paternal orphans, implying that for children belonging to Ethnic groups with high orphanhood rates, the likelihood for loss of both parents is higher than that of loss of one parent.

Among the ten big Ethnic groups (70 percent of the country's population), the Acholi had the highest proportion of orphaned children at 15.6 percent followed by the Lugbara at 14.2 percent. In absolute numbers, the big Ethnic groups, even with low proportions of orphans (less than the national average), had the highest number of orphans. Among the big Ethnic groups, the Iteso had the lowest number and proportion of orphans (4432/157476, 9.7%).

Some of the small Ethnic groups like Mvuba had only 149 children with 28.2 percent (42) orphaned, the Benet with 857 children (24.6% were orphans). Of the 2,804 children in Bahehe, 703 (25.1%) were orphans. Interventions targeting Ethnicity in relation to orphanhood are crucial.

### 2.9.1 Double orphanhood by Ethnicity

Double orphanhood is considered more vulnerable among orphaned children. The Aliba Ethnic group had the highest proportion of double orphans (**Table 2.10**). This was followed by the Aringa at 14.5 percent. A total of eight Ethnic groups had the proportion of double orphans above 10 percent, meaning that one in every ten children in these Ethnic groups has no father and mother. These were Aliba, Aringa, Baamba (12.2%), Babukusu (12.0%), Bahehe (11.2%), Benet (11.1%), Pokot (10.9%), Mvuba (10.1%).

In absolute numbers, among these Ethnic groups with a high proportion, the Aringa ranked highest with 74,923 double orphans, followed by the Dodoth with 13,670, and the Pokot at 12,066. Seven Ethnic groups had the proportion of double orphans, less than 3 percent. These were Kuman (2.2%) with the lowest proportion, followed by Mening (2.3%), Kebu (Okebu) at 2.5 percent, Batagwenda (2.5%), Banyoro (2.6%), Baruli and Iteso (2.8%).

### 2.9.2 Paternal orphanhood by Ethnicity

The NPHC 2024 analytical report showed that the life expectancy for men is lower than that for women. The proportion of paternal orphans was highest among two small Ethnic groups, namely the Mvuba (10.1%) and the Mening (10.1%). After these two, the majority of the Ethnic groups with a high proportion of paternal orphans are from the Karamoja Sub region. These include Dodoth (9.5%), Karimojong (9.0%), Ethur (9.0%), Jie (8.9%), Napore (8.5%), and So (Tepeth - 8.1%).

The high proportion of Karamojong children who are orphaned is another point of worry. This finding is consistent with studies on street children that have shown that right from Mbale through Jinja to Kampala, almost 50 percent of the street children are from Eastern region. One study found Karamoja was the origin for 32 percent of street children, followed by Lango (24%) and Busoga (18%), which includes areas like Jinja<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Factors associated with increasing number of street children in Kampala, Ms Adikini Kevin, 2013

The other Ethnic groups with a large proportion of paternal orphans include Madi (7.7%) and Acholi (7.6%). These have the highest absolute numbers of paternal orphans, with 74,375 children having no father and 46,230 as double orphans, meaning that about 120,605 children in Acholi do not have fathers. This can be attributed to the fact that Acholi Sub-region used to lead in the number of orphaned children between 1991 to around 2014 because of the insurgency that took place then. This is still affecting this area, as many of these children do not have grandparents, making foster care a great challenge.

The Ethnic groups with the lowest proportion of paternal orphans are the Banyole (4.3%), Bagwere (4.3%) and Sabiny (4.4%), and Pokot (4.4%). The Pokot are one of the Ethnic groups from the Karamoja Sub-region with the lowest proportion of paternal orphans. This needs further investigation given the Pokot have different social steps to protect themselves from their hostile environment. The Iteso, among the biggest Ethnic groups, have the lowest paternal orphans (4.7%). Other Ethnic groups with less than 5 percent of paternal orphans are the Bakonzo. All the other Ethnic groups with low paternal orphans are found in the Eastern part of the country namely Japadhola (4.7%), and the Bagisu (4.7%). These Ethnic groups also neighbor each other or are found within the same District /geographical proximity.

### **2.9.3 Maternal orphanhood by Ethnicity**

The three Ethnic groups with the highest proportions of maternal orphans are Aliba (5.0%), Mvuba (4.7%), and Aringa (4.7%). These Ethnic groups have also shown to have all three categories of orphanhood as very high. Among all Ethnic groups, the proportion of maternal orphans was less than the proportion of paternal orphans. In addition, the three Ethnic groups of Mening (1.6%), Kumam (1.8%), and Iteso (1.9%) have less than 2 percent maternal orphans. Kumam and Iteso have less than one in ten children orphaned and are among those groups with the lowest orphanhood levels.

However, the differences in percentage points differ from the lowest of one percent among the Pokot Ethnic group to the highest of 8.4 percent among the Mening. Other Ethnic groups with bigger differences between paternal and maternal are Ethur (6.4%), Kuku (6.2%), Reli (6.1%), and Jie (6.0%) Ethnic groups. The Bamba (4.0%), Bahehe (3.9%), and Dodoth (3.7%) also have high proportions of maternal orphans. All eight Ethnic groups with at least 3.5 percent maternal orphans have the proportion of orphaned children above 25 percent, that is, one in four of the children are orphans.

**Table 2.10: Different orphanhood levels by Ethnic group**

Ethnicity	Non-Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Don't Know /Missing		Orphan		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.
Aliba	10,412	62.8	1,082	6.5	834	5.0	3,594	21.7	626	3.77	6,136	37.0	16,591
Aringa	368,722	71.2	36,910	7.1	24,092	4.7	74,923	14.5	11,829	2.28	147,754	28.5	517,832
Mvuba	107	71.8	15	10.1	7	4.7	15	10.1	5	3.36	42	28.2	149
Baamba	22,678	73.7	1,892	6.2	1,242	4.0	3,746	12.2	1,115	3.62	7,995	26.0	30,763
Babukusu	13,324	74.5	966	5.4	657	3.7	2,143	12.0	739	4.13	4,505	25.2	17,881
Bahehe	2,087	74.4	180	6.4	110	3.9	313	11.2	100	3.57	703	25.1	2,804
Benet	644	75.1	56	6.5	31	3.6	95	11.1	29	3.38	211	24.6	857
Dodoth	106,285	76.1	13,277	9.5	5,160	3.7	13,670	9.8	1,089	0.78	33,196	23.8	139,649
Karimojong	266,691	80.1	29,904	9.0	10,672	3.2	23,897	7.2	1,299	0.39	65,772	19.7	333,095
Banyabutumbi	3,107	80.4	264	6.8	129	3.3	289	7.5	61	1.58	743	19.2	3,863
Kuku	42,738	80.5	4,724	8.9	1,447	2.7	3,432	6.5	511	0.96	10,114	19.0	53,107
Pokot	89,378	80.9	4,834	4.4	3,727	3.4	12,066	10.9	406	0.37	21,033	19.0	110,495
Napore	12,180	81.2	1,268	8.5	495	3.3	1,004	6.7	34	0.23	2,801	18.7	14,991
Babwisi	53,049	82.3	4,383	6.8	2,199	3.4	4,105	6.4	622	0.96	11,309	17.5	64,460
Gimara	6,107	82.5	573	7.7	207	2.8	437	5.9	50	0.68	1,267	17.1	7,398
Jie	84,279	82.8	9,088	8.9	2,980	2.9	5,176	5.1	208	0.2	17,452	17.1	101,826
Ethur	48,076	83.2	5,196	9.0	1,514	2.6	2,809	4.9	110	0.19	9,629	16.7	57,791
Bakingwe	755	83.4	52	5.7	27	3.0	54	6.0	15	1.66	148	16.4	905
Ik (Teuso)	6,414	83.6	564	7.4	282	3.7	380	5.0	16	0.21	1,242	16.2	7,671
Ngikutio	2,812	83.9	238	7.1	82	2.4	215	6.4	2	0.06	537	16.0	3,352
Nyangia	12,378	84.0	1,000	6.8	499	3.4	815	5.5	33	0.22	2,347	15.9	14,728
Bagabu	571	84.0	49	7.2	24	3.5	30	4.4	5	0.74	108	15.9	680
Batuku	19,043	84.4	1,462	6.5	770	3.4	1,140	5.1	121	0.54	3,493	15.5	22,573
Batwa	1,504	84.5	128	7.2	51	2.9	79	4.4	16	0.9	274	15.4	1,780
So (Tepeth)	8,551	84.5	815	8.1	273	2.7	455	4.5	15	0.15	1,558	15.4	10,115
Acholi	822,373	84.4	74,375	7.6	23,966	2.5	46,230	4.7	4,850	0.5	149,421	15.3	974,144

**Table 2.10: Different orphanhood levels by Ethnic group**

Ethnicity	Non-Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Don't Know /Missing		Orphan		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.
Kakwa	115,511	84.4	10,311	7.5	3,306	2.4	6,469	4.7	808	0.59	20,894	15.3	136,881
Madi	164,045	84.3	15,021	7.7	4,901	2.5	8,879	4.6	1,063	0.55	29,864	15.3	194,573
Reli	3,917	84.4	375	8.1	95	2.0	230	5.0	7	0.15	707	15.2	4,640
Bahororo	56,769	84.8	4,541	6.8	1,742	2.6	2,964	4.4	625	0.93	9,872	14.8	66,917
Alur	499,221	85.2	39,981	6.8	16,134	2.8	26,707	4.6	2,913	0.5	85,735	14.6	585,901
Mening	1,098	85.9	128	10.0	21	1.6	29	2.3	2	0.16	180	14.1	1,278
Bagwe	46,488	85.8	2,732	5.0	1,388	2.6	3,055	5.6	411	0.76	7,586	14.0	54,154
Lendu	8,272	85.9	669	6.9	286	3.0	361	3.7	30	0.31	1,346	14.0	9,628
Lugbara	522,061	85.8	43,280	7.1	15,461	2.5	23,173	3.8	3,242	0.53	85,156	14.0	608,484
Nubi	11,414	85.7	964	7.2	360	2.7	430	3.2	94	0.71	1,848	13.9	13,325
Bafumbira	414,863	86.0	27,731	5.8	12,502	2.6	22,426	4.7	3,471	0.72	66,130	13.7	482,249
Jonam	51,368	86.1	4,292	7.2	1,415	2.4	2,172	3.6	306	0.51	8,185	13.7	59,643
Barundi	25,551	86.2	2,163	7.3	761	2.6	979	3.3	116	0.39	4,019	13.6	29,657
Chope	12,062	86.5	789	5.7	421	3.0	602	4.3	56	0.4	1,868	13.4	13,943
Bakiga	1,231,670	86.5	94,224	6.6	34,769	2.4	51,059	3.6	6,980	0.49	187,032	13.1	1,423,642
Banyara	22,069	86.7	1,367	5.4	677	2.7	1,075	4.2	226	0.89	3,345	13.1	25,466
Banyarwanda	230,797	86.7	18,028	6.8	6,223	2.3	8,685	3.3	1,518	0.57	34,454	12.9	266,219
Lango	1,141,857	86.9	89,969	6.8	28,138	2.1	46,085	3.5	4,798	0.37	168,990	12.9	1,313,842
Banyabindi	5,093	87.0	294	5.0	141	2.4	263	4.5	50	0.85	748	12.8	5,852
Baganda	3,020,188	87.0	211,444	6.1	85,516	2.5	119,467	3.4	23,093	0.67	439,520	12.7	3,470,554
Bakenyi	49,558	87.2	2,754	4.8	1,379	2.4	2,686	4.7	381	0.67	7,200	12.7	56,820
Banyankore	1,627,728	87.0	118,803	6.4	44,315	2.4	63,262	3.4	10,676	0.57	237,056	12.7	1,870,284
Maragoli	2,009	87.4	121	5.3	58	2.5	98	4.3	10	0.43	287	12.5	2,299
Basongora	5,788	87.3	338	5.1	133	2.0	295	4.5	52	0.78	818	12.3	6,628
Banyaruguru	20,699	87.6	1,513	6.4	531	2.2	727	3.1	89	0.38	2,860	12.1	23,621
Bagisu	869,678	87.8	46,674	4.7	26,561	2.7	41,207	4.2	4,292	0.43	118,734	12.0	990,184
Basoga	1,664,975	87.8	95,005	5.0	45,690	2.4	74,216	3.9	12,180	0.64	227,091	12.0	1,895,426

**Table 2.10: Different orphanhood levels by Ethnic group**

Ethnicity	Non-Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Don't Know /Missing		Orphan		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Batoro	428,104	87.8	28,599	5.9	12,219	2.5	15,348	3.1	2,201	0.45	58,367	12.0	487,676
Vonoma	293	88.0	22	6.6	7	2.1	11	3.3	0	0	40	12.0	333
Bagungu	58,732	88.0	3,701	5.5	1,579	2.4	2,130	3.2	477	0.71	7,887	11.8	66,723
Bagwere	401,258	88.1	19,596	4.3	11,281	2.5	19,701	4.3	3,158	0.69	53,736	11.8	455,650
Jopadhola	250,317	88.4	13,384	4.7	6,592	2.3	10,541	3.7	1,887	0.67	32,404	11.4	283,276
Kebu (Okebu)	24,205	88.6	1,673	6.1	663	2.4	682	2.5	65	0.24	3,083	11.3	27,305
Shana	2,555	88.3	140	4.8	79	2.7	104	3.6	5	0.17	328	11.3	2,895
Basamia	245,255	89.0	14,705	5.3	5,724	2.1	8,379	3.0	1,003	0.36	29,811	10.8	275,500
Batagwenda	25,884	88.9	1,717	5.9	614	2.1	739	2.5	88	0.3	3,158	10.8	29,106
Baruli	100,108	89.2	5,920	5.3	2,482	2.2	3,135	2.8	490	0.44	12,027	10.7	112,288
Bakonzo	526,069	89.2	27,480	4.7	12,918	2.2	19,980	3.4	2,358	0.4	62,736	10.6	589,503
Banyoro	562,397	89.4	33,572	5.3	13,888	2.2	16,539	2.6	1,971	0.31	65,970	10.5	629,358
Sabiny	161,397	89.3	7,970	4.4	4,167	2.3	6,428	3.6	486	0.27	19,051	10.5	180,649
Banyole	302,866	89.7	14,640	4.3	7,187	2.1	10,863	3.2	1,656	0.49	34,346	10.2	337,625
Iteso	1,468,659	90.1	75,937	4.7	31,258	1.9	45,849	2.8	4,432	0.27	157,476	9.7	1,630,106
Kumam	162,094	90.1	9,436	5.2	3,215	1.8	3,964	2.2	531	0.3	17,146	9.5	179,994
Other Ugandan	163,800	81.0	11,667	5.8	7,074	3.5	14,118	7.0	4,226	2.09	37,085	18.3	202,219
<b>Non-Ugandan</b>	<b>402,728</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>75,264</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>15,577</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>34,110</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5,562</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>130,513</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>540,722</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

During the Census, the residential status of children was also asked and among them are the asylum seekers or refugees. A total of 430,575 children aged 0-17 years were refugees, representing 1.9 percent. Whereas this looks like a small proportion, these children constitute a big District and for the small ones, these are almost 4 Districts that average to 100,000 persons per District. Of the refugee children, 26.7 percent were orphans (**Table 2.11**).

**Table 2.11: Comparison of Orphanhood level by refugee status**

Orphan Type	Refugee Children		Non-Refugee		All Children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Both parents alive	315,579	73.3	18,800,156	86.5	19,115,735	86.3
Mother alive, father dead	65,587	15.2	1,306,642	6.0	1,372,229	6.2
Father alive, mother dead	12,338	2.9	538,587	2.5	550,925	2.5
Both parents dead	26,509	6.2	894,825	4.1	921,334	4.2
Mother alive, father DK	6,561	1.5	53,763	0.2	60,324	0.3
Mother dead, father DK	621	0.1	15,774	0.1	16,395	0.1
Father alive, Mother DK	512	0.1	20,873	0.1	21,385	0.1
Father dead, Mother DK	493	0.1	12,246	0.1	12,739	0.1
DK/missing	2,375	0.6	79,097	0.4	81,472	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>430,575</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21,721,963</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

#### 2.9.4 Trends in Orphanhood by Ethnicity, 2002 - 2024

This section presents trends in orphanhood by Ethnicity based on NPHC 2002 and 2024. The Ethnic groups in 2024, which had the highest level of orphanhood, had not been recognized as independent Ethnic groups in 2002. These were the Aliba and Aringa. The Mvuba Ethnic group, which was third in 2002, was number 35 in 2024. This is worrying, more so that this is one of the least populated Ethnic groups, and even the number of children who stated they were Mvumba decreased from 483 in 2002 to 149 in 2024 (**Table 2.12**). Overall, Mvuba had the highest increase in the proportion of orphaned children by 16.4 percentage points. Extinction is possible for this Ethnic group.

Bahehe is the Ethnic group that had the highest proportion of orphans (24.8%) in 2002, and it is number five in 2024 (25.6%), meaning that the level of orphanhood actually increased. Special care needs to be taken for this Ethnic group to reduce the levels of orphans, which have not only remained high but increased over the inter-censal period.

The Napore Ethnic group has also maintained a high level of orphans as it was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2002 and 13<sup>th</sup> in 2024. If the other Ethnic groups that were not enumerated independently in 2024 were to be excluded, Napore would remain in the 9<sup>th</sup> position. Other Ethnic groups that registered a high rise in the population of orphan children were the Pokot, which increased by 15.7 percent, and the Bamba (15.6 percent).

Some Ethnic groups had the proportion of orphan children decrease significantly. These include: the Batoro from 18.7 percent in 2002 to 12.2 percent in 2024, the Baganda from 17.5 percent to 13.0 percent between 2002 and 2024. Others were: Napore (4.4%), Banyarwanda (4.4%), among others. It should be noted that the proportion of orphans of some big Ethnic groups, like the Baganda, Iteso, Banyonkore, and Acholi has decreased. However, some big Ethnic groups had an increase in the proportion of orphans between the 2002 and 2024 inter-censal period, and these include Basoga, the third Ethnic group, having the proportion of orphans increase from 8.5 percent to 12.2 percent, the Bagishu from 8.7 percent to 12.2 percent.

**Table 2.12: Trends in Orphanhood, 2002 -2024**

Ethnicity	NPHC 2002				NPHC 2024				Change in Rank	Change in proportion
	All	Orphan		Rank 2002	All	Orphan		Rank 2024		
	No.	No.	%		No.	No.	%			
Acholi	630,374	108,511	17.2	8	974,144	151,771	15.6	24	16	-1.6
Aliba	N/A	N/A	N/A	57	16,591	6,179	37.2	1	-56	NA
Alur	290,109	30,181	10.4	43	585,901	86,680	14.8	31	-12	4.4
Aringa	N/A	N/A	N/A	58	517,832	149,110	28.8	2	-56	NA
Baamba	18,537	1,975	10.7	41	30,763	8,085	26.3	4	-37	15.6
Babukusu	8,223	802	9.8	46	17,881	4,557	25.5	6	-40	15.7
Babwisi	37,768	3,729	9.9	45	64,460	11,411	17.7	14	-31	7.8
Bafumbira	252,136	32,191	12.8	22	482,249	67,386	14	37	15	1.2
Bagabu	N/A	N/A	N/A	69	680	109	16	22	-47	NA
Baganda	2,345,916	410,990	17.5	7	3,470,554	450,366	13	45	38	-4.5
Bagisu	607,428	52,675	8.7	49	990,184	120,506	12.2	52	3	3.5
Bagungu	28,742	3,424	11.9	31	66,723	7,991	12	55	24	0.1
Bagwe	44,802	5,149	11.5	36	54,154	7,666	14.2	33	-3	2.7
Bagwere	234,016	17,211	7.4	54	455,650	54,392	11.9	57	3	4.5
Bahehe	1,251	310	24.8	1	2,804	717	25.6	5	4	0.8
Bahororo	99,418	17,543	17.6	6	66,917	10,148	15.2	30	24	-2.4
Bakenyi	36,684	3,073	8.4	51	56,820	7,262	12.8	48	-3	4.4
Bakhonzo	354,257	28,038	7.9	52	589,503	63,434	10.8	63	11	2.9
Bakiga	929,122	129,559	13.9	16	1,423,642	191,972	13.5	40	24	-0.4
Bakingwe	N/A	N/A	N/A	68	905	150	16.6	18	-50	NA
Banyabindi	7,465	1,102	14.8	11	5,852	759	13	46	35	-1.8
Banyabutumbi	N/A	N/A	N/A	59	3,863	756	19.6	10	-49	NA
Banyakole	1,265,846	179,192	14.2	13	1,870,284	242,556	13	47	34	-1.2
Banyara	12,044	1,311	10.9	40	25,466	3,397	13.3	42	2	2.4
Banyaruguru	N/A	N/A	N/A	61	23,621	2,922	12.4	51	-10	NA

**Table 2.12: Trends in Orphanhood, 2002 -2024**

Ethnicity	NPHC 2002				NPHC 2024				Change in Rank	Change in proportion
	All	Orphan		Rank 2002	All	Orphan		Rank 2024		
	No.	No.	%		No.	No.	%			
Banyarwanda	162,261	28,736	17.7	5	266,219	35,422	13.3	43	38	-4.4
Banyole	199,976	14,746	7.4	55	337,625	34,759	10.3	67	12	2.9
Banyoro	379,643	44,890	11.8	34	629,358	66,961	10.6	66	32	-1.2
Baruli	84,524	10,170	12	30	112,288	12,180	10.8	64	34	-1.2
Barundi	N/A	N/A	N/A	62	29,657	4,106	13.8	39	-23	NA
Basamia	160,159	20,088	12.5	24	275,500	30,245	11	62	38	-1.5
Basoga	1,210,173	103,423	8.5	50	1,895,426	230,451	12.2	53	3	3.7
Basongora	5,560	794	14.3	12	6,628	840	12.7	49	37	-1.6
Batagwenda	25,329	3,413	13.5	17	29,106	3,222	11.1	61	44	-2.4
Batoro	336,545	62,842	18.7	4	487,676	59,572	12.2	54	50	-6.5
Batuku	11,690	1,570	13.4	18	22,573	3,530	15.6	25	7	2.2
Batwa	3,401	479	14.1	14	1,780	276	15.5	28	14	1.4
Benet	N/A	N/A	N/A	60	857	213	24.9	7	-53	NA
Chope	11,911	1,500	12.6	23	13,943	1,881	13.5	41	18	0.9
Dodoth	1,218	171	14	15	139,649	33,364	23.9	8	-7	9.9
Ethur	1,193	120	10.1	44	57,791	9,715	16.8	17	-27	6.7
Gimara	N/A	N/A	N/A	63	7,398	1,291	17.5	15	-48	NA
IK (Teuso)	4,275	523	12.2	27	7,671	1,257	16.4	19	-8	4.2
Iteso	871,093	108,043	12.4	25	1,630,106	161,447	9.9	68	43	-2.5
Jie	508	62	12.2	28	101,826	17,547	17.2	16	-12	5
Jonam	48,734	5,877	12.1	29	59,643	8,275	13.9	38	9	1.8
Jopadhola	199,634	22,560	11.3	38	283,276	32,959	11.6	59	21	0.3
Kakwa	71,382	8,243	11.5	37	136,881	21,370	15.6	26	-11	4.1
Karimojong	136,673	16,225	11.9	32	333,095	66,404	19.9	9	-23	8
Kebu (okebu)	18,952	1,853	9.8	47	27,305	3,100	11.4	60	13	1.6
Kuku	18,704	2,488	13.3	19	53,107	10,369	19.5	11	-8	6.2
Kumam	97,530	12,923	13.3	20	179,994	17,900	9.9	69	49	-3.4

**Table 2.12: Trends in Orphanhood, 2002-2024**

Ethnicity	NPHC 2002				NPHC 2024				Change in Rank	Change in proportion
	All	Orphan		Rank 2002	All	Orphan		Rank 2024		
	No.	No.	%		No.	No.	%			
Langi	844,603	103,713	12.3	26	1,313,842	171,985	13.1	44	18	0.8
Lendu	5,635	591	10.5	42	9,628	1,356	14.1	35	-7	3.6
Lugbara	571,558	63,529	11.1	39	608,484	86,423	14.2	34	-5	3.1
Madi	164,703	31,128	18.9	3	194,573	30,528	15.7	23	20	-3.2
Maragoli	N/A	N/A	N/A	64	2,299	290	12.6	50	-14	NA
Mening	624	93	14.9	10	1,278	180	14.1	36	26	-0.8
Mvuba	483	57	11.8	35	149	42	28.2	3	-32	16.4
Napore	190	44	23.2	2	14,991	2,811	18.8	13	11	-4.4
Ngikutio	N/A	N/A	N/A	65	3,352	540	16.1	20	-45	NA
Nubi	13,770	2,293	16.7	9	13,325	1,911	14.3	32	23	-2.4
Nyangia	153	20	13.1	21	14,728	2,350	16	21	0	2.9
Pokot	39,907	2,627	6.6	56	110,495	21,117	19.1	12	-44	12.5
Reli	N/A	N/A	N/A	66	4,640	723	15.6	27	-39	NA
Sabiny	104,348	7,896	7.6	53	180,649	19,252	10.7	65	12	3.1
Shana	N/A	N/A	N/A	67	2,895	340	11.7	58	-9	NA
So(Tepeth)	11,139	1,021	9.2	48	10,115	1,564	15.5	29	-19	6.3
Vonoma	59	7	11.9	33	333	40	12	56	23	0.1
Other Ugandans	50,600	7,922	15.7	3	202,219	38,419	19	NR		3.3
Non-Ugandan	271,166	43,740	16.1	1	540,722	137,994	25.5	NR		9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,344,144</b>	<b>1,763,386</b>	<b>13.2</b>		<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>3,036,803</b>	<b>13.7</b>			<b>0.5</b>

*N/A = Not Applicable, NR = Not Ranked*

## 2.10 Survivorship of parents by employment status of children

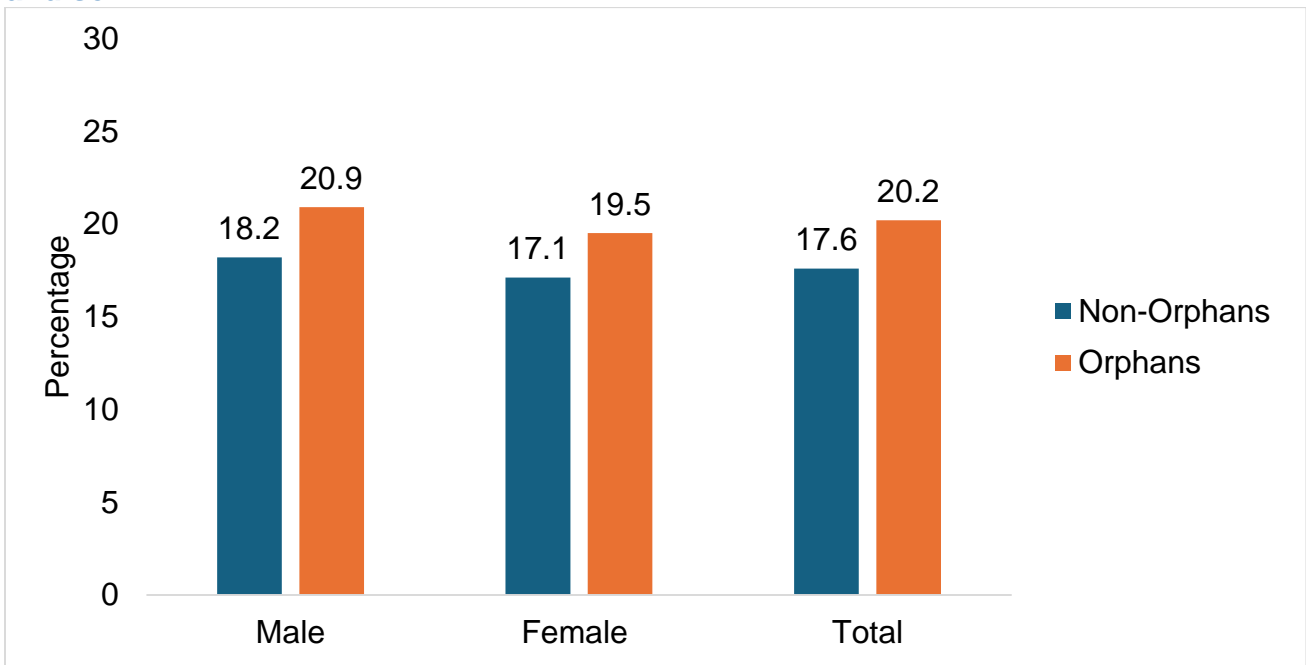
The NPHC 2024 asked questions on the economic activity status of persons aged 14 years or older. This analysis on orphanhood shows that of the children aged 14-17 (4,403,717), 797,701 (18.1%) were in employment while 79.5 percent were outside the labour force. **Table 2.13** and **Figure 2.5** present the analysis of employment status by parental survivorship status. Comparing the different categories, one in every five orphans (20.2%) was employed compared to non-orphans (18.1%); a higher proportion of maternal orphans (20.6%) were employed compared to paternal orphans (19.5%). Overall, double orphans (21.4%) were more likely to be working than single orphans (19.8%).

**Table 2.13: Survivorship of parents by employment status of the children**

Survivorship of Parents	Employed		Unemployed		Outside labour force		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>International working age (15-17 years)</b>							
Orphan	133,874	21.0	20,047	3.1	485,083	75.9	639,004
Non-orphan	484,310	18.5	71,480	2.7	2,064,708	78.8	2,620,498
Maternal	26,127	21.4	3,770	3.1	92,379	75.5	122,276
Paternal	71,390	20.4	12,199	3.5	266,774	76.1	350,363
Single	98,484	20.6	16,106	3.4	363,039	76	477,629
Double	35,390	21.9	3,941	2.4	122,044	75.6	161,375
<b>National working age (14-17 years)</b>							
Orphan	169,627	20.2	23,106	2.8	647,375	77.1	840,108
Non-orphan	628,076	17.6	83,232	2.3	2,852,301	80.0	3,563,609
Maternal	33,043	20.6	4,343	2.7	122,887	76.7	160,273
Paternal	88,789	19.5	13,835	3.0	353,129	77.5	455,753
Single	123,116	19.8	18,354	2.9	481,400	77.3	622,870
Double	46,511	21.4	4,752	2.2	165,975	76.4	217,238

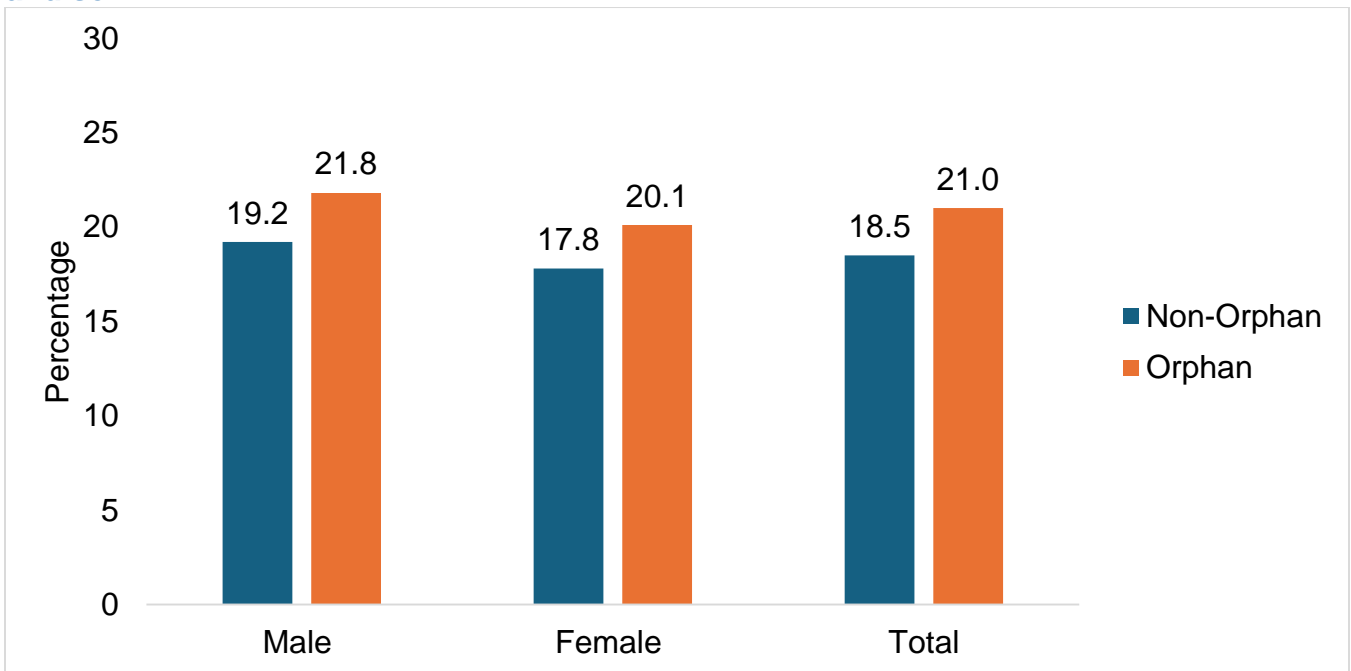
Source: NPHC 2024

**Figure 2.5a: Proportion of children (14-17years) in employment by orphanhood status and sex**



Source: NPHC 2024

**Figure 2.5b: Proportion of children (15-17years) in employment by orphanhood status and sex**



## 2.11 School Attendance

The NPHC 2024 categorized school attendance status into 3 groups: currently attending school (in 2024), attended in the past and never attended. Figures 2.6 and 2.7 show that more orphans compared to non-orphans had never attended school or attended school in the past irrespective of age.

**Figure 2.6: School attendance (3-5years) by Orphanhood status and Sex**

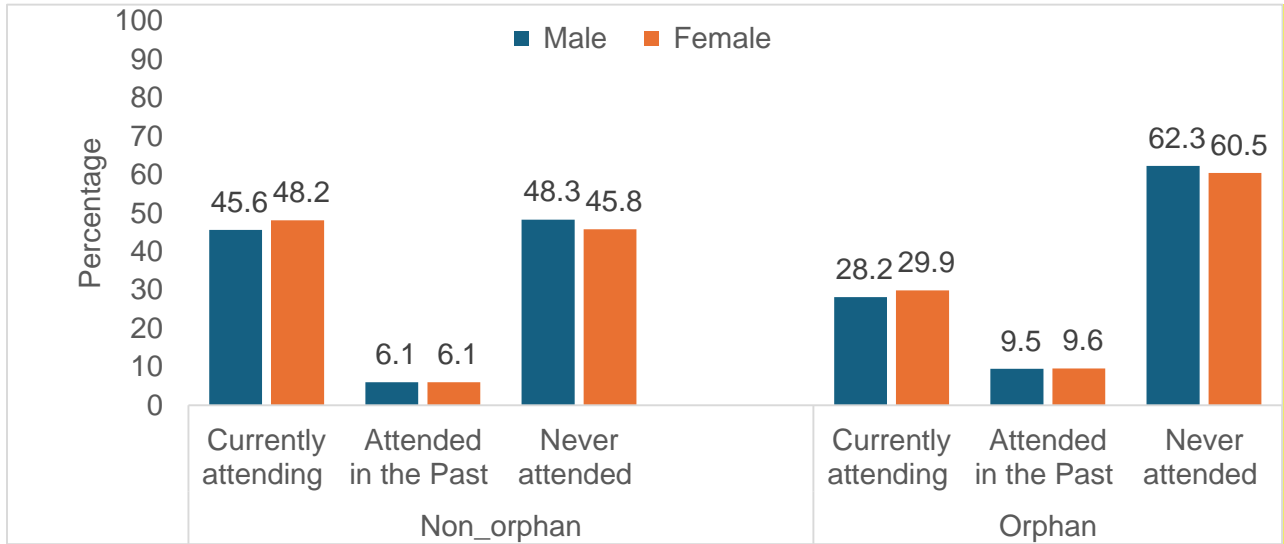
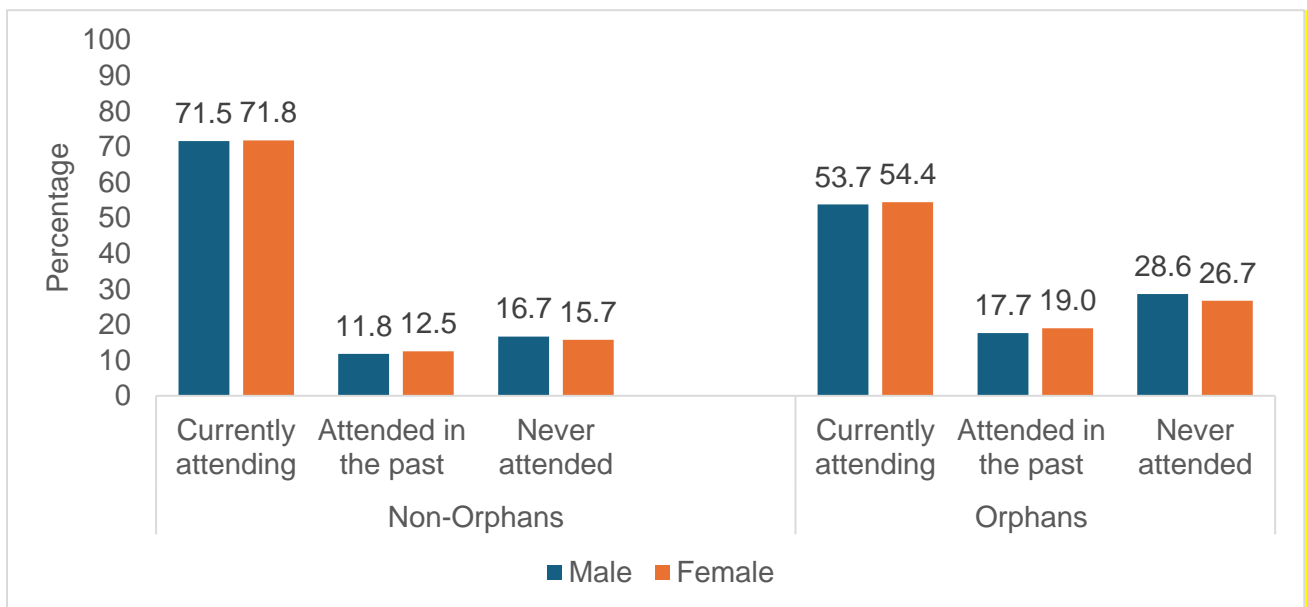


Figure 2.7 further shows that whereas more girls than boys attended school in the past, more boys than girls had never attended school.

**Figure 2.7: School attendance (6-17years) by Orphanhood status and Sex**



## 2.12 Household size by survivorship of children

According to the NPHC 2024, a household is defined as a group of people who normally eat and live together. This implication is that a household must have at least one person. Similar to children in totality, orphans live in households with more than five household members (Table 2.14).

**Table 2.14: Orphanhood Status by household size**

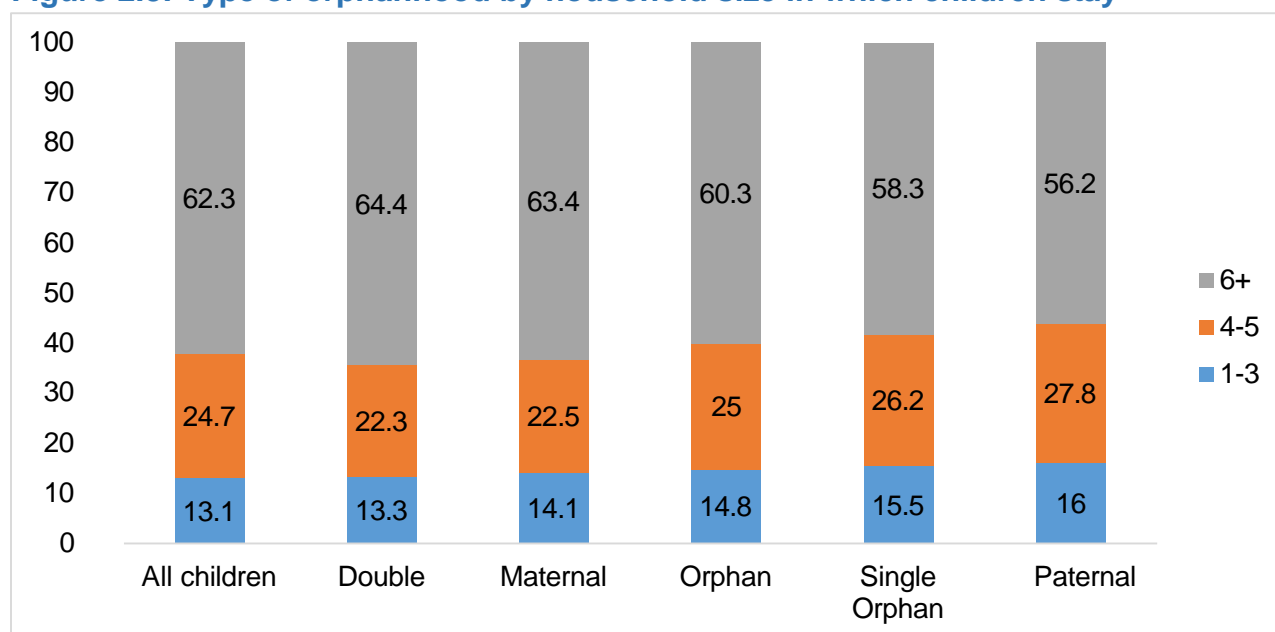
Orphanhood status	1-3 members		4-5 members		6+ members		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Orphan (lost one or both parents)	424,063	14.8	717,264	25.0	1,732,295	60.3	<b>2,873,622</b>
Maternal	77,623	14.1	123,909	22.5	349,393	63.4	<b>550,925</b>
Paternal	220,214	16.0	381,160	27.8	770,855	56.2	<b>1,372,229</b>
Double	122,403	13.3	205,737	22.3	593,194	64.4	<b>921,334</b>
Single Orphan	301,660	15.5	511,527	26.2	1,139,101	58.3	<b>1,952,288</b>
<b>All children</b>	<b>2,896,961</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>5,463,204</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>13,792,373</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

The household size in which children live affects their normal growth. In Africa, studies have shown that bigger families give more support to their members than small families<sup>2</sup>. Comparison of household size by different categories of orphans shows that paternal orphans stayed mainly in a smaller household size than any other category of orphans. Among paternal orphans, 16.0 percent stayed in households with 1-3 people, 27.8 percent of the paternal orphans stayed in households with 4-5 people (Figure 2.8). This is followed by single orphans at 15.5 percent. On the other hand, more double orphans live in big households than any other category of children. This means that mainly double orphans are taken on, while the paternal orphans remain on their own.

<sup>2</sup> *Role of Families in Social and Economic Empowerment of Individuals, Zitha Mokomane (PhD), 2012*

**Figure 2.8: Type of orphanhood by household size in which children stay**



Source: NPHC 2024

### 2.13 Orphanhood by main source of livelihood of the household

The highest proportion of children (69.4%) live in households whose main source of livelihood was subsistence agriculture. Of the orphans, 69.2 percent live in households whose main source of livelihood is subsistence agriculture (**Table 5.15**).

Differences are observed for other sources of income, for example, whereas 7.4 percent of the non-orphaned children lived in households whose source of income is salaried earners, only 4.2 percent of the orphaned children lived in households with salaried earners. Similarly, whereas 3.6 percent of the children lived in households with commercial farming as the main source of livelihood, the proportion for orphans (4.0%) and for double orphans is 4.6 percent (Table 2.15) in the same category.

Each of these findings has its own implication. First the low proportion of orphaned children among the salaried households shows that persons within the formal sector do not take on the responsibility of other children due to their high cost of living, while households depending on commercial farming as their main source of livelihood take on double orphans; there is a possibility that these children may be a source of labour.

**Table 2.15: Orphanhood by main source of livelihood off the household**

Main source of livelihood	All children		Non orphan		Orphan		Paternal		Maternal		Double		Single	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Subsistence farming	15,376,607	69.4	13,389,497	69.5	1,987,110	69.2	949,793	69.2	388,168	70.5	632,489	68.6	1,354,621	69.4
Commercial Farming	802,213	3.6	687,130	3.6	115,083	4.0	47,543	3.5	23,573	4.3	42,472	4.6	72,611	3.7
Employment income (Salaried)	1,550,348	7.0	1,428,964	7.4	121,384	4.2	66,845	4.9	26,163	4.7	27,318	3.0	94,066	4.8
Business Enterprise	1,283,085	5.8	1,169,301	6.1	113,784	4.0	66,874	4.9	21,901	4.0	24,195	2.6	89,589	4.6
Cottage Industry	35,725	0.2	29,743	0.2	5,982	0.2	2,382	0.2	1,076	0.2	2,356	0.3	3,626	0.2
Property Income	117,576	0.5	98,009	0.5	19,567	0.7	8,146	0.6	3,645	0.7	7,450	0.8	12,117	0.6
Family/Friends/Relatives	494,920	2.2	416,233	2.2	78,687	2.7	42,076	3.1	13,715	2.5	22,138	2.4	56,549	2.9
Institutional or Program Support (e.g. Red Cross, WFP, etc.)	154,791	0.7	114,838	0.6	39,953	1.4	25,309	1.8	4,187	0.8	10,051	1.1	29,902	1.5
Sale of Assets	63,630	0.3	51,164	0.3	12,466	0.4	4,443	0.3	2,332	0.4	5,460	0.6	7,006	0.4
Other	2,273,643	10.3	1,894,037	9.8	379,606	13.2	158,818	11.6	66,165	12.0	147,405	16.0	232,201	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19,278,916</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,873,622</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,372,229</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>550,925</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>921,334</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,952,288</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

## CHAPTER THREE: CHILDREN FOR WHOM SURVIVAL STATUS OF PARENTS IS UNKNOWN

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### 3.1 Introduction

The findings show that children for whom the survival status of parents was unknown were 0.7 percent (192,315) of all children. This section presents a detailed description of these children, including who they are, Ethnicity, where they are found, District, age of household head, among others.

This section is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Extracted on 2025 April 3<sup>rd</sup> from <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>), which states that:

#### 7. Name and Nationality

“Children must be registered when they are born and given a name which is officially recognized by the Government. Children must have nationality (belong to a country). Whenever possible, **children should know their parents and be looked after by them.**”

#### 8. Identity

**Children have the right to their own identity** – an official record of who they are which includes their name, nationality, and **family relations**. No one should take this away from them, but if this happens, Governments must help children to quickly get their identity back.

#### 9. Keeping families together

**Children should not be separated from their parents unless they are not** being properly looked after – for example, if a parent hurts or does not take care of a child. Children whose parents don't live together should stay in contact with both parents unless this might harm the child.

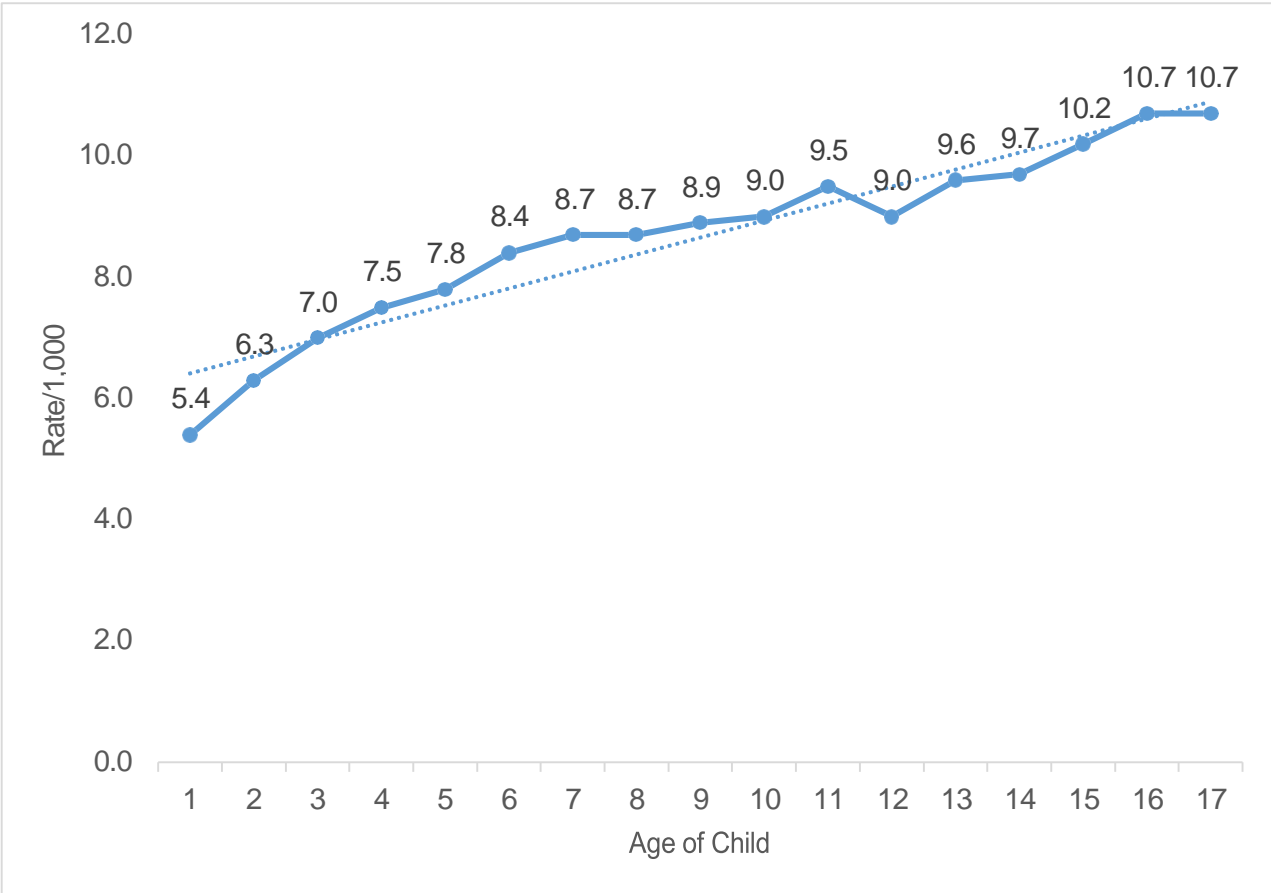
The above three clauses emphasize that children should;

- Know their parents;
- Not be separated from their parents, and
- Be looked after by their parents unless there are reasons why that is not possible; and children should have a family or belonging that is an identity.

### 3.2 Age of the child for whom survival status of parent is unknown

In order to fully calculate the indicators for children whose survival status of their mother or father is not known, the analysis in this report used a rate that is for children whose survival status of their parents per 1,000 children was unknown. On average, among children aged 0-17 years, 8.7/1,000 children do not know the survival status of one or both of their parents. A linear regression line shows that the proportion of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown increases with increase in age of the child by 0.2701 children/1,000 (**Figure 3.1**). At age one, 5.4/1,000 children for whom survival status of parent is unknown, and this rate reached 10.7/1,000, which is double at age 16 years.

**Figure 3.1: Proportion of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown by age of child**



Source: NPHC 2024

The distribution of children within a particular age group for whom survival status of parent is unknown did not differ significantly. Among those who did not know whether their father was alive or not, the proportion was highest among those aged 13 years at 41.8 percent and lowest among those aged less than a year at 35.3 percent (**Table 3.1**).

**Table 3.1: Distribution of children w for whom survival status of parent is unknown by age**

Age	Father Unknown		Mother Unknown		Both Unknown		Total unknown	All children	Rate /1000
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	
0	2,509	35.3	1,213	17.1	3,381	47.6	7,103	1,313,958	5.4
1	3,082	38.4	1,300	16.2	3,650	45.4	8,032	1,265,411	6.3
2	3,605	39.0	1,436	15.5	4,202	45.5	9,243	1,317,445	7.0
3	3,943	39.8	1,684	17.0	4,283	43.2	9,910	1,317,395	7.5
4	4,313	39.4	1,848	16.9	4,785	43.7	10,946	1,405,858	7.8
5	4,629	39.5	2,059	17.6	5,020	42.9	11,708	1,386,520	8.4
6	4,511	39.8	1,999	17.6	4,834	42.6	11,344	1,309,874	8.7
7	4,531	41.0	1,957	17.7	4,558	41.3	11,046	1,264,532	8.7
8	4,584	41.3	1,936	17.4	4,585	41.3	11,105	1,249,465	8.9
9	4,295	40.9	1,872	17.8	4,333	41.3	10,500	1,167,347	9.0
10	4,836	40.6	2,217	18.6	4,869	40.8	11,922	1,252,299	9.5
11	4,254	42.6	1,816	18.2	3,918	39.2	9,988	1,112,813	9.0
12	4,671	40.1	2,247	19.3	4,736	40.6	11,654	1,215,475	9.6
13	4,754	41.8	2,188	19.2	4,438	39.0	11,380	1,170,429	9.7
14	4,672	40.0	2,172	18.6	4,847	41.5	11,691	1,144,215	10.2
15	4,906	39.6	2,323	18.8	5,157	41.6	12,386	1,157,825	10.7
16	4,408	38.0	2,012	17.3	5,178	44.6	11,598	1,088,643	10.7
17	4,216	39.2	1,845	17.1	4,698	43.7	10,759	1,013,034	10.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,719</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>34,124</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>81,472</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>8.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

**Table 3.2** shows that the proportion of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown was 0.2 percent or 2/1,000 children. Notably, the survival status of mother was unknown for 145 children below one-year. Whereas this represents 0.01 percent or 1 /1000 children, increases to 5.4/1000 children in 2024.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development needs to intervene, as the majority of these children could have been abandoned or thrown on the street with the lucky ones picked by a good Samaritan or taken to children`s care homes.

The proportion of children for whom survival status of their father was unknown increases with increasing age of the children and was highest for age 12. This may also be explained by the economic hardships, where fathers just abandon their families and run away when they realize that they cannot afford to provide for them.

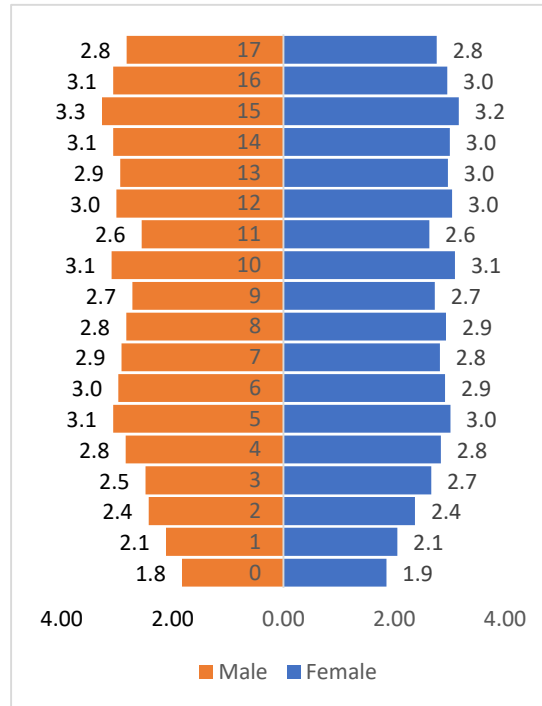
**Table 3.2: Proportion of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown, 2002**

Age	Total No.	Don't know Both mother and Father		Mother Don't know (DK)		Father Don't know (DK)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	993,336	1,169	0.12	145	0.01	1,156	0.12
1	822,756	1,002	0.12	159	0.02	980	0.12
2	890,440	1,290	0.14	219	0.02	1,270	0.14
3	898,373	1,491	0.17	299	0.03	1,436	0.16
4	854,792	1,542	0.18	354	0.04	1,489	0.17
5	829,878	1,583	0.19	392	0.05	1,554	0.19
6	850,727	1,647	0.19	450	0.05	1,616	0.19
7	755,740	1,572	0.21	411	0.05	1,593	0.21
8	787,620	1,628	0.21	474	0.06	1,570	0.2
9	674,971	1,373	0.20	427	0.06	1,420	0.21
10	768,871	1,854	0.24	623	0.08	1,813	0.24
11	622,275	1,412	0.23	518	0.08	1,371	0.22
12	768,148	1,838	0.24	725	0.09	1,837	0.24
13	629,605	1,529	0.24	646	0.1	1,498	0.24
14	622,191	1,527	0.25	683	0.11	1,547	0.25
15	560,481	1,497	0.27	718	0.13	1,457	0.26
16	563,036	1,463	0.26	703	0.12	1,466	0.26
17	481,664	1,333	0.28	729	0.15	1,292	0.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,374,904</b>	<b>26,750</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>8,675</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>26,365</b>	<b>0.2</b>

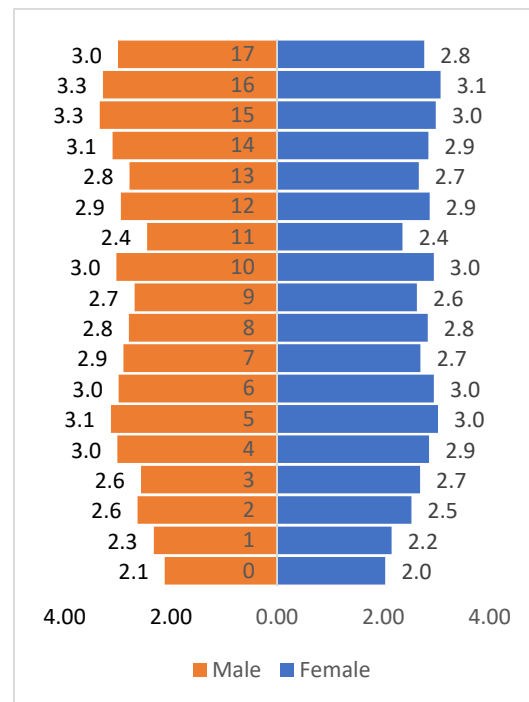
Source: NPHC 2002

**Figure 3.2: Population pyramid for children for whom survival status of parent is unknown, 2024**

**Children survivorship at least one parent unknown**



**Children survivorship of both parents' unknown**



### 3.3 Characteristics of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown

#### 3.3.1 Sex of the child

There is no observable difference in the share of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown by sex, the rate is 8.7/1,000 children (**Table 3.3**). However, minor variations are observed, for example, slightly more females (41.5%) compared to males (38.3%) children for whom survival status of their father was unknown. The opposite is true for unknown survivorship status of the mothers; higher among male children (18.6%) compared to female children (16.9%).

#### 3.3.2 Religion of the child

Survivorship by religion shows peculiar findings. The four major denominations that is; the Catholics (7.4/1,000), the Anglicans (7.1/1,000), the Pentecostals (8.4/1,000), and the Muslims (10.3/1000) had the lowest percentage of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown. On the other hand, children who were reported to have no religious affiliation (36.6/1,000) and the Orthodox faith (35.9/1,000) had the highest proportion for whom survival status of parent is unknown.

#### 3.3.3 School attendance of the child

The results in table 3.3 shows that school attendance of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown confirms the theory of vulnerability. Among children for whom survival status of parent was unknown, 19.9 /1,000 had never been to school. However, considering those in school, survival status of parents was unknown for 5.1/1,000 children. The implication for this finding is that not knowing the survival status of parents leads to failure to enroll in school, hence increasing child vulnerability.

**Table 3.3: Sex, religion and School attendance of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown**

Characteristic	Father		Mother		Both unknown		Total	All children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	Rate /1,000
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	36,934	38.3	17,902	18.6	41,553	43.1	96,389	11,076,386	8.7
Female	39,785	41.5	16,222	16.9	39,919	41.6	95,926	11,076,152	8.7
<b>Religion</b>									
Roman Catholic	26,214	43.2	11,180	18.4	23,355	38.4	60,749	8,181,431	7.4
Anglican / Church of Uganda	19,730	42.4	8,844	19.0	18,013	38.7	46,587	6,533,377	7.1
Seventh Day Adventist	1,947	41.6	889	19.0	1,845	39.4	4,681	449,050	10.4
Islam	11,269	33.8	6,316	19.0	15,734	47.2	33,319	3,230,411	10.3
Pentecostal / Evangelicals (Born Again)	13,654	49.5	4,517	16.4	9,402	34.1	27,573	3,269,402	8.4
Orthodox	276	26.3	175	16.7	597	57.0	1,048	29,192	35.9
Jehovah's witness	171	43.2	53	13.4	172	43.4	396	21,102	18.8
Traditional	118	23.9	73	14.8	302	61.3	493	22,881	21.5
No Religion	384	31.3	199	16.2	642	52.4	1,225	33,442	36.6
Others	2,956	18.2	1,878	11.6	11,410	70.2	16,244	382,250	42.5
<b>School attendance</b>									
Never attended school	22,542	27.0	13,469	16.1	47,584	56.9	83,595	4,197,068	19.9
Attended in the past	9,053	38.6	5,022	21.4	9,369	40.0	23,444	2,147,011	10.9
Currently attending	35,928	59.0	11,684	19.2	13,286	21.8	60,898	11,911,645	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,719</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>34,124</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>81,472</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>8.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

### 3.4 Characteristics of household head in households where a child's parental survivorship status is unknown

The highest rate of children with unknown parental survival status was among those staying in households headed by persons below 18 years (**Table 3.4**). This vulnerability is high in that a child for whom survival status of parent is unknown and yet s/he is staying on their own or staying with fellow children. Some of these are the heads of households themselves and do not know both parents. The rate was also high among those staying in households headed by older persons at 13.6/1,000. For most of the children staying in households headed by older persons (44.0%) the survival status of their fathers was unknown, meaning that these are grandchildren brought by the daughters of the household heads.

The rate of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown was higher among female-headed households (12.7/1,000) compared to male-headed households 6.8/1,000; which is half the rate. Among the FHH, the survival status of fathers was unknown for more than half (51.2%) of the children. For the MHH, the survival status of both parent was unknown for the majority (49.0%) of the children.

Survival status of parents' unknown by source of livelihood shows a lot of variations, from a minimum of 6.3/1,000 among those whose source of income is business enterprise to a high rate of 31.0/1,000 among those being supported by institutional programs. In this category, 76 percent of the children for whom survival status of father was unknown, meaning that when mothers fail to trace the fathers, they usually just take these children to institutions. Other sources that registered high rates were those whose source of livelihood is cottage industry (17.7/1000).

**Table 3.4: Children for whom survival status of parent is unknown by selected characteristics of the household head**

Characteristic	Father		Mother		Both unknown		Total	All children No.	Rate /1,000
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.		
<b>Household head age</b>									
<18 (child headed)	1,049	34.0	524	17.0	1,515	49.1	3,088	202,380	15.3
18-59 (adult headed)	56,308	38.8	25,828	17.8	63,128	43.5	145,264	18,711,432	7.8
60+ (older persons headed)	19,362	44.0	7,772	17.7	16,829	38.3	43,963	3,238,726	13.6
<b>Sex of household head</b>									
Male headed	30,504	29.9	21,486	21.0	50,137	49.1	102,127	15,023,114	6.8
Female headed	46,215	51.2	12,638	14.0	31,335	34.7	90,188	7,129,424	12.7
<b>Main Source of Livelihood</b>									
Subsistence farming	42,435	40.5	20,396	19.5	41,880	40.0	104,711	15,376,607	6.8
Commercial Farming	2,543	37.0	1,584	23.0	2,747	40.0	6,874	802,213	8.6
Employment income (Salaried)	4,848	48.0	1,607	15.9	3,643	36.1	10,098	1,550,348	6.5
Business Enterprise	4,026	49.7	1,338	16.5	2,734	33.8	8,098	1,283,085	6.3
Cottage Industry	247	39.0	111	17.5	275	43.4	633	35,725	17.7
Property Income	623	38.6	314	19.5	677	41.9	1,614	117,576	13.7
Family/Friends/Relatives	3,016	49.8	908	15.0	2,131	35.2	6,055	494,920	12.2
Institutional or Program Support (e.g. Red Cross, WFP, etc.)	3,652	76.0	360	7.5	791	16.5	4,803	154,791	31.0
Sale of Assets	411	35.4	204	17.6	545	47.0	1,160	63,630	18.2
Other	14,918	30.9	7,302	15.1	26,049	54.0	48,269	2,273,643	21.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,719</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>34,124</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>81,472</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>8.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

### **3.5 Residence and Sub Region of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown**

#### **3.5.1 Residence of child**

There were slightly more children in urban areas (8.9/1,000) compared to those in rural areas at 8.6/1,000 children for whom survival status of parent was unknown (**Table 3.5**). On the specific parent not known, for urban children, it's mainly the father not known, while for rural children, the majority have both parents unknown.

#### **3.5.2 Sub region of child**

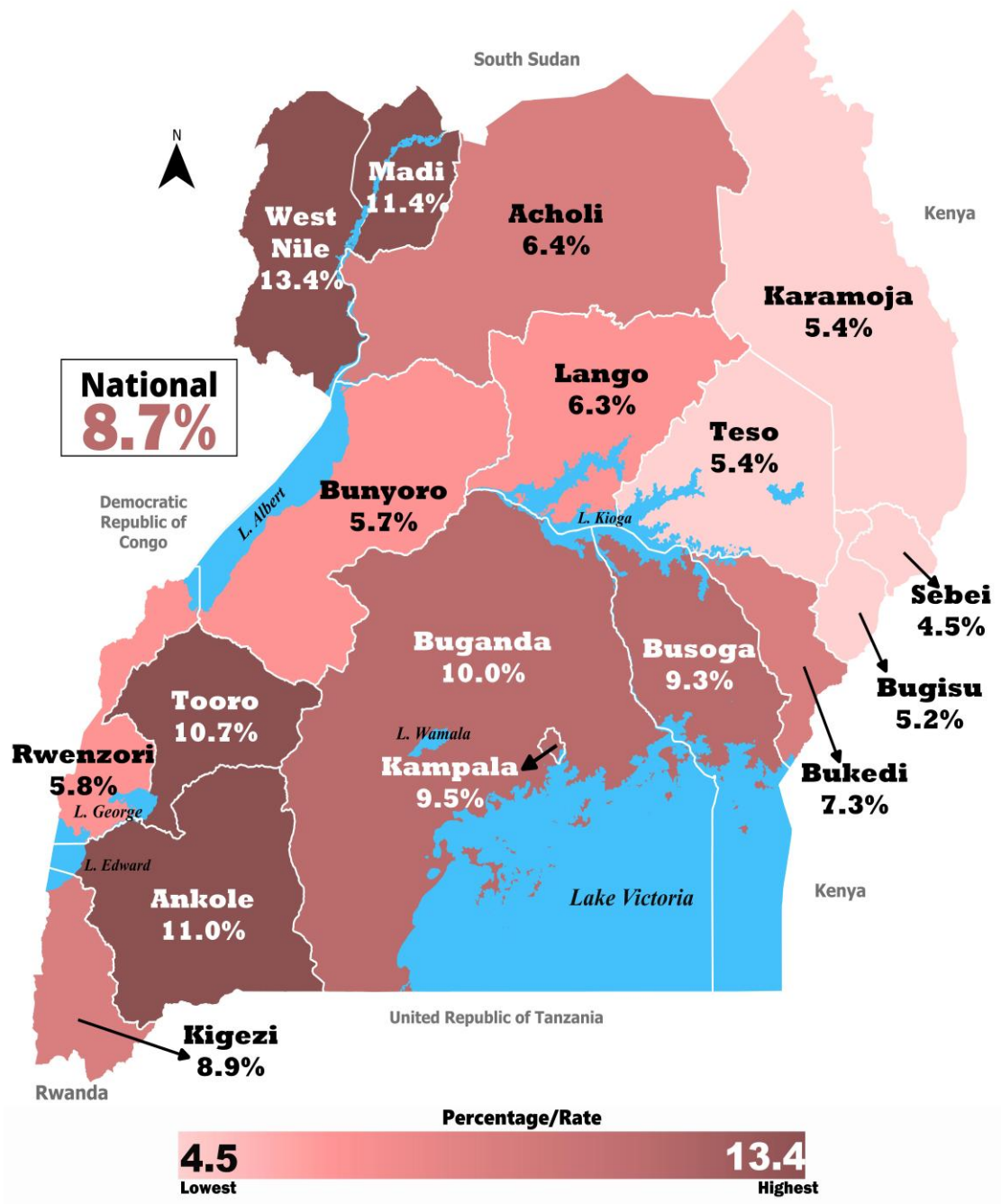
The number of children for whom survival status of parent was unknown is almost equivalent to the total number of children by Sub region. West Nile (52.8%) and Busoga (52.2%) Sub regions lead in the percentage of children for whom survival status of both parents was unknown. Buganda Sub region, on the other hand, leads in the number of orphans in the country by Sub region.

**Table 3.5: Children for whom survival status of parent is unknown by Sub region and Residence**

Characteristic	Father		Mother		Both unknown		Total	All children	Rate
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	/1,000
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	28,421	42.5	10,988	16.4	27,494	41.1	66,903	7,549,184	8.9
Rural	48,297	38.5	23,136	18.4	53,977	43.0	125,410	14,602,728	8.6
<b>Sub region</b>									
Buganda	19,404	38.5	9,430	18.7	21,563	42.8	50,397	5,022,159	10.0
West Nile	7,309	30.5	4,013	16.7	12,671	52.8	23,993	1,794,269	13.4
Busoga	5,634	27.1	4,317	20.7	10,872	52.2	20,823	2,242,107	9.3
Ankole	7,905	44.5	3,235	18.2	6,614	37.3	17,754	1,621,344	11.0
Tooro	5,722	49.1	1,575	13.5	4,367	37.4	11,664	1,092,087	10.7
Bukedi	2,838	31.2	1,767	19.4	4,496	49.4	9,101	1,243,654	7.3
Bunyoro	3,796	45.6	1,486	17.9	3,043	36.6	8,325	1,451,149	5.7
Lango	3,445	44.3	1,279	16.5	3,049	39.2	7,773	1,234,171	6.3
Kigezi	4,135	58.6	1,127	16.0	1,797	25.5	7,059	789,796	8.9
Teso	4,144	59.9	850	12.3	1,930	27.9	6,924	1,278,870	5.4
Acholi	2,975	45.8	1,132	17.4	2,394	36.8	6,501	1,022,836	6.4
Kampala Capital City	2,838	54.0	674	12.8	1,743	33.2	5,255	550,395	9.5
Bugisu	1,802	40.4	956	21.5	1,699	38.1	4,457	859,825	5.2
Karamoja	1,717	38.6	929	20.9	1,808	40.6	4,454	825,443	5.4
Rwenzori	1,198	32.1	724	19.4	1,810	48.5	3,732	648,326	5.8
Madi	1,551	47.8	478	14.7	1,215	37.5	3,244	285,307	11.4
Sebei	306	35.6	152	17.7	401	46.7	859	190,800	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,719</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>34,124</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>81,472</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>8.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

Map 6: Rate of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown, ('per 1,000)



Source: NPHC 2024

### 3.6 District/City of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown

The rate of knowledge of the survivorship of parents by the children shows a lot of variation by District. Yumbe District had the highest rate of children for whom survival status of parent was unknown at 24.2/1,000 children (**Table 3.6**). This is found within the Northern region. This is followed by Kyegegwa District at 18.8/1,000, which is found in the mid-western region. In third place is Ssembabule District from Buganda Sub region. Kamuli District, though overall stands in the 10<sup>th</sup> position, it's the District with the highest rate of children for whom survival status of parent was unknown in Busoga Sub region and Eastern Uganda at 12.8/1,000.

Butebo District had fewer than one child per 1000 for whom survival status of parent was unknown. Among the 10 Districts with the lowest rate of children for whom survival status of parent was unknown; it's only Bunyangabu from mid-Western, otherwise the rest are from either Eastern or North Eastern part of the country.

Among the Cities, Arua City had the highest rate of children for whom survival status of parents was unknown at 15.9/1,000 and fourth overall in Uganda.

In absolute numbers, Yumbe District had the highest number of children (13,567 children) for whom survival status of parents was unknown, followed by Wakiso with 12,907 children. The other two Districts with big numbers were Kampala, 5,255, and Kyegegwa with 5,122. The rest had less than 5,000 children for whom survival status of parents was unknown. In addition, Butebo and Bukwo are the Districts with the least number of children who did not know the survival status of their parents.

**Table 3.6: Children for whom survival status of parents is unknown by District/City**

District / City	Father		Mother		Both Parents		Total	All children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	Rate/ 1,000
Kalangala	98	58.7	29	17.4	40	24.0	167	23,558	7.1
Kampala	2,838	54.0	674	12.8	1,743	33.2	5,255	550,395	9.5
Kiboga	249	40.4	140	22.7	227	36.9	616	89,040	6.9
Luweero	1,113	47.0	394	16.6	863	36.4	2,370	302,135	7.8
Masaka	241	41.8	149	25.9	186	32.3	576	56,885	10.1
Mpigi	699	43.2	321	19.9	597	36.9	1,617	155,009	10.4
Mubende	886	29.7	509	17.1	1,589	53.3	2,984	267,844	11.1
Mukono	1,273	52.3	503	20.7	656	27.0	2,432	422,904	5.8
Nakasongola	261	39.0	156	23.3	253	37.8	670	114,548	5.8
Rakai	533	32.7	341	20.9	755	46.4	1,629	164,636	9.9
Ssembabule	651	27.8	99	17.0	1,291	55.2	2,341	146,235	16.0
Kayunga	796	28.9	507	18.4	1,455	52.8	2,758	230,173	12.0
Wakiso	5,617	43.5	2,136	16.6	5,154	39.9	12,907	1,276,439	10.1
Lyantonde	181	35.2	129	25.1	204	39.7	514	56,921	9.0
Mityana	713	33.8	380	18.0	1,020	48.3	2,113	202,364	10.4
Nakaseke	521	34.1	291	19.0	718	46.9	1,530	119,797	12.8
Buikwe	1,015	41.4	467	19.0	970	39.6	2,452	254,745	9.6
Bukomansimbi	387	35.8	204	18.9	490	45.3	1,081	95,374	11.3
Butambala	255	35.9	156	21.9	300	42.2	711	70,831	10.0
Buvuma	184	30.6	148	24.6	270	44.9	602	52,780	11.4
Gomba	360	32.4	254	22.9	497	44.7	1,111	101,372	11.0
Kalungu	355	35.5	176	17.6	470	47.0	1,001	106,889	9.4
Kyankwanzi	596	43.5	309	22.6	465	33.9	1,370	139,389	9.8
Lwengo	700	30.9	445	19.6	1,124	49.5	2,269	154,688	14.7
Kyotera	586	37.0	306	19.3	691	43.7	1,583	139,055	11.4
Kassanda	521	33.8	309	20.1	710	46.1	1,540	155,425	9.9
Masaka City	613	42.2	272	18.7	568	39.1	1,453	123,123	11.8
Bugiri	476	29.8	348	21.8	775	48.5	1,599	247,460	6.5
Busia	410	50.0	161	19.6	249	30.4	820	209,322	3.9
Iganga	411	30.7	283	21.2	644	48.1	1,338	217,348	6.2
Jinja	367	25.7	207	14.5	853	59.8	1,427	135,676	10.5
Kamuli	888	24.4	807	22.1	1,950	53.5	3,645	285,533	12.8
Kapchorwa	164	36.8	89	20.0	193	43.3	446	64,781	6.9
Katakwi	430	59.2	74	10.2	222	30.6	726	120,902	6.0
Kumi	418	51.1	105	12.8	295	36.1	818	147,861	5.5
Mbale	278	50.1	125	22.5	152	27.4	555	132,188	4.2
Pallisa	448	35.3	259	20.4	561	44.2	1,268	180,635	7.0
Soroti	545	70.8	84	10.9	141	18.3	770	142,509	5.4
Tororo	901	33.5	451	16.8	1,339	49.8	2,691	309,705	8.7

District / City	Father		Mother		Both Parents		Total	All children	Rate/ 1,000
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	
Kaberaido	335	69.5	55	11.4	92	19.1	482	73,487	6.6
Mayuge	883	26.1	682	20.2	1,813	53.7	3,378	290,128	11.6
Sironko	330	42.9	203	26.4	237	30.8	770	142,475	5.4
Amuria	586	63.6	98	10.6	238	25.8	922	136,804	6.7
Budaka	316	22.9	279	20.2	786	56.9	1,381	138,050	10.0
Bududa	164	29.6	171	30.8	220	39.6	555	129,739	4.3
Bukedea	343	51.1	74	11.0	254	37.9	671	152,252	4.4
Bukwo	54	56.8	19	20.0	22	23.2	95	60,223	1.6
Butaleja	280	24.5	251	21.9	614	53.6	1,145	172,917	6.6
Kaliro	313	28.6	299	27.4	481	44.0	1,093	150,469	7.3
Manafwa	185	38.6	82	17.1	212	44.3	479	93,920	5.1
Namutumba	404	25.7	272	17.3	898	57.1	1,574	169,429	9.3
Bulambuli	258	41.5	104	16.8	259	41.7	621	93,002	6.7
Buyende	541	21.9	594	24.1	1,331	54.0	2,466	224,051	11.0
Kibuku	461	26.2	355	20.2	944	53.6	1,760	141,448	12.4
Kween	88	27.7	44	13.8	186	58.5	318	65,796	4.8
Luuka	410	25.2	290	17.8	928	57.0	1,628	147,413	11.0
Namayingo	312	35.7	213	24.4	349	39.9	874	142,543	6.1
Ngora	259	56.9	93	20.4	103	22.6	455	93,464	4.9
Serere	290	56.0	94	18.1	134	25.9	518	194,530	2.7
Butebo	22	61.1	11	30.6	3	8.3	36	91,577	0.4
Namisindwa	278	37.7	150	20.4	309	41.9	737	131,004	5.6
Bugweri	263	23.5	205	18.3	651	58.2	1,119	111,737	10.0
Kapelebyong	196	49.1	50	12.5	153	38.4	399	78,227	5.1
Kalaki	369	70.3	58	11.1	98	18.7	525	79,249	6.6
Jinja City	366	53.7	117	17.2	199	29.2	682	120,320	5.7
Mbale City	309	41.8	121	16.4	310	41.9	740	137,497	5.4
Soroti City	373	58.5	65	10.2	200	31.4	638	59,585	10.7
Adjumani	912	47.7	306	16.0	695	36.3	1,913	161,600	11.8
Apac	259	37.4	134	19.3	300	43.3	693	106,934	6.5
Arua	204	28.7	119	16.7	389	54.6	712	79,828	8.9
Gulu	234	59.0	55	13.9	108	27.2	397	63,634	6.2
Kitgum	422	32.6	267	20.6	605	46.8	1,294	120,017	10.8
Kotido	158	38.8	71	17.4	178	43.7	407	120,787	3.4
Lira	337	28.8	174	14.9	659	56.3	1,170	120,865	9.7
Moroto	105	45.5	47	20.3	79	34.2	231	52,660	4.4
Moyo	176	71.0	25	10.1	47	19.0	248	48,652	5.1
Nebbi	241	36.6	143	21.7	274	41.6	658	157,933	4.2
Nakapiripirit	92	46.9	58	29.6	46	23.5	196	61,504	3.2
Pader	377	54.0	99	14.2	222	31.8	698	123,696	5.6

District / City	Father		Mother		Both Parents		Total	All children	Rate/ 1,000
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	
Yumbe	3,195	23.6	2,375	17.5	7,997	58.9	13,567	560,019	24.2
Abim	162	54.7	53	17.9	81	27.4	296	73,109	4.0
Amolatar	310	60.3	67	13.0	137	26.7	514	95,997	5.4
Amuru	304	34.7	223	25.4	350	39.9	877	125,540	7.0
Dokolo	322	59.8	76	14.1	141	26.2	539	107,436	5.0
Kaabong	363	27.2	276	20.7	696	52.1	1,335	155,158	8.6
Koboko	493	41.3	160	13.4	542	45.4	1,195	146,510	8.2
Maracha	269	26.4	174	17.1	575	56.5	1,018	116,468	8.7
Oyam	685	41.5	326	19.8	639	38.7	1,650	240,783	6.9
Agago	393	51.8	115	15.2	251	33.1	759	162,804	4.7
Alebtong	341	53.0	97	15.1	206	32.0	644	137,652	4.7
Amudat	244	39.6	145	23.5	227	36.9	616	107,893	5.7
Kole	265	45.6	92	15.8	224	38.6	581	139,862	4.2
Lamwo	281	48.3	105	18.0	196	33.7	582	112,406	5.2
Napak	364	41.0	159	17.9	364	41.0	887	115,748	7.7
Nwoya	171	50.9	65	19.4	100	29.8	336	108,516	3.1
Otuke	261	46.4	60	10.7	241	42.9	562	78,037	7.2
Zombo	340	36.4	205	22.0	389	41.7	934	165,529	5.6
Omoro	402	41.1	160	16.4	416	42.5	978	104,722	9.3
Pakwach	216	35.9	113	18.8	273	45.4	602	107,886	5.6
Kwania	339	37.5	176	19.4	390	43.1	905	107,946	8.4
Nabilatuk	182	54.8	69	20.8	81	24.4	332	78,518	4.2
Karenga	47	30.5	51	33.1	56	36.4	154	60,066	2.6
Madi-Okollo	477	51.3	132	14.2	321	34.5	930	98,013	9.5
Obongi	463	42.8	147	13.6	473	43.7	1,083	75,055	14.4
Arua City	1,017	33.6	420	13.9	1,593	52.6	3,030	191,120	15.9
Gulu City	391	67.4	43	7.4	146	25.2	580	101,501	5.7
Terego	857	63.6	172	12.8	318	23.6	1,347	170,963	7.9
Lira City	326	63.3	77	15.0	112	21.8	515	98,659	5.2
Bundibugyo	198	34.6	129	22.5	246	42.9	573	136,037	4.2
Bushenyi	465	37.5	264	21.3	511	41.2	1,240	118,878	10.4
Hoima	261	40.3	141	21.8	245	37.9	647	130,887	4.9
Kabale	791	68.5	159	13.8	204	17.7	1,154	119,228	9.7
Kabarole	312	48.2	128	19.8	207	32.0	647	113,661	5.7
Kasese	883	31.5	545	19.4	1,376	49.1	2,804	464,742	6.0
Kibaale	251	38.4	151	23.1	252	38.5	654	128,280	5.1
Kisoro	665	46.9	243	17.1	510	36.0	1,418	179,067	7.9
Masindi	367	39.5	120	12.9	443	47.6	930	168,526	5.5
Mbarara	268	33.9	168	21.2	355	44.9	791	76,039	10.4
Ntungamo	984	36.8	546	20.4	1,143	42.8	2,673	256,227	10.4

District / City	Father		Mother		Both Parents		Total	All children	Rate/ 1,000
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	
Rukungiri	937	59.9	298	19.1	329	21.0	1,564	170,223	9.2
Kamwenge	825	53.6	210	13.6	505	32.8	1,540	177,314	8.7
Kanungu	695	54.6	197	15.5	380	29.9	1,272	140,177	9.1
Kyenjojo	995	36.4	416	15.2	1,325	48.4	2,736	285,717	9.6
Buliisa	128	41.6	67	21.8	113	36.7	308	88,867	3.5
Ibanda	618	49.2	213	17.0	426	33.9	1,257	138,048	9.1
Isingiro	3,021	64.8	615	13.2	1,029	22.1	4,665	320,486	14.6
Kiruhura	305	28.5	148	13.8	618	57.7	1,071	85,215	12.6
Buhweju	214	21.6	213	21.5	563	56.9	990	74,527	13.3
Kiryandongo	429	40.5	192	18.1	438	41.4	1,059	192,099	5.5
Kyegegwa	2,761	53.9	528	10.3	1,833	35.8	5,122	272,463	18.8
Mitooma	339	38.1	216	24.3	335	37.6	890	104,094	8.5
Ntoroko	117	33.0	50	14.1	188	53.0	355	47,547	7.5
Rubirizi	241	46.3	125	24.0	155	29.8	521	74,330	7.0
Sheema	392	44.7	238	27.1	247	28.2	877	107,333	8.2
Kagadi	423	40.4	200	19.1	424	40.5	1,047	252,003	4.2
Kakumiro	410	42.9	210	22.0	336	35.2	956	227,245	4.2
Rubanda	736	63.6	145	12.5	276	23.9	1,157	127,351	9.1
Rukiga	311	63.0	85	17.2	98	19.8	494	53,750	9.2
Bunyangabu	218	64.9	69	20.5	49	14.6	336	104,092	3.2
Kikuube	1,318	59.2	321	14.4	589	26.4	2,228	199,901	11.1
Kazo	289	31.9	155	17.1	462	51.0	906	92,341	9.8
Kitagwenda	296	55.7	106	20.0	129	24.3	531	83,821	6.3
Rwampara	286	31.8	167	18.5	448	49.7	901	70,874	12.7
Fort Portal City	315	41.9	118	15.7	319	42.4	752	55,019	13.7
Mbarara City	483	49.7	167	17.2	322	33.1	972	102,952	9.4
Hoima City	209	42.1	84	16.9	203	40.9	496	63,341	7.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,719</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>34,124</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>81,472</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>8.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

### 3.7 Ethnicity of children for whom survival status of parents is unknown

With the exception of the Aringa (13,185) and the non-Ugandan children (13,043), the number of children for whom survival status of parents was unknown followed the size of the Ethnic group. There were 33,939 Baganda children for whom survival status of parents was unknown, Banyankore with 16,176 children, Basoga with 1,5540, Aringa (13,185), Bakiga (11,920), and Iteso (8,403).

Relatedly, the small Ethnic groups also had the least number of children for whom survival status of parents was unknown. These include Mening with only 2 children, Mvuba and Ngikutio (5 children each), and Bagabu with 6 children. These were followed by the Shana 13/17 (76.5%) not knowing the way about of the father, the Kumam were in the fourth position with 831/1,285 (64.7%) not knowing their parents' survival status (**Table 3.7**).

A comparison of Ethnicity and whether the survival status of the child's parents is known showed large variations with 12 Ethnic groups having 50 percent or more children for whom the survival status of parent was unknown.

For a large proportion and number of non-Ugandan children the survival status of father was unknown. Most of these non-Ugandans were refugee children. Iteso, the fifth largest Ethnic group in Uganda, had 8,403 children for whom survival status of parents was unknown. Of these, the survival status of the father was unknown for 54.5 percent of the children.

The rate of children for whom survival status of parent was unknown ranged from 44.2/1000 among the Babukusu to 0/1000 among the Venoma. Three Ethnic groups, namely the Babukusu (44.2/1000), Bahehe (40.7/1000), and Aliba (40.3/1000), can be regarded as having the highest rate. Among one of the big Ethnic groups, the Aringa had the highest rate of 25.5/1,000 children for whom survival status of parents was unknown.

The Baganda, which is the largest Ethnic group, was the second Ethnicity with the highest rate among the big Ethnic groups, at 9.8/1000 children for whom survival status of parent was unknown. Other big Ethnic groups with high rates include Banyankore 8/4/1,000, Bakiga (8.4/1,000), and Basoga (8.2/1,000). The Iteso had the lowest rate at 5.2/1,000 children whose survivorship status of parents was not known.

**Table 3.7: Children for whom survival status of parent is unknown by Ethnicity**

Ethnicity	Father		Mother		Both		Total	All children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	Rate/ 1,000
Baganda	13,478	39.7	6,445	19.0	14,016	41.3	33,939	3,470,554	9.8
Basoga	4,734	30.5	3,195	20.6	7,611	49.0	15,540	1,895,426	8.2
Banyankore	6,613	40.9	3,221	19.9	6,342	39.2	16,176	1,870,284	8.6
Iteso	4,577	54.5	1,247	14.8	2,579	30.7	8,403	1,630,106	5.2
Bakiga	5,890	49.4	1,984	16.6	4,046	33.9	11,920	1,423,642	8.4
Lango	3,612	46.4	1,289	16.5	2,892	37.1	7,793	1,313,842	5.9
Bagisu	2,348	38.7	1,245	20.5	2,471	40.8	6,064	990,184	6.1
Acholi	3,153	43.8	1,242	17.3	2,805	39.0	7,200	974,144	7.4
Banyoro	1,261	42.6	551	18.6	1,150	38.8	2,962	629,358	4.7
Lugbara	1,618	35.9	694	15.4	2,197	48.7	4,509	608,484	7.4
Bakonzo	940	30.8	590	19.3	1,526	49.9	3,056	589,503	5.2
Alur	1,397	36.2	732	19.0	1,729	44.8	3,858	585,901	6.6
Aringa	2,850	21.6	2,276	17.3	8,059	61.1	13,185	517,832	25.5
Batoro	1,478	43.4	536	15.7	1,392	40.9	3,406	487,676	7
Bafumbira	1,693	35.8	860	18.2	2,174	46.0	4,727	482,249	9.8
Bagwere	1,028	27.0	790	20.7	1,996	52.3	3,814	455,650	8.4
Banyole	573	27.7	433	20.9	1,063	51.4	2,069	337,625	6.1
Karimojong	842	43.6	309	16.0	780	40.4	1,931	333,095	5.8
Jopadhola	731	29.9	472	19.3	1,239	50.7	2,442	283,276	8.6
Basamia	548	38.1	339	23.6	550	38.3	1,437	275,500	5.2
Banyarwanda	1,146	46.1	425	17.1	915	36.8	2,486	266,219	9.3
Madi	881	51.0	243	14.1	603	34.9	1,727	194,573	8.9
Sabiny	269	39.2	114	16.6	304	44.3	687	180,649	3.8
Kumam	831	64.7	135	10.5	319	24.8	1,285	179,994	7.1
Dodoth	344	27.4	243	19.3	670	53.3	1,257	139,649	9
Kakwa	570	44.4	149	11.6	565	44.0	1,284	136,881	9.4
Baruli	201	31.3	130	20.2	312	48.5	643	112,288	5.7
Pokot	211	43.1	116	23.7	163	33.3	490	110,495	4.4
Jie	127	41.9	63	20.8	113	37.3	303	101,826	3
Bahororo	354	39.3	180	20.0	367	40.7	901	66,917	13.5
Bagungu	161	27.7	100	17.2	320	55.1	581	66,723	8.7
Babwisi	190	26.2	139	19.2	395	54.6	724	64,460	11.2
Jonam	113	28.5	85	21.5	198	50.0	396	59,643	6.6
Ethur	100	51.0	40	20.4	56	28.6	196	57,791	3.4
Bakenyi	107	24.2	116	26.2	220	49.7	443	56,820	7.8
Bagwe	119	24.2	91	18.5	281	57.2	491	54,154	9.1
Kuku	336	43.9	128	16.7	302	39.4	766	53,107	14.4
Baamba	246	20.4	221	18.3	738	61.2	1,205	30,763	39.2
Barundi	103	50.7	42	20.7	58	28.6	203	29,657	6.8
Batagwenda	74	48.7	42	27.6	36	23.7	152	29,106	5.2

Ethnicity	Father		Mother		Both		Total	All children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	Rate/ 1,000
Kebu (Okebu)	28	34.1	20	24.4	34	41.5	82	27,305	3
Banyara	72	25.9	44	15.8	162	58.3	278	25,466	10.9
Banyaruguru	79	52.3	30	19.9	42	27.8	151	23,621	6.4
Batuku	53	33.6	17	10.8	88	55.7	158	22,573	7
Babukusu	126	15.9	137	17.3	528	66.8	791	17,881	44.2
Aliba	175	26.2	127	19.0	367	54.9	669	16,591	40.3
Napore	15	34.1	14	31.8	15	34.1	44	14,991	2.9
Nyangia	5	13.9	18	50.0	13	36.1	36	14,728	2.4
Chope	20	29.0	8	11.6	41	59.4	69	13,943	4.9
Nubi	81	51.6	24	15.3	52	33.1	157	13,325	11.8
So (Tepeth)	11	52.4	7	33.3	3	14.3	21	10,115	2.1
Lendu	15	37.5	10	25.0	15	37.5	40	9,628	4.2
Ik (Teuso)	15	48.4	3	9.7	13	41.9	31	7,671	4
Gimara	31	41.9	8	10.8	35	47.3	74	7,398	10
Basongora	27	36.5	11	14.9	36	48.7	74	6,628	11.2
Banyabindi	18	29.5	9	14.8	34	55.7	61	5,852	10.4
Reli	20	87.0	2	8.7	1	4.4	23	4,640	5
Banyabutumbi	19	25.7	8	10.8	47	63.5	74	3,863	19.2
Ngikutio	3	60.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	5	3,352	1.5
Shana	13	76.5	1	5.9	3	17.7	17	2,895	5.9
Bahehe	31	27.2	11	9.7	72	63.2	114	2,804	40.7
Maragoli	3	23.1	3	23.1	7	53.9	13	2,299	5.7
Batwa	2	11.1	2	11.1	14	77.8	18	1,780	10.1
Mening	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100	2	1,278	1.6
Benet	5	16.1	6	19.4	20	64.5	31	857	36.2
Vonoma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	333	0
Mvuba	1	20.0	2	40.0	2	40.0	5	149	33.6
Bakingwe	2	11.8	5	29.4	10	58.8	17	905	18.8
Bagabu	1	16.7	2	33.3	3	50.0	6	680	8.8
Other	1,712	30.8	986	17.7	2,862	51.5	5,560	202,219	27.5
Non-Ugandan	8,289	63.6	1,356	10.4	3,398	26.1	13,043	540,722	24.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,719</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>34,124</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>81,472</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>8.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

### 3.8 Marital Status of children for whom survival status of parent is unknown

Marital status among children for whom survival status of parent is unknown provides alarming results. This is because the proportion of married children for whom survival status of parents was unknown was higher than that of the general population and also higher than that of orphaned children. Overall, 91,378 children were aged 10-17 years. Among them, 9.2 percent were already married, that is almost, one in ten of these children (**Table 3.8**).

The most vulnerable category is those who lost their father and the whereabouts of the mother is not known. In this category, where father is dead and mother unknown, one in eight (14.5%) were already married. Among these categories, at least those for whom the where about of the father but the mother was not known, only 6.3 percent were married, though this is still a big proportion. The implications of these findings appear to suggest that children for whom survival status of parent was unknown are more vulnerable to child marriage than orphaned children.

**Table 3.8: Children for whom survival status of parent is unknown by marital status**

Survival status of parent	Ever Married /Married		Never married		Not stated/ Missing		Total	All children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%
Mother alive, father DK	1,835	6.3	25,054	86.6	2,058	7.1	28,947	60,324	48.0
Mother dead, father DK	915	11.8	5,465	70.3	1,390	17.9	7,770	16,395	47.4
Father alive, Mother DK	902	8.3	8,725	80.3	1,240	11.4	10,867	21,385	50.8
Father dead, Mother DK	864	14.5	4,109	69.0	980	16.5	5,953	12,739	46.7
Does not know both	3,908	10.3	21,175	56.0	12,758	33.7	37,841	81,472	46.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,424</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>64,528</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>18,426</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>91,378</b>	<b>192,315</b>	<b>47.5</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

## CHAPTER FOUR: CHILD MARRIAGE

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### 4.1 Introduction

The National Child Policy 2020 categorises child marriage as a harmful practice and UNICEF considers this a violation of Human Rights. The NPHC 2024 asked questions on the current marital status of individuals aged 10 years and above. A total of 9,154,733 children enumerated in the NPHC 2024 were aged 10-17 years. Of these, 6.7 percent (610,790) were either currently married or had ever been married, and 197,031 did not state if they have ever married or not. These were regarded as never married. Compared to 2014 and 2002, there was an increase in the number of early marriages despite the Government's introduction of different mechanisms to end child marriages and teenage pregnancy.

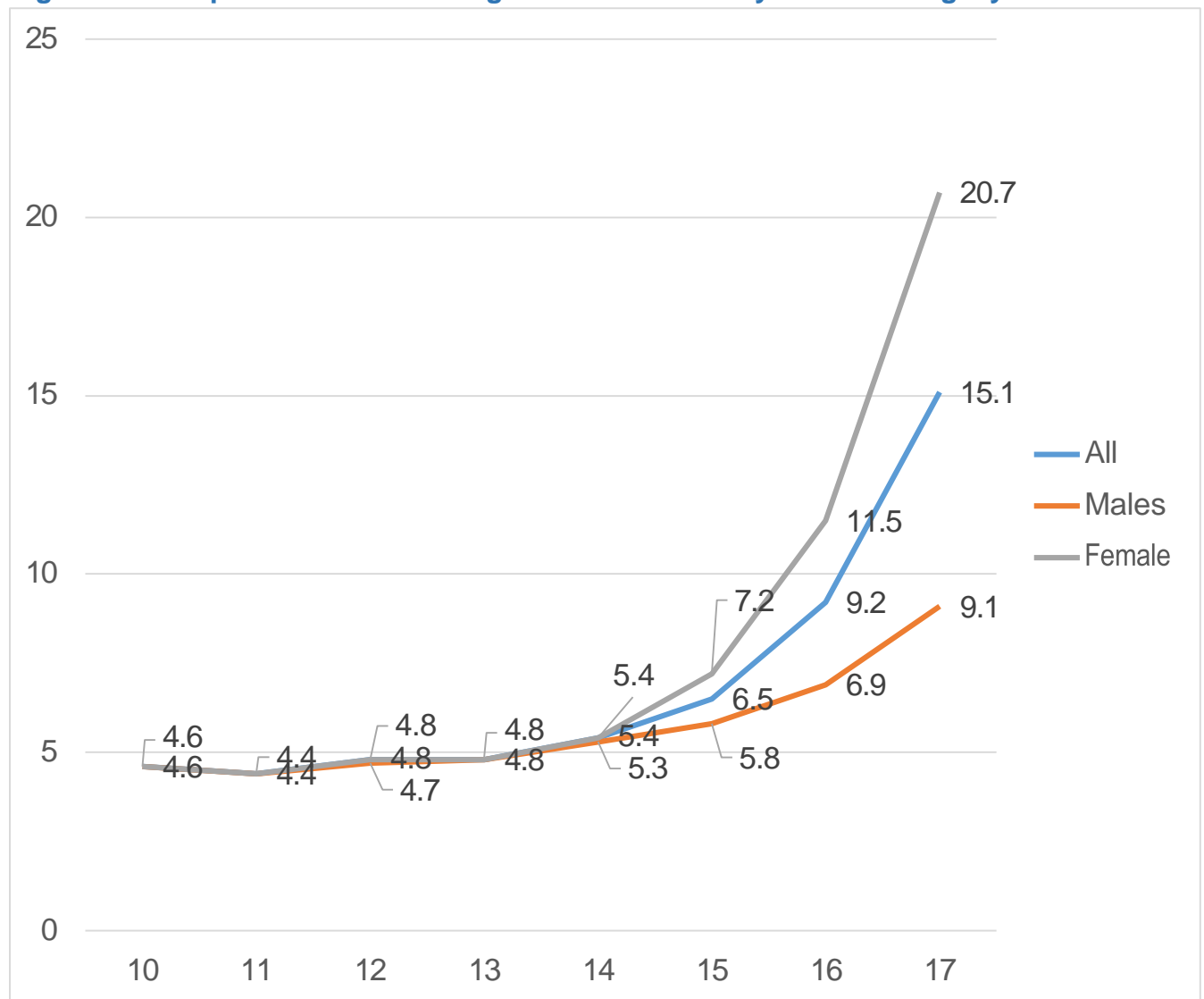
### 4.2 Child marriage by Sex

Sex differentials show that more female children are in marital unions than male children (Figure 4.1). However, the proportion of male children married increased recently due to the COVID-19 lockdown, which saw more boys dropping out of school than girls, though the world had anticipated more girls to drop out of school. Much effort has been put into the girl child programmes, and it is yielding results, while the boy child remains left behind.

### 4.3 Child marriage by Age

Further analysis of child vulnerability by marital status showed that at age 10 years, 4.6 percent of the boys and girls were said to have been either married or ever married (**Figure 4.1**) in 2024. The proportion married among children remains almost flat between ages 10 to 14, irrespective of sex. The gap between the proportion of children married begins at the age of 15 years. At age 15, whereas 5.8 percent of the males are married, 7.2 percent of the girls are married. By age 17, almost one in ten (9.1%) of the boys were married, this proportion doubles for girls, where 2 in 10 were married at the time of the Census.

**Figure 4.1: Proportion of children aged 10-17 married by Sex and Single years**



Source: NPHC 2024

Marital status by orphanhood shows that orphaned children are more likely to be married compared to their counterparts who are not orphaned. Overall, 6.1 percent of non-orphaned children were married compared to 9.5 percent of orphans. The difference is also observed by the sex of the orphaned child (**Table 4.1**). Among boys, 5.1 percent of non-orphaned children were married compared to 8.1 percent of orphans, while among females, 7 percent of the non-orphaned girls were married compared to 11 percent of the orphaned girls.

**Table 4.1a: Proportion married children by age, orphanhood status, and sex, 2024**

Characteristic	Total children No.	Currently married /Ever Married					
		Total		Males		Females	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Age</b>							
10	1,252,299	57,528	4.6	29,100	4.6	28,428	4.6
11	1,112,813	49,035	4.4	24,418	4.4	24,617	4.4
12	1,215,475	57,821	4.8	28,868	4.7	28,953	4.8
13	1,170,429	55,841	4.8	27,787	4.8	28,054	4.8
14	1,144,215	61,551	5.4	30,330	5.3	31,221	5.4
15	1,157,825	75,399	6.5	33,251	5.8	42,148	7.2
16	1,088,643	100,556	9.2	36,736	6.9	63,820	11.5
17	1,013,034	153,059	15.1	44,650	9.1	108,409	20.7
<b>Orphanhood Status</b>							
Non orphan	7,599,922	462,469	6.1	192,395	5.1	270,074	7.0
Orphan	1,554,811	148,321	9.5	62,745	8.1	85,576	11.0

Source: NPHC 2024

**Table 4.1b: Marital Status among children by age, 2014**

Age	All children No.	Never married		Married		Separated		Widowed		Ever / Currently Married	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
10	1,079,731	1,079,731	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
11	843,835	843,835	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
12	986,945	974,338	98.7	10,936	1.1	633	0.1	1,038	0.1	12,607	1.3
13	885,897	874,751	98.7	9,596	1.1	618	0.1	932	0.1	11,146	1.3
14	1,025,034	1,010,390	98.6	12,644	1.2	906	0.1	1,094	0.1	14,644	1.4
15	795,916	736,940	92.6	52,892	6.6	4,151	0.5	1,933	0.2	58,976	7.4
16	842,218	758,327	90.0	75,260	8.9	6,441	0.8	2,190	0.3	83,891	10.0
17	724,704	615,794	85.0	98,710	13.6	8,414	1.2	1,786	0.2	108,910	15.0

Source: NPHC 2014

#### 4.4 Marital status by Education

Child marriage by school attendance for children aged 10-17 shows that while 3.9 percent of children currently attending school have ever been married or are currently married, the proportion of children who have never attended school (11.7%) is higher than the proportion of children who have ever been or are currently married (14.6%) as shown in **Table 4.2**.

Analysis of child marriage by education level further reveals that, the proportion of those who have ever or are currently married does not follow a logical pattern. The lowest proportion was among children with some primary education (5.4%). This proportion increased to 6.9 percent among those with some secondary education and to 11.9 percent among those with post-secondary or higher. In a normal situation, one would expect the proportion to decrease as education level increases. This anomaly presents an opportunity for further research to understand the underlying factors contributing to this trend.

**Table 4.2: Child marriage (10-17years) who are currently married or ever been married by Sex, School attendance and Education attainment**

Characteristics	Never married		Ever Married		Total
	No	Percent	Yes	Percent	
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	4,280,530	94.4	255,140	5.6	4,535,670
Female	4,263,413	92.3	355,650	7.7	4,619,063
<b>Schooling attendance</b>					
Never attended school	1,132,172	88.3	149,494	11.7	1,281,666
Attended in the past	1,236,049	85.4	211,728	14.6	1,447,777
Currently attending	6,175,722	96.1	249,568	3.9	6,425,290
<b>Education Attainment</b>					
No formal education	1,238,819	88.9	155,490	11.2	1,394,309
Some primary	5,888,971	94.6	333,625	5.4	6,222,596
Completed primary	571,369	91.1	55,654	8.9	627,023
Some secondary	786,775	93.1	57,903	6.9	844,678
Completed secondary	50,822	87.8	7,082	12.2	57,904
Post-secondary plus	5,218	88.1	705	11.9	5,923
Not stated	1,969	85.6	331	14.4	2,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,543,943</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>610,790</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,619,063</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

#### 4.4.1 Child Marriage by School Attendance

Despite the implementation of Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) in Uganda, a significant proportion of female children aged 10–17 remain outside the education system. Specifically, 13.4 percent have never attended school, 16.4 percent have dropped out, while only 70.2 percent were currently enrolled in school at the time of the Census. This follows the same trend for the male child (**Table 4.3**).

Among ever-married children, 49.7 percent of boys and 34.6 percent of girls aged 10-17 attend school. In contrast, 71.4 percent of boys and 73.1 percent of girls in the same age group who had never married were currently attending school. Notably, while 13.4 percent of all female children aged 10-17 had never attended school. The proportion rises to 23.2 percent among ever-married children. Therefore, it can be concluded that school attendance may reduce the likelihood of early marriage, while lack of education may accelerate it.

**Table 4.3: Child marriage by School attendance and Sex**

School attendance	Never Married		Ever Married		Overall	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Male</b>						
Never attended school	595,921	13.9	67,045	26.3	662,966	14.6
Attended in the past	626,550	14.6	61,408	24.1	687,958	15.2
Currently attending	3,058,059	71.4	126,687	49.7	3,184,746	70.2
Total	4,280,530	100	255,140	100	4,535,670	100
<b>Female</b>						
Never attended school	536,251	12.6	82,449	23.2	618,700	13.4
Attended in the past	609,499	14.3	150,320	42.3	759,819	16.4
Currently attending	3,117,663	73.1	122,881	34.6	3,240,544	70.2
Total	4,263,413	100	355,650	100	4,619,063	100

Source: NPHC 2024

Additionally, among both never married and ever married children, more males (13.9% and 26.3%, respectively) had never attended school compared to females (12.6% and 23.2%). However, among ever married children, wider gender differentials are observed with 34.6% of females were attending school, compared to 49.7% of males. This suggests that marriage leads to a higher dropout rate among girls than boys.

#### 4.5 Child marriage by Sub Region

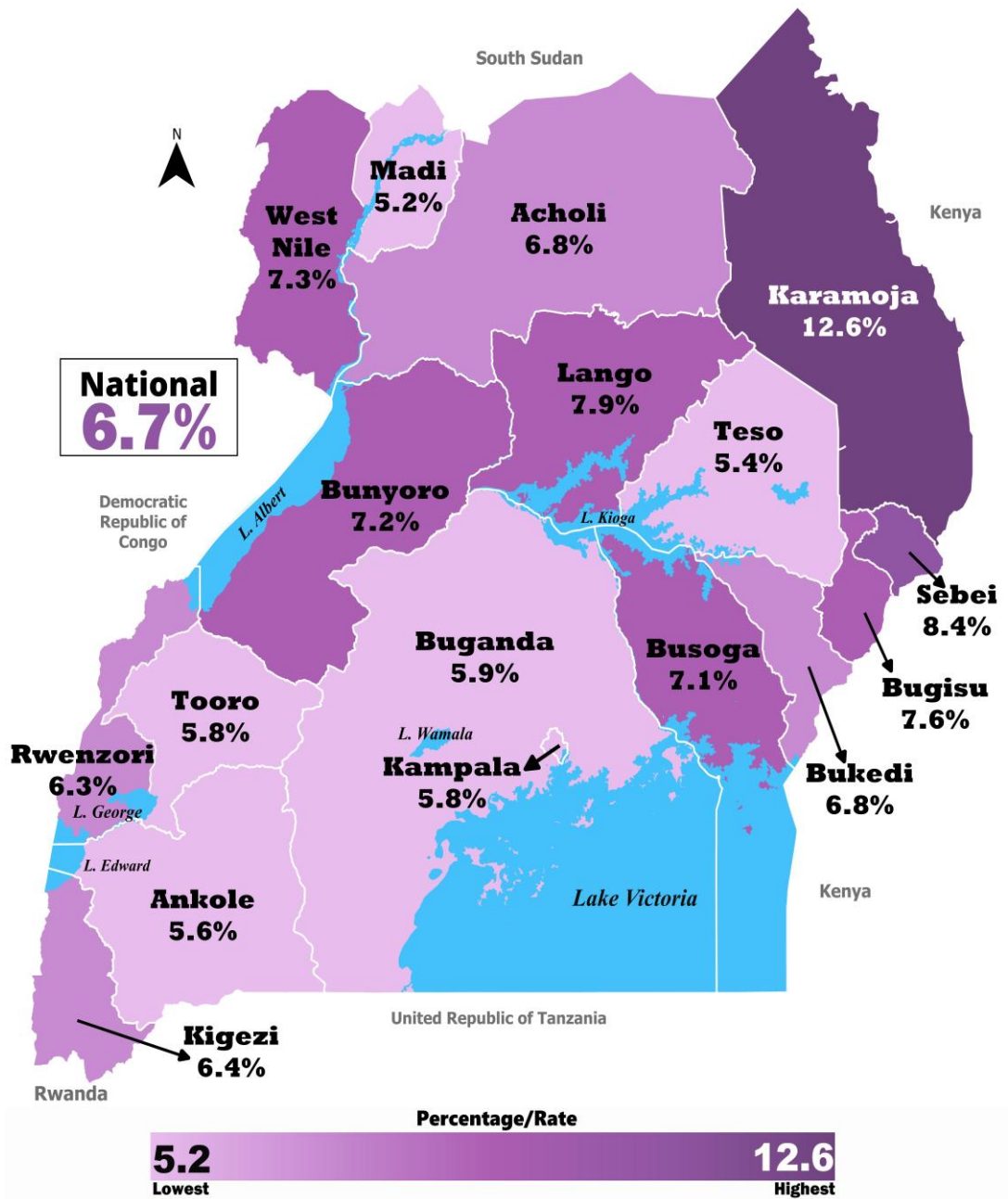
The Karamoja Sub region had the highest proportion of married children in Uganda in 2024 at 12.6%, followed by Sebei (8.4%), Lango (7.9%), and Bugisu (7.3%). Notably, these three regions share borders with each other and with Kenya (**Table 4.4 and Map 7**). In contrast, the Sub regions with the lowest proportions of married children were Madi (5.2%), Teso (5.4%), and Ankole (5.6%).

In terms of absolute numbers, Buganda had the highest number of ever-married children (121,398), followed by Busoga (65,698) and West Nile (54,827). These numbers are largely influenced by the proportion of children aged 10-17 years in these Sub regions. Sebei and Madi Sub regions had the lowest numbers of ever-married children, with 6,506 and 6,550 children, respectively.

A comparison of child marriage rates in rural and urban areas shows that the proportion of ever married children was slightly higher in rural areas (7%) than in urban areas (6%). The number of married children in rural areas is more than twice that in urban areas (419,625 vs. 191,175, ratio = 2.19).

Comparing the proportion of married children by sex reveals that, with the exception of Karamoja, which had the highest overall proportion of ever-married children for both males and females, Sebei ranked second in terms of the proportion of married male children, while Lango ranked second in terms of the proportion of married female children. West Nile was the only other Sub region with consistent rankings, placing fifth for married boys and fifth for married girls. Kampala Capital City exhibited the greatest discrepancy in child marriage rates, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> for male children and 16<sup>th</sup> for female children.

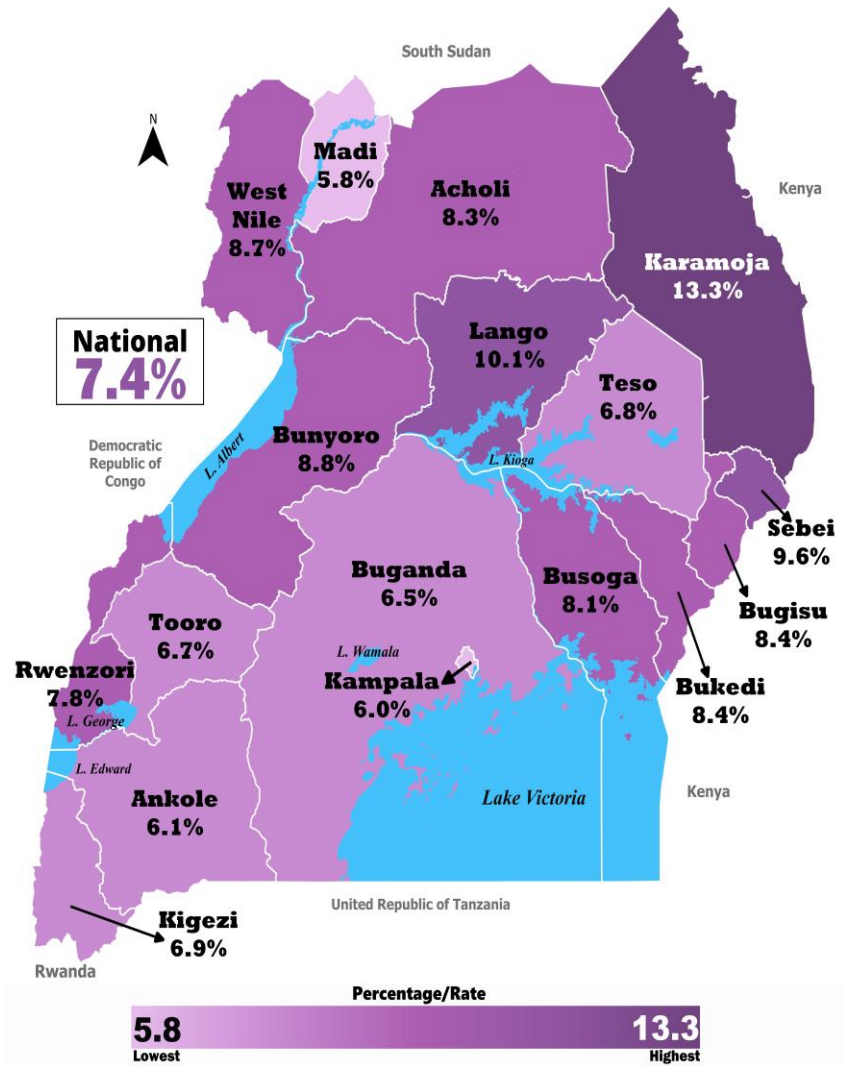
**Map 7: Proportion of children (10-17years) ever-married**



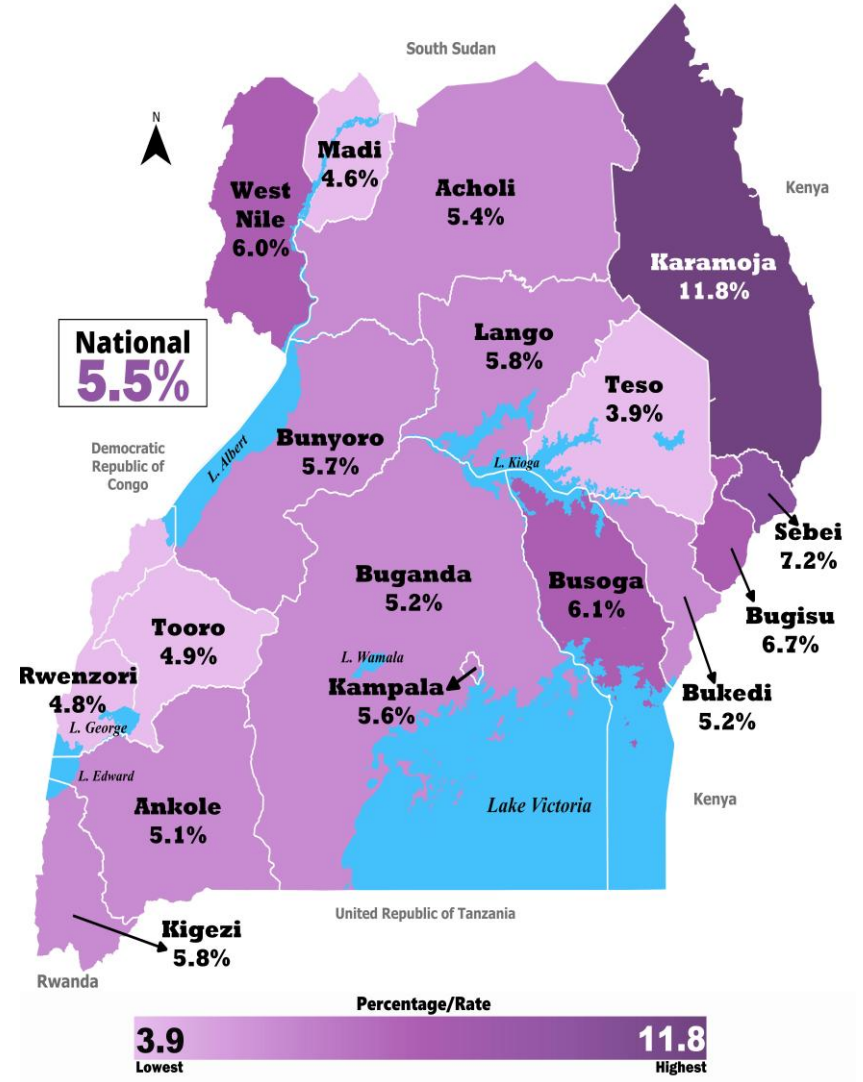
Source: NPHC 2024

Comparing male and female children, the difference in the proportion of ever married males between rural and urban areas was only 0.5 percent. However, for females, the difference was 2.5 percent, indicating that female children in rural areas are at a higher risk of marriage than their urban counterparts. This difference might have been even wider, but it has been reduced due to the inclusion of new urban authorities that still exhibit characteristics of rural areas.

Map 8: Proportion of Female children (10-17years) ever-married



Map 9: Proportion of Male children (10-17years) ever-married



Source: NPHC 2024

**Table 4.4: Child marriage (10-17years) by Residence and Sub region**

Characteristic	Total children No.	Currently married /Ever Married					
		All		Males		Females	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	3,164,433	191,175	6.0	79,260	5.3	111,915	6.7
Rural	5,990,300	419,615	7.0	175,880	5.8	243,735	8.2
<b>Sub Region</b>							
Karamoja	276,518	34,707	12.6	16,124	11.8	18,583	13.3
Lango	522,455	41,438	7.9	15,127	5.8	26,311	10.1
Sebei	77,642	6,506	8.4	2,834	7.2	3,672	9.6
Bunyoro	571,175	41,406	7.2	16,285	5.7	25,121	8.8
West Nile	749,199	54,827	7.3	22,866	6.0	31,961	8.7
Bugisu	363,424	27,444	7.6	12,026	6.7	15,418	8.4
Bukedi	505,032	34,172	6.8	13,110	5.2	21,062	8.4
Acholi	428,355	29,248	6.8	11,506	5.4	17,742	8.3
Busoga	927,675	65,698	7.1	28,141	6.1	37,557	8.1
Rwenzori	272,133	17,160	6.3	6,530	4.8	10,630	7.8
Kigezi	346,711	22,171	6.4	9,959	5.8	12,212	6.9
Teso	516,942	27,799	5.4	10,224	3.9	17,575	6.8
Tooro	448,391	26,100	5.8	11,109	4.9	14,991	6.7
Buganda	2,060,782	121,398	5.9	52,205	5.2	69,193	6.5
Ankole	730,914	40,721	5.6	18,371	5.1	22,350	6.1
Kampala Capital City	231,347	13,445	5.8	5,761	5.6	7,684	6.0
Madi	126,038	6,550	5.2	2,962	4.6	3,588	5.8
<b>National</b>	<b>9,154,733</b>	<b>610,790</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>255,140</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>355,650</b>	<b>7.4</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

#### 4.5.1 Comparison in percentage of Child marriage (2014 and 2024)

The proportion of children ever married decreased overall from 8.6% in 2014 to 6.7% in 2024, a decline over the ten-year period (**Table 4.5**). Tooro experienced the largest decrease in child marriage. Karamoja Sub region recorded a notable increase in child marriage from 8.2% in 2014 to 12.6% in 2024. Other Sub regions with increase in child marriage included Kigezi, (6.0% to 6.4%), and Lango (7.6% to 7.9%).

**Table 4.5: Comparison in Child marriage (10-17 years), 2014 - 2024**

Sub Region	2014			2024		
	All	Ever married	%	All	Ever married	%
Acholi	120,328	12,430	10.3	428,355	29,248	6.8
Ankole	218,521	17,784	8.1	730,914	40,721	5.6
Bukedi	137,284	12,079	8.8	505,032	34,172	6.8
Bunyoro	143,230	14,055	9.8	571,175	41,406	7.2
Busoga	287,230	28,145	9.8	927,675	65,698	7.1
Buganda	588,173	50,140	8.5	2,060,782	121,398	5.9
Bugisu	144,309	12,481	8.6	363,424	27,444	7.6
Sabiny	144,309	12,481	8.6	77,642	6,506	8.4
Kampala	103,280	8,942	8.7	231,347	13,445	5.8
Karamoja	74,967	6,137	8.2	276,518	34,707	12.6
Kigezi	108,563	6,560	6.0	346,711	22,171	6.4
Lango	170,026	13,003	7.6	522,455	41,438	7.9
Teso	145,508	9,982	6.9	516,942	27,799	5.4
Tooro	187,927	18,005	9.6	448,391	26,100	5.8
Rwenzori	187,927	18,005	9.6	272,133	17,160	6.3
West Nile	220,362	19,377	8.8	749,199	54,827	7.3
Madi	220,362	19,377	8.8	126,038	6,550	5.2
<b>National</b>	<b>2,649,708</b>	<b>229,120</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>9,154,733</b>	<b>610,790</b>	<b>6.7</b>

#### 4.6 Child marriage by District

An analysis of marital status by District revealed that Amudat District had the highest proportion of children married at 21.4 percent, meaning that one in every five girls aged 10-17 in the District were married (**Table 4.6**). This alarming rate warrants special attention, particularly in the Karamoja Sub region, with a focus on Amudat District. The other Districts with the higher proportion of married children were: Abim (13.6%), Bududa (12.9%), Kaabong (12.9%), Kotido (11.3%) Nabilatuk (10.9%), Nakapiripit (10.8%) and Karenga (10.3%). Notably, all these Districts are located in the Karamoja Sub region except for Bududa which is found in Bugisu Sub region.

The high rate of child marriage in Bududa may be attributed to the landslides which have made roads impassable, potentially contributing to early marriages due to disrupted school attendance. In contrast, the Districts with the lowest proportions of married children were: Moyo (4%), Sheema (4.3%), Soroti City (4.3%), Ngora (4.3%), Mbarara (4.4%) and Jinja city (4.5%). Most Districts with low proportions of married children were found in the Teso Sub region, which is a unique finding compared to Karamoja, given their cultural similarities.

In terms of absolute numbers, Wakiso District had the highest number of married children (29,395). Other Districts with high numbers of married children include Yumbe (19,864), Kampala (13,445), Kasese (10,979), Mukono (10,616), and Oyam (10,233).

Ranking Districts by the proportion of married children reveals varying scenarios when comparing boys and girls. Some Districts have a high proportion of married girls but a low proportion of married boys. For example, Oyam ranks 5<sup>th</sup> for married female children but 18<sup>th</sup> for married male children. Other examples include Kole (ranked 54<sup>th</sup> for males and 7<sup>th</sup> for girls) and Arua (ranked 40<sup>th</sup> for females and 10<sup>th</sup> for males).

In contrast, some Districts have similar rankings for both boys and girls. For instance, Amudat ranks 1<sup>st</sup> for both, Abim ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> for girls and 3<sup>rd</sup> for boys, and Nakapiripirit ranks 6<sup>th</sup> for girls and 8<sup>th</sup> for boys. Even among Districts with low proportions of married children, some have similar rankings for both boys and girls, such as Moyo (ranked 146<sup>th</sup> for girls and 143<sup>th</sup> for boys) and Soroti City (ranked 143<sup>th</sup> for girls and 142<sup>th</sup> for boys). Overall, about 30 out of 146 Districts show no significant variation in child marriage rates between boys and girls.

The Districts with the lowest proportions of married male children were Kumi (3.3%), Ngora (3.4%), and Amuria (3.4%), all located in the Teso region. Other Districts with low proportions of married male children were Moyo (3.6%), Soroti City (3.6%), Bukedea (3.7%), Serere (3.8%), Kalaki (3.9%), and Jinja (3.9%).

**Table 4.6: Child marriage (10-17years) by District, 2024**

District / City	Total children No.	Currently married /Ever Married					
		All		Males		Females	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Amudat	34,119	7,297	21.4	3,496	20.1	3,801	22.8
Abim	27,842	3,790	13.6	1,736	12.5	2,054	14.8
Kaabong	57,916	7,483	12.9	3,593	12.7	3,890	13.1
Bududa	50,288	6,477	12.9	3,089	12.4	3,388	13.4
Kotido	36,849	4,174	11.3	2,001	11.1	2,173	11.6
Nabilatuk	23,095	2,507	10.9	1,194	10.4	1,313	11.3
Nakapiripirit	19,156	2,077	10.8	877	9.1	1,200	12.6
Karenga	20,782	2,150	10.3	968	9.5	1,182	11.2
Oyam	100,257	10,233	10.2	3,733	7.4	6,500	13.0
Moroto	17,841	1,790	10.0	694	8.3	1,096	11.5
Bukwo	24,836	2,259	9.1	1,010	8.0	1,249	10.2
Namisindwa	57,690	5,169	9.0	2,312	8.0	2,857	9.9
Namutumba	68,831	6,136	8.9	3,012	8.7	3,124	9.2
Napak	38,918	3,439	8.8	1,565	8.0	1,874	9.7
Kole	60,321	5,337	8.8	1,713	5.7	3,624	12.0
Yumbe	228,163	19,864	8.7	9,576	8.1	10,288	9.3
Butebo	35,143	3,068	8.7	1,326	7.6	1,742	9.9
Bulambuli	40,763	3,539	8.7	1,530	7.5	2,009	9.8
Buvuma	18,635	1,601	8.6	708	7.3	893	10.0
Kibaale	48,424	4,172	8.6	1,715	7.0	2,457	10.3
Amuru	50,106	4,284	8.5	1,618	6.5	2,666	10.6
Arua	33,237	2,836	8.5	1,022	6.2	1,814	10.9
Kaliro	61,366	5,140	8.4	2,575	8.2	2,565	8.5
Butaleja	68,447	5,715	8.3	2,379	6.9	3,336	9.9
Kween	26,200	2,127	8.1	925	6.8	1,202	9.5
Alebtong	59,049	4,778	8.1	1,915	6.4	2,863	9.9
Kapchorwa	26,606	2,120	8.0	899	6.8	1,221	9.1
Bundibugyo	58,430	4,675	8.0	1,512	5.3	3,163	10.6
Buyende	88,750	7,042	7.9	2,942	6.5	4,100	9.4
Kapelebyong	29,359	2,309	7.9	913	6.2	1,396	9.6
Omoro	42,888	3,384	7.9	1,216	5.6	2,168	10.2
Hoima	50,190	3,908	7.8	1,476	5.9	2,432	9.7
Hoima City	25,768	1,978	7.7	797	6.8	1,181	8.4
Ntoroko	19,545	1,506	7.7	584	5.9	922	9.5
Kwania	47,500	3,665	7.7	1,278	5.4	2,387	10.1
Rubanda	53,875	4,072	7.6	1,735	6.7	2,337	8.4
Agago	67,803	5,151	7.6	2,292	6.6	2,859	8.6
Mayuge	118,007	9,003	7.6	3,793	6.4	5,210	8.9
Kikuube	76,165	5,767	7.6	2,395	6.3	3,372	8.9
Kibuku	55,270	4,183	7.6	1,730	6.2	2,453	8.9

District / City	Total children No.	Currently married /Ever Married					
		All		Males		Females	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lira	50,847	3,843	7.6	1,404	5.5	2,439	9.7
Kabale	52,003	3,867	7.4	1,765	7.0	2,102	7.9
Bugweri	46,381	3,428	7.4	1,531	6.6	1,897	8.2
Madi-Okollo	39,615	2,935	7.4	1,227	5.8	1,708	9.2
Apac	45,168	3,335	7.4	1,270	5.6	2,065	9.2
Kiryandongo	78,677	5,819	7.4	2,196	5.5	3,623	9.3
Koboko	60,526	4,430	7.3	1,927	6.4	2,503	8.2
Gulu	27,002	1,967	7.3	727	5.2	1,240	9.4
Rwampara	31,955	2,296	7.2	1,110	6.9	1,186	7.5
Masindi	67,114	4,833	7.2	1,785	5.3	3,048	9.1
Nwoya	42,293	3,060	7.2	977	4.6	2,083	10.0
Iganga	91,865	6,530	7.1	2,845	6.4	3,685	7.8
Nakaseke	47,969	3,382	7.1	1,451	6.0	1,931	8.2
Mubende	105,493	7,509	7.1	3,156	6.0	4,353	8.3
Bugiri	100,853	7,207	7.1	2,706	5.3	4,501	9.0
Otuke	31,855	2,271	7.1	865	5.3	1,406	9.1
Pakwach	43,906	3,125	7.1	1,110	5.0	2,015	9.2
Kakumiro	88,456	6,163	7.0	2,531	5.7	3,632	8.3
Ssembabule	59,804	4,101	6.9	1,835	6.1	2,266	7.7
Rukiga	24,860	1,692	6.8	799	6.5	893	7.1
Kisoro	73,945	5,052	6.8	2,306	6.5	2,746	7.2
Kamuli	120,506	8,237	6.8	3,631	6.0	4,606	7.6
Kassanda	61,527	4,191	6.8	1,766	5.7	2,425	8.0
Budaka	57,149	3,863	6.8	1,420	5.0	2,443	8.6
Kalangala	7,583	510	6.7	226	5.8	284	7.7
Maracha	49,573	3,310	6.7	1,383	5.3	1,927	8.1
Dokolo	44,256	2,962	6.7	1,162	5.2	1,800	8.3
Kagadi	101,163	6,723	6.6	2,661	5.2	4,062	8.1
Zombo	68,398	4,482	6.6	1,436	4.1	3,046	9.1
Kyenjojo	114,817	7,407	6.5	3,139	5.4	4,268	7.5
Buhweju	33,221	2,117	6.4	902	5.4	1,215	7.3
Kyankwanzi	55,367	3,533	6.4	1,485	5.3	2,048	7.5
Namayingo	56,292	3,577	6.4	1,205	4.2	2,372	8.6
Lyantonde	23,781	1,492	6.3	689	5.9	803	6.7
Mukono	169,814	10,616	6.3	4,662	5.8	5,954	6.7
Kyegegwa	105,433	6,655	6.3	2,760	5.2	3,895	7.5
Arua City	85,245	5,333	6.3	1,995	5.0	3,338	7.3
Pallisa	74,937	4,708	6.3	1,813	4.8	2,895	7.8
Manafwa	40,863	2,515	6.2	1,168	5.8	1,347	6.5
Kitgum	52,289	3,220	6.2	1,365	5.2	1,855	7.1
Lira City	43,805	2,730	6.2	992	5.2	1,738	7.1
Kayunga	94,546	5,825	6.2	2,360	4.9	3,465	7.4

District / City	Total children No.	Currently married /Ever Married					
		All		Males		Females	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Isingiro	138,389	8,400	6.1	3,820	5.5	4,580	6.6
Sironko	59,077	3,614	6.1	1,528	5.1	2,086	7.2
Nakasongola	45,699	2,765	6.1	1,154	5.0	1,611	7.1
Terego	75,400	4,588	6.1	1,802	4.6	2,786	7.7
Tororo	128,405	7,868	6.1	2,741	4.3	5,127	8.0
Mbarara City	42,853	2,580	6.0	1,116	5.7	1,464	6.3
Rubirizi	35,114	2,103	6.0	989	5.5	1,114	6.5
Luweero	124,927	7,444	6.0	3,281	5.3	4,163	6.6
Jinja	59,302	3,532	6.0	1,540	5.3	1,992	6.5
Kiboga	34,952	2,106	6.0	939	5.4	1,167	6.7
Obongi	33,527	2,025	6.0	935	5.4	1,090	6.7
Rakai	68,218	4,084	6.0	1,747	5.0	2,337	7.0
Nebbi	65,136	3,924	6.0	1,388	4.2	2,536	7.9
Kaberamaido	30,317	1,827	6.0	620	4.1	1,207	7.9
Pader	51,670	3,059	5.9	1,158	4.5	1,901	7.4
Katakwi	47,663	2,798	5.9	1,097	4.5	1,701	7.4
Soroti	58,402	3,464	5.9	1,289	4.4	2,175	7.5
Kampala	231,347	13,445	5.8	5,761	5.6	7,684	6.0
Gomba	41,107	2,389	5.8	1,110	5.2	1,279	6.4
Lamwo	49,709	2,860	5.8	1,264	4.9	1,596	6.7
Buliisa	35,218	2,043	5.8	729	4.1	1,314	7.6
Amolatar	39,397	2,284	5.8	795	4.0	1,489	7.6
Kalaki	32,329	1,871	5.8	625	3.9	1,246	7.7
Wakiso	517,112	29,395	5.7	12,052	5.2	17,343	6.1
Kanungu	62,739	3,594	5.7	1,552	4.9	2,042	6.5
Mbale City	57,371	3,246	5.7	1,265	4.7	1,981	6.4
Kazo	40,086	2,271	5.7	959	4.8	1,312	6.6
Kasese	194,158	10,979	5.7	4,434	4.6	6,545	6.7
Kiruhura	37,071	2,102	5.7	867	4.6	1,235	6.7
Mityana	82,665	4,589	5.6	2,111	5.1	2,478	6.0
Luuka	61,978	3,460	5.6	1,425	4.6	2,035	6.6
Busia	85,681	4,767	5.6	1,701	4.0	3,066	7.0
Masaka	23,734	1,306	5.5	581	4.7	725	6.4
Masaka City	53,172	2,868	5.4	1,326	5.2	1,542	5.6
Ntungamo	118,210	6,419	5.4	2,924	5.0	3,495	5.9
Kamwenge	73,969	3,995	5.4	1,790	4.8	2,205	6.0
Bushenyi	55,766	2,928	5.3	1,364	4.9	1,564	5.6
Lwengo	70,986	3,786	5.3	1,695	4.8	2,091	5.9
Bukomansimbi	42,775	2,265	5.3	1,028	4.7	1,237	6.0
Ibanda	63,589	3,373	5.3	1,458	4.6	1,915	6.0
Kitagwenda	37,338	1,970	5.3	877	4.6	1,093	6.0
Kabarole	47,211	2,518	5.3	1,076	4.5	1,442	6.2

District / City	Total children No.	Currently married /Ever Married					
		All		Males		Females	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Butambala	30,422	1,572	5.2	708	4.6	864	5.7
Adjumani	70,410	3,636	5.2	1,626	4.5	2,010	5.9
Bunyangabu	44,267	2,318	5.2	969	4.3	1,349	6.2
Serere	78,728	4,132	5.2	1,512	3.8	2,620	6.7
Gulu City	44,595	2,263	5.1	889	4.5	1,374	5.5
Kyotera	59,230	3,026	5.1	1,344	4.5	1,682	5.8
Buikwe	106,810	5,481	5.1	2,345	4.4	3,136	5.8
Amuria	53,378	2,705	5.1	912	3.4	1,793	6.8
Mbale	57,372	2,884	5.0	1,134	4.0	1,750	6.0
Bukedea	60,847	3,040	5.0	1,138	3.7	1,902	6.2
Mitooma	49,085	2,400	4.9	1,132	4.6	1,268	5.2
Rukungiri	79,289	3,894	4.9	1,802	4.5	2,092	5.3
Mpigi	66,364	3,220	4.9	1,419	4.3	1,801	5.4
Fort Portal City	25,356	1,237	4.9	498	4.2	739	5.4
Kalungu	48,090	2,342	4.9	1,027	4.2	1,315	5.6
Kumi	60,793	2,850	4.7	1,023	3.3	1,827	6.1
Jinja City	53,544	2,406	4.5	936	3.9	1,470	5.0
Mbarara	35,675	1,564	4.4	739	4.2	825	4.6
Sheema	49,900	2,168	4.3	991	4.0	1,177	4.6
Soroti City	25,210	1,089	4.3	420	3.6	669	4.9
Ngora	39,916	1,714	4.3	675	3.4	1,039	5.2
Moyo	22,101	889	4.0	401	3.6	488	4.4

#### 4.7 High marriage rate: A case study of Amudat District

Amudat District had the highest proportion of children in marital union. To better understand this status, it's essential to identify which children are more likely to be married. Among all children, 17.4 percent of those aged 10 are already in union. This proportion increases with age, with a notable jump around age 14, where 22.8 percent are in union. By age 17, one in three children in Amudat were in a marital union (**Table 4.7**).

The proportion of married children among females in Amudat District reveals that the marriage rate is lowest among girls aged 13 years at 15.9 percent.

Among male children, the proportion married by age reveals that 18.1 percent of 10 -year-old boys were ever married, which was higher than the propositions among older boys aged 11 (14.1%) and 13 (16.4%). Similarly, the proportion of married males was highest among those aged 16. Compared to other age groups, a plot of those married children by age does not follow any consistent pattern among male children.

**Table 4.7: Proportion of children aged 10-17 years by marital status and age in Amudat**

Age	All Children		Never Married		Ever/Currently Married	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>All Children</b>						
10	6,568	5,424	82.6	1,144	17.4	
11	3,301	2,807	85.0	494	15.0	
12	4,611	3,734	81.0	877	19.0	
13	3,452	2,899	84.0	553	16.0	
14	5,346	4,126	77.2	1,220	22.8	
15	4,193	3,229	77.0	964	23.0	
16	3,847	2,670	69.4	1,177	30.6	
17	2,704	1,876	69.4	828	30.6	
Total	34,022	26,765	78.7	7,257	21.3	
<b>Male</b>						
10	3,433	2,812	81.9	621	18.1	
11	1,699	1,460	85.9	239	14.1	
12	2,378	1,908	80.2	470	19.8	
13	1,804	1,508	83.6	296	16.4	
14	2,757	2,125	77.1	632	22.9	
15	2,109	1,675	79.4	434	20.6	
16	1,973	1,439	72.9	534	27.1	
17	1,267	997	78.7	270	21.3	
Total	17,420	13,924	79.9	3,496	20.1	
<b>Female</b>						
10	3,146	2,619	83.2	527	16.8	
11	1,606	1,349	84.0	257	16.0	
12	2,247	1,836	81.7	411	18.3	
13	1,663	1,399	84.1	264	15.9	
14	2,615	2,016	77.1	599	22.9	
15	2,095	1,561	74.5	534	25.5	
16	1,885	1,236	65.6	649	34.4	
17	1,442	882	61.2	560	38.8	
Total	16,699	12,898	77.2	3,801	22.8	

Source: NPHC 2024

The type of orphanhood was found to have an impact on the proportion of children who were married. Overall, double orphans (35.6%) were more likely to be married in Amudat than any other category of children aged 10-17, with 33.6 percent of males and 37.7 percent of females married (**Table 4.8**). Maternal orphans followed, with 31.5 percent married, even when segregated by sex of child. Notably, non-orphaned children had a lower proportion of married children compared to orphaned children.

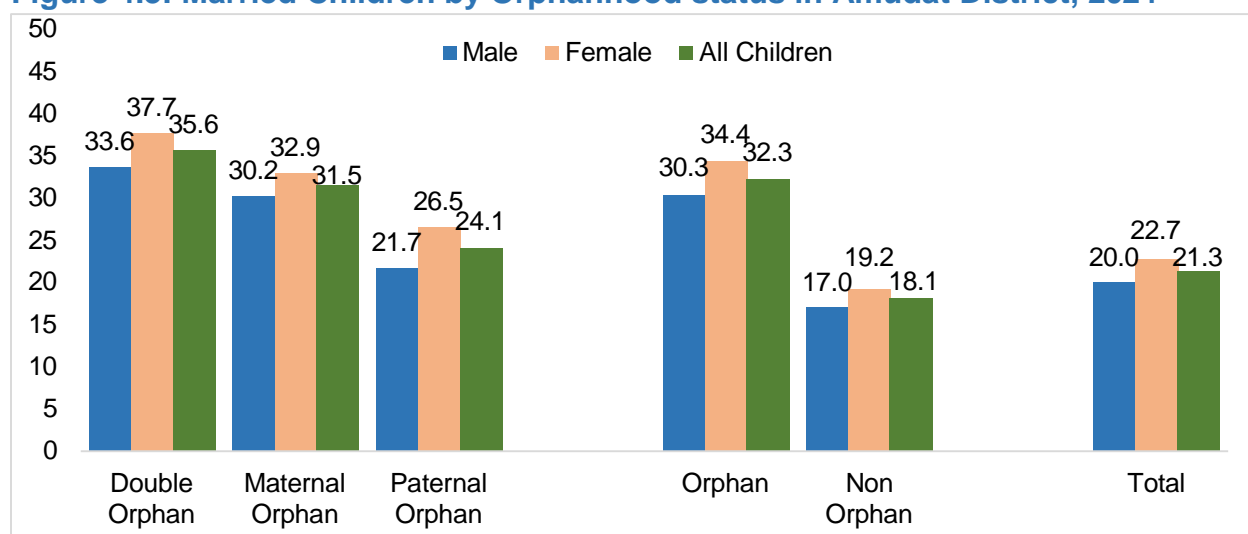
**Table 4.8: Marital status (10-17years) by Orphanhood status in Amudat**

Orphan hood Status	All children			Male			Female		
	All	Ever Married		All	Ever Married		All	Ever Married	
	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%
Double Orphan	4,622	1,644	35.6	2,366	794	33.6	2,256	850	37.7
Maternal orphan	1,329	419	31.5	660	199	30.2	669	220	32.9
Paternal orphan	1,802	434	24.1	916	199	21.7	886	235	26.5
Orphan	7,850	2,537	32.3	3,988	1,207	30.3	3,862	1,330	34.4
Non orphan	26,269	4,760	18.1	13,432	2,289	17.0	12,837	2,471	19.2
Total	34,022	7,257	21.3	17,374	3,481	20.0	16,648	3,776	22.7

Source: NPHC 2024

A comparison by sex reveals that, across all categories of orphanhood, the proportion of married female children is higher than that of married male children, as illustrated in Figure 4.3.

**Figure 4.3: Married Children by Orphanhood status in Amudat District, 2024**



### Child marriage in Amudat by orphanhood status

Significant differences are observed between non-orphaned children (22.1%) and orphaned children (47%), with the latter being more than double. The proportion of married children is highest among double orphans, at 55.2 percent, followed by maternal orphans at 46.0 percent, and lowest among paternal orphans at 31.7 percent. This suggests that the type of orphanhood has a profound impact on the prevalence of child marriage in Amudat District. Table 4.9 and Figure 4.4 present the proportion of children married by age, controlling for type of orphanhood status.

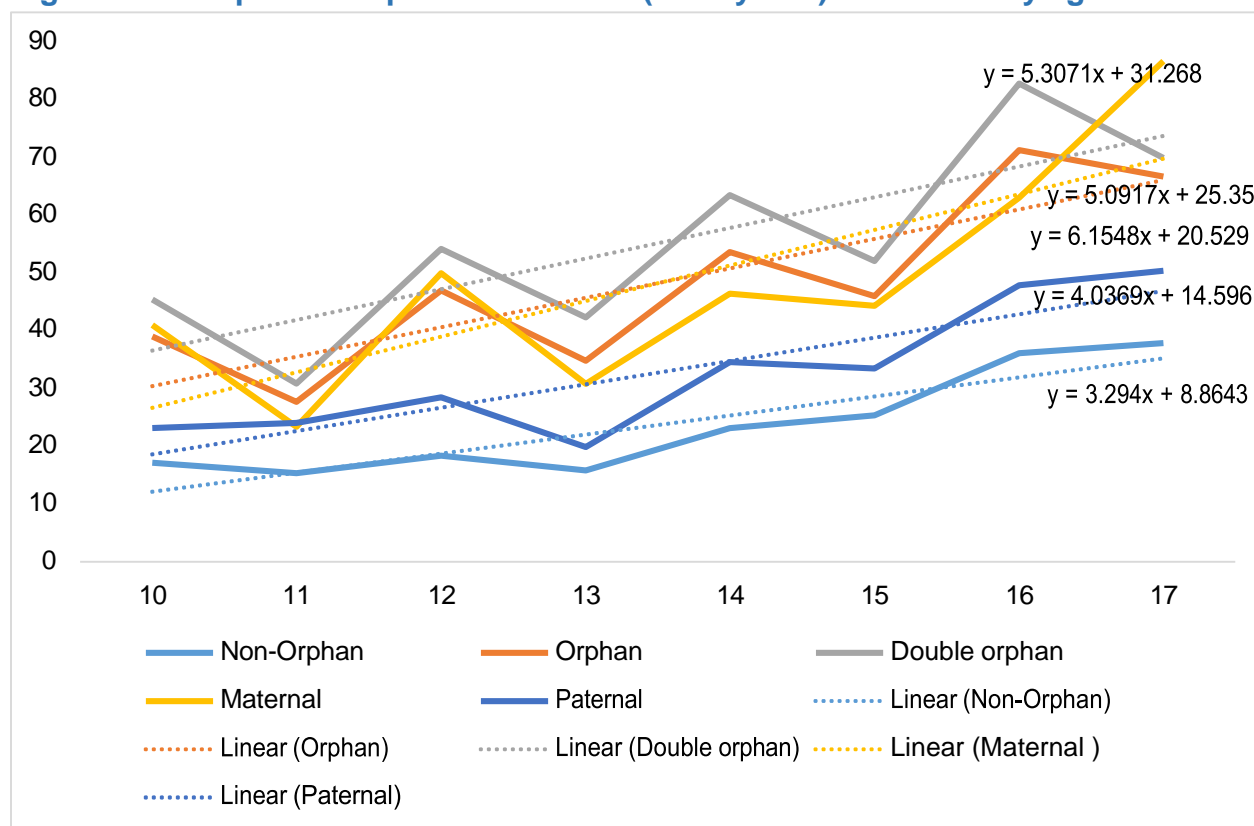
**Table 4.9: Percentage of married Children (10-17years) by single age and Orphanhood status, Amudat**

Age	Non-Orphan	Orphan	Double orphan	Maternal orphan	Paternal orphan
10	17.2	39.0	45.4	41.0	23.2
11	15.4	27.7	30.9	23.4	24.1
12	18.4	47.0	54.2	50.0	28.5
13	15.9	34.8	42.4	30.8	19.9
14	23.2	53.6	63.5	46.5	34.6
15	25.4	46.0	52.1	44.3	33.5
16	36.1	71.3	82.8	63.1	47.9
17	37.9	66.7	69.9	86.7	50.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>31.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

The results further show that among double orphaned children aged 16 years, eight out of ten (82.8%) were already married, compared to only 36.1 percent among non-orphans.

**Figure 4.4: Proportion orphaned children (10-17years) in Amudat by age**



### 4.8 Child Marriage by Ethnicity

The Aliba Ethnic group had the highest prevalence of child marriage, with one in four children aged 10-17 years already married at the time of the census (**Table 4.10**). Other Ethnic groups with high rates of child marriage include the So (Tepeth) at 21.5 percent and the Pokot at 21.2 percent. These three Ethnic groups have proportions significantly above the national.

Overall, Ethnic groups found in the Karamoja Sub-region exhibit the highest prevalence of child marriage. Among the larger Ethnic groups, those with the highest prevalence of child marriage include the Alur at 7.9 percent, Lango at 7.8 percent, and the Bagishu and Bagwere (each 7.6%). The Baganda, the largest Ethnic group in the country, has the lowest prevalence of child marriage among the major Ethnic groups at 5.5 percent, which was below the national average of 6.7 percent. The Nubi (4.0%), Batagwenda (4.3%), and Basongora (4.4%) were the Ethnic groups with the lowest prevalence of child marriage (less than one in 20 children married).

Child Marriage by sex of the child reveals that, among female children, the Tepeth (So) had the highest prevalence of child marriage at 26.9%, followed by the Aliba (25.8%) and Pokot (22.8%). A total of 15 Ethnic groups have at least one in ten girls married at the time of the Census. These same Ethnic groups also have high rates of male children who were married, meaning that some of these marriages occur among children. For example, 24.5% of male Aliba children were married, compared to 25.8% of female Aliba children.

The Ethnic groups with the largest differences between married girls and boys are the So (Tepeth) with a difference of 10.5 percentage points, the Mvuba with 8.3 percentage points, the Vonoma with 7.3 percentage points, the Maragoli with 6.5 percentage points, and the Batwa with 6.2 percentage points. These are very small Ethnic groups that, combined, do not account for even 1% of the total child population. However, among the larger Ethnic groups, the Alur and Langi had the biggest gaps, with 4.6 and 4.2 percentage points, respectively, between male and female children.

The Batagwenda (4.3%) and Nubi (4.0 %) Ethnic groups had the same proportion of married children among males and females, resulting in a difference of zero. In contrast, the Bakingwe Ethnic group had more married male children (10.8%) than female children (9.5%). Overall, 20 Ethnic groups have a difference of 3 or more percentage points between male and female child marriage rates. Notably, many of these marriages occur among children of similar ages, with only a minority marrying adults more than 7 years older.

**Table 4.10: Child marriage (10-17years) by Ethnic group**

Ethnicity	All children			Males			Female		
	All	Ever Married		All	Ever Married		All	Ever Married	
	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%
Acholi	410,591	28,342	6.9	203,530	11,385	5.6	207,061	16,957	8.2
Aliba	6,635	1,669	25.2	3,346	821	24.5	3,289	848	25.8
Alur	238,729	18,856	7.9	118,609	6,629	5.6	120,120	12,227	10.2
Aringa	205,970	19,197	9.3	105,523	9,281	8.8	100,447	9,916	9.9
Baamba	12,655	1,736	13.7	6,305	759	12.0	6,350	977	15.4
Babukusu	7,251	1,143	15.8	3,762	532	14.1	3,489	611	17.5
Babwisi	27,339	2,733	10.0	13,412	936	7.0	13,927	1,797	12.9
Bafumbira	198,405	13,091	6.6	98,641	5,920	6.0	99,764	7,171	7.2
Baganda	1,433,705	78,488	5.5	701,328	35,528	5.1	732,377	42,960	5.9
Bagisu	415,507	31,686	7.6	204,251	13,710	6.7	211,256	17,976	8.5
Bagungu	26,816	1,435	5.4	13,605	614	4.5	13,211	821	6.2
Bagwe	22,311	1,326	5.9	11,427	573	5.0	10,884	753	6.9
Bagwere	180,849	13,708	7.6	89,708	5,466	6.1	91,141	8,242	9.0
Bahehe	1,171	132	11.3	604	58	9.6	567	74	13.1
Bahororo	31,514	1,576	5.0	16,006	781	4.9	15,508	795	5.1
Bakenyi	22,488	1,584	7.0	11,557	683	5.9	10,931	901	8.2
Bakiga	608,712	39,184	6.4	303,370	16,695	5.5	305,342	22,489	7.4
Bakonzo	246,652	15,067	6.1	122,029	5,746	4.7	124,623	9,321	7.5
Banyabindi	2,434	149	6.1	1,270	75	5.9	1,164	74	6.4
Banyabutumbi	1,689	224	13.3	866	105	12.1	823	119	14.5
Banyankore	815,367	47,197	5.8	399,317	19,925	5.0	416,050	27,272	6.6
Banyara	10,289	712	6.9	5,216	302	5.8	5,073	410	8.1
Benet	373	46	12.3	177	17	9.6	196	29	14.8
Banyaruguru	11,213	688	6.1	5,758	347	6.0	5,455	341	6.3
Banyarwanda	106,130	7,447	7.0	51,800	2,664	5.1	54,330	4,783	8.8
Banyole	135,995	9,904	7.3	68,362	3,964	5.8	67,633	5,940	8.8
Banyoro	246,300	16,238	6.6	121,815	6,642	5.5	124,485	9,596	7.7
Baruli	44,965	2,668	5.9	22,640	1,105	4.9	22,325	1,563	7.0
Barundi	11,577	779	6.7	6,028	351	5.8	5,549	428	7.7
Basamia	112,779	6,727	6.0	55,760	2,476	4.4	57,019	4,251	7.5
Basoga	784,386	53,651	6.8	383,653	23,103	6.0	400,733	30,548	7.6
Basongora	2,766	123	4.4	1,395	56	4.0	1,371	67	4.9
Batagwenda	13,156	567	4.3	6,727	288	4.3	6,429	279	4.3
Batoro	201,321	11,256	5.6	99,922	4,724	4.7	101,399	6,532	6.4
Batuku	9,493	646	6.8	4,682	269	5.7	4,811	377	7.8
Batwa	709	57	8.0	349	17	4.9	360	40	11.1
Chope	5,571	342	6.1	2,834	135	4.8	2,737	207	7.6
Dodoth	51,745	6,699	12.9	25,143	3,221	12.8	26,602	3,478	13.1
Ethur	22,391	2,832	12.6	11,084	1,332	12.0	11,307	1,500	13.3
Gimara	3,087	199	6.4	1,584	86	5.4	1,503	113	7.5
Ik (Teuso)	2,986	346	11.6	1,505	163	10.8	1,481	183	12.4
Iteso	656,239	36,245	5.5	327,215	13,645	4.2	329,024	22,600	6.9

Ethnicity	All children			Males			Female		
	All	Ever Married		All	Ever Married		All	Ever Married	
	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%
Jie	31,307	3,390	10.8	15,475	1,647	10.6	15,832	1,743	11.0
Jonam	24,703	1,379	5.6	12,433	505	4.1	12,270	874	7.1
Jopadhola	116,060	8,065	6.9	58,231	2,922	5.0	57,829	5,143	8.9
Maragoli	928	76	8.2	440	21	4.8	488	55	11.3
Kakwa	59,655	3,891	6.5	29,764	1,611	5.4	29,891	2,280	7.6
Karimojong	109,381	10,431	9.5	54,389	4,690	8.6	54,992	5,741	10.4
Kebu (Okebu)	11,328	769	6.8	5,863	262	4.5	5,465	507	9.3
Kuku	24,136	1,443	6.0	12,075	643	5.3	12,061	800	6.6
Kumam	74,433	4,192	5.6	37,316	1,480	4.0	37,117	2,712	7.3
Lango	554,262	43,331	7.8	275,503	15,670	5.7	278,759	27,661	9.9
Lendu	3,973	323	8.1	2,065	116	5.6	1,908	207	10.8
Lugbara	258,392	17,924	6.9	128,551	6,889	5.4	129,841	11,035	8.5
Madi	81,675	4,393	5.4	41,054	1,859	4.5	40,621	2,534	6.2
Mening	465	38	8.2	226	14	6.2	239	24	10.0
Mvuba	72	5	6.9	36	1	2.8	36	4	11.1
Napore	5,193	591	11.4	2,545	260	10.2	2,648	331	12.5
Ngikutio	1,311	86	6.6	682	40	5.9	629	46	7.3
Nubi	6,226	251	4.0	3,113	125	4.0	3,113	126	4.0
Nyangia	4,739	508	10.7	2,394	231	9.6	2,345	277	11.8
Pokot	34,682	7,355	21.2	17,848	3,525	19.8	16,834	3,830	22.8
Reli	2,100	109	5.2	1,081	52	4.8	1,019	57	5.6
Sabiny	73,402	5,688	7.7	36,858	2,416	6.6	36,544	3,272	9.0
Shana	1,309	145	11.1	661	70	10.6	648	75	11.6
So (Tepeth)	3,008	648	21.5	1,522	249	16.4	1,486	399	26.9
Vonoma	129	13	10.1	63	4	6.3	66	9	13.6
Bakingwe	393	40	10.2	194	21	10.8	199	19	9.5
Bagabu	288	25	8.7	157	10	6.4	131	15	11.5
Other Ugandan	82,099	6,227	7.6	40,199	2,698	6.7	41,900	3,529	8.4
Non-Ugandan	238,823	12,759	5.3	122,817	5,980	4.9	116,006	6,779	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,154,733</b>	<b>610,790</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>4,535,670</b>	<b>255,140</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4,619,063</b>	<b>355,650</b>	<b>7.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

#### 4.9 Child marriages by sex, age and source of livelihood for the household

The prevalence of child marriage by sex of the household head does not show a significant difference between Male headed households (MHH) and Female headed households (FHH), though it is slightly higher in the MHH (7.0%) than the FHH (6.2%). However, child marriage by age of the household head reveals that the prevalence of child marriage is high among child-headed households (CHH) at 68.4 percent, compared to adult-headed households (AHH) at 5.9 percent and older persons-headed households (OHH) at 4.6 percent (**Table 4.11**).

In terms of household size, most married children live in households with fewer members. The prevalence of child marriage was 19.2 percent among households with 1-3 members, whereas it is only 4.7 percent among households with six or more members.

Regarding the source of livelihood, the highest prevalence of married children was found among those receiving support from family, friends, or relatives. This may be due to the fact that girls who become pregnant and marry may rely on others for support. Additionally, once married, these children may need to work to support themselves, contributing to the high prevalence of child marriage among those engaged in cottage industries.

**Table 4.11: Child marriages (10-17 years) by sex, age and source of livelihood for the household**

Characteristic	All children	Never Married		Ever married	
	No.	No.	Percent	No.	percent
<b>Sex of household head</b>					
Male	5,968,350	5,553,587	93.1	414,763	7.0
Female	3,186,383	2,990,356	93.9	196,027	6.2
<b>Age household head groups</b>					
< 18 years (child headed)	150,614	47,575	31.6	103,039	68.4
18-59 years (adult headed)	7,338,225	6,907,233	94.1	430,992	5.9
60+ years (older persons headed)	1,665,894	1,589,135	95.4	76,759	4.6
<b>Household size</b>					
1-3 members	1,053,448	851,144	80.8	202,304	19.2
4-5 members	1,886,836	1,771,469	93.9	115,367	6.1
6+ members	6,214,449	5,921,330	95.3	293,119	4.7
<b>Main source of living</b>					
Subsistence farming	6,404,351	5,991,692	93.6	412,659	6.4
Commercial Farming	346,307	321,585	92.9	24,722	7.1
Employment income (Salaried)	613,629	581,742	94.8	31,887	5.2
Business Enterprise	508,430	482,949	95.0	25,481	5.0
Cottage Industry	13,948	12,556	90.0	1,392	10.0
Property Income	50,765	46,416	91.4	4,349	8.6
Family/Friends/Relatives	216,144	194,100	89.8	22,044	10.2
Institutional or Program Support	68,812	65,398	95.0	3,414	5.0
Sale of Assets	25,586	23,063	90.1	2,523	9.9
Other	906,761	824,442	90.9	82,319	9.1

Source: NPHC 2024

Interestingly, a significant number of married children were enumerated in households where the relationship to the household head was biological sons or daughters, suggesting that some of these married individuals continue to reside in and benefit from their parents` households (**Table 4.12**).

**Table 4.12: Child Marriage (10-17 years) by Relationship to Household Head**

Relationship to Household Head	All children	Never Married		Ever married	
	No.	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Usual head of household - Present	98,757	0	0.0	98,757	100
Spouse	82,425	380	0.5	82,045	99.5
Biological Son	3,171,379	3,019,776	95.2	151,603	4.8
Biological Daughter	3,066,522	2,910,505	94.9	156,017	5.1
Brother	161,358	155,159	96.2	6,199	3.8
Sister	161,527	153,559	95.1	7,968	4.9
Niece	164,760	159,631	96.9	5,129	3.1
Nephew	126,156	122,670	97.2	3,486	2.8
Step-son	108,316	104,076	96.1	4,240	3.9
Step-daughter	134,091	125,757	93.8	8,334	6.2
Grandson	678,465	656,460	96.8	22,005	3.2
Grand daughter	614,847	591,384	96.2	23,463	3.8
Brother to spouse	32,844	31,772	96.7	1,072	3.3
Sister to spouse	72,956	69,451	95.2	3,505	4.8
Other relative	309,234	281,285	91.0	27,949	9.0
Non relative	171,095	162,077	94.7	9,018	5.3
Mother to household head	1	1	100	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,154,733</b>	<b>8,543,943</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>610,790</b>	<b>6.7</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

## CHAPTER FIVE: CHILD MOTHERHOOD

### 5.1 Introduction

One of the outcomes of child marriage is child motherhood. Child motherhood, which begins with child pregnancy and eventually results in what is referred to as adolescent motherhood. Child motherhood occurs in all societies, with considerable variation in magnitude and consequences across different countries and regions. A variety of complex socio-economic factors are involved in each case. For example, in some societies girls are forced into early marriage and are expected to begin their families during adolescence. According to the NHPC 2024, 68,787 of the 4,619,063 girls (1.5%) aged 10-17 were child mothers (**Figure 5.1**).

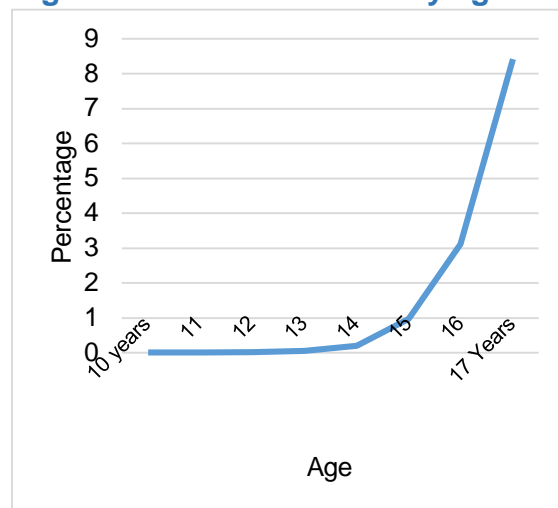
### 5.2 Child motherhood by age

Analysis of child mothers by single year (Figure 5.1) reveals that before age 15, less than one percent of girls had given birth. However, this proportion increases exponentially reaching 8.43 percent by age 17.

**Table 5.1: Proportion of children (10-17 years) who had ever given birth by age**

Age	Total No.	Never given birth		Ever given birth	
		No.	%	No.	%
10	622,493	622,458	100	35	0.01
11	559,625	559,594	100	31	0.01
12	607,461	607,319	100	142	0.02
13	587,855	587,563	100	292	0.05
14	575,386	574,222	99.8	1,164	0.20
15	588,306	582,595	99.0	5,711	0.97
16	555,202	537,871	96.9	17,331	3.12
17	522,735	478,654	91.6	44,081	8.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,619,063</b>	<b>4,550,276</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>68,787</b>	<b>1.49</b>

**Figure 5.1: Child mothers by age**



### 5.3 Child Mothers by Characteristics of the Household and Household Head

Households headed by persons below 18 years had the highest rate of child mothers at 7.5 percent compared to 1.5 percent in adults-headed households and 1.2 percent in older persons-headed households (**Table 5.2**). In terms of the sex of the household head, the prevalence of child mothers was higher in male-headed households at 1.6 percent, compared to 1.2 percent in female-headed households.

Regarding religion, children who claimed to have no faith had the highest prevalence rate at 1.8 percent, followed by Pentecostals at 1.6 percent. Interestingly, among the religious denominations with larger numbers of children, such as Catholics, Muslims, and Orthodox, the prevalence rate was equal at 1.5 percent, while Anglicans had a slightly lower rate at 1.4 percent. The prevalence of child mothers also varied by household size, with the highest rate found in households with 1-3 persons at 5.1 percent. This rate decreased significantly to 1.1 percent among households with 4-5 members and further to 1 percent in households with 6 or more members.

On a positive note, the prevalence of child mothers by school attendance showed that the rate was lowest among those still in school at 0.1 percent (1 in 1,000 girls). In contrast, the prevalence among those who had left school was 7.5 percent, suggesting that some girls may have dropped out of school due to pregnancy and became child mothers or may have begun child bearing after dropping out of school.

The prevalence of child mothers also varied by the household's main source of livelihood. The highest rates were found in households engaged in cottage industries (2%), subsistence farming (1.6%), and those relying on family/friends/relatives' remittances (1.6%). The lowest rates were found in households expecting institutional support (0.9%), those with formal employment and salaries (1%), and those with property income (1%).

Finally, the type of housing was also a factor, with the highest prevalence of child mothers found in temporary houses, followed by semi-permanent dwelling units, and the lowest rate in permanent households.

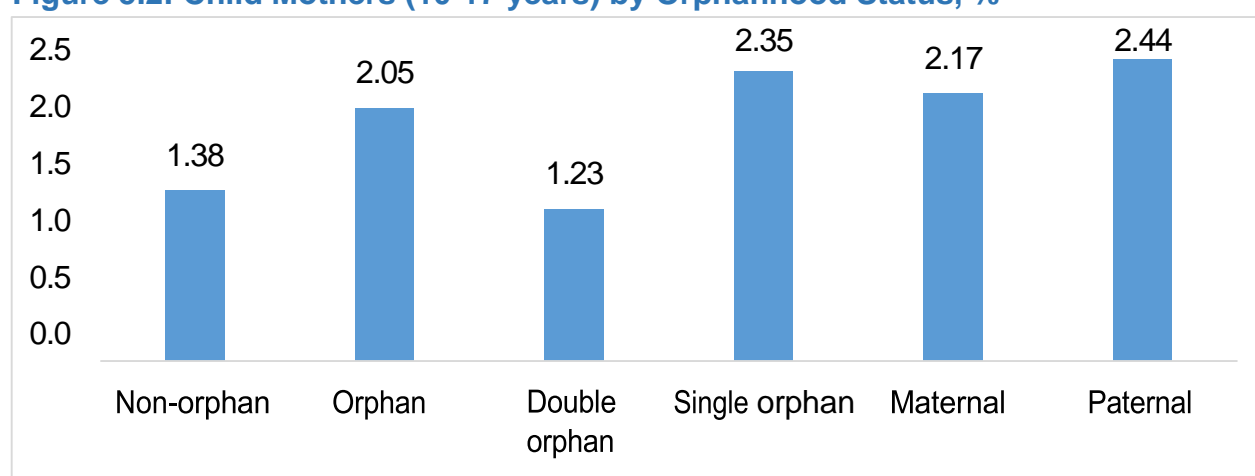
**Table 5.2: Child mothers (10-17 years) by Characteristic of the Household and Household Head**

Characteristics	All	Never given Birth		Ever Given Birth	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Household head age</b>					
<18 (child headed)	64,995	60,102	92.5	4,893	7.5
18-59 (adult headed)	3,745,950	3,691,498	98.5	54,452	1.5
60+ (older persons headed)	808,118	798,676	98.8	9,442	1.2
<b>Sex of household head</b>					
Male headed	2,960,578	2,912,317	98.4	48,261	1.6
Female headed	1,658,485	1,637,959	98.8	20,526	1.2
<b>Religion</b>					
Roman Catholic	1,701,433	1,676,147	98.5	25,286	1.5
Anglican / Church of Uganda	1,376,608	1,356,797	98.6	19,811	1.4
Seventh Day Adventist	94,298	92,877	98.5	1,421	1.5
Islam	653,193	643,374	98.5	9,819	1.5
Pentecostal / Evangelicals (Born Again)	700,540	689,477	98.4	11,063	1.6
Orthodox	5,538	5,491	99.2	47	0.8
Jehovah's witness	4,435	4,382	98.8	53	1.2
Traditional	4,108	4,043	98.4	65	1.6
No Religion	4,602	4,517	98.2	85	1.8
Others	74,308	73,171	98.5	1,137	1.5
<b>Household Size</b>					
1-3 members	534,340	506,858	94.9	27,482	5.1
4-5 members	964,599	953,615	98.9	10,984	1.1
6+ members	3,120,124	3,089,803	99.0	30,321	1.0
<b>School attendance</b>					
Never attended school	618,700	609,441	98.5	9,259	1.5
Attended in the past	759,819	702,692	92.5	57,127	7.5
Currently attending	3,240,544	3,238,143	99.9	2,401	0.1
<b>Main Source of Livelihood</b>					
Subsistence farming	3,163,307	3,113,689	98.4	49,618	1.6
Commercial Farming	171,824	169,795	98.8	2,029	1.2
Employment income (Salaried)	346,020	342,433	99.0	3,587	1.0
Business Enterprise	281,520	277,973	98.7	3,547	1.3
Cottage Industry	7,257	7,114	98.0	143	2.0
Property Income	26,189	25,935	99.0	254	1.0
Family/Friends/Relatives	109,722	107,991	98.4	1,731	1.6
Institutional or Program Support (e.g. Red Cross, WFP, e.t.c)	33,495	33,189	99.1	306	0.9
Sale of Assets	12,919	12,746	98.7	173	1.3
Other	466,810	459,411	98.4	7,399	1.6
<b>Housing Quality</b>					
Temporary	1,002,994	981,119	97.8	21,875	2.2
Semi-Permanent	1,593,113	1,567,434	98.4	25,679	1.6
Permanent	2,022,956	2,001,723	99.0	21,233	1.0

## 5.4 Child Mothers by Orphanhood Status of the Child

The prevalence of child mothers was higher among orphans (2.1%) than non-orphans at 1.4 percent (**Table 5.3** and **Figure 5.2**). The data shows that the prevalence of child mothers was lower among double orphans (1.2%) compared to single orphans (2.4%). However, the prevalence is slightly higher among paternal orphans (2.4%) than maternal orphans (2.2%). The prevalence of child mothers.

**Figure 5.2: Child Mothers (10-17 years) by Orphanhood Status, %**



Source: NPHC 2024

**Table 5.3: Child Mothers (10-17 years) by Orphanhood Status**

Type of orphanhood	All	Never given Birth		Ever Given Birth	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Orphan</b>					
No	3,841,209	3,788,368	98.6	52,841	1.38
Yes	777,854	761,908	98.0	15,946	2.05
<b>Double orphan</b>					
No	4,410,366	4,344,144	98.5	66,222	1.5
Yes	208,697	206,132	98.8	2,565	1.23
<b>Single orphan</b>					
No	4,049,906	3,994,500	98.6	55,406	1.37
Yes	569,157	555,776	97.6	13,381	2.35
<b>Maternal orphan</b>					
No	4,471,222	4,405,643	98.5	65,579	1.47
Yes	147,841	144,633	97.8	3,208	2.17
<b>Paternal orphan</b>					
No	4,204,433	4,145,751	98.6	58,682	1.4
Yes	414,630	404,525	97.6	10,105	2.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,619,063</b>	<b>4,550,276</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>68,787</b>	<b>1.49</b>

Source: NPHC 2024

## 5.5 Child Mothers by Residence and Sub Region

The Bunyoro Sub region had the highest proportion of child mothers at 2.2 percent, followed by Rwenzori at 2.07 percent. In contrast, Kampala Capital City had the lowest proportion of child mothers at 0.68 percent or 6.8 mothers per 1,000 children (**Table 5.4A**). Overall, there has been a significant decrease in the prevalence and absolute numbers of child mothers over time, from 2002 to 2024.

Despite the low prevalence of child mothers, Buganda Sub region had the highest number of child mothers at 13,209. Busoga Sub region ranked second with 8,802 child mothers, while Bunyoro region ranked third with 6,266 child mothers, according to the NPHC 2024. The prevalence of child mothers was higher in rural areas (1.6%) than in urban areas (1.3%).

**Table 5.4A: Child Mothers (10-17 years) by Sub Region and Residence, 2024**

Sub region	Total	Never given birth		Ever given birth	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%
Bunyoro	284,992	278,726	97.8	6,266	2.20
Rwenzori	136,999	134,163	97.9	2,836	2.07
Bukedi	252,113	247,090	98.0	5,023	1.99
Lango	261,786	256,760	98.1	5,026	1.92
Teso	257,713	252,816	98.1	4,897	1.90
Busoga	465,611	456,809	98.1	8,802	1.89
Bugisu	184,150	180,667	98.1	3,483	1.89
Tooro	222,554	218,913	98.4	3,641	1.64
West Nile	368,675	363,307	98.5	5,368	1.46
Sebei	38,411	37,869	98.6	542	1.41
Acholi	213,959	211,086	98.7	2,873	1.34
Buganda	1,057,496	1,044,287	98.8	13,209	1.25
Karamoja	139,729	138,401	99.0	1,328	0.95
Kigezi	176,058	174,692	99.2	1,366	0.78
Madi	61,690	61,217	99.2	473	0.77
Ankole	368,122	365,347	99.2	2,775	0.75
Kampala	129,005	128,126	99.3	879	0.68
<b>Residence</b>					
Urban	1,659,607	1,638,718	98.7	20,889	1.3
Rural	2,959,306	2,911,408	98.4	47,898	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,619,063</b>	<b>4,550,276</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>68,787</b>	<b>1.49</b>

## 5.6 Child Mothers by District

The proportion of child mothers by district reveals that Namayingo district had the highest proportion of child mothers at 31.2 child mothers per 1,000 girls aged 10-17 years, closely followed by Buvuma District at 30.3 per 1,000 children (**Table 5.5**). Notably, both districts are fishing communities, with Namayingo having a large part of its area comprising islands in Lake Victoria, and Buvuma district being entirely made up of islands. Other districts with high proportions of child mothers include Bundibugyo (30 per 1,000) and Hoima district (28.8 per 1,000).

Some districts with high rates of child mothers are geographically clustered. For example, Buvuma neighbors Namayingo, Namayingo neighbors Busia and Bugiri, Bundibugyo neighbors Ntoroko, Kibaale neighbors Hoima, and Hoima neighbors Masindi and Kikuube. Conversely, districts with low prevalence rates of child mothers also tend to cluster together. Kisoro district, which has the lowest rate in the country, is near Rukiga county and other districts with low rates, including Sheema, Bushenyi, Rubanda, and Ntungamo. This pattern is consistent with historical trends, as noted in the 2002 census (Lubaale, 2010). Districts from far northwestern Uganda, such as Adjumani and Yumbe, also have low rates of child mothers.

While Karamoja Sub-region had a high prevalence of child marriage, some districts such as Kaabong, Kotido, Nabilatuk, and Napak, have relatively low rates of child mothers, with less than 10 child mothers per 1,000 girls aged 10-17 years. In terms of absolute numbers, Wakiso district, despite having a low prevalence rate of 7.6 child mothers per 1,000 girls aged 10-17 years, had the largest number of child mothers at 2,162 due to its large population. The next eight districts with the highest numbers of child mothers, including Kasese, Bugiri, Tororo, and Mayuge, have high numbers due to both large populations and high prevalence rates.

Five districts, namely Rukiga, Kalangala, Nabilatuk, Moyo, and Karenga, had fewer than 100 child mothers. Except for Kalangala, these districts had very low prevalence rates of child mothers, with fewer than 10 child mothers per 1,000 girls aged 10-17 years. Kalangala district has a low number of child mothers due to its small population of girls aged 10-17 years, despite having a relatively high prevalence rate of 21.7 child mothers per 1,000 girls in this age group.

**Table 5.5: Child motherhood (10-17 years) by District/City, 2024**

District / City	Total No.	Never given birth		Ever given birth	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Kalangala	3,692	3,612	97.8	80	2.17
Kampala	129,005	128,126	99.3	879	0.68
Kiboga	17,449	17,152	98.3	297	1.70
Luweero	63,305	62,398	98.6	907	1.43
Masaka	11,403	11,274	98.9	129	1.13
Mpigi	33,613	33,190	98.7	423	1.26
Mubende	52,697	51,809	98.3	888	1.69
Mukono	89,118	88,047	98.8	1,071	1.20
Nakasongola	22,611	22,178	98.1	433	1.91
Rakai	33,587	33,238	99.0	349	1.04
Ssembabule	29,594	29,252	98.8	342	1.16
Kayunga	46,866	45,928	98.0	938	2.00
Wakiso	284,022	281,860	99.2	2,162	0.76
Lyantonde	12,037	11,918	99.0	119	0.99
Mityana	41,346	40,815	98.7	531	1.28
Nakaseke	23,656	23,161	97.9	495	2.09
Buikwe	54,070	53,284	98.5	786	1.45
Bukomansimbi	20,781	20,518	98.7	263	1.27
Butambala	15,054	14,905	99.0	149	0.99
Buvuma	8,919	8,649	97.0	270	3.03
Gomba	19,884	19,612	98.6	272	1.37
Kalungu	23,657	23,339	98.7	318	1.34
Kyankwanzi	27,271	26,739	98.0	532	1.95
Lwengo	35,721	35,369	99.0	352	0.99
Kyotera	29,184	28,866	98.9	318	1.09
Kassanda	30,400	29,841	98.2	559	1.84
Masaka City	27,559	27,333	99.2	226	0.82
Bugiri	50,056	48,704	97.3	1,352	2.70
Busia	43,497	42,398	97.5	1,099	2.53
Iganga	47,422	46,738	98.6	684	1.44
Jinja	30,488	30,017	98.5	471	1.54
Kamuli	60,367	59,441	98.5	926	1.53
Kapchorwa	13,471	13,279	98.6	192	1.43
Katakwi	23,137	22,681	98.0	456	1.97
Kumi	30,178	29,598	98.1	580	1.92
Mbale	29,048	28,559	98.3	489	1.68
Pallisa	37,277	36,692	98.4	585	1.57
Soroti	28,864	28,249	97.9	615	2.13
Tororo	63,978	62,631	97.9	1,347	2.11
Kaberamaido	15,208	14,840	97.6	368	2.42

District / City	Total	Never given birth		Ever given birth	
	No.	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Mayuge	58,275	56,992	97.8	1,283	2.20
Sironko	29,074	28,435	97.8	639	2.20
Amuria	26,331	25,774	97.9	557	2.12
Budaka	28,510	27,987	98.2	523	1.83
Bududa	25,355	24,779	97.7	576	2.27
Bukedea	30,472	30,029	98.5	443	1.45
Bukwo	12,246	12,057	98.5	189	1.54
Butaleja	33,826	33,149	98.0	677	2.00
Kaliro	30,107	29,653	98.5	454	1.51
Manafwa	20,602	20,270	98.4	332	1.61
Namutumba	34,029	33,399	98.1	630	1.85
Bulambuli	20,414	19,908	97.5	506	2.48
Buyende	43,605	42,715	98.0	890	2.04
Kibuku	27,438	26,992	98.4	446	1.63
Kween	12,694	12,533	98.7	161	1.27
Luuka	30,844	30,333	98.3	511	1.66
Namayingo	27,666	26,803	96.9	863	3.12
Ngora	20,014	19,730	98.6	284	1.42
Serere	39,295	38,576	98.2	719	1.83
Butebo	17,587	17,241	98.0	346	1.97
Namisindwa	28,934	28,438	98.3	496	1.71
Bugweri	23,217	22,819	98.3	398	1.71
Kapelebyong	14,526	14,210	97.8	316	2.18
Kalaki	16,101	15,722	97.6	379	2.35
Jinja City	29,535	29,195	98.8	340	1.15
Mbale City	30,723	30,278	98.6	445	1.45
Soroti City	13,587	13,407	98.7	180	1.32
Adjumani	34,344	34,118	99.3	226	0.66
Apac	22,415	21,981	98.1	434	1.94
Arua	16,629	16,224	97.6	405	2.44
Gulu	13,137	12,900	98.2	237	1.80
Kitgum	26,027	25,789	99.1	238	0.91
Kotido	18,763	18,656	99.4	107	0.57
Lira	25,230	24,794	98.3	436	1.73
Moroto	9,516	9,389	98.7	127	1.33
Moyo	11,070	10,974	99.1	96	0.87
Nebbi	32,240	31,623	98.1	617	1.91
Nakapiripirit	9,535	9,398	98.6	137	1.44
Pader	25,826	25,469	98.6	357	1.38
Yumbe	110,248	109,382	99.2	866	0.79
Abim	13,919	13,671	98.2	248	1.78

District / City	Total No.	Never given birth		Ever given birth	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Amolatar	19,475	19,006	97.6	469	2.41
Amuru	25,033	24,656	98.5	377	1.51
Dokolo	21,814	21,416	98.2	398	1.82
Kaabong	29,655	29,554	99.7	101	0.34
Koboko	30,497	30,039	98.5	458	1.50
Maracha	23,699	23,358	98.6	341	1.44
Oyam	50,075	48,975	97.8	1,100	2.20
Agago	33,231	32,904	99.0	327	0.98
Alebtong	29,004	28,611	98.6	393	1.35
Amudat	16,699	16,434	98.4	265	1.59
Kole	30,133	29,383	97.5	750	2.49
Lamwo	23,758	23,490	98.9	268	1.13
Napak	19,389	19,236	99.2	153	0.79
Nwoya	20,845	20,364	97.7	481	2.31
Otuke	15,423	15,147	98.2	276	1.79
Zombo	33,339	32,578	97.7	761	2.28
Omoro	21,258	20,874	98.2	384	1.81
Pakwach	21,854	21,430	98.1	424	1.94
Kwania	23,630	23,097	97.7	533	2.26
Nabilatuk	11,660	11,568	99.2	92	0.79
Karenga	10,593	10,495	99.1	98	0.93
Madi-Okollo	18,539	18,184	98.1	355	1.91
Obongi	16,276	16,125	99.1	151	0.93
Arua City	45,649	45,044	98.7	605	1.33
Gulu City	24,844	24,640	99.2	204	0.82
Terego	35,981	35,445	98.5	536	1.49
Lira City	24,587	24,350	99.0	237	0.96
Bundibugyo	29,877	28,980	97.0	897	3.00
Bushenyi	28,016	27,876	99.5	140	0.50
Hoima	25,142	24,419	97.1	723	2.88
Kabale	26,734	26,358	98.6	376	1.41
Kabarole	23,385	22,886	97.9	499	2.13
Kasese	97,397	95,699	98.3	1,698	1.74
Kibaale	23,878	23,271	97.5	607	2.54
Kisoro	38,216	38,089	99.7	127	0.33
Masindi	33,624	32,729	97.3	895	2.66
Mbarara	17,910	17,778	99.3	132	0.74
Ntungamo	59,418	59,080	99.4	338	0.57
Rukungiri	39,414	39,099	99.2	315	0.80
Kamwenge	36,910	36,548	99.0	362	0.98
Kanungu	31,374	31,040	98.9	334	1.06

District / City	Total	Never given birth		Ever given birth	
	No.	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Kyenjojo	56,560	55,509	98.1	1,051	1.86
Buliisa	17,360	17,047	98.2	313	1.80
Ibanda	32,043	31,762	99.1	281	0.88
Isingiro	69,459	68,848	99.1	611	0.88
Kiruhura	18,382	18,128	98.6	254	1.38
Buhweju	16,624	16,497	99.2	127	0.76
Kiryandongo	38,982	38,224	98.1	758	1.94
Kyegegwa	52,151	51,252	98.3	899	1.72
Mitooma	24,470	24,340	99.5	130	0.53
Ntoroko	9,725	9,484	97.5	241	2.48
Rubirizi	17,251	17,084	99.0	167	0.97
Sheema	25,389	25,261	99.5	128	0.50
Kagadi	50,279	49,301	98.1	978	1.95
Kakumiro	43,807	42,989	98.1	818	1.87
Rubanda	27,815	27,658	99.4	157	0.56
Rukiga	12,505	12,448	99.5	57	0.46
Bunyangabu	21,674	21,239	98.0	435	2.01
Kikuube	37,881	36,999	97.7	882	2.33
Kazo	19,913	19,711	99.0	202	1.01
Kitagwenda	18,301	18,130	99.1	171	0.93
Rwampara	15,887	15,763	99.2	124	0.78
Fort Portal City	13,573	13,349	98.3	224	1.65
Mbarara City	23,360	23,219	99.4	141	0.60
Hoima City	14,039	13,747	97.9	292	2.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,619,063</b>	<b>4,550,276</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>68,787</b>	<b>1.50</b>

## CHAPTER SIX: REFUGEE CHILDREN

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### 6.1 Introduction

During the NPHC 2024, information on refugee population was collected at individual level. The results include refugee children that were residing in refugee settlements and those living in other parts of the country. To understand why refugee children are considered vulnerable, it's essential to understand the definition of a refugee.

- The Refugee Act 2006 defines a refugee as a person having qualified to be granted refugee status under section 4 of the Act
- An Asylum seeker is a person who has made an application for the grant of refugee status (section 19 of the Act).

Based on the definition above, a refugee child is a child who has either been forced to flee their own country on their own or is accompanying parents who have been forced to flee. In some cases, parents may die during the journey, leaving the children alone. Understanding this terminology helps to highlight the vulnerability of refugee children. Uganda has hosted a significant number of refugee children who require special care and protection due to their circumstances.

### 6.2 Refugee Children in Uganda

During the NPHC 2024, 22,152,538 children aged 0-17 were enumerated, of whom 430,575 were Refugees/Asylum seekers, representing 1.9 percent of all enumerated children. The percentage share of refugee children among all children was equal at 1.9 percent each (**Table 6.1**)

The number of male refugee children was 221,074, while the number of female refugee children was 209,501. Similar to the general population, the number of male children was slightly higher than the number of female children. The sex ratio for refugees was 106 male children per 100 female children, which is slightly higher than the ratio among non-refugee children, which stands at 100 males per 100 females.

### 6.3 Distribution of Refugee Children by Age

The distribution of refugee children by age differed slightly, ranging from 1.2 percent among children aged 0 years to a high of 2.2 percent among those aged 11 years. However, in absolute numbers, the highest number of refugee children were those aged 6 years (26,516), followed closely by those aged 5 years (26,108), a difference of 408 children. Considering special categories, such as primary school-going children (6-12 years), there were 174,687 refugee children in this age group. To provide free education for them with a pupil-teacher ratio of 40:1, over 4,400 teachers and more than 4,400 classrooms are needed to ensure a decent learning environment. However, due to limited resources, refugee children often share schools with the local community, leading to overcrowding of classrooms. A valid concern is that if schools were constructed specifically for refugee children, they might be underutilized once the situation in the country of origin stabilizes.

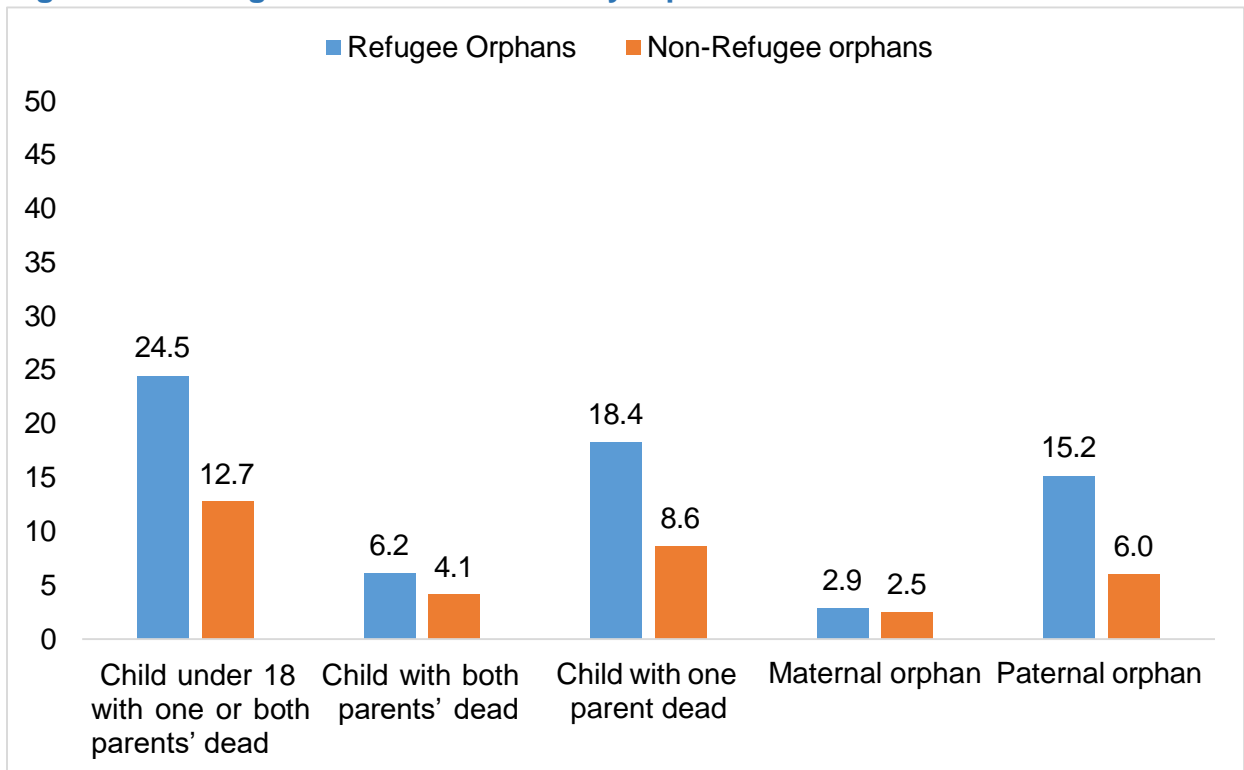
**Table 6.1: Distribution of children by Refugee status, Sex and Age**

Characteristic	Total	Not Refugee/ Asylum seekers	Refugee/ Asylum seekers	Proportion Refugee
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	11,076,386	10,855,312	221,074	2.0
Female	11,076,152	10,866,651	209,501	1.9
<b>Age</b>				
0	1,313,958	1,297,945	16,013	1.2
1	1,265,411	1,245,027	20,384	1.6
2	1,317,445	1,293,642	23,803	1.8
3	1,317,395	1,293,358	24,037	1.8
4	1,405,858	1,381,453	24,405	1.7
5	1,386,520	1,360,412	26,108	1.9
6	1,309,874	1,283,358	26,516	2.0
7	1,264,532	1,239,527	25,005	2.0
8	1,249,465	1,224,524	24,941	2.0
9	1,167,347	1,143,627	23,720	2.0
10	1,252,299	1,228,257	24,042	1.9
11	1,112,813	1,088,202	24,611	2.2
12	1,215,475	1,189,623	25,852	2.1
13	1,170,429	1,145,438	24,991	2.1
14	1,144,215	1,118,792	25,423	2.2
15	1,157,825	1,133,218	24,607	2.1
16	1,088,643	1,064,530	24,113	2.2
17	1,013,034	991,030	22,004	2.2
<b>Special Age group</b>				
3-5	4,109,773	4,035,223	74,550	1.8
6-12	8,571,805	8,397,118	174,687	2.0
13-17	5,574,146	5,453,008	121,138	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>21,721,963</b>	<b>430,575</b>	<b>1.9</b>

## 6.4 Level of Orphanhood among Refugee Children

**Table 6.2** and **Figure 6.1** present the levels of orphanhood among the refugee population, comparing it to the general population of children. The level of orphanhood among refugee children is more than two times that of the non-refugee children, at 24.5 percent compared to 12.7 percent. While 8.6 percent of the non-refugee children were single orphans, 18.4 percent of refugee children were single orphans. Regarding paternal orphans, 15.2 percent of refugee children are paternal orphans, compared to 6 percent of the non-refugee children. This represents a significant difference in the proportion of paternal orphans between the two groups.

**Figure 6.1: Refugee Status of children by orphanhood level**



**Table 6.2: Refugee Status of children by orphanhood level**

Characteristic	Refugee children N=430,575			Non-Refugee Children N=21,721,963		
	No	Yes	% orphans	No	Yes	% orphans
<b>Child under 18 with one or both parents' dead</b>	325,027	105,548	24.5	18,953,889	2,768,074	12.7
<b>Child with both parents' dead</b>	404,066	26,509	6.2	20,827,138	894,825	4.1
<b>Child with one parent dead</b>	351,536	79,039	18.4	19,848,714	1,873,249	8.6
<b>Maternal orphan</b>	418,237	12,338	2.9	21,183,376	538,587	2.5
<b>Paternal orphan</b>	364,988	65,587	15.2	20,415,321	1,306,642	6.0

### 6.5 Refugee Children with Unknown Parents' Survival Status

Of the 430,575 refugee children, a total of 10,562 children had an unknown parental survival status, representing a rate of 24.5 per 1,000 (**Table 6.3**). This is approximately three times the rate of 8.3 per 1,000 among non-refugee children. The implication of this is that refugee children are more vulnerable, as not knowing the survival status of their parents can lead to a life of uncertainty and hopelessness.

**Table 6.3: Orphanhood and Survival Status of Parents Unknown among Refugee Children**

Orphan type	Refugee Children		Non-Refugee		All Children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Both parents alive	315,579	73.3	18,800,156	86.5	19,115,735	86.3
Mother alive, father dead	65,587	15.2	1,306,642	6.0	1,372,229	6.2
Father alive, mother dead	12,338	2.9	538,587	2.5	550,925	2.5
Both parents dead	26,509	6.2	894,825	4.1	921,334	4.2
Mother alive, father DK	6,561	1.5	53,763	0.2	60,324	0.3
Mother dead, father DK	621	0.1	15,774	0.1	16,395	0.1
Father alive, Mother DK	512	0.1	20,873	0.1	21,385	0.1
Father dead, Mother DK	493	0.1	12,246	0.1	12,739	0.1
DK/missing	2,375	0.6	79,097	0.4	81,472	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>430,575</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21,721,963</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>100</b>

## **6.6 Characteristics of refugee children and households they live in**

### **6.6.1 Sex of the Household Head**

In contrast to the general population, where the majority of children stay in male-headed households, the reverse is true for refugee/asylum seeker children. Almost 2 in 3 refugee children live in female-headed households. One possible reason for this is that these children may be orphaned, have parents whose survival status is unknown, or have fathers who remain in their country of origin and send their families for safety.

### **6.6.2 School Status of Refugee children**

The Refugee Act of 2006 grants refugees the right to Government-funded free education, and most refugee children attend either Government schools or private schools located in and around settlement areas, which are open to both refugees and Ugandan nationals. Although refugees can register and seek employment as teachers in Uganda, many lack the necessary documentation and/or qualifications, so most teachers are Ugandan nationals, with refugees mainly working as teaching assistants.

The Ugandan Government has provided a welcoming environment for refugee children, and there is little difference observed between refugee and non-refugee children in school attendance. In fact, more refugee children (58.1%) are currently attending school compared to non-refugee children (53.7%).

### **6.6.3 Age of Household Head**

The results indicate that the proportion of refugee children staying in older persons-headed households was lower (6.6%) compared to non-refugee children living in households headed by older persons (14.8%).

### **6.6.4 Marital Status of Refugee children**

The proportion of married refugee children (5%) was lower than that of the non-refugee children (6.7%); a difference of 1.7 percentage points. This is a finding, especially considering that refugee children are much vulnerable to child marriages.

**Table 6.4: Distribution of children by Refugee Status and selected characteristics**

Characteristic	Refugee / asylum seekers		Non refugee / asylum seekers		All children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Sex of household head</b>						
Male	151,936	35.3	14,871,178	68.5	15,023,114	67.8
Female	278,639	64.7	6,850,785	31.5	7,129,424	32.2
<b>Schooling Attendance</b>						
Never attended school	86,793	20.2	4,110,275	18.9	4,197,068	18.9
Attended in the past	33,411	7.8	2,113,600	9.7	2,147,011	9.7
Currently attending	250,171	58.1	11,661,474	53.7	11,911,645	53.8
<b>Age of household head</b>						
< 18 years (child headed)	6,498	1.5	195,882	0.9	202,380	0.9
18-59 years (adult headed)	395,855	91.9	18,315,577	84.3	18,711,432	84.5
60+ years (older persons headed)	28,222	6.6	3,210,504	14.8	3,238,726	14.6
<b>Marital status (10-17years)</b>						
Never married	185,825	95.0	8,358,118	93.3	8,543,943	93.3
Ever married	9,818	5.0	600,972	6.7	610,790	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>430,575</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21,721,963</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>100</b>

### 6.6.5 Refugee Children by Relationship to Household Head and Religion

The distribution of refugee children by relationship to household head shows minor variations between refugee and non-refugee children. Slightly more refugee children were brother, sister, niece, or nephew compared to non-refugee children, with a combined percentage of 11.6 percent among refugees versus 4.3 percent among non-refugees (**Table 6.5**). In contrast, there were more non-refugee children reported as grandchildren (grandsons and granddaughters) than refugee children at 16 percent compared to 8 percent.

Regarding religious affiliation, while the majority of non-refugee children were Roman Catholic (37.1%), refugee children have a more evenly distributed religious affiliation, with Pentecostal being the majority.

**Table 6.5: Refugee children by Relationship to Household Head and Religion**

Relationship to Household Head	All		Non Refugee/ Asylum seekers		Refugee/ Asylum seekers	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Usual head of household – Present	100,355	0.5	97,981	0.5	2,374	0.6
Spouse	82,425	0.4	82,037	0.4	388	0.1
Biological Son	8,126,268	36.7	7,965,110	36.7	161,158	37.4
Biological Daughter	7,923,261	35.8	7,767,762	35.8	155,499	36.1
Brother	233,851	1.1	221,312	1.0	12,539	2.9
Sister	235,606	1.1	224,946	1.0	10,660	2.5
Niece	290,467	1.3	277,936	1.3	12,531	2.9
Nephew	235,913	1.1	221,513	1.0	14,400	3.3
Step son	226,227	1.0	220,861	1.0	5,366	1.2
Step daughter	298,067	1.3	292,948	1.3	5,119	1.2
Grandson	1,831,115	8.3	1,813,015	8.3	18,100	4.2
Grand daughter	1,689,492	7.6	1,673,016	7.7	16,476	3.8
Brother to spouse	46,409	0.2	45,186	0.2	1,223	0.3
Sister to spouse	98,859	0.4	97,568	0.4	1,291	0.3
Other relative	511,299	2.3	500,231	2.3	11,068	2.6
Non relative	222,923	1.0	220,540	1.0	2,383	0.6
Mother to household head	1	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Religion</b>						
Roman Catholic	8,181,431	36.9	8,068,766	37.1	112,665	26.2
Anglican / Church of Uganda	6,533,377	29.5	6,418,319	29.5	115,058	26.7
Seventh Day Adventist	449,050	2.0	425,585	2.0	23,465	5.4
Islam	3,230,411	14.6	3,203,658	14.7	26,753	6.2
Pentecostal / Evangelicals (Born Again)	3,269,402	14.8	3,142,451	14.5	126,951	29.5
Orthodox	29,192	0.1	22,931	0.1	6,261	1.5
Jehovah's witness	21,102	0.1	18,035	0.1	3,067	0.7
Traditional	22,881	0.1	22,626	0.1	255	0.1
No Religion	33,442	0.2	32,799	0.2	643	0.1
Others	382,250	1.7	366,793	1.7	15,457	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21,721,963</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>430,575</b>	<b>100</b>

### 6.6.6 Refugee Children by Household Characteristics

The living arrangements of refugee and non-refugee children reveal that refugee children were more likely to stay in larger households compared to non-refugee children. More than two-thirds (71.5%) of refugee children lived in households with 6 or more people, compared to 62.1% of non-refugee children (**Table 6.6**). More than half of the refugee children (54.3%) resided in households that were constructed with temporary building materials, whereas 24 percent of non-refugee children lived in households with similar conditions.

Additionally, most refugee children (78.4%) lived in rural areas, compared to 65.7 percent of non-refugee children in the same category. While 70 percent of non-refugee children relied on subsistence farming as the households' own sources of livelihood, 39 percent of refugee children lived in households that depended on similar means. A substantial proportion of refugee children (29.1%) depended on institutional support or programs assisting refugees, compared to less than one percent of non-refugee children in the same category.

**Table 6.6: Household characteristics by Refugee status of children**

Characteristics	All		Non Refugee/ Asylum seekers		Refugee/ Asylum seekers	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Household Living arrangements</b>						
1-3 members	2,896,961	13.1	2,860,792	13.2	36,169	8.4
4-5 members	5,463,204	24.7	5,376,854	24.7	86,350	20.1
6+ members	13,792,373	62.3	13,484,317	62.1	308,056	71.5
<b>Housing Quality</b>						
Temporary	5,458,457	24.6	5,224,730	24.0	233,727	54.3
Semi-Permanent	7,809,359	35.3	7,697,921	35.4	111,438	25.9
Permanent	8,884,722	40.1	8,799,312	40.5	85,410	19.8
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	7,549,184	34.1	7,456,000	34.3	93,184	21.6
Rural	14,602,728	65.9	14,265,351	65.7	337,377	78.4
<b>Main Source of Livelihood</b>						
Subsistence farming	15,376,607	69.4	15,208,753	70.0	167,854	39.0
Commercial Farming	802,213	3.6	794,950	3.7	7,263	1.7
Employment income (Salaried)	1,550,348	7.0	1,532,710	7.1	17,638	4.1
Business Enterprise	1,283,085	5.8	1,271,985	5.9	11,100	2.6
Cottage Industry	35,725	0.2	35,450	0.2	275	0.1
Property Income	117,576	0.5	115,836	0.5	1,740	0.4
Family/Friends/Relatives	494,920	2.2	464,014	2.1	30,906	7.2
Institutional or Program Support (e.g. Red Cross, WFP, e.t.c)	154,791	0.7	29,682	0.1	125,109	29.1
Sale of Assets	63,630	0.3	61,974	0.3	1,656	0.4
Other	2,273,643	10.3	2,206,609	10.2	67,034	15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21,721,963</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>430,575</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6.7 Refugee Children by District/City

The distribution of refugee children in each District presents challenges due to concentration. Adjumani District had the highest number of refugee children, at 54,422, followed by Isingiro with 49,273, Yumbe with 46,608, and Kyegegwa with 45,333. Districts with high populations of refugee children typically have refugee settlement camps (**Table 6.7**).

However, it is notable that some isolated numbers of refugee children are found in Districts far from known refugee settlements. A total of 13 Districts had over 10,000 refugee children each, while another five Districts had between 2,000 and 8,000 refugee children each. Conversely, 11 Districts did not have a single refugee child, primarily located in the North Eastern and Eastern parts of the country. Some Districts had very small numbers of refugee children, with six Districts having only one refugee child each, and another six having two refugee children each. In total, 44 Districts had a combined total of 168 refugee children.

To understand the proportion of refugee children, the rate per 1,000 children was calculated. Adjumani District had the highest rate of refugee children, at 336.8 per 1,000, meaning that approximately one-third of the children in Adjumani District are refugee children. Other Districts with high proportions of refugee children include Obongi District, with a rate of 284 per 1,000 (one in four children), and Terego District, with a rate of 214.9 per 1,000 (one in five children). Overall, 10 Districts had a rate of over 100 refugee children per 1,000 children.

Some Districts with large numbers of refugee children had relatively lower rates. For example, Yumbe, which ranks third in absolute numbers, had a rate of 83.2 refugee children per 1,000, while Kampala, which ranks seventh in absolute numbers, had a rate of 51.1 per 1,000. This means that in Kampala city, approximately one in 20 children is a refugee.

**Table 6.7: Refugee status among Children by District/City**

<b>District/ City</b>	<b>All children</b>	<b>Refugee /asylum seeker</b>	<b>Rate/ 1,000</b>	<b>Non-refugee</b>
Adjumani	161,600	54,422	336.8	107,178
Isingiro	320,486	49,273	153.7	271,213
Yumbe	560,019	46,608	83.2	513,411
Kyegegwa	272,463	45,330	166.4	227,133
Terego	170,963	36,733	214.9	134,230
Kikuube	199,901	32,495	162.6	167,406
Kampala	550,395	28,128	51.1	522,267
Kamwenge	177,314	22,025	124.2	155,289
Obongi	75,055	21,312	284	53,743
Kiryandongo	192,099	19,207	100	172,892
Lamwo	112,406	18,801	167.3	93,605
Madi-Okollo	98,013	14,389	146.8	83,624
Wakiso	1,276,439	12,236	9.6	1,264,203
Arua City	191,120	7,643	40	183,477
Koboko	146,510	6,023	41.1	140,487
Gulu City	101,501	3,274	32.3	98,227
Luweero	302,135	2,084	6.9	300,051
Mbarara City	102,952	2,084	20.2	100,868
Kisoro	179,067	873	4.9	178,194
Mukono	422,904	869	2.1	422,035
Lira City	98,659	612	6.2	98,047
Masindi	168,526	608	3.6	167,918
Kyenjojo	285,717	489	1.7	285,228
Mubende	267,844	402	1.5	267,442
Kasese	464,742	337	0.7	464,405
Busia	209,322	290	1.4	209,032
Mityana	202,364	280	1.4	202,084
Moyo	48,652	260	5.3	48,392
Jinja City	120,320	189	1.6	120,131
Fort Portal City	55,019	176	3.2	54,843
Mbale City	137,497	172	1.3	137,325
Hoima City	63,341	165	2.6	63,176
Kitgum	120,017	161	1.3	119,856
Buikwe	254,745	116	0.5	254,629
Kalangala	23,558	109	4.6	23,449
Luuka	147,413	102	0.7	147,311
Rukiga	53,750	95	1.8	53,655
Amuru	125,540	89	0.7	125,451
Ntoroko	47,547	88	1.9	47,459

<b>District/ City</b>	<b>All children</b>	<b>Refugee /asylum seeker</b>	<b>Rate/ 1,000</b>	<b>Non-refugee</b>
Nakaseke	119,797	87	0.7	119,710
Tororo	309,705	81	0.3	309,624
Kyotera	139,055	78	0.6	138,977
Mpigi	155,009	76	0.5	154,933
Mayuge	290,128	73	0.3	290,055
Kakumiro	227,245	67	0.3	227,178
Kassanda	155,425	61	0.4	155,364
Zombo	165,529	60	0.4	165,469
Hoima	130,887	57	0.4	130,830
Kayunga	230,173	52	0.2	230,121
Masaka City	123,123	50	0.4	123,073
Kyankwanzi	139,389	48	0.3	139,341
Arua	79,828	48	0.6	79,780
Lyantonde	56,921	47	0.8	56,874
Kibaale	128,280	46	0.4	128,234
Bugiri	247,460	45	0.2	247,415
Ntungamo	256,227	44	0.2	256,183
Gomba	101,372	39	0.4	101,333
Bushenyi	118,878	39	0.3	118,839
Kiboga	89,040	38	0.4	89,002
Ssembabule	146,235	37	0.3	146,198
Iganga	217,348	36	0.2	217,312
Sironko	142,475	32	0.2	142,443
Namayingo	142,543	32	0.2	142,511
Kagadi	252,003	31	0.1	251,972
Soroti City	59,585	30	0.5	59,555
Jinja	135,676	28	0.2	135,648
Bundibugyo	136,037	28	0.2	136,009
Kalungu	106,889	27	0.3	106,862
Nakasongola	114,548	26	0.2	114,522
Rakai	164,636	26	0.2	164,610
Bukomansimbi	95,374	26	0.3	95,348
Buvuma	52,780	26	0.5	52,754
Kabale	119,228	25	0.2	119,203
Lwengo	154,688	19	0.1	154,669
Kamuli	285,533	19	0.1	285,514
Nwoya	108,516	19	0.2	108,497
Nebbi	157,933	17	0.1	157,916
Pakwach	107,886	17	0.2	107,869
Rubirizi	74,330	17	0.2	74,313

<b>District/ City</b>	<b>All children</b>	<b>Refugee /asylum seeker</b>	<b>Rate/ 1,000</b>	<b>Non-refugee</b>
Kabarole	113,661	16	0.1	113,645
Kiruhura	85,215	15	0.2	85,200
Kazo	92,341	15	0.2	92,326
Kumi	147,861	14	0.1	147,847
Maracha	116,468	14	0.1	116,454
Kanungu	140,177	14	0.1	140,163
Namisindwa	131,004	13	0.1	130,991
Mbale	132,188	12	0.1	132,176
Buyende	224,051	12	0.1	224,039
Kibuku	141,448	12	0.1	141,436
Omoro	104,722	12	0.1	104,710
Sheema	107,333	10	0.1	107,323
Butambala	70,831	9	0.1	70,822
Budaka	138,050	9	0.1	138,041
Bulambuli	93,002	9	0.1	92,993
Oyam	240,783	9	0	240,774
Ibanda	138,048	9	0.1	138,039
Pallisa	180,635	8	0	180,627
Manafwa	93,920	8	0.1	93,912
Lira	120,865	8	0.1	120,857
Pader	123,696	8	0.1	123,688
Karenga	60,066	8	0.1	60,058
Buliisa	88,867	8	0.1	88,859
Rukungiri	170,223	7	0	170,216
Bunyangabu	104,092	7	0.1	104,085
Kitagwenda	83,821	7	0.1	83,814
Bukwo	60,223	6	0.1	60,217
Butaleja	172,917	6	0	172,911
Namutumba	169,429	6	0	169,423
Moroto	52,660	6	0.1	52,654
Masaka	56,885	5	0.1	56,880
Amuria	136,804	5	0	136,799
Kween	65,796	5	0.1	65,791
Bugweri	111,737	5	0	111,732
Amudat	107,893	5	0	107,888
Rwampara	70,874	5	0.1	70,869
Kapchorwa	64,781	4	0.1	64,777
Bududa	129,739	4	0	129,735
Rubanda	127,351	4	0	127,347
Butebo	91,577	3	0	91,574

District/ City	All children	Refugee /asylum seeker	Rate/ 1,000	Non-refugee
Kalaki	79,249	3	0	79,246
Apac	106,934	3	0	106,931
Kaabong	155,158	3	0	155,155
Mitooma	104,094	3	0	104,091
Soroti	142,509	2	0	142,507
Bukedea	152,252	2	0	152,250
Gulu	63,634	2	0	63,632
Kotido	120,787	2	0	120,785
Abim	73,109	2	0	73,107
Kwania	107,946	2	0	107,944
Katakwi	120,902	1	0	120,901
Kaliro	150,469	1	0	150,468
Serere	194,530	1	0	194,529
Amolatar	95,997	1	0	95,996
Kole	139,862	1	0	139,861
Mbarara	76,039	1	0	76,038
Kaberamaido	73,487	0	0	73,487
Ngora	93,464	0	0	93,464
Kapelebyong	78,227	0	0	78,227
Nakapiripirit	61,504	0	0	61,504
Dokolo	107,436	0	0	107,436
Agago	162,804	0	0	162,804
Alebtong	137,652	0	0	137,652
Napak	115,748	0	0	115,748
Otuke	78,037	0	0	78,037
Nabilatuk	78,518	0	0	78,518
Buhweju	74,527	0	0	74,527
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>430,575</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>21,721,963</b>

## CHAPTER SEVEN: BIRTH REGISTRATION

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### 7.1 Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goal: Target 16.9 aims to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030. Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) of the SDGs aim to ensure that children are registered immediately after birth, serving as a foundation for protecting their rights, nationality, and access to essential services. Specifically, Indicator 16.9.1: measures the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRS), one of the requirements is that a child should be registered immediately after birth, as stated below:

*“The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.” — Article 7 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Information on whether an individual had their birth registered was collected during the NPHC 2024 for all persons. For purposes of the Census, a birth was considered registered if the child had a Long or Short birth certificate, that is, if she or he had been registered on the Mobile Vital Records System (MVRS) or filled forms and submitted them to NIRA of Local Authorities without obtaining the birth certificate.

### 7.2 Birth Registration in Uganda

The Registration of Persons Act (ROPA) 2015 in Uganda, specifically Part V (Sections 31–43), makes birth registration free and compulsory for all children, with the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) mandated to manage this process. It requires parents or guardians to immediately notify registration officers to record the birth and issue certificates.

Birth registration is a fundamental right of every child, regardless of who they are or where they are from. When a child is born, the health facility notifies NIRA of the birth. If a child is born at home, the parent or a person present at birth notifies NIRA. Village Health Teams also play a crucial role in notifying NIRA of births in the community.

After a birth is registered, a parent or guardian can certify the birth or obtain a birth certificate for a fee of UGX 5,000. Having a birth certificate is essential for accessing various services in the country, as a National Identification Number is becoming a compulsory requirement. Children without Birth Certificates or registration may face challenges such as statelessness, child trafficking, or difficulty in proving their age or identity.

### 7.3 Birth Notification

A Birth Notification Record is a formal record that confirms a birth has occurred. This record is compulsory and free of charge. A Birth Notification contains the following essential information:

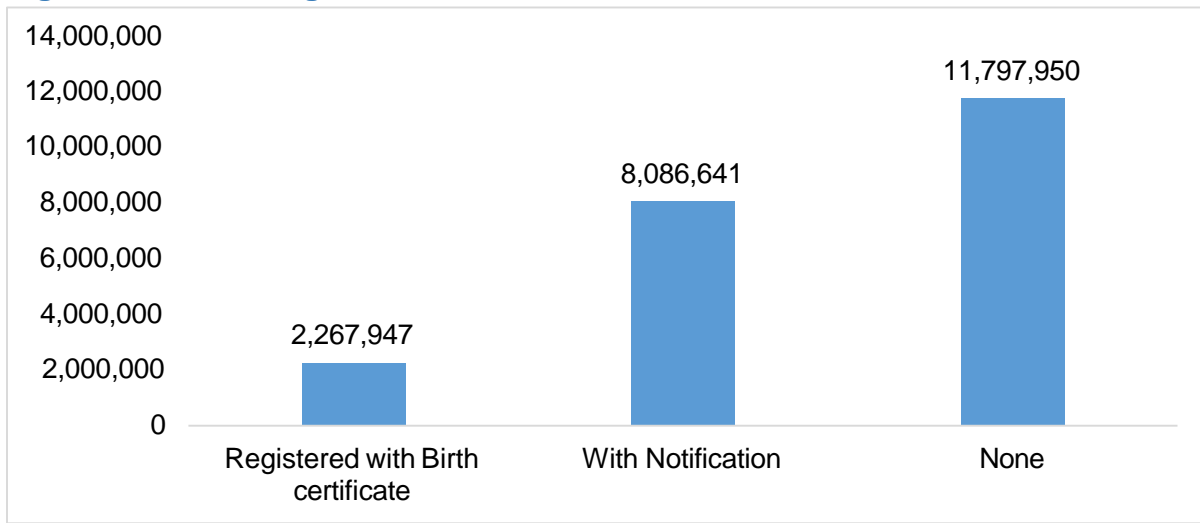
- i. A Child's Surname, Given Name and Other Name, Date of Birth, Sex and Place of Birth.
- ii. A Mother's and Father's Names, National Identification Number (NIN) where applicable and Nationality.
- iii. The Notifier's information. The notifier can be from a Health Facility or in the Community.

### 7.4 Birth Registration Status of Children in Uganda

Of the total enumerated children aged 0-17 years in 2024, 2,267,947 (10.2%) were registered and had a birth certificate, while another 8,086,641 had a birth notification but without a birth certificate (**Figure 7.1**). This implies that slightly less than one in two children have either a birth certificate or a birth notification. Thus 11,797,950 children are without legal recognition according to the laws of Uganda. Consequently, 53.3 percent of the children enumerated in 2024 were vulnerable in terms of registration. For example, if such a child wanted to obtain a passport for travel, it would take time to process one since

having a birth certificate or notification is a requirement.

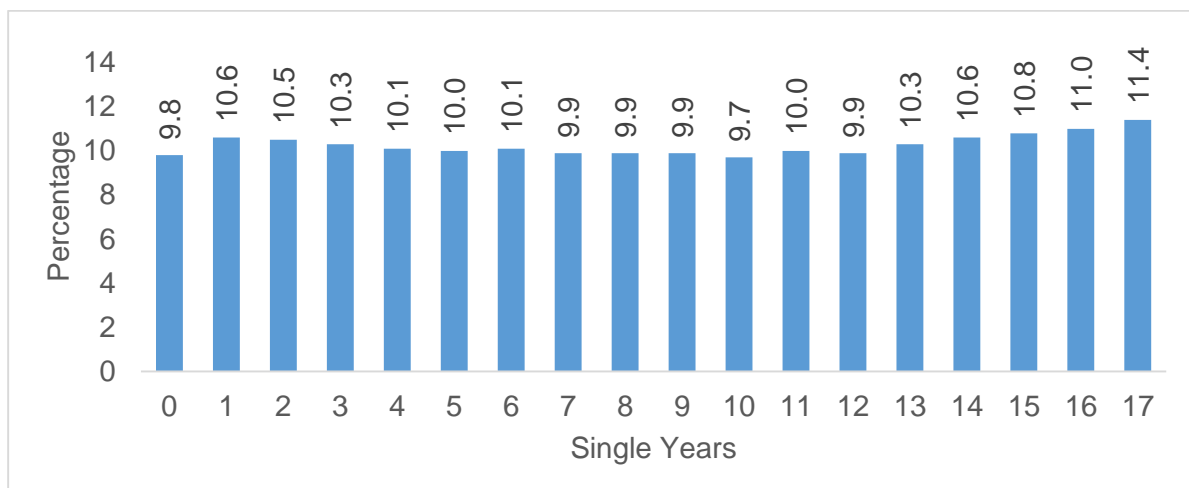
**Figure 7.1: Birth Registration status of children**



### 7.5 Birth Registration status by age and sex

The registration status by age and sex of children shows that there was no difference in registration status based on the sex of the child (**Figure 7.2 and Table 7.1**). This is a positive, indicating that there is no discrimination in birth registration based on the sex of the child. The lowest proportion of children with a birth certificate was among those aged 10 at 9.7 percent, followed by those less than one-year-old, at 9.8 percent (Figure 7.2). On the other hand, those aged 17 had the highest proportion of birth certificates, at 11.4 percent. However, the difference between the lowest and the highest was 1.6 percent.

**Figure 7.2: Proportion of Children with Birth Certificate by Age of Child**



One in every ten (10.3%) Children under 5 years had a birth certificate. Children aged 12 years had the highest proportion of those without either birth registration or notification at 55.0% (**Table 7.1**). Possession of a birth certificate by age produces inconsistent results. One would expect those in the secondary age (13 to 17 years) to have a higher proportion with birth certificates, given that these often require a National Identification Number (NIN) before sitting for the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) in primary seven, and those under 5 years old, given NIRA's hospital registration efforts. Possession of a birth certificate is almost uniform across all ages, with very minor variations.

**Table 7.1: Birth Registration by Sex of Child and Age**

Characteristic	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	11,076,386	1,119,879	10.1	4,025,820	36.4	5,930,687	53.5
Female	11,076,152	1,148,068	10.4	4,060,821	36.7	5,867,263	53.0
<b>Age</b>							
0	1,313,958	129,289	9.8	507,226	38.6	677,443	51.6
1	1,265,411	134,430	10.6	498,471	39.4	632,510	50.0
2	1,317,445	138,695	10.5	513,188	39.0	665,562	50.5
3	1,317,395	135,424	10.3	507,342	38.5	674,629	51.2
4	1,405,858	141,779	10.1	532,134	37.9	731,945	52.1
5	1,386,520	138,646	10.0	517,823	37.4	730,051	52.7
6	1,309,874	130,546	10.0	480,194	36.7	699,134	53.4
7	1,264,532	125,501	9.9	460,077	36.4	678,954	53.7
8	1,249,465	123,354	9.9	450,191	36.0	675,920	54.1
9	1,167,347	115,233	9.9	419,012	35.9	633,102	54.2
10	1,252,299	121,187	9.7	443,900	35.5	687,212	54.9
11	1,112,813	111,328	10.0	396,812	35.7	604,673	54.3
12	1,215,475	120,830	9.9	425,971	35.1	668,674	55.0
13	1,170,429	120,655	10.3	408,671	34.9	641,103	54.8
14	1,144,215	121,124	10.6	397,679	34.8	625,412	54.7
15	1,157,825	124,805	10.8	402,063	34.7	630,957	54.5
16	1,088,643	119,615	11.0	376,457	34.6	592,571	54.4
17	1,013,034	115,506	11.4	349,430	34.5	548,098	54.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>2,267,947</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8,086,641</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>11,797,950</b>	<b>53.3</b>

## 7.6 Birth Registration Status by Sub-Region

The proportion of children with a birth registration certificate varies significantly across Sub regions. Kampala, the capital city, had the highest proportion of children with birth certificates at 21.7 percent, meaning one in every five children has a birth certificate. The next was Buganda, with 13.6 percent or one in 8 children having a birth certificate. Two other regions with at least one in ten children having a birth certificate were Rwenzori (11.4%) and Acholi (11.0%).

On the other hand, Teso Sub region had the lowest proportion of children with a birth certificate at 6.2 percent, followed by Karamoja at 7.1 percent and Bugisu at 7.7 percent. Bunyoro Sub region had the highest proportion of children without a birth certificate or notification from the registrar, at 60 percent. Busoga followed closely at 56.5 percent.

**Table 7.2: Birth Registration by Residence and Sub Region**

Characteristic	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	7,549,198	969,571	12.8	2,781,402	36.8	3,798,225	50.3
Rural	14,603,340	1,298,376	8.9	5,305,239	36.3	7,999,725	54.8
<b>Sub region</b>							
Kampala Capital City	550,395	119,565	21.7	174,503	31.7	256,327	46.6
Buganda	5,022,159	680,507	13.6	1,578,487	31.4	2,763,165	55.0
Busoga	2,242,107	217,132	9.7	754,981	33.7	1,269,994	56.6
Bukedi	1,243,654	103,438	8.3	504,928	40.6	635,288	51.1
Bugisu	859,825	66,087	7.7	318,812	37.1	474,926	55.2
Sebei	190,800	18,947	9.9	69,750	36.6	102,103	53.5
Teso	1,278,870	79,552	6.2	566,102	44.3	633,216	49.5
Karamoja	825,443	58,482	7.1	318,745	38.6	448,216	54.3
Lango	1,234,171	99,660	8.1	526,927	42.7	607,584	49.2
Acholi	1,022,836	112,133	11.0	358,053	35.0	552,650	54.0
West Nile	1,794,269	155,672	8.7	667,537	37.2	971,060	54.1
Madi	285,307	22,622	7.9	101,242	35.5	161,443	56.6
Bunyoro	1,451,149	136,825	9.4	436,090	30.1	878,234	60.5
Tooro	1,092,087	107,734	9.9	403,753	37.0	580,600	53.2
Rwenzori	648,326	73,684	11.4	315,437	48.7	259,205	40.0
Ankole	1,621,344	144,984	8.9	630,008	38.9	846,352	52.2
Kigezi	789,796	70,923	9.0	361,286	45.7	357,587	45.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>2,267,947</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8,086,641</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>11,797,950</b>	<b>53.3</b>

## 7.7 Birth Registration status by District/City

Two Districts, namely Kampala (21.7%) and Wakiso (20.8%), had the highest number of children with birth certificates. Others with a significant percentage of at least 15 percent include Jinja City (17.1%), Kassanda (17.0%), Gulu City (16.3%), and Mukono (15.1%). Another set with a high proportion includes Soroti City (14.9%), Fort Portal (14.3%), and Hoima City (14.3%). This suggests that, apart from Kassanda District, the rest of the Districts with a high proportion of children with birth certificates are urban authorities or Districts with a high proportion of urban population.

Among the Cities, Mbarara City had the lowest proportion of children with birth certificates at 8.7%. There are some Districts that appear to have never been reached by the National Registration and Identification Authority (NIRA). Eight Districts have less than 5 percent of children with a birth certificate, including Bulisa (3.1%), Kapelebyong (3.5%), Butaleja (4.0%), Nebbi (4.0%), Namisindwa (4.6%), Serere (4.6%), Kaliro (4.8%), and Kaabong (4.9%). This is a concern given service provision in the country is tied to possession of a National Identification Number (NIN), which requires either a birth certificate or notification to NIRA. The District with the highest proportion of children who neither had a birth certificate nor notification was Bulisa, at 74.4 percent. A total of 32 Districts had over 60 percent of children without a birth certificate or notification. Overall, 53.3 percent of children did not have a birth certificate or birth notification.

On a positive note, three Districts had less than 40 percent of children without a certificate or notification: Bundibugyo (34.7%), Bududa (39%), and Kasese (39.7%). It is surprising that Bududa, from the Bugisu region, had a good birth notification rate yet the Bugisu Sub-region is lagging behind. In absolute numbers, Wakiso District (606,956) had the highest number of children without a certificate or notification, followed by Yumbe (268,480), and Kampala (256,327). The Districts with the least number of children without certificates or notifications were Kalangala (11,536) and Moyo (19,687).

**Table 7.3: Birth Registration Status of children by District/City**

District / City	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Kalangala	23,558	3,149	13.4	8,873	37.7	11,536	49.0
Kampala	550,395	119,565	21.7	174,503	31.7	256,327	46.6
Kiboga	89,040	10,946	12.3	29,911	33.6	48,183	54.1
Luweero	302,135	36,512	12.1	100,564	33.3	165,059	54.6
Masaka	56,885	4,672	8.2	18,947	33.3	33,266	58.5
Mpigi	155,009	19,378	12.5	46,316	29.9	89,315	57.6
Mubende	267,844	29,505	11.0	70,398	26.3	167,941	62.7
Mukono	422,904	63,929	15.1	148,987	35.2	209,988	49.7
Nakasongola	114,548	8,365	7.3	40,221	35.1	65,962	57.6
Rakai	164,636	12,000	7.3	53,554	32.5	99,082	60.2
Ssembabule	146,235	11,782	8.1	38,202	26.1	96,251	65.8
Kayunga	230,173	29,778	12.9	70,376	30.6	130,019	56.5
Wakiso	1,276,439	265,854	20.8	403,629	31.6	606,956	47.6
Lyantonde	56,921	6,501	11.4	16,434	28.9	33,986	59.7
Mityana	202,364	20,447	10.1	64,816	32.0	117,101	57.9
Nakaseke	119,797	14,561	12.2	35,917	30.0	69,319	57.9
Buikwe	254,745	34,266	13.5	92,214	36.2	128,265	50.4
Bukomansimbi	95,374	7,027	7.4	30,012	31.5	58,335	61.2
Butambala	70,831	6,461	9.1	19,958	28.2	44,412	62.7
Buvuma	52,780	5,811	11.0	11,744	22.3	35,225	66.7
Gomba	101,372	6,703	6.6	30,317	29.9	64,352	63.5
Kalungu	106,889	6,828	6.4	38,808	36.3	61,253	57.3
Kyankwanzi	139,389	10,117	7.3	39,567	28.4	89,705	64.4
Lwengo	154,688	14,012	9.1	42,153	27.3	98,523	63.7
Kyotera	139,055	14,821	10.7	44,279	31.8	79,955	57.5
Kassanda	155,425	26,425	17.0	40,604	26.1	88,396	56.9
Masaka City	123,123	10,657	8.7	41,686	33.9	70,780	57.5
Bugiri	247,460	28,143	11.4	77,245	31.2	142,072	57.4
Busia	209,322	20,977	10.0	83,748	40.0	104,597	50.0
Iganga	217,348	20,565	9.5	71,618	33.0	125,165	57.6
Jinja	135,676	14,880	11.0	49,565	36.5	71,231	52.5
Kamuli	285,533	30,794	10.8	102,806	36.0	151,933	53.2
Kapchorwa	64,781	8,374	12.9	25,467	39.3	30,940	47.8
Katakwi	120,902	9,493	7.9	58,233	48.2	53,176	44.0
Kumi	147,861	8,874	6.0	71,274	48.2	67,713	45.8
Mbale	132,188	8,989	6.8	40,984	31.0	82,215	62.2
Pallisa	180,635	19,741	10.9	73,617	40.8	87,277	48.3

District / City	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Soroti	142,509	10,212	7.2	67,447	47.3	64,850	45.5
Tororo	309,705	26,540	8.6	137,137	44.3	146,028	47.2
Kaberamaido	73,487	4,312	5.9	31,331	42.6	37,844	51.5
Mayuge	290,128	37,906	13.1	84,674	29.2	167,548	57.8
Sironko	142,475	8,396	5.9	54,229	38.1	79,850	56.0
Amuria	136,804	7,233	5.3	67,237	49.2	62,334	45.6
Budaka	138,050	11,629	8.4	46,694	33.8	79,727	57.8
Bududa	129,739	16,034	12.4	63,051	48.6	50,654	39.0
Bukedea	152,252	9,270	6.1	55,213	36.3	87,769	57.7
Bukwo	60,223	6,487	10.8	23,231	38.6	30,505	50.7
Butaleja	172,917	6,932	4.0	65,963	38.2	100,022	57.8
Kaliro	150,469	7,181	4.8	58,697	39.0	84,591	56.2
Manafwa	93,920	8,541	9.1	27,918	29.7	57,461	61.2
Namutumba	169,429	10,892	6.4	49,313	29.1	109,224	64.5
Bulambuli	93,002	4,840	5.2	34,092	36.7	54,070	58.1
Buyende	224,051	19,999	8.9	67,725	30.2	136,327	60.9
Kibuku	141,448	11,592	8.2	54,494	38.5	75,362	53.3
Kween	65,796	4,086	6.2	21,052	32.0	40,658	61.8
Luuka	147,413	10,077	6.8	53,916	36.6	83,420	56.6
Namayingo	142,543	8,590	6.0	54,367	38.1	79,586	55.8
Ngora	93,464	5,333	5.7	43,961	47.0	44,170	47.3
Serere	194,530	8,925	4.6	78,171	40.2	107,434	55.2
Butebo	91,577	6,027	6.6	43,275	47.3	42,275	46.2
Namisindwa	131,004	5,955	4.6	40,789	31.1	84,260	64.3
Bugweri	111,737	7,501	6.7	40,427	36.2	63,809	57.1
Kapelebyong	78,227	2,766	3.5	36,511	46.7	38,950	49.8
Kalaki	79,249	4,239	5.4	33,576	42.4	41,434	52.3
Jinja City	120,320	20,604	17.1	44,628	37.1	55,088	45.8
Mbale City	137,497	13,332	9.7	57,749	42.0	66,416	48.3
Soroti City	59,585	8,895	14.9	23,148	38.9	27,542	46.2
Adjumani	161,600	10,780	6.7	50,035	31.0	100,785	62.4
Apac	106,934	6,530	6.1	49,963	46.7	50,441	47.2
Arua	79,828	5,481	6.9	29,198	36.6	45,149	56.6
Gulu	63,634	6,248	9.8	18,676	29.4	38,710	60.8
Kitgum	120,017	16,508	13.8	44,320	36.9	59,189	49.3
Kotido	120,787	6,719	5.6	42,424	35.1	71,644	59.3
Lira	120,865	6,754	5.6	47,129	39.0	66,982	55.4
Moroto	52,660	4,174	7.9	18,207	34.6	30,279	57.5

District / City	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Moyo	48,652	3,312	6.8	25,656	52.7	19,684	40.5
Nebbi	157,933	6,363	4.0	62,886	39.8	88,684	56.2
Nakapiripirit	61,504	3,510	5.7	19,232	31.3	38,762	63.0
Pader	123,696	8,753	7.1	40,378	32.6	74,565	60.3
Yumbe	560,019	76,491	13.7	215,048	38.4	268,480	47.9
Abim	73,109	6,503	8.9	35,111	48.0	31,495	43.1
Amolatar	95,997	8,814	9.2	39,444	41.1	47,739	49.7
Amuru	125,540	13,789	11.0	36,062	28.7	75,689	60.3
Dokolo	107,436	7,891	7.3	43,250	40.3	56,295	52.4
Kaabong	155,158	7,629	4.9	53,752	34.6	93,777	60.4
Koboko	146,510	10,939	7.5	59,731	40.8	75,840	51.8
Maracha	116,468	6,064	5.2	34,793	29.9	75,611	64.9
Oyam	240,783	23,919	9.9	103,975	43.2	112,889	46.9
Agago	162,804	16,718	10.3	65,198	40.1	80,888	49.7
Alebtong	137,652	14,026	10.2	61,782	44.9	61,844	44.9
Amudat	107,893	9,691	9.0	51,362	47.6	46,840	43.4
Kole	139,862	7,287	5.2	62,702	44.8	69,873	50.0
Lamwo	112,406	9,650	8.6	40,908	36.4	61,848	55.0
Napak	115,748	11,848	10.2	48,134	41.6	55,766	48.2
Nwoya	108,516	14,560	13.4	39,012	36.0	54,944	50.6
Otuke	78,037	6,240	8.0	37,256	47.7	34,541	44.3
Zombo	165,529	9,108	5.5	64,024	38.7	92,397	55.8
Omoro	104,722	9,336	8.9	35,583	34.0	59,803	57.1
Pakwach	107,886	6,615	6.1	48,748	45.2	52,523	48.7
Kwania	107,946	9,451	8.8	36,220	33.6	62,275	57.7
Nabilatuk	78,518	4,440	5.7	29,159	37.1	44,919	57.2
Karenga	60,066	3,968	6.6	21,364	35.6	34,734	57.8
Madi-Okollo	98,013	6,192	6.3	27,527	28.1	64,294	65.6
Obongi	75,055	8,530	11.4	25,551	34.0	40,974	54.6
Arua City	191,120	19,919	10.4	73,218	38.3	97,983	51.3
Gulu City	101,501	16,571	16.3	37,916	37.4	47,014	46.3
Terego	170,963	8,500	5.0	52,364	30.6	110,099	64.4
Lira City	98,659	8,748	8.9	45,206	45.8	44,705	45.3
Bundibugyo	136,037	18,414	13.5	70,465	51.8	47,158	34.7
Bushenyi	118,878	9,067	7.6	55,076	46.3	54,735	46.0
Hoima	130,887	11,431	8.7	37,056	28.3	82,400	63.0
Kabale	119,228	14,958	12.6	54,425	45.7	49,845	41.8
Kabarole	113,661	10,514	9.3	44,408	39.1	58,739	51.7

District / City	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Kasese	464,742	50,713	10.9	229,753	49.4	184,276	39.7
Kibaale	128,280	12,148	9.5	38,910	30.3	77,222	60.2
Kisoro	179,067	16,054	9.0	75,287	42.0	87,726	49.0
Masindi	168,526	12,047	7.2	46,639	27.7	109,840	65.2
Mbarara	76,039	5,171	6.8	26,793	35.2	44,075	58.0
Ntungamo	256,227	22,809	8.9	112,492	43.9	120,926	47.2
Rukungiri	170,223	15,814	9.3	79,974	47.0	74,435	43.7
Kamwenge	177,314	23,195	13.1	71,403	40.3	82,716	46.7
Kanungu	140,177	13,371	9.5	70,282	50.1	56,524	40.3
Kyenjojo	285,717	27,670	9.7	99,467	34.8	158,580	55.5
Buliisa	88,867	2,715	3.1	20,071	22.6	66,081	74.4
Ibanda	138,048	7,911	5.7	53,195	38.5	76,942	55.7
Isingiro	320,486	34,409	10.7	112,886	35.2	173,191	54.0
Kiruhura	85,215	10,107	11.9	29,070	34.1	46,038	54.0
Buhweju	74,527	4,636	6.2	27,044	36.3	42,847	57.5
Kiryandongo	192,099	19,765	10.3	47,679	24.8	124,655	64.9
Kyegegwa	272,463	24,477	9.0	79,526	29.2	168,460	61.8
Mitooma	104,094	7,944	7.6	44,714	43.0	51,436	49.4
Ntoroko	47,547	4,557	9.6	15,219	32.0	27,771	58.4
Rubirizi	74,330	5,186	7.0	31,276	42.1	37,868	51.0
Sheema	107,333	7,897	7.4	47,142	43.9	52,294	48.7
Kagadi	252,003	27,911	11.1	93,827	37.2	130,265	51.7
Kakumiro	227,245	24,283	10.7	75,085	33.0	127,877	56.3
Rubanda	127,351	6,652	5.2	57,695	45.3	63,004	49.5
Rukiga	53,750	4,074	7.6	23,623	44.0	26,053	48.5
Bunyangabu	104,092	8,778	8.4	45,603	43.8	49,711	47.8
Kikuube	199,901	17,479	8.7	54,204	27.1	128,218	64.1
Kazo	92,341	9,256	10.0	26,219	28.4	56,866	61.6
Kitagwenda	83,821	5,213	6.2	41,143	49.1	37,465	44.7
Rwampara	70,874	7,965	11.2	23,078	32.6	39,831	56.2
Fort Portal City	55,019	7,887	14.3	22,203	40.4	24,929	45.3
Mbarara City	102,952	12,626	12.3	41,023	39.9	49,303	47.9
Hoima City	63,341	9,046	14.3	22,619	35.7	31,676	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>2,267,947</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8,086,641</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>11,797,950</b>	<b>53.3</b>

## 7.8 Birth Registration Status by Ethnicity

Among all the Ethnic groups, one Ethnic group had more than 20 percent of children with a birth certificate, the Reli (22.4%). Another five Ethnic groups, namely the Gimara (19.3%), Basongora (18.5%), Bagabu (17.2%), Aliba (16.9%), and Bahehe, had birth registration rates above 15% (**Table 7.4**). Among the largest Ethnic groups, it is worth noting that the Baganda, the largest Ethnic group, had at least 14 percent of children with birth certificates, ranking 10th in terms of rate. This contrasts with other large Ethnic groups like the Alur, with only 6.4% of children having a birth certificate. The Ngikutio (4.1%), Dodoth (4.5%), Jie (4.9%), and Suri (4.9%), mostly from the Karamoja Sub-region, had the lowest proportion of children with birth certificates. In terms of notification, several Ethnic groups had a high proportion of children with notifications, even without certificates, meaning they had a National Identification Number (NIN).

The most vulnerable in terms of birth registration are those who do not have a birth certificate or their births have not been notified with the authorities. In essence, these children are like non-citizens of the country. A total of 7 Ethnic groups have between 6 to 7 children without a birth certificate or notification. What is worrying is that most (53%) children did not have a birth certificate and notification; more than half of the Ethnic groups had at least one in two children without notification or a birth certificate. Among the large Ethnic groups, Basoga had the highest proportion of those without a birth certificate or notification at 56.4 percent.

**Table 7.4: Birth Registration status by Ethnic group**

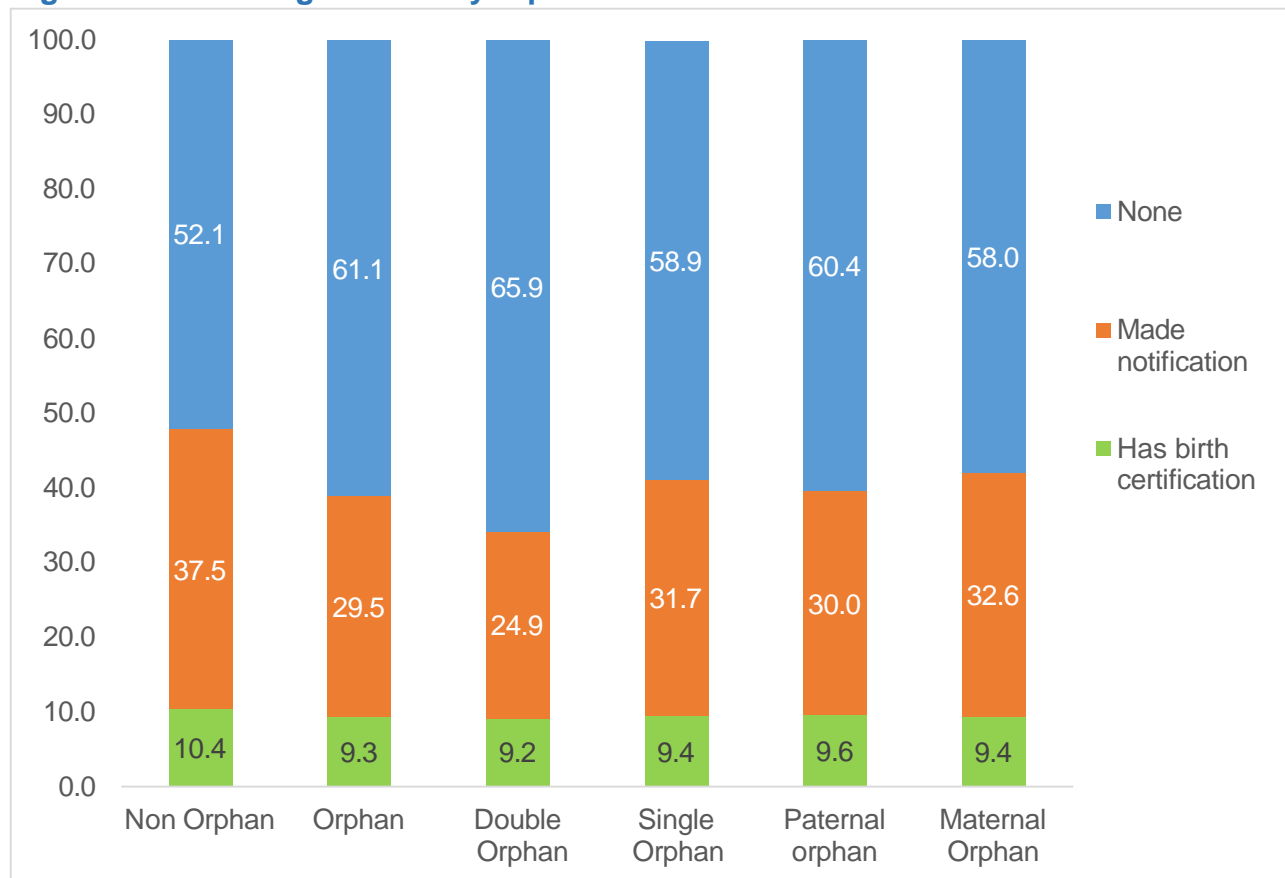
Ethnicity	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Acholi	974,144	113,121	11.6	337,367	34.6	523,656	53.8
Aliba	16,591	2,807	16.9	6,027	36.3	7,757	46.8
Alur	585,901	37,712	6.4	197,859	33.8	350,330	59.8
Aringa	517,832	73,849	14.3	210,619	40.7	233,364	45.1
Baamba	30,763	4,181	13.6	12,091	39.3	14,491	47.1
Babukusu	17,881	1,788	10.0	5,653	31.6	10,440	58.4
Babwisi	64,460	9,360	14.5	28,100	43.6	27,000	41.9
Bafumbira	482,249	45,530	9.4	171,313	35.5	265,406	55.0
Baganda	3,470,554	487,097	14.0	1,121,854	32.3	1,861,603	53.6
Bagisu	990,184	85,885	8.7	354,384	35.8	549,915	55.5
Bagungu	66,723	3,700	5.6	20,025	30.0	42,998	64.4
Bagwe	54,154	4,439	8.2	22,116	40.8	27,599	51.0
Bagwere	455,650	42,184	9.3	167,213	36.7	246,253	54.0
Bahehe	2,804	474	16.9	894	31.9	1,436	51.2
Bahororo	66,917	6,612	9.9	28,664	42.8	31,641	47.3
Bakenyi	56,820	5,093	9.0	18,801	33.1	32,926	58.0
Bakiga	1,423,642	135,224	9.5	571,997	40.2	716,421	50.3
Bakonzo	589,503	64,379	10.9	284,639	48.3	240,485	40.8
Banyabindi	5,852	609	10.4	2,349	40.1	2,894	49.5
Banyabutumbi	3,863	409	10.6	1,411	36.5	2,043	52.9
Banyankore	1,870,284	192,760	10.3	694,648	37.1	982,876	52.6
Banyara	25,466	2,746	10.8	8,313	32.6	14,407	56.6
Benet	857	87	10.2	273	31.9	497	58.0
Banyaruguru	23,621	2,039	8.6	11,731	49.7	9,851	41.7
Banyarwanda	266,219	27,083	10.2	75,623	28.4	163,513	61.4
Banyole	337,625	25,321	7.5	119,247	35.3	193,057	57.2
Banyoro	629,358	68,584	10.9	205,738	32.7	355,036	56.4
Baruli	112,288	9,280	8.3	36,596	32.6	66,412	59.1
Barundi	29,657	3,152	10.6	8,795	29.7	17,710	59.7
Basamia	275,500	29,436	10.7	104,875	38.1	141,189	51.3
Basoga	1,895,426	191,575	10.1	635,403	33.5	1,068,448	56.4
Basongora	6,628	1,224	18.5	2,423	36.6	2,981	45.0
Batagwenda	29,106	1,851	6.4	14,187	48.7	13,068	44.9
Batoro	487,676	54,946	11.3	173,498	35.6	259,232	53.2
Batuku	22,573	2,340	10.4	7,330	32.5	12,903	57.2
Batwa	1,780	115	6.5	674	37.9	991	55.7
Chope	13,943	1,363	9.8	3,640	26.1	8,940	64.1
Dodoth	139,649	6,303	4.5	48,656	34.8	84,690	60.6
Ethur	57,791	4,996	8.6	27,937	48.3	24,858	43.0

Ethnicity	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Gimara	7,398	1,426	19.3	2,425	32.8	3,547	48.0
Ik (Teuso)	7,671	736	9.6	2,730	35.6	4,205	54.8
Iteso	1,630,106	127,952	7.9	697,269	42.8	804,885	49.4
Jie	101,826	4,968	4.9	37,025	36.4	59,833	58.8
Jonam	59,643	3,170	5.3	28,110	47.1	28,363	47.6
Jopadhola	283,276	27,767	9.8	118,510	41.8	136,999	48.4
Maragoli	2,299	332	14.4	664	28.9	1,303	56.7
Kakwa	136,881	11,640	8.5	51,785	37.8	73,456	53.7
Karimojong	333,095	23,071	6.9	118,886	35.7	191,138	57.4
Kebu (Okebu)	27,305	1,554	5.7	10,205	37.4	15,546	56.9
Kuku	53,107	4,597	8.7	18,348	34.6	30,162	56.8
Kumam	179,994	12,491	6.9	74,338	41.3	93,165	51.8
Lango	1,313,842	111,831	8.5	556,751	42.4	645,260	49.1
Lendu	9,628	515	5.4	3,295	34.2	5,818	60.4
Lugbara	608,484	45,418	7.5	216,303	35.6	346,763	57.0
Madi	194,573	15,374	7.9	77,380	39.8	101,819	52.3
Mening	1,278	133	10.4	658	51.5	487	38.1
Mvuba	149	18	12.1	39	26.2	92	61.7
Napore	14,991	1,289	8.6	5,414	36.1	8,288	55.3
Ngikutio	3,352	138	4.1	868	25.9	2,346	70.0
Nubi	13,325	1,712	12.9	5,252	39.4	6,361	47.7
Nyangia	14,728	1,172	8.0	5,619	38.2	7,937	53.9
Pokot	110,495	9,535	8.6	50,986	46.1	49,974	45.2
Reli	4,640	1,039	22.4	2,166	46.7	1,435	30.9
Sabiny	180,649	18,560	10.3	66,863	37.0	95,226	52.7
Shana	2,895	143	4.9	1,223	42.3	1,529	52.8
So (Tepeth)	10,115	868	8.6	3,062	30.3	6,185	61.2
Vonoma	333	40	12.0	151	45.4	142	42.6
Bakingwe	905	114	12.6	314	34.7	477	52.7
Bagabu	680	117	17.2	191	28.1	372	54.7
Other Ugandan	202,219	25,549	12.6	66,971	33.1	109,699	54.3
Non-Ugandan	540,722	65,024	12.0	119,877	22.2	355,821	65.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>2,267,947</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8,086,641</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>11,797,950</b>	<b>53.3</b>

## 7.9 Birth Registration by Orphanhood Status

The possession of a birth certificate by orphanhood status showed that the prevalence of birth registration was slightly higher among non-orphans (10.4%) than orphans (9.3%). More single orphans than double orphans had a birth certificate, and slightly more paternal orphans than maternal orphans had a birth certificate. Lack of a birth certificate or notification was highest among double orphans at 65.9 percent compared to single orphans at 58.9 percent (**Figure 7.3**). This means that among orphans, double orphans are more vulnerable to lack of a birth certificate or notification of birth than any other category of children. Additionally, more paternal orphans than maternal orphans did not have a birth certificate or notification, making them more vulnerable.

**Figure 7.3: Birth registration by orphanhood status**



**Table 7.5: Birth registration by orphanhood status**

Characteristic	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Orphanhood status</b>							
Non-orphan	19,278,916	1,999,408	10.4	7,237,832	37.5	10,041,676	52.1
Orphan	2,873,622	268,539	9.3	848,809	29.5	1,756,274	61.1
<b>Double Orphanhood</b>							
No	21,231,204	2,183,674	10.3	7,856,939	37.0	11,190,591	52.7
Yes	921,334	84,273	9.2	229,702	24.9	607,359	65.9
<b>Single Orphanhood</b>							
No	20,200,250	2,083,681	10.3	7,467,534	37.0	10,649,035	52.7
Yes	1,952,288	184,266	9.4	619,107	31.7	1,148,915	58.9
<b>Paternal orphan</b>							
No	21,601,613	2,215,006	10.3	7,921,612	36.7	11,464,995	53.1
Yes	550,925	52,941	9.6	165,029	30.0	332,955	60.4
<b>Maternal Orphan</b>							
No	20,780,309	2,138,952	10.3	7,639,693	36.8	11,001,664	52.9
Yes	1,372,229	128,995	9.4	446,948	32.6	796,286	58.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>2,267,947</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8,086,641</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>11,797,950</b>	<b>53.3</b>

### 7.10 Birth Registration Status by Other Characteristics of the Child

Analysis by age group of the household head showed that the younger the household head the more likely higher the percentage in birth registration. The highest proportion of birth registration was among child headed households at 13.5 percent, 10.5 percent among adult headed households and lowest among household headed older persons at 8.8 percent (**Table 7.5**).

Registration of children was found to be higher among children in school than those who have never attended school. This is attributed to requests by National Identification Authority (NIRA) for schools to assist with registration with some registration centers located in schools. Of the children attending school aged 3-17, 10.8 percent had their births registered, 38.4 percent had birth notification and 50.9 percent were neither registered nor had a notification.

The registration status of children by religion showed that birth registration was highest among Jehovah Witness (12.9%) and lowest among children having no religion at 6.0 percent. The orthodox had the second highest proportion of registered children at 12.6 percent. The proportion of registered children for the two largest religious categories (Roman Catholic and Anglican) was the same at 10 percent.

**Table 7.6 Birth registration by selected characteristics of children**

Characteristic	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	11,076,386	1,119,879	10.1	4,025,820	36.4	5,930,687	53.5
Female	11,076,152	1,148,068	10.4	4,060,821	36.7	5,867,263	53.0
<b>Relationship to Head</b>							
Usual head of household – Present	100,355	15,930	15.9	30,558	30.5	53,867	53.7
Spouse	82,425	7,284	8.8	25,032	30.4	50,109	60.8
Biological Son	8,126,268	864,049	10.6	3,051,247	37.6	4,210,972	51.8
Biological Daughter	7,923,261	860,778	10.9	3,001,708	37.9	4,060,775	51.3
Brother	233,851	25,231	10.8	74,011	31.7	134,609	57.6
Sister	235,606	27,418	11.6	76,911	32.6	131,277	55.7
Niece	290,467	29,093	10.0	96,565	33.2	164,809	56.7
Nephew	235,913	22,454	9.5	76,494	32.4	136,965	58.1
Stepson	226,227	19,539	8.6	73,815	32.6	132,873	58.7
Stepdaughter	298,067	27,221	9.1	101,364	34.0	169,482	56.9
Grandson	1,831,115	149,938	8.2	625,636	34.2	1,055,541	57.6
Grand daughter	1,689,492	143,494	8.5	589,425	34.9	956,573	56.6
Brother to spouse	46,409	3,950	8.5	14,918	32.1	27,541	59.3
Sister to spouse	98,859	8,637	8.7	33,647	34.0	56,575	57.2
Other relative	511,299	45,694	8.9	157,129	30.7	308,476	60.3
Nonrelative	222,923	17,237	7.7	58,181	26.1	147,505	66.2
Mother to head	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
<b>School attendance</b>							
Never attended school	4,197,068	354,160	8.4	1,313,714	31.3	2,529,194	60.3
Attended in the past	2,147,011	228,232	10.6	685,381	31.9	1,233,398	57.5
Currently attending	11,911,645	1,283,141	10.8	4,568,661	38.4	6,059,843	50.9
<b>Economic Activity Status (14-17 years)</b>							

Characteristic	Total No.	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employment	797,703	87,201	10.9	277,969	34.9	432,533	54.2
Unemployment	106,338	10,577	10.0	34,848	32.8	60,913	57.3
Outside the labour force	3,499,676	383,272	11.0	1,212,812	34.7	1,903,592	54.4
<b>Religion</b>							
Roman Catholic	8,181,431	813,934	10.0	3,052,341	37.3	4,315,156	52.7
Anglican / Church of Uganda	6,533,377	653,747	10.0	2,524,179	38.6	3,355,451	51.4
Seventh Day Adventist	449,050	50,207	11.2	167,108	37.2	231,735	51.6
Islam	3,230,411	371,637	11.5	1,087,377	33.7	1,771,397	54.8
Pentecostal/Evangelicals	3,269,402	340,880	10.4	1,127,227	34.5	1,801,295	55.1
Orthodox	29,192	3,664	12.6	8,860	30.4	16,668	57.1
Bahai	5,353	466	8.7	1,696	31.7	3,191	59.6
Budhist	4,757	459	9.7	1,383	29.1	2,915	61.3
Jehovah's witness	21,102	2,713	12.9	6,856	32.5	11,533	54.7
Traditional	22,881	1,430	6.3	6,813	29.8	14,638	64.0
No Religion	33,442	2,016	6.0	8,140	24.3	23,286	69.6
Others	372,140	26,794	7.2	94,661	25.4	250,685	67.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>2,267,947</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8,086,641</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>11,797,950</b>	<b>53.3</b>

## 7.11 Birth registration by Selected Household and Housing Characteristics

Birth registration by the sex of the household head showed that there was no difference in possession of a birth certificate by sex of household head (**Table 7.7**). However, it was surprising to note that the prevalence of ownership of birth certificates was highest in child-headed households (13.5%) and lowest in older persons-headed households (8.8%).

Possession of a birth certificate by source of livelihood produced significant variations. Children who lived in households whose main source of livelihood was employment income had the highest prevalence of possession of a birth certificate at 18.1 percent. Other households with high prevalence included those whose main source of income was business enterprise (14.4%) and property income (14.0%). The probable explanation for this is that those with employment income are often in formal jobs, both in the public and private sectors, and are typically more educated hence are more likely to register the births of their children. Those in formal private employment often have medical insurance, which requires proof of parenthood or guardianship in a formal way for their children to benefit.

Possession of a birth certificate was lowest among those whose main source of livelihood was Subsistence farming. Children from households whose main source of income was institutional, or program support were particularly vulnerable, with 67.1 percent or 2 in 3 not having a birth certificate or notification made to the National Registration and Identification Authority (NIRA).

Possession of a birth certificate by the quality of housing showed that the better the house quality, the higher the proportion of children with birth certificates. The proportion of children living in temporary housing and have a birth certificate was 7.7 percent, increasing to 8.6 percent among children who lived in semi-permanent houses, and 13.3 percent among children who lived in households with permanent construction materials. The findings reveal that the type of housing is a key determinant of vulnerability in terms of birth registration.

**Table 7.7: Birth registration by selected household characteristics**

Characteristic	Total	Registered with Birth certificate		With Notification		None	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Sex of household head</b>							
Male	15,023,114	1,531,962	10.2	5,651,476	37.6	7,839,676	52.2
Female	7,129,424	735,985	10.3	2,435,165	34.2	3,958,274	55.5
<b>Age group of household head</b>							
< 18 years (child headed)	202,380	27,392	13.5	62,412	30.8	112,576	55.6
18-59 years (adult headed)	18,711,432	1,955,479	10.5	6,915,854	37.0	9,840,099	52.6
60+ years (older persons headed)	3,238,726	285,076	8.8	1,108,375	34.2	1,845,275	57.0
<b>Main Source of Livelihood</b>							
Subsistence farming	15,376,607	1,337,306	8.7	5,793,344	37.7	8,245,957	53.6
Commercial Farming	802,213	94,949	11.8	286,140	35.7	421,124	52.5
Employment income (Salaried)	1,550,348	280,552	18.1	578,317	37.3	691,479	44.6
Business Enterprise	1,283,085	184,415	14.4	486,511	37.9	612,159	47.7
Cottage Industry	35,725	3,751	10.5	12,465	34.9	19,509	54.6
Property Income	117,576	16,503	14.0	41,674	35.4	59,399	50.5
Family/Friends/Relatives Institutional or Program Support	494,920	55,173	11.2	160,102	32.4	279,645	56.5
Sale of Assets	154,791	16,073	10.4	34,839	22.5	103,879	67.1
Other	63,630	7,734	12.2	20,855	32.8	35,041	55.1
	2,273,643	271,491	11.9	672,394	29.6	1,329,758	58.5
<b>Housing type</b>							
Temporary	5,458,457	420,971	7.7	2,031,294	37.2	3,006,192	55.1
Semi-Permanent	7,809,359	668,482	8.6	2,849,091	36.5	4,291,786	55.0
Permanent	8,884,722	1,178,494	13.3	3,206,256	36.1	4,499,972	50.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,152,538</b>	<b>2,267,947</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8,086,641</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>11,797,950</b>	<b>53.3</b>

## CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSION

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Vulnerability, which refers to the predisposition to fall into adverse conditions due to an inability to cope with unfamiliar as well as familiar situations, can affect anyone but is particularly challenging for children. This monograph covers vulnerability resulting from orphanhood or survivorship of parents, child marriages, child motherhood, birth registration and child refugees/asylum seekers as major factors.

This is critical given the high growth in the number of children in Uganda, from 13,374,904 in 2002 to 22,152,538 in 2024. During the NPHC 2024, out of the total number of 22,152,538 children, 3,036,803 (13.7%) had lost either one or both parents, or their survival status was unknown. The levels of orphanhood remain high across different parameters, despite the country's efforts to control major causes such as HIV/AIDS and insurgencies in Northern Uganda over the last 20 years, coupled with improved life expectancy. This suggests that there must be emerging causes of orphanhood that need to be identified.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically Article 7 (1) and the Convention's stipulations, children should know their parents and be looked after by them and should not be separated from their parents unless they are not being properly cared for. However, on average, among children aged 0-17 years, 8.7 per 1,000 children did not know the survival status of one or both of their parents. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Development and other key stakeholders need to take action as most of these children were less than one-year-old.

A total of 610,790 (6.7%) girls aged 10-17 were either currently married or had ever married, despite the Government's introduction of various mechanisms to end child marriages and teenage pregnancy. The results showed a rising trend in the proportion of male children ever/currently married. Additionally, 68,787 (1.5%) girls aged 10-17 were mothers. As the Government continues its efforts to curb early marriages and teenage pregnancies among girls, which are yielding results, the boy child should not be left behind.

In recent years, Uganda has been home to nearly two million refugees, resulting in 436,063 refugee children, representing 1.9 percent of all children enumerated at the time of the Census. The number of children within the primary school-going age (6-12 years) was 176,620. To provide free education for them, with a ratio of 40 children per teacher per classroom, would require over 4,400 teachers and over 4,400 classrooms for them to have a decent learning environment.

Birth registration of children is still limited, with 10.2 percent of all children registered with a birth certificate and an additional 35.6 percent with a birth notification but without a birth certificate. Considerable effort is needed to comply with Article 7 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The foregoing findings are evidence of the need for a multi-sectoral and stakeholder approach to improve the situation of orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda, including refugees/asylum seekers.

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