



We the people

Ugandan citizens' livelihoods

1. Introduction

Sauti za Wananchi provides decision-makers with key data and insights from the perspective of citizens: how do they experience services? Are policies being implemented as expected? What are their views on the issues of the day or the hot topics? But it is useful to first understand some basic characteristics of the respondents which provide context to future findings about their experiences of services and their views on critical issues.

In this first release of data from *Sauti za Wananchi*, we look at some of the basic characteristics of Ugandan households and livelihoods. What assets do citizens own? How do they make a living? What kind of houses do they live in? And what level of access to financial services do they have?

Data for the brief come from Twaweza's new *Sauti za Wananchi* survey. *Sauti za Wananchi* is a nationally-representative, high-frequency

mobile phone panel survey. Information on the overall methodology is available at www.twaweza.org/sauti. For this brief, data were collected from 2,000 respondents in the baseline survey of the *Sauti za Wananchi* panel, conducted in August and September 2017.

The key findings are:

- 1 out of 5 citizens is educated to secondary level or above
- 7 out of 10 households owns at least one mobile phone, 1 out of 5 has a television, and half own a radio
- 3 out of 5 Ugandans are farmers
- The average household size in Uganda is 4.7 people
- Over half of Ugandans live in houses with earthen floors
- Half of Uganda's adult population use mobile money services and 1 out of 10 has a bank account

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Sauti za Wananchi



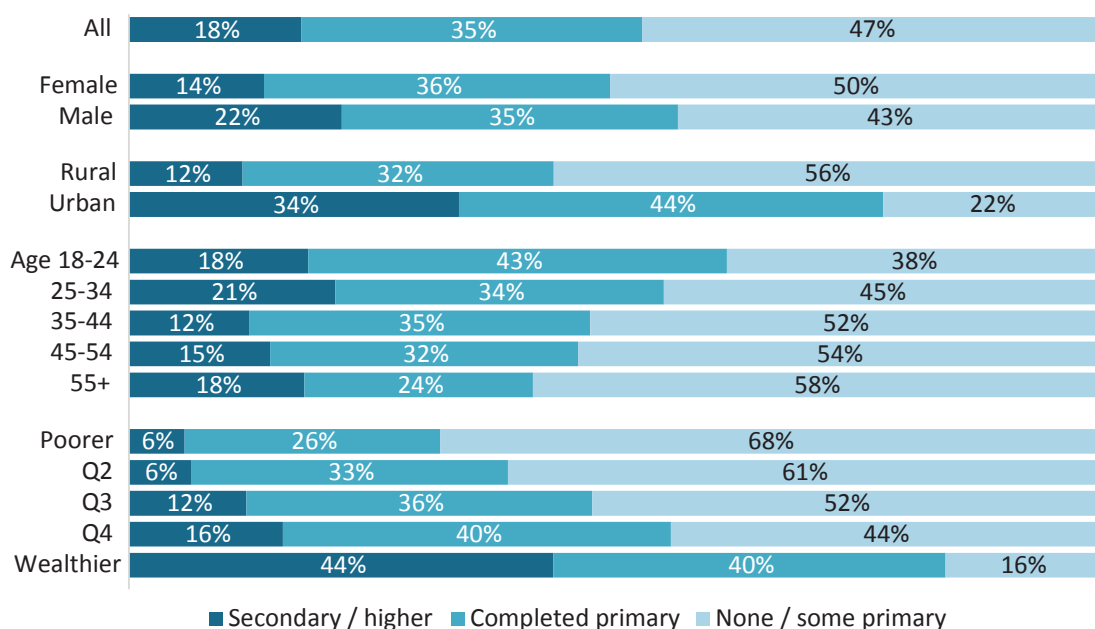
2. Six facts about Ugandan citizens' households and livelihoods

Fact 1: One out of five citizens is educated to secondary level or above

One out of five adults in Uganda (18%) have secondary or higher education, while one out of three (35%) have completed primary school. This leaves almost half (47%) who did not complete primary education.

Education levels are higher among men, residents of urban areas and the wealthy. More young citizens have completed primary school, the same is not true for secondary school. Similarly, although as many women as men have completed primary school, many more men than women have completed secondary school.

Figure 1: Highest Level of schooling completed (panel members)¹



Source: *Sauti za Wananchi*, baseline survey, August-September 2017; n=2,000

Fact 2: Seven out of ten households own at least one mobile phone, one in five has a television, and half own a radio

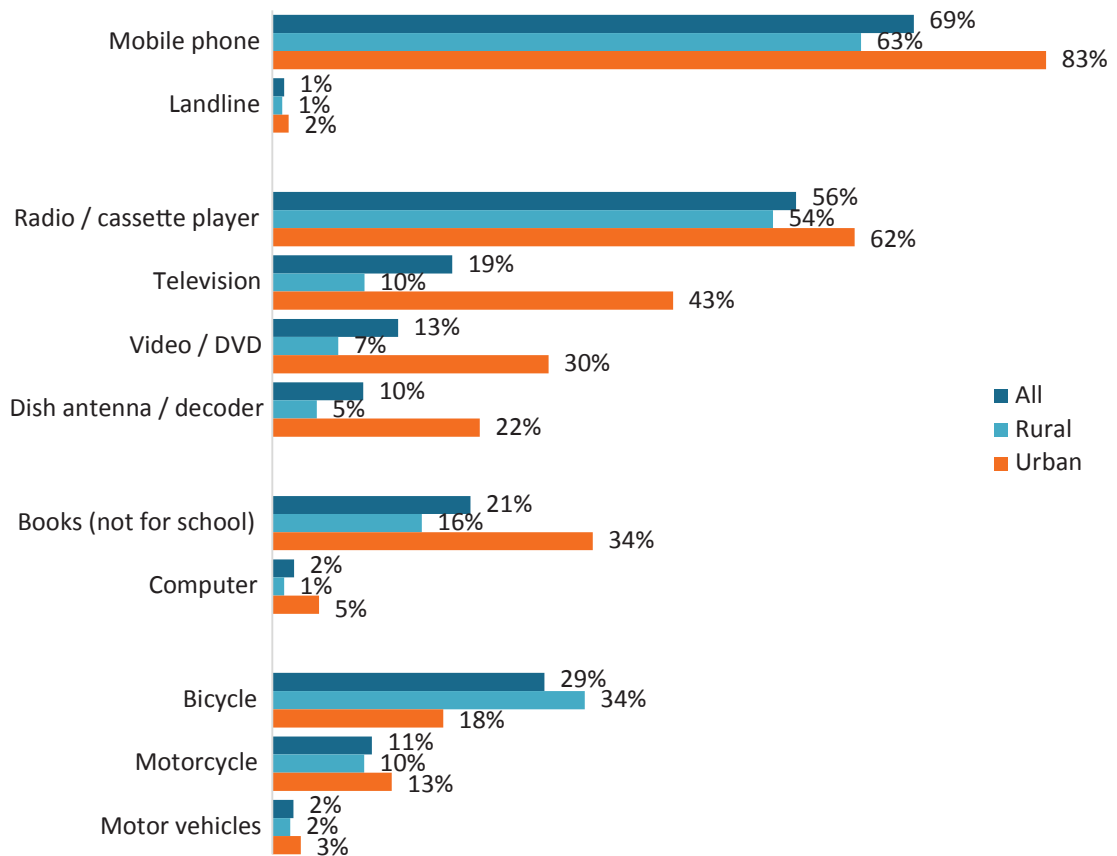
A majority of Ugandan households (69%) have a mobile phone, but the rate of phone ownership is higher in urban areas (83%) than rural (63%). Just one in a hundred households (1%) have a landline telephone. The urban-rural divide is even stronger when it comes to television (43% compared to 10%) and video/DVD players (30% compared to 7%).

1 Percentages in the charts may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

One out of five households (21%) has books (other than school books), and one out of fifty households (2%) has a computer.

Three out of ten households (29%) own a bicycle, while one out of ten (11%) own a motorcycle and one out of fifty (2%) own a motor vehicle.

Figure 2: Does your household own the following?



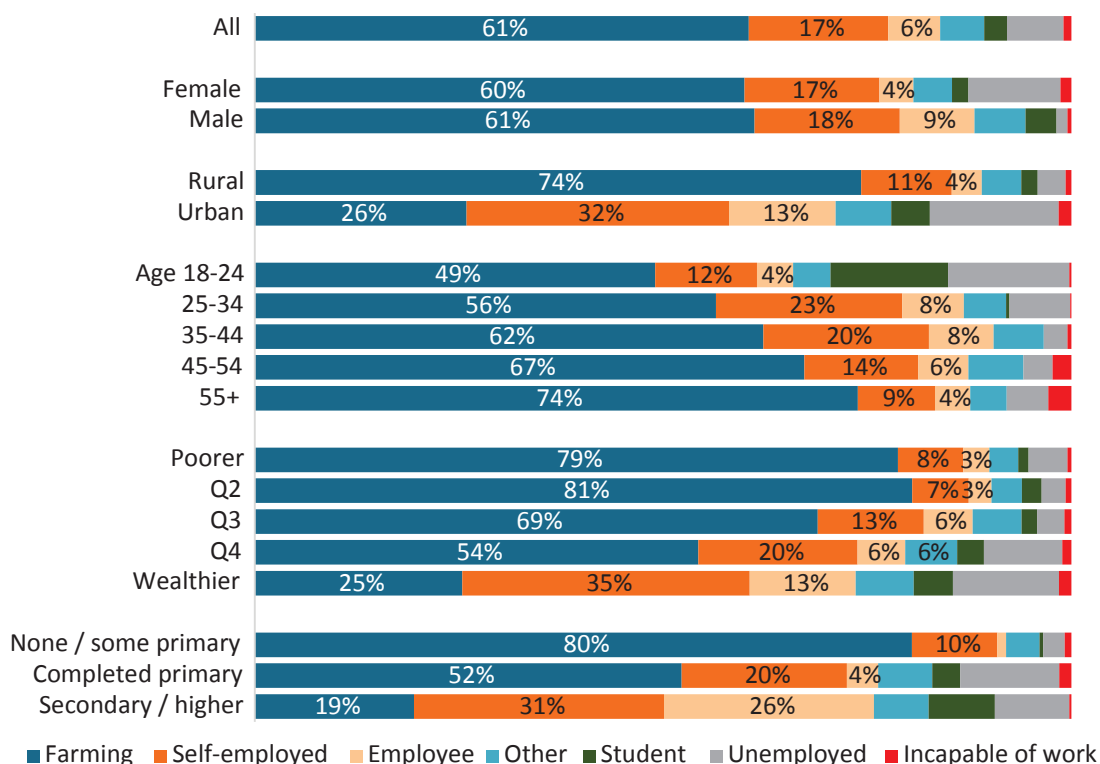
Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, baseline survey, August-September 2017; n=2,000

Fact 3: Three out of five Ugandans are farmers

A majority of Ugandans (61%) make a living primarily through agriculture. The proportion is higher in rural areas (74%) than urban (26%), and among the poor and those with less education. There is no significant difference between women and men, but there is a clear link with age: older Ugandans are much more likely to be engaged in agriculture than younger ones. Indeed, a small majority (51%) of those aged 18-24 do not have farming as their main occupation.

Women, urban citizens, young people, those with some education and the wealthy are more likely to describe themselves as unemployed. Urban, wealthier and more educated citizens are more likely to describe themselves as self-employed.

Figure 3: What was your main occupation over the past 12 months?

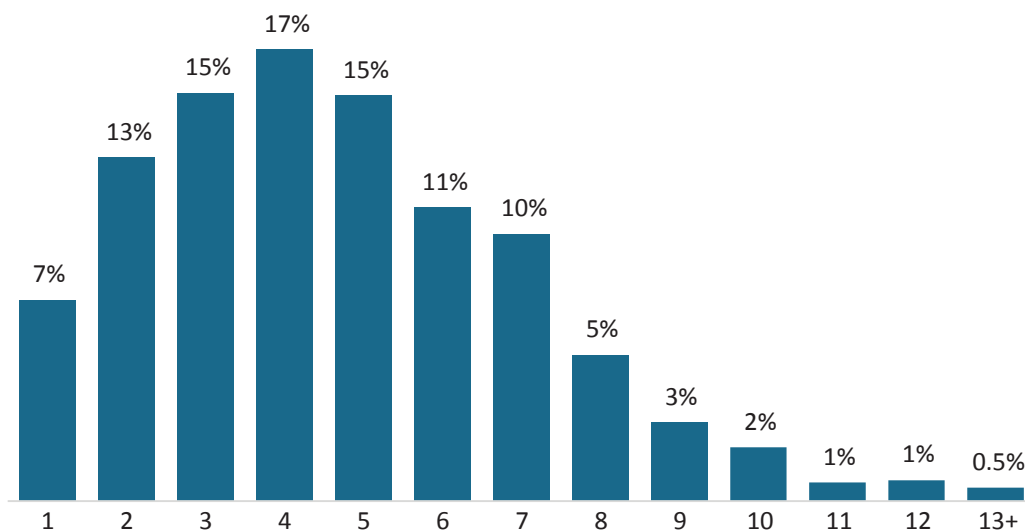


Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, baseline survey, August-September 2017; n=2,000

Fact 4: The average household size in Uganda is 4.7 people

On average, a household in Uganda has 4.7 members. One out of five households (20%) has just one or two household members, while a small number of households (4%) have ten or more members.

Figure 4: Distribution of households by number of household members



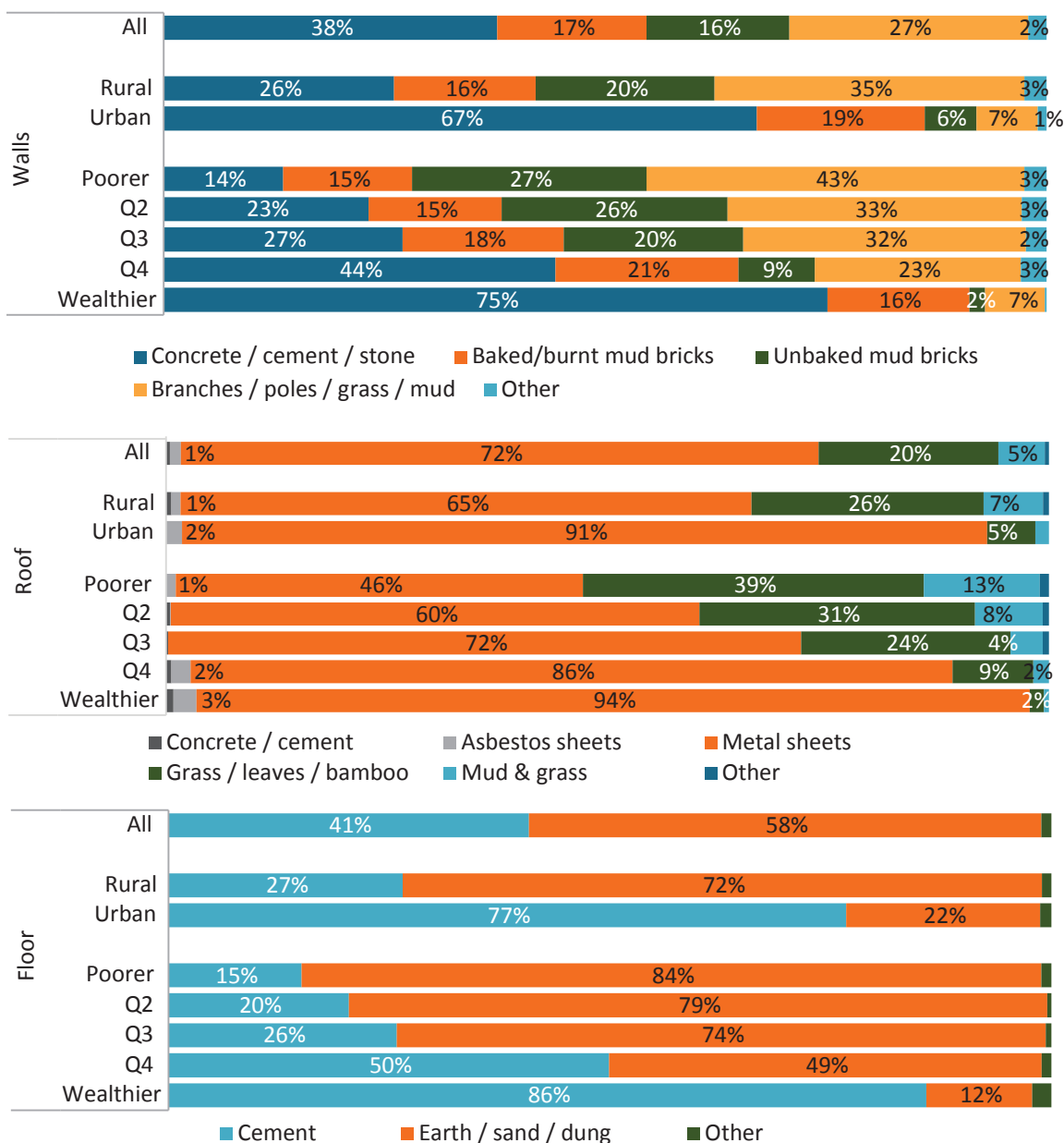
Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, baseline survey, August-September 2017; n=2,000

Fact 5: Over half of Ugandans live in houses with earthen floors

Three out of four (75%) of the wealthier households in Uganda live in a house with walls made of concrete or stone, compared to one in eight (14%) of the poorest. The poor are more likely to live in a home with walls made of mud or branches (43%) or unbaked mud bricks (27%).

There is a similar difference in roof and floor materials. Almost all wealthier households (94%) have metal sheet roofs, compared to less than half of the poorest (46%), and the majority of wealthy households (86%) have cement floors, compared to 15% of the poor.

Figure 5: What are the walls, roof and floor of the main building made of?



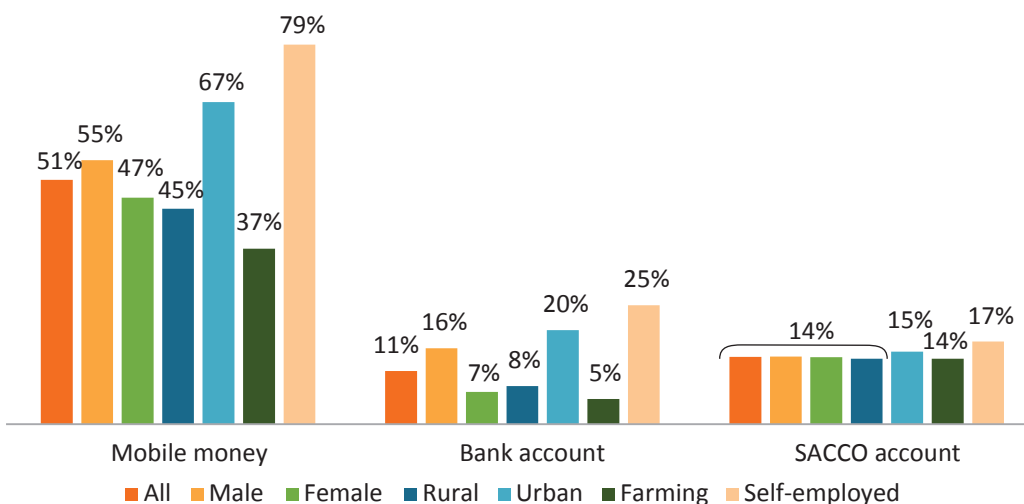
Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, baseline survey, August-September 2017; n=2,000

Three out of four Ugandan households (78%) own their home, while two in ten (20%) rent their home. Just 1% have a house provided by their employer. Home ownership is markedly higher in rural (87%) than in urban areas (54%) (not shown in charts).

Fact 6: Half of Uganda’s adult population use mobile money services, one out of ten has a bank account

Half of the population (51%) use mobile money services, rising to two out of three (67%) of those in urban areas and eight out of ten (79%) of the self-employed. Just one in ten (11%) has a bank account, rising to one in five residents of urban areas (20%) and one in four self-employed citizens (25%). SACCO accounts are evenly spread, covering around one in eight (14%) adult Ugandans.

Figure 6: Are you using/do you have any of these forms of financial products or services?



Source of data: *Sauti za Wananchi*, baseline survey, August-September 2017; n=2,000

3. Conclusion

This brief presents a quick glance or series of insights into the everyday economic lives of Ugandan citizens. Most of them are farmers and have primary education; they live in households with an average of five people in them mostly made of cement with metal roofing but earthen floors. The most common household assets are mobile phones followed by radios and half of Ugandans use mobile money services.

Perhaps the strongest message sent by these data are the stark divisions between urban and rural and wealthier and poorer households. When it comes to housing, for example, wealthier citizens live in much more secure and durable houses than the poor. Similarly, wealthier households are more likely to be better educated, and to own assets such as mobile phones that allow them to engage fully in the social, economic and political life of the nation.

This brief provides just a taste of what *Sauti za Wananchi* is able to offer: timely, insightful data presented from the perspective of Ugandan citizens. In this case, the brief has ranged across a lot of different topics, while in future, briefs will offer a deeper exploration of specific issues. But in all cases, citizens’ experiences and citizens’ opinions will be brought to the fore, providing a new mechanism by which citizens’ voices can join in the national conversation and be heard.

