

A gender perspective on citizens experiences in Uganda's health sector

This factsheet presents the views and behaviours of Ugandan citizens in the health sector, with a particular focus on women's experiences. The data comes from Twaweza's *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a representative mobile phone panel survey of citizens' views and experiences. Further details are available from www.twaweza.org/sauti.

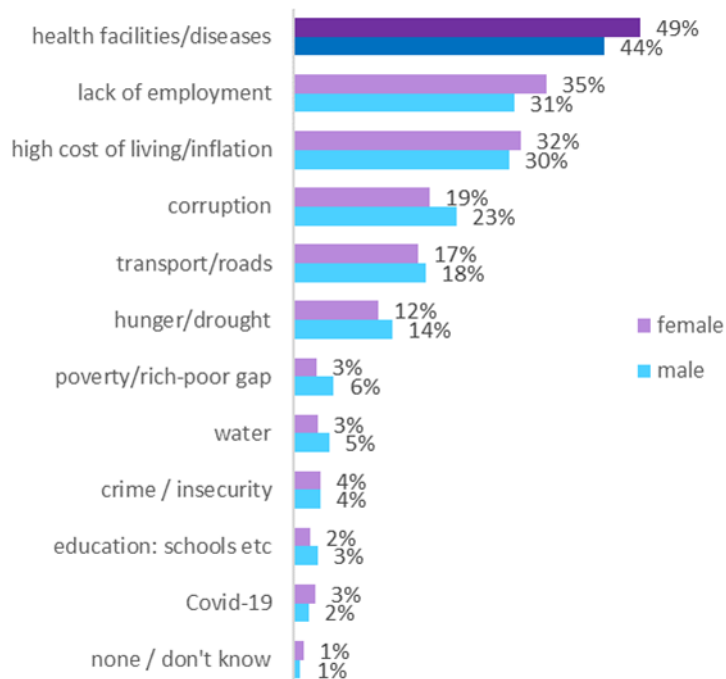
Insight 1. Both women and men cite health concerns as the biggest problem facing the country, though women are a little more likely than men to do so

Half of women (49%) point to health facilities and disease as the one of the three biggest problems facing the country, more than any other issue. Slightly few men (44%) highlight the same concern.

Women are also a little more likely than men to point to concerns with unemployment, while men are slightly more likely than women to point to corruption and inequality.

However, in general, the issues highlighted by women and men are very similar, with only a few percentage points difference.

What do you think are the three most serious problems facing Uganda?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi Uganda, r19 (Nov-Dec 2020)

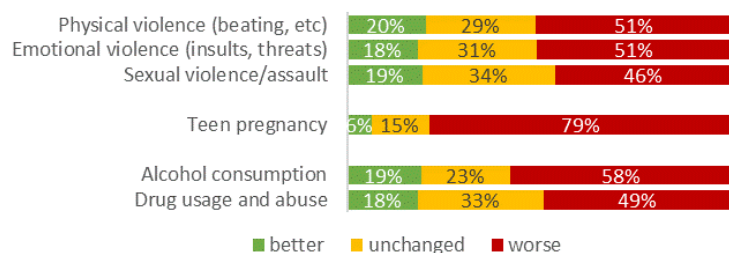
Insight 2. Citizens say violence, teen pregnancy and other social problems have increased in their community during the pandemic

Eight out of ten citizens (79%) say teen pregnancy has become a bigger problem during the Coronavirus pandemic, and half say physical (51%), emotional (51%) and sexual (46%) violence has got worse. Citizens also report an increase in problems related to alcohol consumption (58%) and drug abuse (49%).

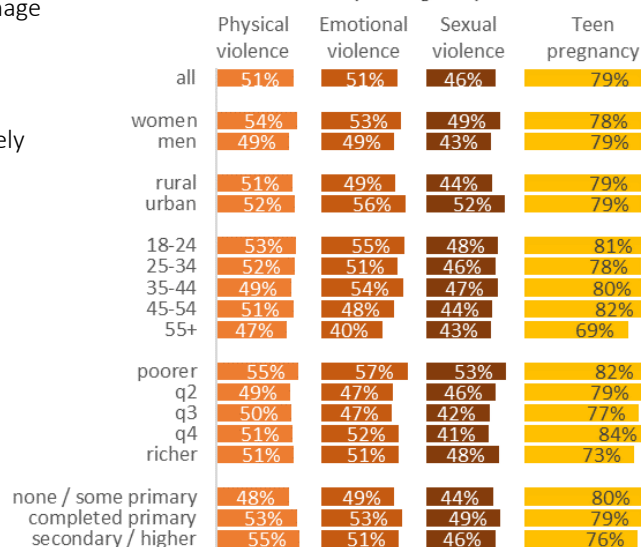
Citizens' perception of changes in social problems – violence and teenage pregnancy – are largely consistent across key demographic groups.

Women and residents of urban areas are a little more likely to say violence has grown as a problem, and older citizens are a little less likely to say so.

In your community, have the following things become better or worse during the Coronavirus pandemic?



Percent who say the following things have become worse in their community during the pandemic:



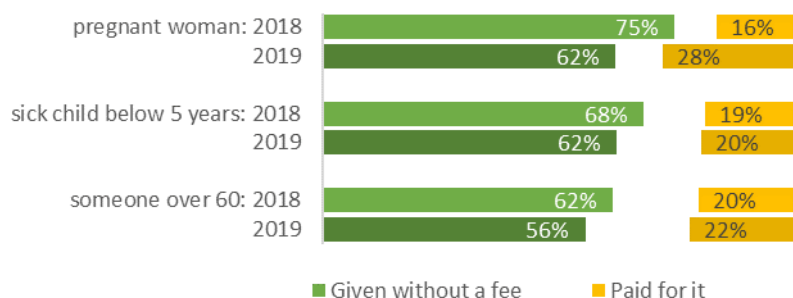
Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 18, Oct-Dec 2020

Insight 3. Most pregnant women report receiving free treatment, though a growing number are having to pay

Most pregnant women report receiving free treatment, though fewer of those entitled to free medical care were able to access this entitlement in 2019 (62%) than in 2018 (75%).

Fewer of those aged under five years were being treated free of charge in 2019 than 2018 (62%, down from 68%) and the same pattern applies to those aged over 60 years (56%, down from 62%).

The last time one of the following people went to a government health facility, did you/they receive treatment for free, or pay for it?



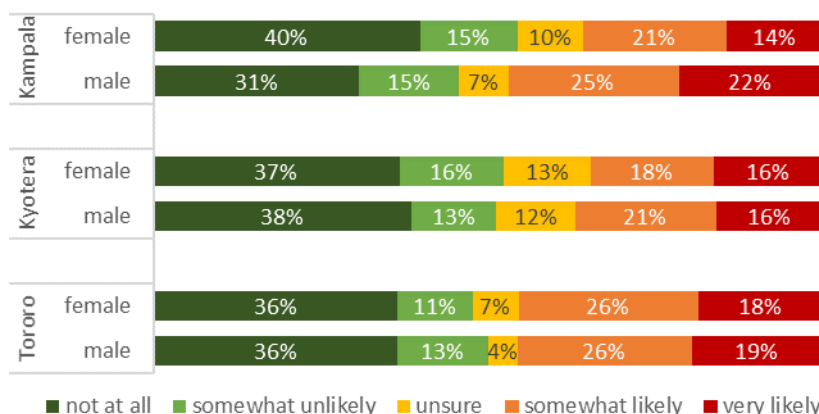
Source: Sauti za Wananchi Uganda, round 10 (May-Jun 2019) and round 7 (Oct 2018)

Insight 4. Women in Kampala feel less exposed than men to contracting Covid-19, there is less difference in Kyotera and Tororo

Women in Kampala are more likely than men to say they feel at low risk of contracting Covid-19 through their daily activities. More than half of women in the city (55%) say it is unlikely or not at all likely that would be exposed to the risk, compared to fewer than half of men (46%).

However, in Kyotera and Tororo districts, there is little difference between women and men's perceived risk of exposure to the virus.

Depending on your daily engagements, how likely do you think you are to be exposed to the risk of getting Coronavirus?



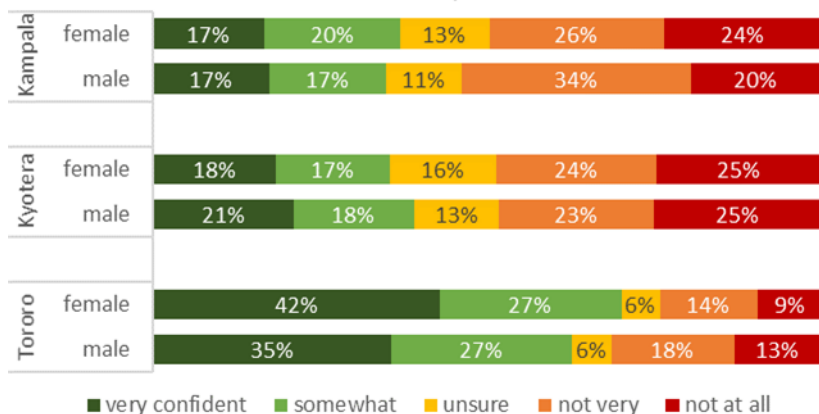
Source: Sauti za Wananchi, special Kampala, round 3 (June-July 2021)

Insight 5. Both women and men in Kampala and Kyotera lack confidence they would get treated quickly if they fall sick with Covid-19, those in Tororo are more confident

Both men and women in Kampala are uncertain about whether or not they would be able to get the treatment they need if they were to fall sick with the Coronavirus. Around half of women (50%) and slightly more men (54%) say they are not very confident or not at all confident of receiving treatment if needed. The pattern in Kyotera district is similar.

However, in Tororo district, both women and men are broadly confident that they would be able to get the treatment they need. Seven out of ten women in the district (69%) feel this way, and almost as many men (62%).

If you were to get sick with Covid-19, how confident are you that you would immediately be able to get the treatment you need?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, special Kampala, round 3 (June-July 2021)