



## Adolescent Girls in Uganda

Girls living in Uganda face a number of challenges that can have a significant impact on their well-being, development, and future. Girls attending school often face gender bias and discrimination in both the curriculum and from teachers, and schools often fail to provide them with a safe learning environment. Girls in Uganda are more likely to drop out of school, marry early, and experience poverty than their male counterparts. These obstacles are magnified for girls within Uganda's growing refugee population.

## What is Girl Up doing in Uganda?

Girl Up is supporting adolescent girls in Uganda by funding UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) programs which aim to ensure that displaced girls are enrolled in school and have access to a quality education.

- **Expanding Access to Education**

Girl Up expands refugee girls' access to education by providing them with mandatory textbooks, school fee payments, and required school uniforms, and by helping to build classrooms, washrooms, and recreational facilities in schools with high refugee enrollment. These investments allow an increased number of refugee girls to attend school.

- **Improving Quality of Education**

Schools in Uganda not only lack the necessary infrastructure, but there exists a shortage of both teachers and teacher training. In Uganda, many girls are forced to drop out of school due to poverty, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, safety concerns, and lack of parental support. We also hire and train new teachers, with a particular focus on recruiting female teachers and administering gender-sensitivity training to counteract cultural expectations that make it harder for girls to go to school.

- **Raising Levels of Achievement**

Girl Up supports a number of local organizations aiming to improve girls' performance in school and girls' levels of literacy. These organizations and after-school clubs encourage girls to remain in school, increase their classroom involvement, and foster a love for reading.

## ▼ Facts

- Uganda hosts upwards of 507,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of whom are from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan.
- 56% of Uganda's population is under the age of 18.
- 35% of girls drop out of school because of early marriage.
- 27% of refugees living in Uganda are girls under the age of 18.

## About Uganda

The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa that shares borders with Kenya, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania. Uganda has a population of 38,319,241 people. Uganda's official language is English, but many Ugandans speak Luganda or other local languages. Uganda currently has one of the youngest and fastest growing populations in the world, with a median age of 15. (Source: CIA World Factbook)

Uganda claimed its independence from Britain in 1962. Today, Uganda is relatively peaceful; however, massive numbers of refugees have flooded into Uganda from neighboring countries including the DRC, South Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. This influx has put increased pressure on the government to provide land and resources for this displaced population. This includes the government's legal obligation to grant refugee children access to primary education.

Sources: CIA World Factbook: Uganda (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ug.html>)

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**Because adolescent girls in Uganda deserve to be educated, healthy, safe, counted and positioned to be the next generation of leaders.**

**You see a girl. We see the future.**