

# Country Disease Outlook

## Uganda

August 2023



World Health  
Organization

African Region

### Background

Uganda is a landlocked country in east-central Africa. It's bordered by Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania. It is a low-income with a GDP per capita of US\$ 844 (2021), with a population of 46 million (2021).

### Key points

- ◇ Uganda has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 36% of deaths in 2019.
- ◇ Uganda has improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is not yet meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◇ Uganda experienced 13 million cases of malaria in 2021, resulting in 19,663 deaths. The country is off-track to meet the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria targets as the incidence rate per 1,000 population has increased since 2015.
- ◇ 1.2 million people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021 in Uganda. Steady progress has been made in reducing HIV and TB mortality and the country is close to achieving the 95-95-95 goals for HIV, achieving 89-92-95 in 2021.
- ◇ Uganda is endemic for all five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration, reaching 97% of the 13.7 million people targeted for treatment (2020).

**UHC/CN**

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable  
and Non-communicable Diseases  
WHO Regional Office for Africa





2019

36%

of deaths due to NCDs

## Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 36% of deaths in 2019.

## Communicable diseases

### Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Uganda, with an estimated 13 million cases in 2021 (with incidence rate of 288.8 cases per 1000 people), and resulting in 19,663 deaths. The country is off-track to meet the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria targets as the incidence rate per 1,000 population has increased since 2015, widening the gap between the targets and the actual incidence rate.

Insecticide-treated bednet use in children under five years was 60.6% and 64.8% of people with fever, for whom care was sought and received a finger/heel prick, used artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT).

### Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

The number of TB cases in 2020 was estimated at 90,000 giving an estimated burden of 199 TB cases per 100,000 population. Estimates of mortality rates related to TB have decreased since 2015 from 33 to 14 per 100,000 population.

The 95-95-95 goals are close to being fully achieved:

- ▲ 89% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 92% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 95% of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Approximately 1.2 million people were receiving anti-retroviral treatment in 2022.

### Neglected tropical diseases

Uganda is endemic for all of the NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis and onchocerciasis and trachoma. In 2020, there were 13.7 million people targeted for MDA, and almost all (13.3 million) were treated.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are Buruli ulcer, leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral), leprosy and rabies.

## Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a major health problems in Uganda. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was 709 per 100,000 in males and 506 in females in 2021.

Uganda has implemented efforts on the NCD progress indicators related to NCD policy and plan, NCD guidelines, tobacco (tobacco taxes, advertising ban), alcohol taxes, but progress has been more limited on indicators related to alcohol advertising restrictions, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity guidelines.

## Childhood Immunization

Uganda's coverage rates of vaccination in children have been increasing, following a slight dip in 2019-20, with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine above 89% since 2015. The coverage rate for the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine in 2021 was 91% and the measles vaccination coverage for the first dose was 90% in 2021.

The relatively high coverage rate resulted in an estimated 147,797 under-immunised children and 49,266 zero-dose children in 2021. While lower than other countries, it is still important for Uganda to consider how to implement catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that these children are not left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases into the future.

## Child survival

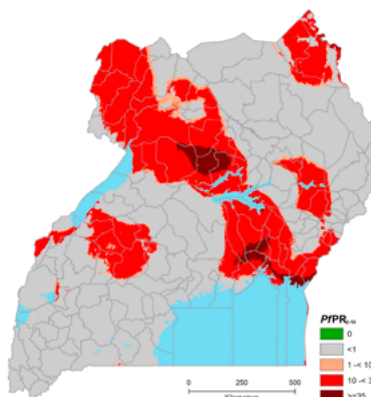
Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 56 to 42 per 1000 live births between 2015 and 2021, it is still above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, neonatal mortality fell from 22 to 19 per 1,000 live births in the same period, although it remains above the SDG target of 12.



**MALARIA**

POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
<b>45.9 million</b>	<b>13.0 million</b>	<b>19,663</b>

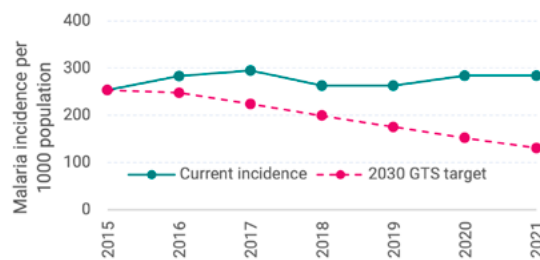
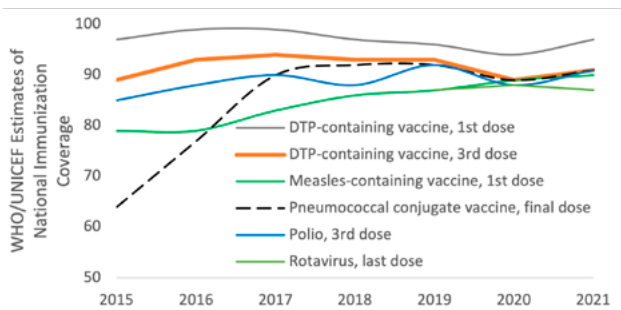
ITN use in children under five years (60.6%) and 64.8% use of ACTs among those with fever for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick



*Plasmodium falciparum* malaria prevalence in children in Uganda in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

Based on the GTS targets, the malaria incidence in 2021 in Uganda indicates that it is not on track to meet the global targets.

**EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN**



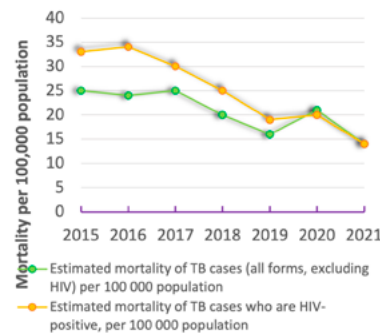
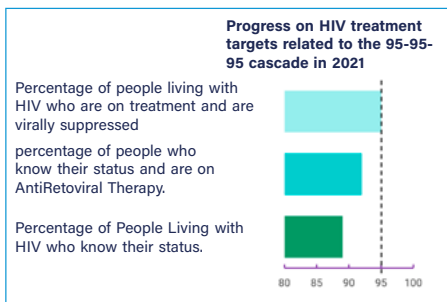
**Zero dose children 49,266**      **Under-immunized 147,797**

Childhood immunization dipped slightly in 2019-2020 but rebounded to 2018 levels.

**HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS**

- 1.2 million** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 88%** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- 50%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment

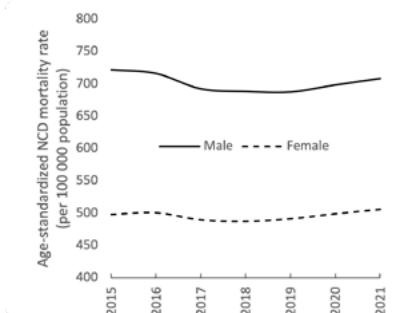
**13%** Domestic funding for TB  
**5%** Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

**NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS**

- **Achieved**
- **Partially achieved**
- **Not achieved/Unknown**



**NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Lymphatic filariasis
  - Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
  - Schistosomiasis
  - Trachoma
  - Onchocerciasis

**PC-NTDs treatment in 2021**  
**13.7 million** targeted for MDA  
**13.3 million** treated with MDA

**OTHER MAJOR NTDs**

- Buruli Ulcer
- Leishmaniasis (Cutaneous and visceral)
- Leprosy
- Rabies

