Select Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Indicators

Main Household Sanitation Facility

- Improved facilities: 30%, 22%, 59%
- Non-improved facilities: 43%, 22%, 31%
- Open defecation: 14%, 7%, 9%

The use of sanitation facilities, both improved and shared, is higher in urban areas. In comparison, the use of non-improved facilities and the practice of open defecation is higher in rural areas.

Open Defecation as Main and Regular Practice by Residence

- Main practice: 11%, 8%, 7%
- Regular practice: 51%, 20%, 29%

A higher percent of the household population reports open defecation as a regular rather than main practice. Thus, the overall prevalence of open defecation is higher than implied by the main practice indicator.

Management of Child Feces (Under 5 Years Old)*

- Bury: 37%, 25%, 30%
- Latrine disposal: 64%, 100%
- Leave where it is: 22%, 13%
- Garbage: 4%, 4%
- Wastewater: 7%
- Use as manure: 1%

*Multiple response options allowed

The percent of household residents regularly using at least one unimproved source for their drinking water is highest among the poor and lowest among the wealthiest. Households identify one source as the main drinking water source.
The PMA2017/Uganda survey used a two-stage cluster design. For this survey round, a new set of 110 enumeration areas (EAs) were selected, adjacent to EAs used in the previous four rounds, drawn by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics from its master sampling frame. In each EA, households and private health facilities were listed and mapped, with 44 households randomly selected per EA. Households were surveyed and occupants enumerated. All eligible females aged 15 to 49 years were contacted and consented for interviews. The final sample (and completion rates) included 4,503 households (95.7%), 4,119 females (96.0%) and 336 health facilities (96.3%). Data collection was conducted between April and May 2017. The definitions of improved and unimproved water sources and sanitation facilities follow the definition used in the 2011 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).

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17% of household residents in Uganda can access a dedicated handwashing station. Among households that have a dedicated handwashing station, 40% had both soap and water at the handwashing station at the time of the interview.

*Note that this total does not include mobile handwashing places.

Among household residents whose main water source is improved, the vast majority report it is always available.

*Total does not add to 100% due to rounding

There is an average of 54 nurses or midwives on duty in a healthcare facility for every one sink observed that meets the World Health Organization standard of having soap and water and being located near a sanitation facility.

The majority of households in Uganda rely on one drinking water source. 23% of households rely on an additional water source to meet their drinking water needs.

Sample Design

The PMA2017/Uganda survey used a two-stage cluster design. For this survey round, a new set of 110 enumeration areas (EAs) were selected, adjacent to EAs used in the previous four rounds, drawn by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics from its master sampling frame. In each EA, households and private health facilities were listed and mapped, with 44 households randomly selected per EA. Households were surveyed and occupants enumerated. All eligible females aged 15 to 49 years were contacted and consented for interviews. The final sample (and completion rates) included 4,503 households (95.7%), 4,119 females (96.0%) and 336 health facilities (96.3%). Data collection was conducted between April and May 2017. The definitions of improved and unimproved water sources and sanitation facilities follow the definitions used in the 2011 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).

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