

**“Uganda on the Move” – Ms. Rhonda Smith, Population Reference Bureau (PRB)  
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Regional Office**

**Presentation at the Senior Policymakers’ Seminar on “Financing Health-related Millennium Development  
Goals: Challenges and Opportunities”**

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Commonwealth Banqueting Hall, Munyonyo Conference Center, Kampala, Uganda**

**“Uganda on the Move” Script**

**1. Celebrating Uganda’s progress**

What has been happening in Uganda over the last 50 years? There have been some remarkable changes.

**CLICK to start.....**

Ugandans are healthier—with improved child survival,  
the economy is growing—with a higher national income,  
Ugandan’s are living longer—with improved life expectancy..... and they are becoming more educated, with more  
graduates every year!

Uganda is a nation on the move, with a lot to be proud of.

So let’s take a look at some of this progress over the years.

**CLICK: Trendalyzer 1 - Child mortality and Life Expectancy**

Here we have the Trendalyzer graph where we can look at changes and trends over time, and we are going to focus specifically on child health and life expectancy.....

On the left axis is the number of under 5 child deaths per 1000 live births, going from 0 to about 500, and on the bottom axis is life expectancy at birth (or the length of life in years) going from 25 up to 80..

~~~~ The countries are color-coded to the regions of the world. And this is what the world looked like in 1960. Starting with the red, we have East Asia and the Pacific. The orange is Europe and Central Asia,. The yellow is North and South America. The green is Middle East and North Africa. The light blue is South Asia. And the dark blue is sub-Saharan Africa, and these are clustered more towards the top left-hand corner with high child deaths and low life expectancy in 1960. And the countries clustered more in the bottom right hand corner have low child death rates and high life expectancy. The size of the bubble corresponds to the size of the country.

~~~~Here is Uganda and back in 1960, with a child death rate of 224 and a life expectancy of about 44. What does a child death rate of 224 really mean? That means about 22 percent of children died before the age of 5. So child deaths were high and life expectancy low compared to other countries. Many developed countries down in the bottom right had less than 5 percent of children dying in 1960.

Now let’s run this, and see what happens to the world over time. **CLICK.** And right away we see child mortality going down and life expectancy going up as the bubbles move to the right.

~~~~~And you will also see (a blue bubble) that's Rwanda shooting out to the left losing ground on life expectancy during the 90s with so much loss of life.....and some other sub Saharan African countries popping out to the left because of loss of life from HIV/AIDS.

~~~~~ When we get to 2006, most countries have moved down into that lower right-hand corner. SSA has of course made progress, but is still catching up to the rest of the world. And where is Uganda? Here.....doing better with only 13 percent of children dying before reaching the age of 5 and an estimated life expectancy of about 50.

~~~~~We have about the same estimated life expectancy as some of our neighbors here, like Tanzania and Kenya, .....but Uganda is still catching up to countries like Ghana and Senegal, which both have longer life spans!

Let's just take a look at that again..... and we'll run it again fast!....**CLICK**

~~~~~ As what this graph shows us is that when the number of child deaths decrease it directly contributes to improvements in life expectancy.

**[TRANSITION now to new graph]**

Uganda has also seen improvements in its economic growth

**CLICK : Trendalyzer 2 - Seeing the improvements over time in income**

Here now on the left axis is Gross National Income per capita, adjusted for inflation, going from 0 to \$1,900. And on the bottom is time from 1982 to 2005.

~~~~~Uganda started here in 1982 with an average of \$520 of purchasing power per person, and as we run this forward.....over the decades we made steady progress, moving up to about \$1,500 in 2005, or almost three times the purchasing power per person today compared to two decades ago.

[Go back to presentation]....

~~~~~ So our economy is growing! **CLICK**..... However, although the overall national income per person has gone up..... When we look at poverty levels...

**CLICK : Poverty**

About 1out of 3 Ugandans are living in poverty... That's one third of the country.....living on less than \$1.00 a day.

How can we make sure that Uganda's families are better off and that fewer people are living in poverty? One way is by addressing the reproductive health needs of Uganda's women.

**What FP can do**

Research **CLICK** is shedding light on how family planning services

- ◆ Improve the health of women,
- ◆ Boost social and economic development, and
- ◆ Contribute to reducing poverty.

**Women's economic contribution**

In fact, **CLICK** women's economic contribution to the country is crucial to reducing poverty.....

**CLICK: Women and labor force**

because women make up about half of the labor force.....and

**CLICK : Women and agriculture**

More than three-quarters of employed women are currently working in agriculture. Because food security is such a pressing issue in Uganda, it's critical that the agricultural labor force is healthy and strong. When women can't decide how many children to have and when to have them, they're more likely to have many children, suffer from poor reproductive health, and it becomes harder for them to earn an income and meet the needs of their families .

Recent surveys show that couples want to have smaller families today than their parents and grandparents.

**CLICK : Smaller Families**

Our parents desired 6-7 children , but young couples today say **CLICK** that they only want 3-4 children.....and women across the country report on average that they want two fewer children than they actually have.....

**CLICK : Trendalyzer 3: Fertility trends – Uganda compared to Zimbabwe**

~~~~~ Now let's compare Uganda's progress to another country, which had the same number of children per woman in the early 1970s and that was Zimbabwe.

Here on the left axis is the number of lifetime births per woman going from 1 up to 8.5.....and on the bottom axis is time. In 1973, both countries had about 7 births per woman.

~~~~~In the early 1970s, Zimbabwe's government strongly supported the country's family planning efforts. And when we look at the trends,

**CLICK** we see that by 1980, Zimbabwe's family size began to decrease dramatically, owing to a strong community distribution program, making sure that women in rural areas could access contraceptives, and they had a population policy that supported family planning. Because of political commitment and investment, Zimbabwe has been able to bring family size down to about 3 births per woman. However, compared to Zimbabwe, Uganda's FP program has not made much progress in reducing family size over the decades with an average of between 6- 7 births per woman today.

.....and because the number of births per woman in Uganda has remained so high,

**CLICK : Pace of population growth**

Uganda has one of the fastest growing populations in the world.....

And every year Uganda adds one million more people to the population.

Now, It's interesting to take a historical look at Uganda's population to get a different perspective on growth starting way back several centuries ago in the 1500s.

**CLICK : Historical look and where we are now!**

And we see that throughout most of Uganda's early history, the population remained very low, much like the majority of countries around the world. Historical demographers estimate that back in the 1500s, Uganda's population was around 1 and a half million, and it took about four centuries—until 1900 -- for the population to double to 3.....  
.....and then **CLICK** only 150 years (between 1800 and 1950) for the population to double again, when Uganda was at about 5 million people in 1950.

After that, came what is known around the world as the 20<sup>th</sup> century population explosion ..... and that explosion started right about in 1950 in Uganda..... **CLICK** . And because of improvements in public health services like vaccinations and antibiotics, Uganda's population shot up to around 30 million in 2008. Death rates decreased, but birth rates did not.....and no one really predicted this type of population increase. And given Uganda's high number of births per woman, the population is continuing to climb very rapidly. At the current growth rate, the population **CLICK** could double from 30 million in 2008 up to 60 million by 2030. That's almost twice as many people in just one generation.

And the growing population has brought about amazing changes, especially in the cities.

### **CLICK : Traffic 1960s**

Here's a photo from the mid-1960's.....it's the road from Entebbe to Kampala.....and if you look closely you can see a couple of cars and one truck.

### **CLICK : Traffic 2009**

Here are the roads today.....typical of the daily commute to work in Kampala.....and indicative of some bigger challenges of keeping up with the infrastructure needs in Uganda's rapidly growing cities and towns.....

### **Google Earth.....CLICK and start the tour.....**

Tuning to our Google Earth satellite map, we're going to take a close up view of Uganda from above.....and let's take a **look** at where we are this morning .....and here we have a birds view of the Speke resort conference facilities on the shores of Lake Victoria (we are right here in this building this morning....upstairs in the Banquet Hall) ... .....[**Wait and watch for it to pan up**].

.....moving up the road to Kampala center you can see how built up it is all the way from Munyonyo to the capitol. (a relatively new phenomena)

~~~~~And here now we are in the center of Kampala (you might be able to see the Sheraton Hotel swimming pool in the center of the screen) .....and looking over the city we appreciate how much Kampala has grown from a city of about half a million in 1980 to more than 3 times that size today at 1.8 million.

Former agricultural and vacant lands around the city have become more residential, with very concentrated areas, many unplanned, with lower quality housing.....By 2017, it's estimated that Kampala will reach 2.1 million people. [**WATCH for it to pan out up north**]

~~~~~Now let's pan out of Kampala and move up to Lire in the North

You often hear people say ....oh there is lots of land, pop density is low and we don't have to worry about a growing population .....but what is important to remember is that it is not density per se .....but the number of people in an area relative to its resources and the capacity of the land to sustain human activity.....

~~~~~and the phenomena of land fragmentation, which is what we are looking at here, is serious in Uganda..... with farms becoming smaller and smaller over time, putting new pressures on each generation and also fueling conflicts over competition for scarce resources.

**GO Back to the presentation.....**

**CLICK : Land degradation**

And since the number of rural households farming the land has increased.....in highland areas like Kabale and Kisoro, and in cattle grazing districts such as Mbarara and Rakai, 75 to 90 percent of the land has been severely affected by erosion. And the problem is only getting worse as the population continues to grow.

So are there any good things that can come out of this fast population growth? Like.....

**CLICK.....** will a fast population growth increase per capita GDP?.....

**CLICK**

Only if you have

- ◆ A healthy workforce
- ◆ Enough jobs
- ◆ Educated workers, and
- ◆ Modernized infrastructures in several sectors...

**[SPEAK this part slowly]** The growing population **CLICK** means more people in need of social services... ..and that means more schools and expanded healthcare—and these are services that the government is going to have to provide. With so many people still living in poverty, access to food will also become even more of a challenge.

**[Speak a little faster]** All of this will put pressure on the government's budget and may crowd out other spending and investments, which could mean slower economic growth for the country.

By managing the size of the population, Uganda can address these issues and contribute to economic development at the same time. And one place to start is by meeting the reproductive health needs of Uganda's women so they can better plan and space their children.

**Family planning**

According to the most recent national survey **CLICK**, only 18 percent of Ugandan women are using modern methods of family planning.

**Unmet need**

However, **CLICK** almost twice that number—or about 2 in every 5 women —would like to space their next birth or stop having children altogether, but are not using any method of family planning.

These women are considered to have an unmet need for family planning.

**Unplanned pregnancies**

One of the consequences **CLICK** of high unmet need is large numbers of unplanned pregnancies.

And in Uganda, almost half of all pregnancies are unplanned.....one of the highest percentages of unplanned pregnancies in subSaharan Africa

That means **CLICK** more than 850,000 women become pregnant every year without intending to have a child at that time.

**CLICK : Consequences of unmet need.**

When family planning use is low... and the demand for family planning is not met... we can expect high rates of unplanned pregnancies, just as we've seen.

And here are two of the consequences of unplanned pregnancies...

(A) On one hand, at the national level **CLICK** unplanned pregnancies can lead to higher levels of fertility... which in turn lead to continued population growth, which as we mentioned earlier at the national level can strain the country's economic development.

(b). On the other hand, **CLICK** at the individual level, unplanned pregnancies can also lead to high-risk pregnancies (having babies too young, or too old, having too many, or too closely spaced).....which can result in maternal injuries and deaths.

~~At the household level, the loss of women means families continue to struggle, and the cycle of poverty continues.

~~~~~And at the national level, this loss of women means a loss of economic productivity for the country.

**Births and maternal deaths**

In Uganda, **CLICK** there are a total of about 1.4 million births every year and about 6,000 deaths related to pregnancy or childbearing. And of those deaths, more than 1,200 are a result of complications from unsafely performed abortions.

But that's not the whole story.....because

**CLICK : Disabilities**

for every 1 woman who dies from maternal causes, 20-30 women suffer short- and long- term disabilities.

Translating these losses into costs.....economists conducted a special study in Uganda to see just what the impact of maternal death and disability is on the national economy.....and here 's what they found:

**CLICK : Economic study**

Between 2004 and 2013, if the situation remains the same, Uganda could lose the equivalent of 700 billion Uganda shillings (or 350 million \$) in lost productivity due to maternal deaths.

During the same period, **CLICK** maternal disability could cost Uganda another 1.5 trillion Uganda shillings. (or US \$750 million)

However, **CLICK** if we could reduce maternal death and disabilities by 50 percent by 2013, that would result in an economic gain of 500 billion Ugandan shillings (U.S.\$250 million). And it would also help us to achieve MDG 5, improving maternal health.

**CLICK : FP is best buy**

Is there a quick win? Yes!

Family planning **CLICK** is one of our “best buys” in today’s financially strapped environment.

**: Cost savings from unmet need.**

From 2007 to 2015, **CLICK** the additional family planning costs for meeting the unmet need would be about 107 million dollars, and that translates into savings..... savings that are possible because as women have fewer children, the government doesn’t have to spend as much money to meet the needs of the population and can save money on costs related to **CLICK** maternal health, immunization, water and sanitation, education, and malaria...

~~~~~And you can see that the government saves more than it spends. In fact, by the year 2015, Uganda will have saved about \$200 million dollars, which is twice the amount we would have spent to meet unmet need for family planning. The cost savings that we gain in these five areas, which are all instrumental in meeting the five MDGs, outweigh the additional costs of family planning by a factor of 2 to 1.

~~~~~So there is a lot possible for Uganda’s economic future. And in fact, we have seen this kind of economic progress happen in other countries of the world, especially in East and Southeast Asia. Let’s take Thailand, for example

**CLICK : TRENDALYZER 4: GNI per capita.**

~~~~~Here on the left axis we are looking at number of children per woman ranging from 1 up to 7. And on the bottom we have gross national income per person ranging from \$600 to about \$20,000.

~~~~~And this red bubble here is Thailand in 1975, with between 4-5 children per woman, and a gross national income of about \$740 per person. Now let’s play it forward through time and see what happened.

~~~~~As we look at the trends we can see the bubble moving down as Thai women had fewer and fewer children—and the country’s gross national income per person is increasing as the bubble moves to the right., And in 2005, Thailand has about 2 children per woman and a gross national income per person of about \$8,500. That’s quite a remarkable improvement in just 30 years..

**TRENDALYZER 7: Fertility and GNI World**

Now, we can see a similar pattern if we look at the countries of the world..... so bringing all the counties back into the graph.

**CLICK**

~~~~~Here once again, we are looking at number of children per woman on the left axis ranging from 1 to 8.5. And on the bottom axis we have gross national income per person ranging from \$200 to about \$40,000. And what we are looking at here is high numbers of births and low income.....and low numbers of births and high income

And remember that the red is East Asia and the Pacific (and the big red bubble here is China with 4 births per woman and about \$230 gross national income per person back in 1975). The orange is Europe and Central Asia, and many of these countries are clustered at the bottom right with few children per woman and high gross national income per person. And the dark blue is sub-Saharan Africa, clustered at the top left with many children per woman and low economic growth. So let's play it forward and see what happens.

~~~~~As we look at the trends over time, **CLICK** we can see that as women have fewer and fewer children .....the bubbles move down, gross national income per person increases as the countries move to the right. And they are all moving towards the bottom right-hand corner. As women have fewer children, income per person goes up!

~~~~~And when we get to 2005, all the countries of the world have moved from the top left-hand corner, towards the bottom right-hand corner.

~~~~~Although the sub-Saharan African countries have made progress they still have many children per woman and low gross national income per person.

~~~~~And where is Uganda? Here's Uganda..... with between 6 and 7 children per woman and a gross national income of about \$1400 per person. And some sub-Saharan African countries are doing very well with economic growth such as..... Swaziland, Namibia, and Botswana.

~~~~~One of the main reasons Thailand and others have been able to make so much economic progress is because women started having fewer children, and that set the stage for the country to better manage its population size

However, this kind of economic progress is not automatic.

### **CLICK : Investments for economic growth.**

It requires a series of investments:

- ◆ expanding family planning programs so women and couples can plan and space their children
- ◆ Investing in health systems is also important to improve child survival and health in general.
- ◆ Improving educational enrollment is key—especially girls' enrollment (and in fact, Uganda is working hard to close the gap between boys' and girls' education).
- ◆ And finally, **CLICK** it's crucial to stabilize economic conditions so more jobs can be created, making sure there are economic opportunities for young men and women.

### **Way Forward**

In order for Uganda to make this kind of economic progress **CLICK**, it means stepping up the pace of its policy and program implementation.

Making every effort to: **CLICK**

- ◆ Ensure that family planning is a key component of all national development strategies including the poverty reduction strategy and action plan
- ◆ Increasing budget allocations for contraceptives in national and district health budgets; and

- ◆ And regularly issuing public statements supportive of family planning to mobilize both political and popular support.

### **CLICK : Key messages**

Through simple, cost-effective interventions, like family planning ...

Uganda can **CLICK**

- ◆ have healthier women,
- ◆ help break the cycle of poverty among Uganda's many families, and
- ◆ ensure women's full contribution to the nation's economy.

### **Finale music video....**

#### **CLICK**

By working together and building on the strong foundation that exists in Uganda.....

The nation can move forward

.....Uganda can achieve its economic and development goals

.

and move toward a more prosperous future.