

#BankTheYouth Youth Financial Inclusion Factsheet **UGANDA**



Definition of youth (at national level)

The national youth policy (2001) of Uganda defines youth as **12–30 YEARS.**

Youth population aged 15–24 (%)

20.1

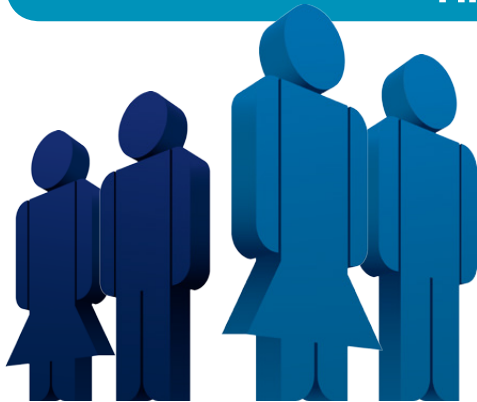
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision* (New York, 2013).

Youth Development Index

0.544

Source: The Commonwealth, '2016 Global Youth Development Index.' Available from <http://www.youthdevelopmentindex.org/>

Financial inclusion in numbers (%)



Source: Global Findex (2014)**

	Young adults aged 15–24	Adults aged 25+
Have account*	21.6	31.9
Borrowed from a financial institution	10.0	19.6
Saved at a financial institution	13.3	19.0
Have mobile account	26.7	40.8

Policy and legislation

Minimum age to open and independently manage a savings account

AGE OF 18

Presence of a national financial literacy strategy
YES



Signatory of Maya Declaration***
YES



A young person can only open and independently manage a savings account at the age of 18. The same restrictions exist for opening a mobile money account. These barriers are exacerbated by identification requirements (i.e., birth certificate or proof of residence), which are often difficult for youth to obtain. However, **legislation is supportive of agent banking**, which could be a key delivery channel of financial services in schools or universities and in rural areas.

Financial inclusion in the country is governed by the **National Strategy for Financial Inclusion** and the **Strategy for Financial Literacy in Uganda**. Regarding the former, while the Government is cognizant of the need for youth-friendly policies and a regulatory framework governing youth access to finance (particularly credit), the strategy focuses more on increasing financial literacy among youth and less on access to financial products and services by youth. The latter specifically targets youth and has a specific focus on developing curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary levels along with community-based curricula for out-of-school youth.

The Bank of Uganda has shown its commitment to more responsible finance by becoming a member of the **Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)** and by endorsing the **Maya Declaration**. **The Government is not yet a member of the Better Than Cash Alliance**, which leaves room for improving its commitment towards the digitization of the economy as a way to advance financial inclusion and towards youth-friendly delivery channels.

*Account at a financial institution: Denotes the percentage of respondents who report having an account (by themselves or together with someone else) at a bank or another type of financial institution. For 2014 data, this figure can include a mobile account as well. **Global Findex does not specifically break down youth data by gender. However, according to information available, females (aged 15+) are more financially excluded than males (age 15+): respectively, 23.1% and 32.5% of respondents report having an account. It is then assumed that female youth are more financially vulnerable than male youth. ***The Maya Declaration is an initiative to unlock the economic and social potential of the unbanked population through greater financial inclusion. It represents the world's first commitment platform that enables AFI member institutions to make concrete financial inclusion targets, implement in-country policy changes, and regularly share progress updates. A public commitment to the Maya Declaration is a means to champion financial inclusion.
April 2017. Copyright © UN Capital Development Fund. All rights reserved.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNCDF, or their Member States.

