UHIS 2021/22, 2023/24, 2024/25 REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of the Survey

The Uganda Harmonised Integrated Survey (UHIS) followed the same 3,782 households across three waves (2021/22, 2023/24 and 2024/25). This shows how welfare, livelihoods and agriculture changed, and who moved into or out of poverty, work and farming. The survey integrates the Uganda National Panel Survey and the Annual Agricultural Survey under the 50 × 2030 Initiative to support monitoring of NDP IV, CAADP and the SDGs. A two-stage stratified sample of 470 enumeration areas covered all districts and cities, excluding refugee settlements and institutions. Panel retention was 87%. Data were collected with CAPI over three visits a year, and the survey was funded by the Government of Uganda and the 50 × 2030 Initiative.

Headline Indicators

Most indicators improved between 2021/22 and 2024/25, but sanitation weakened and unemployment edged up.

Indicator	2021/22 (%)	2024/25 (%)	Change (pp)
Children aged 6–12 attending school	85.5	94.6	+9.1
Literacy, aged 10+	73.6	85.3	+11.7
Employed, aged 15+	41.8	45.8	+4.0
Unemployment rate	10	11	+1
Employment in agriculture	61.6	53.3	−8.3
Households with basic drinking water	70.2	78.4	+8.2
Households with basic toilets	24	21	−3
Households using grid electricity	25.3	29.5	+4.2
Mobile money access, aged 15+	34	48	+14
Illness or injury in past 30 days	27	20	−7

Key Findings

Population. Households are becoming smaller and more often female-headed. Female-headed households rose from 34% to 36%, and single-person households from 8% to 10%. Service and sales work overtook agriculture as the leading occupation of household heads (30%).

Education. School attendance among children aged 6–12 rose from 86% to 95%, and literacy from 74% to 85%, though the Northern region remained lowest (77%). Retention falls with progression: 97% of 2021/22 Primary One learners were still in school three years later, compared with 76% of Primary Seven and only 42% of Senior Four learners. High cost was the leading reason for dropping out, cited by 52% of primary and 45% of secondary dropouts.

Labour market. Employment shifted from farming to wage and service work. Agriculture's share of employment fell from 62% to 53%, while services rose from 30% to 37%. Employment rose from 42% to 46%, but unemployment also rose slightly, from 10% to 11%.

Housing and household conditions. Basic drinking water rose from 70% to 78% and grid electricity from 25% to 30%, though only 11% of rural households used electricity. Sanitation worsened: basic toilets fell from 24% to 21%, households with no toilet rose from 4% to 6%, and only 6% had handwashing facilities with water and soap. Clean cooking fuel stayed at 2%.

Health. Reported illness or injury fell from 27% to 20%. High blood pressure was the leading non-communicable disease at about 4%. Among those who did not seek care, the share citing cost fell from 28% to 16%.

Financial services. Inclusion is driven by mobile technology. Mobile phone ownership rose from 55% to 63%, and mobile money access from 34% to 48%, while only 8% owned a bank account. Borrowing declined slightly, and local remittances reached 44% of adults.

Poverty and enterprises. Over the three waves, 57% of the population was never poor and 9% was chronically poor. About 15% fell into poverty, while about 10% moved out. Chronic poverty was highest in the Eastern (16%) and Northern (15%) regions. Households running a non-farm enterprise rose from 37% to 39%.

Agriculture. Farming households dipped from 65% to 64%, and crop growing among continuous farmers fell from 97% to 91%. Coffee and cassava growing expanded, while sweet potatoes, maize and beans declined. Fertiliser use rose from 35% to 41%, but three-quarters of continuous farming households never received extension services.

Key Messages

Uganda's welfare gains are real but fragile and uneven. Employment is shifting away from agriculture faster than new entrants are absorbed. Education access is near-universal at primary level, but cost-driven dropout undermines progression. Poverty is fluid: about one in seven people fell into it, so resilience and social protection matter as much as growth, especially in the Eastern and Northern regions. Sanitation is moving backwards even as water and power improve. Financial inclusion now runs mainly through mobile money, while limited extension services constrain agricultural productivity.