



UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS



UGANDA HIGH-FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEY ON COVID-19

ROUND ONE, TWO, AND THREE

Basic Information Document (BID)

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List of Acronyms

CAPI- Computer Aided Personal Interviews

EA- Enumeration Areas

HQ- Head Quarters

HHID- Household Identification code

PID- Personal Identification code

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1.0 Background

The purpose of this document is to provide detailed information on the first, second, and third rounds of the Uganda High-frequency Phone Survey on COVID-19 (UHFS), implemented respectively in June, August, and September 2020 by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in collaboration with the World Bank. These surveys are the first three waves of a high-frequency phone survey of households launched to track the impacts of the pandemic on a monthly basis for 12 months.

The World Bank made available resources to countries to help mitigate the spread and impact of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19). One such area is to support data collection to inform evidence-based policies that may help mitigate the effects of the disease. This was necessitated by the urgent need to monitor the rapidly changing impact of the COVID-19 and the policy interventions identified. With a focus on the household's behavior responses, the system passes information from households to project teams and policymakers for their coverage and effectiveness.

Although the first case of COVID-19 in Uganda was confirmed on the 22nd of March, the Government of Uganda had undertaken several actions starting on the 18th of March, including travel restrictions, a 14-day quarantine for all international arrivals, and cancellation of all international conferences and public gatherings, including, but not limited to, religious services, weddings, and concerts. On the 30th of March, the President declared a nationwide curfew from 7 pm to 6:30 am; banned public transportation; and instituted strict regulations for the movement of government and private vehicles. As governments implement various containment measures, it is important to understand how households in the country are affected and responding to the evolving crises, so that policy responses can be designed well and targeted effectively to reduce the negative impacts on household welfare.

The objective of the UHFS is to monitor the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 and its related restrictions. The survey will follow the evolving COVID-19 pandemic in real time and will contribute to filling critical gaps in information that could be used by the government and stakeholders to help design policies to mitigate the negative impacts on its population.

The UHFS is proposed to have multiple rounds to accommodate the evolving nature of the crisis, including revision of the questionnaire before the next round of the survey. The final sample for the first round of the survey is 2,257 households selected from those of the Uganda National Panel Survey (UNPS) wave 8 that had a phone number for at least one household member or one

reference individual. All households not explicitly refusing to participate in the survey in each round were attempted to be reached in the subsequent round. In round 2 2199 households were interviewed; whereas the final sample for round 3 is 2147. Weights are adjusted to be nationally representative in each round.

Table 1 reports the starting date and the duration of data collection for each round.

Table 1. Start and duration of data collection period by round

	Starting date	No. Of days
Round 1	June 3 rd , 2020	16
Round 2	July 30 th , 2020	20
Round 3	September 14 th , 2020	16

2.0 Survey questionnaire – Review of sections

The COVID-19 survey had consisted of one main Household questionnaire per each round. The questionnaire is divided into several sections and the number of questions in each section varied accordingly.

During data collection, all the questionnaires were administered using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) application in Survey Solutions. The questions were preloaded onto Android Tablets which capture the data directly during interviews eliminating the need for data entry.

2.1 Explanatory notes by Section –Household Questionnaire

Table 2 presents the topical coverage and sections of Round 1, 2, and 3 of the UHFS. The content of each section is described below.

Table 2. Topical Coverage in Uganda High-Frequency Phone Survey on COVID-19

Topic	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Cover page: Household Identification Particulars	Cover	Cover	Cover
Interview information	Interview information	Interview information	Interview information
Household roster update	Section 1	Section 1	Section 1
Knowledge regarding the spread of COVID-19	Section 2		
Perceptions Re: Efficacy of Government Actions		Section 2	Section 2
Behavior and Social Distancing	Section 3	Section 3	Section 3
Access	Section 4	Section 4	Section 4
Employment	Section 5	Section 5	Section 5
Non-Agricultural Business		Section 5A	Section 5A

Agriculture :			
• Post-planting	Section 5A		Section 5A
• Crop harvest		Section 5B	
• Livestock		Section 5C	Section 5C
• Livestock products			Section 5D
Income Loss	Section 6	Section 6	Section 6
Food Security	Section 7	Section 8	Section 8
Credit		Section 7	
• Loans since the last interview			Section 7A
• Loans since 20 th March 2020			Section 7B
• Loans before mid-March			Section 7C
Concerns Regarding COVID-19 Impacts	Section 8	Section 9	Section 9
Shocks and Coping Strategies	Section 9		
Safety Nets	Section10	Section10	Section 10

Cover page: Household Identification Particulars

Information in this section was provided to the field teams by the staff at the Headquarters (HQ) before starting the data collection. Information was collected on location details of the selected Enumeration Areas (EAs), interviewer, team leader and household head details, interview date and time.

Interview information

The purpose of this section was to:

- Identify whether the interviewers are calling the right phone number of the household;
- Ensure that the interviewers are speaking to a household member;
- Introduce one's self to the household and give a brief survey introduction;
- Seek consent of the respondent to take part in the survey.

Household roster update.

The purpose of this section was to:

- Identify all persons who are members of the household;
- Provide basic demographic information such as age and sex of each household member;
- The relationship of each household member to the household head;
- Identify any changes to household members since the last visit.

In Rounds 2 and 3, this section collects the information on access to learning activities at the individual level.

In Rounds 2 and 3, all household members were pre-filled as of the last interview with this household and it was required that the respondent updates it according to the current household status.

The respondent for this section was mainly the household head. In the absence of the household head, a knowledgeable person on the household matters would then be interviewed. *It was a requirement that respondents must be a usual member of the household and should be capable of providing all the necessary information about other members of the household. The respondent must be 15 years or above.*

Knowledge regarding the spread of COVID-19.

The purpose of this section was to find out how much the respondent knows about Coronavirus and the spreading of Covid-19, the measures to reduce the risks of contracting coronavirus, myths about COVID 19, and the steps the government has taken to curb the spread of Covid-19 associated with coronavirus.

This section was only covered in Round 1.

Government actions.

Covered both in Round 2 and 3, this section aimed to understand what the individual knows about government action against the spread of COVID-19 and perceptions about government actions.

Behavior and social distancing.

This section gathered information on any changes in the individual's behavior to adopt prevention measures for COVID-19. The reference period was since March 20, 2020, which is the day the government closed the schools for the first round and the week preceding the interview in the second round. This information was also captured in the 3rd round.

Access.

This section collected data on households' access to services and other necessities. Information was collected on access to sufficient soap and water for washing hands, food, medicines, educational materials, and financial institutions during the COVID-19 outbreak given the various limitations due to government directives. In Round 2, the information on education material was asked in the Household roster update. In Round 3, information on access to masks was also collected.

Employment.

This section collected information about the respondent's employment status, type of job, changes in employment status, sector of employment, and revenue fluctuations since the outbreak of COVID19.

Non-Agricultural Business.

This section collected information about changes in operating status, revenues, and behavior of the non-farm family business. This information was only collected in Rounds 2 and 3.

Agriculture.

The objective of this section was to collect data on farm practices and the way coronavirus affected agricultural activities. In Round 1, the focus of the section was on the planting activities and the impact of locusts on agricultural activities. Whereas, in Round 2 the objective of the section was to collect data on the way coronavirus has affected harvesting activities and crop sales. In addition to the information collected in round 2, Round 3 also captured information on the current farm gate prices of some crops such as bananas, beans, and cassava.

In both Round 1 and 2 the agricultural sections also collected data on the impact of coronavirus on livestock activities and produce sales.

Livestock

The objective of this section was to collect information on the effect of coronavirus on livestock farm practices. This section was separated from the Agricultural section and captured independently for Round 3.

Livestock products

The objective of this section was to collect information about the common livestock products for households that had livestock. This section was only captured in Round 3.

Income loss.

The objective of this section was to collect data on households' loss of income due to the outbreak of COVID-19 or as a result of the different measures implemented by the government, employers, and traders to contain the spread of the outbreak or cope with the challenges of the outbreak. It did this by collecting data about the sources of income the household had in the last 12 months and changes in any income source after the start of the pandemic. While the reference period in round 1 was since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, in round 2 it was since the previous interview and in Round 3, It was the last 12 months.

Credit.

Included only in round 2, this section investigates the indebtment status of the household as a result of the COVID19 outbreak.

Loans since the last interview

The objective of this section was to collect information on the indebtment status of households since round 2. This section was only covered in round 3.

Loans since March 20, 2020

The objective of this section was to collect information on the indebtment status of households since March 2020. This section was only covered in round 3.

Loans before mid-March

The objective of this section was to collect information on the indebtment status of households before the outbreak of the Covid19 virus. This section was only covered in round 3.

Food insecurity experience scale.

This section collected information about the state of food security during the last 30days prior to the date of the interview. More broadly it captured how well the household can fulfill its food needs. This excluded the people who are fasting or dieting.

Concerns.

This section focused on the concerns that the head of the household had regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease). In Round 1, the respondents expressed their views on the extent of worry about COVID 19 as well as the degree of threat the pandemic poses to household finances. In addition to it, Round 2 covers the experience of COVID19 symptoms and concerns regarding security risks, rights and freedoms, and corruption.

Coping strategies.

This section captured events/shocks that may have affected the household since the outbreak of coronavirus and the coping mechanisms adopted by households for the shocks. This section was only covered in round 1.

Safety nets.

This section collected information about the assistance the household had received from the government or other sources/ institutions (safety nets). Safety net transfers include cash transfers, food-based transfers, and other forms of in-kind transfers.

Safety net programs refer to non-contributory transfer programs that seek to protect the poor or those vulnerable to shocks and poverty from falling below a certain poverty level. Non-contributory are programs that the person did not pay into throughout their life. Safety net

programs can be provided by the public sector (government or aid donors) or by the private sector (NGOs, private firms, charities).

The organization of the COVID-19 Household questionnaires and datasets is illustrated in Tables 3, 4, and 5 below.

Table 3: Organization of the COVID-19 Household Questionnaire – Round 1

<i>Section</i>	<i>Level of Observation</i>	<i>Data File</i>	<i>Key Identifiers</i>
Household Identification Particulars	Household	Cover.dta	HHID
Interview information	Household	Interview_info.dta	HHID attempt_id
Interview result	Household	Interview_result.dta	HHID
Household Roster	Individual	SEC1.dta	HHID hh_roster__id
Knowledge	Household	SEC2.dta	HHID
Behaviour	Household	SEC3.dta	HHID
Access	Household	SEC4.dta	HHID
Employment Long	Household	SEC5.dta	HHID
Agriculture	Household	SEC5A.dta	HHID
Income loss	Household	SEC6.dta	HHID income_loss__id
Food Insecurity Experience Scale	Household	SEC7.dta	HHID
Concerns	Household	SEC8.dta	HHID
Coping Strategies	Household	SEC9.dta	HHID shocks__id
Safety Nets	Household	SEC10.dta	HHID safety_net__id

Table 4 : Organization of the COVID-19 Household Questionnaire – Round 2

<i>Section</i>	<i>Level of Observation</i>	<i>Data File</i>	<i>Key Identifiers</i>
Household Identification Particulars	Household	Cover.dta	HHID
Interview information	Household	Interview_info.dta	HHID attempt_id

Interview result	Household	Interview_result.d ta	HHID
Household Roster	Individual	SEC1.dta	HHIDhh_roster__id
Phone number roster	Household	SEC1B.dta	HHID
Government actions	Household	SEC2.dta	HHID
Behaviour and Social distancing	Household	SEC3.dta	HHID
Access	Household	SEC4.dta	HHID
Employment	Household	SEC5.dta	HHID
Non-Agricultural Business	Household	SEC5A.dta	HHID
Crop Harvest	Household	SEC5B.dta	HHID
Livestock	Household	SEC5C.dta	HHID
Livestock cont.	Household	SEC5C_1.dta	HHID
Income loss	Household	SEC6.dta	HHID income_loss__id
Income loss cont.	Household	SEC6_1.dta	HHID income_loss__id
Credit	Household	SEC7.dta	HHID
Food Insecurity Experience Scale	Household	SEC8.dta	HHID
Concerns	Household	SEC9.dta	HHID
Safety Nets	Household	SEC10.dta	HHID safety_net__id
Safety Nets cont.	Household	SEC10_1.dta	HHID safety_net__id

Table 5: Organization of the COVID-19 Household Questionnaire – Round 3

<i>Section</i>	<i>Level of Observation</i>	<i>Data File</i>	<i>Key Identifiers</i>
Household Identification Particulars	Household	Cover.dta	HHID
Interview information	Household	Interview_info.dta	HHID attempt_id

Interview result	Household	Interview_result.d ta	HHID
Household Roster	Individual	SEC1.dta	HHIDhh_roster__id
Phone number roster	Household	SEC1B.dta	HHID
Government actions	Household	SEC2.dta	HHID
Behavior and Social distancing	Household	SEC3.dta	HHID
Access	Household	SEC4.dta	HHID
Employment	Household	SEC5.dta	HHID
Non-Agricultural Business	Household	SEC5A.dta	HHID
Agriculture	Household	SEC5B.dta	HHID
Livestock	Household	SEC5C.dta	HHID
Livestock products.	Household	SEC5D.dta	HHID
Income loss	Household	SEC6.dta	HHID income_loss__id
Income loss cont.	Household	SEC6_1.dta	HHID income_loss__id
Loans since last interview	Household	SEC7A_1.dta	HHID loan_id
Loans since last interview cont.	Household	SEC7A_2.dta	HHID loan_id
Loans since March 20, 2020	Household	SEC7B_1.dta	HHID loan_id
Loans since March 20, 2020 cont.	Household	SEC7B_2.dta	HHID loan_id
Loans before mid march	Household	SEC7C_1.dta	HHID loan_id
Loans before mid march cont.	Household	SEC7C_2.dta	HHID loan_id
Food Insecurity Experience Scale	Household	SEC8.dta	HHID
Concerns	Household	SEC9.dta	HHID
Safety Nets	Household	SEC10.dta	HHID safety_net__id

3.0 Baseline Sample and Weights

The sample of the COVID-19 impact survey is a subsample of the Uganda National Panel Survey (UNPS) 2019/20 (wave 8). UNPS 2019/20 interviewed 3098 households of which 2333 in the urban area and 745 in the rural area. In the panel, households are asked to provide a phone number either of their own or of a reference person (e.g. neighbor, friends...) to be reached in case the households move from their original sample location. In wave 8, 2386 households provided a phone number.

To obtain a nationally representative sample for the COVID-19 Impact Survey, a sample size of approximately 1,800 successfully interviewed households was targeted. However, to reach that target, a larger pool of households needed to be selected from the frame due to non-contact and non-response common for telephone surveys. Thus, all the households in the 2019/20 round of the UNPS that had phone numbers for at least one household member, or a reference individual were included in the initial sample. This consisted of 2227 households, that is the 72 % of the UNPS 2019/20 sample. Table 5 reports the results for the baseline sample: 2246 households were reached and 2227, that is the 93 % of the initial sample were fully interviewed; of these 1644 reside in the rural area, while 583 in the urban area.

Table 6: Result of the first round interview

	Overall		Rural		Urban	
	# of households	% of overall sample	# of households	% of rural sample	# of households	% of Urban sample
Reached						
Complete	2227	93.4	1644	93.8	583	92.2
Partially Complete	4	0.2	3	0.2	1	0.2
Refused	10	0.4	4	0.2	6	0.9
Language barrier	5	0.2	5	0.3	0	0.0
Not reached						
Nobody answering	9	0.4	7	0.4	2	0.3
Number does not exist	20	0.8	16	0.9	4	0.6
Phone turned off	88	3.7	59	3.4	29	4.6
Wrong number (don't know the household)	11	0.5	6	0.3	5	0.8
Reference person can't connect to household	11	0.5	9	0.5	2	0.3

Table 7 reports the same information for round 2: 2221 households were reached and 2199, that is the 93 % of the initial sample, were fully interviewed; of these 1641 reside in the rural area, while 558 in the urban area.

Table 7: Result of second round of interview

	Overall		Rural		Urban	
	# of households	% of overall sample	# of households	% of rural sample	# of households	% of Urban sample
Reached						
Complete	2199	92.6	1641	93.8	558	89.1
Partially Complete	5	0.2	1	0.1	4	0.6
Refused	13	0.5	4	0.2	9	1.4
Language barrier	4	0.2	4	0.2	0	0.0
Not reached						
Nobody answering	22	0.9	12	0.7	10	1.6
Number does not exist	18	0.8	12	0.7	6	1.0
Phone turned off	84	3.5	52	3.0	32	5.1
Wrong number (don't know the household)	10	0.4	6	0.3	4	0.6
Reference person can't connect to household	20	0.8	17	1.0	3	0.5

Table 8 shows that in round 3 2221 households were reached and 2147 that is the 91 % of the initial sample, were fully interviewed; of these 1603 reside in the rural area, while 544 in the urban area.

Table 8: Result of third round of interview.

	Overall		Rural		Urban	
	# of households	% of overall sample	# of households	% of rural sample	# of households	% of Urban sample
Reached						
Complete	2147	91.1	1603	92.1	544	88.3
Partially Complete	3	0.1	2	0.1	1	0.2
Refused	21	0.9	10	0.6	11	1.8
Language barrier	4	0.2	4	0.2	0	0.0
Not reached						
Nobody answering	21	0.9	11	0.6	10	1.6

Number does not exist	28	1.2	21	1.2	7	1.1
Phone turned off	103	4.4	70	4.0	33	5.4
Wrong number (don't know the household)	9	0.4	5	0.3	4	0.6
Reference person can't connect to household	16	0.7	12	0.7	4	0.6

To produce national estimates from the successfully interviewed sample, weights must be applied to the information provided by sampled households. Weights for the UNPS serve as the basis for the COVID-19 impact survey, but the weights were adjusted to reflect the selection and interviewing process. The weights for the baseline COVID-19 impact survey were therefore calculated as outlined in Himelein, K. (2014):

1. Begin with base weights from the UNPS 2019/20 for each household
2. Incorporate probability of sub-selection of round 1 unit for each of the phone survey households. We calculate the probability of selection for each of the 4 strata (regions) in the UNPS by creating the numerators as the number of completed phone interviews and the denominator as the number of households in the UNPS for each stratum.
3. Pool the weights in Steps 1 and 2.
4. Derive attrition-adjusted weights for all individuals by running a logistic response propensity model based on characteristics of the household head (i.e. education, labor force status, demographic characteristics), characteristics of the household (consumption, assets, financial characteristics), and characteristics of the dwelling (house ownership, overcrowding).
5. Trim weights by replacing the top two percent of observations with the 98th percentile cut-off point; and
6. Post-stratify weights to known population totals to correct for the imbalances across the regional sample. In doing so, we ensure that the distribution in the survey matches the distribution in the UNPS. Additional technical details and explanations on each of the steps briefly outlined above can be found in Himelein, K. (2014).

Table 9 below presents the full set of weighted and unweighted estimates across the different samples. Following the weighting adjustments and calibration, the weighted estimates obtained from the UNPS-Panel and UHFS samples match very closely across all dimensions.

Table 9: Sample Composition

Characteristic	UNPS		UHFPS					
	Unweighted	Weighted	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
			Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
Sample size (successful interviews)	3076		2227	2199			2147	
Average household size	5.13	4.86	5.39	5.38	4.88	4.88	5.4	4.9
<i>Household head characteristics</i>								
Female head (%)	35.6	34.2	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.4
Age	48.1	45.3	48.0	47.9	45.3	45.3	47.8	45.2
Literate (%)	70.7	76.7	75.9	75.9	78.1	78.1	75.7	77.8
<i>Asset ownership</i>								
Regular mobile or fixed phone	3.4	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.3
Internet access	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.1
Television	18.3	26.1	21.4	20.8	26.6	26.6	20.9	26.5
Refrigerator	5.0	7.2	5.4	5.2	6.6	6.6	5.2	6.5
Car	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
Generator	76.0	80.7	85.8	85.5	87.5	87.5	85.3	86.8
<i>Consumption quintile</i>								
Q1	19.0	15.7	16.5	16.6	15.2	15.2	16.9	15.5
Q2	19.2	17.6	18.7	18.9	17.9	17.9	18.8	17.5
Q3	20.8	19.7	20.9	21.0	19.1	19.1	20.7	19.3
Q4	21.9	22.3	22.8	23.0	22.8	22.8	23.0	22.8
Q5	19.1	24.7	21.0	20.5	25.0	25.0	20.6	24.9

* Based on information from the UNPS only.

4.0 Training of the interviewers and fieldwork

Since government-imposed social distancing practices to fight the spread of COVID-19 limited the use of traditional, face-to-face interviews, the interviews were conducted by phone using a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) application using the Survey Solution software. For the first round of data collection, phone centers could not be operated due to restrictions of movement and assembly of people, therefore, enumerators worked from their own homes.

Training of the enumerators was carried out both in office - in observance of social distancing measures - and via zoom. Valuable input during the training of enumerators was got from the World Bank via Skype and zoom. Supervision and enumerator follow-up was undertaken remotely.