

# Poverty & Equity Brief

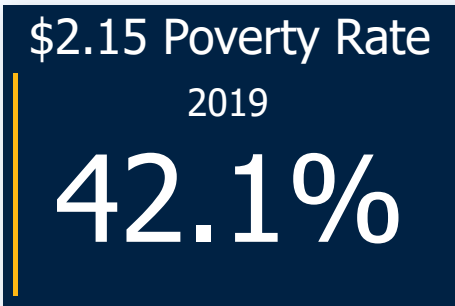
October 2024

## UGANDA

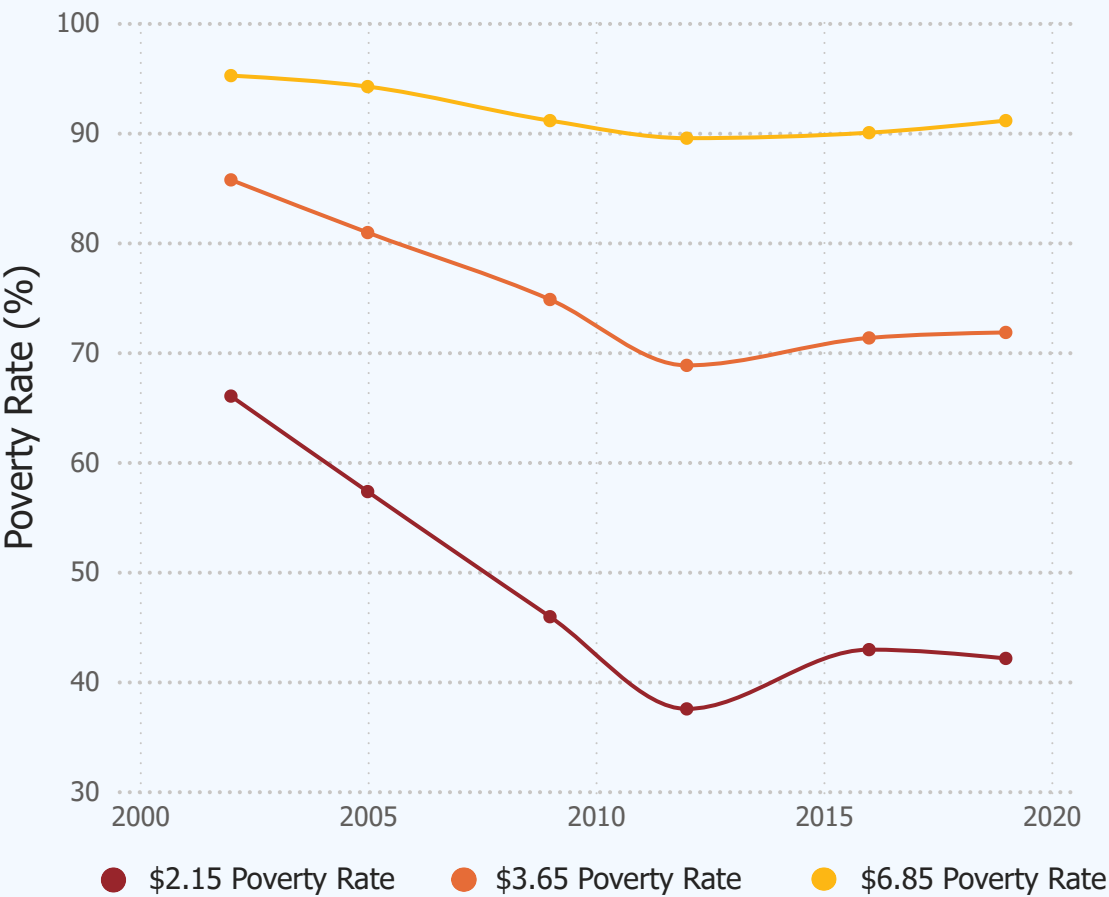
The latest available poverty estimates from the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2019/20 showed a poverty rate of 20.3 percent as measured by the national poverty line. Poverty decreased from 21.4 percent in 2016/17 to 18.7 percent in 2019, but subsequently rose to 21.9 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these fluctuations, poverty has effectively stagnated since 2012/13. Spatial disparities persist, with the Northern and Eastern regions exhibiting the highest poverty rates. Using the recently revised national poverty line, which more accurately reflects modern consumption patterns, poverty was estimated to be higher at 30.1 percent, though lower than the 42.1 percent poverty rate at the \$2.15 per person per day (2017 PPP) international poverty line.

The multi-dimensional poverty measure, which includes both non-monetary and monetary dimensions of poverty, though high at 52.2 percent in 2019/20, has declined by 5.6 percentage points compared with 2016/17. This was largely driven by an increase in the share of the population with access to electricity, though inadequate access to sanitation remains a major challenge. Human capital accumulation remains low; in 2019/20, 31.4 percent of households had no adults who had completed primary education. Spatial disparities in human capital accumulation are also evident with the Northern region lagging other regions. The country is also grappling with food insecurity. According to household phone surveys conducted in February/March 2024, 40 percent of people had poor or borderline food consumption as measured by the Food Consumption Score, which measures food security. Six of ten people were worried about having enough food to eat and a third reported skipping meals altogether.

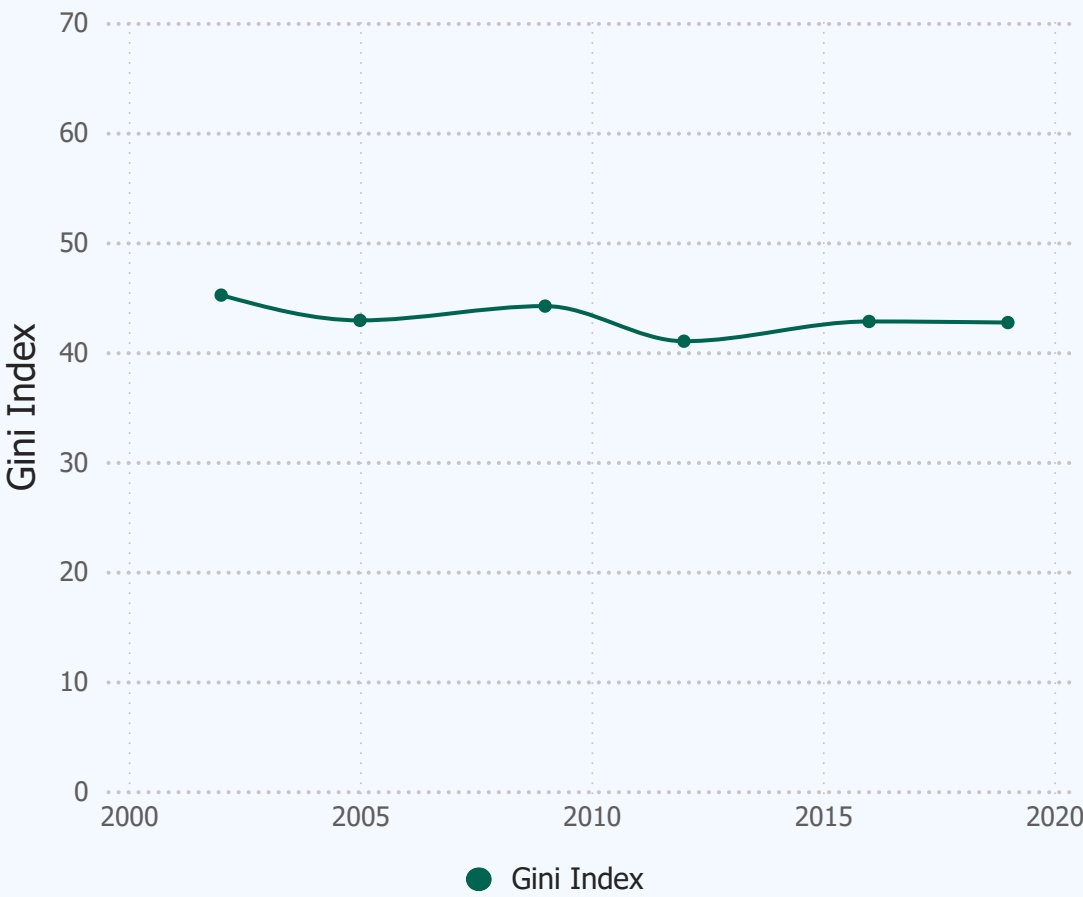
Though the economy is projected to continue growing by 6.2 percent in 2025 and 10.8 percent in 2026 according to the latest MPO forecasts, there remain several threats to poverty reduction. Given the high dependency on agriculture as a livelihood, with seven of ten Ugandan households reporting some form of agricultural income as their main source of income, and one in three Ugandans depending on own production for their food source, changing weather conditions is a primary threat. According to the 2024 Afrobarometer, five of ten Ugandans report somewhat or much more severe droughts compared to ten years ago. Other frequently experienced shocks such as high food prices, high prices for inputs for farming/business, and a fall in sale prices for outputs from farming/business pose additional downside risks to short-term poverty reduction. Using some of the anticipated revenue flows from oil production expected to come onstream in 2025 to help bolster the social protection system can help households recover from the impact of shocks and limit future exposure, while investments in infrastructure and human capital can help support poverty reduction over the longer term.



Poverty Rate



Inequality



# Poverty at Different Lines

Poverty Line	Number of Poor (Thousands)	Rate (%)	Year
National Poverty Line	8,718.7	20.3	2019
International Poverty Line (\$2.15/day)	18,088.3	42.1	2019
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$3.65/day)	30,825.0	71.8	2019
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line (\$6.85/day)	39,105.9	91.1	2019
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		52.2	2019

## Group and Multidimensional Poverty

Poverty by Group	Poverty Rate (%)	Multidimensional Poverty Components	(% of Pop.)
Urban population	22.8	Daily income less than US\$2.15 per person	42.1
Rural population	49.1	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	11.8
Males	41.9	No adult has completed primary education	31.4
Females	42.3	No access to limited-standard drinking water	23.7
0 to 14 years old	48.4	No access to limited-standard sanitation	71.1
15 to 64 years old	36.5	No access to electricity	41.3
65 and older	36.8		
Without education (16+)	54.9		
Primary education (16+)	42.0		
Secondary education (16+)	23.5		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	6.0		

**Note:**  
Data for the "Poverty by Group" table is derived from a 2019 survey and data for the "Multidimensional Poverty Components" table is derived from a 2019 survey. The rates in the "Poverty by Group" table above are shown at the \$2.15 international line.  
"N/A" denotes a missing/removed value, while "N/A\*" refers to a value which was removed due to having fewer than 30 observations.

### Poverty Data & Methodology

The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) has conducted household surveys (Uganda National Household Survey-UNHS) every three to four years since the 1990s. The last survey was conducted out in 2022/23 and the next survey is expected in 2025/26. Uganda uses the cost-of-basic needs method to measure the level of poverty. It estimates the expenditure needed to satisfy a minimum caloric requirement (3,000 kcal per adult equivalent) and basic non-food needs (the non-food expenditure of those households on the food poverty line). There are adjustments for differences in regional prices and for changes in prices during the duration of the survey. The poverty line was originally set in 1999 (using 1992 data) but was deemed to no longer be reflective of the reality in which poor Ugandan households currently live. Consequently, UBOS estimated a new poverty line, called the upper poverty line, using the consumer basket from 2016/17 to more accurately reflect modern consumption patterns. UBOS reports on poverty rates using the two different poverty lines in parallel.

### Harmonization

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.