



EMPOWERING WOMEN

through Evidence in Africa

Women in Parliaments – Global Forum Nov, 2013

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www.worldbank.org/africa/genderseminar

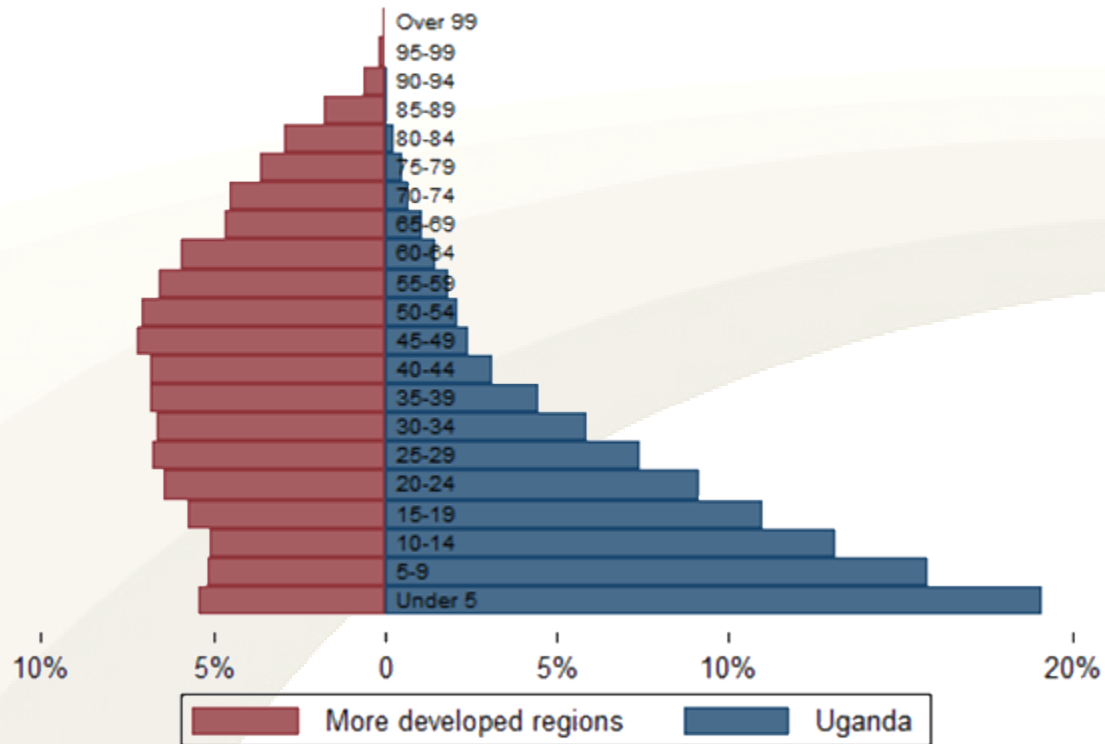
Towards evidence based policymaking

Strategy & Approach, Africa Region, WB

- Africa Region, WB, from 70% gender informed lending in FY10 to 95% in FY13
- Going one step further
 - Get the facts right
 - Nationally representative surveys (LSMS-ISA)
 - Understand what works
 - Learn while doing (impact evaluation)

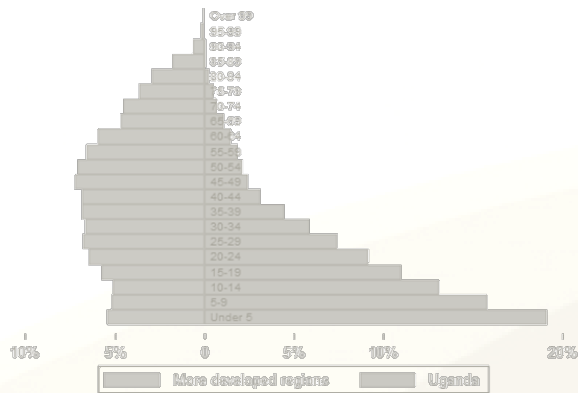
Opportunities?

Fact 1: **Lots of youth**

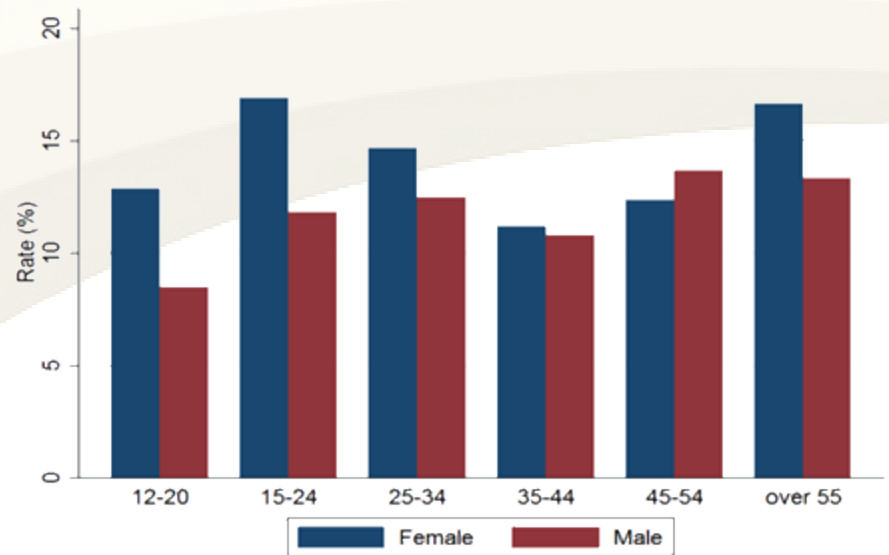


Opportunities?

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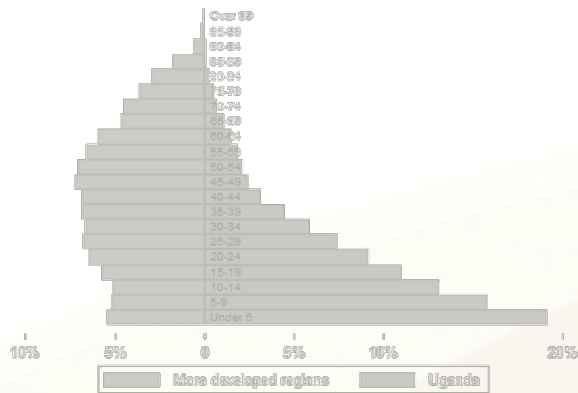
Fact 2: **Girls are less likely to be working**



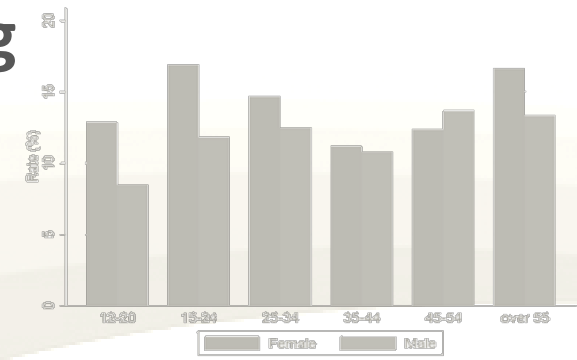
Notes: Unemployment is defined as those who actively wanted a job but did not participate in any employment activities, including self-employment and agricultural works).

Opportunities?

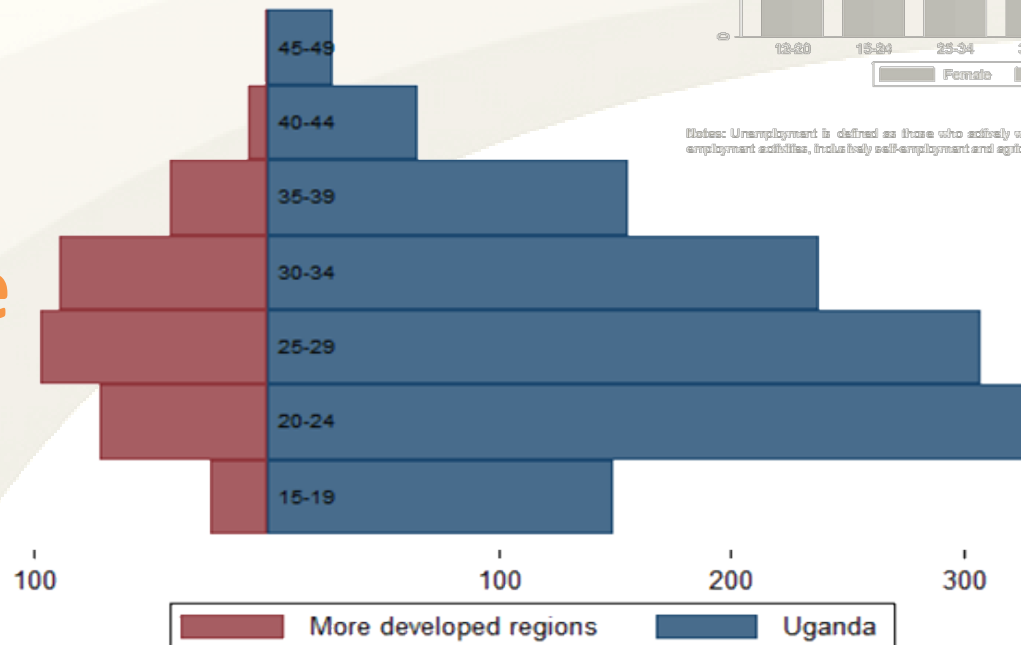
Fact 1: Lots of youth



Fact 2: Girls are less likely to be working



Fact 3: they are having more children, younger



Notes: Unemployment is defined as those who actively wanted a job but did not participate in any employment activities, including self-employment and agricultural work.

Notes: The data stems from the 2010 UN World Population Prospects data base. The fertility rate is measured by the number of births per 1,000 women. More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan.

For girls, adolescence is the critical time to intervene

- Risk of HIV/STI, unintended pregnancy
- Early motherhood can limit future earnings (path dependence)
- Barriers to labor market entry
 - smaller networks/access to information
 - domestic work burden
 - concurrent labor market/fertility decisions.



So how about a program that targets girls?

- Five adolescent girls projects in Africa
 - Taking into account constraints unique to girls across many dimensions
 - Varying emphasis on vocational training and empowerment/life skills
- Results are in for 2 of the 5 projects: Uganda and Liberia



What do we know?

- Youth Employment literature: 2 meta-analyses
 - **Some, but not a lot of impact, not that much rigorous evaluation, some more positive impacts for women**
 - IDB review by Ibararan and Shady (2009) and WB's Youth Employment Inventory (Betcherman 2007)
- Girls Empowerment literature: 1 meta-analysis
 - **less rigorous analysis, not a lot of impact reported on economic outcomes**
 - DFID review by Dickson Bangpan (2012)

ELA - Uganda



- Run by BRAC, funded by Mastercard & Nike
- Target girls 14-20 with:
 1. Safe social space
 2. Life skills training (focus on reproductive health)
 3. Short livelihood training based on local market
 4. In future: microfinance

How will we know if it works?

- Randomized control trials
 - Uganda: 100 villages in program,
 - 50 in control
- So, lots of data
 - 4888 girls, 2 interviews, 2 years apart
 - Employment, but also: self-confidence, savings, expenditures, health, GBV, time use, etc.



Did it work?

Employment and earnings outcomes:



Engagement in IGAs by 32%

- Mostly driven by self-employment activities



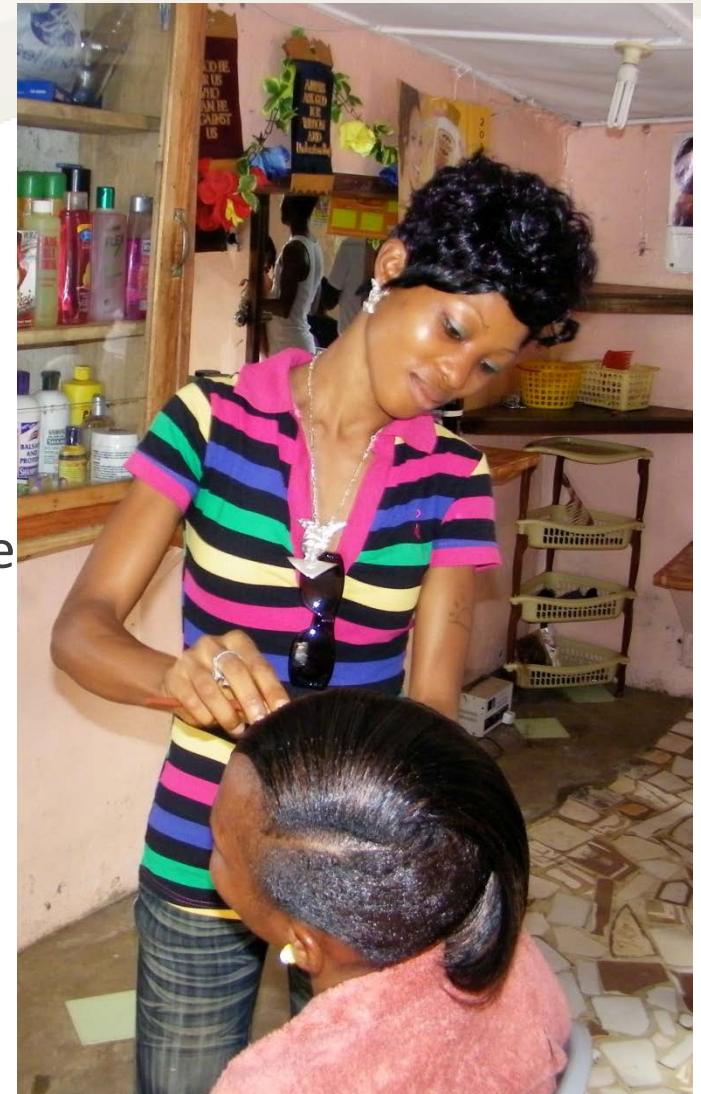
Income from self-employment activities (conditional) by about 32 USD



No adverse effects on schooling outcomes, e.g. enrollment or time spent on studying

Is it worth it?

- Cost per potential beneficiary is \$17.9 in year 2
- Corresponds to:
 - 0.5% of household income at baseline
- Set this against:
 - 32% increase in employment
 - 32\$ annual increase in income among those self employed



Dazzling statistics?

- 32% increase in employment
 - 4.2%point increase (12.4 to 16.6% of girls with IGA)
 - 32\$ increase in income among self employed
 - But only 7% is self employed
- ➔ Annual economic benefit of 8.7\$ compared with annual cost of 17.9 \$ (in yr2)
- $0.042 * 162\$/\text{yr} = 6.5\$\text{}$
 - $0.07 * 33\$\text{ } = 2.2\$\text{}$
 - Total gain $\quad = 8.7\$\text{}$

Bad boys?

- Girls' spending patterns
 - More than 80% of income gains spent on jewelry/ornaments, cosmetics/makeup, clothes, hairdressers, shoes/footwear, going to restaurants/bars/teashop/café, talk time for your mobile phone and presents/gifts
- Changes in family spending patterns?
 - Not reported

Impacts beyond economics



Fertility: reported motherhood decreases by 26% (from 10.4% of girls having a child to 7.6%)



Proportion of those always using a condom increases by 27%



No effect on use of other contraceptives or reported STDs



Incidence of sex against their will drops by 76% (from 21.2 % to 5.2%)

Is it worth it? Liberia

- Cost per beneficiary:
 - 1650 USD for Job Skills track
 - 1200 USD for Business Skills track
- Jovenes (700-2000 USD)
- Set this against average monthly increase in earnings:
 - **2 years to recoup investment (Business Skills)**
 - 8 years to recoup investment (Job Skills)



Observations

2 very different models of empowering girls

fairly large impacts – not only in the economic realm, but also in health (23% decline in fertility) and agency (75% decline in unwanted sex).

a good investment? – depends on time horizon (Liberia) and valuation of non-pecuniary benefits (Uganda)

More to come and needed ...

In closing:

Get the numbers!

Gender disaggregated surveys. Learn while doing (IE).

Interpret them right!

Beware of the base. What is not said may be as important as what is said.

Don't forget the costs!

A VW may give better bang for the buck than a Porsche.