

PRELIMINARY REPORT

2022



Photo: Amelia Conrad, Emory University

MEASURING URBAN SANITATION AND EMPOWERMENT (MUSE) PRELIMINARY FINDINGS: Women & Men in Kampala, Uganda

BACKGROUND AND METHODS

Background: Women's and girls' roles in household water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are well-documented. Yet, there are limited data on how WASH conditions, programs, and policies impact women's empowerment, or how women's empowerment impacts WASH.

Aim: The aim of the MUSE project is to create and validate measures of sanitation-related empowerment in urban settings. The quantitative data collected and analyzed as part of the MUSE project can supplement the qualitative findings of the Kampala City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation Gender Analysis and can be used to inform inclusive sanitation programming.

Methods: In partnership with Athena Infonomics, CME Solution, and Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Emory University surveyed 713 adult women and 344 adult men in Kampala, Uganda from April 11, 2022 – May 2, 2022. Surveys were conducted in parishes in collaboration with KCCA, in each of Kampala's ten divisions. The survey included 16 scales and five indices to assess the three domains of empowerment: Resources, Agency, and Institutional Structures and their associated subdomains, adapted from van Eerdewijk (2017) (Figure 4). The survey also included questions for both men and women on population demographics, WASH facility access and practices, and relevant WASH experiences related to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. Men were also asked about their perception of women's experiences regarding sanitation and menstruation. Further validation of scales in other locations is ongoing.

This report presents preliminary findings from the data collected in Kampala, Uganda.

FUNDER

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KEY FINDINGS

- **More women (12.5%)** than **men (3.2%)** reported that they had to use a sanitation facility that was not private enough.
- **More women (96.4%)** than **men (87.8%)** reported that women are as capable as men to take on official leadership roles in sanitation initiatives.
- **Fewer women (37.3%)** than **men (59.3%)** reported having skills (budgeting, organizing) to contribute to sanitation-related projects in their community.
- **More men (82.3%)** than **women (65.4%)** reported that they have someone in their household who would help with chores, such as cooking or providing childcare, so that they could tend to their own sanitation needs.
- **More women (68.2%)** than **men (55.2%)** reported that women typically have to delay going to a sanitation location more often than men because of their responsibilities.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

WOMEN (n=713)

- **33.8 years:** average participant age
- **25.3%** married
- **4.3 people:** average that live in household
- **88.6%** completed at least primary education
- **37.1%** employed outside the home
- **4.5 hours:** average time spent outside home

MEN (n=344)

- **34.8 years:** average participant age
- **38.7%** married
- **3.9 people:** average that live in household
- **97.1%** completed at least primary education
- **71.8%** employed outside the home
- **8.3 hours:** average time spent outside home

WASH ACCESS AND PRACTICES

Sanitation

- The majority of women (**80.1%**) and of men (**93.9%**) used a sanitation location in their own yard or plot (**Figure 1**).
- **77.4%** of women and **75.9%** of men reported using shared facilities. Of those, **95.9%** of women and **94.5%** of men shared with known households; **4.1%** of women and **5.5%** of men shared public facilities.
- **85.2%** of women and **90.3%** of men reported their sanitation facility was lockable from the inside.
- **39.7%** of women and **57.2%** of men had insufficient lighting inside their sanitation facility.

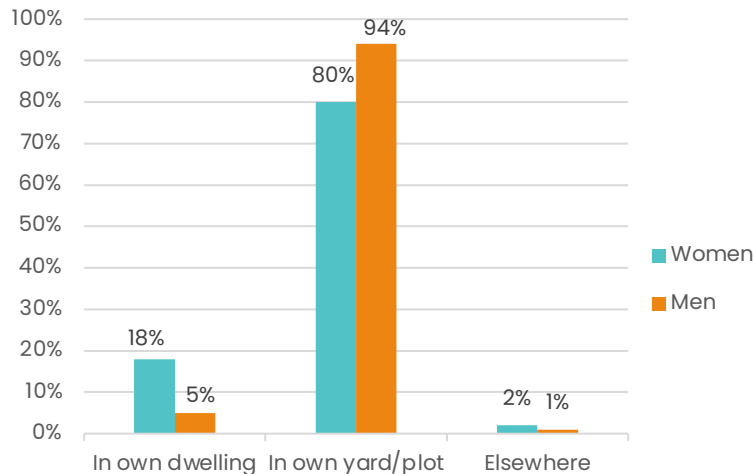


Figure 1. Locations where women and men reported defecating during the daytime

Water

- **90.7%** of women and **70.1%** of men reported needing to collect water for sanitation (**Figures 2a & 2b**).
- Of those, a greater proportion of women (**80.1%**) than men (**70.4%**) reported having to pay for the water used for sanitation-related purposes.

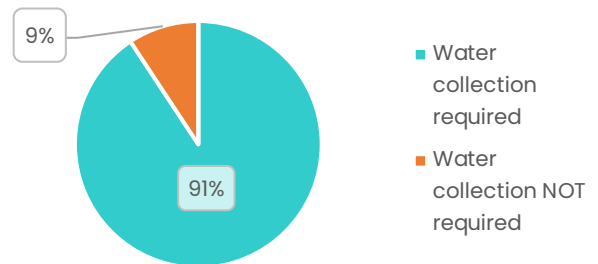


Figure 2a. Proportion of women reporting they need to collect water for sanitation

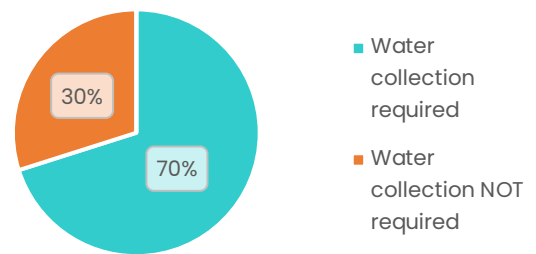


Figure 2b. Proportion of men reporting they need to collect water for sanitation

IMPACT OF COVID-19

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic or resulting lockdowns or restrictions:

- A greater proportion of women (**83.1%**) than men (**73.6%**) reported difficulties purchasing sanitation-related items.
- A similar proportion of men (**6.4%**) and women (**3.0%**) reported difficulties accessing sanitation services like desludging or latrine repairs.
- A greater proportion of men (**27.9%**) than women (**2.8%**) reported discomfort accessing their sanitation location due to coronavirus-related concerns.

Menstruation

Women Respondents

58.5% reported menstruating. Of those:

35.3% depended on someone else to pay for menstruation expenses.

63.9% reported having someone who could get them menstrual items. Of those, half (**53.4%**) reported that a female family member could get items for them, if asked (**Figure 3a**).

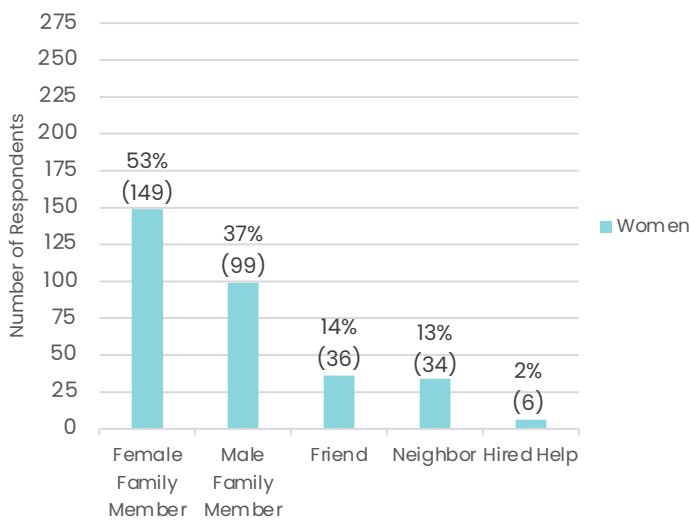


Figure 3a. People women reported who could get menstrual items for them, if asked

Men Respondents

56.7% reported a woman or girl in their household who experienced menstruation. Of those:

76.4% reported that women in their household depended on them, or someone else, to pay for menstruation expenses.

84.6% reported that they, or someone else, could get menstrual items for women in their household. Of those, **57.3%** said that they could get materials (**Figure 3b**).

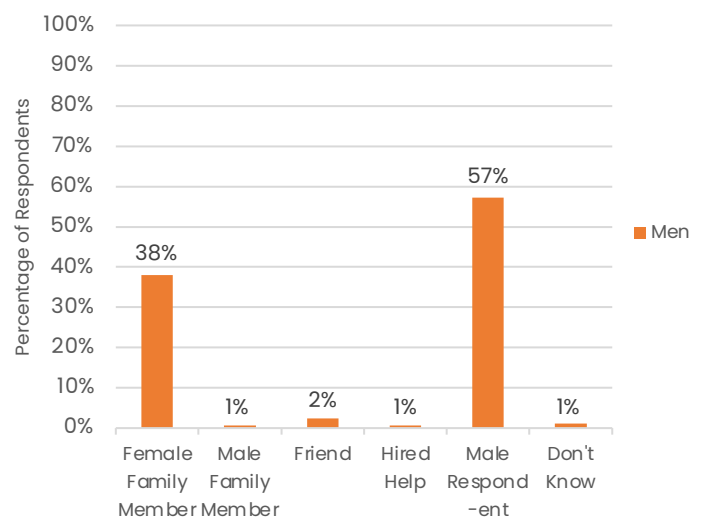


Figure 3b. People men reported who could get women in their households' menstrual items, if asked

EMPOWERMENT DOMAINS

Empowerment, as defined for this study, is composed of 3 domains: Agency, Resources, and Institutional Structures (Figure 4). The MUSE survey includes 16 scales and 5 indices for sub-domains of empowerment within these 3 domains. Below, we present illustrative findings for individual items from each domain.

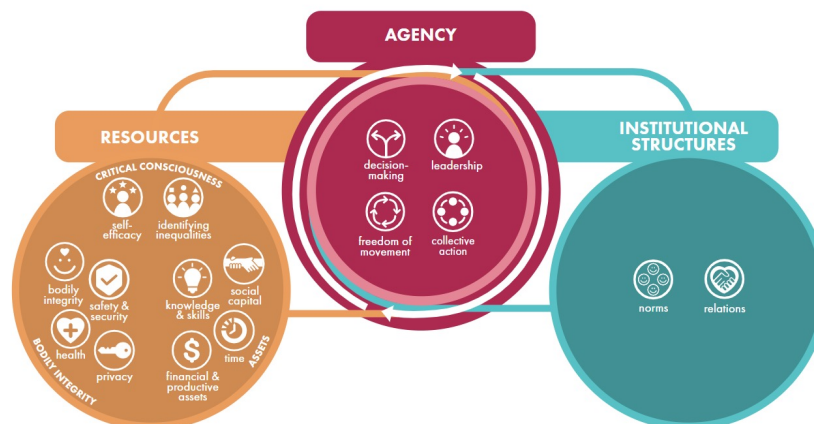


Figure 4. Conceptual Model of Empowerment adapted from van Eerdewijk, et al. 2017.

AGENCY

Agency involves the subdomains of Decision-Making, Leadership, Collective Action, and Freedom of Movement.

Decision-Making

98.3% of women and **94.8%** of men agreed or strongly agreed that they would be welcome to participate in a discussion if their household was making a decision about sanitation-related issues.

At the community level, a smaller proportion of women (**87.9%**) than men (**93.6%**) agreed or strongly agreed that others were likely to listen if the respondent spoke up in a community meeting about sanitation issues.

Leadership

A greater proportion of women (**96.4%**) than men (**87.8%**) agreed or strongly agreed that women are as capable as men to take on official leadership roles in sanitation initiatives.

Collective Action

A greater proportion of women (**75.5%**) than men (**66.6%**) agreed or strongly agreed that they were confident members of their community will work with one another to achieve sanitation-related goals.

Freedom of Movement

Almost all women (**99.7%**) and all men (**100.0%**) reported that they could go to a sanitation location alone, without asking permission or requiring accompaniment.

However, a smaller proportion of women (**82.8%**) than men (**96.5%**) reported that they could go to a community meeting or training outside of their neighborhood alone, without asking permission or requiring accompaniment.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

Institutional Structures include the subdomains of Norms and Relations.

Norms

Women (**97.3%**) and men (**90.4%**) largely agreed that, in their communities, it is women more often than men who are expected to assume most responsibilities related to maintaining the cleanliness of the sanitation facility their family uses.

A comparable proportion of women (**98.2%**) and men (**98.5%**) agreed that it is appropriate for women to attend sanitation related meetings where men are present.

Relations

A smaller proportion of women (**90.9%**) than men (**98.0%**) reported that their family would encourage or help them to participate in a community initiative to improve sanitation.

A greater proportion of women (**90.4%**) than men (**82.3%**) reported that their interactions with local leaders or authorities about sanitation-related issues are generally free of conflict.

A similar proportion of women (**87.9%**) and men (**88.7%**) reported that they feel comfortable reporting sanitation-related problems to service providers when they arise.

RESOURCES

Resources includes the subdomains of Bodily Integrity, Critical Consciousness, Financial and Productive Assets, Time, Social Capital, Knowledge and Skills and Health, Privacy, and Safety.

Bodily Integrity

A slightly smaller proportion of women (**64.6%**) than men (**69.8%**) reported they often or always felt satisfied with the sanitation location they used most often.

Health

A greater proportion of women (**15.5%**) than men (**9.9%**) reported using a sanitation location often or always that they believed might make them ill.

RESOURCES, continued

Safety and Security

A smaller proportion of women (**20.7%**) than men (**38.7%**) agreed or strongly agreed that women in their community face the risk of being physically harmed by men or boys when going to sanitation locations.

However, a greater proportion of women (**5.1%**) than men (**1.7%**) personally felt unsafe in the place where they typically go for sanitation during the day in the past 30 days.

Privacy

A greater proportion of women (**12.5%**) than men (**3.2%**) reported that they often or always had to use a sanitation facility that was not private enough while at home in the past 30 days.

Financial and Productive Assets

A greater proportion of women (**26.7%**) than men (**8.4%**) reported that they would need to ask permission before spending household money on small sanitation-related expenses, such as toilet paper, soap, or pay-per-use latrines.

A smaller proportion of women (**51.0%**) than men (**58.7%**) reported that they have control over money they could use to pay for household latrine/toilet improvements or repairs.

Time

A similar proportion of women (**7.0%**) and men (**9.6%**) agreed or strongly agreed that the sanitation-related needs and responsibilities of their household often make them miss out on other activities they would like to do.

Social Capital

A greater proportion of men (**82.3%**) than women (**65.4%**) reported that they have someone in their household who would help with chores, such as cooking or providing childcare, so that they could tend to their own sanitation needs.

Knowledge and Skills

A smaller proportion of women (**37.3%**) than men (**59.3%**) reported that they have skills, like budgeting, organization, or mobilizing, to contribute to sanitation-related projects in their community.

Self-Efficacy

A greater proportion of women (**54.6%**) than men (**47.1%**) felt that they could change sanitation conditions in their community if they wanted to.

Critical Consciousness – Identifying and Questioning Inequalities

A greater proportion of women (**68.2%**) than men (**55.2%**) agreed or strongly agreed that women typically have to delay going to a sanitation location more often than men because of their responsibilities.

REFERENCES

van Eerdewijk, A. H. J. M., Franz Wong, Chloe Vaast, Julie Newton, Marcelo Tyszler, and Amy Pennington. "White paper: A conceptual model on women and girls' empowerment." (2017).