EXAMINING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO DIGITAL PLATFORMS

List of Acronyms

APC	:	Association for Progressive Communications
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussion
ICT	:	Information Communication Technology
KBPS	:	KiloBytes Per Second
KII	:	Key Informant Interview
MoICT	:	Ministry of Information Communication and Technology
MTN	:	Mobile Telephone Network
NIITA-U	:	The National Information Technology Authority Uganda
RCDF	:	Rural Communications Development Fund
WOUGNET	:	Women of Uganda Network

Definition of Key Words

Digital Platform   :   Refers to the software or hardware of a website allowing for the interaction of its users[i]. For example, in Uganda commonly used ones are: Twitter, Wikipedia, Facebook, Instagram, Amazon, Kikuu, Jumia and OLX. Such platforms bring together different groups of users; with a common meeting point being the internet. More, they facilitate exchange between multiple groups - for example end users and producers - who don't necessarily know each other. They are often key sources of networking. A Digital Platform is worth nothing without its community.

Mobile Broadband**:**   This is a form of mobile internet that supports speeds of more than 256 kbps

Mobile Internet   :   Mobile Internet is a way of getting online when you are on the move via portable devices such as mobile phones, tablets and personal computers.

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from an evidence based study that examines the gendered aspects to women's internet access on mobile broadband connections. The outcome of the study will help to drive a well-tailored and specific advocacy around policy and regulatory practices in the industry to lower the cost of broadband connection.

FACTS*:*

Uganda has six (6) telecom providers: Africell, MTN, Airtel, Smile, Tangerine and UTL Together, they present 204 packages for their clients to choose. Africell provides the largest number of packages, followed by MTN Uganda. Tangerine Telecom provides only 6 packages, taking the lowest position among other telecoms.

MTN Uganda and Airtel Uganda take the lion's share of customers subscribed to telecom companies in the country, Uganda. When it comes to ownership of the mobile phone, men are the majority.

Affordability remains one of the most important obstacle to internet access in Uganda where 1 GB of mobile broadband data costs nearly 16% of a person's average monthly income (A4AI, 2017). Women's ability to gain meaningful internet access is constrained by several factors including location, economic power, age, gender, societal and cultural norms and education among others and these discrimination and disparity translates and exacerbates the specific gender based challenges that prevents access to the internet as a productive resource (APC, 2017).

METHODOLOGY:

The Evidence based study preferred that the characteristics of the respondents be:

- That the majority of the respondents fall in the age group 25-64 years. All respondents fell within the preferred age group
- That at least 70% of them are engaged in some form of employment. The majority (90%) of the respondents were involved in varying kinds of employment. The non-employed were all women and were full time housewives.
- That at least 70% of them are of the female gender. The majority (62%) of the respondents were female; leaving 38% as males. This is slightly below the planning target.
- The respondents are resident in either Kampala or Kabarole districts. All respondents were residents in either Kampala or Kabarole districts.

A total of fifty-one (51) persons were involved in the study; 88% of the respondents being 'people without physical disability'. Six (6) of the respondents were 'people with physical disability'; and they were all women.

The Evidence based study used two (2) Key Methods: Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews. Energizers were prepared for use to keep the discussions alive and fun. They were not used in the data collection process.

Pretesting was done in Fort Portal town. The process involved using the tool and preparing a pseudo report. Adjustments were made and the tool was applied throughout the Evidence based study. Data was analyzed using frequency tables and was done on-spot after the exercise and with the respondents. Application of charts, maps and diagrams was derived from the analyzed data.

The Data Management Plan involves conducting the evidence based research. Thereafter present the findings to a multi stakeholder conference. During this gathering, approval is given to organize Consultative meetings/workshops held with telecoms and regulators to discuss findings. Thereafter, a Knowledge Management product will be designed and a media briefing held.

This study met only one challenge: People were shy to comment on the topic(s). This is for both the telecom industries and individuals. Several of them asked that their identity be withheld and not shared at any point. As such "anonymity" of the respondents' person details was guaranteed.

FINDINGS

Access to Mobile Broadband Connections and Digital Platforms: The majority (98%) said that they use mobile phones as a means of mobile broadband. Common reasons cited were: "availability", "affordability" and "portability" compared to the other options.

Concerning the digital platform, at least half of the respondents said they use "WhatsApp" most. This was followed by "Facebook" and then "E-Market" platforms.

Usage of Mobile Broadband: Respondents were asked which option of broadband they see women using and they all said "mobile phone". Major reasons cited were because the mobile phone they said was: "Affordable" and "Portable". They also said it had a "privacy" concept and offered a "variety of bundles to choose from".

Sources of Money for Women to Purchase Data Plans: Money is a key ingredient to obtaining data on ones' phone. Each of the female respondents was asked where they obtain their money to buy data. The majority said they obtain it from their earnings. Sources of earnings mentioned were: farming, kiosks and sale of second hand clothes. They also obtain data money from their spouses and *kameza* money. A few did mention that they get it from their friends and relatives.

Developing a data plan for women: Each respondent was asked to mention key factors that they would consider if asked to develop a data plan for women. In order of preference, the responses were: provide same daily bundles but with longer expiry, affordability, easy to load, provide unlimited bundles, easy to access upcountry, bundle be flexible to other networks and lastly, the user determines the expiry date.

When probed to explain how the telecom company would differentiate the men from women sim cards, the respondents suggested use of National IDs because that is where their gender is correct. Some said the sim cards are registered in their spouses' names.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the day, it was realized that, true, women do access the digital platforms. If they are to benefit even more, issues emanating continuously are: affordability, validation, time to load the data, connectivity and outreach need to be addressed.

A more practical way forward at this point would be to gather the key stakeholders, relay information embedded in this report and pave a more practical way forward.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report presents the findings from an evidence based study that examines the gendered aspects to women's internet access on mobile broadband connections; including their ability to purchase data plans, the type of access they have and how the universal access programs - the Rural Communication Development Fund (RCDF), the mobile broadband internet packages offered by telecoms have positively or negatively influenced a gendered use and access to mobile broadband internet connection in Uganda by women.

The outcome of the study will help to drive a well-tailored and specific advocacy around policy and regulatory practices in the industry to lower the cost of broadband connection. The findings will inform aspects of policy advocacy around the unique barriers to internet access by ensuring policy makers and stakeholders addresses gendered issues and dimensions within major drivers to affordability such as infrastructure, broadband policies, universal public access, and managing spectrum amongst others to lower cost.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective was to examine the gendered aspects to women's internet access on mobile Broadband connections to guide advocacy around policy and regulatory practices in Uganda.

Objective 1: Examine the gender dimension of women's mobile broadband internet access in Uganda

Objective 2: To analyze the different types of data plans and quantify levels of access across gender

Objective 3: To develop policy advocacy initiatives to lower broadband cost to citizens
Objective 4: To document and disseminate findings to broader audience

1.3 Facts and Figures

1.3.1 Mobile Data in Uganda

Kompare Uganda attempts to compile telecom Mobile data information in Uganda. Using their information as at 23rd August 2019, please see analysis below.
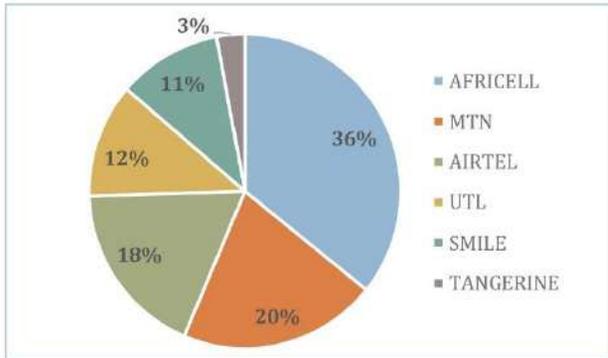
Figure 1: Telecom Service Providers in Uganda: Share of the Packages

There are six (6) telecom providers in Uganda. The main ones are: Africell, MTN, Airtel, Smile and UTL

Together, they present 204 packages for their clients to choose.

See Figure adjacent for details of the percentage share of the packages presented.

Africell provides the largest number of packages, followed by MTN Uganda. Tangerine Telecom provides only 6 packages, taking the lowest position among other telecoms. To see details of these packages/telecom company, please refer to Annex 1.

Each package, depending on the Telecom Company, vary.

Figure 2: Tree Map illustrating the Validity of the Data Package, irrespective of Telecom Company
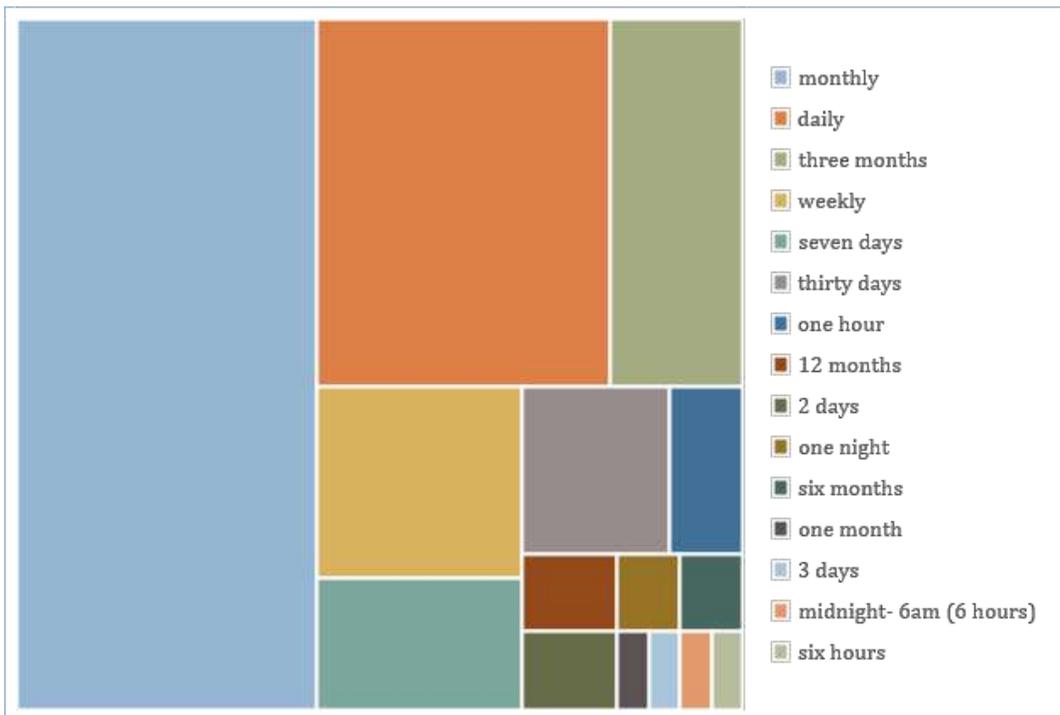
Irrespective of the telecom company, the "monthly" package has the most number of packages. This is followed by the daily package. The "one month", "3 days", "midnight - 6am" and "6 hour" packages present the least. Again, refer to Annex 1 for details.

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1.3.2 The Market Share

The table below illustrates the market share of each of the major mobile network operators in the country, as of September 2018[ii].

Table 1: Market Share Among Mobile Network Operators in Uganda

RANK	NAME OF OPERATOR	MILLIONS OF CUSTOMERS	MARKET SHARE (%)
1.	MTN Uganda	10.7	46.0
2.	Airtel Uganda	10.2	44.0
3.	Africell Uganda	2.1	9.0
4.	Uganda Telecom	0.14	0.6
5.	Smile Telecom	0.07	0.3
	TOTAL	**23.2**	**100.00**

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mobile_network_operators_in_Uganda

It is evident from the above table that MTN Uganda and Airtel Uganda take the lion's share of customers subscribed to telecom companies in the country, Uganda.

The National IT Survey 2017/2018 report by the National Information Technology Authority Uganda (NITA-U) revealed that 70.9 per cent of Ugandans own mobile phones as compared the 52.3 per cent figure in 2014 by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) 2014 Access and Usage of Communication Services Across Uganda study report.

NITA-U went on to stress that the rural folk outpacing urban people in terms of growth. Attempts to obtain the more recent gender disparity to this regards has been fruitless so far. However, see the figures of 2012/3 in table below

Table 2: Ownership of Mobile Phone, 2012/3

MOBILE PHONE	TYPE OF OWNERSHIP		
	individual	joint	None
Women	46	3	51
Men	58	6	36

Source: Women and Men in Uganda. Facts and Figures 2016

1.4 Affordability

This remains one of the most important obstacle to internet access in Uganda where 1 GB of mobile broadband data costs nearly 16% of a person's average monthly income (A4AI, 2017). Look out for the 2019 A4AI report

The 2018 National broadband policy notes that the cost to connect to the east coast of Africa from Uganda is higher than the cost to get to Europe or USA from the Africa coast further offering a blurred picture to universal and affordable access (MoICT&NG, 2018)

1.5 Women and Mobile Broadband

Sustainable Development Goals on women and technology provide an historic opportunity for Uganda to close the digital gender divide. The SDGs commit UN member states to achieve universal internet access by 2020 (Goal 9c) and to implement policies to empower women through technology (Goal 5b). Beyond these important targets, access to information and communication technology (ICT) is also critical to achieving other SDGs, such as: Goal 4: achieving quality education.

A 2017 report by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) observes that women's ability to gain meaningful internet access is constrained by several factors including location, economic power, age, gender, societal and cultural norms and education among others and these discrimination and disparity translates and exacerbates the specific gender based challenges that prevents access to the internet as a productive resource (APC, 2017).

Meaningful access implies the extent to which women access to the internet can enable the exercise of agency and decision making towards the realization of their rights and thus the agency can be measured through women's capacity to produce their own content, engage in advocacy around issues pertinent to them, control over resources and infrastructures as well as ability to negotiate in policy spaces around infrastructures and ability to develop technology and networking capacity.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Demography of Respondents

The Evidence based study preferred that the characteristics of the respondents be:

- That the majority of the respondents fall in the age group 25-64 years;
- That at least 70% of them are engaged in some form of employment.
- That at least 70% of them are of the female gender and resident in either Kampala or Kabarole districts.

2.1.1 The Sample

2.1.1.1 Size

Total of fifty-one (51) persons were involved in the study.

2.1.1.2 Gender

Gender, is the social and cultural construct of roles, responsibilities, attributes, opportunities, privileges, status, access to and control over resources and benefits between women and men, boys and girls in a given society[iii].

Obtaining the views of the female gender for this case was paramount especially because the Evidence based study primarily targeted them.

See respondent participation in figure below.

Figure 3: Respondents by Gender
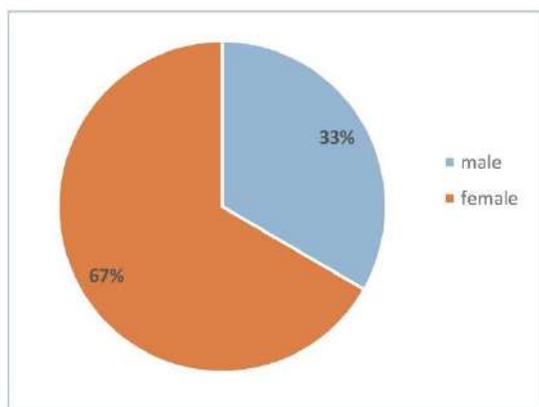
The majority (62%) of the respondents were female; leaving 38% as males. This is slightly below the planning target.

2.1.1.3 Age Group

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)[iv] defines the distribution of Population by Age Group and Sex in three broader categories: 0-14 years, 15-64 years and 65+years. The category used in the age group is in adherence to this demarcation.

All (100%) of the respondents fall in the category 15 - 64 years. None of the respondents fell in the category 0-14 years nor 65+ years.

2.1.1.4 Category

Figure 4: Respondents by Physical Ability
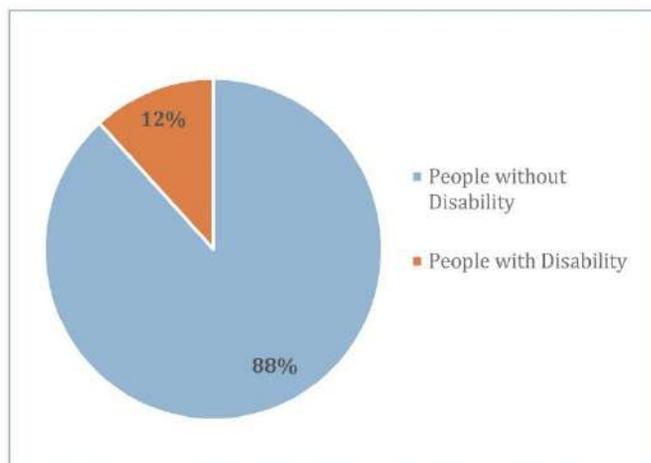
The majority (88%) of the respondents were 'people without physical disability'. Six (6) of the respondents were 'people with physical disability'; and they were all women. It was very important to include this sect of people in our community especially because their views too are very important to this study.

2.1.1.5 Occupation

The majority (90%) of the respondents were involved in varying kinds of employment. See Figure below.

Figure 5: Respondents Employment Status
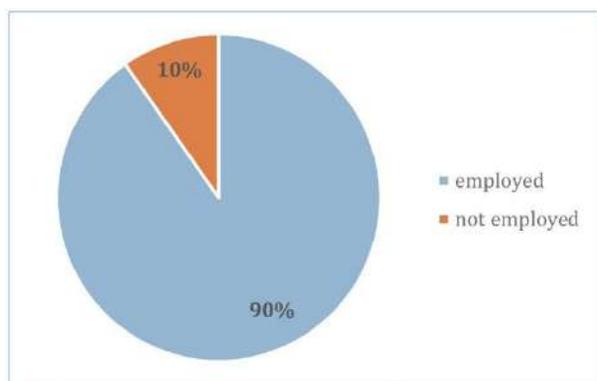
The forms of employment included: business persons, farmers, social workers and educationists. The non - employed were all females and claimed they were house wives.

2.2 Data Collection

2.2.1 The Method

The Evidence based study used two (2) Key Methods: Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews. Energizers were prepared for use to keep the discussions alive and fun.

Figure 6: Respondents per Method of Data Collection
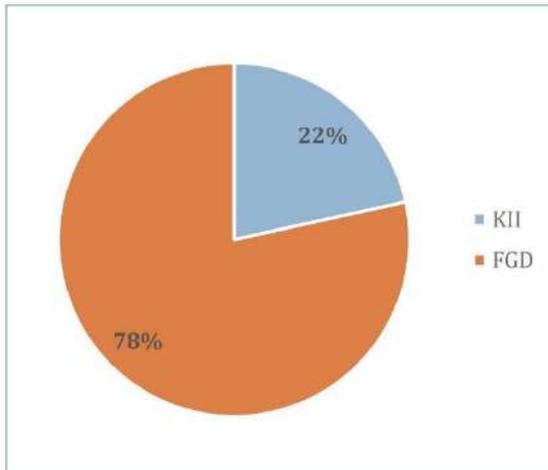
Focus Group Discussion (FGD**):** this involved youth male and females discussing the set topic(s) of interest. Three (3) FGDs were conducted and each had a majority of women. Caution to this regard was done during mobilization.

For each session, guide questions intended to generate discussion were used. Respondents wrote their responses on cards. These were tallied and results of which acted as the source of discussion.

Key Informant Interviews (KII**):** during mobilization, emphasis for the KIIs was to people from the respective district that were conversant with mobile broad band and digital platforms issues in respect to gender in their resident communities. These were subjected to face-to-face interviews using guidelines that were related to the FGD tool.

Before the interview began, the interviewee was briefed on the cause and action thereafter. They were informed that they could ask questions before the exercise began.

Energizers: these were prepared for use in case the respondents in the FGDs seemed to lose focus.

Methods prepared were (1) to write the word "COCONUT" using the body (2) the "Weatherman". This involves according signs to different weather patterns. The lead then mentions the weather pattern and the rest imitate using the signal agreed upon at the start.

None of the above were used because a situation of need did not present itself.

2.2.2   Pre-testing

This was done in Fort Portal town. Reason for choice of town was because it is a rural town with urban settings. It was envisaged that chances of meeting rural women using the internet was higher compared to other towns. It is the "Tourism city of Uganda".

The process involved using the tool and preparing a pseudo report. This was aimed at realizing the effectiveness of the tool as well as ability to fit into a reporting format developed for the Study. Adjustments were made and the tool was applied throughout the Evidence based study.

2.3 Data Analysis

2.3.1 Data Source

All data used in this Evidence based study has been obtained from the responses in the field. It is presented as either text or excerpts.

Important to mention that some of the excerpts that appear as quotes are from the literature reviewed.

2.3.2 Data Management

This study Evidence based study is more of a qualitative study. WOUGNET has engaged a professional Data Analyst in addition to ensuring adequate space and time to eliminate technological and sudden loss of data.

WOUGNET, since inception has related with women and women issues in varying IT arenas. In the course, the institution identified a possible gap in "women's internet access on mobile broadband connections", hence this report.

Figure 7: Data Management Plan
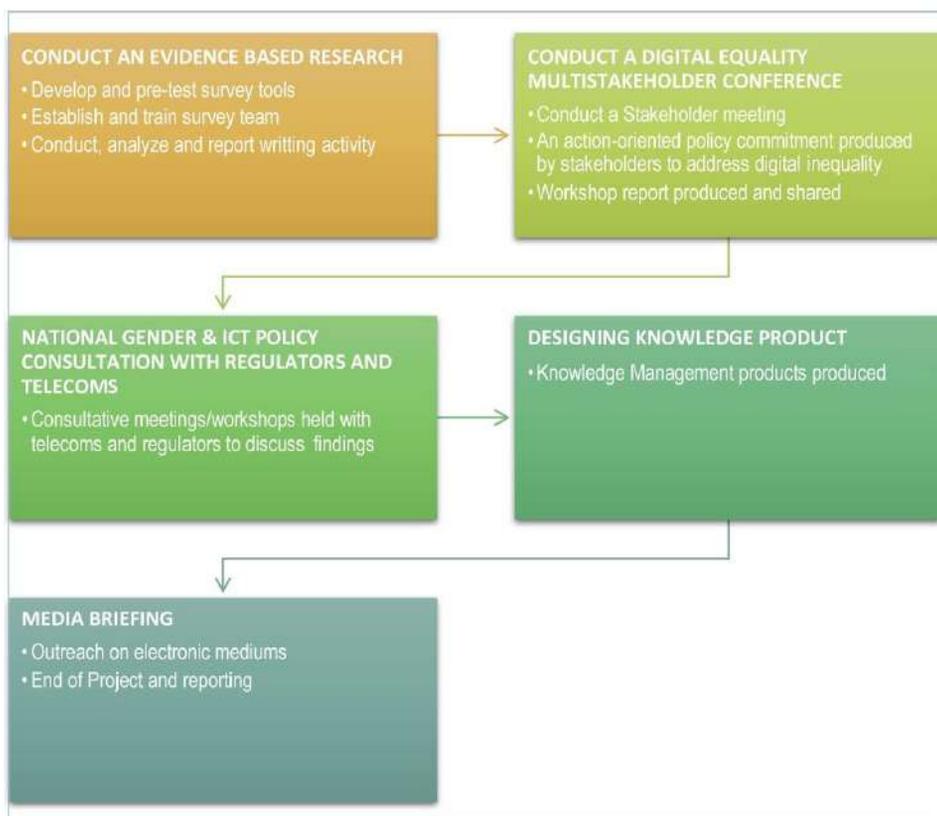
2.3.3   Methods used to Analyze Data

The analysis of data was conducted at three levels;

The On-Spot Analysis method - involved analyzing the responses there and then with the respondents and making meaning to them.

This method was used during the FGDs. It involved responses to a question(s) being written on a card(s). These were tallied using Frequency Tables. The results were clearer, thereby generating more in-depth discussions.

The output from the analysis included; frequency tables, compound bar graphs, word query reports for each node and word clouds.

2.4   Challenge Met during the Evidence Based Study

This study met only one challenge: People were shy to comment on the topic(s). This is for both the telecom industries and individuals. Several of them asked that their identity be withheld and not shared at any point. As such "anonymity" of the respondents' person details was guaranteed.

3 FINDINGS

3.1 Access to Mobile Broadband Connections and Digital Platforms

3.1.1 Mobile Broadband Connections

To the respondents, the definition of "Mobile Broadband" was relayed. They then drew a list of Mobile Broadband known to them. Using that list, they were asked to mention their main form of mobile broadband connection.

Figure 8: Choice of Broadband – FGD Responses
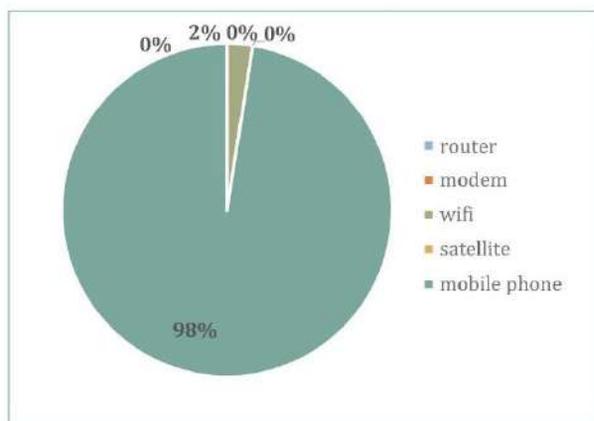
The majority (98%) said that they use mobile phones as a means of mobile broadband. Common reasons cited were: "availability", "affordability" and "portability" compared to the other options.

The fewer (2%) that chose "Wi-Fi" said it is because they have access to Wi-Fi in their places of work. Short of that, they too preferred "mobile phones".

It is important to mention that they did acclaim that if "Wi-Fi" offered the

3.1.2 Digital Platforms

Figure 9: Most accessed Digital Platform - FGD Responses
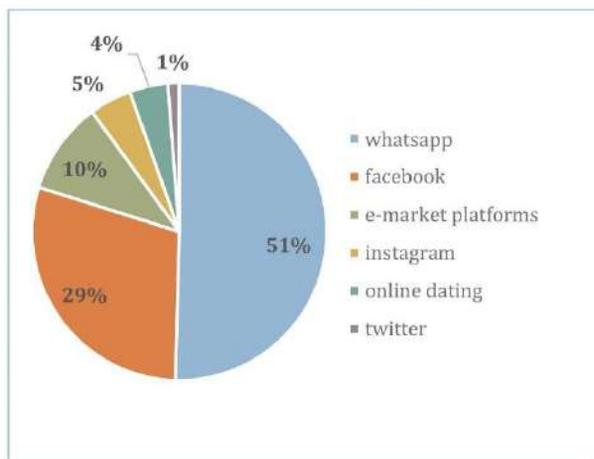
Again, the term "digital platform" was explained to the respondents. They were then asked to list three (3) main forms of digital platforms that they use most.

Half of the respondents said they use "WhatsApp" most. This was followed by "Facebook" and then "E-Market" platforms.

On "WhatsApp", they meet long lost friends and make new ones. They said that it was a main source of entertainment when bored. Some said they use it for trade purposes.

Those that chose the "E-Market" platforms said it was purely to either buy or sell their products.
They said that they sold mainly agriculture items and clothing for children, men and women.

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3.2   Usage of Mobile Broadband

Respondents were asked which option of broadband they see women using and they all said

"mobile phone". See reasons in Figure below for choice given.

Figure 10: Reason for choice of the Mobile Phone amongst other Broadband Connection Options
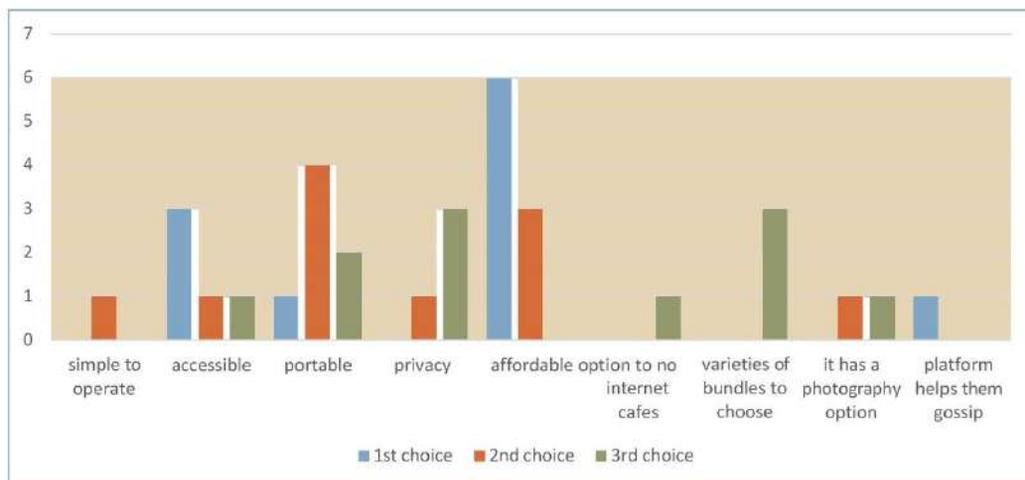
"Affordable" was the first choice. Buying a mobile phone is cheaper for them. With the existing telecom war, each telecom company tried to outweigh the other by bringing a cheaper phone and with cheaper bundle. This is to the benefit of the users.

This was followed by "Portable said". The women that wherever they go, they can take the mobile phone with them.

"Private" and "variety of bundles to choose from" tied in the third position.

> "
> All mobile phones have passwords. If you want, you can activate it
>
> **... respondent in the FGD**

Passwords they said wade of the children and spouses. Whereas the children mostly want to share their data bundles and without their knowledge, the spouses want to pry to their conversations.

3.3   Sources of Money for Women to Purchase Data Plans

Money is a key ingredient to obtaining data on ones' phone. Annex 1 indicates that there are various packages to choose from and at the end of the day, it depends on one's ability to purchase.

Each of the female respondents was asked where they obtain their money to buy data. Interesting responses resulted: the majority, 33% said they obtain it from their

earnings. Sources of earnings mentioned were: farming, kiosks and sale of second hand clothes. This was followed by 26% that they obtain this money mainly from their spouses. However, some were quick to say that this comes with added costs with the spouse demanding to know who else she communicated to with the data they obtained. Worse they said, is that this is a source of conflict in the home, some ending up as victims of domestic violence.

Figure 11: Sources of Women's Finance for Data Plans
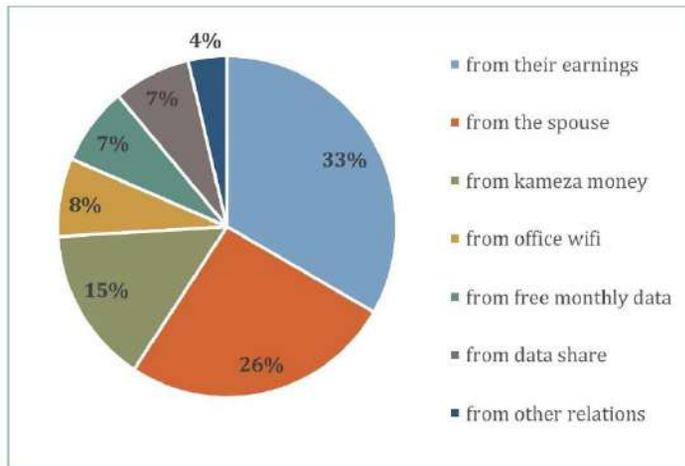
15% said they get their data from "*kameza* money". In most bantu languages, *Kameza*, literally means "table"; with the "ka" at the beginning referring to "something tiny or small". This is the money the male spouse leaves behind for his wife every day to take care of the days expenses especially food. They said it is normally UGX 3,000 - UGX 5,000. Factors that determine the amount they said are: (1) how much he

has (2) the number of mouths to feed. The later is not an essential normally.The least was obtaining money from friends and relations. See Figure above for more detailed options.

3.4   Developing a data plan for women

A data plan for women? This lit up every respondent's face. It sounded like a vision to them, something unattainable. The figure below presents their views.

Figure 12: Facts to consider when developing a Data Plan for Women
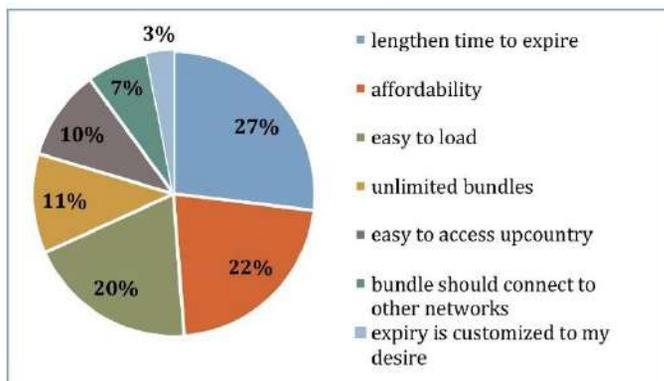
The majority, 27% of the respondents said that this package should not expire so fast. They were quick to mention that the cheaper data packages took a very short time to expire. More, they insisted that the daily packages were not favorable because when their spouses came home, they got agitated every time they found them using the phones. This means that

loading a daily package was unfavorable too because the phone is inactive for 12 hours

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despite their desire to use it.

Closely following, 22%, talked about the package being "affordable". A lot has been said on this already and so emphasis will be on the issue that scored third highest. - "easy to load". The respondents said that many steps were required to reach the final step. An interesting quote to share

> " Even the food I am cooking can burn because the system is still instructing me telling me to press this and press that?! ... *FGD respondent*

This is an extreme expression but stresses the time and need for concentration a woman undergoes when loading data.

"A bundle should connect to other networks" also raised an interesting discussion. Some of the female respondents agreed that they have more than one sim card. When probed further as to why, they said that these sim cards are on different networks and their reason for keeping them is to enable them continue their conversations after the spouse confiscates the sim card. When asked to relate this to the tabled topic, they explained by saying that for whatever reason, if one cannot use the sim card, then they should be able to switch the cards and continue with their conversations.

How will the telecom company know that the bundle is being accessed by a female? This is a question one of the respondents raised in the heat of the discussion.

> "With the technology these days, there must be a way they can connect our National ID details with that special bundle ... *FGD respondent*

During registration for the National ID in Uganda, gender is among the information requested. That said, ability to implement is an option the telecom companies can advise.

> "If the URA can link with the bank, voter register, passport office and all other government offices, why not the telephone company? ... *KII respondent*

4 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study set out to examine the gendered aspects to women's internet access on mobile broadband connections. What are the issues? In Uganda, the telecom providers serve various data plans from which clients can choose. What is working for the women? What are their concerns? What are their limitations? What can be made better so that they too can enjoy the services? At the end of the day, 'their voice' will be used to guide advocacy around policy and regulatory practices in Uganda in this respect.

According to the Internet, ICT, Broadband and Consumer E-Commerce in Uganda - June 2017 Review, Uganda was one of the first countries in sub-Saharan Africa to gain full Internet connectivity. In 2012, the level of Mobile Broadband internet penetration was said to be 4% of the country. See figure below for statuses of other countries.

Figure 13: A world map colored to show the level of Mobile Broadband Internet penetration in 2012 (number of subscriptions as a percentage of a country's population)
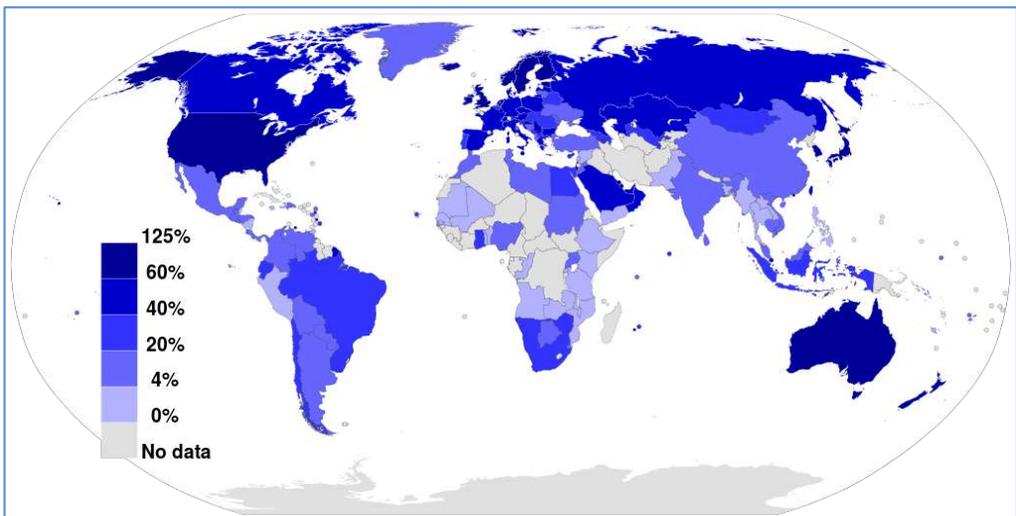
Source: Wikimedia[vi]

However, with the incoming of other telecom providers, coupled with positive government intervention, the spread has been easier. See table below.

YEAR	Users	Population	% Pen.	GDP p.c.*
2000	40,000	24,400,000	0.10%	US$ 410
2006	500,000	28,574,909	1.70%	US$ 280
2007	750,000	30,262,610	2.50%	US$ 280
2008	2,000,000	31,367,972	6.40%	US$ 300
2010	3,200,000	33,398,682	9.60%	US$ 460
2016	11,924,927	38,319,241	31.10%	US$ 670
2017	13,023,114	41,652,938	31.30%	US$ 642

Source: http://www/itu.int

Note: Per Capita GDP in US dollars, source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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The growth is galloping and obvious. Are the women benefitting as well? See growth in Figure below.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
% Pen.	0.10%	1.70%	2.50%	6.40%	9.60%	31.10%	31.30%
YEAR	2000	2006	2007	2008	2010	2016	2017
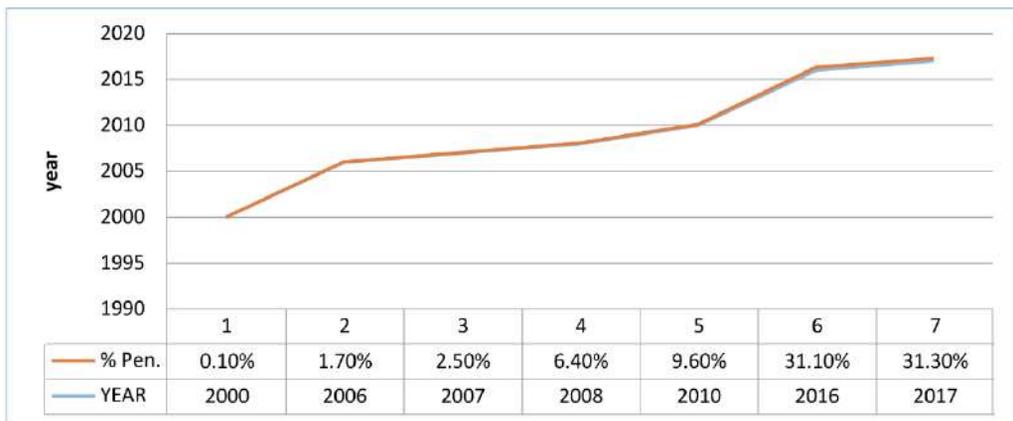
By the respondents' views in this study, it was crystal clear that women know about the benefits of accessing the internet. This was irrespective of their ability to access it or not. They got to know this from fellow women using the internet and/or from their children, neighbors and friends. To those that can access it, they indeed experience benefit in use the internet. Nevertheless, to them, 'Affordability' and 'Portability' is key.

Affordability arises the question: from where do they get money to access the internet? The earnings of the respondents were 'little'. Still, shared how they manage to spare money for the internet. Innovation played a key role in re-budgeting money from their husbands to spare some for access to the internet using their phones.

A fact many probably don't realize is the mobility of a woman, even in confined spaces like a home. The mobile phone enables her continue to use it as compared to desk gadgets. The women said that they only use Wi-Fi and other means if they are free and accessible for use, otherwise, they are very comfortable using their mobile phones.

Also, it is clear that they do use the digital platforms. Even if there are a lot more ways they can use digital platforms productively, for now, they use them for self-benefit. This falls majorly in two dimensions: for business purposes and/or for fun purposes. Whereas the term 'business' is used to mean their home and out of home income generating engagements, the term 'fun' is relative. Some use it to obtain new friends and others to find their long lost friends.

Women, known to be good planners, were asked to design their own data plan:

Length of time to expire - basing on the woman's daily role relayed, she has no particular time to use the phone, thereby relying on the free moments that pop in as she goes about her chores. Some days, using the daily bundle for instance, it expires

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without her using it at all. She loads it with anticipation that she will be able to use it. On the other hand, the telecom company offers longer period bundles but these they said are more expensive. Their preference was that the same cost of the daily bundles be transferred to longer periods, one week for instance, they said that with the longer periods, they will surely find time to deplete it. They expressed pain in them using their little money and then it goes to waste because of a period validity.

In the same vein, another group of women preferred that they be **allowed to customize their bundle validity period**. To this they said that seldom does a woman not know the period in a day when she cannot use the phone freely. That way, by her choosing, then she would be at fault if it expired before she used it.

Some proposed having '**unlimited bundles**' for the same price as the daily ones. This they said will enable them exhaust their money better than it going to waste in the name of 'expired'.

All this indicated that the daily bundle obviously was not favorable to the women. Worse is when their husbands came home. They said it was rude for a woman to use the phone, irrespective of the reason, when her husband is around. This is because a woman is supposed to tend to him they said. They said it was easy for one to lose track of time; and that the phone was one of the major causes of domestic violence in their homes.

Another interesting proposal that was tabled was the bundle being '**easy to load**'. To load bundles, one has to follow instructions using the USSD setup the telecom company has presented. They all nodded in agreement that the process was too long. Following the loading instructions, at the same time attending to chores often resulted in them having to reload because of the delay to execute the instruction on the phone. Many recommended, maximum, three steps only.

Different telecom networks dominate telecom airwaves in different parts of Uganda. On the city and town hinterlands and beyond, masts can be seen erected normally at higher elevated areas. To many, the ownership differentiation is unknown. On the other hand, each individual has differing telecom preferences. How can the two then be married? The women insisted that it was important that their telecom preference of choice was '**easy to access upcountry**'; but they do not all use the same telecom network. A suggestion came in on the ability to share the network. Again, this is on the honors of the telecom engineers and companies.

Another suggestion is to be able to shift bundles from network to network. A clear example given to stress this was: the husband can come and confiscate your sim card. That means that should he hold it till the bundle expiry time, the woman loses out. They would like, using such cases as an example, be able to obtain another phone, insert another sim card (irrespective of the telecom network) and then continue using their yet to expire bundle.

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Letting the women dream about a bundle that favors women, let them to even wilder dreams. They said that there should be a specific bundle(s) for women only. When asked how the telecom companies would differentiate, they made a comparison that if their National IDs were linked to their bank accounts to URA, Passport office and other government offices, then why not add the telecom companies? A suggestion dropped was using the information when registering for the sim cards. This they said was because sometimes their sim cards are in their husbands' names.

'**Affordability**', though mentioned last was one of the critical characteristics. Summing up elements that would comprise a woman's bundle: affordable, flexible in usage period plus telecom provider, short time spent to load and loaded on only woman's sim cards.

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5 RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

Examining women's access to digital platforms with a focus on Mobile Broadband Connections in Uganda has indeed brought vital issues of concern to light as food for thought for the varying stakeholders.

True, women do access the digital platforms. If they are to benefit even more, issues emanating continuously are: affordability, validation, time to load the data, connectivity and outreach need to be addressed.

A practical way forward at this point is that WOUGNET will conduct a National Gender and ICT Policy Conference. The participants will be key stakeholders in the implementation arena. Together, they will be able to derive a way forward towards implementation of the findings in this report.

In their position, they be able to provide deeper details on the relevant institutions and offices they should visit so as to drive this agenda.

6 ANNEX

6.1   Annex 1: Comparison of Mobile Internet Rates

Table 4: Uganda Telecom Companies: Comparison of Internet Mobile Rates

NETWORK	PLAN	VALIDITY	TECH	DATA	COST
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	10 MB	200
AIRTEL	Daily_10MB	Daily	4G	15 MB	250
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	15 MB	250
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	20 MB	250
MTN	MTN Social Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	40 MB	250
AIRTEL	Data Beerako	Daily	4G	10 MB	300
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	25 MB	350
MTN	Happy Hour	1 hour	4G/LTE	1 GB	500
MTN	MTN Social Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	100 MB	500
UTL	Kwik Tok Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	GSM	100 MB	500
AIRTEL	Daily_20MB	Daily	4G	20 MB	500
AIRTEL	Data Beerako	Daily	4G	20 MB	500
AIRTEL	Daily_40MB	Daily	4G/LTE	40 MB	500
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	40 MB	500
AIRTEL	Data_Tooti_50MB	1 hour	4G	50 MB	500
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	50 MB	500
MTN	MTN 60MB Tooti	1 hour	4G/LTE	60 MB	500
AFRICELL	Africell Social Bundles	Daily	4G	60 MB	500
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	50 MB	600
AIRTEL	Daily_100MB	Daily	4G/LTE	100 MB	1,000
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	100 MB	1,000

UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	**100** MB	**1,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**120 MB**	**1,000**
MTN	MTN Pulse	Daily	4G/LTE	**150 MB**	**1,000**
AFRICELL	Africell Social Bundles	Daily	4G/LTE	**200 MB**	**1,000**
MTN	MTN Pulse	Daily	4G/LTE	**200 MB**	**1,000**
MTN	MTN Pulse	Daily	4G/LTE	**250 MB**	**1,000**
AIRTEL	Daily_50MB	Daily	4G	**50 MB**	**1,000**
AIRTEL	Data Beerako	Daily	4G	**50 MB**	**1,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**25 MB**	**1,450**
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**25 MB**	**1,500**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	30 Days	4G	**30 MB**	**1,500**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Weekly	4G/LTE	**50 MB**	**1,750**
MTN	Night Shift 1GB	1 Night	4G/LTE	**1 GB**	**2,000**
AIRTEL	Night (12am To 6am)	6hr	4G	**1 GB**	**2,000**
SMILE	SmileFlexy	Daily	4GLTE	**100 MB**	**2,000**
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Weekly	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	**100 MB**	**2,000**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	7days	4G	**120 MB**	**2,000**
AIRTEL	Data Beerako	Daily	4G	**120 MB**	**2,000**
AIRTEL	Daily_150MB	Daily	4G	**150 MB**	**2,000**
AIRTEL	Weekly_150MB	Weekly	4G	**150 MB**	**2,000**
MTN	MTN Pulse Weekend	2 Days	4G/LTE	**300 MB**	**2,000**
AIRTEL MTN	Daily_300MB	Daily	4G	**300 MB**	**2,000**
	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**300 MB**	**2,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**320 MB**	2,000
MTN	MTN Pulse Weekend	2 Days	4G/LTE	**450 MB**	2,000
MTN	MTN Pulse Weekend	2 Days	4G/LTE	**600 MB**	2,000
AFRICELL	Happy Nights Midnight - 6 Am	1 Night	3.7G	**1 GB**	2,500
MTN	MTN Social Bundle	Weekly	4G/LTE	**350 MB**	2,500

AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Weekly	4G/LTE	**80** MB	**2,500**
SMILE	Smile NightBundle	Midnight - 6 am(6 hours)	4GLTE	**1** GB	**3,000**
SMILE	SmileFlexy	Daily	4GLTE	**200** MB	**3,000**
AIRTEL	Daily_500MB	Monthly	4G	**500** MB	**3,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**600** MB	**3,200**
AIRTEL	Weekly 400MB	7 days		**400MB**	**3,500**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	7days	4G	**420** MB	**3,500**
AFRICELL	Africell Social Bundles	Weekly	4G	**600** MB	**4,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**100** MB	**4,400**
SMILE	SmileFlexy	Daily	4GLTE	**300** MB	**4,500**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**900** MB	**4,500**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**125** MB	**4,900**
AFRICELL	Happy Hour 1 Hour Any Time Of The Day	1 Hour	3.7G	**1** GB	**5,000**
AIRTEL	Happy_Hour_1GB	1 hour	4G/LTE	**1** GB	**5,000**
AIRTEL	Daily_1GB	3 Days	4G	**1** GB	**5,000**
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**1** GB	**5,000**
MTN	MTN Pulse+	Weekly	4G/LTE	**1** GB	**5,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**1.2** GB	**5,000**
MTN	MTN Pulse+	Weekly	4G/LTE	**1.3** GB	**5,000**
AFRICELL	Africell Social Bundles	Weekly	4G/LTE	**1.5** GB	**5,000**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	30 Days	4G	**400** MB	**5,000**
AIRTEL	Daily_500MB	Daily	4G	**500** MB	**5,000**
AIRTEL	Monthly_500MB	Monthly	4G	**500** MB	**5,000**
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Weekly	4G/LTE	**500** MB	**5,000**
MTN	MTN Social Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**600** MB	**5,000**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	7days	4G	**650** MB	**5,000**

MTN	MTN Pulse+	Weekly	4G/LTE	**750 MB**	**5,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Weekly	4G/LTE	**200 MB**	**5,500**
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**300 MB**	**5,500**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**1.5 GB**	**6,500**
AIRTEL	Weekly_1.17GB	7days	4G	**1.2 GB**	**7,000**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	7days	4G	**1.4 GB**	**7,000**
SMILE	SmileFlexy	Daily	4GLTE	**500 MB**	**7,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**2 GB**	**8,700**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**250 MB**	**9,750**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	30 Days	4G	**1.3 GB**	**10,000**
AIRTEL	Monthly_1.5GB	Monthly	4G	**1.5 GB**	**10,000**
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Weekly	4G/LTE	**1.5 GB**	**10,000**
AFRICELL	Africell Social Bundles	30 Days	4G	**2 GB**	**10,000**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	7days	4G	**2 GB**	**10,000**
AIRTEL	Daily_3GB	Monthly	4G	**3 GB**	**10,000**
AIRTEL	Daily_512MB	Weekly	4G	**512 MB**	**10,000**
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**600 MB**	**10,000**
SMILE	SmileLite Daily	Daily	4GLTE	**1.5 GB**	**12,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Daily	4G/LTE	**3 GB**	**12,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**350 MB**	**13,500**
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	**500 MB**	**14,500**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	30 Days	4G	**2 GB**	**15,000**
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	7days	4G	**3.5 GB**	**15,000**
AFRICELL	Africell Social Bundles	30 Days	4G/LTE	**4 GB**	**15,000**
AIRTEL	Weekly_4GB	7days	4G	**4 GB**	**15,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**500 MB**	**19,500**
UTL	Starter Pack (512 Kbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	**1 GB**	**20,000**

MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	2 GB	20,000
MTN	MTN InternetShare	Monthly	4G/LTE	2 GB	20,000
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	30 Days	4G	3 GB	20,000
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Weekly	4G/LTE	5 GB	20,000
SMILE	Smile Anytime Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	500 MB	20,000
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	7days	4G	6 GB	20,000
AIRTEL	Weekly_7GB	7days	4G	7 GB	20,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Weekly	4G/LTE	800 MB	21,900
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	1 GB	28,000
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	3 months	4G/LTE	2 GB	30,000
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	30 Days	4G	6 GB	30,000
AIRTEL	Monthly_9GB	Monthly	4G	9 GB	30,000
SMILE	Smile Lite Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	1 GB	32,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	1 GB	34,500
MTN	MTN InternetShare	Monthly	4G/LTE	1 GB	35,000
UTL	Premium Pack (1 Mbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	1 GB	37,000
AIRTEL	Quarterly 4GB	3 Months	4G	4 GB	39,000
SMILE	Smile Lite Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	1.5 GB	40,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	1.5 GB	44,500
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	1 GB	45,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	2 GB	49,850
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	1.5 GB	50,000
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	10 GB	50,000
MTN	MTN Internet Share	Monthly	4G/LTE	10 GB	50,000
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	30 Days	4G	15 GB	50,000
TANGERINE	Lite Plan	Monthly	4G LTE	15 GB	50,000
AIRTEL	Monthly_20GB	Monthly	4G	20 GB	50,000

UTL	Starter Pack (512 Kbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	2.5 GB	55,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	3 GB	59,500
MTN	MTN Internet Share	Monthly	4G/LTE	3 GB	60,000
SMILE	Night And Weekend Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	5 GB	60,000
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	3 GB	65,000
UTL	Premium Pack (1 Mbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	2.5 GB	70,000
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	10 GB	75,000
SMILE	Smile Anytime Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	3 GB	75,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	3.5 GB	75,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	3 GB	77,500
AIRTEL	Quarterly_10GB	3 Months	4G	10 GB	78,000
UTL	Starter Pack (512 Kbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	5 GB	80,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	5 GB	89,000
AIRTEL	Monthly_25GB	Monthly	4G	25 GB	90,000
TANGERINE	Elite Plan	Monthly	4G LTE	30 GB	90,000
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	5 GB	90,000
MTN	MTN InternetShare	Monthly	4G/LTE	5 GB	90,000
SMILE	Smile Anytime Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	5 GB	90,000
UTL	Premium Pack (1 Mbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	5 GB	95,000
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	30 GB	100,000
MTN	MTN InternetShare	Monthly	4G/LTE	30 GB	100,000
AFRICELL	Africell 4G Data Bundle	30 Days	4G	40 GB	100,000
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	5 GB	100,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	7 GB	104,000
SMILE	Night And Weekend Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	10 GB	110,000
UTL	Mobile Data Bundle	Monthly	GSM/GPRS/EDGE	10 GB	115,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	5 GB	116,500

UTL	Starter Pack (512 Kbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	**10 GB**	**120,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**10 GB**	**124,850**
UTL	Pro Pack (3 Mbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	**5 GB**	**125,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	**6.5 GB**	**129,000**
AIRTEL	Quarterly_20GB	3 Months	4G	**20 GB**	**130,000**
UTL	Premium Pack (1 Mbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	**10 GB**	**135,000**
SMILE	Smile Anytime Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	**10 GB**	**145,000**
TANGERINE	Lite With Mifi	3 months	4G LTE	**15 GB**	**150,000**
MTN	Mobile Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	**30 GB**	**150,000**
TANGERINE	Pro Plan	Monthly	4G LTE	**50 GB**	**150,000**
AIRTEL	Monthly_65GB	Monthly	4G	**65 GB**	**150,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	**10 GB**	**160,000**
TANGERINE	Elite With Mifi	3 months	4G LTE	**30 GB**	**160,000**
UTL	Pro Pack (3 Mbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	**10 GB**	**175,000**
TANGERINE	Pro With Mifi	3 months	4G LTE	**50 GB**	**175,000**
AIRTEL	Data Pakalast Regular	Monthly	4G	**1 GB**	**179,000**
SMILE	UnlimitedEssential	Monthly	4GLTE	**27 GB**	**179,000**
MTN	MTN Unlimited Basic	Monthly	4G/LTE	**Unlimited**	**179,000**
UTL	Starter Pack (512 Kbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	**Unlimited**	**195,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**15 GB**	**199,000**
SMILE	Night And Weekend Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	**20 GB**	**200,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**20 GB**	**210,000**
UTL	Premium Pack (1 Mbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	**Unlimited**	**210,000**
SMILE	Smile Anytime Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	**20 GB**	**250,000**
UTL	Pro Pack (3 Mbps) Fixed Data Bundle	Monthly	wimax	**Unlimited**	**250,000**
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	**30 GB**	**284,900**
AFRICELL	Unlimited	1 Month	3.7G	**Unlimited**	**299,000**

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AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	20 GB	300,000
SMILE	Smile Anytime Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	50 GB	300,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	40 GB	315,000
AIRTEL	Data Pakalast Super	Monthly	4G	3 GB	330,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	50 GB	330,000
SMILE	Unlimited Premium	Monthly	4GLTE	54 GB	330,000
MTN	MTN Unlimited Premium	Monthly	4G/LTE	Unlimited	330,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	30 GB	370,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	80 GB	430,000
AIRTEL	Quarterly_85GB	3 Months	4G	85 GB	450,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	Monthly	4G/LTE	100 GB	480,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	6 Months	4G/LTE	30 GB	500,000
SMILE	Smile Anytime Bundle	Monthly	4G	100 GB	520,000
SMILE	Unlimited Platinum	Monthly	4GLTE	90 GB	550,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	3 Months	4G/LTE	45 GB	600,000
AFRICELL	Unlimited	3 Months	3.7G	Unlimited	859,000
AFRICELL	Data Bundle	12 Months	4G/LTE	100 GB	900,000
SMILE	Smile Anytime Bundle	Monthly	4GLTE	200 GB	1,020,000
AIRTEL	Annual_300GB	12 Months	4G	300 GB	1,500,000
AFRICELL	Unlimited	6 Months	3.7G	Unlimited	1,619,000
AFRICELL	Unlimited	12 Months	3.7G	Unlimited	3,049,000

6.2   Annex 2: Tools Used: KII & FGD

ISSUE	KII	FGD
Access to digital platform(s) + reason for choice	What kind of digital platforms do you access? How do you access them? What is the reason behind choice?	What kind of digital platforms do you access? How do you access them? What is the reason behind choice?
Choice of mobile broad band + Reason	If you had an option to choose from mobile broad band connections, what would be your preference? Give reasons for your Choice	If you had an option to choose from mobile broad band connections, what would be your preference? Give reasons for your choice
Women using mobile broad band	Which mobile broad band do you see women using most? Give reason for your choice	Which mobile broad band do you see women using most? Give reason for your choice
		Where do women often get their money for data? Mention one.
Developing a data plan for women	Assuming you were asked to develop a data plan that favors women. Mention 3 issues you would consider as vital??	Assuming you were asked to develop a data plan that favors women. Mention 3 issues you would consider as vital??

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Added Reading

1. National Population and Housing Census 2014, Main Report: https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/03_20182014_National_Census_Main_Report.pdf

2. Uganda to have 100% telephone coverage by 2019: https://www.techjaja.com/uganda-100- telephone-coverage-2019/

3. Post, Broadcasting and Telecommunications Market & Industry Q2 Report, 2018: A review of the industry performance and trends, key developments and challenges for the period April to June 2018. https://www.ucc.co.ug/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Communication-Sector- Performance-for-the-Quarter-ending-June-2018.pdf

4. Mobile Internet explained: A compilation of all retail mobile broadband bundles to enhance internet price visibility with the aim of empowering the consumer in making informed mobile broadband purchase decisions: https://www.ucc.co.ug/files/downloads/Mobile%20Broadband%20FAQs%20and%20Prices% 20Final%20Final.pdf

5. More Ugandans now own Mobile phones: https://www.monitor.co.ug/Business/Technology/- Ugandans-mobile-phones--National-IT-Survey-NITA/688612-4334138-2fb1ruz/index.html

6. National Information Technology Survey 2017/18 Report March 2018: https://www.nita.go.ug/sites/default/files/publications/National%20IT%20Survey%20April %2010th.pdf

7. Women and Men in Uganda. Facts and Figures 2016: https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/06_2018women_and_men_in_uganda_FF2016.pdf

7.2 Links embedded in the Report

i What is a Digital Platform: https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/digital-platform/55829

ii Market Share of each of the major mobile network operators in Uganda https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mobile_network_operators_in_Uganda #cite_note-15R-15

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iii The Uganda Gender Policy 2017 http://www.mglsd.go.ug/policies/Uganda-Gender-Policy.pdf

iv Uganda Bureau of Statistics https://www.ubos.org/

vi A world map colored to show the level of Mobile Broadband Internet penetration in 2012 (number of subscriptions as a percentage of a country's population):

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/bb/MobileBroadbandInternetPenetrationWorldMap.svg/1024pxMobileBroadbandInternetPenetrationWorldMap.svg.png

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Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is an international network of civil society organisations founded in 1990 dedicated to empowering and supporting people working for peace, human rights, development and protection of the environment, through the strategic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). APC works to build a world in which all people have easy, equal and affordable access to the creative potential of ICTs to improve their lives and create more democratic and egalitarian societies.

The APC envisioned that All people have easy and affordable access to a free and open internet to improve their lives and create a more just world anchored on the mission to empower and support organisations, social movements and individuals in and through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to build strategic communities and initiatives for the purpose of making meaningful contributions to equitable human development, social justice, participatory political processes and environmental sustainability.

www.apc.org

Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET)

Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) is a non-governmental organization initiated in May 2000 by several women's organizations in Uganda. WOUGNET's mission is to promote and support the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) by women and women organizations in Uganda, so that they can take advantage of the opportunities presented by ICTs in order to effectively address national and local problems of sustainable development. WOUGNET works through the three program areas; Technical support, Information Sharing & Networking and Gender & ICT Policy Advocacy.

www.wougnet.org