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Uganda Health News: Uganda urged to fund family planning efforts

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The government has been called upon to **fund** efforts to ensure family planning in order to reduce on the number of unwanted pregnancies and population growth in the country.

Dr Moses Muwonge, the national reproductive health commodity security coordinator at the [Ministry of Health](#) says the government has not actively supported family planning initiatives, which has made Uganda to have the highest unmet need for family planning in East Africa.

A recent report showed that about 41% of women in Uganda need contraception, but can't get it. In neighbouring countries Kenya and Tanzania, the rates are at 25% and 22%. Rwanda has a rate of 38%, while Ethiopia's is 34%.

Dr. Muwonge says the government of Uganda provides less than 5% of the total funding to family planning efforts, which has seen worries about side effects, religious beliefs and obstruction from partners continue to be impediments to effective family planning.

Experts have in the past warned that almost half of Uganda's one million births every year are unwanted and could be prevented if women effectively took up [family planning services](#).

Dr. Muwonge told a recent conference in Kampala that about 55 billion shillings is needed to help the country properly meet its peoples' contraception needs by 2015.

He says the funding is necessary to ensure more doctors are available to offer contraceptives and family planning advice, ensure effective contraceptive supply, and educate the people about the need for family planning to have the number of children they can manage to look after.