

WMI FACT BOOK: Loan Program Data Atiak, Uganda Loan Hub





BACKGROUND on WMI

- WMI is a U.S. based non-profit organization that provides micro-credit to women in rural East Africa.
- Women use the loans to start and expand small businesses.
- WMI provides borrowers with training in financial literacy, business management, record keeping, and financial planning.
- Loan programs are administered by village level organizations and issued to lending groups of 20 borrowers, all of whom guarantee each other's loans. No collateral is required.

- After 24 months in the WMI loan program, borrowers graduate to financial independence and transition to a bank loan issued by a financial institution.
- Women use their business profits to pay school fees, buy more food for their families, improve their homes, pay for health care, and expand their businesses.
- Since January 2008, WMI has issued over 5,000 loans in nearly 500 villages in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

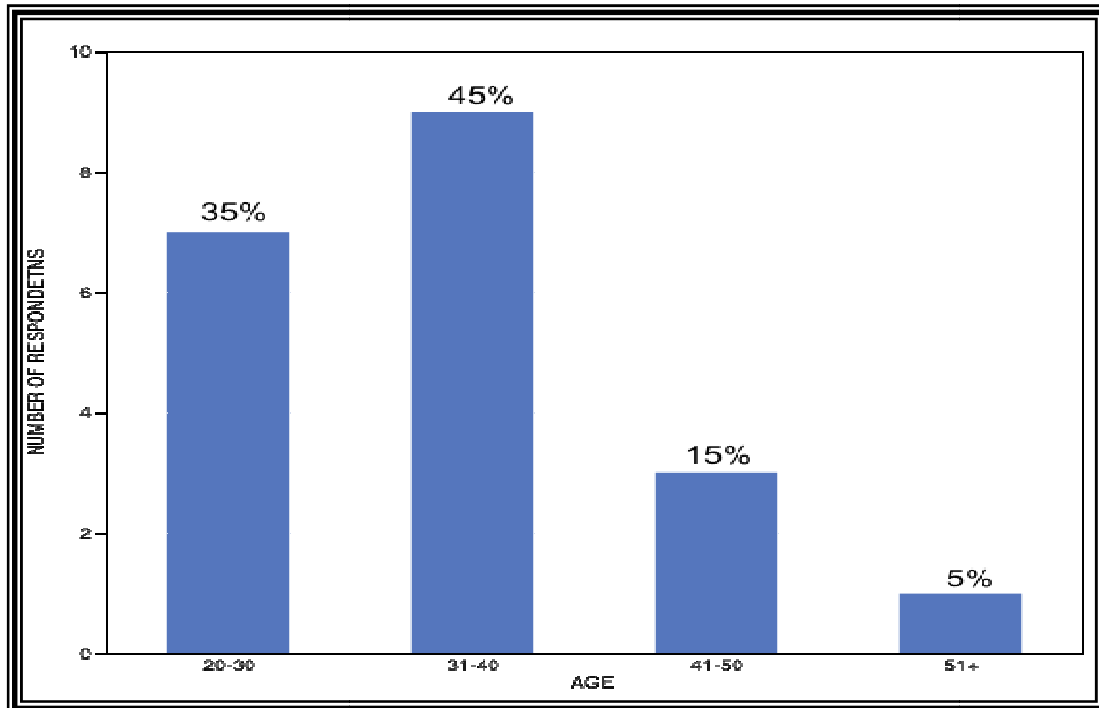


METHODOLOGY

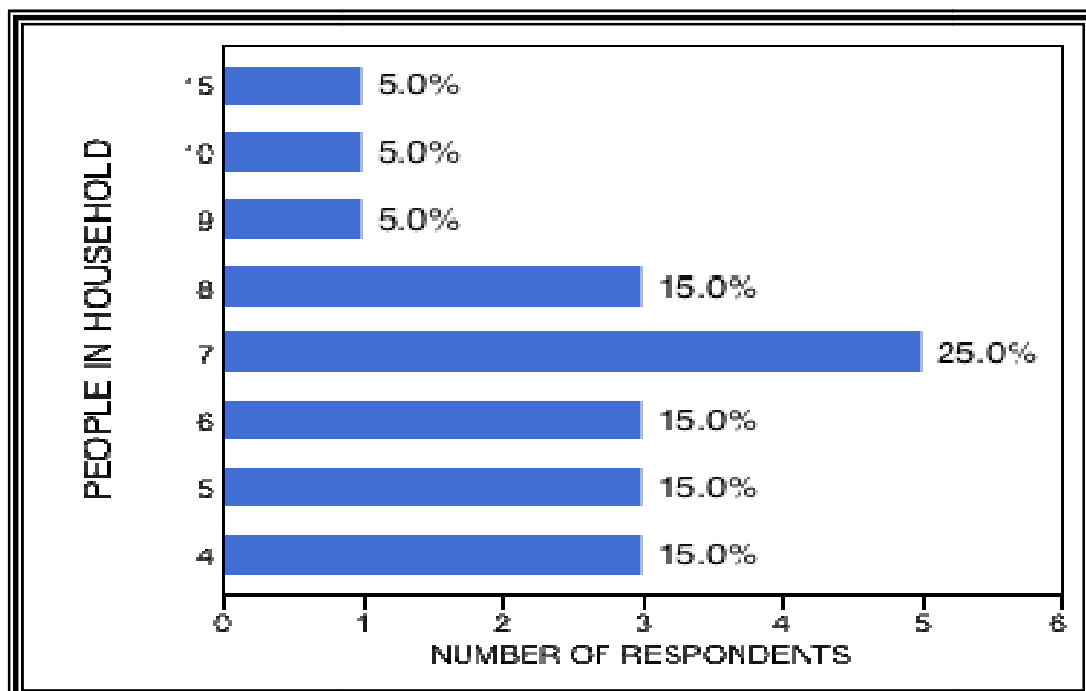
- Olive Wolimbwa, WMI's Local Director in Buyobo, Uganda supervises overall loan issuance and data collection, with help from WMI's Assistant Local Director Jackline Namonye.
- Using a loan application and baseline survey, WMI collects borrower data whenever a new loan is issued.
- WMI administers a borrower survey every six months concurrent with follow-up loan applications.
- Local village women who are proficient in English administer the surveys.
- U.S. based staff analyze the data.
- The data presented in this fact book was collected in April 2012 from the first 20 borrowers in Atiak.

The first 20 Borrowers in the WMI loan program in the Atiak, Uganda Loan Hub, reported the following information regarding age distribution, number of people in household, and daily household income.

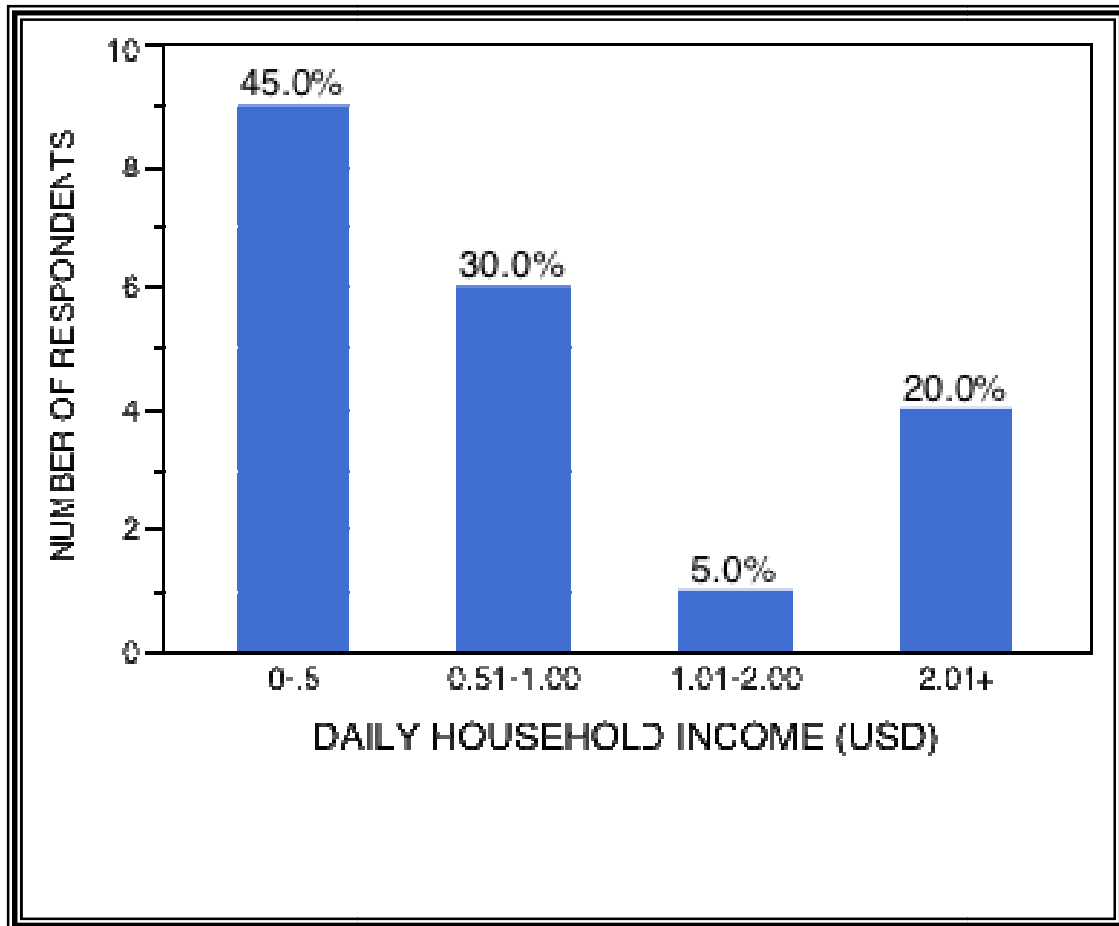
1. **Age Distribution** – 60% of Borrowers are between the ages of 31 and 50.



2. **People in Household** – 70% of Borrowers have six or more people living in their households.



3. Daily Household Income- 80% of Borrowers' **households** subsist on less than \$2/day. The poverty line set by the World Bank is defined as an **individual** subsisting on less than \$2/day. Borrowers' average household size is seven people, meaning that 100% of Borrowers are living below the poverty line.



All Borrowers' businesses focus on selling fish, produce, or alcohol. Those selling alcohol brew it themselves, while fish and produce are bought and resold. One Borrower is establishing a shop, which will sell some produce as well as other items.

WMI just launched the loan hub located in Atiak this past April. Atiak is only 20 miles from the South Sudan border. It is located in the midst of the 20 year insurgency (mid 1980s – 2006) that devastated much of Northern Uganda and resulted in over 2.5 million internally displaced persons. The prolonged fighting caused widespread economic devastation. Local villagers are now trying to rebuild their communities. The newly independent South Sudan lacks many goods and services and provides a ready market for nearby Ugandan businesses. Traders on their way to South Sudan buy products in Northern Uganda to resell over the border. This may provide an additional outlet for the business started by WMI Borrowers in Atiak.