

1 **Pregnancy planning among female sex workers in Uganda:**
2 **Evaluation of the psychometric properties of the London**
3 **Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy**

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5 **Running title:** Evaluation of the LMUP among female sex workers in Uganda

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19
20 **ABSTRACT**

21
22 The aim of the study was to evaluate the psychometric properties of the London Measure of
23 Unplanned Pregnancy (LMUP) among female sex workers (FSWs) in Uganda. The LMUP was
24 translated into Luganda and adapted for use with FSWs and underwent cognitive testing and two
25 field tests. From the final Luganda LMUP, three other language versions were created (Acoli,
26 Lugisu and Runyakole), and preliminary field test data were collected. Final data were collected
27 from 819 FSWs attending the ‘Most at Risk Population Initiative’ clinics. The Luganda field
28 testing showed that there were no missing data, the scale was well targeted, Cronbach’s alpha was
29 0.82, weighted Kappa was 0.78, measurement was unidimensional, and all construct validity
30 hypotheses were met. Likewise, with the Acoli, Lugisu, and Runyankole translations, field
31 testing showed that there were no missing data, the scales were well targeted, Cronbach’s alpha
32 were >0.70, and measurement was unidimensional. We concluded that the Luganda LMUP is a
33 valid and reliable tool for assessing pregnancy planning among FSWs in Uganda and that the
34 Acoli, Lugisu, and Runyankole versions of the LMUP also had good initial psychometric
35 properties.

36
37 **Keywords:** Female sex workers, pregnancy planning, psychometric validation, Uganda

38
39 **INTRODUCTION**

40
41 Sex work is common in sub- Saharan Africa where it is estimated that 1.4%-8.7% of women
42 admit that they have exchanged sex for money or goods or favours ¹ with higher concentrations
43 in urban areas, port cities and on major highways² . According to the Crane survey, 3.3% (
44 13,200/400000) of women aged 15 and above were estimated to be FSWs in Kampala, the capital
45 of Uganda³. In Uganda, sex work is criminalized⁴ and stigmatized. This limits FSWs’ access to
46 health services and contributes to disproportionately poor sexual and reproductive health (SRH)
47 consequences ⁵ including unintended pregnancies among FSWs.

48 The proportions of FSWs who have experienced unintended pregnancies vary considerably in
49 sub-Saharan Africa ranging from 23.8% in Gambia⁶, 24.0% in Kenya⁵, 28.6% in Ethiopia⁷,
50 44.0% in Uganda⁸ to 61.6% in Zambia⁹. Most of the unintended pregnancies end with abortions,
51 where data are available. In Ethiopia, 59.6% of 99 unintended pregnancies were reported to have
52 been aborted⁷. Abortion in Uganda is restricted and allowed under medical grounds to save a
53 woman's life, cases of rape, incest, and defilement¹⁰. These restrictions push women with
54 unplanned pregnancies to either continue the pregnancy or procure unsafe abortion which is
55 associated with high mortality.

56 Uganda is among the countries with fastest growing population. As per estimates from
57 Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) 2016, Uganda population was 34.6 million in 2014 with
58 annual population growth rate of 3.0%. A woman from Uganda will bear an average of 5.4
59 children in her lifetime. Further, findings indicate that utilization of family planning is still low at
60 51% among sexually active unmarried women despite having free family planning services in
61 public health facilities¹¹. Among FSWs, a study conducted in Gulu district, in Uganda among 400
62 FSWs indicated that dual contraception was at 45.0% while only 49.9% had ever used hormonal
63 contraceptives¹². The same study, showed a high number of unplanned pregnancies reported
64 among FSWs that ended in abortions¹².

65 Within Uganda there are over 40 ethnic groups and 41 different languages¹³ (with Luganda being
66 the most common local language), however, there is a sense of Ugandan identity. Cultural
67 homogeneity is increasing as a result of intermarriage and migration¹⁴. For example there were
68 no big differences in proportion of women who had more than one sexual partner in the last 12
69 months and these ranged from 0.8 in Ankole 1.0% in Acholi%, 1.6 in Bugisu and 2.0%
70 Kampala¹¹.

71 FSWs of reproductive age may desire to have children but the decisions about when to have children is
72 complicated due to varied interests across multiple sexual partners¹⁵. The fertility desires of FSWs may
73 differ and depend upon individual partners even in the context of simultaneous relationships. Although
74 FSWs may have different fertility desires across multiple men, they seem not have difficulties in
75 identifying the fathers of the children. A qualitative study which examined the circumstances surrounding
76 pregnancy among women selling sex in Ethiopia in 2017 found that a majority of the FSWs could identify
77 the men who impregnated them¹⁶. The findings showed that in most cases, the men identified by FSWs as
78 the fathers of their children" were emotional partners including boyfriends or husbands and a few
79 mentioned clients. The study did not clarify whether the pregnancies were planned or not with various
80 categories of men.

81 The estimates of unintended pregnancies from DHS depend on responses from a single question.
82 Specifically, women are asked "I would like to ask a question about your children born in the last
83 five years, when you got pregnant with (name of last child), did you want to get pregnant at that
84 time? Women are expected to respond, "wanted then, wanted later and wanted no more". Women
85 who respond that pregnancies were wanted then are categorized as an intended birth while the
86 rest are classified as unintended births¹⁷.

87 Responses from one question measures in previous studies have demonstrated not to provide
88 accurate estimates of unintended pregnancies¹⁸. Firstly, measuring unintended or unplanned
89 pregnancy using single question may not adequately capture the complexity of the construct of
90 pregnancy planning¹⁹. Secondly, the question only demands responses from women whose
91 pregnancies were carried to term. Thus, data on pregnancies that were either terminated or ended
92 in miscarriage are missed. Yet, evidence shows that most pregnancies that are terminated are
93 unplanned²⁰. Missing data on pregnancies that are not carried to term therefore leads to
94 underestimation of unplanned pregnancies during surveys. In view of the limitations there is need
95 to use an alternative method that is more robust, reliable and captures the multiple facets of the

96 complex decisions and actions of pregnancy planning irrespective of outcome. A tool is deemed
97 reliable if it has minimal error, and a set of homogenous items has less error in measuring a
98 complex construct than a single item²¹.

99
100 The London Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy (LMUP) is a six-item tool that was developed in
101 United Kingdom in the early 2000s¹⁸. The LMUP has a number of advantages over previous
102 forms of measurement: it was based on lay views; it was developed and tested using
103 psychometric methods to establish reliability and validity; it does not require women to have fully
104 formed childbearing plans, it does not assume a particular form of family building, and it does not
105 presume that women have clearly defined intentions and/or behavior consistent with intentions
106 and thus allowing women to represent a range of positions in relation to pregnancy. The tool
107 captures women's perspectives on a) contraceptive use, b) timing of motherhood, c) intention to
108 become pregnant, d) desire for / wanting a baby, e) discussion with a partner, and f) pre-
109 conceptual preparations. The tool has been validated in the general population in both high and
110 low income countries^{18, 22-30}. However, the psychometric properties of the LMUP have not been
111 evaluated among a population of female sex workers (FSWs) who are at high risk of unplanned
112 pregnancies¹². In this study, we evaluated the psychometric properties of the LMUP in such a
113 population in Uganda. Specifically, we evaluated the acceptability, reliability, and validity of the
114 LMUP in Luganda translation in assessing pregnancy planning for FSWs. We also created three
115 other language versions, based on the Luganda LMUP, and conducted preliminary evaluations of
116 these tools with FSWs. Measuring pregnancy intention/ planning using the LMUP may guide
117 policy makers and programmers in identifying items to focus on during designing interventions.

118 119 **METHODS**

120 121 *Study design*

122
123 This was a mixed methods study conducted to evaluate psychometric properties of the LMUP.
124 Our primary focus was on creating and evaluating the LMUP in Luganda translation suitable for
125 use with FSWs. Luganda is the commonly spoken local language of the country^{13, 31} but mainly in
126 central region where national referral hospital is located. In other regions, people speak different
127 languages in addition to Luganda. For example Acholi is commonly spoken at one study
128 hospital in the north; Lugisu in the East, and Runyankole in the West.

129 The study comprised two broad phases. The first phase was the creation of the Luganda LMUP
130 which involved five steps: a) translation and back translation; b) pretesting using cognitive
131 interviews and modification where necessary; c) a first field test to collect data for psychometric
132 assessment (with repeat interviews on week after the field test interviews); d) modification of the
133 LMUP; and e) a second field test to collect data for psychometric assessment. The second phase
134 was the creation of three other language versions of the LMUP for FSWs (Acholi, Lugisu and
135 Runyakole) based on the Luganda LMUP, and assessment of their psychometric properties. (The
136 second round of field testing for the Luganda version and the field testing of the three further
137 languages were also designed to identify predictors of pregnancy planning among FSWs, the
138 findings of which will be published separately).

139 140 *Study setting*

141
142 The Most at Risk Population Initiative (MARPI) established clinics or spaces within hospitals to
143 serve key populations. The study was conducted at MARPI clinics from April to August 2017.
144 The services offered at the MARPI clinics include family planning, cancers screening, HIV
145 counseling, testing and treatment to high risk or key populations including FSWs. The interviews

146 with FSWs from MARPI clinics at hospitals in central, north, east and west were conducted in
147 Luganda, Acholi, Lugisu and Runyankole respectively.

148

149 *Study population and participant recruitment*

150

151 The study population comprised FSWs of reproductive age (15-49 years). FSWs of reproductive
152 age who reported to have had a pregnancy within the last two years and were attending MARPI
153 clinics were eligible to participate in the study. A two year period was chosen to find a sufficient
154 number of women with pregnancies in that timeframe. A research assistant (RA) administered a
155 screening tool to FSWs before interviews were conducted. FSWs were excluded from the study if
156 they were too sick to participate in the study or intoxicated with drugs and alcohol at the time of
157 interviews.

158 All FSWs attending MARPI clinics were approached at the clinic reception by the RAs and asked
159 if they were willing to join the study. Written informed consent was obtained from FSWs twice.
160 First, permission was obtained for screening and if eligible, further consent was sought to be
161 recruited into the study. Interviews were conducted in secluded places at the clinics with no
162 interference from the clinic staff and other clients.

163

164 *Sample size*

165

166 The sample size for field testing was informed by previous validations of the LMUP , the
167 minimum previous sample size being 125 in Malawi²⁶. In support of this, scholars recommend
168 that when externally validating a tool a minimum of 100 events, but preferably 200 or more
169 events should be taken as the sample size³². In line with this recommendation, and guidance of
170 sample-size formulae for parameter estimation³³ we aimed to interview at least 200 FSWs in the
171 first Luganda field test, with an assumption that 50% would complete the re-test³⁴.

172

173 *Measures and operational definitions*

174

175 The six items measured in the LMUP are described as in the previous validations^{18, 22-26, 28} and are
176 summarized in table 3. Each item 1-6 has a minimum score of 0 and maximum score of 2. Then
177 totals of the LMUP are obtained by summing item scores. This gives a LMUP total score ranging
178 from 0-12 for all the six items. The higher scores correspond to more pregnancy planning effort.
179 In addition, we examined other context relevant study variables. These included:

180 ***Emotional partner:*** These partners were men who may not have given money or gifts all the
181 time after sexual encounter and sex worker felt an emotional attachment with them³⁵. FSWs that
182 had emotional partner were assigned “yes” and “no” for those without.

183 ***Main work place:*** The main venue for recruiting clients included streets, entertainment places
184 and residence or home, and on phone.

185 ***Pregnancy outcome:*** The outcomes were categorized as miscarriage (spontaneous abortion),
186 induced abortion, delivered a baby (live or still birth), and currently pregnant.

187 ***Marital status:*** categorized as never married, married and formerly married included separated,
188 divorced and widow.

189 ***Other variables:*** included age, education, number of living children.

190 ***Paternity:*** As with other evaluations of the LMUP (and other studies of pregnancy intention), no
191 biological testing was conducted to confirm that the father of the pregnancy/child was who the
192 woman considered to be.

193 **Creating the Luganda LMUP**

194

195 ***Translation and cultural adaptation***

196

197 The LMUP, initially designed as a self-completion tool, was adapted for interviewer-
198 administration as in previous validations^{22, 25, 26, 28}, which is more suitable for populations with
199 low literacy such as FSWs in Uganda³⁶. Two Luganda-English speaking translators were
200 employed. The tool was translated into Luganda the commonly spoken local language by FSWs
201 attending MARPI clinic at national referral hospital³⁷ by one translator, and back translated into
202 English by another translator to ensure that no meaning was lost during translation. Two
203 investigators who speak and understand both Luganda and English language compared the
204 translated and back translated versions of the tool. Any differences identified were discussed and
205 agreed on by the investigators. Then revised Luganda version of the tool was pre-tested.

206

207 ***Pre-testing using cognitive interviews***

208

209 The pre-testing was done using cognitive interviewing techniques to assess if the questionnaire
210 fulfilled its purpose. Specifically, the cognitive interviews assessed a) the acceptability of the
211 questions by identifying words they liked or disliked b) any difficulty experienced by FSWs in
212 understanding the questions, and c) further checked the translation. Three experienced research
213 assistants with university degrees and the principal investigator conducted the interviews. We
214 used verbal probing techniques to elicit responses directly, since the LMUP is short³⁸. Cognitive
215 interviews were conducted with 30 FSWs who came for care at the MARPI clinic. A round
216 consisted of five to seven cognitive interviews conducted per day. After each round data were
217 transcribed, then summarized following FSWs` interpretation of items. The analysis was based on
218 guidance of Knaff *et al*, 2007³⁹, where we used an item by item review approach regarding
219 FSWs` understanding, ability and willingness to respond to the item. This enabled us to identify
220 items for modification. Items found to be comprehensible and consistently interpreted across
221 participants were unchanged. Items showing problems with clarity and wording were revised
222 basing on suggestions from the FSWs and research team. Then further interviews were conducted
223 after revising questions. After the fifth round we stopped the exercise as no new insights were
224 emerging.

225

226 ***First field test***

227

228 A first field test was conducted to evaluate if the LMUP would work among FSWs speaking
229 Luganda. The tool was administered by the three trained RAs (one female and two males). All
230 women attending MARPI clinic were approached consecutively at the reception as they arrived at
231 the clinic by the RAs and asked if they were willing to join the study. The RAs followed similar
232 screening process as for cognitive interviews. Eligible women were interviewed and scheduled to
233 return on any day of the following week for a repeat interview. An interval of one week was
234 selected to minimize loss to follow up among mobile FSWs⁴⁰. The MARPI identity number for
235 each woman was used to link data of the first visit with second visit. Women who participated in
236 cognitive interviews were excluded since they had already been exposed to the questions. The
237 filled questionnaires were cross checked for completeness on daily basis. The questionnaires were
238 stored in a secure location designated and only accessed by the PI. Double data entry was done
239 using EpiData software. The data were exported to STATA version 14.0 for analysis.

240

241

242 ***Modification of the Luganda LMUP***

243

244 Findings from the first field test revealed problems with item 6 (pre-conceptual preparations).
245 Therefore, further analysis of the cognitive interviews was carried out. These findings, plus
246 insights gathered during the first field test data collection, informed the revision of item 6. The
247 LMUP items, including the revised item 6, were taken forward for a second field test⁴¹.

248

249 ***Second field test***

250

251 A second field test was carried out, collecting data from FSWs attending the MARPI clinic at
252 national referral hospital. The eligibility criterion for recruitment was the same as the first field
253 test. There were no follow up interviews.

254

255 ***Creating the Acholi, Lugisu, and Runyankole versions of the LMUP***

256

257 Using the final Luganda version of LMUP, translations were made in three more commonly
258 spoken languages by FSWs in the MARPI Clinics of selected hospitals in north, east, and west
259 and these included Acholi⁴², Lugisu⁴³ and Runyankole⁴⁴ respectively. The translations into the
260 three new languages were carried out by native speakers of those languages, and there was back
261 translation of each language version, with discussion and agreement on the final translations. No
262 cognitive interviews were carried out. The new translations were taken forward for initial field
263 testing.

264

265 ***Analysis of psychometric properties***

266

267 Since a Classical Test Theory-based approach was used in the development study of the LMUP
268 and previous evaluations^{24, 26, 28}, again it was applied to facilitate comparisons. Acceptability was
269 assessed using number of missing responses on the six items as well as, in the creation of the
270 Luganda tool, triangulating findings from cognitive interviews. Targeting was assessed based on
271 the distribution of total scores and this was rated good fitting if all scores from 0-12 were present.
272 We checked maximum item-endorsement to assess item-discrimination⁴⁵.

273 To assess reliability (internal consistency) we examined a) Cronbach's alpha and the standard cut
274 off point of 0.7 was used⁴⁶; b) the item-rest correlations which measure the correlation of item
275 score with the average of the items within a construct and 0.20 considered as acceptable
276 minimum correlation⁴⁵; and c) inter-item correlations where we checked that all inter-item
277 correlations were positive. In the first Luganda field test only, we also assessed reliability in
278 terms of test-retest stability using the weighted kappa, with scores above 0.60 considered
279 substantial⁴⁷. Further analysis was done to test for significant differences between FSWs who
280 returned and those who did not return for repeat interviews using Chi square and t-test in case of
281 variables with expected frequencies of less than 5 in a cell.

282 To assess construct validity, Principal Components Analysis (PCA) was used to evaluate the
283 internal structure of the LMUP through identification of underlying components in the LMUP.
284 Therefore the scale was considered valid if all items loaded onto one component with an Eigen
285 value larger than one; this confirmed that measurement was unidimensional¹⁸.

286 In the first Luganda field test only, construct validity was further examined by means of
287 hypothesis testing. We generated hypotheses based on the literature showing the factors
288 associated with unplanned pregnancies among FSWs in the sub-Saharan region^{5, 7, 9, 48}. Given the
289 non-parametric distribution of pregnancy intention scores, the Wilcoxon Rank-Sum (Mann
290 Whitney U) test was used to test hypotheses where variables had two categories and Kruskal-
291 Wallis equality-of-populations rank test for variables with more than two categories. We had

292 hypothesed that pregnancies would have lower LMUP scores (i.e. be more unplanned) among a)
293 women with number of living children equal to 4 or more , b) women with no emotional partner,
294 c) among women who had abortion, and d) unmarried women.

295

296 **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

297

298 This study was approved by Makerere University School of Public Health Higher Degrees,
299 Research and Ethics Committee and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
300 (*Reference: SS 4262*). We obtained permission from facility authorities. Participants also
301 provided written informed consent by signing or thumb printing the consent form. The research
302 assistants (RAs) emphasized to FSWs that participation was voluntary, and they were free not to
303 answer some questions deemed embarrassing or that caused discomfort. The FSWs below the
304 age of 18 years were enrolled as emancipated minors based on the national research guidelines⁴⁹.
305 Consequently, we did not obtain consent from the legal guardians of the participants aged less
306 than 18 years. The consent procedure was approved by the ethics committees. Participants
307 received 5,000 Uganda shillings (approx. US\$ 1.4) as compensation for their time and those who
308 came back for repeat interviews received an additional 5,000 Uganda shillings as transport
309 reimbursement.

310

311 **RESULTS**

312

313 *Characteristics of respondents*

314

315 The cognitive interviews were conducted among 30 FSWs with median age of 26 years
316 (interquartile range (IQR) 19 – 39). About a quarter of women 23% (7) were married with 57%
317 (17) reporting primary as the highest level of education ever achieved. Half of the women 50%
318 (15) were street-based FSWs, while 33% (10) reported having no emotional partner. Slightly
319 more than half 53% (16) had no other source of income besides sex work.

320 In the first Luganda field test, a total of 211 FSWs were enrolled, with median age of 29 years
321 (IQR- 18-43). About quarter 24% (50) were married with 57% (121) reporting primary as the
322 highest level of education ever achieved. More than half 54% (113) were street-based FSWs,
323 while 61% (128) reported having an emotional partner. The majority 72% (153) reported taking
324 alcohol and other characteristics are as described in table 1. There was no significant difference
325 between the characteristics of FWSs who came back for repeat interviews and those who did not
326 except for marital status. Fewer married FSWs came back for repeat interviews ($p < 0.001$).

327 The 517 participants for second Luganda field test had similar characteristics as for the first field
328 test. The median age was 29 years (IQR-18-45). Fifty-six per cent (290) had only attained
329 primary education. Less than a quarter 18% (97) were married, though more than half 59% (304)
330 had at least one emotional partner. About three quarters 76% (395) reported taking alcohol.

331 The data for field testing for Acholi Lugisu and Runyankole langauges were drawn from another
332 study for determining the predictors of pregnancy planning among FSWs. The samples from
333 Acholi, Lugisu and Runyankole speaking FSWs were 100, 112 and 90 respectively. The
334 characteristics of these FSWs are detailed in Table 2. Briefly the average age for FSWs ranged
335 from 24 among Runyankole to 28 among Lugisu speakers. About 10% and less were reported to
336 be married and half or more had only attained primary education from each site.

337

338

339 *Pre-testing results of the Luganda version*

340

341 The majority of the FSWs found the six items of the tool easy to understand. However, some
342 FSWs disliked or were uncomfortable with the word “partner”. To them partner meant a man
343 with whom they had emotional attachment (and those who were not married especially, perceived
344 the question as being ridiculous). During adaptation for item 5 that captured data on discussion of
345 pregnancy planning with partner, we expounded the meaning of partner to include a phrase “man
346 who made you pregnant”.

347

348 *First Luganda field test*

349

350 There were no missing data on the responses of the six items. The distribution of total scores is
351 illustrated in a histogram (Fig 1) and shows a full range of scores from 0-12. There was no
352 question with a response of more than 76% endorsement as shown in table 3. Cronbach’s α was
353 0.73. Table 4 shows item-rest correlations >0.2 for four items (items 2-5). The item-rest
354 correlation for item 1 (contraception use) was 0.13 and item 6 (pre-conceptual activities) was
355 0.03. The inter-item correlations were all positive ranging from 0.28 to 0.86. For the test-retest,
356 weighted kappa was 0.78. The PCA showed that there were two components with an Eigenvalue
357 >1 (table 4). Items 1-5 loaded onto the first component, and item 6 loaded onto the second
358 component. All construct validity hypotheses were met (Fig 2). In short, lower LMUP scores
359 were observed among: a) women with four or more living children ($p= 0.041$), b) women with
360 non-emotional partner as a man who fathered last pregnancy ($p=0.002$), c) among women who
361 had abortion ($p=0.002$), and d) unmarried women ($p=0.002$).

362

363 *Modification of the Luganda LMUP*

364

365 Observations from the first field test (in particular, the unusually high endorsements for item 6’s
366 pre-conceptual preparations in the context of low scores on other items) and a re-examination of
367 the cognitive interview data revealed some respondents did not clearly distinguish between
368 preparing for pregnancy and during pregnancy. Therefore, modifications were made to item 6.
369 We added a probe to emphasize the time before conception of the most recent pregnancy. For
370 example, if a FSW mentioned that she took iron, this was followed with probe “Did you do it in
371 preparation for this most recent pregnancy?” Further, we formatted the individual responses or
372 options to have “yes” and “no” responses to improve clarity in responding to each option as it
373 was done in Malawi validation²⁶. In addition, considering the high risk of HIV acquisition
374 associated with unsafe sex with many sexual partners, we added an option of “stop sex working”
375 as one of the preconception activities.

376

377 *Second Luganda field test*

378

379 No missing data were observed among the responses of the six items. The distribution of total
380 scores shows a full range of scores from 0-12 (Fig 3). Item endorsements are shown in Table 3.
381 The Cronbach’s α was 0.82. Table 4 shows that item-rest correlations >0.2 for all items except
382 item 1. The inter-item correlations were all positive ranging from 0.28 to 0.86.

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Table 1: Socio demographics of Female Sex workers from the first Luganda London Measure of Unintended Pregnancy field test, March-April,2017 (N=211)

Socio demographics characteristics	Enrollment N=211 (%)	Returned n=121(%)	Not Returned n=90 (%)	Comparison of returned and not returned (Chi2)
Age				p=0.819
Mean (sd)	28.7(5.7)	29.4 (6.0)	28.2 (5.2)	
Median (IQR)	29 (18-43)	29 (19-43)	28 (19-37)	
Range	17-46	18-46	17-45	
Age group*				p =0.277
15-19	8 (3.8)	4 (3.3)	4 (4.5)	
20-24	41 (19.4)	22 (18.2)	18 (20.0)	
25-29	66 (31.3)	36 (29.8)	31 (34.5)	
30-34	69 (32.7)	35 (28.9)	30 (33.3)	
35-39	16 (7.6)	16 (13.2)	4 (4.4)	
≥40	11 (5.2)	8 (6.6)	3 (3.3)	
Biological living				p =0.085
0	8 (3.8)	6 (5.00)	3 (3.3)	
1	42 (19.9)	18 (15.0)	24 (26.7)	
2	68 (32.2)	38 (31.7)	29 (32.2)	
3	47 (22.3)	35 (29.1)	14 (15.6)	
4/max	46 (21.8)	23 (19.2)	20 (22.2)	
Marital status				p <0.001
Never married	36 (17.1)	22 (18.2)	14 (15.6)	
Married	41 (19.4)	13 (10.7)	28 (31.1)	
Formerly married	134 (63.5)	86 (71.1)	48 (53.3)	
Education*				p =0.762
None	8 (3.7)	3 (2.5)	3 (3.3)	
Primary	121 (57.4)	72 (60.5)	48 (53.3)	
Secondary	73 (34.6)	39 (32.8)	35 (38.9)	
Post Primary	9 (4.3)	5 (4.2)	4 (4.5)	
Main place of work				p =0.565
Street-based	113 (53.6)	63 (52.5)	48 (53.3)	
Entertainment place	74 (35.1)	44 (36.7)	36 (38.1)	
Residence/Home-based	24 (11.3)	13 (10.8)	6 (6.7)	
Emotional partner				p =0.058
Yes	128 (60.7)	65 (53.7)	60 (59.2)	
Alcohol use				p=0.184
Yes	153 (72.5)	92 (76.0)	61 (67.8)	
Substance use				p =0.328
Yes	90 (42.6)	44 (36.7)	39 (43.3)	
Pregnancy outcome				p =0.112
Still pregnant	14 (6.7)	6 (4.5)	6 (6.7)	
Delivered a baby	75 (35.7)	35 (28.9)	37 (41.1)	
Abortion	84 (40.0)	50 (41.3)	35 (38.9)	
Miscarriage	37 (17.6)	30 (24.8)	12 (13.3)	

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389

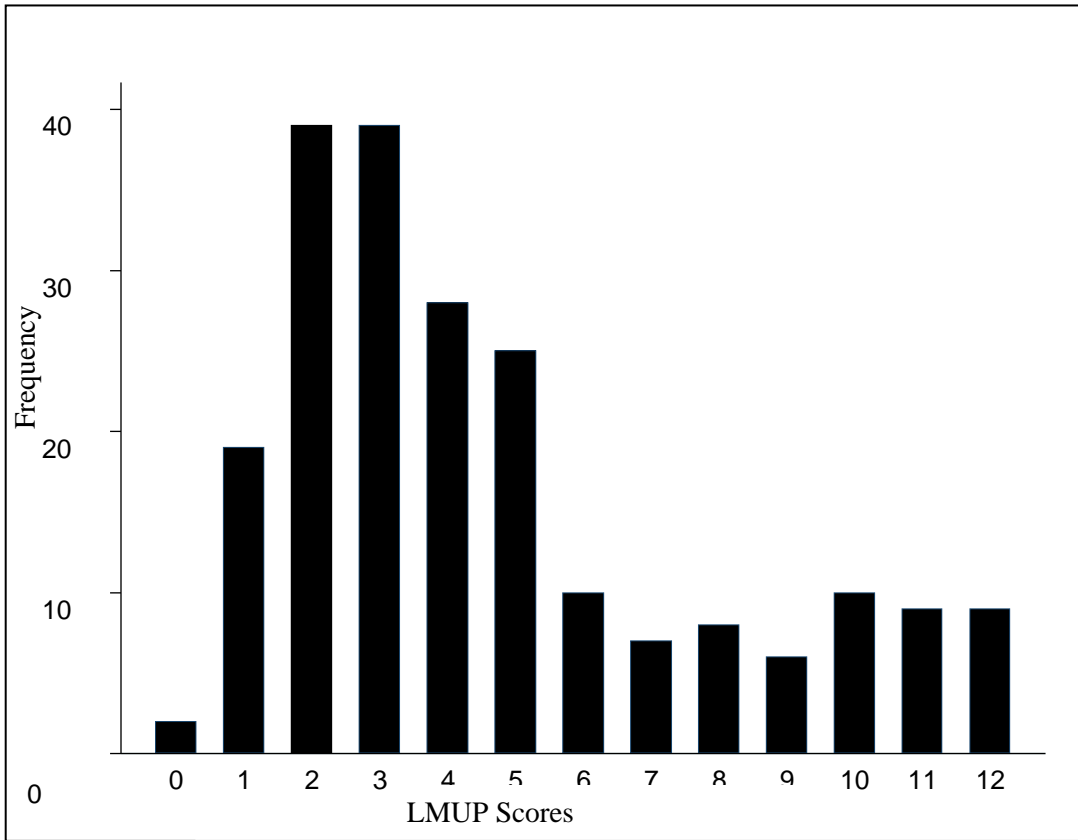
*used t-test, Sd: Standard deviation; IQR : Interquintile range

390 **Table 2:** Socio demographics of female sex workers recruited during Second Luganda field test
 391 and other London Measure of Unintended Pregnancy language-version field tests: May –August
 392 2017 (N=517)
 393

Socio demographics characteristics	Spoken Language			
	Luganda N=517 (%)	Acholi N=100 (%)	Lugisu N=112(%)	Runyankole N=90(%)
Age				
Mean (sd)	29 (6.1)	25 (4.3)	28 (7.9)	24 (5.0)
Median (IQR)	29 (25-44)	25(22-28)	28 (22-	23 (21-28)
Range	18-46	16-38	15-47	15-39
Age group*				
15-19	7 (1.4)	8 (8)	17 (15.2)	10 (11.1)
20-24	121(23.4)	42 (42.0)	27 (24.1)	44 (48.9)
25-29	150 (29.0)	36 (36.0)	19 (17.0)	26 (28.9)
30-34	119 (23.0)	12 (12.0)	21 (18.7)	4 (4.4)
35-39	91 (17.6)	2 (2.0)	19 (17.0)	6 (6.7)
≥40	29 (5.6)	0	9 (8.0)	0
Biological living				
0	285 (55.1)	12 (12.0)	25 (22.3)	58 (64.4)
1	60 (11.6)	31 (31.0)	18 (16.1)	22(22.4)
2	65 (12.6)	31 (31.0)	27 (24.1)	7 (7.8)
3	55 (10.6)	16 (16.0)	22 (19.6)	3 (3.3)
4/max	52 (10.1)	10 (10.0)	10 (17.9)	0
Marital status				
Never married	104 (20.1)	55 (55.0)	35 (31.3)	27 (30.0)
Married	97 (18.8)	1 (1.0)	12 (10.7)	6 (6.7)
Formerly married	316 (61.1)	44 (44.0)	65 (58.0)	57 (63.3)
Education*				
None	36 (7.0)	1 (1.0)	4 (3.5)	8(8.9)
Primary	285 (55.1)	42 (42.0)	54 (48.2)	60 (66.7)
Secondary	161(31.1)	51 (51.0)	48 (42.9)	19 (21.1)
Post Primary	35(6.8)	6 (6.0)	6 (5.4)	3 (3.3)
Main place of work				
Street-based	197 (38.1)	5 (5.0)	45(40.2)	23 (25.6)
Entertainment place	114 (22.1)	42 (42.0)	36 (32.1)	34 (37.8)
Residence/Home-Phone*	30 (5.80)	3 (3.0)	1(1.0)	7 (7.8)
Phone*	176 (34.0)	50 (50.0)	30 (26.7)	26 (28.9)
Emotional partner				
Yes	304 (58.8)	44 (44.0)	94 (83.9)	56 (62.2)
Alcohol use				
Yes	395 (76.4)	49 (49.0)	94 (83.9)	56 (62.2)
Substance use				
Yes	216 (41.8)	31 (31.1)	73 (65.1)	79 (87.8)
Pregnancy outcome				
Still pregnant	31 (6.0)	6 (3.0)	7 (6.2)	7 (7.8)
Delivered a baby	162 (31.3)	82 (82.0)	33 (29.5)	44 (48.9)
Abortion	242 (46.8)	9 (9.0)	48 (42.9)	15 (16.7)
Miscarriage	82(15.9)	3 (6.0)	24 (21.4)	24 (26.7)

394 *Data not captured on phone as means of recruiting clients during first field test

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March-April, 2017 (N=211)

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LMUP score 0 unplanned pregnancy, 12 planned pregnancy

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Figure 1: Distribution of London Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy (LMUP) score in the first

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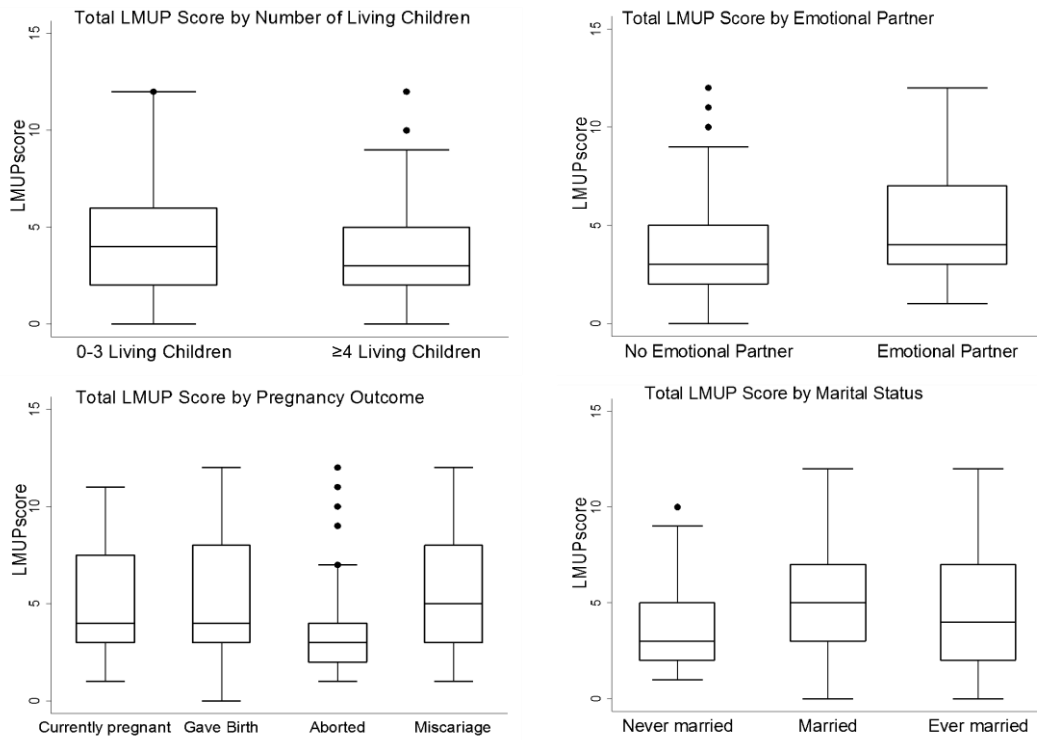
Luganda field test

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Fig 2. London Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy (LMUP) scores by the four construct validity hypotheses, March-April, 2017 (N=211)

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Table 3: Endorsement of the London Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy response options, March-April, 2017 (N=211)

Item	Response options	Luganda	Luganda	Acholi	Lugisu	Runyankole
		1 st Field n (%)	2 nd Field n (%)	(N=100) n (%)	(N=112) n (%)	(N=90) n (%)
1: At the time of conception, you were	2. Not using	96 (45.5)	213 (41.2)	7 (7.0)	43 (38.4)	48 (53.3)
	1.Inconsistently	111 (52.6)	299 (57.8)	42 (42.0)	61 (54.5)	41 (45.6)
	0.Always using contraception	4 (1.9)	5 (1.0)	51 (51.0)	8 (7.1)	1 (1.1)
2: In terms of becoming a mother, you felt that your pregnancy happened at	2.Right time	40(19.0)	86(16.6)	9(9.0)	32(28.6)	40(44.4)
	1. An OK time but not quite right	11(5.2)	14(2.7)	12(12.0)	25(22.3)	18(20.0)
	0.Wrong time	160(75.8)	417(80.7)	79(79.0)	55(49.1)	32(35.6)
3: Just before falling pregnant	2.You intended to	47(22.3)	103(19.9)	9(9.0)	30(26.8)	42(46.7)
	1.Your intention kept on changing	8(3.8)	8(1.6)	14(14.0)	9(8.0)	10(11.1)
	0.You did not intend to become pregnant	156(73.9)	406(78.5)	77(77.0)	73(65.2)	38(42.2)
4: Just before falling pregnant, you	2.Wanted a baby	75(35.5)	145(28.0)	10(10.0)	35(31.2)	64(71.1)
	1.Had mixed feelings about	9 (4.3)	3(0.6)	20(20.0)	19(17.0)	2(2.2)
	0.Did not want a baby	127(60.2)	369(71.4)	70(70.0)	58(51.8)	24(26.7)
5: Before falling pregnant had you and the man who made you pregnant	2.Agreed to	32(15.2)	62(12.0)	16(16.0)	41(36.6)	42(46.7)
	1.Discussed having children together but no firm agreement	24(11.4)	31(6.0)	15(15.0)	38(33.9)	12(13.3)
	0.Never discussed having children together	155(73.4)	424(82.0)	69(69.0)	33(29.5)	36(40.0)
6: Health actions before falling	2.Two or more Actions	107(50.7)	17(3.3)	21(21.0)	5(4.5)	4(4.4)
	1. Action	28(13.3)	22(5.0)	52(52.0)	8(7.1)	7(7.8)
	0.No Action	76(36.0)	478(92.4)	27(27.0)	99(88.4)	79(87.8)

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**health actions included “taking iron”, “saving money”, “eating health food”, “going to health facility”, “stopping sex work”, “stopped or cut down drinking alcohol”, & “stopped or cut down taking drugs”*

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Table 4: Principal Component Analysis of all four language versions of the London Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy, March-April, 2017 (N=211) & (May-August,2017), N=819

Item/s	1 st Luganda			2 nd Luganda		Acholi		Lugisu		Runyankole	
	Item rest cor.	PCA Com1	PCA Com2	Item rest cor.	PCA Com1	Item rest cor.	PCA Com1	Item rest cor.	PCA Com1	Item rest cor.	PCA Com1
		Ev=2.	Ev=1.		Ev=3.		Ev=3.3		Ev=3.7		Ev=2.9
		IL	IL		IL		IL		IL		IL
Item 1	0.13	0.32	-0.73	0.15	0.21	0.20	0.29	0.36	0.47	0.11	0.18
Item 2	0.76	0.89	-0.01	0.85	0.92	0.78	0.90	0.90	0.95	0.75	0.88
Item 3	0.69	0.88	-0.04	0.83	0.93	0.85	0.95	0.89	0.94	0.71	0.87
Item 4	0.61	0.76	0.27	0.72	0.84	0.74	0.90	0.85	0.92	0.61	0.78
Item 5	0.67	0.83	-0.02	0.67	0.80	0.62	0.78	0.79	0.87	0.66	0.82
Item 6	0.03	0.12	0.85	0.28	0.40	0.25	0.35	0.25	0.34	0.06	0.10

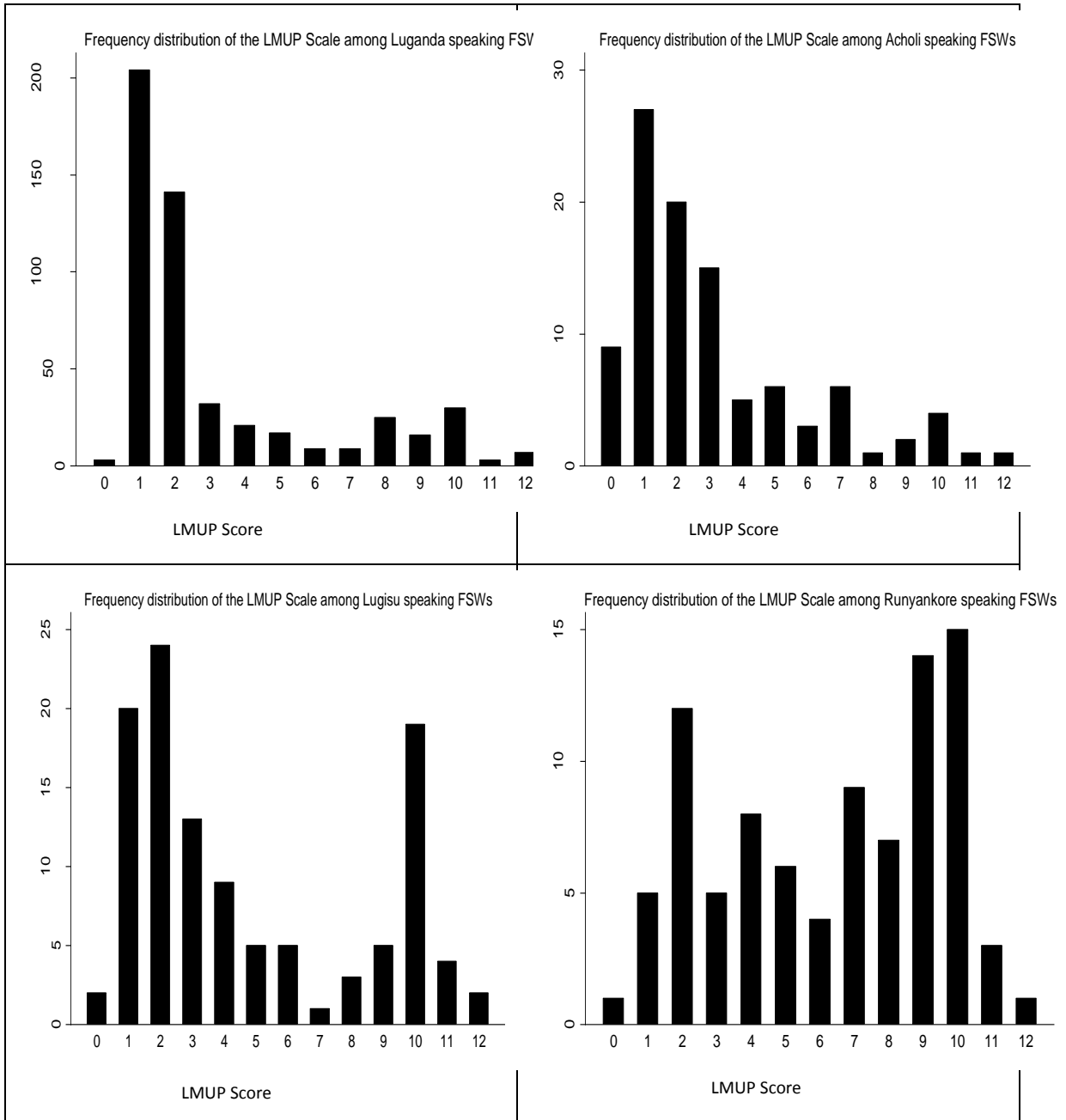
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PCA=Principal component analysis; Comp=Component; Ev=Eigen value; Itemrestcor= Item–rest correlation. IL= Item Loading

Field test findings of Acholi, Lugisu and Runyankole LMUP

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All the three language versions had no missing data in the responses of the six items. Table 3 shows endorsements of item response options. The full range of scores, from 0 to 12, was present in all three language versions as illustrated in Fig 3. The Cronbach’s α were 0.80, 0.87 0.76 for Acholi, Lugisu and Runyankole respectively. The item-rest correlations were above 0.2 for all items in the three languages except for item 1 and 6 in Runyankole (Table 4). The inter-item correlations were all positive for all languages. In the PCA, items loaded onto one component with an Eigen value of 3.3, 3.7 and 2.9 for Acholi, Lugisu and Runyankole respectively.



440 *LMUP score: 0 unplanned pregnancy, 12 planned pregnancy*
 441 **Figure 3:** Graphs showing Frequency distribution of the London Measure of Unplanned
 442 Pregnancy Scores in the four languages, May-August 2017 N=819
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444 **DISCUSSION**

445
 446 We evaluated the Luganda version of the LMUP to assess pregnancy planning among sex
 447 workers in Uganda. The evaluation of the Luganda version of the LMUP among FSWs in Uganda
 448 using classical test theory confirms that the tool meets predetermined criteria for validation. The
 449 pre-set criteria included domains for acceptability, targeting, reliability (internal consistency,

450 stability) and construct validity based on PCA and hypotheses testing¹⁸. A lack of missing data on
451 the items completed during field testing confirmed willingness to respond to the items expressed
452 by the FSWs during the cognitive interviews and the acceptability of the tool. Although the full
453 ranges of LMUP scores were present, the results showed, overall, a tendency towards low scores
454 implying high levels of unplanned pregnancies in this population.

455 In the second Luganda field test some item response options had high endorsements but this is
456 likely due to the skewed distribution of LMUP scores for FSWs. Most FSWs had low levels of
457 pregnancy planning so it is not surprising that many FSWs had higher endorsement for wrong
458 timing, never discussing with man who impregnated them and having taken no preconception
459 preparation activity. The literature shows that FSWs often become pregnant by clients⁵⁰. Such
460 partners who are clients are unlikely to discuss and agree on when to have babies. High
461 endorsement of having done no pre-conception preparation activity is not surprising. The
462 literature shows that FSWs face difficulties while accessing care¹² so visiting facilities before
463 conception would be challenging. Many FSWs continue consuming alcohol during pregnancy⁵¹
464 and majority continue with sex work as it is main source of income^{16, 52}.

465 From the Luganda LMUP we created, and conducted preliminary evaluations of, three new
466 language versions of the LMUP, in Acholi, Lugisu, and Runyankole, for use with Ugandan
467 FSWs. There were, however, limitations to our evaluations, for instance, we did not conduct
468 cognitive interviews to check women's understanding and our field test samples were
469 opportunistic (as part of a wider study of factors associated with pregnancy planning) and
470 therefore sample sizes were smaller than ideal. Reassuringly, the psychometric properties of the
471 new language versions largely met standard criteria for performance. It is notable, however, that
472 the endorsement frequencies for item 6 (preconception preparations) in Acholi were higher than
473 those of the other Ugandan language versions; this might be an accurate reflection of behaviour
474 or, more likely, it might be a misinterpretation of the item and this warrant further investigation in
475 future. Also, we did not check the stability (test-retest reliability) of the three new language
476 versions.

477 To our knowledge, this is the first study anywhere to evaluate the LMUP score among FWSs. The
478 findings in this study are comparable with the previous studies that have evaluated the LMUP
479 scale in the general population. For example previous evaluations have estimated Cronbach's
480 alpha of 0.71-0.92^{22-28, 53}; test-retest weighted kappa of 0.72-0.97^{18, 24, 26, 27}; and established the
481 unidimensionality of the LMUP²²⁻²⁹. Also, the patterns of response to the six LMUP items (i.e.
482 item endorsements, item-rest scores, component loadings in the PCA) are like elsewhere. The
483 final LMUP version in English is available⁵⁴.

484 Responses to item 1 (contraception) showed few women used contraception consistently (in the
485 context of low levels of pregnancy intention as shown by the overall LMUP scores). This likely
486 explains the lower item-rest scores and the relatively low component loadings in the PCA of item
487 1 (within the context of overall good internal consistency and unidimensionality). The
488 performance of item 1 could be due to poor uptake of family planning services among FSWs¹².
489 However, in the previous evaluations of the LMUP, for example in Malawi²⁶ and India²⁸, the
490 same item of contraceptive use was retained despite similar issues. However, with the Chichewa
491 LMUP in Malawi, subsequent analysis its measurement properties in a new study have shown
492 good performance of all the items, including the contraceptive item⁵³. Similarly, we have left this
493 item in for comparability with LMUP elsewhere in the world.

494 In the second Luganda field test and the Lugisu and Runyankole field tests, we observed a high
495 endorsement of no activities for item 6, preconception preparations. The high endorsement of no
496 pre- conception activities is not uncommon even in the general population. This implies that there
497 is less attention paid to the area of pre-conception care along continuum of reproductive health.
498 Even in the general population, few women are knowledgeable about preconception care⁵⁵ and
499 fewer women receive services in preparations for pregnancies⁵⁶. This demands that as health

500 providers promote the notion of a continuum of reproductive care, this area needs to be
501 strengthened to improve the health status of women before conception.
502 The strength of our paper is that we were able to include women who had experienced induced
503 abortion unlike some validations^{22, 23, 26, 28}. This provided an opportunity to assess the level of
504 pregnancy planning among FSWs whose pregnancy never reached term. Our construct validity
505 hypothesis test in the Luganda field test showed, as expected, that women who had abortions had
506 lower LMUP scores reflecting the lack of intention. This is congruent with previous studies^{18, 24,}
507 ^{25, 57, 58}. Women whose pregnancies never reached term are missed in the DHS and yet they
508 contribute substantially to proportions of unplanned pregnancies.
509 There are some limitations in our study. First, the women were recruited from MARPI clinic, this
510 might create selection bias towards users of health services. This would imply that the LMUP
511 score obtained from this study could be different if compared with FSWs drawn from the
512 community. Nevertheless, the information collected on pregnancy planning would benefit both
513 users and non-users of the services from the health facility. Secondly, we used face to face
514 interviews instead of a self-administered method. The interviewer-participant interaction could
515 have influenced FSWs' responses, especially on sensitive questions. However, conducting
516 interviews in secluded rooms by experienced research assistants gave confidence and reassurance
517 to the respondents so they were able to express and answer the questions freely. Besides, this tool
518 has been tested in other settings using face-face interviewers among respondents of lower
519 education status like our study population. Thirdly, we carried out the test-retest (to assess
520 stability/reliability) on the first Luganda field test, on the near-final Luganda LMUP, rather than
521 the final version in the second field test. However, as five of the LMUP items were unchanged,
522 and the sixth item only partially changed (thus with a minimal effect on the total LMUP scores),
523 plus internal consistency >0.7 in both field tests, we would expect a similar test-retest result if it
524 had been repeated. Finally, the version of LMUP evaluated among FSWs may need minor
525 modification and further assessment before using it in the general population. In this version for
526 item 6 we added three options for FSWs including stopping sex work, taking alcohol, and
527 substance abuse which may not be relevant to women in Uganda who are not sex workers.

528

529 **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

530

531 The Luganda LMUP version is a validated tool to assess pregnancy planning among sex workers
532 in Uganda as it meets the pre-set criteria. Specifically, the tool can be used to measure the
533 intendedness of pregnancies among FSWs. The Acholi, Lugisu, and Runyankole versions of the
534 LMUP, based on the Luganda translation, also show good psychometric properties. However, as
535 only partial evaluations were carried out in Acholi, Lugisu, and Runyankole versions, further
536 confirmation of these findings in these languages are required. Using the LMUP with FSWs can
537 be an alternative method to the other ways of assessing unplanned pregnancies such as in the
538 DHS. The LMUP can be used to evaluate and refocus interventions to reduce unplanned
539 pregnancies among FSWs in Uganda.

540

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542

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548

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