



ACTION 4 HEALTH UGANDA 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

R PAUL
OUTH 2021 - 2026

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Priority Areas

ACRONYMS.

A4HU	Action 4 Health Uganda
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CAC	Community Action Committee
CIP	Costed Implementation Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCIP	District Costed Implementation Plan
DSW	Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung
EWAG	European Week of Action for Girls
FP	Family Planning
FPCIP	Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan
SGBV	Sexual Gender-Based Violence
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
JMS	Joint Medical Stores
NDP	National Development Plan
POWER	Providing Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Reproductive Health
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TOTs	Trainer or Trainees
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
WASH	Water and Sanitation Hygiene
YEC	Youth Empowerment Center
FPBAG	Family Planning Budget Advocacy Group
CSBAG	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
UFPC	Uganda Family Planning Consortium

INTRODUCTION

As we go further into a post-COVID-19 world and recovery, Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) prides itself in completing its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan amidst numerous COVID-19 hurdles and looks forward to taking on the next one. The goal to empower young people remains top of the agenda for 2023. Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) continues to be dedicated to promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRH) and Family Planning (FP), mainstreaming young peoples' engagement in socio-economic development, and influencing decision-making processes. A4HU and its consortium of partners are crucial in putting youth on the development agenda, especially now in this post-COVID-19 world. With teenage pregnancy rates on the rise, now more than ever we need to strengthen our partnerships and collaborative efforts in improving access to modern contraceptives. With the new Strategic Plan of 2023-2027, we are looking to make strategic shifts that still get us to our mission to improve young people's health and socio-economic situation in Uganda. We recognise that we can no longer do business as usual in these unprecedented times, with record numbers of lost livelihoods driving up unemployment and low levels of modern contraceptive uptake. The status of Uganda's very youthful population remains at stake. This brief summarises programme highlights and milestones for the year 2022. For A4HU, December 2022 marks the end of the maiden strategic plan (2018-2022) and the launch of the process to develop a new one.

Three Projects, SHAPE, TeamUp Pilot Phase and the Youth Truck, ended during the year while we secured funding for TeamUp Phase 2 as well as the POWER (Providing Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Reproductive Health) Project. The TeamUp Uganda Programme will be implemented in a consortium with Hanns R. NeumannStiftung (HRNS) and Whave Solutions. POWER Project is a collaboration between DSW, A4HU and Capital Solutions Limited (CSL).



THE GLOBAL GOALS



VISION

A healthy society where all young people develop their full potential.



MISSION

To improve the health and socio-economic status of young people in Uganda.





Chairman, Board of Directors

As a board, we believe that the empowerment of young people is critical to achieving broader development goals such as reducing poverty, promoting gender equality, and strengthening health systems. We are proud of the work that A4HU has done so far and are committed to ensuring that our efforts are sustainable and have a lasting impact on the lives of young people in Uganda.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our partners, including the Government of Uganda, health service providers, and our development partners, for their collaboration and support. We look forward to continuing our work with all of you towards the realization of our shared vision of a healthy and empowered young generation in Uganda.

Dr Jotham Musinguzi

Board Chairman



Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

In 2022, A4HU continued to empower young people with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Our work remained grounded in the belief that every young person has the right to access the information and services they need to thrive and lead healthy fulfilling lives.

Using a Youth-Led model, our approach continued to work with established youth structures and leaders to ensure that our interventions are responsive to the needs and priorities of the youth within the communities we serve. A4HU is keen to see the sustainability of youth and their enterprises including their Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). 2022 showed us that even though we have come a long way, the gaps still remain huge and wide.

Together with our partners and key stakeholders at national and sub-national levels we continue to press on for greater impact within our coalitions and cross sectoral approaches. We intend to be exceptional in our youth programming and deliver better for A4HU youth beneficiaries.

Sarah Kintu

CEO

2022 IMPACT



Strategic Goal 1: Foster demand for and access to quality SRHR information and youth-friendly services.

A4HU reached 3,828 beneficiaries with quality SRH information in the seven districts of implementation through community health outreaches that 90 Peer Educators facilitated. Through the referral voucher system used during outreaches, 667 young people were referred to Health Centres for different SRH services. A4HU supported 100 peer groups through 1500 peer educators to cascade SRHR information and services to 7,990 people. 81,958 condoms were distributed during community outreaches, national celebrations and mobilisation drives. As a result, we have made contributions to;

- Increased SRH awareness and knowledge among young people has led to youth making informed and better decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.
- The availing of modern contraceptives such as female and male condoms has brought about behavioural change among young people which has helped to avert unintended pregnancies, low the transmissions of STIs and other SRH issues.
- With the youth running the peer sessions, there is now sustainable promotion of SRH issues, as young people trained by A4HU as peer educators continue to share their knowledge and experiences with their peers and communities.



100

Peer groups Supported



90

Peer Educators providing SRHR information



81,958

Condoms distributed



1,500

Reached with SRH information



667

Young people referred for YFS SRH



7,990

Young People accessed SRH services



3,828

Young people reached during integrated outreaches

Strategic Goal 2: Advocate for prioritisation of gender-sensitive and youth-friendly services at National and Sub-National levels.

A4HU strengthened its youth advocates network within five coalitions of like-minded organisations to engage with key decision-makers and push for policies prioritising adolescent health. Currently, the youth network is comprised of 114 youth champions and advocates. A4HU facilitated the completion of the Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan for the Mukono District and conducted the End-Term Evaluation for the Mityana Costed Implementation Plan. The findings from the FP budget for the FY2021/22 continue to act as a reference for advocacy by advocacy partner organisations. Overall, we contributed to the following;

- Strengthened joint advocacy on budget and policy within five CSO coalitions in four districts and at national level.
- A4HU financed and pushed for the approval of Mukono FPCIP.
- Successfully advocated for increased budget allocations in four districts.
- Facilitated and strengthened youth-led advocacy at sub-national level.



114

Youth Champions
advocating for improved
policy and funding



1

Policy prioritising
young peoples'
health at National
and Sub-national



5

CSO coalitions
advocating for
improved policy
and funding



5

Evidence based
evidence-based
advocacy actions
implemented

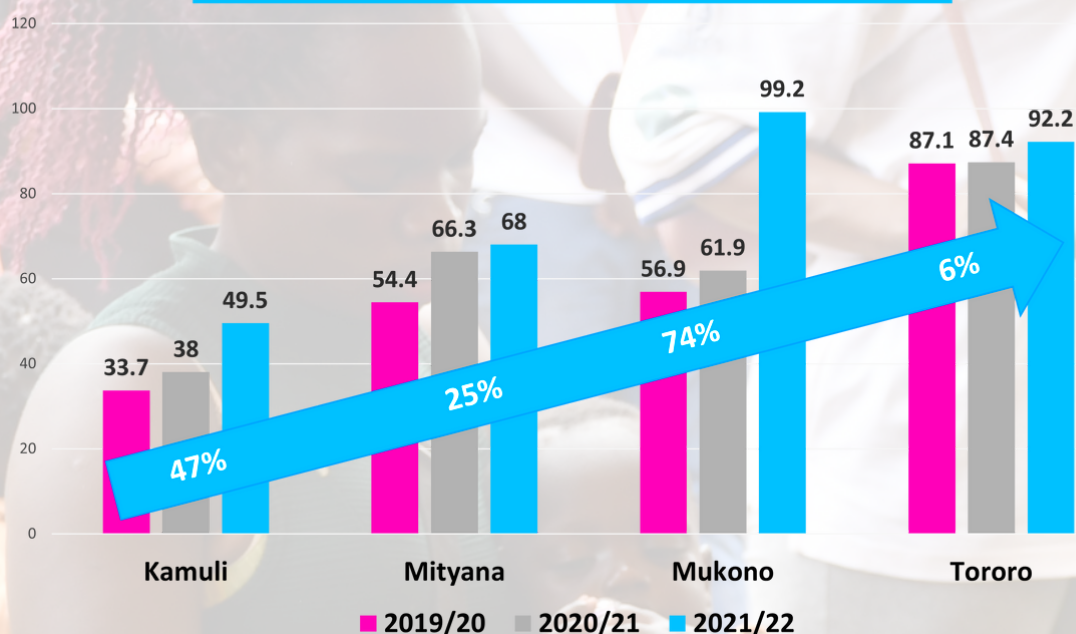


1

Health budget
reporting
improvement in YFS
budget allocation



District FP budget allocation from FY2019/20 and FY2021/22 in Uganda in UGX Millions



A4HU has worked collaboratively with Civil Society Organizations to advocate for increased funding for SRH/FP at the national level. As a result, the budget has increased progressively. A4HU is committed to building the capacities of key technical and political stakeholders to strengthen advocacy for both SRH/FP budget and policy in Uganda.

Strategic Goal 3: Create a favourable environment at community and local government levels for meaningful youth participation.

A4HU facilitated youth engagement with key stakeholders and beneficiaries in 25 local government platforms on youth participation. To enable a supportive environment for youth in their communities, A4HU brought together 96 Community Action Committees made of various community duty bearers. The Organisation trained 400 young couples as change agents to help curb SGBV among young people, and 111 Youth groups were trained in leadership and Governance. All these continue to contribute to them;

- Inclusive planning and decision-making from community to national levels.
- There has been improved communication in households where couples have been trained as change agents within communities and this will have the ripple effect of curbing down on SGBV in these communities.
- Youth Organisations within communities have been strengthened and legalised their CBO statuses for sustainability as well as to open up new doors of opportunity for them to receive funding.
- Several young people have been trained as community, national and district change agents.



111

Youth Groups supported in leadership and governance



96

Community Action Committees



400

Youth Couples trained as change agents



25

Platforms for young people provided by local governments



Strategic Goal 4: Work for improved and equal access to socio-economic opportunities for young people.

A4HU successfully launched the Providing Opportunities for Women in Entrepreneurship and Reproductive Health (POWER) pilot phase alongside Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) and Capital Solutions Limited (CSL). The POWER Project aims to build the capacity of 12 young women social entrepreneurs aged 18-30 years in the field of SRH/FP. The Project targeted business models that provide new and modern innovative solutions within the area of SRH/FP. The entrepreneurs received training on ICT skills, marketing, business planning and development, personal branding, resource mobilisation and investment readiness.

A4HU continued supporting 251 youth groups in Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLAs) with kits and training and reached 1,512 young people with entrepreneurship skills.

- 83% of the young women social entrepreneurs have established enterprises addressing SRHR and family challenges.
- The six districts have an increased saving culture due to training and providing saving kits by A4HU.
- As a result of increased active saving groups at the community level, there is increased access to affordable credit by young people, which will contribute to young people's business growth and income status.



251

Youth Clubs supported with VSLA kits



1,512

Young people trained in Entrepreneurship and business



12

SRH Female Entrepreneurs



1


Financial institutions providing the young people with financial assistance



1

YEC Income Generating Activity





EMERGING ISSUES

The year was not without its challenges as we continue to recover from the time lost during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Despite the challenges and difficulties we faced, it's important to remember that there are always lessons to be learned. These lessons help us grow and become more resilient. We have learned the importance of being flexible, adaptable, and creative in finding solutions to new and emerging problems. The lessons learned have also given us the opportunity to reassess our priorities and values so that we are still able to cover and move the needle in favour of young people. On the home front we saw Kassanda District be placed under lockdown when there was an Ebola outbreak in Uganda. This slowed down some TeamUp activities for a while. We were thrilled when the Ebola outbreak was contained and the district opened up.

It is crucial that we put contingency and risk management plans in place for those things that may undoubtedly arise and affect program impact.

The last couple of years has highlighted the need to digitalise and utilise new technologies to provide young people with access to information and resources that they may not have otherwise. This is especially valuable for youth who face barriers to accessing traditional resources or who live in remote areas.



LOOKING AHEAD 2023

We are looking at strengthening sustainability of youth structures for long-term success of youth structures. By ensuring that these structures are sustainable, young people can continue to benefit from the resources and support. By promoting autonomy in these groups, young people can develop their own skills, identify their own goals and aspirations, and ultimately make better choices which lead to better outcomes for the youth.

If anything, COVID-19 has reminded us that alternative sources of income need to be put in place for sustainability of programs. Resource mobilisation is high on the 2023 agenda as we work in consortia with partners and stakeholders. We look forward to collaborations as we compliment the work of partners.