



ACTION 4 HEALTH UGANDA

Adolescent mothers are getting the right SRHR information in their communities in an attempt to leave no one behind.

A4HU

Newsletter

February 2022 Issue

A4HU held community dialogues in Tororo, Wakiso, Busia and Kampala to advocate for youth involvement in planning processes and gender-responsive budgeting at local levels. These dialogues attracted the participation of over **90** stakeholders.

88 new peer educators were trained to cascade Sexual Reproductive Health and Family Planning information to youth in **50** youth clubs in **6** Districts.



This month the A4HU Youth Truck mobilized youth in Kamwokya, Kampala district for HCT, family planning and health education on behavioural change. Peer educators conducted these sessions at the one-day event that reached over 100 youth.

Additionally, A4HU conducted training sessions that targeted 30 members across 13 clubs with SRHR information on HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, STIs/STDs, menstrual hygiene management (MHM), GBV, using the referral vouchers, counselling, mentorship and coaching.

With teenage pregnancy rates are at an all time high. Youth must be at the centre of Uganda's sustainable development. They are the present and future. **They are a smart investment!**

A4HU under the TeamUp Consortium in Mityana District birthed more Income Generating Activities (IGAs) from the Youth Empowerment Centers (YECs). The YECs are engaged in various enterprises, such as bakery, shoemaking, tailoring and paper products. These new start-ups have raised over UGX 1,000,000 in revenue. They are using revenue raised to support community SRH outreaches, re-investment, scaling up and maintenance of the IGAs.

YECs under A4HU established Voluntary Savings and Loan programs, from which members borrow start-up funds to launch businesses in retail and upscale existing ones. These YECs (54% female) have saved over UGX 6,000,000. A4HU, under TeamUp, ensures sustained economic empowerment to generate steady income that allows these youth to conduct SRHR and other youth-focused activities. This will enable the youth to be independent decision-makers and increase their ability to demand and access SRHR and other youth-related services.

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Hon Dr. Charles Ayume, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Health speaking at the meeting

Family Planning Budget Advocacy Group (FPBAG) members partnership meeting aimed at validating the A4HU budget analysis study FY2021/2022. The meeting was graced by Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Health.



ADVOCACY CHAMPIONS

A4HU, alongside the CSBAG and FPBAG fraternity, consolidated priority issues in the Human Capital Development Program on Health, Education, and Social Services into a position paper themed 'Health financing', which they presented to the members of the Parliamentary Committee on Health.

Uganda remains the only country in East Africa without a national health insurance scheme (NHIS). A4HU participated in a stakeholders' consultative meeting to share information, identify areas for partner engagement, fast-track the process, and draw a clear roadmap strategy to have it re-tabled before parliament. Ministry of health committed to resubmitting the NHIS to Parliament and Cabinet by May 2022. A4HU committed to popularizing the NHIS bill by disseminating IEC materials within the districts of operation.

The A4HU advocacy team participated in the National Family Planning Reproductive Health Commodities Security (FPRHCS) Working group. The key objectives of the meeting were; to get an update on FP commodities stock out status and share on FP programs performance in the different districts. The group noted that FP programs' performance has improved in all regions.

A4HU Youth champions took part in the Parliamentary Committee on Health- Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) Budget Advocacy meeting. They asked the committee to fast track the School Health Policy and finalize the National Health Insurance Policy. The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Health Committee pledged support to the ICCM, and advised that the ICCM should have linkages to FP services.