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ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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ACRONYMS.

A4HU	Action 4 Health Uganda
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
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
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
JMS	Joint Medical Stores
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non- Government Organisation
NMS	National Medical Stores
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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) is currently implementing a five-year strategic plan (2018 – 2022) to empower young people to live a quality life and improve access to youth-friendly health services (YFHS) in Uganda. The last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the vital role that A4HU and its consortium of partners plays. With teenage pregnancy rates on the rise, our partnerships and collaborative efforts are being put to the test now more than ever. Our mission to improve young people's health and socio-economic situation in Uganda remains our focus with every program and project implemented. We recognize 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 contraceptive uptake. The status of Uganda's very youthful population remains at stake.

A4HU continues to work with existing youth structures like Youth Empowerment Centers (YECs), youth clubs and youth champions in our districts of operation. A4HU builds capacity for the youth to advocate, create change and better environments within which they can enjoy SRHR, both at national and sub-national levels.

This annual report highlights A4HU milestones, challenges and lessons learnt. The report focuses on the progress made under A4HU strategic goals.



Message from the Chairman

Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) remains the preferred partner of DSW, a German global development organization and a strong partner of the Government of Uganda in serving the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of its youthful population.

The Government of Uganda has shown its commitment to its youth by developing a Road Map to harness Uganda's Demographic Dividend (DD), and A4HU supports key interventions in the context of this DD Roadmap. Our critical interventions align with Uganda's third National Development Plan NDP III 2020/21 – 2024/25.

A4HU's Mission and Vision puts the organization in a strategic position to make an impactful contribution to Uganda's health and economic sectors. The COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, A4HU has continued to make great strides working with various key partners and stakeholders to prioritize the health and well-being of Uganda's youth.

In addition, A4HU's efforts continue to make commendable contributions to Uganda's health systems, strengthening at the national and sub-national levels. More than ever before, investing in the youth of Uganda is not only the right thing to do, but it is also the smart thing. A4HU continues to pledge its total allegiance to the youth, partners, stakeholders, and the Uganda Government. In particular, A4HU recognizes the enabling environment provided by Government line ministries and effective leadership that has enhanced our partnership to improve the public health sector.

We are grateful to our partners and donors for their continued support of A4HU activities. This 2021 Annual Report highlights our critical achievements through collaborative efforts and partnerships.

Dr. Jotham Musinguzi

Board Chairman



Message from the CEO

Despite the disruptions of COVID-19, in 2021, A4HU continued to take leaps and bounds in our thematic areas of SRH/FP, Youth Empowerment and Advocacy. Through several program activities undertaken, young people have remained our priority. We reached out to over 294,411 young people in communities with a full range of SRH information and services through our unique Youth Empowerment Centre (YEC) approach. This approach involves peer educators, youth champions and the Youth Truck. Our youth truck model employs youth-friendly methods when doing outreaches in the community. The truck supported the government mobilizing communities for COVID-19 vaccinations, which increased uptake.

We look to the year ahead optimistically because of the milestones achieved in areas such as the SRH policy environment for young people. Our advocacy champions continue to participate in policy development efforts. We have seen the strength in numbers as we work with CSOs, key stakeholders and donor partners. We have built strong partnerships with national governments and CSOs to strengthen our mandate.

Our Vision and Mission continue to guide and drive our work with all our collaborations. I am grateful for the time, passion, and hard work, our staff and partners, invested in ensuring that young people remain on the National agenda.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "B. Tusiime".

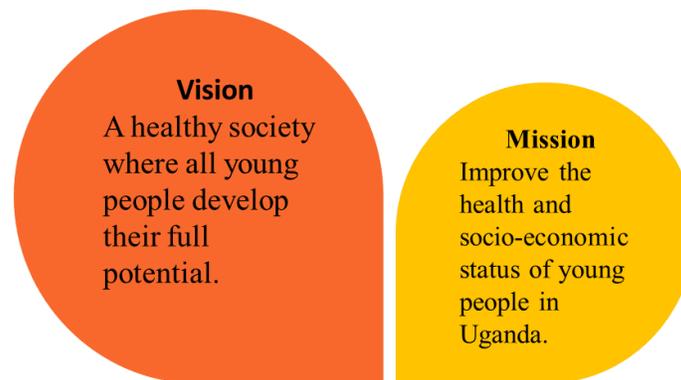
Dr. Bernard Tusiime

CEO

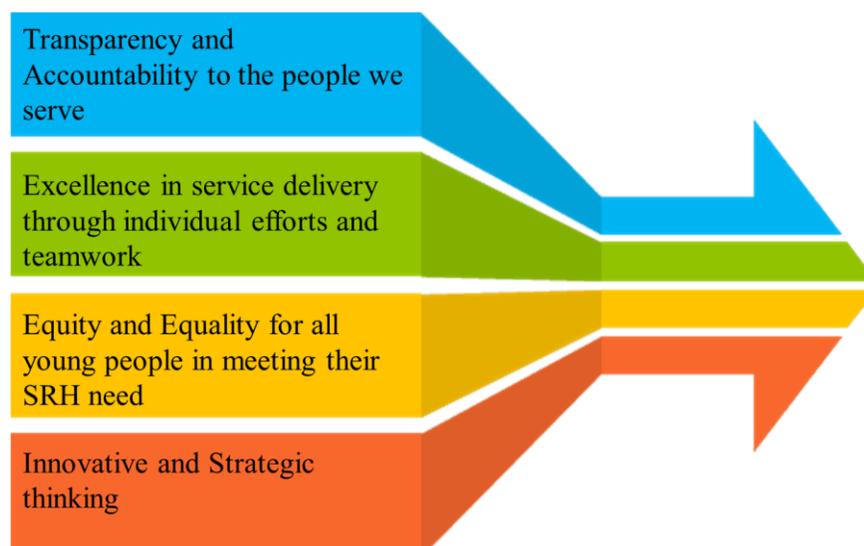
WHO WE ARE

Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) is a youth empowerment organization dedicated to mainstreaming young peoples' engagement in socio-economic development and promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). A4HU operates in 7 districts; Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Mityana Kamuli, Busia, and Tororo. A4HU remains a preferred partner of DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung) for project development and implementation in Uganda. Our strategic goals and objectives have fostered close collaboration with DSW regarding fundraising, proposal development, and partnership developments. DSW continues to provide management support through capacity development and backstopping to staff to strengthen operational practices and ensure quality standards for future self-reliance.

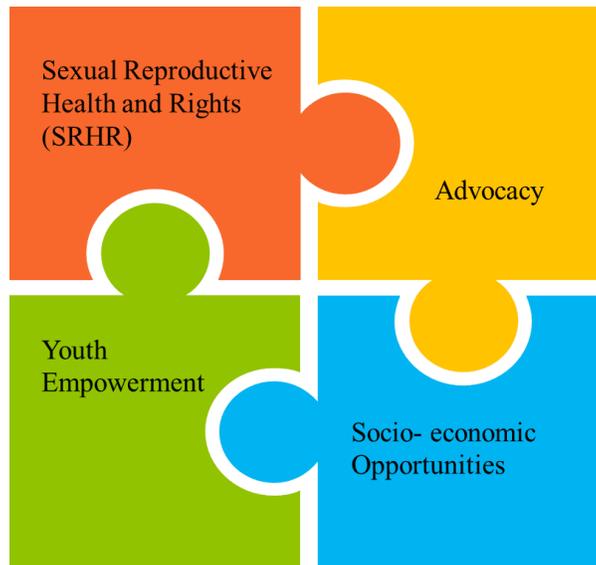
A4HU provides DSW with technical support by sharing knowledge on local contexts and programming landscapes to strengthen DSW projects and partnerships within Uganda.



Our Values



Our four main thematic areas of operation



Drivers of Change implemented under different projects



Uganda's total fertility, maternal mortality, and teenage pregnancy rates remain among one of the highest globally. The country is committed to scaling up the use of modern family planning methods to ensure that every Ugandan woman can choose when and how many children to have.

At A4HU, we believe that Improving adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and rights, including preventing unintended pregnancy, is critical to their social and economic well-being

if Uganda is to harness the Demographic Dividend. Adolescent girls aged 15–19 account for 14% of all births. Half of the pregnancies among adolescents in Uganda are unintended, and 30% of those unintended pregnancies end in abortion. Complications of pregnancy and childbirth continue to lead to preventable deaths and ill-health among 15–19-year olds in Uganda. Increased investment in SRH/FP is essential to ensure that adolescents access age-appropriate information and services that they need to determine whether and when to become pregnant. According to The Guttmacher Institute, 61% of sexually active adolescent women in Uganda have an unmet need for modern contraception. These adolescents either use no contraceptive method or use traditional methods, which have low levels of effectiveness, and 88% of all unintended adolescent pregnancies in the country occur among this group. The unmet need for modern contraception is higher among married adolescent women than unmarried, sexually active adolescent women (61% versus 54%). If the unmet need for modern contraception among adolescents in Uganda were satisfied, unintended pregnancies would drop by 72%. Increasing the use of modern contraceptives by adolescents would save their lives and improve the health of adolescents in Uganda.

The Government of Uganda recognizes the role family planning will play in achieving the Uganda Vision 2040, the Sustainable Development Goals and NDP III targets to harness the demographic dividend.

To meet our goals, as FP2030 partners, we must promote and protect the rights of adolescents and youths to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including contraception. Strong commitments that prioritize Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AYSRHR) send a clear message about the vital importance of improving adolescent and youth SRH knowledge.

1. The Empower Youth Project (EYP).

The Empower youth project (EYP), incepted in July 2021, is a four-year project funded by BMZ between 2021 and 2024. It is implemented in 6 districts of Wakiso, Mukono, Kampala, Kamuli, Tororo and Busia districts to reach 36,000 (18,000 Male and 18,000 Female) young people aged 15-24 years with quality SRH information and services. The project will achieve its objectives by supporting 50 youth groups and six YECs.

Overall Objective:

To increase the uptake of, and advocacy for SRHR services by young people in six districts of Uganda (Busia, Kamuli, Kampala, Mukono, Tororo and Wakiso) ensured by a consolidated youth structure and a strengthened local organisation (A4HU).

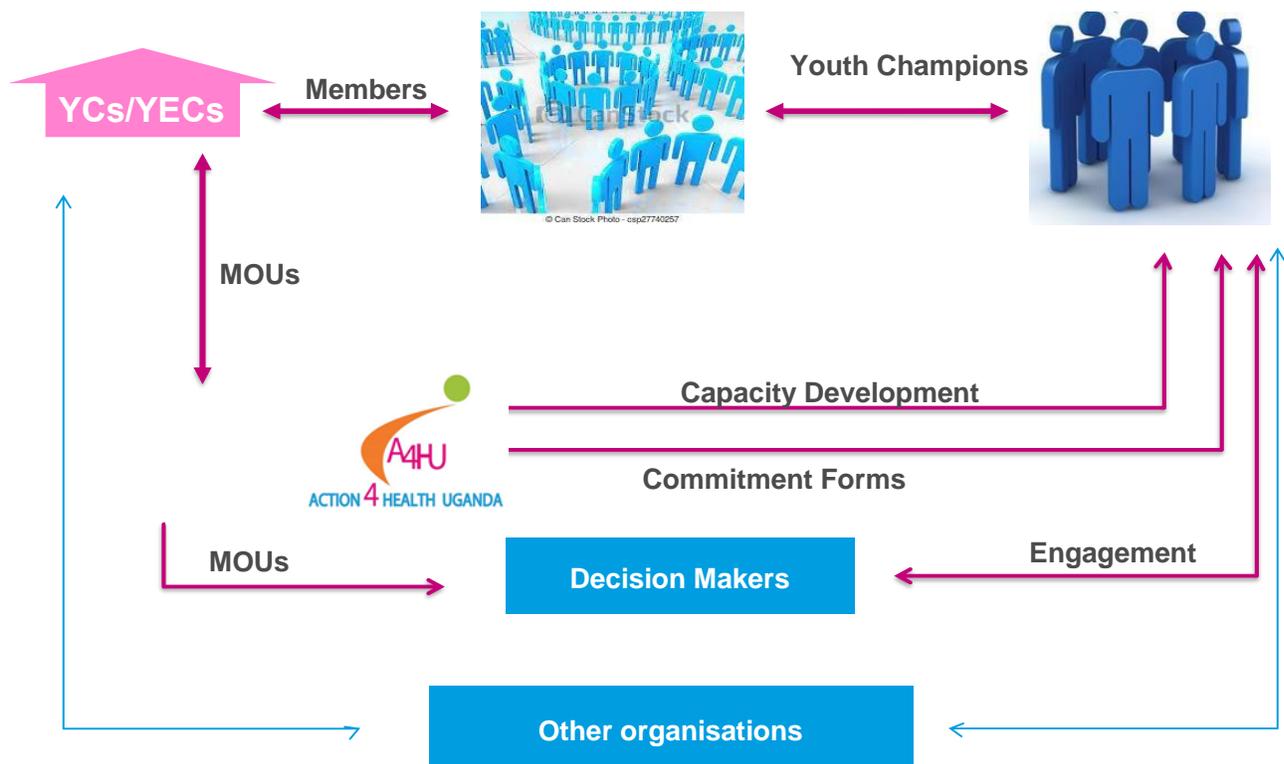
Specific Objectives:

- a. To ensure that young people have improved access to verified SRHR information and receive quality SRHR services, supported through linkages between youth structures and health facilities.
- b. To ensure that youth structures (youth networks, youth clubs and YECs) are strengthened and act autonomously.

- c. To support young people and stakeholders engage in advocacy initiatives and approach policymakers at district and sub-county levels to demand youth-friendly SRHR and the implementation of existing youth policies.
- d. A4HU will be strengthened at the organisational and technical levels, as well as through diversified funding sources, and is empowered to implement SRHR projects efficiently.

A4HU promotes Youth-led advocacy in the community through Youth Clubs and YECs. The YECs are a structured approach to improving youth SRH and the socio-economic status of young people through strengthening peer to peer approaches among the targeted beneficiaries. The YEC structures involve parents, teachers, community leaders, religious leaders, and political leaders (Community Action Committees). These stakeholders enable the young people to independently establish a system that caters to their SRHR, life skills, entrepreneurship, and leadership. YECs provide safe spaces for young people

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURE



2. The Youth Truck Project.

The Youth Truck is a vehicle used for mobile outreaches in hard to reach areas to raise awareness about, and increase demand for and uptake of SRHR services among young people in Uganda through appropriate sensitization, education, and service provision. The truck is fully equipped with a Public address system, Solar panels and sound equipment. A team of young people use the truck to broadcast SRH information to peers and communities. The Truck employs a unique blend of edutainment to create awareness and sensitize the youth on SRHR,

HIV/AIDS prevention and social-economic empowerment in rural-urban slum areas. It also supports mobilization for commemorative events.

The Youth Truck uses several innovative methodologies to engage youth with age-appropriate SRHR messages. Young people are encouraged to participate in these sessions and ask questions on HIV/ AIDS, Counselling and Testing (HCT), Family planning, cervical cancer screening, condoms and SGBV, menstrual hygiene, growth and development, drugs and alcohol abuse, covid-19 vaccination.

As a result of COVID-19, the Youth Truck has supported districts with community mobilization for the COVID-19 vaccination, increasing uptake.

Specific Objectives:

- a. Reach the less advantaged Youth in hard-to-reach communities in Uganda with SRHR information and services.
- b. Promote uptake of SRHR services through integrated outreaches in partnership with like-minded organisations.
- c. Mobilize young people and the general communities to participate in the commemoration of relevant National and International days.
- d. Support other like-minded organisations that may require the services of the Youth Truck for their own activities.
- e. Ensure proper document good practices and lessons learnt for purposes of improving implementation and future interventions.
- f. Support the implementation of other A4HU projects through the deployment of the Youth Truck in mobilisation, activations, and youth training.

3. The Advocacy Project (FP Budget and Policy Agenda).

Through our youth-led model, A4HU empowers young people to advocate for improved SRH services socio-economic opportunities through engaging and influencing decision-making processes. We do this through capacity development, civic education, mentorship, and advocacy. A4HU conducts budget analysis and studies to highlight the impact of insufficient family planning financing on young people's development capacity and its overall effects. A4HU uses evidence to influence policies at the national and sub-national levels.

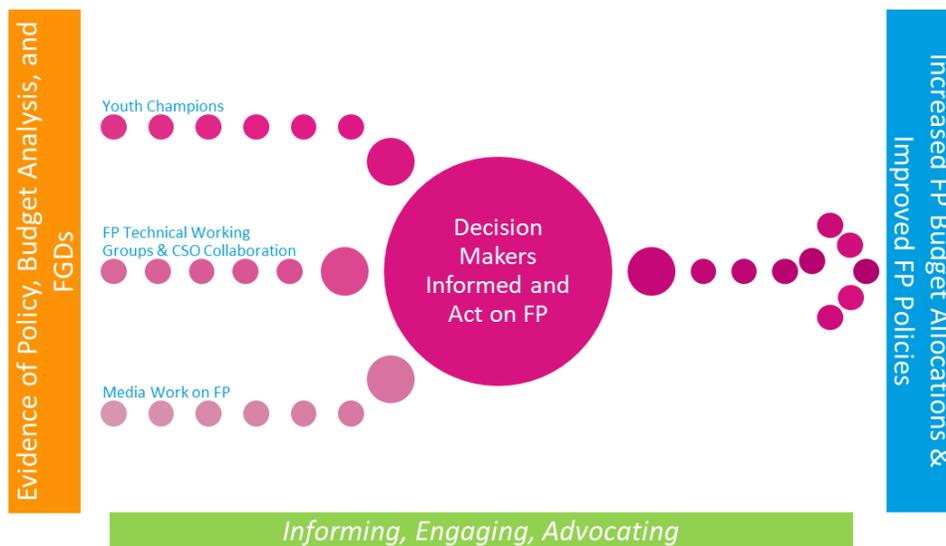
The overall objective of the Family Planning Budget and Policy Agenda Project is to ensure increased domestic funding and improved national and sub-national SRH/FP policies in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Specifically, the project aims to:

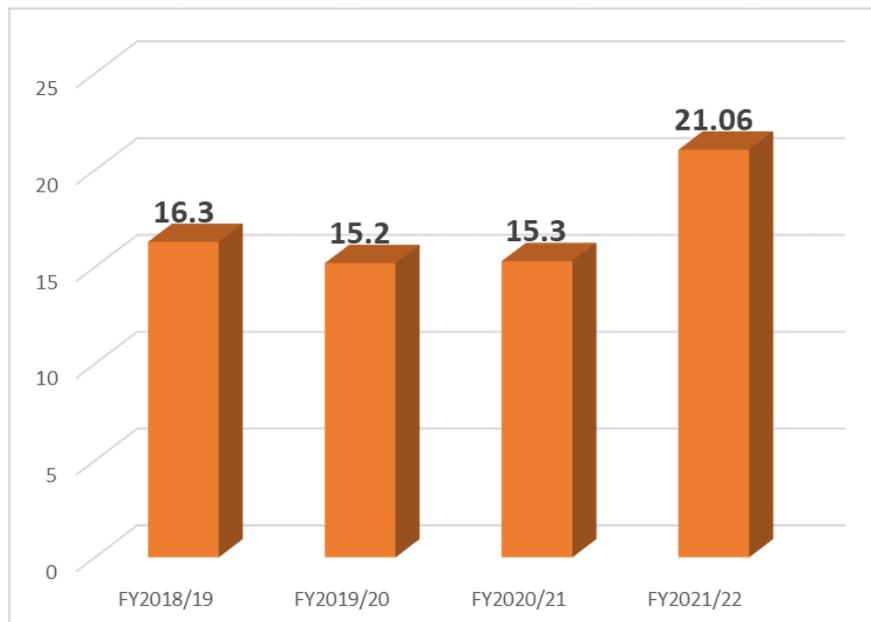
- a. Increased implementation of policies on SRH/FP through budget advocacy in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

- b. Strengthened coalitions at national and sub-national levels on FP budget advocacy in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda
- c. Increased youth participation in national and sub-national government plans and budgets in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.
- d. Increased saliency of SRH/FP in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- e.

OUR ADVOCACY THEORY OF CHANGE



FP BUDGET STUDY OBSERVATION NATIONAL



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 from UGX16.3bn to UGX21.06bn between FY 2018/19 and FY 2021/22 translating into a 29% increment. This means that Uganda has surpassed its commitment of allocating UGX 18bn about USD5m for the first time. A4HU continues to build the capacities of key technical and political stakeholders to strengthen advocacy for both SRH/FP budget and policy in Uganda.

4. The TeamUp Project.

TeamUp is a new multi-sectoral approach to development cooperation initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and managed as well as co-financed through the three foundations of Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) and Siemens Stiftung.

The program unites the expertise, networks, and resources of three local organizations, namely; Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU), Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung Africa (HRNS), and Whave Solutions implemented in the multi sectors of Health, Agriculture as well as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The goal of TeamUp is improved prospects for youth in rural areas of Eastern Africa.

Overall Outcome: Over 50,000 young men and women in Mityana district are empowered through improved health, hygiene behavior, increased income and civic engagement.

Specific Outcome 1

Targeted youth take conscious and informed decisions about leading a healthy and self-determined life

Specific Outcome 2

Targeted youth have improved their economic situation

Specific Outcome 3

Targeted youth, in particular female youth, make their voices heard and influence decisions that affect their lives

Specific Outcome 4

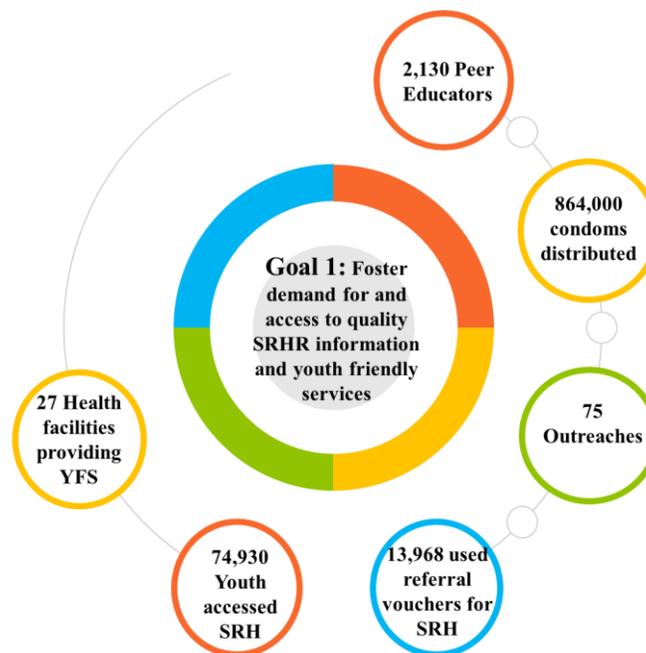
A tested and scalable holistic approach to youth empowerment in Eastern Africa is available.

In order to tackle the complexity of challenges faced by young people, TeamUp applies a holistic approach that integrates socio-economic, health, educational and infrastructural aspects to reach 50.000 in-school and out-of-school youth between the ages of 15-30 years and their families in Mityana District, Central Uganda. Specifically, in five sub counties of Bbanda, Bulera, Malangala, Kalangaalo and Maanyi.

TeamUp aims at improving the livelihood prospects of young people through a multi-sectoral approach to water, agriculture, and health. Implemented by a consortium of three partners where Action 4 Health Uganda leads the health component. It addresses issues of sanitation, sexual and reproductive health information and services through a close working relationship with health facilities.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS BASED ON A4HU STRATEGIC GOALS.

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



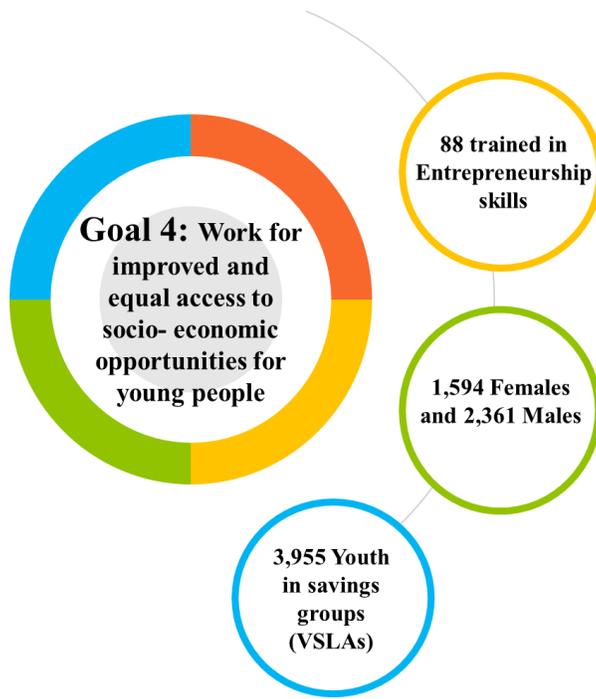
2. Achievements under Strategic Goal 2: ***Advocate for prioritization of gender-sensitive and youth-friendly services at National and Sub- National levels***



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



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



5. Achievements under Strategic Goal 5: *Efficient and transparent improvement of the socio-economic situation of youth in Uganda*



Best practices

1. Vibrant and dedicated Technical Working Groups in the districts of operation.
2. We are harnessing the potential of young people for homegrown solutions through our Youth Champion model.
3. A4HU emphasizes working partnerships, consortiums and coalitions.
4. Integrating FP budget and policy actions into sustainable public structures.
5. Building the capacity of partners at the sub-national level.
6. Generating evidence continuously for policy and budget action.
7. Promoting functional District Committees on Adolescent Health.
8. Supporting the development of national CIP and DCIPs.
9. Promoting Youth Friendly Services in programming and implementation.

Challenges

1. Youth-friendly corners are not well equipped and this continues to affect the quality of youth-friendly services offered.
2. Understaffed health facilities which affects both the quality and variety of services offered to young people.
3. Stockouts of essential commodities for young people, especially STIs across many health facilities.
4. Transferring of focal persons both at national and sub-national levels. This interferes with program progress.
5. Limited resource allocation for programs and projects.

A4HU PRIORITIES FOR 2022

1. Advocate for increased SRH/FP funding.
2. Strengthen existing and new partnerships.
3. Resource mobilization for larger impact and scaling up to new districts .
4. Train more youth champions and advocates to be change agents.
5. Strengthen advocacy efforts with Parliamentary Committee on Health.
6. Support social enterprises and economic empowerment programs especially for women and youth in target communities .