



1. Introduction

Uganda Network of young people living with HIV & AIDS started in 2003 to provide leadership and coordinate the greater and meaningful involvement and participation of YPLHIV in Uganda in the national, regional and global HIV and AIDS response. UNYPA advocates improving the quality of life of young people living with HIV in Uganda and as a network. UNYPA is driven by the needs of young people living with HIV and implements an evidence informed national programme and advocacy for YPLHIV to lead healthy and productive lives.

UNYPA's national programme and advocacy include promoting universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support; fighting stigma and discrimination against young people living with HIV; and, promoting the greater involvement of young people living with HIV in the national HIV response.

The Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS (UNYPA) is a direct member of the National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAFOPHANU) which was established in 2003 to provide leadership for young positives and create an enabling environment to participate meaningfully with a membership of 50,000 young people living with HIV/AIDS in the country so far.

UNYPA is mandated to have three forums of Young Positives one of 10 – 18, 19- 24 and 25-30 due to their different challenges in life though emphasis is being given to the 10- 24

2. Our statement.

UNYPA's advocacy agenda and national programmes are shaped from concerns, needs and the lens of a young positive as outlined below:

"I face stigma and discrimination on a daily basis. 30 years into the response, people still fear my HIV status and I don't feel safe to disclose. I endure a triple jeopardy – I am young, I am positive and often, I am part of a stigmatized group that sits on the margins of society. The ever-present prevention campaigns help to stigmatize me further. Ill-considered laws and poorly planned policies that breach confidentiality or require disclosure disempower me. It is time to change the messages and normalize my status.

I am asking for the same rights and opportunities as any other young person. Nothing more...."

UNYPA has contributed to the reduction of stigma towards people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the community through its outreach and programming efforts.

3. MISSION:

Create an enabling Environment for all young people living and affected by HIV/AIDS to meaningfully participate equally in development of programmes that improve their lively hood.

4. VISION:

Positive and productive lives for all young people living and affected by HIV/AIDS.

5. Strategic Areas of intervention

UNYPA has five main strategic areas of interventions that we always use to justify our actions as follows:-

- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Resource Mobilization
- Networking, Collaboration and Leadership
- Human rights and stigma free generation
- Research and Development
- Monitoring and Evaluation

6. Projects

- i. **Get Up Speak Out (GUSO) Project:** Get Up Speak Out (GUSO) is a 5 year (2016-2020) strategic partnership between the Netherlands MoFA and the GUSO consortium, Building on UFBR/ASK achievements and lessons learned, Country alliances to take ownership of program including country specific ToC, division of roles and selection of geographical areas. This project targets Young people aged 10-24, Young people in Secondary and Primary schools, Out of school youth (boda bodariders, fisher folks, sex

workers, school drop outs), Teen moms, pregnant girls and women and YPLWHIV

- ii. **Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response (PITCH) Project:** The PITCH programme (2016 – 2020) is a programme in the policy framework dialogue and dissent of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The common strategic goal is “to **beat the AIDS epidemic in countries that are most affected by HIV** with a focus on key populations and women & girls.” The programme will be implemented in nine countries. In these countries, we will:
- Strengthen local civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for equal access to HIV and sexual and reproductive health-related services;
 - Ensure equal sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for those most affected by HIV;
 - Promote decriminalization, particularly for key populations (KPs).
 - Build new coalitions and bring local evidence to global policy development level.
- iii. **Strengthening the coordination of support to YPLHIV in Uganda (STOP AIDS NOW)**

The mapping exercise is to systematically conduct a situation and needs assessment, policy analysis of the Young Persons Living with HIV/Aids in the three piloting districts of Iganga, Tororo and Bugiri. This is partnership with ACCORD Uganda.

iv. POZ Transition or Positive Transition;

Is a peer-led services support programme that helps individuals especially young men and women come to terms with an HIV diagnosis; manage complex treatment regimens and promote adhere; and build critical relationships and social connections. Our groups allow young people living with HIV to meet, talk openly about HIV in a safe and supportive environment, and build lifelong support networks.

- v. **What young people living with HIV want, what young people living with HIV need! In Uganda (ASK Project) 2013-2015**

The Access, Services and Knowledge programme has been developed under the Youth Empowerment Alliance and it aims to tackle the issues around the access to services related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. In Uganda, the programme will be housed by the Straight Talk Foundation and will run from 2013-2015. It will run in Gulu, Pader, Kitgum and Amuru districts in Northern Uganda, and Iganga, Jinja, Bugiri and Tororo districts in Eastern Uganda. The programme will also be run at the national level.

- vi. **ATLT (UNESCO)**

The tool Kit is be used by young people especially the young positives, this document will help them acquire more knowledge on how to make decisions in life and also address their needs and concerns as young people living with HIV in Uganda.

vii. Capacity Building for UNYPA (SIDA)

UNESCO is supposed to support the young positives in areas where need is especially in area of Advocacy so UNESCO will support UNYPA in building their capacity that is given with support from SIDA.

viii. Youth-Friendly Services

Youth-friendly services help Young People living with HIV overcome barriers to health care. Youth friendly services offer:

- Flexible hours, including weekends and evenings, to lessen conflicts with school or work
- Walk-in appointments, to encourage youth to use health care services
- Accessibility—through convenient locations, public transportation, tokens and/or travel vouchers, and transportation assistance for rural youth
- Intensive case management to assist young people with complex issues, such as disclosure and partner
- Notification, and to link youth to mental health care, substance abuse treatment, transportation, and housing, as needed
- Active involvement of young people in all aspects of the program's planning, operations, and evaluation
- Culturally competent staff who are sensitive to youth's culture, issues of gender and HIV status
- Services appropriate to the clientele—for example, street outreach for homeless youth and tailored support groups for youth, substance users, and teen parents
- Culturally appropriate services, designed, planned, staffed, and operated, at least in part, by members of the target population
- Decoration, materials, and atmosphere that are youthful and welcoming Informational materials appropriate to the language(s) and literacy level(s) of the youth served.

7. Achievements and success

- 5 Year strategic plan
- 5 year Advocacy strategy
- Organizers of the annual Y+ Beauty Pageant, a campaign aimed at fighting Stigma and discrimination amongst YPLHIV in Uganda
- Young people living with HIV/AIDS have a national forum, which is to ensure their empowerment to advocate for their social, economic, health and development rights.
- Young People Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda are now being recognized as key stakeholders in HIV/AIDS response and not as clients who need services just, though we still struggle to this.
- At least the young positives are not in a vacuum we can now top our voices on the many.
- A number of Young positives can be tested and access free ARVs.
- We have Young Positives leaders in all districts
- We have been part of MDG consultations around the world.

Media platforms

- Facebook; @unypa
- Twitter: @unypa1
- Instagram: Uganda_network_of_yplhiv
- Website: www.unypa.org