



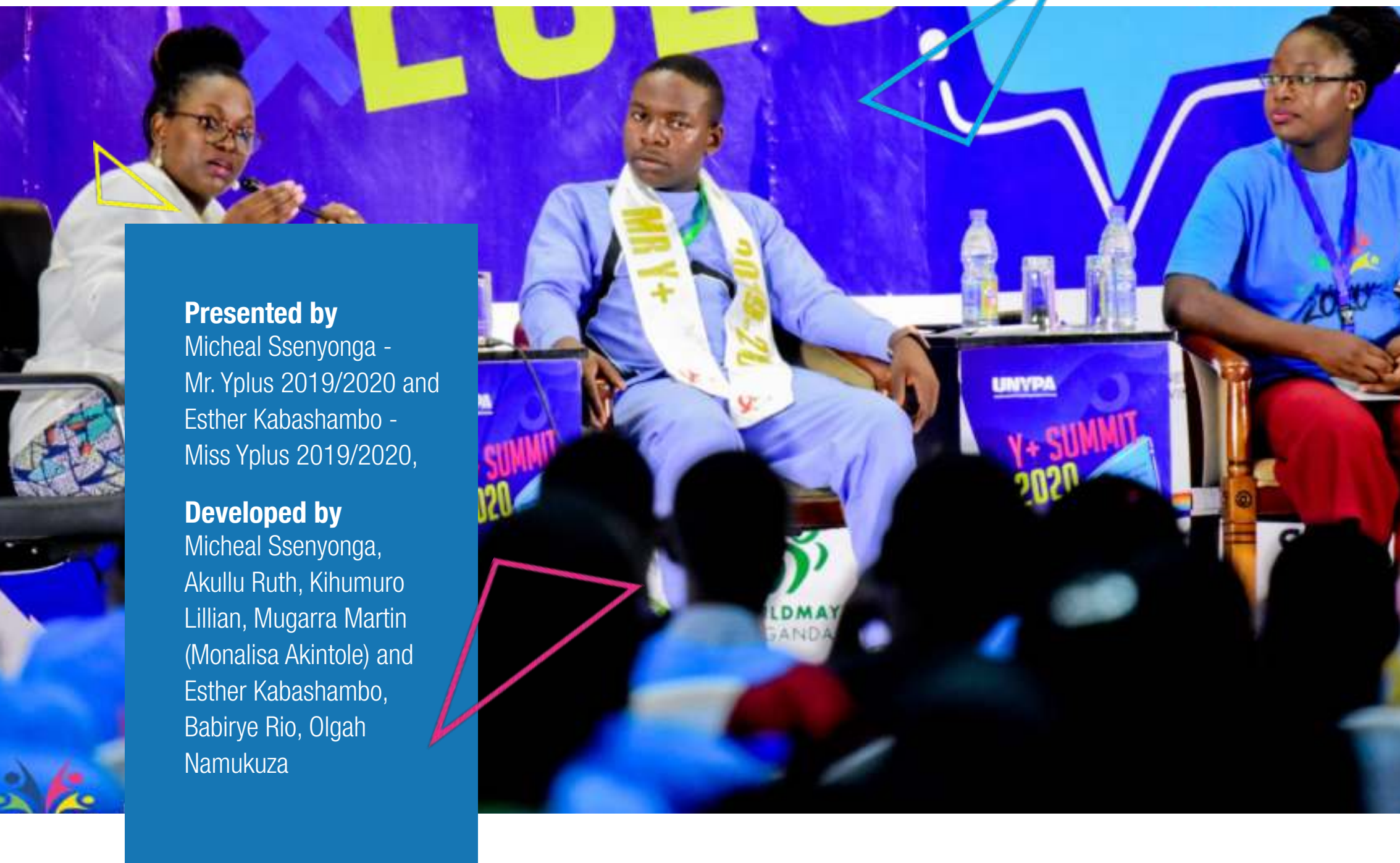
# COMMUNIQUE

**UNYPA**  
UGANDA NETWORK OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

CHANGING THE  
NARRATIVE OF  
Young People



17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Hotel Africana



**The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Y+ Summit 2020** held from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Hotel Africana, Kampala Uganda, under the theme: **Changing the Narrative of Young People living with HIV** has brought together over 300 young people with 260 young people living with HIV across Uganda and other Key stakeholders. Since its inception in 2017, the Y+ summit has brought together over 1,903 YPLHIV with a number of activities that help them to gain skills, information and knowledge on how to come the barriers that limit them from developing due to the HIV epidemic together with partners from all Government ministries, private sectors, NGOs, Health workers towards finding solutions to improved HIV/SRHR services and information to all young people living with HIV in Uganda.

Despite the various interventions and commitments made by government, communities and international partners, HIV/AIDS remains a huge threat among young people in Uganda. There's an urgent need for a combination of HIV prevention interventions, supportive environment and strengthening community systems as well as targeted approaches to effectively address the unique needs of young people living with HIV including Key populations. As young people living with HIV care about many issues that affect us directly or indirectly like ensuring access to health services, peace building, reducing inequalities and achieving social justice.



## On this closure of the 4<sup>th</sup> Y+ Summit, we the young people living with HIV leaders noted that:



Some of us belong to marginalized youth groups, including among others, young people with disabilities, young key populations, young women and girls in rural areas, imprisoned young people, and migrant youth there by facing unique challenges like stigma and discrimination, vulnerability to social-economic challenges and SRH challenges not forgetting gender-Based violence. It is important to think about these young people in these spaces and design interventions and programs that target them.

There is need to strength district-based youth movements for young people living with and affected with HIV; these will support the mobilization of fellow peers, support health facilities with adherence for peers as well as to influence decisions at the sub county, parish and district level which we believe will transition into influence at national level.

There is need to strategically target and work with community opinion leaders and influencers including religious leaders, cultural leaders, celebrities and other influential people those opinions matter and affect how young people leave their lives.

Furthermore, development and implementing partners need to organize platforms for more open discussion, engagement and consultations on key decisions made for the Young people living with HIV.

For us to get our voices heard, there is need to first of all continue strengthening our ability and capacities to engage decision makers and other key stakeholders, hold the Uganda government accountable for their mandate to implement policies and frameworks that not only create a supportive environment for YPLHIV but also enable us to lead productive, positive and healthy lives.

### And as YPLHIV leaders have therefore harmonized:

1. We acknowledge the Uganda government's commitment to the operationalization of the AIDS Trust Fund so as to support and cater for improved the quality of life for young people living with HIV. We therefore call upon the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic development to;
  - **To expedite the operationalization and roll out of the AIDS Trust Fund,**
2. We recognize the talks going around on the Forth 90 mainly focusing on good health related to quality of life for people living with HIV. Therefore, we appeal to Development Partners and the Ministry of Health to support initiatives that encourage physical and mental health and factoring health related quality of life in national and local plans to end HIV by 2030.
3. We acknowledge all efforts of developing and dissemination of the National Sexuality Education Framework, with this background we call upon the Ministry of Education and Sports to integrate sexuality education in the National Education Curriculum.
4. We acknowledge the efforts in developing the Anti-Stigma policy and we therefore we call upon the Uganda AIDS Commission to approve and operationalize the Anti-Stigma policy.
5. We acknowledge the continuous increase in stigma and discrimination towards the YPLHIV and marginalized groups. We call upon the Y+ ambassadors, young champions, Peer buddies, paralegals, young people in general and all of us in our capacities to continue raising awareness and challenging the negative myths and misconceptions in the communities in which they come

As we conclude the 3 days Y+ Summit 2020, we as young people are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS, but we believe they are also the solution to ending the epidemic through taking responsibility, being innovative, advocating for change and take an initiative because we are never too young or too small to make a change.