

Theme:
*Peers
Making
it Happen!*



Annual Report 2019

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABH	Advocacy for Better Health	GUSO FLEX	Get Up Speak Out, Flexible Investment
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	CRG	Community Rights and Gender Special Initiative
BOD	Board of Directors	BTG	Bridging The Gap
CSF	Civil Society Fund”	Y+ SUMMIT	Y Plus Summit
DREAMS	Determined Resilient Empowered Mentored safe	Y+ BEAUTY PAGEANT	Y Plus beauty Pageant
ED	Executive Director	SWASHE	Strengthening the Women’s Movement building to address barriers to SRHR, HIV prevention and Women empowerment in Uganda
FAM	Finance Administration Manager	UNWOMEN	United Nations
FRM	Finance and Resource Mobilization	CCM	Global Fund Country Coordination Mechanism,
GUSO	Get UP Speak Out	CDOs	Community Development Officers
HR	Human Resource	CSO	Civil Society Organisations
HRD	Human Resource and Disciplinary	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MTR	Mid Term Review	KPs	Key Populations
NAFOPHANU	National Forum of PLHA Networks in Uganda	M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NSP	National Strategic Plan 2015/16-2019/20	SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
PAP	Policy Advocacy and Programmes	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
PDO	Programme Development Officer	UNYPA	Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV and AIDS
PF	Partnership Fund	Ushs	Ugandan Shillings
PITCH	Partnership to Inspire Transform, and Connect the HIV Response	YLP	Youth Livelihood Program
PM	UNYPA Programme Manager	YPLHIV	Young People Living with HIV”
POA	Programme Officer Advocacy		
OACA	Organizational Advocacy Capacity Assessment		
TAFU	Towards an AIDS Free Generation		
TASO	The AIDS Support Organisation		
UAC	Uganda AIDS Commission		
UGANET	Uganda Network of Law, Ethics and HIV		
UHRN	Uganda Harm Reduction Network		
UNASO	Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organisations		
UNYPA	Uganda Network of Young people Living with HIV/AIDS		
PITCH FLEX	Partnership to Inspire Transform and Connect the HIV Response (PITCH) Flexible investment”		



A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

The year 2019 has been one of learning and progressing not only for the fight against HIV but UNYPA as an organization has seen a tremendous “positive shift in her operations, strategies and even staffing mechanisms; we have re-positioned ourselves to fully integrate SRHR, TB and mental health into our HIV programming. Running under the theme, “Peers making it happen”, the focus of our programming this year has been centered on building the capacities of YPLHIV to stand strong and resilient amidst the effort to address HIV related stigma and discrimination, creating platforms for open dialogue on how young people can engage duty bearers and programmers to design interventions and programs that respond to their needs and realities to make healthy and responsible reproductive health choices.

None of this work would be possible if it was not for the support of our trusting and extremely supportive donors, well-wishers, committed staff and our pool of peer leaders spread out across the country, the foot soldiers front lining the fight to end HIV/AIDS in Uganda by 2030.

Consequently, a huge number of young people and youth have adopted, adhered and integrated key health related policies and innovation to keep healthy and actively engaged in UNYPA programme work. With all the success stories registered, we have been motivated to impact more communities to ensure safety and healthy living particularly among the young generation. I therefore highly appreciate all stakeholders, duty bearers and beneficiaries for working with us and making 2019 even better than the years before. Moving forward, we are focused on growing at all levels to enable us impact Uganda in a much positive way as we all work to realize vision 2040.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our donors, well-wishers, district and national leadership, members of staff, the youth volunteers and beneficiaries with whom we work closely to realize our annual set objectives. We now move forward into 2020 with clear intension to transform and add value through our programme work. This is why UNYPA exists, our sole hope is to have you journey with us.

**BY MASEMBE PADDY
BOARD CHAIRPERSON”**



FOREWORD

This year at the Uganda Network of Young People living with HIV/AIDS (UNYPA) has been a year of growth, we have expanded significantly and registered a number of notable achievements. Major projects that we recently embarked on are progressing very satisfactorily. And many new opportunities are opening up for us. We face a very exciting future... This annual report covers progress on UNYPA's work between January to December 2019, the overall goal of the organization was to support young people to actively voice their rights, fights for the rights of their peers under the theme, 'Peers making it Happen!' which put young people at the frontline of the fight to achieve youth empowerment and ending AIDS.

Our programs are built and inspired by the vital roles which young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS play in their communities in terms of HIV prevention, behavioral change communication, challenging HIV related stigma and discrimination but most importantly movement building for young people living with HIV/AIDS at community and district levels to form support groups through which they can rely on each other for psycho social and moral support as well as achieving economic independence which is the epitome of empowerment for young people as this allows them the opportunity to fully be in control of their lives.

This year we have strengthened our involvement in strong HIV- SRHR consortiums such as the SRHR Alliance Uganda, SWASHE, Spotlight Initiative, Right Here Right Now, PITCH, CCSMUA among others that have allowed "the organization to gain a mass of experience and expertise through working with like- minded organizations to deliver impactful programs.

We have continued to mobilize our constituency members at all levels in the HIV response, with over 30,000 YPLHIV champions across Uganda. UNYPA has leveraged on its annual campaigns such as the Y Plus beauty pageant which empowers YPLHIV to become community advocates with a multiplier effect of over 300 champions across the country challenging the unjust and negative norms that challenge the fight to end HIV/AIDS particularly among the young generation in Uganda that accounts for about 75% of the estimated population (According to UNDP 2018 report, 54.7% below 18years and 20.5% aged 18 – 30years).

On behalf of the team, I sincerely appreciate the Government of Uganda, development partners, ambassadors, youth advocates and beneficiaries for the endless support. Together with our many partners in every part of the world we did amazing work to help change the narrative for the best. As team UNYPA, we will continue to deliver for and with young people where our work matters the most. I therefore challenge us all to have a shared aspiration in achieving the 2030 agenda and its global goals, seeking equality for all. As we get into the new year, we look forward to working closely with assorted stakeholders and leadership at all levels as we journey to realize inclusive growth in Uganda."

NICHOLAS NIWAGABA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INTRODUCTION

Sixteen years ago the Uganda Network of Young People living with HIV & AIDS (UNYPA) was established to provide leadership and coordinate the greater, more “meaningful engagement and participation of young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) in Uganda in the national, regional and global HIV/AIDS response. UNYPA’s advocacy is driven by the needs of YPLHIV hence implements evidence informed national programs for YPLHIV to lead healthy, productive and positive lives.

The elements of UNYPA’s national advocacy includes promoting universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care & support; fighting stigma and discrimination against YPLHIV while promoting the effective youth focused, adolescent responsive leadership in ending AIDS by 2030.

VISION:

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

MISSION:

Create an enabling environment for all young people living and affected by HIV and AIDS to meaningfully participate equally in development of programs that improve their livelihood.

CORE VALUES:

Honesty, Integrity, Transparency, Team work and Collective responsibility.

PRINCIPAL APPROACHES:

Capacity building, Advocacy, Health education and promotion, Systems strengthening, Strengthening partnerships and collaborations

OBJECTIVES OF UNYPA

1. To advocate and implement all programs focusing on sustainable development geared towards improving their livelihood of the young people living and affected with HIV/AIDS in Uganda.
2. To enter into strategic alliance with partners with the HIV and AIDS response in order to address the ever-growing needs and challenges of YPLHIV, orphans and the disabled persons in Uganda.
3. To lead the process of forming a powerful and united movement of young people living and affected with HIV/AIDS that strive to ensure zero stigma and discrimination is stopped and all voices are equally heard at all levels of national regional and global.
4. To provide leadership and coordinate the greater and meaningful involvement and participation of young people in Uganda.
5. To support, strengthen and coordinate UNYPA member groups and youth led community-based organizations of young people by implementing SRHR programs, joint resource mobilization and capacity building in the UNYPA operation districts.

The network is governed by a team of experts dubbed as the Board of Directors (BoD); they are from the health, education, finance, civil and legal fraternity; there are also representatives from the public private sector as well as youth representatives who guide the BoD on how to work with and for young people especially YPLHIV. The BoD meets on a quarterly basis to give strategic direction to the organization; minutes are documented and filed.

Currently, there are 11 members on the UNYPA Board of Directors under the leadership of;



Good governance never depends upon the laws, but upon the personal qualities of those who govern; the most important element of governance therefore, is the method of choosing leaders'

- Frank Herbert



Mr. Paddy Maseembe - Board Chairperson;

A seasoned expert in governance with broader experience in HIV, having worked & severed in various capacities such as a CSO Representative on the CCM, Global Fund Board and the national Youth Council. He is also the Former Executive Director for the Africa Young Positives network hosted in Uganda.

Other members on the BOD include;

- **Mr. John Paul Ssemwanga Sonko- Board Treasurer**, a financial guru, a certified accountant currently working as a financial management specialist with LLIN UCC. He previously worked with Deloitte Kampala and is the founder of Accounting AID for sustainable Development Africa.

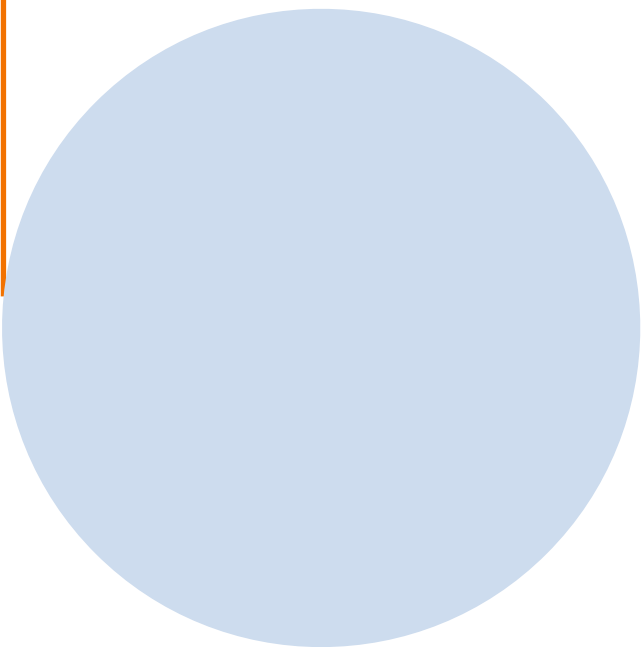


- **Mr. Magall Moritz- Board member** – Moritz is a seasoned public servant and a public health expert. He is currently serving as the OVC program coordinator with Ministry of gender Labor & social development.

- **Mr. Mondo Kyateka - Board member;** a nation- wide recognized champion for youth SRHR issues, he is the commissioner for Youth and Children at the Ministry of Gender, Labor and social development



- **Ms. Mukunde Juliet- Board member ;** is one of the Founding members of UNYPA and she is currently working with canon Giedion foundation



- **Mr. Nuwamanya Hillary - Board member (youth representative) ;** Mr. Y Plus 2018/2019; a youth champion, peer mentor, advocate and peer service provider with Mildmay clinic



- **Ms. Vivian Alice Nabanoba- Board member (youth representative) ;** Miss Y Plus 2018/19; a vibrant youth leader, peer counsellor and peer service provider with Alive Medical services Uganda

- **Mr. Ssenyonga Micheal;** **Board member (youth representative) ;** Mr. Y Plus 2019/2020; an energetic youth advocate, activists and peer mentor, currently“ a member of the Kasese town council as a youth representative



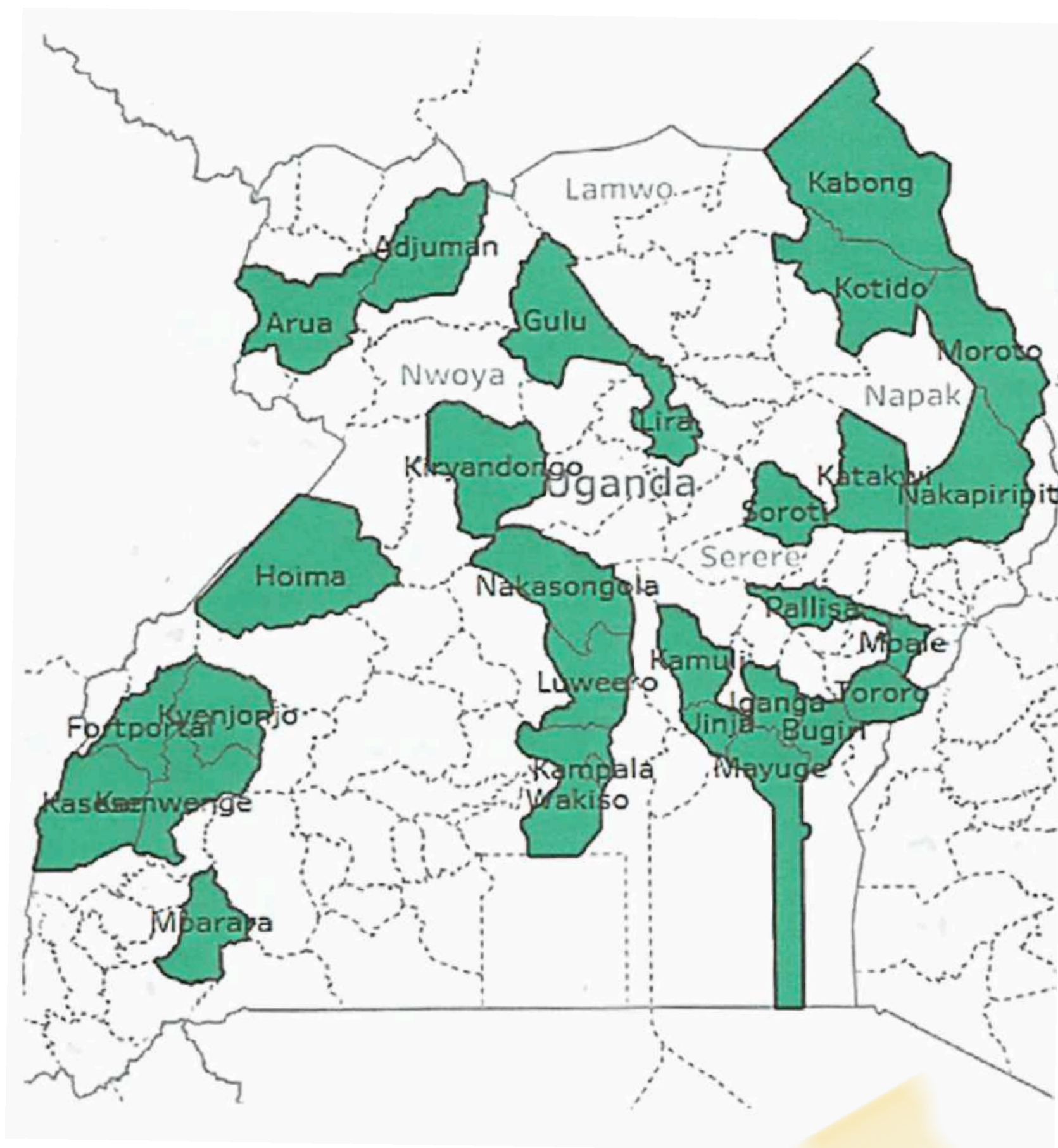
- **Ms. Esther Kabashambo - Board member (youth representative) ;** Miss Y Plus 2019/2020; a youth female rights' champion, peer mentor, champion for equality and protection of the rights of women and girls in Uganda

PROGRAMS

UNYPA program coverage is nationwide and its programmatic work is guided by its leadership as well principal approaches and values to continue implementation of its strategic plan 2014-2019 during the reporting period. The plan intends to realize the following five strategic areas;

- **Strategic area 1;** Increase access and utilization of HIV&AIDS comprehensive services by YPLHIV in line with the national response;
- **Strategic area 2:** Strengthen social support mechanisms for YPLHIV so that they can live productive and sustainable lives;
- **Strategic area 3:** Strengthen partnerships at all levels so as to provide a coordinated, efficient and well-resourced national response to HIV&AIDS;
- **Strategic area 4;** Strengthen and streamline the YPLHIV structures at all levels so that they can play a meaningful role towards the fight against HIV&AIDS;
- **Strategic area 5:** Strengthen the organizational capacity of UNYPA not only to coordinate the efforts of the YPLHIV constituency but also to engage stakeholders at all levels for improved HIV&AIDS service delivery

UNYPA GEOGRAPHICAL PROGRAMME COVERAGE



PROJECTS, DONORS AND DISTRICTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No	Project	Donor	District of Implementation
1	Get Up Speak Out (GUSO) GUSO Flex	AIDSFonds	Jinja, Iganga, Bugiri
2	Partnership To Inspire, Transform and connect the HIV Response (PITCH) PITCH Flex 1,2 and 3	AIDSFonds	Paliisa, Mbale, Nakapiripit, Kampala
3	Community Rights and Gender Special Initiative (CRG SI)	GNP+	Kampala
4	Strengthening the Women's Movement building to address barriers to SRHR (including Child marriage), HIV prevention and Women empowerment in Uganda. (SWASHE)	UNWomen	Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripiriti, Abim, Kotido, Kaabong, Amudat
5	Right Here Right Now (RHRN)	Rutgers/RHU	Kampala
6	Bridging the Gap (BTG)	GNP Plus	Kampala
7	Y Plus beauty pageant	Aidsfonds, GNP+, UNAIDS, UN Women	Kampala
8	Y Plus Summit	AIDSFONDS, UNAIDS, UN Women	Kampala

Who we reach/ Our beneficiaries

UNYPA interventions are designed to respond to the needs of;

- vulnerable YPLHIV in Uganda including children,
- adolescents,
- young women and girls living with and affected by HIV/ AIDS and TB
- Young boys and men living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and TB

Our programs target different calibers of young people in the age brackets of 10 – 18, 19- 24 and 25-30 due to the different and quite unique challenges that they struggle with in their day to day life.

PROGRAM/ PROJECTS RESULTS

This annual report (January – December 2019) provides information on the progress UNYPA has made against the set goals, objective targets and the lessons/ challenges encountered during the implementation period. UNYPA implemented a number of projects with a timeframe ranging from one year to three years. Projects addressed different areas are that critical in empowering the young

generation to enable them fully participate in developmental processes at various levels and in a healthy manner. The amount of work executed has expanded UNYPA's scope and profile, this has enabled her to win more trust from the development partners who funded the organization throughout the year to be in position to reach as many beneficiaries as clearly indicated below;

Strategic Objective 1: Increase access and utilization of HIV&AIDS comprehensive services by YPLHIV in line with the national response



2000
Stakeholders
engaged

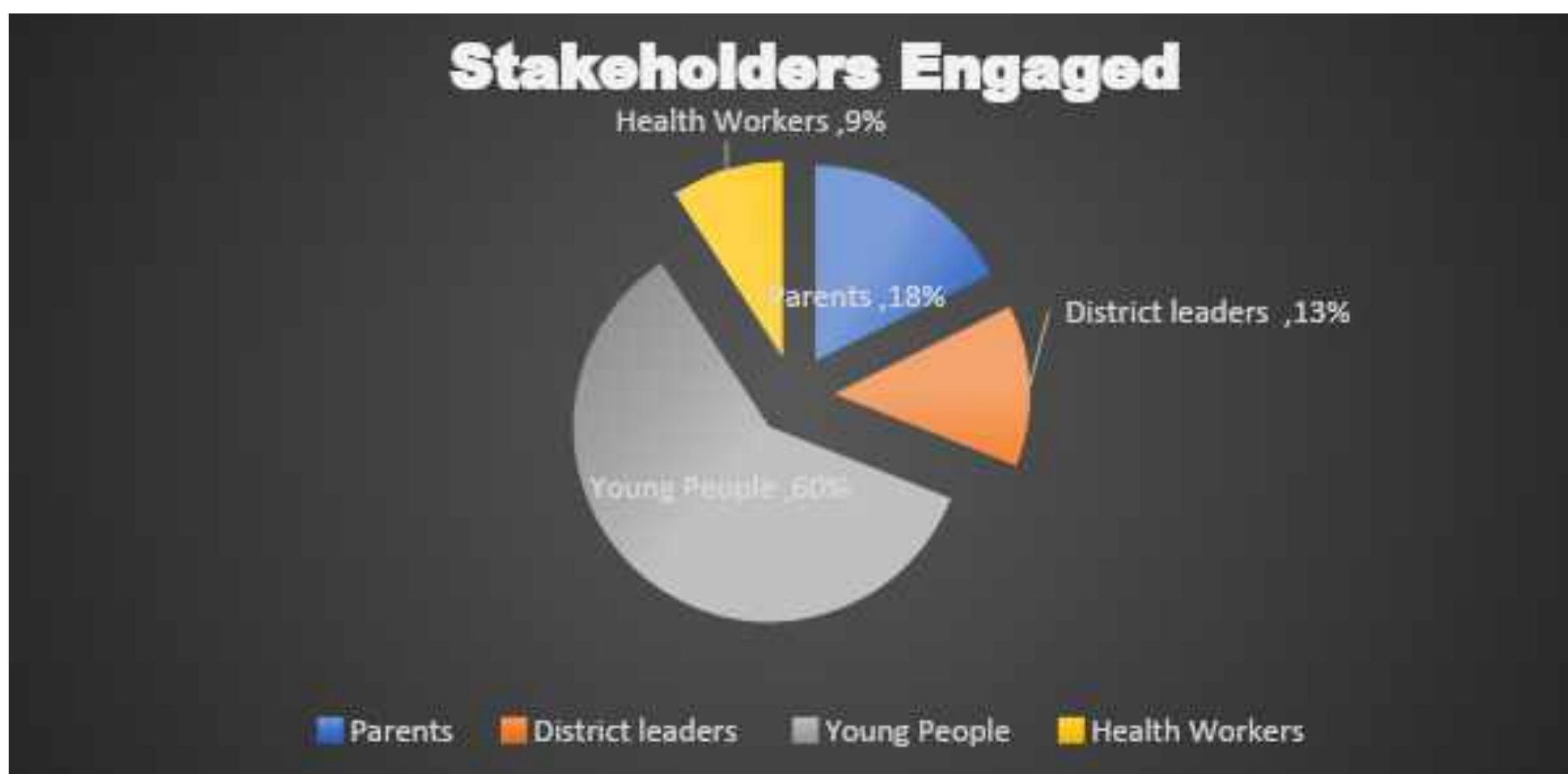
40
Dialogues
Conducted

1.1 Conducted community dialogues with the community gate keepers and duty bearers in the **10 districts of Kampala, Pallisa, Mbale, Nakapiripiriti, Iganga, Jinja, Bugiri, Rukungiri, Apac and Wakiso** . These dialogues actively engaged parents, young people, community gate keepers, district officials and health workers.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The dialogues have provided a platform for the young people to discuss the key challenges including stigma, drug stock outs, the high school dropout rates, poor attitudes of health workers, and need for youth friendly corners.
- Discussions with leaders and the community have led to joint action plans with commitments made by duty bearers to ensure that young people are able to demand and access better SRH/HIV services including;
- Providing condom dispensers to the different hot spots and health centers.
- Setting up youth corners at the health centers and equip them to become effective.
- Health workers responding positively to ensure that they provide services in a youth friendly manner.





1.2 Conducted refresher trainings of peer service providers in **Bugiri, Jinja and Iganga.** The peer service providers also dubbed as the peer buddies from different facilities were trained in various thematic topic so as to improve HIV/SRHR service delivery among the young people . 18 peer buddies were attached to 8 health facilities of Bugiri, Jinja and Iganga district.

60

Peer buddies trained

113

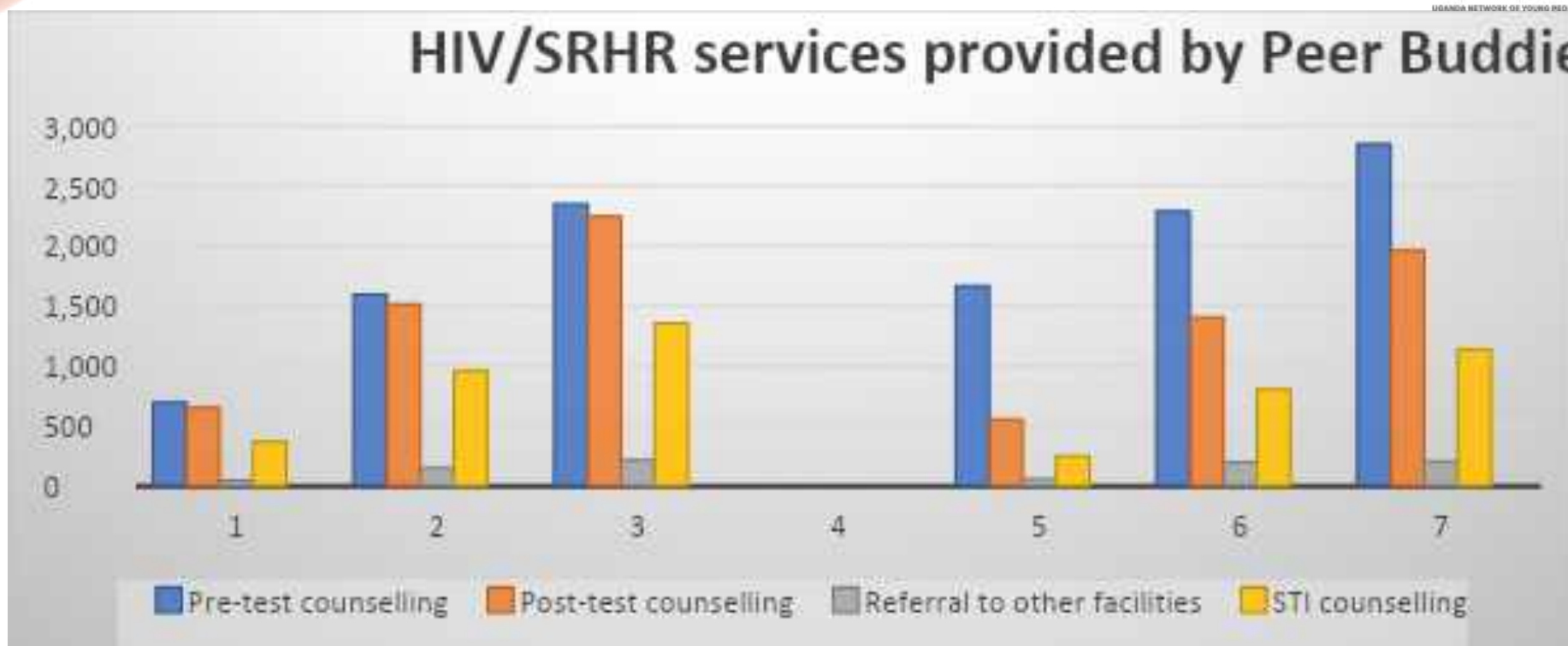
Home visits conducted

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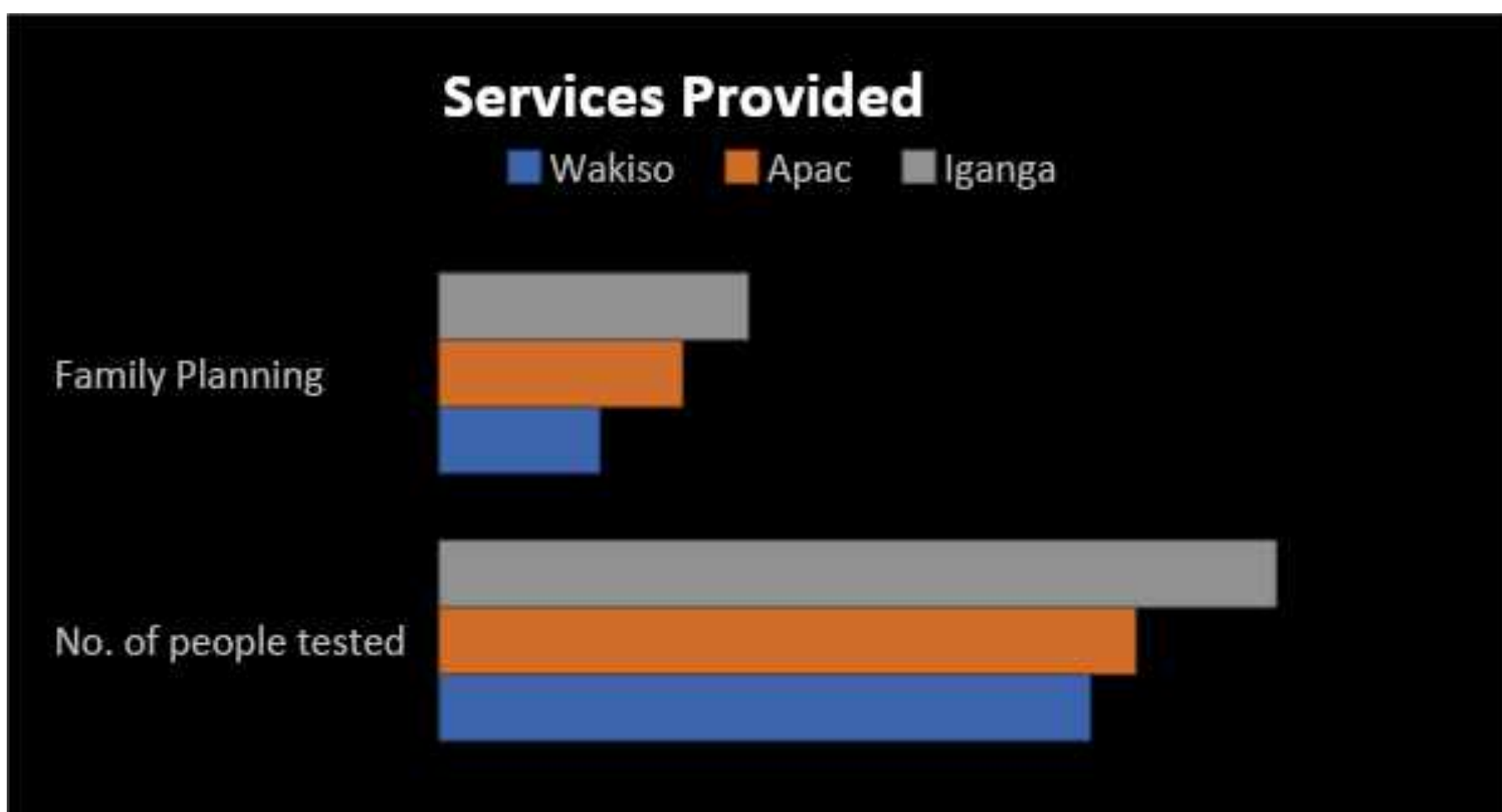
Community Outreaches conducted

The trained peer buddies have;

- Been able to support triage during ART clinic days, follow up young people that default on treatment, refer and link young people for HIV/SRHR services, provide health education, provide counselling of young people and conduct psychosocial support meetings at clinic days.
- Peer buddies have been co-opted on the health facility quality improvement committees of Bugiri main hospital, Namungalwe H/CIII, Nakigo H/CIII and Busesa H/CIV



1.3 Health camps were conducted in Wakiso, Iganga and Apac district with support from Kajjansi Health Centre IV, Mild May Uganda, and AHF for Wakiso district, Iganga Referral Hospital for Iganga district and Reproductive Health Uganda Apac district. The Health camps entailed an integrated service delivery point with various services including HIV testing, counseling and guidance and STI screening, cervical cancer screening, and family planning services.





Strategic Area 2: Strengthen social support mechanisms for YPLHIV so that they can live productive and sustainable lives;

2.1 Trained 60 paralegals in Kampala, Nakapiripiriti, Pallisa and Mbale districts .

These have supported the recording, storing, tracking and following up of the human rights abuses cases among the young people living with HIV and AGYW in the districts. The YPLHIV paralegals have served as active champions of SRHR of the marginalized young people and instrumental in basic legal support, linkage and information to their fellow peers in the communities.



2.2 Human rights trainings were conducted in Nakapiripiriti, Pallisa, Kampala and Mbale.

The trainings have been conducted by and for young people on human rights protection and realization to also be in position to advocate for theirs and fellow peers' SRH rights

- 76 adolescents and young people living with HIV have been trained
- The adolescents and young people living with HIV acquired knowledge and widened their understanding about the risks of misinterpreting gender norms, social norms and societal values and their effects on relationships and sexual behavior among A&YPLHIV.
- The trained young people a champion towards breaking the norms of child marriages in their communities, supporting AGYW to stay in school as boys despite their gender and also support them to resume school after giving birth.

2.3 Conducted peer exchange learning visits with the peer buddies, health centre in charges of and representatives from the district health office.

These were carried out from Bugiri municipal H/CIII, Kapyanga H/CII, Nabukalu H/CII, Namungalwe H/C III, Bugembe and Busowobi H/C IV. The exchange learning visits have facilitated the improvement of the quality and inclusiveness of youth-friendly services with in the health facilities through sharing experiences and learning from each on the best practices, adopting and replicating the best practices that other health facilitates incorporate at their facilities.

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We shall hold all teachers who discriminate and stigmatize YPLHIV in schools accountable, my office is open

The District Inspector of Schools.

2.4 UNYPA organized and facilitated YPLHIV ambassadors to conduct 12 school outreaches in the districts of Kampala, Pallisa, Nakapiripiriti and Mbale.

The outreaches reached 4,235 young people in schools, 264 teachers and 420 parents challenging the social norms that drive stigma and discrimination among YPLHIV in schools, increase school dropouts, early marriages and teenage pregnancies among the AGYW in the communities.



2.5 Facilitated 9 psychosocial support groups of young people living with HIV in Iganga, Jinja and Bugiri districts.

The psychosocial support groups have fostered positive living among young people living with HIV and created safe spaces for peer support and learning for YPLHIV. These groups have been key in community mobilization and sensitization through music, dance and drama and edutainment, sharing experiences and helping one another overcome challenges

Strategic Area 3: Strengthen partnerships at all levels so as to provide a coordinated, efficient and well-resourced national response to HIV&AIDS

3.1 In partnership with the Uganda AIDS commission, UNYPA conducted three (3) orientation meetings of the Sub County and District AIDS Committees in Iganga, Jinja and Bugiri.

The orientation focused on the roles and responsibilities, composition, reporting and monitoring of HIV activities and resource mobilization for the SAC and DAC.

Achievements

- 16 YPLHIV peer buddies have been co-opted as representatives for the young people on the Sub county AIDS committees of Budondo, Bugembe, Nakigo, Namungalwe, Kapyanga and Nabukalu, District AIDS committees of Jinja, Iganga and Bugiri.
- UNYPA has financially supported the SAC meetings in the sub counties of Kapyanga, Bugembe town council and Nabukalu to conduct their quarterly SAC meetings.
- The sub county and district teams resolved to advocate and influence increase budget allocations for HIV activities and ensure that there a model health facility with in their districts.

3.2 Conducted a capacity building training on meaningful youth participation for technical DLG staff of Iganga, Jinja and Bugiri districts.

The training engaged 45 participants including District Community Development Officers, youth councilors, District Health Officers, Chief Administrative Officers, District HIV focal persons, Civil Society Organizations, Health facility in charges and young people's representatives on the DAC and SAC. The training aimed at adopting approaches that foster youth adult partnerships at the district and community level. The key strategies of achieving meaningful youth participation included;

Commitments to Action:

- Have young people take part in quality improvement meetings at health facilities, assigning roles to the different YPLHIV at different health facilities;
- Train health workers on meaningful engagement of young people and the importance of MYP;
- Capacity building and involving youth in the different youth groups at sub county levels in planning and budgeting.

3.3 Held the national Stakeholders Social Accountability Meeting

The accountability forum was the summation of an exercise led by and conducted for young people to evaluate the quality and standards of the SRHR information and services provided in selected public health facilities to and for young people within the districts of Jinja, Iganga and Bugiri, the aim of the exercise was to find a way on how duty bearers and rights holders can work together to ensure that YP have the appropriate SRHR information and services they need for a productive and healthy life.

The conversation started at the district level and progressed to the national level to disseminate the cross-cutting findings, issues and recommendations that were raised during the district dissemination meetings of the community score card activities information conducted in the districts of Jinja Iganga, Bugiri and Mayuge.

The dialogue engaged 100 stakeholders including representatives from the Ministries of Health, Education, Gender, Finance Departments and development Agencies. The commitments from the stakeholders as far as the issues were discussed include;

These issues have been followed up to make sure they are fulfilled for improved service delivery and access environment for Young people in Uganda.

3.4 Conducted an Orientation meeting with Teachers Union (UNATU) on the need to support the passing of the School Health Policy

UNYPA under the Right Here, Right Now consortium mobilized partners to lobby for a conducive environment for access to sexuality education for adolescents and young people in schools, through opening up discussion for the review and implementation of the school health policy by 2020; members of UNATU including teachers, head teachers and other members of the education fraternity shared their input into the policy and shared strategies on how the policy can be implemented in the different schools around the country.

165 stakeholders were engaged in the meeting including the academia, youth champions, activists, media and other opinion leaders through the teachers Union.

The stakeholders were informed about the need for the policy and commitment to take actions in support of the SHP adoption and SE framework rollout by 2020 through the General Secretary of the Union;

The online campaign is still ongoing under the hashtag **#PassSHPNow** on twitter, facebook and Instagram

3.5 Dialogues with the religious leaders on the National Sexuality Education Framework (NSEF)

With support from AIDSFONDS, under the PITCH FLEX 3 project, UNYPA mobilized religious leaders from different religious fraternities to dialogue with them on the recently released National Sexuality Education Framework (NSEF), seek their opinions and also offer clarity on many of the issues which were contentious to the religious section of the communities. The dialogue aimed at lobbying for commitment from the religious leaders to support the popularization and operationalization of the Sexuality Education Framework. Through the Inter Religious Council, 43 religious leaders from the Lango Religious' Leaders Peace Forum in Lira and The Interim Inter-Faith Steering Committee for Eastern Region in Mbale were engaged in the dialogues.

- Religious leaders in the region are committed to ensuring that the NSEF is passed as it will support young people in the school environment to access age appropriate SRHR information to make informed and responsible life choices.
- They are equally committed to popularizing the NSEF amongst other religious leaders to ensure that they use their positions, power and influence to preach positive and appropriate sexuality education to scholars in the different schools,
- The religious leaders committed to support “parents, caretakers and guardians to understand and appreciate the need to discuss positive age appropriate sexuality education with adolescents in their care and communities

3.6 Inter-Ministerial & Civil Society Organizations Breakfast Meeting to share updates on domestic resource mobilizations For The HIV/AIDS Response. (National Aids Trust Fund, The PEPFAR, Cop 19 Commitment & The Global Fund Co Financing)

From the recent PEPFAR COP19 development process, CSOs leveraged with the Government of Uganda, PEPFAR, Global Fund, and civil society a 50% increase in funding for HIV treatment, up to 150 billion UGX, alongside investments in health.

This was a huge win for the communities and CSOs in Uganda but requires investments in tracking the funding and advocacy to include community response as one of the priorities for this commitment.

UNYPA in collaboration with UGANET organized an inter-ministerial & CSO break-fast meeting for stakeholders to discuss Domestic Resource mobilization for the HIV response & Updates on the government commitment (NATF, 50% PEPFAR COP 19 Commitment, the Global Fund Co financing).

- Since the approval of the National AIDS Trust Fund (NATF), there was appointment of a Multi-sectoral Task Force comprised of representatives from the Uganda AIDS Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Global Fund Country Coordination Mechanism members and youth to fast track the operationalization of AIDS Trust Fund regulations.

- The meeting shared an update on the steps made in operationalization of the government commitments on Domestic resource mobilization.
- Increased participation of CSOs and key population groups in domestic resource mobilization and budget tracking/ Monitoring; A strong civil society movement, including networks of key populations empowered to mobilize domestic resources for health
- The conversation aimed to lobby government to Increase their commitment to increase domestic resources for the 3 diseases.
- Commitment from stakeholders to increase domestic resources for health, especially for HIV prevention and response, human rights and key population related programs/activities

3.7 Organized a press conference to leverage on media platforms to create awareness about the current HIV funding tenure under the National AIDS Trust Fund (NAFT)

The NATF is a domestic based funding mechanism that was initiated by Uganda AIDS Commission, CSOs and Ministry of Health to raise funds internally for sustained response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Uganda.

In Uganda, since the financial year 2009/2010, the government's contribution towards the response to TB, HIV and malaria has been declining consistently from 9.6% to 8.7% in 2011/2012 and 7% in 2017/2018 leaving the responsibility of financing the three diseases response largely to external donors.

The current Government of Uganda's contribution to the HIV/AIDS response and Health resource allocation budget is way below the recommended 15% because the country is still standing at a paltry 7%, with external donors and non-state actors contributing 93% (PEPFAR taking 62%, the Global Fund 28% and other sources 3%).

- In August 2018, the parliament approved the National AIDS Trust Fund (NAFT) but there has been slow progress made towards its operationalization, raising concerns among Civil Society and other key players given its importance and urgency.
- The press conference was held to rally to community members, public, generate demand and lobby for support from communities to put pressure on their members of Parliament on the need for a country owned response.
- The press conference had representatives from print, TV channels, Radio channels and social media engagement who continued the conversation across the different mediums and channels identified.
- The discussion was diverse on the 3 killer diseases hence provided an opportunity to engage different categories of stakeholders bringing them together for a common agenda on local financing

3.8 Development of the National Multi-sectoral Key Populations Programming Framework 2020/2021 – 2024/2025 and the National KP Priority Action Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23

The HIV epidemic in Uganda continues to be severe and generalized, with concentrated sub-epidemics in key populations who bear a disproportionate burden of HIV and are more susceptible to risk factors.

The CRANE survey shows that HIV prevalence remains significantly higher among sex workers 35-37%, fisher folks 22-29%, long distance truck drivers 25%, uniformed services personnel 18.2%, and men who have sex with men 12.7%.

These and other key populations have been identified as a major source of new HIV infections in the country.

UNYPA worked with the Uganda AIDS Commission as it is the Government agency that leads the development of the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan.

- KP issues were not well articulated in the National HIV and AIDS strategic plan (NSP) 2015/16-2019/20. The NSP only briefly covered issues of sex workers and MSM. PWIDS, Transgender persons and prisoners were not included. KPs were not consulted during the NSP development processes.
- With the development of the new NSP 2020/21-2024/25 and a new NSP Priority Action Plan 2020/21-2022/23, there was high need for KP specific documents to inform the National HIV and AIDS strategic plan development processes.
- Development of these KP specific strategic documents required wide consultation and involvement of established KP led organizations and networks.
- The national KP programming framework and the National KP Priority Action Plan developed during this activity are key documents that will guide the Global Fund Concept note development and therefore attract more funding for KP services in the country hence impacting on KP Communities' lives including the current PEPFAR COP 2020 in country planning.
- This process similarly guarantees the inclusion of the KP priorities in the ongoing National AIDS strategic plan review.

Strategic Area 4: Strengthen and streamline the YPLHIV structures at all levels so that they can play a meaningful role towards the fight against HIV&AIDS;

4.1 Organized the 2nd Y+ Summit under the theme “Confronting HIV with Bold Steps”.

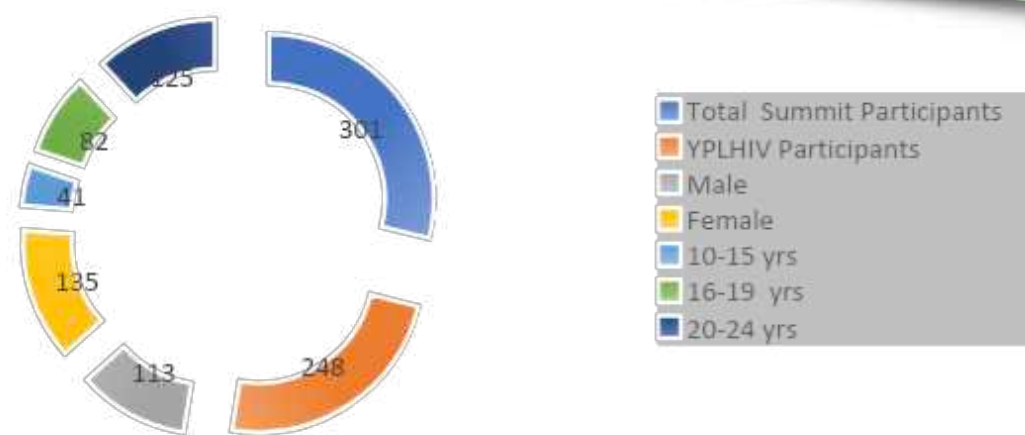
The Y+ Summit is a collaborative meeting where peer leaders across Uganda team up for technical capacity-building, enhance peer-to-peer exchange learning and sharing, brainstorm promising practices and action plans to improve the lives of young people living with HIV in Uganda.

Achievements

- The 2019 annual 3-day event brought together partners, Government Heads, Ministers, Organizational Team Leaders, Heads of Religion, Consultants and Trainers, Y+ ambassadors and 248 young people living with HIV across Uganda from different walks of life who interacted, shared success stories on leading healthy positive and productive lives and shared ideas on how to create and support an enabling environment for young people living with HIV
- A position paper was developed and presented to the stakeholders. This was informed by the needs of young people and the key/ salient issues in the paper included: community stigma and discrimination, family neglect, vulnerability to social-economic challenges, drug stockouts, HIV coinfections, sexual and gender-based violence, early marriage and exclusion from economic activities.

Commitments to Action included;

- Minister of the Youth and Children. Hon. Nakiwala Kiyingi pledged to continue working with UYNPA to support the network reach out to young people living with HIV with programs that are strictly put aside for benefiting incomes for people living with HIV up to sh25m.
- UNAIDS in partnership with the Ministry of Health, will continue ensuring that there is a continuous supply chain for the drugs in different health centers across the country



- Civil Society Organizations are dedicated to continue creating opportunities and platforms that can ensure young people’s involvement in programing and decision-making processes including coordinating and supporting the networks so that they realize the international targets of 90-90-90
- Ministry of Health is to continue supervising all implementing partners in the fight against HIV and also engage all the YPLHIV in all matters that affect them. • Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development is to ensure that it is part and parcel of all matters affecting the young people living with HIV.

4.2 Conducted the 4th Annual Y+ Beauty Pageant

The Y+ Beauty pageant is an annual campaign aimed at fighting stigma and discrimination against young people affected and living with HIV and AIDS through uplifting the plight for all young people living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda in order to re-echo their voices and work together to build a strong, energetic, creative, and productive generation through identifying and empowering young people living with HIV as Y + ambassadors who are the role models and are able to spear head among the other champions in the fight against the spread of HIV and the fight against new HIV infections in all regions with support from the coalition members and other development partners.

The 2019 Y+ Beauty Pageant campaign run under the theme **“Peers making it happen”**.

The campaign kicked off on the 20th September with the launch of the campaign; proceeded with Regional auditions in Kampala, Moroto, Kasese and Busia to identify the regional contestants; once identified the regional winners are taken through a week long capacity building dubbed as the “Boot camp” to build and sharpen their skills ahead of the Grand finale on the 22nd November 2019 where we crowned the next new YPLHIV champions that will lead the fight against HIV related stigma & discrimination in their communities

The 2019 Grand Finale kicked off the campaign of 16 Days of Activism and provided an excellent opportunity for UNYPA with support from UN Women and other partners to join this global campaign to leverage the momentum and broaden the conversation to advocate for the advancement of the rights of those women and girls, and all youth, facing intersecting forms of discrimination as well to have conversations of how stakeholders are ending stigma, discrimination and violence in the HIV Response.



Way forward

- Strengthening partnerships and working with the district leaders, parents and other duty bearers to enhance the creation of an enabling environment and access to HIV services among young people as well as promote stigma and discrimination-reduction efforts with greater resonance and impact
- Provide greater voice, visibility and leadership to young people living with HIV to support them challenge stigma, foster hope, action and new beliefs about young people.
- Continue creating Stigma-free Messages, Safe Discussion Spaces, effective communication of information about prevention with messages that explicitly discuss the behaviors that can lead to HIV transmission without direct reference to particular individuals or groups and avoid the temptation to single out these groups as “vectors” of transmission.
- Lobby for spaces for young people to be involved and engaged in decision making processes that directly impact the lives of young people in terms of service delivery
- Working with Health Care Providers to entrench human rights appreciation, ensure stigma free environments with in the health care system and address gender-based violence as a public health issue.

4.3 The Love Letter Campaign;

On 14th February 2019, UNYPA visited 28 embassies that are funding and supporting initiatives under the Global Fund. The Global Fund has saved over 27 million lives that could have succumbed to either HIV/AIDS, Malaria, or Tuberculosis.

We had to show our gratefulness because we had already got the big news that Global Fund will be embarking on its sixth replenishment to raise US\$14 billion.

A melted heart is everything, especially when it is the health of young people. Letters and Red roses were prepared and delivered to the **Embassies of Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, European Commission, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, and Norway.**

The embassies committed to increase their country funding towards the Global Fund; Uganda in itself made a contribution of 2 million dollars which was a good step for Uganda in terms of domestic resource mobilization for HIV, TB and Malaria.

4.4 Movement building initiatives in Karamoja sub region,

Under the SWASHE program supported by UN Women implemented together with ICWEA and AWAC; mapped out 62 women's groups including women, young people and sex workers living with HIV organizations in 18 project districts of **Abim, Kotido, Napak, Moroto, Nakapiripiriti, Amudat, Kaabong, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Tororo, Pader, Kitgum, Gulu, Bundibugyo, Kasese, Kampala, Yumbe and Arua).**

- Identified and trained 161 women leaders to strengthen their capacity in leadership, engagement and participation; designing, implementation and monitoring programs on GEWE, VAWG (including SGBV/HP), as well as promoting SRHR and use of social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAW/G.

4.5 Launch of the 16 days of activism campaign

UNYPA, ICWEA, AWAC under the SWASHE project supported the 16 days of activism; a campaign designed to raise awareness on the dangers of gender-based violence and the importance of achieving and working towards gender equality in Uganda.

- During the launch of 16 days of activities over 30 CSOs including religious and cultural institutions were brought on board to build collaborations and synergies to end VAW/G. They signed a wall of commitment and also identified a dedicated team of 16 advocates to champion the campaign against VAW/G.
- The consortium partnered with other UN Women partners of great importance to bring in the different perspective into the discussions, the vast and diverse experience in dealing with GBV and experiences from other partners strengthened the conversation



4.6 Candle light memorial

On May 17th, Under the theme, *“Intensifying the fight for health and rights”*, Uganda AIDS Commission in partnership with UNYPA organized the candle light memorial to commemorate the lives of people who have lost their lives to AIDS, strengthening and re-energizing HIV champions in all their diversity to continue being at the forefront leading the movement fighting for universal, comprehensive and sustainable treatment, care, prevention services, intensifying work on human rights, stigma reduction, social and economic justice to ensure no one is left behind,

- The memorial brought together HIV advocates and champions to continue the conversation on stigma and discrimination which challenges disclosure and eventually adherence to medication
- A digital campaign was run on different platforms including social media to ensure that the online community is involved in the conversation on ending stigma.

4.7 Commemoration of the national AIDS day

World AIDS day was ushered in this year by the Phily Lutaaya public health lecture under the theme;

“Communities make the difference”

in recognition of the important leadership and advocacy by communities to ensure that communities’ response remains grounded and relevant.

Uganda personalized the theme to “

“Empowering young people to champion the end of new HIV infections”

The theme was chosen because young people constitute majority of the population in the country, youth aged 15-24 are responsible for 34% of new infections annually

The commemoration was in Kayunga district due to an HIV prevalence currently at 7.3% in the district, with presence of risky populations and 24% teenage pregnancy rates

The President as the Guest of Honor continued to call upon community leaders to intensify community sensitization using all available platforms available to them including music and other avenues of communicating.

“It is important to recognize the work of peers living with HIV because we work a lot closely with the community members and we support them to understand young people’s issues”

- Okiror Benjamin,

Yplus ambassador,
Eastern region

Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen the organizational capacity of UNYPA not only to coordinate the efforts of the YPLHIV constituency but also to engage stakeholders at all levels for improved HIV&AIDS service delivery



5.1 Staff capacity building and bonding

In order to build the capacity of the UNYPA team to serve and execute well, a four days staff retreat was conducted to enhance team building, re-motivate the staff, internally evaluate the progress of long-term goals, set priorities and targets for the new year.

The best performing staff for the year 2019 was **Mr. Mbalya Derick;**

the Eastern region coordinator. He was awarded for his resilience, way forward thinking, as well as flexible and open-minded thinking

The most supportive team members for 2019 were;

- **Nakayiza Lovincah-Accountant**
- **Adam Mukiibi- Transport Officer**



5.2 Global Fund engagements

UNYPA with support from AIDS implementing partners in Uganda was selected to coordinate the youth secretariat of the Uganda Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) and consequently hosts the youth representatives. In the year, we have supported the constituency to conduct a series of activities to enhance their participation in the Global Fund processes;

- Organized for the re-orientation of the youth CCM members on their roles, responsibilities and expectations from the various stakeholders; the discussion recognized that the writing process of the Global fund was under way and therefore youth representatives needed to strategically carry out their consultations with their constituency members to identify the priorities for the young people.
- Facilitated community forums to create a safe space for young people to discuss the different issues within the constituency. The community forums discussed the role of young people in the Global fund processes, the challenges that limit their participation and proposed solutions on how to simplify the process for young people to be a part of the process effectively and efficiently
- Facilitated skills building sessions for young people to strategically position themselves to participate in the Global Fund process, 15 youth representatives were supported to participate in the different aspects of the writing process.
- Facilitated the process of identifying the youth priorities in the Global Fund process, young people were able to consult, discuss and identify the priorities that they needed funded under the Global Fund, they were presented to the CCM BOD and approved for funding, this was a great achievement for the youth constituency

- Supported young people to conduct quarterly joint oversight visits to follow up on specific issues arising from the progress reports submitted on the implementation of the grants; this enabled them to make informed and evidence based decisions which ensures that the Global fund grants are put to effective use while also addressing core needs of the beneficiaries who are affected by the three diseases; the youth representatives were supported to join the meetings conducted in Arua District on 24th September 2019, Maracha District on 25th September 2019 and Yumbe district: 27th September 2019
- The Uganda Country Coordinating Mechanism (UCCM) comprises of sub-committees which convene every quarter to provide feedback on the implementation of the Global Fund activities in Uganda. Youth representatives participate in these discussions aimed at fostering accountability, identifying challenges faced during implementation, meaningful youth participation and ensuring that the Global Fund investments are utilized as intended in the country. These committees include;
 - UCCM Programme Oversight Committee (POC).
 - UCCM Programme Development & Resource Mobilization.
 - UCCM Finance & Procurement (F&P) Committee Meeting

The youth Secretariat hosted at UNYPA has been a big pillar in ensuring that there is meaningful youth participation and engagement in the Global fund processes and we are excited to see the Global Fund money work for young people in Uganda”- Patricia Humura, youth representative CCM

Strategic Objective 6: Institutional Development

6.1 Strategic Plan Development

The development of strategic plan (period of coverage) was done through a participatory manner that covered a series of consultative stakeholder meetings with Directors, district officials and stakeholders, ambassadors, advocates and beneficiaries and partners. The new strategic plan was successfully done and approved by the Board of Directors and shall be rolled out next year.

6.2 UNYPA program and financial systems have been strengthened.

Policies have been reviewed and put in place as part of UNYPA systems strengthening. Financial and Human resource policies have been developed and approved.

These policies developed this year include;

- *Safeguarding policies*
- *Revised Code of conduct*

The policies shall support the organization to properly streamline itself to support staff, volunteers and any other stakeholders with whom the organization interacts with.

6.3 Staff capacity building

In order to skill up and equip the capacity of the UNYPA officials, several trainings were attended during the reporting period covering sessions on leadership and management, advocacy and program management, and resource mobilization.

These sessions have greatly improved officers and managers capacity to run and manage their respective offices, supervise and coordinate at different levels within and out of UNYPA.

6.4 Resource Mobilization

During this reporting period, UNYPA has made effort to further build in resource mobilization and communication enable to grow project impact in Uganda. Program Officers have undergone a series of support to enable them develop quality proposals that were submitted to various potential donors with a 50% success rate.



Strategic Objective 7: DIGITAL PLATFORM CAMPAIGNS AND MANAGEMENT

UNYPA has conducted an intense social media campaign running under various hash tags but most famously #PeersMakingItHappen #TB #Malaria #StepUpTheFight

UNYPA's digital campaign reached out to 30,000,000 people reached on Facebook
10,000,000 people reached on twitter

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.youtube.com/redirect?event%3Dvideo_description%26v%3DbkmuOAhUwel%26redir_token%3D8_EZr808mA2kUAATS247TcVBMYP8MTU5MjQ3MTM3MkAxNTkyMzg0OTcy%26q%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.theglobalfund.org%252Fen%252Fstepupthefight%252F&sa=D&ust=1597137856533000&usg=AOvVaw0itnLESzILKCD4VAtIMgw9

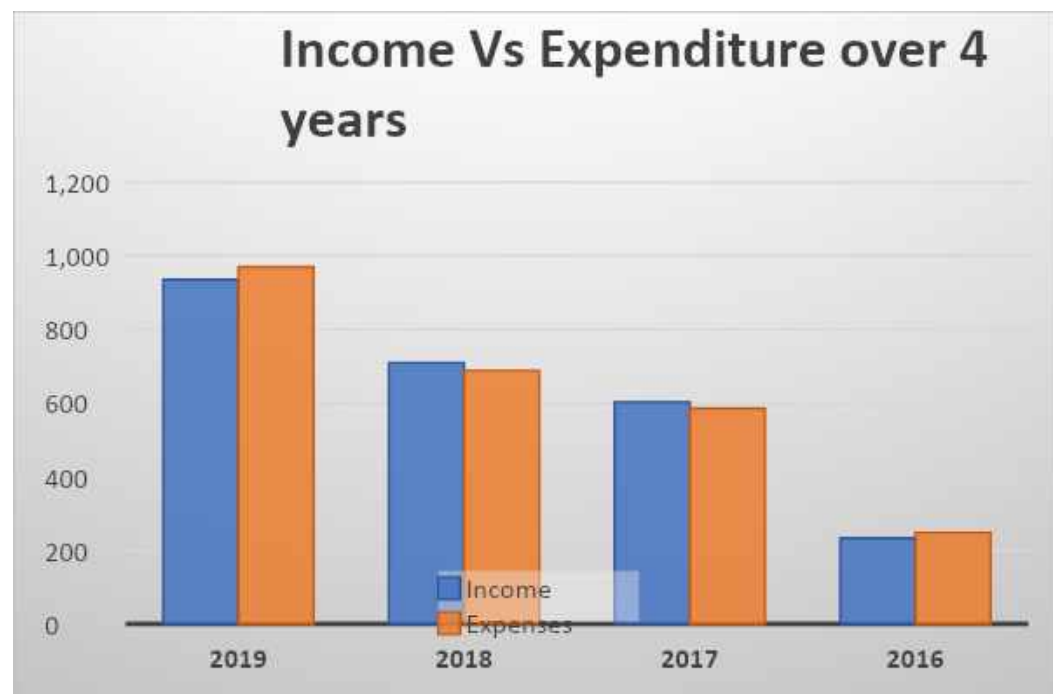
https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.youtube.com/redirect?event%3Dvideo_description%26v%3DbkmuOAhUwel%26redir_token%3D8_EZr808mA2kUAATS247TcVBMYP8MTU5MjQ3MTM3MkAxNTkyMzg0OTcy%26q%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.theglobalfund.org%252Ffr%252Fstepupthefight%252F&sa=D&ust=1597137856534000&usg=AOvVaw02O97W5kzvaqiR767xWiEa

VIDEO LINKS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkmuOAhUwel&feature=youtu.be>
<https://ar-ar.facebook.com/unypa/videos/y-boot-camp-2019-self-esteem-body-image-dreaming-and-setting-goals/690984477975708/>
[https://www.newvision.co.ug/news/1474445/-summit-milestone - Y+ summit 2018](https://www.newvision.co.ug/news/1474445/-summit-milestone-%20Y%20summit%202018)
<https://www.google.com/search?q=unypa+y+plus+summit&sxsrf=ALeKk03rBr8bTDunSuTrS2w4E78Z7enAIQ:1593761196703&ei=rN3-XuC0KsqTlwTJjajQAw&start=10&sa=N&ved=2ahUKEwjguvGPx7DqAhXKyYUKHckGCjoQ8tMDegQIGBar&biw=1525&bih=730>

Strategic Objective 8: 2019 Financial Report

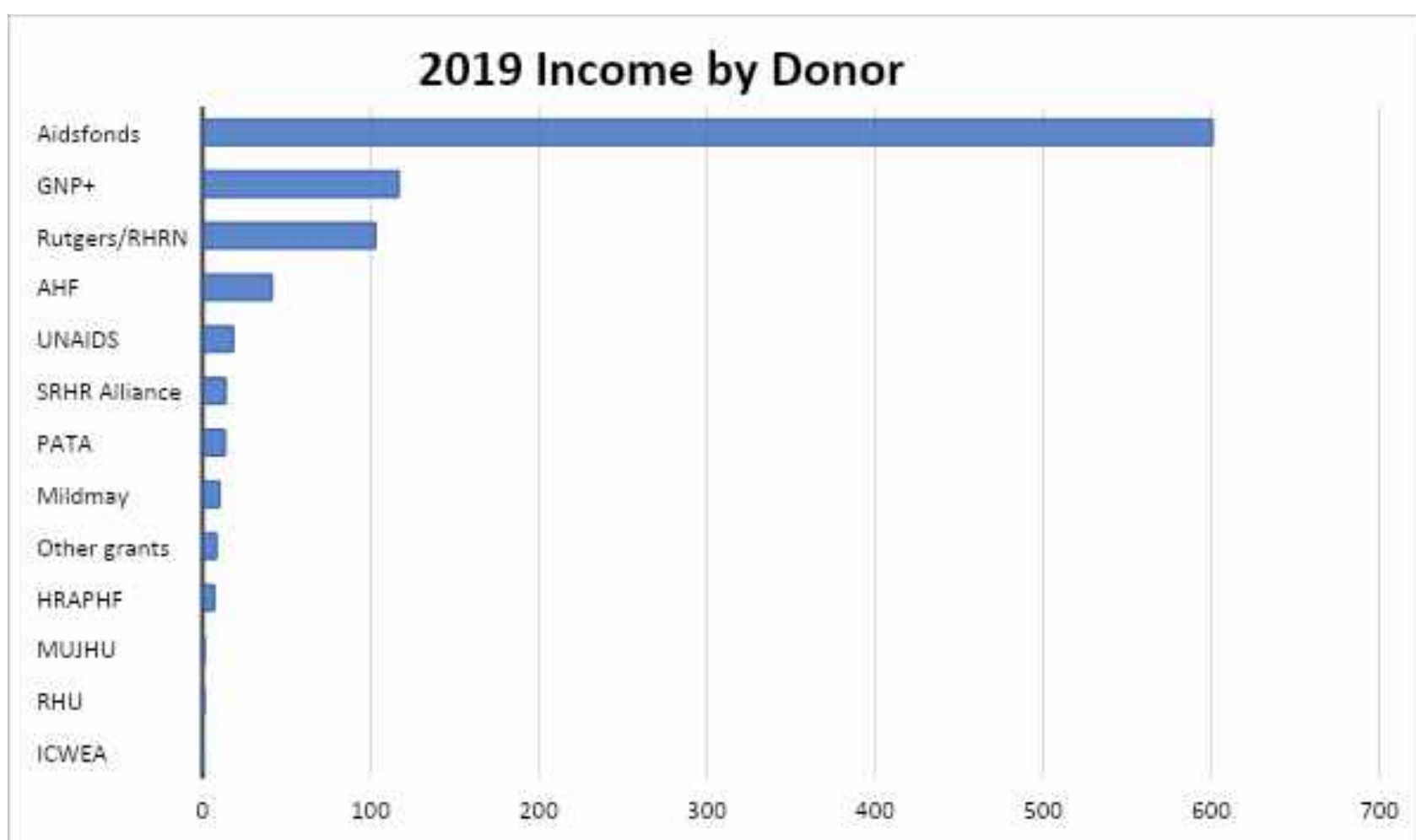
During the financial of 2019, UNYPA's grant income increased by 32%. Over the last 4 years, the income increased by 301%. We are grateful to our generous donors for the continued support for our programs and commit to continue striving to optimally utilize every shilling to improve the livelihood of young people living and affected by HIV/AIDS



In the last 4 years UNYPA has spent

UGX 2.49 Billion

to transform lives of young people affected by HIV/AIDS



9.0 CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS



9.1 Challenges

- Mixed perceptions by stakeholders on sexuality education has affected the rolling out and implementation of SRHR related policies and framework
- Stigma and discrimination still remain extreme in the communities towards YPLHIV threatening disclosure and positive living
- YPLHIV are still not fully represented in the decision-making bodies and structures which design policies and frameworks that dictate their way of life.

9.2 Lessons learned

1. Working within consortia comes along with unique expertise that UNYPA has tapped into to achieve her annual results, build staff capacity and develop new projects.
2. Stakeholder engagement in project processes guarantees ownership, sustainability and birth of resilient young leaders committed to bring about change
3. Use of already existing community structures for project implementation has been found cost effective and avoids duplication of work.
4. YPLHIV are exposed to mental health challenges that need to be integrated into the overall programming in order to design programs that respond to the needs of YPLHIV
5. Working with the peer to peer service delivery model has ensured that many YPLHIV have the necessary psycho social support t they need for adherence and positive living
6. Youth movement building is mostly important as it mobilizes groups of young people to rise up against the SRHR challenges they identify within their communities
7. Working with parents and caretakers is essential as they are responsible for creating an enabling environment for young people.

LOOKING FORWARD

UNYPA is targeting a wide range of outputs in 2020 that will better position the organization and its network to continue influencing and advocating for young/youth health and empowerment in Uganda. In order to achieve our set objectives we will endeavor to engage all stakeholders in their different capacities. With the continued guidance of the Board of Directors we are assured of good strategic direction for the organization; the management team for their effective leadership in driving the organization, members of staff's continued commitment to delivery of quality and relevant programme work in the assorted districts we serve.

We will further strengthen partnerships with our key supporters like **Aidsfonds, UNAIDS, UN Women, SRHR Alliance Uganda, UNAIDS, GNP Plus network, Frontline AIDS, ANECCA and Rutgers** to ensure the realization of more project achievements. We will also keep good partnerships and seek technical support from line ministries such as **Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD), Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC)** and local governments to ensure that the UNYPA work remains in line with national plans.





LOOKING FORWARD

To our partners from the health fraternity; **Mildmay, Baylor Children's clinic, Makerere University John Hopkins University research collaboration (MUJHU), Uganda Police, Kisenyi Health center 4, Namugongo children's fund, IDI, Reproductive Health Uganda, Reach A Hand Uganda, UYAFH, Right Here, Right Now consortium, PITCH consortium** and communities

We appreciate

and will keep the healthy working relations going as we collectively work to meet the health needs of young people living and affected with HIV in Uganda.

The Youth movement

of the organization including ambassadors, peer buddies, paralegals, advocates and activists all in their different capacities you remain the soul of the organization, your work and voices will be utilized to amplify the youth led effort to fight against HIV related stigma and discrimination.

