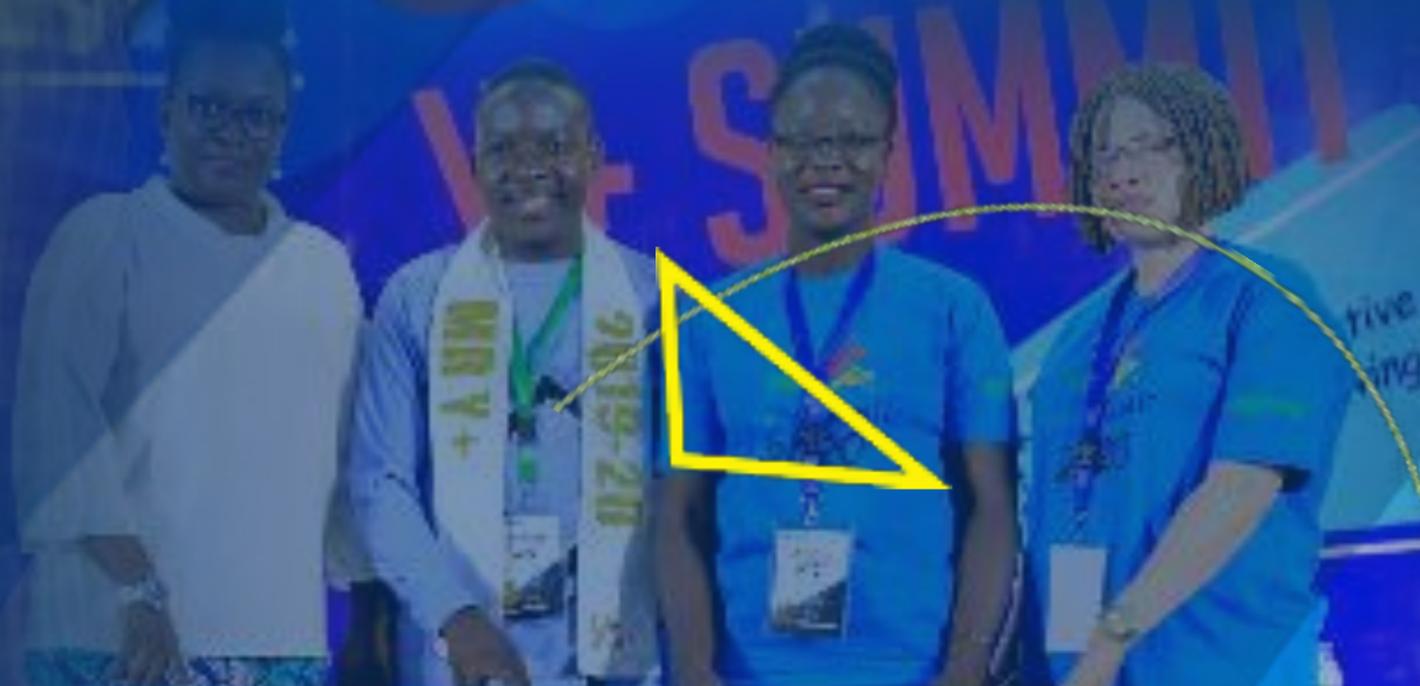




# Y+ SUMMIT 2020

REPORT OF THE YPLUS SUMMIT,  
16<sup>TH</sup>- 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020,  
HOTEL AFRICANA, KAMPALA



UNYPA

Y+ SUMMIT  
2020

ORGANIZED BY  
UNYPA

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Yplus summit** was held on 16<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, in Kampala, Uganda. It attracted over 500 participants including 150 representatives from CSOs, line ministries, health facilities, clinics where young people access services, government, 350 young people; 260 young people living with HIV/AIDS, 10 young people living with disabilities age ranging from 15 to 35 years.

The **Yplus Summit** pillared on diverse representation of participants who constitute the UNYPA- YPLHIV youth movements from all parts of the country; there were 34 districts present in the event which ensured diversity and authenticity in the best practices shared by peers in regards to advancing the youth friendly service provision agenda within the public health facilities in the country.

The Summit was a special assembly because it brought together young people to dialogue with each other, implementing partners and policy makers to share tips on ending HIV by 2030, social safety and education on the protection of rights of all people, youth led advocacy and its importance while also conversating on the need for Gender Equality and women empowerment



The assembly program featured plenary sessions, oral abstract presentations, exhibition viewing sessions, skills building sessions and a luncheon. Special attention was given to the empowerment of young people o are at the frontline of peer to peer service provision and mentorship to polish their skills and make their work more effective and efficient.

# FOREWORD



**Nicholas Niwagaba**  
**Executive Director**

It was at this time in 2019 when I stood in this same venue to welcome the participants of the Y+ summit 2019. Indeed, time flies, because when I look around and see how many of the ambassadors have grown since then, it's hard to believe it has been only one year. On that note, congratulations for growing up, physically, mentally and financially. That is no easy thing.

The theme this year is Changing The Narrative, we acknowledge the need to change the way we package our messaging to recognize the good work that continues to be done by young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS; for this summit, we have put together learning and sharing packages that will contribute to the wholesome improvement of the young people in attendance. I am sure you will not leave this place the same way you came. If you do, feel free to write my name in the list of people you who owe you.

We are in worrisome times amidst the fear of #COVID-19 virus outbreak BUT we shouldn't forget that AIDS is still a leading killer in Uganda and the world. As of 2018, we had 1.4 million Ugandans living with HIV and lost 23,000 people to AIDS related illnesses. This is the reason we have the summit here each year; to build a force within the younger generation that is not afraid to lead the fight against HIV. To have young people who are aware that there is more to you than being positive and that you are destined for bigger things.

I would like to thank the team at UNYPA for putting this event together and working tirelessly around the clock to get everything ready. In the same spirit, I thank the Government of Uganda, Development partners, CSOs, all the partner health centres and organizations' that have sent young people to participate in the summit and supported us with capacity and funding

We acknowledge the summit's generous donor partners and believe that the young people have been able to utilize the summit platform as Ambassadors of positive change and as one of the tools that will help Uganda achieve the 90 90 90 goal by 2030.

Special acknowledgment for the active participation and engagement of ambassadors that has breathed to life the reality of young people **Changing the Narrative** for improved lives for themselves and their peers.

# ABOUT THE SUMMIT



The Y+ summit is an annual skills sharpening, capacity building safe space for youth advocates and champions living with and affected by HIV/AIDS to share best practices on how to address the SRHR- HIV issues young people in their different communities' struggle with. The Summit is an accountability forum to follow up on the various key asks that were put forward by young people to the different duty bearers and stakeholders in advancement of the SRH rights of young people to ensure access and utilization of the SRHR-HIV information and services needed to make responsible informed reproductive health choices and decisions.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the Summit run under the theme, **'CHANGING THE NARRATIVE!!'** for young people living with HIV with the following sub themes;

## THEMES

### **Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.**

Recognizing that adolescent girls and young women make up nearly half of Uganda's population yet they are regularly prevented from accessing basic services and decent employment, this theme acknowledged that Unleashing the potential of adolescent girls and young women is an effective pathway to addressing poverty, improving access to health, education, sanitation, making societies more inclusive and reducing violence in communities.

### **Gender THEME2; Youth voices in advocacy; THEME3; Quality of life young people Living with HIV: .**

This theme recognized the tremendous gains derived from investing in visionary young champions to lead the SRHR- HIV movement now and for the next generation hence the focus of the sessions was for young people to appreciate the ever-changing in which they conduct their work, skilling them to leverage on the different tools at their disposal to conduct effective youth- led advocacy at local, national and international levels.

### **Mental health, Self-care & Drug Adherence.**

The theme appreciates that health systems need to be more integrated and more people- centered to successfully meet the needs of virally suppressed peers. The theme meant to orient young people on the 4<sup>th</sup> 90, how it aims to improve the quality of life for YPLHIV by promoting treatment literacy, self- care, adherence to ARVs, information on good nutrition, creating a serene— supportive environment for YPLHIV

## ABOUT THE SUMMIT



## MAGNITUDE

The 2020 Y+ Summit was attended by a total of 500 people; 350 young people including 260 young people living with HIV/ AIDS, 10 PWDs; these included Y+ ambassadors, key populations, peer buddies, paralegals, peer leaders

There were 150 key stakeholders including policy makers, media houses, like minded CSOs, religious and cultural leaders, local leaders, health workers, representatives from Ministry of Health, Education, Finance, Country Coordination Mechanism, PEPFAR, UN Fraternity, youth advocates, guardians and caretakers, and peer supporters.

The Y+ Summit encompassed young people from 34 districts across all the 4 regions of the country including the usually forgotten areas like Karamoja region, slum areas of Kampala, districts at the border point entry like Bugiri

	CENTRAL	EASTERN	WESTERN	NORTHERN
<b>DISTRICTS REPRESENTED</b>	Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Entebbe, Luweero, Kayunga, Mityana,	Jinja, Bugiri, Iganga, Mbale, Busia, Kamuli, Kapchorwa, Paliisa, Soroti, Tororo, Bugweri,	Kasese, Mbarara, Hoima, Kabale, Bushenyi, Masindi, Kabarole, Ibanda	Nakapiripiriti, Arua, Moroto, Gulu, Lira, Apac, Kitgum, Nebbi

## DISINTEGRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

MALE					FEMALE				
TOTAL 221					TOTAL 279				
PWD	10-24 YRS	25-30 YRS	KP	30&ABOVE	PWD	10-24 YRS	25-30 YRS	KP	30&ABOVE
4	130	53	4	30	6	145	70	8	50

## OBJECTIVES

To create a platform for dialogue, learning and sharing best practises for effective HIV/SRHR programming for young people

To hold duty bearers accountable for their mandate and duties in the HIV response

To empower young people with leadership skills, knowledge and expertise for effective youth led advocacy

To educate young people on the 4th 90 and how it aims to improve the quality of life for YPLHIV

The sessions were organized on a needs based participatory assessment drawn from the capacity gaps and needs of the young people, they were designed to strengthen the abilities of young people in leadership and youth led advocacy to amplify the authentic youth voice, facilitate peer-to-peer learning & support, while creating a dedicated space and opportunity for all young people living with and affected by HIV to discuss how to effectively forefront the creation of an enabling environment for young people living with HIV in Uganda.

**The young people were divided into teams namely; Garfield, Chipmunks, Tom & Jerry and Scooby Doo**

The sessions were interactive, educative and fun – they were conducted as follows;

1. **Plenary sessions where young people openly and freely shared their views and opinions on the activities they conduct and how they impact their communities.**
2. **Workshops; This was a platform where experts engaged Young people on different topic to improve their knowledge, while also dispelling myths and misconceptions on different HIV topics.**
3. **Breakaway sessions where different workshops run concurrently and the young people attended the sessions of their choice.**
4. **Panel discussions; young people were availed with the opportunity to interact with different stakeholders and hold them accountable.**
5. **Oral poster presentation; young people whose submitted abstracts were successful were given an opportunity to present their work during the summit,**
6. **Question and Answer session; time was dedicated for young people were given to ask questions, seek clarity and or guide each other with more information, creating referral linkages**
7. **Luncheon session; where ambassadors shared their key achievements during lunch time to continue conversation in a much more informal setting,**
8. **One on one sessions; young people were given the opportunity to talk to each other, share inspiration and motivate each other to continue in the good work;**

## PROGRESS MADE ON KEY ASKS AND COMMITMENTS FROM 2019 YPLUS SUMMIT

KEY ISSUE RAISED	UPDATE
<p>Poor access and utilization of Youth friendly services at the health facility; which results into fear of accessing the facility, challenges in ART adherence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNYPA is currently working with the Ministry of Health to roll out the Youth and Adolescent Peer Supporters model to enhance peer to peer support among YPLHIV</li> <li>• UNYPA is working with health facilities in Jinja, Bugiri, Iganga, Nakapiririti, Mbale, Moroto to ensure set up of youth friendly spaces with special ART days</li> </ul>
<p>Challenge the Increasing rates of stigma and discrimination among YPLHIV especially in the school setting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNYPA is working with like- partners to ensure implementation of the School Health Policy which ensures that YPLHIV are safe and protected in schools</li> <li>• UNYPA has supported Y Plus ambassadors to conduct in school outreaches challenging HIV related stigma and discrimination</li> </ul>
<p>Support young people with skills and knowledge to identify, report and refer cases of GBV especially towards YPLHIV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNYPA is working with AIDS development partners to build capacities and train young people to identify, report and refer cases of gender-based violence which increased risk of HIV in the districts of Mbale, Nakapiririti, Paliisa and the Karamoja sub region</li> <li>• Many of the UNYPA ambassadors are in their different capacities support GBV cases within their communities</li> </ul>



# GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOR YPLHIV



**Day 1 zeroed in on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment for young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.**

HIV prevention and treatment efforts require more than a clinical approach; they need to address gender inequalities for young people particularly adolescent girls and young women living with and affected by the burden of HIV/AIDS.

## Session 1: Understanding Gender: Awareness Terms and definitions

**Kyoma Maclean,  
Executive Director, AWAC**

This session piloted the discussion on key definitions of gender, gender identity, gender roles, gender equality, negative gender norms and how they pre dispose young people to HIV, risky sexual behaviour

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS;**

- Gender is socially constructed hence often dictated by our socialization and family backgrounds
- Gender roles are dictated and enforced by different community ideologies; it is important to understand them before challenging their norms
- Gender awareness allows for men and women to co- exist with appreciation of each gender's unique needs
- Gender inequality is a big driver of violence against women and girls, Men and boys too are victims of violence
- Many times, young people are often denied information and services because of their gender identity such as transgenders
- Gender inequalities are often driven by deep rooted in socialization for instance 67% of people in Uganda believe that land inheritance should for male children only.

## Session 2: Ending Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG): What Is EVAWG and why is it an issue?

**Lillian Mworeko,  
Executive Director, ICWEA**

The session helped young people to understand that VAWG is Any act, behavior that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, emotional, economic sexual or mental harm, or suffering to women

Ending violence against women needs to focus on behavioral, social and structural changes because HIV may lead to violence and violence may also lead to HIV infection

### **FACTS**

- 1 in 3 women have experienced violence,
- Teenage pregnancy prevalent at 25%
- Child marriages stand at 40%

### **ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN EVAWG**

- Continued targeted advocacy to duty bearers
- Challenging negative social norms and patriarchal beliefs
- Awareness raising on the dangers of VAWG
- Building the capacity of AGYW to identify and report cases of VAWG
- Peer to peer support for survivors of GBV
- Provision of economic opportunities to AGYW
- Challenge HIV related stigma and discrimination

## RECOMMENDATIONS;

- Continue advocacy for the implementation of policies and frameworks
- Implementing partners need to support young people to understand the concepts of gender equality relishing on the benefits of a gender equal society
- Leverage on the different communication channels to raise awareness on the negative outcomes of gender inequalities
- Social media is a game changing tool that young people
- There is need to be mindful of the language we use as we address gender issues, it is safe to use plural language such as “we” and “us” which more inclusive



There is need for continuous awareness raising to women about HIV prevention, care and support, SRHR; such approaches need to empower women with the effective responses to their challenges.

**DAY 1**

## BREAKAWAY SESSIONS

### Session 1: Male involvement in ending VAWG, Hassan Sekajoolo, MEN ENGAGE

*Objective; To discuss the importance of working with men and boys in ending violence against women and girls*

The discussion noted that;

- Uganda has diverse cultures, customs and taboos that define men's status and expectations in different ways; some of the culturally acceptable behaviour of manhood promote violence
- As major perpetrators men need to be the target audience for primary prevention because they are the holders of the social norms, influencers of fellow men in order to free them harmful and limiting aspects of masculinities.
- Men too are often victims of SGBV although they rarely report the cases for fear of being seen as weak

*Key take home message; Working with men and boys can have a positive, transformative impact for the lives of women and girls*

### Session 2: Women empowerment, Rita Aciro, Executive Director, UWONET

*Objective;*

The Uganda government developed the National Plan on women (2008) which highlighted the

Women empowerment seeks to stimulate the confidence in women by providing to them everything that in their capacity to harness their potential to address all the challenges around them.

#### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Women have the information and skills to make informed life choices esp. in regards to their reproductive health
  - Reduces gender inequalities and SGBV
  - Reduce heavy dependence by women on partners and the government
- Women can be empowered through information sharing, educating them, building skills, economic opportunities

### **Session 3: SGBV and the Ugandan law, Immaculate Owomugisha, UGANET**

*Objective; To discuss the existing national laws that protect women and girls from SGBV*

- The Uganda government addresses SGBV through the Penal Code Act (2007) and the Gender Policy
- the policy on Elimination of Gender based Violence and the Domestic Violence Act 2010 and its 2011 regulations is committed to addressing gender-based violence
- The national male involvement strategy for the prevention and response to GBV in Uganda which spells out the role of men as agents of women's rights
- The prohibition of female genital mutilation Act 2010

These laws are however, there are challenges in addressing SGBV due to;

- Lack of awareness of the procedures for support at the local community level
- Corruption and fraud by the law enforcement agencies

### **Session 4: Role of religion in ending violence against women & girls, Rev Canon Gideon Byaruhanga**

*Objective; To discuss how religious leaders can work with young people to end VAWG*

- Faith based organizations, entities and institutions play a big role in education and health within the Ugandan context
- Religion plays a key role in influencing people's life choices even in regards to their SRHR
- Some people hide behind the notion of religion to impose violence against women and girls
- The inter religious council has a big role to play in this; as the leaders of the religious sects in Uganda, it is upon them to encourage leaders to condemn violence against women while also challenging the negative patriarchal norms that are rooted in VAWG.

**Key take home message; Religious leaders MUST speak out against VAWG with members of their congregation, initiate and facilitate dialogue on intimate partner violence while also providing counselling to the survivors of violence.**

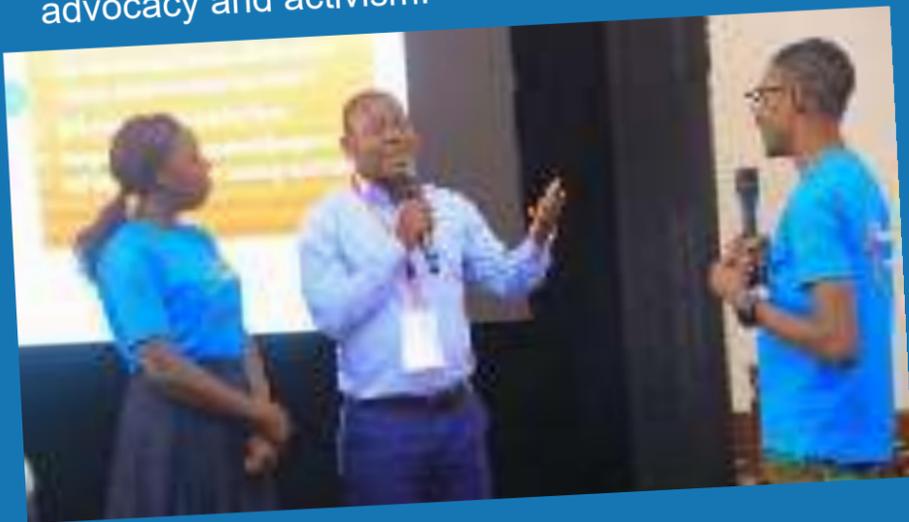


# YOUTH CHAMPIONS IN ADVOCACY

The theme aimed at sharpening and equipping young people with lobbying and advocacy skills on current HIV and SRHR issues that need to be addressed at local, national and international levels. The sessions will look at skills building for YPLHIV to take advantage of spaces at different levels

## Session 1: Understanding Youth led Advocacy National Coordinator, SRHR Alliance Uganda

This session focused on breaking down the concept of youth led advocacy, whilst creating clarity on the thin line between social mobilization, advocacy and activism.



### KEY TO NOTE;

- Advocacy is a strategy to influence change in social and legal policies
- Advocacy is neither about insulting nor baseless allegations against people.
- In order to see results, there has to be joint effort of activism, social mobilization and lobbying
- Every advocate needs to anticipate opposition; is simply the group of people who have beliefs contrary to your own.
- Be strategic in identifying your advocacy space and targeting policy makers as advocacy is centered on both the messenger and the message as well as timelines
- Youth adult partnerships are key for advocacy to work; young people need to be supported and mentored by adults in their work
- Conduct a lot of research and keep up to date with trends on your advocacy issues

*'Advocacy is driven by passion or own personal experience such that there is a sense of ownership of the cause being fought for, advocates must have a proper understanding of their contexts and their key asks at the fingertips'- Charles Owekmeno,*

## Session 2; Media as a tool for SRHR- HIV advocacy Batambuze Ibrahim, Communications, RAHU

Uganda has a diverse media sector; nearly 300 licensed radio stations, 33 free to air televisions and countless social media platforms that can be accessed all over the country making media one of the most effective ways to conduct advocacy

Media advocacy is the leveraging on the various media platforms to advance an organization's advocacy agenda

### Objectives of session;

1. To strengthen participants' media engagement skills
2. To position ambassadors as capable leaders and advocates.

### THINGS TO NEVER FORGET!!

- Media can bring success or failure hence thus caution is the rule of thumb
- You must have a communication strategy
- Understand your audience and their preferred channel of communication
- Always research your topic before engaging on media
- Relate with your audience; share similar experiences, advice



Always maintain the 80- 20 rule which states that 80% of the outcomes come from 20% of the input hence the need to prioritize the 20% of the factors that will produce the best results.

**Session 1; Policy Advocacy,  
Richard Lusimbo, Sexual Minorities  
Uganda**

Objective; To equip young people with the knowledge and skills to influence policies through advocacy



**SUCCESSES SO FAR?**

- Review of existing policies such as the SRHR service guidelines
- Adolescent girls and young women have a representative in the GF country delegation
- Youth representatives for the Uganda CCM under the Global fund
- Development of the national sexuality education framework

**TAKE- HOME;**

- Policy advocacy gives young people the knowledge on how to hold their governments accountable
- They are in a position to keep a watch dog eye on the stakeholders to ensure they deliver on their mandate and the commitments they make.
- Young people need to look out for the appropriate tools to drive policy advocacy within their constituencies

**Session 2; Role of young people in HIV prevention**

**Hillary Nuwamanya- Mr. Yplus 2018/19,  
Gloria Nawanyaga- Miss Yplus 2017/18**

Over 10 years into the national AIDS response, the lesson learned remains the same, we can ignore the most affected population if we are to achieve the objectives of 90- 90- 90 strategy.

**WHAT IS OUR ROLE?**

1. Continue educating young people on proper condom use and advising young people to use condoms consistently not only protect themselves from HIV/ AIDS and other STIs, but also avoid unplanned pregnancies
2. Continue media advocacy and social mobilization for people to get tested regularly and know their status.
3. Formation of advocacy groups to create awareness of the epidemic and fight stigma of YPLHIV
4. Practice faithfulness in relationships
5. Avoiding risky sexual behavior like having multiple partners, drug and alcohol abuse, unprotected sex,
6. Encouraging behavioral change therapy for young people to identify and help change potentially self-destructive or unhealthy behaviors that can put them at risk of acquiring the virus
7. Encouraging YPLHIV to adhere to their medication in order to keep the viral load low and avoid the virus from advancing to AIDS. This should be supplemented by good feeding (balanced diet) and avoiding risky behavior like to mention but a few.
8. Counselling and guidance for peers who struggle with peer pressure into risky behaviour
9. Encouraging peers to go for safe male circumcision
10. Sharing information about the existence of PEP and PREP

*“As ambassadors, it is our role to hold the government accountable for provision of condoms within health facilities such that our fellow peers can protect themselves from HIV”- 18-year-old, female participant*

*“HIV prevention starts with me because it may end with my child if I am not careful with my life!”- 23 yrs. old, male participant*

### Session 3; Role of young people in Advocacy, Babirye Robinah- Miss Yplus 2015/16, Nyanzi Huzairu- Mr. Yplus 2017/2018

The emphasis of this session was to empower young people through their own actions, implement and improve targeted advocacy initiatives.



#### TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

- Continuous review of one's advocacy plan; is it working, do I need to hinge something? Is my plan efficient? Does it address my policy maker?
- Flexibility in one's plans, be fluid to change and adapt depending on your environment, your results and assessment of whether you are achieving your goal.
- Own the issue; have the passion for it, this is usually based on an experience personal or otherwise that one feels the need to change status quo
- Peer to peer mentorship of other advocates to support your fight as there is power in numbers
- Prepare you
- Be a part of the processes pertaining to your issues, sometimes they are tedious but they go a long way in making the case
- Practice your 5-minute pitch often; if you had 5 minutes to speak to your change maker, what would you say?
- Leverage on other implementing partners, development partners in your advocacy initiatives

*'As an advocate, your key asks have to always be on the tip of your tongue because you never know when or where the opportunity to influence policy makers may be'- Sharifah Nalugo*

### Session 4; Disability Advocacy, Melanie Mataaga,

Disability advocacy is acting, speaking or writing to promote, protect and defend the human rights of people with disabilities.

#### WHY WE NEED DISABILITY ADVOCACY?

Throughout history, PWDs have been hidden away, subjected to abuse, ignorance and prejudice

- To shift radical thinking for the realization of rights of PWDs
- To ensure safety and security of PWDs
- To ensure that PWDs are economically sound and have equal opportunities
- To ensure proper health of PWDs

#### WHAT DISABILITY ADVOCATES DO!!

- Provide information to PWD about their rights
- Identify and report instances of discrimination against PWDs
- Assisting PWDs to speak up for their rights,
- Raising awareness on the challenges PWD face when accessing basic health services
- Advocating and lobbying to governments to implement policies that protect PWDs

#### SKILLS REQUIRED OF A DISABILITY ADVOCATE!

- Ability to communicate with and support people with a range of disability
- Understanding laws that protect PWDs
- Applying a human rights-based approach to advocacy
- Negotiation skills
- Sign language and other forms of communication used by PWDs

#### WHAT DISABILITY ADVOCACY ISNT!!

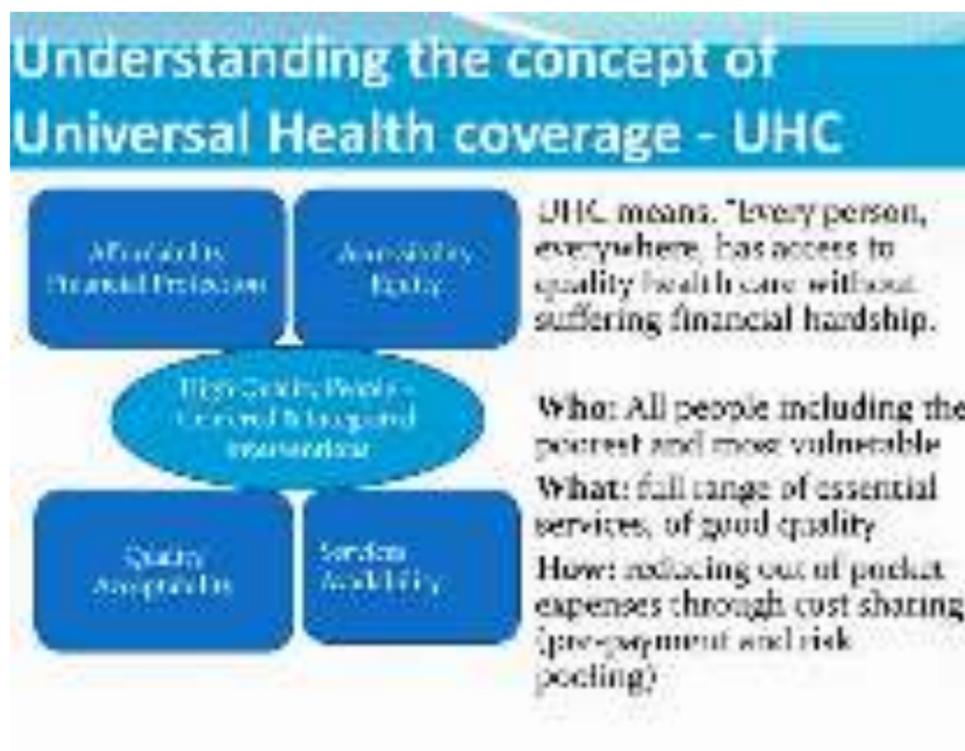
- Making decisions on behalf of another person
- Providing counselling to PWDs

I KEPT  
WONDERING: WHY  
DOESNT  
SOMEBODY DO  
SOMETHING?

THEN I  
REALIZED  
I WAS  
SOMEBODY

## PROGRESS MADE IN REGARDS TO UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE FOR ADOLESCENTS IN UGANDA

The main focus of the session was to emphasize that progress toward Universal Health Coverage requires adolescent-responsive health systems. Today, universal health coverage (UHC) provides an opportunity for renewed attention to meeting the health-care needs of adolescents through the strengthening of health system



### WHAT WE KNOW!

- In Uganda adolescents account for more than half of the population (56%) below 19 years; most are healthy, but there is still substantial premature death, illness/diseases, and injury among adolescents.
- **Over 90% of adolescents and young people cannot afford basic health care; they rely on guardians and caretakers**
- 1 in 4 Ugandan girls age 15-19 are already mothers or pregnant with their first child.
- **According to Uganda's RMNCAH sharpened plan almost 28% of maternal deaths in Uganda occur in young women aged 15 – 24 years**

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

1. All health professionals should participate in pre-service training for knowledge of adolescent health and development and their implications for clinical practice.
2. To advance universal coverage, consider pooled prepaid sources of funds to include priority services for all adolescents in their diversity.
3. Scaling up of appropriate and effective interventions for improving adolescent health, and that policy-makers, health-care providers, adolescents and their parents know about these health services.
4. Government needs to finance UHC for adolescents; invest in the national health insurance scheme to cover a wider range of services such that adolescents are able to access and utilize basic health care services as well as reducing/ removing out of pocket charges for services at health facilities.

# YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT PEER SUPPORT (YAPS MODEL)

Session was led by **Teddy Chimulwa- Programme officer, Adolescent HIV care and treatment- Ministry of Health and Dr. Jackie- UNICEF**

The YAPS model is an intervention as an initiative that was derived from the CATS model from Zimbabwe rolled out by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health for young people living with HIV to support peers with adherence to ART medication and the pressures of HIV related stigma and discrimination, Its goal is to contribute to the reduction of HIV related morbidity and mortality among adolescents and YPLHIV by 50% by 2023



## STATUS UPDATE;

- YAPS are YPLHIV aged 18-22 years, in and out of school who are able to read and write and should have completed P.7. they should be able to express themselves with a stable mental status who support the program
- The YAPS model has been piloted so far in health facilities in over 10 districts in Uganda. Introduced the YAPS
- The YAPS model has had a 50% success rate because of the intensive adaptation process that consulted stakeholders including young people; 3636 health education sessions have so far been conducted by the YAPS
- The activities of the YAPS include school and community outreaches, identify peers at community level, provide pre-test counseling, information giving, sensitization,
- The initiative works with a number of stakeholders including the JLOS, Districts, Schools, and sub counties

For YPLHIV to benefit from the YAPS model, there is need to leverage on all available communication channels to popularize their work and encourage peers to work with them.

# VALIDATION OF THE UNYPA STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

## UNYPA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, 2020- 2025

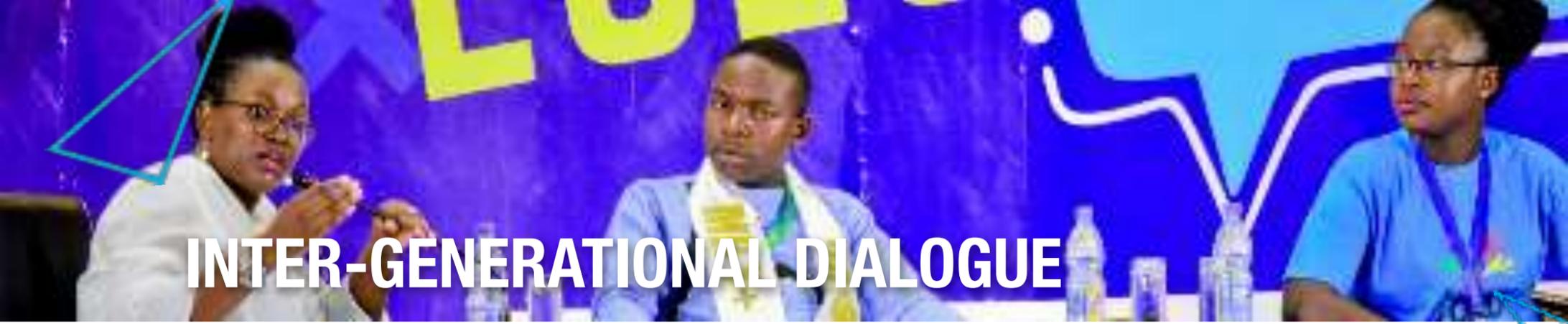
1. To strengthen social mobilization and movement building of young living with HIV networks to own and lead the HIV response by 2025
2. To strengthen advocacy for inclusive participation of young people living with HIV in policy, legal and program development to insure that their unique needs are met by 2025
3. To revitalize resilience mechanisms and resource mobilization for UNYPA and her constituencies for enhanced and sustainable contribution to the HIV&AIDS, SRHR, TB , GBV, Mental health and malaria response by 2025
4. To Fortify the institutional governance, leadership and programming capacity of UNYPA to deliver this strategic plan by 2025

UNYPA is in the process of developing her new strategic plan for the next 5 years, the draft was shared with young people in the Summit for validation in order to ensure that it speaks to their needs, addresses their challenges and recognizes their contribution in realization of its objectives

### **Comments from the young people;**

- The SP is broader given that it speaks to issues of SGBV, mental health, malaria and TB
- UNYPA needs to start designing programs for young people with disabilities and their special needs





## INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

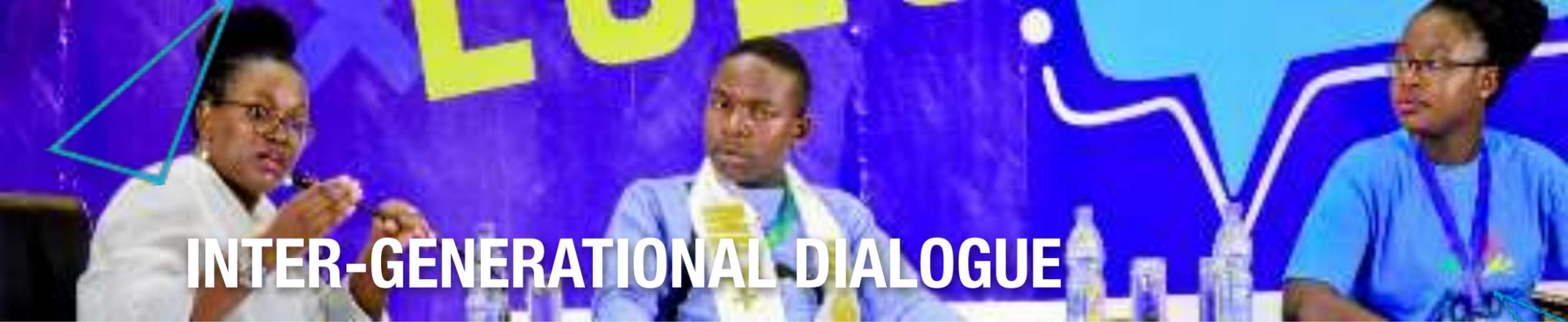
The dialogue leaved on the importance of transformational leadership in youth movement building. The conversation was moderated by Elizabeth Mushabe- UN Women and the panel comprised of Robinah Babirye- Miss YPlus 2015, Micheal Ssenyonga- reigning Mr. Yplus and Melanie Mataaga- National Youth representative for persons living with Albinism; they dialogued on the different work that the young people have been able to do and the impact it has on the communities from which they come, the objectives of the dialogue were;

- **Understanding transformational youth leadership,**
- **Sharing experiences on transformational leadership**
- **Role of ambassadors in building district-based youth networks for YPLHIV**



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DISCUSSION;

- Transformational leadership is having the ability to influence, convince, model and serve a group of people with an aim on improving their social wellbeing,
- Many young people shared their experiences on the advocacy initiatives they are a part of in the different districts; many of the peers resonated with the aspect of transformational leadership
- There is need to continue capacitating the ambassadors and peers with communication skills to be in position to engage different stakeholders as they build the youth movement at the district level.
- Implementing partners need to invest in documenting successes of the district youth networks as these best practices guide adolescent HIV programming



# INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

## KEY MESSAGES FROM SESSION

- Transformational leadership is rooted in an individual's passion, ability to learn from others and the desire to create impact in the community
- Transformational leaders need to practice peer to peer mentorship and coaching for fellow peers to strengthen and encourage effective transitional youth leadership
- Many of the districts in Uganda have a network of PLHIV and ambassadors need to ensure that they are part of these networks and strengthen the youth chapter in every district.
- Youth adult partnerships are key in building successful youth movements; youth leaders need constant guidance and counselling from adults
- Transformational leaders need to practice effective communication as they raise awareness and advocacy

*"Young people can be the change in the community, support them to believe in themselves and their abilities, they are transformation this country needs but there has to be a network of support with different young people in all their diversity including those persons with disabilities living with HIV". - Melanie Mataaga, YPlus Summit 2020*



# ORAL ABSTRACT PRESENTATIONS



Samanya Ibrahim(L)-Iganga, Peter Mweru(R)- Mbale

**Title of abstract;** “Impact of district youth movements in the HIV response”

**About;** Young people living with HIV within the districts of Iganga and Mbale shared that they have managed to mobilized themselves and formalized the Iganga network of young people living with HIV/AIDS (INYPA) and the Mbale network of young people living with HIV/AIDS (MNYPA) to carry out activities challenging HIV related stigma and discrimination within communities and schools in their districts. The power of the networks lies in strategic partnerships with peers, local district leaders and likeminded implementing partners.



Micheal Ssenyonga, Mr.Yplus 2019/2020

**Title of abstract;** ‘The role of young men in ensuring gender equality’

**About;** Recognizing that majority of violence cases are usually towards women and girls, acknowledging that many of them are committed by men, the abstract sought to throw more light on the roles young men can play in ensuring gender equality including becoming change agents for women’s rights, talking to fellow boys about the benefits of positive masculinity and the far- reaching challenges of gender inequalities towards the overall development of the country.



Ruth Akulu, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up Miss YPlus 2019/2020

**Title of abstract;** “The contribution of written and spoken poetry in ending HIV/AIDS discrimination and stigma’

**About;** The scope of communication has changed and consequently, so have the mediums of communication; young people in their diversity need to be reached with information in their comfort hence using written and poetry word poetry to raise awareness on HIV prevention, care and support for YPLHIV while also challenging the stigma and discrimination geared towards people living with HIV/AIDS



Kabasambo Esther, Miss Yplus 2019/2020

**Title of abstract;** “The power of peer support’

**About;** Young people living with HIV/AIDS struggle with a lot of issues ranging from failure to adhere to their medication to HIV related stigma and discrimination, having a person to talk with whom a young person resonates goes a long way in ensuring their proper mental health and gradually improved and healthy life. Ambassadors play a key role as peer supporters in ensuring that fellow peers have access to the services and information, they need for a quality life.

# GUEST SPEAKERS

Congratulated UNYPA on a job well done in terms of mobilizing young people, building their capacities, giving them an authentic voice and the platforms to hold duty bearers accountable for implementation of policies that guarantee a healthy and positive life.

The US Embassy and PEPFAR continue to support the national HIV/ AIDS response in Uganda with over 2billion US dollars annually

She emphasized the need for youth focused programming to factor in issues of mental health for YPLHIV as many young people struggle with stress, anxiety which even drives some people to extremes behaviour including suicide. It is therefore imperative for programming to devise ways for adolescent and young people to deal with mental health challenges

*"It is important for young people to have networks that support them to live a healthy life, the US Embassy through PEPFAR is committed to mobilize funds that support YPLHIV to reinforce their abilities in the HIV response"- Amy*

**MS, Amy Cummingham,**  
PEPFAR, US Embassy



Mr. Mondo continues to take pride in the work of UNYPA and its ambassadors, he accentuated the need to work together in order to change the narrative because the government has its roles and so do other players in the public- private sector. He emphasized that the government continues to design policy frameworks that aim at creation of a conducive environment for young people living with HIV/AIDS

He encouraged young people to continue frontline issues related to SRHR of fellow peers to the relevant stakeholders as it is efforts like these can put duty bearers on pressure to provide the necessary information and services to make informed life choices. He called upon UNYPA to integrate aspects of economic empowerment into its programs in order to support young people to be financially literate.

*"The Ministry of Gender has fully embraced the Y+ Beauty pageant as a way of fighting stigma which is now an annual event and therefore looking forward to strengthening their ties with UNYPA to make the required difference"*

**Mr. Mondo Kyateeka,**  
Commissioner, Youth and Children,  
Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social  
Development





**KEY NOTE ADDRESS**  
**DR. PROF. MAGGIE KIGOZI**

*Young people eventually end up in business, whether by plan or by circumstance, we need to prepare them especially the girls to be economically independent”*

The key note address was centered on the role of youth leadership in ending HIV 2030. Dr. Maggie congratulated UNYPA for the excellent work it does in the fight against HIV/AIDS; training communities in health and human rights; addressing stigma and discrimination that affect young people, working to ensure prevention, care and treatment for girls and boys, young men and women; and coordinating advocacy efforts targeting youth.

As the Chairperson of the Country Coordination Mechanism for the Global Fund in Uganda, she expressed her pride at the good work UNYPA is doing in ensuring that young people are at the frontline of ending the HIV scourge, she appreciated PEPFAR for the continued support towards the national HIV response in Uganda given the government is still struggling with domestic resource mobilization,

Leadership is a trait present in all the advocates but what makes them different leaders is the ability to resonate with their communities and ensure that they address their problem; stigma and discrimination still reign extreme among YPLHIV even with the all advancements in medication for positive living, hence young people need to wear their confidence on their sleeves and keep challenging the unrealistic myths and misconceptions around HIV/AIDS

many young people find themselves disadvantaged because of their economic circumstances, they are unable to afford basic needs which sometimes drives them into risky behaviour; As a leading female entrepreneur in the country, she shared that business is part of every industry in the economy and thus young people need to be have the financial literacy and education to survive in their different environments,

Girls especially need to be fierce, ready to challenge the stereotype that business is a male centered field, educate themselves and think of income generating activities that start small and later flourish extensively.

## ABRUPT OUTBREAK OF THE COVID-19



Unfortunately, due to the COVID- 19 outbreak in Uganda, there was a ban on all mass gathering and public events and as thus the summit had to come to an abrupt end in order to comply with the government directive and keep the young people safe as well.

Day 3 of the Yplus summit was thus cancelled and the conversation deferred to our social media networks under the hashtag #ChangingTheNarrative #YPlusSummit20

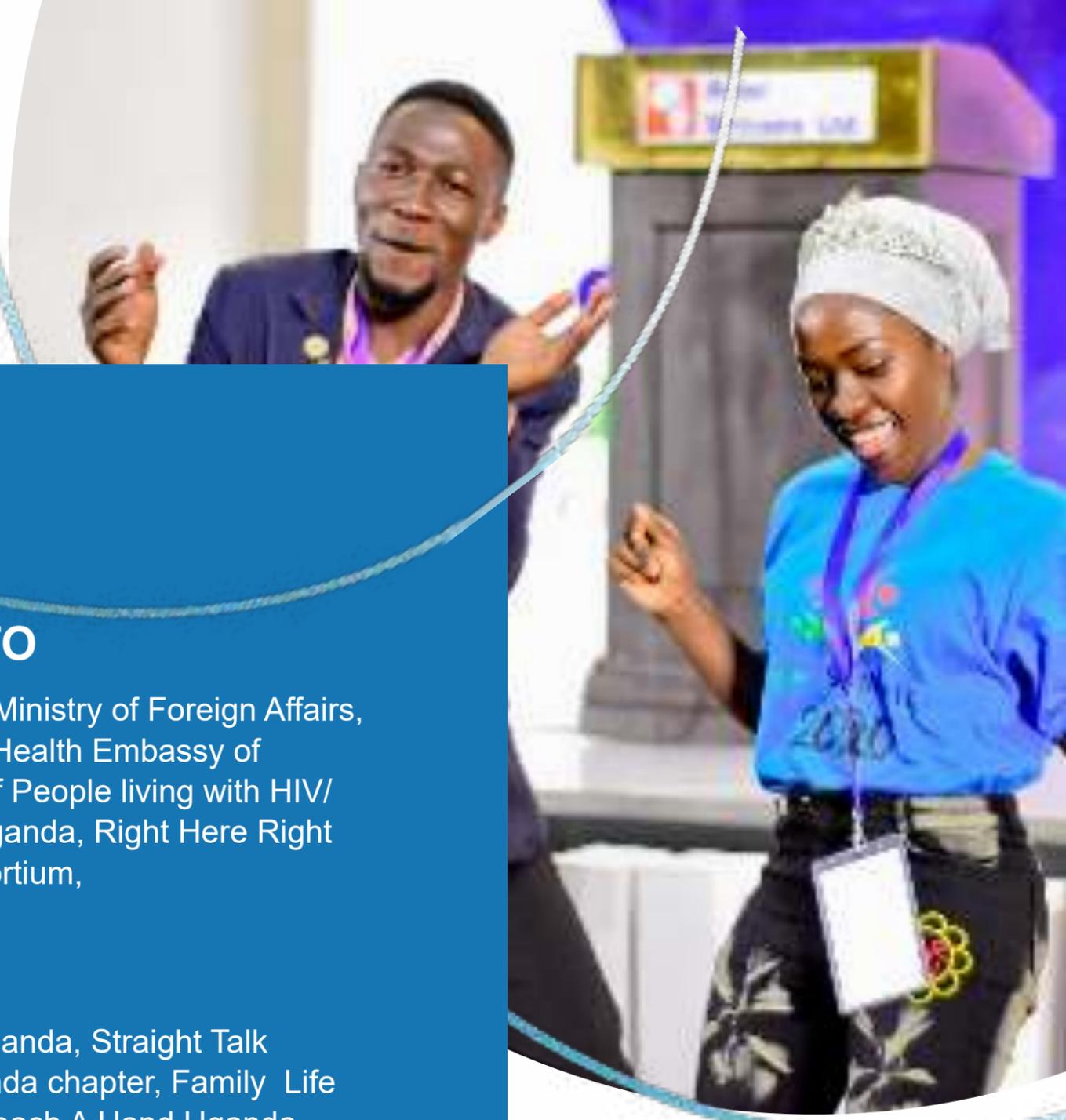
## 2020 YPLUS SUMMIT KEY ASKS & FOLLOW UP ACTONS

- There is need for the **Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic development**, Ministry of Health and Uganda AIDS Commission to expedite the operationalization and roll out of the AIDS Trust Fund
- The **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.
- The **Ministry of Education and Sports** to integrate sexuality education in the National Education Curriculum for young people in primary and secondary schools.
- There is need to widen programming to deliberately include young people who belong to marginalized communities including among others, young people with disabilities, young key populations, young people in refugee settlements, young women and girls in rural areas, imprisoned young people, and migrant youth;
- There is need for the **Uganda AIDS Commission** to approve and operationalize the Anti-Stigma policy.
- There is need to strength district-based youth movements for young people living with and affected with HIV; to support the mobilization of fellow peers, support health facilities with ensuring adherence for peers as well as to influence decisions at the sub county, parish and district level which 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.
- There is need for continuous strengthening of the abilities of young people to get their voices heard, engage decision makers and other key stakeholders as well as hold the Uganda government accountable for their mandate to implement policies and frameworks that create a supportive environment for YPLHIV and enable them to lead productive, positive and healthy lives.
- There is need for the Y+ ambassadors, young champions, Peer buddies, paralegals, young people in general in our capacities to continue raising awareness and challenging the negative myths and misconceptions in the communities to ensure zero stigma and discrimination.

*“UNYPA is committed to ensuring that the voices of young people are not only heard but also listened to and the necessary action is taken, we shall hence work with the different ambassadors, development partners, line ministries and all young people to ensure realization of these asks, we shall organize the relevant platforms and lobby for the spaces where young people can advocate for their rights and guide duty bearers to design interventions that respond to the needs and requirements of young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS”- Nicholas Niwagaba, ED, UNYPA, closing remarks, 2020 Yplus summit, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.*

## 2020 YPLUS SUMMIT COMMUNICATION REACH

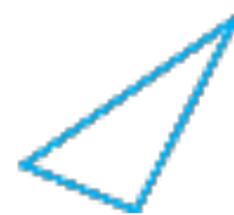
<b>RADIO FEATURES</b>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=ly3J4mfv3tDAMITsIFlbeAB4_2pg4x84y">https://drive.google.com/open?id=ly3J4mfv3tDAMITsIFlbeAB4_2pg4x84y</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=l3ycJmMLrS7Fo5VE_ETz9fkV6EzDxw_cf">https://drive.google.com/open?id=l3ycJmMLrS7Fo5VE_ETz9fkV6EzDxw_cf</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=l-Tn8ggv7574mgEwZiwhRzgKjGAGjVG_g">https://drive.google.com/open?id=l-Tn8ggv7574mgEwZiwhRzgKjGAGjVG_g</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=lmiSeVyEOcCfebrFNWKLm9dSGHaEons58">https://drive.google.com/open?id=lmiSeVyEOcCfebrFNWKLm9dSGHaEons58</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=l_3Og2ITtnVMPoIEoiMIr0ZydzbejFD9N">https://drive.google.com/open?id=l_3Og2ITtnVMPoIEoiMIr0ZydzbejFD9N</a>
<b>TELEVISION</b>	
<b>BLOGS</b>	<a href="https://unypa.org/generation-equality-in-motion-y-summit-day-1-summary/">https://unypa.org/generation-equality-in-motion-y-summit-day-1-summary/</a> - day 1 blog <a href="https://unypa.org/championing-advocacy-to-the-very-end-y-summit-day-2-summit/">https://unypa.org/championing-advocacy-to-the-very-end-y-summit-day-2-summit/</a> - day 2 blog <a href="https://mobile.howwebiz.ug/news/national/26067/the-summit-2020-kicks-off-at-hotel-africana">https://mobile.howwebiz.ug/news/national/26067/the-summit-2020-kicks-off-at-hotel-africana</a> - Howwe Biz <a href="https://bigeye.ug/unypa-shifts-focus-to-hiv-prevention-among-young-people/">https://bigeye.ug/unypa-shifts-focus-to-hiv-prevention-among-young-people/</a> - BigEye online newspapers <a href="https://campuscam.ug/the-3-day-y-summit-2020-kicks-off-at-hotel-africana/">https://campuscam.ug/the-3-day-y-summit-2020-kicks-off-at-hotel-africana/</a> - Campus bee online newspapers
<b>VIDEOS</b>	<a href="https://youtu.be/l_er_p0_zPa4-">https://youtu.be/l_er_p0_zPa4-</a> final Y+ Summit video <a href="https://web.facebook.com/unypa/videos/2889017457884433/">https://web.facebook.com/unypa/videos/2889017457884433/</a> - Entrepreneurship, Dr Maggie <a href="https://web.facebook.com/unypa/videos/258891981810457/">https://web.facebook.com/unypa/videos/258891981810457/</a> - Nondiscrimination, Mr. Mondo <a href="https://web.facebook.com/unypa/videos/2863252757077294/">https://web.facebook.com/unypa/videos/2863252757077294/</a> - Canon Gideon <a href="https://web.facebook.com/unypa/videos/218603342576246/">https://web.facebook.com/unypa/videos/218603342576246/</a> - Amy Cuminghum
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA , #ChangingTheNarrative #YPlusSummit20</b>	
<b>REACH</b>	Reached over 2,000,000 people all over the world
<b>MENTIONS</b>	1,500,000
<b>TWITTER</b>	Over 3,000,000 engagements
<b>INSTAGRAM</b>	400 likes and comments



## SPECIAL THANKS TO

UNAIDS, AIDSFONDS, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Health Embassy of Netherlands, Global Network of People living with HIV/AIDS, PATA, SRHR Alliance Uganda, Right Here Right Now consortium, PITCH Consortium,

PEPFAR, Sexual Minorities' Uganda, Straight Talk Foundation, Men Engage Uganda chapter, Family Life Education Program (FLEP), Reach A Hand Uganda , Public Health Ambassadors Uganda, National Forum of PLHIV Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU), Uganda Albino Association, National Union of People with Disabilities in Uganda (NUDIPU), UGANET, Uganda Women's' Network, Restless Development, International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA), Alliance for Advocacy for Change (AWAC), UN Women, UNICEF, St. Francis Health Care Services, Baylor Medical Services, Mildmay, Uganda Cares, AHF, UYAFH, *Global Fund Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM), Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social development, Baylor, Alive Medical services, Reproductive Health Uganda, Reach out Mbuya, Nsambya Home Hospital, Youth and Women Empowerment (YAWE) Foundation, Kitebi Health Centre III, Komamboga Health Centre IV, Kikuube Health Centre III, Hoima Regional Referral Hospital, Kawala Health Centre III, Kibaale Health Centre IV, Mbale network of young people living with HIV/AIDS (MNYPA), Iganga network of young people living with HIV/AIDS (INYPA), Yplus band, Bataabazi cultural group*



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