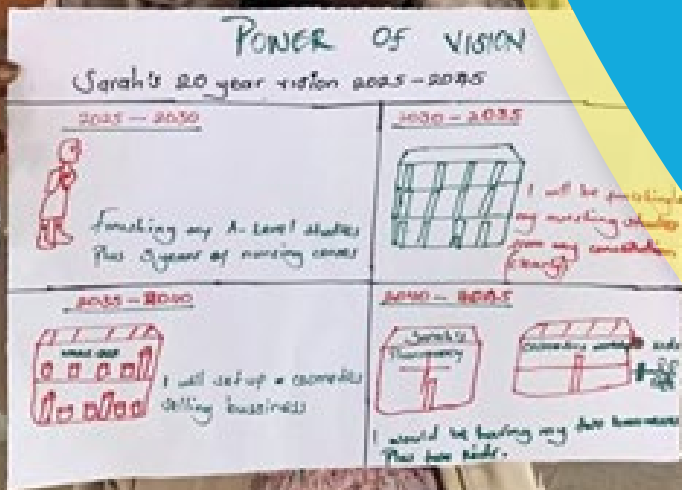




Youth Alive Uganda



Annual Report

2025

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Youth Alive Uganda Prayer

Oh God our creator, thank you for the gift of my life and health and strength.

I ask you to help me, make responsible choices every day of my life.

Give me the courage to resist temptations and trials of this world (this world).

To avoid risky choices that will endanger my life and that of the others.

Oh God help the youth of this country to love and support each other

In promoting good behavior, stable family lives according to your will (to your will) *2 Amen *3

List of Acronyms

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
CAGDOTs	Caregiver Directly Observed Treatment
CaMP-UG	Children and Youth Mentorship Program -Uganda (CaMP-UG)
CLHIV	Children Living with HIV
DLG	District Local Government
EFL	Education for Life
GANC	Group Antenatal Care
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
IGA	Income Generating Activities
LPHS EC	Local Partner Health Services in East Central Uganda
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOPP	National Oil Palm Project
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
OVCNWA	Orphans and Vulnerable Children Northwest Activity
SECAT	Scaling Up Enrollment of Children and Adolescent Girls in Treatment and Care
UHA	USAID/Uganda Health Activity
UHA	USAID/Urban Health Activity
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSLA	Village Saving and Loans Association
YAU	Youth Alive Uganda

Who are we

Youth Alive Uganda (YAU) was founded in early 1990 by Rev. Sr. Dr. Miriam Duggan who was moved by the large number of young people dying of HIV/AIDS and got inspired to start a peer support group in response to the pandemic. The motivation was to support and inspire young people to realize their life purpose and live to fulfil their dreams.

Youth Alive Uganda was officially registered with the Uganda National NGO Board in 1993 as a national NGO under Reg No. S.5914/1263.



Our Vision

Youth Alive envisions **“Youth living life to the full.”** Our yearning is to enable young people to initiate change and sustain behavior that promotes a healthy state of mind, body, spirit and environment.



Our Mission

Holistically empower youth 9 -30 years to be resilient and live fulfilling lives



Our Core Values

Respect for life: Restore hope to the hopeless young people.

Exemplary lifestyles: Based on responsibility, honesty, and reverence for God and respect for life.

Accountability: At all times to ourselves (and each other), our beneficiaries and stakeholders

Continuous learning: Learn new skills, acquire knowledge, improve performance, and practice innovation.

Communication from The Executive Director



Dear Friends and Partners,

I welcome you to our 2025 report.

As you could be aware, 2025 was a challenging and transformative year for Youth Alive Uganda and several other development institutions. Throughout the year, our mission to *“Holistically empower youth 9-30 years to be resilient and live fulfilling lives”* remained at the heart of everything we did.

YAU reached 20,983 children and youth with integrated health services. These were supported to make informed choices, build resilience, and lead purposeful and fulfilling lives.

Despite ongoing global and local challenges, notably the United States Stop Work Order that affected three of our programs, YAU continued to reach and impact thousands of children and youth. Youth Alive Uganda demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to our mission. We were able to change strategy to prioritize the most essential services, safeguard previous gains, and maintain meaningful engagement with young people through our team of dedicated staff and volunteers. You will read about YAU achievements and progress made towards our key result areas: **1) Dignified and gainful employment opportunities for out-of-school youth; 2) Increased access to and utilization of government services; 3) A recognized center of excellence in holistic youth empowerment, and 4) Improved Sexual and reproductive health of youth.**

During the year, YAU embarked on developing another strategic plan for the period 2026–2030. This strategic plan is built on the achievements and lessons from the 2021–2025 strategic period. We thank all the key stakeholders and participants who were consulted and made insightful contributions. YAU programs and interventions were aligned with the current national development

policies and legal frameworks. YAU remains committed to addressing critical development challenges, including high youth unemployment, gaps in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), persistent adolescent HIV prevalence, limited participation in governance, and increasing climate and environmental vulnerabilities.

I extend my deep thoughts to the Board, Senior Management, and field implementation teams for their dedication and hard work towards achieving results and ensuring value for money. To our collaborators and partners, thank you for your continued trust, especially during a year marked by uncertainty. To YAU staff and volunteers, your resilience and dedication were extraordinary.

As we look ahead, YAU remains committed to working with and for youth. Together we will shape a Uganda where ***“Youth live life to the fullest.”***

I hope that you enjoy reading our 2025 report

Sincerely,

James Byarugaba

Executive Director

2025 achievements at a glance

20,264 clients supported on ART
Differentiated Service Delivery models.

20,983 children and youth reached
with integrated health services.

55,091 OVCs and household
members received integrated wrap
services

20 youth friendly centers strengthened
at facility level.

20 youth friendly centers strengthened
at facility level.

15,281 IEC materials on HIV and
Nutrition services disseminated.

2,699 adolescent girls supported to
establish kitchen gardens.

2,190 children and youth reached with
YAU Behavior Change Program.

9 primary and 6 secondary schools
mapped for Behavior Change Program
Activities.

45 SHG with a membership of 1083
(502F and 581 M)

3 new awards secured , contributing to
funding predictability and continuity of
core programs.

Strengthened **3** Sector coordination
platforms, contributing evidence and
lessons on youth livelihoods, OVC, and
community-based child protection.

Key results and progress

Despite the ongoing global and local challenges, Youth Alive Uganda programs continued to reach and impact thousands of children and young people in over 45 administrative units in Uganda. YAU implemented innovative high impact initiatives for community engagement in education, skills development, and livelihood support. The outcome and **impact of** these interventions can be presented below **according to** our key result areas;

Dignified and gainful youth employment

In order to increase the number of youths attaining dignified and gainful formal and informal employment, YAU implemented several intervention and activities including;

Key achievements



2,699 adolescent girls supported to establish kitchen gardens, for nutrition and livelihood support. These helped to improve access to low-cost food and income through the sale of surplus. One of the beneficiaries confessed that.... ***“I have never bought any vegetables from the market since I started my kitchen garden. I also sell the excess to get money for my expenses and some savings.”***



67 ToTs (PEs and LFs) trained in facilitation skills, this enabled us to form and support **45** Self Help Groups in Buvuma Hub (25) , Mayuge Hub (20) and Kalanga Hub (22). The formation of SHGs is the bedrock upon which other project activities such as training like Education For Life (EFL), Business Planning, Enterprise Development, Sexual Reproductive Health, Soft Skills, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and Financial Literacy are provided to the group members. The EFL trainings aimed at building a holistic suite of interpersonal and life skills for group members, laying a foundation for making healthy choices and building technical and enterprising skills.



41 PLHIV groups supported to start up economic enterprises, these included ,rice growing, egg-plant farming, poultry, goat racing, bricklaying, tomatoes, and cabbage growing to improve on their nutrition. These enterprises are seen as opportunity to better the lives of the group members if properly managed. Muyenga Farmers' Association in Bugiri district hired 10 acres of land and are currently growing maize and ground nuts.

Youth access to local government services



Youth Alive Uganda implemented mixed interventions to increase access to youth friendly with the support of the different DLG technical and political teams. This support resulted in;

20 youth friendly centers functionalized in Kalangala, Mayuge, Namayingo, Bugiri and Buvuma districts under the NOPP activity. YAU was able to assess challenges hindering young people from accessing health services from the existing youth friendly services and why these centres are not fully functional so that the gaps can be bridged and reactivate the youth friendly corners. The assessment revealed that , most of the health facilities experienced challenges that include; Provider attitudes and stigma: Negative or judgmental attitudes from health workers that discouraged young people from seeking services, leading to feelings of embarrassment and lack of confidentiality; Resource Limitations: High turnover of trained staff, and limited space to create private areas, particularly in rural and island communities, hinder functionality; Geographical and Economic Barriers: Long distances from homes to health facilities, coupled with transportation costs and lack of funding, make it difficult for youth to access Youth Friendly Corners; Commodity Stockouts: Frequent shortages of sexual and reproductive health commodities (contraceptives, condoms, PEP & PrEP drugs) limit the ability of Youth Friendly Corners to provide services; Poor Sustainability: Many Youth Friendly Corners mostly depend on NGO funding, resulting in challenges to sustaining youth programs once donor projects end. YAU supported the health facilities to appreciate integration of adolescent responsive services in the different facility departments and allocation of focal persons for adolescent youth services.



41 Income generation Activity (IGA) groups linked to local government support reaching **727** individuals. Enterprises supported included Liquid soap Making (4), Poultry(17), Piggery (17), briquettes making (2), Bee keeping/Apiary, (1), Chapati selling and Onion growing (2). Additionally, 67 groups formed under NOPP project in the districts of Mayuge, Buvuma, Kalangala, and Bugiri, were linked to the community-based services department for more training to access government “Emyooga” and parish development model SACCO resources.



Supported **162** health care facilities in the East-Central region to sustain HIV/TB service delivery , Notably **596,477** people received HIV testing services, **8,228** new HIV-positive cases were identified and **8,169 (99%)** successfully linked to care.



Distributed **61,573** HIV self-testing kits and with the efforts of the community team reached **6,875** Key Populations (KPs) and **1,422** Priority Populations (PPs) with prevention services.



Supported **20,264** clients to remain on ART on the Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) models. **74%** on First Track Drug Refill (98% suppression), **14%** on Community Retail Pharmacy (99% suppression) and **90%** of clients received Multi-Month Drug Refills (MMD).



Supported the CAST+ integrated campaign reached **15,143** households and screened **44,805** people in TB hotspots.



Provided comprehensive Gender-Based Violence (GBV) / Post-Violence Care services to **8,120** survivors (4,060 sexual violence + 4,060 physical/emotional abuse)

Center of excellence in holistic youth empowerment

YAU continues to innovate around youth in development approaches. As a result,

Supported 168 children living with HIV (CLHIV) who were not virally suppressed in the Lango and Acholi sub-regions of Northern Uganda, as a result of the stop-work order led to the closure of the USAID OVC Northwest Activity in early 2025. This resulted in the withdrawal of key human resources, particularly counsellors and community cadre support, contributing to a drop in viral load suppression from 92% in January 2025 to 83% in May 2025 among CLHIV. YAU worked with the Apac, Gulu City, Gulu District, Kole, Lira City, Lira District, and Omoro local governments to improve treatment adherence and nutritional status among the 168 non-suppressed CLHIV in Northern Uganda with Supported from Global Giving.

YAU supported **115** CLHIV (63 Male, 52 females) and their households with intensified treatment literacy and support through Home-Based Case Management, Treatment Literacy, and IAC. **48** CLHIV (21 males, 27 females) were successfully traced and returned to care, **111** CLHIV (57 females, 54 males) were assessed using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), **113** were referred to different health centers in the region for therapeutic nutrition services and ongoing follow-up.



To ensure the sustainability of USAID OVCNWA project benefits and transition of activities to other actors, YAU mentored and handed over the community structures, specifically the para social workers to the district community development office for continued mentorship and deployment to continue service delivery to OVC households.

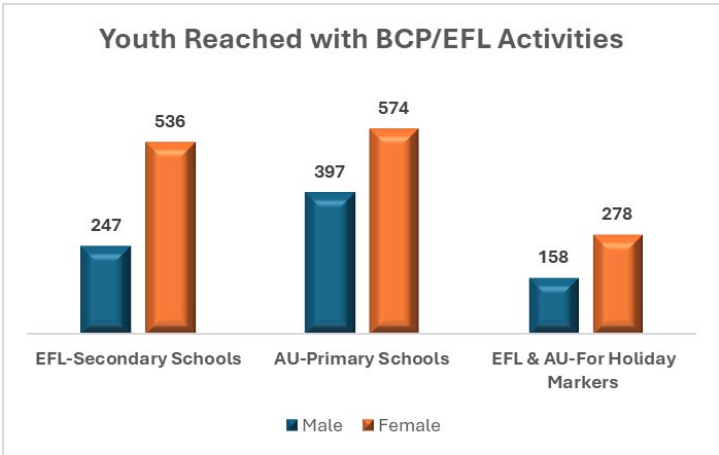


YAU empowered **7** community-based organizations (CBOs) to report OVC programs to districts. These were trained and supported with various tools including data tools, computers, printers and motorcycles to continue OVC service delivery in their communities.

With our LPHS-EC partner MJAP, launched the innovative MV Sigulu Ferry onboard integrated health clinic (reaching mobile island populations with HIV, TB, malaria, and ANC services. With this initiative, island people accessed integrated health services during their transit from the mainland to their destinations.

YAU embarked on the development of her Strategic Plan 2026–2030. The strategic plan is built on the achievements and lessons from the 2021–2025 strategic period. A wide range of stake holders were consulted to ensure that Strategic Plan 2026–2030 plan aligns with national policies and legal frameworks, including Uganda’s National Development Plan III (NDP III), National Youth Policy, National Child Policy, and the Children’s Act (as amended), as well as international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Youth Charter, and African Union Agenda. YAU will continue to empower Uganda’s youth, leveraging the country’s demographic dividend, and addressing critical development challenges including high unemployment, gaps in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), persistent adolescent HIV prevalence, limited participation in governance, and increasing climate and environmental vulnerabilities

YAU continued to implement her internally funded signature program Behavior Change Programs (BCP) with several schools in the Kampala metropolitan area; YAU implements the Children and Youth Mentorship Program (CaMP) for in-school and out of school youth through three standard packages. i) The Adventure Unlimited (AU). designed for Primary school pupils particularly P.4 – P.7. 2. ii) Education for Life (EFL) that seeks to add value to adolescents



and young people by taking them through a life skills training that inculcates a spirit of resilience, assertiveness, making informed choices/decisions that fosters positive and purposeful living targeting young

people in secondary schools, tertiary institutions and out of school youth (15-24 years). lii) Continuous Character Formation (CCF) that targets the field team to ensure they lead exemplary lifestyles that match the message being delivered. These progromes Program seek to add value to adolescents and young people by taking them through a life skills training that inculcates a spirit of resilience, assertiveness, making informed choices/decisions that fosters positive and purposeful living. Notably a Youth Alive club was formed St. Henry’s Girls School Bugeye during the year.

Youth access to sexual and reproductive health services and information

YAU continues to ensure that all adolescent youth are supported to know, access and uptake integrated health services including HIV care and treatment, SRHR and GBV to live a resilient and fully filling life.

As a result;

673 groups sessions reaching **18,284** beneficiaries with integrated Health messages in Buvuma, Namayingo, Mayuge,Kalangala and Bugiri on the NOPP project. YAU supported the project beneficiaries to commit to changing their life styles including making choices of being faithful to their partners especially those who are married and for the young people who are not yet married, they made commitments of delaying sexual activities that risks their lives and for those already sexually active, made commitment to always ensure that they

don't engage in risky sexual behaviors. These sexually active groups were sensitized on PrEP and PEP encouraged to always take HIV tests. Messages for positive living were emphasized during awareness creation sessions.

Supported **7,106** CLHIV and their caregivers to stay on treatment in Lango and Acholi subregions under the USAID OVCNWA. Viral Load Tracking was registered at 97% Viral Load Results at 94% and Viral Load Suppression (high viremia) at 92%. By May 2025, due to the stop work order and later activity termination, USAID OVCNWA registered a low viremia of 89% (n=6,356/7106) suppression, however YAU continued to virtually offer OVC services through the community structures, CBOs and partners structure like Strong Minds Uganda.

Developed and distributed IEC material to **15,281** (9,388 female and 5,893 Male) The IEC materials disseminated include messages on; HIV prevention care & treatment, TB management, PEP, PrEP, Nutrition, PMTCT, GBV and STI management in English and Luganda.



320 AGYW and their spouses were identified and enrolled on ART, in partnership with LPHS-EC through continuous index testing. The AGYW and their spouses were linked to care leading early initiation of treatment and management of HIV. The support of Para-social workers and linkage facilitators has played a critical role in enrollment and retention through household visits hence, improving adherence and improved health outcomes.

790 adolescent youths benefited from the peer support sessions, and this helped reduce stigma, stress, and improved stress management, open communication, deeper understanding of the current reality in positive

living. These sessions facilitated experience sharing that reduced the burden of discrimination and hence improved health outcomes due to adherence and a supportive community. In Mayuge specifically Ministry of Health has set up psychiatry departments in all Health Centre IVs, each having a full-time staff trained in mental wellbeing to provide professional mental wellbeing sessions at the facilities level. Iganga has only one psychiatry department and depends largely on referrals, while Luuka relies entirely on referrals for acute mental-health cases. The psychiatry departments are prioritized to create an awareness on mental wellbeing and management of acute cases given the influx of mental cases in the region. This was as a result of increased and prolonged exposure to stress, driven by social, economic, and environmental pressures.

Reached a total of **6,303** (4290 females and 2013 Males) individuals through sports outreaches and cultural events. Sports were utilized to break social and cultural barriers, promote self-esteem and teach life skills and behavior change especially among young people, YAU used sports to mobilize communities. In the areas of Buvuma/Mayuge Hubs, football, netball and cycling (bicycle competitions) have proven to be a strong community mobilization tool and through this community mobilization approach, demand for health services has been created and service provision strengthened.

Referred a total 1,304 (806 females and 498 males) individuals to other partners for additional HIV care services 217 for OVC services were linked to CAFU to be enrolled on the SUFASABA Plus program by CAFU in Buvuma Hub and others for clinical care and food supplements.

Youth Alive Uganda took part in creating HIV/AIDS awareness among the contestants of “Miss Tourism Buganda 2025” beauty contest under the theme; “My Culture, My Identity” during their tour in Kalangala Islands.

YAU Sustainability and collaboration

YAU continued to formalize relationships with the different Uganda government ministries and administrative units (Cities, Districts and municipalities) for strengthened collaboration and engagement. YAU renewed engagement with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development, KCCA and additional 8 districts that are hosting the 3 new programs.

During the year, YAU started implementing the Scaling Up Community-Led HIV Prevention among Adolescent Boys and Young Men in East Central Uganda (SCOPE) project in Jinja, Mayuge, Bugweri and Iganga districts. SCOPE is a three-year initiative designed to scale up proven community-led combination HIV prevention interventions for adolescents and young people (15-24). SCOPE will strategically target adolescent boys and young men (ABYM) as the primary population, while ensuring comprehensive engagement of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) as a secondary population. Our approach is holistic, integrating biomedical, behavioral, and structural interventions, underpinned by a robust community engagement and a strong focus on long-term sustainability.

On the other hand, YAU will continue to collaborate with Cordaid in Uganda to implement the Joyful learning Journey (JLJ) project in Kamuli district. JLJ will strengthen Play based Learning (PBL) in primary education in the rural settings. The project will use a Performance Based Financing (PBF) model led by Cordaid, while YAU will apply a group-based peer approach to strengthen children's support networks that will be strengthened with interventions that include. YAU will empower teachers and other caregivers including mentor fathers to facilitate interactive learning using locally appropriate materials and engaging games that improve the different learning outcomes (Cognitive, literacy, Numeracy).

YAU was contracted by UNICEF to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) to pilot the Community Health Worker (CHW) SACCO

Entrepreneurship Model in Kyotera district. The Community Health Workforce Development Program aims at enhancing the capacity, sustainability, and effectiveness of Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) and Village Health Teams (VHTs).

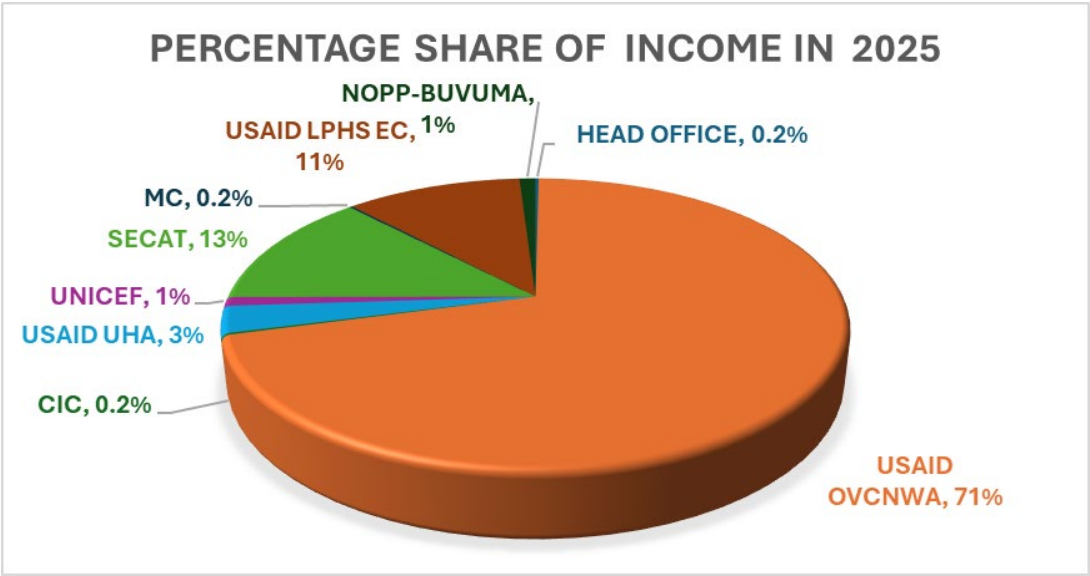
We continue to map and collaborate with Private Sector Actors to increase access to wraparound services for vulnerable households in dire need of critical services/priorities that the government and donor agencies are not prioritizing. YAU received about UGX 61,210,800 (\$17,003) in cash and non-cash items to support program activities, particularly, health, Education and livelihood of the children and their caregivers.

Financial and operations

The year 2025 was very reflective! The stop-work order issued by the United States government disrupted YAU program implementation across the country affecting our children and youth program and community interventions. As a team we had to take deliberate steps toward enhancing partnerships with local stakeholders, exploring alternative funding streams, and investing in youth-led initiatives that can thrive even in constrained environments. As a result;

Improved Operational Resilience and continuity Planning; YAU redesigned operational workflows to adapt to reduced funding prioritizing essential services and optimizing resource allocation.

Implemented Rapid Financial Stabilization; YAU swiftly implemented emergency cost control measures including budget realignments, expenditure freezes, and contract reviews to stabilize finances and preserve critical operations during the funding disruption.Cumulatively mobilized a total income of USD 2,134,596.



Business development and Partnerships

YAU strengthened its position as a trusted partner for integrated child and youth development programming in Uganda. Through deliberate business development and partnership efforts, we expanded our funding base, deepened strategic collaborations, and laid the groundwork for more sustainable, scalable impact.

Resource Mobilisation and Portfolio Growth

YAU implemented a more structured, data-driven approach to business development. We Operationalized our resource mobilisation strategy focused on three core areas: skills development, health and strategic collaborations; enhanced internal business development systems, including CRM and pipeline tracking tools and enabling more strategic go/no-go decisions; and coordinated multi-disciplinary bid teams that brought together program, MEAL, finance, and HR/Admin expertise to design high-quality concept notes and proposals.

As a result:

YAU submitted 27 major proposals and 14 concept notes to institutional donors, foundations, and corporate partners.

Secured 3 new awards (01 multi-year and 02 short-term), contributing to funding predictability and continuity of core programs.

Expanded partnerships with UNICEF Uganda, and Cordaid, and renewed partnerships ViiV Healthcare Positive Action thereby reinforcing our reputation for accountable, high-impact delivery.

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships



Our partnerships remained central to how YAU designs and delivers programs. We continued close collaboration with line ministries, particularly the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Ministry of Health and 33 district local governments in our areas of operation. Our national and field teams participated actively in sector coordination platforms, contributing evidence and lessons on youth livelihoods, OVC, and community-based child protection.

YAU co-created multi-partner initiatives with International non-government organizations including; Innovation Hive UK and Matakiri Tunaini Centre and Youth Alive Kenya, and national organisations like Meraki Action Initiative, and SRHR Alliance among others combining complementary strengths in programming, research, and advocacy.

YAU strengthened relationships with youth- and child-focused national CSOs, that support localization and shared learning. These relationships helped us not only secure resources, but also improve program relevance, scale, and sustainability.

Improving Business Development Systems, Processes, and Capacities

We have invested in strengthening internal capacity to identify, pursue, and manage opportunities. W During the year, we introduced standard operating procedures for business development, including opportunity assessment, role allocation, and internal review processes. The organization improved documentation of evidence and impact (case studies, data summaries, beneficiary stories), enabling stronger, more compelling proposals.

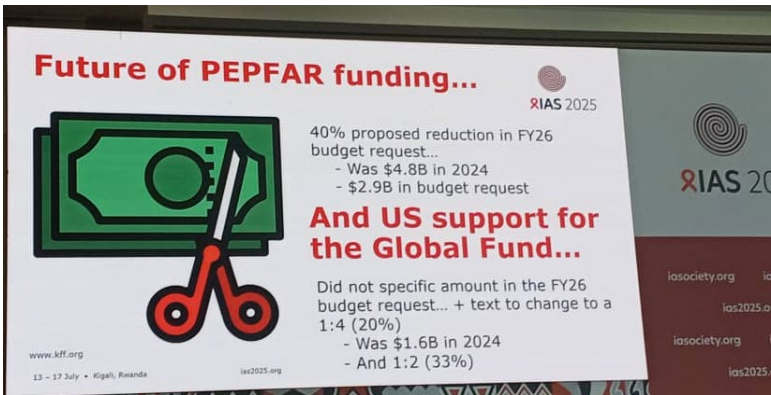
Building on the progress made in 2025, Youth Alive Uganda will continue to pursue diversified and predictable funding, with a focus on multi-year partnerships that reinforce our core competencies. We intend to deepen local partnerships and localization efforts, working through youth-led groups, community-based organizations, and faith actors. Finally, YAU plans to explore innovative financing and collaboration models with private sector and social investors to support sustainable youth employment and community resilience.



Events and Conferences

Sr. Dr. Miriam Duggan memorial prayer and thanksgiving

A total of 617 people were mobilized to attend the Sr. Dr. Miriam Duggan memorial prayer and thanksgiving. Over 7 schools and 20 organizations including the Irish embassy were mobilized and fully participated an event organized by Youth Alive Uganda at Makerere University. The day activities included Holy Mass, Eulogy from persons and organization that were founded and supported by Sr. Dr. Miriam Duggan including Emmaus center, Nsambya Home care, Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa (FMSA), Treasure Life Centre (TLC) among others. Several schools showcased memorial performances about Sr. Dr. Miriam Duggan.



YAU was invited to participate at the 13th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Science, that took place in Kigali, Rwanda, between

13 to 17 July 2025. The IAS 2025 highlighted the latest science, innovation and frontline efforts in addressing HIV in Africa and across the world. The conference featured discussions around the global public health crisis that has followed the withdrawal of United States Government (USG) funding for HIV

programmes to craft a way forward. At the conference Discussed the impact of funding cuts. Different countries presented about how they are planning to mitigate the funding cuts. Particularly how they have planned to increase funding for HIV response from domestic resources. It was noted that the future of the HIV response should be “nationally owned and led, sustainable, inclusive and multisectoral”, though there is need to maintain the global solidarity and renewed commitment from funding partners are crucial.

Pictorial:



Consortium partners



Donors

